

# 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 and treatment.

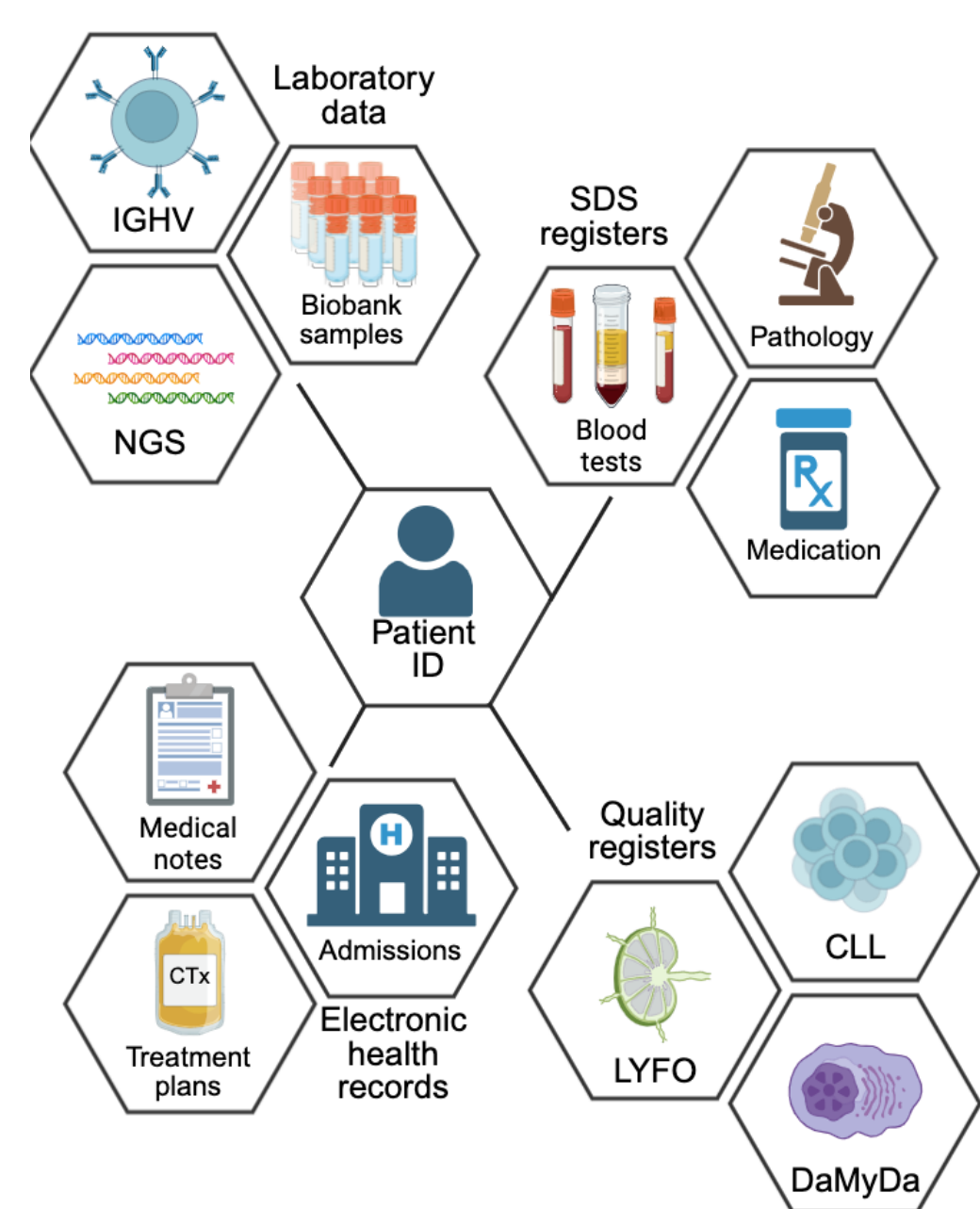
## METHODS

**Cohort:** Patients with CLL were identified in the **Danish National Clinical Quality Database** included in DALY-CARE: (Brieghel 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)

