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1 **Impact of Cyclosporine-A Concentration on Acute Graft-versus-Host Disease Incidence**
2 **after Haploidentical Hematopoietic Cell Transplantation**

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30 **Abstract**

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32 Objectives: This retrospective study analyzed the impact of early cyclosporine-A (CsA)
33 initiation (day – 3) on the risk of acute graft-versus-host disease (aGvHD) after haploidentical
34 hematopoietic cell transplantation (Haplo-HCT) using post-transplant cyclophosphamide

35 Methods: Sixty-one consecutive patients who underwent Haplo-HCT were analyzed.

36 Results: At day +180, the cumulative incidences of grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD were
37 39% and 18%, respectively. Patients having a lowest CsA concentration (<301 ng/mL; the
38 cut-off value used to segregate the patients between low and high CsA concentrations) in
39 the first week after Haplo-HCT had a significantly higher risk of grade II-IV aGvHD (P= .02),
40 severe grade III-IV aGvHD (P = .03), cGvHD (P= .02) and extensive cGvHD (P= .04). In
41 multivariate analysis, a higher CsA concentration (≥ 301 ng/mL) during the first week
42 following Haplo-HCT was the only parameter significantly associated with a reduced risk of
43 grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD (RR=.21; P=.049 and RR<0.001; P<.0001, respectively). We
44 find no correlation between CsA concentration and relapse, non-relapse mortality,
45 progression free survival, GvHD-free and progression free survival or overall survival.

46 Conclusions: CsA could be initiated early before Haplo-HCT with achievement of high CsA
47 concentration to reduce the risk of aGvHD without any detrimental effect on relapse.

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49 Key words:

- 50 - Cyclosporine-A
- 51 - Haploidentical stem cell transplantation
- 52 - Post-transplant cyclophosphamide
- 53 - Acute graft-versus-host disease.

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57 Introduction

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59 Allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation using a related haploidentical donor
60 (Haplo-HCT) is an alternative option for patients lacking a fully matched sibling or a well
61 matched unrelated donor ¹. However, Haplo-HCT is limited by the immunologic recognition
62 and destruction of host tissues due to the number of HLA mismatches and termed graft-
63 versus-host disease (GvHD). Therefore, both in its acute and chronic forms (GvHD is one the
64 main life-threatening complications after Haplo-HCT ². However, new strategies have been
65 developed for GvHD prophylaxis post Haplo-HCT, such as the use of high dose anti-
66 thymocyte globulin (ATG) - the so called GIAC protocol - or the use of post-transplant high-
67 dose cyclophosphamide (PTCy) ³. In particular the use of high-dose PTCy (50 mg/kg days +3
68 and +4) has been developed as an effective GvHD prophylaxis by Luznik *et al.* ⁴, based on the
69 rationale that cyclophosphamide is non-toxic to hematopoietic stem cells and can selectively
70 deplete the alloreactive T cells. In this first report, PTCy was combined with mycophenolate
71 mofetil (MMF) and tacrolimus, which were initiated after completion of PTCy to avoid
72 blocking Cy-induced tolerance ^{4,5}. Bacigalupo *et al.* slightly modified the GvHD prophylaxis
73 with PTCy (50 mg/kg days +3 and +5) together with CsA and MMF started at day 0 and day
74 +1 respectively, resulting in a 4% incidence of grade III-IV acute GvHD (aGvHD) with bone-
75 marrow (BM) grafts ⁶. However, use of peripheral blood stem cells grafts (PBSC) in the PTCy
76 setting is associated with an increased risk of aGvHD compared to BM grafts ⁷ highlighting
77 the need to reinforce GvHD prophylaxis in those patients. Therefore, in our center when
78 using PBSC grafts for Haplo-HCT with PTCy, we decided to incorporate a low dose of ATG in
79 the conditioning regimen and initiated CsA earlier at day -3 before transplant, to lower the
80 risk of GvHD associated with PBSC ⁷.

