sitc Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

ADVANCES IN Cancer IMMUNOTHERAPY™

Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Skin Cancers

Sunandana Chandra, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Division of Hematology Oncology

Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University

AAEM AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE CHAMPION OF THE EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN

ACCC Association of Community Cancer Centers

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

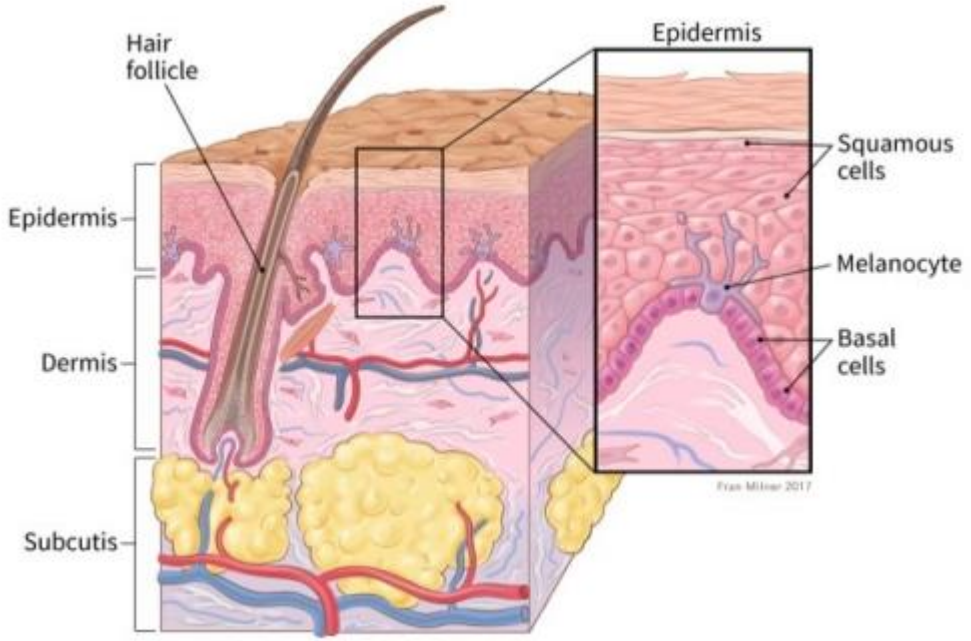
sitc Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Disclosures

- EMD Serono (Advisory Board), Bristol Myers Squibb (Advisory Board and Speaker's Bureau), Regeneron (Advisory Board and Speaker's Bureau)
- I may be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

Background

- Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer
- Three most common types of skin cancers:
  - Basal cell carcinoma
  - Squamous cell carcinoma
  - Melanoma
- Melanoma was one of the foundational disease states for testing immunotherapies



Cancer.org

Approved cytokines in melanoma

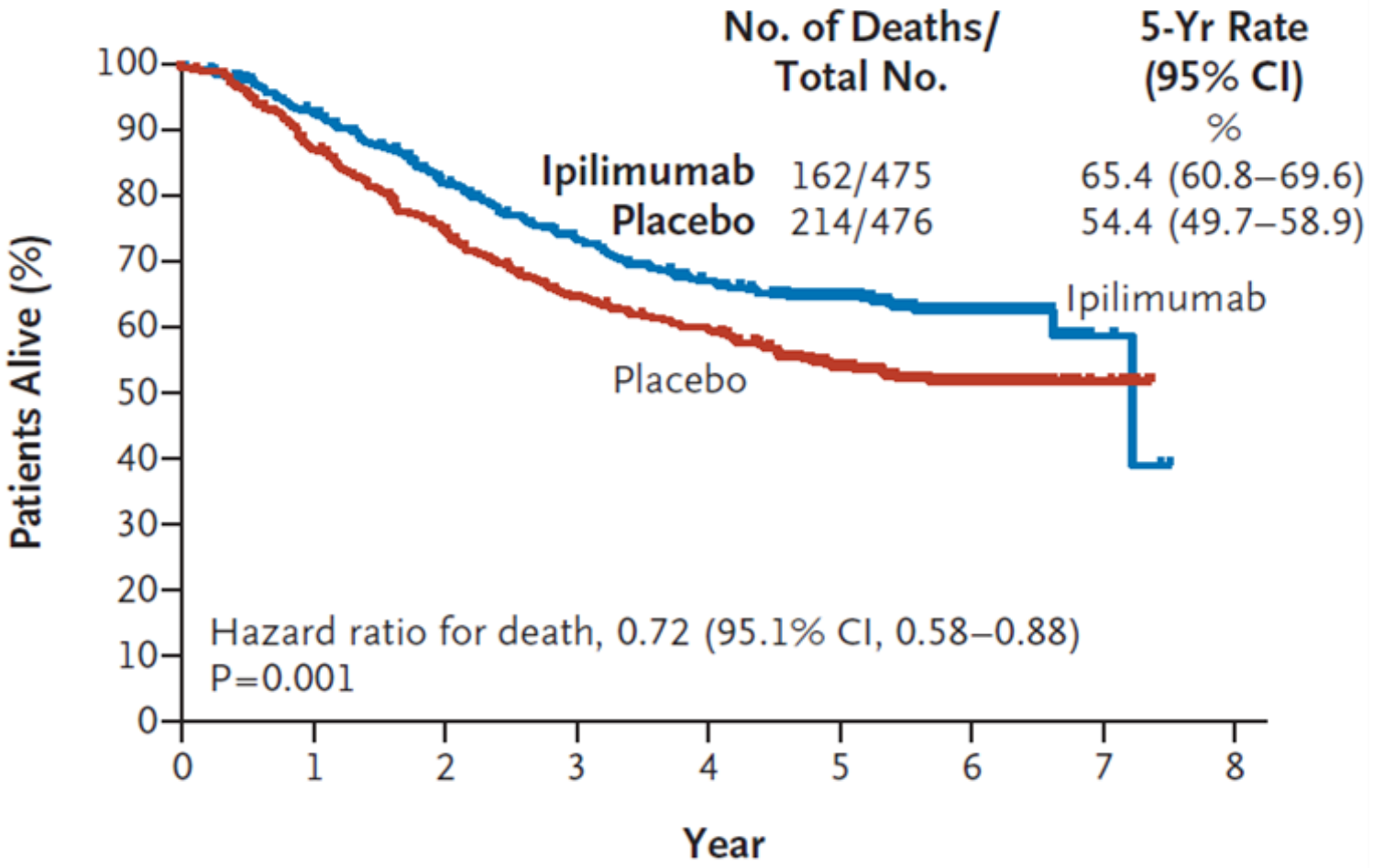
Drug	Indication	Dose
High-dose interferon alfa-2b	Adjuvant – high risk for systemic recurrence	Induction: 20m IU/m^2 IV 5x/wk for 4 wks Maintenance: 10m IU/m^2 s.c. 3x/wk for 48 wks
Interleukin-2 (Aldesleukin)	Stage IV	600k IU/kg/dose Q8hr, up to 14 doses; 9 days of rest; can repeat up to 28 doses per course
Pegylated Interferon alfa-2b (Sylatron)	Adjuvant – microscopic or gross nodal involvement	6 mcg/kg/wk s.c. for 8 doses, then 3 mcg/kg/wk s.c. for up to 5 years

Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Ipilimumab	2011	Unresectable/Metastatic melanoma: newly diagnosed or after progression	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses
	2015	Adjuvant therapy in stage III melanoma after complete resection	10 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses, then 10 mg/kg Q12W for 3 years
	2017	Unresectable/Metastatic melanoma: newly diagnosed or after progression, all patients ≥ 12 yr	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses

Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- **EORTC 18071 phase III trial**
  - NCT00636168
  - Adjuvant ipilimumab vs placebo
  - Ipilimumab 10mg/kg Q3W for four doses, then every 12 weeks for up to 3 years

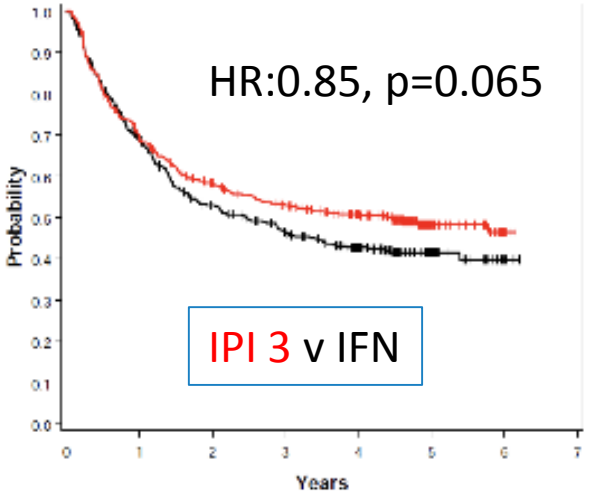


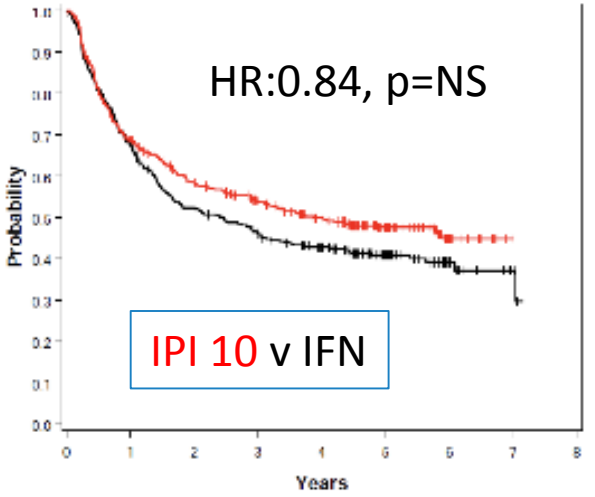
Eggermont, NEJM 2016.

Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

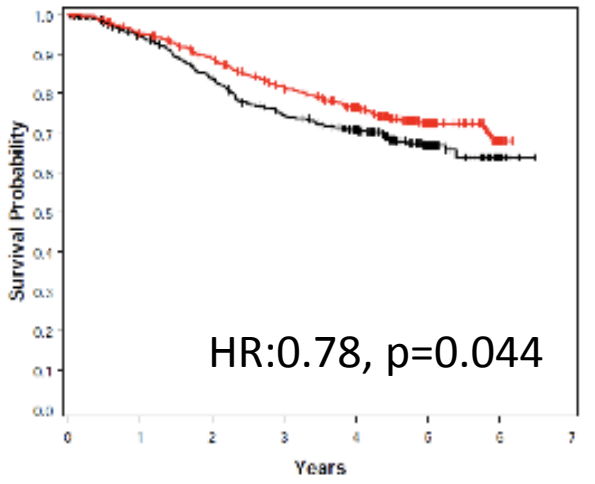
- **ECOG 1609**
  - NCT01274338
  - Adjuvant interferon (IFN) vs ipilimumab 3 mg/kg (IPI 3) vs ipilimumab 10 mg/kg (IPI 10)
  - Ipilimumab Q3W for four doses, then every 12 weeks for up to 3 years
  - IPI 3 “better than IFN”, IPI 10 “not better than IFN”
  - IPI3 better tolerated than IPI 10

