



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ  
ΠΑΤΡΩΝ  
UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS



# ΒΕΛΙΜΥΜΑΒ

## Σε ποιόν, πότε & γιατί

ΣΤΑΜΑΤΗΣ-ΝΙΚΟΣ ΛΙΟΣΗΣ

Αναπλ. Καθηγητής  
Δ/ντής, Ρευματολογικό Τμήμα  
Ιατρική Σχολή Παν/μίου Πατρών & ΠΓΝΠ

# Σύγκριση συμφερόντων

- GSK
- MSD
- BMS
- NOVARTIS
- ROCHE
- JANSSEN
- ABBOTT
- PFIZER
- UCB
- ACTELION
- ΕΝΟΡΑΣΙΣ Α.Ε.

# **BLyS: Member of the Tumor Necrosis Factor Family and B Lymphocyte Stimulator**

**Paul A. Moore, Ornella Belvedere, Amy Orr, Krystyna Pieri,  
David W. LaFleur, Ping Feng, Daniel Soppet, Meghan Charters,  
Reiner Gentz, David Parmelee, Yuling Li, Olga Galperina,  
Judith Giri, Viktor Roschke, Bernardetta Nardelli, Jeffrey Carrell,  
Svetlana Sosnovtseva, Wilbert Greenfield, Steven M. Ruben,  
Henrik S. Olsen, James Fikes, David M. Hilbert\***

# Ονοματολογία

- **BLyS: B Lymphocyte Stimulator** (1999)
- **BAFF: B cell Activating Factor** belonging to the TNF-Family
- **TALL-1**
- **zTNF4**
- **THANK**
- **TNFSF13b**

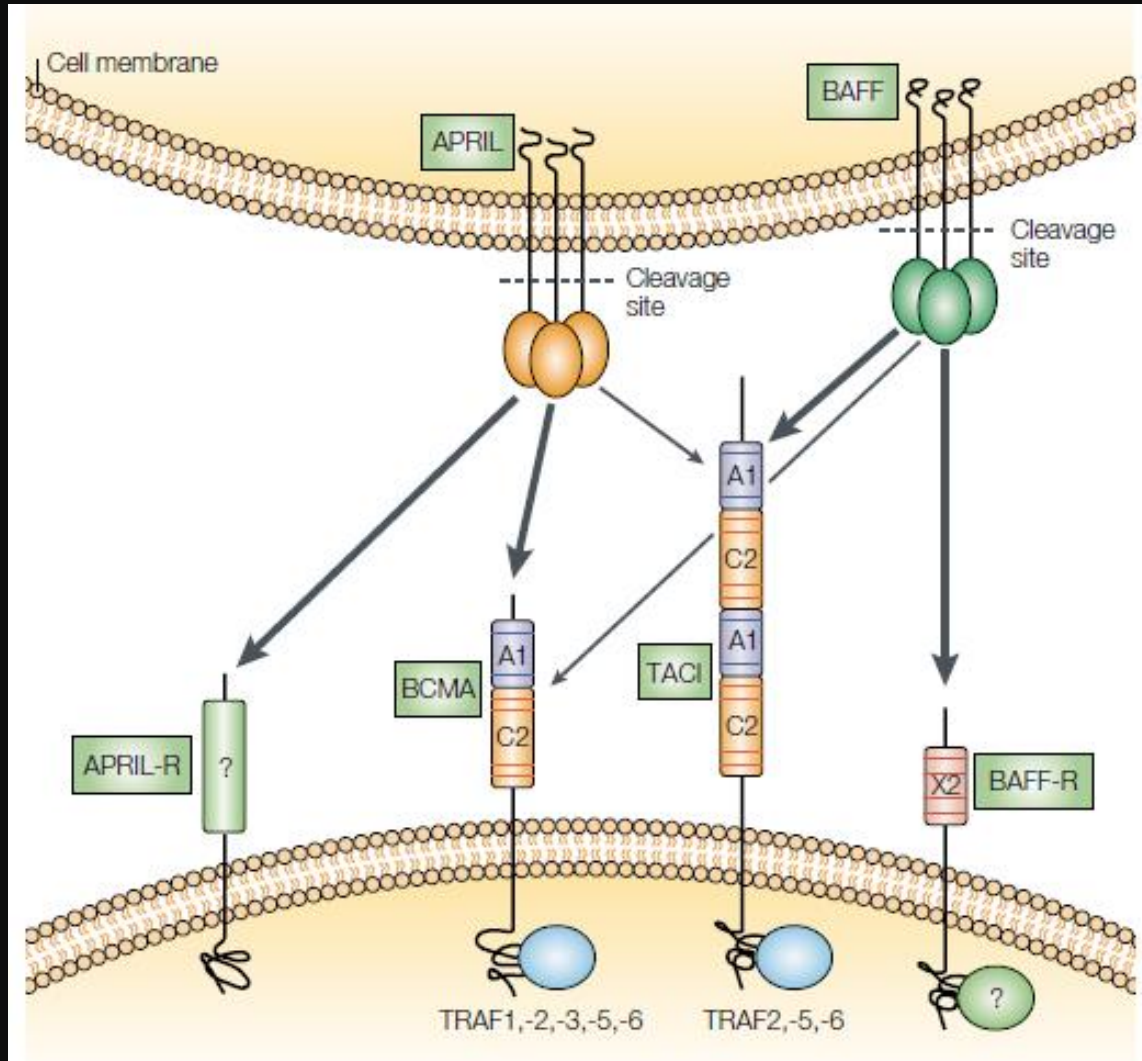
# BLyS: Πού παράγεται ?

- Το mRNA του BLyS βρίσκεται σε μονοκύτταρα, μακροφάγα, δενδριτικά κύτταρα (↑↑↑IFN-γ).
- Στα ουδετερόφιλα (↑↑ G-CSF και ↑↑IFN-γ).
- Ελάχιστο BLyS mRNA βρίσκεται στα T κύτταρα και **ΚΑΘΟΛΟΥ** στα B κύτταρα.
- Τα δενδριτικά και τα ουδετερόφιλα παράγουν περισσότερο **διαλυτό BLyS**.
- Το BLyS παράγεται μετά απο ενεργοποίηση της εναλλακτικής οδού του NF-κB.

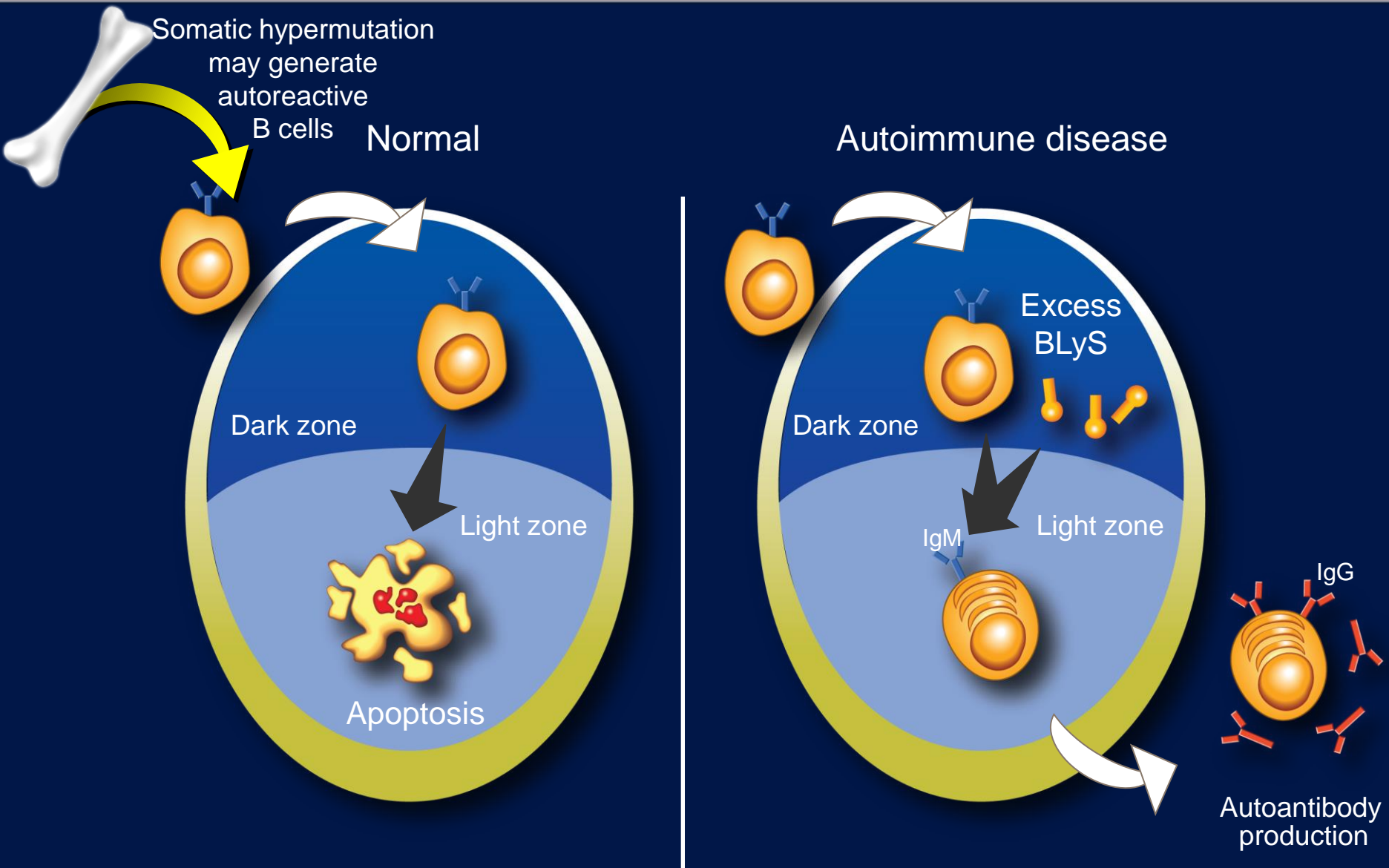
# Φυσιολογικός ρόλος του BLyS

- Τα BAFF -/- ποντίκια **ΔΕΝ** έχουν **ΚΑΘΟΛΟΥ** ώριμα B λεμφοκύτταρα (!!!)
- Δεν έχουν **ΚΑΘΟΛΟΥ ΜΖ** B λεμφοκύτταρα.
- Δεν έχουν **ΚΑΘΟΛΟΥ** χυμική ανοσία.
- **Εχουν** ανώριμα B λεμφοκύτταρα

# Οι 3 υποδοχείς του BLYS (... και του APRIL)

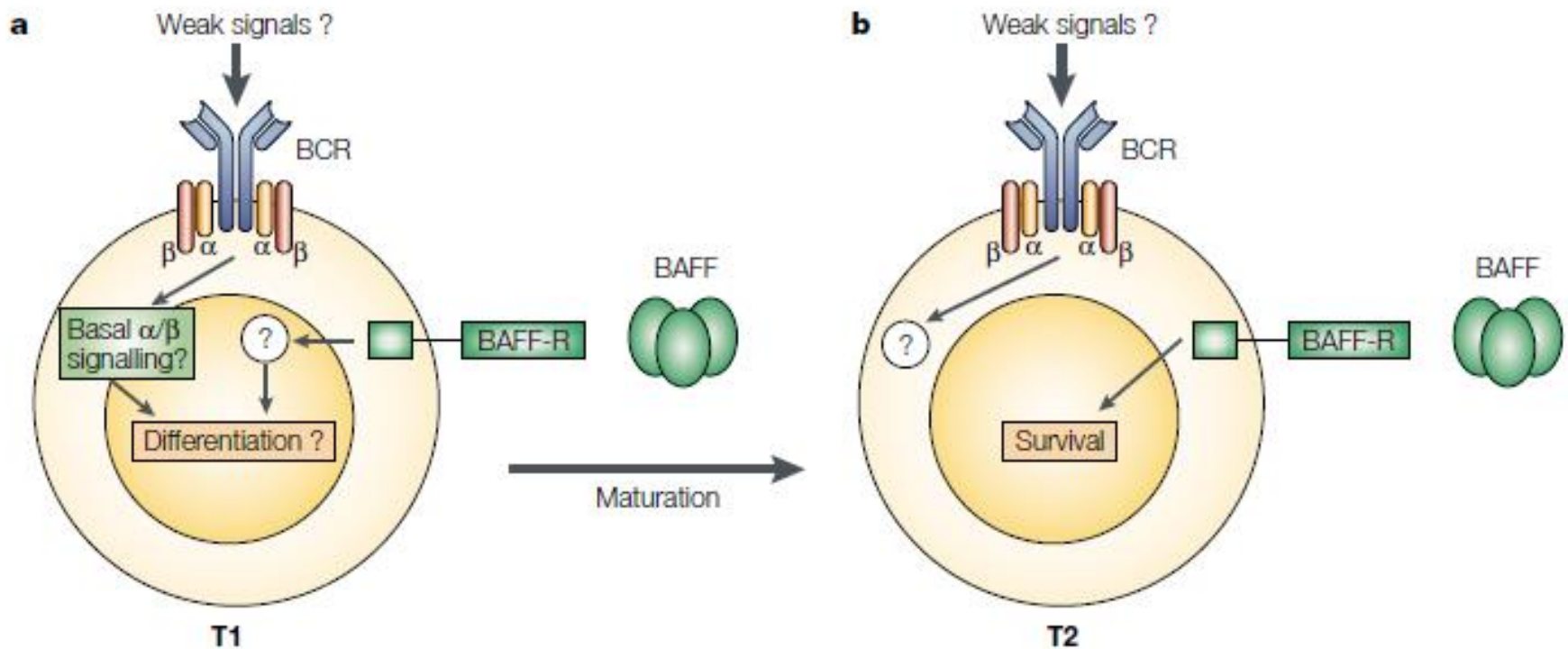


# BLyS is a critical survival factor for transitional and mature B cells

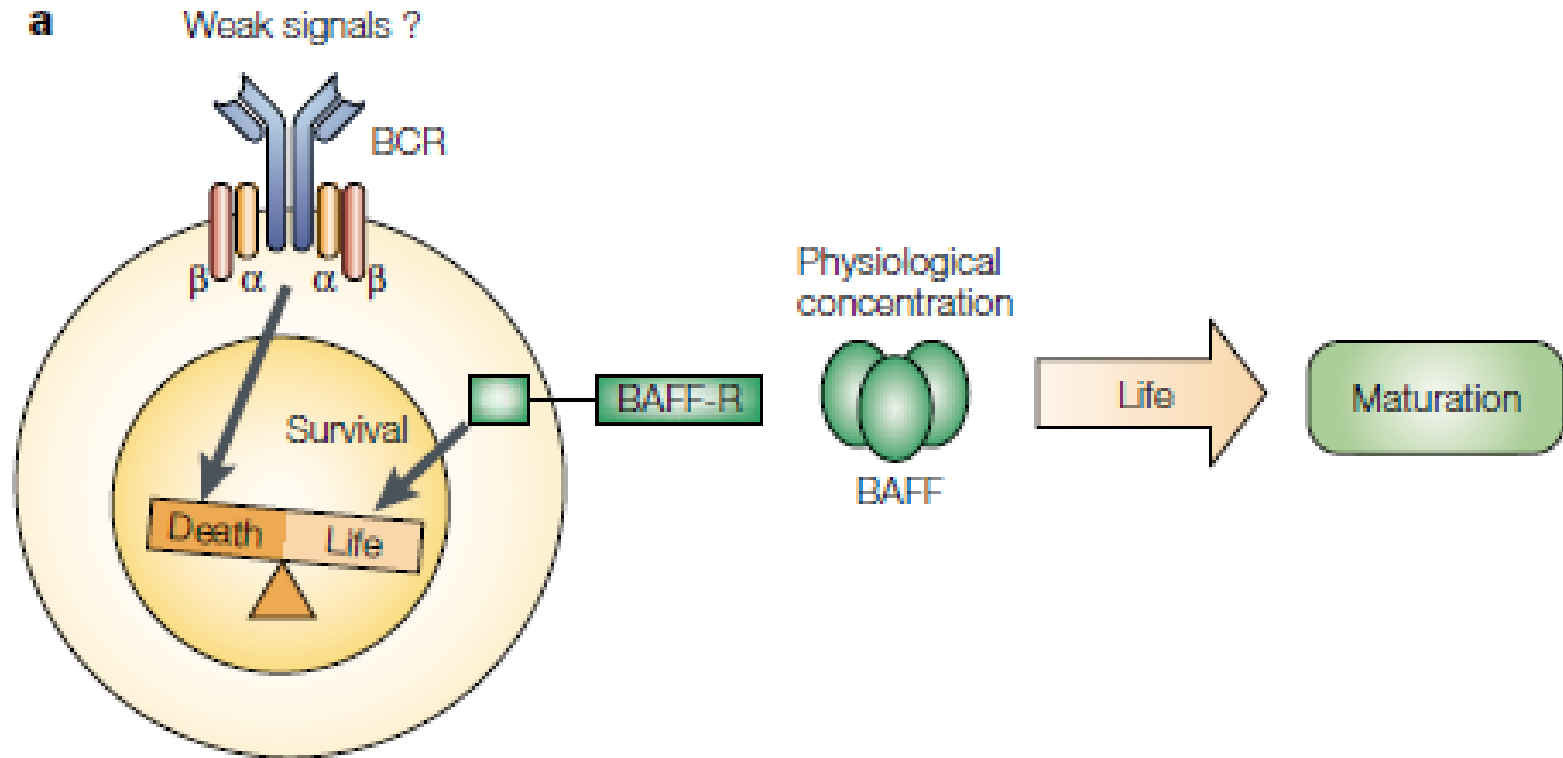




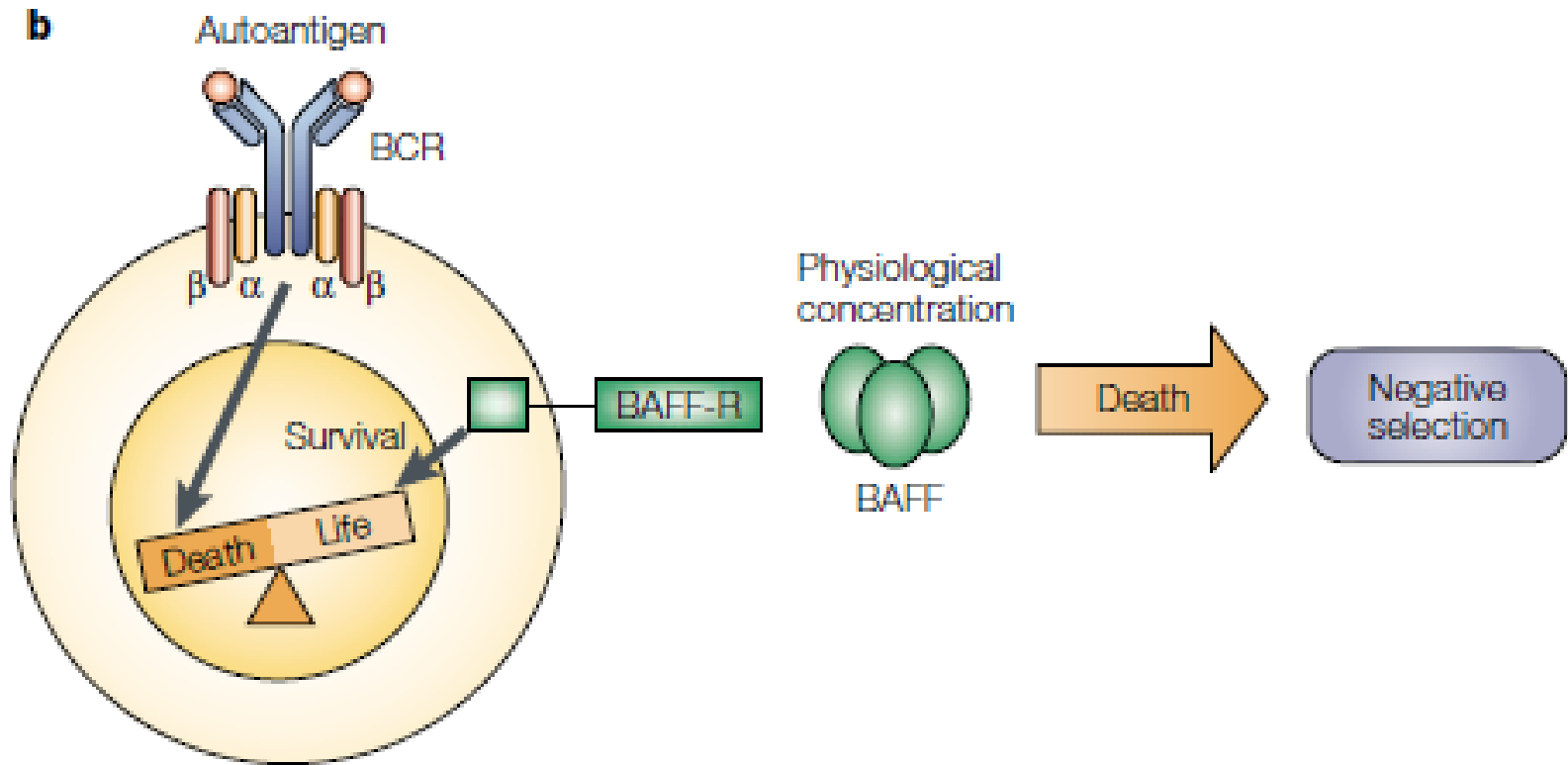
# BLyS: Ο ρόλος του στην ωρίμανση του Β λεμφοκυττάρου