81 The importance of achieving a high CsA concentration early after transplant to lower the
82 incidence of aGvHD has been clearly demonstrated ⁸⁻¹¹. However, all the studies have been
83 performed outside of the Haplo-HCT setting and the exact role of an early high CsA
84 concentration on aGvHD remains to be determined. Furthermore, whether to start CsA
85 before or after PTCy still remains controversial. Thus, while it was thought that
86 administration of a calcineurin inhibitor before PTCy could interfere with Cy induced
87 tolerance, initiation of CsA before PTCy has been reported to be associated with a very low
88 incidence of aGvHD without suppressing the PTCy effect ⁶.

89 With this background, we decided to retrospectively analyze 61 consecutive patients who
90 underwent Haplo-HCT with PBSC grafts and PTCy with the aim of assessing the impact of
91 early initiation of CsA (before PTCy), and the correlation between early CsA concentration
92 and the onset of aGvHD.

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96 **Patients and Methods**

97 **Patients**

98 Sixty-one patients who underwent Haplo-HCT for hematological malignancies between
99 October 2013 and August 2017 at the University Hospital of Saint-Antoine (AP-HP, Paris,
100 France) were included in this retrospective single-center study. The primary endpoint of the
101 study was to determine the impact of the serum CsA concentration on the risk of grade II-IV
102 aGvHD. For the purpose of this analysis, all patients who received Haplo-HCT with PTCy and
103 a PBSC graft were included. Written informed consent was obtained from each patient and
104 donor. This study was approved by the hospital's institutional review board, and the local
105 ethics committee. All patients had no HLA-identical sibling or unrelated donor available or a
106 suitable unrelated donor was not available within the appropriate time frame for the
107 patient's malignancy and clinical circumstances. HLA typing was performed according to the
108 recommendations of the European Federation for Immunogenetics (EFI) Histocompatibility
109 Laboratory standards during the study period. Molecular high-resolution typing of HLA-A, -B,
110 -C, -DQB1, and -DRB1 alleles was performed for each patient and donor.

111 **Transplantation Procedure**

112 All patients received the preparative regimen as inpatients in private rooms and remained
113 hospitalized until hematopoietic and clinical recovery. They all received granulocyte-colony
114 stimulating factor mobilized PBSC as grafts and post-transplantation immunosuppression
115 with CsA and MMF. CsA was administered at a dose of 3mg/kg by continuous intravenous
116 infusion starting from day -3 and changed to twice daily oral dosing as soon as tolerated.
117 MMF was administered at a fixed oral dose of 2g per day starting from day +5 without

118 adjustment. In the absence of GvHD, MMF and CsA were tapered over 4 weeks starting from
119 day +60 and day +90, respectively. Of note, supportive care was the same for all patients
120 during the whole study period. CMV infection management was also homogeneous. All
121 blood products were filtered, irradiated and CMV screened. In the first 100 days post Haplo-
122 HCT, patients were assessed at least once per week for CMV reactivation by PCR assay to
123 initiate preemptive ganciclovir therapy.

124 **CsA Concentration Monitoring and Diagnosis of GvHD**

125 CsA blood trough concentrations were monitored 3 times per week during the intravenous
126 treatment and at least once per week after switch to oral dosing. Trough levels of CsA were
127 assessed by radioimmunoassay (RIA) using commercially available kits (Immunotech,
128 Beckman-Coulter, France) according to the manufacturer's procedures. Blood samples were
129 collected early in the morning. For the purpose of this analysis, the mean weekly con-
130 centration of CsA was calculated for each patient using the different concentrations
131 measured during a defined week. CsA doses were adjusted to achieve blood levels of
132 between 200 and 300 ng/mL and to prevent renal dysfunction. Acute GvHD was diagnosed
133 and graded according to the revised Glucksberg criteria ¹² and chronic GvHD (cGvHD) was
134 diagnosed and graded according to the Seattle standard criteria ¹³. Time to neutrophil
135 recovery was defined as the first of 3 consecutive days in which the absolute neutrophil
136 count exceeded $0.5 \times 10^9/L$, and platelet recovery as the first of 5 consecutive days with a
137 platelet count above $50 \times 10^9/L$ without the need for platelet transfusion.

