

# TANDEM MEETINGS

Transplantation & Cellular Therapy Meetings  
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# Disclosures

## Sairah Ahmed

- Presenting author has received research support to institution for clinical trials from Nektar, Merck, Xencor, Chimagen and Genmab, KITE/Gilead, Janssen, Caribou, membership on Chimagen scientific advisory committee, serves on Data Safety Monitoring Board for Myeloid Therapeutics; Consultant for ADC Therapeutics, KITE/Gilead Sciences, Inc.

# **NKTR-255 vs Placebo to Enhance Complete Responses and Durability Following CD19-directed CAR-T Therapy in Patients with Relapsed/Refractory (R/R) Large B-cell Lymphoma (LBCL)**

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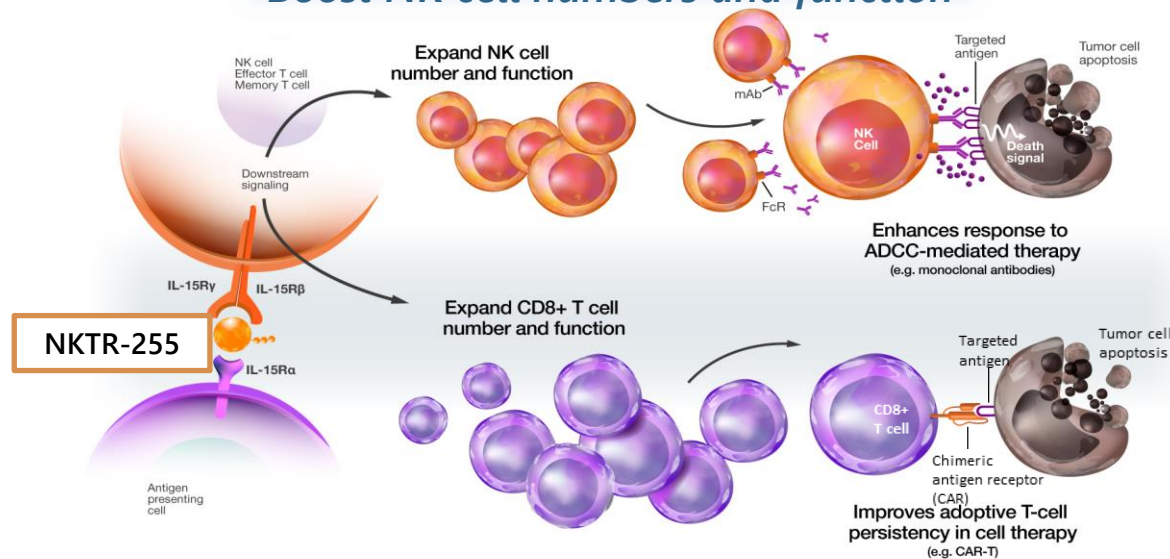
# Background

- CAR T-cell therapy has been transformative for treatment of relapsed or refractory (R/R) large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL), however durable responses remain a challenge with more than half of patients with eventual disease relapse or progression
- Relapse after CAR-T cell therapy portends a poor prognosis with a median overall survival (OS) of 8 months; *strategies to improve long-term efficacy are needed*
- In pivotal clinical trials<sup>1</sup>, complete response (CR) at 6 months is prognostic of remaining in CR beyond 2 years, therefore therapeutic interventions to improve CR rates at 6 months may improve event-free survival (EFS)
- NKTR-255 is an investigational polymer-conjugated IL-15 agonist, that activates, proliferates and expands natural killer (NK) and CD8+ T-cells in vivo, as well as promotes the survival and expansion of memory CD8+ T cells
- Clinical studies demonstrate NKTR-255 expands CAR-T and CD8+ T cells in patients with R/R NHL who previously received CAR-T therapy (NCT04136756), as well as enhances CAR-T cell trafficking into the tumor microenvironment (Shringesh et al., Blood 2024)

<sup>1</sup>ZUMA-1 (axi-cel) (Locke 2022), JULIET (tisa-cel) (Schuster 2019), and TRANSCEND NHL- 001 (liso-cel) (Abramson 2020)

