

Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Microsatellite Instability – High Cancers

Gentry King, MD

Assistant Professor, University of Washington
Attending Physician, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance
Assistant Member, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center











Disclosures

No relevant financial relationships to disclose











Immunotherapy for HCC





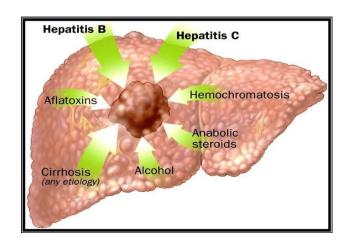






Background

- HCC is the most common type of primary liver cancer
- Often associated with cirrhosis
- 3rd leading cause of cancer death worldwide
- Treatment options:
 - Curative: orthotopic liver transplantation, surgical resection
 - Many patients are ineligible for surgery/transplant
 - Liver Directed Therapy: Chemoembolization, radiofrequency ablation, microwave ablation, radiation
 - Palliative systemic therapy: chemotherapy, targeted therapy and immunotherapy













Immunotherapeutic Strategies in HCC

- Checkpoint inhibition
- Blocking inhibitory cytokines
- Vaccine therapies
- Oncolytic viruses
- Adoptive cell therapy











Approved checkpoint inhibitors for HCC

Drug	Approved	Study	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2017a	Checkmate 040 Ph I/II	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
Pembrolizumab	2018a	Keynote 224 Ph II	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	200 mg Q3W
Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	2020a	Checkmate 040 Ph II/III	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	Nivo 1mg/kg + Ipi 3mg/kg Q3W x4, then Nivo 240mg Q2W
Atezolizumab + bevacizumab	2020	IMBRAVE 150	Advanced HCC 1 st line setting	Atezolizumab 1200 mg + bevacizumab 15mg/kg Q3W





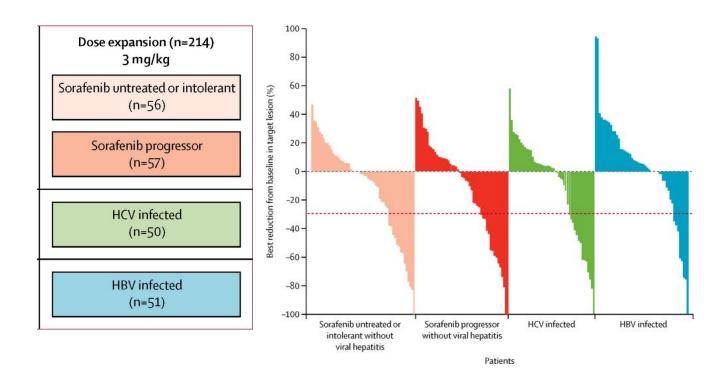






CheckMate 040: Nivolumab

- Phase I/II Advanced HCC CPT A or B7
- 68% prior sorafenib
- Results:
 - ORR: **20%**, 3 CR, 39 PR
 - @ 6 mo: OS = 83%, PFS = 37%
 - **@ 9 mo: OS = 74%,** PFS = 28%
- No difference if previously treated with sorafenib, No difference in AEs if HBV/HCV(+)
- Gr 3/4 TrAE: elevation of AST/ALT, elevation of bilirubin, and hepatitis
- FDA 2017: accelerated approval for RR and durability of response







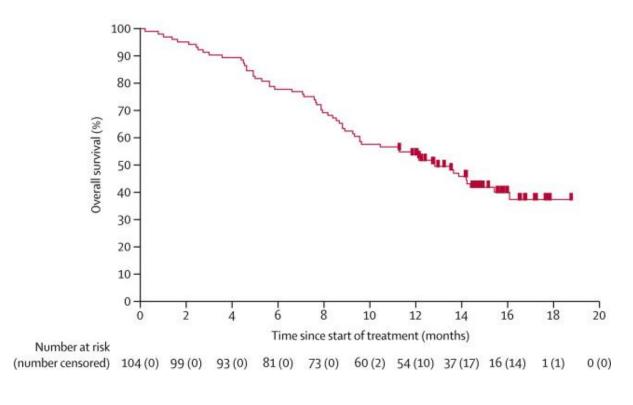






KEYNOTE-224: Pembrolizumab

- Phase II non-randomized trial
 - Prior Sorafenib, CPT A
 - Pembrolizumab IV 200 mg Q3W
 - Primary endpoint: ORR
 - 104 patients enrolled and treated
- Results
 - ORR: **17**%, 1 CR, 17 PR
 - mPFS: 4.9 months, mOS: 12.9 months
 - 90% of responders had <u>></u>6mo response
 - 56% of responders had ≥12mo response
- FDA 2018: accelerated approval for RR and durability of response







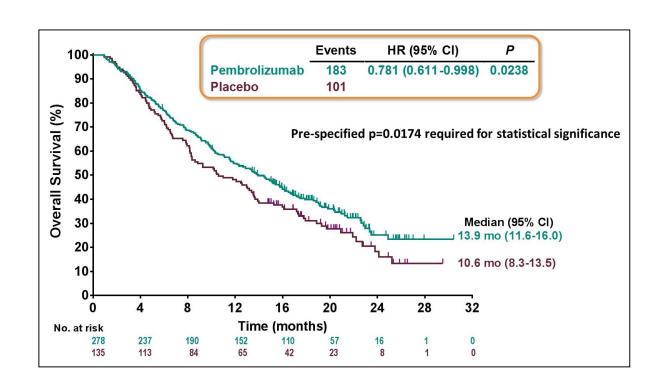






KEYNOTE-240: Pembrolizumab

- Phase III RPCT, 2nd line
- Primary endpoints: OS, PFS
- Results: primary endpoints did not meet statistical significance.
 - OS: HR = 0.78, p = 0.0238
 - PFS: HR = 0.78, p = 0.0209
 - ORR **16.9**% (95% CI 12.7-21.8) vs 2.2% (95% CI 0.5-6.4%), p = 0.00001