138 **Statistical Analysis**

139 Comparison between or patients who experienced no or grade I acute GvHD and patients
140 with grade II-IV aGvHD was carried out using the chi-squared test for categorical variables,
141 and the t-test for continuous data. The diagnostic values of the CsA concentration were
142 assessed at week 1, 2, 3 and 4 after Haplo-HCT by constructing ROC curves and then for each
143 one, calculating the area under the curve (AUC). The cumulative incidence of aGvHD, cGvHD,
144 relapse, and non-relapse mortality (NRM) were estimated and groups were compared using
145 Gray's test. Relapse was defined as a competitive risk for NRM, and vice versa. Progression-
146 free survival (PFS) was calculated from the date of Haplo-HCT until the time to relapse or
147 progression. Overall survival (OS) was calculated from the date of Haplo-HCT until the time
148 of death or the last observation if a patient remained alive. Refined GvHD-free and
149 progression-free survival (GPFS) was defined as a combination of survival with no evidence
150 of relapse/progression, grade III to IV aGvHD, and extensive cGvHD ¹⁴. Probabilities of PFS,
151 GPFS and OS were estimated using the Kaplan–Meier method and groups were compared
152 using the Log-rank test. Fine-Gray logistic regression analyses were performed with relevant
153 variables to identify independent risk factors for grade II-IV aGvHD, grade III-IV aGvHD,
154 cGvHD and extensive cGvHD development. All statistical analyses were performed using EZR
155 version 1.37 (Saitama Medical Center, Jichi Medical University, Japan), which is a graphical
156 user interface for R (The R Foundation for Statistical Computing; version 3.5.0) ¹⁵.

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161 **Results**

162 **Characteristics of Patients, Donors and Transplantations**

163 Patient, donor, and transplant characteristics are summarized in **Table 1**. The median age
164 was 53 years (range, 15-72), with 16 male patients (26%) receiving a graft from a female
165 donor. Diagnoses were myeloid malignancies (64 %) or lymphoid malignancies (36%).
166 According to the Disease Risk Index, patients were considered as low-risk, intermediate-risk,
167 high-risk or very-high-risk (8%, 56%, 31% and 5% respectively) ¹⁶. Twenty-five patients (41%)
168 with refractory disease received a sequential conditioning regimen based on thiotepa 5 to 10
169 mg/kg, etoposide 400 mg/m², and cyclophosphamide 1600 mg/m² between days -15 to -9,
170 followed by, after a 3-day rest, reduced intensity conditioning (RIC) with fludarabine 150
171 mg/m² and i.v. busulfan 6.4 mg/kg on days -6 to -1 ¹⁷, while the remaining 36 patients (59%)
172 received a reduced-intensity/toxicity conditioning (RIC/RTC) regimen based on 150 mg/m²
173 fludarabine, 2 to 3 days of 3.2 mg/kg/d busulfan and thiotepa. Fifty-one patients (83%)
174 received ATG as part of the conditioning regimen. All patients received standard PTCy, 9
175 (15%) at day +3 and 52(85%) at day +3 and day +5. Median follow-up among surviving
176 patients was 21 months (range, 13-53) (**Table 2**).

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178 **CsA Concentration and aGvHD**

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180 Median concentrations of CsA in the blood at 1, 2, 3, and 4 weeks after Haplo-HCT were 272
181 ng/mL (range, 114-911), 296 ng/mL (range, 132-516), 251 ng/mL (range, 111-485), and 246
182 ng/mL (range, 36-375), respectively (**Figure 1**). ROC curve analysis revealed that CsA
183 concentration was an accurate discriminator of the risk of grade II-IV aGvHD. The cut-off
184 values providing the best balance between sensitivity and specificity were 301ng/ml,

185 297ng/ml, 261ng/ml and 238ng/ml at 1, 2, 3, and 4 weeks after Haplo-HCT, respectively. At
186 day +180, the cumulative incidences of grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD were 39% and
187 18%, respectively. Univariate analysis of risk factors for grade II-IV aGvHD is shown in **Table**
188 **1**. Patients having the lowest CsA concentration in the first week after Haplo-HCT had a
189 significantly higher risk of grade II-IV aGvHD (P= .02) (**Table 2, Figure 2A**). Moreover, there
190 was a significant association between severe grade III-IV aGvHD and CsA concentration in
191 the first week after Haplo-HCT (P = .03) (**Table 2, Figure 2B**). In contrast, we did not find any
192 correlation between CsA concentration beyond the first week and the risk of aGvHD. In
193 multivariate logistic regression analyses (**Table 3**), a higher CsA concentration (≥ 301 ng/ mL;
194 the cut-off value used to segregate the patients between low and high CsA concentrations)
195 during the first week following Haplo-HCT was the only independent parameter significantly
196 associated with a reduced risk of grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD (RR .21; 95% CI, 0.05-
197 0.99, P = .049; and RR < .001; 95% CI, 0.000007-0.00005, P < .0001, respectively).

