

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Melanoma

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September 6, 2018

# Disclosures

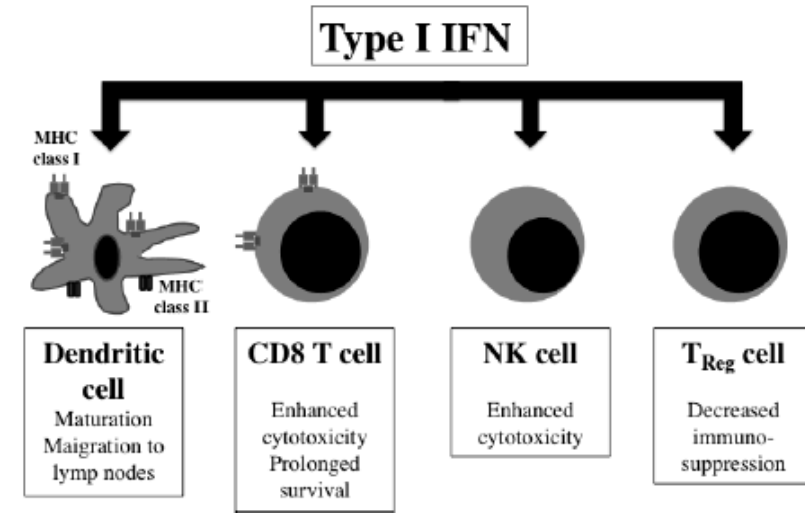
- Research Collaborations:
  - Bristol-Myers Squibb
  - Aperion Biologics
- Conflict of Interest: None
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

# Presentation Objectives

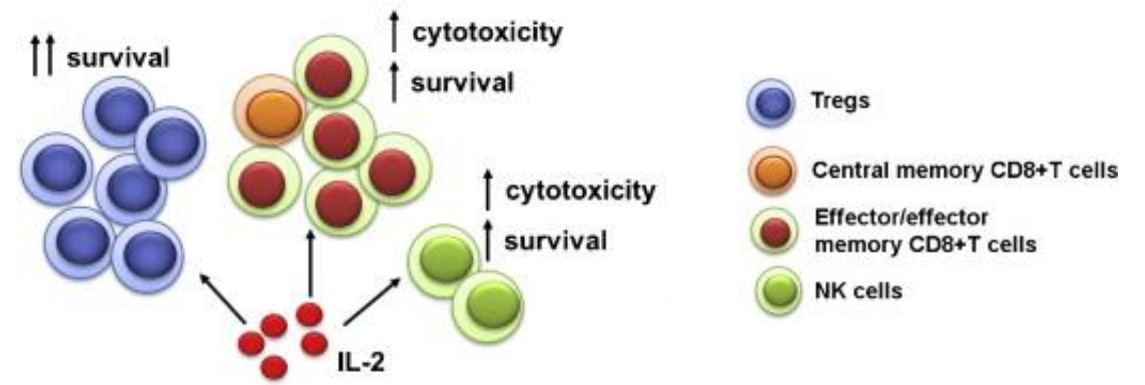
- Describe the rationale for common approaches to melanoma immunotherapy
- Identify the appropriate clinical management of common side effects of immunotherapy agents
- Be able to implement cancer immunotherapy for melanoma patients

# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Cytokines
  - Interferon- $\alpha$ 2b- Adjuvant therapy- high dose intravenous (I.V.) part, followed by subcutaneous (SQ)
  - Pegylated Interferon-Adjuvant therapy, SQ
  - Interleukin-2-Stage IV, I.V.



Numasaki et al. Immunotherapy 2016

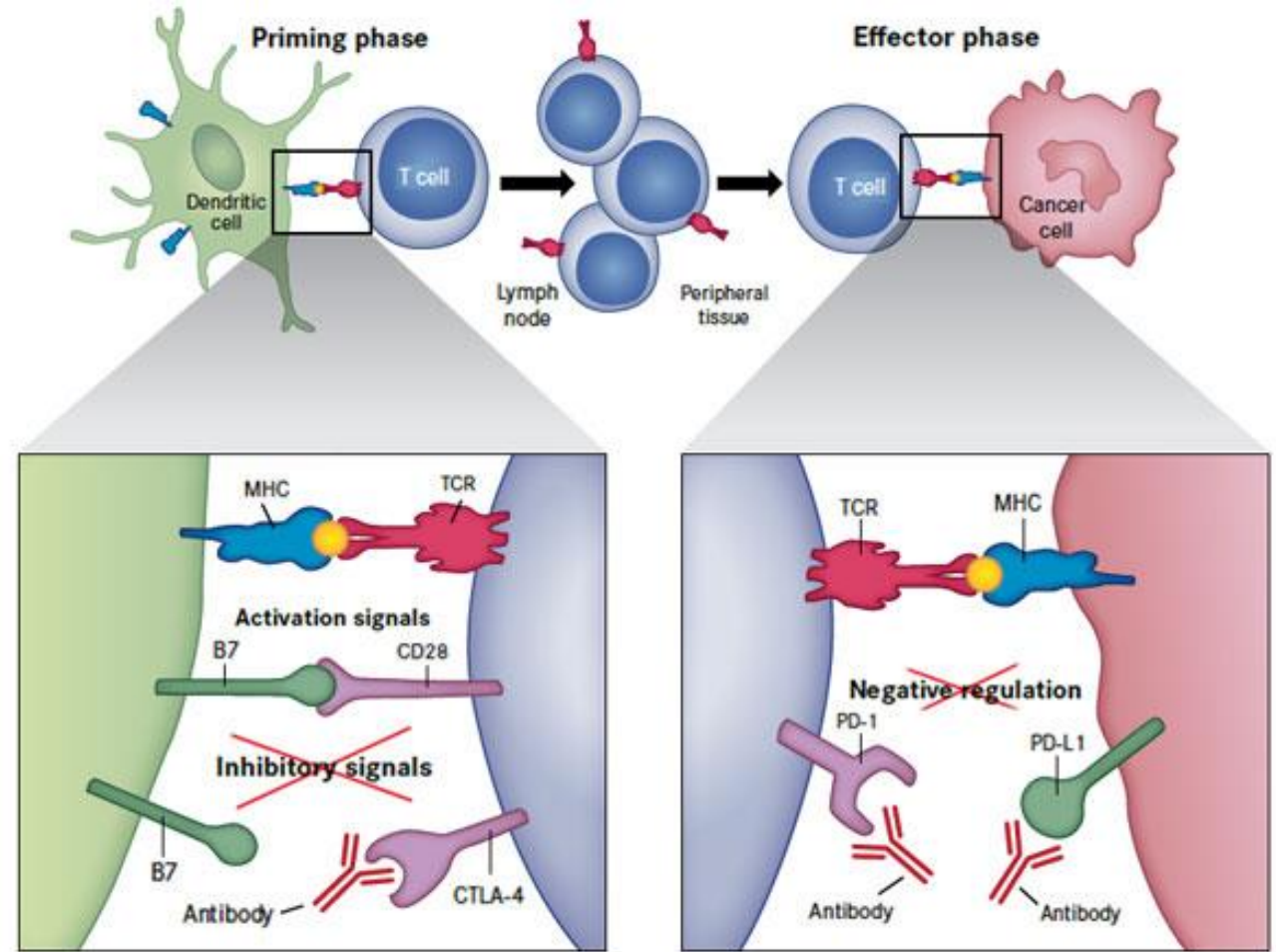


Sim, Radvanyi Cytogfr 2014

# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Checkpoint inhibitors

- Ipilimumab, adjuvant and nonresectable/Stage IV, I.V.- different dosing for adjuvant and nonresectable/Stage IV
- Pembrolizumab, nonresectable/Stage IV, I.V.
- Nivolumab, adjuvant and non resectable/Stage IV, I.V.
- Ipilimumab in combination with nivolumab, Stage IV



