

# Donor Specific Antibodies - Different (Immunosuppressive) Strokes for Different Folks

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CEOT 2019



CUTTING EDGE of **TRANSPLANTATION**

**TRANSPLANT SUMMIT** 2019

***NO SIZE FITS ALL:** Uncovering the  
Potential of Personalized Transplantation*

# Disclosures

- Will mention the off label therapy directed at DSA



## Mrs. K. 56 yo

### 5 mo post transplant for IPF

- PFTs: Progressively improving since transplantation
- Clinical: stable, active
- Pneumonia at 3 mo Resolved.

**ACR:** A2B0 at 3 months.  
Resolved at next biopsy.

**AMR:** Path and C4d Negative

**DSA:** No pre-formed DSA. De Novo DSA at 3 month : DQ5 2900 MFI, DQ 6 4200

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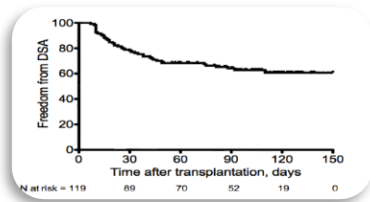
# What therapeutic options do we have for these two patients?

If the two therapeutic decisions are different,  
what were those decisions based on.

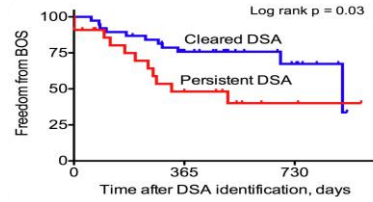
# “HLA antibodies and Lung Transplantation”: Publications by year



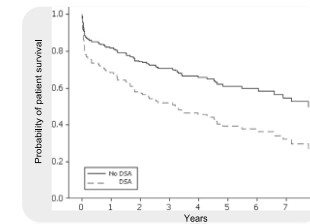
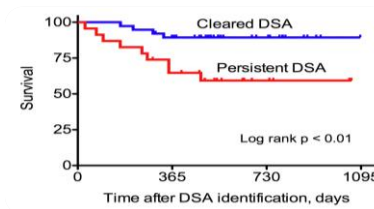
# These studies provide evidence establishing a relationship between DSA and outcomes post transplantation.



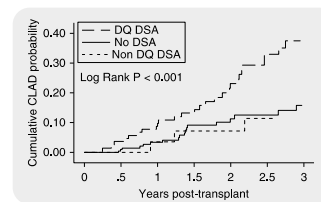
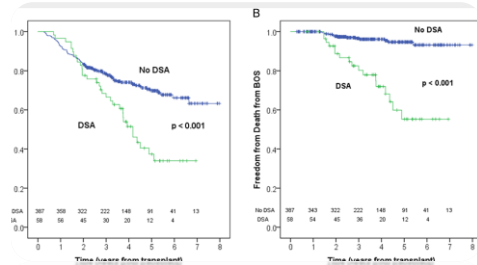
Hachem, AJT 2018; 18: 2285



