

ADVANCES IN  
**Cancer**  
IMMUNOTHERAPY™



# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Melanoma

Brent A. Hanks, M.D., Ph.D.

*Duke Cancer Institute*



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

# Disclosures

- Research Funding:
  - Merck & Co
  - OncoMed Pharmaceuticals
  - Astrazeneca
  - GSK
- Honoraria: Novartis, EMD Serono, CE Concepts, Duke Cancer Network, Virginia Oncology Associates, SITC
- Consultant: FujiFilm Pharmaceuticals
- Scientific Advisory Board: G1 Therapeutics

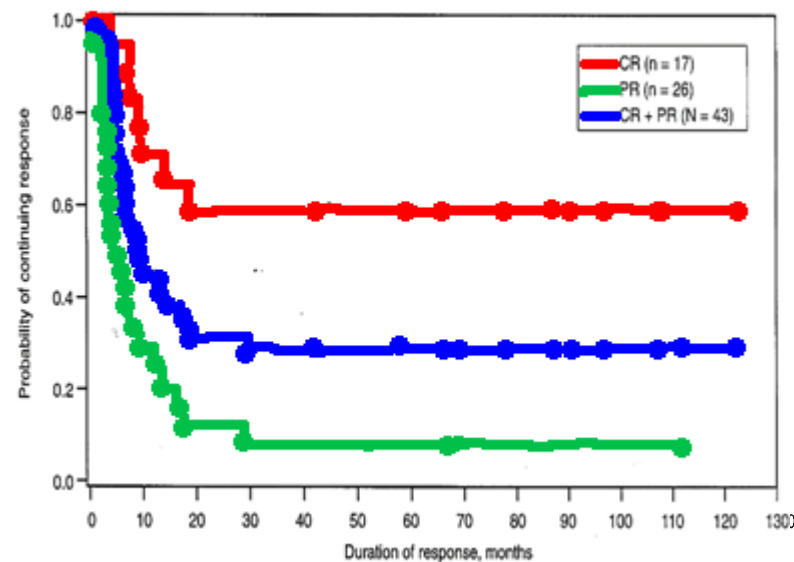
## Types of Immunotherapies for Melanoma

---

- Cytokines
  - Interferon- $\alpha$  2b
  - Interleukin-2
- Checkpoint antibodies
  - Anti-CTLA4 (ipilimumab)
  - Anti-PD1 (pembrolizumab, nivolumab)
- Oncolytic Virus
  - Modified Herpes Virus (Talimogene Laharparepvec; TVEC)
- Adjuvant Immunotherapy
- Novel Combination Immunotherapy Regimens

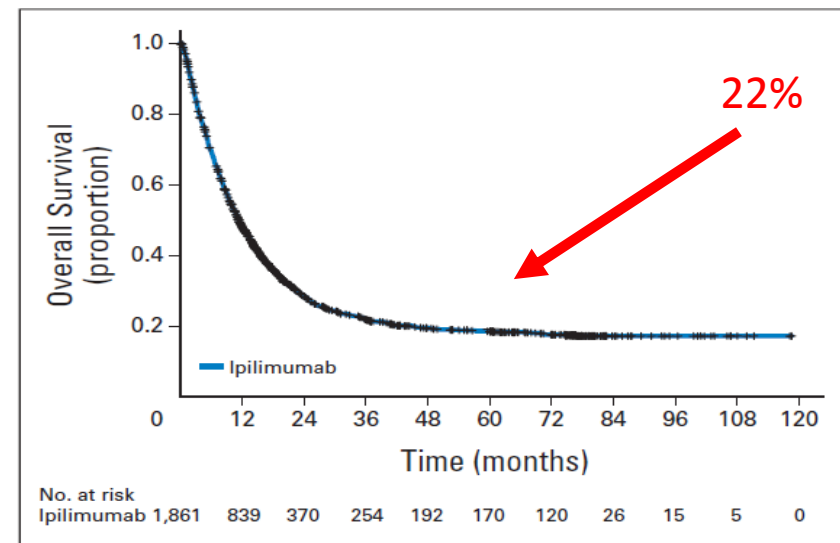
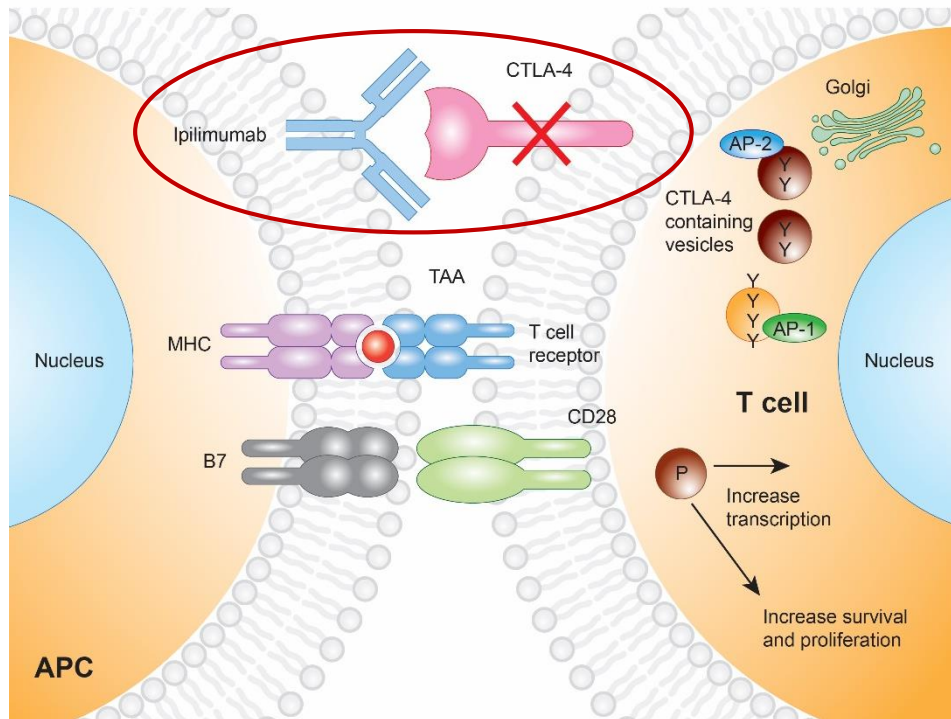
## High Dose Interleukin-2 Therapy (HD IL-2) : Durable Responses

- HD IL-2 produces durable responses in 6%-10% of patients with advanced melanoma
- Few relapses in patients responding for over 2.5 years (cured?)
- FDA approval for melanoma in 1998
- High toxicity



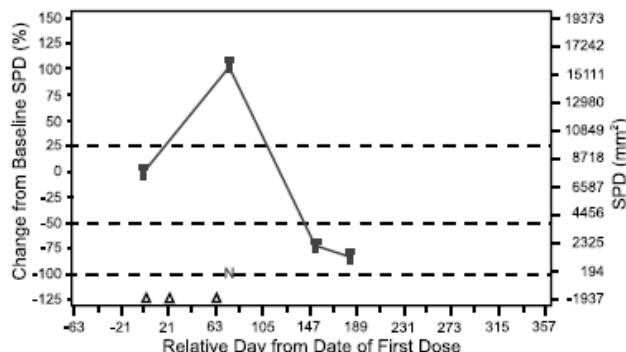
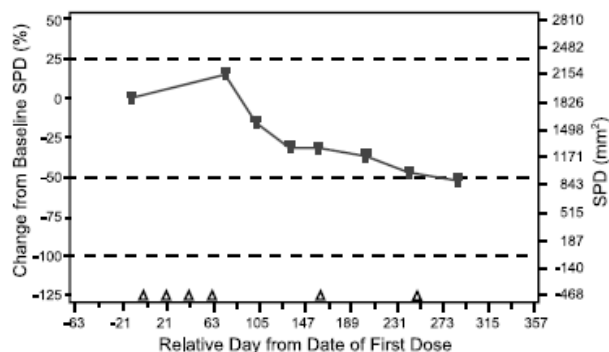
Atkins et al. J Clin Oncol. 1999

# Ipilimumab (Anti-CTLA-4 Antibody Therapy)





# Pseudo-Progression and Immune Related Response Criteria



- Use of traditional RECIST may lead to premature discontinuation of therapy



July 2006



- Immune-related response criteria:
  - Requires calculation of total tumor burden
  - Requires repeat scan 4 weeks later