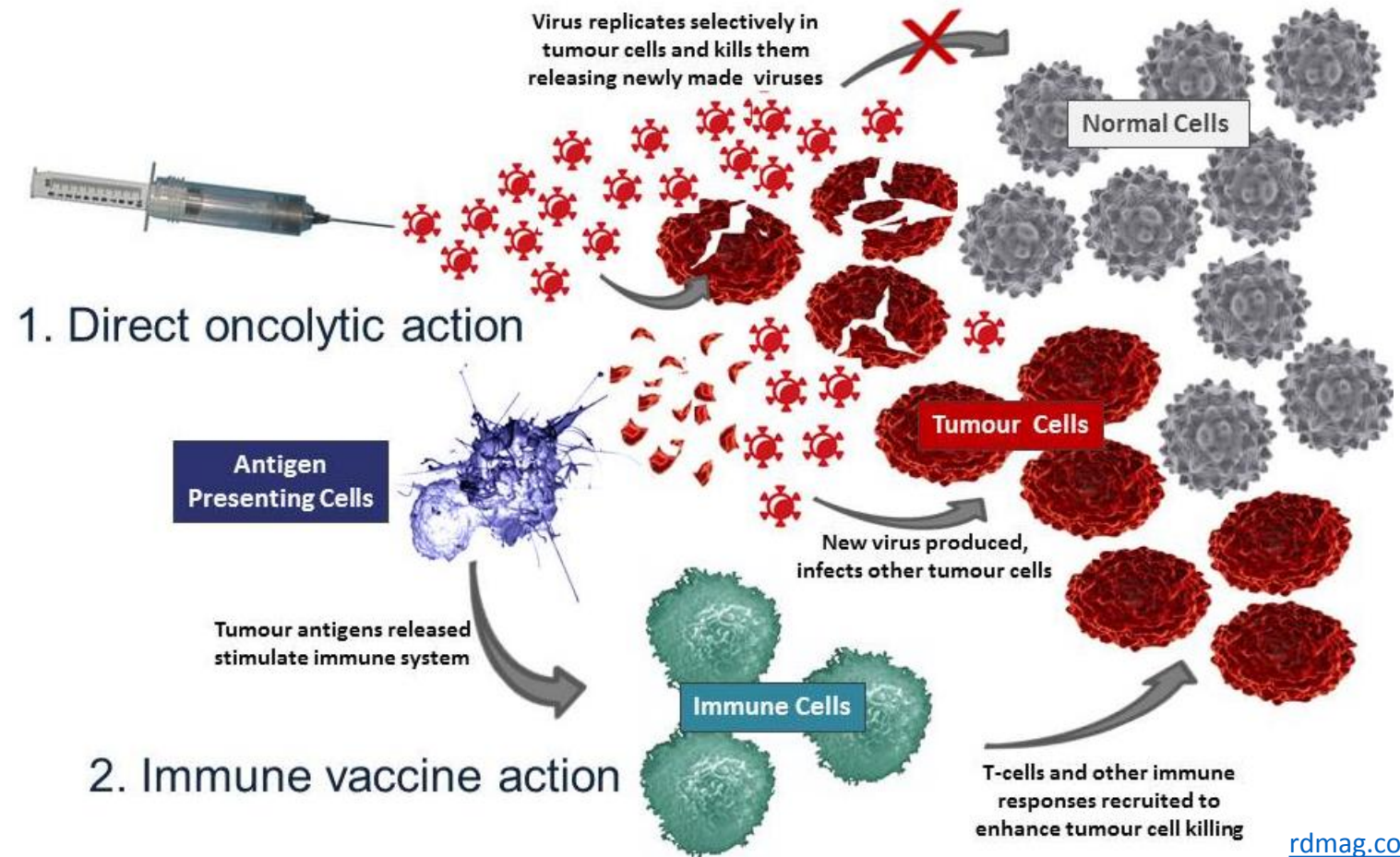
Ribas NEJM 2012  
Gordon et al Nature 2017



# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Oncolytic Viruses

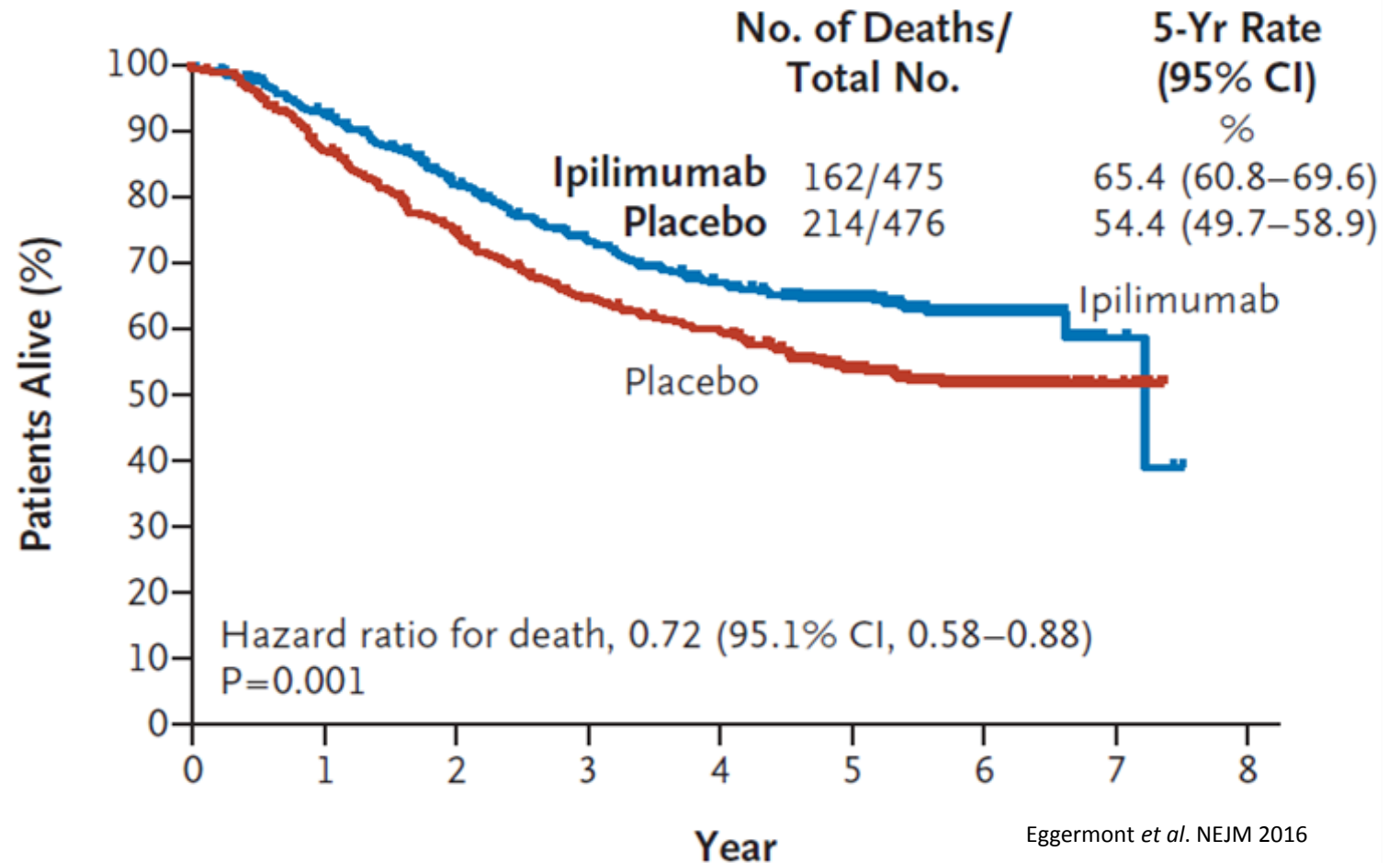
- Talimogene Laharparepvec; TVEC - non resectable, intratumoral



[rdmag.com](http://rdmag.com)

# Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

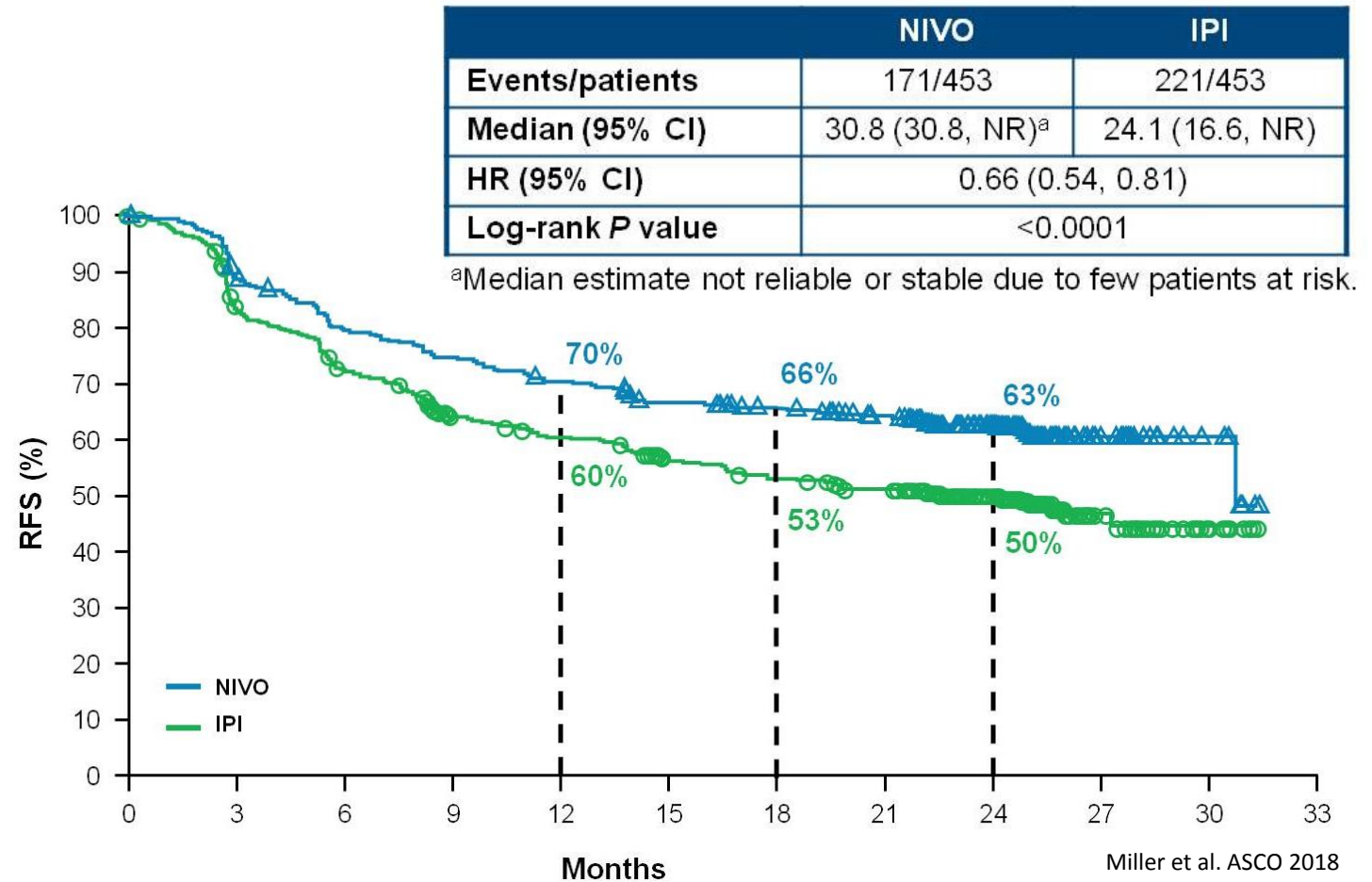
- EORTC 18071 phase III trial
  - NCT00636168
  - Adjuvant ipilimumab vs placebo
  - Ipilimumab 10mg/kg Q3W for four doses, then every 3 months for up to 3 years



# Adjuvant Nivolumab vs Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- CheckMate 238 phase III trial

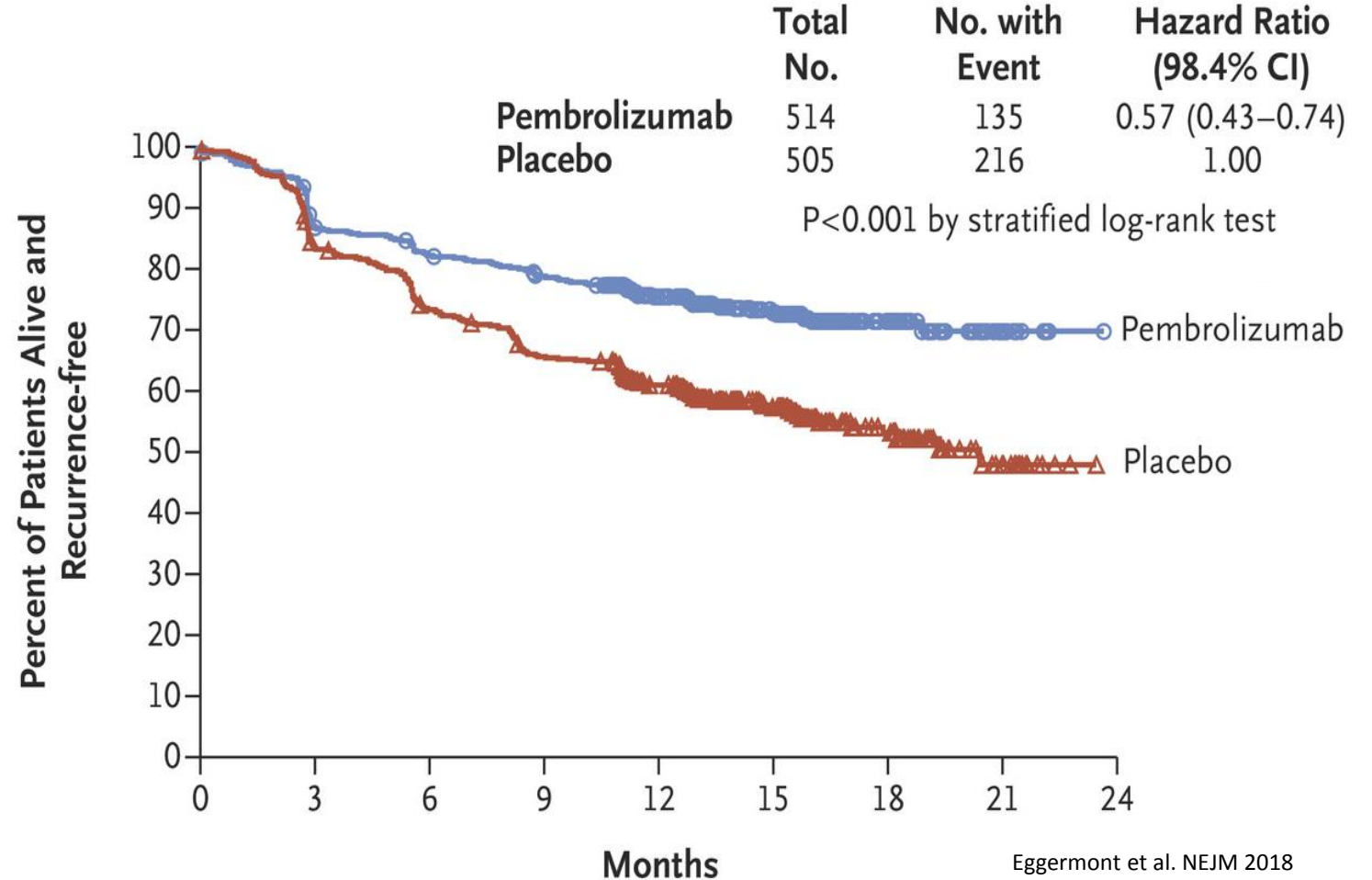
- NCT02388906
- Ipilimumab 10mg/kg Q3W for four doses, then every 3 months for up to 1 year
- Nivolumab 3mg/kg Q2W for four doses, then every 3 months for up to 1 year





# Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

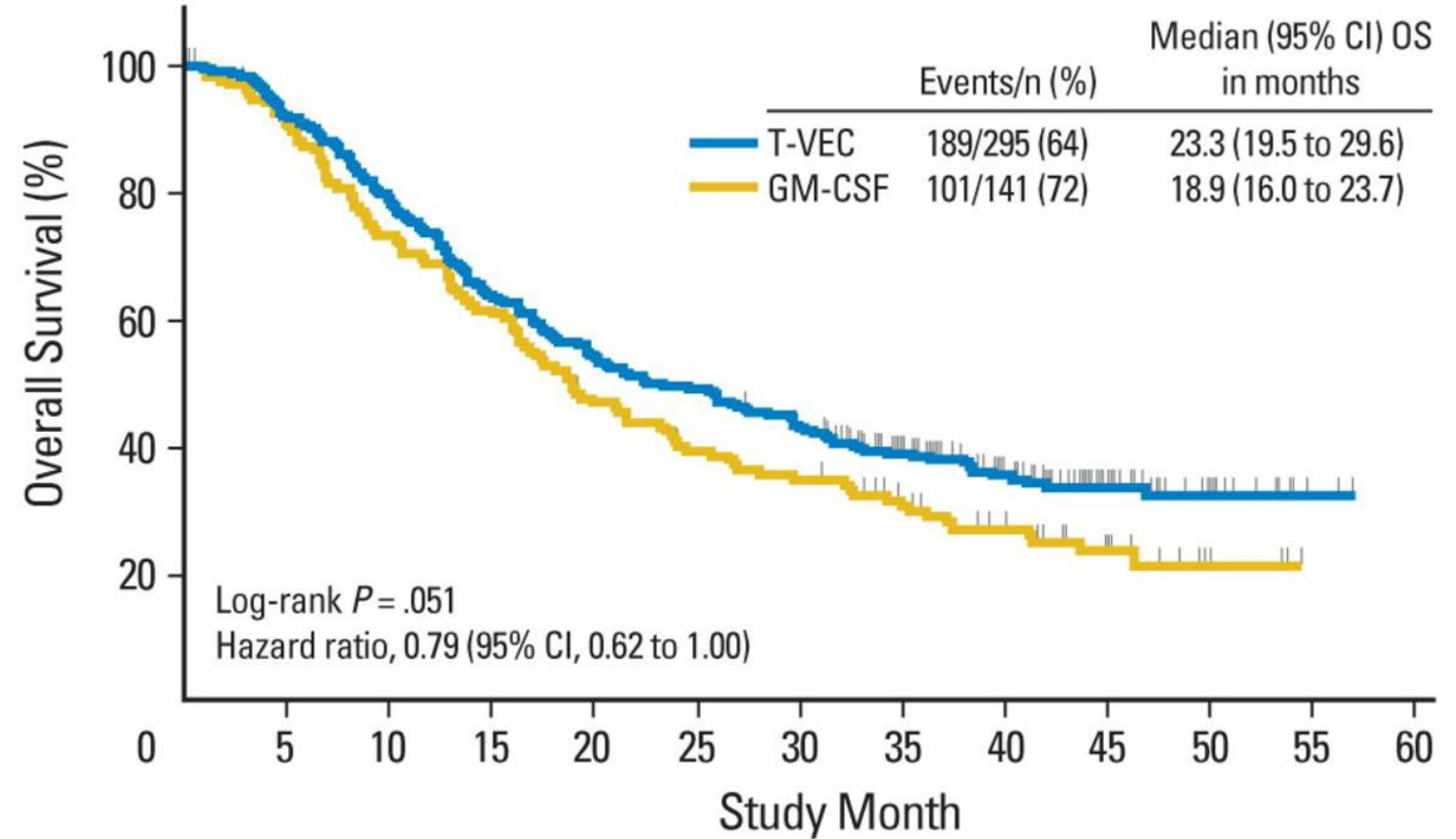
- EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 phase III trial
  - NCT02362594
  - Adjuvant pembrolizumab vs placebo
  - Pembrolizumab 200mg Q3W for up to 1 year (~18 total doses)



Eggermont et al. NEJM 2018

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

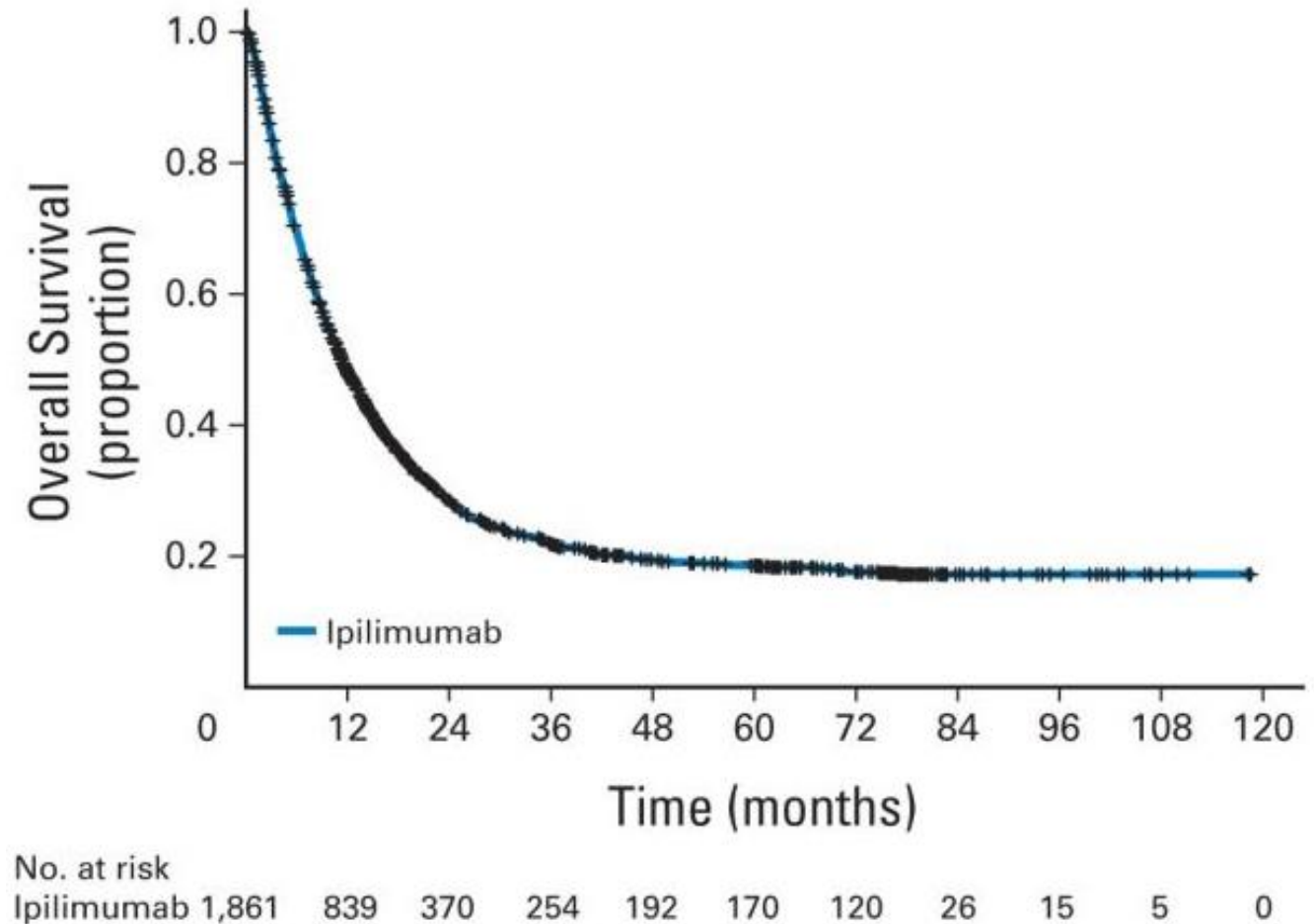
- Phase III Trial
  - NCT00769704
  - **Intralesional** T-VEC vs subcutaneous GM-CSF
  - T-VEC  $10^6$  pfu/mL,  $10^8$  pfu/mL 3 weeks after initial dose, then Q2W



