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(54) Title: BCMA-TARGETED CAR-T CELL THERAPY FOR MULTIPLE MYELOMA

(57) Abstract: Provided herein is a method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma. A single infusion of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) -T cells comprising an anti-BCMA CAR comprising a polypeptide is administered to the subject. The dose of CAR-T cells administered to the subject is from 1.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^6 of CAR-T cells per kilogram of the subject's mass. The method of treatment is effective in obtaining and maintaining minimal residual disease negativity status, as well as other beneficial clinical outcomes related to efficacy and safety.

BCMA-TARGETED CAR-T CELL THERAPY FOR MULTIPLE MYELOMA**BACKGROUND**

Multiple myeloma is a neoplasm of plasma cells that is aggressive. Multiple myeloma is considered to be a B-cell neoplasm that proliferates uncontrollably in the bone marrow. Symptoms include one or more of hypercalcemia, renal insufficiency, anemia, bony lesions, bacterial infections, hyperviscosity and amyloidosis. Multiple myeloma is still considered to be an incurable disease, despite availability of new therapies that include proteasome inhibitors, immunomodulatory drugs, and monoclonal antibodies that have significantly improved patient outcomes. Because most patients will either relapse or become refractory to treatment, there is an ongoing need for new therapies for multiple myeloma.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one aspect is provided a method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma, the method comprising administering to the subject via a single intravenous infusion a composition comprising T cells comprising a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising:

- a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first anti-BCMA binding moiety and a second BCMA binding moiety;
- b) a transmembrane domain; and
- c) an intracellular signaling domain,

to deliver to the subject a dose of CAR expressing T cells (CAR-T cells).

In some embodiments, the dose comprises 1.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject. In some embodiments, the dose comprises 5.0×10^5 to 1.0×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject. In certain embodiments, the dose comprises approximately 0.75×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject. In some embodiments, the dose comprises less than 1.0×10^8 of said CAR-T cells per subject.

In some embodiments, said single intravenous infusion is administered using a single bag of said CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said administration of said single bag of said CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said single bag of CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, said single intravenous infusion is administered using two bags of said CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said administration of each of said two bags of said CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said each of said two bags of CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following said infusion of said CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said method is effective in maintaining said minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of approximately 12 months or greater following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, a lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said lymphodepleting regimen comprises administration of cyclophosphamide; or administration of fludarabine. In some embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen is administered intravenously. In some embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells by 5 to 7 days. In some embodiments, said lymphodepleting regimen comprises intravenous administration of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine 5 to 7 days prior to said infusion of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said cyclophosphamide is administered intravenously at 300 mg/m^2 . In some embodiments, said fludarabine is administered intravenously at 30 mg/m^2 .

In some embodiments, the method further comprises treating said subject for cytokine release syndrome (CRS) more than 3 days following the infusion without significantly reducing CAR-T cell expansion *in vivo*. In some embodiments, said treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject an IL-6R inhibitor. In some embodiments, said IL-6R inhibitor is an antibody. In some embodiments, said antibody inhibits IL-6R by binding its extracellular domain. In some

embodiments, said IL-6R inhibitor prevents the binding of IL-6 to IL-6R. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is tocilizumab.

In some embodiments, the subject is treated with pre-infusion medication comprising an antipyretic and an antihistamine up to 1 hour prior to the infusion comprising CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said antipyretic comprises either paracetamol or acetaminophen. In some embodiments, said antipyretic is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In some embodiments, said antipyretic is administered to the subject at a dosage of between 650 mg and 1000 mg. In some embodiments, said antihistamine comprises diphenhydramine. In some embodiments, said antihistamine is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In some embodiments, said antihistamine is administered at a dosage of between 25 mg and 50 mg, or its equivalent.

In some embodiments, the infusion comprising CAR-T cells further comprises an excipient selected from dimethylsulfoxide or dextran-40.

In some embodiments, the subject received prior treatment with at least three prior lines of treatment. In some embodiments, said at least three prior lines of treatment comprises treatment with at least one medicament, said at least one medicament comprising of at least one of PI; an IMiD; and an anti-CD38 antibody. In some embodiments, the subject has relapsed after said at least three prior lines of treatment. In some embodiments, the multiple myeloma is refractory to at least two medicaments following said at least three prior lines of treatment. In certain embodiments, said at least two medicaments to which the subject is refractory comprise PI and an IMiD. In some embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least three medicaments. In some embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least four medicaments. In some embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least five medicaments.

In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 91%. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 93%. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 95%. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining

an overall response rate of greater than 97%. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 99%. In some embodiments, the overall response rate is assessed at a median follow-up time of at least 12 months following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.15 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.10 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.05 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.00 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 0.95 months.

In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.96 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.86 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.76 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.66 months. In some embodiments, said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.56 months.

In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety and/or the second BCMA binding moiety is an anti-BCMA VHH. In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety is a first anti-BCMA VHH and the second BCMA binding moiety is a second anti-BCMA VHH. In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10. In some embodiments, the second BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4. In some embodiments, the second BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety and the second BCMA binding moiety are connected to each other via a peptide linker. In some embodiments, the peptide linker comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3. In some embodiments, the peptide linker comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

In some embodiments, the CAR polypeptide further comprises a signal peptide located at the N-terminus of the polypeptide. In some embodiments, the signal peptide is derived from CD8-alpha. In some embodiments, the signal peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1. In some embodiments, the signal peptide comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

In some embodiments, the transmembrane domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6. In some embodiments, the transmembrane domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.

In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a primary intracellular signaling domain of an immune effector cell. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain is derived from CD3 ζ . In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises one or more co-stimulatory signaling domains. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

In some embodiments, the CAR polypeptide further comprises a hinge domain located between the C-terminus of the extracellular antigen binding domain and the N-terminus of the transmembrane domain. In some embodiments, the hinge domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5. In some embodiments, the hinge domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

In some embodiments, the T cells are autologous T cells. In some embodiments, the T cells are allogeneic T cells.

In some embodiments, the subject is human.

In one aspect is provided a method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma and received at least three prior lines of treatment, the method comprising administering to the subject via a single intravenous infusion a composition comprising T cells comprising a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17 to deliver to the subject a dose of approximately 0.75×10^6 CAR expressing T cells (CAR-T cells) per kilogram of the mass of the subject, wherein said method is effective in obtaining minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the expression of BCMA (blue) antigen on the surface of GC, memory and plasmablast cells in the lymph node, long-lived plasma cells in the bone marrow LN and MALT, and on multiple myeloma cells. BAFF-R antigen (red) is not expressed on plasmablast cells, long-lived plasma cells, or multiple myeloma cells. TACI is expressed on memory and plasmablast cells, long-lived plasma cells, and multiple myeloma cells. CD138 (orange) is expressed only on long-lived plasma cells and multiple myeloma cells.

Figure 2 shows the design of the ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR. Ciltacabtagene autoleucel comprises two VHH domains, as opposed to a single VL domain and a single VH domain found on various other CARs. Ciltacabtagene autoleucel comprises intracellular CD137 and human CDzeta domains.

Figure 3 shows a schematic for preparing virus encoding ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR, transduction of the virus into a T cell from the patient, and then preparation of CAR T cells expressing ciltacabtagene autoleucel.

Figure 4 shows a schematic of study design for ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR T-cells. The patient population includes those with relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma, with 3 prior lines or double refractory to PI/IMiD and prior PI, IMiD, anti-CD38 exposure. A primary objective is safety and establishment of RP2D, such as studying incidence and severity of adverse events (Phase 1b). Another primary objective is efficacy: ORR – PR or better as defined by IMWG (Phase 2). The following are secondary objectives: Incidence and severity of adverse events (Phase 2), and any further efficacy characterization.

Figure 5A is a graph showing, based on an Independent Review Committee (IRC) assessment, the response and duration of response (DOR) for the 50 most followed up responders in the all treated analysis set, ranked along the vertical axis in order of the length of duration of follow-up with the responders. **Figure 5B** is a graph showing, based on an Independent Review Committee

(IRC) assessment, the response and duration of response (DOR) for the 44 least followed up responders in the all treated analysis set, ranked along the vertical axis in order of the length of duration of follow-up with the responders.

Figure 6 shows a Kaplan-Meier plot for Duration of Response (DOR) based on an Independent Review Committee (IRC) assessment for responders in the all treated analysis set, showing that the probabilities of the responders remaining in response at 9 months and 12 months were approximately 80.2% and 68.2%, respectively.

Figure 7 shows a Kaplan-Meier plot for Overall Survival (OS) for all subjects in the all treated analysis set, showing that 9-month and 12-month survival rates were approximately 90.7% and 88.5%, respectively.

Figures 8 to 31 show a description of the protocol and data obtained in the CARTITUDE-1 trial, treating patients having relapsed, refractory multiple myeloma with ciltacabtagene autoleucel.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The disclosure also provides related nucleic acids, recombinant expression vectors, host cells, populations of cells, antibodies, or antigen binding portions thereof, and pharmaceutical compositions relating to the immune cells and CAR-expressing T cells of the invention. Dosage regimens, dosage forms, and methods of treatment with the CAR-T cells are also provided.

Several aspects of the invention are described below, with reference to examples for illustrative purposes only. It should be understood that numerous specific details, relationships, and methods are set forth to provide a full understanding of the invention. One having ordinary skill in the relevant art, however, will readily recognize that the invention can be practiced without one or more of the specific details or practiced with other methods, protocols, reagents, cell lines and animals. The present invention is not limited by the illustrated ordering of acts or events, as some acts may occur in different orders and/or concurrently with other acts or events. Furthermore, not all illustrated acts, steps or events are required to implement a methodology in accordance with the present invention.

Unless otherwise defined, all terms of art, notations and other scientific terms or terminology used herein are intended to have the meanings commonly understood by those of skill in the art to which this invention pertains. In some cases, terms with commonly understood meanings are defined herein for clarity and/or for ready reference, and the inclusion of such definitions herein should not necessarily be construed to represent a substantial difference over what is generally understood in the art. It will be further understood that terms, such as those defined in commonly-used dictionaries, should be interpreted as having a meaning that is consistent with their meaning in the context of the relevant art and/or as otherwise defined herein.

Definitions

The term “about” or “approximately” includes being within a statistically meaningful range of a value. Such a range can be within an order of magnitude, preferably within 50%, more preferably within 20%, still more preferably within 10%, and even more preferably within 5% of a given value or range. The allowable variation encompassed by the term “about” or

“approximately” depends on the particular system under study, and can be readily appreciated by one of ordinary skill in the art.

The term “antibody” includes monoclonal antibodies (including full length 4-chain antibodies or full length heavy-chain only antibodies which have an immunoglobulin Fc region), antibody compositions with polyepitopic specificity, multispecific antibodies (e.g., bispecific antibodies, diabodies, and single-chain molecules), as well as antibody fragments (e.g., Fab, F(ab')₂, and Fv). The term “immunoglobulin” (Ig) is used interchangeably with “antibody” herein. Antibodies contemplated herein include single-domain antibodies, such as heavy chain only antibodies.

The term “heavy chain-only antibody” or “HCAb” refers to a functional antibody, which comprises heavy chains, but lacks the light chains usually found in 4-chain antibodies. Camelid animals (such as camels, llamas, or alpacas) are known to produce HCabs.

The term “single-domain antibody” or “sdAb” refers to a single antigen-binding polypeptide having three complementary determining regions (CDRs). The sdAb alone is capable of binding to the antigen without pairing with a corresponding CDR-containing polypeptide. In some cases, single-domain antibodies are engineered from camelid HCabs, and their heavy chain variable domains are referred herein as “VHHS”. Some VHHS may also be known as Nanobodies. Camelid sdAb is one of the smallest known antigen-binding antibody fragments (see, e.g., Hamers-Casterman et al., *Nature* 363:446-8 (1993); Greenberg et al., *Nature* 374:168-73 (1995); Hassanzadeh-Ghassabeh et al., *Nanomedicine (Lond)*, 8:1013-26 (2013)). A basic VHH has the following structure from the N-terminus to the C-terminus: FR1-CDR1-FR2-CDR2-FR3-CDR3-FR4, in which FR1 to FR4 refer to framework regions 1 to 4, respectively, and in which CDR1 to CDR3 refer to the complementarity determining regions 1 to 3.

The “variable region” or “variable domain” of an antibody refers to the amino-terminal domains of the heavy or light chain of the antibody. The variable domains of the heavy chain and light chain may be referred to as “VH” and “VL”, respectively. These domains are generally the most variable parts of the antibody (relative to other antibodies of the same class) and contain the antigen binding sites. Heavy-chain only antibodies from the Camelid species have a single heavy chain variable region, which is referred to as “VHH”. VHH is thus a special type of VH.

The term “variable” refers to the fact that certain segments of the variable domains differ extensively in sequence among antibodies. The V domain mediates antigen binding and defines the specificity of a particular antibody for its particular antigen. However, the variability is not evenly distributed across the entire span of the variable domains. Instead, it is concentrated in three segments called hypervariable regions (HVRs) both in the light-chain and the heavy chain variable domains. The more highly conserved portions of variable domains are called the framework regions (FR). The variable domains of native heavy and light chains each comprise four FR regions, largely adopting a beta-sheet configuration, connected by three HVRs, which form loops connecting, and in some cases forming part of, the beta-sheet structure. The HVRs in each chain are held together in close proximity by the FR regions and, with the HVRs from the other chain, contribute to the formation of the antigen binding site of antibodies (see Kabat et al., Sequences of Immunological Interest, Fifth Edition, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Md. (1991)). The constant domains are not involved directly in the binding of antibody to an antigen, but exhibit various effector functions, such as participation of the antibody in antibody-dependent cellular toxicity.

The terms “fragment of an antibody”, “antibody fragment”, “functional fragment of an antibody”, and “antigen-binding portion” are used interchangeably herein to mean one or more fragments or portions of an antibody that retain the ability to specifically bind to an antigen (see, generally, Holliger et al., Nat. Biotech., 23(9): 1126-1129 (2005)). The antigen recognition moiety of the CAR encoded by the inventive nucleic acid sequence can contain any BCMA-binding antibody fragment. The antibody fragment desirably comprises, for example, one or more CDRs, the variable region (or portions thereof), the constant region (or portions thereof), or combinations thereof. Examples of antibody fragments include, but are not limited to, (i) a Fab fragment, which is a monovalent fragment consisting of the VL, VH, CL, and CHI domains; (ii) a F(ab')² fragment, which is a bivalent fragment comprising two Fab fragments linked by a disulfide bridge at the hinge region; (iii) a Fv fragment consisting of the VL and VH domains of a single arm of an antibody; (iv) a single chain Fv (scFv), which is a monovalent molecule consisting of the two domains of the Fv fragment (i.e., VL and VH) joined by a synthetic linker which enables the two domains to be synthesized as a single polypeptide chain (see, e.g., Bird et al., Science, 242: 423-426 (1988); Huston et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 85: 5879-5883 (1988); and

Osbourn et al., Nat. Biotechnol, 16: 778 (1998)) and (v) a diabody, which is a dimer of polypeptide chains, wherein each polypeptide chain comprises a VH connected to a VL by a peptide linker that is too short to allow pairing between the VH and VL on the same polypeptide chain, thereby driving the pairing between the complementary domains on different VH -VL polypeptide chains to generate a dimeric molecule having two functional antigen binding sites. Antibody fragments are known in the art and are described in more detail in, e.g., U.S. Patent Application Publication 2009/0093024 A1.

As used herein, the terms “specifically binds”, “specifically recognizes”, or “specific for” refer to measurable and reproducible interactions such as binding between a target and an antigen binding protein (such as a CAR or a VHH), which is determinative of the presence of the target in the presence of a heterogeneous population of molecules including biological molecules.

The term “specificity” refers to selective recognition of an antigen binding protein (such as a CAR or a VHH) for a particular epitope of an antigen. Natural antibodies, for example, are monospecific. The term “multispecific” denotes that an antigen binding protein (such as a CAR or a VHH) has two or more antigen-binding sites of which at least two bind different antigens. “Bispecific” as used herein denotes that an antigen binding protein (such as a CAR or a VHH) has two different antigen-binding specificities.

A chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) is an artificially constructed hybrid protein or polypeptide containing the antigen binding domains of an antibody (scFv) linked to T-cell signaling domains. Characteristics of CARs can include their ability to redirect T-cell specificity and reactivity toward a selected target in a non-MHC-restricted manner, exploiting the antigen-binding properties of monoclonal antibodies. The non-MHC-restricted antigen recognition gives T cells expressing CARs the ability to recognize antigens independent of antigen processing, thus bypassing a major mechanism of tumor evasion. Moreover, when expressed in T-cells, CARs advantageously do not dimerize with endogenous T cell receptor (TCR) alpha and beta chains. T cells expressing a CAR are referred to herein as CAR T cells, CAR-T cells or CAR modified T cells, and these terms are used interchangeably herein. The cell can be genetically modified to stably express an antibody binding domain on its surface, conferring novel antigen specificity that is MHC independent. “BCMA CAR” refers to a CAR having an extracellular binding

domain specific for BCMA. “Bi-epitope CAR” refers to a CAR having an extracellular binding domain specific for two different epitopes an BCMA.

“Ciltacabtagene autoleucel” (“cilda-cel”) is a chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) therapy comprising two B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-targeting VHH domains designed to confer avidity. Cilda-cel can comprise T lymphocytes transduced with ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR, a CAR encoded by a lentiviral vector. The CAR targets the human B cell maturation antigen (anti-BCMA CAR). A diagram of the lentiviral vector encoding cilda-cel CAR is provided in **Figure 2**. The amino acid sequence of the cilda-cel CAR is the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 17.

The terms “express” and “expression” mean allowing or causing the information in a gene or DNA sequence to become produced, for example producing a protein by activating the cellular functions involved in transcription and translation of a corresponding gene or DNA sequence. A DNA sequence is expressed in or by a cell to form an “expression product” such as a protein. The expression product itself, e.g., the resulting protein, may also be said to be “expressed” by the cell. An expression product can be characterized as intracellular, extracellular or transmembrane.

The terms “treat” or “treatment” refer to therapeutic treatment wherein the object is to slow down (lessen) an undesired physiological change or disease, or provide a beneficial or desired clinical outcome during treatment. Beneficial or desired clinical outcomes include alleviation of symptoms, diminishment of extent of disease, stabilized (i.e., not worsening) state of disease, delay or slowing of disease progression, amelioration or palliation of the disease state, and/or remission (whether partial or total), whether detectable or undetectable. “Treatment” can also mean prolonging survival as compared to expected survival if a subject was not receiving treatment. Those in need of treatment include those subjects already with the undesired physiological change or disease as well as those subjects prone to have the physiological change or disease. Treatment may involve a treatment agent, also referred to herein as a “medicament” or “medication,” that may be intended to help achieve the beneficial or desired clinical outcome of interest by its action. Treatment agents or medicaments may be administered to a subject by many routes, including at least intravenous and oral routes. The term “intravenous,” in connection to the administration of treatment agents or medicaments, refers to the

administration of said treatment agents or medicaments within one or more veins. The term “oral,” in connection to the administration of treatment agents or medicaments, refers to the administration of said treatment agents or medicaments via an oral passage such as the mouth.

As used herein, the term “subject” refers to an animal. The terms “subject” and “patient” may be used interchangeably herein in reference to a subject. As such, a “subject” includes a human that is being treated for a disease, or prevention of a disease, as a patient. The methods described herein may be used to treat an animal subject belonging to any classification. Examples of such animals include mammals. Mammals, include, but are not limited to, mammals of the order Rodentia, such as mice and hamsters, and mammals of the order Logomorpha, such as rabbits. The mammals may be from the order Carnivora, including felines (cats) and canines (dogs). The mammals may be from the order Artiodactyla, including bovines (cows) and swines (pigs) or of the order Perssodactyla, including equines (horses). The mammals may be of the order Primates, Ceboids, or Simoids (monkeys) or of the order Anthropoids (humans and apes). In one embodiment, the mammal is a human.

The term “effective” applied to dose or amount refers to that quantity of a compound or pharmaceutical composition that is sufficient to result in a desired activity upon administration to a subject in need thereof. Note that when a combination of active ingredients is administered, the effective amount of the combination may or may not include amounts of each ingredient that would have been effective if administered individually. The exact amount required will vary from subject to subject, depending on the species, age, and general condition of the subject, the severity of the condition being treated, the particular drug or drugs employed, the mode of administration, and the like.

The phrase “pharmaceutically acceptable”, as used in connection with compositions described herein, refers to molecular entities and other ingredients of such compositions that are physiologically tolerable and do not typically produce untoward reactions when administered to a mammal (e.g., a human). Preferably, the term “pharmaceutically acceptable” means approved by a regulatory agency of the Federal or a state government or listed in the U.S. Pharmacopeia or other generally recognized pharmacopeia for use in mammals, and more particularly in humans.

The term “line of therapy,” as used in connection with methods of treatment herein, refers to one or more cycles of a planned treatment program, which may have consisted of one or more planned cycles of single-agent therapy or combination therapy, as well as a sequence of treatments administered in a planned manner. For example, a planned treatment approach of induction therapy followed by autologous stem cell transplantation, followed by maintenance is one line of therapy. A new line of therapy is considered to have started when a planned course of therapy has been modified to include other treatment agents or medicaments (alone or in combination) as a result of disease progression, relapse, or toxicity. A new line of therapy is also considered to have started when a planned period of observation off therapy had been interrupted by a need for additional treatment for the disease.

The term “refractory,” as used in connection to treatment with a particular treatment agent or medicament herein, refers to diseases or disease subjects that fail to respond to said treatment agent or medicament. The phrase “refractory myeloma” refers to disease that is nonresponsive while on primary or salvage therapy, or progressed within 60 days of last therapy. The phrase “nonresponsive disease” refers to either failure to achieve minimal response or development of progressive disease while on therapy.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the indefinite articles “a”, “an” and “the” should be understood to include plural reference unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

Throughout this disclosure, various aspects of the disclosure can be presented in a range format. It should be understood that the description in range format is merely for convenience and brevity and should not be construed as an inflexible limitation on the scope of the disclosure. Accordingly, the description of a range should be considered to have specifically disclosed all the possible subranges as well as individual numerical values within that range. For example, description of a range such as from 1 to 6 should be considered to have specifically disclosed subranges such as from 1 to 3, from 1 to 4, from 1 to 5, from 2 to 4, from 2 to 6, from 3 to 6 etc., as well as individual numbers within that range, for example, 1, 2, 2.7, 3, 4, 5, 5.3, and 6. As

another example, a range such as 95-99 % identity, includes something with 95 %, 96 %, 97 %, 98 % or 99 % identity, and includes subranges such as 96-99 %, 96-98 %, 96-97 %, 97-99 %, 97-98 % and 98-99 % identity. This applies regardless of the breadth of the range.

Vectors

Polynucleotide sequences encoding the CARs described in the present application can be obtained using standard recombinant techniques. Desired polynucleotide sequences may be isolated and sequenced from antibody producing cells such as hybridoma cells. Alternatively, polynucleotides can be synthesized using nucleotide synthesizer or PCR techniques. A large number of promoters recognized by a variety of potential host cells are well known. The selected promoter can be operably linked to cistron DNA encoding the light or heavy chain by removing the promoter from the source DNA via restriction enzyme digestion and inserting the isolated promoter sequence into the vector of the present application.

The invention also provides a vector comprising the nucleic acid sequence encoding the inventive CAR. The vector can be, for example, a plasmid, a cosmid, a viral vector (e.g., retroviral or adenoviral), or a phage. Suitable vectors and methods of vector preparation are well known in the art (see, e.g., Sambrook et al., *supra*, and Ausubel et al., *supra*).

In addition to the inventive nucleic acid sequence encoding the CAR, the vector preferably comprises expression control sequences, such as promoters, enhancers, polyadenylation signals, transcription terminators, internal ribosome entry sites (IRES), and the like, that provide for the expression of the nucleic acid sequence in a host cell. Exemplary expression control sequences are known in the art and described in, for example, Goeddel, *Gene Expression Technology: Methods in Enzymology*, Vol. 185, Academic Press, San Diego, Calif. (1990).

A large number of promoters, including constitutive, inducible, and repressible promoters, from a variety of different sources are well known in the art. Representative sources of promoters include for example, virus, mammal, insect, plant, yeast, and bacteria, and suitable promoters from these sources are readily available, or can be made synthetically, based on sequences publicly available, for example, from depositories such as the ATCC as well as other commercial

or individual sources. Promoters can be unidirectional (i.e., initiate transcription in one direction) or bi-directional (i.e., initiate transcription in either a 3' or 5' direction). Non-limiting examples of promoters include, for example, the T7 bacterial expression system, pBAD (araA) bacterial expression system, the cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter, the SV40 promoter, and the RSV promoter. Inducible promoters include, for example, the Tet system (U.S. Patents 5,464,758 and 5,814,618), the Ecdysone inducible system (No et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., 93: 3346-3351 (1996)), the T-REX™ system (Invitrogen, Carlsbad, CA), LACSWITCH™ System (Stratagene, San Diego, CA), and the Cre-ERT tamoxifen inducible recombinase system (Indra et al., Nuc. Acid. Res., 27: 4324- 4327 (1999); Nuc. Acid. Res., 28: e99 (2000); U.S. Patent 7,112,715; and Kramer & Fussenegger, Methods Mol. Biol, 308: 123-144 (2005)).

The term “enhancer” as used herein, refers to a DNA sequence that increases transcription of, for example, a nucleic acid sequence to which it is operably linked.

Enhancers can be located many kilobases away from the coding region of the nucleic acid sequence and can mediate the binding of regulatory factors, patterns of DNA methylation, or changes in DNA structure. A large number of enhancers from a variety of different sources are well known in the art and are available as or within cloned polynucleotides (from, e.g., depositories such as the ATCC as well as other commercial or individual sources). A number of polynucleotides comprising promoters (such as the commonly-used CMV promoter) also comprise enhancer sequences. Enhancers can be located upstream, within, or downstream of coding sequences. The term “Ig enhancers” refers to enhancer elements derived from enhancer regions mapped within the immunoglobulin (Ig) locus (such enhancers include for example, the heavy chain (mu) 5' enhancers, light chain (kappa) 5' enhancers, kappa and mu intronic enhancers, and 3' enhancers (see generally Paul W.E. (ed), Fundamental Immunology, 3rd Edition, Raven Press, New York (1993), pages 353-363; and U.S. Patent 5,885,827).

The vector also can comprise a “selectable marker gene.” The term “selectable marker gene”, as used herein, refers to a nucleic acid sequence that allows cells expressing the nucleic acid sequence to be specifically selected for or against, in the presence of a corresponding selective agent. Suitable selectable marker genes are known in the art and described in, e.g., International Patent Application Publications WO 1992/08796 and WO 1994/28143; Wigler et al., Proc. Natl.

Acad. Sci. USA, 77: 3567 (1980); O'Hare et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 78: 1527 (1981); Mulligan & Berg, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 78: 2072 (1981); Colberre-Garapin et al., J. Mol. Biol., 150: 1 (1981); Santerre et al., Gene, 30: 147 (1984); Kent et al., Science, 237: 901-903 (1987); Wigler et al., Cell, 19: 223 (1977); Szybalska & Szybalski, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 48: 2026 (1962); Lowy et al., Cell, 22: 817 (1980); and U.S. Patents 5,122,464 and 5,770,359.

In some embodiments, the vector is an “episomal expression vector” or “episome”, which is able to replicate in a host cell, and persists as an extrachromosomal segment of DNA within the host cell in the presence of appropriate selective pressure (see, e.g., Conese et al., Gene Therapy, 11: 1735-1742 (2004)). Representative commercially available episomal expression vectors include, but are not limited to, episomal plasmids that utilize Epstein Barr Nuclear Antigen 1 (EBNA1) and the Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) origin of replication (oriP). The vectors pREP4, pCEP4, pREP7, and pcDNA3.1 from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA) and pB-CMV from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA) represent non-limiting examples of an episomal vector that uses T-antigen and the SV40 origin of replication in lieu of EBNA1 and oriP.

Other suitable vectors include integrating expression vectors, which may randomly integrate into the host cell's DNA, or may include a recombination site to enable the specific recombination between the expression vector and the host cell's chromosome. Such integrating expression vectors may utilize the endogenous expression control sequences of the host cell's chromosomes to effect expression of the desired protein. Examples of vectors that integrate in a site specific manner include, for example, components of the flp-in system from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA) (e.g., pcDNATM5/FRT), or the cre-lox system, such as can be found in the pExchange-6 Core Vectors from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA). Examples of vectors that randomly integrate into host cell chromosomes include, for example, pcDNA3.1 (when introduced in the absence of T-antigen) from Invitrogen (Carlsbad, CA), and pCI or pFNI OA (ACT) FLEXITM from Promega (Madison, WI).

Viral vectors also can be used. Representative viral expression vectors include, but are not limited to, the adenovirus-based vectors (e.g., the adenovirus-based Per.C6 system available from Crucell, Inc. (Leiden, The Netherlands)), lentivirus-based vectors (e.g., the lentiviral-based pLPI from Life Technologies (Carlsbad, CA)), and retroviral vectors (e.g., the pFB-ERV plus

pCFB-EGSH from Stratagene (La Jolla, CA)). In a preferred embodiment, the viral vector is a lentivirus vector.

The vector comprising the inventive nucleic acid encoding the CAR can be introduced into a host cell that is capable of expressing the CAR encoded thereby, including any suitable prokaryotic or eukaryotic cell. Preferred host cells are those that can be easily and reliably grown, have reasonably fast growth rates, have well characterized expression systems, and can be transformed or transfected easily and efficiently.