# NKTR-255 IS Designed to Boost NK Cells and Expand CD8+ Effector and Memory T-cells

*Boost NK cell numbers and function*



**Enhancement of ADCC Antibodies**

Daratumumab  
Rituximab  
Cetuximab

*Potential to combine with any targeted antibody that utilizes an ADCC MOA*

**Enhancement of CAR-T Regimens**

CD19 CAR-T  
BCMA CAR-T  
CD38 CAR-T

*Potential to expand into other hematological and solid tumor CAR-T and cellular therapies*

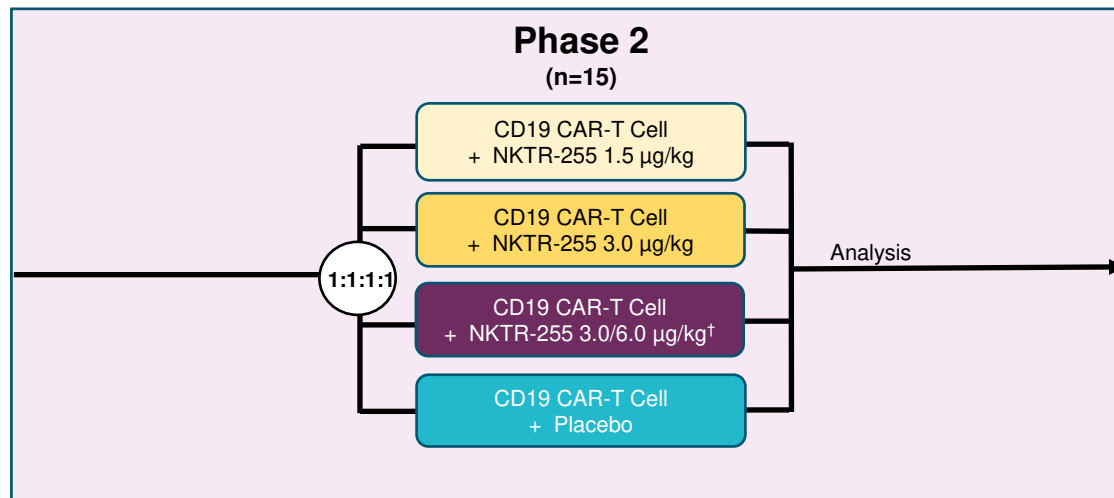
*Increase duration of response for CAR-T and cellular therapies*



# STUDY DESIGN

## Patients Eligible:

- Relapse and refractory LBCL
- Planning to receive CD19 CAR T-cell therapy\*
- ECOG 0-1

