

**Resistance to ABT-199 induced by microenvironmental signals in chronic lymphocytic leukemia can be counteracted by CD20 antibodies or kinase inhibitors**

Rachel Thijssen,<sup>1,2</sup> Erik Slinger,<sup>1,2</sup> Katinka Weller,<sup>1</sup> Christian R. Geest,<sup>1</sup> Tim Beaumont,<sup>3</sup> Marinus H.J. van Oers,<sup>2,4</sup> Arnon P. Kater,<sup>2,4,5</sup> and Eric Eldering<sup>1,4,5</sup>

*Departments of Experimental Immunology<sup>1</sup> and Hematology<sup>2</sup>, Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam; <sup>3</sup>AIMM Therapeutics, Amsterdam; and <sup>4</sup>Lymphoma and Myeloma Center Amsterdam, LYMMCARE, The Netherlands*

*APK and EE contributed equally to this work.*

*Correspondence: e.eldering@amc.uva.nl  
doi:10.3324/haematol.2015.124560*

**Supplemental Table 1: Patients' characteristics**

Patient #	Age	Gender	IgVH mutational status	WBC 10 <sup>9</sup> /L	% lymphocytes	%CD19+/CD5+ cells	FISH	Treatment before sampling
1	79	M	U	122,0	n.d.	82,0	tris 12	chlorambucil
2	62	M	U	155,0	96,0	79,1	tris 12, 17p-	chlorambucil, prednisone, dexamethasone
3A	72	F	U	115,3	n.d.	90,3	tris 12	none
3B	73	F	U	89,9	n.d.	91,4	tris 12	none
4	68	F	U	100,5	89,0	84,8	tris 12	none
5	60	F	U	265,0	n.d.	99,8	13q-	FCR
6	74	M	n.d.	58,4	86	92,7	n.d.	none
7	66	M	M	93,4	n.d.	90,8	none	none
8	68	F	M	65,1	91,4	78,4	13q-	chlorambucil+prednisone, steroids
9	69	F	n.d.	27,8	n.d.	81,3	n.d.	chlorambucil
10A	73	M	U	116,8	n.d.	98,4	n.d.	none
10B	73	M	U	166,6	n.d.	84,2	n.d.	chlorambucil
11	67	F	M	88,7	n.d.	86,9	13q- IgH/CCND1	chlorambucil, fludarabine, prednisone
12	72	M	U	108,0	94,7	96,4	17p-	chlorambucil, fludarabine, Alemtuzumab, FCR
13A	62	F	M	173,0	n.d.	99,9	3q-, 17p-, IgH/CCNE	none
13B	63	F	M	153,0	96,0	95,7	3q-, 17p-, IgH/CCNE	chlorambucil, FCR
14	80	M	M	149,4	92,0	98,2	11q-, 13q-	chlorambucil
15	59	M	M	85,5	94,0	95,8	n.d.	none
16	61	F	M	46,1	n.d.	91,1	13q-	none
17	59	M	U	74,0	n.d.	92,3	11q-	Ofatumumab
18	66	M	U	232,0	96,1	98,5	n.d.	unknown
19	63	F	M	79,2	91,0	92,3	n.d.	none
20	55	F	U	272,0	n.d.	95,4	none	none
21	76	F	M	112,0	n.d.	91,8	n.d.	none
22	57	F	M	170,9	n.d.	97,3	tris 12, 13q-	chlorambucil, fludarabine
23	64	F	U	64,8	82	88	n.d.	none
24	74	F	n.d.	55,0	n.d.	86,4	n.d.	none
25	60	M	n.d.	n.d.	n.d.	97,2	n.d.	none