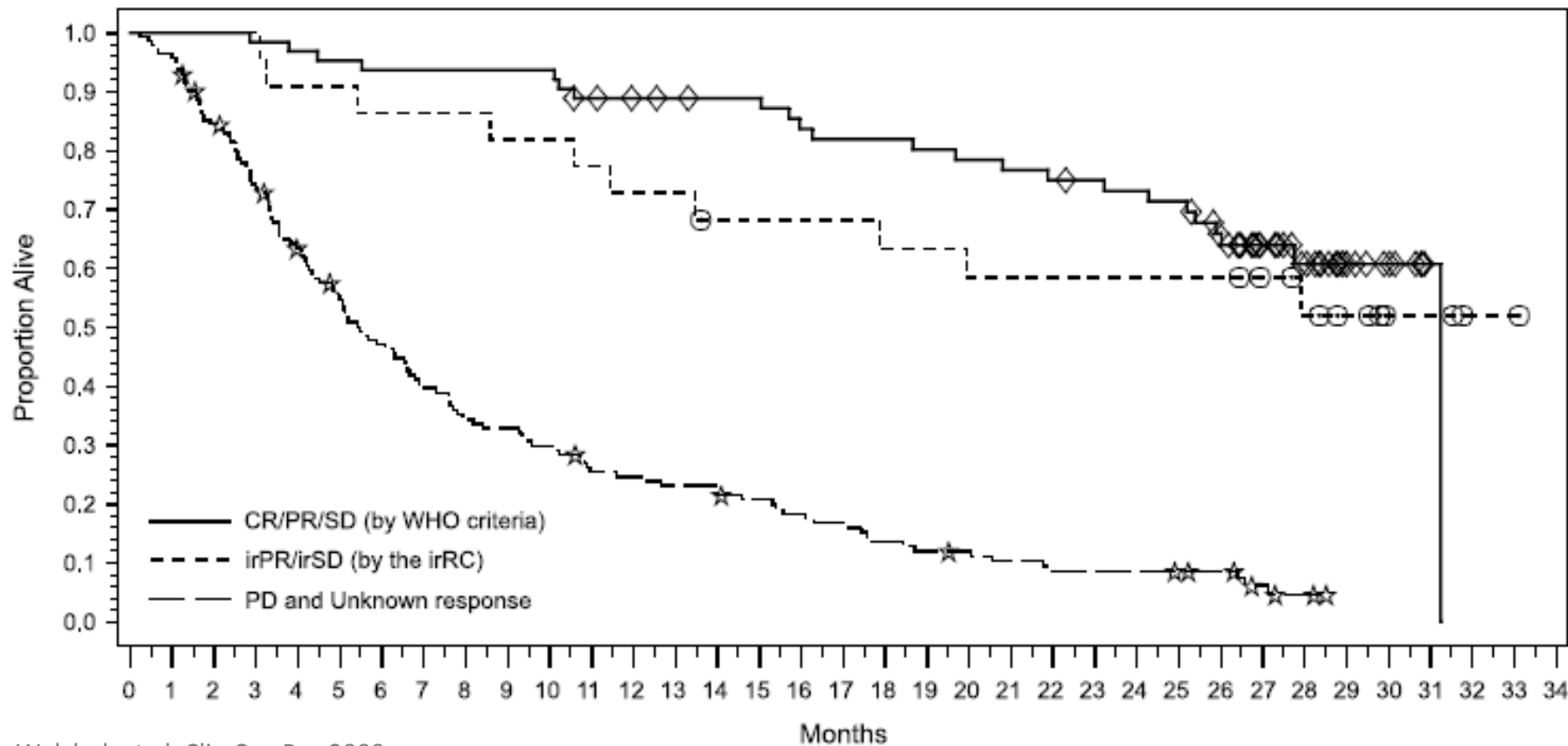
Jedd Wolchok, 2008 Annual ASCO Meeting.

Wolchok et al. Clin Can Res 2009





## Immune Related Response Criteria

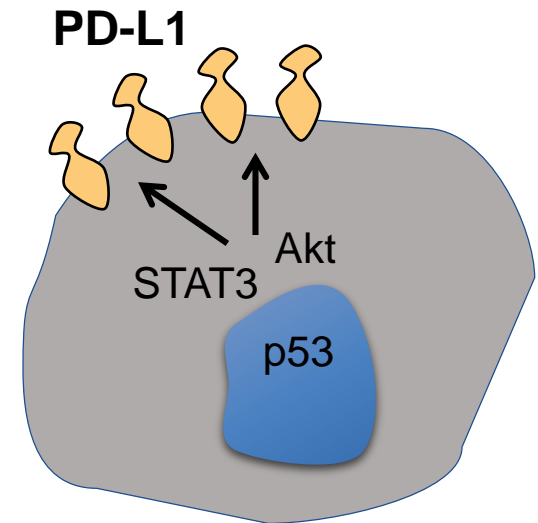
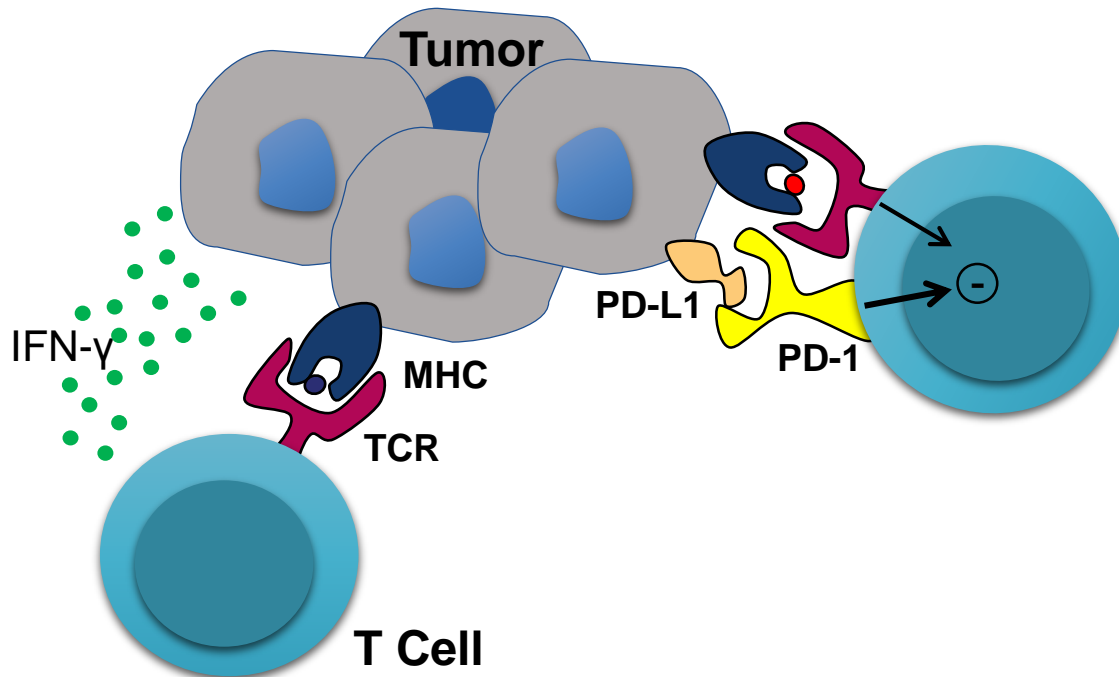


Wolchok et al. Clin Can Res 2009



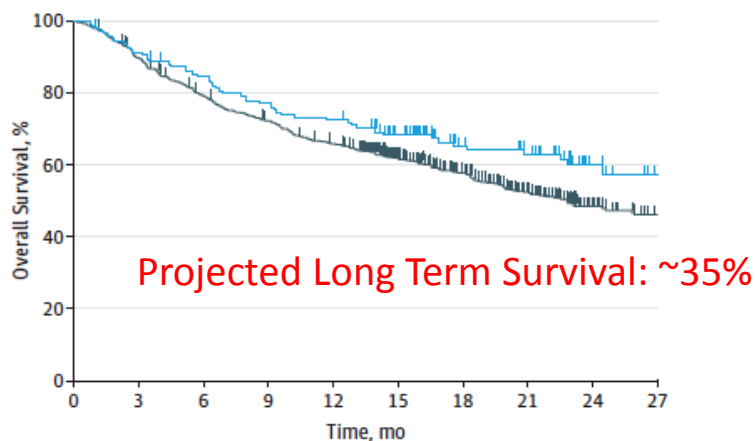
# Pembrolizumab/Nivolumab (Anti-PD-1 Antibody Tx)

- PD-1 signaling promotes T cell tolerization by inhibiting downstream activation signals
- PD-1 expression is upregulated by activated and exhausted T cell populations
- Tumor PD-L1 expression is regulated via two general mechanisms:
  1. Adaptive immune resistance: upregulated by IFN- $\gamma$  in peripheral tissues
  2. Innate immune resistance: oncogenic signaling pathways

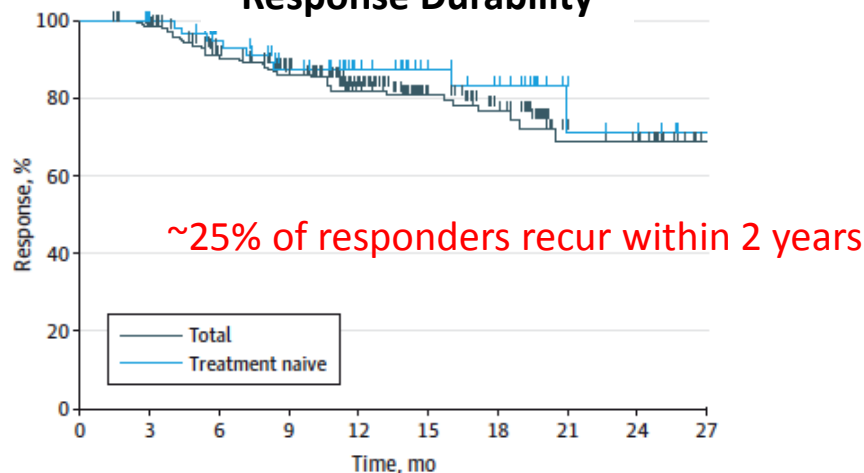


# Pembrolizumab/Nivolumab (Anti-PD-1 Antibody Tx)

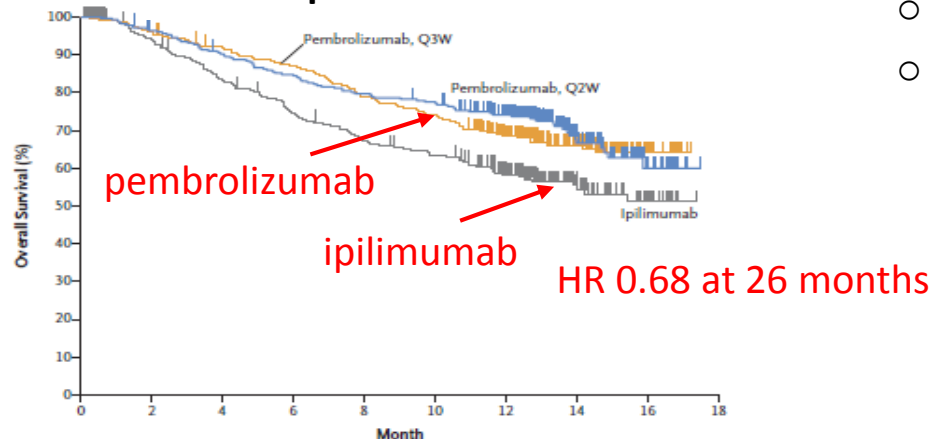
**Overall Survival**



**Response Durability**



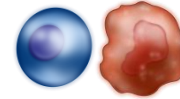
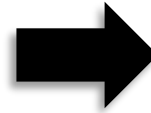
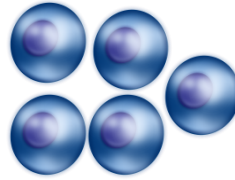
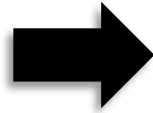
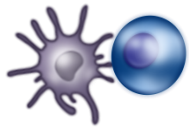
**Vs. Ipilimumab**