198

199 **Engraftment and Clinical Outcomes**

200 Engraftment and clinical outcome characteristics for the whole cohort and according to the
201 CsA level in the first week are summarized in **Table 2**. Median time for neutrophil and
202 platelet engraftment) was 18 days (range, 13 to 35) and 26 days (range, 14 to 88) ,
203 respectively. Three secondary graft failures occurred after Haplo-HCT. The cumulative
204 incidence (CI) of cGvHD, extensive cGvHD and relapse was 41%, 19% and 35% at 18 months
205 after Haplo-HCT, respectively. At 18 months after the transplant, the OS, PFS and GPFS rates
206 were 60%, 55% and 48% respectively. Patients having the lowest CsA concentration in the
207 first week after Haplo-HCT had a significantly higher risk of cGvHD (P= .02) and of extensive

208 cGvHD (P= .04). In multivariate logistic regression analysis, no parameters were associated
209 with an increased risk of cGVHD (**Table 3**).

210 We find no statistically significant correlation in terms of relapse incidence, NRM, PFS, GPFS
211 or OS between patients having the highest CsA concentration in the first week after Haplo-
212 HCT, compared to patients with a lower CsA concentration (**Figure 3**).

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229 Discussion

230 Thirty years ago, the Seattle group demonstrated that a low CsA concentration increases the
231 risk of aGvHD, and that concentrations should be monitored in BM transplant recipients ⁸. In
232 this study, Yee et al. reported a relative risk of 0.7 for every increase of 100 ng/mL of the CsA
233 concentration ⁸. This inverse relation between trough CsA levels and incidence of GvHD in
234 patients that received a bone marrow graft was further confirmed in the early 1990s ^{11,18,19}.
235 Our group found a similar correlation in patients transplanted from matched related or
236 unrelated donors and PBSC graft ¹¹. However, data regarding the impact of CsA level on
237 GvHD in the Haplo-HCT setting are scarce. In our study, we evaluated the impact of serum
238 CsA concentration on the incidence of aGvHD in a homogenous group of adult patients
239 undergoing Haplo-HCT with PBSC and PTCy as GvHD prophylaxis given in combination with
240 ATG, CsA and MMF.

241 Due to the mechanism by which PTCy aids in preventing GvHD after Haplo-HCT, which
242 involves in vivo selective destruction of alloreactive T cells, induction of tolerance, and intra-
243 thymic clonal deletion of alloreactive T lymphocytes ²⁰, it was thought that early initiation of
244 CsA before Haplo-HCT would abolish the PTCy effect. Our strategy was associated with day
245 +180 cumulative incidences of grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD of 39% and 18%,
246 respectively. These findings are comparable with the incidences found by Ruggeri et al. ⁷
247 (38% and 14%, respectively) and Castagna et al. ²¹ (38% and 12%, respectively) in patients
248 receiving PBSC Haplo-HCT with PTCy and calcineurin inhibitor initiation at day +5. Therefore,
249 early introduction of CsA is not detrimental ²¹. On the contrary,⁸⁻¹¹, we observed that
250 achievement of a high concentration of CsA at time of engraftment, before PTCy
251 administration, was associated with a lower incidence of aGvHD, being 18% for grade II-IV

252 and 0% for grade III-IV, at day +180. These findings were also observed in the setting of
253 allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation using a well matched-related or
254 matched-unrelated donors^{8,11}.

255 In addition, we find that an achievement of a high CsA concentration during the first week
256 after transplant, resulted in a significant decrease of the CI of cGvHD and extensive cGvHD,
257 with a CI at 18 months of 16% and 0% respectively. This result compares very favorably with
258 the study by Ruggeri et al. that reported a CI of 32% and 10% respectively.