Andtbacka, Kaufman et al. JCO 2015

# Ipilimumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

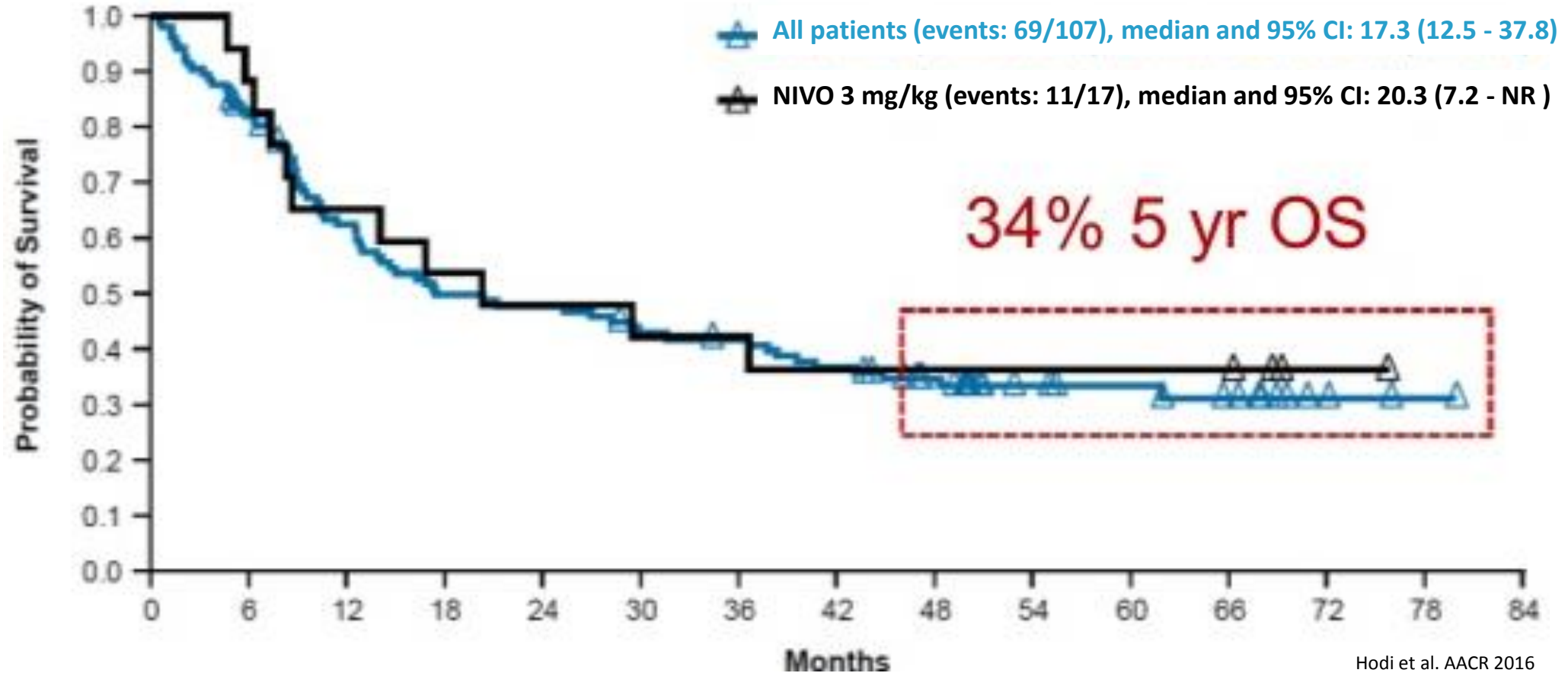
- Pooled OS data from 10 phase II/III trials
  - NCT01024231
  - Previously treated (n = 1,257) or treatment-naïve (n = 604)
  - Ipilimumab 3 mg/kg (n = 965) or 10 mg/kg (n = 706)



Schadendorf et al. JCO 2015

# Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

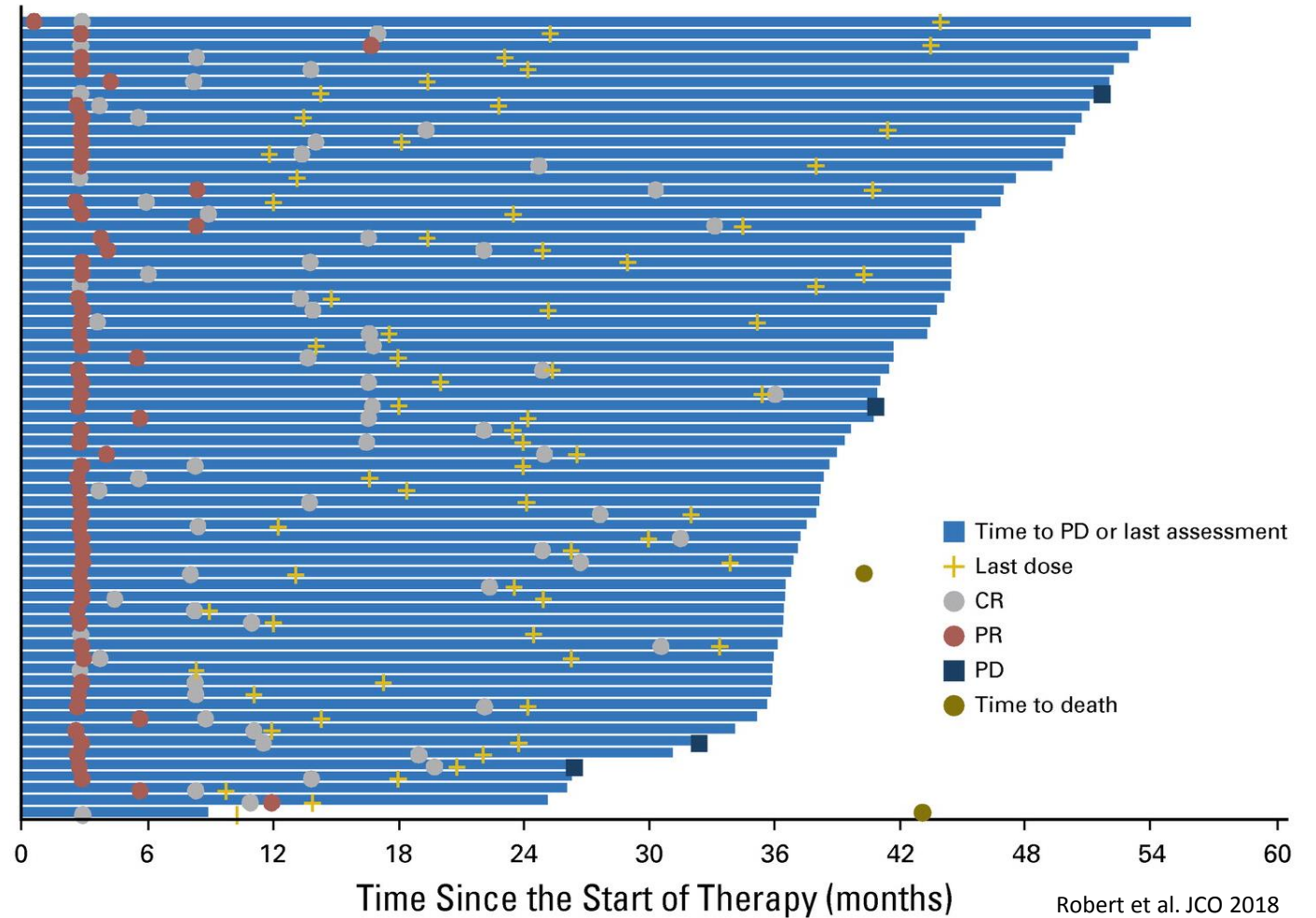
## Extended Analysis from CA209-003 Phase I Trial