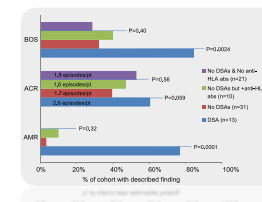
Hachem JHLT 2010; 29: 973



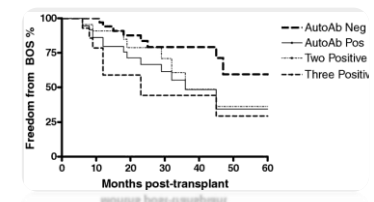
Safavi JHLT 2014;33:1273–1281

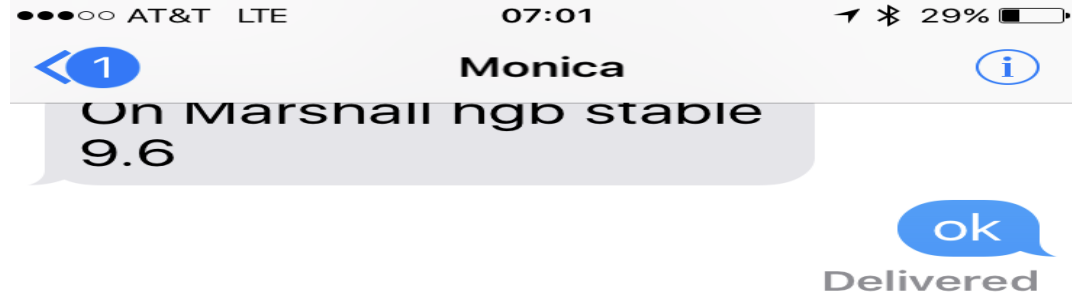


Tinkanen AJRCCM 2016 194L 5



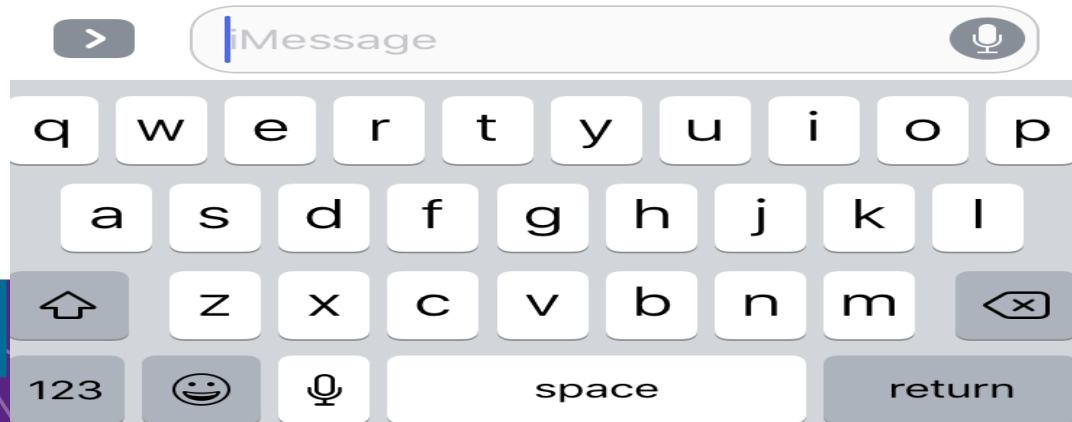
Lobo 2013 JHLT 32: 70





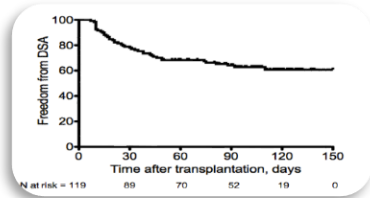
Today 06:59

I am seeing mrs k and  
Mrs e right now  
What are your  
recommendations for  
their DSAs?

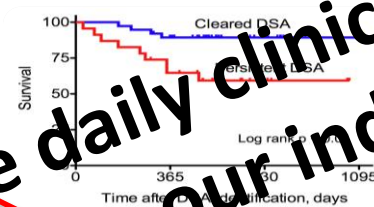
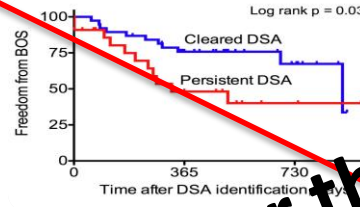




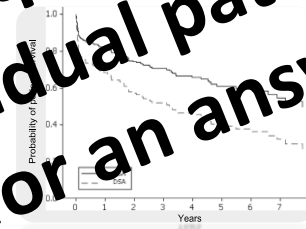
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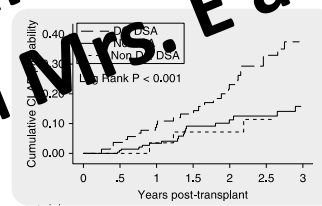
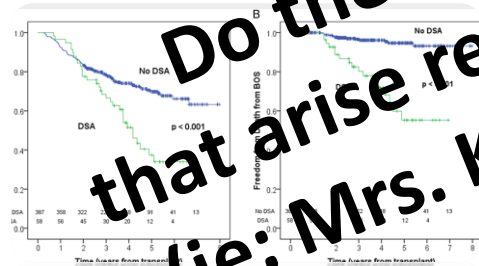
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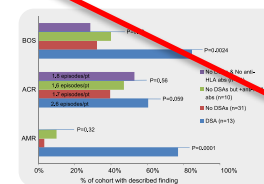
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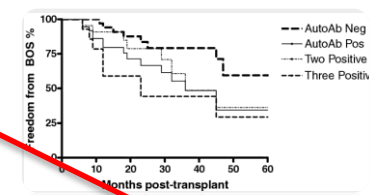
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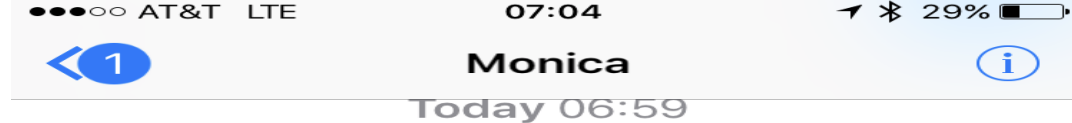


Tinkanen AJRCCM 2016 194L 5



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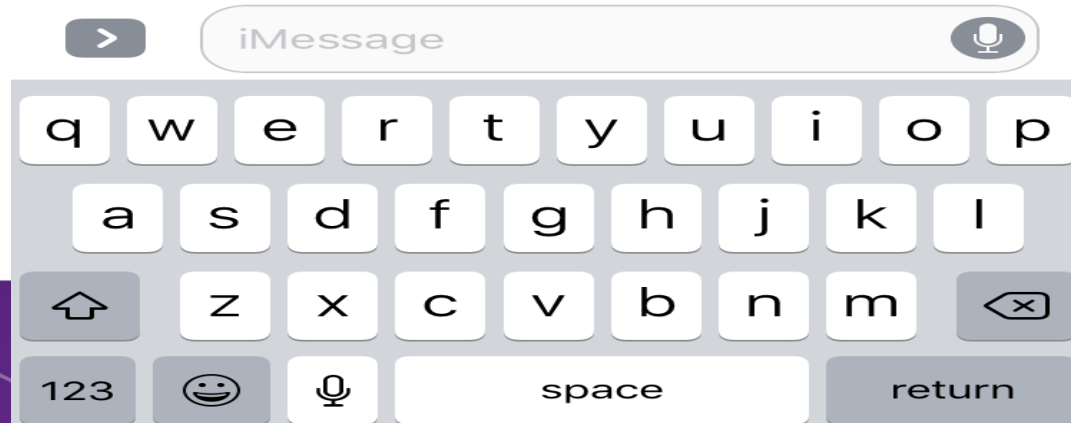


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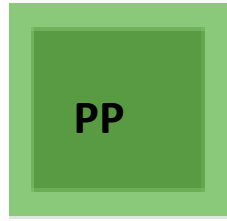


uhm-if you can wait 20  
minutes-i will have ALL  
the right answers.

Delivered



In 20 minutes, you *will not* have all the right answers for when to use which of these therapies for DSA and on whom...