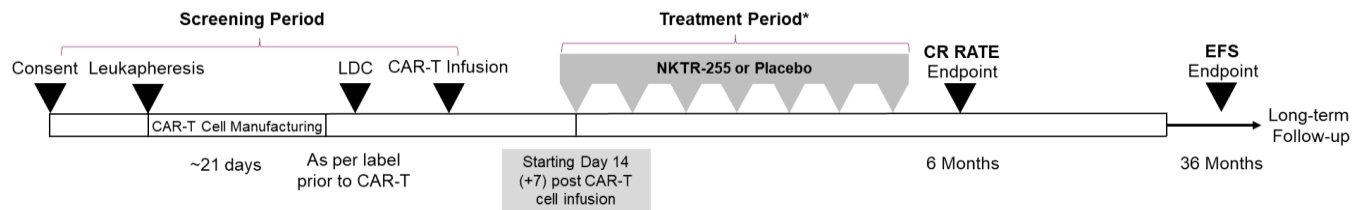


## Primary Endpoint:

- CR rate at month 6 of treatment

## Secondary Endpoint:

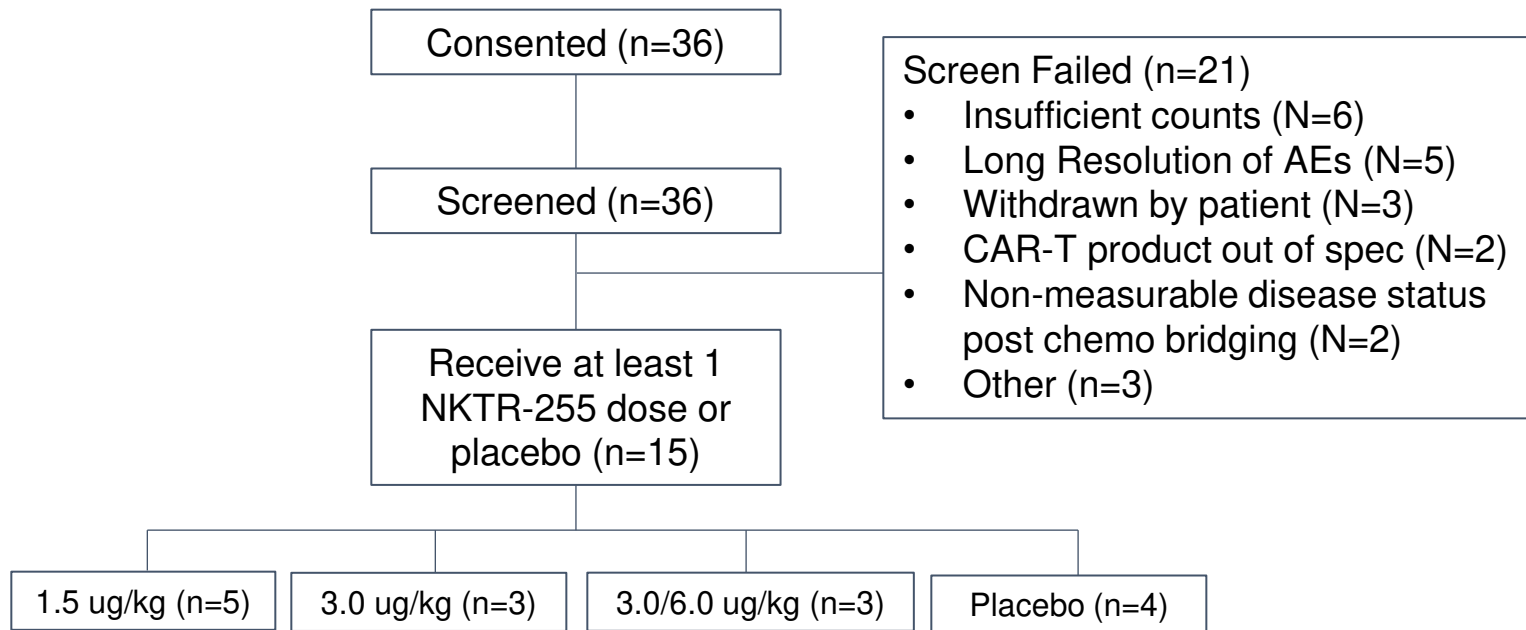
- Safety and tolerability
- PK and PD



# Study Criteria

Key Inclusion	Key Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age <math>\geq 18</math> years</li> <li>• Evidence of CD19+ disease</li> <li>• FDG-Avid disease on PET/CT</li> <li>• ECOG Performance of 0 or 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prior treatment with any CD19 CAR-T cell therapy other than planned treatment</li> <li>• Active CNS malignancy</li> <li>• Steroid use of <math>&gt; 5</math> mg Prednisone or equivalent</li> <li>• Presence of uncontrolled fungal, bacterial, viral, or other infection</li> </ul>
Key Study Drug Dosing Criteria	
<p>Patients were assessed prior to each study drug infusion to determine if they fulfill the following dosing criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate laboratory test results as defined per protocol</li> <li>• No fever <math>\geq 38.0^{\circ}\text{C}</math>/Grade <math>\geq 1</math> CRS (ASTCT criteria [Lee 2019]) within 24 hours of the planned study drug infusion</li> <li>• No Grade <math>\geq 3</math> CRS (ASTCT criteria) within 72 hours preceding the study drug infusion</li> <li>• No Grade <math>\geq 2</math> ICANS (ASTCT criteria) on the day of the study drug infusion</li> <li>• No previous Grade 4 IRR to study drug infusion (Cycle 2 and beyond)</li> <li>• No tocilizumab and/or dexamethasone within 48 hours preceding the study drug infusion</li> </ul>	