Checkmate 459: Nivo vs Sora 1st line

- Randomized Phase III
 - 743 patients
 - 1:1 to NIVO (240 mg IV Q2W) or SOR (400 mg oral BID)
- Primary Endpoint: OS
 - Not met
 - mOS 16.4 mo for NIVO
 - mOS 14.7 mo for SOR
 - (HR 0.85 [95% CI: 0.72–1.02]; P = 0.0752)
- ORR: 15 NIVO vs 7 SOR

Table: LBA38_PR Efficacy results					
	NIVO n = 371	SOR n = 372			
Median OS (95% CI), mo 12-mo OS rate, % (95% CI) 24-mo OS rate, % (95% CI) Median PFS, mo (95% CI) ORR, n (%) BOR, n (%) Complete response Partial response ORR by baseline tumor PD-L1 exp PD-L1 ≥1% PD-L1 <1%	16.4 (13.9–18.4) 59.7 (54.4–64.6) 36.8 (31.8–41.8) 3.7 (3.1–3.9) 57 (15) 14 (4) 43 (12) pression, n/n (%) 20/71 (28) 36/295 (12)	14.7 (11.9–17.2) 55.1 (49.8–60.1) 33.1 (28.3–38.0) 3.8 (3.7–4.5) 26 (7) 5 (1) 21 (6) 6/64 (9) 20/300 (7)			
10 21 1/0	30, 233 (12)	20,300 (/)			



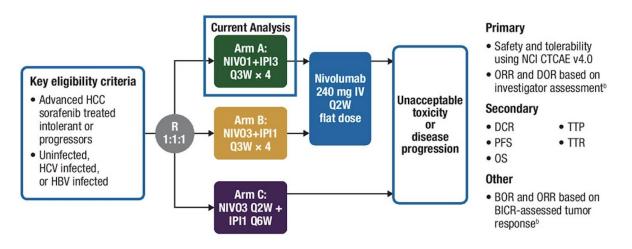








CheckMate 040, Cohort 4: Nivo + Ipi



- Nivo 1mg/kg + Ipi 3mg/kg Q3W X4 -> Nivo 240mg Q4W
- 28 mo follow up
- ORR was 33%, CR 8%
- Gr 3 and 4 Any AEs: 53%
- Gr 3 and 4 hepatobiliary AEs: 33%
- FDA 2020: accelerated approval for RR and durability of response

		NIVO1+IPI3 Q3Wa		
	Sorafenib ≤ 6 months n = 28	Sorafenib > 6 months n = 22	Total n = 50	
ORR by BICR using RECIST v1.1, ^b n (% [95% CI])	8 (28.6 [13.2–48.7])	8 (36.4 [17.2–59.3])	16 (32.0 [19.5–46.7])	
Best overall response, n (%)				
CR	2 (7)	2 (9)	4 (8)	
PR	6 (21)	6 (27)	12 (24)	
SD	4 (14)	5 (23)	9 (18)	
PD	13 (46)	7 (32)	20 (40)	
DCR,° % (95% CI)	46.4 (27.5–66.1)	63.6 (40.7–82.8)	54.0 (39.3–68.2)	
DCR with SD ≥ 6 months, % (95% CI)	35.7 (18.6–55.9)	45.5 (24.4–67.8)	40.0 (26.4–54.8)	
Median time to response (range), ^d months	1.35 (1.1–2.7)	2.6 (1.2–12.8)	2.0 (1.1–12.8)	
Median duration of response (range),d months	16.0 (4.6+ to 29.0+)	NR (4.6-30.5+)	17.5 (4.6–30.5+)	

 a Four doses, followed by NIVO 240 mg IV Q2W flat dose; a Defined as CR + PR; c Defined as CR + PR + SD + non-CR/non-PD; a Patients with CR or PR











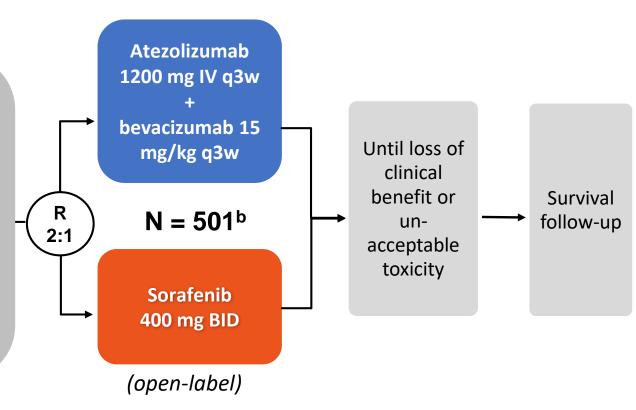
IMbrave150: AtezoBev vs Sora 1st line

Key eligibility

- Locally advanced or metastatic and/or unresectable HCC
- No prior systemic therapy

Stratification

- Region (Asia, excluding Japan^a/rest of world)
- ECOG PS (0/1)
- Macrovascular invasion (MVI) and/or extrahepatic spread (EHS) (presence/absence)
- Baseline α-fetoprotein (AFP; < 400/≥ 400 ng/mL)



Co-primary endpoints

- OS
- IRF-assessed PFS per RECIST 1.1

Key secondary endpoints (in testing strategy)

- IRF-assessed ORR per RECIST 1.1
- IRF-assessed ORR per HCC mRECIST











IMbrave150 baseline characteristics

Characteristic	Atezo + Bev (n = 336)	Sorafenib (n = 165)
Median age (range), years	64 (26-88)	66 (33-87)
Sex, male, n (%)	277 (82)	137 (83)
Region, n (%)		
Asia (excluding Japan ^a)	133 (40)	68 (41)
Rest of world	203 (60)	97 (59)
ECOG PS 1, n (%)	127 (38)	62 (38)
Child-Pugh class, n (%)		
A B	333 (99) 1 (< 1)	165 (100) 0
BCLC staging at study entry, n (%)		
A B C	8 (2) 52 (15) 276 (82)	6 (4) 26 (16) 133 (81)
Aetiology of HCC, n (%)		
HBV HCV Non-viral	164 (49) 72 (21) 100 (30)	76 (46) 36 (22) 53 (32)
AFP ≥ 400 ng/mL, n (%)	126 (38)	61 (37)
EHS, n (%)	212 (63)	93 (56)
MVI, n (%)	129 (38)	71 (43)
EHS and/or MVI, n (%)	258 (77)	120 (73)
Prior TACE, n (%)	130 (39)	70 (42)
Prior radiotherapy, n (%)	34 (10)	17 (10)