# Or what to definitively use for each DSA scenario you come across...



DSA is Class I versus Class II?

DSA is De Novo?

DSA is complement binding

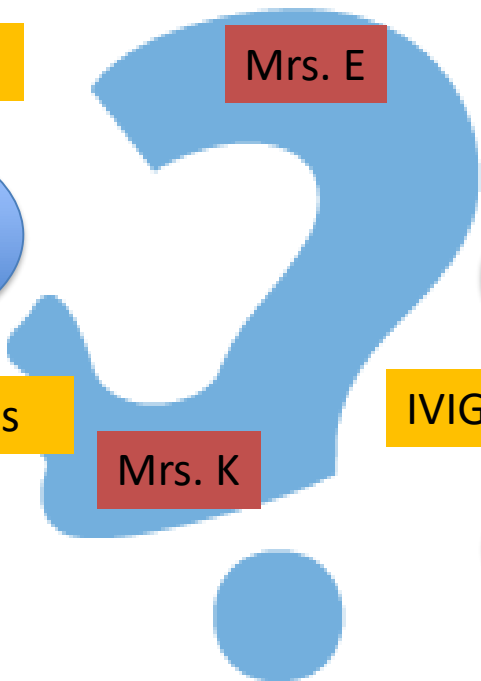
There is a high titer?

DSA is persistent

DSA appears early

There are no other AMR characteristics present

# “Match the correct therapy to each patient”.



DSA is Class I versus Class II?

Rituximab

Mrs. E

DSA is complement binding

Bortezimib

DSA is De Novo?

There is a high titer?

Eculizumab

DSA is persistent

Plasmaphoresis

IVIG

Mrs. K

DSA appears early

There are no other AMR characteristics present

Steroids

Carfilzomib

# “Match the correct therapy to each patient”.

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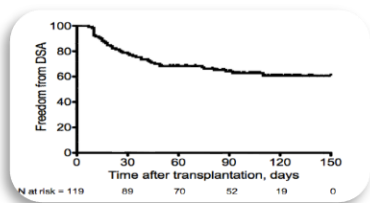
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IVIg

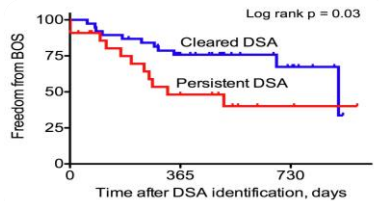
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Steroids

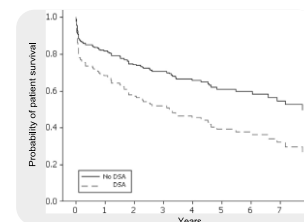
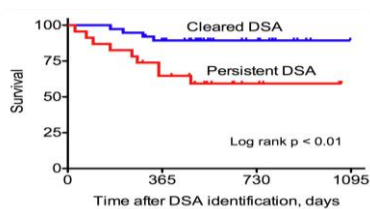
These results show us that DSA's can lead to graft dysfunction, AMR, CLAD and decreased survival... but what they *don't* show...



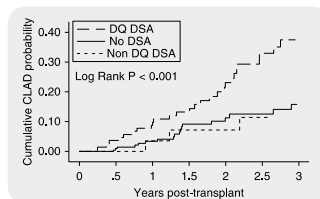
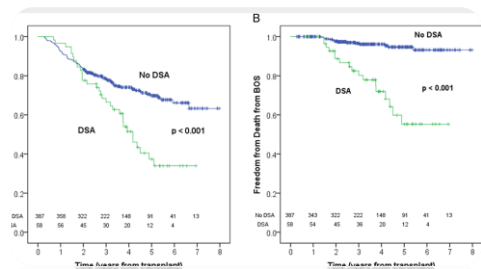
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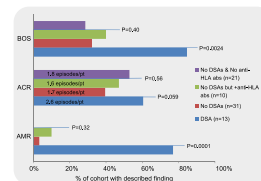
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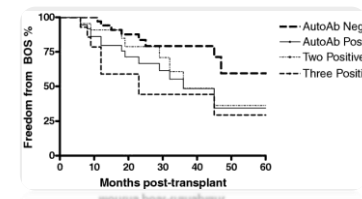
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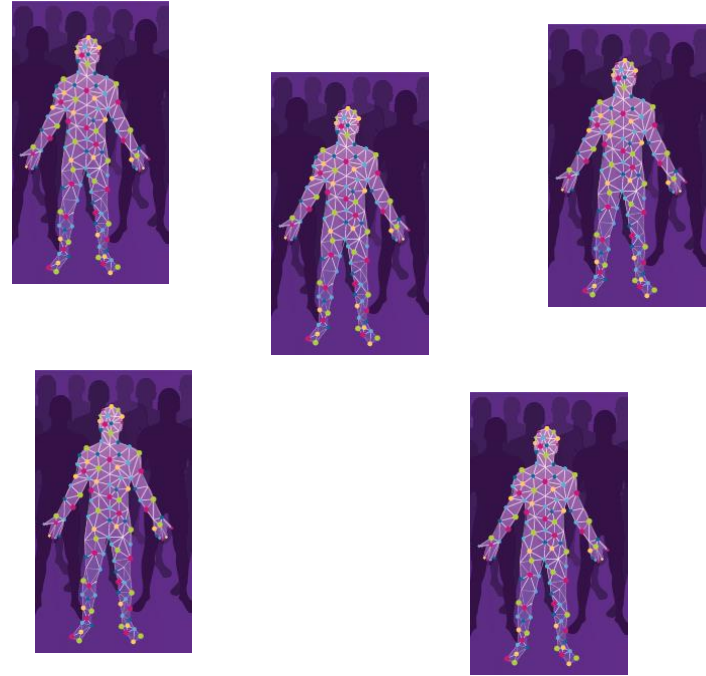