# Study Deposition



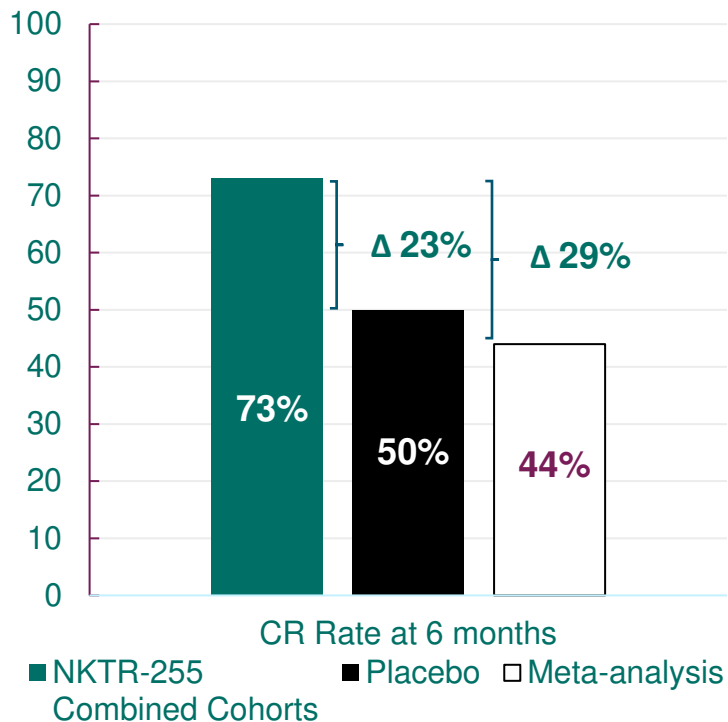


<b>BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS</b>	<b>NKTR-255 1.5 µg/kg (N=5)</b>	<b>NKTR-255 3.0 µg/kg (N=3)</b>	<b>NKTR-255 3.0/6.0 µg/kg (N=3)</b>	<b>Combined NKTR-255 (N=11)</b>	<b>Placebo (N=4)</b>
<b>Age</b>					
Median (range) – years	68 (40-72)	54 (53-72)	62 (61-63)	62 (40-72)	67.5 (44-76)
≥65, n (%)	3 (60)	1 (33)	0	4 (36)	2 (50)
<b>Male, n (%)</b>	4 (80)	2 (67)	2 (67)	8 (73)	0
<b>ECOG Performance of 2, n (%)</b>	3 (60)	2 (66)	0	5 (45)	2 (50)
<b>Disease History, n (%)</b>					
De novo DLBCL	3 (60)	1 (33)	3 (100)	7 (64)	2 (50)
DLBCL transformed from indolent	1 (20)	0	0	0	1 (25)
High grade B-cell lymphoma	0	1 (33)	0	1 (9)	1 (25)
<b>Disease Stage, n (%)</b>					
I or II	2 (40)	0	0	2 (18)	2 (50)
III or IV	3 (60)	3 (100)	3 (100)	9 (82)	2 (50)
<b>Prognostic marker, n (%)</b>					
High-grade B-cell lymphoma, double- or triple-hit	0	0	0	0	1 (25)
Double- or multi-expressor lymphoma*	2 (40)	1 (33)	0	3 (28)	1 (25)
<b>Bulky Disease, one node ≥7cm</b>	1 (20)	2 (67)	1 (33)	4 (36)	2 (50)
<b>CAR-T Product (%)</b>					
Axi-cel	4 (80)	3 (100)	3 (100)	10 (91)	2 (50)
Liso-cel	1 (20)	0	0	1 (9)	2 (50)
<b>No. of Prior Lines of Therapy, n (%)</b>					
1	3 (60)	2 (67)	0	5 (45)	1 (25)
≥2	2 (40)	1 (33)	3 (100)	6 (55)	3 (75)
<b>LDH Median (range) – U/L</b>	160 (147-682)	985 (160-1260)	328 (162-328)	249 (147-1260)	218 (170-602)
<b>Response to first-line therapy n (%)</b>					
Primary Refractory Disease	3 (60)	1 (33)	2 (67)	6 (55)	2 (50)
Relapse ≤12 mo	2 (40)	2 (67)	0	4 (36)	1 (25)
Relapse ≥12 mo	0	0	1 (33)	1 (9)	1 (25)

## Grade ≥3 TRAEs: NKTR-255 was Well Tolerated in Combination With CAR-T; Most TRAEs were Transient and Resolved Spontaneously or Using Standard Treatment Protocols; No new cases of CRS or ICANS reported

