Understanding the immunopathogenesis of CAD: What are the implications of new and emerging therapies?

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Expert panel

Prof. Morie Gertz

Professor and Chair Emeritus,
Mayo Clinic,
Rochester, Minnesota, USA

Prof. Dr Bernd Jilma

Medical University of Vienna,
Austria

Dr Shirley D'Sa

University College London
Hospitals, UK

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Agenda

- Understanding the immunopathogenesis of cold agglutinin disease
- Navigating the evolving treatment landscape in cold agglutinin disease
- Individualizing cold agglutinin disease management in the clinic

Understanding the immunopathogenesis of cold agglutinin disease

Prof. Morie Gertz

Professor and Chair Emeritus,
Mayo Clinic,
Rochester, Minnesota, USA

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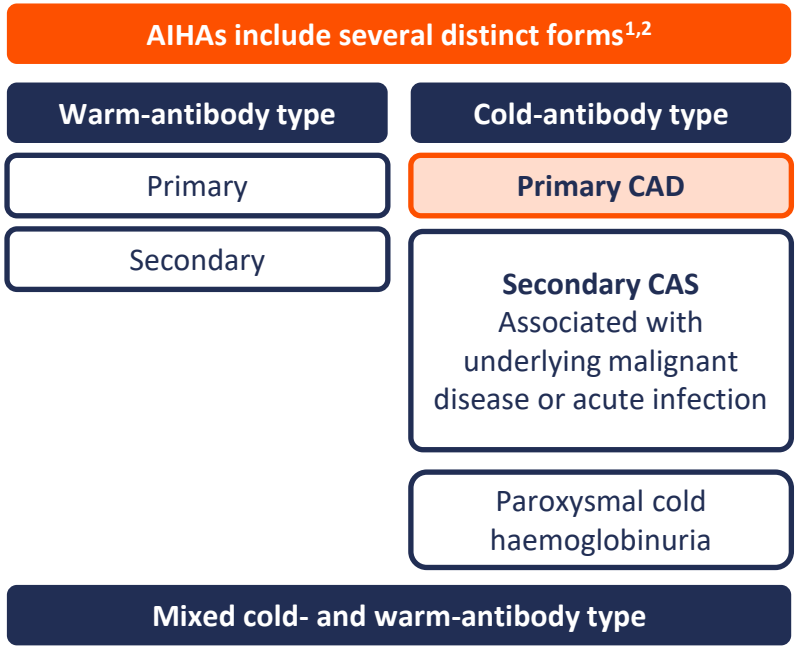
CAD and autoimmune haemolytic anaemias



Adapted from Berentsen and Barcellini, 2021; Jäger, 2020.

Primary CAD accounts for ~15–25% of all AIHAs[2,3]

CAD is traditionally defined as AIHA mediated by CAs. Patients may have evidence of a B-cell lymphoproliferative disorder, but no evidence of malignancy[2]

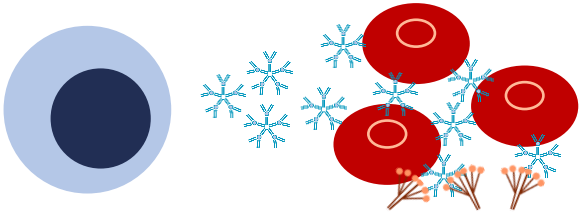
CAs are autoantibodies that react optimally at cold temperature (4°C), but can react at other temperatures depending on the thermal amplitude[3]

AIHA, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia; CA, cold agglutinin; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; CAS, cold agglutinin syndrome.

1. Berentsen S, Barcellini W. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;385:1407–19; 2. Jäger U, et al. *Blood Rev*. 2020;41:100648; 3. Gabbard A, Booth G. *Clin Hematol Int*. 2020;2:95–100.

