CLAIMS

1. A method for the stratification of a multiple myeloma (MM) patient disposed to respond favorably to an anti-BCMA antibody therapy, comprising determining, in a sample obtained from said patient, whether B-cells, preferably malignant B-cells of said patient express BCMA protein on the surface of said B-cells, wherein said patient is disposed to respond favorably to said anti-BCMA antibody therapy, if said B-cells express BCMA protein on their surface.

2. A method for diagnosing a BCMA negative multiple myeloma (MM) patient, comprising determining, in a sample obtained from said patient, whether B-cells, preferably malignant B-cells of said patient express BCMA protein on their surface, wherein said patient suffers from BCMA negative MM, if no BCMA protein is detectable on the surface of said B-cells.

3. A method for selecting an antibody-based multiple myeloma (MM) therapy, comprising determining, in a sample obtained from said patient, whether B-cells, preferably malignant B-cells of a patient express BCMA protein on the surface of said B-cells, wherein, if said B-cells are BCMA positive, the patient may be subject to an anti-CD20 antibody therapy and/or an anti-CD38 antibody therapy and/or an anti-BCMA antibody therapy and/or anti-CS1 antibody therapy, or , if said B-cells are BCMA-negative, the patient is subject to an anti-CD20 antibody therapy and/or an anti-CD38 antibody therapy and/or anti-CS1 antibody therapy.

4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said B-cells are obtained from said patient.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said B-cells are characterized to be CD38 positive, CD56 positive or negative, CD45 positive, and CD19 positive.

6. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said patient is to be treated with an anti-BCMA antibody therapy.