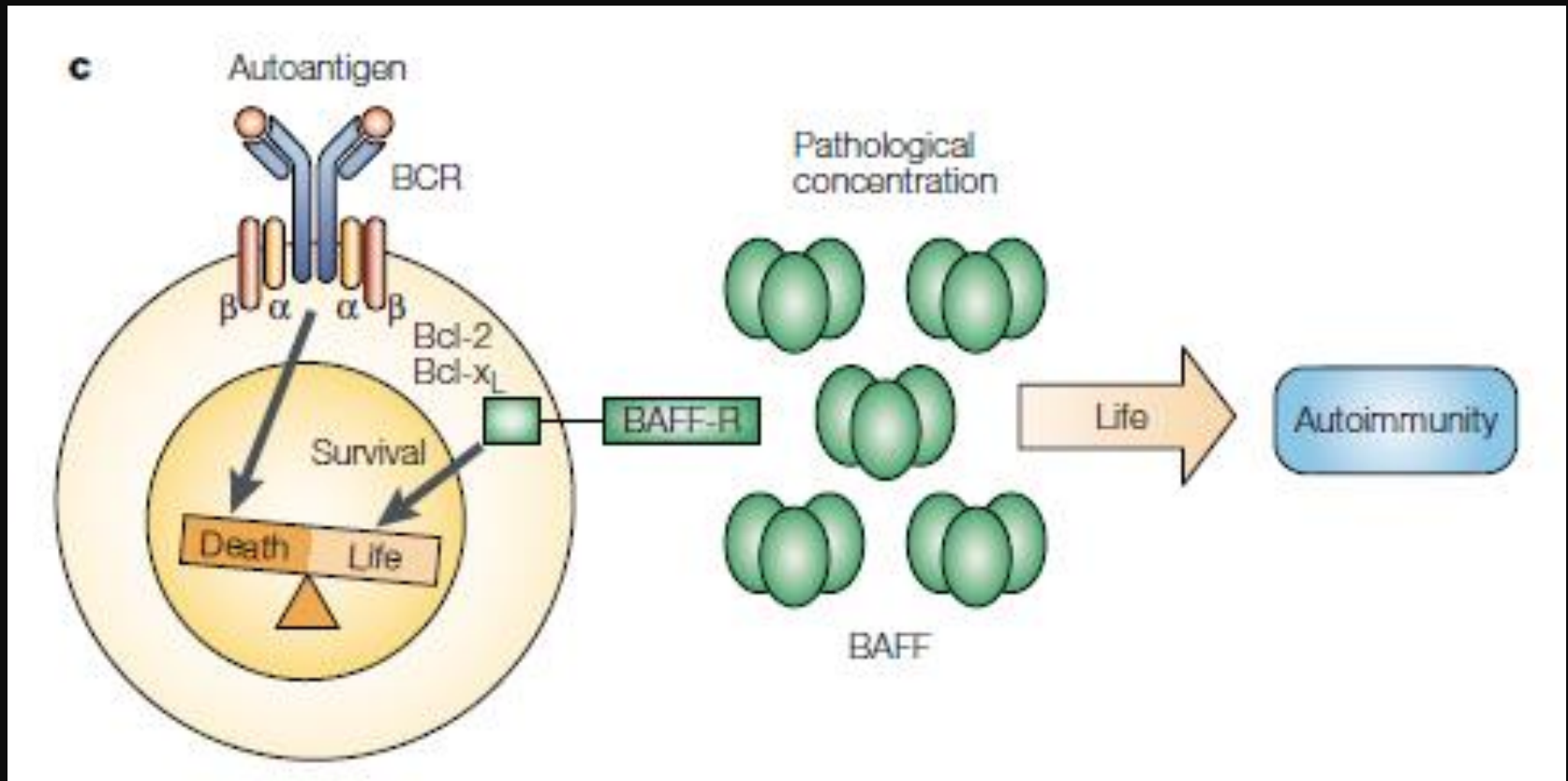
# BLyS: Θετική επιλογή



# BLyS: Αδυναμία διάσωσης απο αρνητική επιλογή



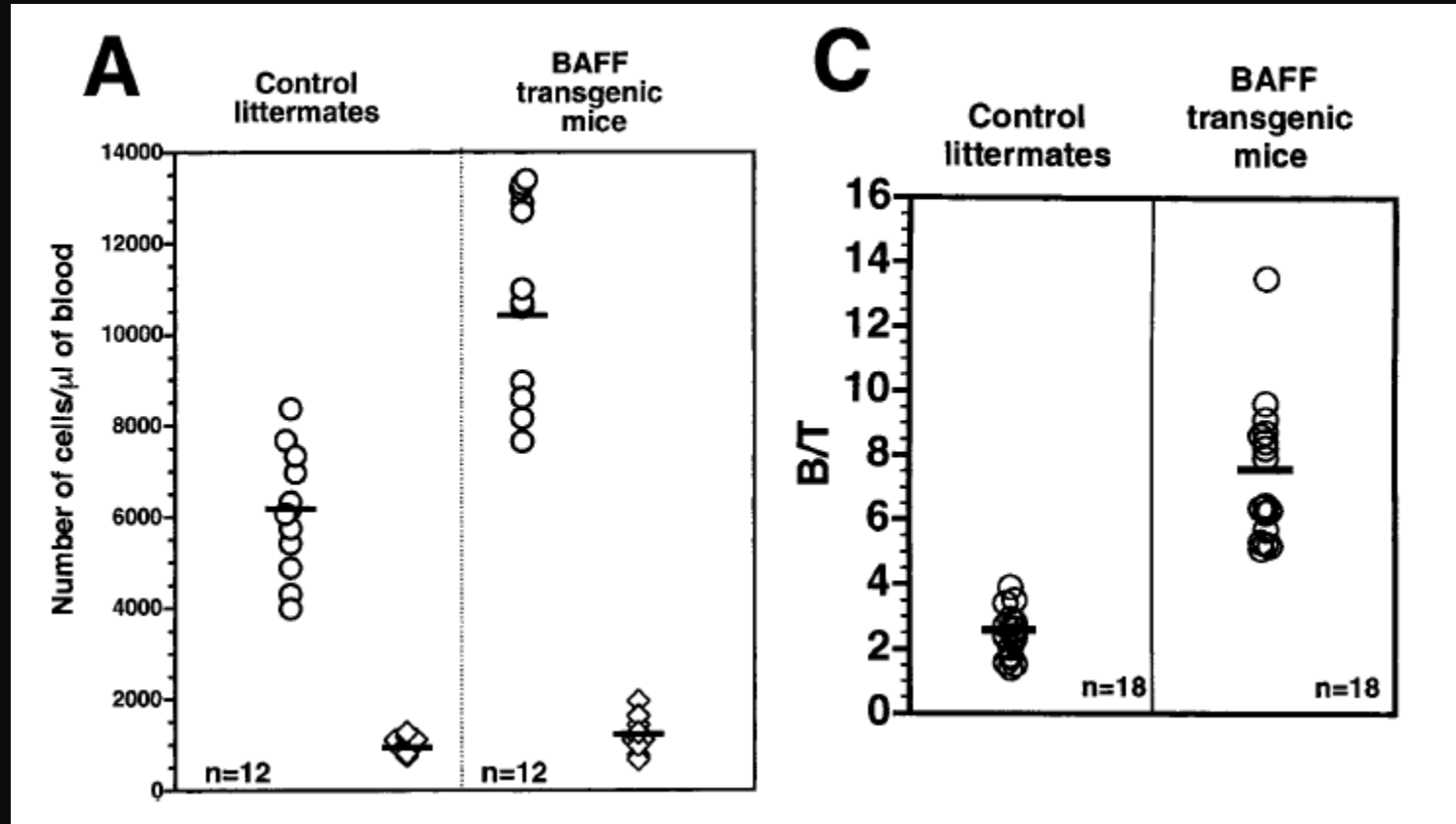
# Περίσσεια ΒLγS: Αυτοανοσία !



## ΟΙ ΔΥΟ ΜΕΙΖΟΝΕΣ ρόλοι του BLyS

- 1) Είναι ο **ΚΥΡΙΟΣ ρυθμιστής του αριθμού** των άωρων και ώριμων B λεμφοκυττάρων. Ελέγχει τη διαφοροποίησή τους και το χρόνο ζωής τους.
- 2) Είναι **κεντρικός ρυθμιστής της «αυστηρότητας»** με την οποία γίνεται η εξάλειψη αυτοδραστικών B λεμφοκυττάρων. Ρυθμίζει την **ανοσολογική ανοχή** τους.

# BAFF διαγονιδιακό ποντίκι: Πάρα πολλά Β λεμφοκύτταρα



*Mackay F et al: J Exp Med 1999; 190:1697.*

# BAFF διαγονιδιακό ποντίκι: Υπερπλασία λεμφικών οργάνων

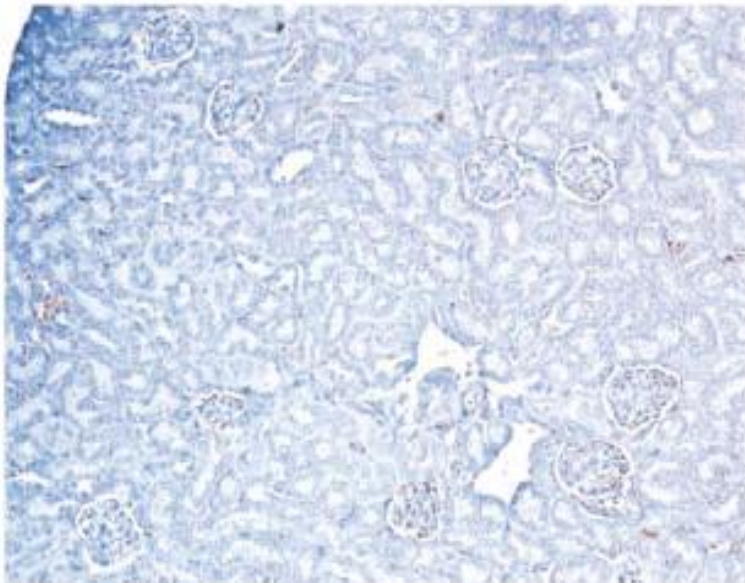


*Mackay F et al: J Exp Med 1999; 190:1697.*

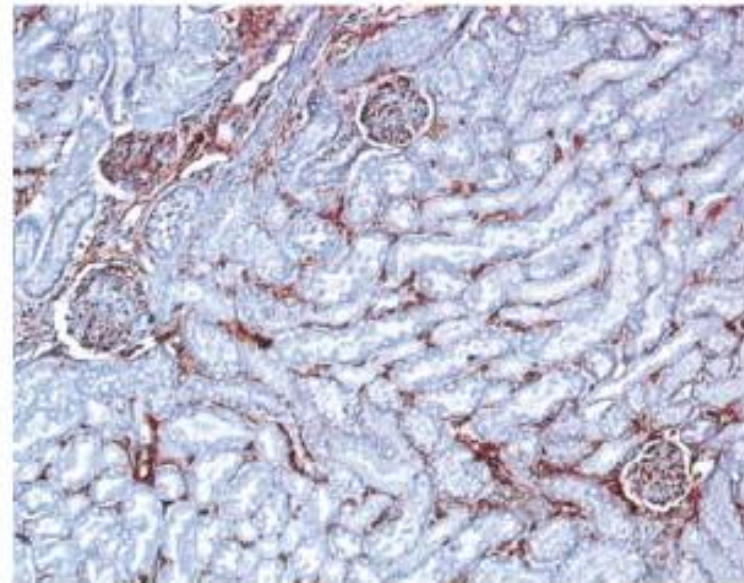


# BAFF διαγονιδιακό ποντίκι: Νεφρίτιδα

**Control littermate**



**BAFF transgenic mouse**



*Mackay F et al: J Exp Med 1999; 190:1697.*



## **BLyS και ΣΕΛ: Ανθρωποι και ποντίκια**

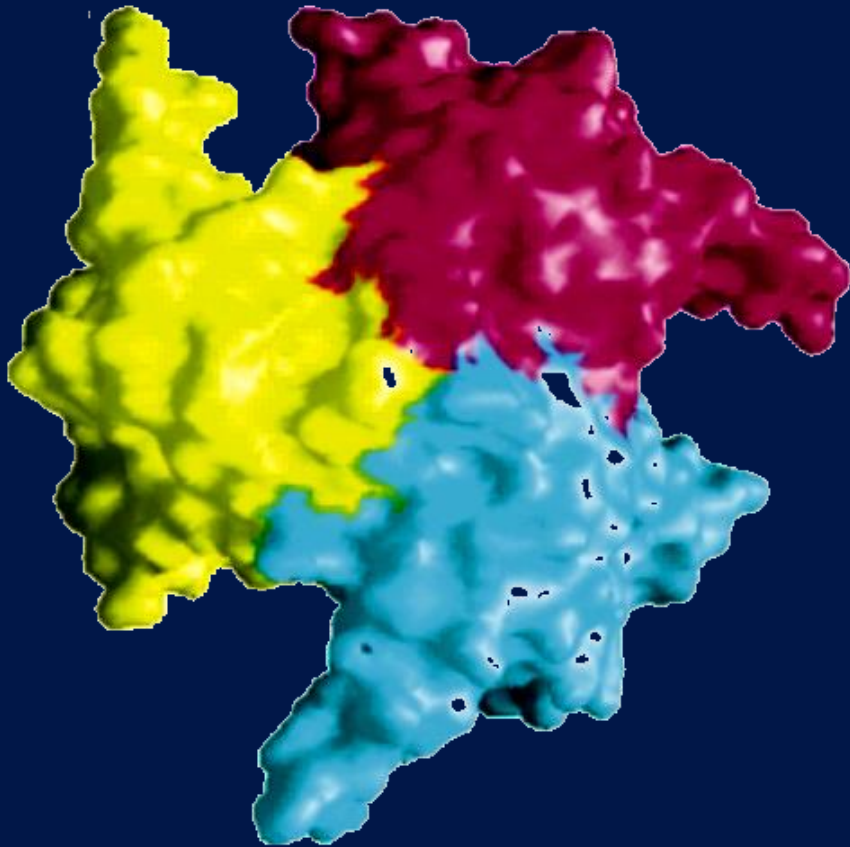
- **Αυξημένα** επίπεδα BLyS στα NZBxNZW F1.
- **Αυξημένα** επίπεδα BLyS στα MRL/lpr.
- Εξουδετέρωση του BLyS στα μοντέλα αυτά «θεραπεύει» το lupus-like νόσημά τους.
- **Αυξημένα επίπεδα BLyS στον ορό ασθενών με ΣΕΛ** (αλλά και σε άλλα αυτοάνοσα νοσήματα).

# B cells in SLE:

## Dysfunctional tolerance checkpoints

- **1<sup>o</sup> checkpoint:** Μέσα στον Μυελό. Newly emigrant B cells (CD19<sup>+</sup>CD10<sup>+</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>CD27<sup>-</sup>).
- Normals: 40.7% autoreactive.
- **2<sup>o</sup> checkpoint:** Στα δευτερογενή λεμφικά όργανα. Mature naïve B cells (CD19<sup>+</sup>CD10<sup>-</sup>IgM<sup>+</sup>CD27<sup>-</sup>).
- Τελικά: 5-20% των normal mature naïve = αυτοδραστικά
- 25-50% των lupus mature naïve = αυτοδραστικά

# BLyS (B-lymphocyte stimulator)

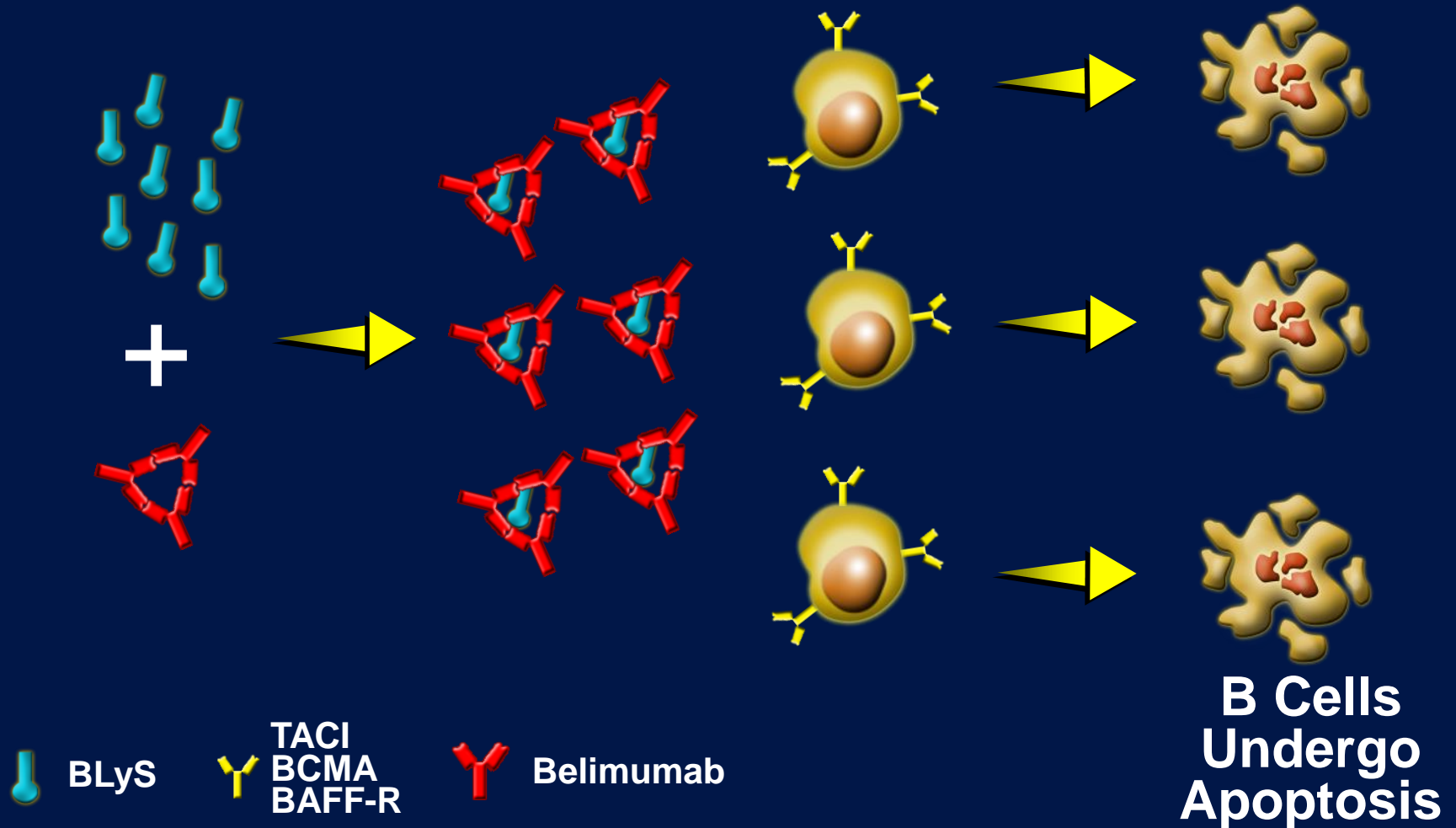


- A soluble ligand of the TNF family
- BLyS plays a critical role in promoting the auto-reactive B cell survival and differentiation