Pathophysiology of CAD

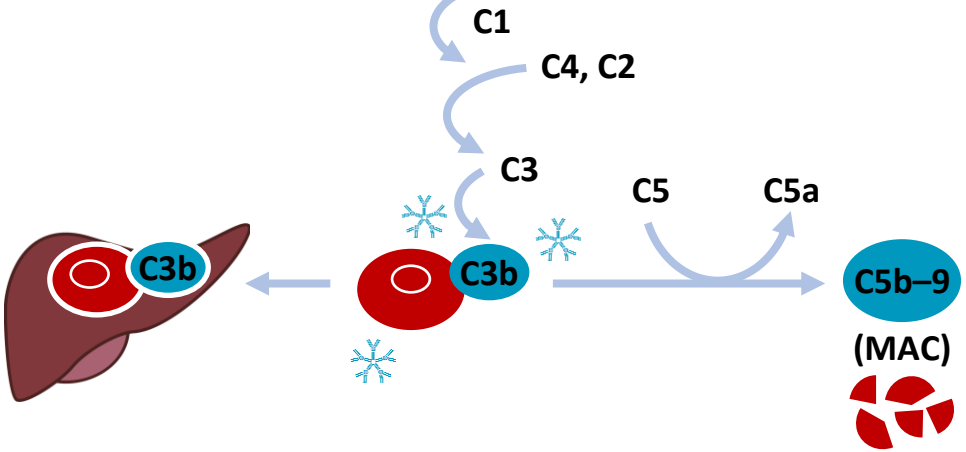
Monoclonal B cells produce IgM CAs that target RBCs



CA binding causes RBC agglutination and C1 activates the classical complement pathway

Extravascular haemolysis

C3b-opsonized RBCs are phagocytosed, mainly in the liver



Intravascular haemolysis

Formation of MAC in severe disease may also result in intravascular haemolysis

Adapted from Berentsen, 2020.

C, serum complement protein; CA, cold agglutinin; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; IgM, immunoglobulin M; MAC, membrane attack complex; RBC, red blood cell.

Berentsen S. *Front Immunol*. 2020;11:590.

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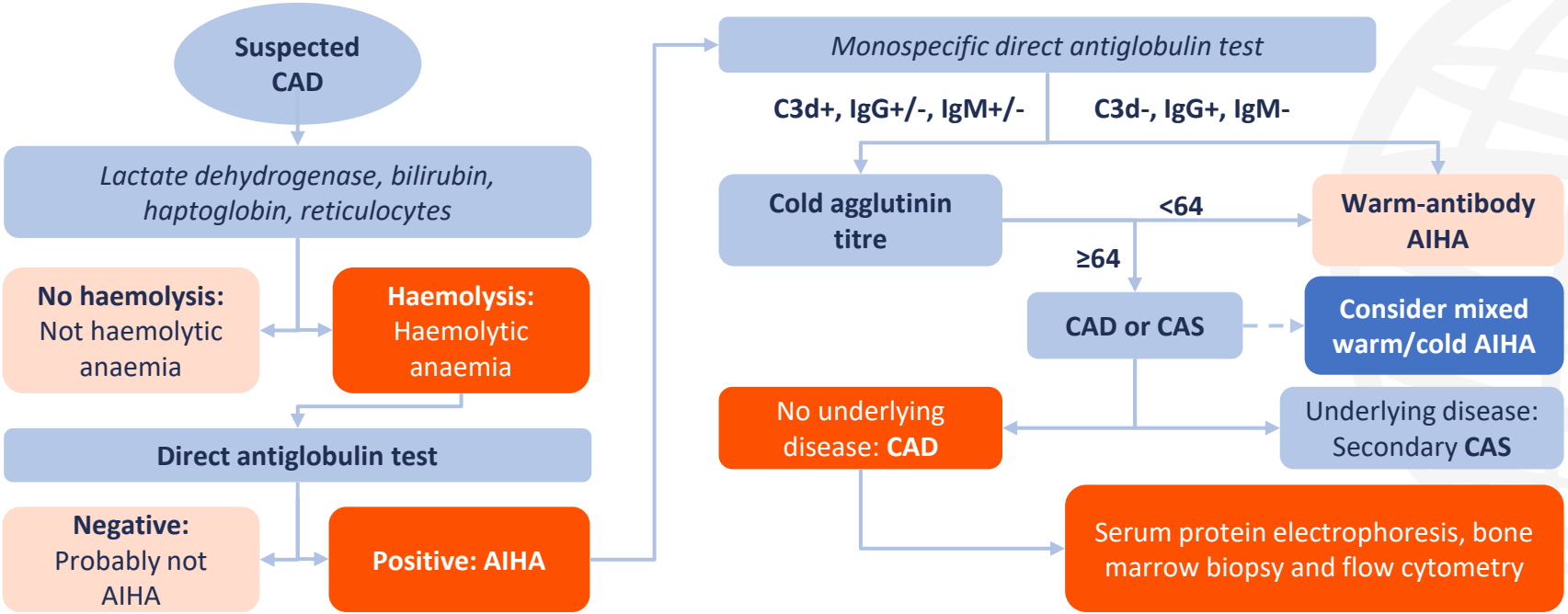
Diagnosis algorithm

