

# Immunotherapy as Part of Standard of Care in Head and Neck Cancer Trisha Wise-Draper MD, PhD Associate Professor University of Cincinnati Cancer Center





# Disclosures

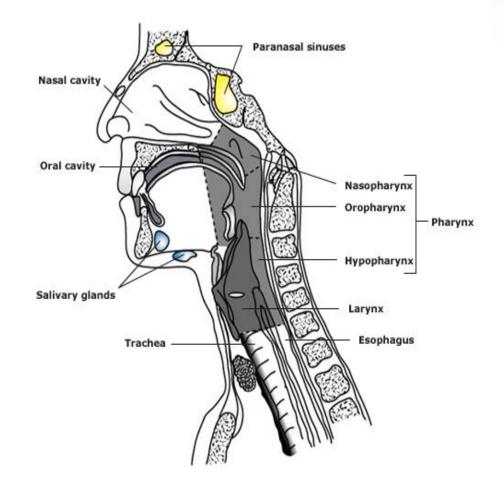
- Clinical Research Grants (IITs): Merck & Co., BMS, AstraZeneca, Tesaro/GSK, Janssen, IsoRay
- Advisory Board for Head and Neck: Merck & Co.
- Consulting: Rakuten, Shattuck Labs, Caris Life Sciences
- Executive Steering Committee for Cavrotolimod: Exicure
- Caris Life Sciences, HNC POA Chair
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.





# Head and Neck Cancer

- 550,000 new cases worldwide each year; >90% are squamous cell carcinomas (SCC)
- Etiologic factors: Tobacco and EtOH use, and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)
- Successful treatment requires a multidisciplinary approach including surgery, chemotherapy and radiation
- Despite aggressive therapy, HPV negative patients have a 50-70% 1 yr DFS
- Historically poor OS for recurrent/metastatic (R/M) HNSCC of 10-15%







# **R/M HNSCC Therapeutic Options**

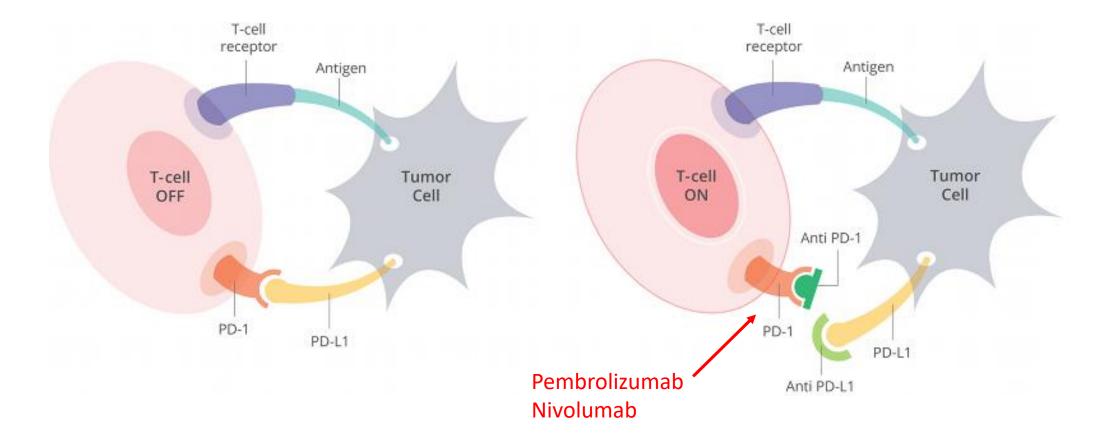
- Single agent options after failure of first line therapy historically had response rates of 3-13%
- Single agents include cetuximab, taxanes and methotrexate
- HNSCC patients often have impaired immune functions and high levels of mutations (HPV neg)
- Tumors with high T cell infiltration have superior survival outcomes

### Can immune dysfunction be reversed?





### **PD-1** Inhibitors



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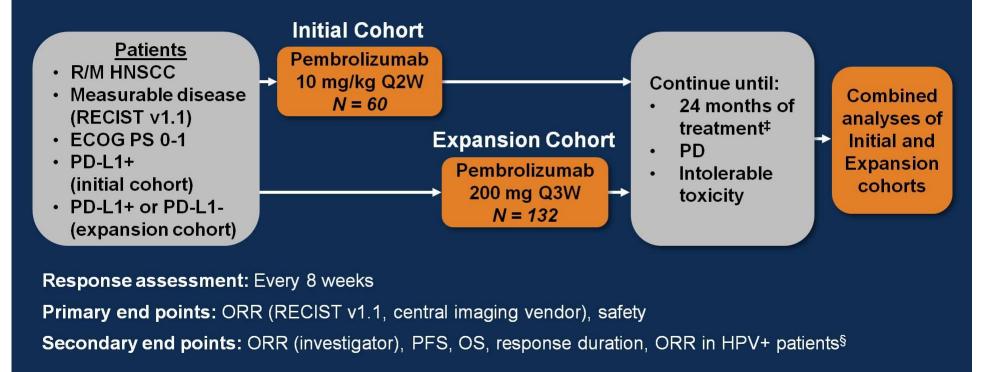