- ORRs: 30-40%
- Reduction in Risk of Death Relative to Ipilimumab: 31-37%

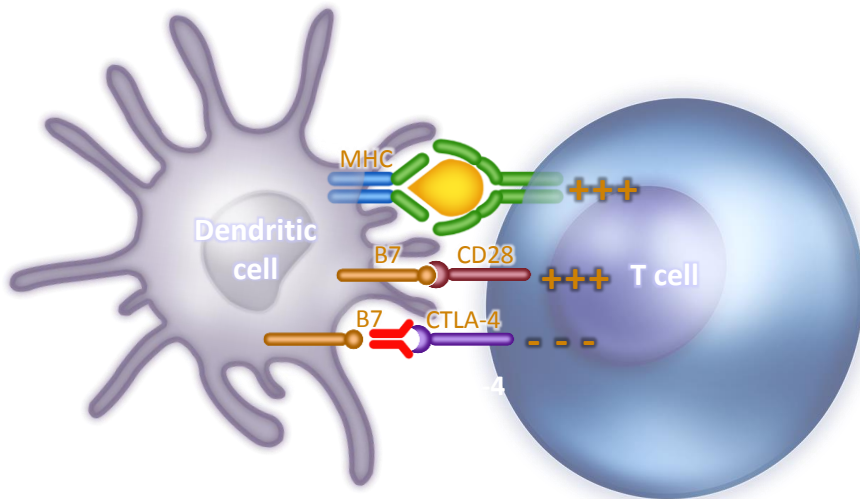
Ribas, A. et al. *JAMA*. 2016. 315(15): 1600.  
Robert, C. et al. *NEJM*. 2015.





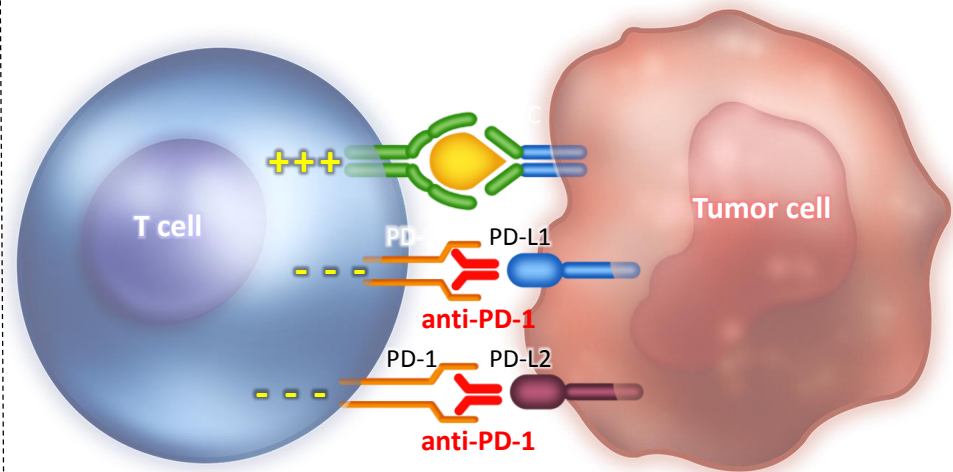
**Activation**  
(cytokines, lysis, proliferation,  
migration to tumor)

## Lymph Node Microenvironment



### CTLA-4 Blockade

## Tumor Microenvironment



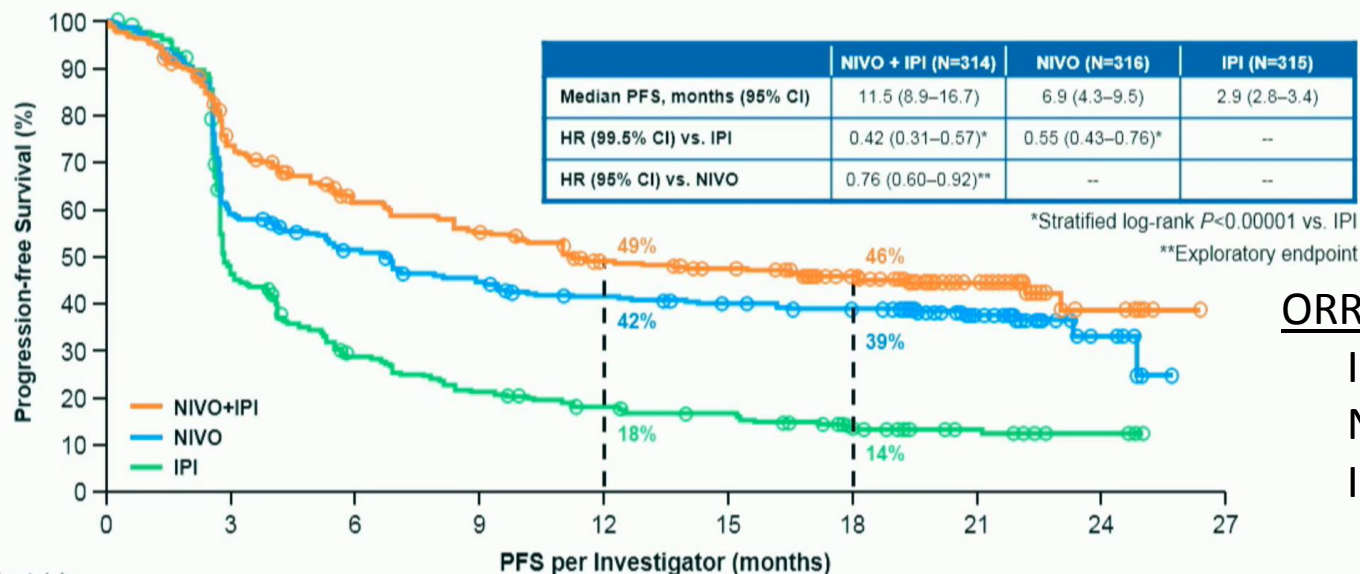
### PD-1 Blockade



# Ipi+Nivo vs. Ipi or Nivo vs. Ipi in Melanoma

Phase III – Checkmate 067

## Progression-Free Survival (Intent-to-Treat Population)



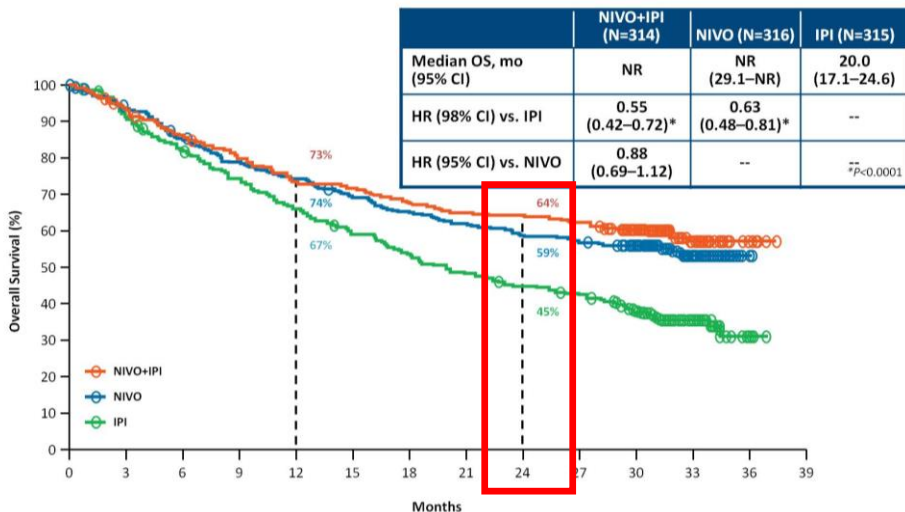
Number of patients at risk:

Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	314	219	174	156	133	126	103	48	8	0
Nivolumab	316	177	148	127	114	104	94	46	8	0
Ipilimumab	315	137	78	58	46	40	25	15	3	0

