

**Morbus Waldenström – starke Befürwortung für unsere StiL Studie NHL 7-2008 vom Direktor des Bing Center for Waldenström's Research aus den U.S.A., Dr. Steve Treon**



Dear Dr. Rummel:

On behalf of the Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia community, I would like to thank you and your colleagues for spearheading the randomized clinical trial which is evaluating Bendamustine plus Rituximab, followed by either observation or maintenance Rituximab therapy. Bendamustine plus Rituximab has become an important standard of care for the treatment of Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia. It was recently adopted by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network guidelines for treatment of patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia due to the StiL study efforts. We too have observed in our own studies high levels of activity for this combination akin to the results reported by you in patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia. The current effort by the StiL group to examine the impact of maintenance therapy with Rituximab is an important one. As you are aware, we published a retrospective study examining the benefit of maintenance Rituximab in patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia which showed a positive benefit. However, prospective study data such as the study you are conducting is critical to confirming these observations, and establishing maintenance Rituximab as a standard of care in patients with Waldenström's Macroglobulinemia. I wish you and your colleagues success, and want to thank your patients in advance for considering and taking part in this important study.

Sincerely,

Steve Treon MD, PhD  
Harvard University  
Boston MA USA