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# HNSCC Cohorts of Nonrandomized, Phase 1b, Multi-cohort KEYNOTE-012 Trial<sup>†</sup>

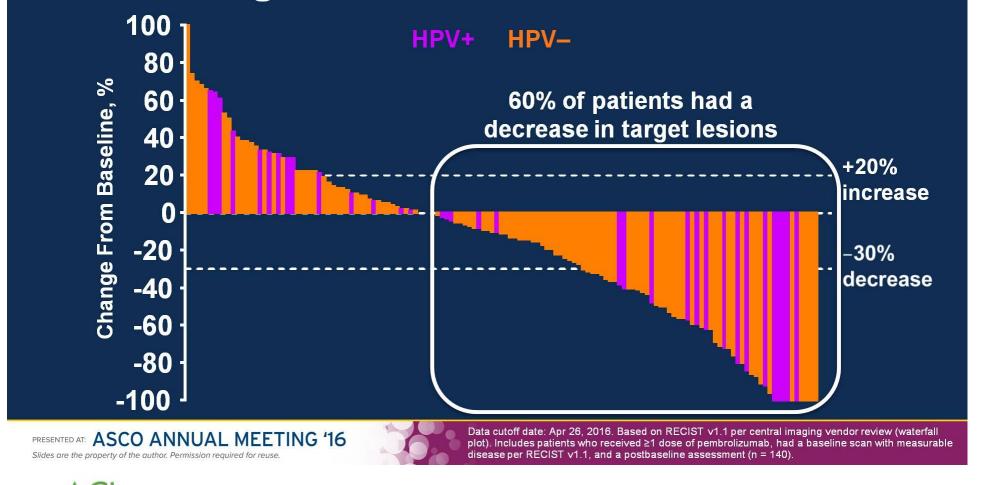


PRESENTED AT: ASCO ANNUAL MEETING '16 Slides are the property of the author. Permission required for reuse. <sup>†</sup>Additional cohorts included bladder cancer, TN breast cancer, and gastric cancer. <sup>‡</sup>Treatment beyond progression was allowed. <u>§Initial cohort only.</u>

Presented By Ranee Mehra at 2016 ASCO Annual Meeting



### **Best Change From Baseline in Tumor Size**

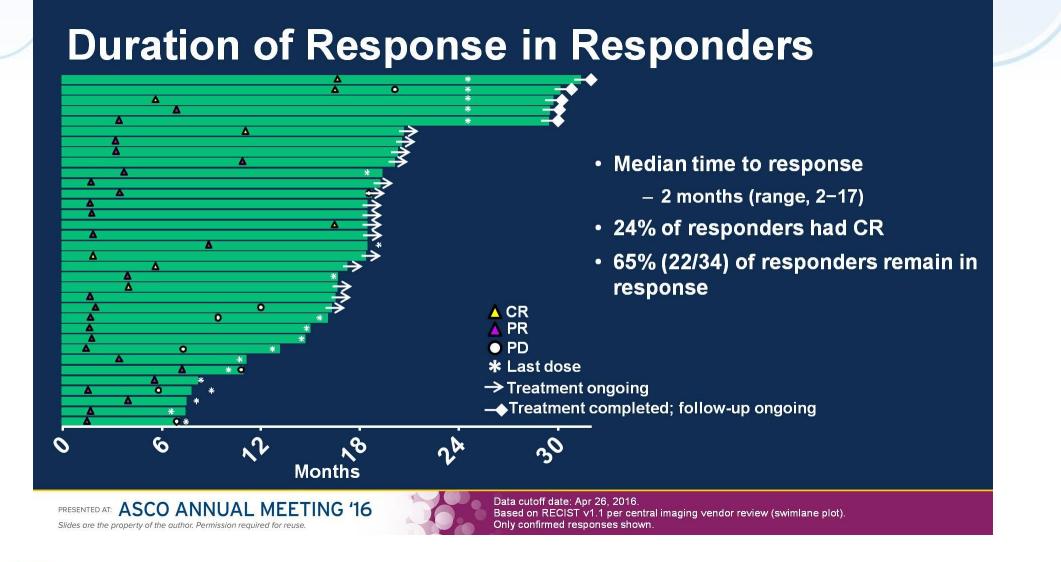


### **ORR of 18%**

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### Phase 3 KEYNOTE-040 Study (NCT02252042)

1:1

#### Key Eligibility Criteria

- SCC of the oral cavity, oropharynx, hypopharynx, or larynx
- PD after platinum-containing regimen for R/M HNSCC or recurrence or PD within 3-6 mo of multimodal therapy using platinum<sup>a</sup>
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- Known p16 status (oropharynx)<sup>b</sup>
- Tissue sample<sup>c</sup> for PD-L1 assessment<sup>d</sup>

#### Stratification Factors

- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- p16 status<sup>b</sup> (positive vs negative)
- PD-L1 TPS<sup>d</sup> (≥50% vs <50%)

Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV Q3W for 2 y Methotrexate 40 mg/m<sup>2</sup> QW<sup>e</sup> OR Docetaxel 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W OR Cetuximab 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> QW<sup>f</sup>