259 One could question the impact of achievement of a high CsA concentration on the risk of
260 relapse. However, in univariate analysis, we did not find any impact on the CI of relapse.
261 Another concern may be the deleterious impact of a high CsA concentration on renal
262 function. Given the retrospective nature of this study, we were not able to analyze renal
263 function, however we do not report any long-term renal side effect in the high CsA
264 concentration group of patients.

265 Besides PTCy, the impact of early CsA concentration was recently investigated in the context
266 of T-cell replete Haplo-HCT using the GIAC protocol²². Similar to our findings, the authors
267 report that achievement of a high CsA concentration after haplo-HCT was associated with a
268 reduced incidence of aGvHD²².

269 While our study may underestimate unmeasured factors that have not been considered, a
270 limitation when conducting retrospective studies, we find that early introduction and
271 monitoring of CsA in Haplo-HCT with PTCy GvHD prophylaxis can improve the clinical
272 outcome by reducing the risk of grade II-IV and grade III-IV aGvHD in patients receiving PBSC
273 grafts. Although one must acknowledge that clinical obstacles such as renal failure, drug

274 interactions, and pharmacodynamics of CsA may preclude early achievement of high CsA
275 levels, we conclude that data from the current study indicate that CsA should be initiated
276 before PTCy with the aim of achieving a high CsA trough blood concentration during the
277 early post-Haplo-HCT to prevent the onset of aGvHD. Inadequate or insufficient early
278 exposures to CsA following Haplo-HCT with PTCy GvHD prophylaxis can be a serious risk for
279 developing severe aGvHD and a high CsA target concentration remains an effective tool to
280 prevent the onset of this event.

281

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287

288 **Authorship Contributions**

289 NS, MM and FM designed the study, NS collected the data, EB, GB, RD, FG, AR, MM and FM
290 recruited the patients, NS and FM performed the statistical analysis and, NS, MM and FM
291 prepared the manuscript for publication. All authors analyzed the data, reviewed the
292 manuscript, and agreed to its submission for publication.

293

294 **Conflict-of-interest disclosure**

295 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

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365

Table 1. Univariate analysis of risk factors for grade II-IV aGvHD

Characteristic	Patients with no or	Patients with Grade	<i>P</i> value
	Grade I aGvHD n=43; (%)	II-IV aGvHD n=18; (%)	
Patient age, (yrs) median (range)	54 (15-72)	49 (16-66)	.14
Patient age > 60 yrs	15 (35)	4 (22)	.38
Patient gender			
Male	28 (65)	11 (61)	.77
Female	15 (35)	7 (39)	
Donor gender			
Female to male	11 (26)	5 (28)	1
ABO mismatch	24 (56)	7 (39)	.27
CMV serologic status			
Seronegative donor-recipient pair	3 (7)	3 (17)	.34
Diagnosis			
Myeloid malignancies	28 (65)	11 (61)	.77
Lymphoid malignancies	15 (35)	7 (39)	
Disease Risk Index			
Low-Intermediate	27 (63)	12 (67)	1
High-Very High	16 (37)	6 (33)	
Conditioning regimen category			
RIC/RTC	25 (58)	11 (61)	1
Sequential conditioning	18 (42)	7 (39)	
ATG			
Without	5 (12)	5 (28)	.14
With	38 (88)	13 (72)	
Post-transplant cyclophosphamide			
D+3	8 (19)	1 (6)	.25
D+3/D+5	35 (81)	17 (94)	
CsA blood concentrations during the first week after Haplo-HCT, median (ng/ml; range)			
< 301 ng/ml	25 (58)	16 (89)	.03
≥ 301 ng/ml	18 (42)	2 (11)	
CsA blood concentrations during the second week after Haplo-HCT, median (ng/ml; range)			
< 297 ng/ml	23 (54)	8 (44)	.58
≥ 297 ng/ml	20 (46)	10 (56)	
CsA blood concentrations during the third week after Haplo-HCT, median (ng/ml; range)			
< 261 ng/ml	25 (58)	9 (50)	.59
≥ 261 ng/ml	18 (42)	9 (50)	
CsA blood concentrations during the fourth week after Haplo-HCT, median (ng/ml; range)			
< 238 ng/ml	20 (46)	10 (56)	.58
≥ 238 ng/ml	23 (54)	8 (44)	