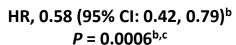
Median OS (95% CI), mo^a

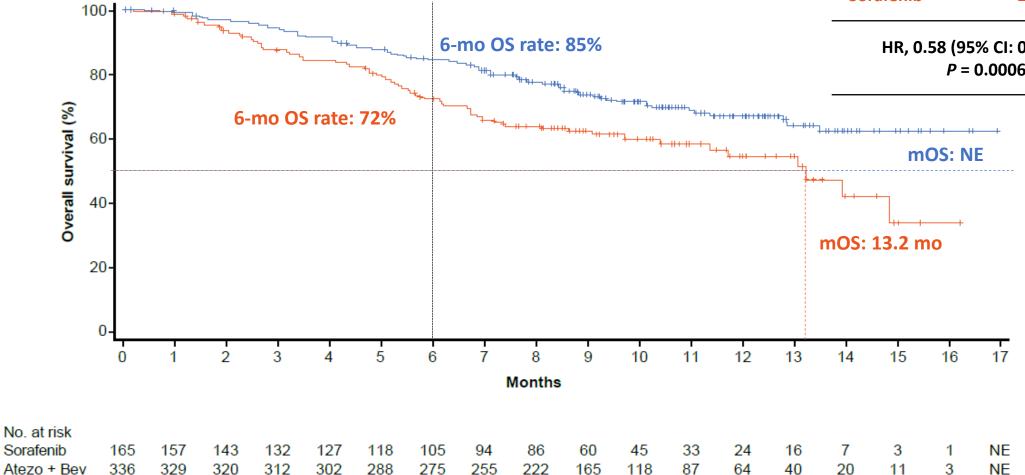
Atezo + Bev

NE

Sorafenib

13.2 (10.4, NE)





OS: co-primary endpoint



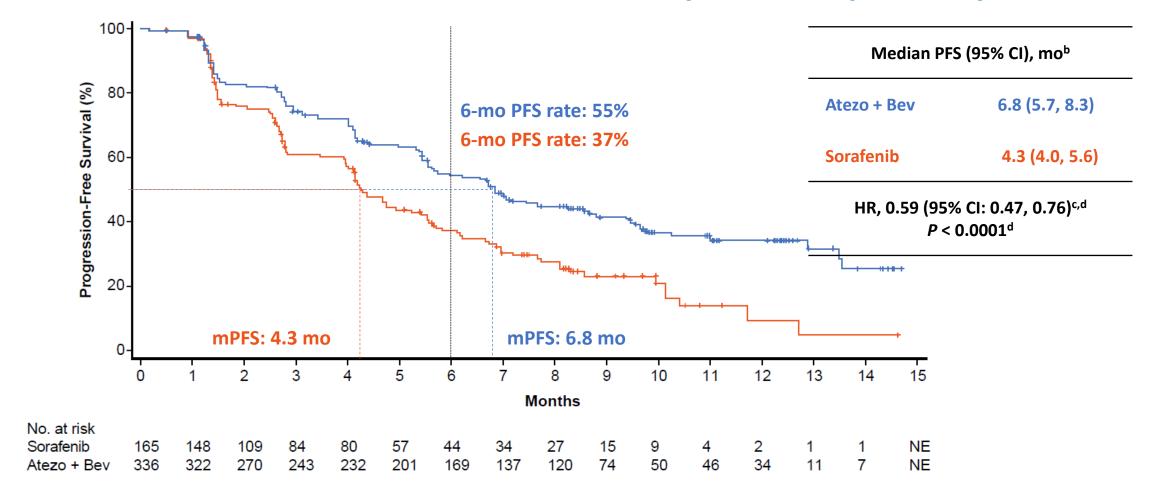








Confirmed PFSa: co-primary endpoint













RRs and Duration of Response

	IRF RECIST 1.1		IRF HCC mRECIST	
	Atezo + Bev (n = 326)	Sorafenib (n = 159)	Atezo + Bev (n = 325) ^a	Sorafenib (n = 158)
Confirmed ORR, n (%) (95% CI)	89 (27) (23, 33)	19 (12) (7, 18)	108 (33) (28, 39)	21 (13) (8, 20)
CR	18 (6)	0	33 (10)	3 (2)
PR	71 (22)	19 (12)	75 (23)	18 (11)
Stratified P value ^b	< 0.0	0001	< 0.0	0001
SD, n (%)	151 (46)	69 (43)	127 (39)	66 (42)
PD, n (%)	64 (20)	39 (25)	66 (20)	40 (25)
DCR, n (%)	240 (74)	88 (55)	235 (72)	87 (55)
Median DOR, months (95% CI)	NE	(4. 9 ;3NE)	NE	6.3 (4.9 <i>,</i> NE)
Event-free rate at 6 months, n (%)	88	59	82	63