- **CAD diagnosis relies on exclusion of secondary diseases or other causes**



Adapted from Berentsen and Barcellini, 2021.

AIHA, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia; C, serum complement protein; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; CAS, cold agglutinin syndrome; IgG/M, immunoglobin G/M.

Berentsen S, Barcellini W. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;385:1407–19.

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Navigating the evolving treatment landscape in cold agglutinin disease

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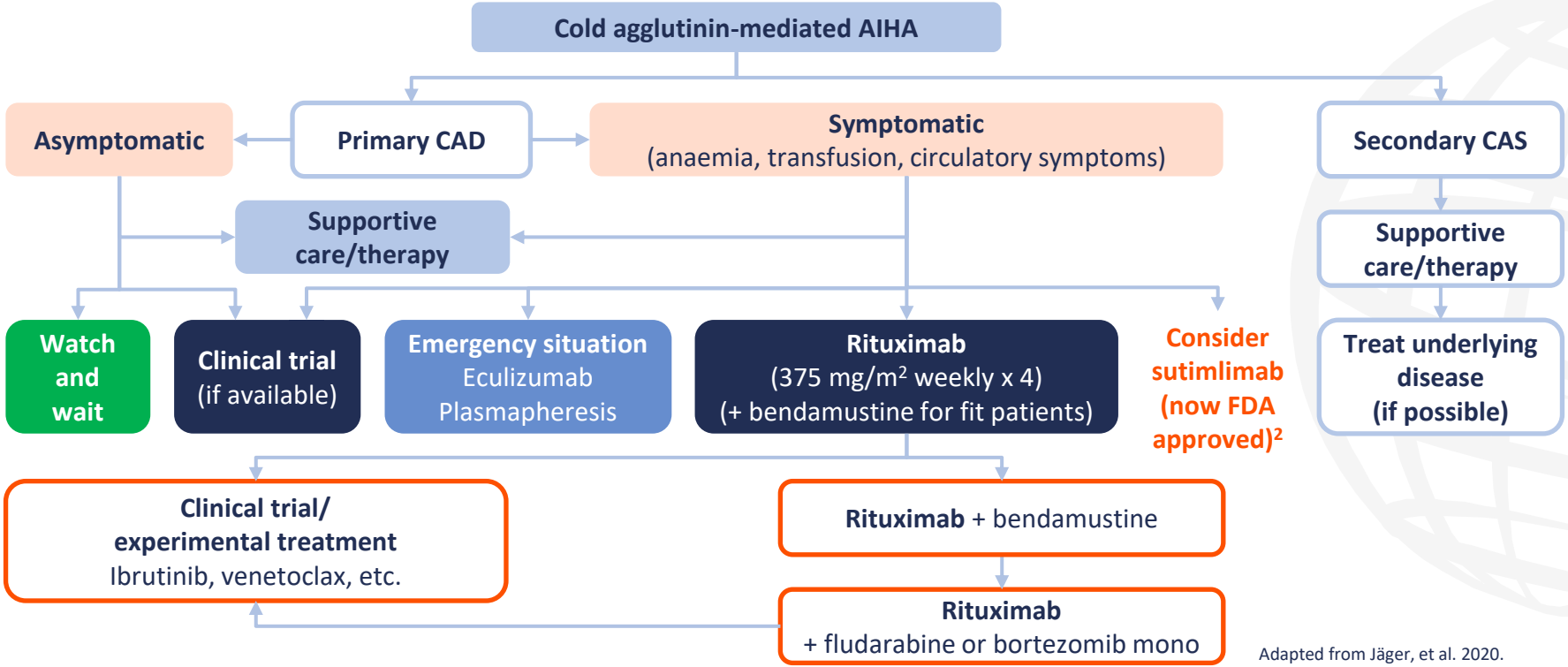
Evolving treatment algorithm for CAD[1]