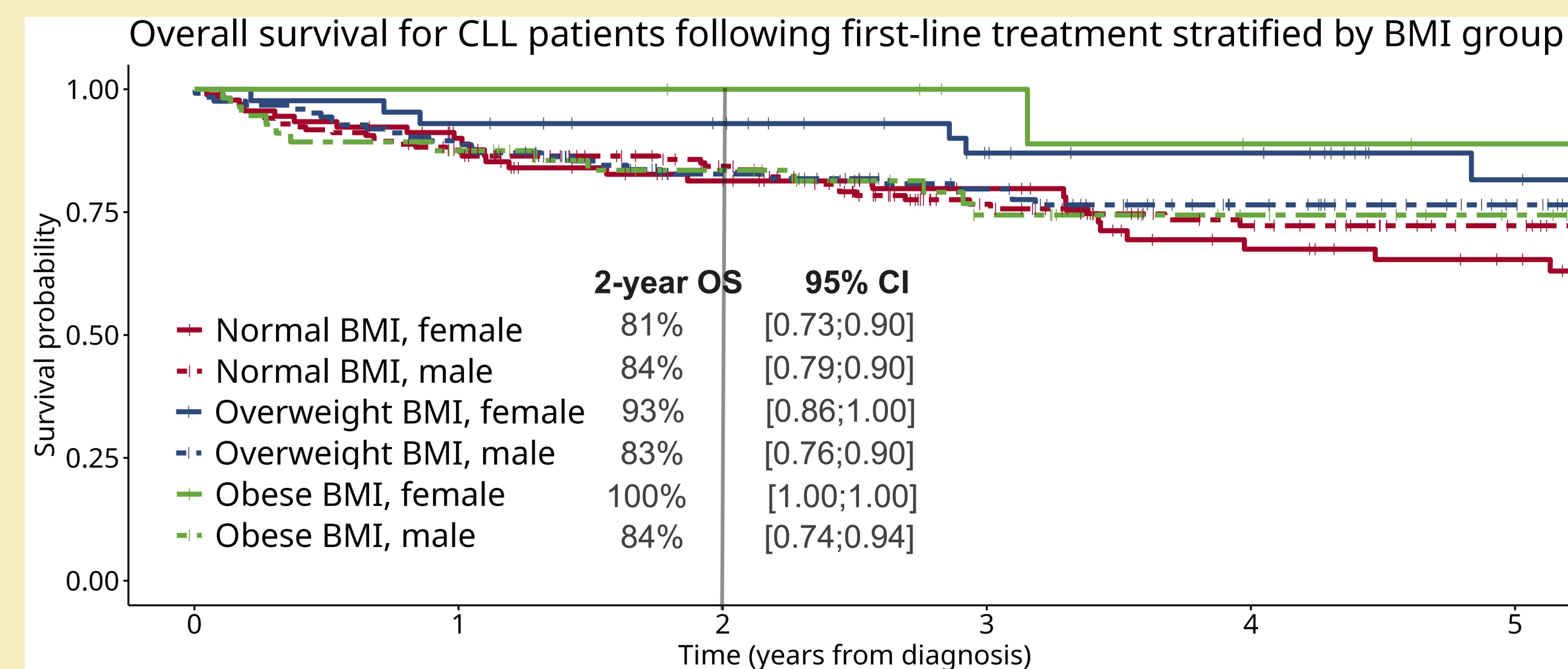
**Secondary outcome** Time from treatment to first adverse event