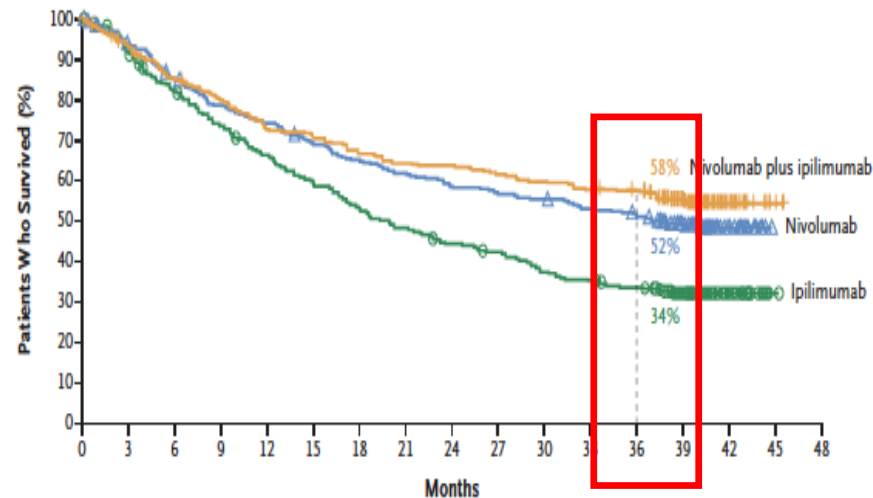
Database lock Nov 2015

# Ipi+Nivo vs. Ipi or Nivo vs. Ipi in Melanoma

## 2 year Follow-Up



## 3 year Follow-Up



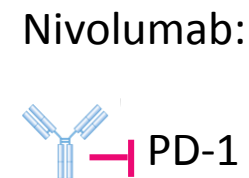
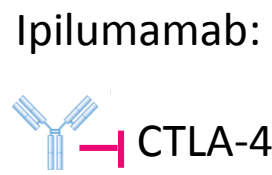
### Median Overall Survival

Ipi/Nivo NR  
Nivo 37.6 months  
Ipi 19.9 months

### HR for Death

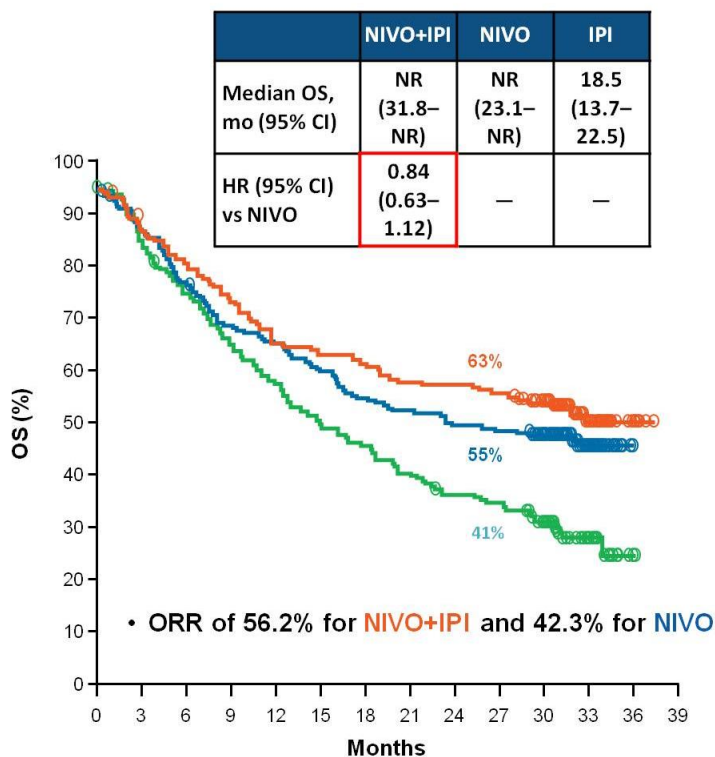
Ipi/Nivo vs Ipi 0.55 (95% CI 0.45 – 0.69)  
Nivo vs Ipi 0.65 (95% CI 0.53 – 0.80)  
Ipi/Nivo vs Nivo 0.85 (95% CI 0.68 – 1.07)



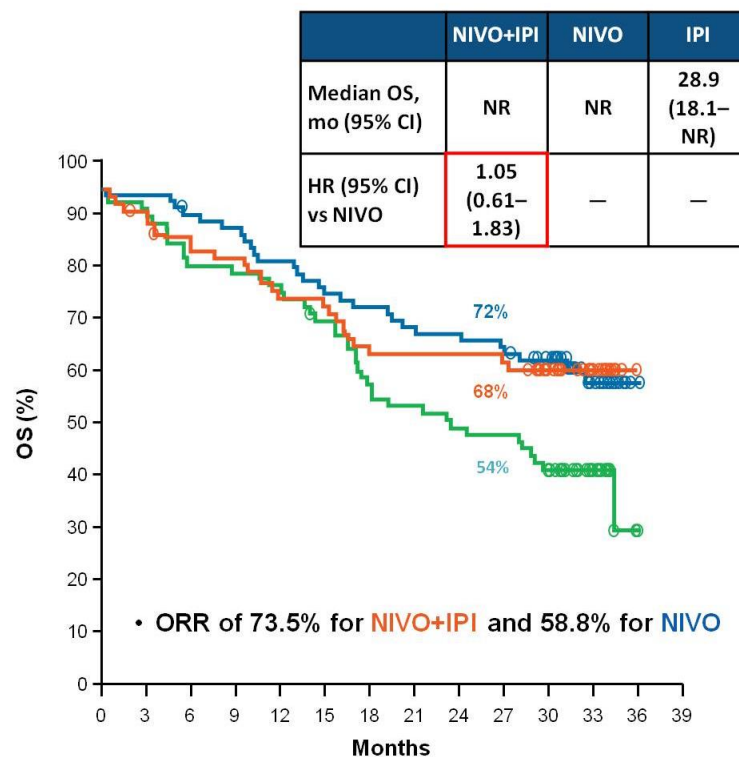


# Ipi+Nivo vs. Ipi or Nivo vs. Ipi in Melanoma

PD-L1 Expression Level <5%



PD-L1 Expression Level ≥5%





## Ipi+Nivo vs. Ipi or Nivo vs. Ipi in Melanoma

### Safety Summary

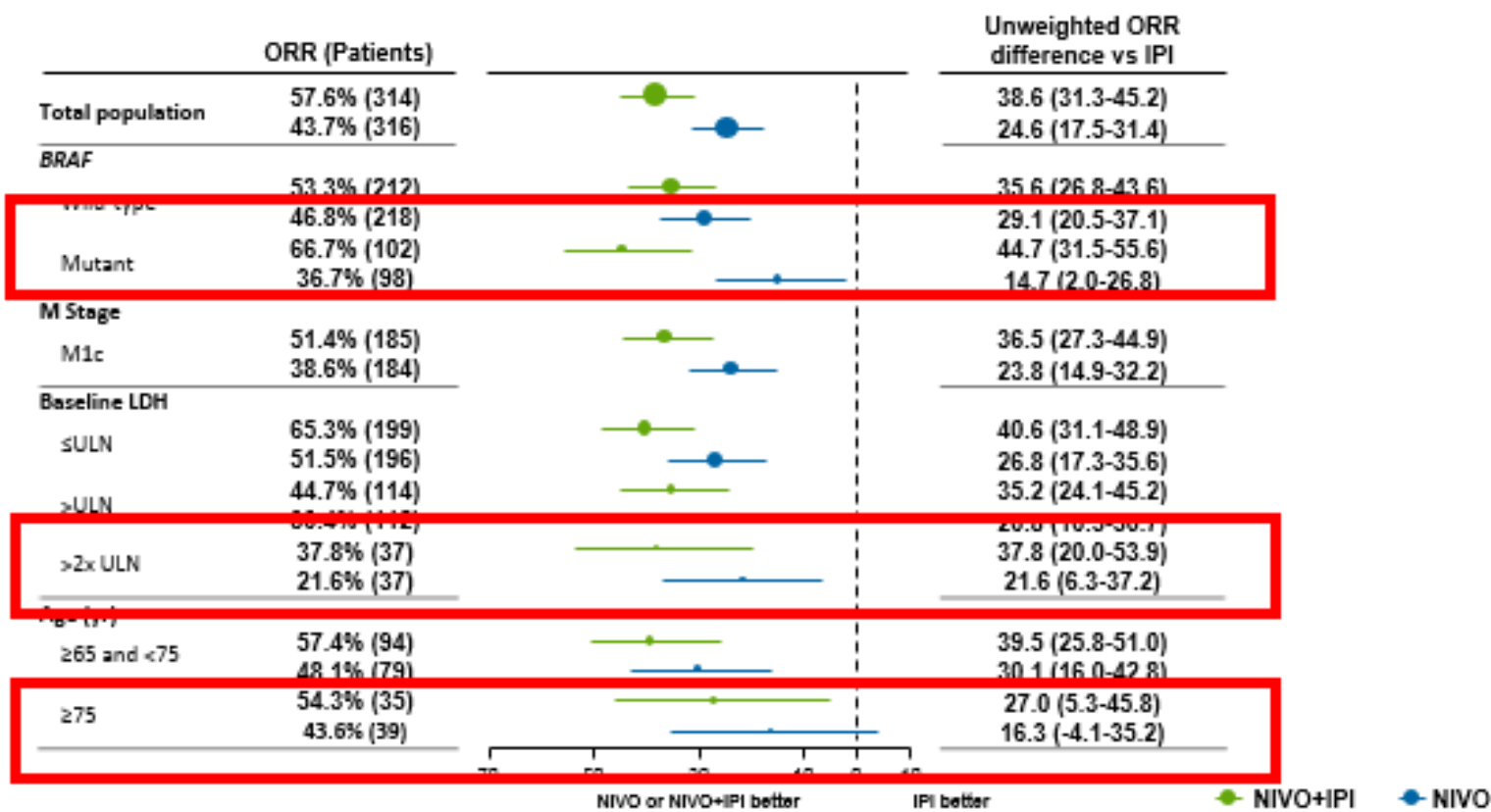
- Updated safety information with 9 additional months of follow-up were consistent with the initial report

