

# Transplantation for Leukemia: How much regimen intensity is needed?

Daniel Weisdorf, MD  
*University of Minnesota*

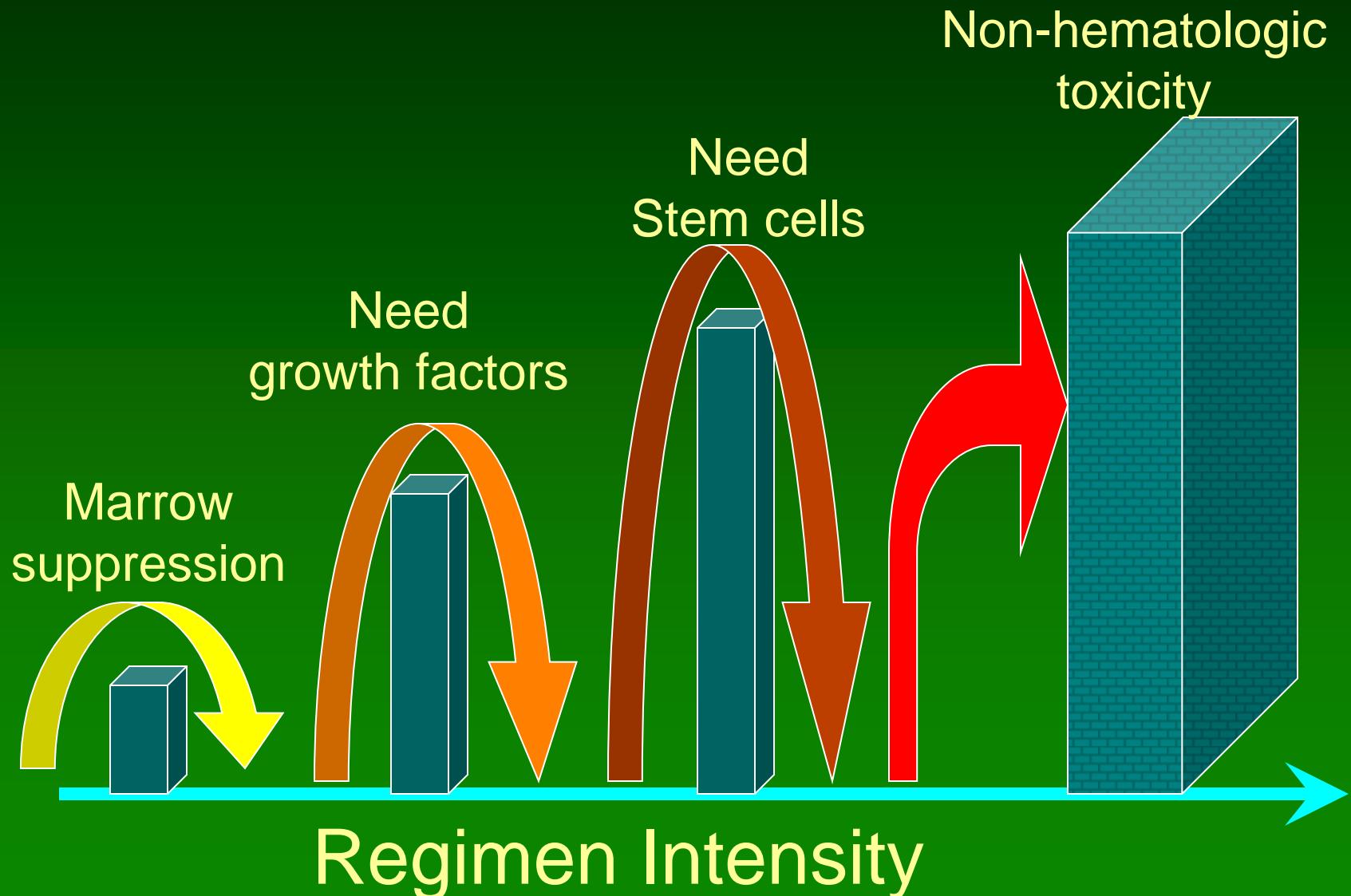
Capetown, 2014

# Transplants for Cancer

Stem cells are Restorative

Conditioning designed for  
Therapeutic Index  
Not for leukemia efficacy

# Dose Intensity for BMT



# Anti-cancer effects of BMT

Kill the cancer cells

Save the patient

Restore immunocompetence

Prevent Infection

