Racial Disparities and Demographics in Recruitment for Relapsed/Refractory Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma and CAR T-Cell Therapy: A Cross-Sectional Review

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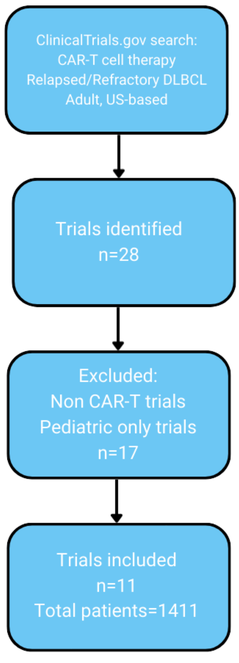
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Introduction

- From 2017–2021, **three CAR T-cell therapies** (axi-cel, tisa-cel, liso-cel) were approved for **relapsed/refractory DLBCL after ≥2 prior lines.**
- **Aim:** Evaluate demographic and racial representation in US-based CAR T-cell trials for relapsed/refractory DLBCL.

Methods

- **Data source:** ClinicalTrials.gov (advanced search).
- **Inclusion:** Adult (≥18 y) US trials with CAR T-cell therapy for relapsed/refractory DLBCL.
- **Exclusion:** Non–CAR T interventions; pediatric-only studies.
- **Reference data:** DLBCL prevalence by sex and race from NCI SEER (2021).
- **Stats:** Z-score for population proportions.



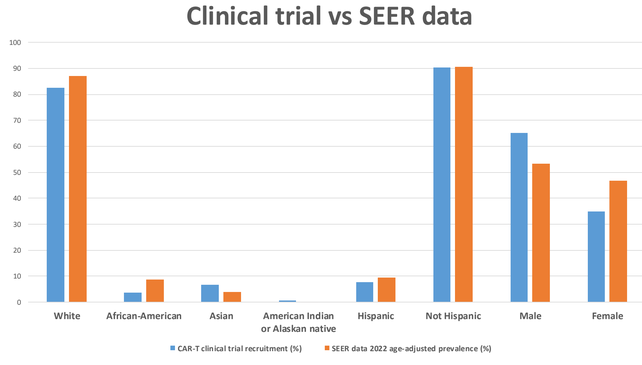
Results

- **Trials included:** 11 (n=1,411 patients).
- **Therapies studied:** Approved CAR-Ts + investigational CAR-Ts.
- **Mean age:** 59.2 y.
- **Sex:** 65.1% male, 34.9% female.
- **Ethnicity:** 90.45% not Hispanic, 7.60% Hispanic, 1.95% unknown.
- **Race:**
  - White: 82.43%
  - Asian: 6.82%
  - African-American: 3.78%
  - American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.74%
  - Other/Unknown: 6.23%

Group	CAR-T clinical trial recruitment (%)	SEER data 2022 age-adjusted prevalence (%)	p-value
White	82.43	87.10	<0.001
African-American	3.78	8.74	<0.001
Asian	6.82	3.89	<0.001
American Indian or Alaskan native	0.74	0.28	<0.001
Hispanic	7.60	9.44	0.018
Not Hispanic	90.45	90.56	0.889
Male	65.1	53.2	<0.001
Female	34.9	46.8	<0.001

Table 1: Difference in proportion between recruitment for CAR-T trials in relapsed/refractory DLBCL and prevalence of DLBCL per NCI SEER 2022 data

1. Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma - Cancer Stat Facts. *SEER.*.



Findings

- **African-American** representation in CAR T trials **lower** than disease prevalence.
- **Male** recruitment proportion **higher** than DLBCL prevalence.
- **Disparities** in trial participation may influence treatment access and outcomes.

Conclusion

- Recruitment patterns show **underrepresentation** of **African-American** patients and a **male** predominance.
- Identifying and addressing these disparities is essential to ensure **equitable access** to CAR T-cell therapy and to understand outcome differences.

SOHO2025