Patients reporting event, %	NIVO+IPI (N=313)		NIVO (N=313)		IPI (N=311)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4
Treatment-related adverse event (AE)	95.8	56.5	84.0	19.8	85.9	27.0
Treatment-related AE leading to discontinuation	38.7	30.7	10.5	7.3	15.4	13.5
Treatment-related death*	0		0.3		0.3	

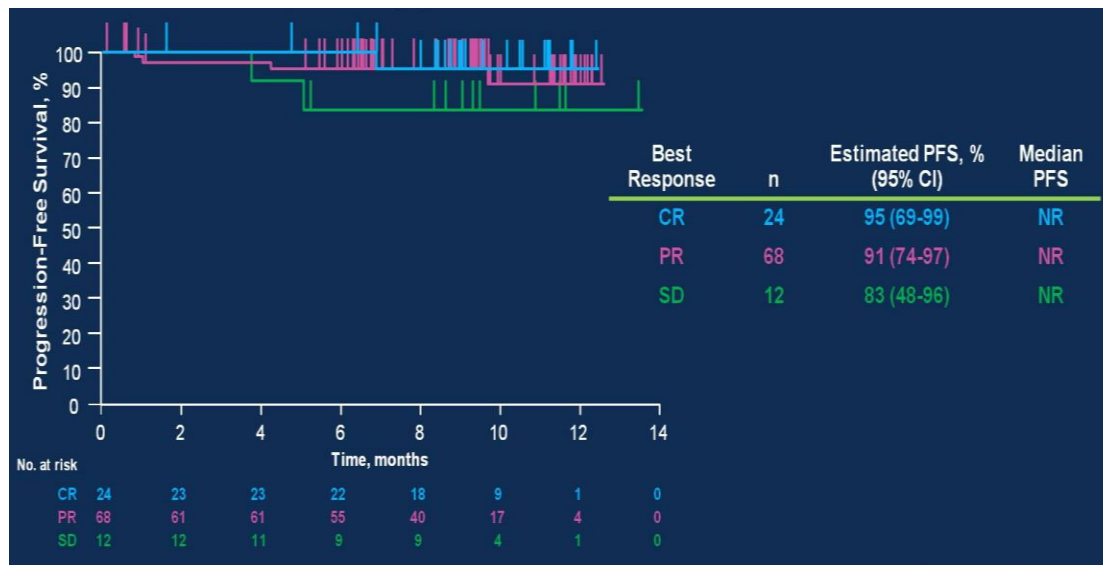
- 68.8% of patients who discontinued NIVO+IPI due to treatment-related AEs achieved a response

\*One reported in the NIVO group (neutropenia) and one in the IPI group (colon perforation)

# Ipi-Nivo vs Nivo Overall Response Rate in Patient Subgroups



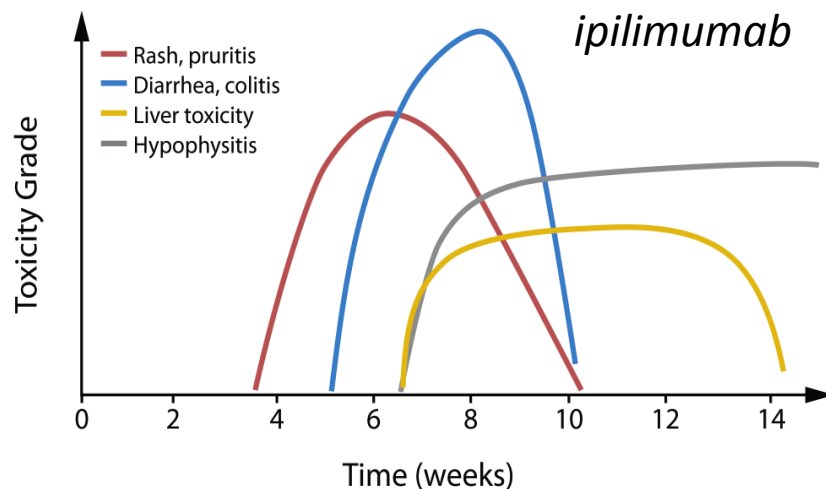
# Anti-PD-1 Antibody Discontinuation



- Keynote-001 Study: After a CR while receiving two years of pembrolizumab therapy, 97% of patients maintain a CR after one year of follow-up
- Keynote-006 Study: 95% of CR patients, 91% of PR patients, and 83% of SD patients were either disease-free or stable within one year of follow-up after discontinuing therapy

# Immunotherapy Toxicity

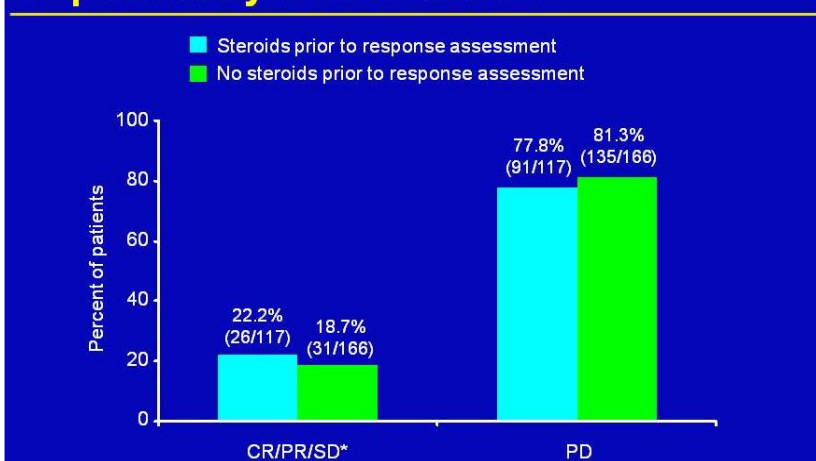
Organ	Symptoms
Skin (dermatitis, mucositis)	rash, itching, dry eyes, dry mouth
Colon (colitis)	loose stools, stomach cramping, fatigue
Thyroid (thyroiditis)	rapid heart rate, sweating, heat intolerance, fatigue
Pituitary (hypophysitis)	fatigue, headache, muscle cramping, nausea
Liver (hepatitis)	Fatigue, nausea, fever, nightsweats



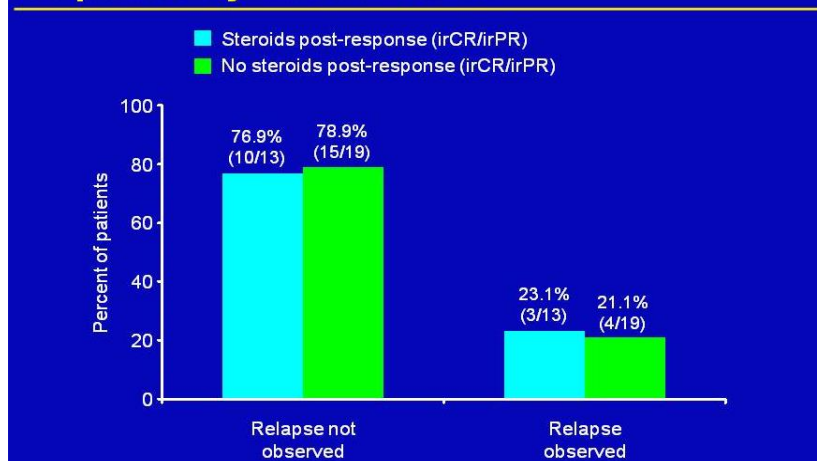
# Immunotherapy Toxicity

- Steroid therapy for ipilimumab-induced side-effects is not associated with inferior outcome
- Meta-analysis of 4 independent anti-PD-1 antibody studies → 24% received steroid therapy for side-effects; no significant difference in the response rate (30% vs 32%)