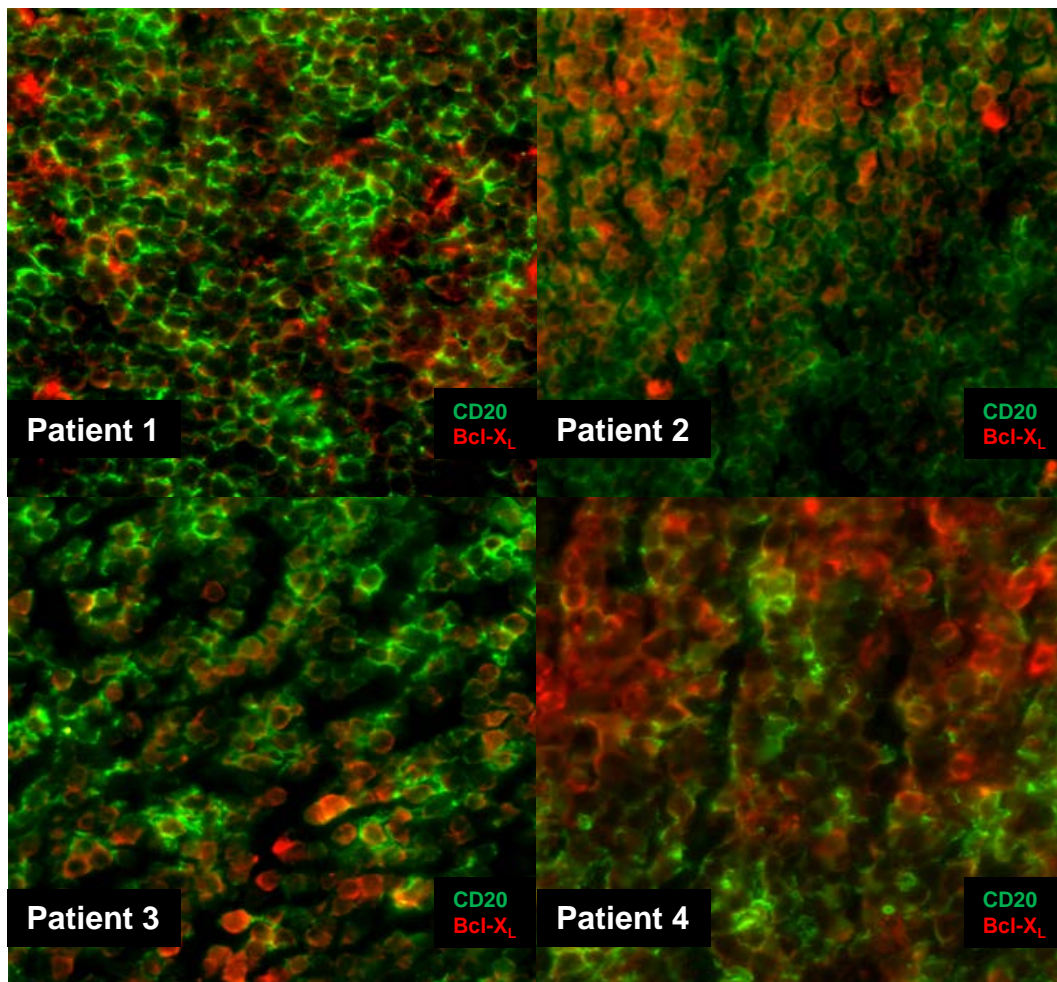
n.s. not specified; n.d. not determined; A, B, C refer to different sampling times of the same patient; FCR: fludarabine + cyclophosphamide + rituximab

**Supplemental Table 2. LC50 values for ABT-199 and ABT-737 for CLL cells under various conditions.**

LC50 values were calculated from averaged data from CLL samples tested for sensitivity for ABT-199 or ABT-737 under the indicated conditions, n=8, n=3 for GA-101. (RXL: Rituximab plus crosslinker, n.d. not determined)

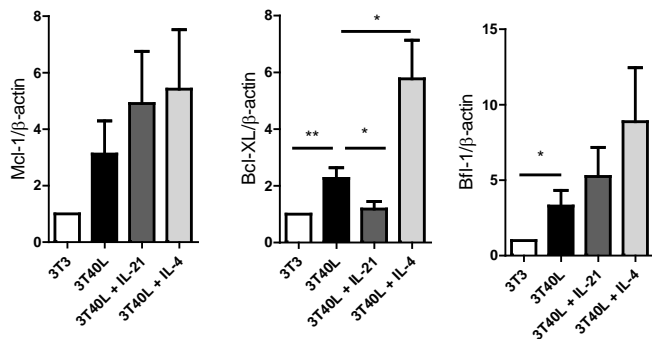
Stimulation	LC50 ( $\mu\text{M}$ )	
	ABT-199	ABT-737
3T3 (Control)	0.001	0.005
3T40L	>10	0.781
3T40L + 0.1 $\mu\text{M}$ dasatinib	0.066	0.081
3T40L + 1 $\mu\text{M}$ dasatinib	0.020	0.037
3T40L + 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ GA-101	0.044	n.d.
3T40L + 10 $\mu\text{g/ml}$ RXL	0.065	n.d.