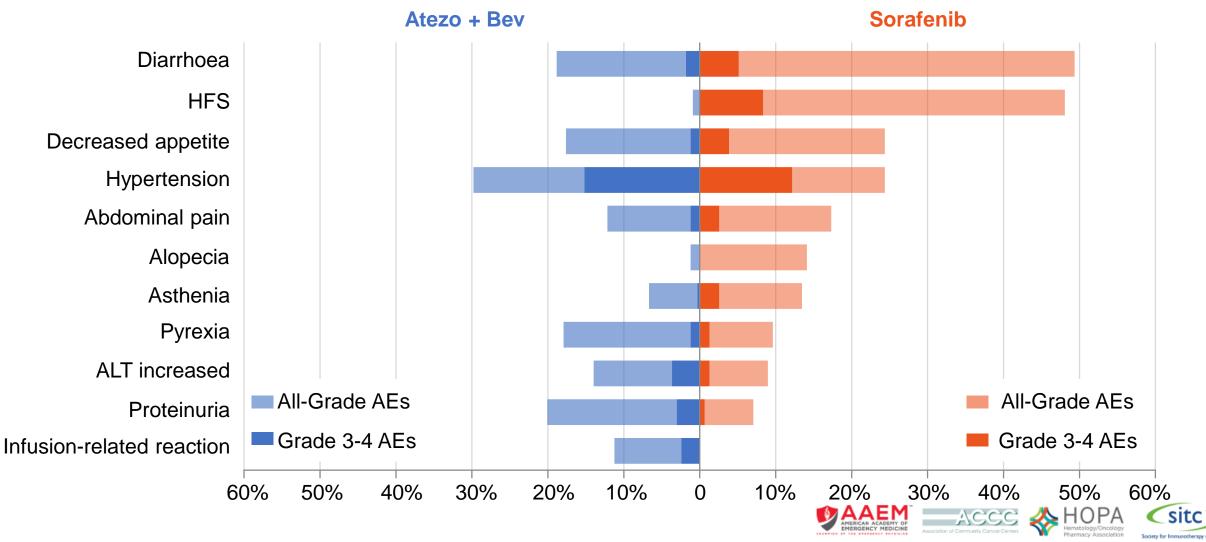






Safety

≥ 10% frequency of AEs in either arm and > 5% difference between arms





Patient-reported outcomes

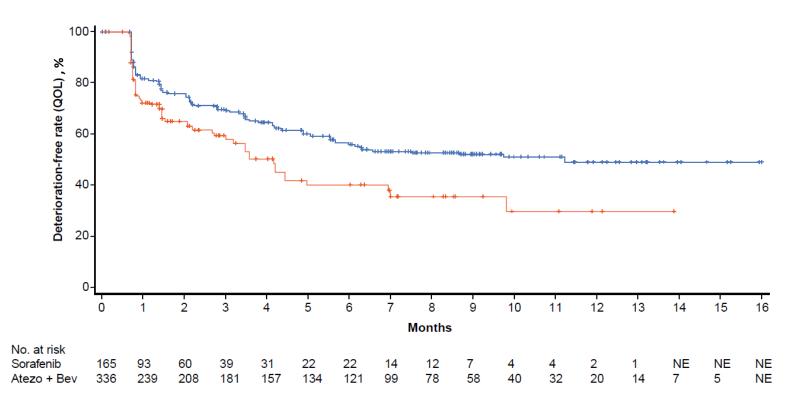
 Atezolizumab + bevacizumab delayed the time to deterioration of patientreported quality of life compared with sorafenib

Quality of life Median TTD (95% CI), mo^b

Atezo + Bev 11.2 (6.0, NE)

Sorafenib 3.6 (3.0, 7.0)

HR, 0.63 (95% CI: 0.46, 0.85)













The Fine Print, Patient Selection

- CPT A patients only
- Endoscopy within 6 months prior to enrolment
- Excluded: incompletely treated EV or high risk for bleeding
- Bleeding AEs
 - Bleeding of any grade: Atezo Bev 25.2% vs Sorafenib 17.3%
 - Fatal Bleeding: Atezo Bev: 6 vs Sorafenib: 1











Treatment Paradigm Shift in HCC

- Immunotherapy may take a larger share of first-line treatment
 - Current 1st line: Sorafenib, Levnatinib, Atezo + Bev
 - Promising pivotal trials in the 1st line all contain IO agents

ICI + Multi-TKI	ICI + ICI
Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab (LEAP-002)	Durvalumab + Tremelimumab (HIMALYA)
Cabozantinib + Atezolizumab (COSMIC-312)	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (CheckMate 9dw)











Post-Sorafenib Second line TKI options in HCC

	ORR	mPFS	mOS	Gr 3/4 AE rate, Tox			
Second line vs plac	Second line vs placebo, post-sorafenib trials						
Cabozantinib (CELESTIAL)	4% vs 1%	5.2 mos	10.2 vs 8 mos	68% of patients			
Regorafenib (RESORCE)	11% vs 4% (modified RECIST)	3.1 mos	10.6 vs 7.8 mos	50% of patients, 70% dose reduced			
Ramucirumab (REACH2)	5% vs 1%	2.8 mos	8.5 VS 7.3 mos	35%, no HFS			
First line Trials vs s	First line Trials vs sorafenib, NCCN suggested options in 2 nd line						
Lenvatinib (REFLECT 1 st line data)	24% vs 9%	7.4 mos	13.6 mos vs 12.3 mos	57%			











Conclusions

- Since many patients are ineligible for surgical resection/transplant, there is a great need for systemic therapies in HCC
- Immune Checkpoint inhibitors are the only approved immunotherapeutic strategies for HCC (Nivolumab, Nivo-Ipi, Pembrolizumab and Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab)
- Combination strategies produce higher RRs, need to balance vs toxicity
- Atezolizumab and Bevacizumab is the new standard 1st line treatment in eligible patients
- Ongoing 1st line trials looking at various IO combination strategies (TKI, anti-CTLA-4)











Immunotherapy in MSI-H Cancers

Tissue Agnostic and mCRC











Biology of Mismatch Repair Deficiency and Tumor Mutation Burden

- MMR is a repair mechanism for single base insertions and deletions when slippage occurs during DNA replication by DNA polymerase.
- These errors often occur in areas of short, repetitive DNA sequences, termed microsatellites
- There are four MMR proteins: MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, PMS2
 - A deficiency in one or more of these proteins results in inability to repair errors, resulting in increased frequency/burden of mutations (TMB high) and increased variability in microsatellite regions (MSI-H)











