

Overall survival according to body weight at treatment in CLL

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BACKGROUND

Our aim was to assess the **impact of overweight and obesity on treatment outcomes** for patients with CLL and to investigate whether body weight impacts the risk of adverse events.

Comorbidities associated with metabolic syndrome like type 2 diabetes mellitus and hypertension are highly prevalent in patients with CLL, and associated with inferior survival both following CLL diagnosis and treatment.

METHODS

Cohort: Patients with CLL were identified in the **Danish National Clinical Quality Database** included in DALY-CARE: (Briegh et al., Clin epi, 2025)

- Registered with CLL (2008-2023)
- Received care in the Capital Region or the Zealand Region of Denmark
- Treated for CLL after May 2016

Primary outcome Overall survival (OS) from first-line treatment (end of follow-up: Dec 2023)

Secondary outcome Time from treatment to first adverse event

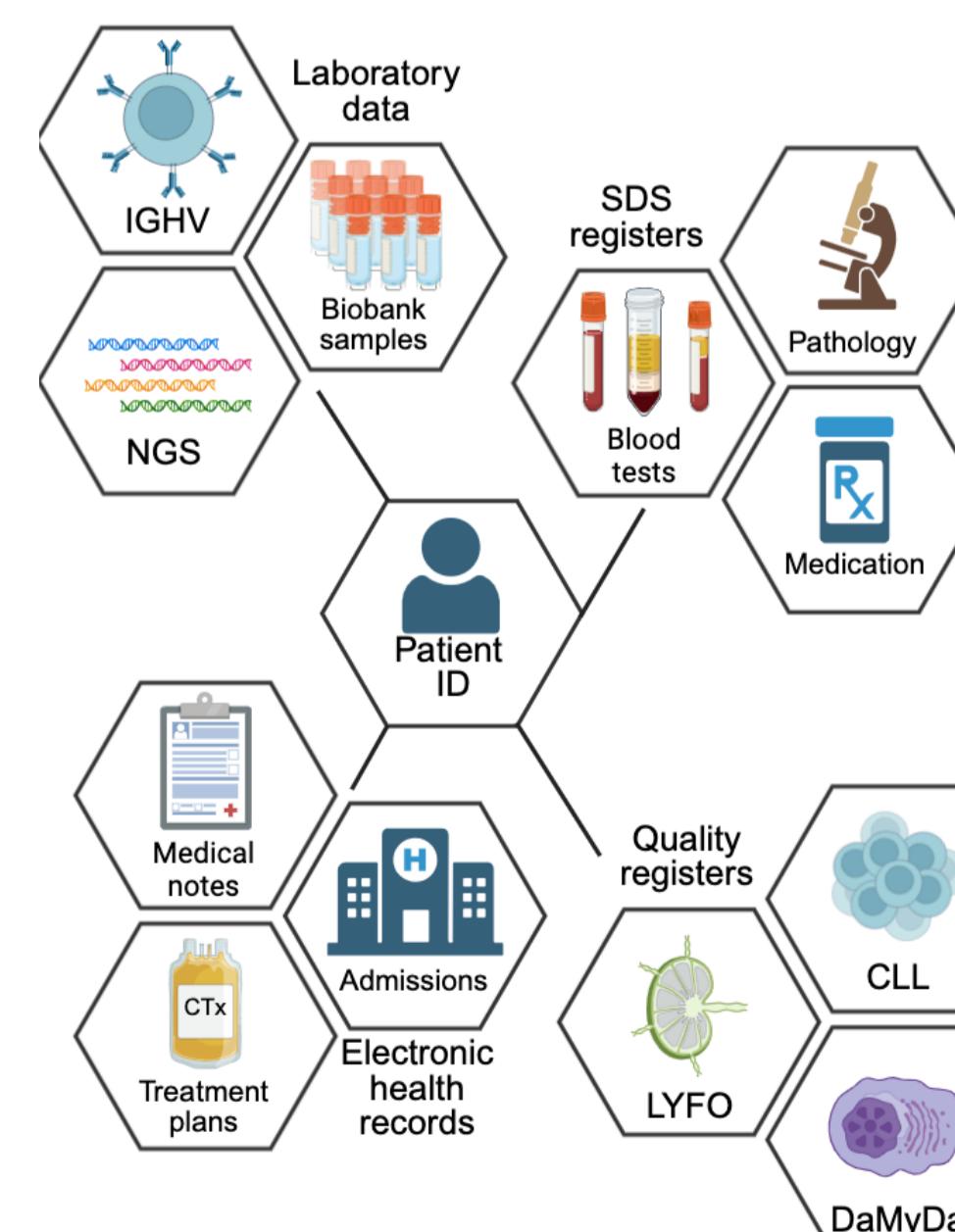


Figure 1: The **DALY-CARE** resource holds data from multiple sources, linking patient information through a unique personal identification number