Select TRAEs; n (%)	NKTR-255 1.5 µg/kg (N=5)	NKTR-255 3.0 µg/kg (N=3)	NKTR-255 3.0/6.0 µg/kg (N=3)	Combined NKTR-255 (N=11)	Placebo (N=4)
<b>Grade 1 or 2 (≥20% of safety population)</b>					
Anemia	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	0
Neutrophil count decreased	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	1 (25%)
Pyrexia	1 (20%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	3 (27%)	0
White blood cell count decreased	1 (20%)	0	2 (67%)	3 (27%)	2 (50%)
<b>Grade 3 (≥20% of safety population)</b>					
Neutrophil count decreased	2 (40%)	0	2 (67%)	4 (36%)	0
<b>Grade 4 (all)</b>					
Neutrophil count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
Platelet count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
Pneumonia aspiration	1 (20%)	0	0	1 (9%)	0
White blood cell count decreased	0	1 (33%)	0	1 (9%)	0
<b>Grade 5 (all)</b>					
Guillain-Barre syndrome*	1 (20%)	0	0	1 (9%)	0

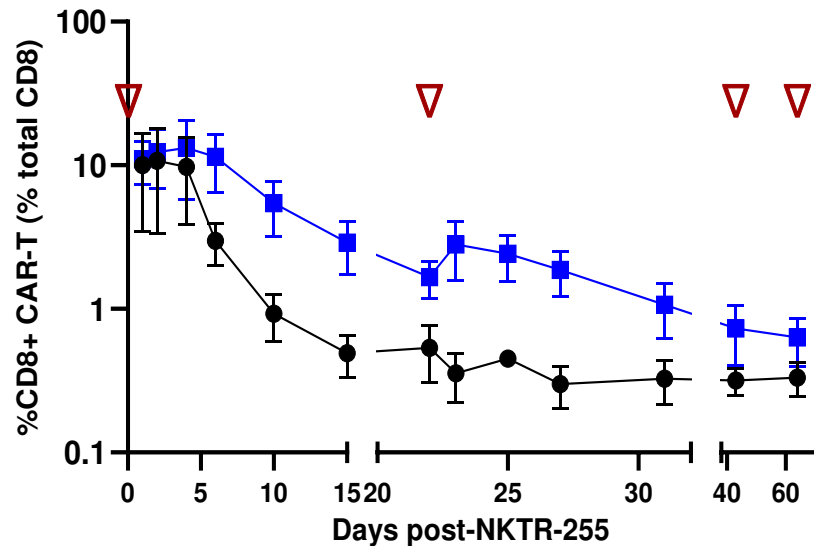
# NKTR-255 improved Complete Response Rate at 6 Months based on central review



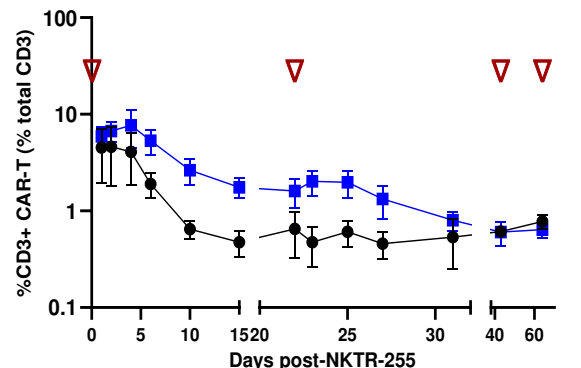
Endpoint	NKTR-255 1.5 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 3.0 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 3.0 mcg/kg/6.0 mcg/kg	NKTR-255 Combined Cohorts	Placebo
Number of patients randomized to cohort	N=5	N=3	N=3	N=11	N=4
ITT CR Rate per BICR at 6 months	4/5 (80%)	2/3 (67%)	2/3 (67%)	8/11 (73%)	2/4 (50%)
Efficacy evaluable population* CR Rate per PI at 6 months	4/4 (100%)	2/3 (67%)	2/3 (67%)	8/10 (80%)	2/4 (50%)
# pts that converted from SD or PR to CR per PI at 6 months	1/5 (20%) SD to PR to CR	1/3 (33%) PR to CR	0	2/11 (18%)	0

\*Efficacy-evaluable population defined as having been dosed with study drug and at least one post baseline scan per PI  
1. Frontiers in Pharmacology 2022; Jun Meng; 2. Frontiers in Oncology, 2021