Lobo 2013 JHLT 32: 70



... is which patient with a specific DSA  
will benefit from a particular therapy

One-size  
fits all



Personalized therapies tailored to  
individual characteristics



**DSA associated with a wide spectrum of effects on allograft.**

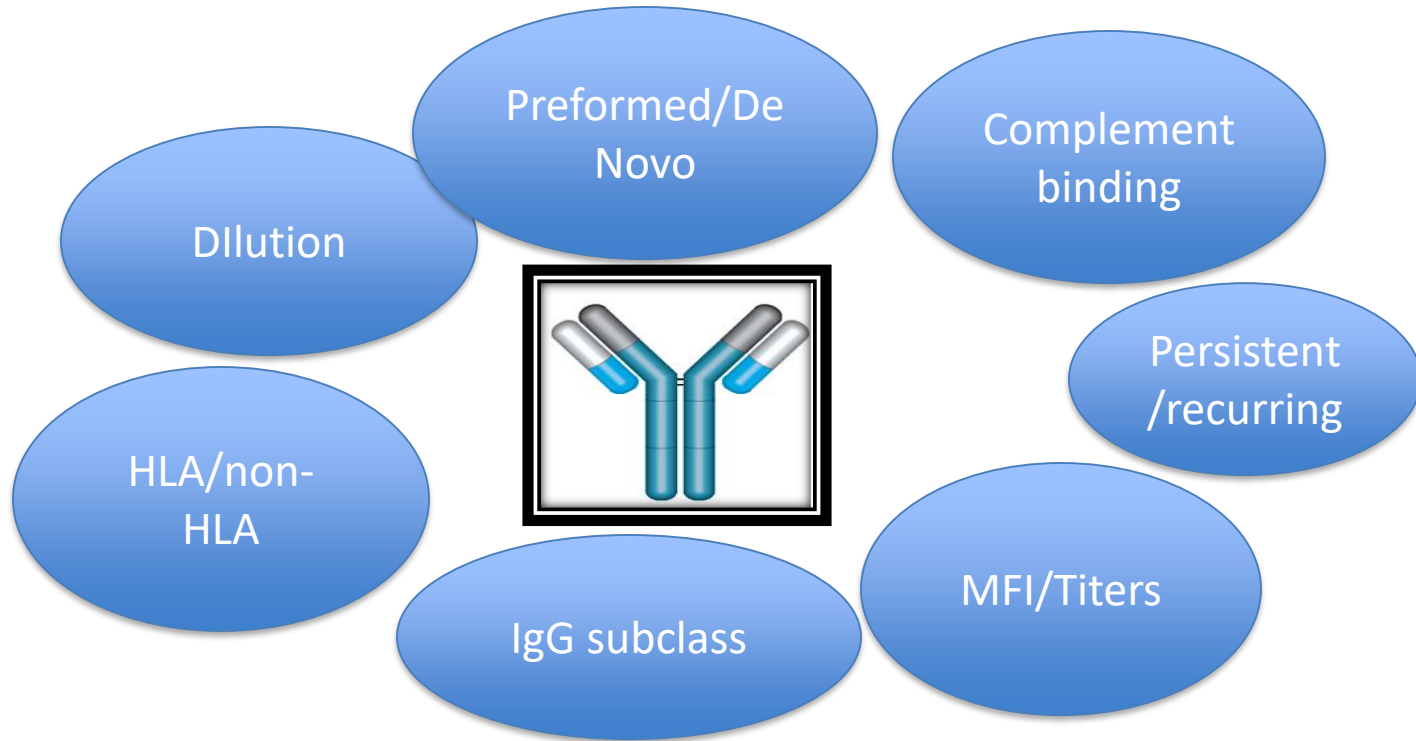
**Absence of injury**

**Acute AMR**

**Indolent changes leading to CLAD**

**Not all DSA's carry the same risk for these outcomes.**

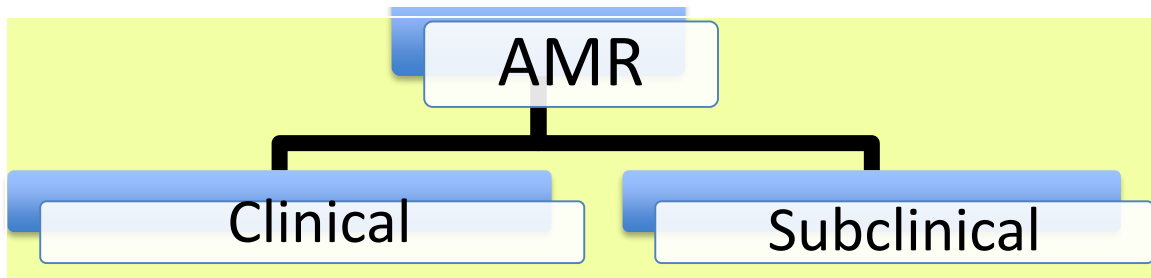
What characteristics of DSA's should we look for when evaluating for treatment? Do these studies provide this?



