



---

18 March 2024

# BLV monotherapy for CHD - PROS

Pietro Lampertico, MD, PhD

Gastroenterology and Hepatology Division  
Fondazione IRCCS Cà Granda - Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico  
University of Milan - Italy

---

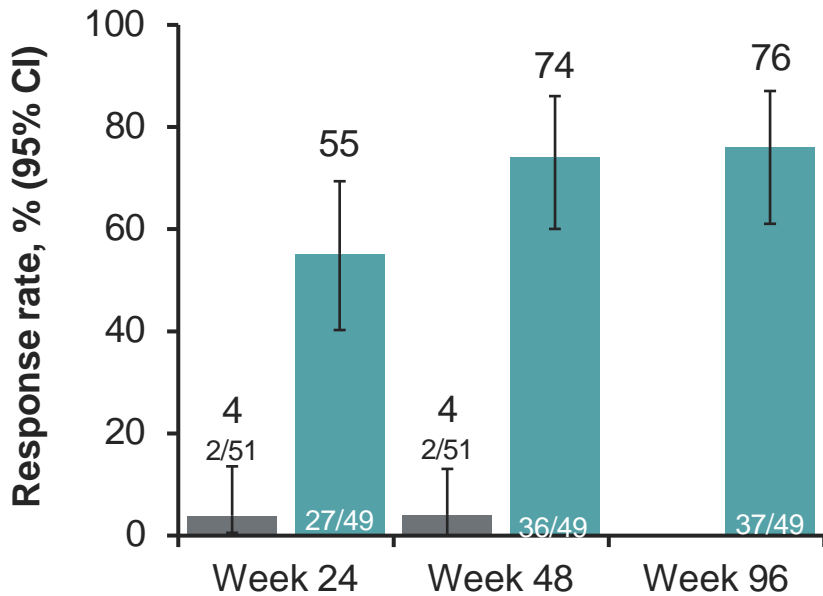
# MYR301 study



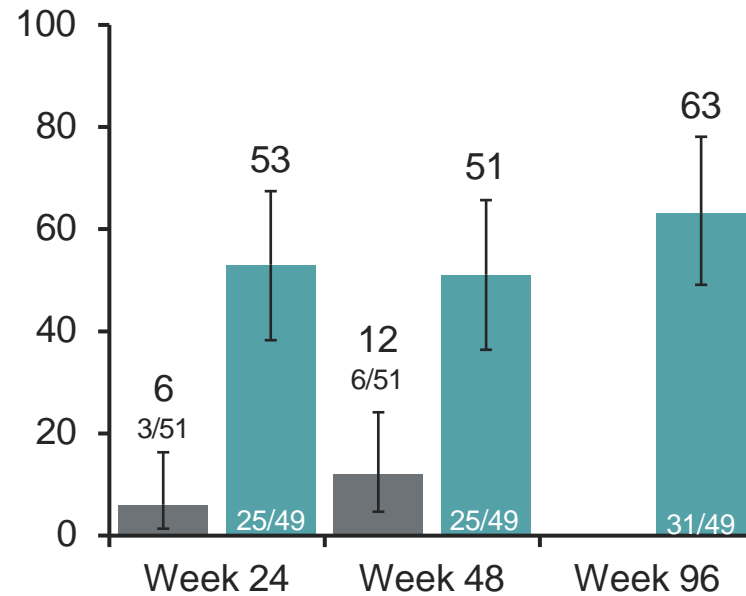
## BLV 2 mg monotherapy for CHD: efficacy at week 96

### Virological response

Undetectable HDV RNA or  $\geq 2 \log_{10}$  IU/mL decline from BL

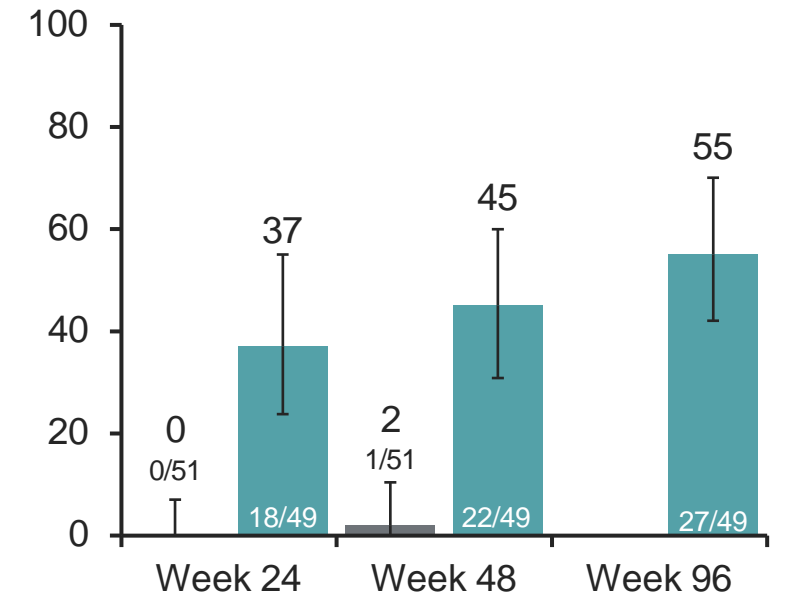


### ALT normalisation



### Combined response

Undetectable HDV RNA or  $\geq 2 \log_{10}$  IU/mL decline from baseline and ALT normalisation



Undetectable, %      6                      12                      20



■ No treatment      ■ BLV 2 mg

**BLV 2 mg led to continued virological and biochemical responses over 96 weeks**

Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL ILC 2021. Oral #LBP-2730  
 Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL ILC 2022. Oral #GS005;  
 Wedemeyer H, et al. N Engl J Med 2023;389:22–32;  
 Wedemeyer H, et al. EASL 2023. Oral #OS-068.