MAIN RESULTS

Body mass index (BMI)	median [IQR]	24.8 [22.7-27.5]
Underweight	<18.5 kg/m ²	8 (2%)
Normal weight	18.5-24.9 kg/m ²	258 (52%)
Overweight	25-29.9 kg/m ²	165 (33%)
Obese	≥30 kg/m ²	68 (14%)

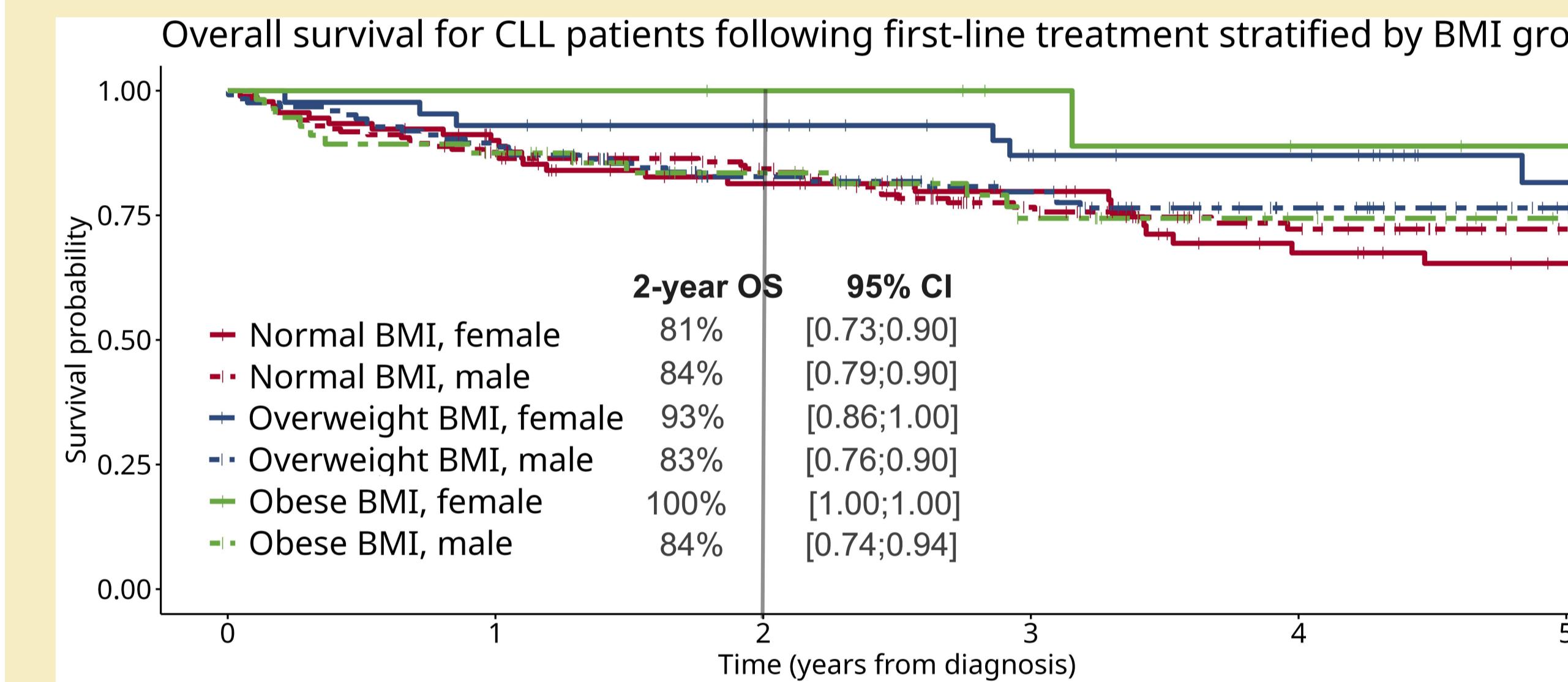


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier OS after first-line CLL therapy, stratified by BMI group and biological sex. In univariable analysis, patients who were **overweight** at time of CLL treatment initiation had **longer OS** compared to normal-weight patients (HR 0.66, 95% CI [0.43-0.99]). OS was similar for obese and normal weight patients (HR 0.73, 95%CI [0.42;1.27]). **In multivariable analyses, no statistically significant difference in OS** was seen when comparing overweight (HR 0.76 [0.50-1.15]) or obese (HR 1.00, 95%CI [0.17-1.77]) to normal weight patients. OS tended to be better for overweight **females** compared to females with normal weight (not statistically significant in multivariable analysis, HR 0.42 95% CI [0.42;0.17-1.07]). Among **males**, OS did not differ by BMI.