## Supplemental Figure 1/Thijssen et al



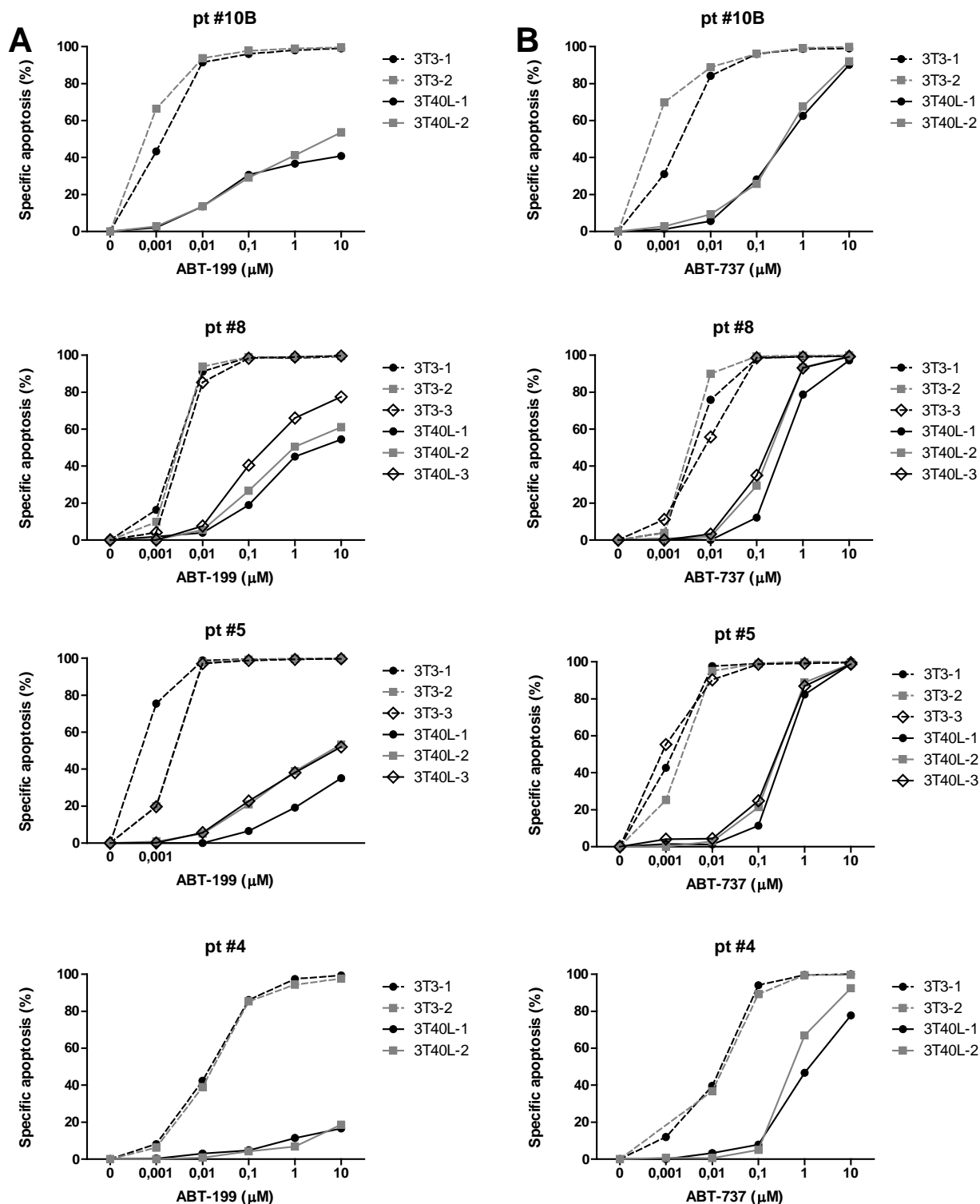
**Supplemental Figure 1. Bcl-XL staining in lymph nodes from different CLL patients.** Immunofluorescent staining for CD20 (green) and Bcl-XL (red) showing presence of Bcl-XL in CD20-positive cells in the lymph node of 4 CLL patients. Additional staining for Patient 1 is also shown in Figure 1 of the main article.