**Figure 4. Steroids and ipilimumab-induced responses by mWHO criteria**



**Figure 7. Steroids and maintenance of response by irRC criteria**

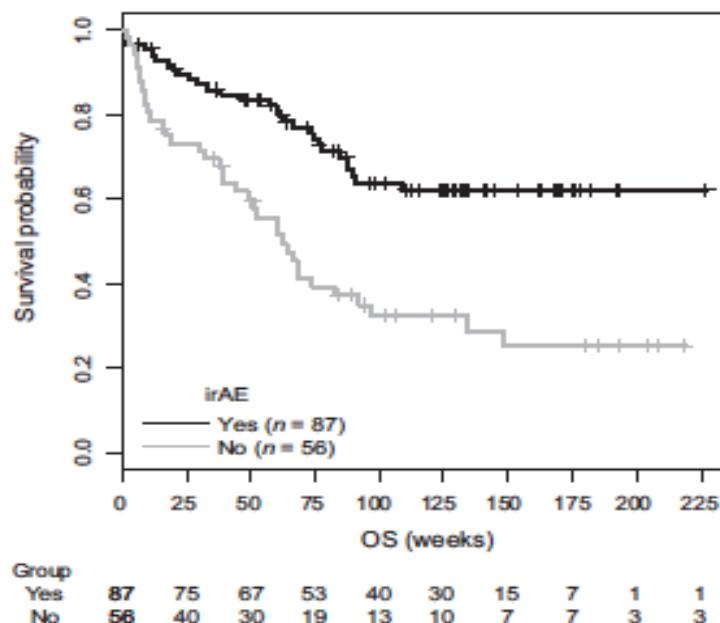


# Immunotherapy Toxicity

## Single Agent Nivolumab

# of Side-Effects	Response Rate
0	18%
1-2	47%
$\geq 3$	85%

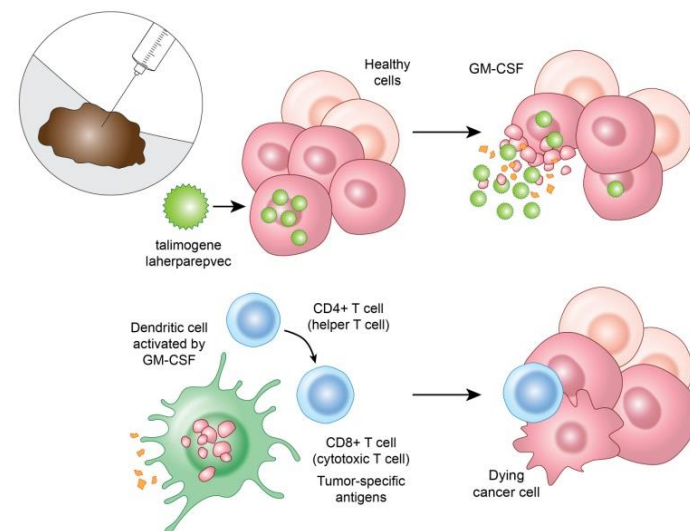
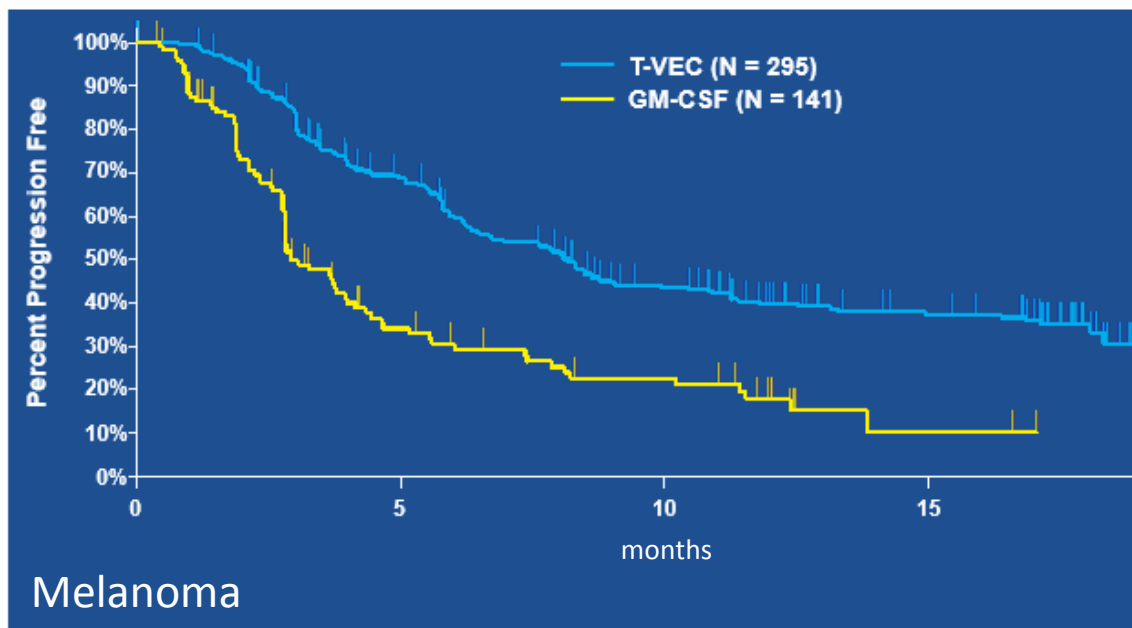
## Overall Survival



- Immune-related toxicities correlate with response rate and overall survival



## Phase III Trial of T-VEC vs GM-CSF

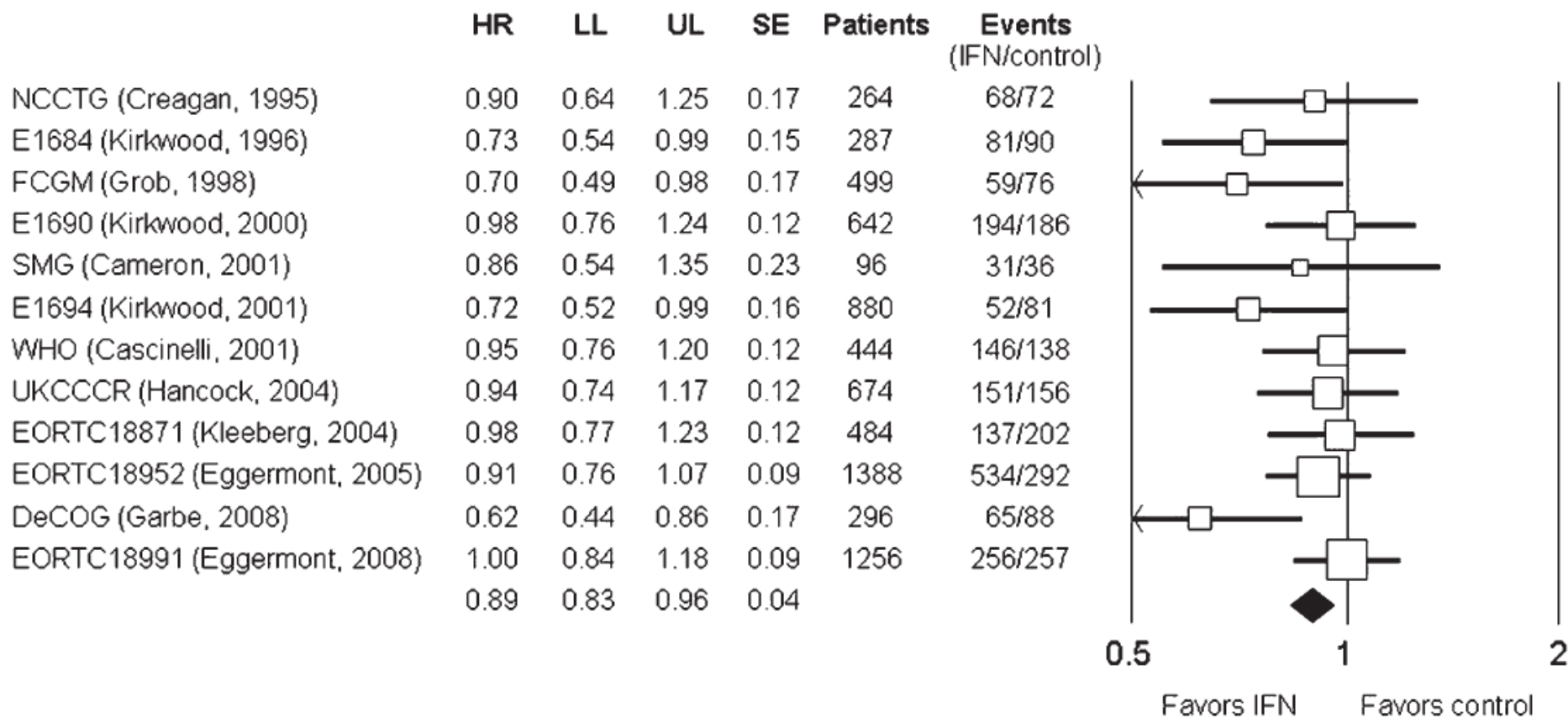


- Durable Response Rate: TVEC (16.3%) vs GM-CSF (2.1%)
- Most effective for patients with stage IIIB, IIIC, and IV (M1a) disease
- Overall, well tolerated with transient side-effects (inflammation, fever, HA)

Andtbacka, R. et al. *JCO*. 2015. 33: 2780.  
Andtbacka et al. ASCO 2013; LBA9008