Prevent cancer recurrence {GVL}

# Anti-cancer effects of BMT

Kill the cancer cells

Save the patient

Restore immunocompetence

- Undesired tissue toxicity
- Undesired enhancement of GVHD

# Dose-limiting toxicities

Cyclophosphamide  
gut, bladder, heart

TBI  
mucosa, lung

Busulfan  
lung, gut, liver

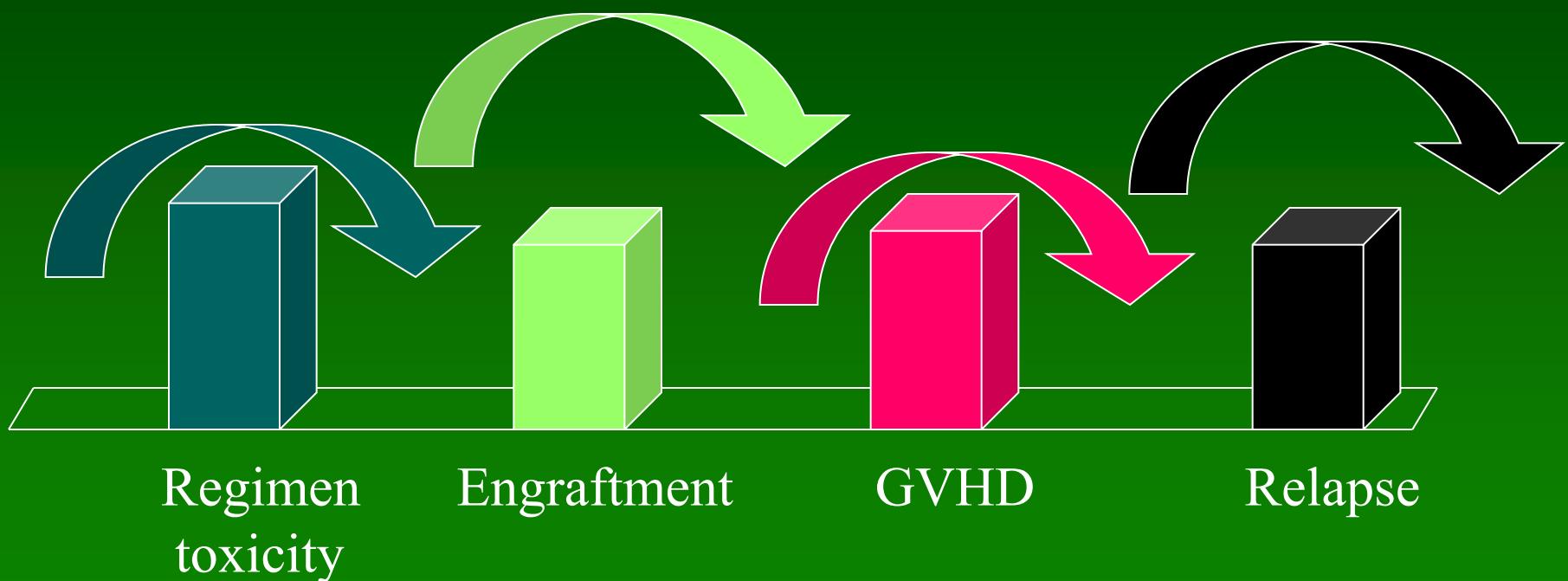
Dose-intensity may not prevent relapse

AML - beyond CR1  
bad cytogenetics

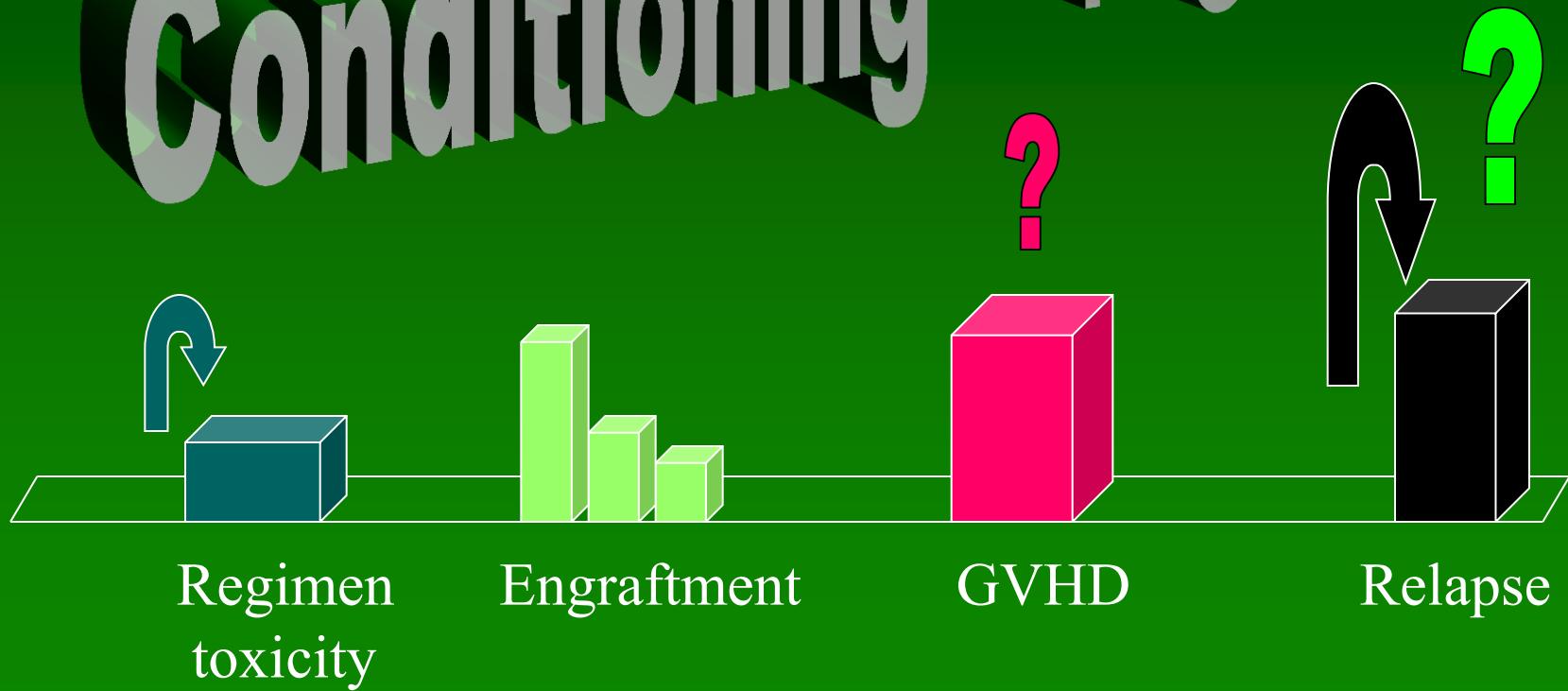