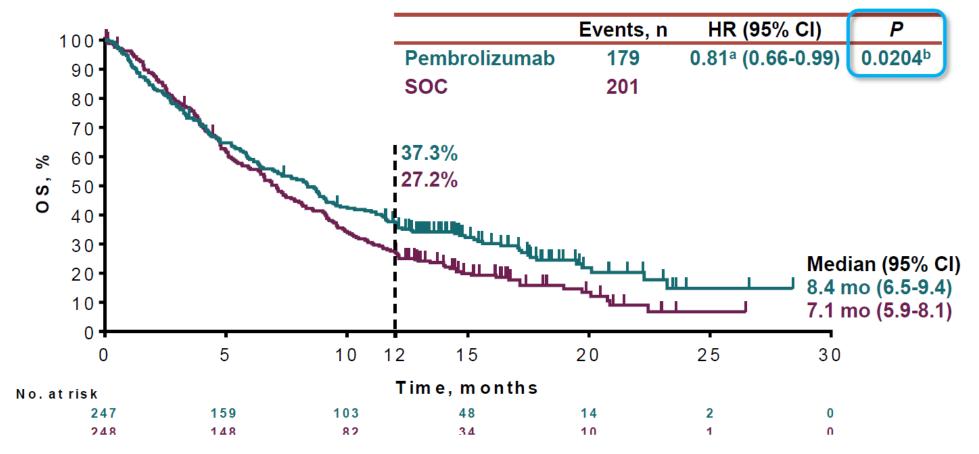
- Clinically stable patients with radiologic PD could continue treatment until imaging performed ≥4 wk later confirmed PD
- Crossover not permitted

<sup>a</sup>Limit of 2 prior therapies for R/M HNSCC. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Newly collected preferred. <sup>d</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent Technologies). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. <sup>c</sup>Could be increased to 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> QW in the absence of toxicity. <sup>f</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

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### **Overall Survival in ITT Population**



<sup>a</sup>Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Initially reported data: HR 0.82 (95% CI, 0.67-1.01), *P* = 0.0316. After the initial report, updated survival data were obtained for 4 patients. <sup>b</sup>One-sided *P* value based on the log-rank test stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.



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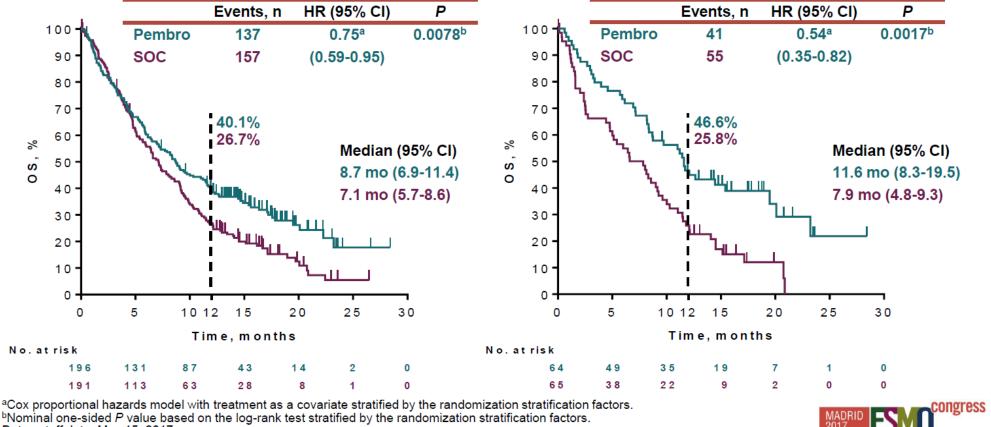
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### **Overall Survival by PD-L1 Expression**

PD-L1 CPS ≥1 Events. n HR (95% CI)

PD-L1 TPS ≥50%



Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.

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### Best Overall Response

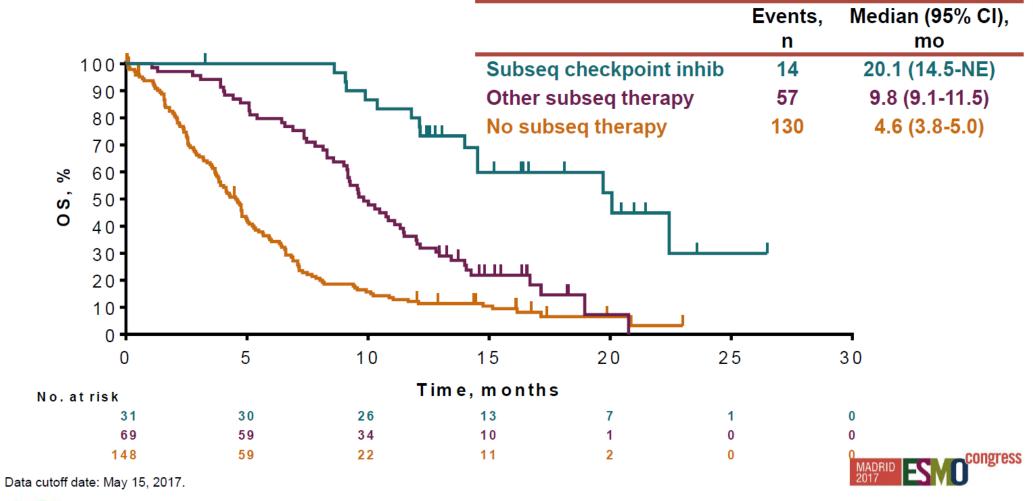
(RECIST v1.1, Blinded Independent Radiology Review)