As used herein, the term “host cell” refers to any type of cell that can contain the expression vector. The host cell can be a eukaryotic cell, e.g., plant, animal, fungi, or algae, or can be a prokaryotic cell, e.g., bacteria or protozoa. The host cell can be a cultured cell or a primary cell, i.e., isolated directly from an organism, e.g., a human. The host cell can be an adherent cell or a suspended cell, i.e., a cell that grows in suspension. Suitable host cells are known in the art and include, for instance, DH5a E. coli cells, Chinese hamster ovarian cells, monkey VERO cells, COS cells, HEK 293 cells, and the like. In a preferred embodiment, the host cells are HEK 293 cells. In some embodiments, the HEK 293 cells are derived from the ATCC SD-3515 line. In some embodiments, the HEK 293 cells are derived from, the IU-VPF MCB line. In some embodiments, the HEK 293 cells are derived from the IU-VPF MWCB line. For purposes of amplifying or replicating the recombinant expression vector, the host cell may be a prokaryotic cell, e.g., a DH5a cell. For purposes of producing a recombinant CAR, the host cell can be a mammalian cell. The host cell preferably is a human cell. The host cell can be of any cell type, can originate from any type of tissue, and can be of any developmental stage. In one embodiment, the host cell can be a peripheral blood lymphocyte (PBL), a peripheral blood mononuclear cell (PBMC), or a natural killer (NK). Preferably, the host cell is a natural killer (NK) cell. More preferably, the host cell is a T-cell. Methods for selecting suitable mammalian host cells and methods for transformation, culture, amplification, screening, and purification of cells are known in the art.

The invention provides an isolated host cell which expresses the inventive nucleic acid sequence encoding the CAR described herein. In one embodiment, the host cell is a T-cell. The T-cell of the invention can be any T-cell, such as a cultured T-cell, e.g., a primary T-cell, or a T-cell from

a cultured T-cell line, or a T-cell obtained from a mammal. If obtained from a mammal, the T-cell can be obtained from numerous sources, including but not limited to blood, bone marrow, lymph node, the thymus, or other tissues or fluids. T-cells can also be enriched for or purified. The T-cell preferably is a human T-cell (e.g., isolated from a human). The T-cell can be of any developmental stage, including but not limited to, a CD4+/CD8+ double positive T-cell, a CD4+ helper T-cell, e.g., Th, and Th2 cells, a CD8+ T-cell (e.g., a cytotoxic T-cell), a tumor infiltrating cell, a memory T-cell, a naive T-cell, and the like. In one embodiment, the T-cell is a CD8+ T-cell or a CD4+ T-cell. T-cell lines are available from, e.g., the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA), and the German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures (DSMZ) and include, for example, Jurkat cells (ATCC TIB- 152), Sup-T1 cells (ATCC CRL-1942), RPMI 8402 cells (DSMZ ACC-290), Karpas 45 cells (DSMZ ACC-545), and derivatives thereof.

In another embodiment, the host cell is a natural killer (NK) cell. NK cells are a type of cytotoxic lymphocyte that plays a role in the innate immune system. NK cells are defined as large granular lymphocytes and constitute a third kind of cells differentiated from the common lymphoid progenitor which also gives rise to B and T lymphocytes (see, e.g., Immunobiology, 5th ed., Janeway et al., eds., Garland Publishing, New York, NY (2001)). NK cells differentiate and mature in the bone marrow, lymph node, spleen, tonsils, and thymus. Following maturation, NK cells enter into the circulation as large lymphocytes with distinctive cytotoxic granules. NK cells are able to recognize and kill some abnormal cells, such as, for example, some tumor cells and virus-infected cells, and are thought to be important in the innate immune defense against intracellular pathogens. As described above with respect to T-cells, the NK cell can be any NK cell, such as a cultured NK cell, e.g., a primary NK cell, or an NK cell from a cultured NK cell line, or an NK cell obtained from a mammal. If obtained from a mammal, the NK cell can be obtained from numerous sources, including but not limited to blood, bone marrow, lymph node, the thymus, or other tissues or fluids. NK cells can also be enriched for or purified. The NK cell preferably is a human NK cell (e.g., isolated from a human). NK cell lines are available from, e.g., the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC, Manassas, VA) and include, for example, NK-92 cells (ATCC CRL-2407), NK92MI cells (ATCC CRL-2408), and derivatives thereof.

The inventive nucleic acid sequence encoding a CAR may be introduced into a cell by “transfection”, “transformation”, or “transduction”. “Transfection”, “transformation”, or “transduction”, as used herein, refer to the introduction of one or more exogenous polynucleotides into a host cell by using physical or chemical methods. Many transfection techniques are known in the art and include, for example, calcium phosphate DNA co- precipitation (see, e.g., Murray E.J. (ed.), Methods in Molecular Biology, Vol. 7, Gene Transfer and Expression Protocols, Humana Press (1991)); DEAE-dextran; electroporation; cationic liposome-mediated transfection; tungsten particle-facilitated microparticle bombardment (Johnston, Nature, 346: 776-777 (1990)); and strontium phosphate DNA co- precipitation (Brash et al., Mol. Cell Biol., 7: 2031-2034 (1987)). Phage or viral vectors can be introduced into host cells, after growth of infectious particles in suitable packaging cells, many of which are commercially available.

Chimeric Antigen Receptors

International Patent Publication No. WO 2018/028647 is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety. US Patent Publication No. 2018/0230225 is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

The disclosure provides for methods of treating a subject with cells expressing a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR). The CAR comprises an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising one or more single-domain antibodies. In various embodiments, there is provided a CAR targeting BCMA (also referred herein as “BCMA CAR”) comprising a polypeptide comprising: (a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising an anti-BCMA VHH; (b) a transmembrane domain; and (c) an intracellular signaling domain. In some embodiments, the anti-BCMA VHH is camelid, chimeric, human, or humanized. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a primary intracellular signaling domain of an immune effector cell (such as T cell). In some embodiments, the primary intracellular signaling domain is derived from CD4. In some embodiments, the primary intracellular signaling domain is derived from CD3-zeta. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a co-stimulatory signaling domain. In some embodiments, the co-stimulatory signaling domain is derived from a co-stimulatory molecule selected from the group consisting of CD27, CD28, CD137, OX40, CD30, CD40, CD3, LFA-1, ICOS, CD2, CD7, LIGHT, NKG2C, B7-H3, ligands

of CD83 and combinations thereof. In certain embodiments, the transmembrane domain is derived from CD137.

In some embodiments, the BCMA CAR further comprises a hinge domain (such as a CD8-alpha hinge domain) located between the C-terminus of the extracellular antigen binding domain and the N-terminus of the transmembrane domain. In some embodiments, the BCMA CAR further comprises a signal peptide (such as a CD8-alpha signal peptide) located at the N-terminus of the polypeptide. In some embodiments, the polypeptide comprises from the N-terminus to the C-terminus: a CD8-alpha signal peptide, the extracellular antigen-binding domain, a CD8-alpha hinge domain, a CD28 transmembrane domain, a first co-stimulatory signaling domain derived from CD28, a second co-stimulatory signaling domain derived from CD137, and a primary intracellular signaling domain derived from CD4. In some embodiments, the polypeptide comprises from the N-terminus to the C-terminus: a CD8-alpha signal peptide, the extracellular antigen-binding domain, a CD8-alpha hinge domain, a CD8-alpha transmembrane domain, a second co-stimulatory signaling domain derived from CD137, and a primary intracellular signaling domain derived from CD3-zeta. In some embodiments, the BCMA CAR is monospecific. In some embodiments, the BCMA CAR is monovalent.

The present application also provides CARs that have two or more (including, but not limited to, any one of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or more) binding moieties that specifically bind to an antigen, such as BCMA. In some embodiments, one or more of the binding moieties are antigen binding fragments. In some embodiments, one or more of the binding moieties comprise single-domain antibodies.

In some embodiments, the CAR is a multivalent (such as bivalent, trivalent, or of higher number of valencies) CAR comprising a polypeptide comprising: (a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a plurality (such as at least about any one of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or more) of binding moieties specifically binding to an antigen (such as a tumor antigen); (b) a transmembrane domain; and (c) an intracellular signaling domain.

In some embodiments, the binding moieties, such as VHVs (including the plurality of VHVs, or the first VHH and/or the second VHH) are camelid, chimeric, human, or humanized. In some

embodiments, the binding moieties or VHJs are connected to each other via peptide bonds or peptide linkers. In some embodiments, each peptide linker is no more than about 50 (such as no more than about any one of 35, 25, 20, 15, 10, or 5) amino acids long.

In some embodiments, the CAR further comprises a hinge domain (such as a CD8-alpha hinge domain) located between the C-terminus of the extracellular antigen binding domain and the N-terminus of the transmembrane domain. In some embodiments, the CAR further comprises a signal peptide (such as a CD8-alpha signal peptide) located at the N-terminus of the polypeptide.

Without wishing to be bound by theory, the CARs that are multivalent, or those CARs comprising an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first BCMA binding moiety and a second BCMA binding moiety, may be specially suitable for targeting multimeric antigens via synergistic binding by the different antigen binding sites, or for enhancing binding affinity or avidity to the antigen. Improved avidity may allow for a substantial reduction in the dose of CAR-T cells needed to achieve a therapeutic effect, such as a dose ranging from 4.0×10^4 to 1.0×10^6 CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject, or 3.0×10^6 to 1.0×10^8 total CAR-T expressing cells. Single valent CARs, such as bb2121, may need to be dosed at 5 to 10 times these amounts to achieve a comparable effect. In various embodiments, reduced dosage ranges may provide for substantial reduction in cytokine release syndrome (CRS) and other potentially dangerous side-effects of CAR-T therapy.

The various binding moieties (e.g., an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first BCMA binding moiety and a second BCMA binding moiety) in the CARs described herein may be connected to each other via peptide linkers. In some embodiments, the binding moieties (such as VHJs) are directly connected to each other without any peptide linkers. The peptide linkers connecting different binding moieties (such as VHJs) may be the same or different. Different domains of the CARs may also be connected to each other via peptide linkers.

The peptide linker in the CARs described herein can be of any suitable length. In some embodiments, the peptide linker is at least about any of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 75, 100 or more amino acids long. In some embodiments, the peptide linker is no more than about any of 100, 75, 50, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 19,

18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 or fewer amino acids long. In some embodiments, the length of the peptide linker is any of about 1 amino acid to about 10 amino acids, about 1 amino acids to about 20 amino acids, about 1 amino acid to about 30 amino acids, about 5 amino acids to about 15 amino acids, about 10 amino acids to about 25 amino acids, about 5 amino acids to about 30 amino acids, about 10 amino acids to about 30 amino acids long, about 30 amino acids to about 50 amino acids, about 50 amino acids to about 100 amino acids, or about 1 amino acid to about 100 amino acids.

The CARs of the present application comprise a transmembrane domain that can be directly or indirectly connected to the extracellular antigen binding domain.

The CAR may comprise a T-cell activation moiety. The T-cell activation moiety can be any suitable moiety derived or obtained from any suitable molecule. In one embodiment, for example, the T-cell activation moiety comprises a transmembrane domain. The transmembrane domain can be any transmembrane domain derived or obtained from any molecule known in the art. For example, the transmembrane domain can be obtained or derived from a CD8a molecule or a CD28 molecule. CD8 is a transmembrane glycoprotein that serves as a co-receptor for the T-cell receptor (TCR), and is expressed primarily on the surface of cytotoxic T-cells. The most common form of CD8 exists as a dimer composed of a CD8a and CD8P chain. CD28 is expressed on T-cells and provides co-stimulatory signals required for T-cell activation. CD28 is the receptor for CD80 (B7.1) and CD86 (B7.2). In a preferred embodiment, the CD8a and CD28 are human.

In addition to the transmembrane domain, the T-cell activation moiety further comprises an intracellular (i.e., cytoplasmic) T-cell signaling domain. The intercellular T-cell signaling domain can be obtained or derived from a CD28 molecule, a CD3 zeta (ζ) molecule or modified versions thereof, a human Fc receptor gamma (FcR γ) chain, a CD27 molecule, an OX40 molecule, a 4-1BB molecule, or other intracellular signaling molecules known in the art. As discussed above, CD28 is a T-cell marker important in T-cell co-stimulation. CD3 ζ associates with TCRs to produce a signal and contains immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motifs (ITAMs). 4-1BB, also known as CD137, transmits a potent costimulatory signal to T-cells,

promoting differentiation and enhancing long-term survival of T lymphocytes. In a preferred embodiment, the CD28, CD3 zeta, 4- IBB, OX40, and CD27 are human.

The T-cell activation domain of the CAR encoded by the inventive nucleic acid sequence can comprise any one of aforementioned transmembrane domains and any one or more of the aforementioned intercellular T-cell signaling domains in any combination. For example, the inventive nucleic acid sequence can encode a CAR comprising a CD28 transmembrane domain and intracellular T-cell signaling domains of CD28 and CD3 zeta. Alternatively, for example, the inventive nucleic acid sequence can encode a CAR comprising a CD8a transmembrane domain and intracellular T-cell signaling domains of CD28, CD3 zeta, the Fc receptor gamma (FcR γ) chain, and/or 4-1 BB.

In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety and/or the second BCMA binding moiety is an anti-BCMA VH. In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety is a first anti-BCMA VH and the second BCMA binding moiety is a second anti-BCMA VH. In certain embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2. In certain embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10.

In certain embodiments, the second BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4. In certain embodiments, the second BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

In some embodiments, the first BCMA binding moiety and the second BCMA binding moiety are connected to each other via a peptide linker. In certain embodiments, the peptide linker comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3. In certain embodiments, the peptide linker comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.

In some embodiments, the CAR polypeptide further comprises a signal peptide located at the N-terminus of the polypeptide. In some embodiments, the signal peptide is derived from CD8-alpha. In certain embodiments, the signal peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of

SEQ ID NO:1. In certain embodiments, signal peptide comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.

In certain embodiments, the transmembrane domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6. In certain embodiments, the transmembrane domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.

In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a primary intracellular signaling domain of an immune effector cell. In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain is derived from CD3 ζ . In some embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises one or more co-stimulatory signaling domains. In certain embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

In certain embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16. In certain embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7. In certain embodiments, the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

In some embodiments, the CAR polypeptide further comprises a hinge domain located between the C-terminus of the extracellular antigen binding domain and the N-terminus of the transmembrane domain. In certain embodiments, the hinge domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5. In certain embodiments, the hinge domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.

In one embodiment, the CAR comprises one or more of, or all of, SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:7 and SEQ ID NO:8. In one embodiment, the CAR comprises SEQ ID NO:17. In one embodiment, the CAR comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of one or more of, or all of, SEQ ID NO:9, SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15 and SEQ ID NO:16. In one embodiment, the CAR comprises SEQ ID NO:17.

Immune effector cells compositions

“Immune effector cells” are immune cells that can perform immune effector functions. In some embodiments, the immune effector cells express at least Fc γ RIII and perform ADCC effector function. Examples of immune effector cells which mediate ADCC include peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC), natural killer (NK) cells, monocytes, cytotoxic T cells, neutrophils, and eosinophils. In some embodiments, the immune effector cells are T cells. In some embodiments, the T cells are autologous. In some embodiments, the T cells are allogeneic. In some embodiments, the T cells are CD4+/CD8-, CD4-/CD8+, CD4+/CD8+, CD4-/CD8-, or combinations thereof. In some embodiments, the T cells produce IL-2, TNF, and/or TNF upon expressing the CAR and binding to the target cells, such as CD20+ or CD19+ tumor cells. In some embodiments, the CD8+ T cells lyse antigen-specific target cells upon expressing the CAR and binding to the target cells.

Biological methods for introducing the vector into an immune effector cell include the use of DNA and RNA vectors. Viral vectors have become the most widely used method for inserting genes into mammalian, e.g., human cells. Chemical means for introducing the vector into an immune effector cell include colloidal dispersion systems, such as macromolecule complexes, nanocapsules, microspheres, beads, and lipid-based systems including oil-in-water emulsions, micelles, mixed micelles, and liposomes. An exemplary colloidal system for use as a delivery vehicle in vitro is a liposome (e.g., an artificial membrane vesicle).

Provided herein are dosage forms comprising 3.0×10^7 to 1.0×10^8 CAR-T cells comprising a CAR comprising a polypeptide comprising: (a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first BCMA binding moiety specifically binding to a first epitope of BCMA, and a second BCMA binding moiety specifically binding to a second epitope of BCMA; (b) a transmembrane domain; and (c) an intracellular signaling domain, wherein the first epitope and the second epitope are different. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 3.0×10^7 to 4.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 3.5×10^7 to 4.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 4.0×10^7 to 5.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 4.5×10^7 to 5.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 5.0×10^7 to

6.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 5.5×10^7 to 6.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 6.0×10^7 to 7.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 6.5×10^7 to 7.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 7.0×10^7 to 8.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 7.5×10^7 to 8.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 8.0×10^7 to 9.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 8.5×10^7 to 9.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 9.0×10^7 to 1.0×10^8 of the CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, there is provided a dosage form comprising 3.0×10^7 to 1.0×10^8 engineered immune effector cells (such as T-cells) comprising a CAR comprising a polypeptide comprising: (a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first anti-BCMA VHH specifically binding to a first epitope of BCMA, and a second anti-BCMA VHH specifically binding to a second epitope of BCMA; (b) a transmembrane domain; and (c) an intracellular signaling domain, wherein the first epitope and the second epitope are different. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 3.0×10^7 to 4.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 3.5×10^7 to 4.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 4.0×10^7 to 5.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 4.5×10^7 to 5.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 5.0×10^7 to 6.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 5.5×10^7 to 6.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 6.0×10^7 to 7.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 6.5×10^7 to 7.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 7.0×10^7 to 8.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 7.5×10^7 to 8.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 8.0×10^7 to 9.0×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 8.5×10^7 to 9.5×10^7 of the CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the dosage form comprises 9.0×10^7 to 1.0×10^8 of the CAR-T cells.

In some embodiments, the cell population of the CAR-T dosage forms described herein comprise a T cell or population of T cells, e.g., at various stages of differentiation. Stages of T cell differentiation include naïve T cells, stem central memory T cells, central memory T cells, effector memory T cells, and terminal effector T cells, from least to most differentiated. After antigen exposure, naïve T cells proliferate and differentiate into memory T cells, e.g., stem central memory T cells and central memory T cells, which then differentiate into effector memory T cells. Upon receiving appropriate T cell receptor, costimulatory, and inflammatory signals, memory T cells further differentiate into terminal effector T cells. See, e.g., Restifo. Blood. 124.4(2014):476-77; and Joshi et al. J. Immunol. 180.3(2008):1309-15.

Naïve T cells can have the following expression pattern of cell surface markers: CCR7+, CD62L+, CD45RO-, CD95-. Stem central memory T cells (Tscm) can have the following expression pattern of cell surface markers: CCR7+, CD62L+, CD45RO-, CD95+. Central memory T cells (Tcm) can have the following expression pattern of cell surface markers: CCR7+, CD62L+, CD45RO+, CD95+. Effector memory T cells (Tem) can have the following expression pattern of cell surface markers: CCR7-, CD62L-, CD45RO+, CD95+. Terminal effector T cells (Teff) can have the following expression pattern of cell surface markers: CCR7-, CD62L-, CD45RO-, CD95+. See, e.g., Gattinoni et al. Nat. Med. 17(2011):1290-7; and Flynn et al. Clin. Translat. Immunol. 3(2014):e20.

Pharmaceutical compositions and formulations

Further provided by the present application are pharmaceutical compositions comprising any one of the anti-BCMA antibodies of the disclosure, or any one of the engineered immune effector cells comprising any one of the CARs (such as BCMA CARs) as described herein, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Pharmaceutical compositions can be prepared by mixing any of the immune effector cells described herein, having the desired degree of purity, with optional pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients or stabilizers (Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences 16th edition, Osol, A. Ed. (1980)), in the form of lyophilized formulations or aqueous solutions. In certain embodiments, a pharmaceutical composition of CAR-T cells further comprises an excipient selected from dimethylsulfoxide or dextran-40.

The compositions described herein may be administered as part of a pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more carriers. The choice of carrier will be determined in part by the particular inventive nucleic acid sequence, vector, or host cells expressing the CAR, as well as by the particular method used to administer the inventive nucleic acid sequence, vector, or host cells expressing the CAR. Accordingly, there are a variety of suitable formulations of the pharmaceutical composition of the invention. For example, the pharmaceutical composition can contain preservatives. Suitable preservatives may include, for example, methylparaben, propylparaben, sodium benzoate, and benzalkonium chloride. A mixture of two or more preservatives optionally may be used. The preservative or mixtures thereof are typically present in an amount of about 0.0001% to about 2% by weight of the total composition.

In addition, buffering agents may be used in the composition. Suitable buffering agents include, for example, citric acid, sodium citrate, phosphoric acid, potassium phosphate, and various other acids and salts. A mixture of two or more buffering agents optionally may be used. The buffering agent or mixtures thereof are typically present in an amount of about 0.001 % to about 4% by weight of the total composition.

The composition comprising the inventive nucleic acid sequence encoding the CAR, or host cells expressing the CAR, can be formulated as an inclusion complex, such as cyclodextrin inclusion complex, or as a liposome. Liposomes can serve to target the host cells (e.g., T-cells or NK cells) or the inventive nucleic acid sequence to a particular tissue. Liposomes also can be used to increase the half-life of the inventive nucleic acid sequence. Many methods are available for preparing liposomes, such as those described in, for example, Szoka et al., Ann. Rev. Biophys. Bioeng., 9: 467 (1980), and U.S. Patents 4,235,871; 4,501,728; 4,837,028; and 5,019,369. The composition can employ time-released, delayed release, and sustained release delivery systems such that the delivery of the inventive composition occurs prior to, and with sufficient time to cause, sensitization of the site to be treated. Many types of release delivery systems are available and known to those of ordinary skill in the art. Such systems can avoid repeated administrations of the composition, thereby increasing convenience to the subject and the physician, and may be particularly suitable for certain composition embodiments of the invention.

In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are formulated at a dose of about 1.0×10^5 to 2.0×10^5 cells/kg, 1.5×10^5 to 2.5×10^5 cells/kg, 2.0×10^5 to 3.0×10^5 cells/kg, 2.5×10^5 to 3.5×10^5 cells/kg, 3.0×10^5 to 4.0×10^5 cells/kg, 3.5×10^5 to 4.5×10^5 cells/kg, 4.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^5 cells/kg, 4.5×10^5 to 5.5×10^5 cells/kg, 5.0×10^5 to 6.0×10^5 cells/kg, 5.5×10^5 to 6.5×10^5 cells/kg, 6.0×10^5 to 7.0×10^5 cells/kg, 6.5×10^5 to 7.5×10^5 cells/kg, 7.0×10^5 to 8.0×10^5 cells/kg, 7.5×10^5 to 8.5×10^5 cells/kg, 8.0×10^5 to 9.0×10^5 cells/kg, 8.5×10^5 to 9.5×10^5 cells/kg, 9.0×10^5 to 1.0×10^6 cells/kg. In a preferred embodiment, the dose is formulated at approximately 0.75×10^6 cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are formulated at a dose of less than 1.0×10^8 cells per subject.

Methods of treatment

The present application further relates to methods and compositions for use in cell immunotherapy. In some embodiments, the cell immunotherapy is for treating cancer in a subject, including but not limited to hematological malignancies and solid tumors. In some embodiments, the subject is human. The methods are suitable for treatment of adults and pediatric population, including all subsets of age, and can be used as any line of treatment, including first line or subsequent lines.

Any of the anti-BCMA VHVs, CARs, and engineered immune effector cells (such as CAR-T cells) described herein may be used in the method of treating cancer.

In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 1.0×10^5 to 2.0×10^5 cells/kg, 1.5×10^5 to 2.5×10^5 cells/kg, 2.0×10^5 to 3.0×10^5 cells/kg, 2.5×10^5 to 3.5×10^5 cells/kg, 3.0×10^5 to 4.0×10^5 cells/kg, 3.5×10^5 to 4.5×10^5 cells/kg, 4.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^5 cells/kg, 4.5×10^5 to 5.5×10^5 cells/kg, 5.0×10^5 to 6.0×10^5 cells/kg, 5.5×10^5 to 6.5×10^5 cells/kg, 6.0×10^5 to 7.0×10^5 cells/kg, 6.5×10^5 to 7.5×10^5 cells/kg, 7.0×10^5 to 8.0×10^5 cells/kg, 7.5×10^5 to 8.5×10^5 cells/kg, 8.0×10^5 to 9.0×10^5 cells/kg, 8.5×10^5 to 9.5×10^5 cells/kg, 9.0×10^5 to 1.0×10^6 cells/kg, 1.0×10^6 to 2.0×10^6 cells/kg, 1.5×10^6 to 2.5×10^6 cells/kg, 2.0×10^6 to 3.0×10^6 cells/kg, 2.5×10^6 to 3.5×10^6 cells/kg, 3.0×10^6 to 4.0×10^6 cells/kg, 3.5×10^6 to 4.5×10^6 cells/kg, 4.0×10^6 to 5.0×10^6 cells/kg, 4.5×10^6 to 5.5×10^6 cells/kg, or 5.0×10^6 to 6.0×10^6 cells/kg. In a preferred embodiment, the dose comprises

approximately 0.75×10^6 cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 1.0×10^8 cells per subject.

In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of less than 1.0×10^8 cells per subject. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 3.0 to 4.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 3.5 to 4.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 4.0 to 5.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 4.5 to 5.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 5.0 to 6.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 5.5 to 6.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 6.0 to 7.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 6.5 to 7.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 7.0 to 8.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 7.5 to 8.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 8.0 to 9.0×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 8.5 to 9.5×10^7 cells. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 9.0×10^7 to 1.0×10^8 cells.

In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.693×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.52×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.94×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.709×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.51×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered at a dose of about 0.95×10^6 CAR-positive viable T-cells/kg. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered in an outpatient setting.

In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells (e.g., at any of the foregoing doses) are administered in one or more intravenous infusions. In certain embodiments, the CAR-T cells are administered in

a single intravenous infusion. In certain embodiments, the single intravenous infusion is administered using a single bag of said CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the administration of the said single bag of CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said single bag of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the single intravenous infusion is administered using two bags of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the administration of each of said two bags of CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said each of said two bags of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the time since the initial apheresis to the administration of CAR-T cells is less than 41, 47, 54, 61, 68, 75, 82, 89, 96, 103, 110, 117, 124, 131, 138, 145, 152, 159, 166 or 167 days. In certain embodiments, the time since the initial apheresis to the administration of CAR-T cells is greater than 41, 47, 54, 61, 68, 75, 82, 89, 96, 103, 110, 117, 124, 131, 138, 145, 152, 159, 166 or 167 days.

In certain embodiments, a lymphodepleting regimen precedes the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen comprises administration of cyclophosphamide and/or administration of fludarabine. In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen is administered intravenously. In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen precedes the administration of CAR-T cells by 5 to 7 days. In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen comprises intravenous administration of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine 5 to 7 days prior to the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen comprises cyclophosphamide administered intravenously at 300 mg/m^2 . In certain embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen comprises fludarabine administered intravenously at 30 mg/m^2 .

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment with CAR-T cells further comprises treating the subject for cytokine release syndrome (CRS) within 3 days of CAR-T cell administration without significantly reducing CAR-T cell expansion *in vivo*. In certain embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering the subject with an IL-6R inhibitor. In certain embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is an antibody. In certain embodiments, the IL-6 inhibitor inhibits IL-6R by

binding its extracellular domain. In certain embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor prevents the binding of IL-6 to IL-6R. In certain embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is tocilizumab.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment with CAR-T cells further comprises treating the subject with pre-infusion medication comprising an antipyretic and an antihistamine up to 1 hour prior to the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the antipyretic comprises either paracetamol or acetaminophen. In certain embodiments, the antipyretic is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In certain embodiments, the antipyretic is administered to the subject at a dosage of between 650 mg and 1000 mg. In certain embodiments, the antihistamine comprises diphenhydramine. In certain embodiments, the antihistamine is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In certain embodiments, the antihistamine is administered at a dosage of between 25 mg and 50 mg, or its equivalent.

The methods described herein may be used for treating various cancers, including both solid cancer and liquid cancer. In certain embodiments, the methods are used to treat multiple myeloma. The methods described herein may be used as a first therapy, second therapy, third therapy, or combination therapy with other types of cancer therapies known in the art, such as chemotherapy, surgery, radiation, gene therapy, immunotherapy, bone marrow transplantation, stem cell transplantation, targeted therapy, cryotherapy, ultrasound therapy, photodynamic therapy, radio-frequency ablation or the like, in an adjuvant setting or a neoadjuvant setting.

In some embodiments, the cancer is multiple myeloma. In some embodiments, the cancer is stage I, stage II or stage III, and/or stage A or stage B multiple myeloma based on the Durie-Salmon staging system. In some embodiments, the cancer is stage I, stage II or stage III multiple myeloma based on the International staging system published by the International Myeloma Working Group (IMWG).

In certain embodiments, the subject received prior treatment with at least three prior lines of treatment. In certain embodiments, the median number of lines of prior therapy is 6. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is a proteasomal inhibitor (PI). Non-limiting examples of a PI include bortezomib,

carfilzomib and ixazomib. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is an immunomodulatory drug (IMiD). Non-limiting examples of an IMiD include lenalidomide, pomalidomide and thalidomide. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is a corticosteroid. Non-limiting examples of a corticosteroid include dexamethasone and prednisone. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is an alkylating agent. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is an anthracycline. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is an anti-CD38 antibody. Non-limiting examples of an anti-CD38 antibody include daratumumab, isatuximab and the investigational antibody TAK-079. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is elotuzumab. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with a medicament that is panobinostat. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with at least one medicament, said at least one medicament comprising of at least one of PI, an IMiD, and an anti-CD38 antibody. In certain embodiments, the at least three prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with at least one medicament, said at least one medicament comprising of at least one of PI, an IMiD, and an alkylating agent. In certain embodiments, the subject has relapsed after said at least three prior lines of treatment. In certain embodiments, the cancer is refractory to one or more of, or all of, bortezomib, carfilzomib, ixazomib, lenalidomide, pomalidomide, thalidomide, dexamethasone, prednisone, alkylating agents, daratumumab, isatuximab, TAK-079, elotuzumab and panobinostat. In certain embodiments, the cancer is refractory to at least two medicaments following said at least three prior lines of treatment. In certain embodiments, the at least two medicaments to which the subject is refractory comprise PI and an IMiD. In certain embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least three medicaments. In certain embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least four medicaments. In certain embodiments, the at least four prior lines of treatment comprise treatment with at least one medicament, said at least one medicament comprising of at least one of PI, an IMiD, anti-CD38 antibody, and an alkylating agent. In certain embodiments, the subject is refractory to at least five medicaments. In certain

embodiments prior lines of treatment include surgery, radiotherapy, or autologous or allogeneic transplant, or any combination of such treatments.