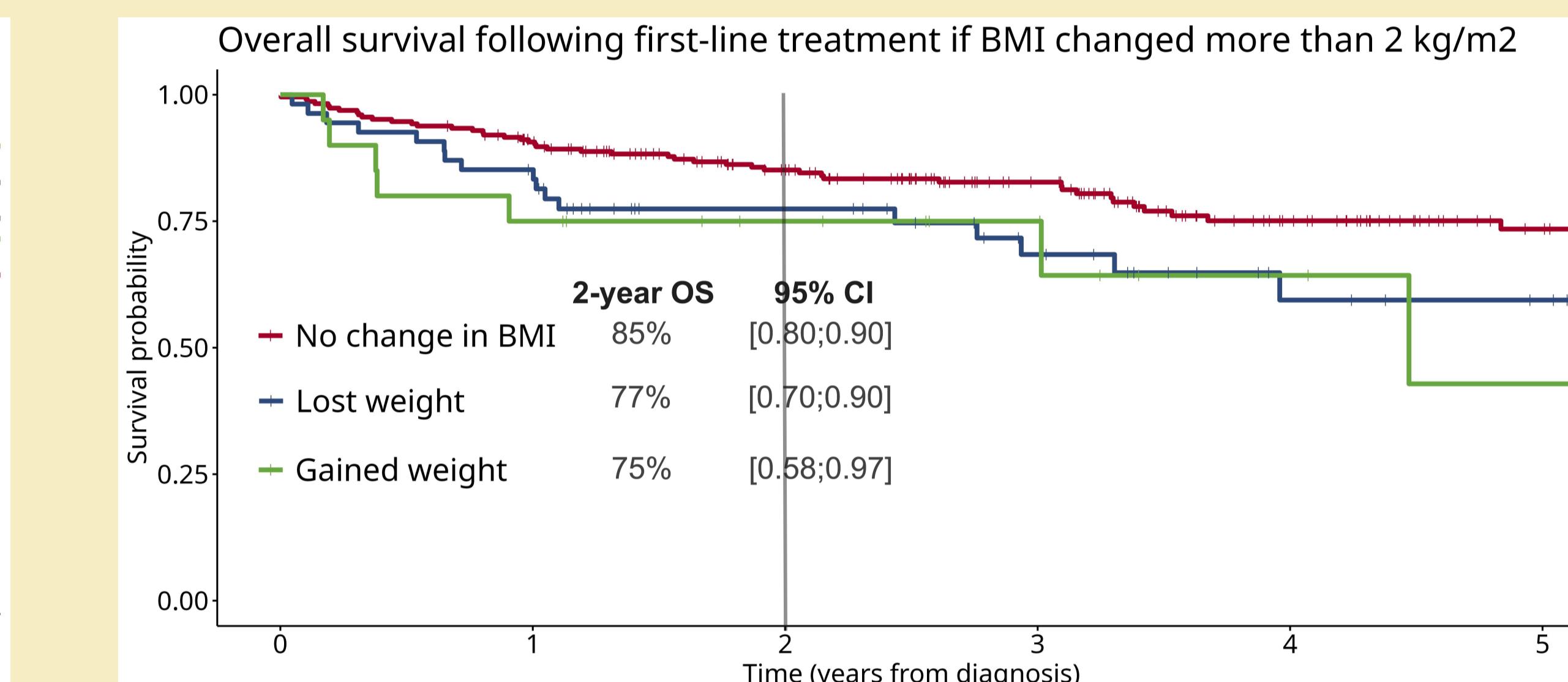


Figure 3: Kaplan-Meier OS after first-line CLL therapy, stratified by change in BMI. Compared to patients with no change in BMI (less than 2 kg/m² change), both **patients who lost weight and gained weight had shorter OS** in univariable analysis. In multivariable analysis, this was **statistically significant for patients who gained weight** (HR 2.42, 95%CI [1.07-5.49]). **Change in BMI** was defined by loss or gain of weight corresponding to >2 kg/m² prior to treatment initiation. **Baseline BMI** was defined as last BMI registered in the electronic health record system >180 days prior to treatment initiation.