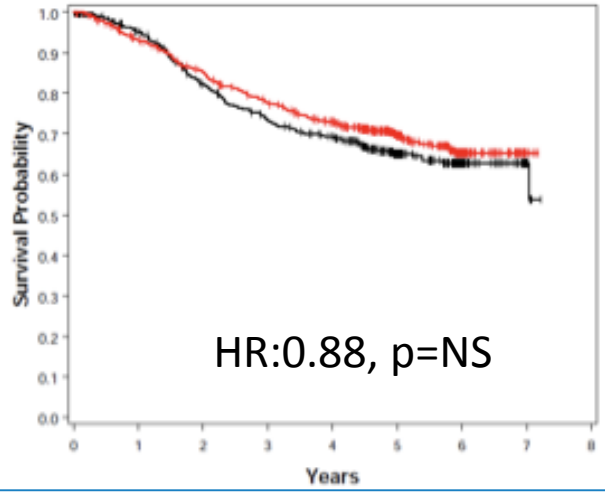
RFS





OS

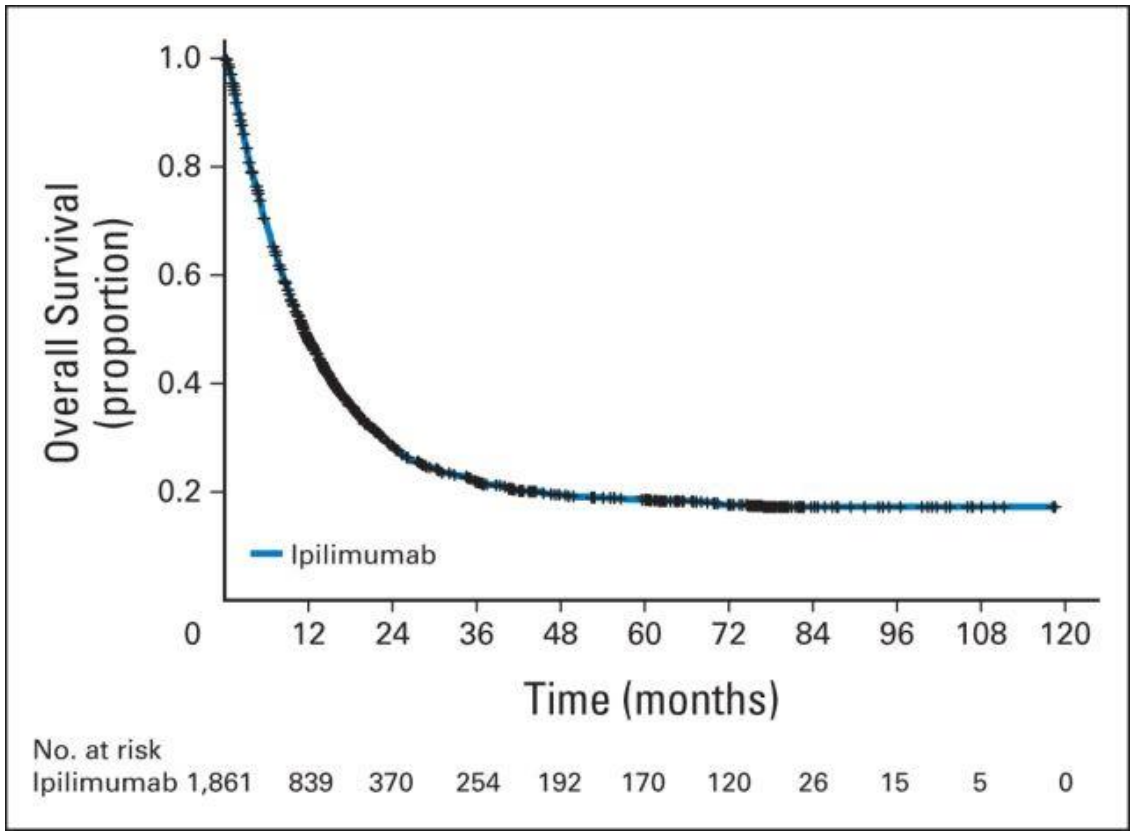




Tarhini, ASCO Annual Meeting 2019.

Ipilimumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

- **Pooled OS data from 10 phase II/III trials**
  - Previously treated (n = 1,257) or treatment-naïve (n = 604)
  - Ipilimumab 3 mg/kg (n = 965) or 10 mg/kg (n = 706)



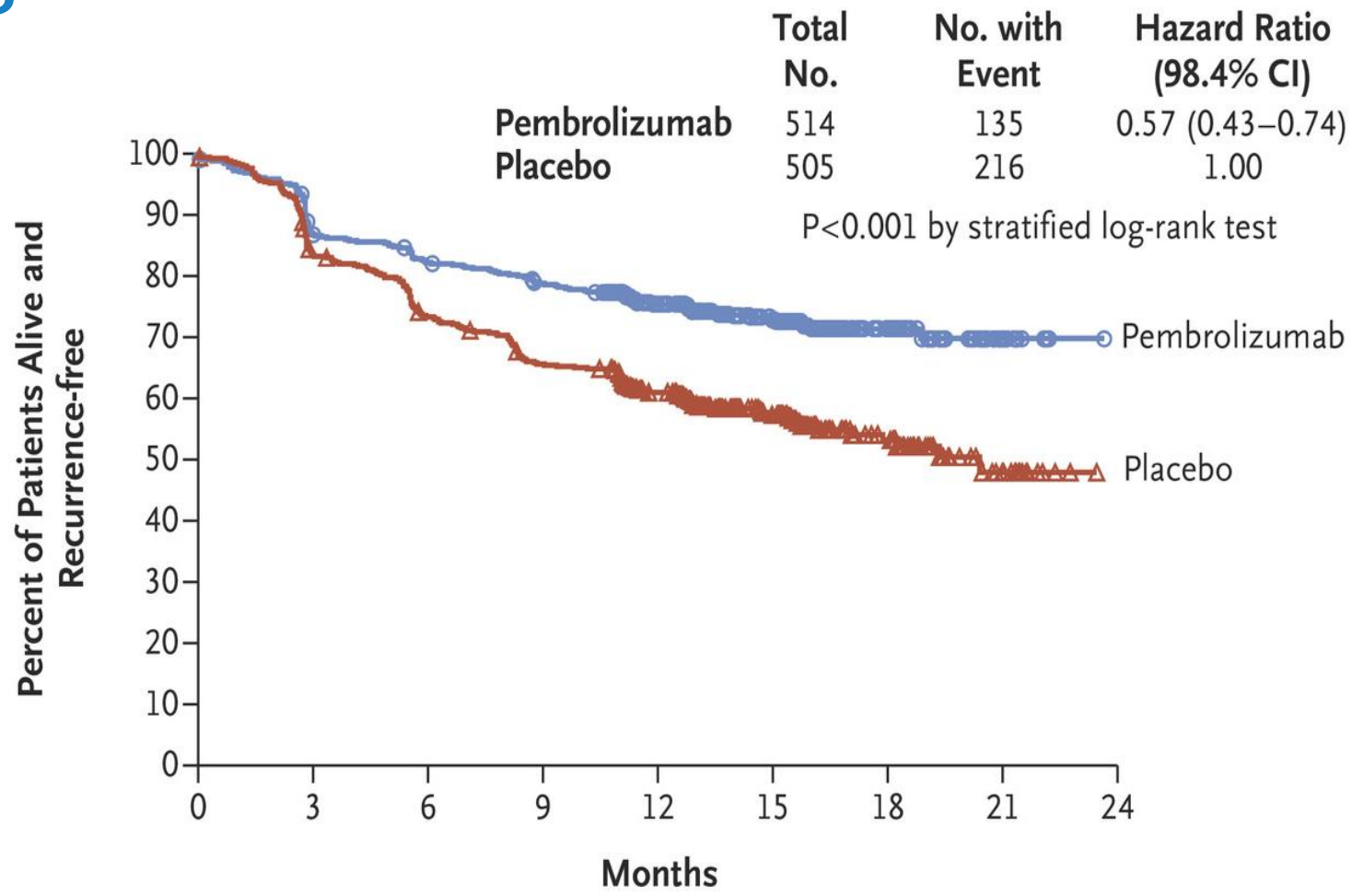
Schadendorf, JCO 2015.

Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Pembrolizumab	2014	Advanced/unresectable melanoma with progression after other therapy	200 mg Q3W*
	2015	1st line unresectable/metastatic melanoma	200 mg Q3W*
	2019	Adjuvant therapy of melanoma following complete resection	200 mg Q3W
*Original approvals were 2 mg/kg Q3W – updated to flat dosing regimen			

Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

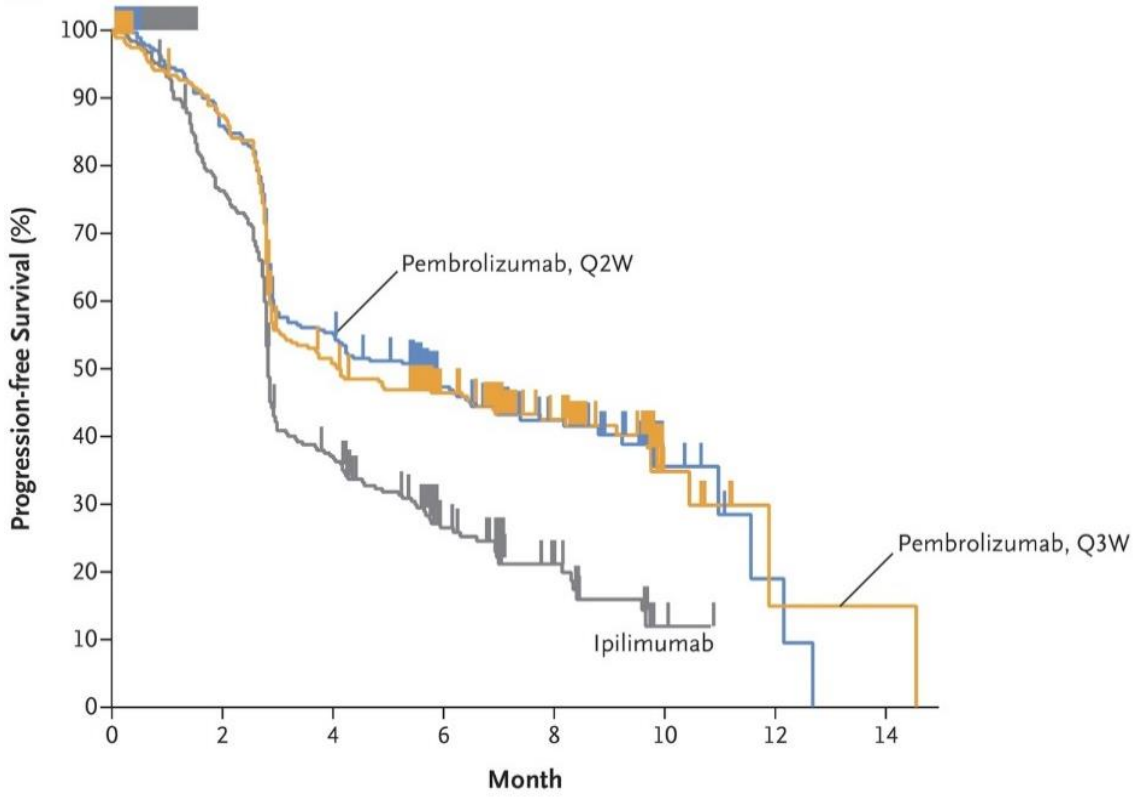
- **EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 phase III trial**
  - NCT02362594
  - Adjuvant pembrolizumab vs placebo
  - Pembrolizumab 200mg Q3W for up to 1 year (~18 total doses)

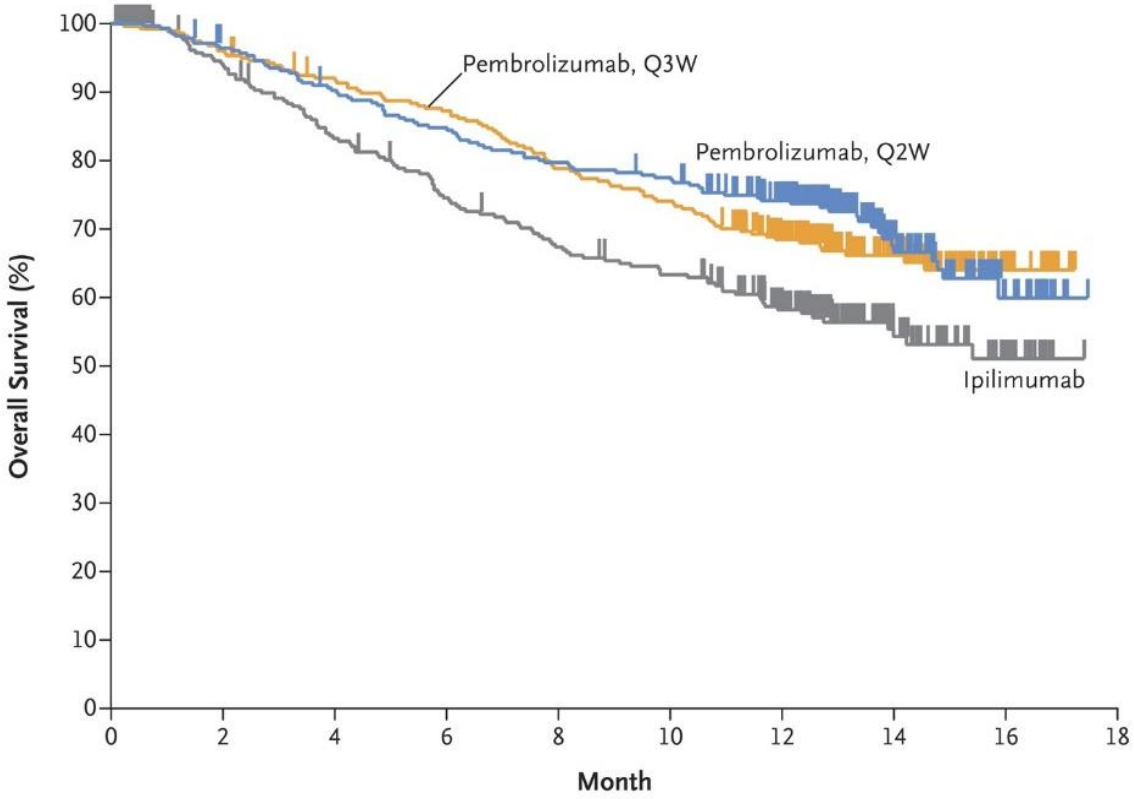


Eggermont, NEJM 2018.

Pembrolizumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

Phase III KEYNOTE-006 Trial





Robert, NEJM 2015.

Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

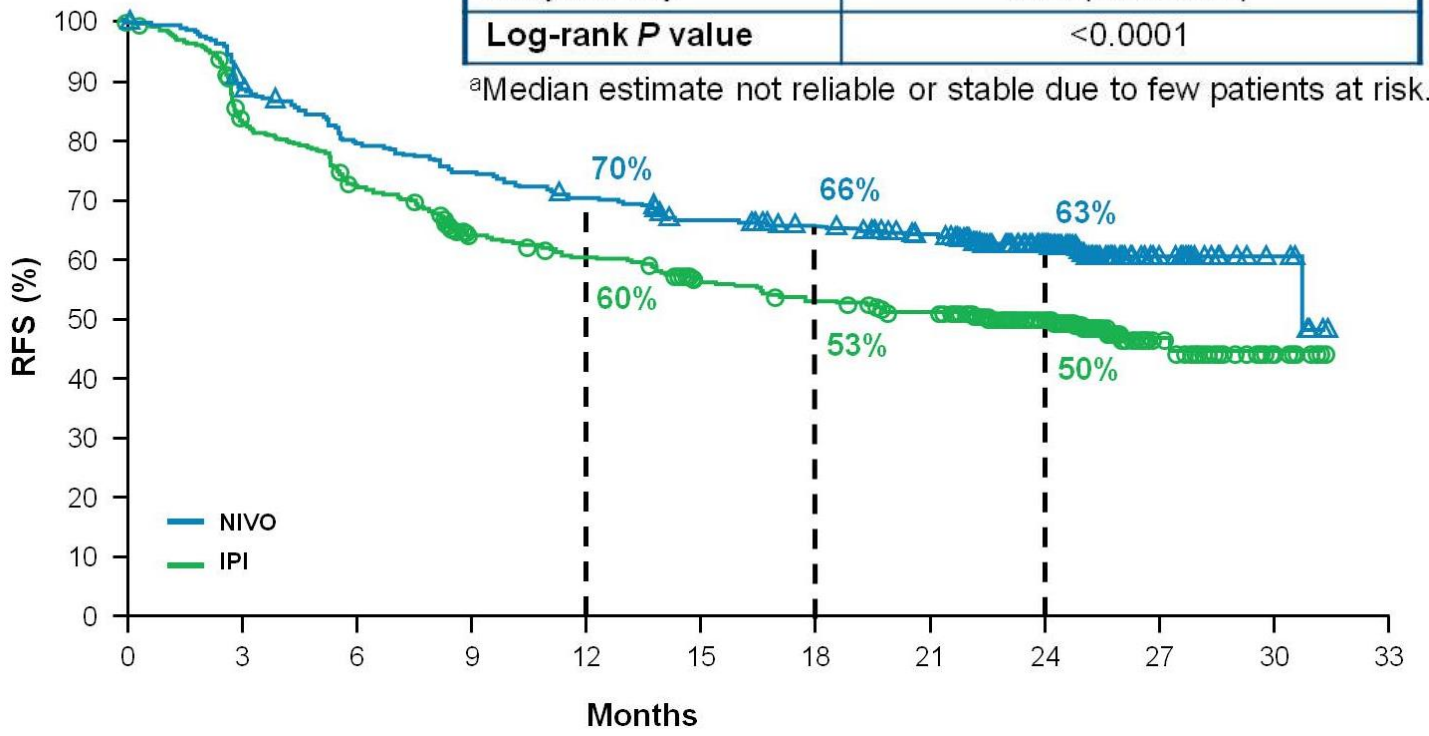
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2014	Unresectable/metastatic melanoma with progression after other therapy	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W*
	2017	Adjuvant treatment of melanoma after complete resection	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
*Original approval was 3 mg/kg Q2W, updated to flat dosing regimen			

Adjuvant Nivolumab vs Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- **CheckMate 238 phase III trial**
  - NCT02388906
  - Ipilimumab 10mg/kg Q3W for four doses, then every 3 months for up to 1 year
  - Nivolumab 3mg/kg Q2W for four doses, then every 3 months for up to 1 year

	NIVO	IPI
Events/patients	171/453	221/453
Median (95% CI)	30.8 (30.8, NR)[a]	24.1 (16.6, NR)
HR (95% CI)	0.66 (0.54, 0.81)	
Log-rank *P* value	<0.0001	

[a]Median estimate not reliable or stable due to few patients at risk.



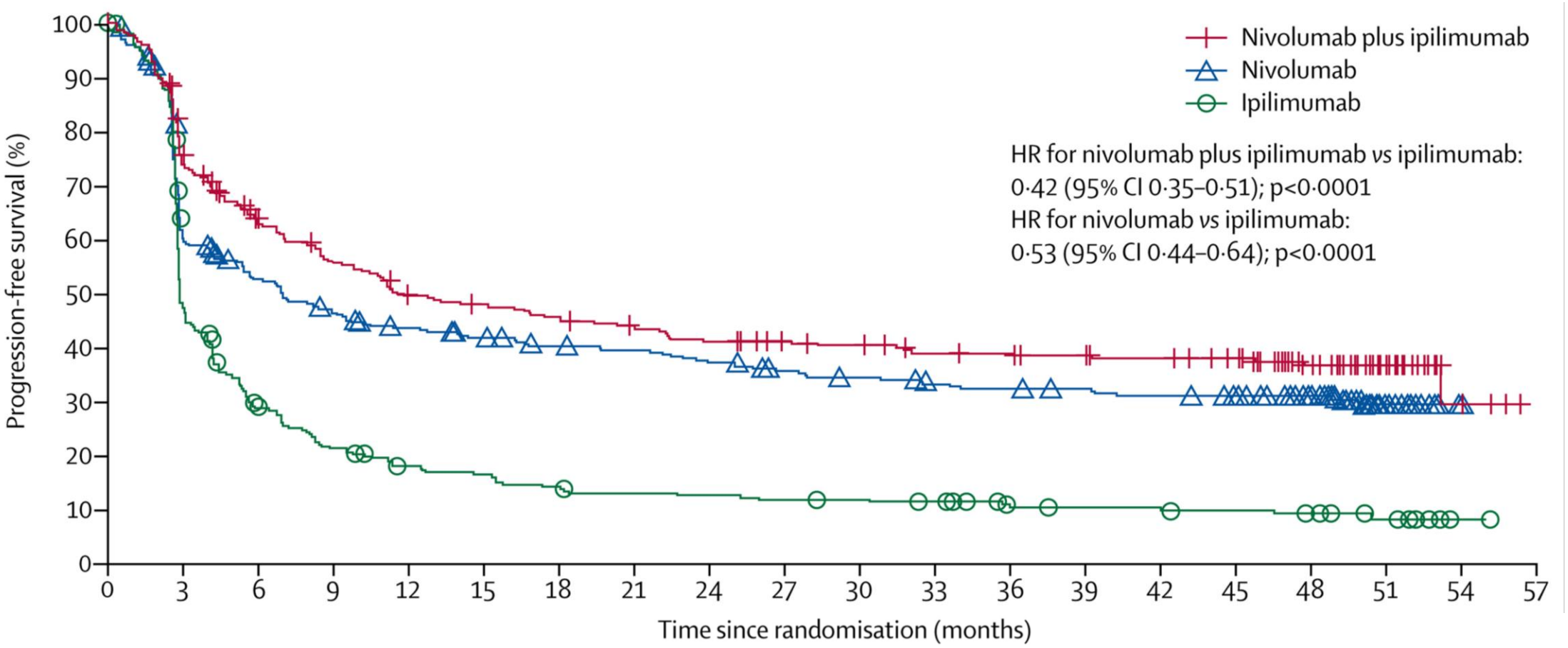
Miller, ASCO 2018.

Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	2015	BRAF V600 WT unresectable/metastatic melanoma	1 mg/kg nivolumab + 3 mg/kg ipilimumab Q3W for 4 doses, then nivolumab 240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
	2016	BRAF V600 WT or mutant unresectable/metastatic melanoma	1 mg/kg nivolumab + 3 mg/kg ipilimumab Q3W for 4 doses, then nivolumab 240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W

Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

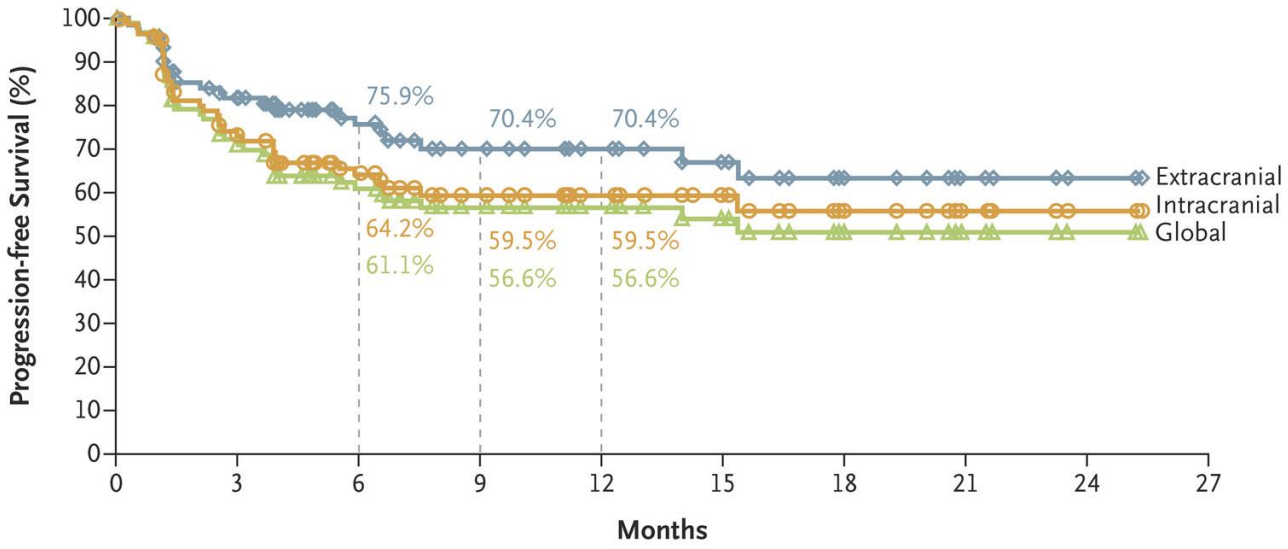
Phase III CheckMate 067 Trial



Hodi, Lancet Oncol 2018.