The composition comprising the host cells expressing the inventive CAR- encoding nucleic acid sequence, or a vector comprising the inventive CAR-encoding nucleic acid sequence, can be administered to a mammal using standard administration techniques, including oral, intravenous, intraperitoneal, subcutaneous, pulmonary, transdermal, intramuscular, intranasal, buccal, sublingual, or suppository administration. The composition preferably is suitable for parenteral administration. The term “parenteral”, as used herein, includes intravenous, intramuscular, subcutaneous, rectal, vaginal, and intraperitoneal administration. More preferably, the composition is administered to a mammal using peripheral systemic delivery by intravenous, intraperitoneal, or subcutaneous injection. Most preferably, the composition is administered by intravenous infusion.

The composition comprising the host cells expressing the inventive CAR- encoding nucleic acid sequence, or a vector comprising the inventive CAR-encoding nucleic acid sequence, can be administered with one or more additional therapeutic agents, which can be coadministered to the mammal. By “coadministering” is meant administering one or more additional therapeutic agents and the composition comprising the inventive host cells or the inventive vector sufficiently close in time such that the inventive CAR can enhance the effect of one or more additional therapeutic agents, or vice versa. In this regard, the composition comprising the inventive host cells or the inventive vector can be administered first, and the one or more additional therapeutic agents can be administered second, or vice versa.

A CAR-expressing cell described herein and the at least one additional therapeutic agent can be administered simultaneously, in the same or in separate compositions, or sequentially. For sequential administration, the CAR-expressing cell described herein can be administered first, and the additional agent can be administered second, or the order of administration can be reversed.

In some embodiments, a lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said lymphodepleting regimen comprises administration of cyclophosphamide; or administration of fludarabine. In some embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen is administered intravenously. In some embodiments, the lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells by 5 to 7 days. In some embodiments, said lymphodepleting regimen comprises intravenous administration of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine 5 to 7 days prior to said infusion of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said cyclophosphamide is administered intravenously at 300 mg/m². In some embodiments, said fludarabine is administered intravenously at 30 mg/m².

In some embodiments, the subject is treated with pre-infusion medication comprising an antipyretic and an antihistamine up to 1 hour prior to the infusion comprising CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, said antipyretic comprises either paracetamol or acetaminophen. In some embodiments, said antipyretic is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In some embodiments, said antipyretic is administered to the subject at a dosage of between 650 mg and 1000 mg. In some embodiments, said antihistamine comprises diphenhydramine. In some embodiments, said antihistamine is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously. In some embodiments, said antihistamine is administered at a dosage of between 25 mg and 50 mg, or its equivalent.

In some embodiments, the method further comprises diagnosing said subject for cytokine release syndrome (CRS). In preferred embodiments, the diagnosis is made according to the American Society of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT), formerly the American Society for Blood and Marrow Transplantation (ASBMT) consensus grading. A non-limiting summary of the ASTCT consensus grading for CRS diagnosis is provided in **Table 13**. In some embodiments, the CRS is assessed by evaluating the levels of one or more of, or all of, IL-6, IL-10, IFN-γ, C-reactive protein (CRP) and ferritin.

In some embodiments, the method further comprises treating said subject for cytokine release syndrome (CRS). In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS is with an antipyretic. In some examples, the treatment of CRS is with anticytokine therapy. In some embodiments, the

treatment of CRS occurs more than 3 days following the infusion. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS occurs without significantly reducing CAR-T cell expansion *in vivo*. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject an IL-6R inhibitor. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is an antibody. In some embodiments, the antibody inhibits IL-6R by binding its extracellular domain. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor prevents the binding of IL-6 to IL-6R. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is tocilizumab. In some embodiments, the anticytokine therapy comprises administration of tocilizumab. In some embodiments, the anticytokine therapy comprises administration of steroids. In some embodiments, treatment for CRS comprises treatment with monoclonal antibodies other than tocilizumab. In some embodiments, the antibodies other than tocilizumab target cytokines. In some embodiments, the cytokine that the antibodies other than tocilizumab target is IL-1. In some embodiments, the IL-1 targeting antibody is Anakinra. In some embodiments, the cytokine that the antibodies other than tocilizumab target is TNFa. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject a corticosteroid. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises using a vasopressor. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises intubation or mechanical ventilation. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject cyclophosphamide. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject etanercept. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject levetiracetam. In some embodiments, the treatment of CRS comprises supportive care.

In some embodiments, the method further comprises diagnosing said subject for immune cell effector-associated neurotoxicity (ICANS). In some embodiments, the diagnosis is made according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI CTCAE) criteria. In some embodiments, the diagnosis is made according to the NCI CTCAE criteria, Version 5.0. In some embodiments, the diagnosis is made according to the American Society of Transplantation and Cellular Therapy (ASTCT) consensus grading system. In some embodiments, the embodiments, there is neurotoxicity consistent with ICAN. A non-limiting summary of the ASTCT consensus grading system for ICANS diagnosis is provided in Table 14. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject an IL-6R inhibitor. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is an antibody. In some

embodiments, the antibody inhibits IL-6R by binding its extracellular domain. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor prevents the binding of IL-6 to IL-6R. In some embodiments, the IL-6R inhibitor is tocilizumab. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject an IL-1 inhibitor. In some embodiments the IL-1 inhibitor is an antibody. In a preferred embodiment, the IL-1 inhibiting antibody is Anakinra. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject a corticosteroid. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject levetiracetam. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject dexamethasone. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject methylprednisolone sodium succinate. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject pethidine. In some embodiments, the treatment of ICANS comprises administering to the subject one or more of, or all of, tocilizumab, Anakinra, a corticosteroid, levetiracetam, dexamethasone, methylprednisolone sodium succinate or pethidine.

Once the composition comprising host cells expressing the inventive CAR- encoding nucleic acid sequence, or a vector comprising the inventive CAR-encoding nucleic acid sequence, is administered to a mammal (e.g., a human), the biological activity of the CAR can be measured by any suitable method known in the art. In accordance with the inventive method, the CAR binds to BCMA on the multiple myeloma cells, and the multiple myeloma cells are destroyed. Binding of the CAR to BCMA on the surface of multiple myeloma cells can be assayed using any suitable method known in the art, including, for example, ELISA and flow cytometry. The ability of the CAR to destroy multiple myeloma cells can be measured using any suitable method known in the art, such as cytotoxicity assays described in, for example, Kochenderfer et al., *J. Immunotherapy*, 32(7): 689-702 (2009), and Herman et al. *J. Immunological Methods*, 285(1): 25-40 (2004). The biological activity of the CAR also can be measured by assaying expression of certain cytokines, such as CD 107a, IFNy, IL-2, and TNF.

In certain embodiments, a subject's response to the method of treatment is assessed using the IMWG-based response criteria, which are summarized in **Table 6**. In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a stringent complete response (sCR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a complete response (CR), which is worse than a stringent

complete response (sCR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a very good partial response (VGPR), which is worse than a complete response (CR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a partial response (PR), which is worse than a very good partial response (VGPR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a minimal response (MR), which is worse than a partial response (PR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a stable disease, which is worse than a minimal response (MR). In certain embodiments, the response may be classified as a progressive disease, which is worse than a stable disease.

In certain embodiments, the tests used to assess IMWG-based response criteria are Myeloma protein (M-protein) measurements in serum and urine, serum calcium corrected for albumin, bone marrow examination, skeletal survey and documentation of extramedullary plasmacytomas.

Non-limiting examples of tests for M-protein measurement in blood and urine are known to one of ordinary skill in the art and comprise serum quantitative Ig, serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP), serum immunofixation electrophoresis, serum FLC assay, 24-hour urine M-protein quantitation by electrophoresis (UPEP), urine immunofixation electrophoresis, and serum β 2-microglobulin.

Calculating serum calcium corrected for albumin in blood samples for detection of hypercalcemia is known to one of ordinary skill in the art. Calcium binds to albumin and only the unbound (free) calcium is biologically active; therefore, the serum calcium level must be adjusted for abnormal albumin levels (“corrected serum calcium”).

In certain embodiments, bone marrow aspirate or biopsy may be performed for clinical assessments or bone marrow aspirate may be performed for biomarker evaluations. In certain embodiments, clinical staging (morphology, cytogenetics, and immunohistochemistry or immunofluorescence or flow cytometry) may be done. In certain embodiments, a portion of the bone marrow aspirate may be immunophenotyped and monitored for BCMA, checkpoint ligand expression in CD138-positive multiple myeloma cells, and checkpoint expression on T cells. In certain embodiments, minimal residual disease (MRD) may be monitored in subjects using next

generation sequencing (NGS) of bone marrow aspirate DNA. The NGS of bone marrow aspirate DNA is known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain embodiments, the NGS is performed via clonoSeq. In certain embodiments, baseline bone marrow aspirates may be used to define the myeloma clones, and post-treatment samples may be used to evaluate MRD negativity. In certain embodiments, the MRD negativity status may be based on samples that are evaluable. In certain embodiments, evaluable samples are those that passed one or more of, or all of, calibration, quality control, and sufficiency of cells evaluable at a particular sensitivity level. In some embodiments, the sensitivity level is 10^{-6} . In certain embodiments, the sensitivity level is 10^{-6} , the sensitivity level is 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the sensitivity level is 10^{-4} . In certain embodiments, the sensitivity level is 10^{-3} .

In certain embodiments, a skeletal survey of any one of, or all of, the skull, the entire vertebral column, the pelvis, the chest, the humeri, the femora, and any other bones, may be performed and evaluated by either roentgenography (“X-rays”) or low-dose computed tomography (CT) diagnostic quality scans without the use of IV contrast, both of which are known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain embodiments, following T cell administration and before disease progression is confirmed, X-rays or CT scans may be performed locally, whenever clinically indicated based on symptoms, to document response or progression. In certain embodiments, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) may be used for evaluating bone disease but does not replace a skeletal survey. MRI is known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain embodiments, if a radionuclide bone scan is used at screening, in addition to the complete skeletal survey, both methods may be used to document disease status. Radionuclide bone scans are known to one of ordinary skill in the art. In certain embodiments, the radionuclide bone scan and complete skeletal survey may be performed at the same time. In certain embodiments, a radionuclide bone scan may not replace a complete skeletal survey. In certain embodiments, if a subject presents with disease progression manifested by symptoms of pain due to bone changes, then disease progression may be documented by skeletal survey or other radiographs, depending on the symptoms that the subject experiences.

In certain embodiments, extramedullary plasmacytomas may be documented by clinical examination or MRI. In certain embodiments, if there was no contraindication to the use of IV

contrast, extramedullary plasmacytomas may be documented by CT scan. In certain embodiments, extramedullary plasmacytomas may be documented by a fusion of positron emission tomography (PET) and CT scans if the CT component is of sufficient diagnostic quality. In certain embodiments, assessment of measurable sites of extramedullary disease may be performed, measured, or evaluated locally every 4 weeks for subjects until development of confirmed CR or confirmed disease progression. In certain embodiments, evaluation of extramedullary plasmacytomas may be done every 12 weeks.

In certain embodiments, to qualify for VGPR or PR or MR, the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the existing extramedullary plasmacytomas may have decreased by over 90% or at least 50%, respectively. In certain embodiments, to qualify for disease progression, either the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the existing extramedullary plasmacytomas must have increased by at least 50%, or the longest diameter of previous lesion >1 cm in short axis must have increased at least 50%, or a new plasmacytoma must have developed. In certain embodiments, to qualify for disease progression when not all existing extramedullary plasmacytomas are reported, the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the reported plasmacytomas had increased by at least 50%. In certain embodiments, if the study treatment interferes with the immunofixation assay, CR may be defined as the disappearance of the original M-protein associated with multiple myeloma on immunofixation.

In certain embodiments, a subject's response to the method of treatment is assessed in terms of change in tumor burden. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden may be assessed in terms of paraprotein level changes. In some embodiments, the paraprotein is an M-protein in the serum. In some embodiments, the paraprotein is an M-protein in the serum. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed in terms of the difference between involved and uninvolved free light chain (dFLC). In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following the administration of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 1 month following the administration of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 3 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In

some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 6 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 9 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In some embodiments, the change in tumor burden is assessed at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 12 months following the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject a reduction in tumor burden. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 90% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 91% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 92% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 93% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 94% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 95% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 96% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 97% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 98% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in greater than 99% of the subjects. In some embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a reduction in tumor burden in 100% of the subjects.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status or maintaining said minimal residual disease (MRD) status. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject a minimal residual disease (MRD) negative

status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-6} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-4} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-3} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed in the bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining the MRD negative status when assessed using a bone marrow sample that is evaluable. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed using bone marrow DNA. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 1 month following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 3 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 6 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 9 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 12 months following the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining in the subject a first obtained minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining in the subject minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-6} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-4} . In

certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-3} . In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining the MRD negative status when assessed using a bone marrow sample. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining the MRD negative status when assessed using a bone marrow sample that is evaluable. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status is maintained when assessed using bone marrow DNA. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 1 month following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 3 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 6 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 9 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in maintaining MRD negative status when assessed at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 12 months following the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-6} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-4} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-3} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method

of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 1 month following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 3 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 6 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 9 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 12 months following the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-6} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-4} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a sensitivity level of 10^{-3} . In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 1 month following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of

treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 3 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 6 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 9 months following the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with evaluable bone marrow and MRD negative status at a median follow-up time of greater than or equal to 12 months following the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with a stringent complete response. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with a complete response or better. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with a very good partial response or better. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed by evaluating the proportion of subjects with a partial response or better. In certain embodiments, the efficacy of the method of treatment is assessed using an overall response rate. In some embodiments, the overall response rate is the proportion of subjects with a partial response or better.

In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 39% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 44% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 49% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 54% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual

disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 59% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 64% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 69% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 74% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 70% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} . In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 75% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 80% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 85% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 90% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 95% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity rate of greater than 100% at a sensitivity threshold level of 10^{-5} in evaluable bone marrow.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 90%. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 91%. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 93%. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 95%. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 97%. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 99%. In some embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of 100%. In certain embodiments, the overall response rate is assessed at a median follow-up time of at least

6 months following said infusion of said CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the overall response rate is assessed at a median follow-up time of at least 12 months following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, more than 70% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 72% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 74% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 76% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 80% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 82% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 84% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 86% of subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, more than 54% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 58% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 62% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 66% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 70% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 74% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the

administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, more than 78% of responding subjects are responding to the method of treatment at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a duration of response greater than 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 13 months, 14 months, or 15 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a duration of response greater than 12.4 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a duration of response greater than 15.9 months.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median duration of response greater than 9 months, 10 months, 11 months, 12 months, 13 months, 14 months, or 15 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median duration of response greater than 12.4 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median duration of response greater than 15.9 months.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 60% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 61% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 62% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 63% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 64% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 65% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 66% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a complete response or better in greater than 67% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 1 month after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 3 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 6 months after the administration of CAR-T

cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed less than 15 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the complete response or better is assessed more than 15 months the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 85% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 86% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 87% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 88% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 89% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 90% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 91% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a very good partial response or better in greater than 92% of the subjects. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 1 month after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 3 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 6 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed less than 15 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the very good partial response or better is assessed more than 15 months the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.15 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.10 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.05 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.00 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 0.95 months.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.96 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.86 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.76 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.66 months. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.56 months.

In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 82% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 82% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 85% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 87% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 90% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 92% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 95% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 80% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the

method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 83% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 86% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 89% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 92% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining an overall survival rate of greater than 93% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 70% at 9 months after s after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 72% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 75% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 77% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 80% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 82% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 85% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than or equal to 87% at 9 months after the administration of CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 66% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 69% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 72% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a

progression free survival rate of greater than 76% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 80% at 12 months after the administration of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the method is effective in obtaining a progression free survival rate of greater than 84% at 12 months after the administration of the CAR-T cells.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 86% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 88% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 90% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 92% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 94% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 96% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 98% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 99% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that 100% of subjects recover from cytokine release syndrome.

In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 90% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 92% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 94% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 96% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 98% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that greater than 99% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any. In certain embodiments, the method of treatment is effective in obtaining that 100% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any.

obtaining that 100% of subjects recover from immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity, if any.

In some embodiments, the method further comprises diagnosing said subject for cytopenias. In some embodiments, the cytopenias comprise one or more of, or all of, lymphopenia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia. Without being bound by theory, a Grade 3 or Grade 4 but not a Grade 2 or lower lymphopenia is characterized by to a lymphocyte count less than 0.5×10^9 cells per litre of a subject's blood sample, a Grade 3 or Grade 4 but not a Grade 2 or lower neutropenia is characterized by a neutrophil count less than 1000 cells per microliter of a subject's blood sample, and a Grade 3 or Grade 4 but not a Grade 2 or lower thrombocytopenia is characterized by a platelet count less than 50,000 cells per microliter of a subject's blood sample. In some embodiments, greater than 75% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 lymphopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower lymphopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 80% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 lymphopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower lymphopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 85% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 lymphopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower lymphopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 90% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 lymphopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower lymphopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 70% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 neutropenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower neutropenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 75% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 neutropenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower neutropenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 80% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 neutropenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower neutropenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 85% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 neutropenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower neutropenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 30% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 thrombocytopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower

thrombocytopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 34% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 thrombocytopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower thrombocytopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 38% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 thrombocytopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower thrombocytopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration. In some embodiments, greater than 42% subjects with Grade 3 or Grade 4 thrombocytopenia following CAR-T cell administration recover to Grade 2 or lower thrombocytopenia 60 days following CAR-T cell administration.

In certain embodiments, the subject is re-treated by administration via a second intravenous infusion of a second dose of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the re-treatment dose comprises 1.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^6 of CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject. In certain embodiments, the re-treatment dose comprises approximately 0.75×10^5 of CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject. In certain embodiments, the subject is re-treated upon exhibiting progressive disease after a best response of minimal response or better following the first infusion of CAR-T cells. In certain embodiments, the time between the first infusion of CAR-T cells and the detection of the progressive disease comprises at least six months.

Kits and articles of manufacture

Any of the compositions described herein may be comprised in a kit. In some embodiments, engineered immortalized CAR-T cells are provided in the kit, which also may include reagents suitable for expanding the cells, such as media.

In a non-limiting example, a chimeric receptor expression construct, one or more reagents to generate a chimeric receptor expression construct, cells for transfection of the expression construct, and/or one or more instruments to obtain immortalized T cells for transfection of the expression construct (such an instrument may be a syringe, pipette, forceps, and/or any such medically approved apparatus).

In some aspects, the kit comprises reagents or apparatuses for electroporation of cells.

In some embodiments, the kit comprises artificial antigen presenting cells.

The kits may comprise one or more suitably aliquoted compositions of the present invention or reagents to generate compositions of the invention. The components of the kits may be packaged either in aqueous media or in lyophilized form. The container means of the kits may include at least one vial, test tube, flask, bottle, syringe, or other container means, into which a component may be placed, and preferably, suitably aliquoted. Where there is more than one component in the kit, the kit also will generally contain a second, third, or other additional container into which the additional components may be separately placed. However, various combinations of components may be comprised in a vial. The kits of the present invention also will typically include a means for containing the chimeric receptor construct and any other reagent containers in close confinement for commercial sale. Such containers may include injection or blow molded plastic containers into which the desired vials are retained, for example.

EXAMPLES

The following example is provided to further describe some of the embodiments disclosed herein. The example is intended to illustrate, not to limit, the disclosed embodiments.

Example 1: ciltacabtagene autoleucel

B cell maturation antigen (BCMA, also known as CD269 and TNFRSF17) is a 20 kilodalton, type III membrane protein that is part of the tumor necrosis receptor superfamily. BCMA is a cell surface antigen that is predominantly expressed in B-lineage cells at high levels. **Figure 1** shows the expression of BCMA on various immune-derived cells. Comparative studies have shown a lack of BCMA in most normal tissues and absence of expression on CD34-positive hematopoietic stem cells. BCMA binds 2 ligands that induce B cell proliferation, and plays a critical role in B cell maturation and subsequent differentiation into plasma cells. The selective expression and the biological importance for the proliferation and survival of myeloma cells makes BCMA a promising target for CAR-T based immunotherapy, ciltacabtagene autoleucel.

ciltacabtagene autoleucel is an autologous chimeric antigen receptor T cell (CAR-T) therapy that targets BCMA. The ciltacabtagene autoleucel chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprises two B-cell maturation antigen (BCMA)-targeting VHH domains designed to confer avidity. A map of the construct is depicted in **Figure 2**.

Example 2: Method of Treatment with Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel

Herein, we describe a Phase 1b-2, open-label, multicenter study that we conducted to evaluate the safety and efficacy of ciltacabtagene autoleucel in adult subjects with relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma. In the Phase 1b portion of the study, a recommended Phase 2 dose (RP2D) of ciltacel was confirmed. In Phase 2, subjects were treated at the RP2D established from Phase 1b. The objective of the phase 2 portion of the study was to further establish the safety and efficacy of ciltacel. A schematic overview of the study flow chart, which consists of a lymphodepleting regimen prior to ciltacel infusion, is depicted in **Figure 3**.

The first analysis was conducted approximately 6 months after the last subject received their initial dose of ciltacel. This report is generated from the protocol-specified first analysis. A summary of the subjects enrolled in the study is presented in **Table 1**, in which percentages were calculated with the number of subjects in the all enrolled analysis set as denominator. A total of 113 subjects (Phase 1b: 35; Phase 2: 78) were enrolled (apheresed) in the US, out of which 101 subjects (Phase 1b: 30; Phase 2: 71) received conditioning regimen and 97 subjects (Phase 1b: 29; Phase 2: 68) received ciltacel infusion and received it at the targeted RP2D. These 97 subjects constituted the all treated analysis set, which is the basis for all efficacy and safety analyses presented below. At the clinical cutoff, the median duration of follow-up, based on Kaplan-Meier product limit estimate, for the all treated analysis set was 12.4 months. A summary of the study's duration of follow-up is presented in **Table 2**, which lists duration of follow up relative to the date of the initial ciltacel infusion (Day 1).

The patient population was screened to include those with relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma, with 3 prior lines or double refractory to PI/IMiD and prior PI, IMiD, anti-CD38 exposure, where PI is a proteasomal inhibitor and IMiD is an immunomodulatory drug. Another possible medicament is an alkylating agent (ALKY). A summary of prior therapies received by the study subjects is presented in **Table 3**, and a summary of the refractory status of our study subjects to prior multiple myeloma therapies is presented in **Table 4**. In the all treated analysis set, the median time since initial diagnosis to enrollment was 5.94 years, and the median number of lines of prior therapy was 6. All subjects had received prior treatment with a PI, IMiD, and anti-CD38 antibody therapy (e.g. TAK-079, an investigational anti-CD38 antibody). Ninety-nine percent of subjects were refractory to the last line of therapy prior to study entry, and 87.6% were triple-refractory (refractory to an anti-CD38, a PI, and a IMiD) and 42.3% penta-refractory (refractory to an anti-CD38, at least 2 PIs, and at least 2 IMiDs), respectively. 96.9% of the subjects were refractory to daratumumab, 83.5% were refractory to pomalidomide, and 64.9% were refractory to carfilzomib. A total of 89.7% of the subjects had had one or more prior autologous stem cell transplant(s) and 8.2% had had a prior allogeneic transplant. Thus, this set of subjects represents a highly refractory population of patients with multiple myeloma, who have very limited treatment options.

Eligible subjects underwent apheresis for collection of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC). Study enrollment was defined at the day of apheresis. The ciltacabtagene autoleucel drug product (DP) was generated from T cells selected from the apheresis. Subjects for whom apheresis or manufacturing failed were allowed a second attempt at apheresis.

Bridging therapy (anti-plasma cell directed treatment between apheresis and the first dose of the conditioning regimen) was allowed when clinically indicated (i.e., to maintain disease stability while waiting for manufacturing of ciltacabtagene autoleucel). Additional cycles of bridging therapy were considered based on the subject's clinical status and timing of availability of CAR-T product. A bridging therapy is defined as short-term treatment which had previously generated at least a response of stable disease for the subject.

After meeting safety criteria for treatment, subjects were administered a conditioning regimen to help achieve lymphodepletion and promote CAR-T cell expansion in the subject. The lymphodepleting regimen comprised intravenous (IV) administration of cyclophosphamide 300 mg/m² and fludarabine 30 mg/m² daily for 3 days. Cyclophosphamide 300 mg/m² and fludarabine 30 mg/m² before ciltacel infusion is consistent with the lymphodepletion regimen used in the marketed CAR-T products Kymriah and Yescarta.

5 to 7 days after start of the conditioning regimen, ciltacel, which had been prepared from apheresed material via viral transduction as shown in **Figure 4**, was administered on a day defined as Day 1. Approximately one hour prior to ciltacel infusion, subjects received premedication. Corticosteroids were not be used during pre-infusion. Pre-infusion medication is listed in **Table 5**. Following treatment with the pre-infusion medication, ciltacel administration was performed in a single infusion at a total targeted dose of 0.75×10^6 CAR-positive viable T cells/kg (range: $0.5-1.0 \times 10^6$ CAR-positive viable T cells/kg) with a maximum total dose of 1.0×10^8 CAR-positive viable T cells.

In the all treated analysis set, the median (range) of ciltacel dose formulated and dose administered were 0.693 (0.52, 0.94) and $0.709 (0.51, 0.95) \times 10^6$ CAR-positive viable T cells/kg, respectively. Median (range) time since initial apheresis to ciltacel infusion was 47 (41, 167)

days. A dose of ciltacabtagene autoleucel was contained in either 1 or 2 cryopreserved patient-specific infusion bags. The timing of ciltacel thaw was coordinated with the timing of the infusion. The infusion time was confirmed in advance, and the start time for thaw was adjusted so that ciltacel was available for infusion when the patient would have been ready. If more than one bag was received for the treatment infusion, 1 bag was thawed at a time. The thawing/infusion of the next bag was made to wait until it was determined that the previous bag had been safely administered.

The post-infusion period started after the completion of ciltacel infusion on Day 1 and lasted until Day 100. The post-treatment period started on Day 101 and lasted until study completion, defined as 2 years after the last subject had received his or her initial dose of ciltacel.

Example 3: Evaluation of Efficacy in Subjects Treated with Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel

Using the IMWG-based response criteria summarized in **Table 6**, this study classified a response, in order from better to worse, as either a stringent complete response (sCR), a complete response (CR), a very good partial response (VGPR), a partial response (PR), a minimal response (MR), a stable disease or a progressive disease. Disease progression was consistently documented across clinical study sites. The tests performed to assess IMWG-based response criteria are as follows:

1. Myeloma Protein Measurements in Serum and Urine: Myeloma protein (M-protein) measurements were made using the following tests from blood and 24-hour urine samples: serum quantitative Ig, serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP), serum immunofixation electrophoresis, serum FLC assay (for subject in suspected CR/sCR and every disease assessment for subjects with serum FLC only disease), 24-hour urine M-protein quantitation by electrophoresis (UPEP), urine immunofixation electrophoresis, serum β 2-microglobulin. Disease progression based on one of the laboratory tests alone were confirmed by at least 1 repeat investigation. Disease evaluations continued beyond relapse from CR until disease progression was confirmed. Serum and urine immunofixation and serum free light chain (FLC) assays were performed at screening and thereafter when a CR was suspected (when serum or 24-hour urine M-protein

electrophoresis [by SPEP or UPEP] were 0 or non-quantifiable). For subjects with light chain multiple myeloma, serum and urine immunofixation tests were performed routinely.

2. Serum Calcium Corrected for Albumin: Blood samples for calculating serum calcium corrected for albumin were collected and analyzed until the development of confirmed disease progression; development of hypercalcemia (corrected serum calcium >11.5 mg/dL [$>2.9 \text{ mmol/L}$]) may indicate disease progression or relapse if it is not attributable to any other cause. Calcium binds to albumin and only the unbound (free) calcium is biologically active; therefore, the serum calcium level must be adjusted for abnormal albumin levels (“corrected serum calcium”).
3. Bone Marrow Examination: Bone marrow aspirate or biopsy was performed for clinical assessments. Bone marrow aspirate was performed for biomarker evaluations. Clinical staging (morphology, cytogenetics, and immunohistochemistry or immunofluorescence or flow cytometry) was done. A portion of the bone marrow aspirate was immunophenotyped and monitor for BCMA, checkpoint ligand expression in CD138-positive multiple myeloma cells, and checkpoint expression on T cells. If feasible, bone marrow aspirate also was performed to confirm CR and sCR and at disease progression. Additionally, since minimal residual disease (MRD) negativity was being evaluated as a potential surrogate for PFS and OS in multiple myeloma treatment, MRD was monitored in subjects using next generation sequencing (NGS) on bone marrow aspirate DNA. Baseline bone marrow aspirates were used to define the myeloma clones, and post-treatment samples were used to evaluate MRD negativity. A fresh bone marrow aspirate was collected prior to the first dose of conditioning regimen (≤ 7 days).
4. Skeletal Survey: A skeletal survey (including skull, entire vertebral column, pelvis, chest, humeri, femora, and any other bones for which the investigator suspects involvement by disease) was performed during the screening phase and evaluated by either roentgenography (“X-rays”) or low-dose computed tomography (CT) scans without the use of IV contrast. If a CT scan was used, it was of diagnostic quality. Following cilta-cel infusion, and before disease progression was confirmed, X-rays or CT scans were performed locally, whenever clinically indicated based on symptoms, to document response or progression. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was an acceptable method for evaluation of bone disease, and was included at discretion; however, it did not replace

the skeletal survey. If a radionuclide bone scan was used at screening, in addition to the complete skeletal survey, then both methods were used to document disease status. These tests were performed at the same time. A radionuclide bone scan did not replace a complete skeletal survey. If a subject presented with disease progression manifested by symptoms of pain due to bone changes, then disease progression was documented by skeletal survey or other radiographs, depending on the symptoms that the subject experiences. If the diagnosis of disease progression was obvious by radiographic investigations, then no repeat confirmatory X-rays were thought necessary to perform. If changes were equivocal, then a repeat X-ray was performed in 1 to 3 weeks.