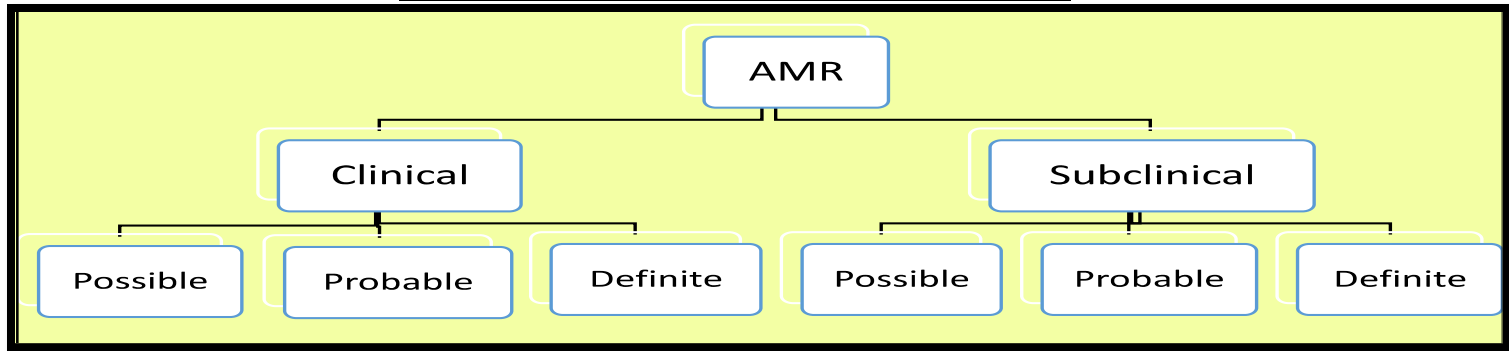
2016 ISHLT consensus focuses on DSA as an integral characteristic when defining AMR...

Measurable graft  
dysfunction

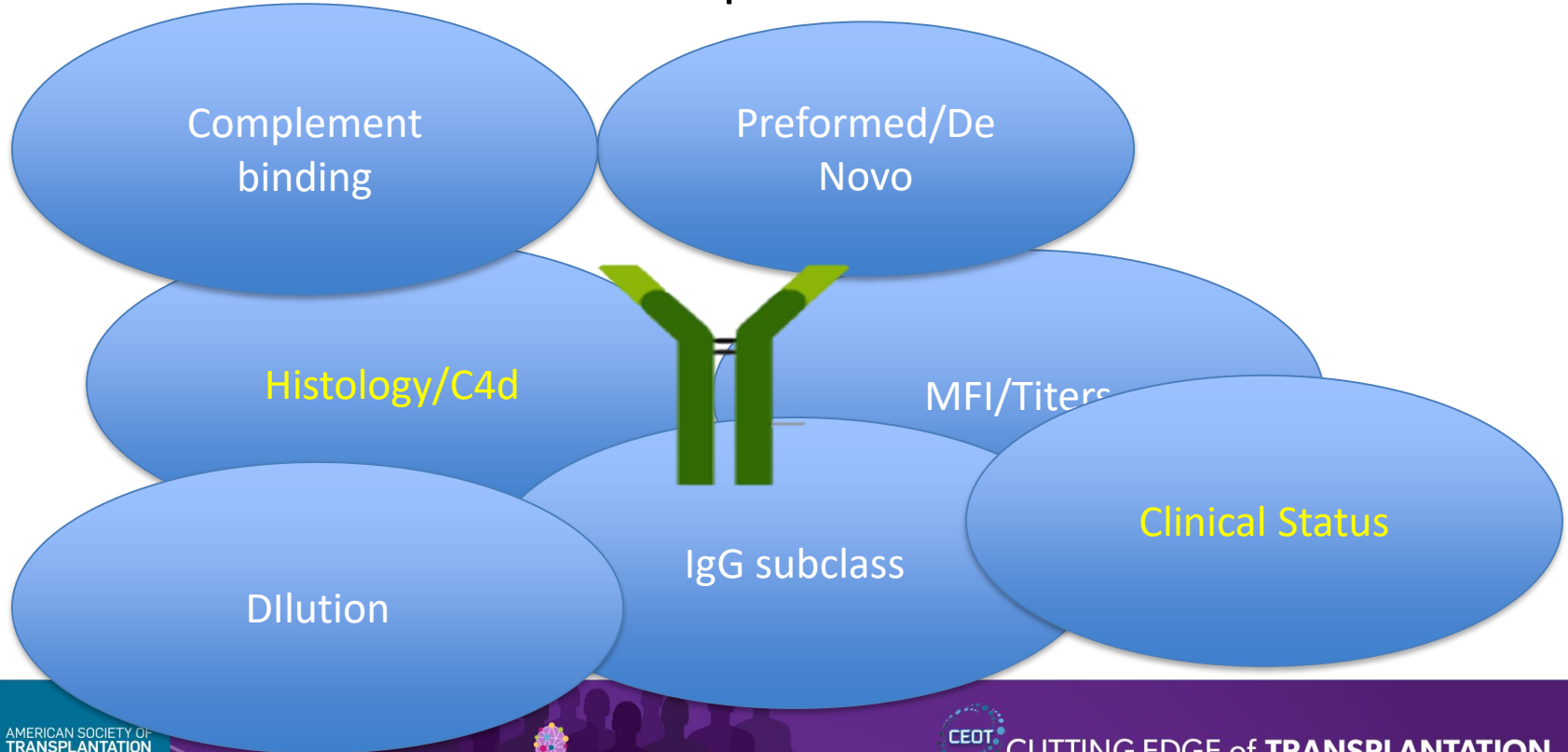
No graft  
dysfunction



## Degree of Certainty



Each DSA is unique, each patient is unique, each situation is unique

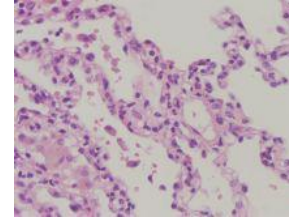


Do we have the tools we need to identify individual patients with DSA who may be at higher risk for AMR, CLAD and decreased survival?