	ITT		CPS ≥1		TPS ≥50%	
Best Response, (%)	Pembro N = 247	SOC N = 248	Pembro n = 196	SOC n = 191	Pembro n = 64	SOC n = 65
CR	4 (1.6)	1 (0.4)	4 (2.0)	1 (0.5)	3 (4.7)	1 (1.5)
PR	32 (13.0)	24 (9.7)	30 (15.3)	18 (9.4)	14 (21.9)	5 (7.7)
SD	56 (22.7)	65 (26.2)	46 (23.5)	53 (27.7)	15 (23.4)	15 (23.1)
PD	108 (43.7)	97 (39.1)	77 (39.3)	72 (37.7)	22 (34.4)	23 (35.4)
NonCR/nonPD <sup>a</sup>	2 (0.8)	1 (0.4)	2 (1.0)	0	1 (1.6)	0
Not evaluable or assessable <sup>b</sup>	45 (18.2)	60 (24.2)	37 (18.9)	47 (24.6)	9 (14.1)	21 (32.3)

<sup>a</sup>Patients without measurable disease at baseline per RECIST v1.1 by independent radiology review who did not experience CR or PD. <sup>b</sup>Not evaluable: patients who had ≥1 postbaseline tumor assessment, none of which were evaluable (n = 9); not assessable: patients who had no postbaseline tumor assessment because of death, withdrawal of consent, loss to follow-up, or start of new anticancer therapy (n = 96). Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.



### **Overall Survival: Effect of Subsequent Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in the SOC Arm**



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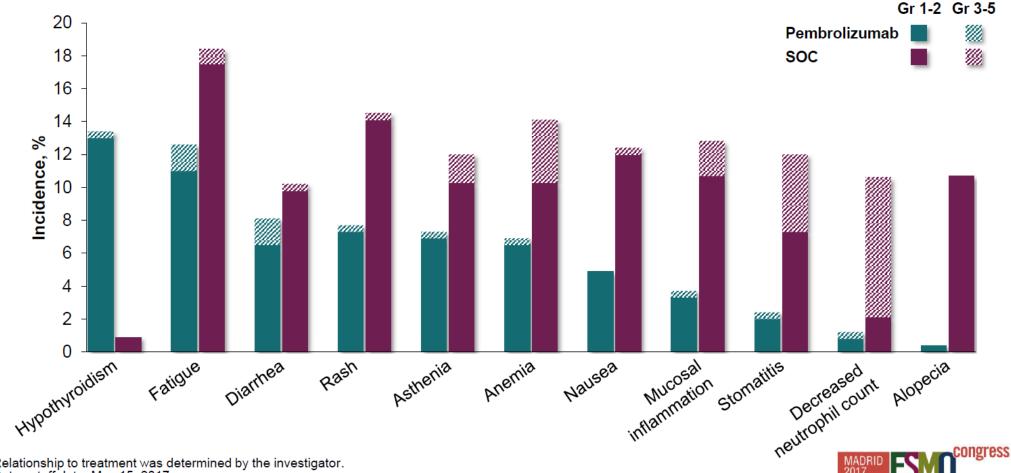
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Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence ≥10%



Relationship to treatment was determined by the investigator. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.

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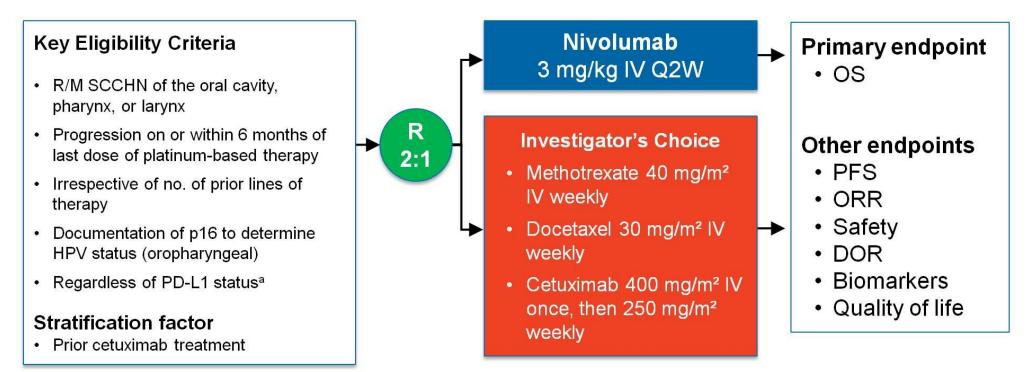


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### Phase 3 CheckMate 141 Study Design Nivolumab in R/M SCCHN After Platinum Therapy