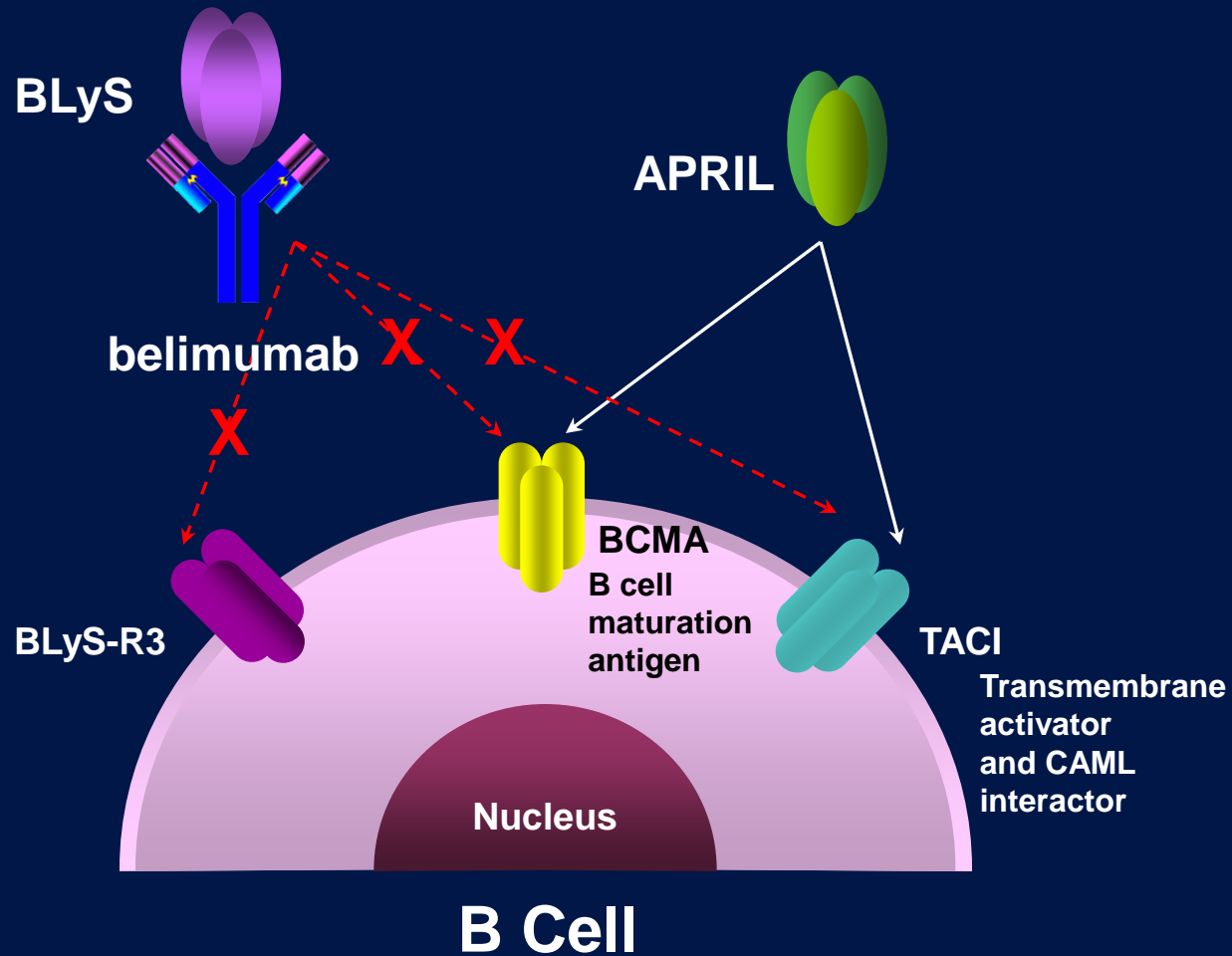
BLyS = B-lymphocyte Stimulator

1. Oren DA, et al. Nat Struct Biol 2002;9:288–92
2. Cancro MP, et al. J Clin Invest 2009;119(5):1066–73
3. Miller JP, et al. J Immunol 2006;176:6405–10

# Belimumab: fully human monoclonal antibody that selectively inhibits the biological activity of BLyS

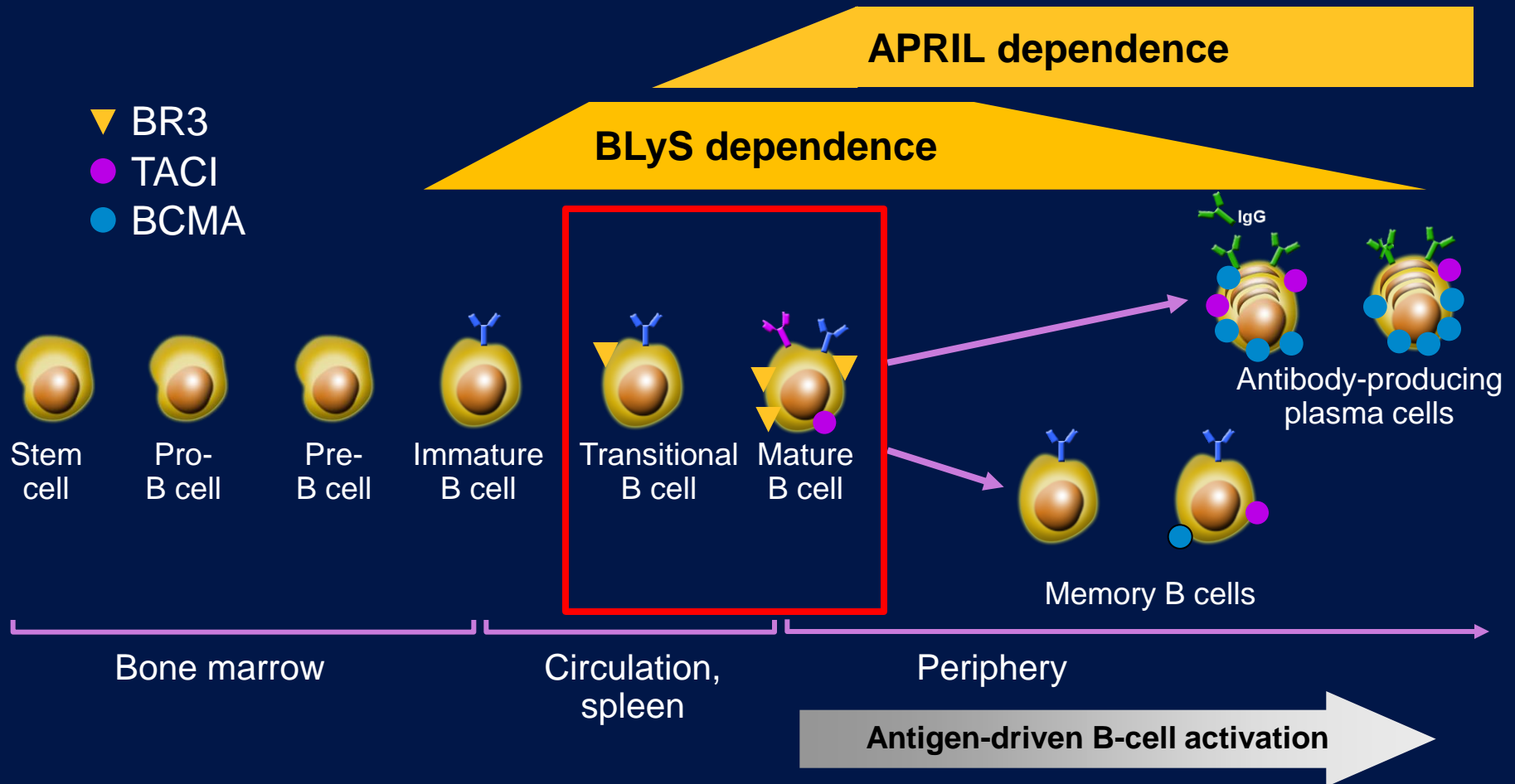


# Belimumab Inhibits Binding of BLyS to Three Receptors



# BLyS-targeted therapy is restricted to early-stage B cells in the periphery

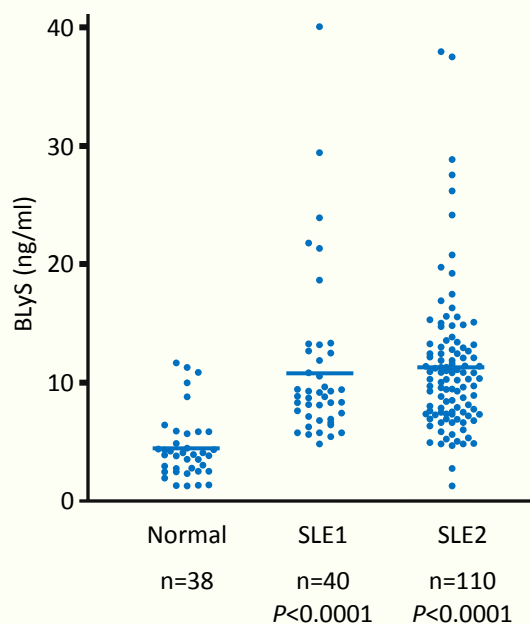
BLyS primarily binds to BR3, which is expressed in early B-cell development



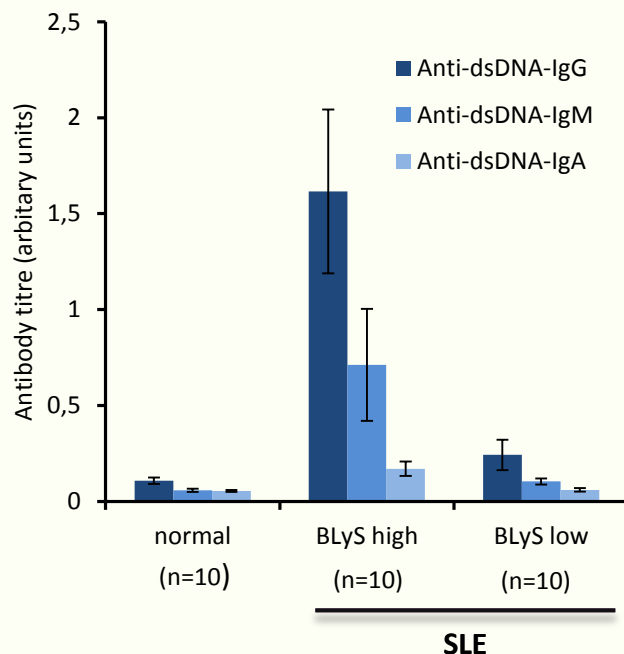
# Elevated BLyS levels in SLE patients correlated with high anti-dsDNA titres and changes in SELENA-SLEDAI score



BLyS levels found to be elevated in patients with SLE<sup>1</sup>



Elevated BLyS levels correlated with elevated anti-dsDNA<sup>1</sup>



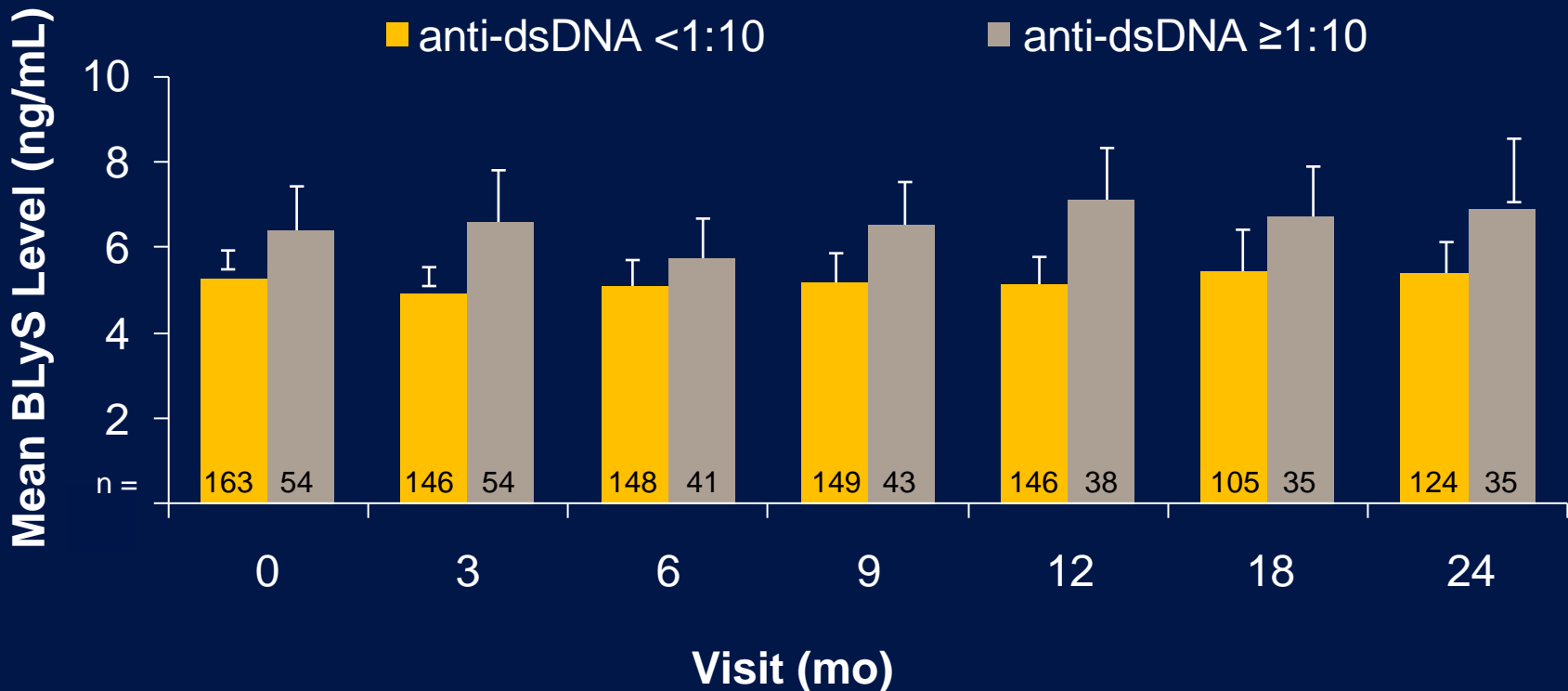
Increased BLyS levels associated with worsening of SLE<sup>2\*</sup>

Independent variable	Relationship to increase in SS
BLyS level at previous visit	Positive $P=0.0042$
Change in BLyS level from previous visit	Positive $P=0.0007$

\* Multivariate analysis of the association of BLyS level with a change in SELENA-SLEDAI (SS) score from previous visit. SELENA-SLEDAI was administered and plasma BLyS autoantibodies were measured at baseline, 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 and 24 months and at any unscheduled visits.

# BLYS Levels Predict Increased SLE Disease Activity

Higher BLYS Levels in SLE Patients Directly Correlated With Higher Anti-dsDNA Titers

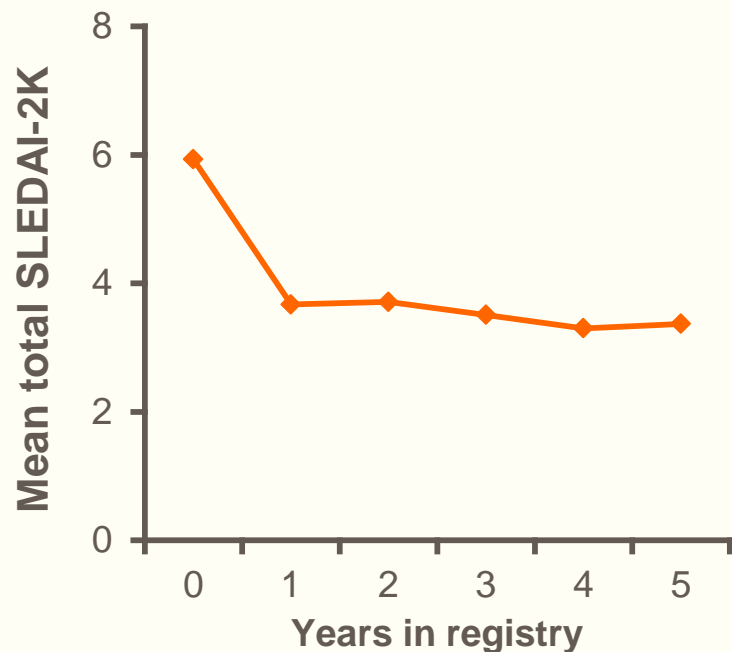




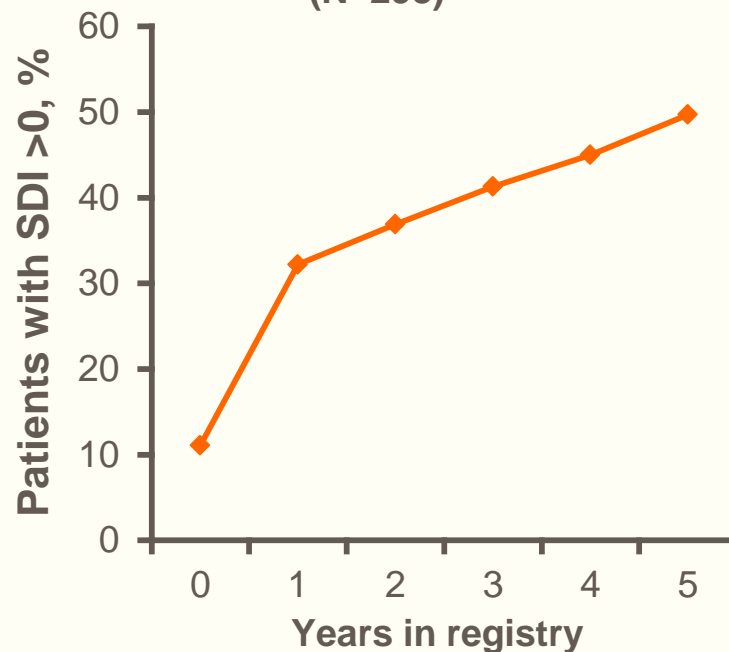
# Even with low disease activity, patients still accrue organ damage



Disease activity over 5 years of follow-up  
(N=298)



Percentage of patients with organ damage over 5 years of follow-up  
(N=298)

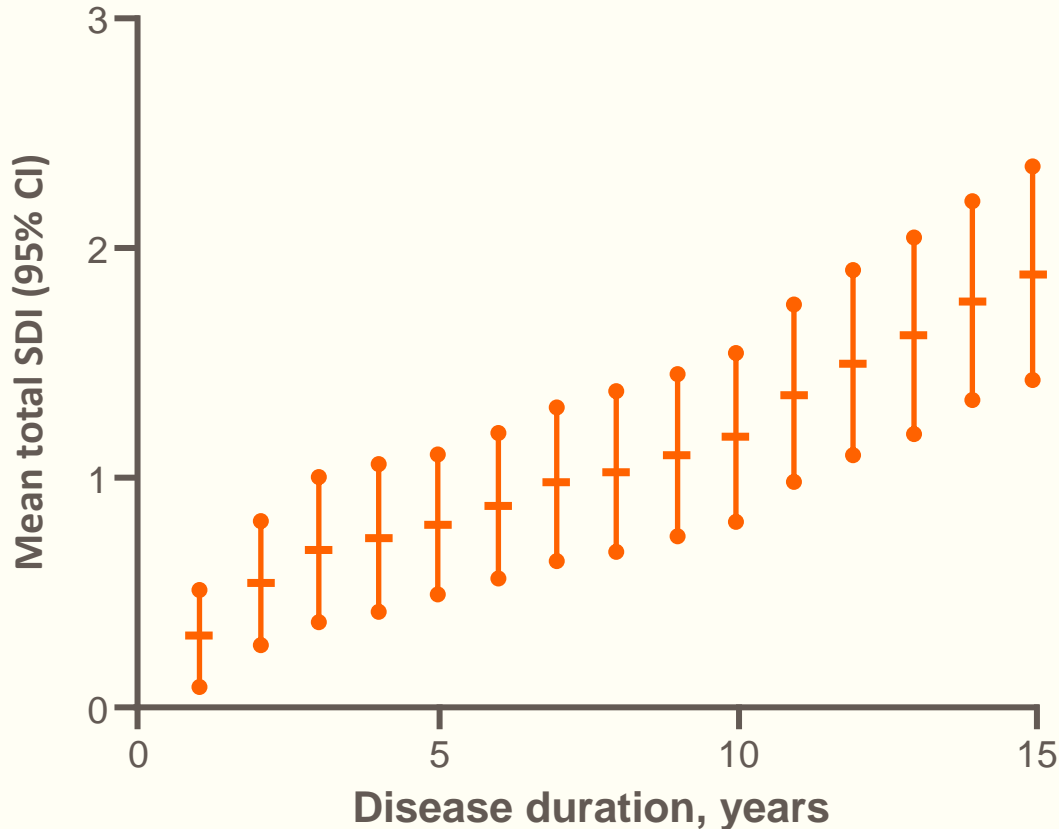


Prospective analysis of patients in the SLICC cohort recruited within 15 months of diagnosis and followed annually for  $\geq 5$  years.