Hodi et al. AACR 2016

# Pembrolizumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

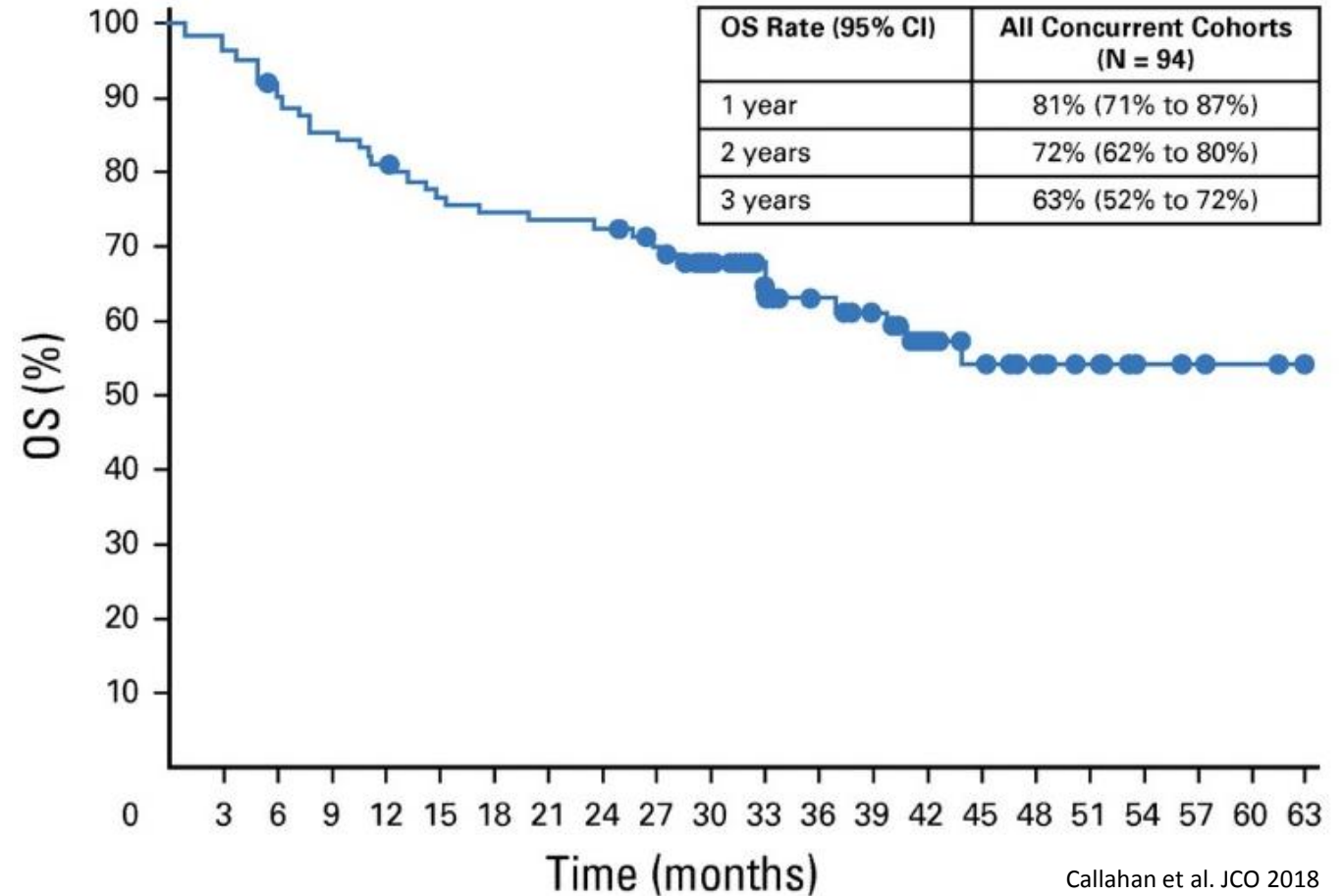
- Phase 1 KEYNOTE-001 Trial
  - NCT01295827
  - Pembrolizumab 2 mg/kg Q3W, 10 mg/kg Q3W, or 10 mg/kg Q2W
  - Durable responses in complete responders patients who discontinued pembrolizumab



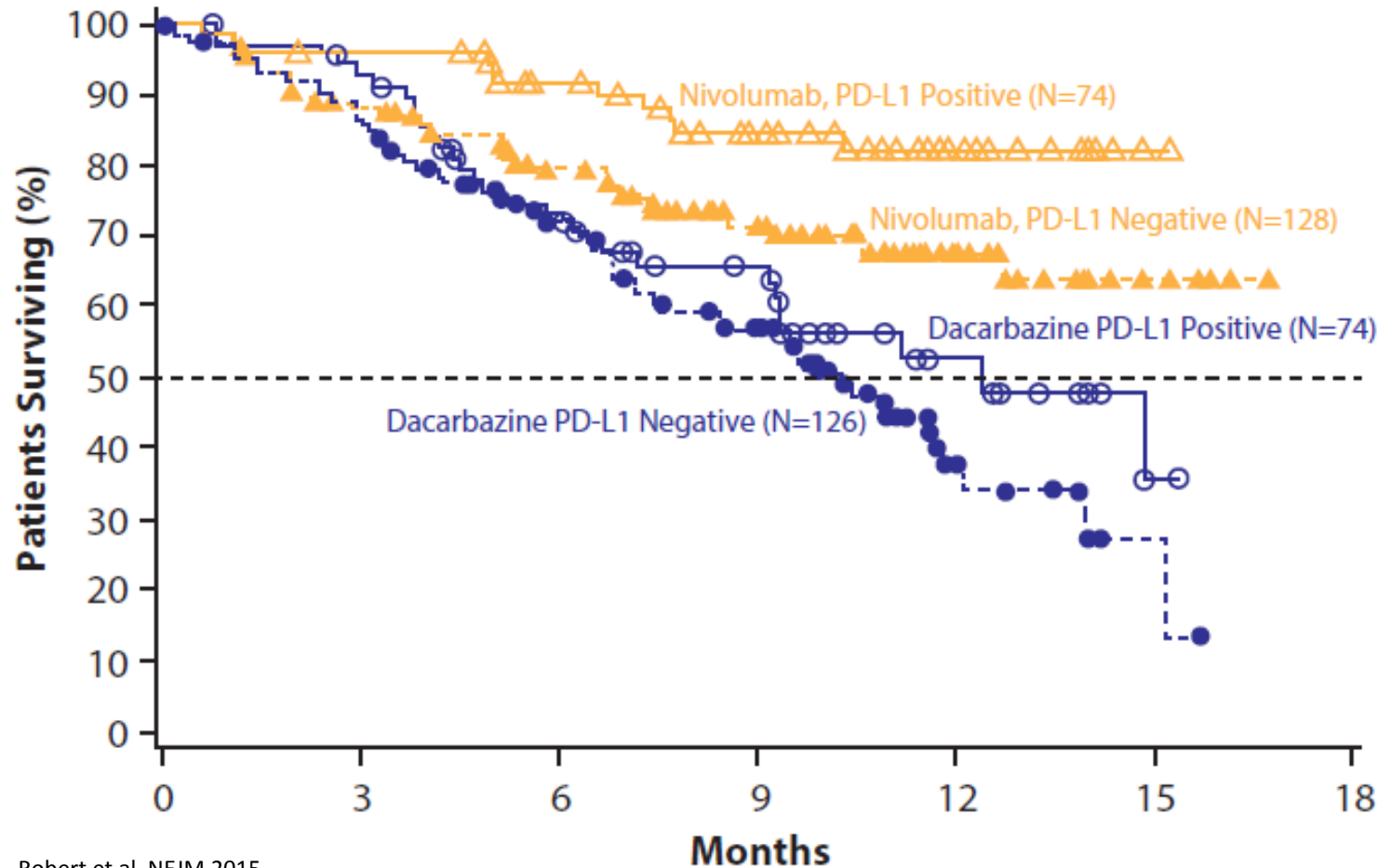


# Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

- Phase 1b CA209-004 Trial
  - NCT01024231
  - Nivolumab + ipilimumab Q3W for 4 doses, then nivolumab Q3W for 4 doses, then nivolumab + ipilimumab Q12W for 8 doses