ALL-most except standard risk CR2

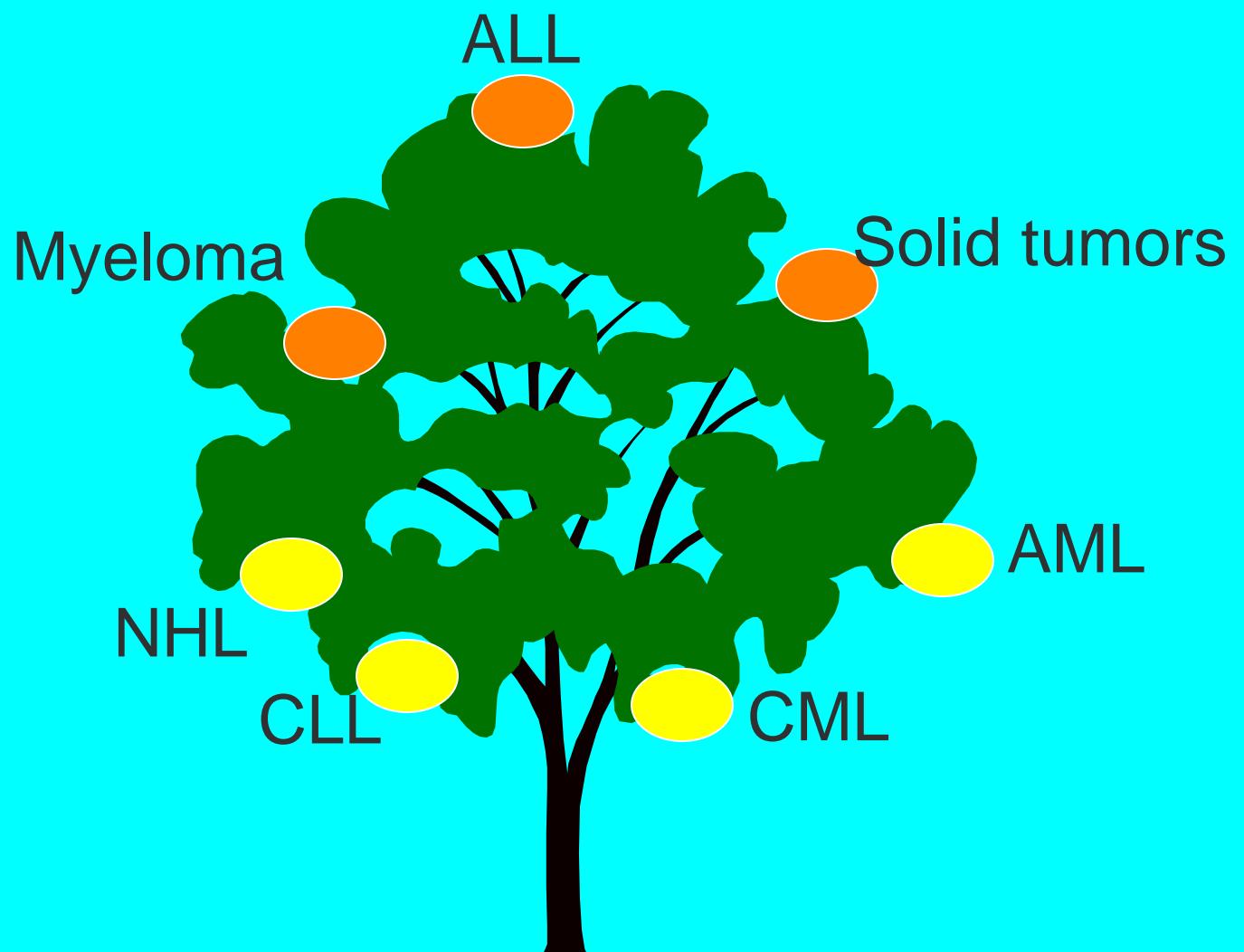
High grade NHL, Myeloma,  
Solid tumors

# Barriers to Transplant Success

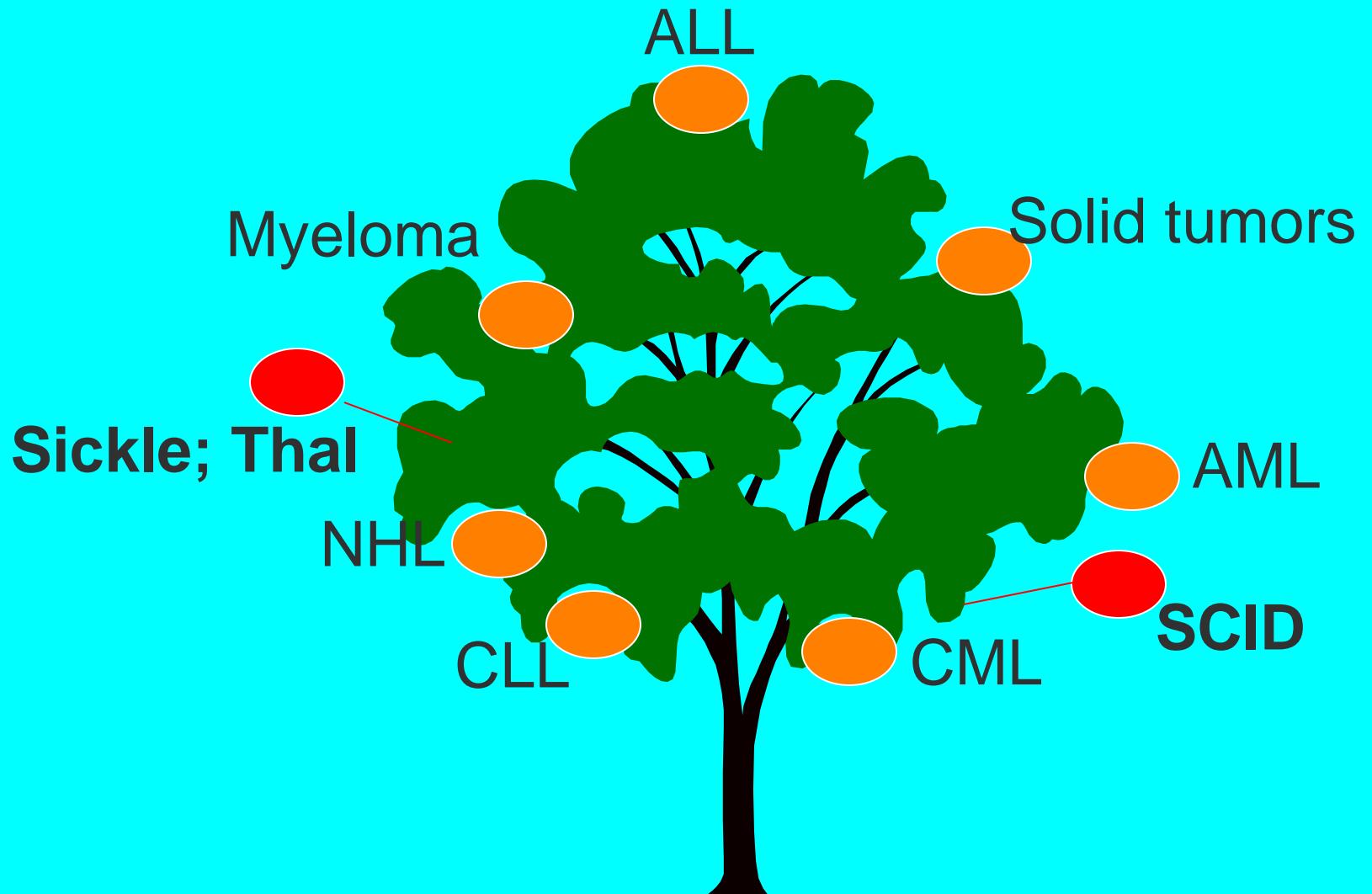


# Non myeloablative Conditioning $\neq$ GVL



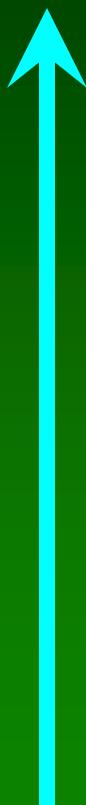


# Graft vs Tumor Effects



# Graft vs Trouble Effects

# Allogeneic Immune Susceptibility



CML

CLL/low grade NHL

AML

Hodgkins disease, Myeloma

ALL/High grade NHL

Solid tumors