368 Abbreviations: CMV, cytomegalovirus; ATG, antithymo-globulins; CsA, cyclosporine A; Haplo-HCT,
369 haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; RIC, reduced-intensity conditioning; RTC; reduced-
370 toxicity conditioning. * Myeloid malignancies: 31 acute myeloid leukemia, 4 myelodysplastic syndrome, 3
371 myeloproliferative syndrome and 1 MDS/MPS; lymphoid malignancies: 8 acute lymphoblastic leukemia, 9 non-
372 Hodgkin's lymphoma and 5 Hodgkin's disease. Bold denotes statistical significance.

374 **Table 2. Engraftment and clinical outcomes after Haplo-HCT**

Characteristic	All patients (n=61)	CsA < 301 ng/ml (n=41)	CsA ≥ 301 ng/ml (n=20)	P value
Graft failure	3 (5)	2 (5)	1 (5)	1
Median time for neutrophil > 0.5 x 10 ⁹ /L (range), days	18 (13-35)	17 (13-31)	18 (13-35)	.66
Median time for platelets > 50 x 10 ⁹ /L (range), days	26 (14-88)	24 (12-88)	29 (13-55)	.71
aGvHD incidence at day +180, % (95%CI)	63 (47-74)	66 (46-78)	59 (26-77)	.38
Grade II-IV	39 (22-52)	49 (27-64)	18 (0-39)	.02
Grade III-IV	18 (7-31)	26 (8-41)	0	.03
cGvHD incidence at month 18, % (95%CI)	41 (22-56)	55 (28-72)	16 (0-35)	.02
Extensive	19 (1-33)	31 (2-52)	0	.04
Non-relapse mortality at month 18, % (95%CI)	20 (9-30)	23 (8-36)	15 (0-29)	.50
Relapse incidence at month 18, % (95%CI)	35 (18-48)	32 (11-48)	44 (9-65)	.43
Progression-free survival at month 18, % (95%CI)	55 (42-67)	53 (36-67)	60 (35-77)	.87
GPFS at month 18, % (95%CI)	48 (34-60)	42 (26-57)	60 (35-77)	.39
Overall survival at month 18, % (95%CI)	60 (46-71)	58 (41-72)	64 (39-81)	.67
Median follow-up, months (range)	21 (10-53)	30 (10-53)	19 (13-52)	.64

375 Abbreviations: aGvHD, acute graft-versus-host disease; CI, confidence interval; GPFS, graft-versus-host
 376 disease and progression-free survival; cGvHD, chronic graft-versus-host disease; Haplo-HCT,
 377 haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. Bold denotes statistical significance.

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Table 3. Multivariate analysis of acute GvHD, chronic GvHD and relapse risk factors

Outcome	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value
Grade II-IV acute GvHD		
Age > 60 vs <60 years	0.68 (0.22-2.05)	.49
ATG vs no ATG	0.36 (0.12-1.09)	.07
CsA ≥ 301 ng/ml vs CsA < 301 ng/ml	0.21 (0.05-0.99)	.049
CMV donor/recipient negative vs others	0.98 (0.19-4.97)	.98
Female donor to male recipient vs others	0.96 (0.31-2.99)	.95
Grade III-IV acute GvHD		
Age > 60 vs <60 years	0.72 (0.13-3.99)	.70
ATG vs no ATG	0.25 (0.05-1.29)	.98
CsA ≥ 301 ng/ml vs CsA < 301 ng/ml	< 0.001 (0.000007-0.00005)	< .001
CMV donor/recipient negative vs others	1.29 (0.15-10.9)	.82
Female donor to male recipient vs others	0.86 (0.15-4.92)	.87
Chronic GvHD		
Age > 60 vs <60 years	0.46 (0.09-2.36)	.35
ATG vs no ATG	1.93 (0.38-9.90)	.43
CsA ≥ 301 ng/ml vs CsA < 301 ng/ml	0.31 (0.07-1.44)	.13
CMV donor/recipient negative vs others	3.52 (0.55-22.34)	.18
Female donor to male recipient vs others	2.00 (0.79-5.00)	.14
Relapse incidence		
Age > 60 vs <60 years	2.06 (0.71-6.05)	.18
ATG vs no ATG	0.28 (0.11-0.73)	.009
CsA ≥ 301 ng/ml vs CsA < 301 ng/ml	1.69 (0.65-4.38)	.28
RTC vs MAC	0.74 (0.10-5.83)	.78
DRI very-high/high vs low/very-low	6.16 (0.72-53.05)	.10