Not all study arms shown. Undetectable HDV RNA defined as below lower limit of quantification (LLOQ; 50 IU/mL) (target not detected).  
 ALT ULN:  $\leq 31$  U/L for females and  $\leq 41$  U/L for males (Russia sites);  $\leq 34$  U/L for females and  $\leq 49$  U/L for males (all other sites). ALT  
 normalisation defined as:  $\leq 31$  U/L for females and  $\leq 41$  U/L for males (Russian sites),  $\leq 34$  U/L for females and  $\leq 49$  U/L for males (all  
 other sites). ALT: alanine aminotransferase; BL: baseline BLV: bulevirtide; CI: confidence interval.

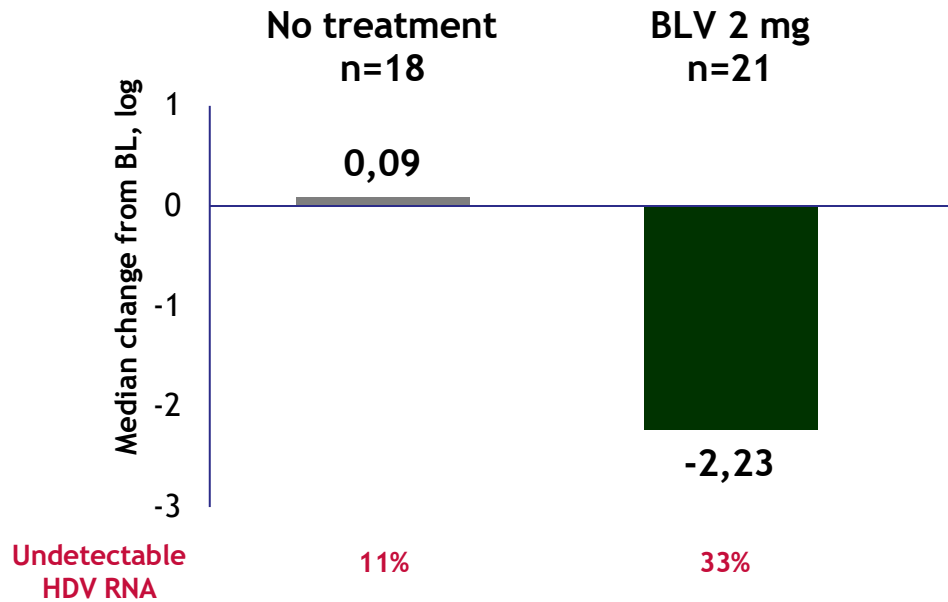
# MYR301 study



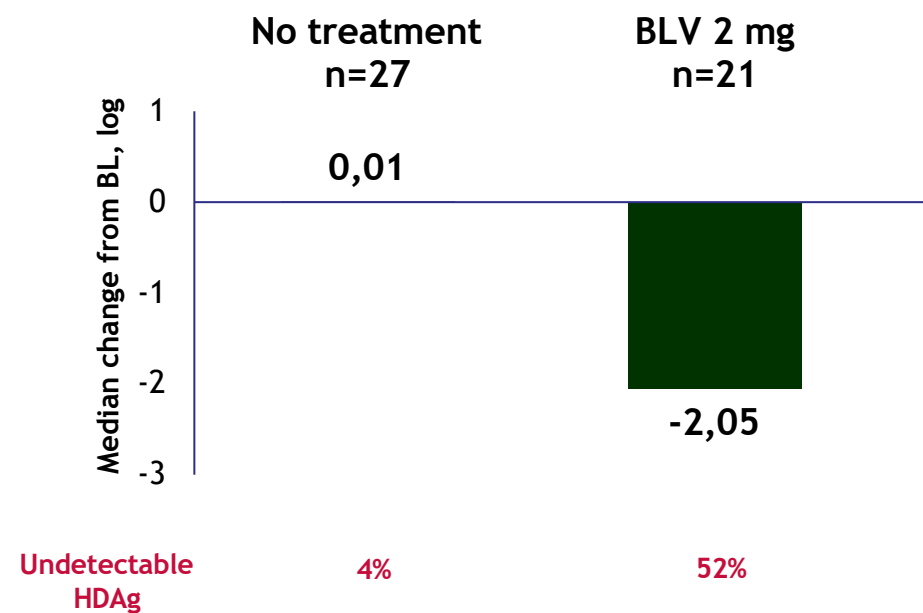
## Intrahepatic virological responses to BLV 2 mg monotherapy

Interim results of paired core liver biopsies from a multicenter, open-label, randomized Phase 3 study