Adapted from Jäger, et al. 2020.

AIHA, autoimmune haemolytic anaemia; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; CAS, cold agglutinin syndrome; FDA, Food and Drug Administration; mono, monotherapy.

1. Jäger U, et al. *Blood Rev*. 2020;41:100648; 2. FDA. Sutimlimab PI. 2022. Available at: www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2022/761164s000lbl.pdf (accessed 23 August 2022).

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Novel agents currently under investigation for CAD

Intervention	Mode of action	Trial	Results
Sutimlimab	mAb targeting C1	CARDINAL (Phase III; NCT03347396)[1]	At 26 weeks, the mean haemoglobin level >11g/dL was maintained from week 3, with rapid inhibition of the complement pathway and decreased bilirubin levels
		CADENZA (Phase III; NCT03347422)[2]	Sutimlimab increased mean haemoglobin at assessed timepoint (mean of weeks 23, 25, 26), and normalized bilirubin by week 1. Improvements correlated with near-complete inhibition of classical complement pathway (2.3% mean activity at week 1)
		Phase III (NCT05132127)[3]	*[Ongoing: Using ongoing sutimlimab in patients who have already benefited from sutimlimab in the CARDINAL/CADENZA trials]*
Pegcetacoplan (APL-2)	Complement C3 inhibitor	Phase II (NCT03226678)[4]	Increased mean haemoglobin in CAD and wAIHA; sustained benefit with longer exposure
		Phase III (NCT05096403)[5]	*[Ongoing: pegcetacoplan in patients with primary CAD]*
Iptacopan	Complement factor B inhibitor[6]	Phase II (NCT05086744)[7]	*[Ongoing: assess efficacy, safety and PK in CAD and ITP]*
BIVV020	mAb targeting C1[8]	Phase I (NCT04269551)[9]	*[Ongoing: assess the safety and tolerability in CAD after single dose]*

C, serum complement protein; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; ITP, immune thrombocytopenia; mAb, monoclonal antibody; PK, pharmacokinetics; wAIHA, warm autoimmune haemolytic anaemia.

1. Röth A, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;384:1323–34; 2. Röth A, et al. *Blood.* 2022;140:980–91; 3. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT05132127. Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05132127 (accessed 23 August 2022); 4. Gertz M, et al. *Hemasphere.* 2019;3(Suppl. 1):405; 5. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT05096403. Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05096403 (accessed 23 August 2022); 6. Jang J, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2022;6:4450–60; 7. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT05086744. Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05086744 (accessed 23 August 2022); 8. Berentsen S. *Blood*. 2021;137:1295–03; 9. ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT04269551. Available at: https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04269551 (accessed 23 August 2022).

Individualizing cold agglutinin disease management in the clinic

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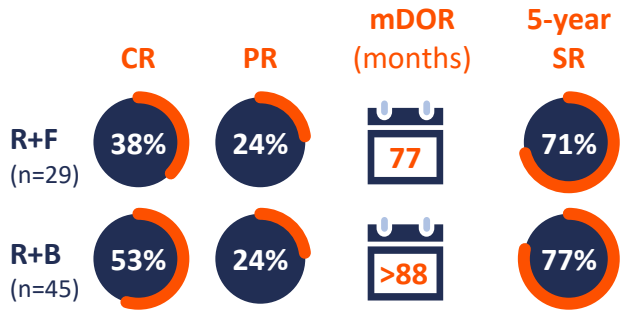
Unmet treatment needs in CAD