MSI-H vs dMMR, sporadic vs Lynch

- The presence of MSI represents phenotypic evidence of MMR deficiency/dysfunction
- Testing:
 - dMMR: IHC demonstrates loss of one of the 4 proteins
 - MSI-H: via PCR or NGS showing increased length/variability of microsatellites
- Mutations in MMR proteins can result from:
 - Germline deficiency / Hereditary causes (Lynch syndrome)
 - Somatic mutations
 - Silencing through promoter methylation (BRAF V600e)



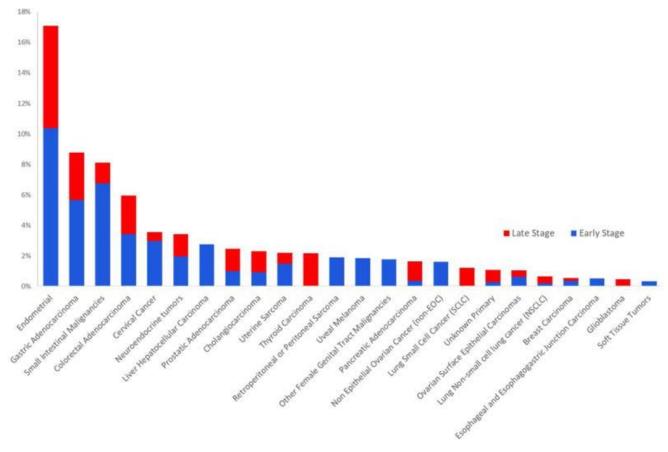








Many tumors are MSI-H or dMMR









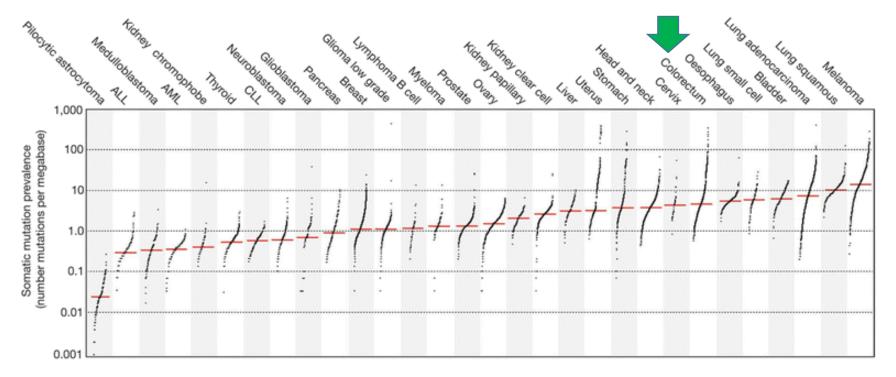




Somatic mutations by cancer type

A consequence of hypermutability due to mismatch repair deficiency is increase in the TMB and the potential production of a *neoantigen* that can be recognized by the immune system, offering the opportunity for ICI

therapy













Anti-PD-1 ICI phase 1: MSI-H CRC

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

JUNE 28, 2012

VOL. 366 NO. 26

Safety, Activity, and Immune Correlates of Anti–PD-1 Antibody in Cancer

Suzanne L. Topalian, M.D., F. Stephen Hodi, M.D., Julie R. Brahmer, M.D., Scott N. Gettinger, M.D., David C. Smith, M.D., David F. McDermott, M.D., John D. Powderly, M.D., Richard D. Carvajal, M.D., Jeffrey A. Sosman, M.D., Michael B. Atkins, M.D., Philip D. Leming, M.D., David R. Spigel, M.D., Scott J. Antonia, M.D., Ph.D., Leora Horn, M.D., Charles G. Drake, M.D., Ph.D., Drew M. Pardoll, M.D., Ph.D., Lieping Chen, M.D., Ph.D., William H. Sharfman, M.D., Robert A. Anders, M.D., Ph.D., Janis M. Taube, M.D., Tracee L. McMiller, M.S., Haiying Xu, B.A., Alan J. Korman, Ph.D., Maria Jure-Kunkel, Ph.D., Shruti Agrawal, Ph.D., Daniel McDonald, M.B.A., Georgia D. Kollia, Ph.D., Ashok Gupta, M.D., Ph.D., Jon M. Wigginton, M.D., and Mario Sznol, M.D.

- Initial phase 1 study of Nivo
- Expansion in melanoma, non small-cell lung cancer, renal-cell cancer, castration-resistant prostate cancer, and colorectal cancer
- Only 1 out of 33 CRC patients had a response -> MSI-H







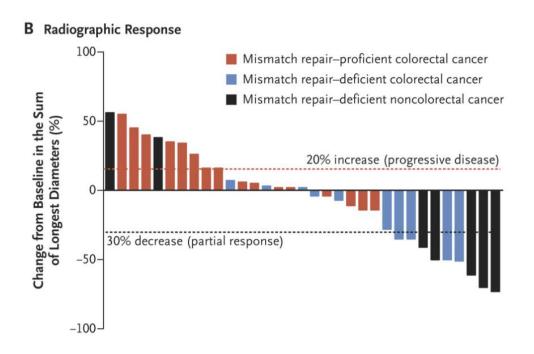




Anti-PD-1 MSI-H Refractory Cancers

Table 2. Objective Responses According to RECIST Criteria.