# Reduced Intensity Transplants

Limit conditioning toxicity

Retain the allogeneic anti-tumor effects

---

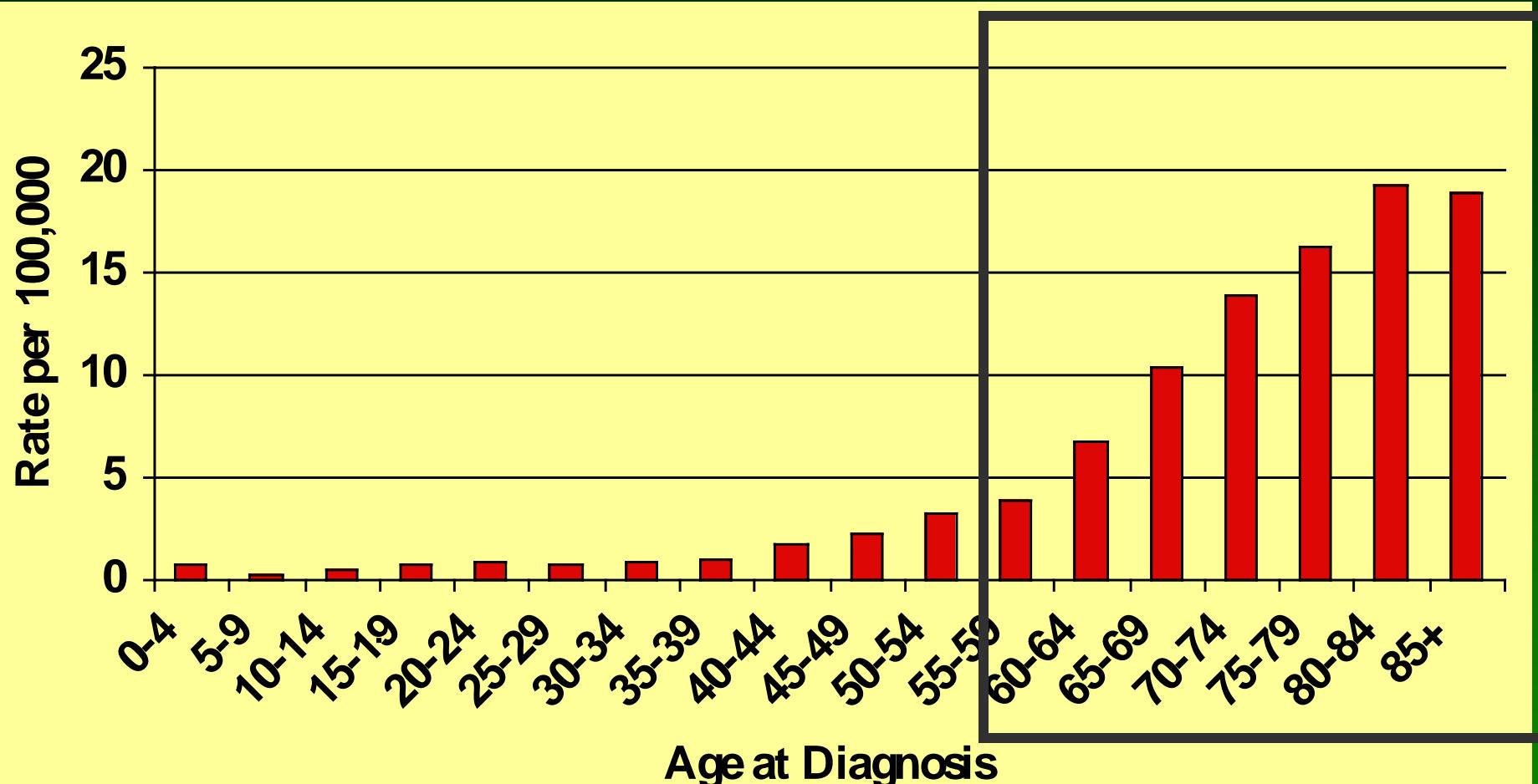
Establish a lymphoid graft

---

Immunoablation --- lymphodepletion

lymphoid space

# AML: Age Specific Incidence



SEER Data 1973-1997

*AGE <54 = ~ 25% OF ALL AML CASES*

# **Similar Outcomes Using Myeloablative versus Reduced Intensity and Non-Myeloablative Allogeneic Transplant Preparative Regimens for AML or MDS**