383 Abbreviations: aGvHD, acute graft-versus-host disease; ATG, antithymoglobulin; CI, confidence interval;
384 CMV, cytomegalovirus; CsA, cyclosporine A; Haplo-HCT, haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell
385 transplantation; MAC, myeloablative conditioning regimen; RTC, reduced-toxicity conditioning regimen.
386 Bold denotes statistical significance.

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389

390 **Figure 1. CsA values at weekly intervals post Haplo-HCT.**

391 Box and whisker plots are displayed, showing the minimum, first quartile, median, third
392 quartile, and maximum. CsA, cyclosporine-A; Haplo-HCT, haploidentical hematopoietic stem
393 cell transplantation.

394

395 **Figure 2. Cumulative incidence of grade II-IV aGvHD and grade III-IV aGvHD according to**
396 **CsA concentration during the first week after Haplo-HCT.**

397 Probability of grade II-IV acute GVHD (**2a**) and grade III-IV acute GvHD (**2b**) according to CsA
398 concentration (below or over 301 ng/ml) in the first week after Haplo-HCT. aGvHD, acute
399 graft versus host disease; CsA, cyclosporine-A; Haplo-HCT, haploidentical hematopoietic
400 stem cell transplantation.

401

402 **Figure 3. Other clinical outcomes according to CsA concentration during the first week**
403 **after Haplo-HCT.**

404 Cumulative incidence of chronic GvHD (**3a**), relapse (**3b**) and non-relapse mortality (**3c**)
405 according to CsA concentration (below or over 301ng/ml) in the first week after Haplo-HCT.
406 Progression-free survival (**3d**); graft-versus-host-disease and relapse-free survival (**3e**) and
407 overall survival (**3f**) according to CsA concentration (below or over 301ng/ml) in the first
408 week after Haplo-HCT. cGvHD; chronic graft-versus-host disease, CsA, cyclosporine A; Haplo-
409 HCT, haploidentical hematopoietic stem cell transplantation; NRM; non-relapse mortality,
410 PFS, progression-free survival; GPFS, graft-versus-host disease and relapse-free survival; OS,
411 overall survival.