### Change in Intrahepatic HDV RNA



### Change in HDAg+ Cells



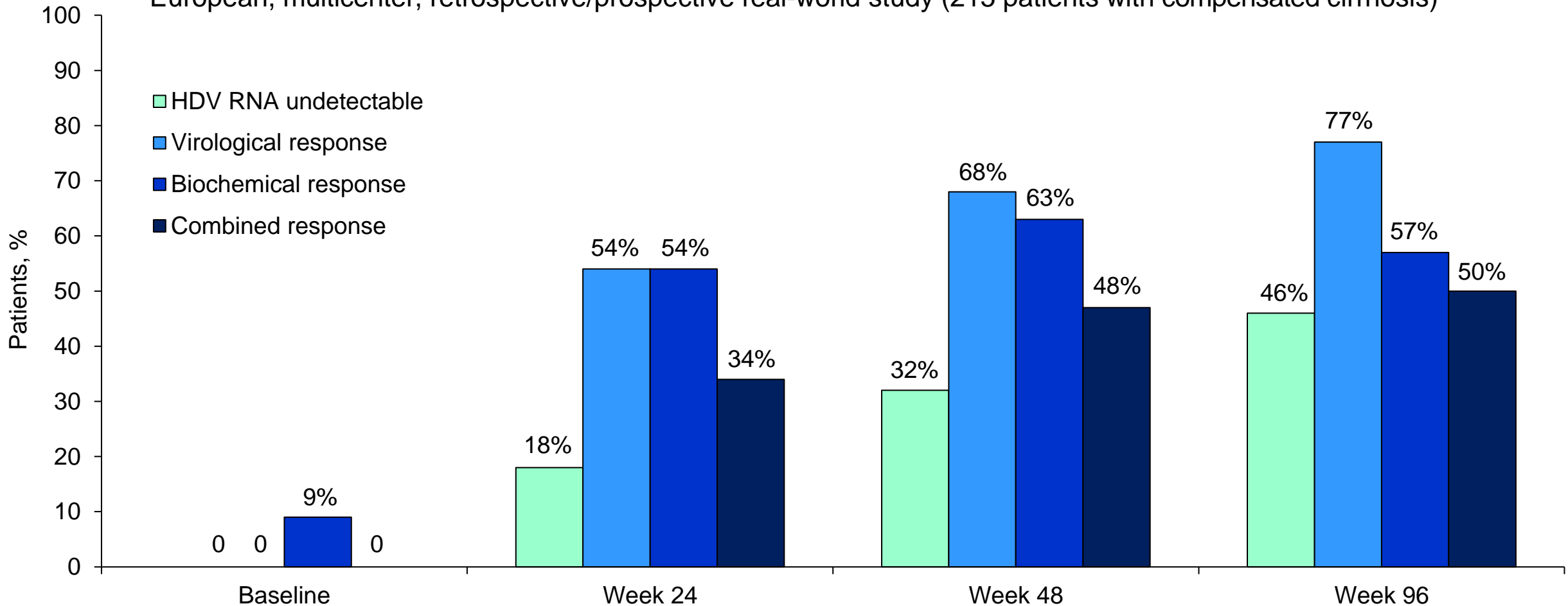
**Strong intrahepatic declines in HDV RNA and HDAg+ cells and were observed**

# SAVE-D study



## Virological, biochemical responses during BLV monotherapy

European, multicenter, retrospective/prospective real-world study (215 patients with compensated cirrhosis)



**HDV RNA undetectable:** TND or < LOD or < LLOQ; **Virological response:**  $\geq 2$  log decline from baseline or HDV RNA TND/<LOD; **Biochemical response:** ALT <40 U/L; **Combined response:** virological and biochemical response.

# SAVE-D study



## Biochemical and virological variables during BLV monotherapy

Variables	Baseline	Week 24	Week 48	Week 72	Week 96	p value (A)	p value (B)
Bilirubin, mg/dl	0.9 (0.2-4.4)	0.8 (0.3-9.6)	0.9 (0.3-4.6)	0.8 (0.2-3.6)	0.9 (0.3-3.6)	0.76	0.09
<b>AST, U/L</b>	79 (7-873)	43 (11-219)	39 (15-136)	35 (18-155)	36 (19-172)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>ALT, U/L</b>	78 (23-1,074)	39 (12-375)	34 (13-253)	36 (6-225)	36 (10-271)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>GGT, U/L</b>	68 (12-583)	41 (6-293)	36 (6-769)	37 (7-236)	29 (6-110)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Albumin, g/dL</b>	3.9 (2.8-6.4)	4.1 (2.2-5.3)	4.1 (2.7-5.0)	4.2 (3.2-5.3)	4.1 (3.3-5.1)	<b>0.01</b>	<b>0.04</b>
<b>PLT, 10<sup>3</sup>/mm<sup>3</sup></b>	91 (17-454)	100 (20-451)	94 (24-392)	89 (30-271)	98 (30-250)	<b>0.01</b>	0.39
Creatinine, mg/dL	0.8 (0.4-1.2)	0.8 (0.4-1.3)	0.8 (0.5-1.3)	0.8 (0.5-1.4)	0.9 (0.6-1.1)	0.14	0.26
<b>AFP, µg/L</b>	7 (1-596)	5 (1-35)	4 (1-22)	3 (1-40)	3 (1-7)	0.39	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>IgG, mg/dL</b>	2,121 (1,047-4,059)	1,721 (922-3,033)	1,705 (817-3,636)	1,613 (444-3,364)	1,598 (890-2,700)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
HBsAg, Log IU/mL	3.7 (0.8-4.7)	3.8 (0.5-4.9)	3.6 (0.5-4.8)	3.7 (1.3-4.7)	3.6 (1.3-4.8)	0.56	0.53
<b>LSM</b>	18.3 (6.4-75)	15.3 (5.0-60)	14.5 (4.8-54.3)	16.5 (6.2-62.1)	14.3 (5.3-43.4)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	0.07
<b>APRI</b>	2.28 (0.2-27.7)	1.32 (0.22-7.97)	1.15 (0.30-7.77)	1.35 (0.30-6.23)	1.06 (0.33-14.9)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>FIB-4</b>	4.73 (0.40-27.88)	3.61 (0.56-20.75)	3.22 (0.77-14.12)	3.92 (0.74-18.27)	3.41 (0.84-25)	<b>&lt;0.001</b>	<b>0.003</b>