# Damage leads to more damage



Damage accrual over 15-year period



- Despite receiving a cocktail of active therapies, all patients (n=73) accrued damage (from  $0.33 \pm 0.9$  to  $1.90 \pm 2.0$ )

SoC = standard of care; SDI = Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics/American College of Rheumatology damage index.

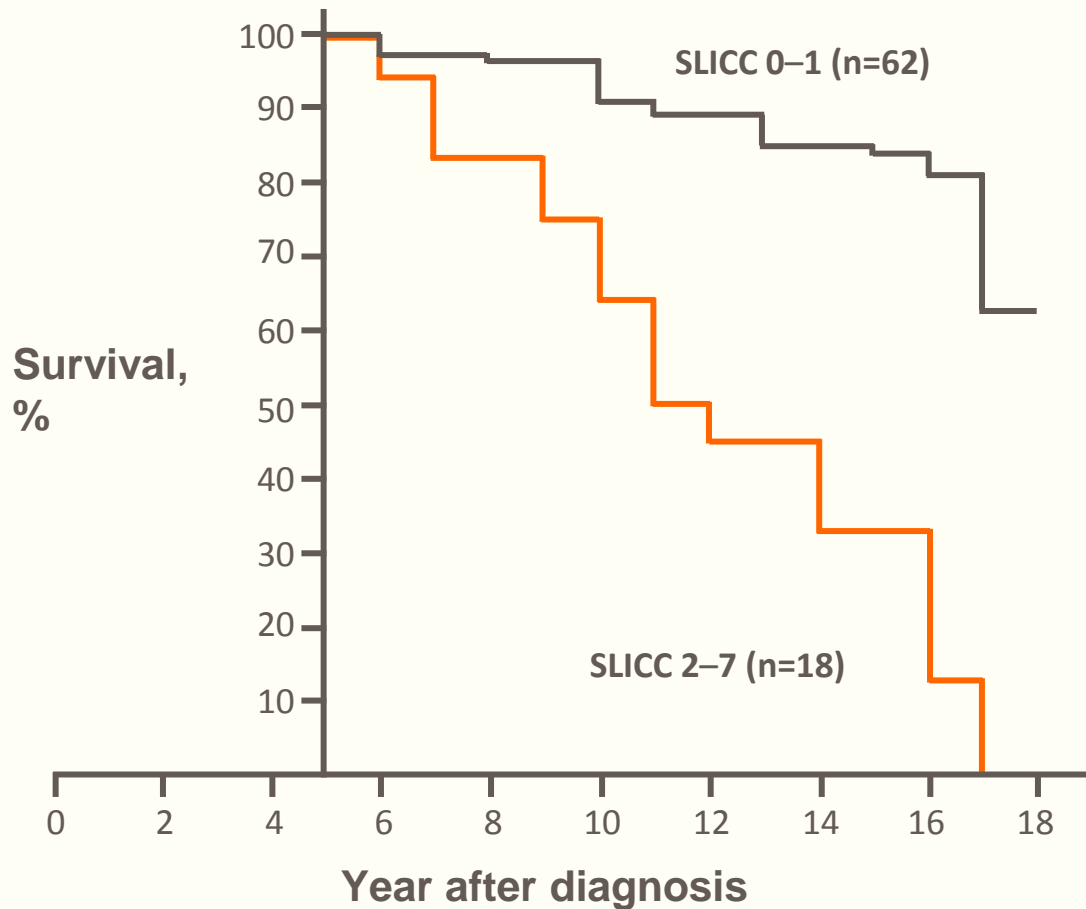
# Glucocorticoid therapy is associated with specific morbidities



Damage item	Number of events	Adjusted RR* (95% CI)	P-value
Osteoporotic fracture	24	1.9 (1.5–2.4)	0.0001
Coronary artery disease	21	1.7 (1.2–2.3)	0.0009
Cataracts	47	1.7 (1.3–2.1)	0.0001
Avascular necrosis	47	1.6 (1.3–2.0)	0.0001
Stroke	25	1.3 (0.9–1.8)	0.1
Diabetes mellitus	26	1.5 (1.0–2.3)	0.04
Hypertension	115	1.0 (0.8–1.3)	0.7
Pulmonary fibrosis	15	1.7 (1.2–2.5)	0.006
Venous insufficiency	13	1.2 (0.7–2.1)	0.4
Cognitive impairment/psychosis	30	2.0 (1.2–3.2)	0.007
Renal failure	15	1.3 (0.9–1.9)	0.2
Deforming/erosive arthritis	27	1.1 (0.8–1.6)	0.4
Scarring alopecia	28	1.1 (0.7–1.7)	0.7
Pulmonary hypertension	18	0.9 (0.5–1.5)	0.6
Malignancy	11	0.8 (0.5–1.5)	0.6

\* Risk ratio associated with cumulative corticosteroid dose of 36.5 g, adjusted for age, sex and race.

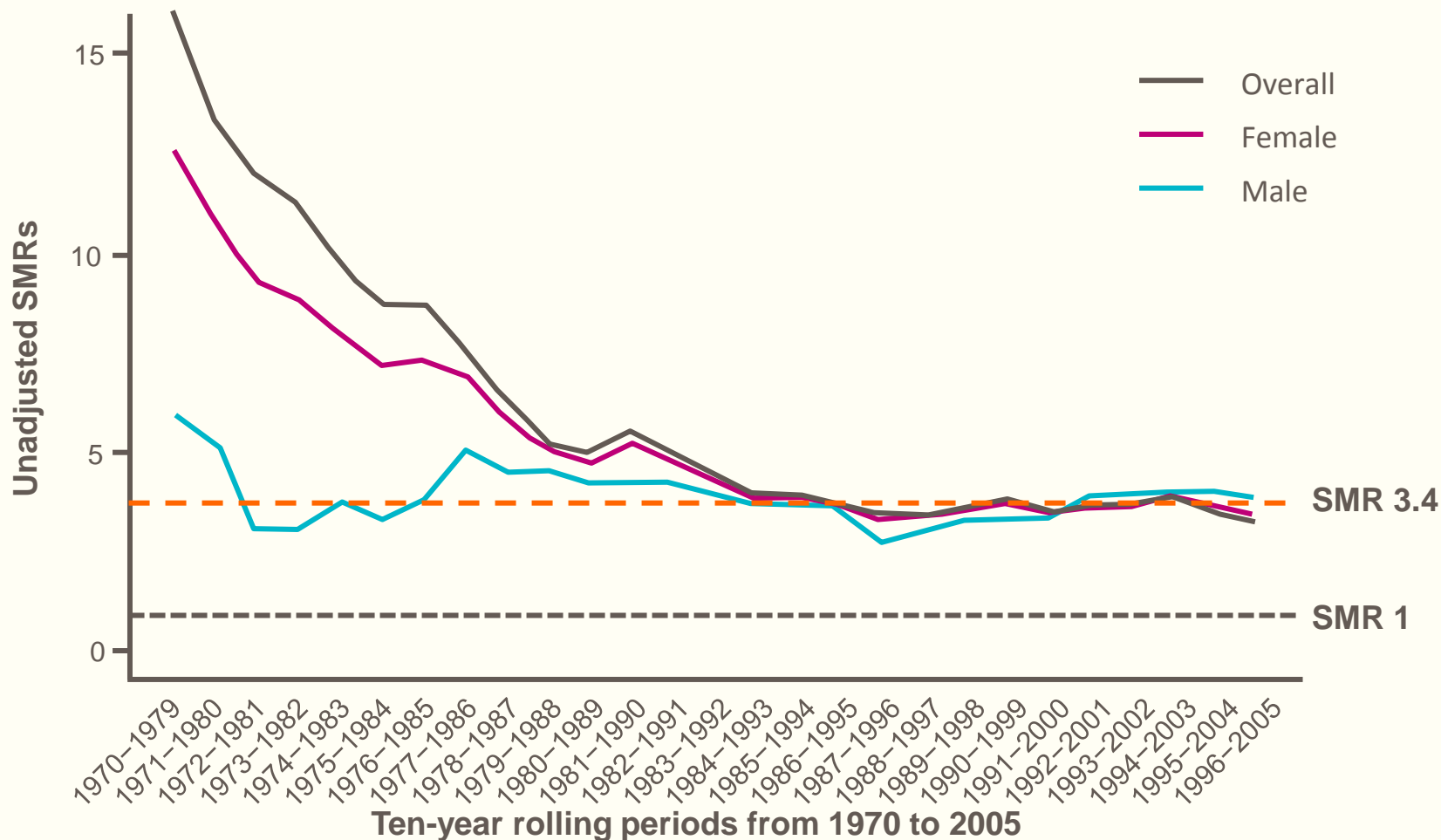
# Damage leads to death



An SDI >1, approximately 5-years after diagnosis, is associated with a higher rate of mortality

SLICC = Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics

# Mortality rates for patients with SLE remain unacceptably high

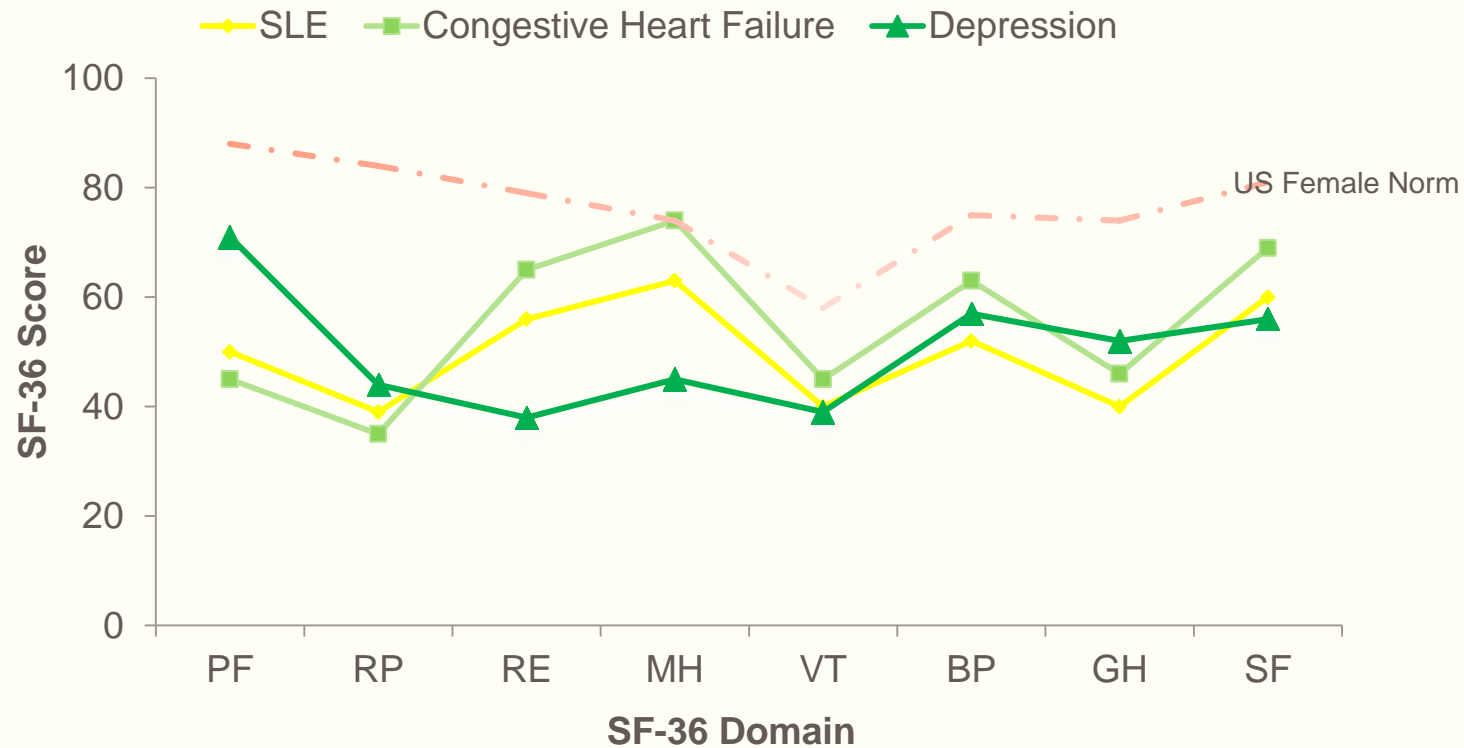


SMR = standardised mortality ratio.

# Uncontrolled disease also leads in low values of quality of life



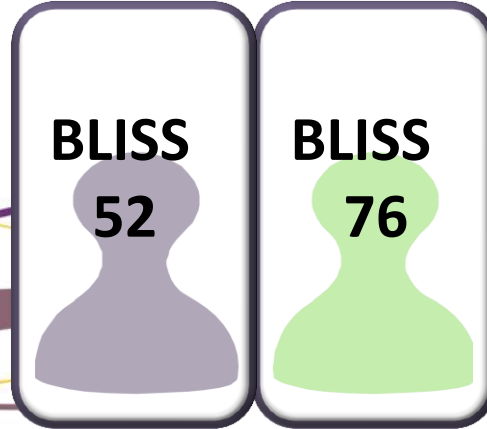
Quality of life values of SLE patients are matching those of Depression and Congestive Heart Failure, which represent patients groups with very high humanistic burden



BP, bodily pain; GH, general health; MH, mental health; PF, physical functioning; RE, role emotional; RP, role physical; SF, social functioning; VT, vitality



# BLISS-52 and BLISS-76 clinical trials



# Trial design in BLISS studies



- **SELENA-SLEDAI  $\geq 6$**
- **Autoantibody-positive (antinuclear antibody  $\geq 1:80$  and/or anti-dsDNA  $\geq 30$  IU/ml)**
- **No active severe lupus nephritis or severe central nervous system lupus**

**Treated**  
n=865  
BLISS-52  
n=819  
BLISS-76

**Placebo  
+ SoC**

**Belimumab 1 mg/kg  
+ SoC**

**Belimumab 10 mg/kg  
+ SoC**

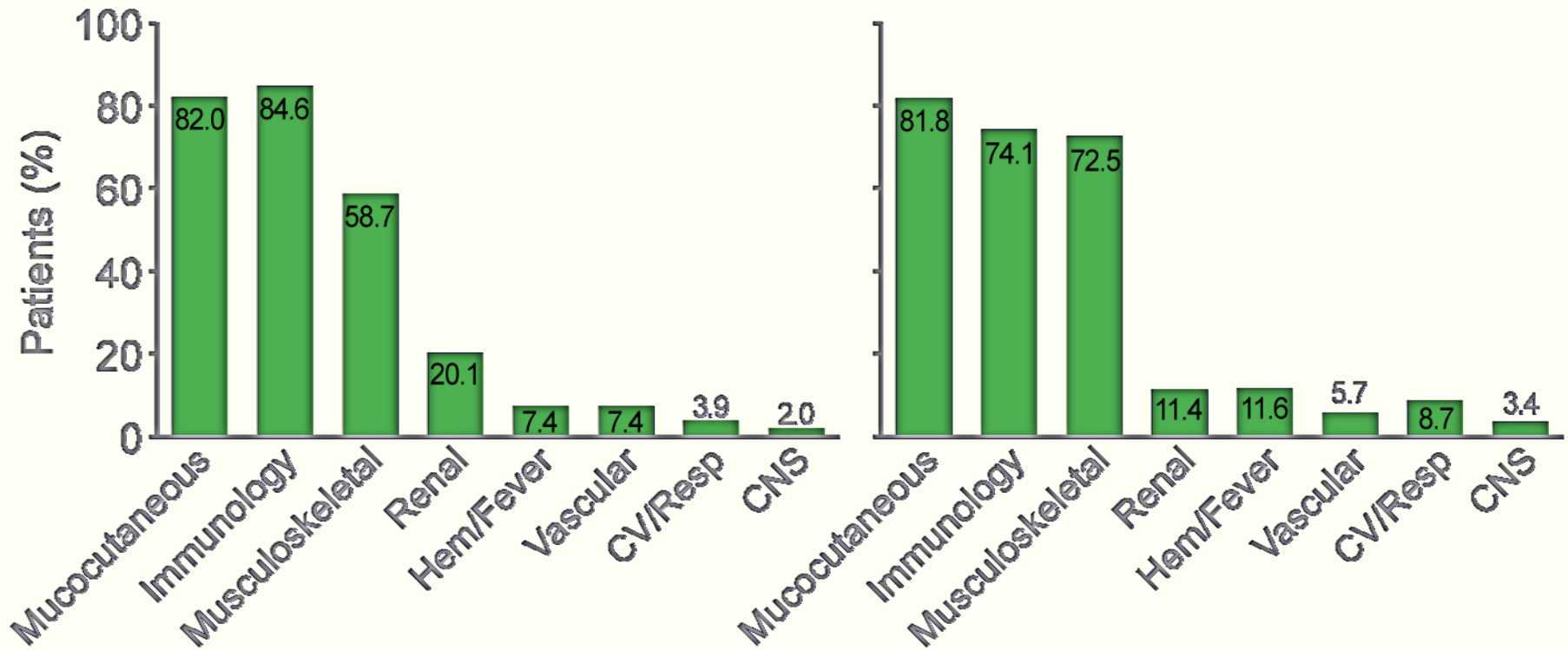




# Organ Involvement at Baseline

BLISS 52  
(N=865)

BLISS 76  
(N=819)



1. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
2. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930.

# Baseline characteristics of the BLISS 52 and 76 study populations



Event	BLISS-52 <sup>1</sup> (Week 52)			BLISS-76 <sup>2</sup> (Week 76)		
	Placebo + SoC (n=287)	Belimumab 1 mg/kg + SoC (n=288)	Belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC (n=290)	Placebo + SoC (n=275)	Belimumab 1 mg/kg + SoC (n=271)	Belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC (n=273)
Age*	36.2 ± 11.8	35.0 ± 10.6	35.4 ± 10.8	40.0 ± 11.9	40.0 ± 11.4	40.5 ± 11.1
Female, %	94	94	97	92	93	95
Asian, %	37	37	40	4	2	4
Indigenous American, %	31	34	32	13	12	13
White/Caucasian, %	29	26	24	68	71	69
Black/African-American, %	4	3	4	14	15	14
SLE duration, years*	5.9 ± 6.2	5.0 ± 4.6	5.0 ± 5.1	7.4 ± 6.7	7.9 ± 7.1	7.2 ± 7.5
SELENA-SLEDAI score*	9.7 ± 3.6	9.6 ± 3.8	10.0 ± 3.9	9.8 ± 4.0	9.7 ± 3.7	9.5 ± 3.6
ANA ≥1:80, %	92	94	95	92	95	90
Anti-dsDNA ≥30 IU/mL, %	71	77	75	63	63	66
Prednisone, mg/day*†	11.9 ± 7.9	12.9 ± 8.6	13.2 ± 9.5	9.4 ± 8.9	8.7 ± 7.6	8.4 ± 7.9
Prednisone >7.5 mg/day,%†	67	71	70	46	48	44
Immunosuppressives, %	43	42	42	56	57	54

\* Mean ± SD. † Prednisone or prednisone equivalent.

ANA = antinuclear antibodies; dsDNA = double-stranded DNA;  
SELENA-SLEDAI = Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment–  
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; SoC = standard of care.

1. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
2. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930.

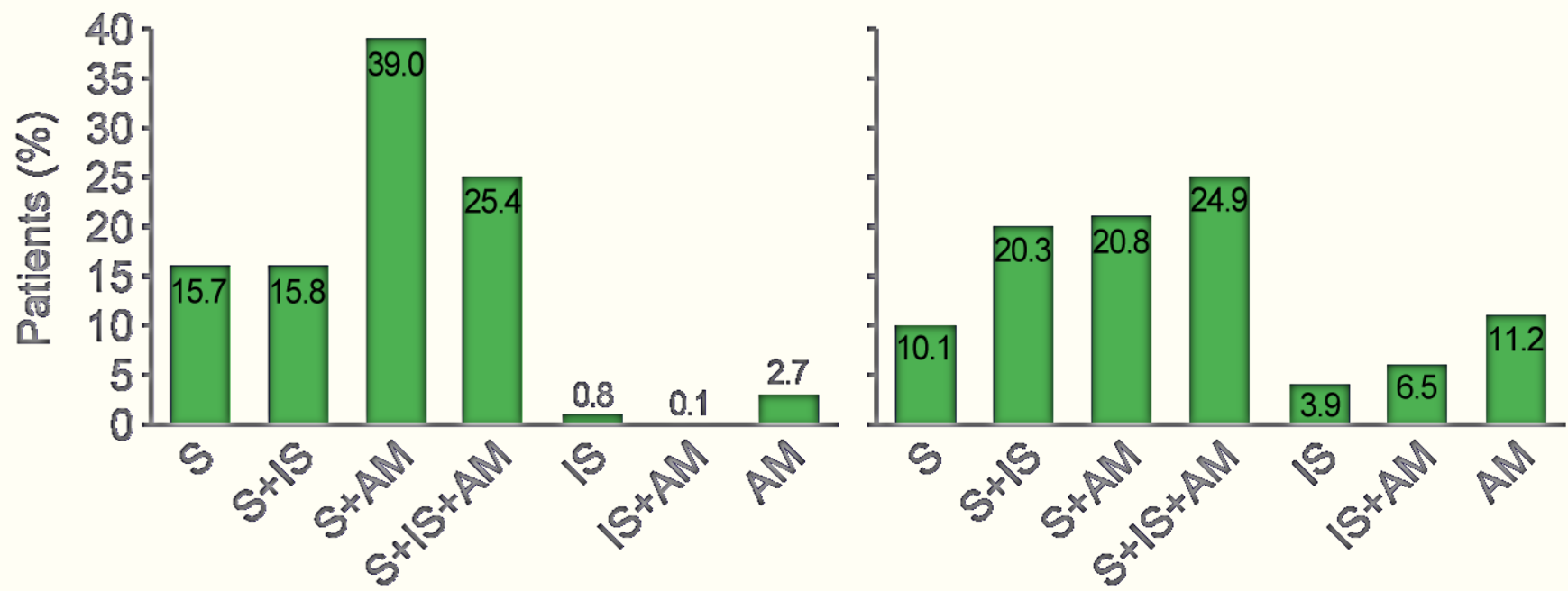


# Medication Use at Baseline

BLISS 52  
(N=865)

BLISS 76  
(N=819)

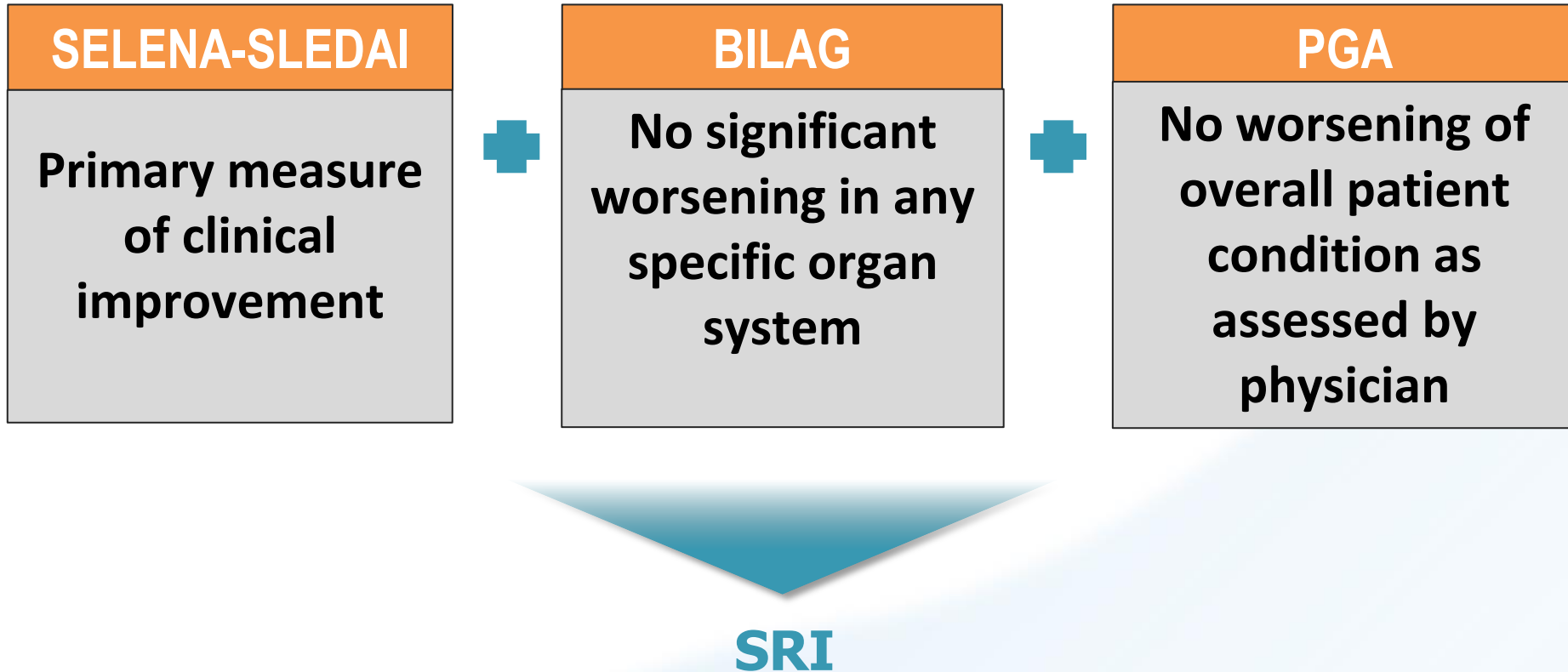
S: Steroid    IS: Immunosuppressant    AM: Anti-malarial



1. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
2. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930.

# Primary Endpoint:

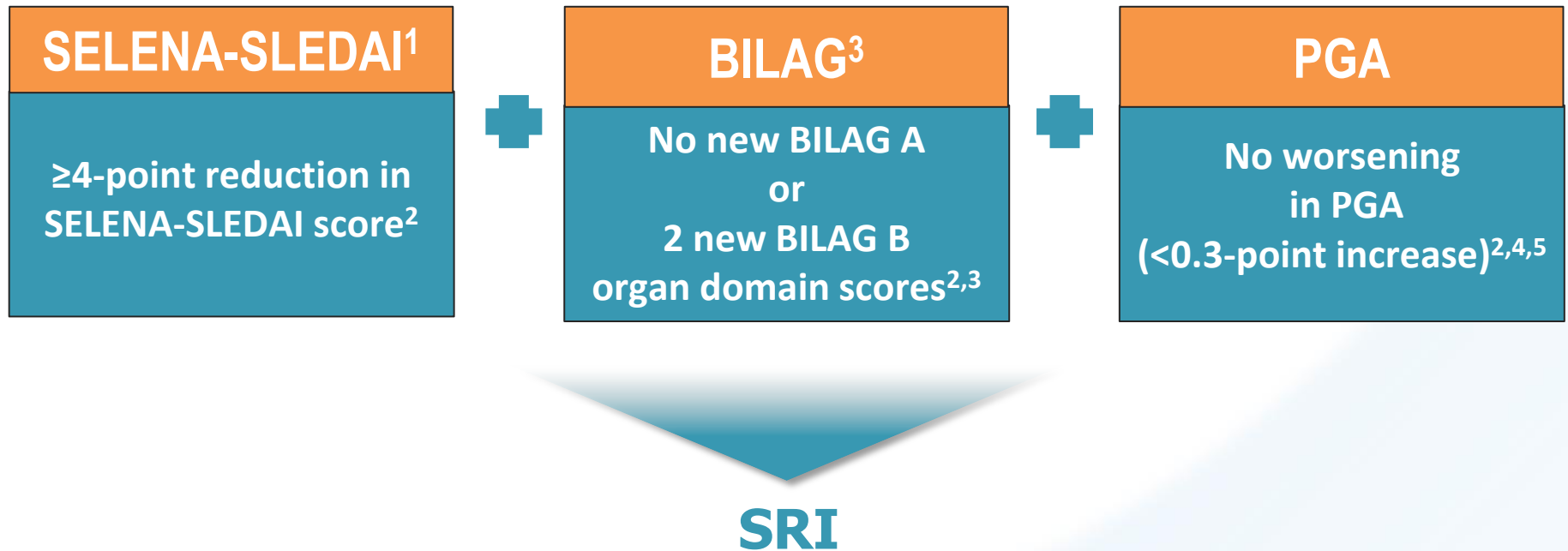
## SLE Responder Index (SRI) Response Rate at Week 52



**SRI responders had to meet all 3 criteria**

1. Petri M, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2005;353:2550-2558.
2. Hay EM, et al. *Q J Med*. 1993;86:447-458.
3. Furie R, et al. *Arthritis Rheum*. 2011;63:3918-3930.
4. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet*. 2011;377:721-731.

# Primary Endpoint for Phase III Trials: SLE Responder Index (SRI) Response Rate at Week 52



**SRI responders had to meet all 3 criteria**

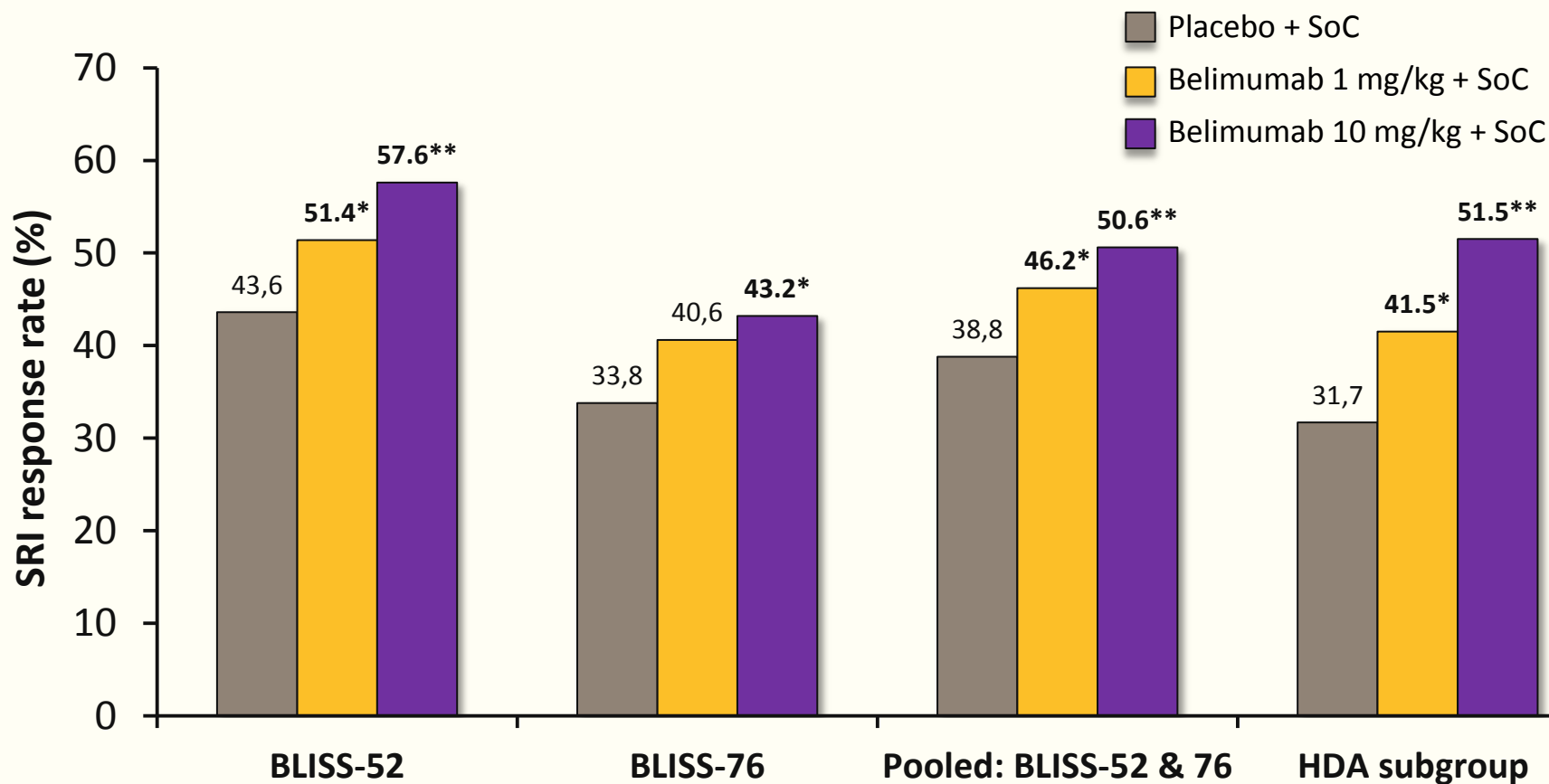
SELENA-SLEDAI=Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus: National Assessment Version of the Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; BILAG=British Isles Lupus Assessment Group; PGA=Physician's Global Assessment

1. Petri M, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2005;353:2550-2558.

2. Hay EM, et al. *Q J Med.* 1993;86:447-458. 4. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet.* 2011;377:721-731.

3. Furie R, et al. *Arthritis Rheum.* 2011;63:3918-3930.

# Υπεροχή του belimumab στην επίτευξη κλινικής ανταπόκρισης (SRI) σε σχέση με το SoC



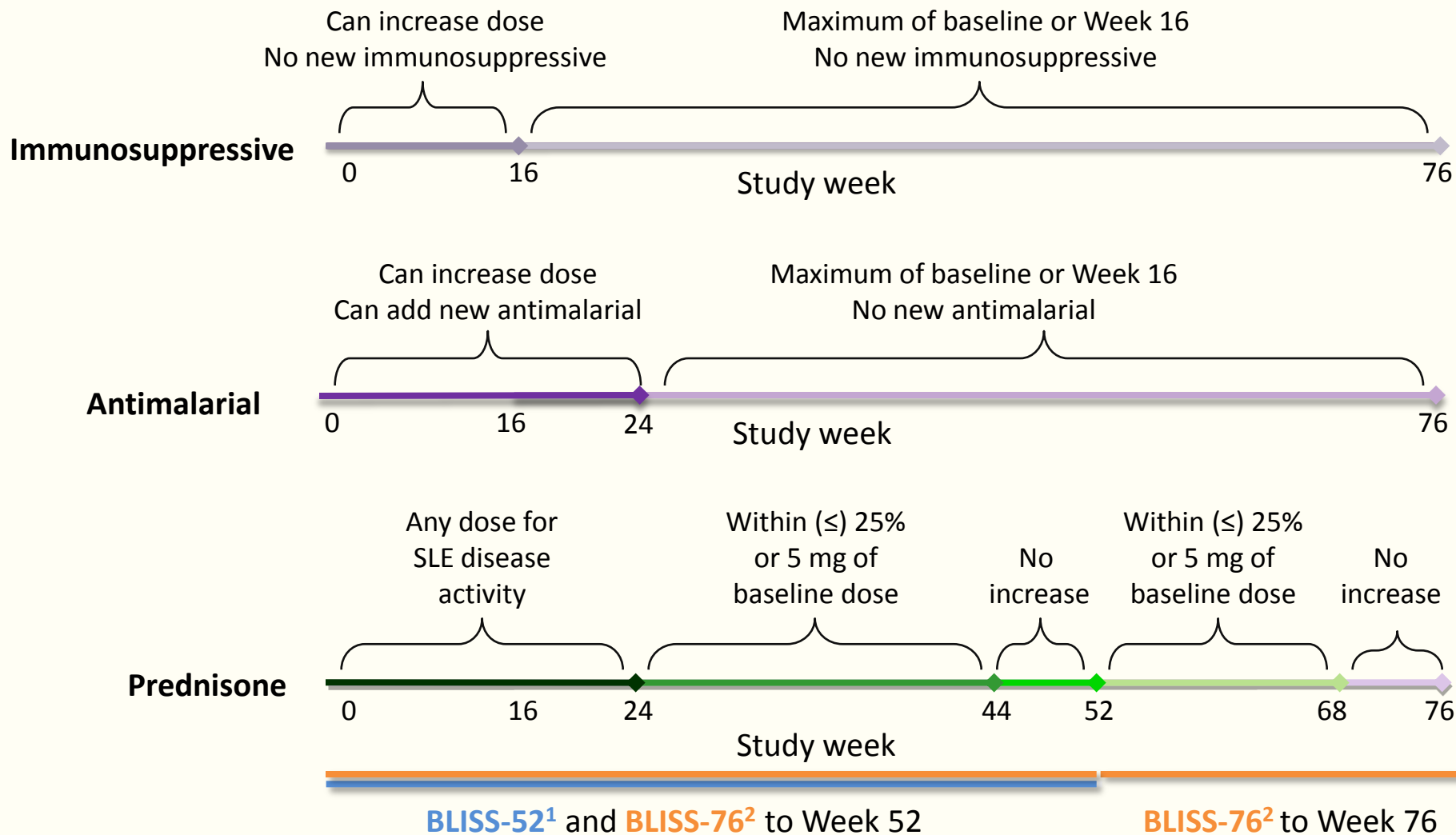
- Significantly higher response rates were observed in patients treated with belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC compared with those who received placebo + SoC ( $P < 0.05$ )<sup>1-3</sup>

\*  $P < 0.05$ ; \*\*  $P < 0.001$

HDA = high disease activity, SoC = standard of care,  
SRI = Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Responder Index.

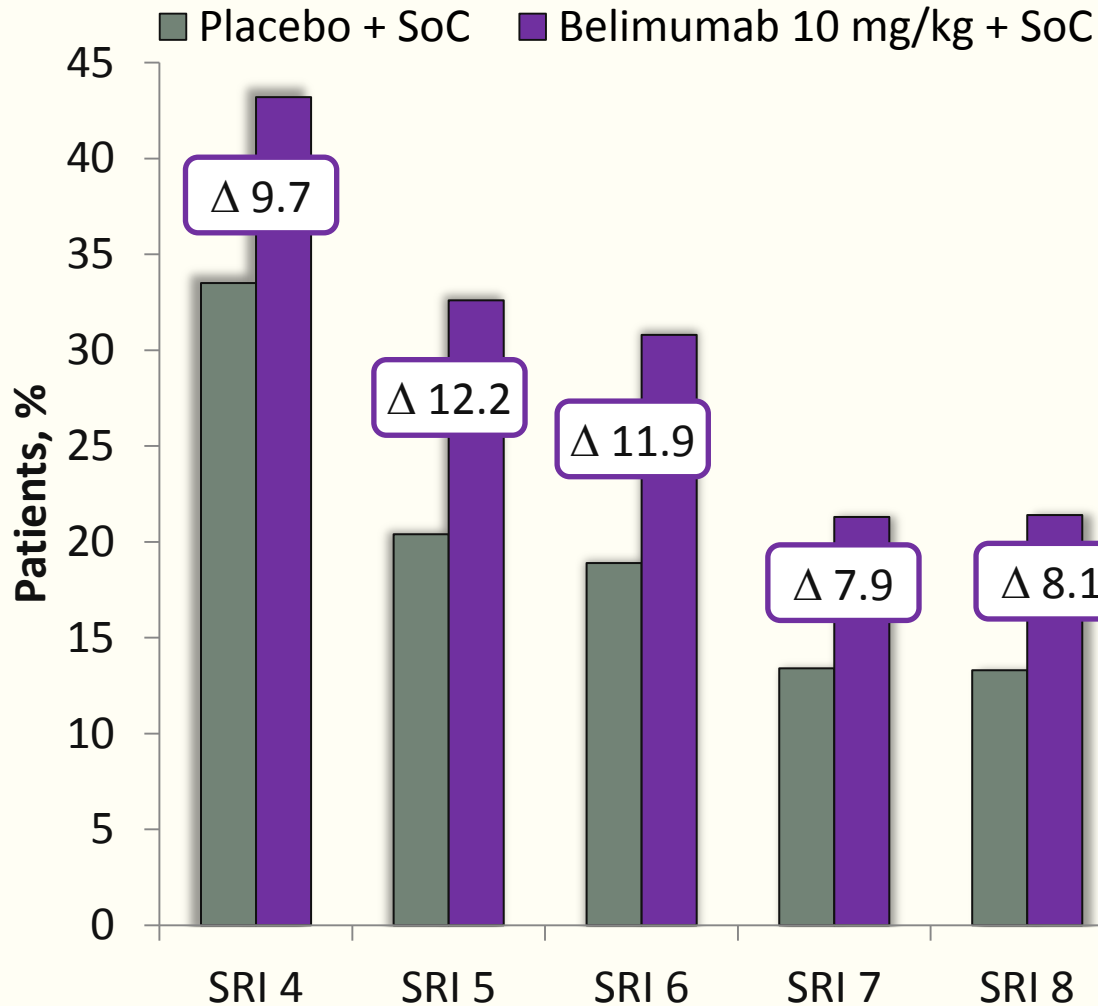
1. Benlysta® (belimumab) SmPC. GlaxoSmithKline (UK). May 2012;  
2. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
3. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930;  
4. van Vollenhoven RF, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2012; 71:1343–1349.