5. Documentation of Extramedullary Plasmacytomas: Sites of known extramedullary plasmacytomas were documented ≤ 14 days prior to the first dose of the conditioning regimen. Clinical examination or MRI were used to document extramedullary sites of disease. CT scan evaluations were considered an acceptable alternative if there was no contraindication to the use of IV contrast. Positron emission tomography scan or ultrasound tests were not acceptable to document the size of extramedullary plasmacytomas. However, PET/CT fusion scans were optionally used to document extramedullary plasmacytomas if the CT component of the PET/CT fusion scan was of sufficient diagnostic quality. Extramedullary plasmacytomas were assessed for all subjects with a history of plasmacytomas or if clinically indicated at ≤ 14 days prior to the first dose of the conditioning regimen, by clinical examination or radiologic imaging. Assessment of measurable sites of extramedullary disease were performed, measured, and evaluated locally every 4 weeks (for physical examination) for subjects with a history of plasmacytomas or as clinically indicated during treatment for other subjects until development of confirmed CR or confirmed disease progression. If assessment could only be performed radiologically, then evaluation of extramedullary plasmacytomas was done every 12 weeks. Irradiated or excised lesions were considered not measurable and were monitored only for disease progression. To qualify for VGPR or PR/ minimal response (MR), the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the existing extramedullary plasmacytomas must have decreased by over 90% or at least 50%, respectively, and new plasmacytomas must not have developed. To qualify for disease progression, either the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the existing

extramedullary plasmacytomas must have increased by at least 50%, or the longest diameter of previous lesion >1 cm in short axis must have increased at least 50%, or a new plasmacytoma must have developed. When not all existing extramedullary plasmacytomas were reported, but the sum of products of the perpendicular diameters of the reported plasmacytomas had increased by at least 50%, then the criterion for disease progression was met.

If it was determined that the study treatment interfered with the immunofixation assay, CR was defined as the disappearance of the original M-protein associated with multiple myeloma on immunofixation, and the determination of CR was not affected by unrelated M-proteins secondary to the study treatment.

The response and duration of response of responders in the all treated analysis set, based on Independent Review Committee (IRC) assessment, is presented in **Figure 5**.

Study endpoints, as assessed by independent review committee (IRC), were as follows:

1. Overall response rate (ORR) was defined as the proportion of subjects who achieved a PR or better according to the IMWG criteria.
2. VGPR or better response rate (sCR+CR+VGPR) was defined as the proportion of subjects who achieve a VGPR or better response according to the IMWG criteria.
3. Duration of response (DOR) was calculated among responders (with a PR or better response) from the date of initial documentation of a response (PR or better) to the date of first documented evidence of progressive disease, as defined in the IMWG criteria. Relapse from CR by positive immunofixation or trace amount of M-protein was not considered as disease progression. Disease evaluations continued beyond relapse from CR until disease progression was confirmed.
4. Time to response (TTR) was defined as the time between date of the initial infusion of ciltacel and the first efficacy evaluation at which the subject had met all criteria for PR or better.

5. Progression-free survival (PFS) was defined as the time from the date of the initial infusion of ciltacabtagene autoleucel to the date of first documented disease progression, as defined in the IMWG criteria, or death due to any cause, whichever occurred first.
6. Overall survival (OS) was measured from the date of the initial infusion of ciltacabtagene autoleucel to the date of the subject's death.

For ORR, the response rate and its 95% exact confidence interval (CI) was calculated based on binomial distribution, and the null hypothesis was rejected if the lower bound of the confidence interval exceeded 30%. Analysis of VGPR or better response rate, DOR, PFS, and OS was conducted at the same cutoff as the ORR. The distribution (median and Kaplan-Meier curves) of DOR was provided using Kaplan-Meier estimates. Similar analysis was performed for OS, PFS, and TTR.

The overall best response for subjects in the all treated analysis set is summarized in **Table 7**. In the all treated analysis set, based on IRC assessment, 94 subjects (96.9%) achieved a response of PR or better, 65 subjects (67.0%) achieved complete response (CR) or better, CBR was 96.9%. The deep and durable response induced by ciltacabtagene autoleucel were demonstrated by a VGPR or better rate of 92.8% and a CR or better rate of 67.0%, and a median DOR not reached with a median follow-up of 12.4 months at the time of clinical cutoff. The metrics used to evaluate ciltacabtagene autoleucel efficacy are summarized below:

- Tumor burden reduction: Tumor burden was reduced in 100% of subjects.
- Overall Response Rate (ORR): 96.9% of subjects had overall responses, with 95% exact CI (91.2%, 99.4%).
- VGPR or better: 90 subjects (92.8% of subjects) achieved VGPR (very good partial response) or better.
- Duration of Response (DOR): Median DOR was not reached with 95% CI (15.9, NE) months; the probabilities of the responders remaining in response at 9 months and 12 months were 80.2% (95% CI: 70.4%, 87.0%) and 68.2% (95% CI: 54.4%, 78.6%), respectively. A

Kaplan-Meier plot for DOR for all responders in the all treated analysis set is presented in **Figure 6**, and DOR for all responders in the all treated analysis set is summarized in **Table 8**.

- Time to Response (TTR): Median time to first response (PR or better) and median time to best response were 0.95 and 2.56 months, respectively.
- Progression-Free Survival (PFS): Median PFS was not reached with 95% CI (16.79, NE) months; 9-month and 12-month PFS rates (95% CI) were 80.3% (70.9%, 87.0%) and 76.6% (66.0%, 84.3%), respectively. A summary of the PFS in the all treated analysis set is presented in **Table 9**.
- Overall Survival (OS): Fourteen subjects (14.4%) had died at the time of clinical cutoff. Nine-month and 12-month overall survival rates (95% CI) were 90.7% (82.8%, 95.0%) and 88.5% (80.2%, 93.5%), respectively. A Kaplan-Meier plot for OS based on the all treated analysis set is presented in **Figure 7**, and OS based on the all treated analysis set is summarized in **Table 10**.
- Mean Residual Disease (MRD) negative rate (at 10^{-5} sensitivity level): MRD negative rate was 54.6% (95% CI: 44.2%, 64.8%), and 33 (34.0%) subjects achieved MRD-negative CR/sCR. Summaries of overall MDR negativity rate at 10^{-5} in the bone marrow are presented, for all subjects in the all treated analysis set in **Table 11** and for subjects with evaluable sample at 10^{-5} in the all treated analysis set in **Table 12**. Evaluable samples were those that passed calibration and quality control, and included sufficient cells for evaluation at the respective testing threshold.

Example 4: Evaluation of Safety in Subjects Treated with Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel

Adverse events were followed, reported and graded according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (NCI-CTCAE Version 5.0), with the exception of CRS and CAR-T cell-related neurotoxicity (eg, ICANS). CRS was evaluated according to the ASTCT consensus grading, summarized in **Table 13**. At the first sign of CRS (such as fever), subjects were immediately hospitalized for evaluation. Tocilizumab intervention was discretionally used to treat subjects presenting symptoms of fever when other sources of

fever had been eliminated. Tocilizumab was discretionally used for early treatment in subjects at high risk of severe CRS (for example, high baseline tumor burden, early fever onset, or persistent fever after 24 hours of symptomatic treatment). Other monoclonal antibodies targeting cytokines (for example, anti-IL1 and/or anti-TNF α) were optionally used, especially for cases of CRS which did not respond to tocilizumab.

CAR-T cell-related neurotoxicity (eg, ICANS) was graded using the ASTCT consensus grading, summarized in **Table 14**. Additionally, all individual symptoms of CRS (eg, fever, hypotension) and ICANS (eg, depressed level of consciousness, seizures) were captured as individual adverse events and graded by CTCAE criteria. Neurotoxicity that was not temporarily associated with CRS, or any other neurologic adverse events that did not qualify as ICANS, were graded by CTCAE criteria. Any adverse event or serious adverse event not listed in the NCI CTCAE Version 5.0 was graded according to investigator clinical judgment by using the standard grades as follows:

1. Grade 1: Mild; asymptomatic or mild symptoms; clinical or diagnostic observations only; intervention not indicated.
2. Grade 2: Moderate; minimal, local or noninvasive intervention indicated; limiting age-appropriate instrumental activities of daily living.
3. Grade 3: Severe or medically significant but not immediately life-threatening; hospitalization or prolongation of hospitalization indicated; disabling; limiting self-care activities of daily living.
4. Grade 4: Life-threatening consequences; urgent intervention indicated.
5. Grade 5: Death related to adverse event.

Ciltacabtagene autoleucel was determined to have a safety profile consistent with the mechanism of action of CAR-T therapy.

CRS: CAR-T cell-related adverse events of CRS were common (94.8%) but most were low grade. All-grade CRS was reported for 92 (94.8%) subjects, as evaluated by the ASTCT consensus grading system. All events of CRS had recovered, with the exception of 1

(1.1%) fatal event from a subject with a 97-day duration of CRS. A summary of treatment-emergent CRS events in the all treated analysis set is presented in **Table 15**. Immune Effector Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity (ICANS): All-grade ICANS was reported for 16 (16.5%) subjects, as evaluated by the ASTCT consensus grading system. All events had recovered. A summary of ICANS, with onset after ciltacabtagene autoleucel infusion, in the all treated analysis set is presented in **Table 16**.

Cytopenias: Grade 3 or 4 cytopenias were common in the post-infusion period, including lymphopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, but the majority of these events recovered by Day 60. 96 (99.0%), 95 (97.9%) and 60 (61.9%) subjects had Grade 3 or 4 lymphopenia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia, respectively, in the first 100 days after ciltacabtagene autoleucel infusion. 88 (90.7%), 85 (87.6%), and 41 (42.3%) subjects had their initial Grade 3 or 4 events recovered to Grade 2 or lower by Day 60 for lymphopenia, neutropenia, and thrombocytopenia, respectively. A summary of cytopenias following treatment with ciltacabtagene autoleucel in the all treated analysis set is presented in **Table 17**.

In conclusion, single-agent and one-time infusion of ciltacabtagene autoleucel demonstrated unprecedented clinical activity in a heavily pretreated patient population, including with an ORR of 96.9% and rapid onset of response in less than 1 month.

The teachings of all patents, published applications, and references cited herein are incorporated by reference in their entirety.

While example embodiments have been particularly shown and described, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the scope of the embodiments encompassed by the appended claims.

TABLES**Table 1: Summary of Subject Treatment Overview; All Enrolled Analysis Set (Study 68284528MMY2001)**

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all enrolled	35	78	113
Subject who underwent apheresis	35 (100.0%)	78 (100.0%)	113 (100.0%)
Subjects who received conditioning regimen	30 (85.7%)	71 (91.0%)	101 (89.4%)
Subjects who received ciltacel infusion	29 (82.9%)	68 (87.2%)	97 (85.8%)
Subjects received conditioning regimen but did not receive ciltacel infusion	1 (2.9%)	3 (3.8%)	4 (3.5%)
Reasons			
Adverse event	1 (2.9%)	0	1 (0.9%)
Subject refused further study treatment	0	2 (2.6%)	2 (1.8%)
Death	0	1 (1.3%)	1 (0.9%)

Table 2: Summary of Study Duration of Follow-up; All Treated Analysis Set (Study 68284528MMY2001)

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Duration of follow-up (months)			
N	29	68	97
Mean (SD)	16.67 (3.815)	10.79 (2.597)	12.55 (4.033)
Median	16.94	11.27	12.42
Range	(3.3+; 24.9)	(1.5+; 14.8)	(1.5+; 24.9)

+ Denotes subjects who died.

Table 3: Summary of Prior Therapies for Multiple Myeloma; All Treated Analysis Set (Study 68284528MMY2001)

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Number of lines of prior therapies for multiple myeloma			
N	29	68	97
Category, n (%)			
3	7 (24.1%)	10 (14.7%)	17 (17.5%)
4	3 (10.3%)	13 (19.1%)	16 (16.5%)
5	6 (20.7%)	9 (13.2%)	15 (15.5%)
>5	13 (44.8%)	36 (52.9%)	49 (50.5%)
Mean (SD)	6.1 (3.37)	6.4 (3.19)	6.3 (3.23)
Median	5.0	6.0	6.0
Range	(3; 18)	(3; 18)	(3; 18)
Prior transplantation			
Autologous	26 (89.7%)	61 (89.7%)	87 (89.7%)
1	26 (89.7%)	61 (89.7%)	87 (89.7%)
2	19 (65.5%)	51 (75.0%)	70 (72.2%)
Allogenic	7 (24.1%)	10 (14.7%)	17 (17.5%)
0	8 (11.8%)	8 (11.8%)	8 (8.2%)
Prior radiotherapy	7 (24.1%)	40 (58.8%)	47 (48.5%)
Prior cancer-related surgery/procedure	2 (6.9%)	22 (32.4%)	24 (24.7%)
Prior PI	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Bortezomib	25 (86.2%)	67 (98.5%)	92 (94.8%)
Carfilzomib	26 (89.7%)	57 (83.8%)	83 (85.6%)
Ixazomib	9 (31.0%)	20 (29.4%)	29 (29.9%)
Prior IMiD	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Lenalidomide	29 (100.0%)	67 (98.5%)	96 (99.0%)
Pomalidomide	26 (89.7%)	63 (92.6%)	89 (91.8%)
Thalidomide	6 (20.7%)	15 (22.1%)	21 (21.6%)
Prior PI and Prior IMiD	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Prior corticosteroids	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Dexamethasone	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Prednisone	3 (10.3%)	6 (8.8%)	9 (9.3%)
Prior alkylating agents	28 (96.6%)	66 (97.1%)	94 (96.9%)
Prior anthracyclines	9 (31.0%)	18 (26.5%)	27 (27.8%)
Prior anti-CD38 antibodies	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Daratumumab	27 (93.1%)	67 (98.5%)	94 (96.9%)
Isatuximab	2 (6.9%)	6 (8.8%)	8 (8.2%)
TAK-079	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Prior Elotuzumab	4 (13.8%)	19 (27.9%)	23 (23.7%)
Prior Panobinostat	5 (17.2%)	6 (8.8%)	11 (11.3%)
Prior PI+IMiD+ALKY	28 (96.6%)	66 (97.1%)	94 (96.9%)
Prior PI+IMiD+anti-CD38 antibodies	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Prior PI+IMiD+anti-CD38 antibodies+ALKY	28 (96.6%)	66 (97.1%)	94 (96.9%)

Prior penta-exposed (at least 2 PIs + at least 2 IMiDs + 1 anti-CD38 antibodies)	22 (75.9%)	59 (86.8%)	81 (83.5%)
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Table 4: Summary of Refractory Status to Prior Multiple Myeloma Therapy; All Treated Analysis Set (Study 68284528MMY2001)

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Refractory at any point to prior therapy	29 (100.0%)	68 (100.0%)	97 (100.0%)
Refractory Status			
PI+IMiD+anti-CD38 antibody	25 (86.2%)	60 (88.2%)	85 (87.6%)
Any PI	25 (86.2%)	62 (91.2%)	87 (89.7%)
Any IMiD	28 (96.6%)	67 (98.5%)	95 (97.9%)
Any anti-CD38 antibody	29 (100.0%)	67 (98.5%)	96 (99.0%)
At least 2 PIs + at least 2 IMiDs + 1 anti-CD38 antibody	9 (31.0%)	32 (47.1%)	41 (42.3%)
Refractory to last line of prior therapy	28 (96.6%)	68 (100.0%)	96 (99.0%)
Refractory to			
Bortezomib	15 (51.7%)	51 (75.0%)	66 (68.0%)
Carfilzomib	21 (72.4%)	42 (61.8%)	63 (64.9%)
Ixazomib	7 (24.1%)	20 (29.4%)	27 (27.8%)
Lenalidomide	22 (75.9%)	57 (83.8%)	79 (81.4%)
Pomalidomide	22 (75.9%)	59 (86.8%)	81 (83.5%)
Thalidomide	1 (3.4%)	7 (10.3%)	8 (8.2%)
Daratumumab	27 (93.1%)	67 (98.5%)	94 (96.9%) ^a
Isatuximab	2 (6.9%)	5 (7.4%)	7 (7.2%)
TAK-079	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Elotuzumab	1 (3.4%)	18 (26.5%)	19 (19.6%)
Panobinostat	3 (10.3%)	5 (7.4%)	8 (8.2%)

^aTwo additional subjects were refractory to other anti-CD38 antibodies

Table 5: Pre-infusion Medications

Medication	Dose	Administration
Antihistamine	diphenhydramine (50 mg) or equivalent	Oral – administer 1 hour (\pm 15 minutes) prior to ciltacel infusion Or IV – start infusion 30 minutes (\pm 15 minutes) prior to ciltacel infusion
Antipyretic	acetaminophen (650 mg to 1,000 mg) or equivalent	Oral or IV - administer 30 minutes (\pm 15 minutes) prior to ciltacel infusion

Table 6: Criteria for Response to Multiple Myeloma Treatment

Response	Response Criteria
Stringent complete response (sCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CR as defined below, <i>plus</i> • Normal FLC ratio, <i>and</i> • Absence of clonal plasma cells (PCs) by immunohistochemistry or 2- to 4-color flow cytometry
Complete response (CR) ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative immunofixation of serum and urine, <i>and</i> • Disappearance of any soft tissue plasmacytomas, <i>and</i> • <5% PCs in bone marrow • No evidence of initial monoclonal protein isotype(s) on immunofixation of the serum and urine.^b
Very good partial response (VGPR) ^a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum and urine M-component detectable by immunofixation but not on electrophoresis, <i>or</i> • \geq90% reduction in serum M-component plus urine M-component <100 mg/24 hours
Partial response (PR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \geq50% reduction of serum M-protein and reduction in 24-hour urinary M-protein by \geq90% or to < 200 mg/24 hours • If serum and urine M-protein were not measurable, a decrease \geq50% in the difference between involved and uninvolved FLC levels was required in place of the M-protein criteria • If serum and urine M-protein were not measurable, and serum FLC assay was also not measurable, \geq50% reduction in bone marrow PCs was required in place of M-protein, provided baseline percentage had been \geq30% • In addition to the above criteria, if present at baseline, \geq50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytomas was also required.
Minimal response (MR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \geq25% but \leq49% reduction of serum M-protein <i>and</i> reduction in 24-hour urine M-protein by 50% to 89% • In addition to the above criteria, if present at baseline, \geq50% reduction in the size of soft tissue plasmacytomas was also required.
Stable disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not meeting criteria for sCR, CR, VGPR, PR, MR, or progressive disease
Progressive disease ^c	<p>Any one or more of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase of 25% from lowest response value in any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Serum M-component (absolute increase must be \geq0.5 g/dL), <i>and/or</i> – Urine M-component (absolute increase must be \geq200 mg/24 hours), <i>and/or</i> – Only in subjects without measurable serum and urine M-protein levels: the

	<p>difference between involved and uninvolv ed FLC levels (absolute increase must be $> 10 \text{ mg/dL}$)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Only in subjects without measurable serum and urine M-protein levels and without measurable disease by FLC levels, bone marrow PC percentage (absolute increase must be $\geq 10\%$). • Appearance of a new lesion(s), $\geq 50\%$ increase from nadir in sum of the products of the maximal perpendicular diameters of measured lesions of >1 lesion, or $\geq 50\%$ increase in the longest diameter of a previous lesion $>1 \text{ cm}$ in short axis • Definite development of new bone lesions or definite increase in the size of existing bone lesions • $\geq 50\%$ increase in circulating plasma cells (minimum of 200 cells per μL) if this was the only measure of disease
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- ^a Clarifications to the criteria for coding CR and VGPR in subjects in whom the only measurable disease is by serum FLC levels: CR in such subjects indicates a normal FLC ratio of 0.26 to 1.65 in addition to CR criteria listed above. VGPR in such subjects requires a $\geq 90\%$ decrease in the difference between involved and uninvolv ed FLC levels. For patients achieving very good partial response by other criteria, a soft tissue plasmacytoma must decrease by more than 90% in the sum of the maximal perpendicular diameter (SPD) compared with baseline.
- ^b In some cases it is possible that the original M protein light-chain isotype is still detected on immunofixation but the accompanying heavy-chain component has disappeared; this would not be considered as a CR even though the heavy-chain component is not detectable, since it is possible that the clone evolved to one that secreted only light chains. Thus, if a patient has IgA lambda myeloma, then to qualify as CR there should be no IgA detectable on serum or urine immunofixation; if free lambda is detected without IgA, then it must be accompanied by a different heavy chain isotype (IgG, IgM, etc.).
- ^c Clarifications to the criteria for coding progressive disease: bone marrow criteria for progressive disease are to be used only in subjects without measurable disease by M-protein and by FLC levels; “25% increase” refers to M-protein, and FLC, and does not refer to bone lesions, or soft tissue plasmacytomas and the “lowest response value” does not need to be a confirmed value.

Notes: All response categories (CR, sCR, VGPR, PR, MR, and progressive disease) require 2 consecutive assessments made at any time before the institution of any new therapy; CR, sCR, VGPR, PR, MR, and stable disease categories also require no known evidence of progressive or new bone lesions if radiographic studies were performed. VGPR and CR categories require serum and urine studies regardless of whether disease at baseline was measurable on serum, urine, both, or neither.

Radiographic studies are not required to satisfy these response requirements. Bone marrow assessments need not be confirmed. For progressive disease, serum M-component increases of $\geq 1 \text{ g/dL}$ are sufficient to define relapse if lowest M-component is $\geq 5 \text{ g/dL}$.

Source: Adapted from Durie (2015) and Rajkumar (2011)^{10,29}, Kumar (2016)¹⁷

Table 7: Overall Best Response Based on International Myeloma Working Group (IMWG) Consensus Criteria, as Assessed by Independent Review Committee (IRC); All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b		Phase 2		Phase 1b + Phase 2	
	n (%)	95% exact CI for ^a	n (%)	95% exact CI for ^b	n (%)	95% exact CI for %
Analysis set: all treated	29		68		97	
Best response						
Stringent complete response (sCR)	25 (86.2%)	(68.3%, 96.1%)	40 (58.8%)	(46.2%, 70.6%)	65 (67.0%)	(56.7%, 76.2%)
Complete response (CR) MRD-negative CR/sCR ^a	0 14 (48.3%)	(NE, NE) (29.4%, 67.5%)	0 19 (27.9%)	(NE, NE) (17.7%, 40.1%)	0 33 (34.0%)	(NE, NE) (24.7%, 44.3%)
Very good partial response (VGPR)	3 (10.3%)	(2.2%, 27.4%)	22 (32.4%)	(21.5%, 44.8%)	25 (25.8%)	(17.4%, 35.7%)
Partial response (PR)	1 (3.4%)	(0.1%, 17.8%)	3 (4.4%)	(0.9%, 12.4%)	4 (4.1%)	(1.1%, 10.2%)
Minimal response (MR)	0	(NE, NE)	0	(NE, NE)	0	(NE, NE)
Stable disease (SD)	0	(NE, NE)	0	(NE, NE)	0	(NE, NE)
Progressive disease (PD)	0	(NE, NE)	1 (1.5%)	(0.0%, 7.9%)	1 (1.0%)	(0.0%, 5.6%)
Not evaluable (NE)	0	(NE, NE)	2 (2.9%)	(0.4%, 10.2%)	2 (2.1%)	(0.3%, 7.3%)
Overall response (sCR + CR + VGPR + PR)	29 (100.0%)	(88.1%, 100.0%)	65 (95.6%)	(87.6%, 99.1%)	94 (96.9%)	(91.2%, 99.4%)
P-value (one-sided, exact binomial test for null hypothesis of overall response rate $\leq 30\%$)						<0.0001
Clinical benefit (Overall response + MR)	29 (100.0%)	(88.1%, 100.0%)	65 (95.6%)	(87.6%, 99.1%)	94 (96.9%)	(91.2%, 99.4%)
VGPR or better (sCR + CR + VGPR)	28 (96.6%)	(82.2%, 99.9%)	62 (91.2%)	(81.8%, 96.7%)	90 (92.8%)	(85.7%, 97.0%)
CR or better (sCR + CR)	25 (86.2%)	(68.3%, 96.1%)	40 (58.8%)	(46.2%, 70.6%)	65 (67.0%)	(56.7%, 76.2%)

Keys: CI = confidence interval.

^a MRD-negative CR/sCR. Only MRD assessments (10^{-5} testing threshold) within 3 months of achieving CR/sCR until death / progression / subsequent therapy (exclusive) were considered.**Table 8: Duration of Response Based on Independent Review Committee (IRC) Assessment; Responders in All Treated Analysis Set**

Analysis set: responders in all treated	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
	29	65	94
Duration of response			
Number of events (%)	9 (31.0%)	15 (23.1%)	24 (25.5%)
Number of censored (%)	20 (69.0%)	50 (76.9%)	70 (74.5%)
Kaplan-Meier estimate (months)			
25% quantile (95% CI)	12.0 (6.0, NE)	10.3 (4.5, NE)	11.1 (6.0, NE)
Median (95% CI)	NE (15.9, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (15.9, NE)
75% quantile (95% CI)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (NE, NE)
6-month event-free rate % (95% CI)	93.1 (75.1, 98.2)	80.7 (68.5, 88.5)	84.6 (75.4, 90.6)
9-month event-free rate % (95% CI)	86.2 (67.3, 94.6)	77.4 (64.8, 85.9)	80.2 (70.4, 87.0)
12-month event-free rate % (95% CI)	72.1 (51.8, 85.0)	71.9 (54.8, 83.4)	68.2 (54.4, 78.6)

Key: CI = confidence interval, NE = Not estimable.

Table 9: Progression-Free Survival Based on Independent Review Committee (IRC) Assessment; All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Progression-free survival			
Number of events (%)	9 (31.0%)	16 (23.5%)	25 (25.8%)
Number of censored (%)	20 (69.0%)	52 (76.5%)	72 (74.2%)
Kaplan-Meier estimate (months)			
25% quantile (95% CI)	13.73 (6.93, NE)	11.17 (5.42, NE)	12.02 (6.97, NE)
Median (95% CI)	NE (16.79, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (16.79, NE)
75% quantile (95% CI)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (NE, NE)
6-month progression-free survival rate % (95% CI)	93.1 (75.1, 98.2)	85.3 (74.4, 91.8)	87.6 (79.2, 92.8)
9-month progression-free survival rate % (95% CI)	86.2 (67.3, 94.6)	77.8 (65.9, 86.0)	80.3 (70.9, 87.0)
12-month progression-free survival rate % (95% CI)	82.8 (63.4, 92.4)	72.6 (56.5, 83.6)	76.6 (66.0, 84.3)
18-month progression-free survival rate % (95% CI)	57.7 (25.9, 79.9)	NE (NE, NE)	54.2 (26.4, 75.4)

Key: CI = confidence interval.

Table 10: Overall Survival; All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Overall survival			
Number of events (%)	5 (17.2%)	9 (13.2%)	14 (14.4%)
Number of censored (%)	24 (82.8%)	59 (86.8%)	83 (85.6%)
Kaplan-Meier estimate (months)			
25% quantile (95% CI)	19.12 (13.73, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	19.12 (19.12, NE)
Median (95% CI)	22.80 (19.12, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	22.80 (19.12, NE)
75% quantile (95% CI)	NE (22.80, NE)	NE (NE, NE)	NE (22.80, NE)
6-month overall survival rate % (95% CI)	96.6 (77.9, 99.5)	92.6 (83.2, 96.9)	93.8 (86.7, 97.2)
9-month overall survival rate % (95% CI)	93.1 (75.1, 98.2)	89.7 (79.5, 94.9)	90.7 (82.8, 95.0)
12-month overall survival rate % (95% CI)	93.1 (75.1, 98.2)	86.5 (75.7, 92.7)	88.5 (80.2, 93.5)
18-month overall survival rate % (95% CI)	89.7 (71.3, 96.5)	NE (NE, NE)	85.8 (75.4, 92.1)

Key: CI = confidence interval.

Table 11: Summary of Overall Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Negativity Rate at 10^{-5} in Bone Marrow Based on Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS); All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
MRD negativity rate (10^{-5})	18 (62.1%)	35 (51.5%)	53 (54.6%)
95% exact CI of MRD negative rate	(42.3%, 79.3%)	(39.0%, 63.8%)	(44.2%, 64.8%)

Key: CI = confidence interval.

Table 12: Summary of Overall Minimal Residual Disease (MRD) Negativity Rate at 10^{-5} in Bone Marrow Based on Next-Generation Sequencing; Subjects with Evaluable Sample at 10^{-5} in All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: subjects with evaluable sample at 10^{-5} in all treated	18	39	57
MRD negativity rate (10^{-5}) 95% exact CI of MRD negative rate	18 (100.0%) (81.5%, 100.0%)	35 (89.7%) (75.8%, 97.1%)	53 (93.0%) (83.0%, 98.1%)

Key: CI = confidence interval.

