

Table II. Comparison of patient characteristics at treatment initiation.

Factor		Maintenance group (n=21)	Non-maintenance group (n=27)	p-Value
Age, years	Median (range)	72 (48-88)	70 (58-82)	0.801
Gender, n	Male	11 (52.4)	12 (44.4)	0.772
Hb, g/dl	Median (range)	9.8 (5.3-14.5)	10 (7.5-15.2)	0.832
Corrected calcium, n	<11.5 mg/dl	20	27	0.438
	≥11.5 mg/dl	1	0	
Immunoglobulin subtype, n	IgG	6	14	
	IgA	7	8	
	IgM	0	0	
	IgD	1	0	
	Light chain only	7	5	
	Non-secretory	0	0	
eGFR, n	≥40 ml/min/1.73 m ²	10	21	0.0383
	<40 ml/min/1.73 m ²	11	6	
International Staging System classification, n	I	4	9	0.133
	II	5	9	
	III	10	5	
	Missing data	2	4	
Cytogenetics (available only), n	CCND1	3	2	
	FGFR3	0	2	
	P53	1	1	
	Chr 13 deletion	2	3	
Alkylating agents (during bortezomib therapy), n	Yes	8	5	0.410

CCND1: Cyclin D1; eGFR: estimated glomerular filtration rate; FGFR3: fibroblast growth factor receptor 3; MAF: v-maf musculoaponeurotic fibrosarcoma oncogene homolog. Patients with missing data were excluded from the statistical analysis.