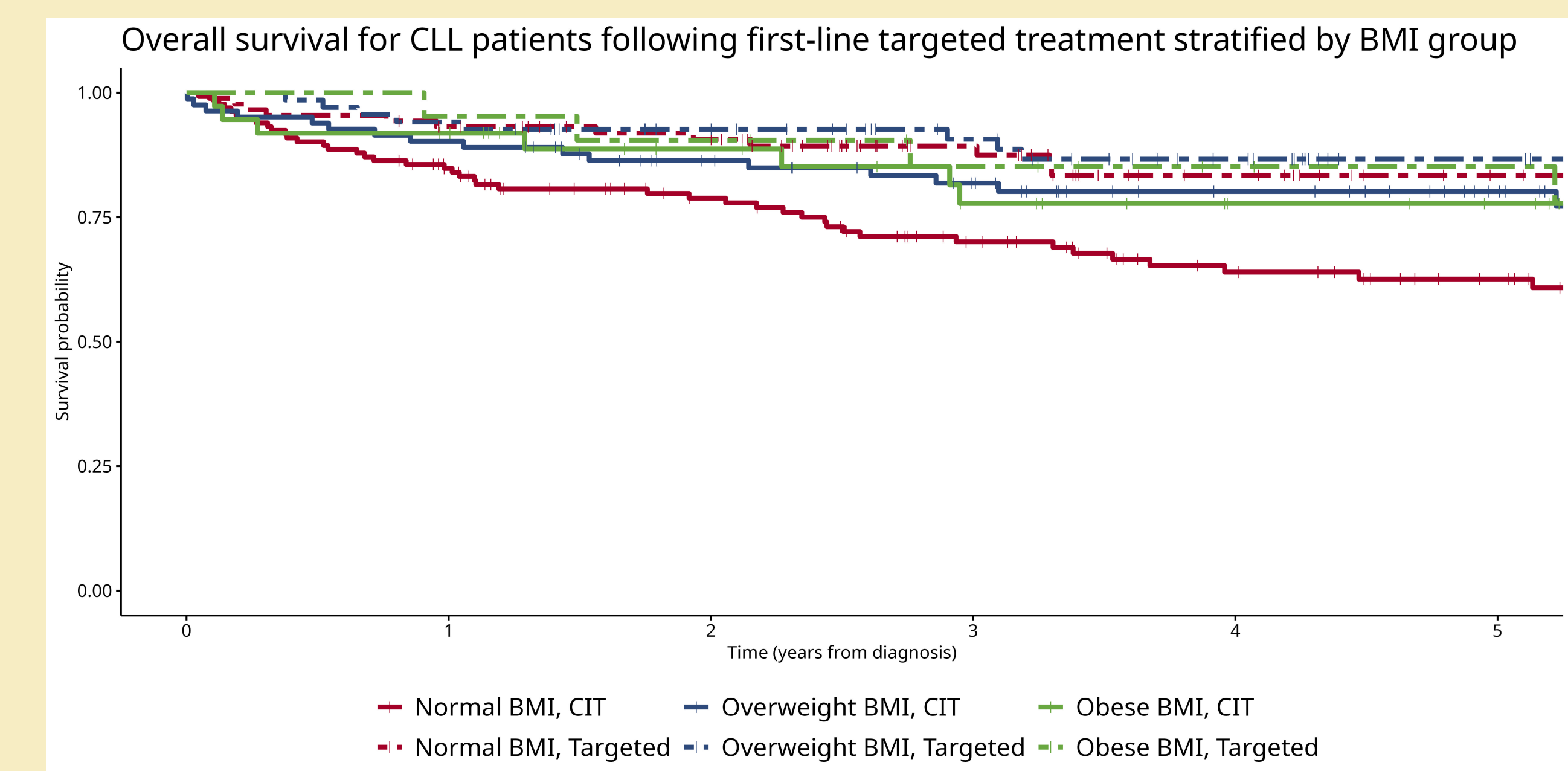
**Figure 1:** The **DALY-CARE** ressource holds data from multiple sources, linking patient information through a unique personal identification number