Table 13: Cytokine Release Syndrome ASTCT Consensus Grading System

Grade	Toxicity
Grade 1	Fever ^a (Temperature $\geq 38^\circ$)
Grade 2	Fever ^a (Temperature $\geq 38^\circ$) with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension not requiring vasopressors • And/or^c hypoxia requiring low-flow nasal cannula^b or blow-by.
Grade 3	Fever ^a (Temperature $\geq 38^\circ$) with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypotension requiring a vasopressor with or without vasopressin, • And/or^c hypoxia requiring high-flow nasal cannula^b, facemask, nonrebreather mask, or Venturi mask.
Grade 4	Fever ^a (Temperature $\geq 38^\circ$) with either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hypotension requiring multiple vasopressors (excluding vasopressin), • And/or^c hypoxia requiring positive pressure (eg, CPAP, BiPAP, intubation and mechanical ventilation).
Grade 5	Death

^a Fever not attributable to any other cause. In patients who have CRS then receive antipyretics or anticytokine therapy such as tocilizumab or steroids, fever is no longer required to grade subsequent CRS severity. In this case, CRS grading is driven by hypotension and/or hypoxia.

^b Low-flow nasal cannula is defined as oxygen delivered at ≤ 6 L/minute or blow-by oxygen delivery. High-flow nasal cannula is defined as oxygen delivered at >6 L/minute.

^c CRS grade is determined by the more severe event: hypotension or hypoxia not attributable to any other cause. Note: Organ toxicities associated with CRS may be graded according to CTCAE v5.0 but they do not influence CRS grading.

Source: Lee (2019)²¹

Table 14: Immune Effector Cell-associated Neurotoxicity Syndrome (ICANS) ASTCT Consensus Grading System^{a,b}

Neurotoxicity Domain	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
ICE Score	7-9	3-6	0-2	0 (patient is unarousable and unable to perform ICE).
Depressed Level of Consciousness	Awakens spontaneously.	Awakens to voice.	Awakens only to tactile stimulus.	Patient is unarousable or requires vigorous or repetitive tactile stimuli to arouse. Stupor or coma.
Seizure	N/A	N/A	Any clinical seizure, focal or generalized, that resolves rapidly; or Non-convulsive seizures on EEG that resolve with intervention.	Life-threatening prolonged seizure (>5 min); or Repetitive clinical or electrical seizures without return to baseline in between.
Motor Findings	N/A	N/A	N/A	Deep focal motor weakness such as hemiparesis or paraparesis.
Raised Intracranial Pressure / Cerebral Edema	N/A	N/A	Focal/local edema on neuroimaging.	Diffuse cerebral edema on neuroimaging; or Decerebrate or decorticate posturing; or Cranial nerve VI palsy; or Papilledema; or Cushing's triad.

a: Toxicity grading according to Lee et al 2019

b: ICANS grade is determined by the most severe event (ICE score, level of consciousness, seizure, motor findings, raised ICP/cerebral edema) not attributable to any other cause.

Note: all other neurological adverse events (not associated with ICANS) should continue to be graded with CTCAE Version 5.0 during both phases of the study

Table 15:Summary of Treatment-emergent Cytokine Release Syndrome (CRS) Events; All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b	Phase 2	Phase 1b + Phase 2
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Number of subjects with CRS	27 (93.1%)	65 (95.6%)	92 (94.8%)
Maximum toxicity grade			
Grade 1	14 (48.3%)	35 (51.5%)	49 (50.5%)
Grade 2	10 (34.5%)	28 (41.2%)	38 (39.2%)
Grade 3	1 (3.4%)	2 (2.9%)	3 (3.1%)
Grade 4	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Grade 5	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Time from initial infusion of CAR-T cells to first onset of CRS (days)			
N	27	65	92
Mean (SD)	7.0 (2.01)	6.4 (2.28)	6.6 (2.21)
Median	7.0	7.0	7.0
Range	(2; 12)	(1; 10)	(1; 12)
Duration of CRS (days)			
N	27	65	92
Mean (SD)	7.0 (18.04)	5.2 (2.68)	5.7 (9.94)
Median	3.0	4.0	4.0
Range	(2; 97)	(1; 14)	(1; 97)
Interquartile range	(2.0; 4.0)	(3.0; 6.0)	(3.0; 6.0)
Number of subjects with supportive measures to treat CRS ^a	26 (89.7%)	62 (91.2%)	88 (90.7%)
Anti-IL6 receptor Tocilizumab	23 (79.3%)	44 (64.7%)	67 (69.1%)
IL-1 receptor antagonist Anakinra	6 (20.7%)	12 (17.6%)	18 (18.6%)
Corticosteroids	6 (20.7%)	15 (22.1%)	21 (21.6%)
Vasopressor used	2 (6.9%)	2 (2.9%)	4 (4.1%)
Oxygen used	1 (3.4%)	5 (7.4%)	6 (6.2%)
Blow-by	0	0	0
Nasal cannula low flow (\leq 6L/min)	1 (3.4%)	5 (7.4%)	6 (6.2%)
Nasal cannula high flow ($>$ 6L/min)	0	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.0%)
Face mask	0	0	0
Non-Rebreather mask	0	0	0
Venturi mask	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Positive pressure	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Intubation/ Mechanical Ventilation	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Other	24 (82.8%)	57 (83.8%)	81 (83.5%)
Outcome of CRS			
N	27	65	92
Recovered or resolved	26 (96.3%)	65 (100.0%)	91 (98.9%)
Not recovered or not resolved	0	0	0
Recovered or resolved with sequelae	0	0	0
Recovering or resolving	0	0	0
Fatal	1 (3.7%)	0	1 (1.1%)
Unknown	0	0	0

Table 16:Summary of Immune Effector Cell-Associated Neurotoxicity (ICANS) With Onset After Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel Infusion; All Treated Analysis Set

	<u>Phase 1b</u>	<u>Phase 2</u>	<u>Phase 1b + Phase 2</u>
Analysis set: all treated	29	68	97
Number of subjects with ICANS	3 (10.3%) ^a	13 (19.1%)	16 (16.5%)
Maximum toxicity grade			
Grade 1	2 (6.9%)	8 (11.8%)	10 (10.3%)
Grade 2	0	4 (5.9%)	4 (4.1%)
Grade 3	1 (3.4%)	0	1 (1.0%)
Grade 4	0	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.0%)
Grade 5	0	0	0
Time from initial infusion of cilda-cel to first onset of ICANS			
N	3	13	16
Mean (SD)	6.3 (2.89)	7.5 (2.22)	7.3 (2.29)
Median	8.0	8.0	8.0
Range	(3; 8)	(4; 12)	(3; 12)
Duration of ICANS (days)			
N	3	13	16
Mean (SD)	3.7 (2.08)	5.2 (3.09)	4.9 (2.93)
Median	3.0	4.0	4.0
Range	(2; 6)	(1; 12)	(1; 12)
Number of subjects with treatment of ICANS	3 (10.3%)	13 (19.1%)	16 (16.5%)
IL-1 receptor antagonist anakinra	0	3 (4.4%)	3 (3.1%)
Anti-IL6 receptor tocilizumab	1 (3.4%)	2 (2.9%)	3 (3.1%)
Corticosteroid	1 (3.4%)	8 (11.8%)	9 (9.3%)
Levetiracetam	0	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.0%)
Dexamethasone	1 (3.4%)	8 (11.8%)	9 (9.3%)
Methylprednisolone sodium succinate	0	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.0%)
Pethidine	0	1 (1.5%)	1 (1.0%)
Outcome of ICANS			
N	3	13	16
Recovered or resolved	3 (100.0%)	13 (100.0%)	16 (100.0%)

Table 17:Summary of Cytopenias Following Treatment With ciltacabtagene autoleucel; All Treated Analysis Set

	Phase 1b + Phase 2 (N=97)		
	Grade 3/4 (%) After Day 1 Dosing	Initial Grade 3/4 (%) Recovered to <= Grade 2 by Day 30	Initial Grade 3/4 (%) Recovered to <= Grade 2 by Day 60
Thrombocytopenia	60 (61.9%)	23 (23.7%)	41 (42.3%)
Neutropenia	95 (97.9%)	67 (69.1%)	85 (87.6%)
Lymphopenia	96 (99.0%)	84 (86.6%)	88 (90.7%)

SEQUENCES

SEQ ID NO:1 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8α signal peptide, CD8α SP amino acid sequence

MALPV TALLPL ALLLHAARP

SEQ ID NO:2 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, VHH1 amino acid sequence

QVKLEESGGGLVQAGRSLRLSCAASEHTFSSHVMGWFRQAPGKERESVAVIGWRDISTS
YADSVKGRFTISRDNAKKTLYLQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAARRIDAADFDSWGQGTQVT
VSS

SEQ ID NO:3 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, G4S linker amino acid sequence

GGGGS

SEQ ID NO:4 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, VHH2 amino acid sequence

EVQLVESGGGLVQAGGSLRLSCAASGRTFTMGWFRQAPGKEREFAAISLSPTLAYYAE
SVKGRFTISRDNAKNTVVLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCAADRKSVMSIRPDYWGQGTQVTVS
S

SEQ ID NO:5 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8α hinge amino acid sequence

TTTPAPRPPPTPAPTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGGA VHTRGLDFACD

SEQ ID NO:6 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8α transmembrane amino acid sequence

IYWAPLAGTCVLLSLVITLYC

SEQ ID NO:7 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD137 Cytoplasmic amino acid sequence

KRGRKKLLYIFKQPFMRPVQTTQEEDGCSCRFPEEEEGGCEL

SEQ ID NO:8 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD3ζ Cytoplasmic amino acid sequence

RVKF SRSA DAPAYQQGQNQLYNE NLG RREE YDVLDKRR GRDPEM GGK PRR KNP QEG
LYNELQDKMAEAYSEIGMKGERRRGKGHD GLYQGLSTATKDTYD ALHM QAL PPR

SEQ ID NO:9 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8α signal peptide CD8α SP nucleic acid sequence

ATGGCTCTGCCGTACCGCTCTGCTGCCTCTGGCTCTGCTGCACGCTGCTC
GCCCT

SEQ ID NO:10 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, VHH1 nucleic acid sequence

CAGGTCAAACCTGGAAGAACATCTGGCGGAGGCCTGGTGCAGGCAGGACGGAGCCTGCG
CCTGAGCTGCGCAGCATCCGAGCACACCTTCAGCTCCCACGTGATGGGCTGGTTCG
GCAGGGCCCCAGGCAAGGAGAGAGAGAGCGTGGCGTGATGGCTGGAGGGACATC
TCCACATCTTACGCCGATTCCGTGAAGGGCCGGTTACCATCAGCCGGACAACGCC
AAGAAGACACTGTATCTGCAGATGAACAGCCTGAAGCCGAGGACACCCTGCTGTA
CTATTGCGCAGCAAGGAGAACGACGAGCAGACTTGATTCCCTGGGGCAGGGCA
CCCAGGTGACAGTGTCTAGC

SEQ ID NO:11 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, G4S linker nucleic acid sequence

GGAGGGAGGAGGATCT

SEQ ID NO:12 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR BCMA binding domain, VHH2 nucleic acid sequence

GAGGTGCAGCTGGTGGAGAGCGGGAGGCCTGGTGCAGGCCGGAGGCTCTGAG
GCTGAGCTGTGCAGCATCCGAAAGAACCTTCACAATGGGCTGGTTAGGCAGGCAC
CAGGAAAGGAGAGGGAGTCGTGGCAGCAATCAGCCTGTCCCCTACCCCTGGCCTAC
TATGCCGAGAGCGTGAAGGGCAGGTTACCATCTCCCGCGATAACGCCAAGAACATAC
AGTGGTGCTGCAGATGAACCTCTGAAACCTGAGGACACAGCCCTGTACTATTGTGC
CGCCGATCGGAAGAGCGTGATGAGCATTAGACCAGACTATTGGGGGCAGGGAACAC
AGGTGACCGTGAGCAGC

SEQ ID NO:13 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8a hinge nucleic acid sequence

ACCACGACGCCAGCGCCCGGACCAACACCGGCGCCCACCATCGCGTCGCAGCC
CCTGTCCCTGCGCCCTGGCGGGACTTGTGGGGTCCTCTCCTGTCACTGGTTA
GGGGGCTGGACTTCGCCTGTGAT

SEQ ID NO:14 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD8a transmembrane nucleic acid sequence

ATCTACATCTGGCGCCCTGGCGGGACTTGTGGGGTCCTCTCCTGTCACTGGTTA
TCACCCCTTACTGC

SEQ ID NO:15 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD137 Cytoplasmic nucleic acid sequence

AAACGGGGCAGAAAGAAACTCCTGTATATATTCAAACAACCATTATGAGACCAGT
ACAAACTACTCAAGAGGAAGATGGCTGTAGCTGCCGATTCCAGAAGAAGAAGAAG
GAGGATGTGAACGT

SEQ ID NO:16 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR CD3z Cytoplasmic nucleic acid sequence

AGAGTGAAGTTCAGCAGGAGCGCAGACGCCCGCGTACCAGCAGGGCCAGAAC
AGCTCTATAACGAGCTCAATCTAGGACGAAGAGAGGGAGTACGATGTTGGACAAG
AGACGTGGCCGGGACCCTGAGATGGGGGGAAAGCCGAGAAGGAAGAACCTCAGG
AAGGCCTGTACAATGAAC TG CAGAAAGATAAGATGGCGGAGGCCTACAGTGAGATT
GGGATGAAAGGCGAGCGCCGGAGGGCAAGGGCACGATGGCCTTACCAGGGTCT
CAGTACAGCCACCAAGGACACCTACGACGCCCTCACATGCAGGCCCTGCCCCCTCG
CTAA

SEQ ID NO:17 - Ciltacabtagene autoleucel CAR amino acid sequence

MALPV TALLPL ALLLHAARPQVKLEESGGGLVQAGRSLRLSCAASEHTFS
SHVMGWFRQAPGKERESVA VIGWRDISTSYADSVKGRFTISRDNAKKTL Y
LQMNSLKPEDTAVYYCAARRIDAADFDSWGQGTQVTVSSGGGSEVQLV
ESGGGLVQAGGSLRLSCAASGRTFTMGWFRQAPGKEREFVAAISLSPTLA
YYAESVKGRFTISRDNAKNTVVLQMNSLKPEDTALYYCAADRKS VMSIRP
DYWGQGTQVTVSSTSTTPAPRPPPTPA PTIASQPLSLRPEACRPAAGGA VH
TRGLDFACDIYIWAPLAGTCGVLLSLVITLYCKRGRKKLLYIFKQP FMRP
VQTTQEEDGCSCRFPEEEEGGCEL RVKFSRSADAPAYQQQQNQLYNELNL
GRREEYDVLDKRRGRDPEMGGKPRRKNPQEGLYNELQDKMAEA YSEIG
MKGERRRGKGHDGLYQGLSTATKDTYDALHMQALPPR

CLAIMS

1. A method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma, the method comprising administering to the subject via a single intravenous infusion a composition comprising T cells comprising a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising:
 - a) an extracellular antigen binding domain comprising a first anti-BCMA binding moiety and a second BCMA binding moiety;
 - b) a transmembrane domain; and
 - c) an intracellular signaling domain,to deliver to the subject a dose of CAR expressing T cells (CAR-T cells).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the dose comprises 1.0×10^5 to 5.0×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject.
3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the dose comprises 5.0×10^5 to 1.0×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the dose comprises approximately 0.75×10^6 of said CAR-T cells per kilogram of the mass of the subject.
5. The method of claims 1 to 4, wherein the dose comprises less than 1.0×10^8 of said CAR-T cells per subject.
6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein said single intravenous infusion is administered using a single bag of said CAR-T cells.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein said administration of said single bag of said CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said single bag of CAR-T cells.
8. The method of any of claims 1 to 5, wherein said single intravenous infusion is administered using two bags of said CAR-T cells.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said administration of each of said two bags of said CAR-T cells is completed no later than three hours following the thawing of said each of said two bags of CAR-T cells.
10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein said method is effective in obtaining minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of approximately 28 days or greater following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein said method is effective in maintaining said minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of approximately 12 months or greater following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.
12. The method of any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein a lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein said lymphodepleting regimen comprises:
 - (a) administration of cyclophosphamide; or
 - (b) administration of fludarabine.
14. The method of claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the lymphodepleting regimen is administered intravenously.
15. The method of any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein said lymphodepleting regimen precedes said infusion of CAR-T cells by 5 to 7 days.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein said lymphodepleting regimen comprises intravenous administration of cyclophosphamide and fludarabine 5 to 7 days prior to said infusion of CAR-T cells.

17. The method of claim 13 or claim 16, wherein said cyclophosphamide is administered intravenously at 300 mg/m².
18. The method of claim 13 or claim 16, wherein said fludarabine is administered intravenously at 30 mg/m².
19. The method of any one of claims 1 to 18, further comprising treating said subject for cytokine release syndrome (CRS) more than 3 days following the infusion without significantly reducing CAR-T cell expansion *in vivo*.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein said treatment of CRS comprises administering to the subject an IL-6R inhibitor.
21. The method of claim 20, wherein said IL-6R inhibitor is an antibody.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein said antibody inhibits IL-6R by binding its extracellular domain.
23. The method of any one of claims 20 to 22, wherein said IL-6R inhibitor prevents the binding of IL-6 to IL-6R.
24. The method of any one of claims 20 to 23, wherein the IL-6R inhibitor is tocilizumab.
25. The method of any one of claims 1 to 24, wherein the subject is treated with pre-infusion medication comprising an antipyretic and an antihistamine up to 1 hour prior to the infusion comprising CAR-T cells.
26. The method of claim 25, wherein said antipyretic comprises either paracetamol or acetaminophen.

27. The method of claim 25 or claim 26, wherein said antipyretic is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously.

28. The method of any one of claims 25 to 27, wherein said antipyretic is administered to the subject at a dosage of between 650 mg and 1000 mg.

29. The method of any one of claims 25 to 28, wherein said antihistamine comprises diphenhydramine.

30. The method of any one of claims 25 to 29, wherein said antihistamine is administered to the subject either orally or intravenously.

31. The method of any one of claims 25 to 30, wherein said antihistamine is administered at a dosage of between 25 mg and 50 mg, or its equivalent.

32. The method of claims 1 to 31, wherein the infusion comprising CAR-T cells further comprises an excipient selected from dimethylsulfoxide or dextran-40.

33. The method of any one of claims 1 to 32, wherein the subject received prior treatment with at least three prior lines of treatment.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein said at least three prior lines of treatment comprises treatment with at least one medicament, said at least one medicament comprising of at least one of:

- (a) PI;
- (b) an IMiD; and
- (c) an anti-CD38 antibody.

35. The method of claim 33 or claim 34, wherein the subject has relapsed after said at least three prior lines of treatment.

36. The method of any one of claims 33 to 35, wherein the multiple myeloma is refractory to at least two medicaments following said at least three prior lines of treatment.
37. The method of claim 36, wherein said at least two medicaments to which the subject is refractory comprise PI and an IMiD.
38. The method of claim 36 or claim 37, wherein the subject is refractory to at least three medicaments.
39. The method of claim 38, wherein the subject is refractory to at least four medicaments.
40. The method of claim 39, wherein the subject is refractory to at least five medicaments.
41. The method of any one of claims 1 to 40, wherein said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 91%.
42. The method of claim 41, wherein said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 93%.
43. The method of claim 42, wherein said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 95%.
44. The method of claim 43, wherein said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 97%.
45. The method of claim 44, wherein said method is effective in obtaining an overall response rate of greater than 99%.
46. The method of any one of claims 40 to 45, wherein the overall response rate is assessed at a median follow-up time of at least 12 months following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

47. The method of any one of claims 1 to 46, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.15 months.
48. The method of claim 47, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.10 months.
49. The method of claim 48, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.05 months.
50. The method of claim 49, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 1.00 months.
51. The method of claim 50, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to first response of less than 0.95 months.
52. The method of any of claims 1 to 51, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.96 months.
53. The method of claim 52, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.86 months.
54. The method of claim 53, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.76 months.
55. The method of claim 54, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.66 months.
56. The method of claim 55, wherein said method is effective in obtaining a median time to best response of less than 2.56 months.

57. The method of any one of claims 1 to 56, wherein the first BCMA binding moiety and/or the second BCMA binding moiety is an anti-BCMA VHH.
58. The method of claim 57, wherein the first BCMA binding moiety is a first anti-BCMA VHH and the second BCMA binding moiety is a second anti-BCMA VHH.
59. The method of any one of claims 1 to 58, wherein the first BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.
60. The method of any one of claims 1 to 59, wherein the first BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:10.
61. The method of any one of claims 1 to 60, wherein the second BCMA binding moiety comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.
62. The method of any one of claims 1 to 61, wherein the second BCMA binding moiety comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.
63. The method of any one of claims 1 to 62, wherein the first BCMA binding moiety and the second BCMA binding moiety are connected to each other via a peptide linker.
64. The method of claim 63, wherein the peptide linker comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.
65. The method of claim 64, wherein the peptide linker comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:11.
66. The method of any one of claims 1 to 65, wherein the CAR polypeptide further comprises a signal peptide located at the N-terminus of the polypeptide.
67. The method of claim 66, wherein the signal peptide is derived from CD8-alpha.

68. The method of claim 67, wherein the signal peptide comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
69. The method of claim 68, wherein the signal peptide comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:9.
70. The method of any one of claims 1 to 69, wherein the transmembrane domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6.
71. The method of any one of claims 1 to 69, wherein the transmembrane domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:14.
72. The method of any one of claims 1 to 71, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises a primary intracellular signaling domain of an immune effector cell.
73. The method of any one of claims 1 to 71, wherein the intracellular signaling domain is derived from CD3 ζ .
74. The method of any one of claims 1 to 73, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises one or more co-stimulatory signaling domains.
75. The method of claim 74, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.
76. The method of claim 74, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16.
77. The method of any one of claims 74 to 76, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

78. The method of any one of claims 74 to 76, wherein the intracellular signaling domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.
79. The method of any one of claims 1 to 78, wherein the CAR polypeptide further comprises a hinge domain located between the C-terminus of the extracellular antigen binding domain and the N-terminus of the transmembrane domain.
80. The method of claim 79, wherein the hinge domain comprises the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.
81. The method of claim 79, wherein the hinge domain comprises a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:13.
82. The method of any one of claims 1 to 81, wherein the T cells are autologous T cells.
83. The method of any one of claims 1 to 81, wherein the T cells are allogeneic T cells.
84. The method of any one of claims 1 to 83, wherein the subject is human.
85. A method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma and received at least three prior lines of treatment, the method comprising administering to the subject via a single intravenous infusion a composition comprising T cells comprising a chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:17 to deliver to the subject a dose of approximately 0.75×10^6 CAR expressing T cells (CAR-T cells) per kilogram of the mass of the subject, wherein said method is effective in obtaining minimal residual disease (MRD) negative status in said subject assessed in the bone marrow at a follow-up time of greater than or equal to 28 days following said infusion of said CAR-T cells.

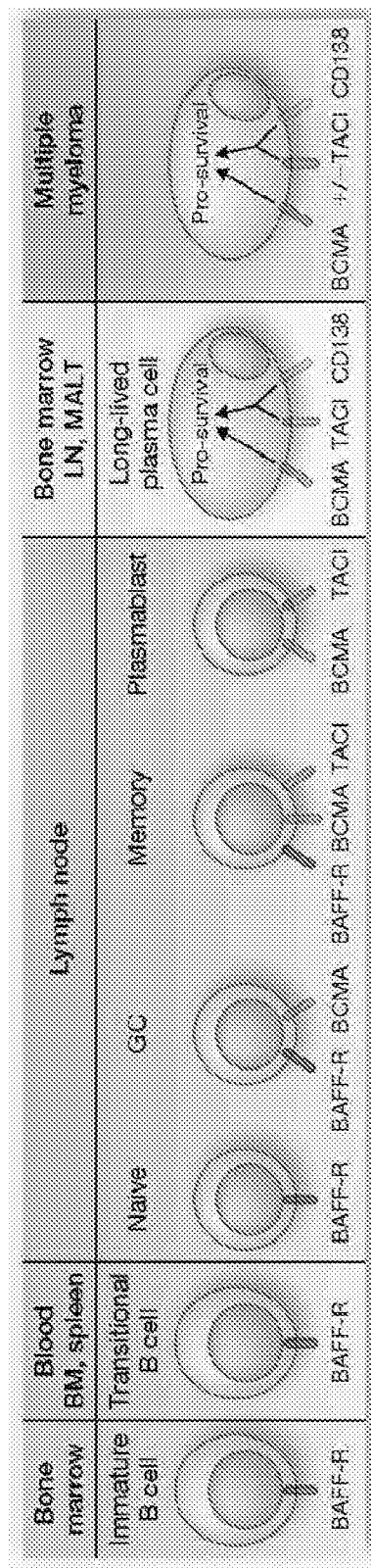
Figure 1

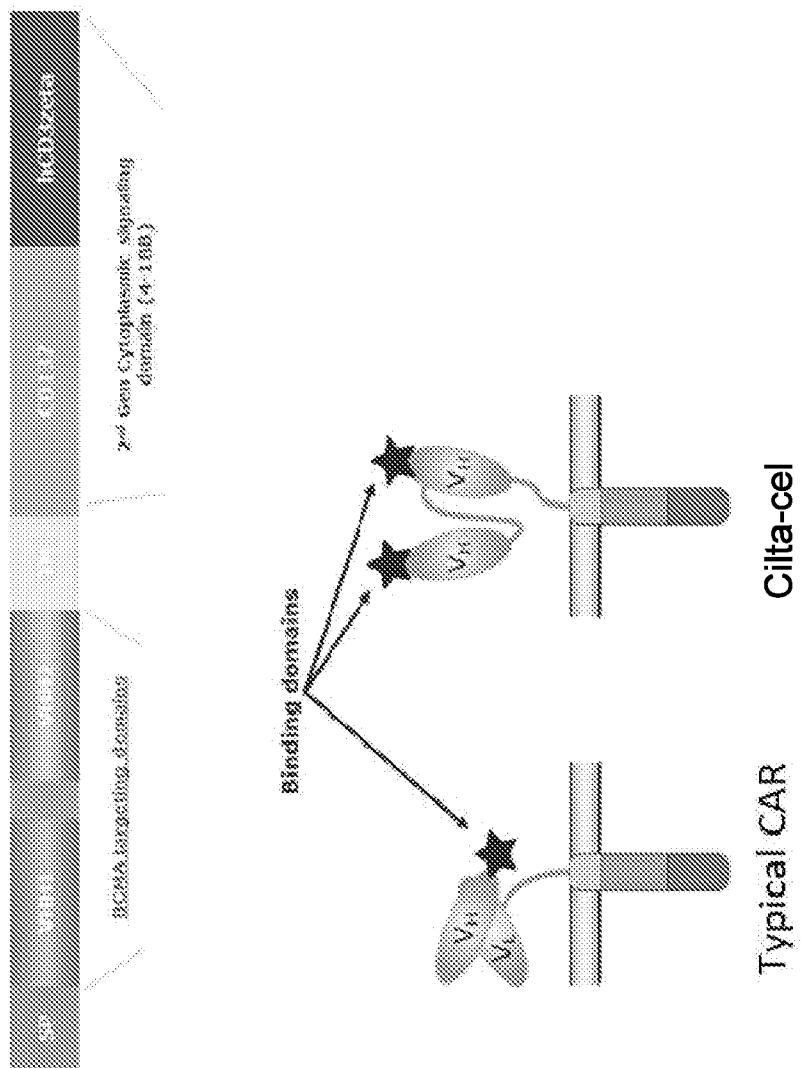
Figure 2

Figure 3

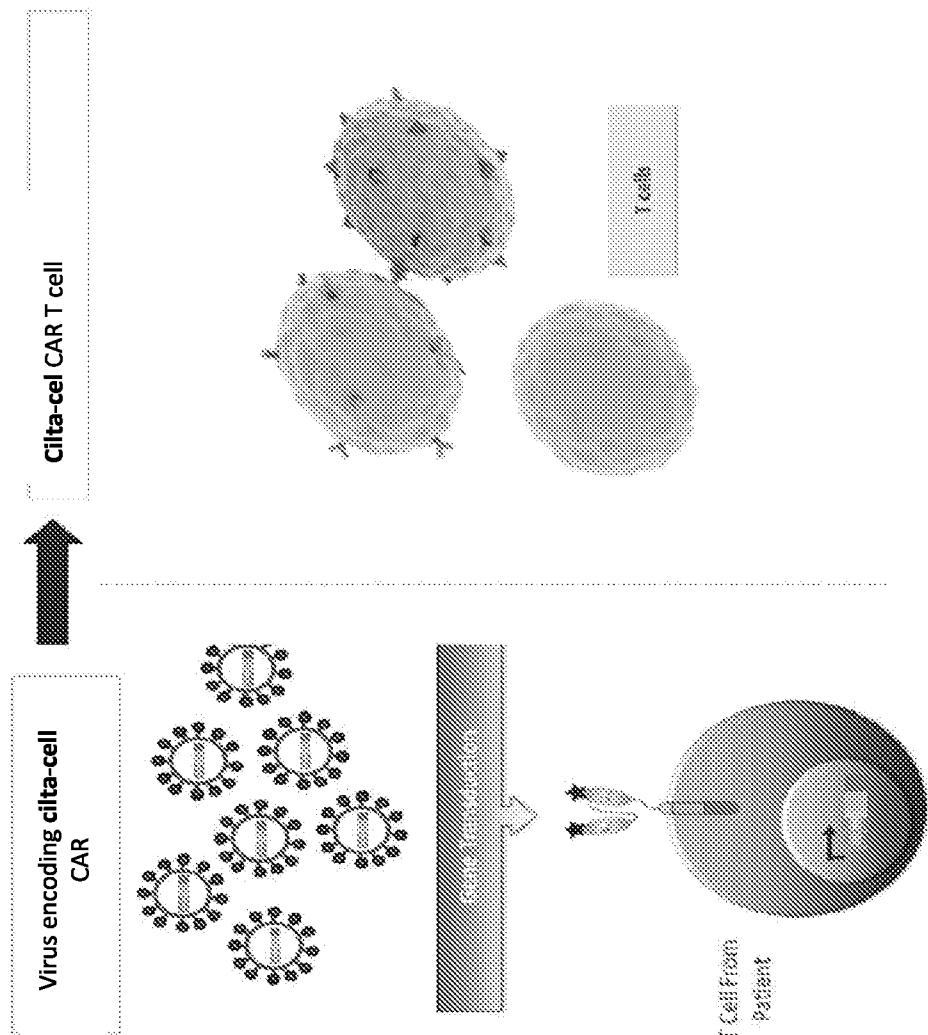
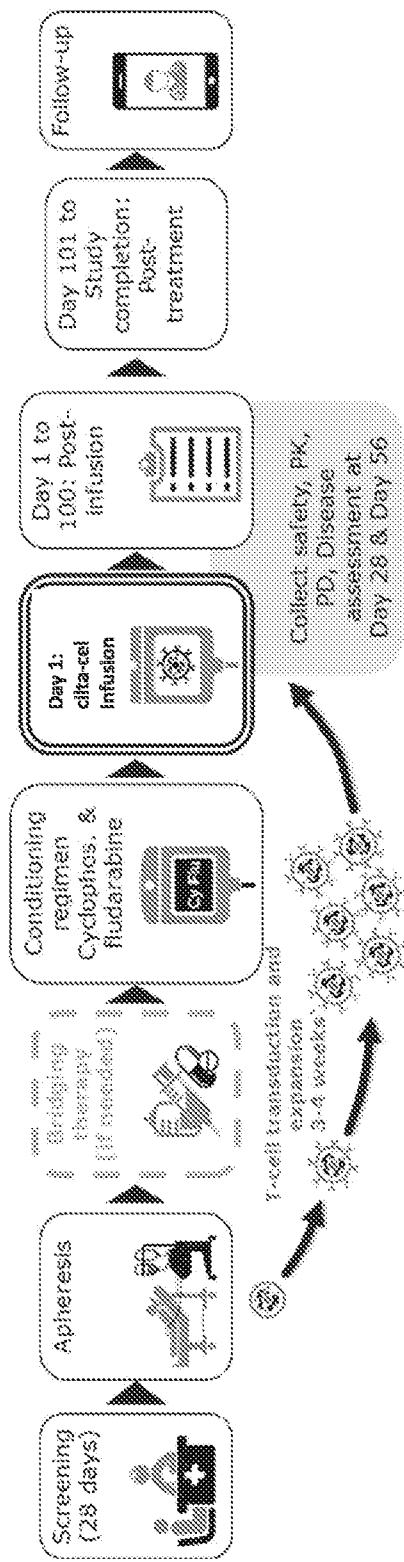