Experience with conventional therapy and impact on patients with CAD

Retrospective analysis of CAD outcomes in 232 patients[1]

24% no prior treatment	**45%** received R-monotherapy	**59%** responded at least once

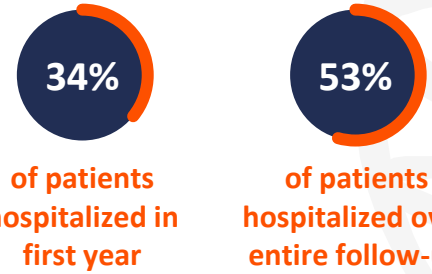
- **Deeper responses over time with both R+F and R+B**



- **Higher risk of late-occurring malignancies with R-F vs R-B**
- **Increased risk of thromboembolic events**

Retrospective observational cohort study with 60 months' follow-up[2]

High burden on healthcare system: transfusions, hospitalizations, outpatients and emergency room visits



Higher burden with moderate and severe anaemia or with haemolysis

Patients still experience moderate to severe anaemia and haemolysis 5 years after diagnosis

B, bendamustine; CAD, cold agglutinin disease; CR, complete response; F, fludarabine; mDOR, median duration of response; PR, partial response; R, rituximab; SR, sustained remission.

1. Berentsen S. *Blood.* 2020;136:480–8; 2. Wilson A, et al. *ASH 2020.* Abstract 151.

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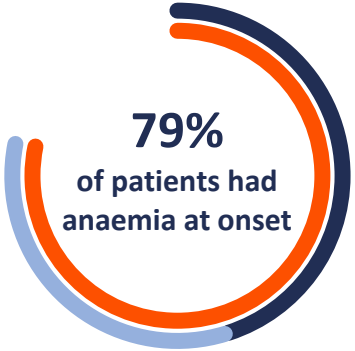
STRIDE cohort: Anaemia

In a retrospective analysis of CAD patients from a large US database:



45% had severe anaemia

34% had moderate anaemia

72% of the patients had ≥1 severe anaemia event within the first year of follow-up

Mean and median haemoglobin were similar

Mean: 8.3 g/dL
Median: 8.2 g/dL
Range: 4.7–11.6 g/dL

During the follow-up period, there were:

- **7.1 severe anaemia events per patient-year** (787 events per 110.5 patient-years)
- **10.8 moderate events per patient-year** (1,196 events per 110.5 patient-years)
- **8.0 mild events per patient-year** (888 events per 110.5 patient-years)

- The severity of anaemia varied for each patient over time
- Many patients remained severely anaemic despite receiving multiple therapies

The degree of anaemia can be associated with substantial impairment in quality of life

CAD, cold agglutinin disease; STRIDE, Stanford Translational Research Integrated Database Environment.
Mullins M, et al. *Blood Adv*. 2017;1:839–48.

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Optum retrospective analysis of the largest CAD cohort to date: Thromboembolic events

In a matched cohort comparison study evaluating the risk of TEs in patients with and without CAD over a 10-year period:

- Of 608 patients with CAD, **29.6% had TE** (n=180/608 patients) compared with **17.6% of patients without CAD** (n=1,033/5,873 patients; adjusted HR 1.94 [95% CI 1.64–2.30])

TE type	Patients with CAD (N=608)	Patients without CAD (N=5,873)	Adjusted HR (95% CI)
Venous TE	14.6%	5.2%	2.95 (2.28–3.82)
Arterial TE	7.6%	3.7%	1.93 (1.37–2.72)
Cerebral TE	14.0%	11.6%	1.26 (1.00–1.60)

There is a

1.9 ×

higher overall risk of having a TE in patients with CAD versus patients without CAD

(HR 1.94 [95% CI 1.64, 2.30])

- **Patients with CAD have an increased risk of TEs when compared with a matched non-CAD population**

CAD, cold agglutinin disease; CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; TE, thromboembolic event.

Broome C, et al. *Res Pract Thromb Haemost*. 2020;4:628–35.

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