JHU IIT with Pembro. Three cohorts, A: MSI-H CRC, B MSS CRC, D MSI-H non-CRC 41 patients, (9 nonCRC)



The art of the second s				
Type of Response	Mismatch Repair–Deficient Colorectal Cancer (N=10)	Mismatch Repair-Proficient Colorectal Cancer (N=18)	Mismatch Repair–Deficient Noncolorectal Cancer (N=7)	
Complete response — no. (%)	0	0	1 (14)*	
Partial response — no. (%)	4 (40)	0	4 (57)†	
Stable disease at week 12 — no. (%)	5 (50)	2 (11)	0	
Progressive disease — no. (%)	1 (10)	11 (61)	2 (29)	
Could not be evaluated — no. (%):	0	5 (28)	0	
Objective response rate (95% CI) — $\%$	40 (12–74)	0 (0-19)	71 (29–96)	
Disease control rate (95% CI) — %§	90 (55–100)	11 (1–35)	71 (29–96)	
Median duration of response — wk	Not reached	NA¶	Not reached	
Median time to response (range) — wk	28 (13-35)	NA¶	12 (10-13)	







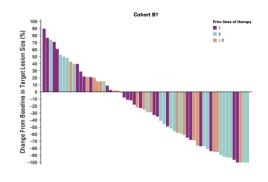


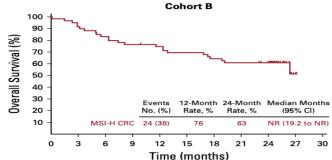
Clinical Data – KEYNOTE-164 and 158

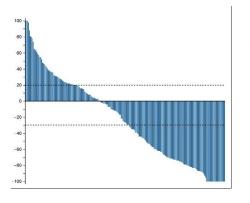
pembrolizumab monotherapy MSI-H refractory cancers

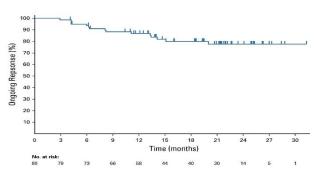
KEYNOTE-164

- 124 pts with MSI-H CRC (90% with ≥2 prior therapies)
- ORR: 33%
- mOS 31.4 mos
- Gr 3-4 TRAE 16%
- KEYNOTE-158
 - 233 patients, 27 tumor types
 - ORR 34.3%
 - mOS 23.5 mos
 - Gr 3-5 TRAE 14.6%











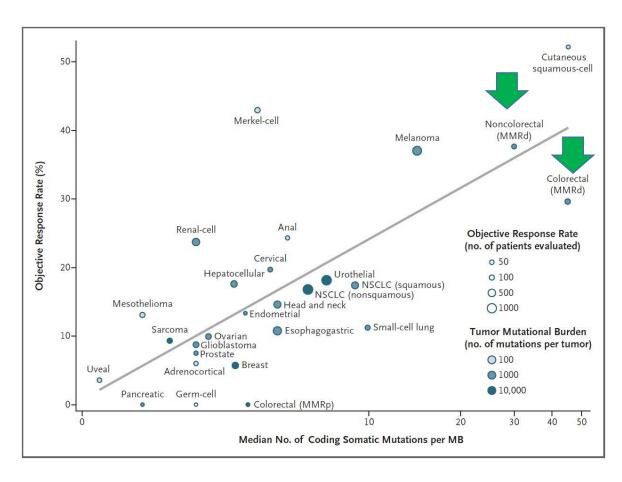


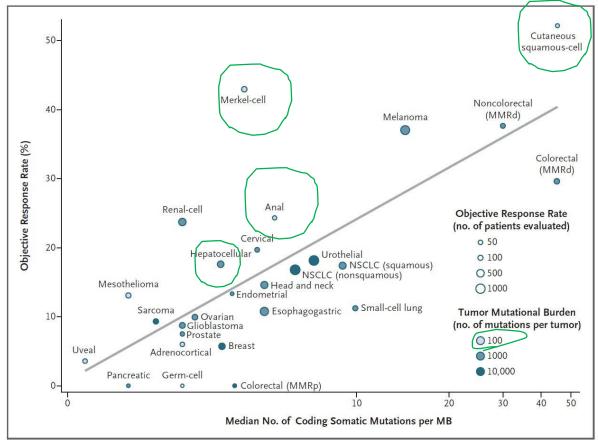






TMB, MSI status, Antigen Quality









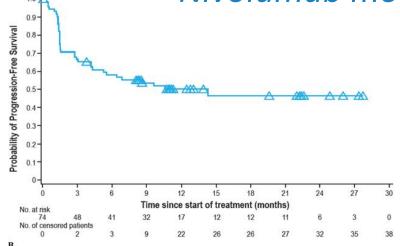


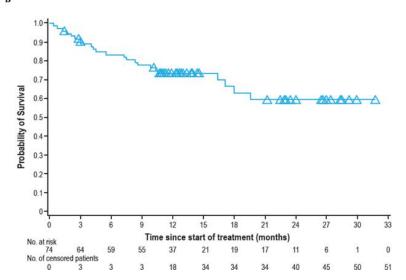




Clinical Data – CheckMate 142

Nivolumab monotherapy CRC 2nd line and beyond





- mCRC with MSI-H, progressed after
 ≥1 therapy
- Nivolumab 3 mg/kg Q2W
- At 12 months: 31% ORR
- 68.9% disease control >12 weeks
- Median DOR not reached







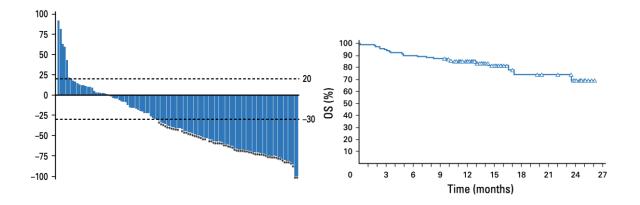


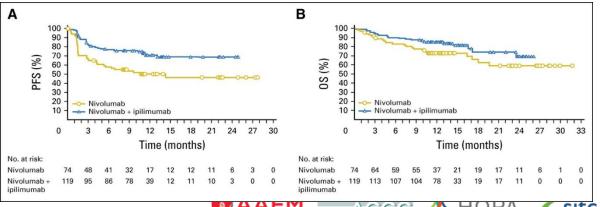


Clinical Data — CheckMate 142 Nivolumab + Ipilimumab MSI-H/dMMR CRC

- 199 pt MSI-H/dMMR mCRC
- 76% with ≥2 prior lines of chemo
- Nivolumab 3mg/kg + ipilimumab 1 mg/kg Q3W (4 doses), then nivolumab 3 mg/kg Q2W
- At 13.4 months: 55% ORR
- PFS:
 - 76% (9 months)
 - 71% (12 months)