Figure 4

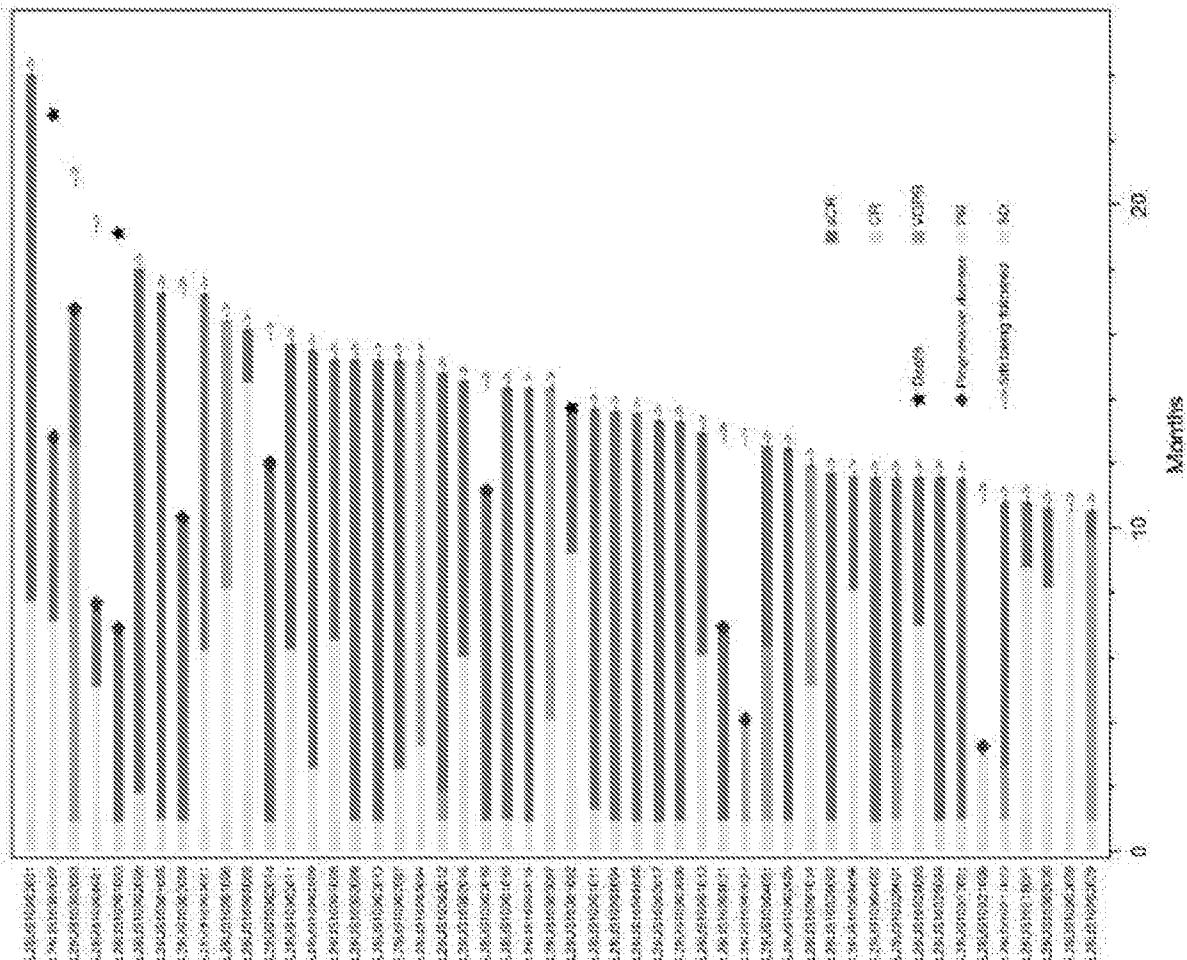


Figure 5A

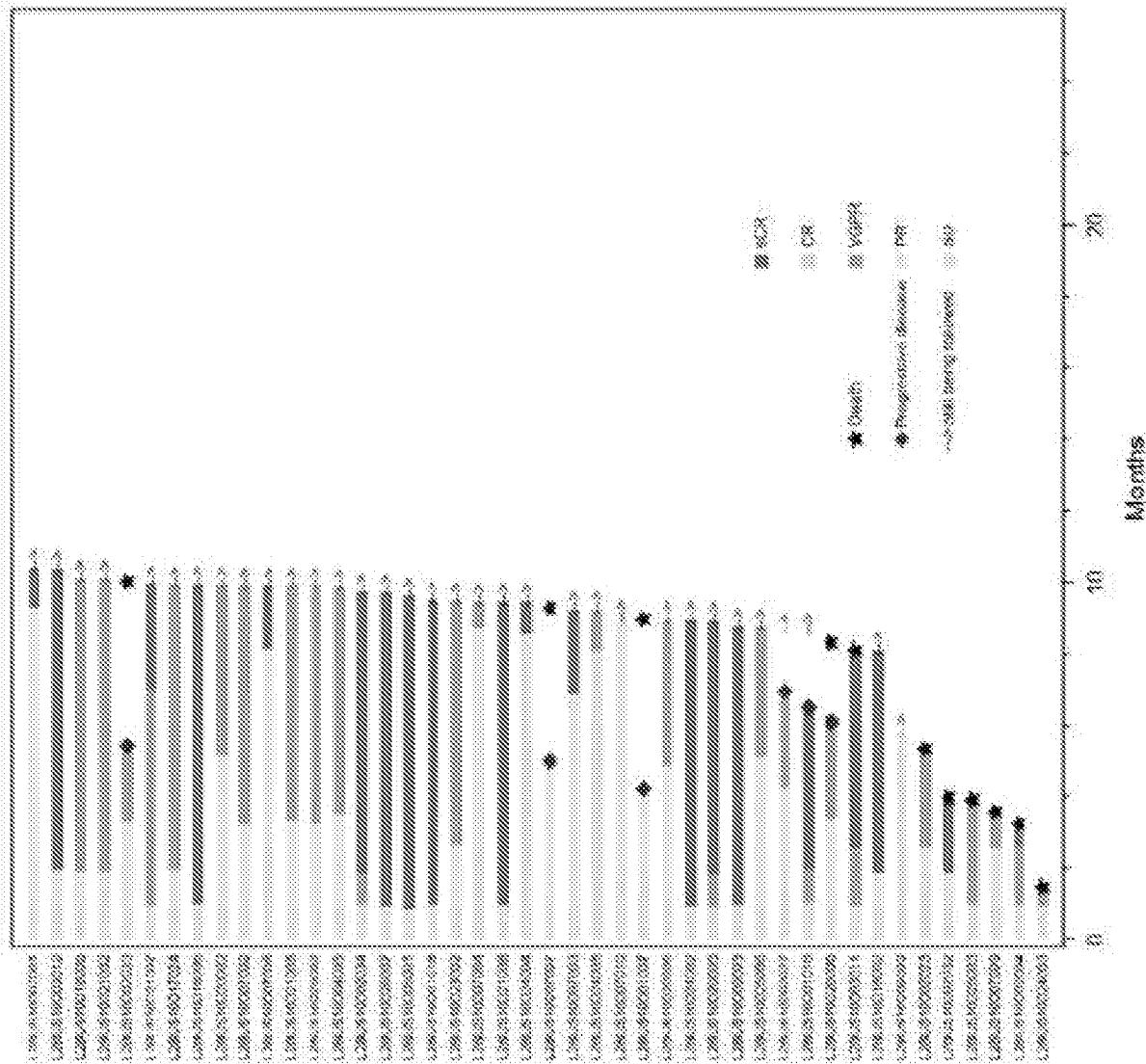


Figure 5B

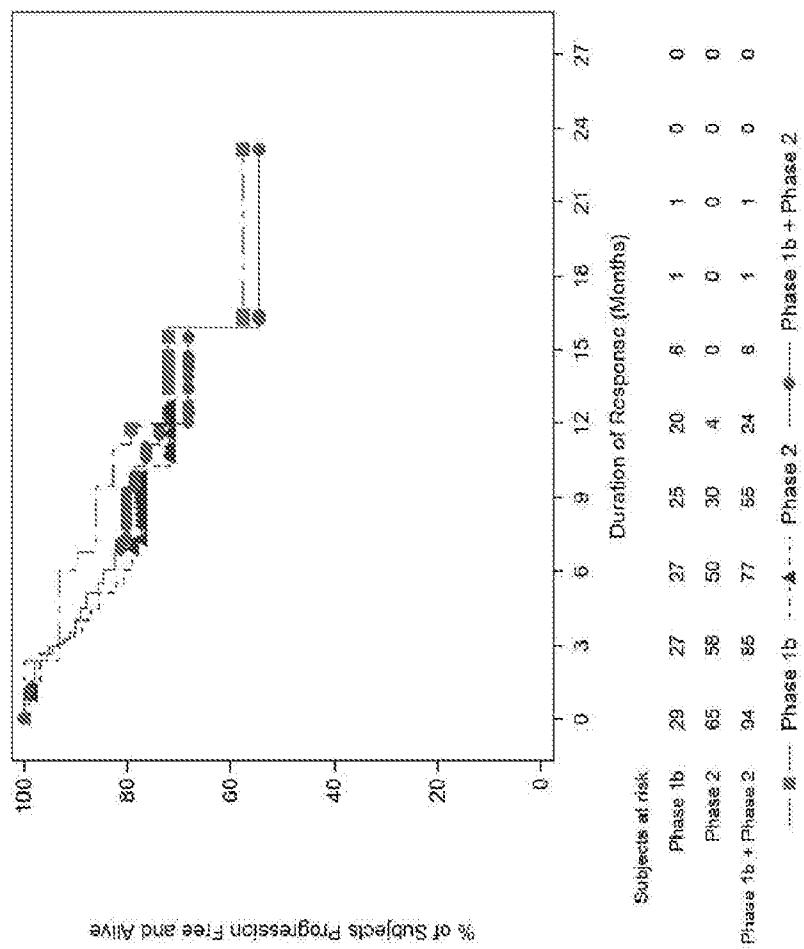
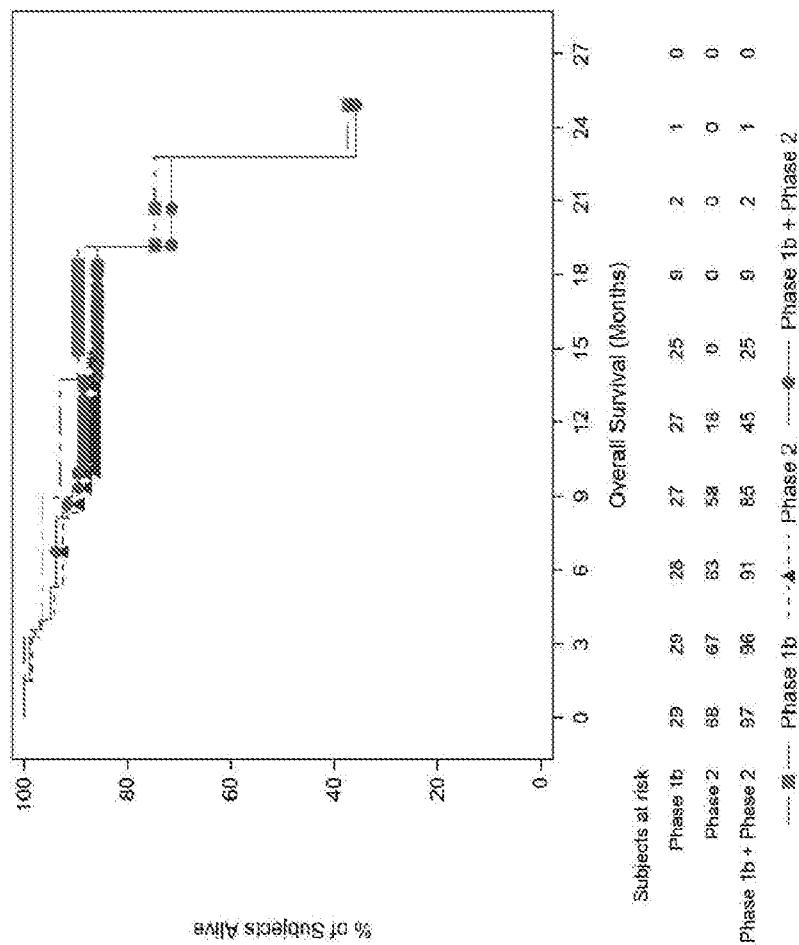
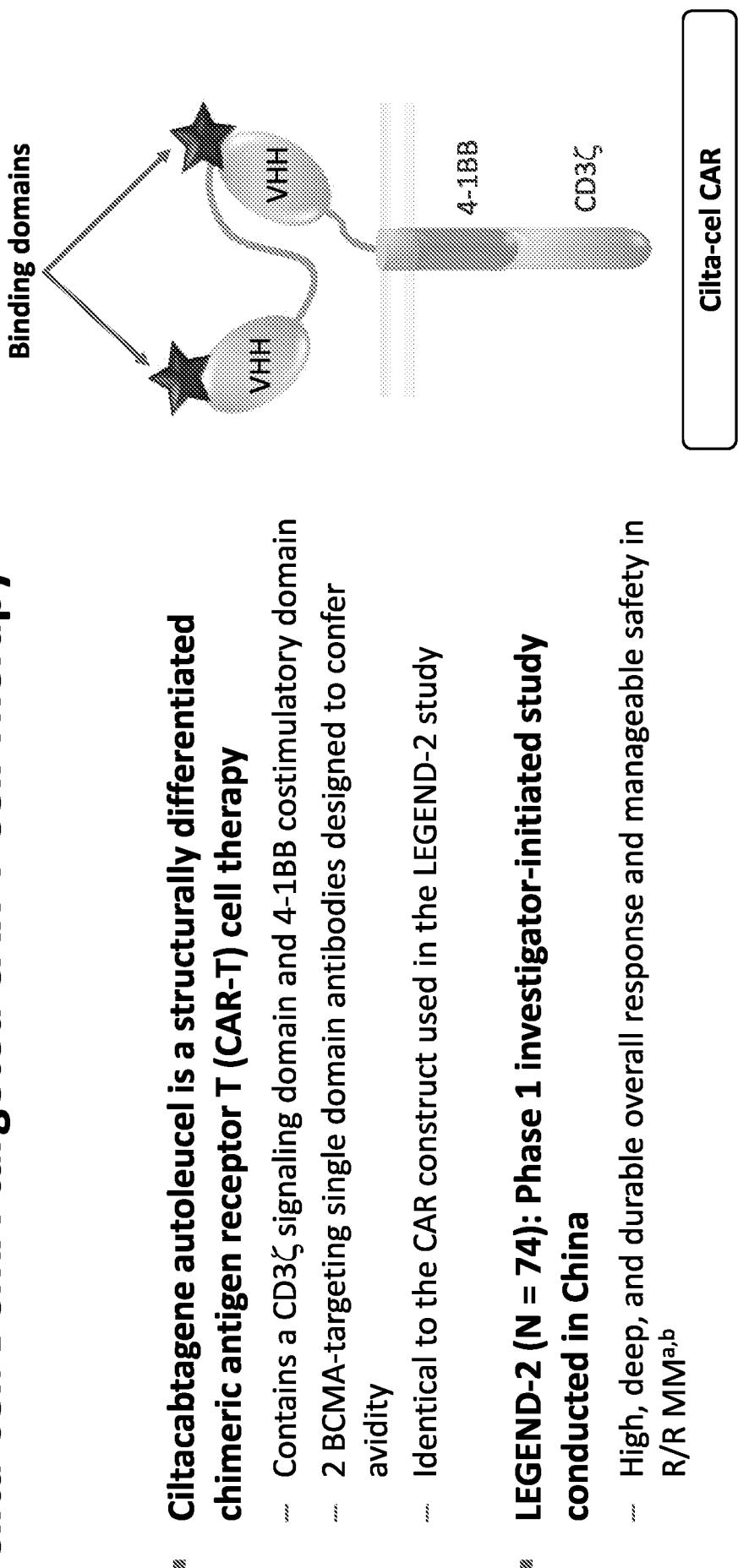
Figure 6

Figure 7

Cilta-cel: BCMA-targeted CAR-T Cell Therapy

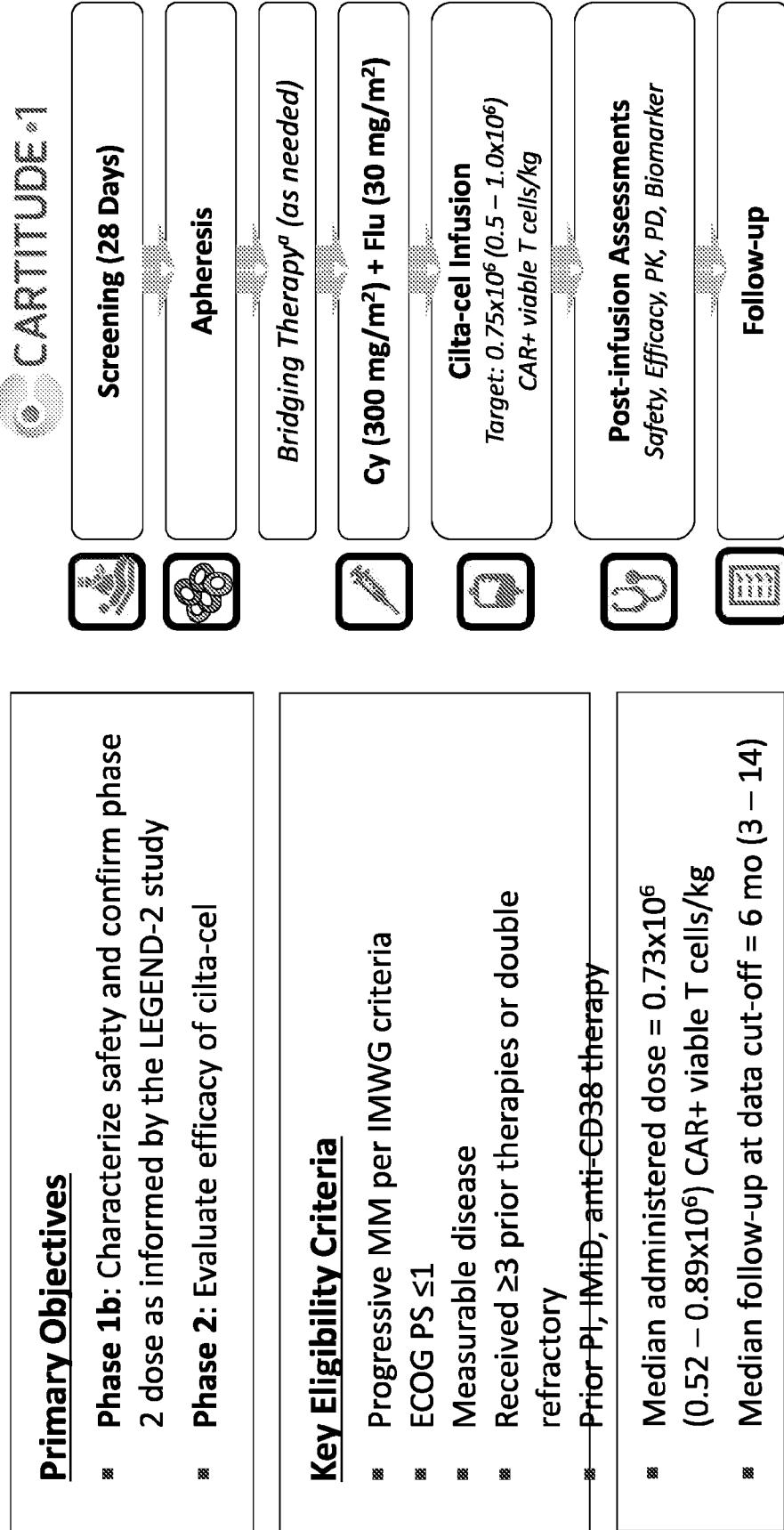


^aZhao et al. *JHO* 2018;11(1):141; ^bXu et al. *PNAS* 2019;116(19):9543; BCMA=B-cell maturation antigen; MM=multiple myeloma; R/R=relapsed/refractory; VHH=single variable domain on a heavy chain

Figure 8

CARTITUDE-1: Phase 1b/2 Study Design

Figure 9



NCT03548207; 6 Nov 2019 data cut-off.^aTreatment with previously used agent resulting in at least stable disease. Cy=cyclophosphamide; ECOG PS=Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; Flu=fludarabine; IMiD=immunomodulatory drug; IMWG=International Myeloma Working Group; PI=proteasome inhibitor; PD=pharmacodynamic; PK=pharmacokinetic

Figure 10

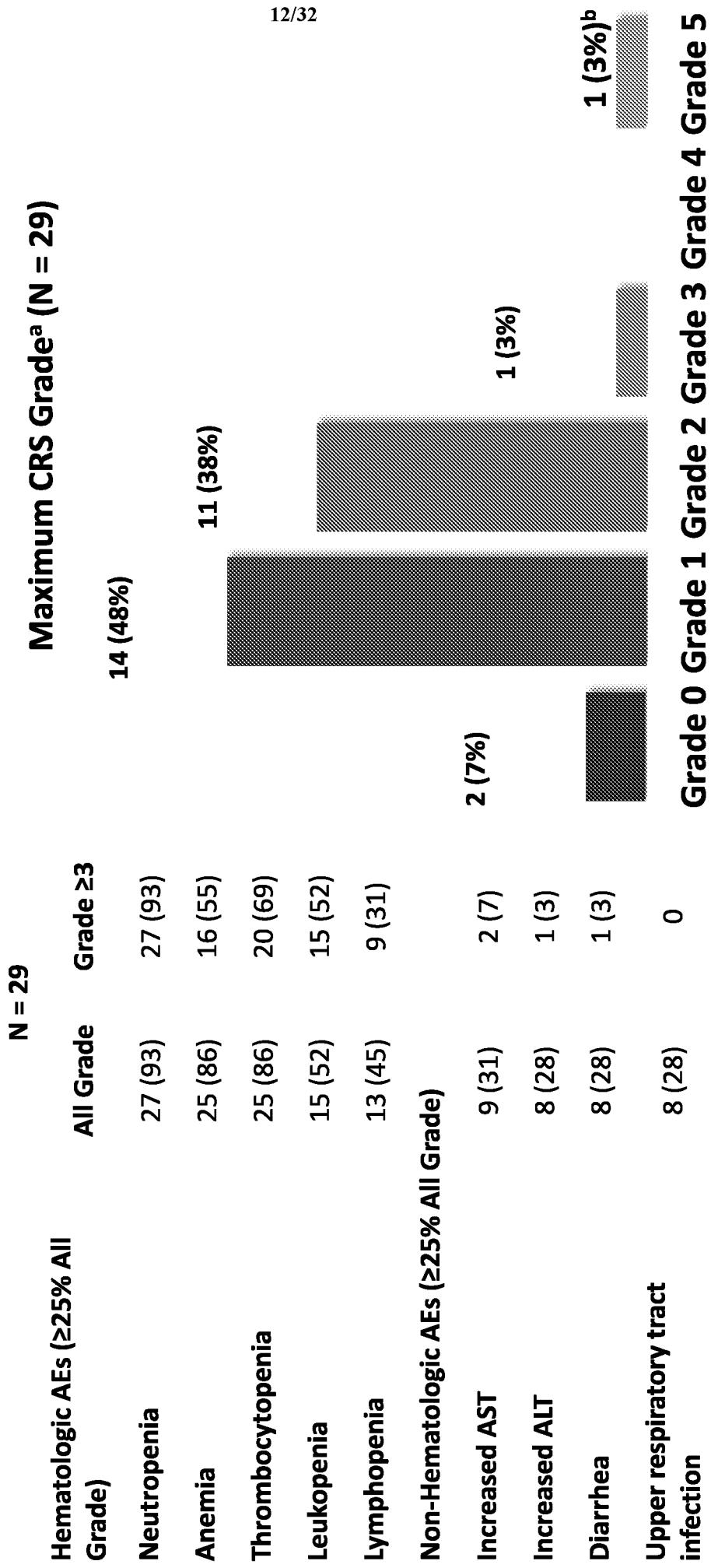
CARTITUDE-1: Demographics and Disease Characteristics

	Total (N = 29)	Total (N = 29)
Median age, (range)	60 (50 – 75)	
Female, n (%)	15 (52)	IgG 15 (52)
Extramedullary plasmacytomas ≥1, n (%)	4 (14)	IgA 1 (3)
Bone marrow plasma cells ≥60%, n (%)	7 (24)	IgM 1 (3)
Median years since diagnosis (range)	6 (2 – 16)	IgD 1 (3)
High-risk cytogenetic profile,^a n (%)	7 (25)	Biclonal 1 (3)
del17p	4 (14)	Light chain 10 (35)
t(14;16)	2 (7)	Prior autologous transplantation, n (%) 25 (86)
t(4;14)	1 (4)	Triple-exposed,^c n (%) 29 (100)
Median prior lines of therapy, n (range)	5 (3 – 18)	Triple-refractory 25 (86)
Received bridging therapy, n (%)	24 (83)	Penta-exposed,^d n (%) 21 (72)
		Penta-refractory 9 (31)

^aBy central FISH, ^bBy immunofixation, ^cPI, IMiD, and anti-CD38, ^d≥2 PIs, ≥2 IMiDs, and anti-CD38