## Supplemental Figure 2/Thijssen et al



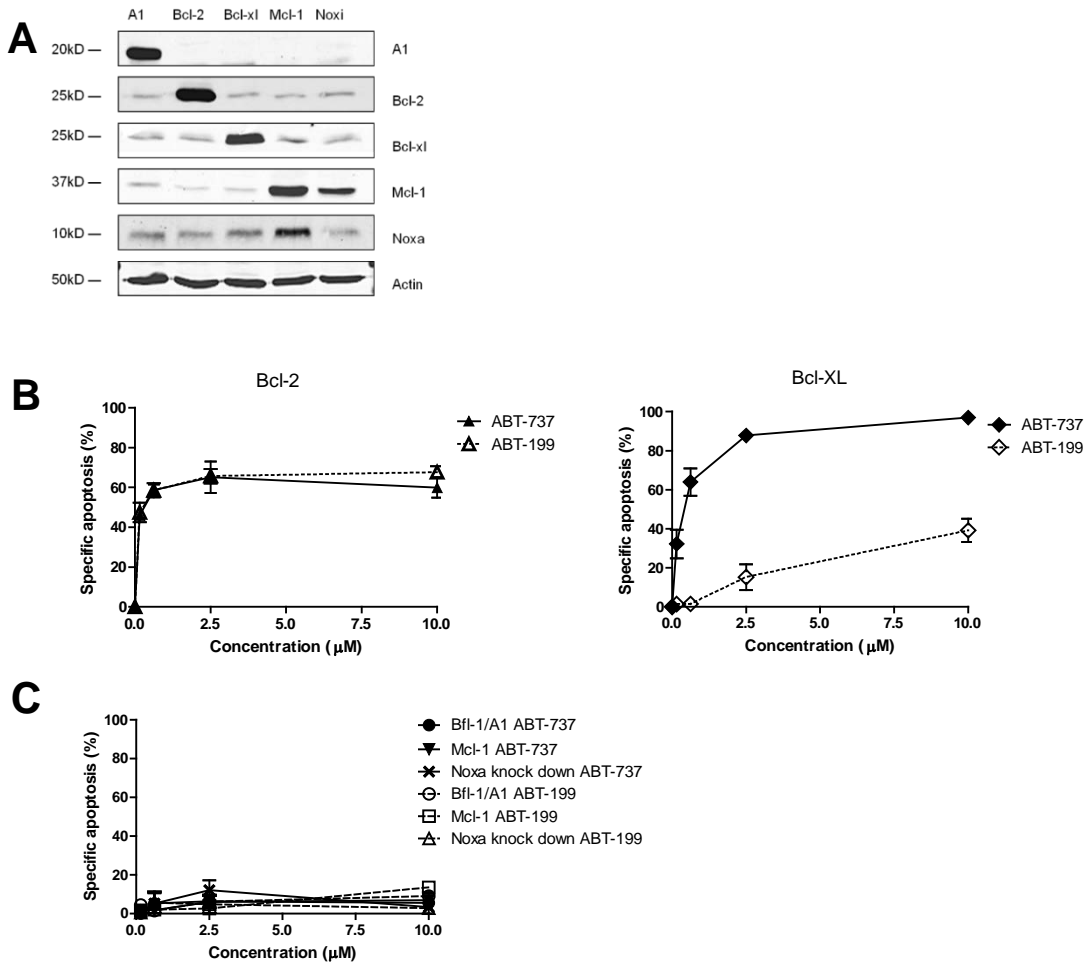
**Supplemental Figure 2. Stimulation via CD40 plus IL-4 or IL-21 differentially induces expression of Mcl-1, Bcl-XL and Bfl-1/A1.** Densitometric analysis of Mcl-1/actin levels, Bcl-XL/actin levels and Bfl-1/actin levels of seven CLL samples is shown. Bars represent the mean  $\pm$  SEM, \*  $p < 0.05$ , \*\*  $p < 0.01$ . Western blots from 2 patients are shown in Figure 2A of the main article.