**Luger, Pulsipher et al**

**BMT, 2012**

# Patient Selection

- Allogeneic bone marrow and/or PBSC
- HLA-identical sibling or URD HCT
- AML or MDS, reported to the CIBMTR, 1997-2004
- Age 18-70 years

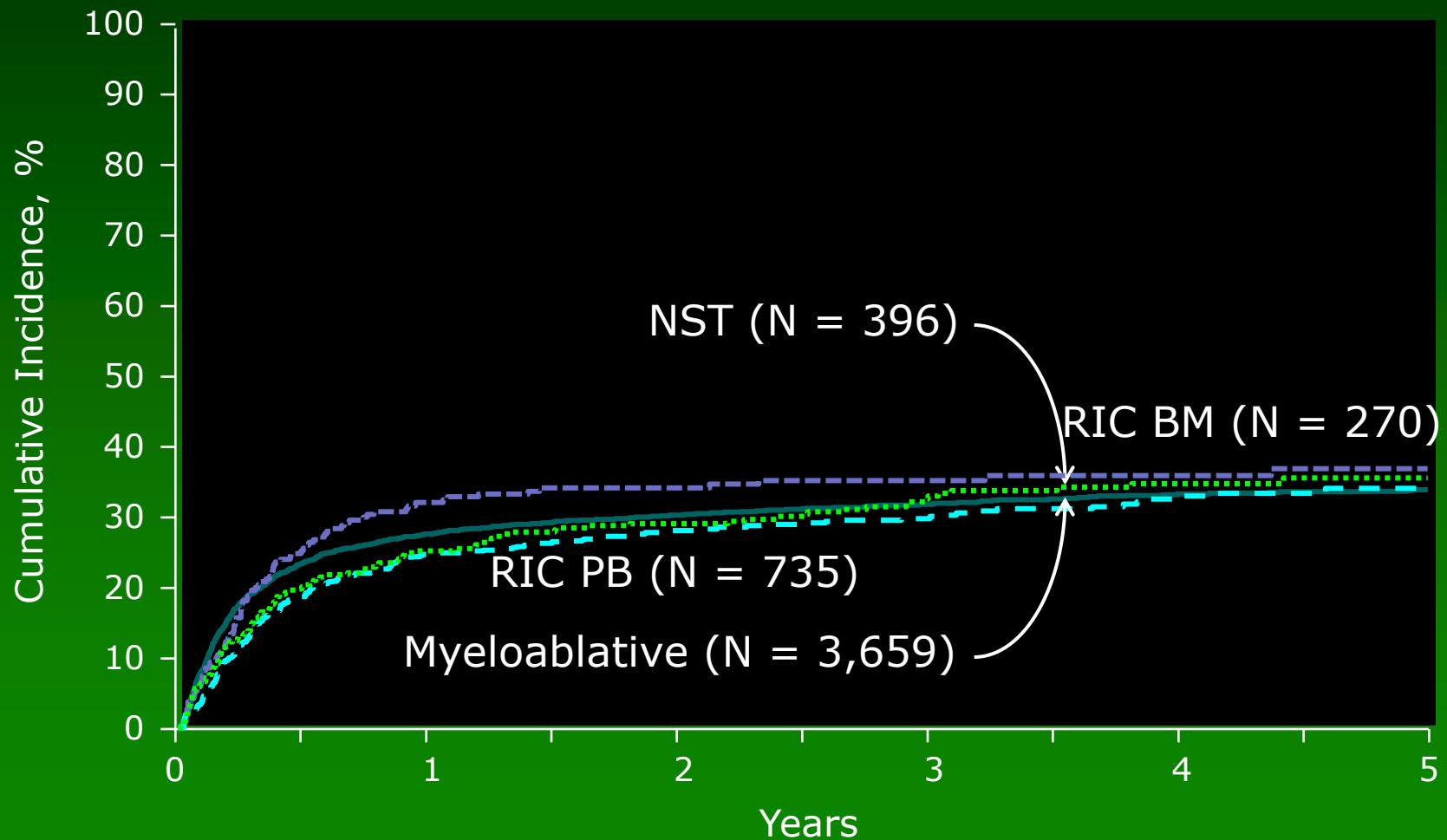
# Patient Characteristics

<b>Variable</b>	<b>MA</b>	<b>RIC</b>	<b>NST</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>3731</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>Age, y</b>	<b>42</b> <b>(18-68)</b>	<b>55</b> <b>(18-70)</b>	<b>57</b> <b>(18-70)</b>

# Conditioning Regimen Intensity: CIBMTR Categories

- **Myeloablative (MA) n=3731**
  - Cy/TBI (n=1635), Bu/Cy (n=1575)
  - TBI  $\geq$ 500 cGy, or >800 cGy fx (n=144)
  - Mel  $\geq$ 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (n=57)
  - Bu >9 mg/kg (n=320)
- **Reduced-intensity (RIC) n=1041**
  - TBI <500 cGy, or <800 cGy fx (n=149)
  - Mel  $\leq$ 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (n=378)
  - Bu  $\leq$ 9 mg/kg (n=514)
- **Non-myeloablative (NST) n=407**
  - TBI 200 cGy (n=34), Flu/TBI 200 cGy (n=245)
  - Flu/Cy (n=128)