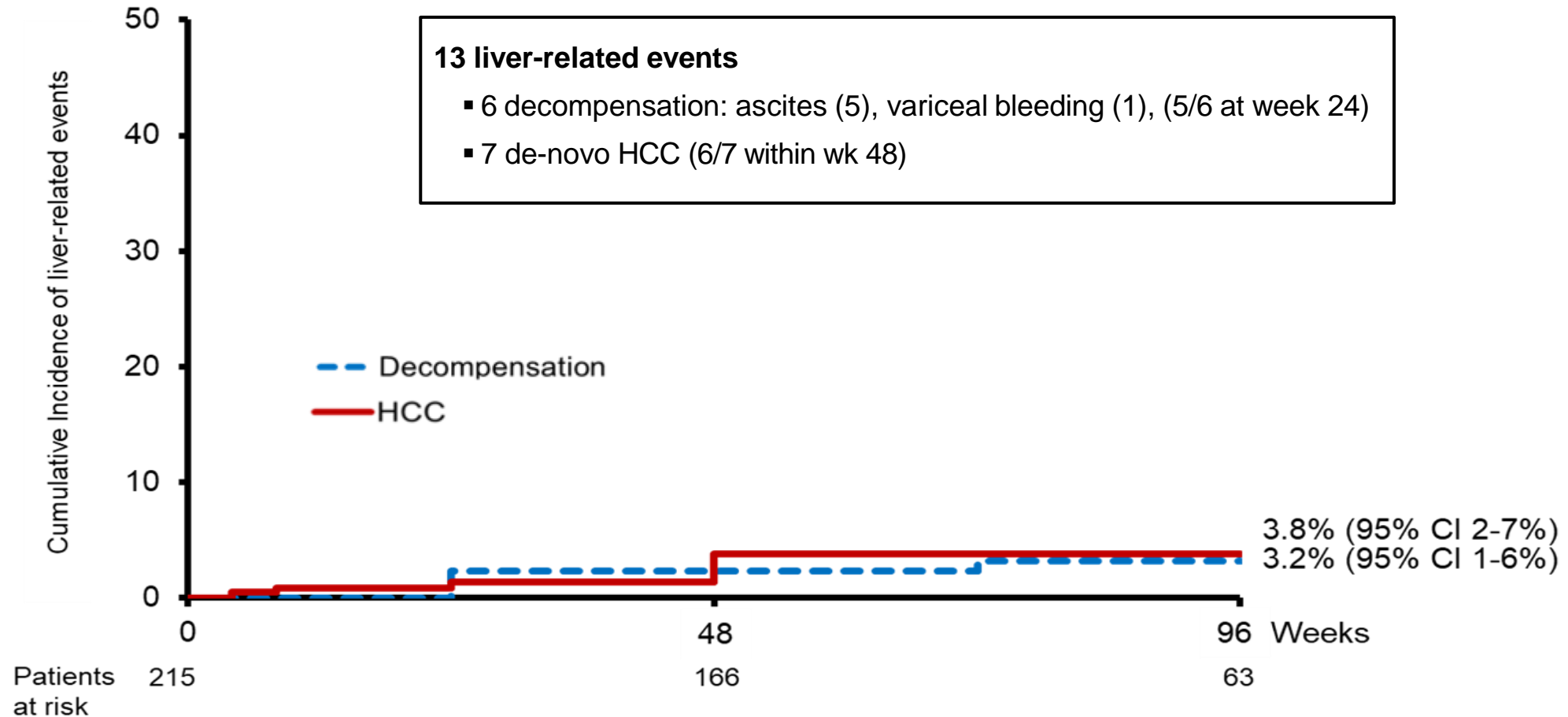
(A) Subanalysis of 137 patients with complete paired data (BSL-week 48)

(B) Subanalysis of 58 patients with complete paired data (BSL-week 96)



## Clinical outcomes during long-term BLV 2mg monotherapy

European, multicenter, retrospective/prospective real-world study (215 patients with compensated cirrhosis)



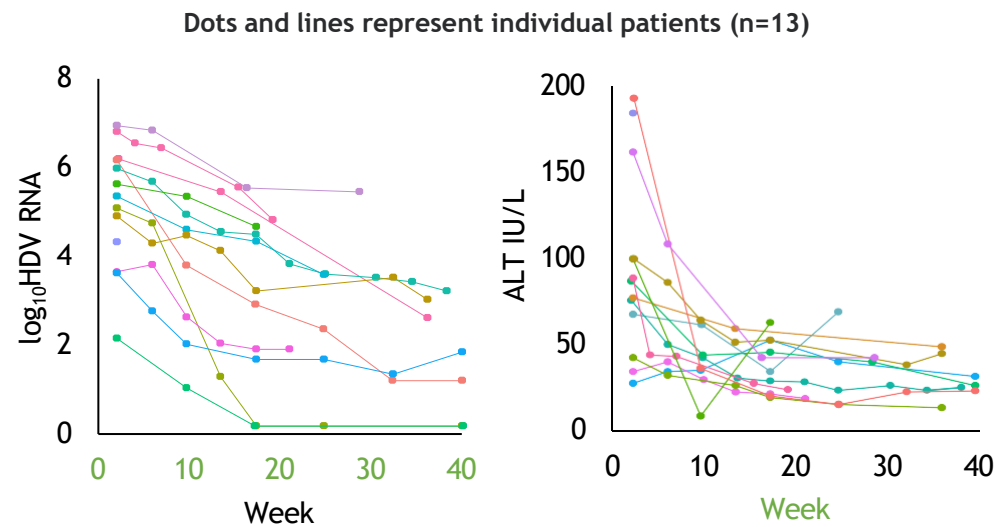


# BLV monotherapy in patients with HDV-related decompensated cirrhosis (Child-B) – off-label use

Retrospective, multicenter,\* real-world analysis of BLV in 15 patients with an average follow up of 23 weeks