## MAIN RESULTS

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



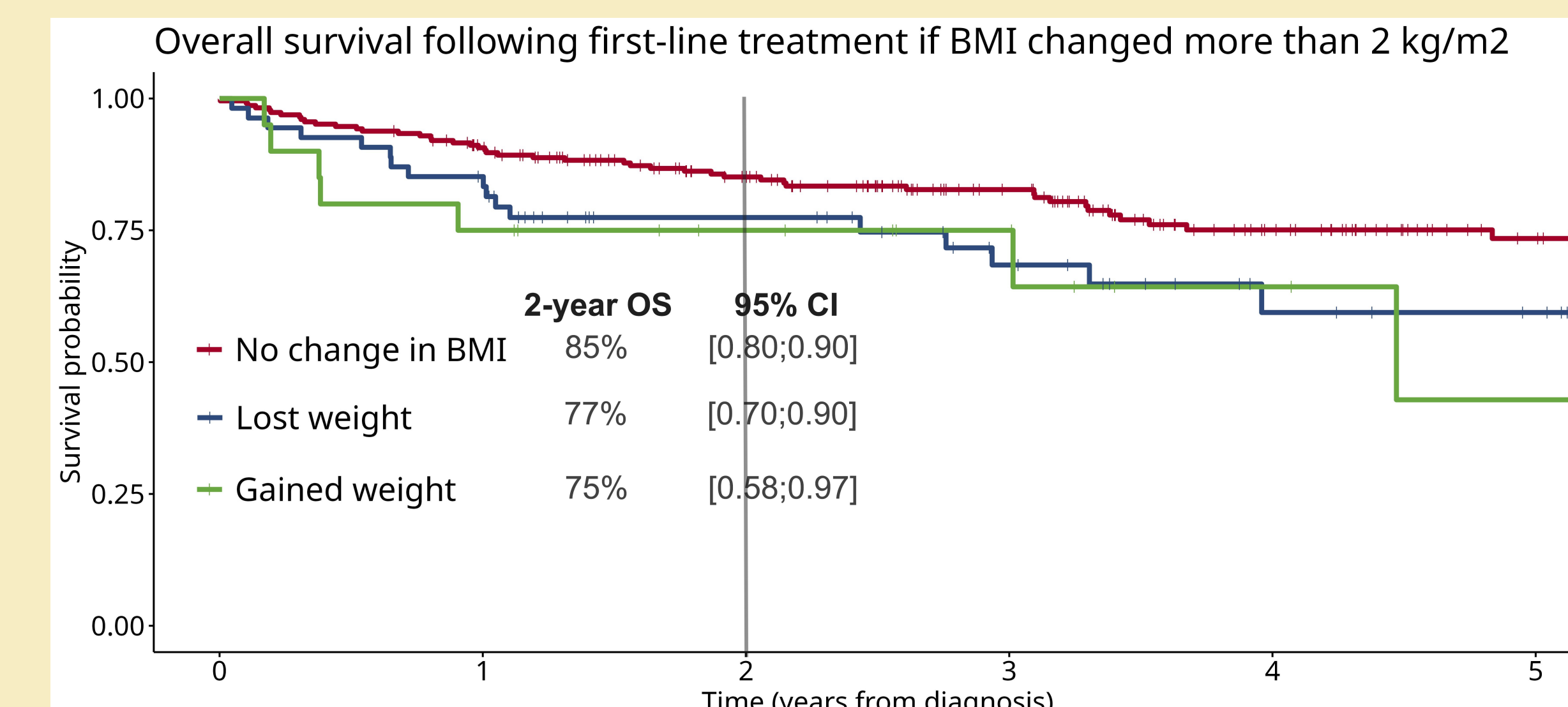
**Figure 2:** Kaplan-Meier OS after first-line CLL therapy, stratified by BMI group and biological sex. In univariable analysis, patients who were **overweight** at time of CLL treatment initiation had **longer OS** compared to normal-weight patients (**HR 0.66, 95% CI [0.43-0.99]**). OS was similar 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.