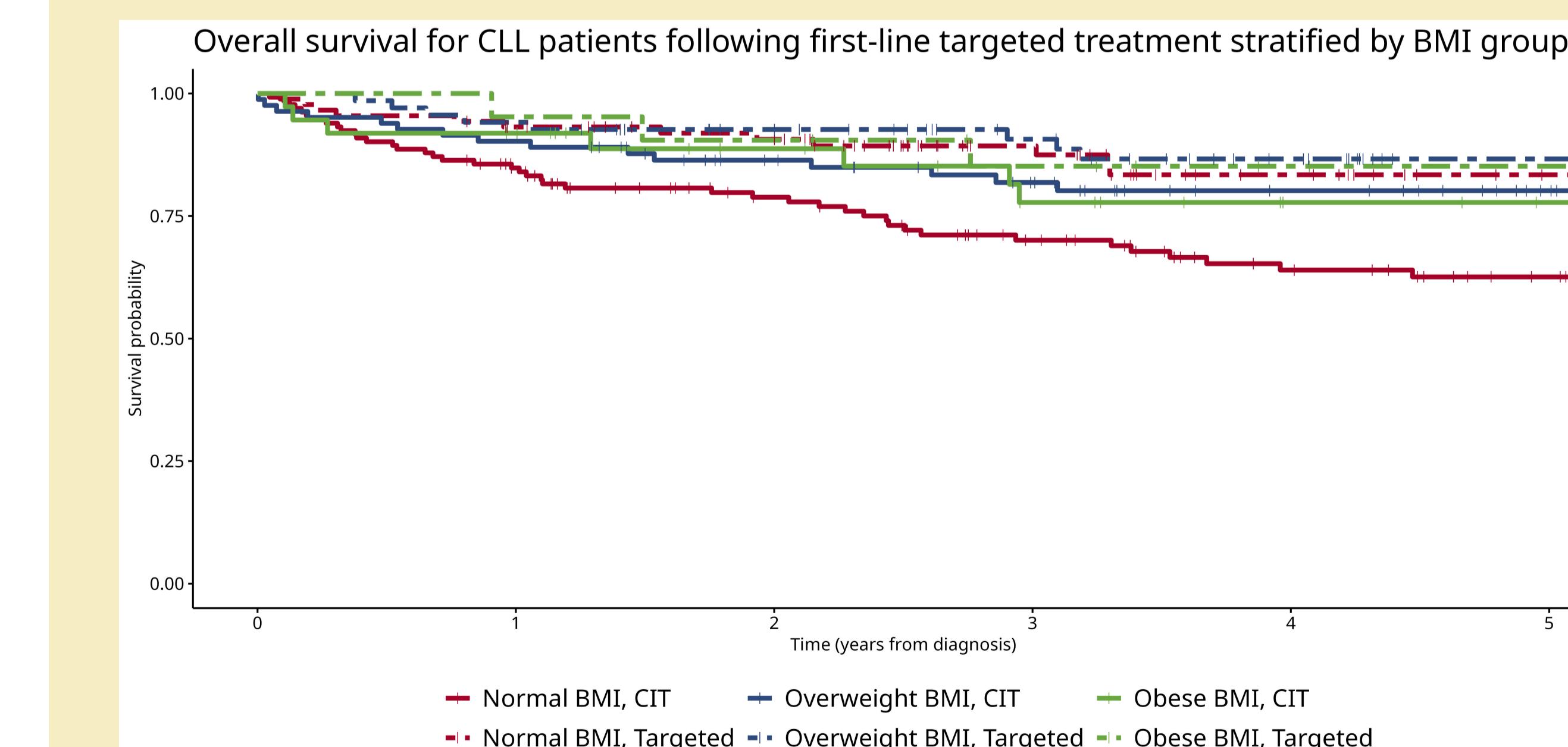


Figure 4: Kaplan-Meier OS after first-line CLL therapy, stratified by BMI group and treatment with either chemoimmunotherapy or targeted regimens. For patients treated with **targeted treatment**, survival did not differ by BMI. For patients treated with **CIT**, overweight patients has a statistically significant improved survival compared to normal weight (HR 0.50, 95%CI [0.28-0.88]).

Multivariable analyses: adjusted for age at treatment, treatment year and TP53 mutational/del(17p) status and either adjusted for or stratified by biological sex.