Baseline Characteristic	Cohort (n=15)
<b>Child-Pugh Stage, n</b>	
A	1†
B	14
<b>Ascites, n</b>	
Ascites, n	10
<b>Variceal bleeding history, n</b>	
Variceal bleeding history, n	2
<b>Esophageal varices present, n</b>	
Esophageal varices present, n	13
<b>Bilirubin, μmol/L (mean ± SD)</b>	
Bilirubin, μmol/L (mean ± SD)	36.1 ± 24.6
<b>Hyperbilirubinemia (&gt;34.2 μmol/L), n</b>	
Hyperbilirubinemia (>34.2 μmol/L), n	6
<b>Albumin, g/dL (mean ± SD)</b>	
Albumin, g/dL (mean ± SD)	33.0 ± 4.6
<b>Hypoalbuminemia (&lt;35 g/dL), n</b>	
Hypoalbuminemia (<35 g/dL), n	9

## Efficacy Responses



- 67%** 10 of 15 patients had virologic response\*\*
- 47%** 7 of 15 patients had ALT normalization
- 27%** 4 of 15 patients improved from Child-Pugh B to A
- 27%** 4 of 15 patients had improvement of ascites

### Safety profile:

- 1 patient experienced worsening of liver function after add-on pegylated IFN (not related to BLV)
- 1 patient experienced further decomposition after TIPS insertion and incarceration of hernia (not related to BLV)
- 3 patients terminated BLV therapy at liver transplantation

**BLV therapy in decompensated patients led to robust virologic response, ALT normalization, and improvements in liver function**

\*Centers in Austria, Italy, and Germany; \*\*HDV RNA decline of  $\geq 2$  log; †Had a history of large volume paracentesis due to ascites but resolution of ascites under ongoing diuretics at treatment initiation. Given the uncontrolled CHD, the patient was considered as decompensated following the Baveno VII recommendations. ALT, alanine aminotransferase; BLV, bulevirtide; IFN, interferon; TIPS, transjugular intrahepatic Deterding K, et al. EASL 2023. Poster #LBP-12



16 HIV positive vs 199 HIV negative CHD patients

	Week 24			Week 48			Week 72			Week 96		
	HIV+	HIV-	p-value	HIV+	HIV-	p-value	HIV+	HIV-	p-value	HIV+	HIV-	p-value
<u>Virological Response</u>	36%	47%	0.25	80%	68%	0.58	75%	60%	0.55	67%	77%	0.67
<u>Biochemical Response</u>	46%	58%	0.39	80%	66%	0.53	80%	56%	0.31	100%	58%	0.10
<u>Combined Response</u>	21%	32%	0.43	60%	49%	0.64	75%	42%	0.21	67%	59%	0.80

**Virological response:**  $\geq 2$  log decline from baseline or HDV RNA TND/ $<$ LOD; **Biochemical response:** ALT  $<$ 40 U/L; **Combined response:** virological and biochemical response; comparisons were performed by Fischer exact tests



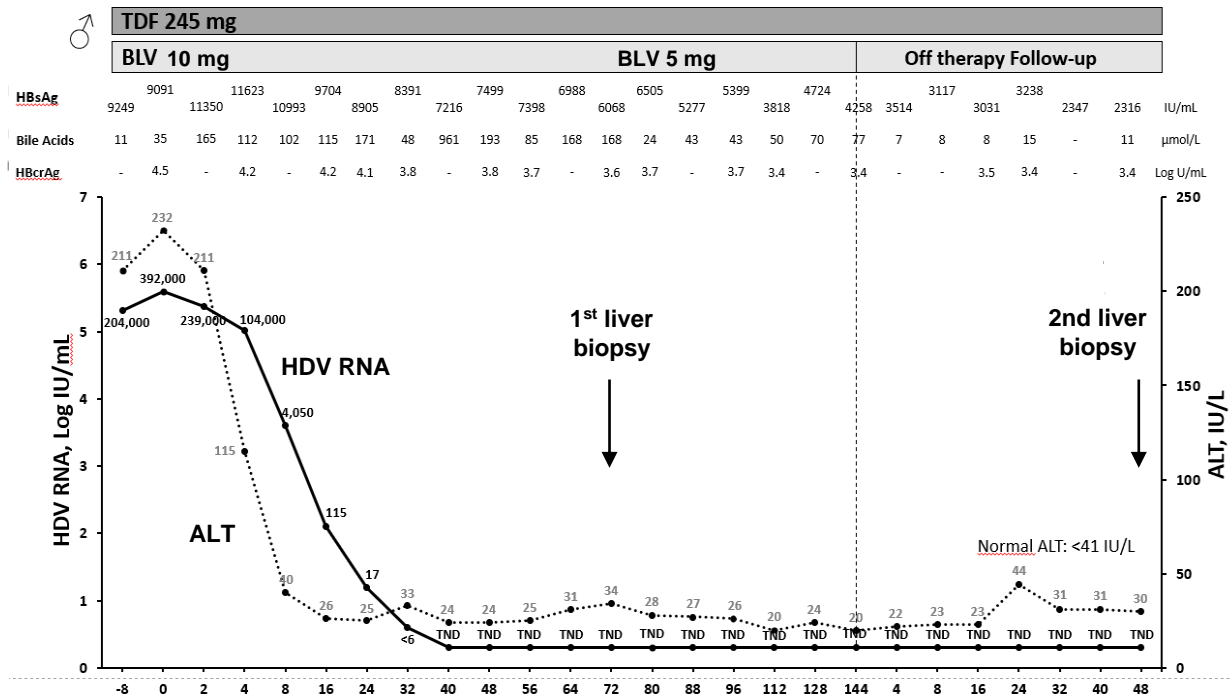
# A 3-year course of BLV monotherapy may cure HDV without HBsAg loss