Randomized, global, phase 3 trial of the efficacy and safety of nivolumab vs investigator's choice in patients with R/M SCCHN



aTissue required for testing

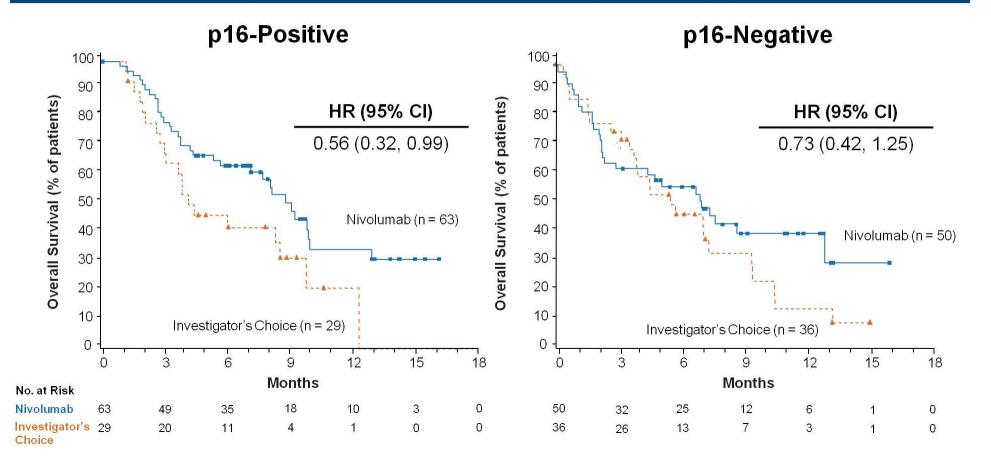
DOR = duration of response; IV = intravenous; ORR = objective response rate; PFS = progression-free survival; Q2W = once every 2 weeks; R = randomized. Clinicaltrials.gov NCT02105636.

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### **Overall Survival by p16 Status**

Nivolumab in R/M SCCHN After Platinum Therapy



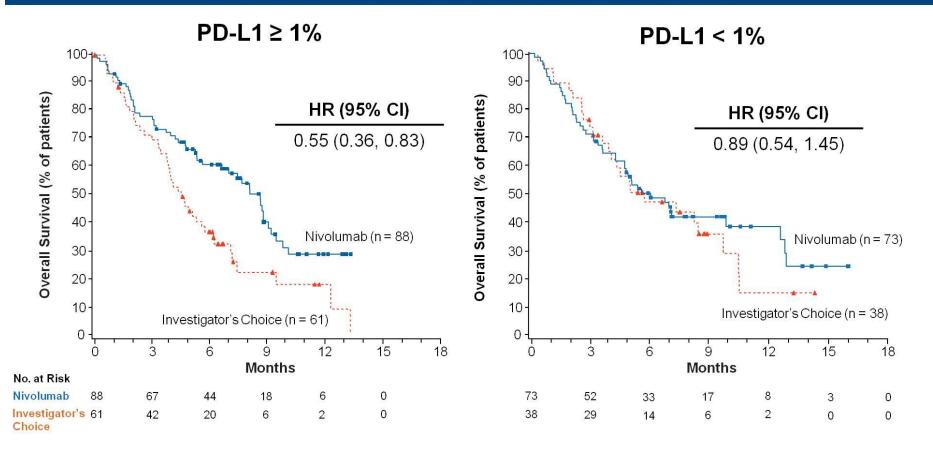
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### Overall Survival by Tumor PD-L1 Expression at 1%

Nivolumab in R/M SCCHN After Platinum Therapy





# PD-1 inhibitors in R/M HNSCC

- Pembrolizumab approved for HNSCC patients whose disease progressed during or after platinum containing chemotherapy
- Nivolumab approved following progression on platinum-based therapy
- What about first line treatment in R/M HNSCC?





# Metastatic/Recurrent HNSCC First Line

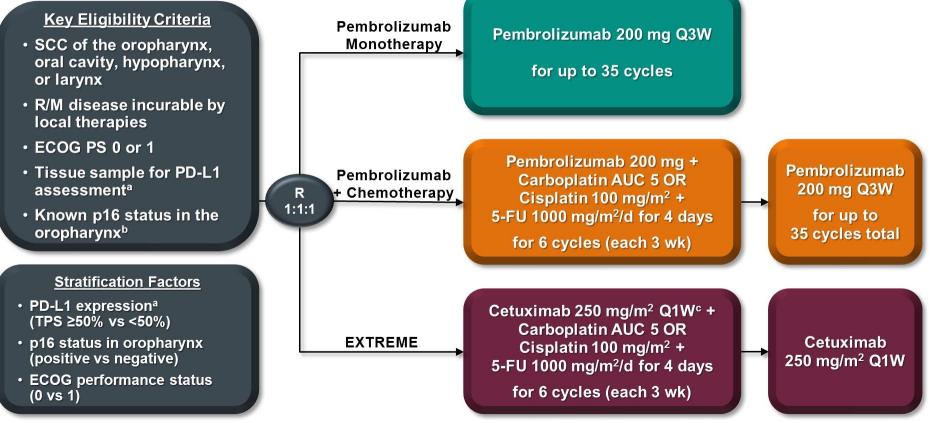
 Prior to 2019, first line standard of care treatment for unresectable disease included chemotherapy/cetuximab combinations

