

## Study EORTC 20981

In the EORTC 20981 (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer) trial, 465 patients with relapsed or refractory follicular NHL were randomised to receive either 3-weekly cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine, and prednisone (CHOP) chemotherapy or MabThera plus CHOP as induction therapy. Responding patients were then again randomised to either MabThera maintenance therapy, or observation (no further treatment).

MabThera maintenance therapy was applied as a single infusion of 375mg/m<sup>2</sup> every three months over a period of two years. The primary endpoints of the study were response rates for the initial treatment phase and progression-free survival for the maintenance phase. The trial was performed in 130 centres in Canada, Australia, Netherlands, UK, Norway, Slovenia, Slovakia, Belgium, Hungary, South Africa, Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Egypt, France, Switzerland, Italy and Poland.

### Results of the maintenance phase

Overall survival (% of patients alive at 3 years)

	No maintenance	Maintenance	p value	Risk reduction <sup>1</sup>
All patients	77%	85%	0.011	48%
CHOP subgroup	71%	82%	0.073	48%
R-CHOP subgroup	81%	88%	0.059	50%

<sup>1</sup> Treatment effect of maintenance therapy – reduction in the risk of death

Median progression-free survival

	No maintenance	Maintenance	p value	Risk reduction <sup>2</sup>
All patients	15 months	52 months	<0.0001	60%
CHOP subgroup	12 months	42 months	<0.0001	70%
R-CHOP subgroup	23 months	52 months	0.0043	46%

<sup>2</sup> Treatment effect of maintenance therapy – reduction in the risk of progression of the disease, relapse or death