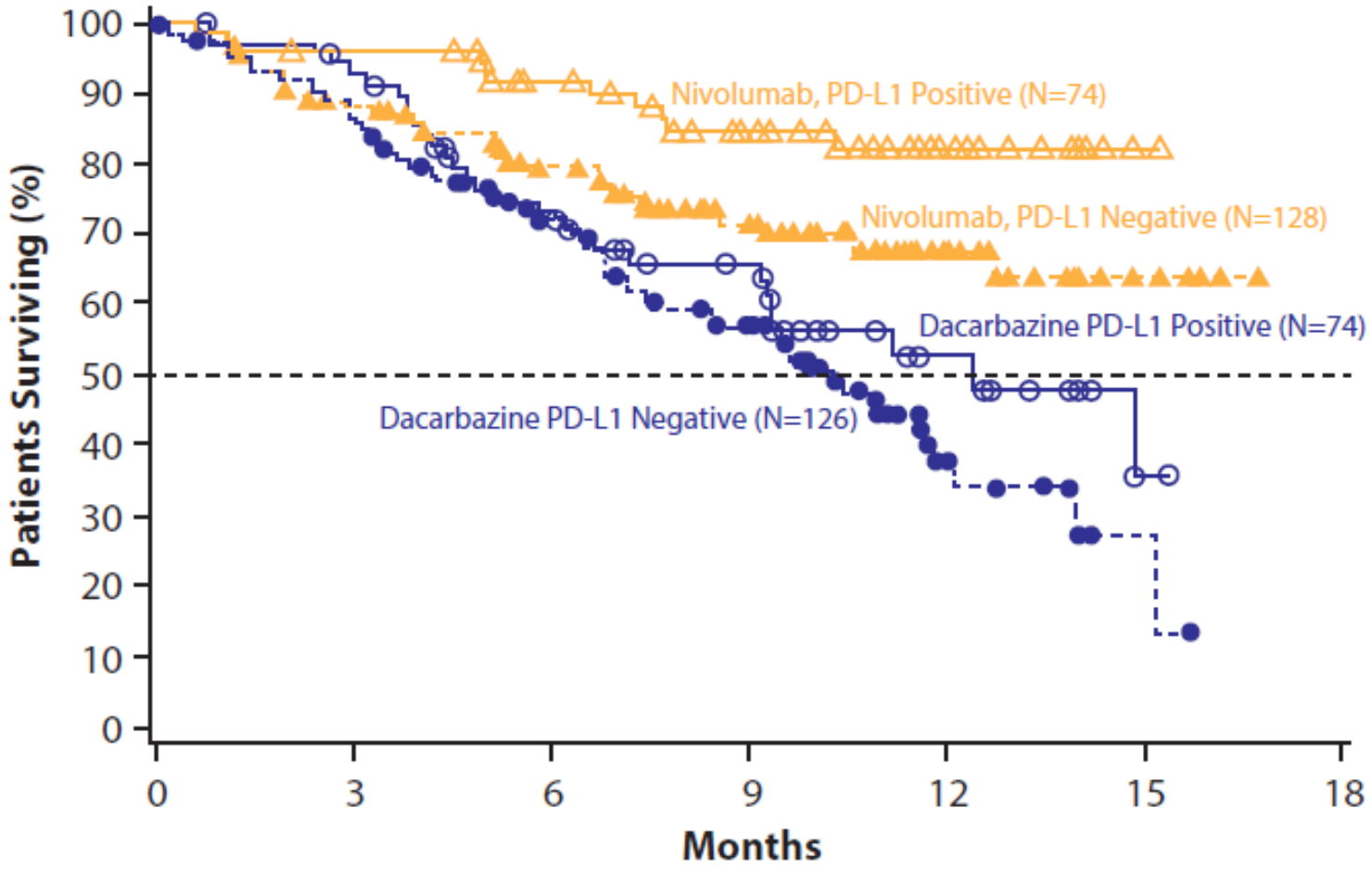
Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Patients with Asymptomatic Brain Metastases

Variable	Intracranial (N=94)	Extracranial (N=94)	Global (N=94)
Best overall response — no. (%)*			
Complete response	24 (26)	7 (7)	8 (9)
Partial response	28 (30)	40 (43)	40 (43)
Stable disease for ≥6 mo	2 (2)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Progressive disease	31 (33)	28 (30)	33 (35)
Could not be evaluated†	9 (10)	13 (14)	8 (9)
Objective response‡			
No. of patients	52	47	48
Percent of patients (95% CI)	55 (45–66)	50 (40–60)	51 (40–62)
Clinical benefit§			
No. of patients	54	53	53
Percent of patients (95% CI)	57 (47–68)	56 (46–67)	56 (46–67)



Tawbi, NEJM 2018.

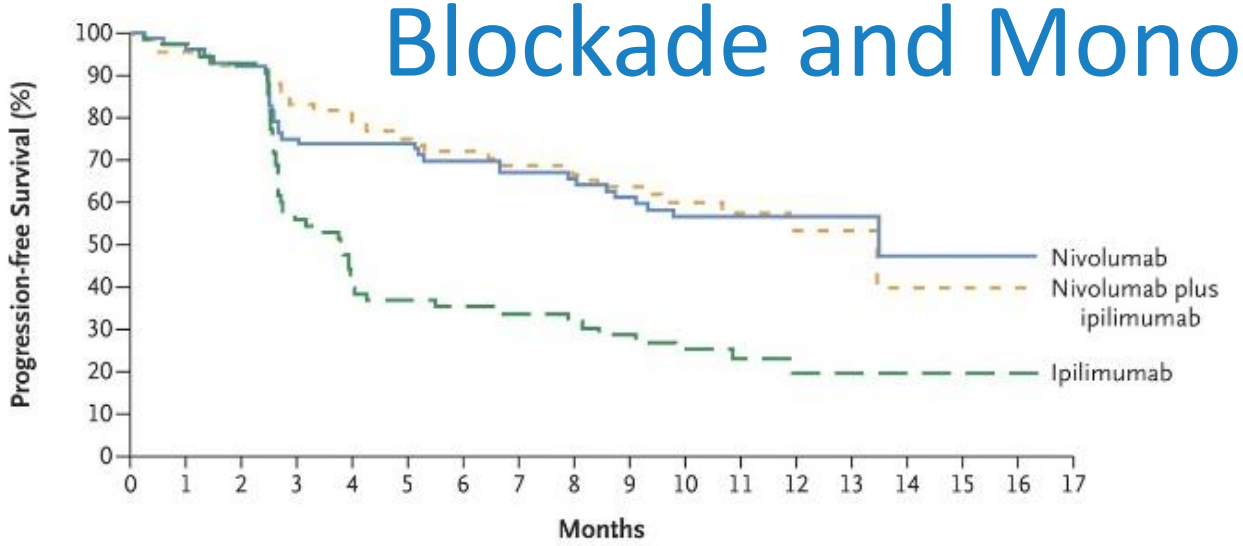
Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status with Anti-PD-1 Monotherapy



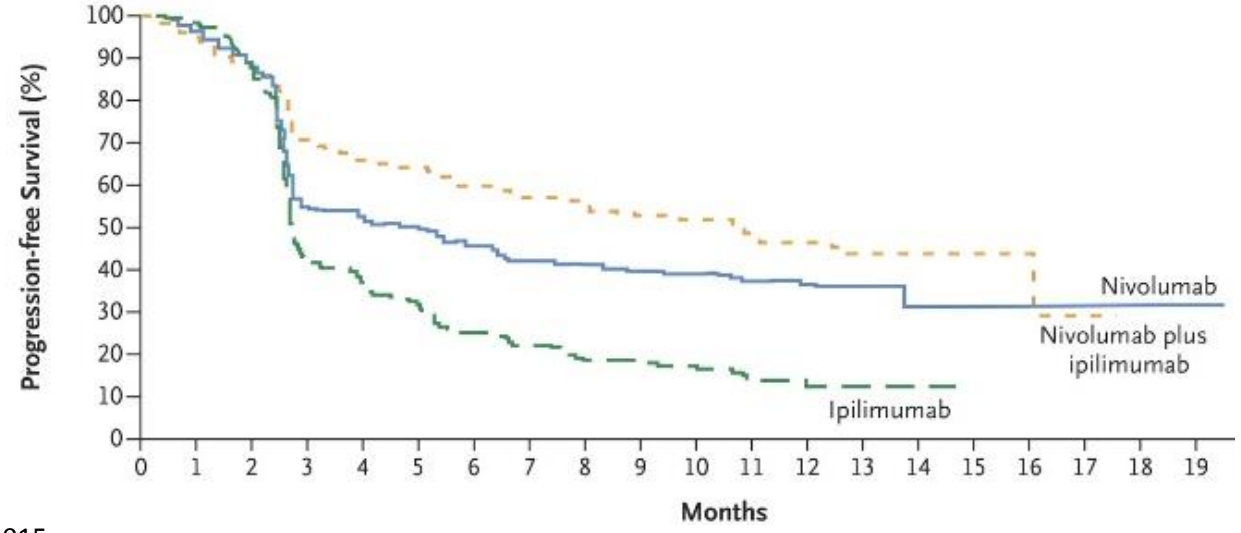
	Patients Who Died *n/N*	Median Survival *mo (95% CI)*
Nivolumab PD-L1 Positive	11/74	N.R.
Nivolumab PD-L1 Negative	37/128	N.R.
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Positive	29/74	12.4 (9.2–N.R.)
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Negative	64/126	10.2 (7.6–11.8)

Robert, NEJM 2015.

Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status between Combination Checkpoint Blockade and Monotherapy



Tumor PD-L1 Positive Patients



Tumor PD-L1 Negative Patients

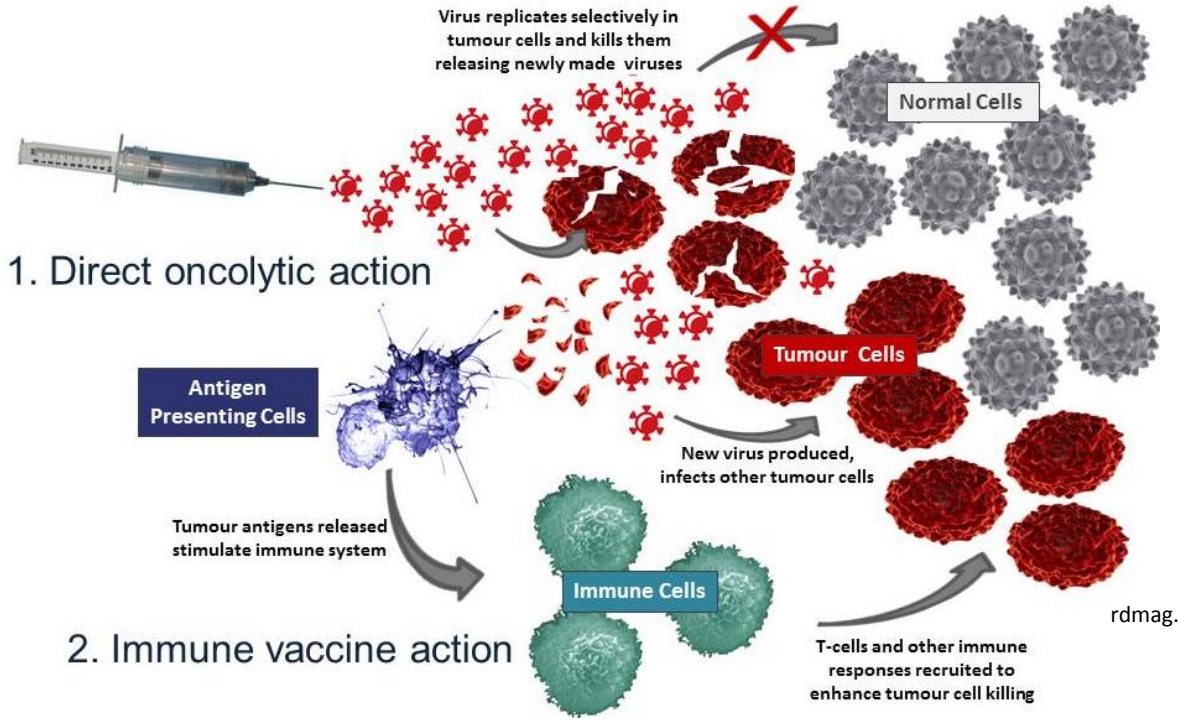
Larkin, NEJM 2015.