## The “Milan patient”

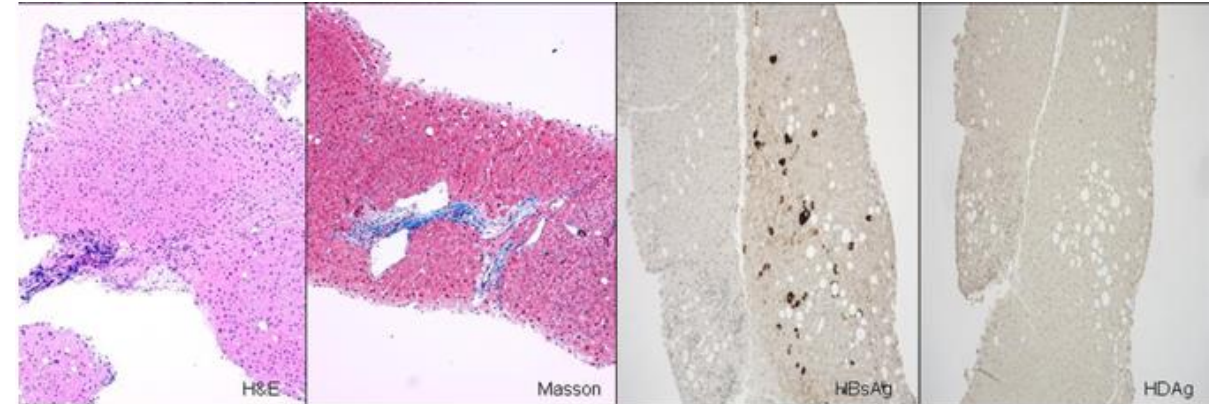


A 55 year-old patient with HDV-related compensated cirrhosis with F1 esophageal varices and contraindications to pegIFNα

### Virolological and biochemical response during and off BLV therapy



### 2nd liver biopsy performed at week 48 off-therapy



- Minimal features of inflammation, improvement of fibrosis (Ishak G1 S4) and resolution of autoimmunity features compared to baseline biopsy (Ishak G9 S6)
- HBsAg staining positive (<1%), HBcAg negative.
- **HDAg, HDV RNA and cccDNA undetectable (Dandri's lab)**
- **HDAg and intrahepatic HDV RNA were already undetectable** in the liver biopsy performed on-therapy at week 72 (Dandri's lab)

### Clinical outcomes

- HDV suppression/cure resulted in a significant improvement in biochemistry, liver function parameters, AFP, LSM, and in regression of esophageal varices.
- No specific safety issues, BA normalized after BLV discontinuation

### Conclusions

- **A 3-year course of BLV monotherapy may cure HDV infection even in difficult-to-treat patients with advanced compensated cirrhosis**
- **HDV eradication occurred without HBsAg loss**

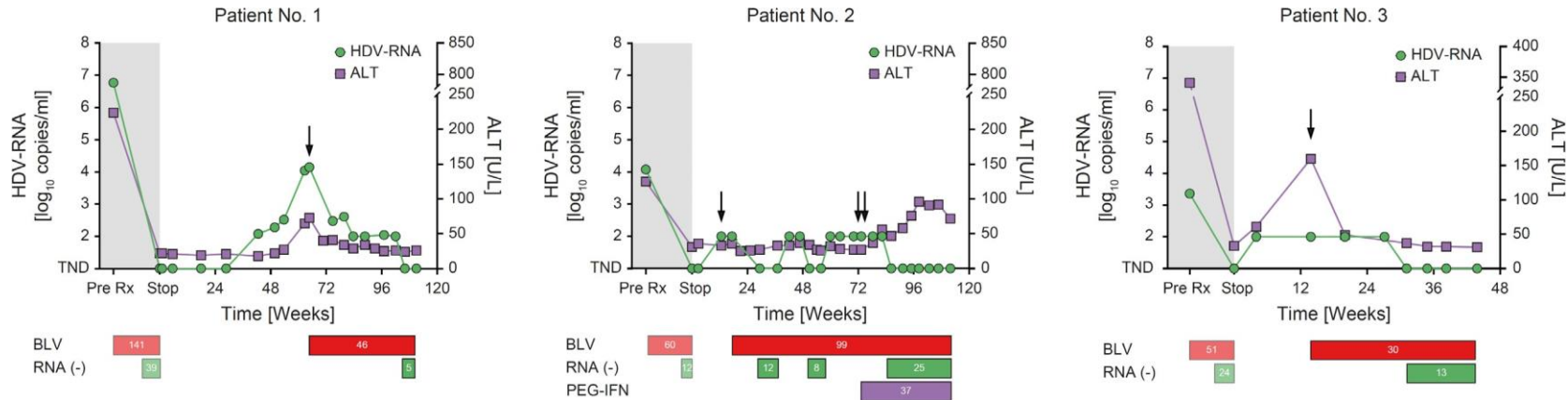
**Can we stop BLV monotherapy after 96 weeks of full viral suppression (=TND)?**