Variable	Cetuximab plus Platinum–Fluorouracil (N = 222)	Platinum–Fluorouracil Alone (N = 220)	Hazard Ratio or Odds Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Survival — mo†				
Overall	10.1 (8.6–11.2)	7.4 (6.4–8.3)	Hazard ratio, 0.80 (0.64–0.99)	0.04‡
Progression-free	5.6 (5.0–6.0)	3.3 (2.9–4.3)	Hazard ratio, 0.54 (0.43–0.67)	<0.001‡
Best response to therapy — %				
Overall	36 (29–42)	20 (15–25)	Odds ratio, 2.33 (1.50–3.60)	<0.001§
Disease control¶	81 (75–86)	60.0 (53–67)	Odds ratio, 2.88 (1.87–4.44)	<0.001§
Time to treatment failure — mo $\dagger$	4.8 (4.0-5.6)	3.0 (2.8–3.4)	Hazard ratio, 0.59 (0.48–0.73)	<0.001‡
Duration of response — mo	5.6 (4.7-6.0)	4.7 (3.6–5.9)	Hazard ratio, 0.76 (0.50–1.17)	0.21‡

\*82% Grade 3 or 4 Adverse Events



### KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)

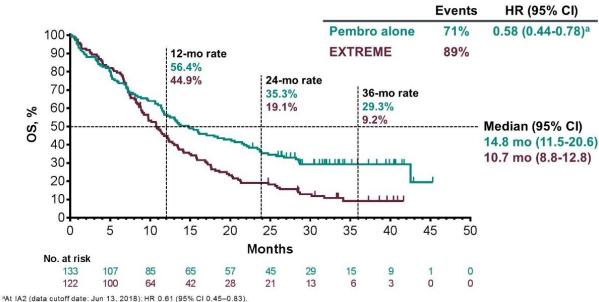


<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.



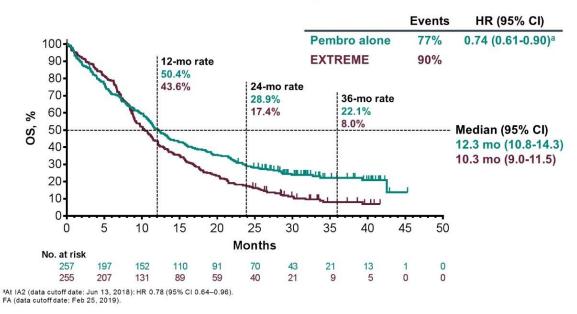
### **OS**, Pembrolizumab vs Extreme

#### G OS, P vs E, CPS ≥20 Population



FA (data cutoff date: Feb 25, 2019).

#### **G** OS, P vs E, CPS ≥1 Population

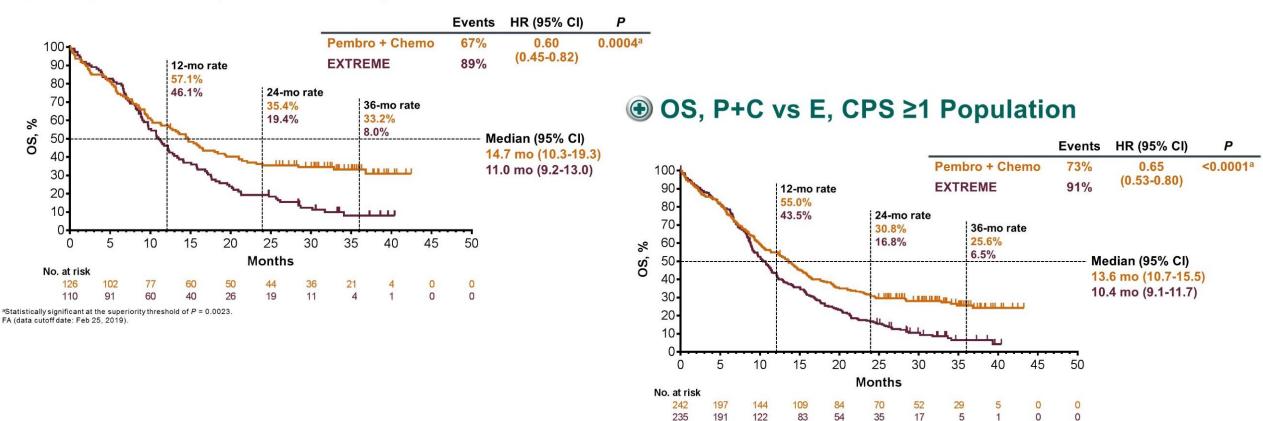


## OS, Pembro+ Chemo vs Extreme

#### ● OS, P+C vs E, CPS ≥20 Population

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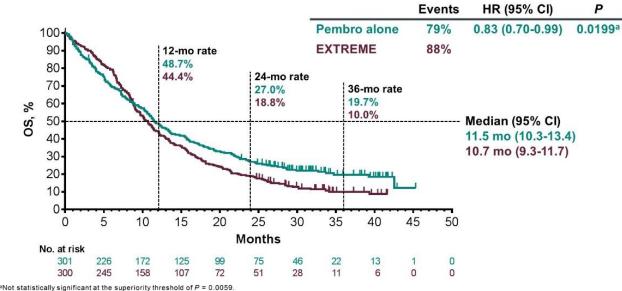


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Statistically significant at the superiority threshold of P = 0.0026 FA (data cutoff date: Feb 25, 2019).