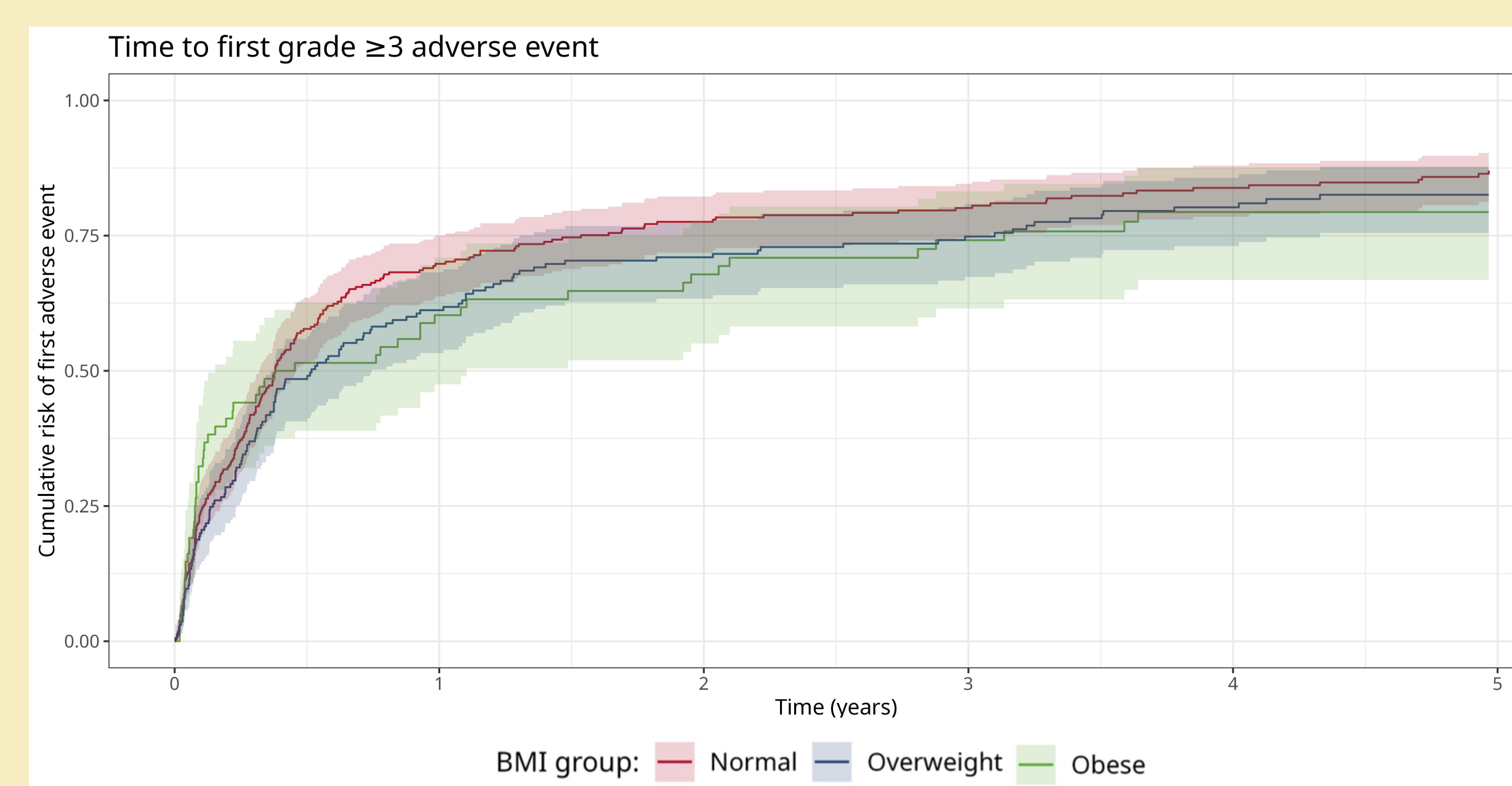
**Figure 4:** Kaplan-Meier OS after first-line CLL therapy, stratified by BMI group and treatment with either chemoimmunotherapy or targeted regimens. For patients treated with **targeted treatment**, survival did not differ by BMI. For patients treated with **CIT**, overweight patients has a statistically 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.

- **566 patients was included.**
- **499 had BMI available**
- **Male: 70%**
- **Median age at treatment: 68 (IQR [61-75]) years**



**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/m<sup>2</sup> 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/m<sup>2</sup> 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 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 continous covariate
- Detailing analyses on adverse events, including grade 2 infections

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**DISCLOSURES**  
This study was in part funded by AstraZeneca

**CONTACT INFORMATION**  
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