# Supplemental Figure 3/Thijssen et al



**Supplemental Figure 3. Heterogeneity among patients in the response to BH3-mimetics after CD40 stimulation is reproducible. A-B.** CLL cells were stimulated with 3T3 or 3T40L cells for 3 days. After detachment, cells were incubated with ABT-199 (A) or ABT-737 (B) for 24 hours. Specific apoptosis of two or three independent experiments is shown for 4 patient samples.

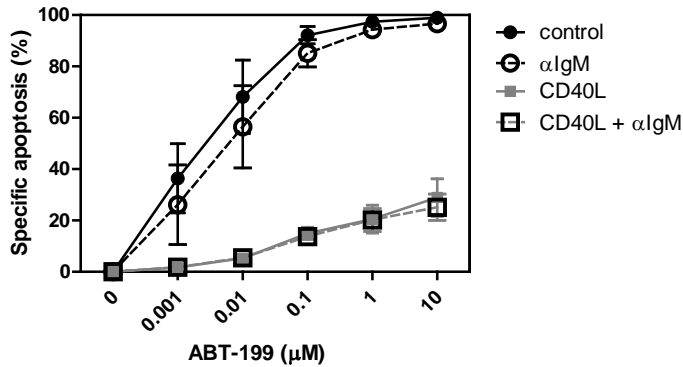
# Supplemental Figure 4/Thijssen et al



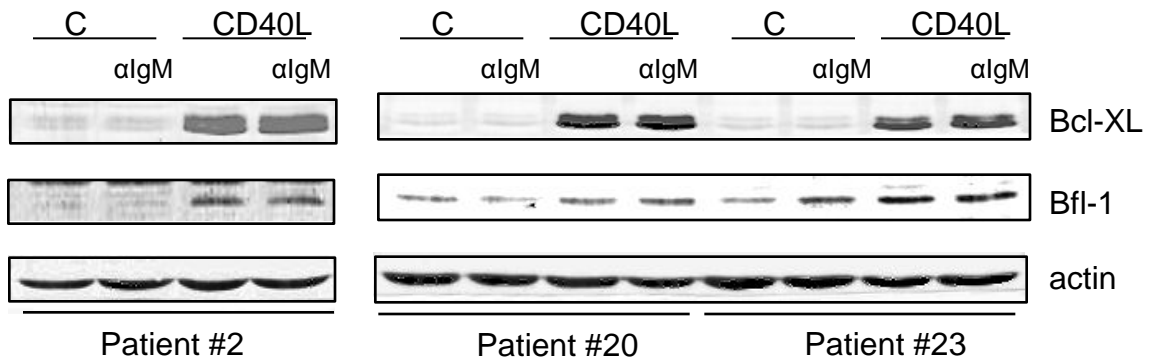
**Supplemental Figure 4. Immortalized primary B cells with overexpression of Mcl-1, Bfl-1, Bcl-XL or knockdown of Noxa are resistant to ABT-199.** **A.** Primary human memory B cells were immortalized by overexpressing Bfl-1/A1, Bcl-2, Bcl-XL, Mcl-1 or knockdown of Noxa (described in Tromp et al, Clin Cancer res 2012, 18: 487). Overexpression or knockdown was confirmed by Western blot analysis. **B.** Immortalized primary B cells with overexpression of Bcl-2 or Bcl-XL were incubated with different concentration of ABT-737 or ABT-199. **C.** Immortalized primary B cells with overexpression of Bfl-1/A1, Mcl-1 or knockdown of Noxa were incubated with different concentration of ABT-737 or ABT-199. Graphs represent the mean specific apoptosis SEM, n=3.