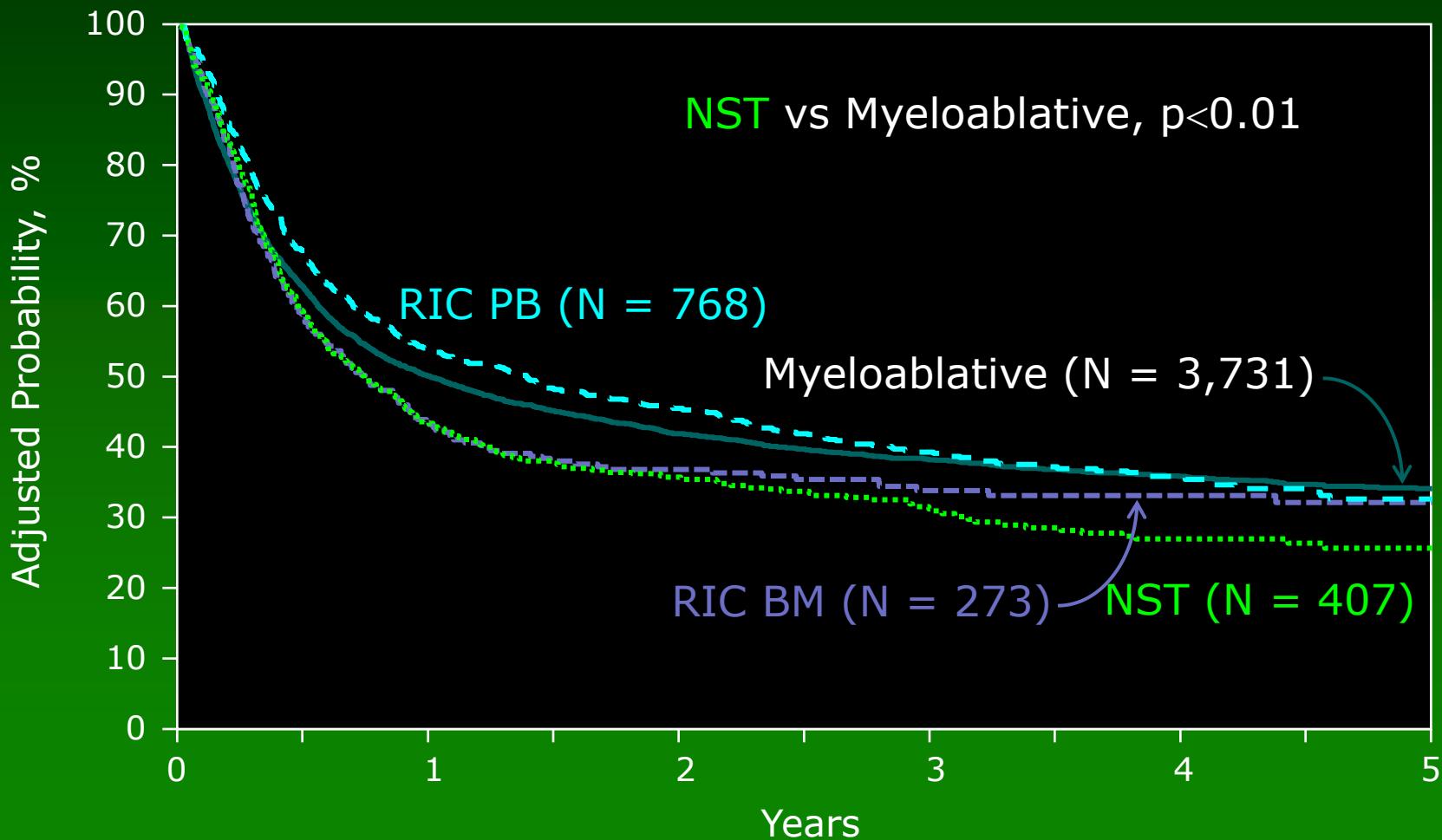
# Cumulative Incidence of Treatment-Related Mortality



# Relative Risk of Relapse

Variables	N	RR (95% CI)	P
Myeloablative	3659	1.00	
RIC BM	270	1.51 (1.23-1.85)	<0.001
RIC PB	735	1.06 (0.92-1.22)	0.44
NST	396	1.65 (1.40-1.96)	<0.001

# Adjusted Probability of Overall Survival



# Conclusions: MA vs RIC vs NST for AML/MDS

- Rates of engraftment and acute GVHD similar
- TRM lower for RIC early, but similar by 36 months

# Conclusions

- More relapse with NST
- MA and RIC relapse rates are similar
- 5-yr OS using each approach similar;

But

slightly higher mortality with NST

# MA vs. RIC for Adult Ph- ALL

- ◆ Allogeneic HCT BM or PBSC
- ◆ HLA-identical sibling or unrelated donor  
1995-2007
- ◆ Age  $\geq$  16 years
- ◆ CR1 or CR2