CARTITUDE-1: Safety

Figure 11



CARTITUDE-1: Cytokine Release Syndrome

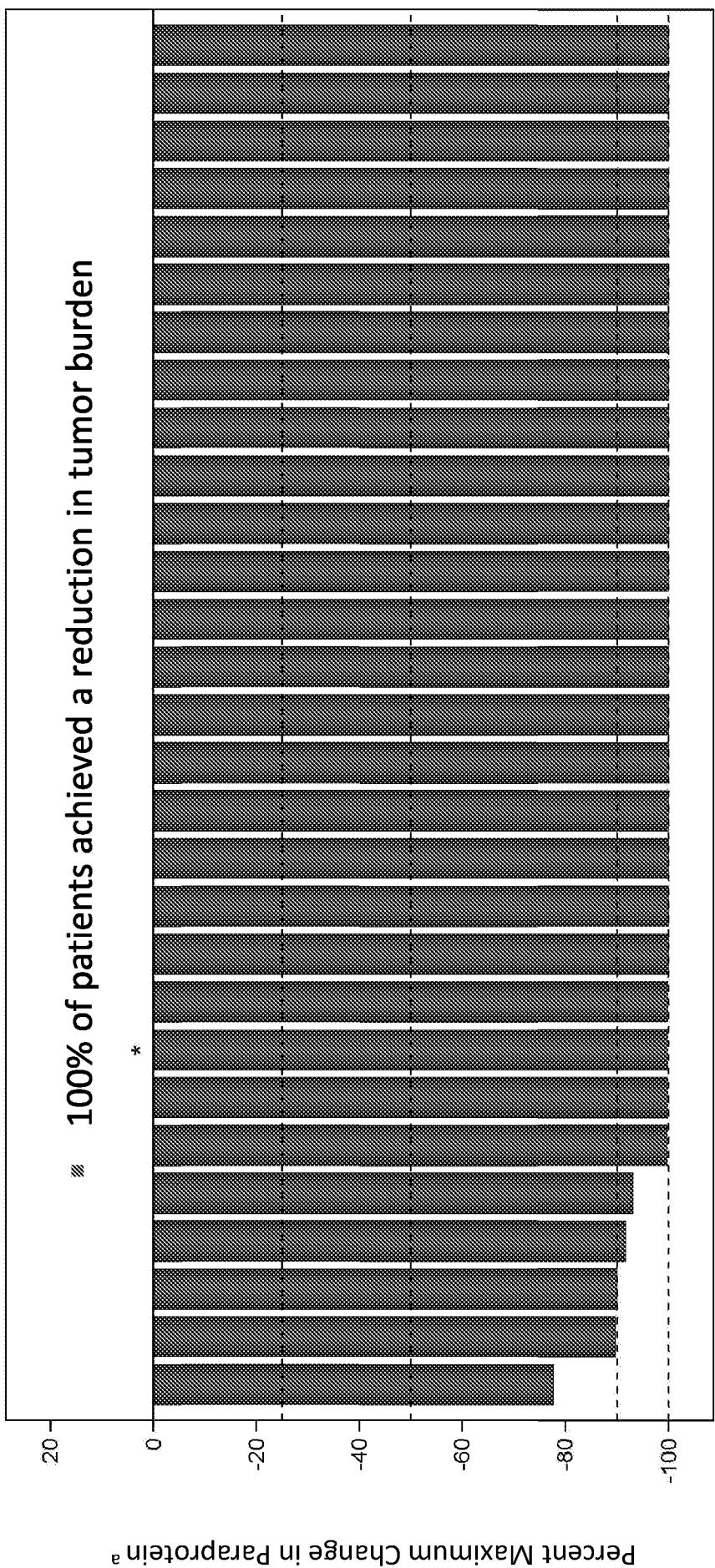
Figure 12

Cytokine Release Syndrome		Total (N = 29)	
		All Grade	Grade ≥3
Patients with CRS, n (%)	27 (93)		
Median time to onset of CRS, days (range)	7 (2 – 12)		
Median duration of CRS, days (range)	4 (1 – 60)		
Supportive Measure to Treat CRS			
Tocilizumab	22 (76)	Grade 3 neurotoxic event consistent with ICANS (resolved) occurred concurrently with grade 3 CRS	
Anakinra	6 (21)		
Corticosteroids	6 (21)		
Vasopressor used	2 (7)		
Intubation/Mechanical Ventilation	1 (3)		
Other^a	22 (76)		

^aAntibiotics (n=12), cyclophosphamide (n=1), etanercept (n=1), levetiracetam (n=1), and supportive care (n=28). ^bGraded using Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v.5.0 and American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy grading system

Figure 13

CARTITUDE-1 Efficacy: Tumor Burden Reduction



^aSerum M-protein, urine M-protein, or difference between involved and uninvolved free light chain (dFLC). *Bence-Jones proteinuria at baseline, with a transient response during bridging therapy; output represents dFLC value

CARTITUDE-1: Overall Response Rate

ORR^a = 100%

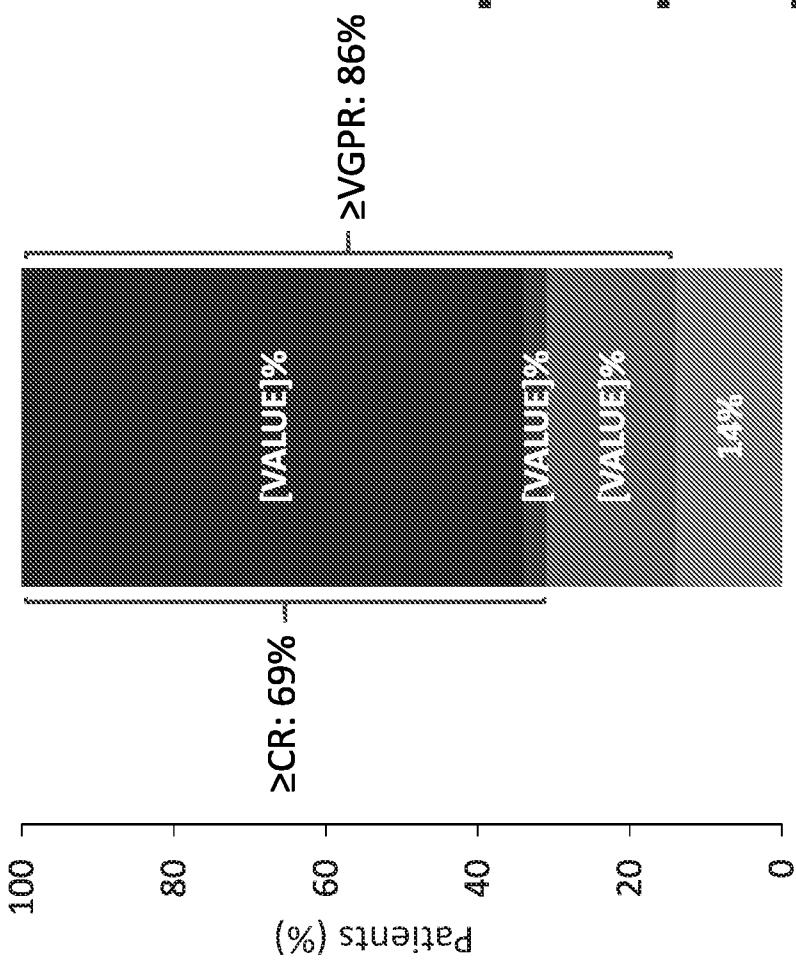


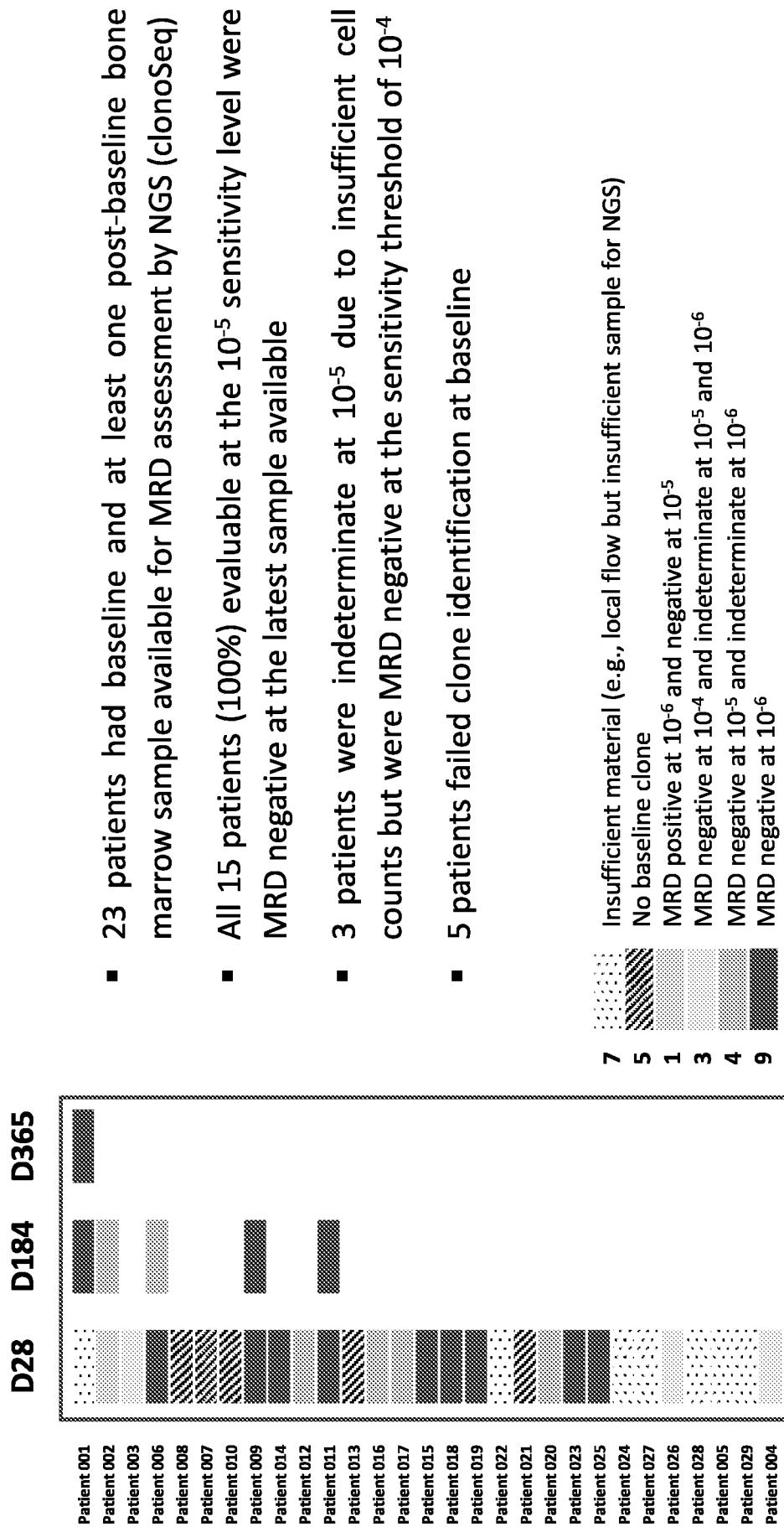
Figure 14

Best Response^b = ■ sCR ■ CR ■ VGPR ■ PR

^aPR or better; ^bIndependent Review Committee-assessed, ^bNo patient had stable disease or progressive disease as best response. CR=complete response; ORR=overall response rate; PR=partial response; sCR=stringent complete response; VGPR=very good partial response

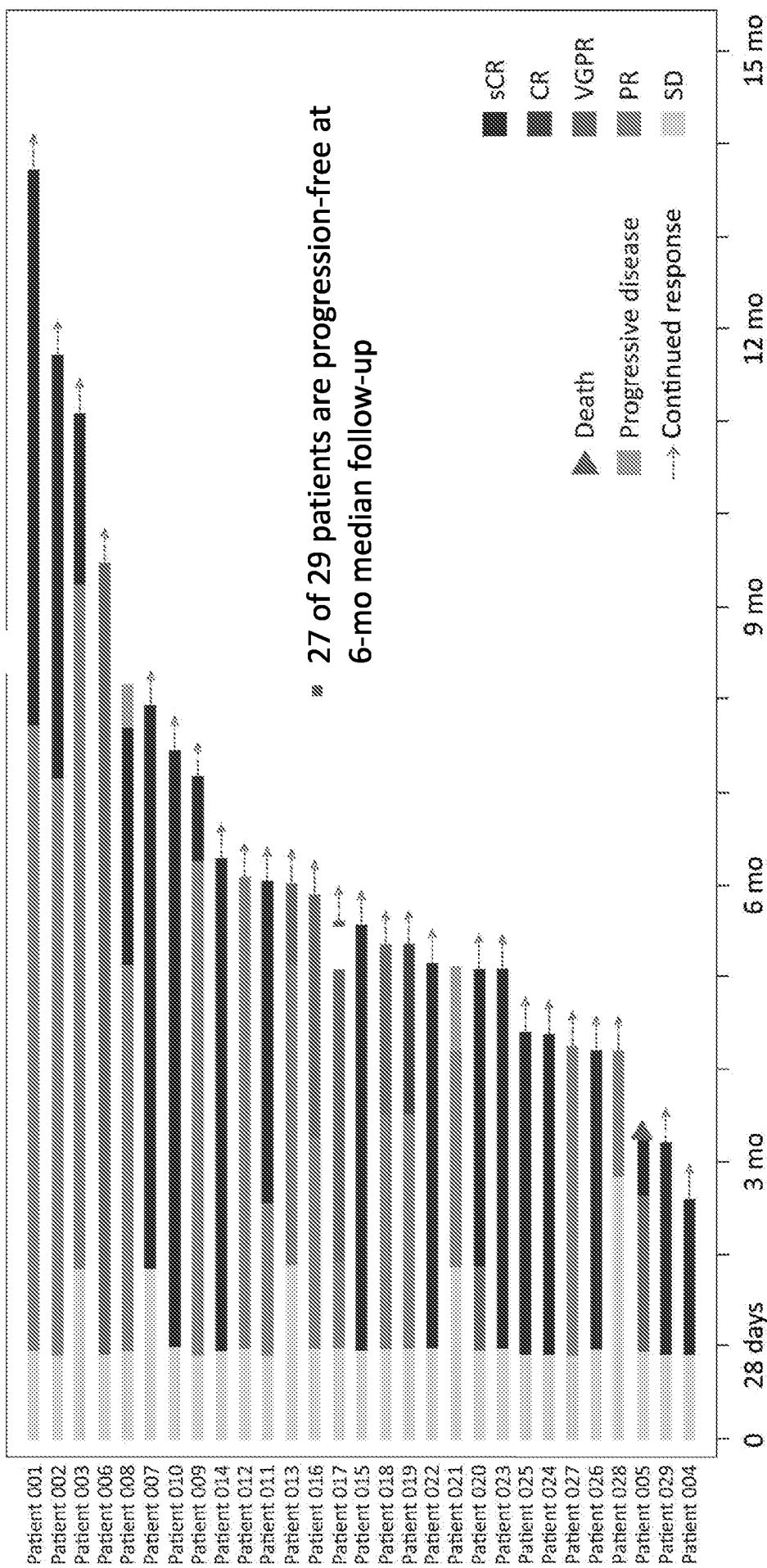
Figure 15

CARTITUDE-1: Minimal Residual Disease



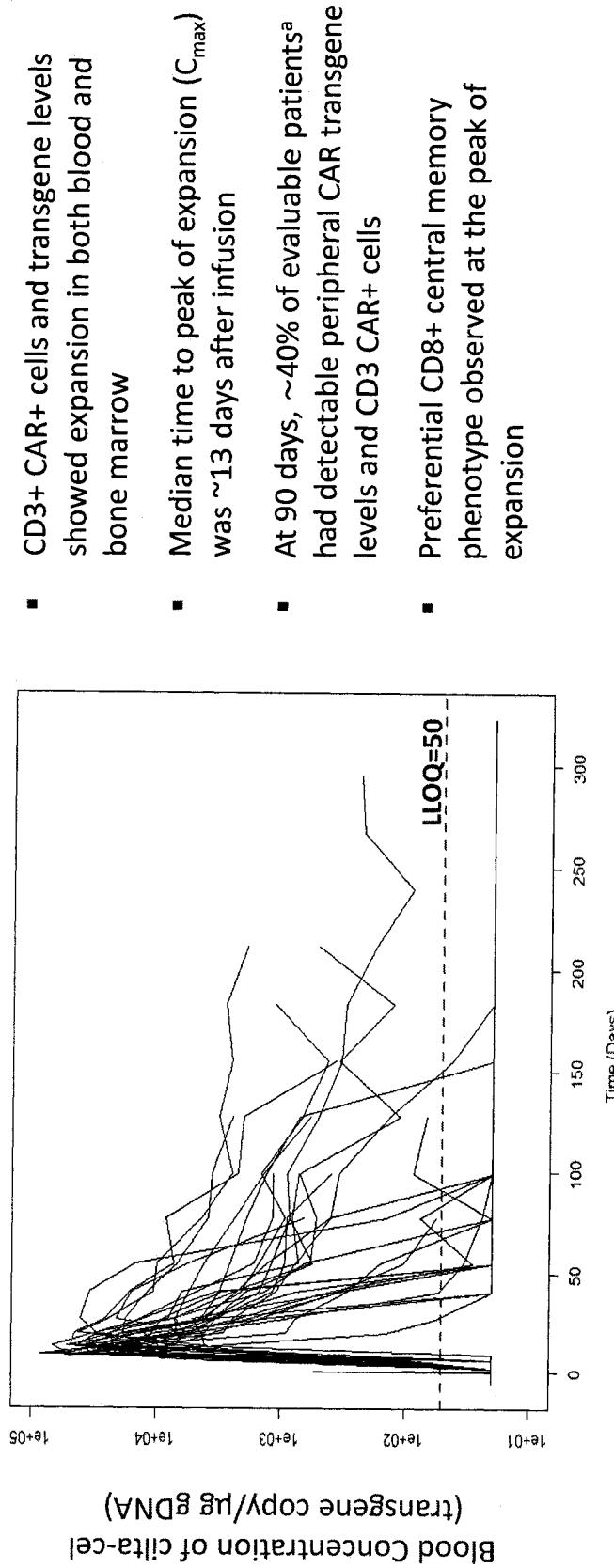
D=day; MRD=minimal residual disease; NGS=next generation sequencing

Figure 16

CARTITUDE-1: Duration of Response

CARTITUDE-1: Cilta-cel Expansion and Persistence

Figure 17



- CD3+ CAR+ cells and transgene showed expansion in both blood and bone marrow
- Median time to peak of expansion (C_{max}) was ~13 days after infusion
- At 90 days, ~40% of evaluable patients^a had detectable peripheral CAR transgene levels and CD3 CAR+ cells
- Preferential CD8+ central memory phenotype observed at the peak of expansion

PK Parameter	Mean CAR Transgene Level (SD)
C_{max}	35,596 (17972)
$AUC_{(0 - 28d)}$	343,146 (195765)

C_{max} units: copy/ μ g gDNA; AUC units: copy/ μ g gDNA × day
(Ph1b, N = 29)

^aPatients with >90 days of collected PK samples (n=25); LLOQ=lower limit of quantitation

Figure 18

CARTITUDE-1: Conclusions

- **Phase 2 dose of 0.75×10^6 CAR+ viable T cells/kg was confirmed**
- **Cilta-cel has a manageable safety profile**
 - CRS reported in 27 (93%) patients; mostly grade 1 – 2 with one grade 3 and one grade 5
 - In patients with CRS, median time of onset was 7 days, with >90% between days 5 – 9
 - Neurotoxicity (ICANS) was infrequently observed in the context of CRS and generally low-grade; one grade 3
- **Early and deep responses were observed in heavily-pretreated patients**
 - 100% ORR with $\geq CR$ 69% and $\geq VGPR$ 86% at median 6-mo follow-up
 - Median time to first response = 1 mo (range, 1 – 3); median time to $\geq CR = 1$ mo (range, 1 – 9)
 - 100% of evaluable patients were MRD-negative at a sensitivity threshold of at least 10^{-5} at the time of latest assessment
 - 27/29 patients are progression free at median 6-mo follow-up
- **Safety and efficacy results from CARTITUDE-1 appear consistent with the LEGEND-2 study**
- **Phase 2 portion of the study is fully enrolled, and phase 2 and 3 studies^a have been initiated**

^aCARTITUDE-2

Figure 19

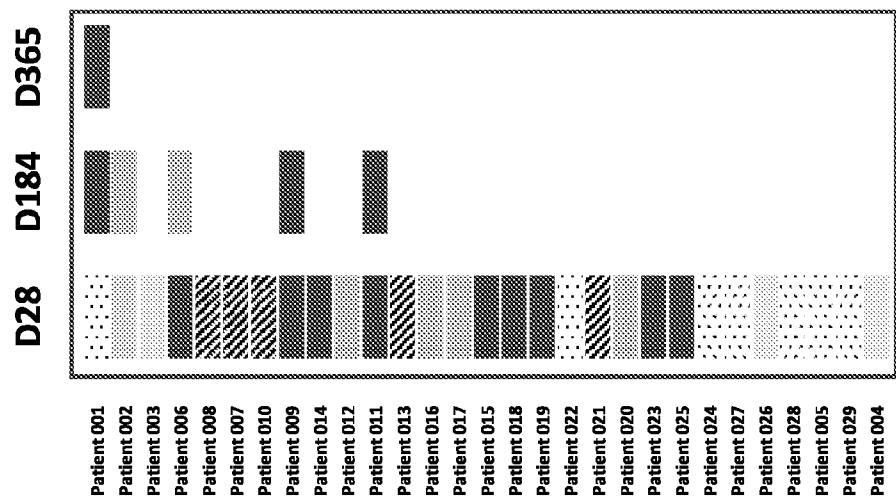
CARTITUDE-1: Minimal Residual Disease

Bone Marrow, n (%)	Sensitivity Threshold (NGS)		
	10 ⁻⁴	10 ⁻⁵	10 ⁻⁶
Day 28			
MRD-evaluable	15	12	8
MRD negative	15 (100)	12 (100)	7 (88)
Month 6			
MRD-evaluable	5	5	3
MRD negative	5 (100)	5 (100)	3 (100)
Month 12			
MRD-evaluable	1	1	1
MRD negative	1 (100)	1 (100)	1 (100)

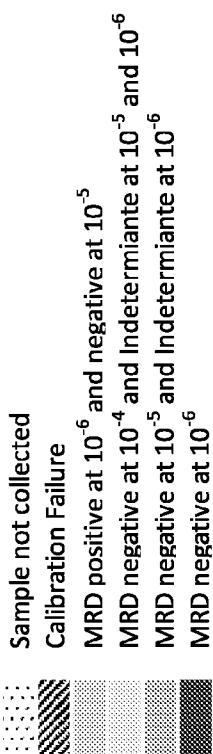
^aEvaluable samples are those that have passed calibration and had sufficient cells for evaluation at the respective testing threshold.
MRD=minimal residual disease; NGS=next generation sequencing

Figure 20

CARTITUDE-1: Minimal Residual Disease



- 23 subjects had baseline and at least one post-baseline bone marrow samples available for MRD assessment by NGS (clonoSeq)
- All 15 subjects (100%) evaluable at the 10^{-5} sensitivity level were MRD negative at the latest sample available
- 3 subjects were indeterminate at 10^{-5} due to insufficient cell counts but were MRD negative at the sensitivity threshold of 10^{-4}
- 5 subjects failed clone identification at baseline



CARTITUDE-1: Safety

Figure 21

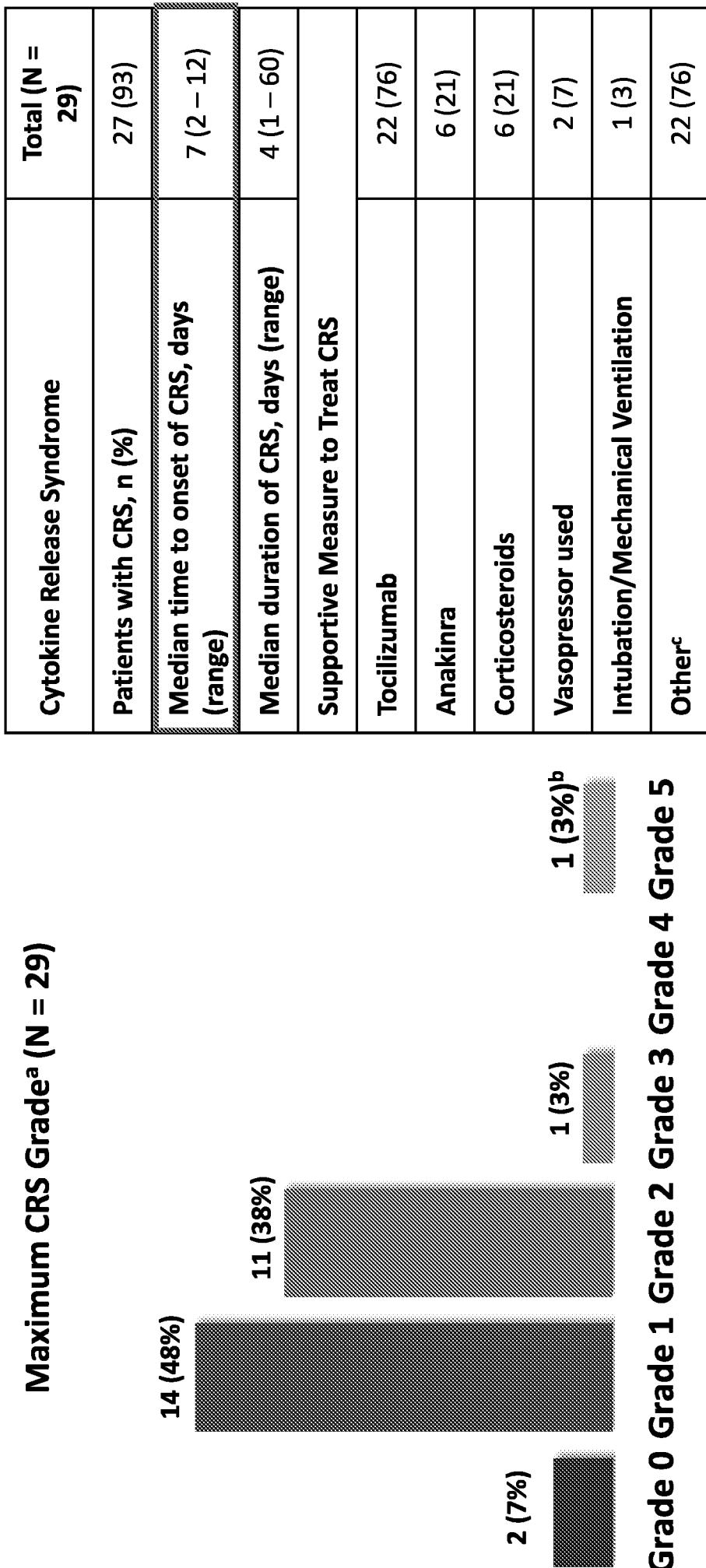
Hematologic AEs ($\geq 25\%$ All Grade)	N = 29		CAR-T-associated AEs	All Grade ≥ 3	N = 29
	All Grade	Grade ≥ 3			
Neutropenia	27 (93)	27 (93)	Cytokine release syndrome (CRS)^a	27 (93)	2 (7)
Anemia	25 (86)	16 (55)	Neurotoxicity consistent with ICANS^b	3 (10)	1 (3)
Thrombocytopenia	25 (86)	20 (69)	# 1 DLT of prolonged grade 4 CRS		
Leukopenia	15 (52)	15 (52)	# Same patient died from complications of CRS on day 99		
Lymphopenia	13 (45)	9 (31)	# Same patient died from complications of CRS on day 99		
Non-Hematologic AEs ($\geq 25\%$ All Grade)					
Increased AST	9 (31)	2 (7)	# Grade 3 neurotoxic event consistent with ICANS (resolved) occurred concurrently with grade 3 CRS		
Increased ALT	8 (28)	1 (3)	# Grade 3 neurotoxic event consistent with ICANS (resolved) occurred concurrently with grade 3 CRS		
Diarrhea	8 (28)	1 (3)	# Grade 3 neurotoxic event consistent with ICANS (resolved) occurred concurrently with grade 3 CRS		
Upper respiratory tract infection	8 (28)	0	# Grade 3 neurotoxic event consistent with ICANS (resolved) occurred concurrently with grade 3 CRS		

^aGraded according to Lee *et al.* *Blood* 2014;124:188. ^bGraded using Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events v.5.0 and American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy grading system. AE=adverse event; ALT=alanine aminotransferase; AST=aspartate aminotransferase; DLT=dose-limiting toxicity; ICANS=immune effector cell-associated neurotoxicity syndrome

CARTITUDE-1: Cytokine Release Syndrome

Figure 22

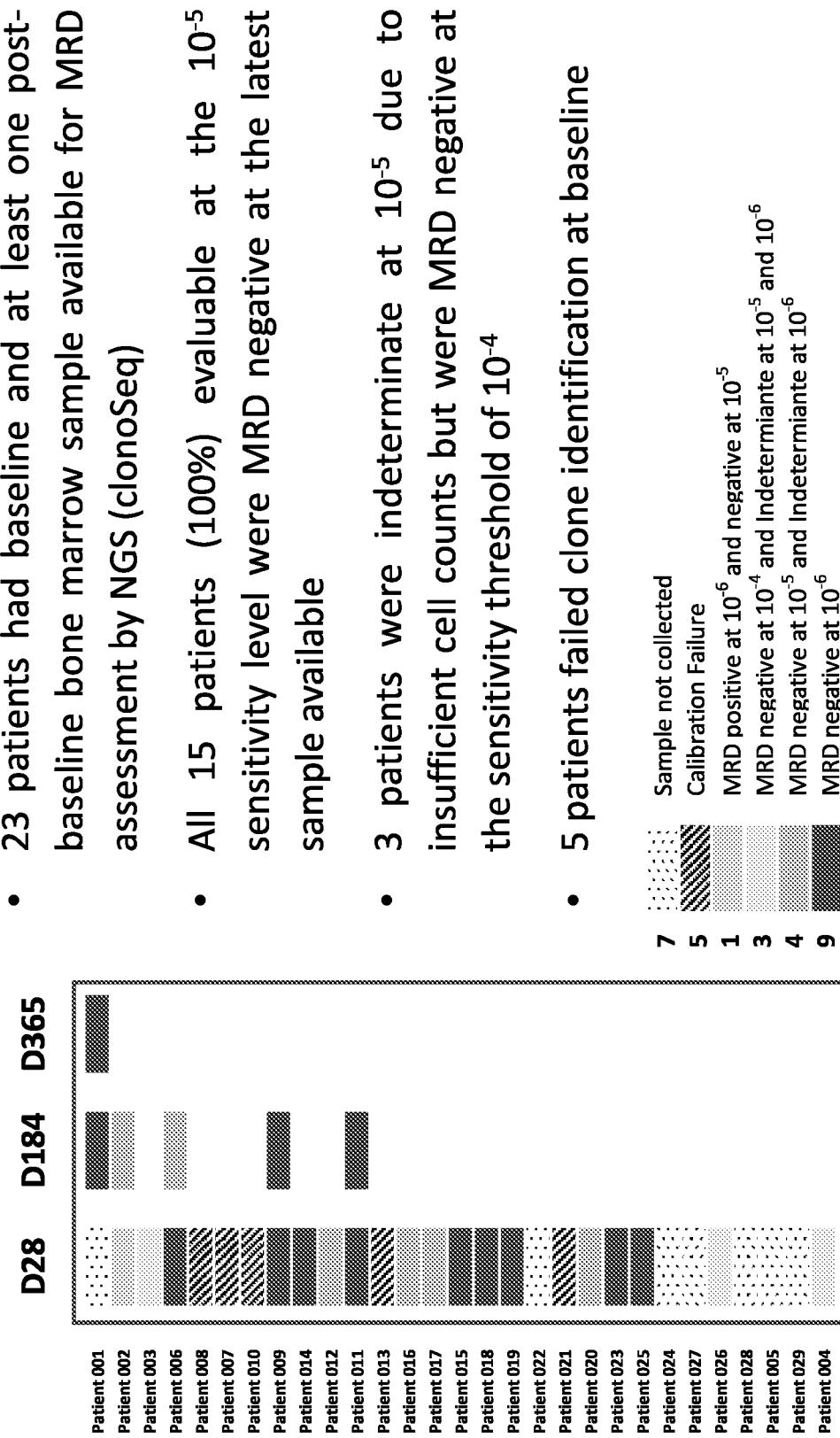
Maximum CRS Grade^a (N = 29)