# Supplemental Figure 5/Thijssen et al

**A**



**B**

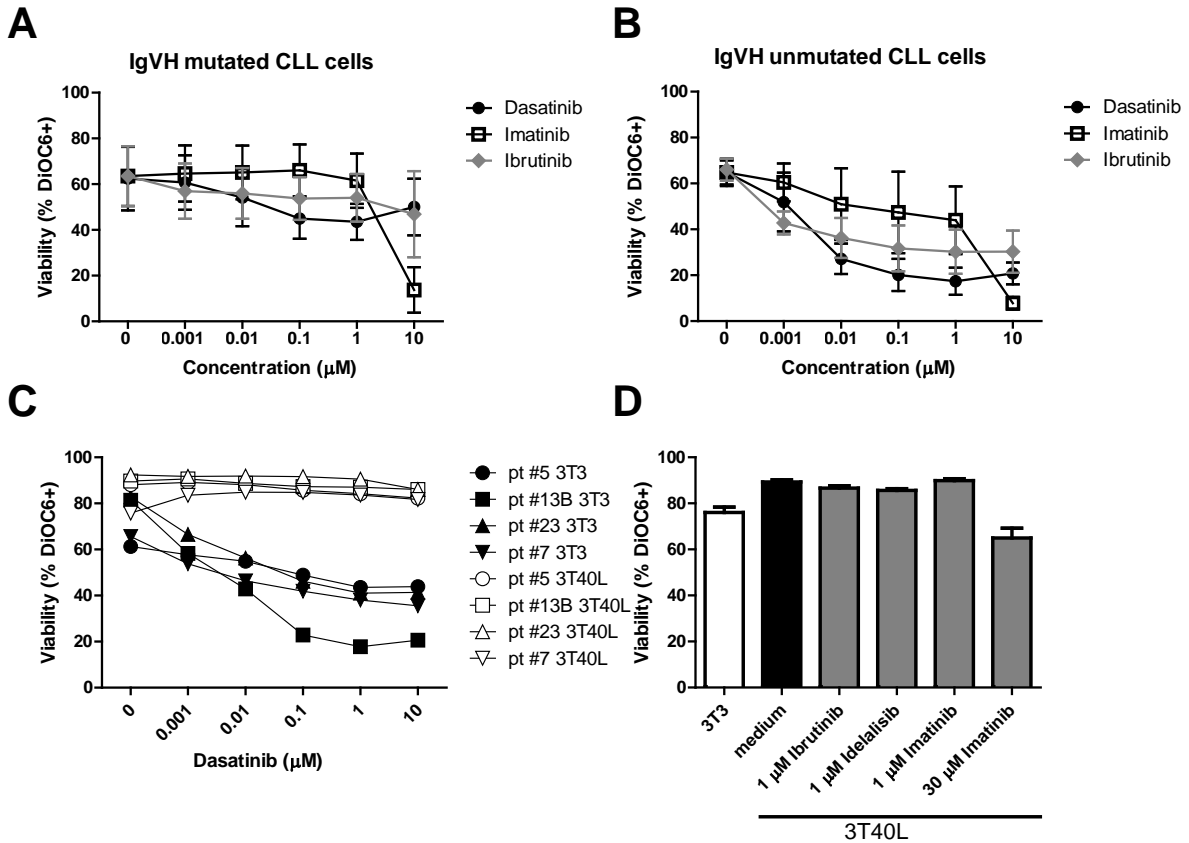


**Supplemental Figure 5. Effect of combined CD40+ BCR stimulation on sensitivity for ABT-199, and expression of Bcl-2 family members.** CLL cells were cultured with medium or 3T40L in the presence or absence of 500ng/ml goat (Fab')<sub>2</sub> anti-human IgM (Sanbio, Uden, The Netherlands) for 3 days.

**A.** After detachment, cells were incubated with 0.001-10 μM ABT-199. Results are shown as mean SEM, n=3 (IgV<sub>H</sub> unmutated) (Supplemental table 1; patient #2, 20, 23). **B.** protein lysates were probed for Bcl-XL, Bfl-1 and actin as loading control.



# Supplemental Figure 6/Thijssen et al



**Supplemental Figure 6. Direct killing effects of various kinase inhibitors before and after CD40 stimulation. A-B)** CLL cells were thawed and incubated with dasatinib, imatinib and ibrutinib for 48 hours. Results are shown as mean  $\pm$  SEM,  $n=3$  for IgVH mutated CLL cells (**A**) and  $n=3$  for IgVH unmutated CLL cells (**B**). **C)** CLL cells were stimulated with 3T3 or 3T40L cells for 3 days. After detachment, cells were incubated with dasatinib for 48 hours. Viability of 4 CLL samples are shown. **D)** CLL cells were cocultured with 3T3 or 3T40L for 72 hours, in the presence of imatinib, ibrutinib or idelalisib as indicated. After detachment, viability was assessed and averaged data of 8 CLL samples are shown, error bars represent SEM.