Marks et al  
Blood, 2010

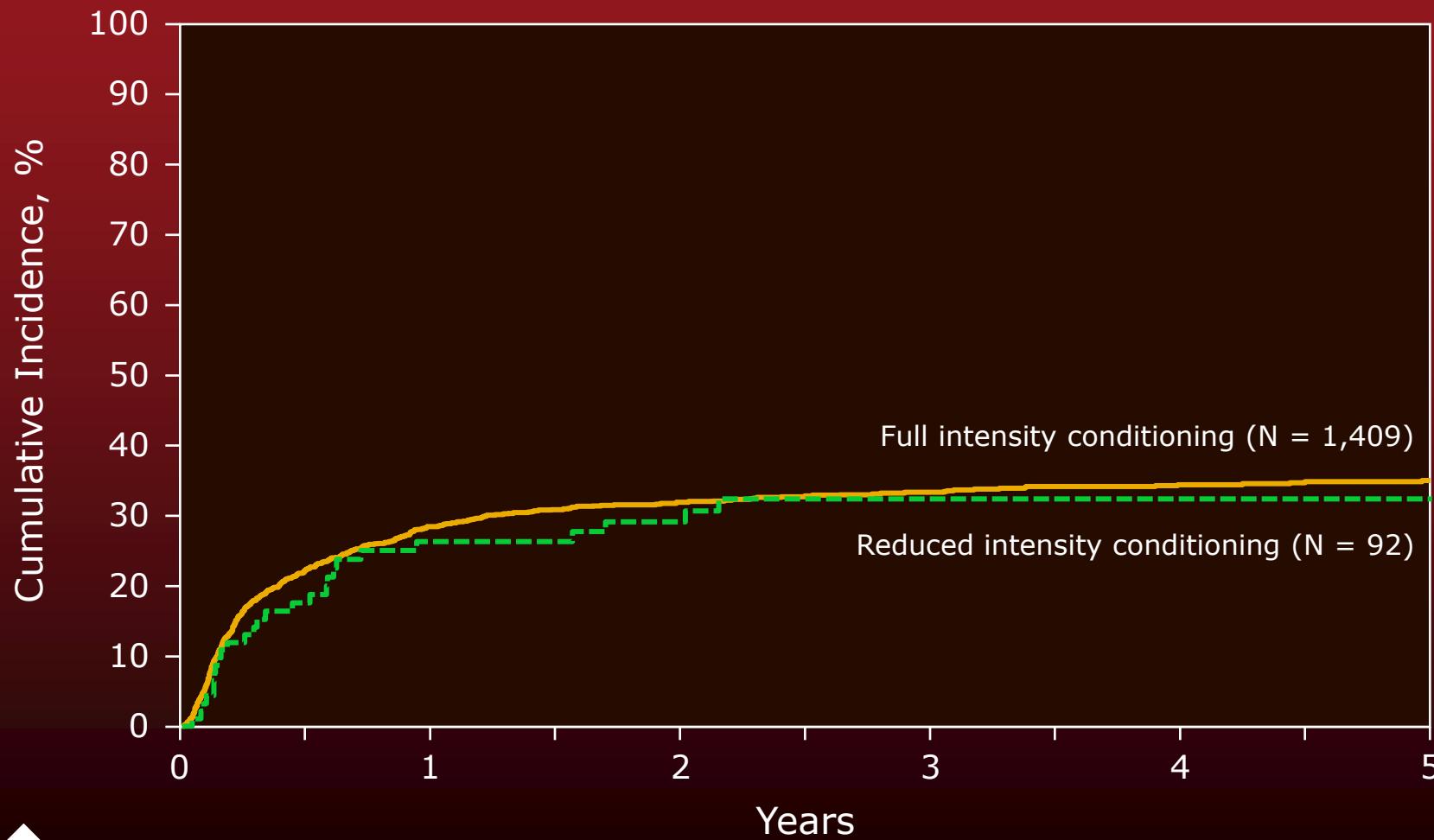
# Clinical Characteristics

	RIC	MA	P-value
Number	93	1428	
Age, yr	45 (17-66)	28 (16-62)	<0.001
Age > 50 yr	43%	7%	<0.001
KPS < 80%	14%	7%	0.07
CR1	59%	52%	0.20
HLA-id sibling	41%	32%	0.09
PBSC grafts	73%	43%	<0.001
2002-2007	73%	51%	<0.001

# Similar Outcomes

Outcome	RIC	MA
Acute GVHD @ 100d (grades II-IV)	39%	46%
Chronic GVHD @ 3 years	34%	42%
TRM @ 3 years	32%	33%

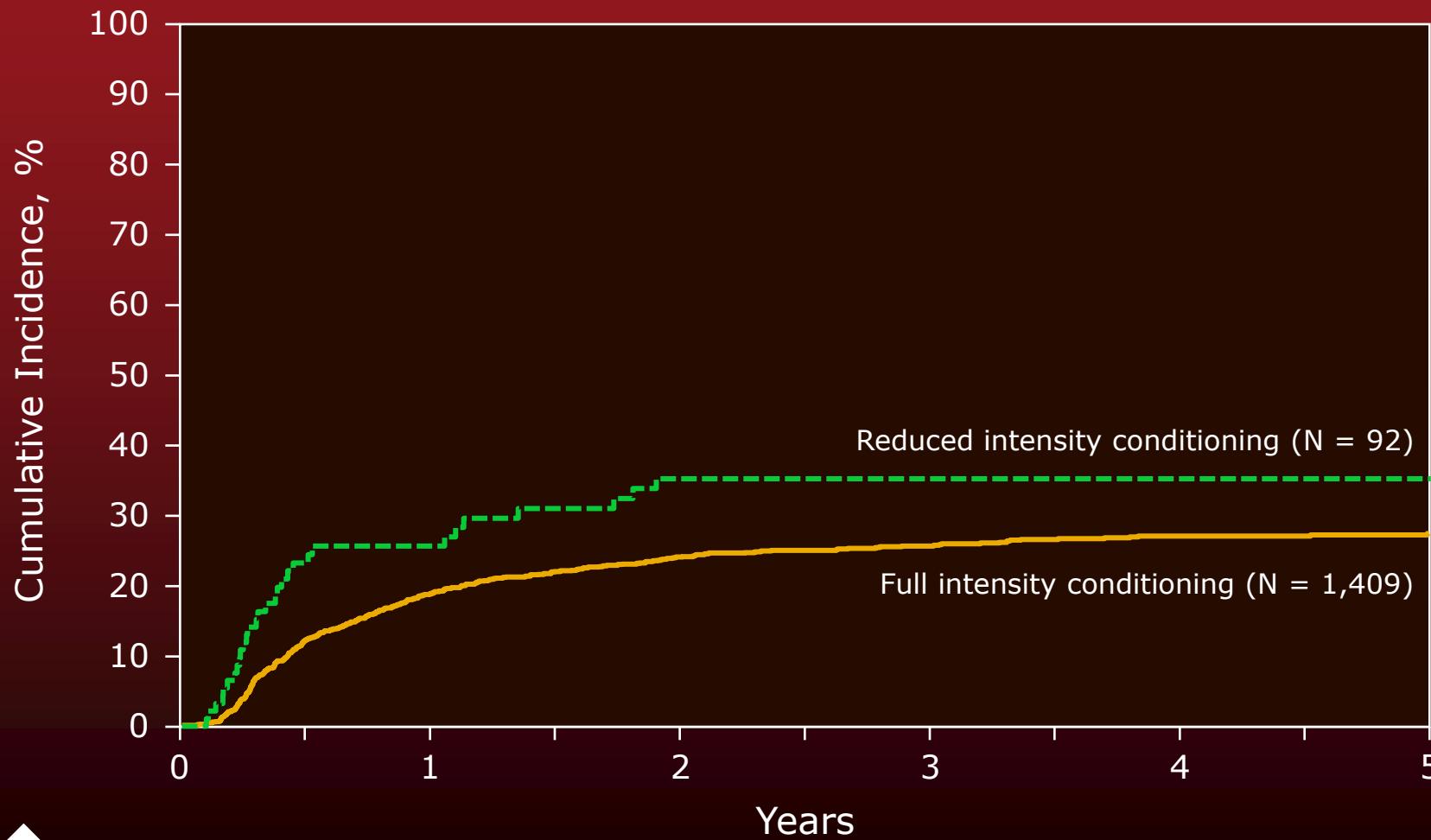
# Cumulative Incidence of Treatment-related Mortality