Patient

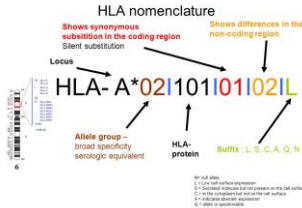


Pathology



What we use now:  
Useful clinical tools

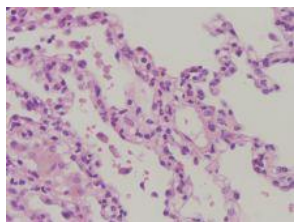
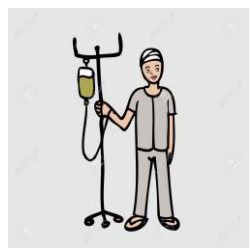
HLA lab



Pulmonary function



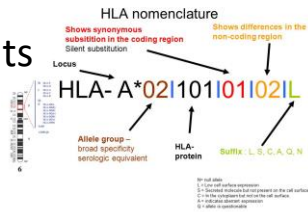
Low sensitivity  
Low specificity



Sampling error  
Poor reproducibility  
Inter-observer variability  
Experience dependent

**All of these  
diagnostic tools have  
inherent issues**

False positive  
False negative  
Discordant results  
Specificity



HLA lab



No definite thresholds  
Variability  
Low prognostic capacity  
Other etiologic factors







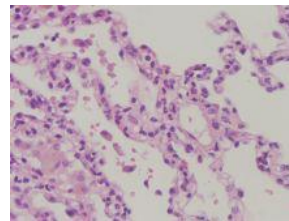
# Challenges in DSA lab assessment

Challenges	Interpretations
False positive result	Clinically irrelevant HLA-ab to denatured antigens Nonspecific binding of IgG (ie: following therapy with IVIg)
False low MFI or negative results	Inhibition of SAB assay due to intrinsic and extrinsic factors Lack of donor antigen in the Luminex bead assay
Discordant results between SAB-MFI and reactivity using cellular targets	False low MFI: DSA to a shared target present on multiple beads
Assessment of DSA specificity	Incorrect assignment when donor allele is missing
AMR features without serum HLA DSA	Presence of non-IgG DSA of non-HLA Ab of DSA against a non-typed HLA gene or DSA against an HLA allele not represented in the SAB assay

# Limitations of our current knowledge may lead to opportunity...

- Reflect the need for additional diagnostics then is provided by our conventional histologic, serologic and functional work up. (ie: be addressed by newer techniques)
- Reflect the need for better use of our current techniques (ie: closer and more standardized monitoring, increasing the sensitivity and specificity of our present analyses).
- May be a combination of both.... (ie: molecular profiling added to new histologic findings or cfDNA added during close monitoring of pulmonary function).

Patient



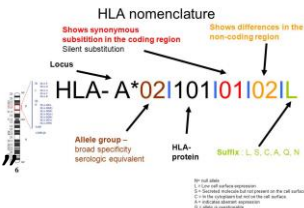
Pathology  
“alveolar septal widening”



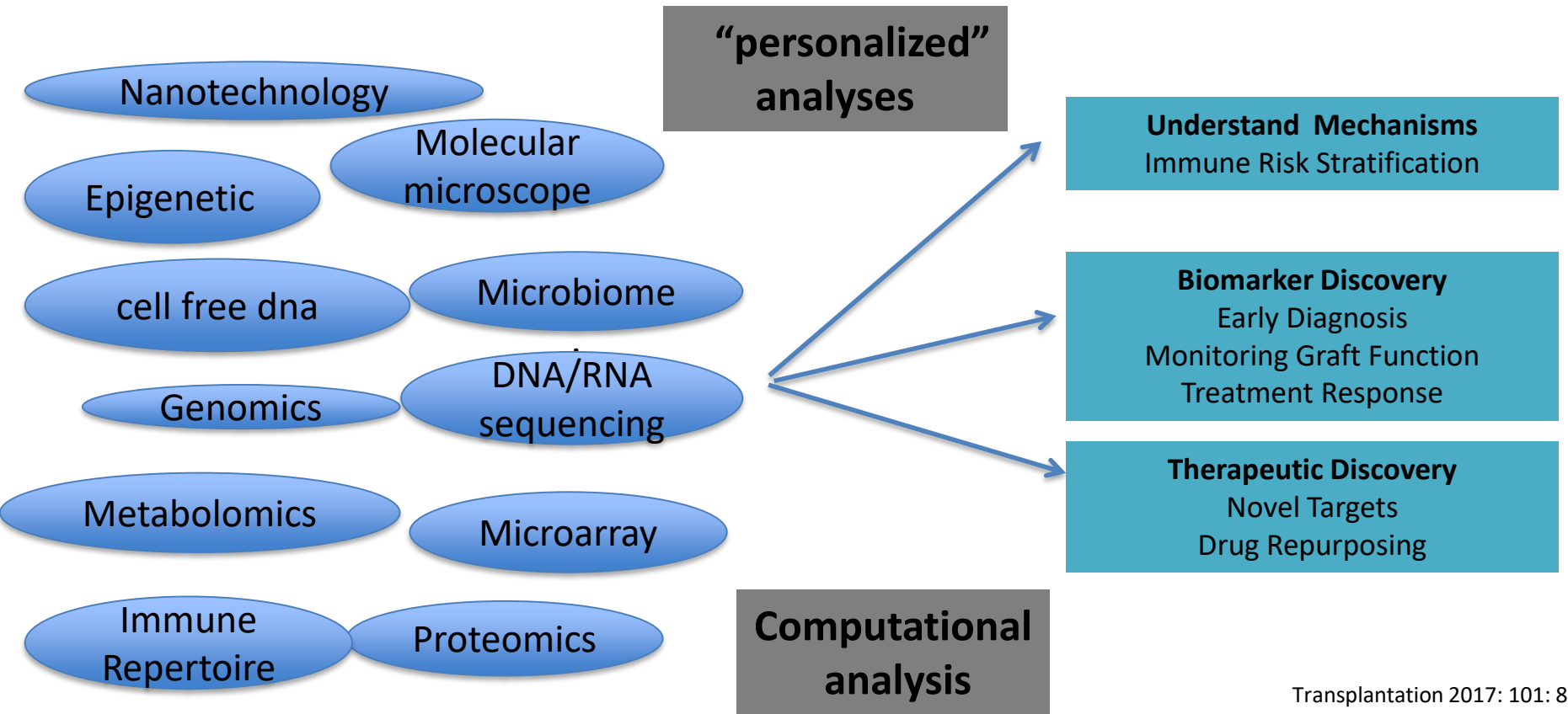
Tools we use now  
How we use them  
May not be enough to guide  
individualized therapy