412

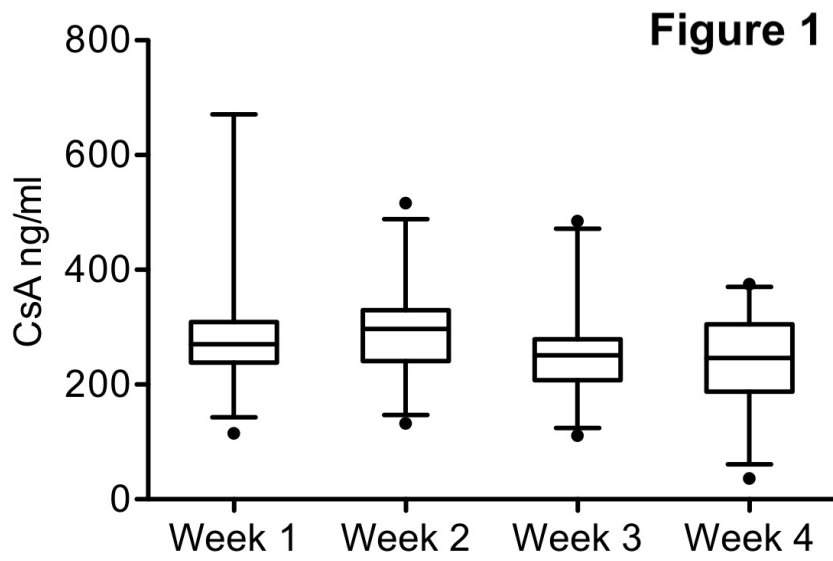


Figure 1

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Figure 2

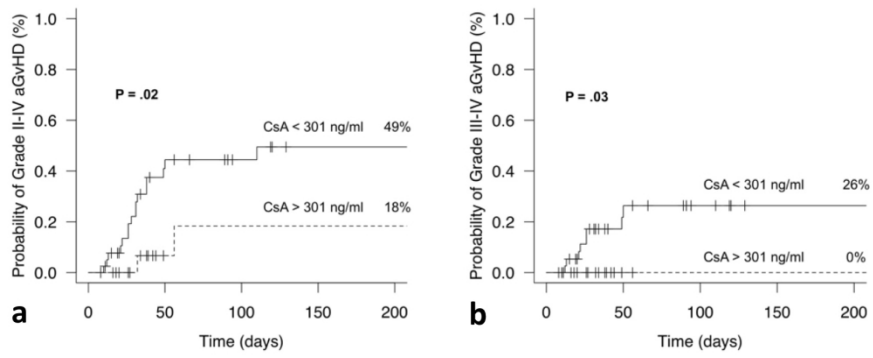


Figure 2

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Figure 3

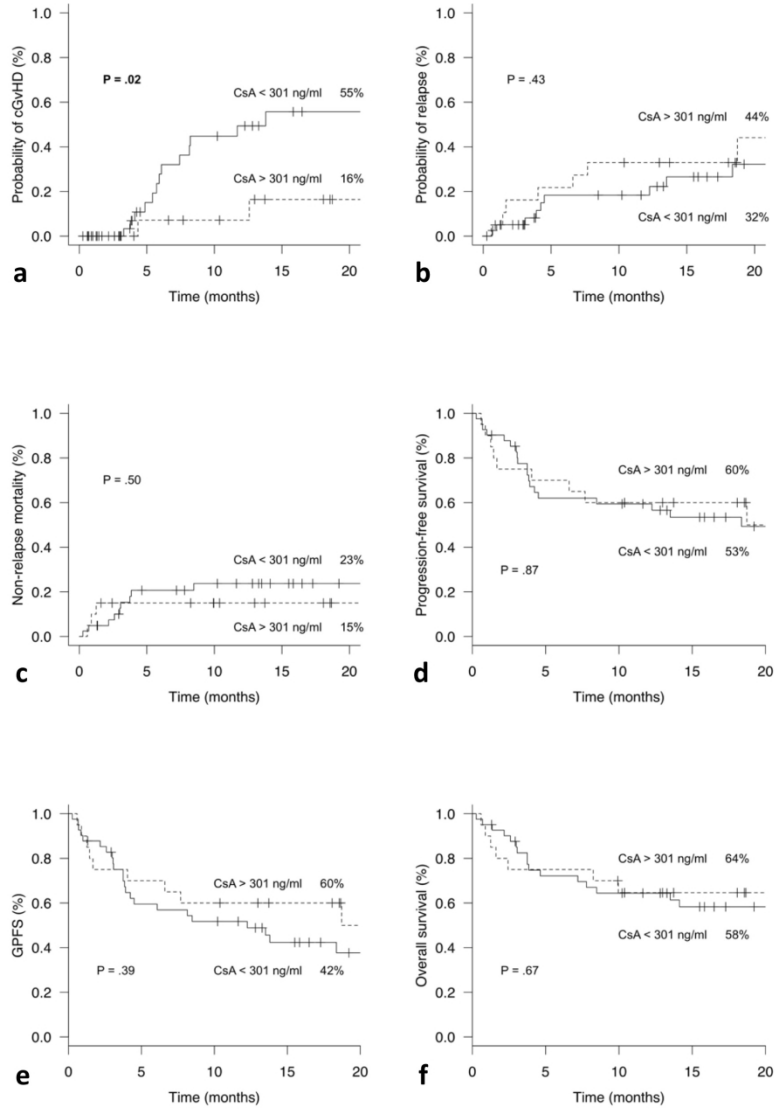


Figure 3

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