# Restrictions in the use of SoC therapies



1. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
 2. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930.

# BLISS-76: Modified SRI data at Week 52



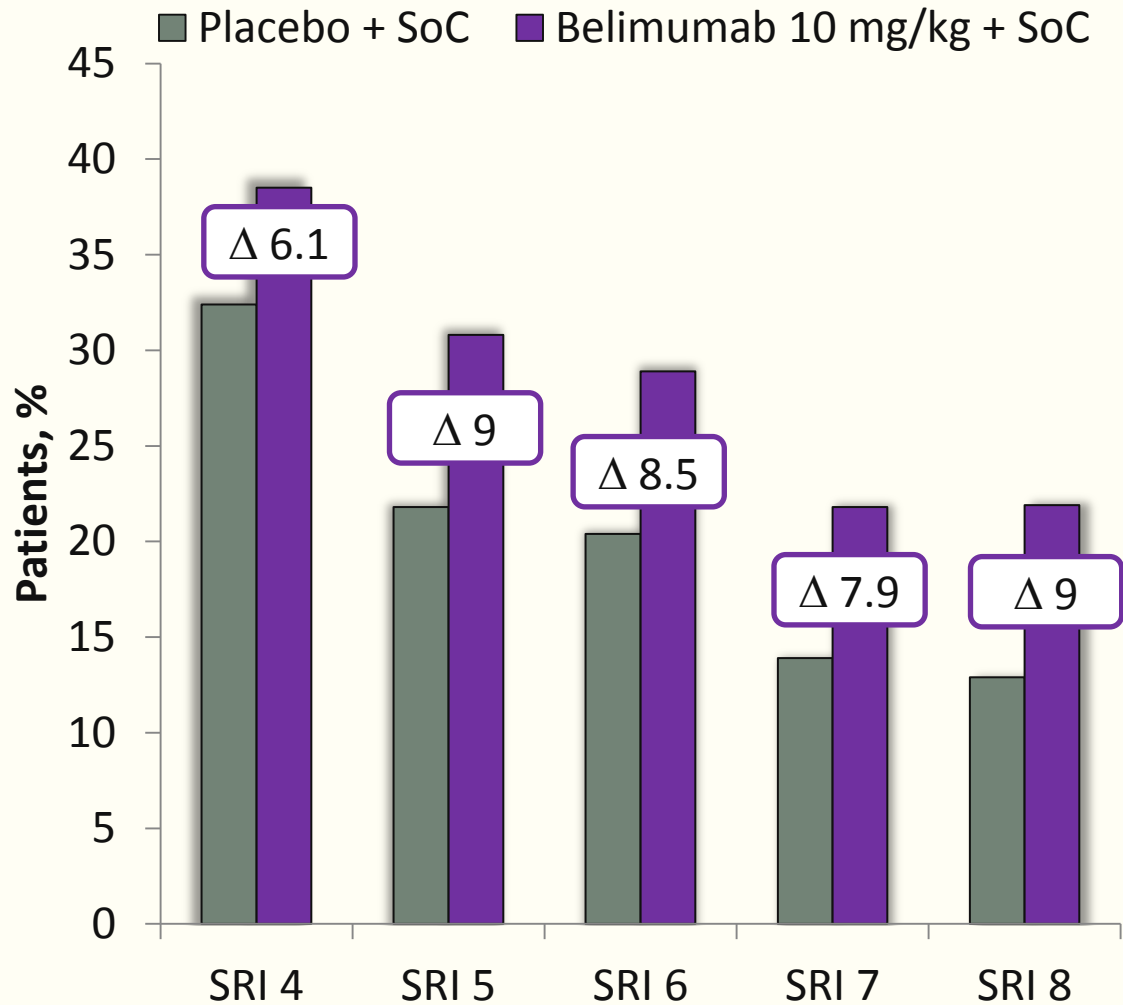
## Clinical data summary SRI at Week 52

Trial	Placebo + SoC	Belimumab + SoC	Δ	P-value
BLISS-52 <sup>1</sup>	43.6%	57.6%	14	0.0006
BLISS-76 <sup>2</sup>	33.5	43.2	9.7	0.02
Pooled <sup>3</sup>	38.8	50.6	11.8	<0.001

1. Navarra SV, et al. *Lancet* 2011; 377:721–731;  
 2. Furie RA, et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2011; 63:3918–3930;  
 3. van Vollenhoven RF, et al. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2012; 71:1343–1349.



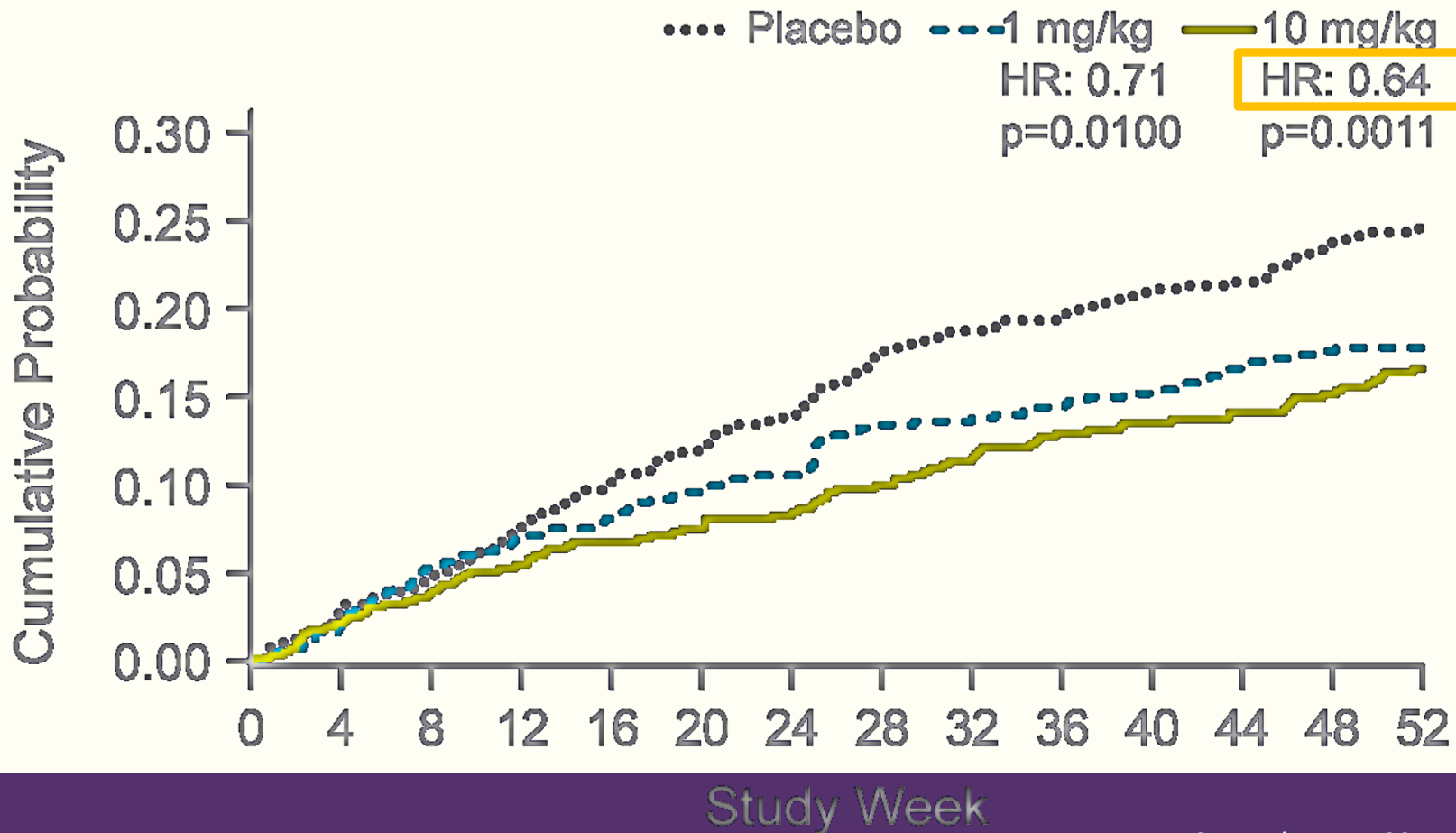
# BLISS-76: Modified SRI data at Week 76



# Benlysta reduces flares

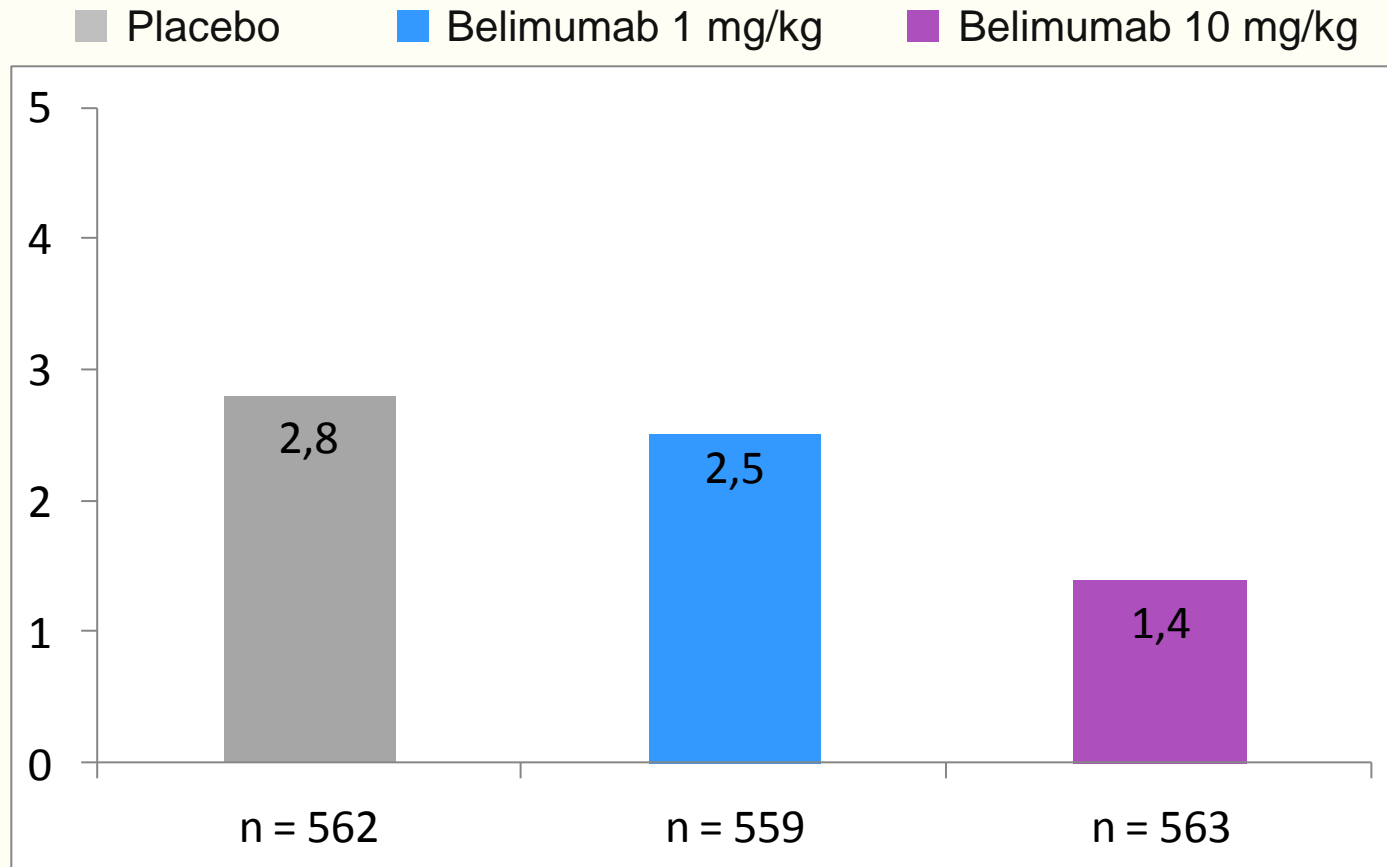


- ✓ Μειωμένος κίνδυνος εξάρσεων ανεξάρτητα της κλινικής ανταπόκρισης SRI
- ✓ Κατά το 2<sup>ο</sup> μισό μέρος των μελετών η μείωση των σοβαρών εξάρσεων στην ομάδα του belimumab προσέγγισε το 50%





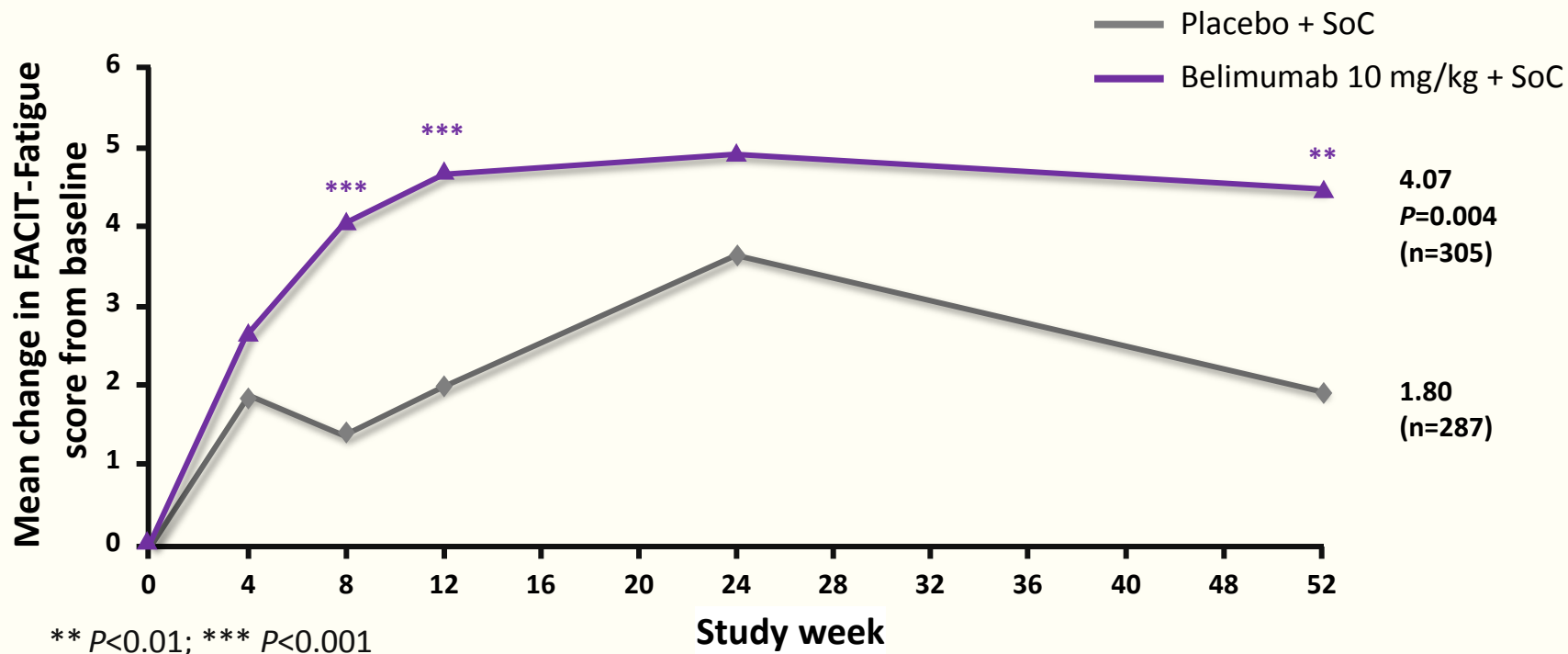
# Renal Flare Rate Over 52 Weeks



# Benlysta reduces fatigue



- Fatigue is one of the symptoms most commonly reported by patients with SLE
- FACIT-Fatigue scores were significantly improved with Benlysta 10 mg/kg



HDA = patients with high disease activity at baseline, low complement factor 3 (<90 mg/dL) and/or complement factor 4 (<16 mg/dL) and anti-dsDNA  $\geq 30$  IU/mL at baseline.