## Adjuvant IFN- $\alpha$ High-Risk Melanoma

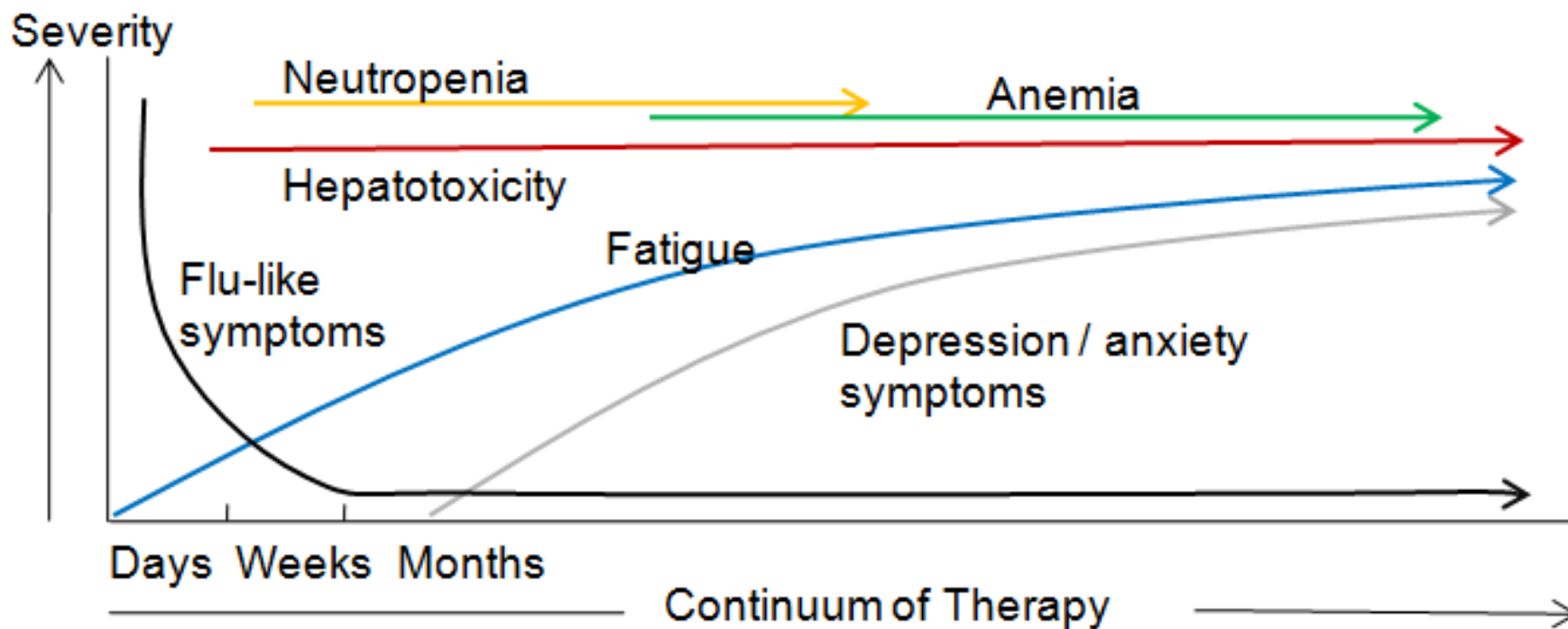


Mocellin et al. JNCI. 2010





## Toxicity of Adjuvant IFN- $\alpha$

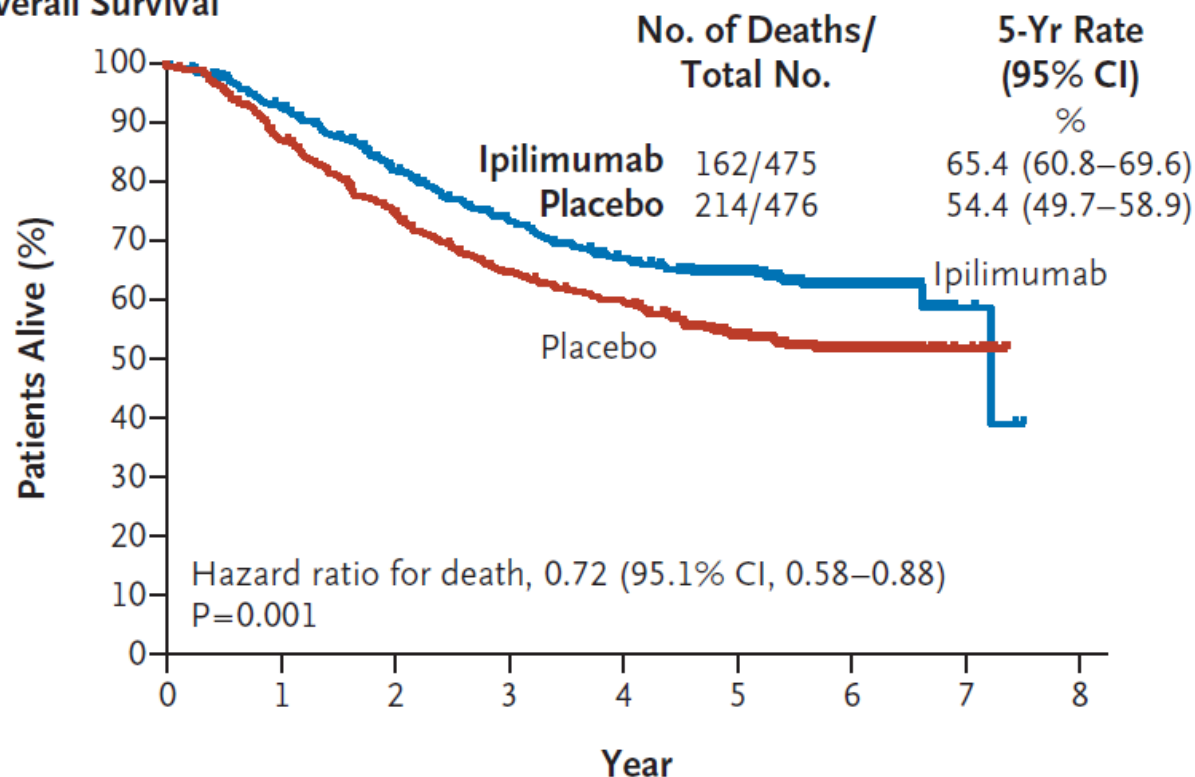


<http://www.sinobiological.com/Interferon-Side-Effects-a-6085.html>



# Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Melanoma

## Overall Survival



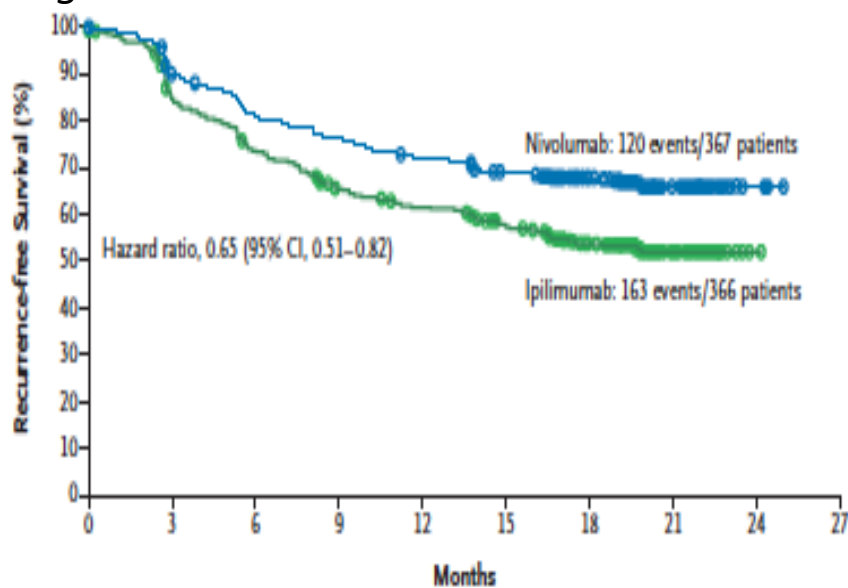
## No. at Risk

Ipilimumab	475	431	369	325	290	199	62	4
Placebo	476	413	348	297	273	178	58	8

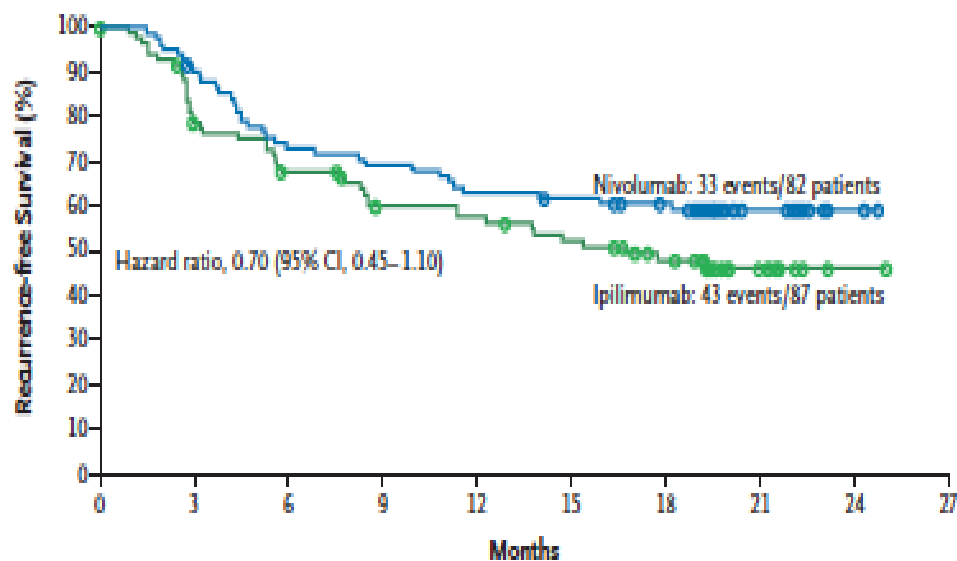


# Adjuvant Nivolumab in Resected Stage IIIB-IV Melanoma

*Stage IIIB and IIIC*

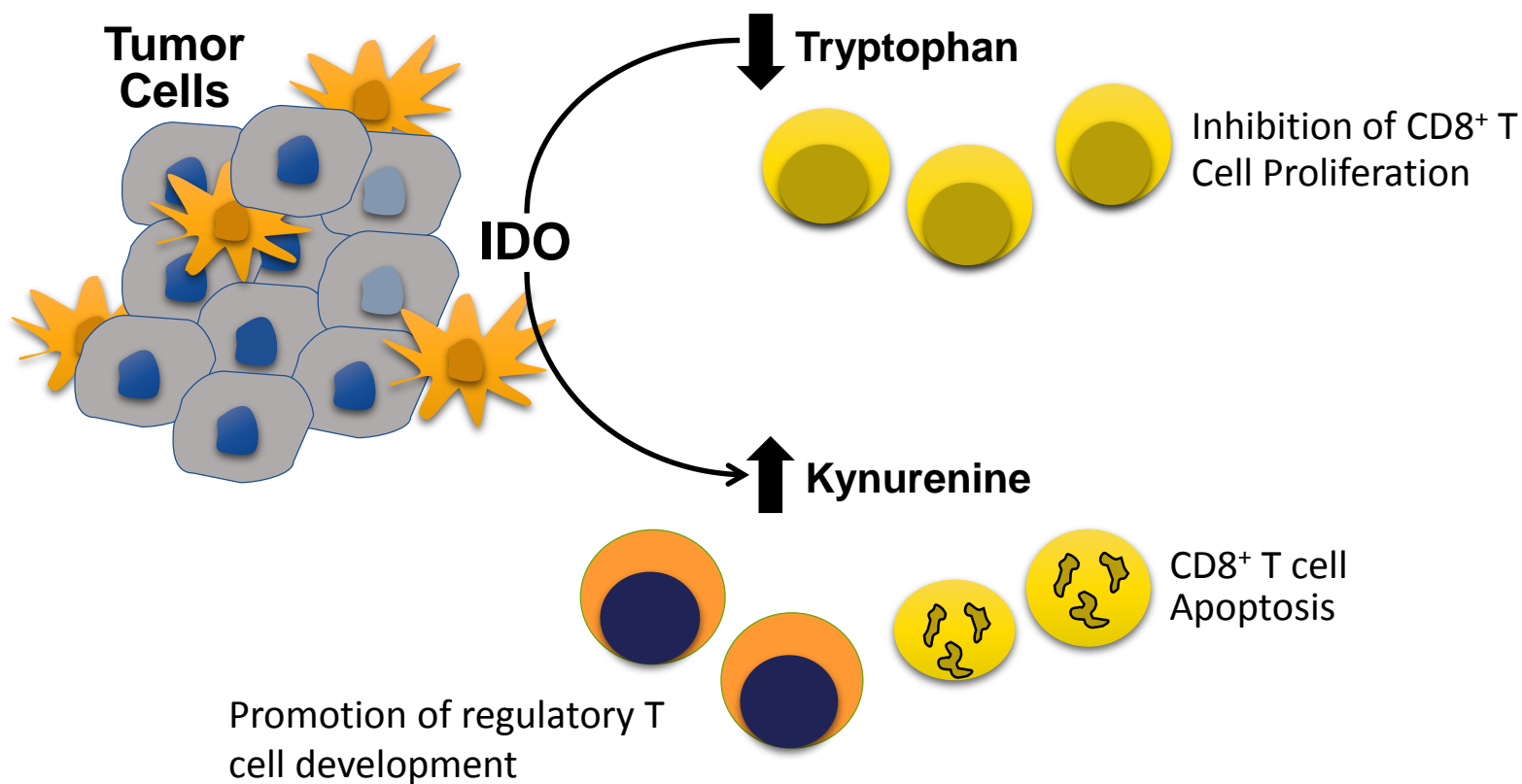


*Stage IV*

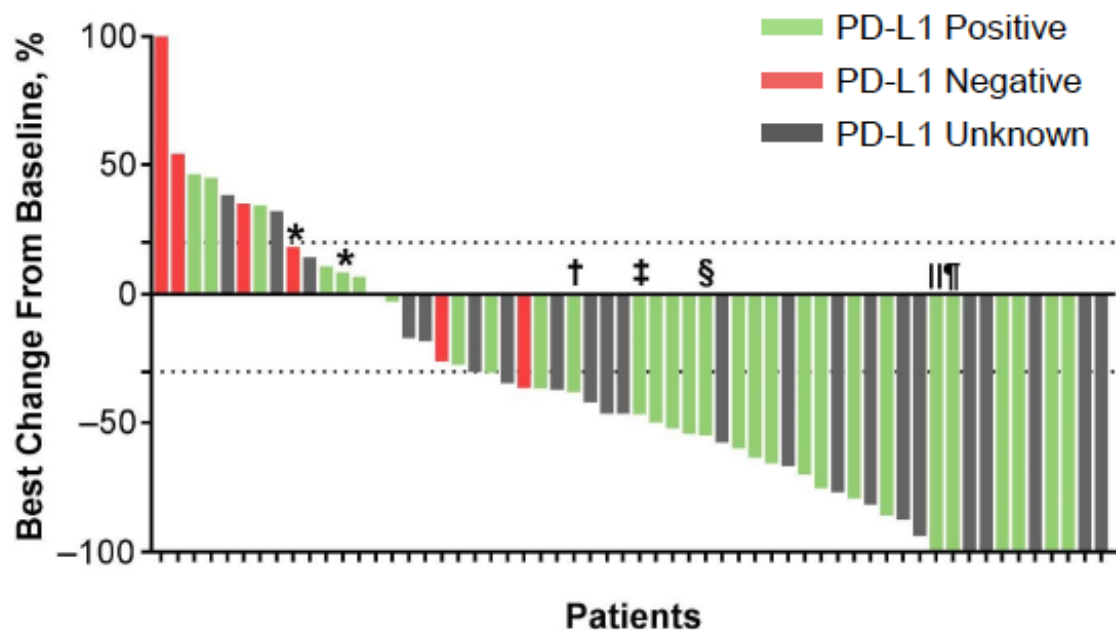


- Approved by the FDA on December 20, 2017
- Management of patients with recurrence after adjuvant anti-PD-1 antibody immunotherapy will become an important issue in the field

## Indoleamine 2,3-dioxygenase (IDO)



## IDO Inhibitor Epacadostat + Pembrolizumab

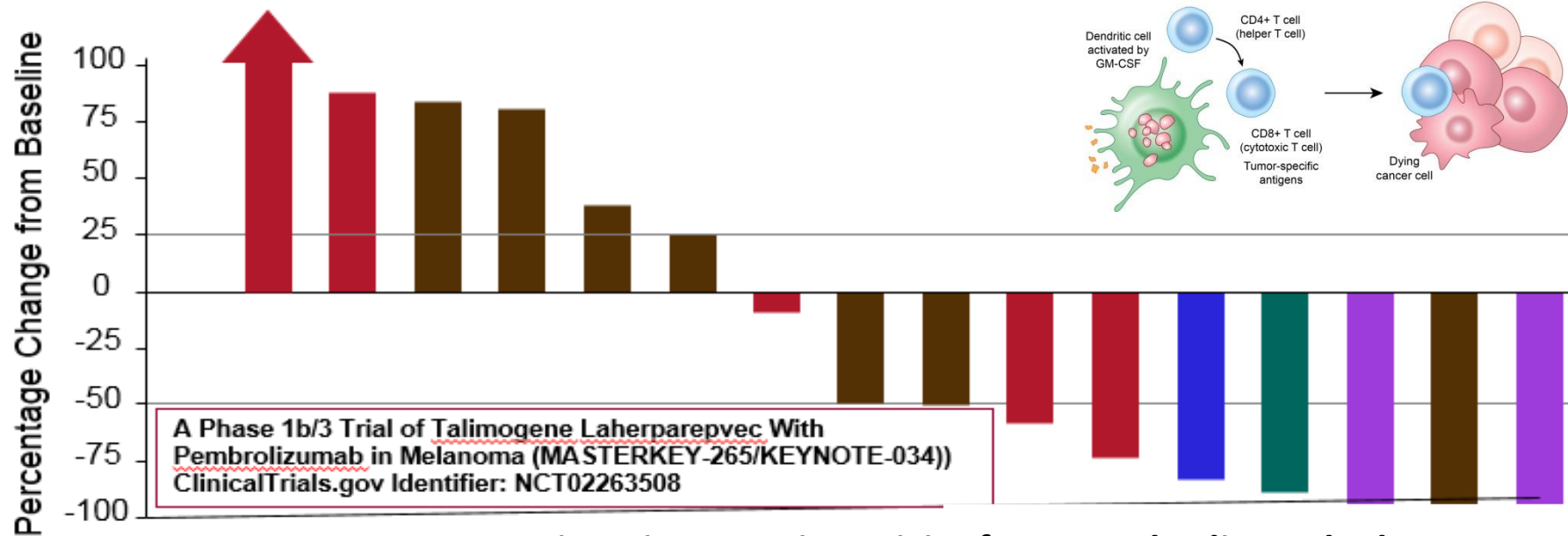
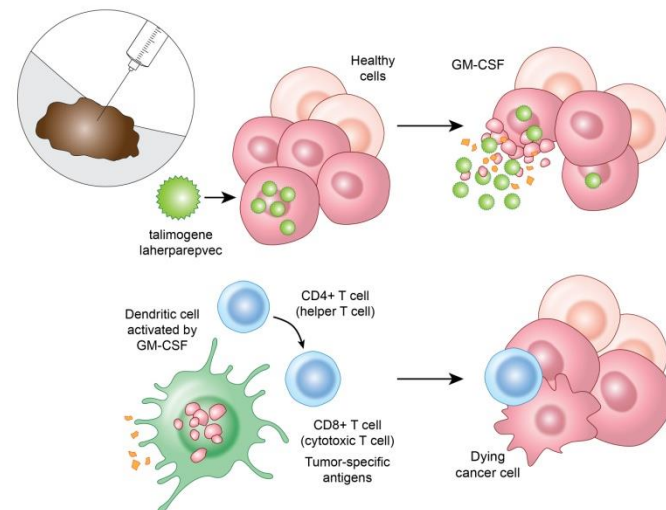


- ORR 56%
- 33/40 patients PD-L1+
  - PD-L1+ 52% ORR
  - PD-L1- 14% ORR
- mPFS 12.4 months compared with ipi/nivo at 11.7 months
- 17% Grade 3/4 side-effects noted; 7% treatment discontinuation rate

- Phase 2 Study: epacadostat 100 mg po bid + pembrolizumab 200 mg IV every 3 weeks

# T-Vec + Pembrolizumab in Stage IIIB-IV Melanoma

- Stage IIIb (N=1)
- Stage IIIc (N=5)
- Stage IV M1a (N=1)
- Stage IV M1b (N=2)
- Stage IV M1c (N=7)



**RECIST response = 46%, no increase in toxicity from pembrolizumab alone**

## Conclusions

---

- Checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy has revolutionized the management of metastatic melanoma, improving 1 yr survival from 25% to >70% in a span of 6 years
- Immunotherapy strategies represent the preferred 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment options in advanced melanoma patients
- Significant percentage of melanoma patients still do not benefit from currently available treatments
  - ~50% of melanoma patients fail to respond to combination checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy
  - 25% of those patients that do respond to checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy recur within 2 years
- Understanding immunotherapy resistance will drive the future of Melanoma immunotherapy
  - Development of predictive biomarkers
  - Development of synergistic immunotherapy combinations