In development: Neoadjuvant immunotherapy in advanced melanoma

Trial	Regimen	N	pCR (%)	med RFS (mo)	med FU (mo)
Amaria Lancet Oncol 2018	*Dab/Tram*	21	58	19.7	18.6
Long Lancet Oncol 2019	*Dab/Tram*	35	49	23.0	27.0
Blank Nat Med 2018	Ipi+nivo	10	33	NR	32
Amaria Nat Med 2018	Nivo Ipi+nivo	12 11	25 45	NR NR	20
Huang Nat Med 2019	Pembro	30	19	NR	18
Rozeman Lancet Oncol 2019	Ipi+nivo	86	57	NR	8.3

Menzies ASCO Annual Meeting 2019.

Approved oncolytic virus in melanoma

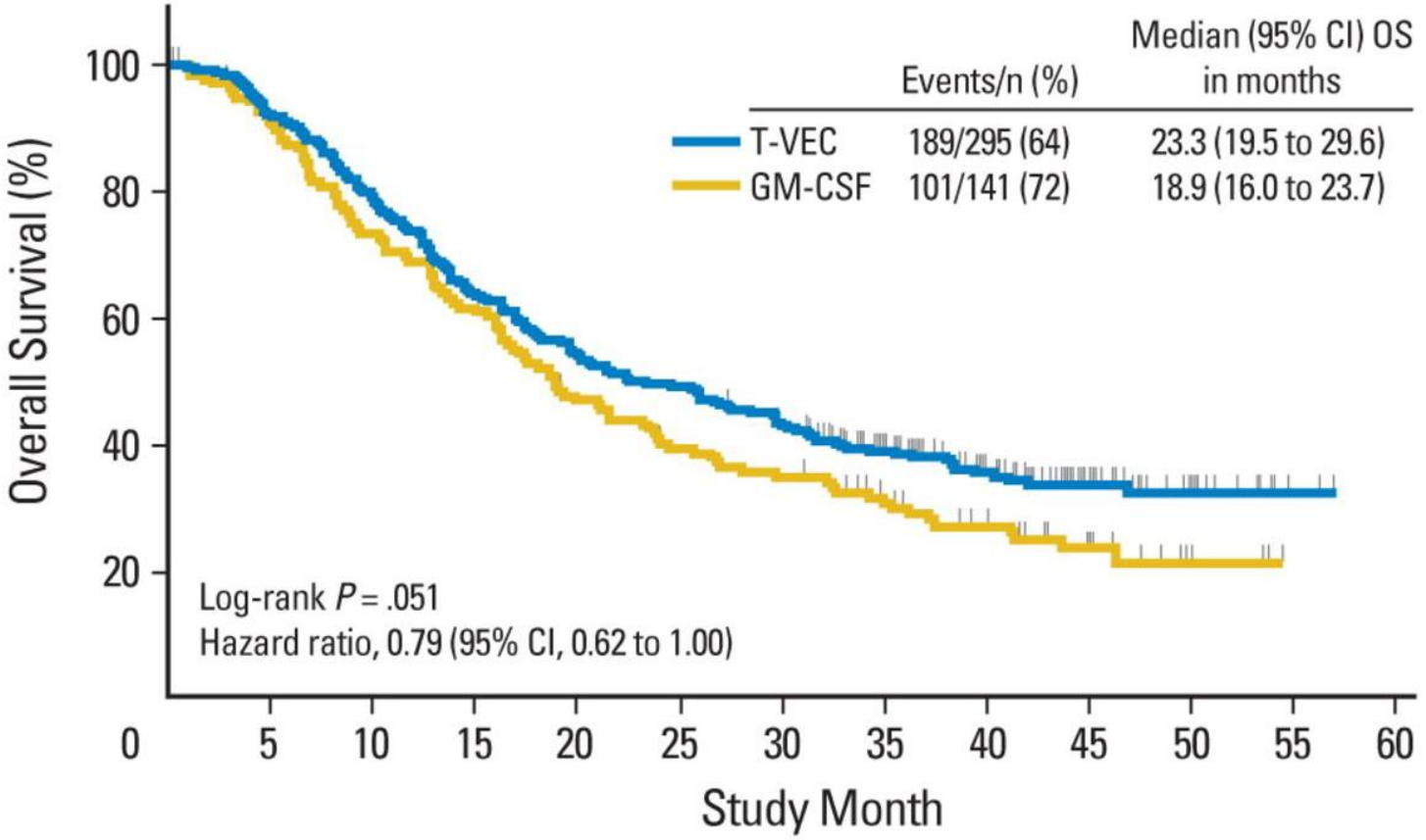


rdmag.com

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Talimogene laherparepvec (T-Vec)	2015	Local treatment of unresectable cutaneous, subcutaneous, and nodal lesions in recurrent melanoma after surgery	Intralesional injection: ≤4 mL at 10^6 PFU/mL starting; 10^8 PFU/mL subsequent

Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) in Stage III/IV Melanoma

- **Phase III OPTiM Trial**
  - Oncolytic, genetically-engineered herpes virus
  - Intralesional T-VEC 106 pfu/mL, 108 pfu/mL 3 weeks after initial dose, then Q2W
  - Subcutaneous GM-CSF



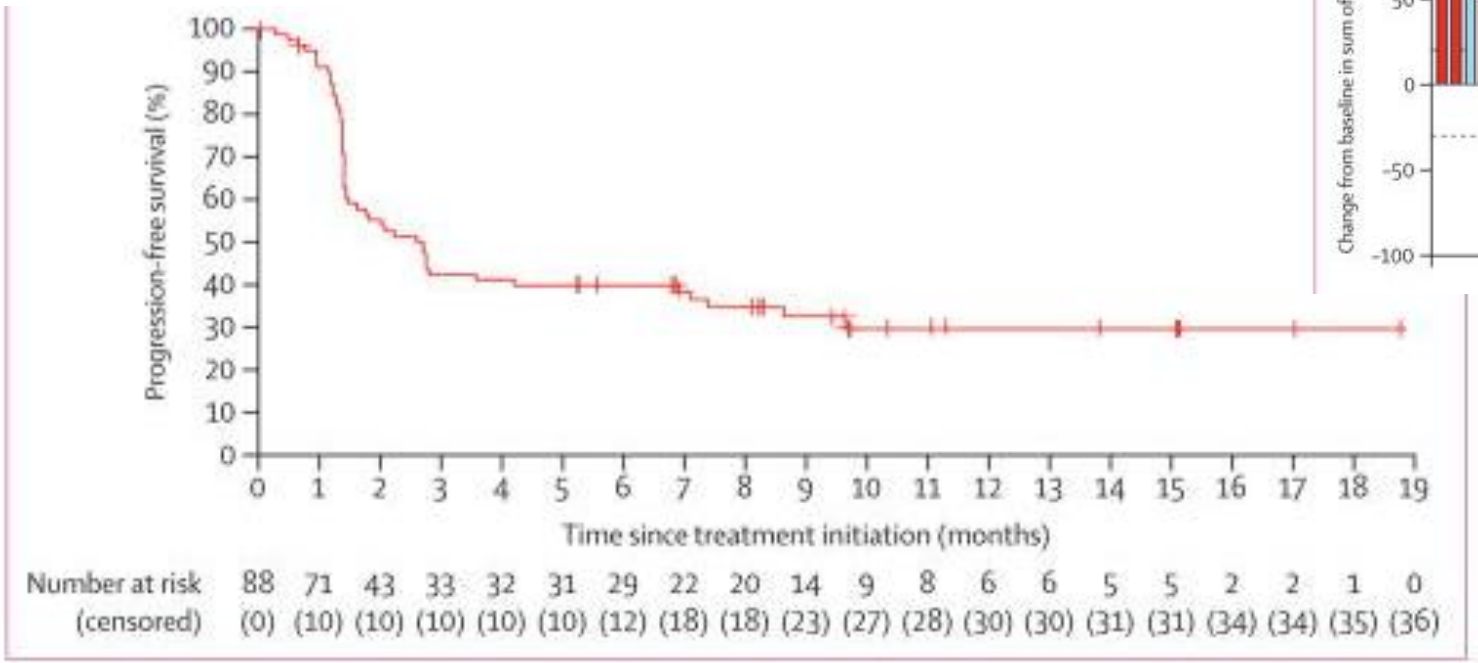
Andtbacka, Kaufman, JCO 2015.

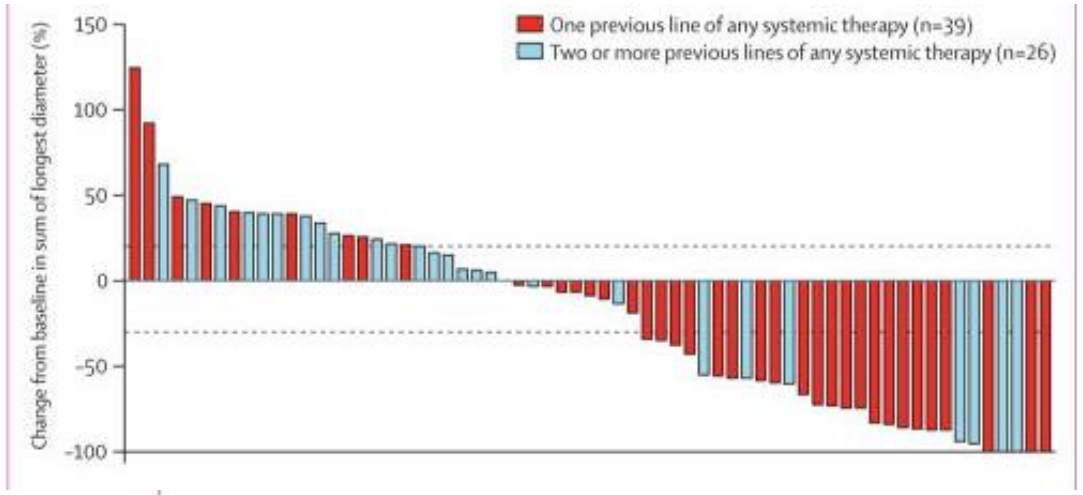
Approved checkpoint inhibitors in other skin cancers

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Avelumab	2017	Patients >12 yr with metastatic **Merkel cell carcinoma**	800 mg Q2W + premedication (first 4 cycles)
Pembrolizumab	2018	Adult/pediatric with recurrent advanced/metastatic **Merkel cell carcinoma**	Adults: 200 mg Q3W Pediatric: 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) Q3W
Cemiplimab-rwlc	2018	Metastatic **cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma**, not candidate for curative therapies	350 mg Q3W

Avelumab in 2nd-line metastatic Merkel Cell carcinoma

- 1st FDA-approved treatment for this status
- Avelumab 10 mg/kg Q2W
- ORR: 32%, CR: 9%; PR: 23%

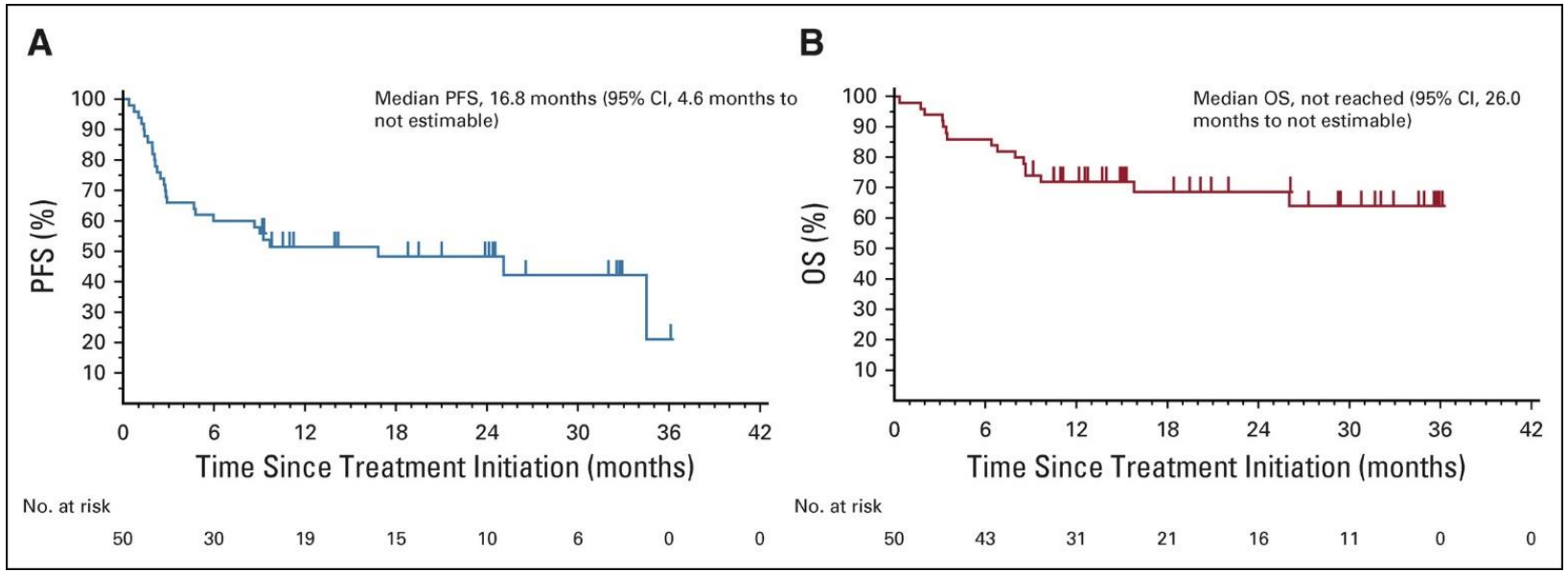




Kaufman, Lancet Oncol 2016.