• Gr3-4 TRAE: 33%













FDA-approved immunotherapies for refractory MSI-high populations

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Pembrolizumab	2017	Adult/pediatric patients with unresectable/metastatic MSI-H or dMMR solid tumors with progression on other treatment MSI-H or dMMR colorectal cancer with progression after a fluoropyrimidine, oxaplatin, and irinotecan	Adults: 200 mg Q3W Pediatric: 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) Q3W
Nivolumab	2017	Patients >12 yr with MSI-H/dMMR metastatic CRC with progression after fluoropyrimidine, oxaplatin, and irinotecan	≥40 kg: 240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W <40 kg: 3 mg/kg Q2W
Ipilimumab + nivolumab	2018	Patients >12 yr with MSI-H/dMMR metastatic CRC with progression after fluoropyrimidine, oxaplatin, and irinotecan	≥40 kg: 3 mg/kg nivolumab + 1 mg/kg ipilimumab Q3W for 4 doses, Then nivolumab 240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W





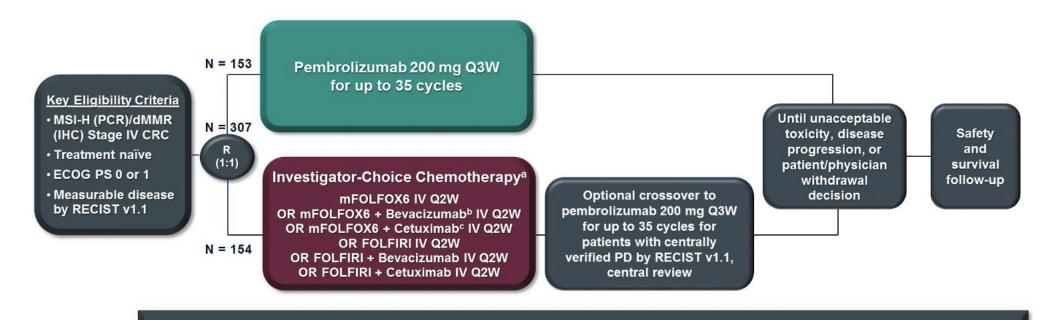






KEYNOTE-177: Pembro vs SOC Chemo

1st line treatment of MSI-H stage IV CRC



- Dual-Primary endpoints: PFS per RECIST v1.1 per blinded independent central review (BICR) and OS
- Secondary endpoints: ORR per RECIST v1.1 by BICR, safety
- Tumor response assessed at week 9 and Q9W thereafter per RECIST v1.1 by BICR











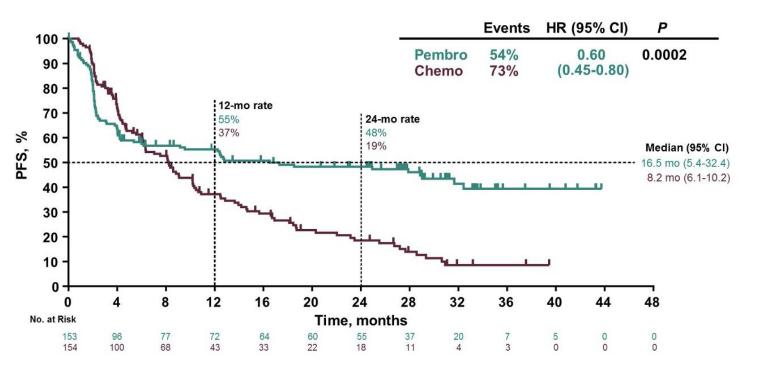
KEYNOTE-177: Pembro vs SOC Chemo

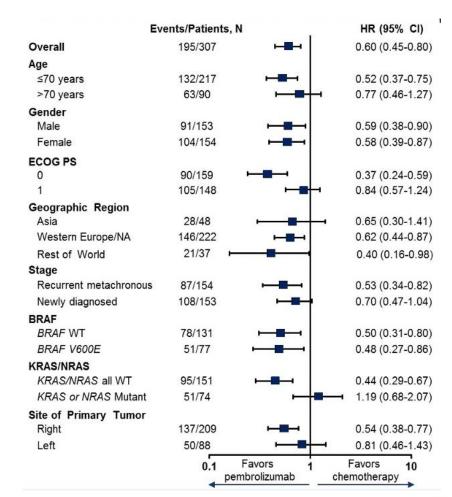
1st line treatment of MSI-H stage IV CRC

Primary Endpoint: PFS – met, positive study

mPFS: 16.5 vs 8.2 (P vs Chemo)

24mo PFS: 48% vs 19%















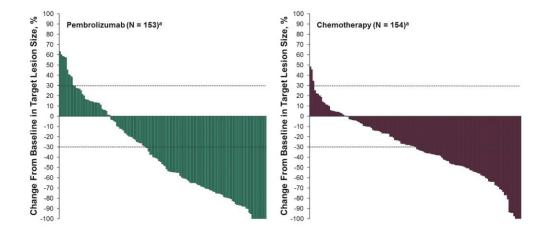
KEYNOTE-177: Pembro vs SOC Chemo

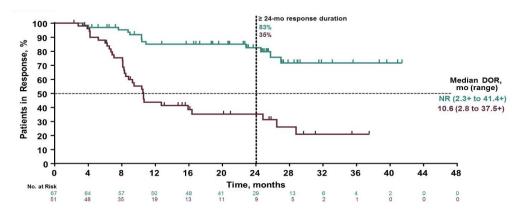
1st line treatment of MSI-H stage IV CRC