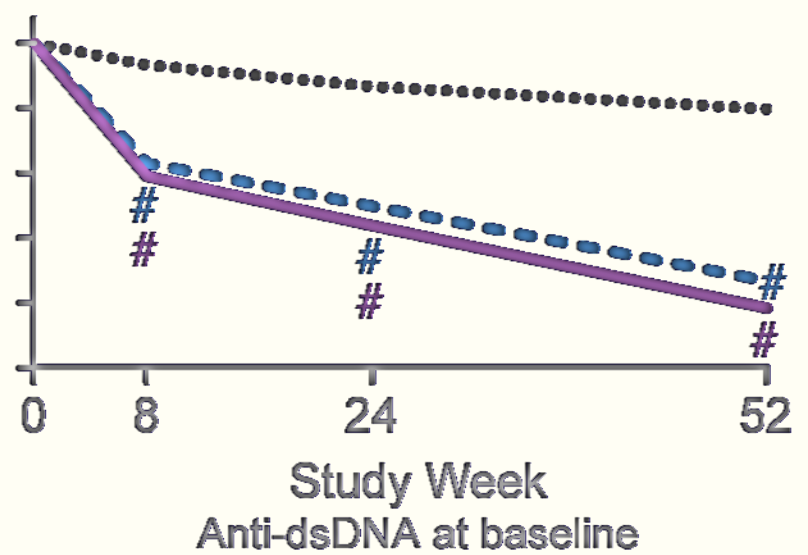
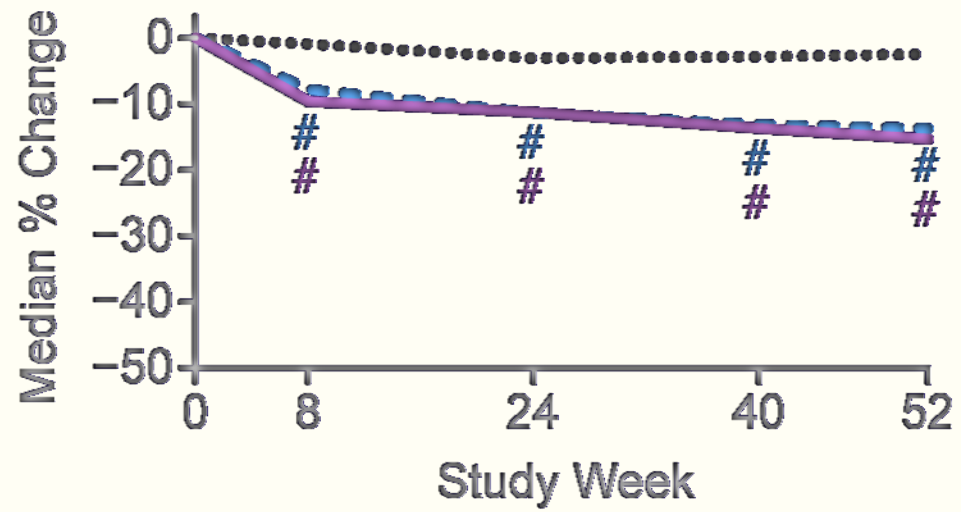


# Immunoglobulin and Anti-dsDNA

IgG (N=1684)

Anti-dsDNA (N=1168)

..... Placebo    - - - 1 mg/kg    — 10 mg/kg



# p < 0.001

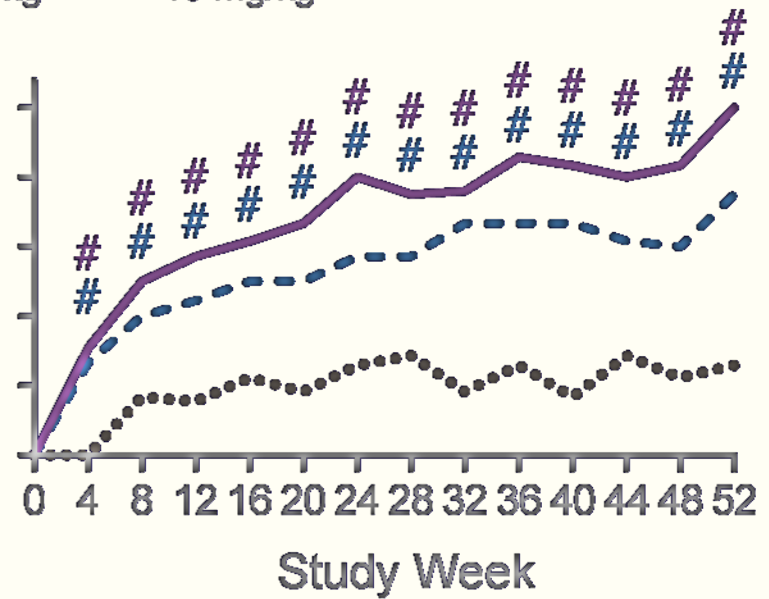
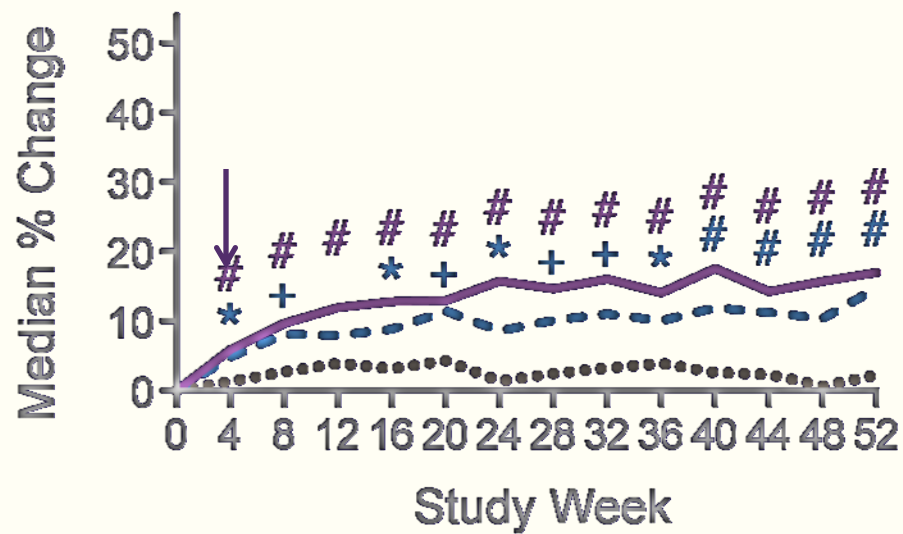


# Complement

### C3 (N=758)

### C4 (N=944)

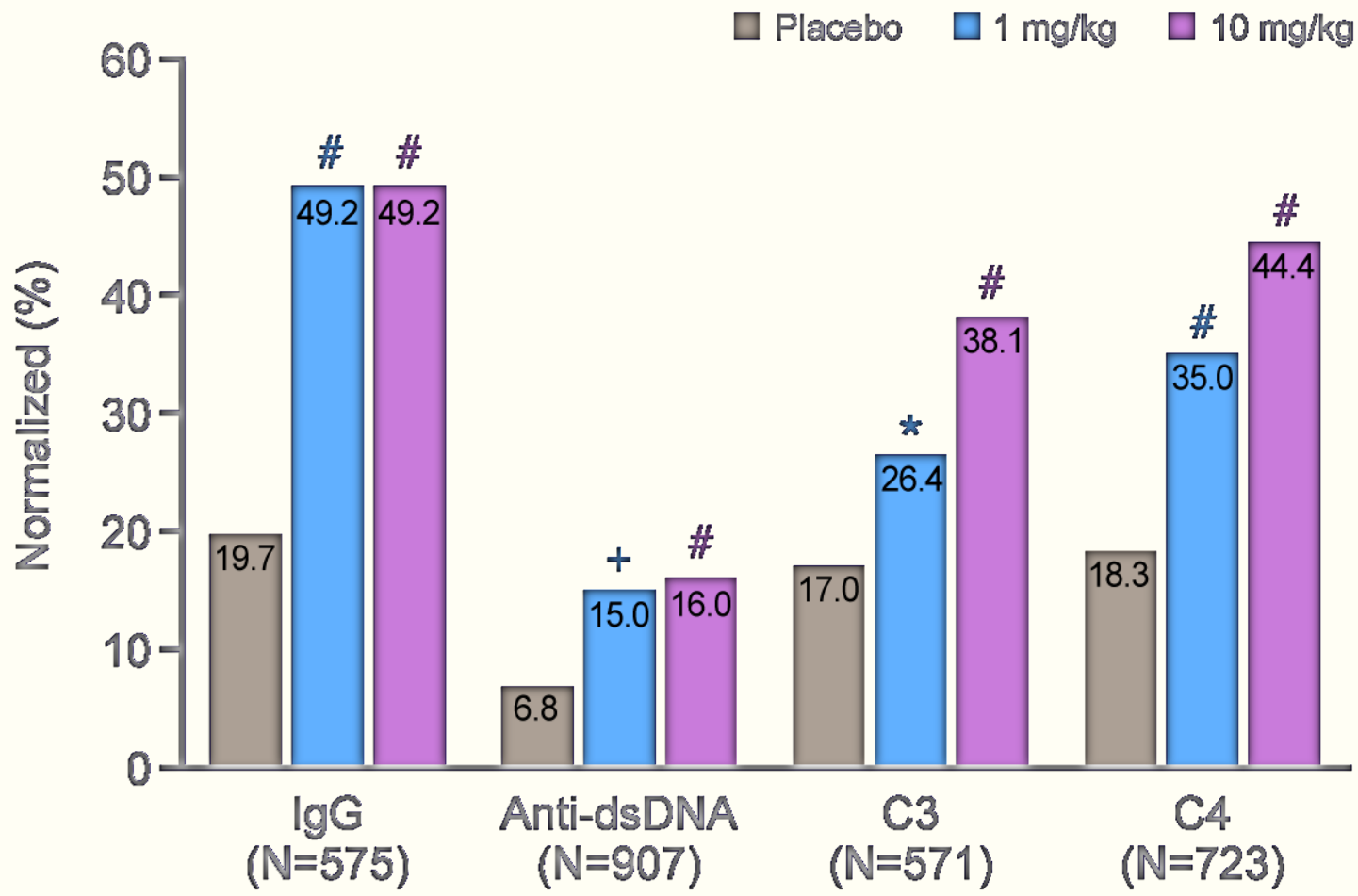
●●●● Placebo    - - - 1 mg/kg    — 10 mg/kg



# p < 0.001    + p < 0.01    \* p < 0.05

Low complement at baseline

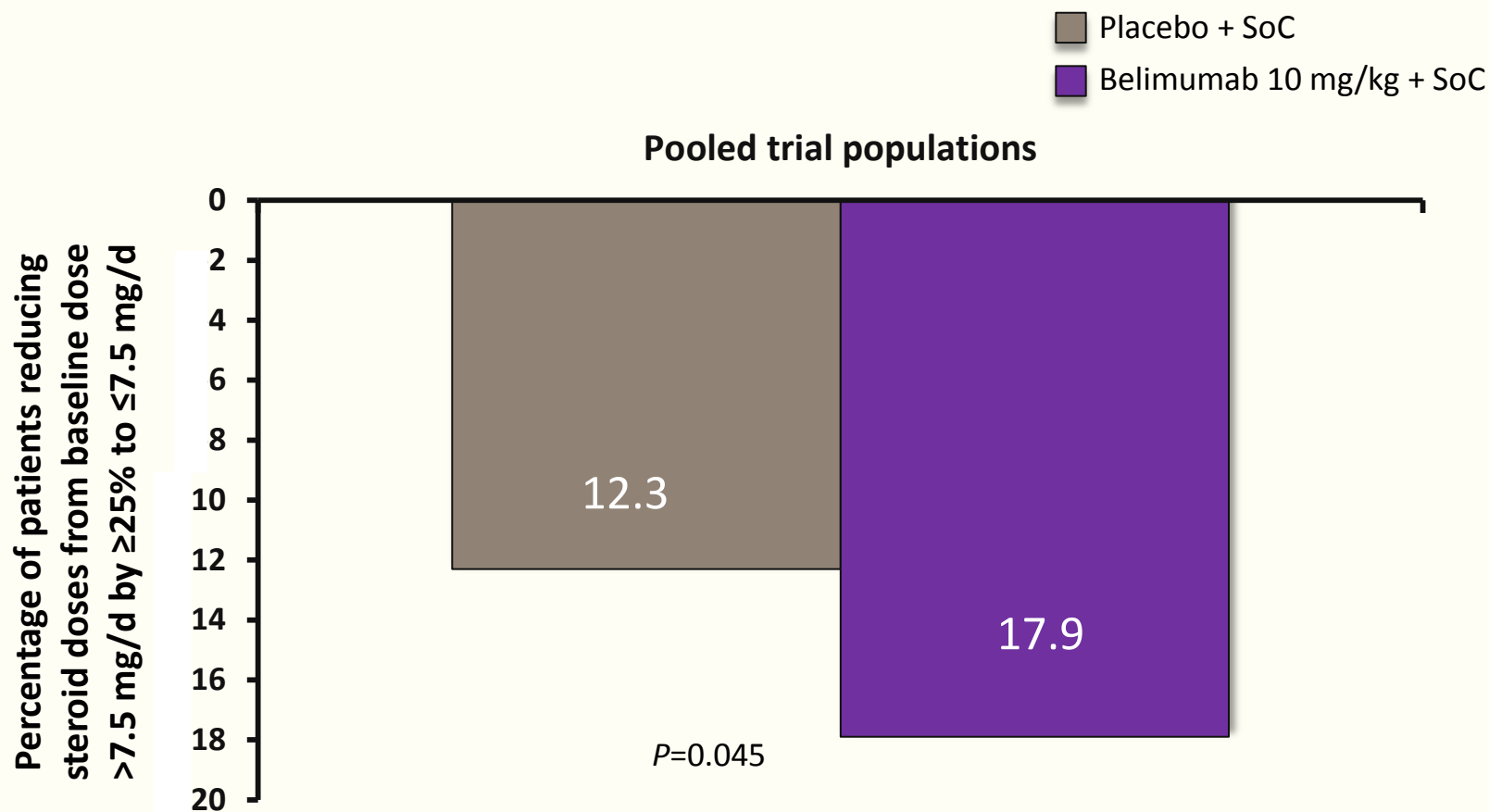
# Normalization of Serological Activity



# p < 0.001 + p < 0.01 \* p < 0.05

Abnormal at baseline and assessed at Week 52 (n)

# Changes in corticosteroid use during Weeks 40–52



- Corticosteroid tapering was not mandated in the study protocol and was performed at the investigators' discretion<sup>1,2</sup>
- Dose increases beyond defined limits resulted in patients being defined as a treatment failure<sup>1,2</sup>



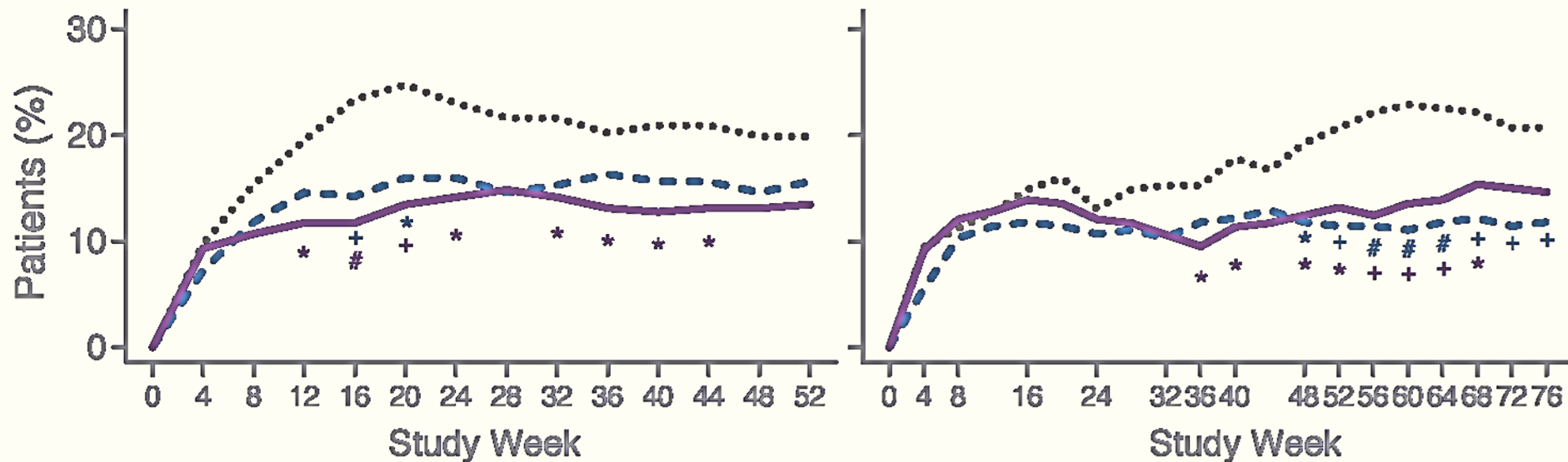


# Increase in Steroid Use Over Time

## BLISS 52

## BLISS 76

..... Placebo    - - - 1 mg/kg    — 10 mg/kg



# p < 0.001    + p < 0.01    \* p < 0.05

# Clinically meaningful improvement in the BLISS trials



Outcome	Week	Placebo + SoC n (%)	Belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC n (%)	P-value
SELENA-SLEDAI reduction of 7 from baseline	16	67 (15.3)	95 (21.2)	0.01
SELENA-SLEDAI reduction of 4 in high disease activity subgroup	8	91 (31.7)	120 (39.3)	0.01
FACIT-Fatigue, n (median improvement)	8	553 (1.5)	547 (3.0)	0.005



## Which patients achieved greatest clinical benefit?

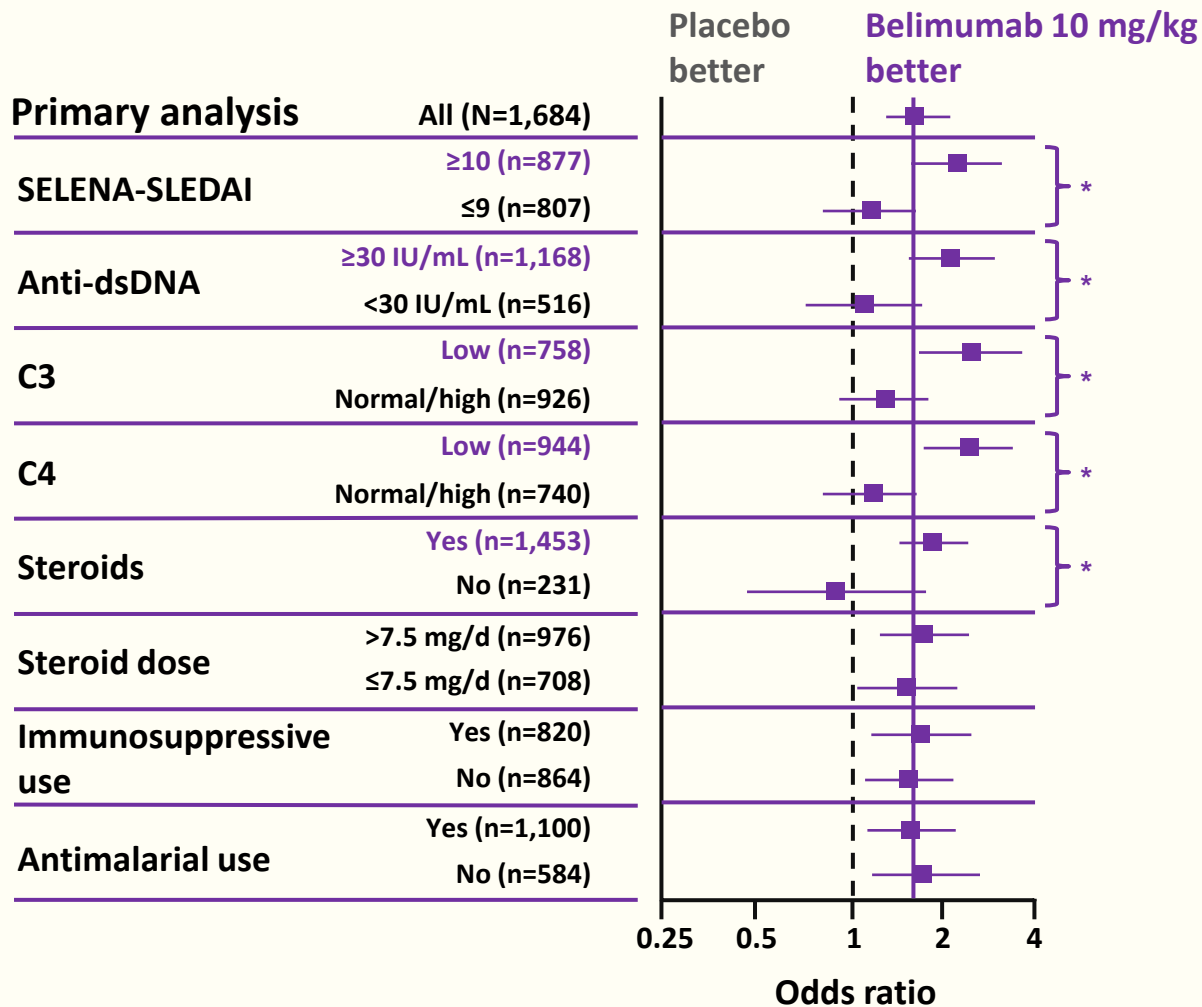
Univariate and multivariate analyses of pre-specified subgroups were performed to identify baseline disease characteristics associated with the SRI response



# Patients with high disease activity show better response



## Baseline disease activity



\*  $P < 0.1$

SELENA-SLEDAI = Safety of Estrogens in Lupus Erythematosus National Assessment–Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index; SRI = Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Responder Index.

**Safety**



# Adverse event profiles were comparable in both treatment arms

	Placebo + SoC, % (n=675) <sup>1-3</sup>	Belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC, % (n=674) <sup>1-3</sup>
At least one:		
Adverse event	92.4	92.7
Serious adverse event	15.9	17.4
Severe adverse event	15.4	15.3
Discontinuation due to adverse event	7.1	6.7
Common adverse events (occurring in >10%)		
Headache	20.7	21.1
Upper respiratory tract infection	19.3	17.5
Arthralgia	16.6	16.2
Nausea	12.1	14.7
Urinary tract infection	12.1	12.9
Diarrhoea	9.2	11.9
Fatigue	10.4	9.8
Serious adverse events (occurring in >1%)		
Pneumonia	1.5	0.9
Pyrexia	0.4	1.3
Urinary tract infection	0.6	0.7
Cellulitis	0.3	0.1
Other events of special interest		
Depression	3.7	5.2
Suicidality†	0.1	0.1

1. Benlysta® (belimumab) SmPC. GlaxoSmithKline (UK). March 2012;

2. Wallace DJ, *et al. Ann Rheum Dis* 2011; **70**:318;

3. Wallace D, *et al. ACR* 2010 Annual Meeting; Poster.

† Based on Karassa FB *et al. Ann Rheum Dis* 2003; **62**:58–60.