Pembrolizumab in 1st-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

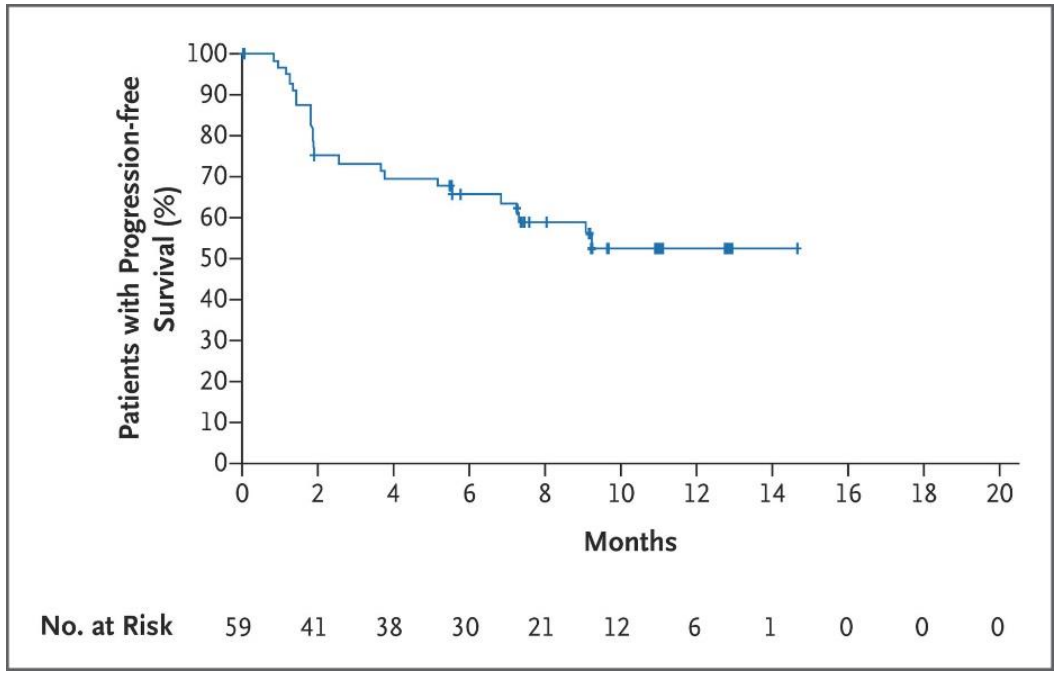
- **KEYNOTE-017**
- Pembrolizumab 2 mg/kg Q3W up to 2 years
- mPFS: 16.8 months (compared to 90 days for chemo)
- 24-month OS: 68.7%
- ORR 56%

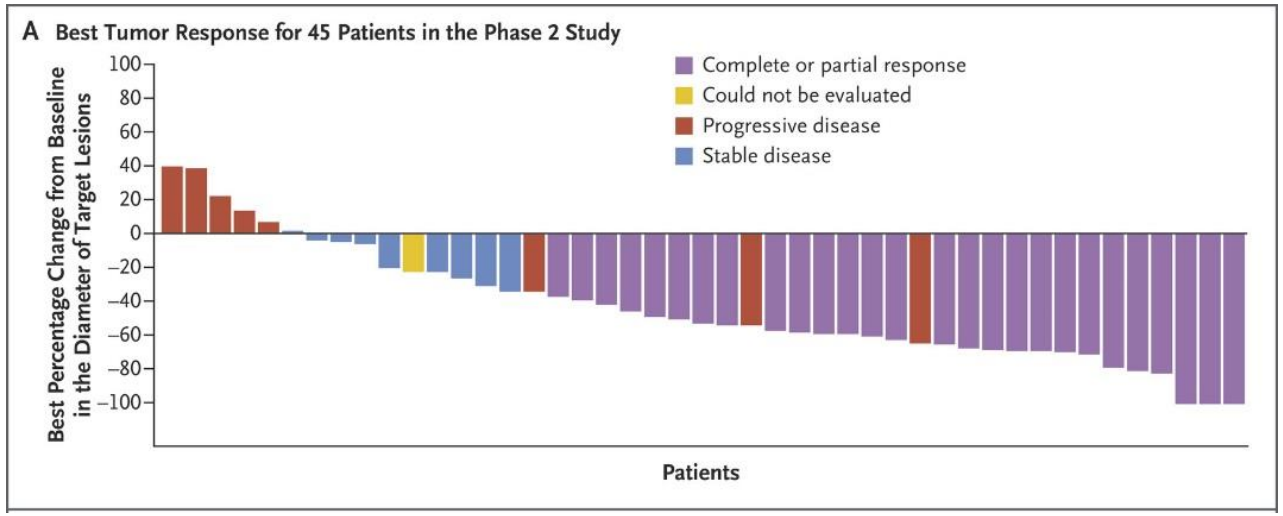


Nghiem, J Clin Oncol 2019.

Cemiplimab in advanced/metastatic cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma

- Cemiplimab 3mg/kg Q2W
- ~50% response rate in both locally advanced and metastatic patients

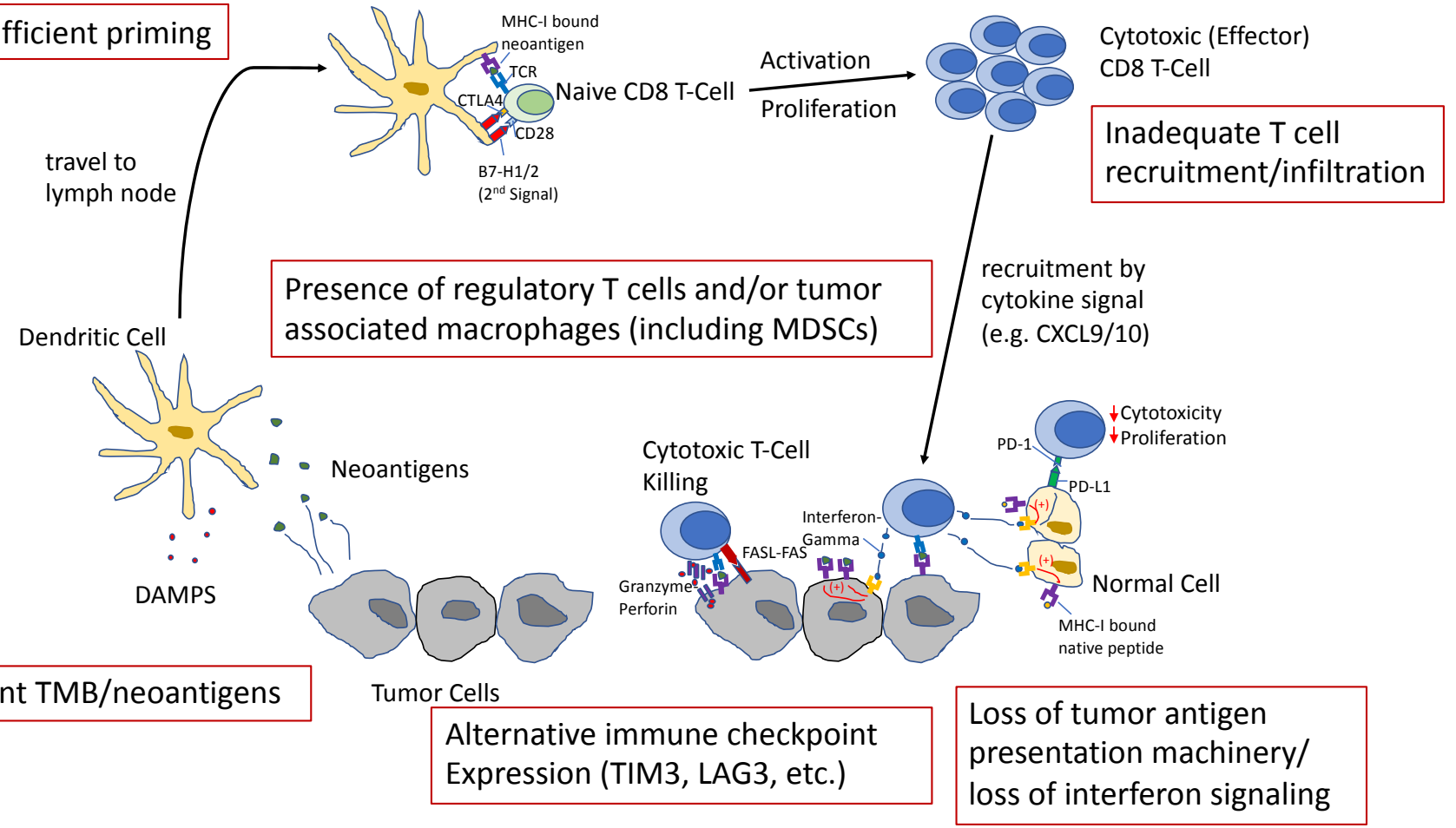




Migden, NEJM 2018.

Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How does immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy fail?