Primary Endpoint: ORR met, positive study: 43.8 vs 33.1

mDOR: Not met vs 10.6mo

	Pembrolizumab N = 153	Chemotherapy N = 154
ORR, n (%)	67 (43.8)	51 (33.1)
Difference, estimate (95% CI) P-value		0.2-21.3) 0275
Best Overall Response, n (%)		
Complete response	17 (11.1)	6 (3.9)
Partial response	50 (32.7)	45 (29.2)
Stable disease	32 (20.9)	65 (42.2)
Disease control rate (CR+PR+SD)	99 (64.7)	116 (75.3)
Progressive disease	45 (29.4)	19 (12.3)
Not evaluable	3 (2.0)	2 (1.3)
No assessment	6 (3.9)	17 (11.0)
Median time to response (range), mo	2.2 (1.8-18.8)	2.1 (1.7-24.9)















Case Studies











- 56 yr old male with active hepatitis C cirrhosis and multifocal HCC on both lobes with multiple mediastinal and abdominal adenopathy. There is invasion of the portal vein with small tumor thrombus. He is CPT A. Portal hypertension controlled on nadolol, furosemide and spironolactone. No ascites. No encephalopathy. He has no prior autoimmune disease. BP is well controlled at 120/80. You recommend atezolizumab and bevacizumab.
- What is recommended prior to starting therapy?
 - a) PD-L1 staining of tumor tissue
 - b) Endoscopy to rule out esophageal varices
 - C) Treatment and cure of Hepatitis C
 - d) MRI of the Brain to rule out intracranial metastases











- What is recommended prior to starting therapy?
 - a) PD-L1 staining of tumor tissue
 - b) Endoscopy to rule out esophageal varices
 - C) Treatment and cure of Hepatitis C
 - d) MRI of the Brain to rule out intracranial metastases

All of the patients included in the IMBRAVE 150 study of atezolizumab and bevacizumab had to have had an endoscopy for EV screening and treatment within 6mo of enrollment. Bevacizumab poses a risk for significant bleeding.











- 29 yr old female comes for consultation for newly diagnosed stage IV ascending colon cancer with multiple liver and peritoneal metastases. Molecular testing shows MSI-H by PCR and BRAF V600E activating mutation. What will you recommend as first line therapy?
 - a) Encorafenib + binimetinib + cetuximab
 - b) Encorafenib + cetuximab
 - c) Pembrolizumab
 - d) Regorafenib











- What will you recommend as first line therapy?
 - a) FOLFIRI + Cetuximab
 - b) Encorafenib + cetuximab
 - c) Pembrolizumab
 - d) Regorafenib

The Keynote-177 trial showed superiority (PFS and ORR) of pembrolizumab vs SOC doublet chemotherapy in the 1st line treatment of metastatic MSI-H CRC, including BRAFV600E mutant patients. All other choices are second line or higher. Chemotherapy with either doublet or triplet such as FOLFOXIRI can be considered, but cetuximab is not recommended in patients harboring RAS or RAF mutations, in this case, BRAFV600E











The End

Questions?











Extra slides



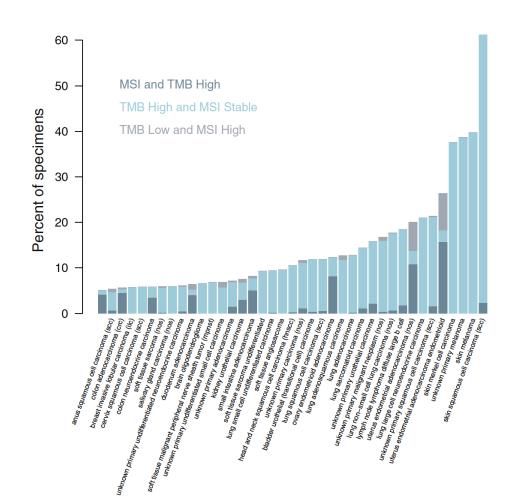


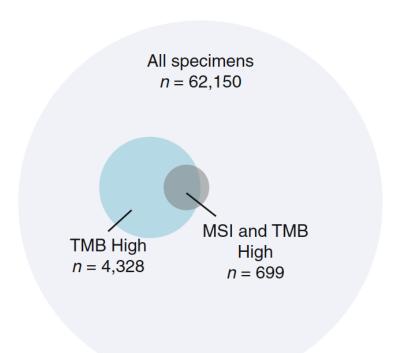






Tissue Agnostic Immunotherapy Indications: High-TMB, MSI-H





Chalmers ZR, Connelly CF, Fabrizio D, et al. Analysis of 100,000 human cancer genomes reveals the landscape of tumor mutational burden. Genome Med 2017; 9:34







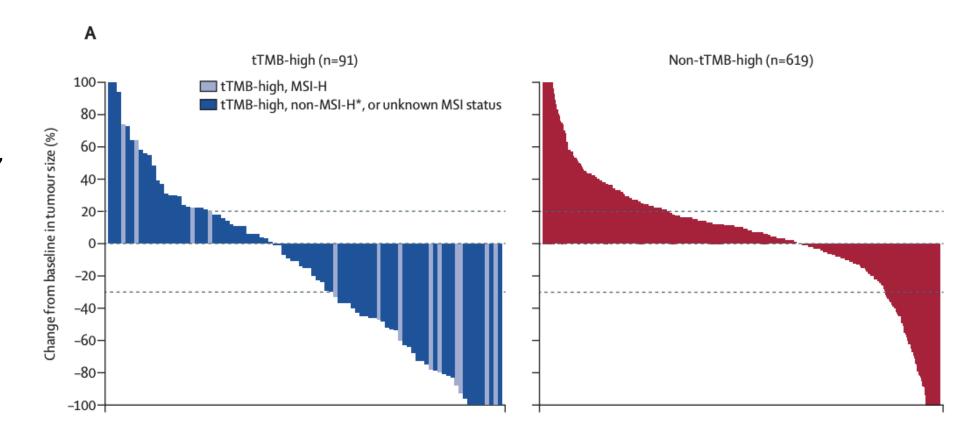




Keynote-158, TMB analysis

prospective biomarker analysis of the multicohort, open-label, phase 2 KEYNOTE-158 study

tTMB-high status (≥10 mut/M non-tTMB-high status (<10)













Keynote-158, TMB analysis