# Similar rates of infection were reported in both treatment arms

Pooled  
52&76  
Phase II

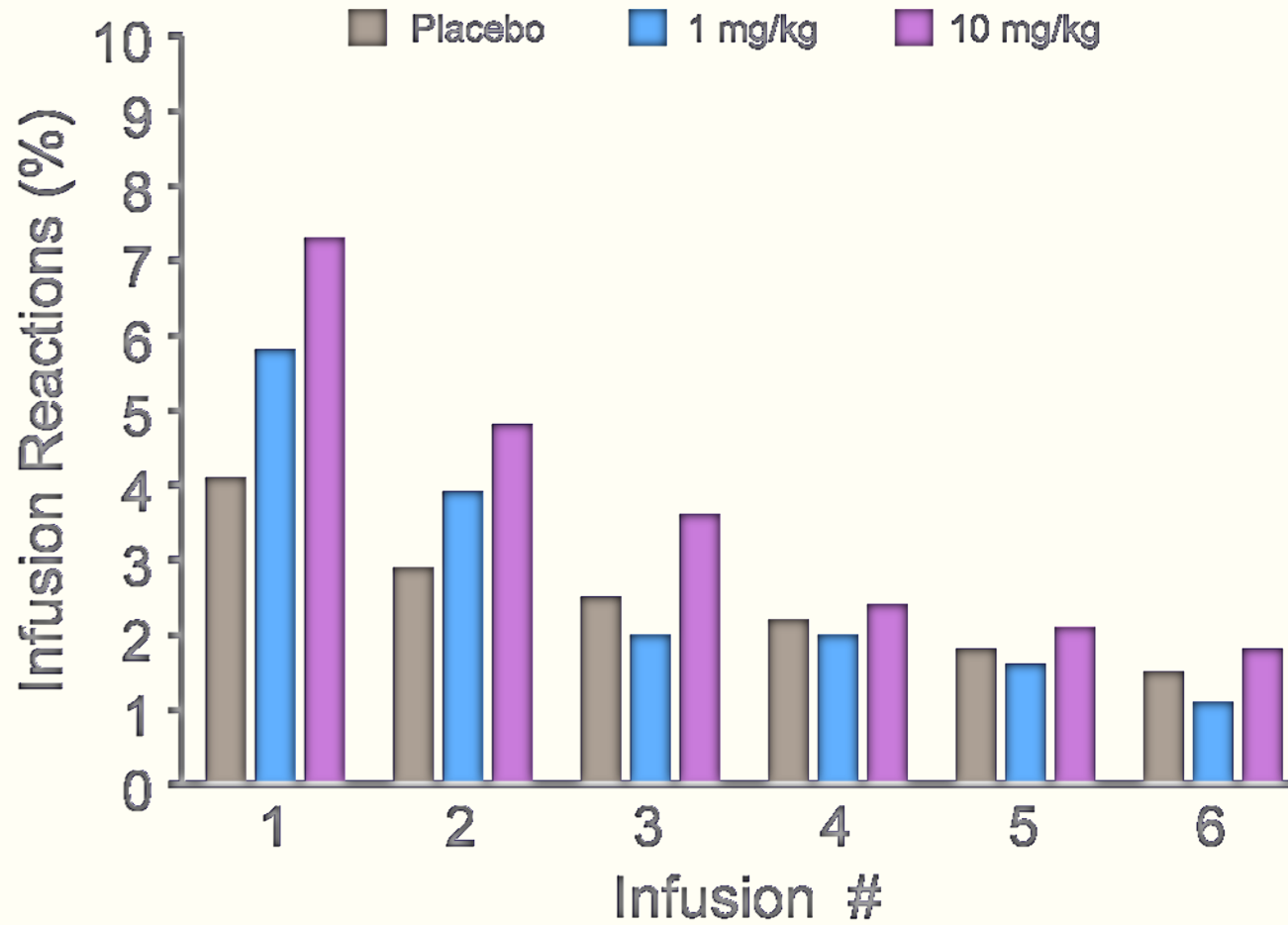
	Placebo + SoC, % (n=675) <sup>1-3</sup>	Belimumab 10 mg/kg + SoC, % (n=674) <sup>1-3</sup>
Patients with ≥1:		
Adverse event infection in general	66.7	69.9
Adverse event infection resulting in discontinuation	1.0	0.6
Serious and/or severe adverse event infection	6.7	5.9
Adverse event infection of special interest		
Cellulitis	6.4	6.4
Sepsis	0.4	0.9
Fungal	3.3	2.5
Herpes infections	8.0	6.5
All respiratory	48.4	51.9
Lower respiratory	8.6	12.0
Possible opportunistic	0	0.3†

† One report of *Acinetobacter* bacterium and one of disseminated cytomegalovirus.

1. Benlysta® (belimumab) SmPC. GlaxoSmithKline (UK). March 2012;  
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# Infusion Reactions for the First 6 Infusions



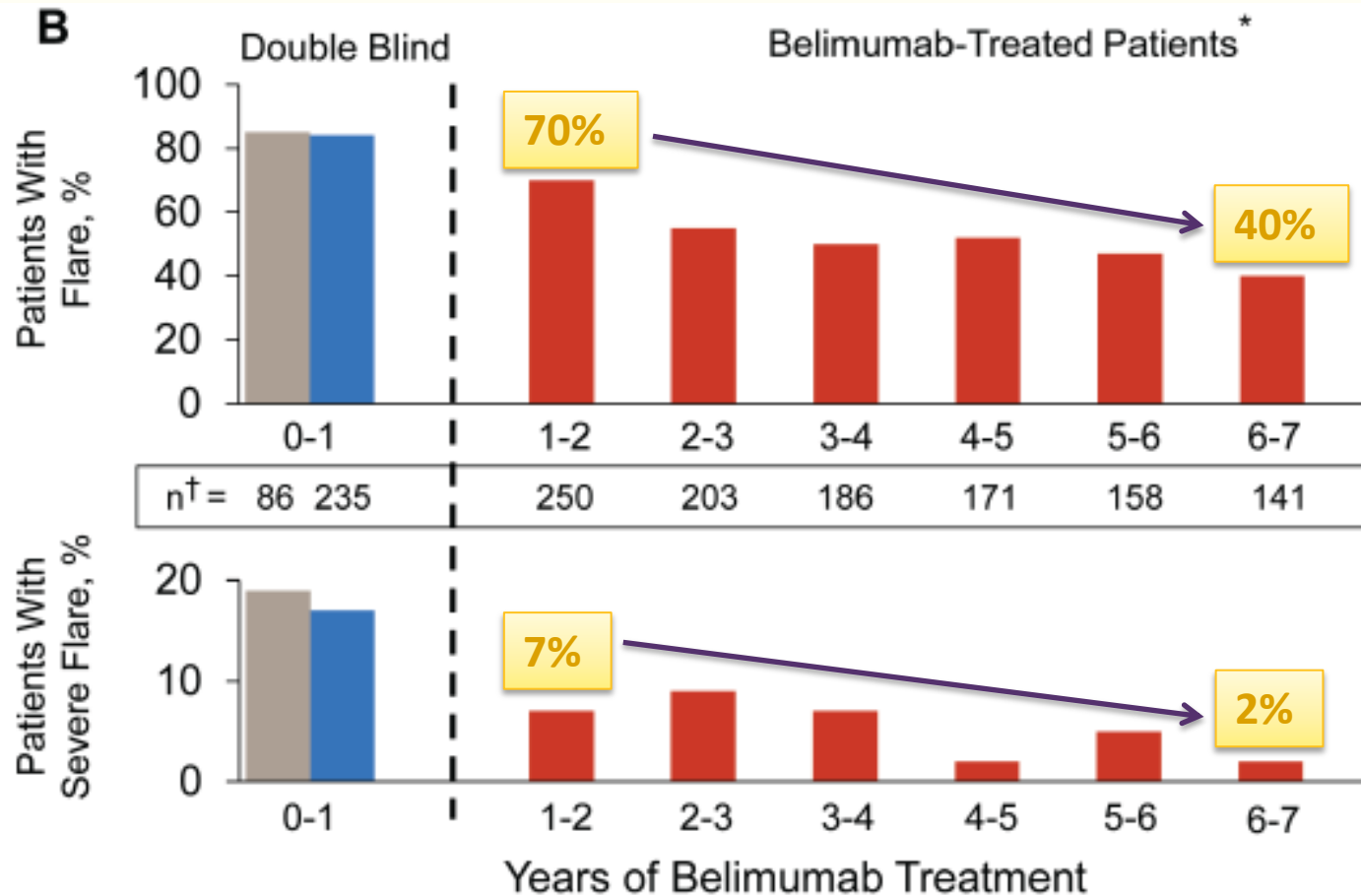




# Belimumab Plus Standard Therapy **Over 7 Years** in Patients with SLE

Ginzler EM *et al*, J Rheumatol 2013

# Decreased frequency of flares



\*Flares measured by modified SLE Flare Index

# Real-world data: **OBSERVE** study



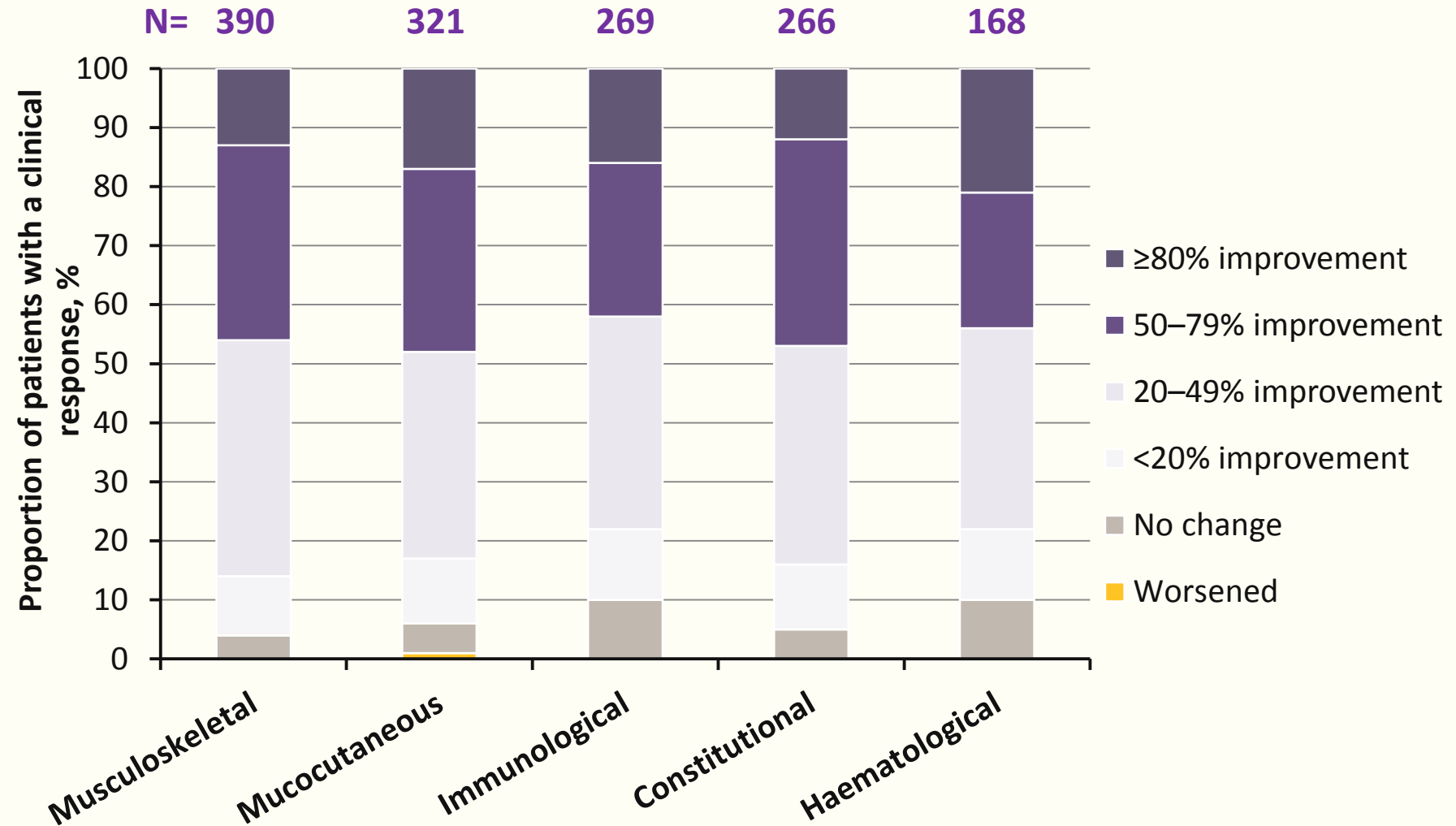
# Baseline patient characteristics



Baseline characteristics		(N=501)
Mean age, years		41.3
Gender, %	Female	89
Ethnicity, %	Caucasian	53
	Black/African-American	24
	Hispanic	18
	Other	5
Diagnosed with SLE <5 yrs ago, %		56
Severity* of SLE at belimumab initiation, %	Mild	3
	Moderate	77
	Severe	20
Concomitant SLE medications, %	Oral steroids	78
	Antimalarials	70
	Immunosuppressants	61
	NSAIDs	16
Mean prednisone equivalent dose at belimumab initiation		19.9 mg/day

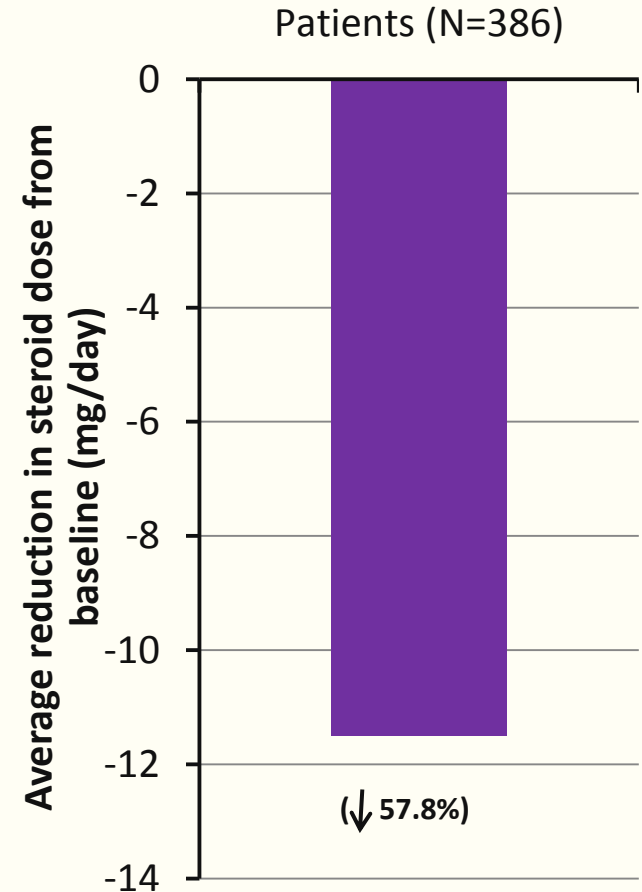
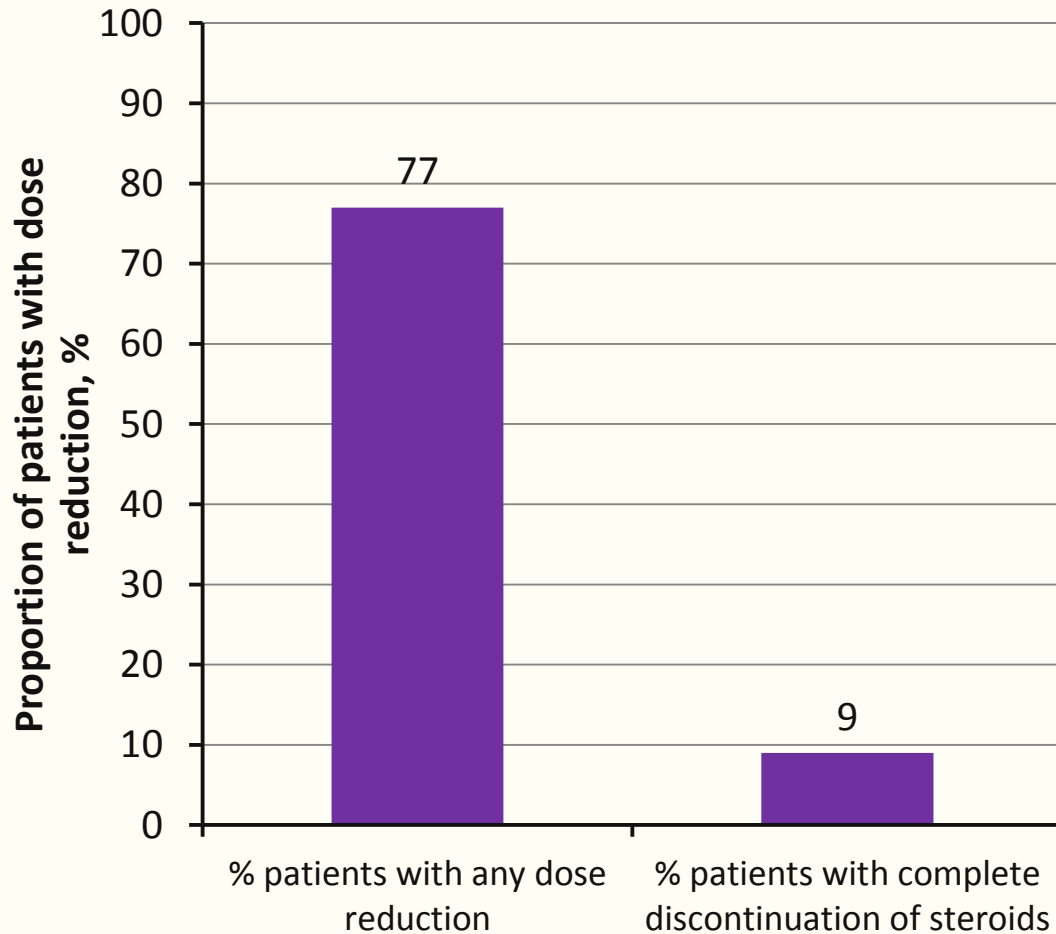
\* Severity was assessed by physicians using clinical judgment.

# Changes in commonly involved organ domains



Note: Only the top 5 individual clinical manifestations are presented.

# Clinical practice evidence of steroid-sparing effect





- Το Benlysta αποτελεί την 1η εγκεκριμένη βιολογική θεραπεία που στοχεύει ειδικά στην παθογένεια του ΣΕΛ
- Η προσθήκη του στη συμβατική θεραπεία οδηγεί σε
  - βελτίωση της κλινικής & ορολογικής ενεργότητας
  - μείωση του κινδύνου υποτροπών
  - μείωση της δόσης κορτικοστεροειδών και
  - βελτίωση του αισθήματος κόπωσης & ποιότητας ζωής
- Συμβάλλει στη σύγχρονη, πολυεπίπεδη διαχείριση των ασθενών με ΣΕΛ (μείωση ενεργότητας αλλά και πρόληψη υποτροπών)

# Ασθενείς που είναι πιθανόν να ωφεληθούν από το Benlysta



- Εμμένουσα ενεργότητα παρά τη λήψη συμβατικής αγωγής
  - μέτρια έως υψηλή ενεργότητα
  - υψηλότερη ενεργότητα (SLEDAI  $\geq$  8) σχετίζεται με μεγαλύτερη ανταπόκριση, ιδίως αν σχετίζεται με ορολογική ενεργότητα (θετικά anti-dsDNA, χαμηλό συμπλήρωμα)
  - αδυναμία μείωσης κορτικοστεροειδών σε  $<7,5$  mg/ημέρα
- Υψηλός κίνδυνος εξάρσεων
  - ιστορικό συχνών εξάρσεων
  - υπολειπόμενη κλινική + ορολογική ενεργότητα