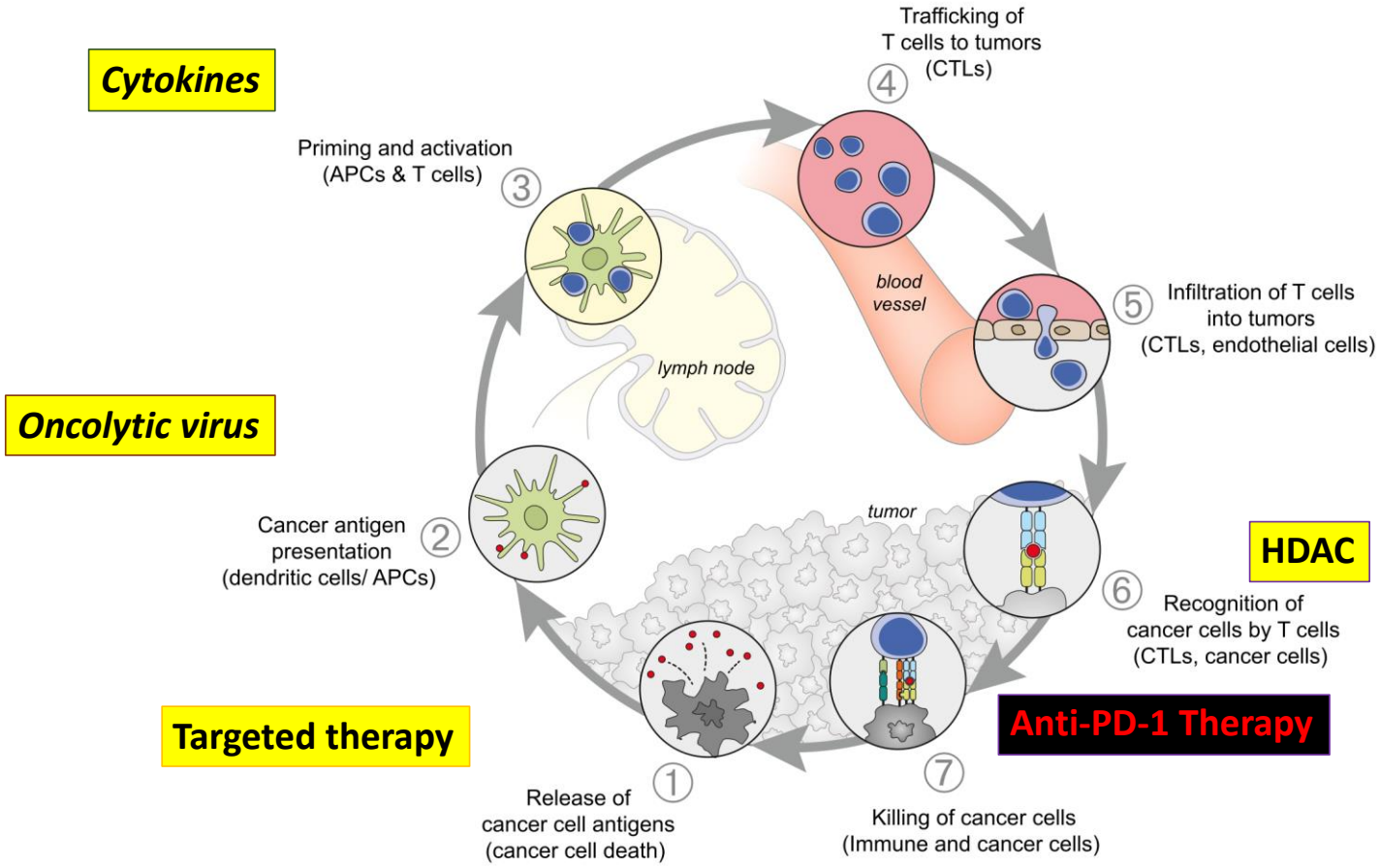


Modified from Liu, Jenkins, Sullivan. Amer J Clin Derm 2018.

Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How do we overcome resistance?

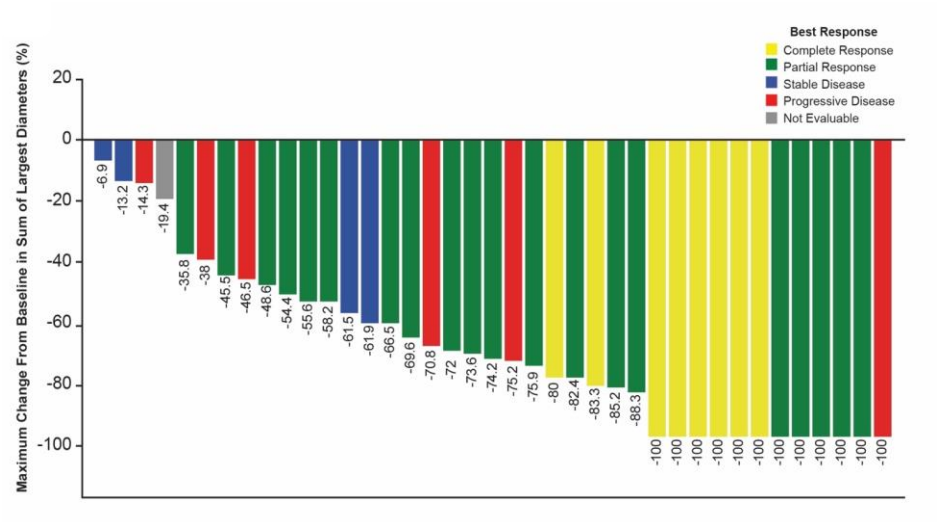
Combination therapy

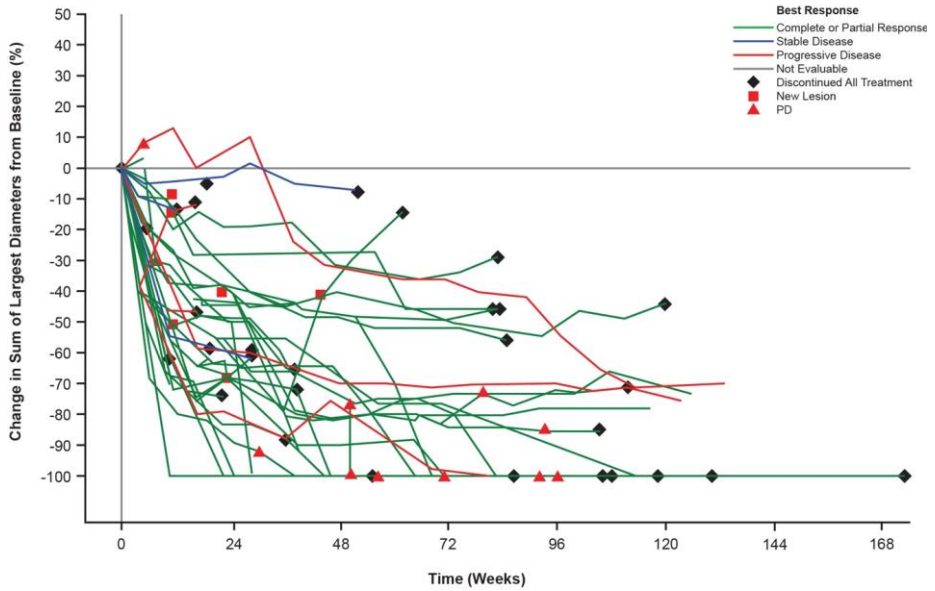


Modified from Chen and Melman. Immunity 2015.

In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy

- Cobimetinib + vemurafenib + atezolizumab
- ORR: 71.8%
- Median duration of response: 17.4 mo





Sullivan et al. Nature Med. 2019

In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy

KEYNOTE-022 Part 3 Study Design (NCT02130466)

Patients
- Histologically confirmed unresectable or metastatic stage IV *BRAF*$^{V600E/K}$-mutant melanoma
- No prior therapy
- Measurable disease
- ECOG PS 0/1

Stratification factors[a]
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- LDH level (>1.1 × ULN vs ≤1.1 × ULN)

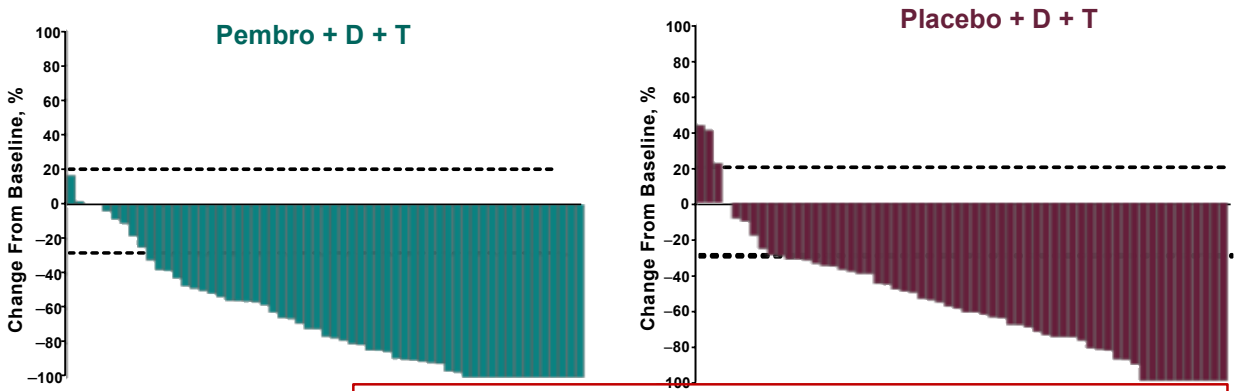
R (1:1)
N = 120

N = 60 → Pembrolizumab 2 mg/kg Q3W + Dabrafenib 150 mg BID + Trametinib 2 mg QD

N = 60 → Placebo Q3W + Dabrafenib 150 mg BID + Trametinib 2 mg QD

- Primary end point: PFS
- Secondary end points: ORR, duration of response, and OS
- Data cutoff: Feb 15, 2018

[a]Owing to the small number of patients enrolled in the ECOG PS 1 and LDH ≤1.1 × ULN strata, these strata were combined.

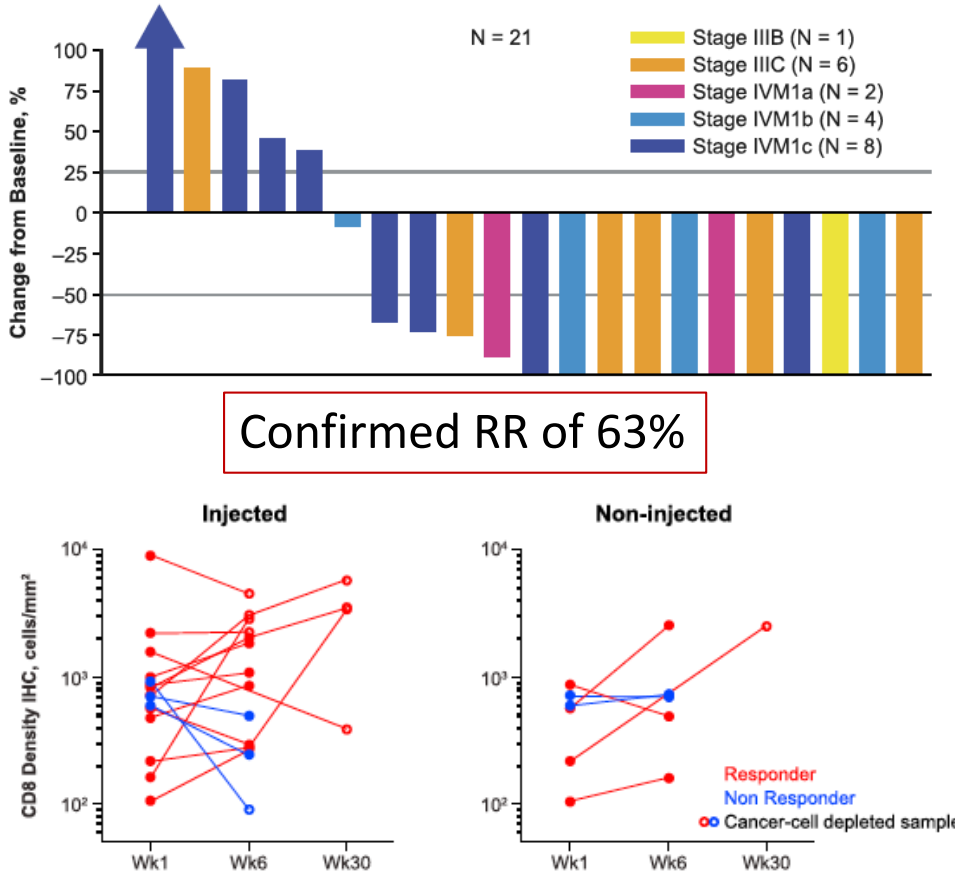


	Pembro + D + T	Placebo + D + T
ORR	63%	72%
CR	18%	13%
≥ 60% red	63%	51%

Ascieto et al, *Nature Med* 2019.

