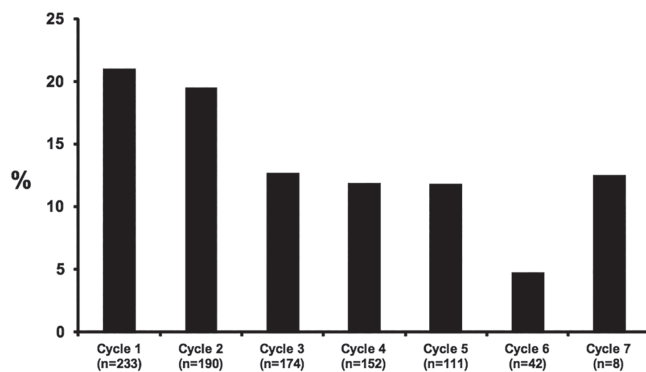


**Supplemental Fig. 1.** A Kaplan-Meier curve of rituximab survival during the observation period is shown. Patients who completed the study were censored at the time of study completion while patients who discontinued treatment for any reason (including adverse events, insufficient therapeutic response, refusal of treatment, lack of cooperation, consent withdrawal, loss during follow-up and physician’s decision to withdraw) were censored at the time of drug discontinuation.



**Supplemental Fig. 2.** The percentage of patients with any type of adverse events (AEs) during the seven cycles of rituximab therapy is shown.

**Supplemental Table I.** Any type of serious adverse event (SAEs) in different organ systems as recorded by study investigators is shown.

	n of SAEs	n of patients (%)
Population safety		233
<b>Any SAE</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25 (10.7%)</b>
<b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Afebrile neutropenia	1	1
Pancytopenia	1	1
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Pericardial tamponade (outcome: death)	1	1
<b>Eye disorders</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 (0.43%)</b>
Visual loss (left eye)/visual acuity reduced (right eye)	1	1
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Gastroenteritis	1	1
Abdominal pain	1	1
<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Hepatitis B virus reactivation	2	2
<b>Immune system disorders</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 (0.43%)</b>
Anaphylactic reaction	1	1
<b>Infections and infestations</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Encephalitis due to West-Nile virus	1	1
Pyelonephritis	1	1
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1 (0.43%)</b>
Septic arthritis	1	1
<b>Neoplasms, benign, malignant &amp; unspecified</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Multiple liver metastasis	1	1
Small cell lung carcinoma (outcome: death)	1	1
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3 (1.29%)</b>
Transient ischaemic episode	1	1
Ischaemic stroke	1	1
Encephalopathy (progressive dementia – decreased vision) (outcome: death)	1	1
<b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 (0.86%)</b>
Acute renal failure	1	1
Renal failure	1	1
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6 (2.58%)</b>
Lower respiratory tract infection	1	1
Respiratory infection	4	4
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease exacerbation	1	1
Dyspnea	1	1
<b>Vascular disorders</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3 (1.29%)</b>
Artery thrombosis	1	1
Hypertension	1	1
Dysesthesias of lower limb - decreased peripheral pulse of dorsal arteries of legs bilaterally	1	1