HLA lab  
“eplet  
Matching”



Pulmonary function



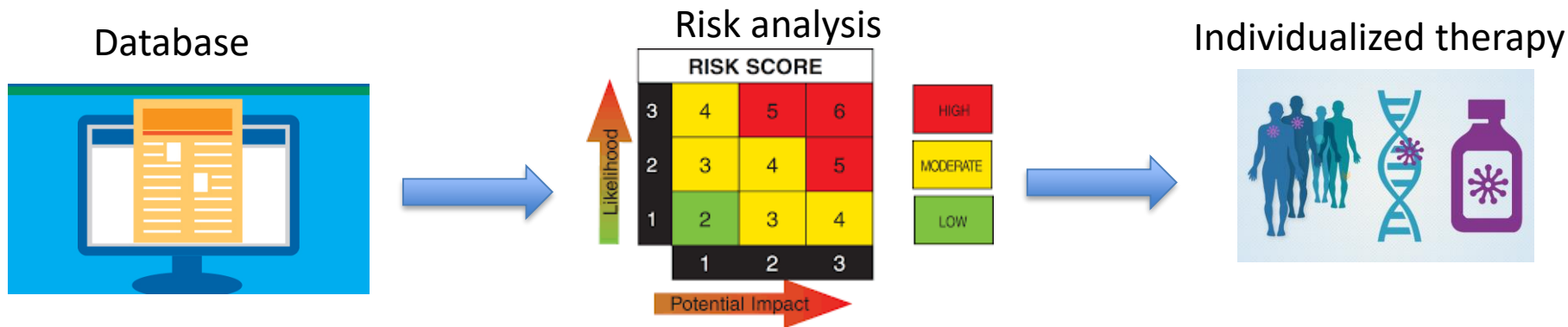
Transplantation 2017; 101: 8

Maybe with these combinations we could *objectively*  
and *confidently* assess the risks of each patient with  
DSA.

Treat those who would benefit from therapy and hold  
on therapy on those who would not.

# How do we get there?

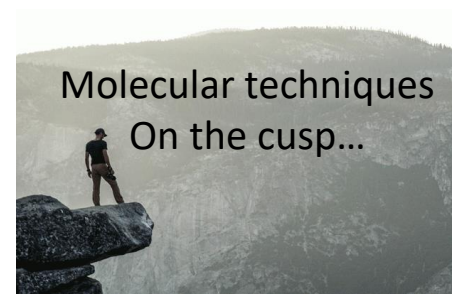
## Data, lots of data



Implementation of a large-scale diagnostic registry is crucial to identify and develop risk characteristics and eventually lead to successful precision therapy..

# 1. Data collection

- Current and novel data points.
- Amalgamation of clinical, historical, behavioral, functional and genetic data important in risk stratification.
- Prospective data collection with *serial* measurements.



180 - Molecular Diagnosis of Rejection Phenotypes in Lung Transplant Biopsies: Initial Findings of the INTERLUNG Study