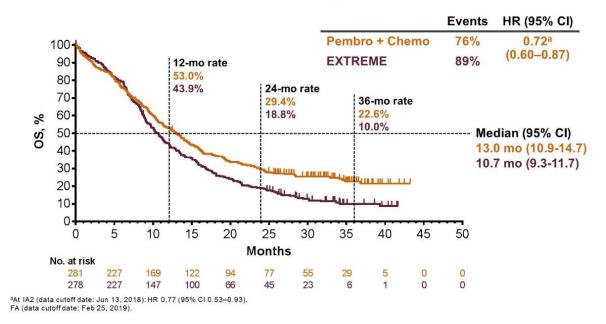
## **Overall Survival Total Population**

#### OS, P vs E, Total Population



FA (data cutoff date: Feb 25, 2019).

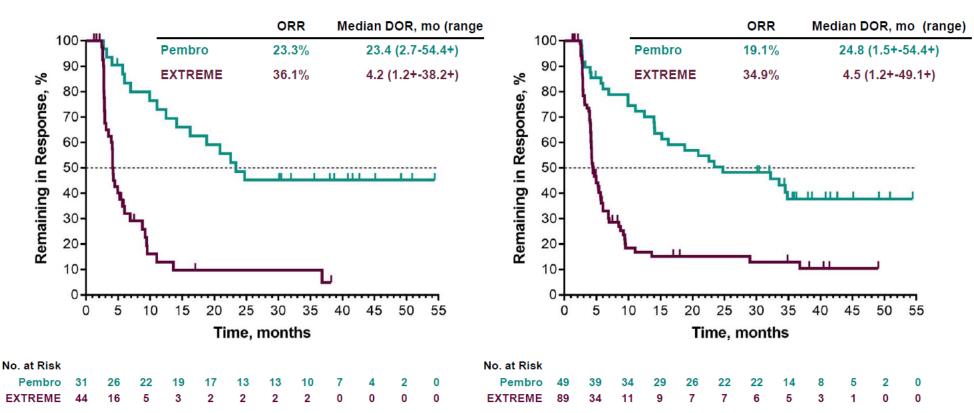
#### **OS**, P+C vs E, Total Population







### **DOR: Pembrolizumab vs EXTREME**



PD-L1 CPS ≥20

PD-L1 CPS ≥1

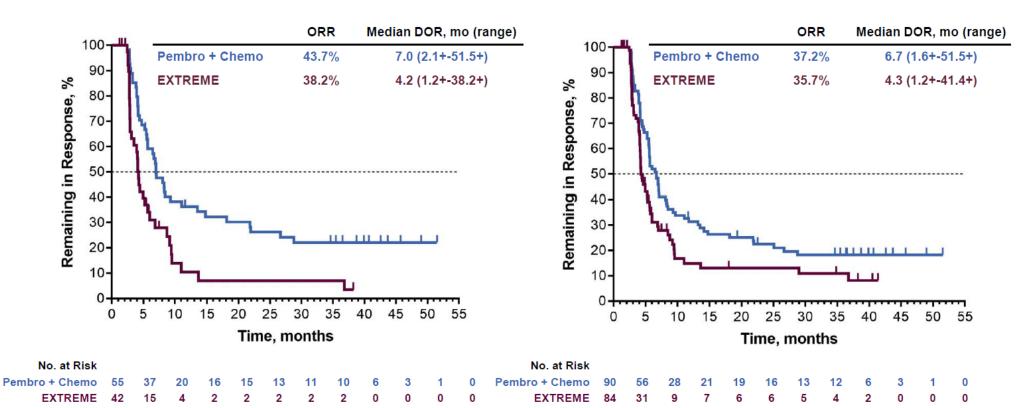
ORR, overall response rate. Data cutoff: February 18, 2020.

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### **DOR: Pembrolizumab + Chemo vs EXTREME**



PD-L1 CPS ≥20

PD-L1 CPS ≥1

Data cutoff: February 18, 2020.