# The Austrian study

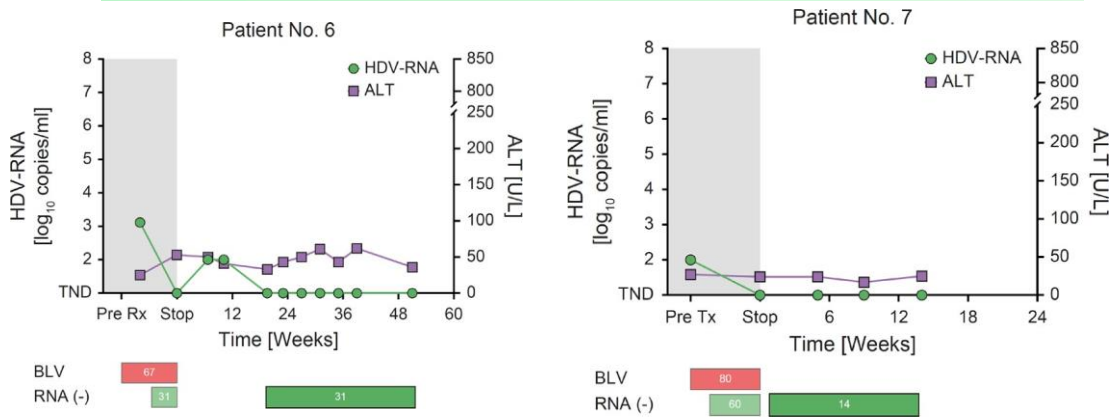
## Discontinuation of BLV monotherapy in 5 patients with CHD



### HDV Relapse after BLV STOP



### HDV RNA Undetectability 24 weeks after BLV STOP



Overall 3/5 (60%) HDV relapses

n=3 HDV relapses

- #1 (F4); 39 (out of 141) weeks HDV RNA suppression
- #2 (F4); 12 (out of 60) weeks HDV RNA suppression
- #3 (F1); 24 (out of 51) weeks HDV RNA suppression

n=2 Sustained (off-tx week 24) HDV undetectability

- #6 (F4); 31 (out of 67) weeks HDV RNA suppression
- **#7 (F4); 60 (out of 80) weeks HDV RNA suppression**

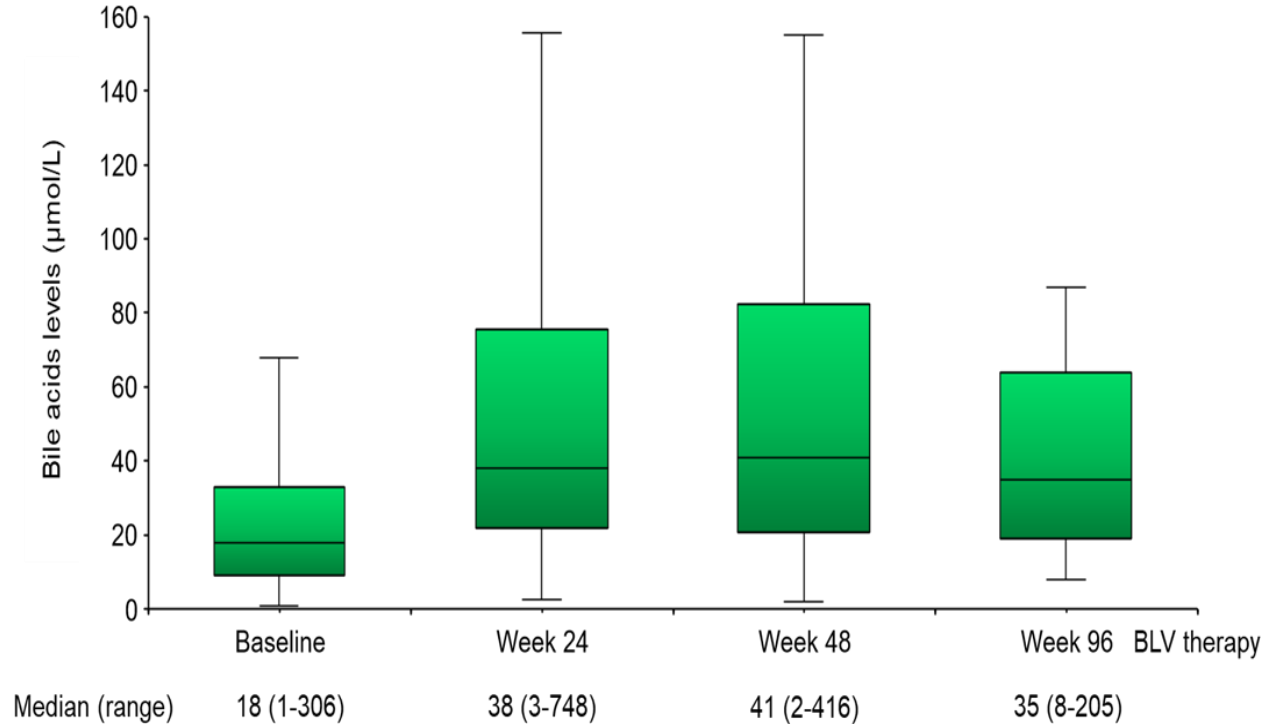
No issues following BLV re-start

**Can we stop BLV monotherapy after 60 weeks of full viral suppression?**



## Safety and discontinuations during BLV monotherapy

European, multicenter, retrospective/prospective real-world study (215 patients with compensated cirrhosis)