Clin Transplant 2016; 30: 295–303 DOI: 10.1111/ctr.12689

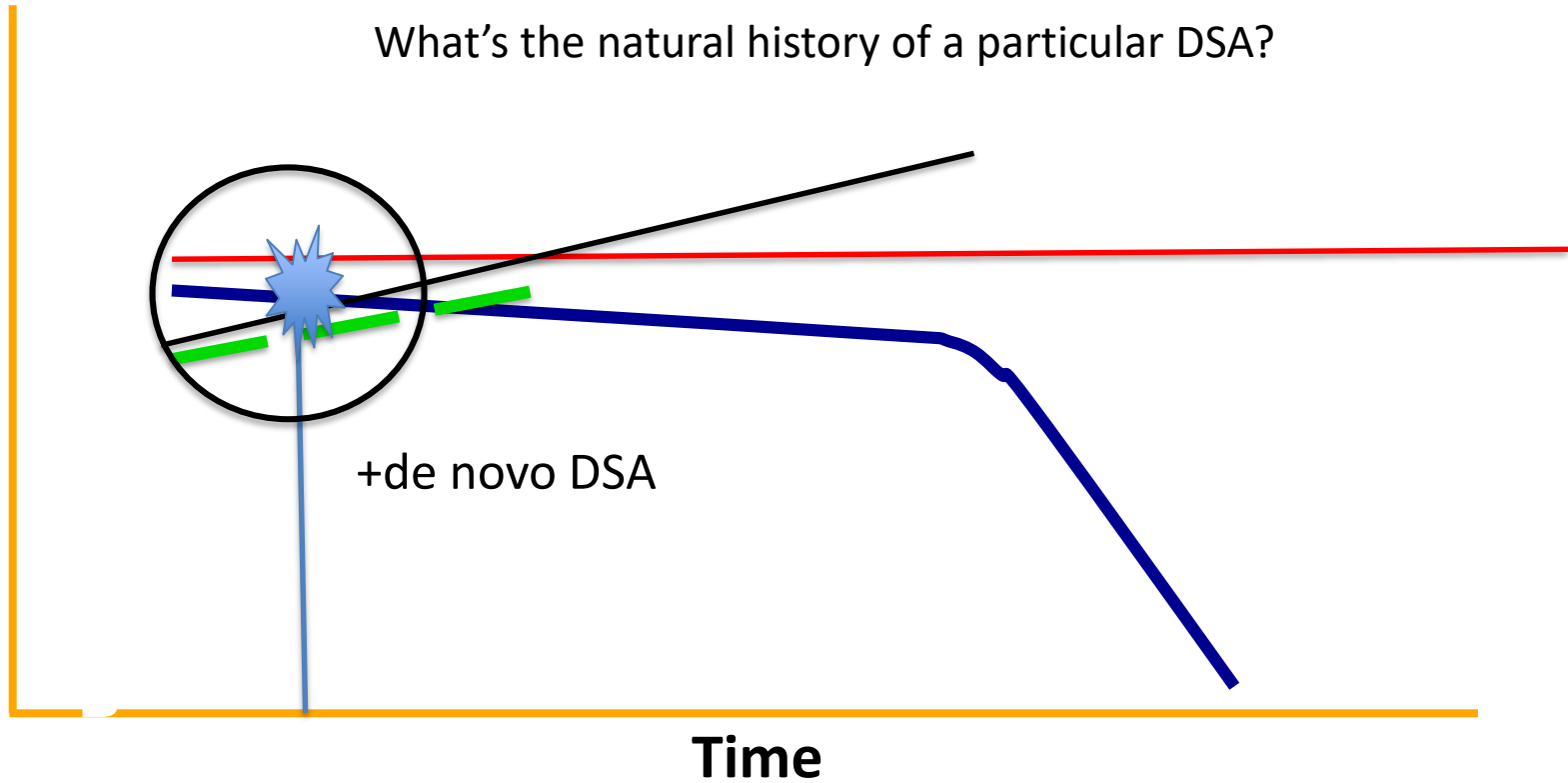
© 2016 John Wiley & Sons A/S. Published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd  
Clinical Transplantation

Multiplexed color-coded probe-based gene expression assessment for clinical molecular diagnostics in formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded human renal allograft tissue





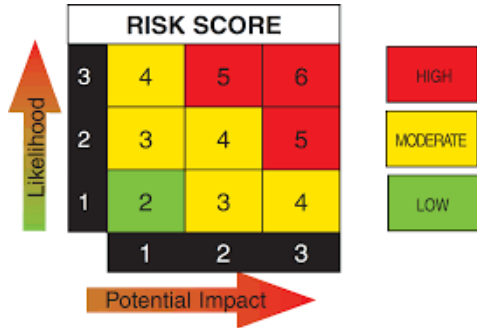
What's the natural history of a particular DSA?



# Centralized multi-center registry

- Agree on a standardized diagnostic schedule for monitoring:
  - Frequency
  - Types of tests
  - Patients to test
  - Cost-benefit
  - Outcomes required to follow
- Determine the outcomes in a consistent manner
- ***Define DSA attributes that correlate with risk***
- ***Consider therapeutic options and post therapy follow up***

## 2. Risk Assessment is a continuous endeavor.



### 3. Individualized “precision” therapy: Not just how to treat but *who* to treat and when?

- **Who do we treat?**
  - Specific patients?
  - Specific antibodies?
  - Specific titers?
- **When do we treat?**
  - Asymptomatic or wait for symptoms?
- **How do we treat?**
  - Do we treat all antibodies the same?
  - How many courses/cycles of treatment is appropriate

# What outcomes do we expect after “Successful treatment” of De Novo DSA?

- Antibody clearance (what is the definition?)\*
- Antibody reduction (what constitutes success?)
  - Reduction of what? (MFI? Titer?)
  - How much of a reduction is necessary?
- Prevention of graft dysfunction?
- Prevention of AMR, CLAD?
- Survival?

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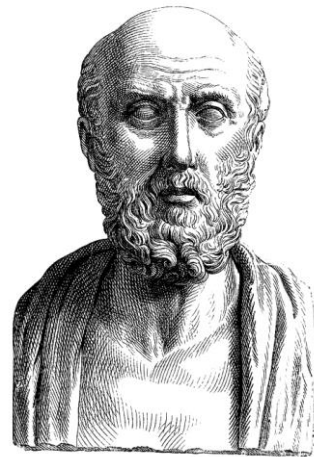
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“It is far more important to know what sort of person the disease has, than what sort of disease the person has.”

# Hippocrates



“It is far more important to know what sort of person the disease has, than what sort of disease the person has.”



Thank you!  
Any questions?

Email: [Levinedj@uthscsa.edu](mailto:Levinedj@uthscsa.edu)