^aGraded according to Lee et. al *Blood* 2014;124:188; ^bSame patient with DLT of prolonged grade 4 CRS; ^cAntibiotics (n=12), cyclophosphamide (n=1), etanercept (n=1), levetiracetam (n=1), and supportive care (n=28)

Figure 23

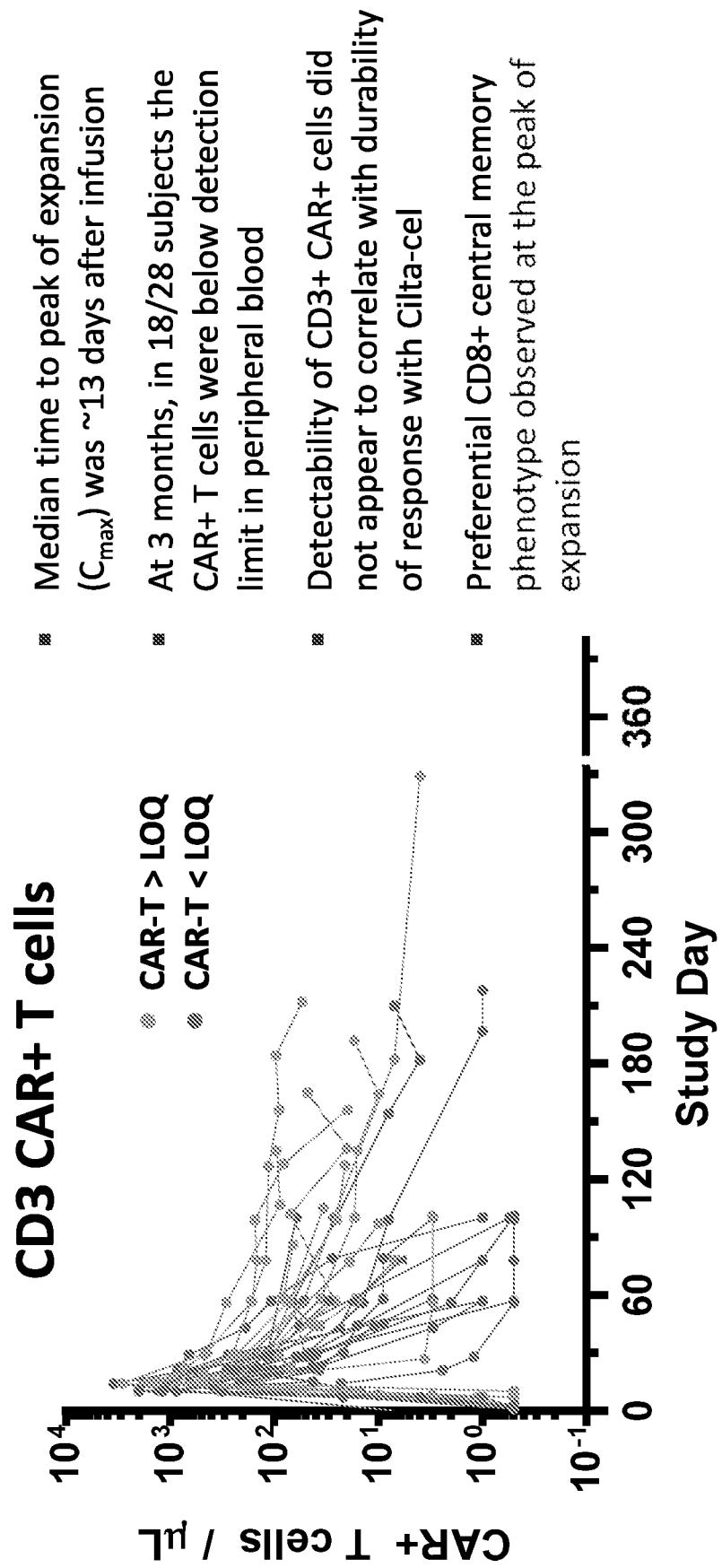
CARTITUDE-1: Minimal Residual Disease



D=day; MRD=minimal residual disease; NGS=next generation sequencing

Figure 24

CARTITUDE-1: Cilta-cel Expansion and Persistence

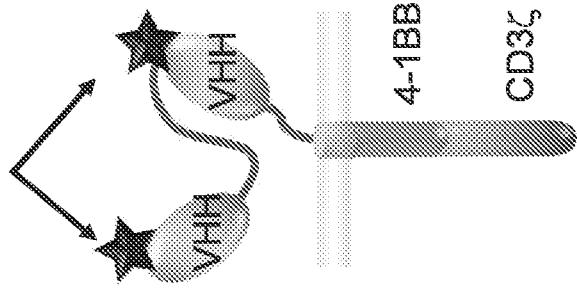


LOQ=limit of quantification

Introduction

- Ciltacabtagene autoleucel (cilda-cel) is a CAR-T therapy
 - Two BCMA-targeting single-domain antibodies designed to confer avidity
- The phase 1b/2 CARTITUDE-1 study (NCT03548207) is investigating the efficacy and safety of cilda-cel in R/R MM
 - A single, low-dose infusion of cilda-cel yielded early, deep, and durable responses in heavily pretreated patients with MM¹
 - CRS is a known side effect of CAR-T therapy; it can be mild to life-threatening and requires careful monitoring and management

Binding domains



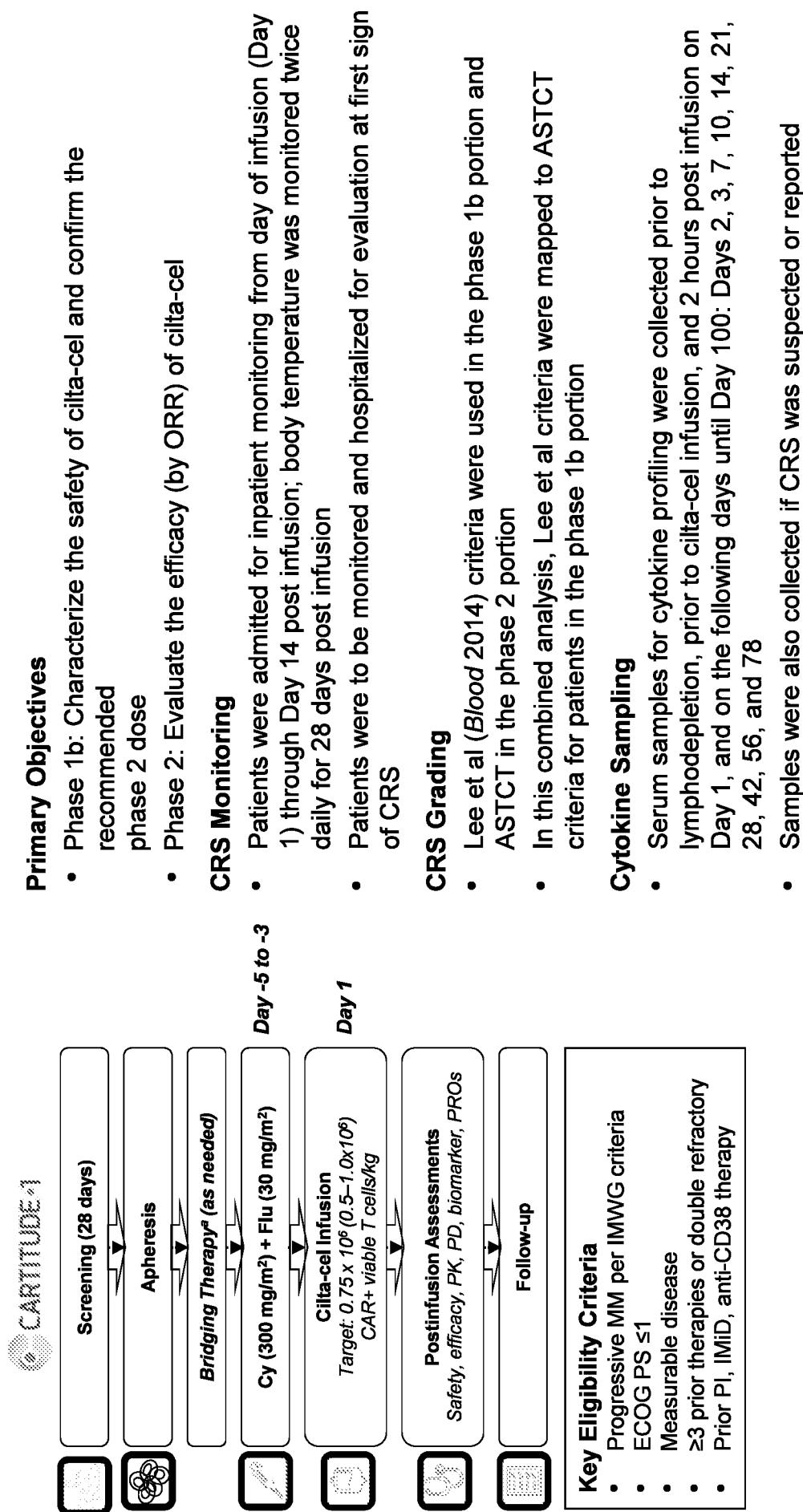
Cilda-cel

Here we analyzed CRS and cytokine profiles in CARTITUDE-1

1. Madduri D, et al. ASH 2020, Presentation #177.
BCMA, B-cell maturation antigen; CAR-T, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell; MM, multiple myeloma; R/R, relapsed/refractory; VHH, single variable domain on a heavy chain.

Figure 26

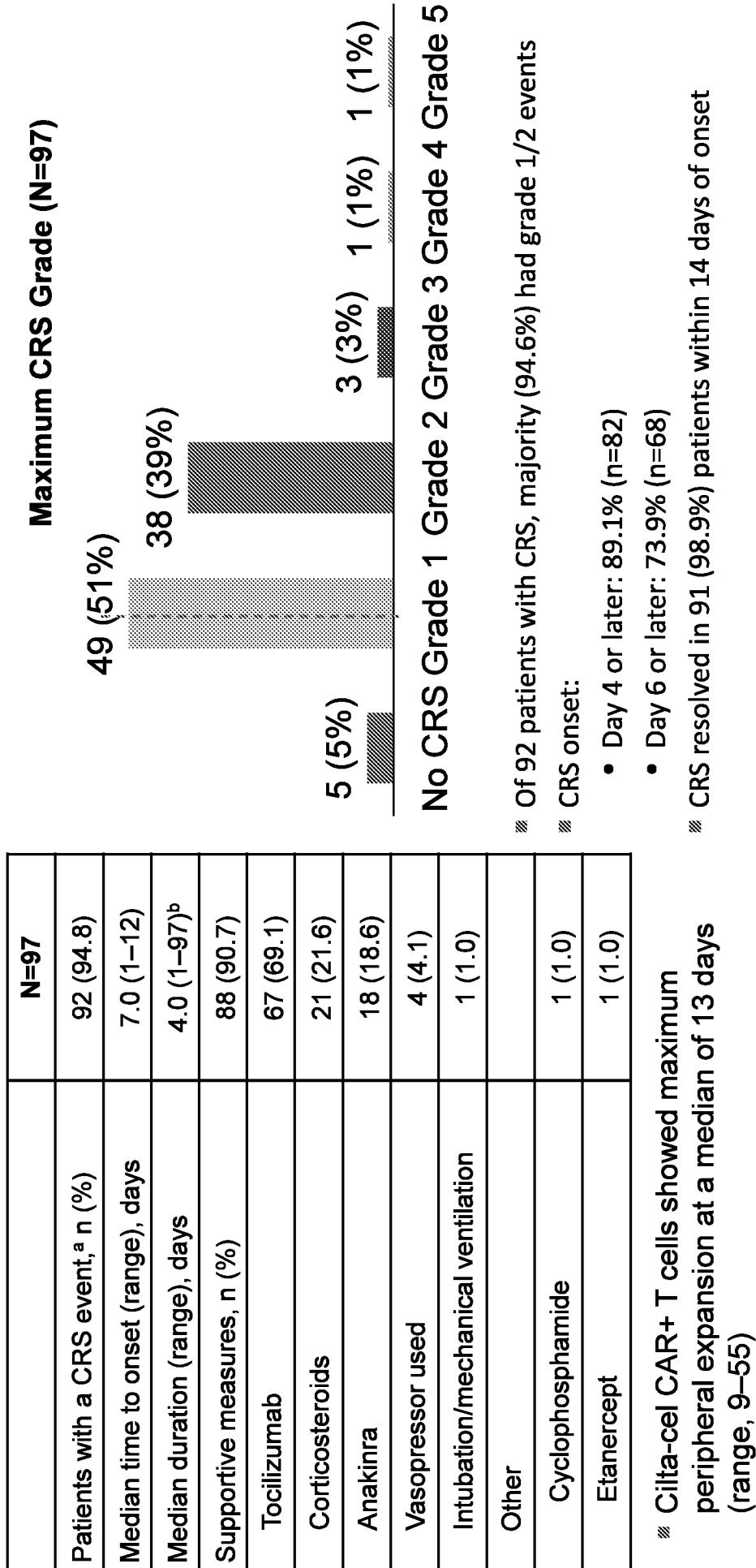
CARTITUDE-1 Study Design



ClinicalTrials.gov number NCT03548207; 01 Sept 2020 data cutoff; *Treatment with previously used agent resulting in at least stable disease. ASTCT, American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy; ciltacel, citractabtagene autoleucel; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; Cy, cyclophosphamide; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; Flu, fludarabine; IMiD, immunomodulatory drug; IMWG, International Myeloma Working Group; MM, multiple myeloma; ORR, overall response rate; PI, proteasome inhibitor; PD, pharmacodynamic; PK, pharmacokinetic; PROs, patient-reported outcomes.

Figure 27

CRS in Cilta-cel–Treated Patients With R/R MM



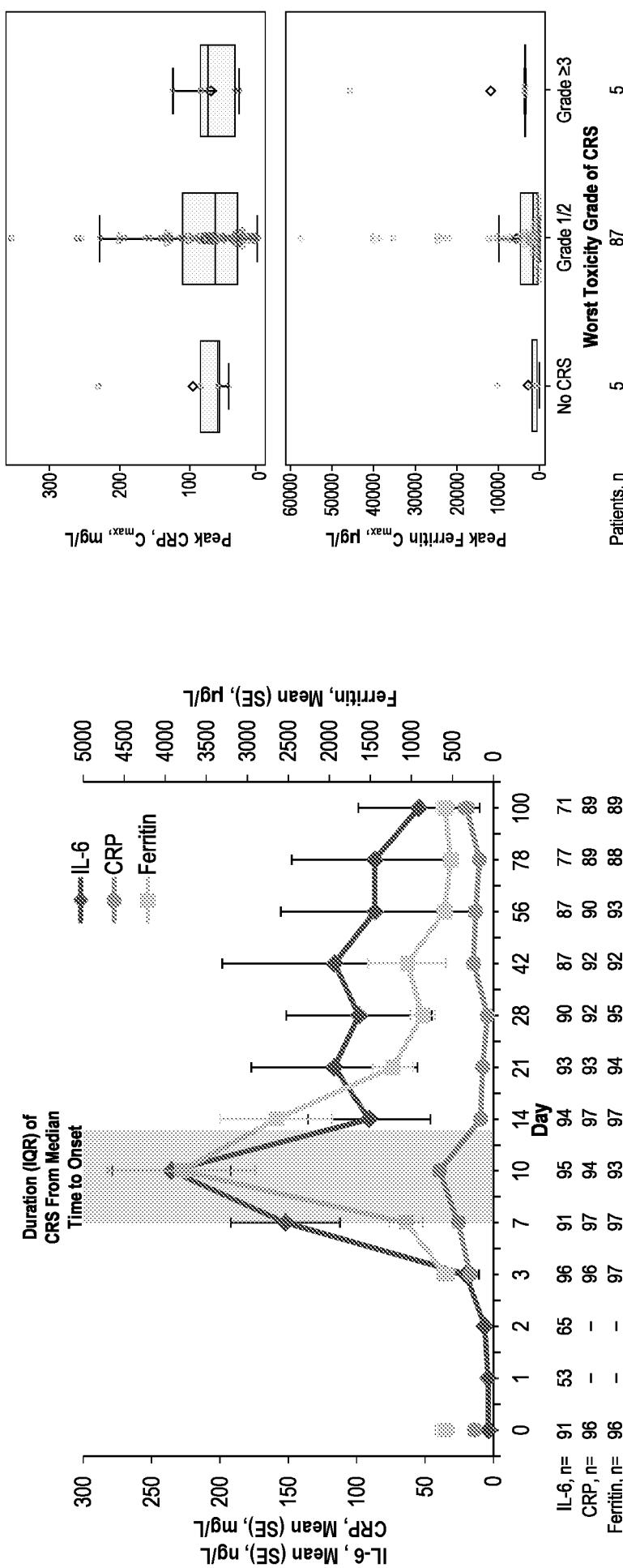
^aCRS was graded using Lee et al (*Blood* 2014) in the phase 1b portion of the study and ASTCT in phase 2. In this combined analysis, Lee et al criteria were mapped to ASTCT criteria for patients in the phase 1b portion.

^bThe patient with 97-day duration died due to CRS/ILH.

ASTCT, American Society for Transplantation and Cellular Therapy; cilta-cel, cilta-cel, chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; HLH, hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis MM, multiple myeloma; R/R, relapsed/refractory.

IL-6, CRP, and Ferritin Levels in Patients Treated With Cilta-cel

Figure 28

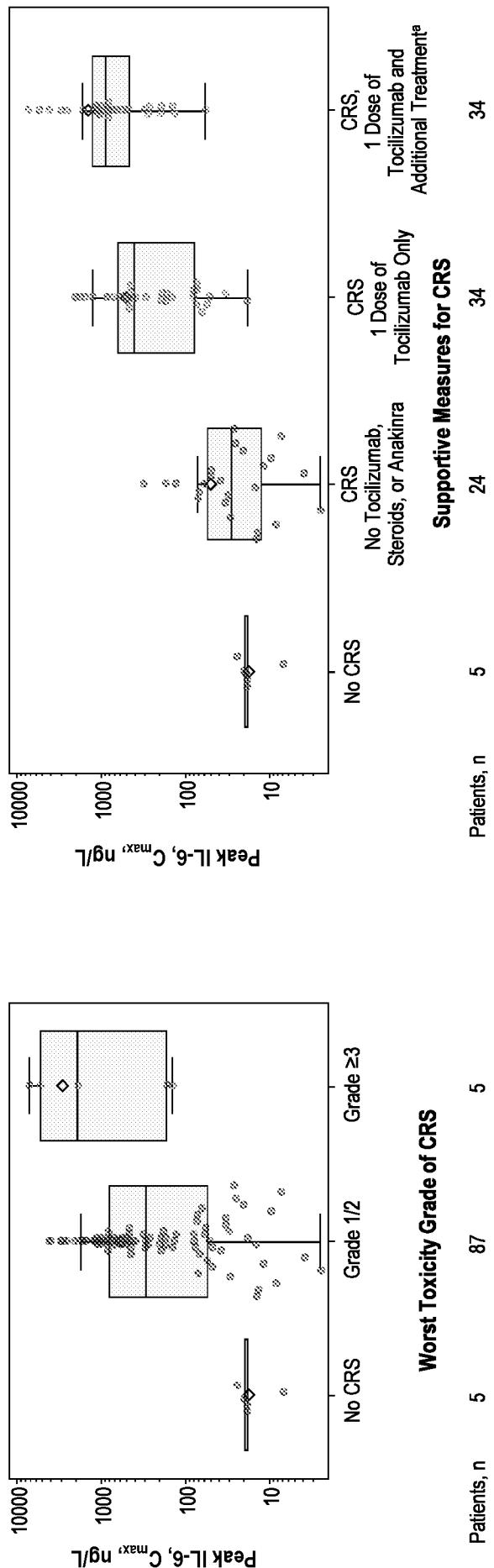


- Across all patients, IL-6 levels peaked at Days 7–14 post-cilta-cel infusion, as did IL-10 and IFN- γ levels
- CRP and ferritin trends follow cytokine levels and can be useful in monitoring CRS
- No association was observed between CRS severity and baseline^a or peak levels of CRP or ferritin

^aData not shown.
BL, baseline; C_{max}, maximum concentration; CRP, C-reactive protein; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; IL, interleukin; IQR, interquartile range; SE, standard error.

Figure 29

Peak IL-6 Levels by CRS Severity and Supportive Measures

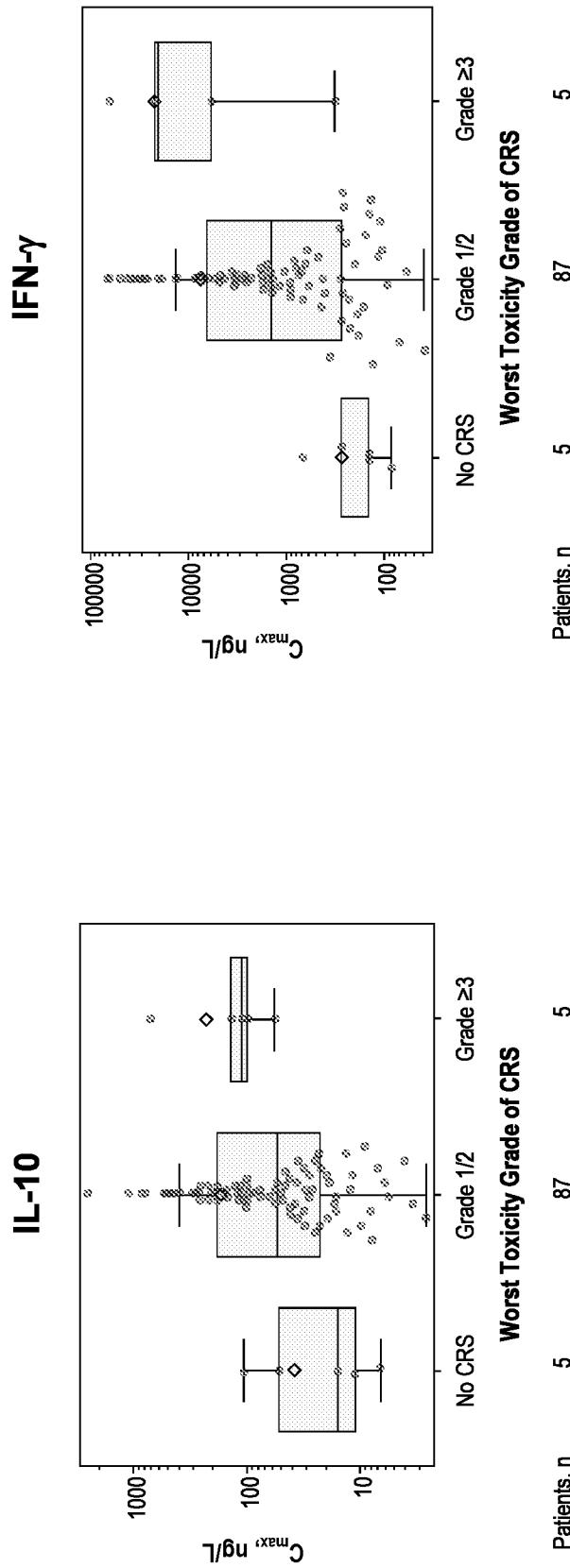


CRS severity and supportive measures were associated with peak IL-6 levels, as well as peak levels of IL-10 and IFN- γ ^b

^aAdditional dose of tocilizumab, steroids, and/or anakinra; ^bData not shown
 C_{\max} , maximum concentration; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; IL, interleukin.

Figure 30

Peak IL-10 and IFN- γ Levels by CRS Severity



CRS severity was associated with peak IL-10 and IFN- γ levels
Results were similar for other cytokines including IL-2, IL-8, soluble IL-2Ra, and TNF α ^a

^aData not shown.
 C_{\max} : maximum concentration; CRS: cytokine release syndrome; IFN: interferon; IL: interleukin; TNF: tumor necrosis factor.

Figure 31

Conclusions

- CRS after ciltacel treatment was low grade and manageable in most patients with R/R MM
- Increasing severity of CRS and supportive measures for CRS
 - Were associated with peak IL-6, IL-10 and IFN- γ cytokine levels
 - Were not associated with baseline or peak CRP and ferritin levels
- CRP and ferritin trends follow cytokine levels and can be useful in monitoring CRS
- Due to the low rate (5%) of grade ≥ 3 CRS and median time to CRS onset of 7.0 days, outpatient dosing of ciltacel is being explored in the phase 2 CARTITUDE-2 (NCT04133636) and phase 3 CARTITUDE-4 (NCT04181827) studies

ciltacel, ciltacabtagene autoleucel; CRP, C-reactive protein; CRS, cytokine release syndrome; IL, interleukin; MM, multiple myeloma; R/R, relapsed/refractory.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2020/133598

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

C07K 19/00(2006.01)i; C07K 14/725(2006.01)i; C07K 16/28(2006.01)i; C07K 16/30(2006.01)i; A61K 39/395(2006.01)i; A61P 35/00(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

C07K; A61K; A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

DWPI, SIPOABS, CNABS, CNKI, PubMed, ISI web of Knowledge, GenBank, EBI, STN, CAR-T, CART, BCMA, chimeric antigen receptor, VHH, single domain antibody, single intravenous infusion, lymphodepletion, cyclophosphamide, fludarabine, cytokine release syndrome, CRS, IL-6R, tocilizumab, antipyretic, antihistamine, paracetamol, acetaminophen, diphenhydramine, PI, IMiD, CD38, SEQ ID NOs:1-17

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 2018028647 A1 (LEGEND BIOTECH USA INC.) 15 February 2018 (2018-02-15) description, table 5, paragraphs 0392-0393, 0397, 0520, example 7	1-85
Y	MADDURI, D. et al. "CARTITUDE-1: Phase 1b/2 Study of Ciltacabtagene Autoleucel, a B-Cell Maturation Antigen-Directed Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell Therapy, in Relapsed/Refractory Multiple Myeloma" <i>BLOOD</i> , Vol. 136, No. Supplement 1, 05 November 2020 (2020-11-05), pages 22-25	1-85
Y	YANEZ, L. et al. "CAR T Cell Toxicity: Current Management and Future Directions" <i>HEMOSPHERE</i> , Vol. 3, No. 2, 31 December 2019 (2019-12-31), e186, pages 1-10	25-84

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search 16 August 2021	Date of mailing of the international search report 03 September 2021
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/CN National Intellectual Property Administration, PRC 6, Xitucheng Rd., Jimen Bridge, Haidian District, Beijing 100088 China	Authorized officer WU,Xuemei
Facsimile No. (86-10)62019451	Telephone No. 86-(10)-53961961

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2020/133598

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	JANSSEN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT, LLC. "NCT03548207 A Study of JNJ-68284528, a Chimeric Antigen Receptor T Cell (CAR-T) Therapy Directed Against B-Cell Maturation AntigenParticipants With Relapsed or Refractory Multiple Myeloma (CARTITUDE-1)" https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/history/NCT03548207?V_23=View#StudyPageTop , 09 October 2020 (2020-10-09), Study Identification, Study Description, Arms and Interventions, Eligibility	1-85
A	WO 2019242632 A1 (NANJING LEGEND BIOTECH CO., LTD.) 26 December 2019 (2019-12-26) the whole document	1-85
A	CN 108395478 A (SHANGHAI HRAIN DASHENG BIOTECHNOLOGY CO.) 14 August 2018 (2018-08-14) the whole document	1-85
A	CN 105777911 A (SHANGHAI UNICAR THERAPY CO., LTD.) 20 July 2016 (2016-07-20) the whole document	1-85
A	CN 108276493 A (NANJING LEGEND BIOTECH CO., LTD.) 13 July 2018 (2018-07-13) the whole document	1-85
A	WO 2017211900 A1 (MAX-DELBRUCK-CENTRUM FUR MOLEKULARE MEDIZIN et al.) 14 December 2017 (2017-12-14) the whole document	1-85

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/CN2020/133598**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: **1-85**
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
 - [1] Claims 1-85 relate to a method of treating a subject who has multiple myeloma, and therefore do not warrant an international search according to the criteria set out in PCT Rule 39.1(iv). An international search is still carried out and based on the use of the composition comprising T cells comprising a chimeric antigen receptor in the manufacturing of a medicament for the treatment of multiple myeloma.
2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/CN2020/133598

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date (day/month/year)	Patent family member(s)			Publication date (day/month/year)	
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				US	2020078399	A1	12 March 2020
				JP	6851461	B2	31 March 2021
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				WO	2019242632	A8	01 October 2020
				KR	20210023878	A	04 March 2021
				AU	2019291627	A1	08 October 2020

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/CN2020/133598

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date (day/month/year)	Patent family member(s)			Publication date (day/month/year)
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				AU	2017276706	A1
				EP	3463396	A1
						10 October 2019
						14 February 2019
						16 April 2019
						28 December 2018
						28 January 2021
						03 October 2019
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						10 April 2019