Haematologica HAEMATOL/2017/186569 Version 4

Rituximab plus Bendamustine as front line treatment in frail elderly (>70 years) patients with diffuse large B-cell non-Hodgkin's lymphoma: a phase II multicenter study of the Fondazione Italiana Linfomi

Sergio Storti, Michele Spina, Emanuela Anna Pesce, Flavia Salvi, Michele Merli, Alessia Ruffini, Giuseppina Cabras, Annalisa Chiappella, Emanuele Angelucci, Alberto Fabbri, Anna Marina Liberati, Monica Tani, Gerardo Musuraca, Annalia Molinari, Maria Pia Petrilli, Carmela Palladino, Rosanna Ciancia, Andrea Ferrario, Cristiana Gasbarrino, Federico Monaco, Vincenzo Fraticelli, Annalisa De Vellis, Francesco Merli, and Stefano Luminari

Disclosures: MS is on the advisory board of Menarini, Mundipharma, Teva, Gilead, Janssen-Cilag, CTI and Servier and report lecture fees Mundipharma, Teva, Gilead, Janssen-Cilag, CTI and Servier. AC is on the advisory board of Celgene, and report lecture fees from Amgen, Celgene, Nanostring, Pfizer, Teva, Roche. EA is on the advisory board of Novartis Oncology, Roche, Jazz Pharma, BlueBirdBio, report lecture fees in Novartis Oncology and Novartis Oncology Swiss, data monitoring committee Celgene and sterring committee in study sponsored by Novartis Oncology. FM is on the advisory board of Celgene, Janssen-Cilag, and report lecture fees Gilead, Mundipharma, Roche and Takeda. SL is on the advisory board of Roche, Celgene, Teva, Takeda, Sandoz, and report lecture fees Gilead and Pfizer. All remaining authors have declared no conflicts of interest.

Contributions: SS, MS, FM and SL wrote the manuscript and enrolled patients in the trial; EAP and AR collected and assembly of data; all of other authors enrolled patients. All authors approved the manuscript.