In development: Combined IO with Oncolytic Virus

Phase I: Pembrolizumab + TVEC



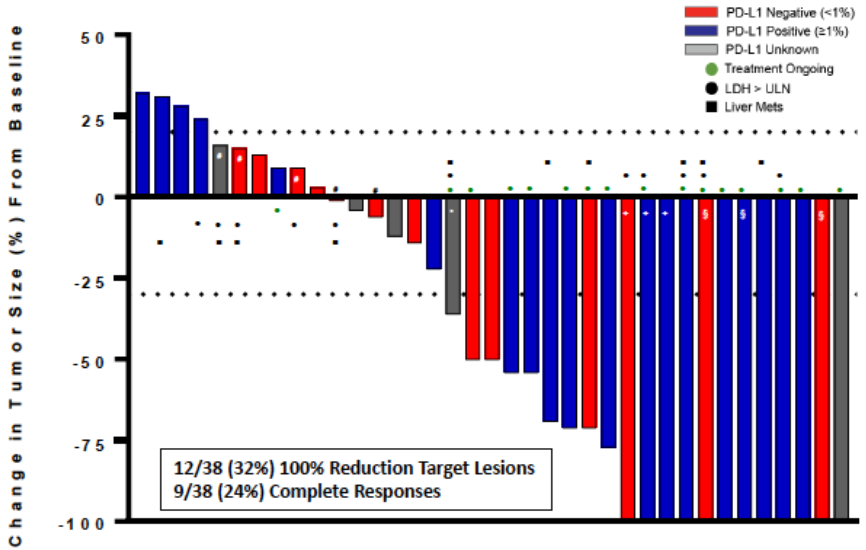
Confirmed RR of 63%

Ribas et al Cell 2017

In development: Combined IO with IL-2 (NKTR-214)

Efficacy (response rate) data from non-randomized cohorts of urothelial bladder cancer, renal cell carcinoma, and melanoma looks promising

Stage IV IO-Naïve 1L Melanoma Cohort at RP2D Best Overall Response by Independent Radiology



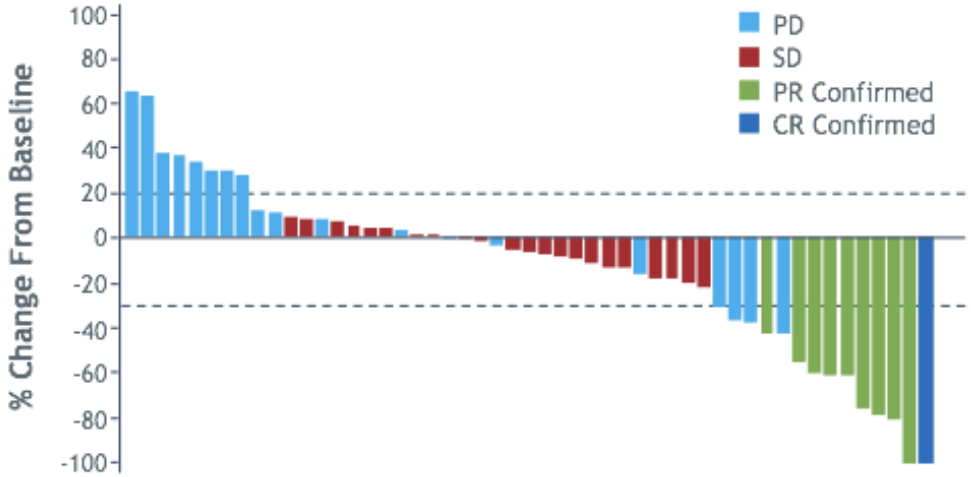
1L Melanoma (n=38 Efficacy Evaluable)	Overall Response Rate
Confirmed ORR (CR+PR)	20 (53%)
CR	9 (24%)
DCR (CR+PR+SD)	29 (76%)
PD-L1 negative (n=14)	6 (43%)
PD-L1 positive (n=19)	13 (68%)
PD-L1 unknown (n=5)	1 (20%)
LDH > ULN (n=11)	5 (45%)
Liver metastases (n=10)	5 (50%)

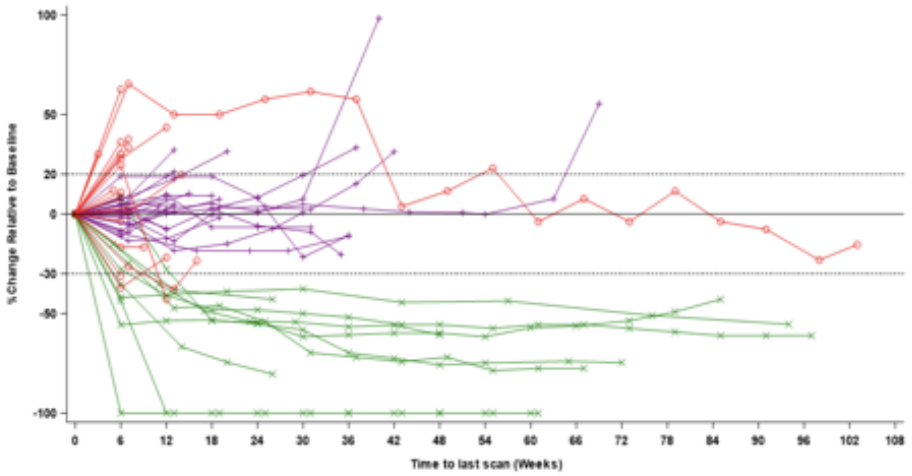
High level of concordance in ORR between independent central radiology (53%) and investigator-assessed 19/38 (50%).

Diab et al, ASCO 2018.
Diab et al, SITC 2018.

In development: Combined IO with HDAC inhibitor

- Entinostat + pembrolizumab in prior PD-1 failure
- 19% ORR (1 CR, 9 PR)
- Median duration of response: 13 mo
- 9 additional patients with SD for >6 mo



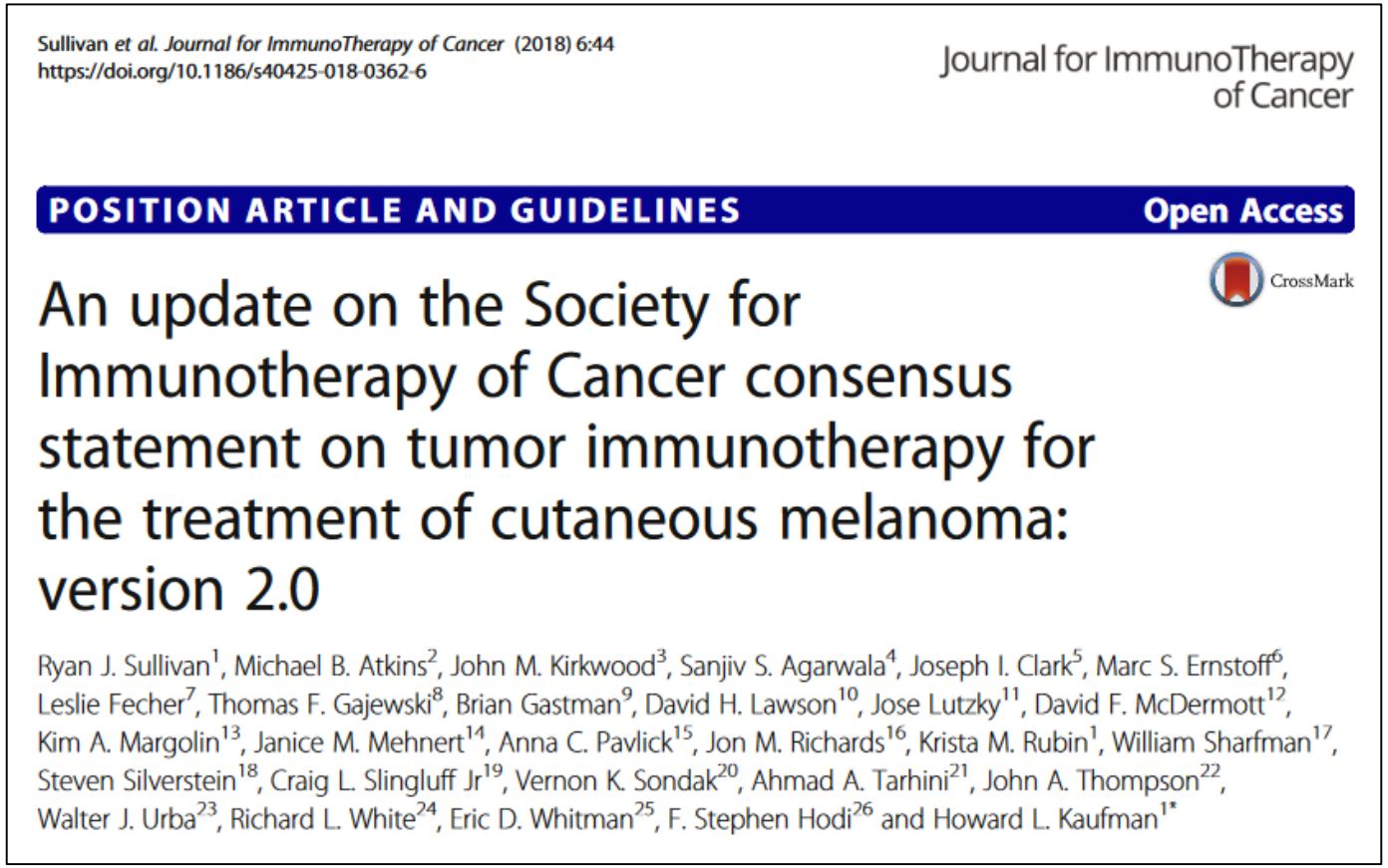


Sullivan et al, AACR 2019.

Conclusions

- Melanoma was one of the foundational disease states for testing immunotherapies
- **Avelumab** and **pembrolizumab** are now approved for Merkel cell carcinoma, and **cemiplimab** is approved for cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma
- **Combination immunotherapies** may lead to higher response rates and more durable responses

Additional Resources



Sullivan *et al. Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* (2018) 6:44
https://doi.org/10.1186/s40425-018-0362-6

Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer

POSITION ARTICLE AND GUIDELINES Open Access

An update on the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer consensus statement on tumor immunotherapy for the treatment of cutaneous melanoma: version 2.0

Ryan J. Sullivan[1], Michael B. Atkins[2], John M. Kirkwood[3], Sanjiv S. Agarwala[4], Joseph I. Clark[5], Marc S. Ernstoff[6], Leslie Fecher[7], Thomas F. Gajewski[8], Brian Gastman[9], David H. Lawson[10], Jose Lutzky[11], David F. McDermott[12], Kim A. Margolin[13], Janice M. Mehnert[14], Anna C. Pavlick[15], Jon M. Richards[16], Krista M. Rubin[1], William Sharfman[17], Steven Silverstein[18], Craig L. Slingluff Jr[19], Vernon K. Sondak[20], Ahmad A. Tarhini[21], John A. Thompson[22], Walter J. Urba[23], Richard L. White[24], Eric D. Whitman[25], F. Stephen Hodi[26] and Howard L. Kaufman[1*]

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer
ADVANCES IN Cancer IMMUNOTHERAPY™

Case Study

Case Study

- 61 yo Male presents to the office in 2017 with **history of stage IB melanoma** (diagnosed in **2012**) on his back which he had gotten resected and had a negative sentinel node biopsy
- In **2017**, he presented to his PCP with **difficulty breathing** and severe fatigue. CT scans of his body revealed **multiple masses** in his lungs, adrenal glands, small bowel. A MRI brain showed **multiple brain metastases**.
- He completed a course of **whole brain radiation** and was sent to Medical Oncology for further evaluation and treatment option. At this time, he feels weak but his labs and imaging is stable.

Case Study

- What is the next step:
  - A. Recommend radiation to lungs, adrenal glands, and small bowel
  - B. Initiate immunetherapy
  - C. Do a biopsy of one of the concerning masses to definitively prove metastatic melanoma
  - D. Initiate BRAF targeted therapy without knowing his BRAF status

Case Study

- **The correct answer is C**. A biopsy of a lung mass confirms metastatic melanoma that is negative for the BRAF mutation. His performance status has improved and his labs and imaging remain stable.

- What is the next step?

  A. Recommend radiation to lungs, adrenal glands, and small bowel

  B. Discuss immunotherapy options to try to control the cancer

  C. Recommend surgery to remove each of the masses in his lungs, adrenal glands, and small bowel

Case Study

- **The correct answer is B.** Patient was **started on anti-PD1 therapy alone** and he had a **partial response** for 9 months, but then he progressed with **new disease** in his hilar/mediastinal nodes and a pericardial mass.

- What is the next step?

  A. Discuss further treatment options, including clinical trial(s)

  B. Recommend surgery to remove each of the masses in his hilar/mediastinal nodes

  C. Start targeted BRAF inhibitor-based therapy

Case Study

- **The correct answer is A**. A randomized trial evaluating combination immunotherapy (ipilimumab versus ipilimumab + nivolumab) was discussed. He was randomized to ipilimumab + nivolumab
- After two cycles of treatment, he developed a **severe colitis** requiring steroids, and infliximab
- Most recent scans show **significant disease response** to therapy. At this time, we are holding therapy and monitoring him closely to assess for continued response.