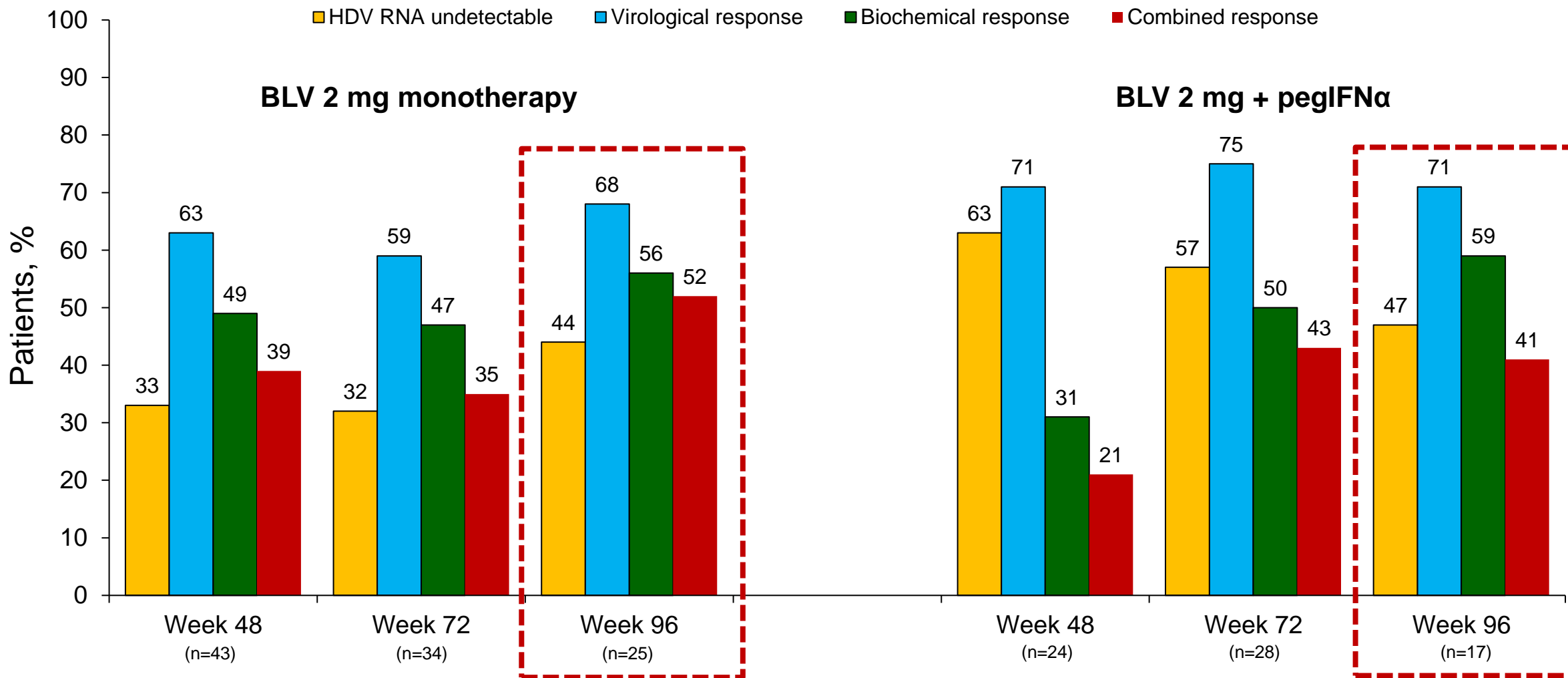
### Safety events/withdrawals:

- Pruritus, mild and transient: 19 (9%)
- Injection site reactions, mild and transient: 6 (3%)
- TA-SAE: 1 (0.5%)
- BLV withdrawal: 12 (5%)\*
- Lost to follow-up: 7 (3%)

\*n=1 grade 3 maculopapular rash; n=3 viral non-response; n=1 non-compliance; n=5 add-on IFN; n=2 long-term HDV RNA undetectable

# The French ATU cohort

## BLV 2 mg ± pegIFN $\alpha$ in patients with CHD for up to 96 weeks



**Virological response:** Undetectable HDV RNA or  $\geq 2$ -log decline from baseline; **Biochemical response:** ALT <40 U/L; **Combined response:** virological and biochemical

# BLV monotherapy for HDV - Summary

---

- Many studies on BLV 2 mg monotherapy (phase 2 and 3, real-world studies)
- Effective independently of the liver disease severity
- Efficacy increases over time
- No significant side effects, no BLV resistance, rare DDI
- No contraindications, can be used also in patients with autoimmune disease
- Less expensive, easy monitoring, no specific expertise required
- BLV + pegIFN: very limited and contradictory efficacy data (see EASL 2024)
- And 80% of my patients cannot be treated with pegIFN

**In conclusion, BLV monotherapy is the SOC treatment for CHD in 2024**

---



FONDAZIONE IRCCS CA' GRANDA  
OSPEDALE MAGGIORE POLICLINICO



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



**Thank You for Your Attention!**