# Similar Outcomes

Outcome	RIC	MA
Acute GVHD @ 100d (grades II-IV)	39%	46%
Chronic GVHD @ 3 years	34%	42%
TRM @ 3 years	32%	33%
Relapse @ 3 years	35%	26%
Overall Survival @ 3 years	38%	43%

# Cumulative Incidence of Relapse



# Relative Risk of Relapse

Factor	RR	P-value
<b>RIC vs. MA</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>0.15</b>
Other factors:		
< 12 months CR1	2.74	<0.01
Acute GVHD, Grades II-IV	0.54	0.02
Chronic GVHD	0.80	0.08

# HCT in CR2: Univariate Outcomes

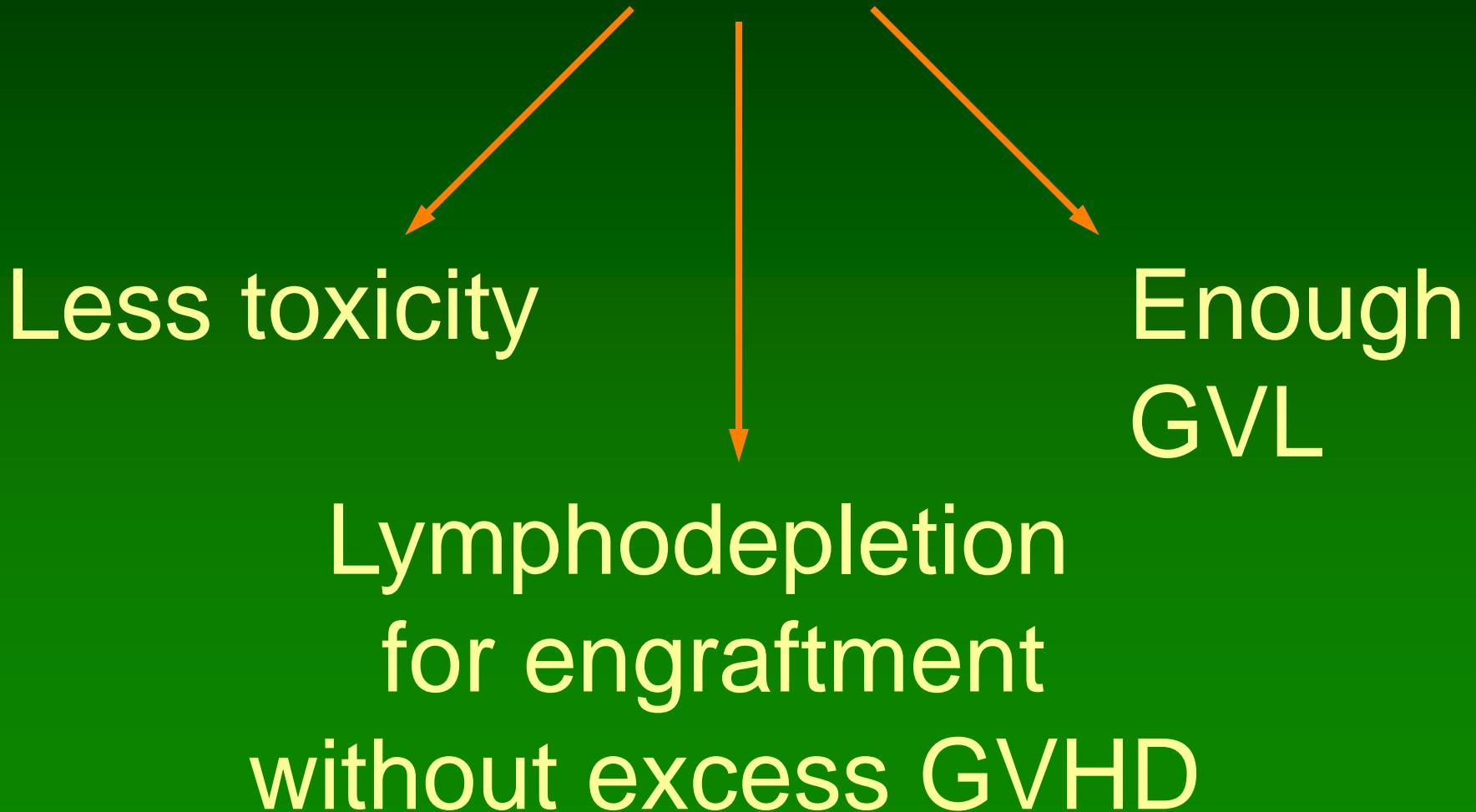
	RIC	MA	P value
Relapse @ 3y	30 (17-46)	31 (28-35)	0.91
OS @ 3y	28 (14-44)	33 (30-37)	0.51

Marks et al  
Blood, 2010

# Adjusted Probability of Overall Survival



# Can a Non-ablative prep?



# Clinical implications of less toxic BMT

Less morbidity & mortality

Applicable to older, sicker populations

Outpatient; less costly

Useful in newer clinical settings

# Situational choices for conditioning intensity in allogeneic transplantation

Younger

*Tolerate more intense conditioning or GVHD*

Resistant tumor

*Need more GVL + more conditioning*

Pre-BMT infections

*Need faster immune recovery*

Modify graft & technique