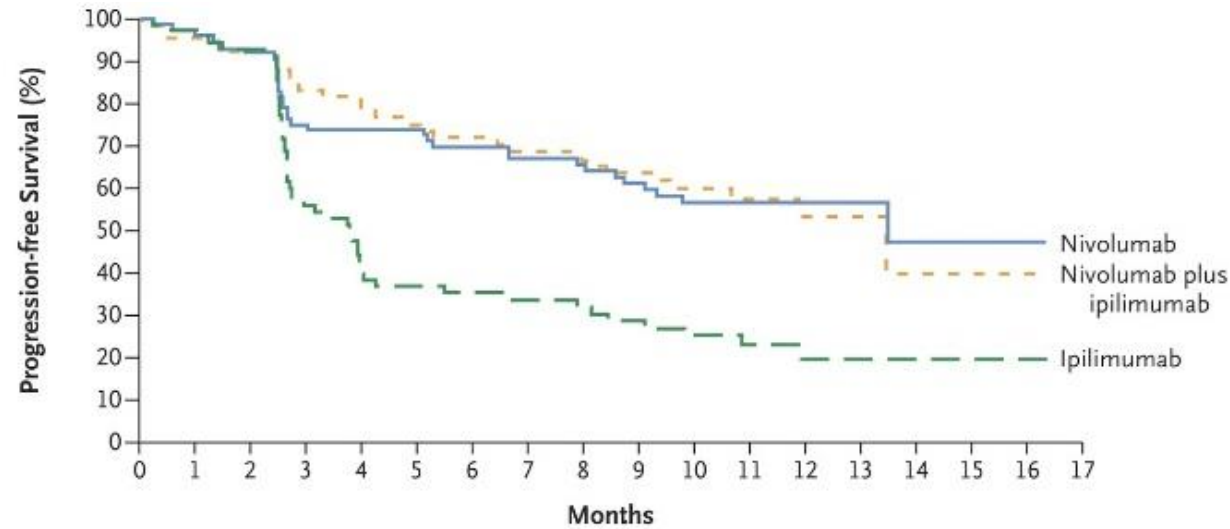
# Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status with Anti-PD-1 Monotherapy



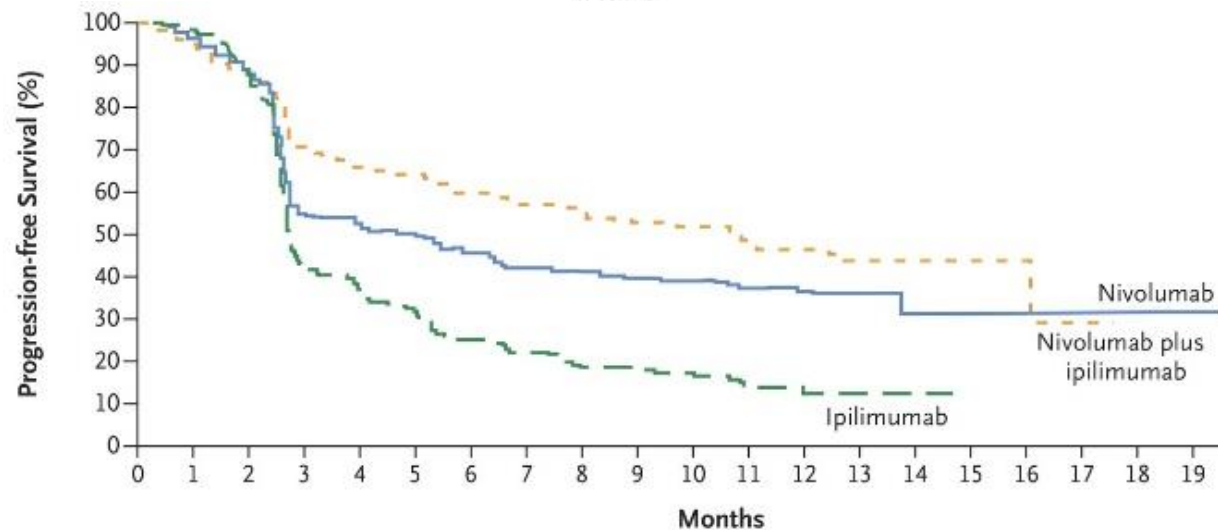
	Patients Who Died n/N	Median Survival mo (95% CI)
Nivolumab PD-L1 Positive	11/74	N.R.
Nivolumab PD-L1 Negative	37/128	N.R.
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Positive	29/74	12.4 (9.2–N.R.)
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Negative	64/126	10.2 (7.6–11.8)