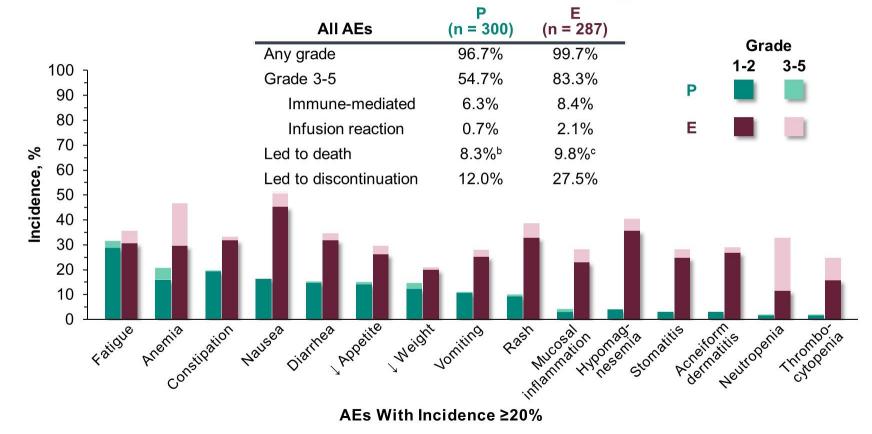
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Solution All-Cause AEs,<sup>a</sup> P vs E, Total Population



<sup>a</sup>Data for treatment-related AEs were presented at ESMO 2018. <sup>b</sup>Events were considered treatment related in 1.0%. <sup>c</sup>Events were considered treatment related in 2.8%. FA (data cutoff date: Feb 25, 2019).



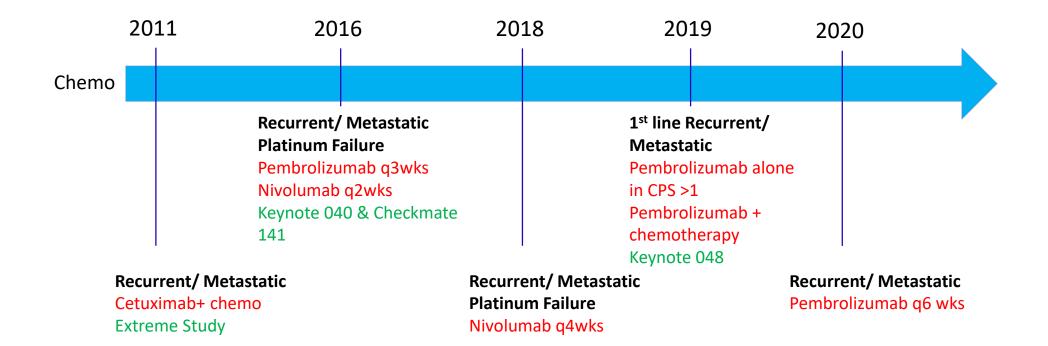
# Pembrolizumab as First Line in R/M HNSCC

- Favorable safety profile for pembrolizumab alone and comparable between extreme regimen and pembro + chemo
- Longer duration of response for pembro as well as pembro + chemo
- FDA approval in first line unresectable recurrent or metastatic HNSCC:
  - Pembrolizumab monotherapy in those with PD-L1 CPS  $\geq$  1
  - Pembrolizumab + platinum + 5FU regardless of PD-L1 score





# Timeline of FDA Approvals







# Taxanes and Immunotherapy

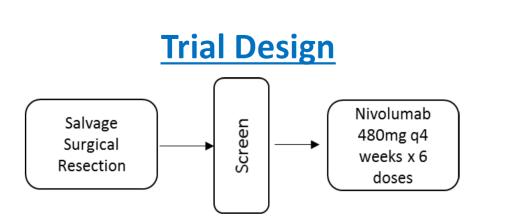
- Early evidence of success of taxanes after immunotherapy failure
  - Retrospective study demonstrated OS of 5.8 mo post platinum failure vs 10 mo post nivolumab (Moloney et al., ASCO 2020)
- Taxane substitution for 5FU in chemo+pembro 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment
  - Ongoing trials but based on TPEx demonstrating similar efficacy with less toxicity to Extreme regimen, many advocate for substitution to taxane as standard of care



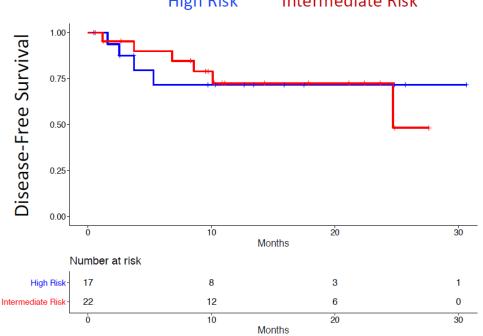


# Salvage Surgery and Immunotherapy

- <40% long term survival for HNSCC patients undergoing salvage resection</li>
- Early evidence for nivolumab as adjuvant therapy in recurrent surgical salvage setting



Primary End Point: DFS at 2 years Secondary End Points: Safety, tolerability, & OS



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## Conclusions

- Pembrolizumab monotherapy is approved as first line therapy for HNSCC patients with PD-L1 CPS ≥ 1
- Pembrolizumab + Platinum and 5FU is approved first line for all HNSCC patients
- Nivolumab and pembrolizumab monotherapy are approved for R/M patients after platinum failure
- Taxanes may be substituted for 5FU and may be good options after immunotherapy failure although trials ongoing (NCT04489888, NCT04831320)
- PD-1 inhibitors may prolong survival in the salvage setting but randomized trials are ongoing (EA3191)





• Any Questions?