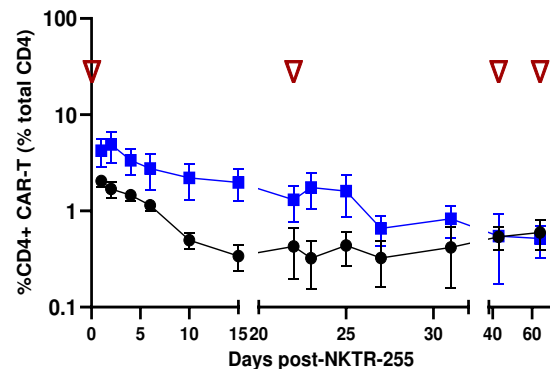
# Pharmacodynamic Expansion of CAR T-cells following 1-3 cycles of NKTR-255



A) Persistence of CD3 CAR T cells as a percentage of total CD3 T-cells



B) CD4 CAR T-cells as a percentage of total CD4 T-cells

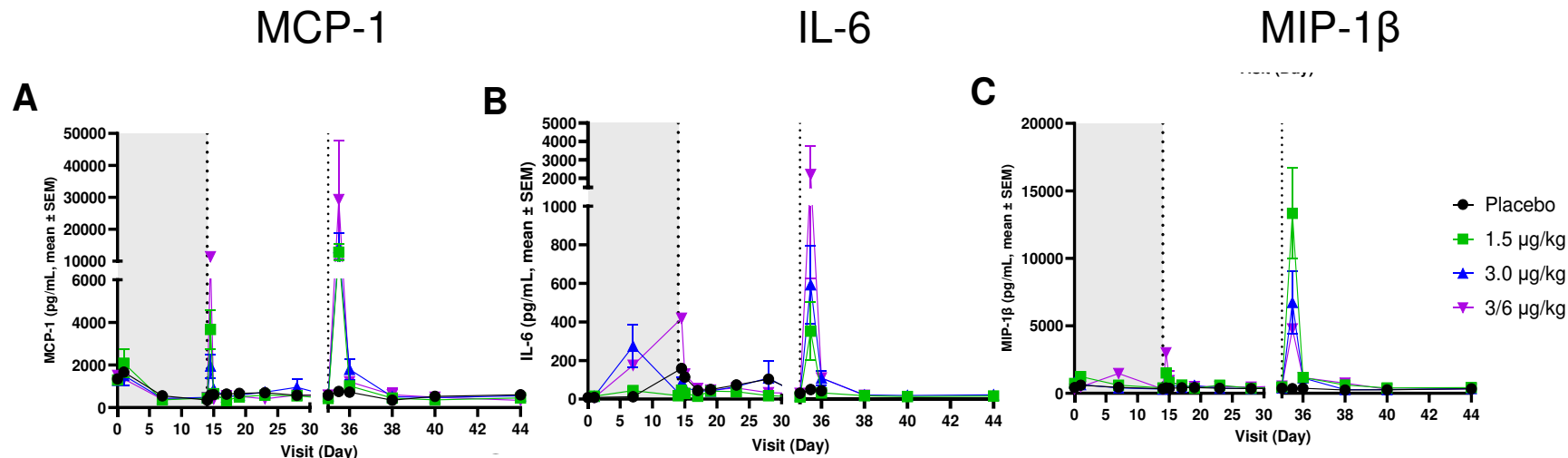


C) CD8 CAR T-cells as a percentage of total CD8 T-cells

- Placebo
- NKTR-255
- ▽ NKTR-255 administration

Preferential expansion of CD8+ CAR-T cells following 1-3 cycles of NKTR-255. Flow cytometry measurement of patient CAR T-cell in the blood after infusion, presented as percentages  $\pm$  SEM by days post-NKTR-255 treatment.

# NKTR-255 post-administration cytokine response



Blood samples after NKTR 255 treatment were performed via Luminex assay. Data are presented as mean (pg/mL)  $\pm$  SEM by visit day.

# Summary

- In conclusion, this study demonstrates that the combination of FDA-approved CD19 CAR T-cell products and NKTR-255 was safe and well-tolerated in patients with LBCL
- NKTR-255 improved the CRR at 6 Months, 8/11 (73%) compared to 2/4 (50%) in the placebo group and exhibited enhanced CAR T-cell kinetics
- The clinical benefit is superior to published historical benchmark data from pivotal and real-world meta-analyses with CAR T-cell therapies
- Further studies are warranted to explore the clinical benefits of NKTR-255 as an adjuvant treatment to CAR T-cell therapy and a broad range of cellular therapies



# Acknowledgements

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The study was approved by the institutional review board of each participating site and informed consent is obtained from all patients

# Thank You!

**TANDEM MEETINGS**