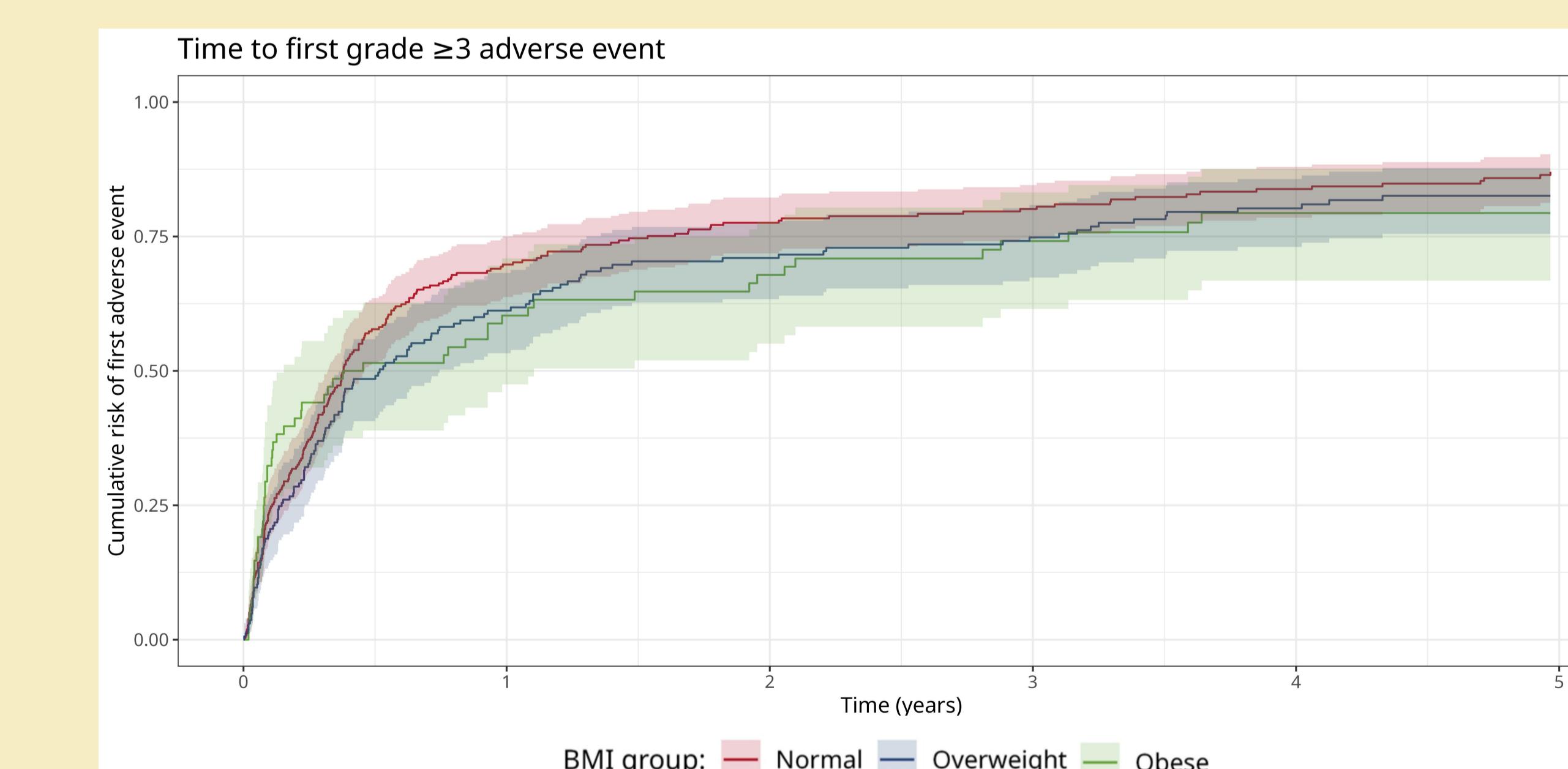


Figure 5: Cumulated incidence of time to first grade ≥3 adverse events. Time to adverse event did not differ by BMI group (Gray's test). In multivariable cause-specific cox regression, HR for patients who were **overweight** was 0.91 (95%CI [0.73-1.12]) and 1.98 (95%CI [0.72-1.32]) for **obese** patients at treatment initiation.

Adverse events include: hospitalization, acute kidney injury (proxy: creatinine increase), anemia, thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, and leukopenia as defined by Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events)

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

For patients with CLL receiving treatment, guidance should focus on **maintaining a stable weight**.

- For those with a tendency to lose weight, this may include a high-protein, high-calorie diet.
- For those prone to weight gain, increased physical activity should be encouraged.

The **risk of adverse events** did not differ with BMI.

Among patients receiving **targeted therapy**, survival was not affected by BMI.

FUTURE WORK

- Comparison with external validation CLL cohort
- BMI as a continuous covariate
- Detailing analyses on adverse events, including grade 2 infections

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DISCLOSURES
This study was in part funded by AstraZeneca

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