Robert et al. NEJM 2015

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



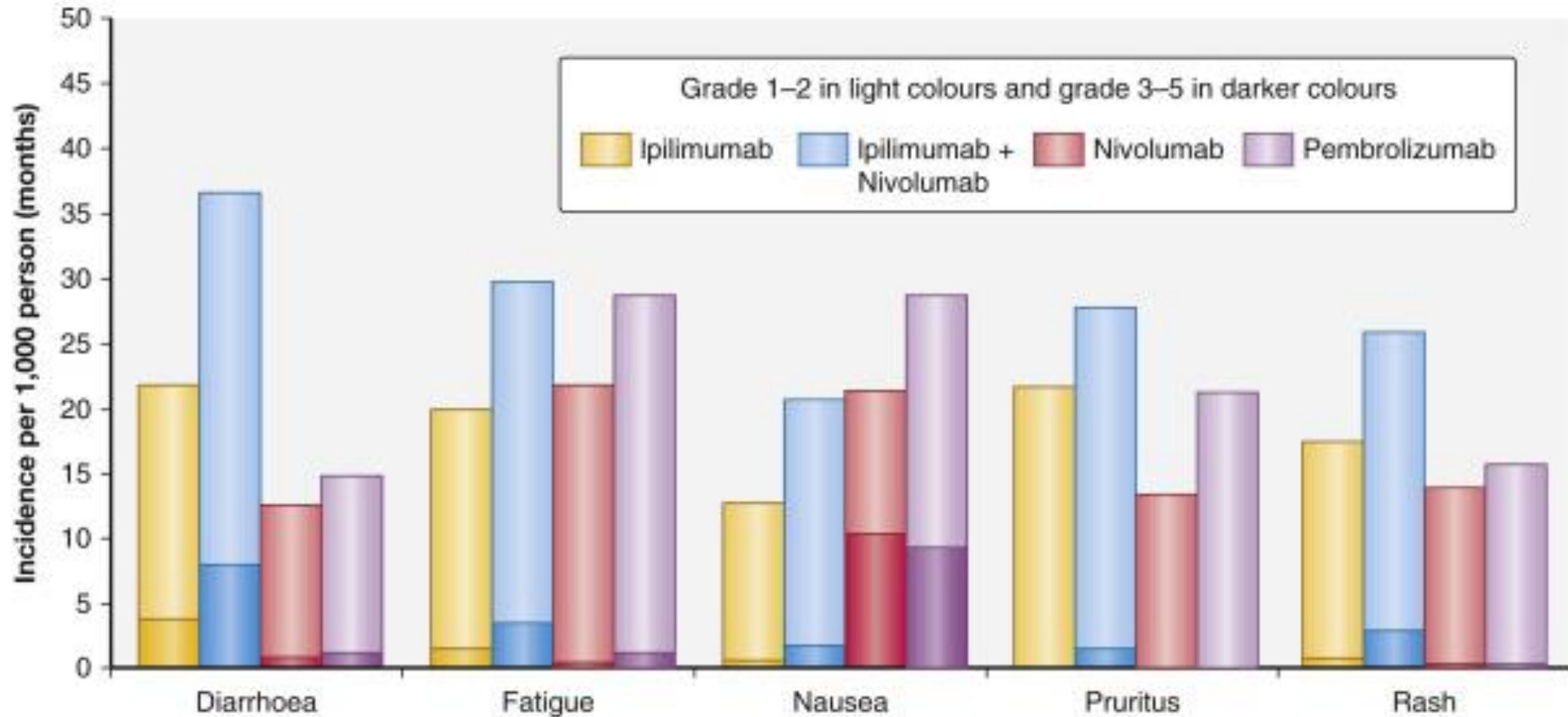
Tumor PD-L1 Positive Patients



Tumor PD-L1 Negative Patients

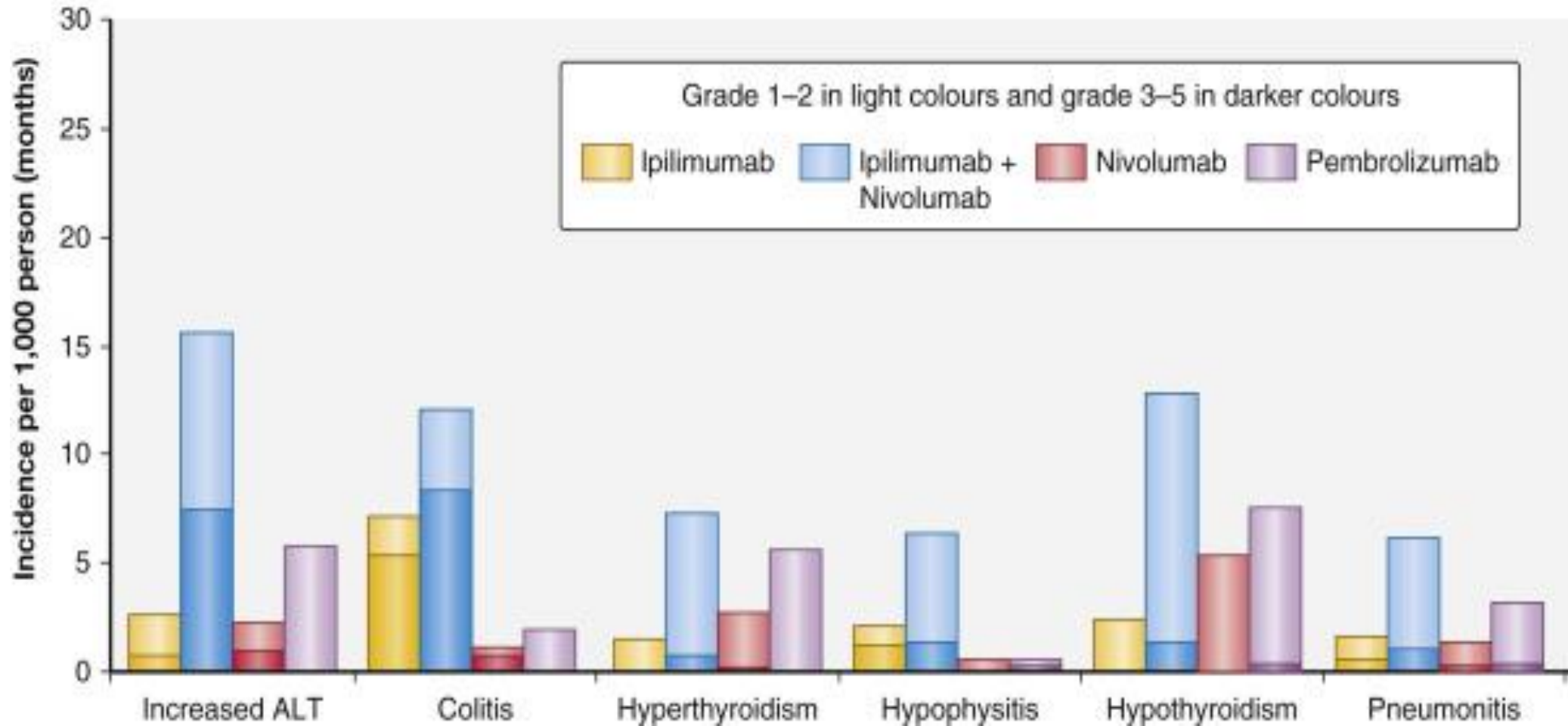
Larkin et al. NEJM 2015

# Adverse Events with Immunotherapies



Emens et al. Eur J Cancer 2017

# Adverse Events with Immunotherapies



Emens et al. Eur J Cancer 2017

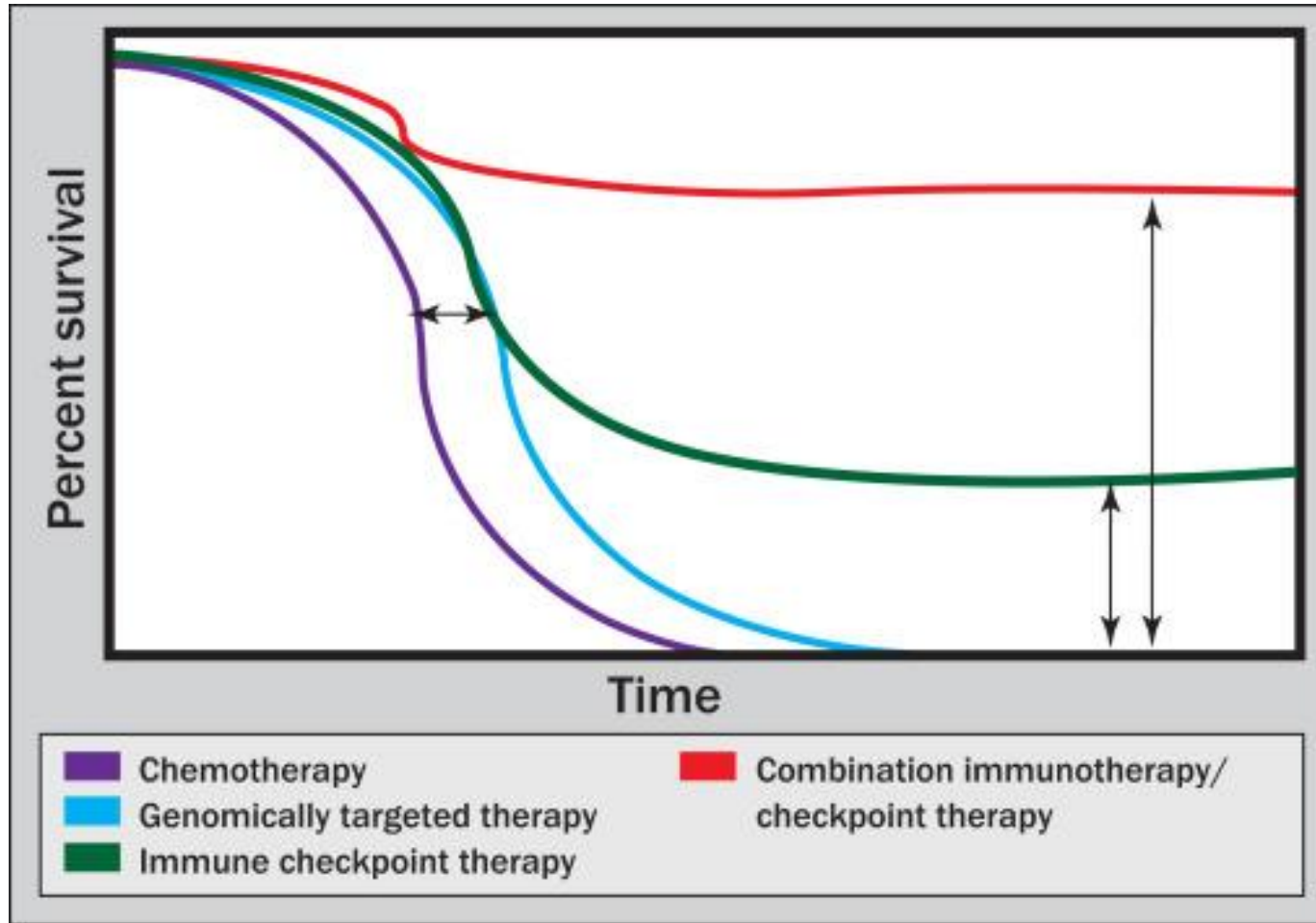


# Treatment of Immune-Related AEs

Grade of immune-related AE (CTCAE/equivalent)	Corticosteroid management	Additional notes
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corticosteroids not usually indicated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue immunotherapy</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If indicated, start oral prednisone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day if patient can take oral medication.</li> <li>If IV required, start methylprednisolone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day IV</li> <li>If no improvement in 2–3 days, increase corticosteroid dose to 2 mg/kg/day</li> <li>Once improved to ≤grade 1 AE, start 4–6 week steroid taper</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold immunotherapy during corticosteroid use</li> <li>Continue immunotherapy once resolved to ≤grade 1 and off corticosteroids</li> <li>Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day (or equivalent dose of methylprednisolone)</li> <li>If no improvement in 2–3 days, add additional/alternative immune suppressant</li> <li>Once improved to ≤ grade 1, start 4–6-week steroid taper</li> <li>Provide supportive treatment as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold immunotherapy; if symptoms do not improve in 4–6 weeks, discontinue immunotherapy</li> <li>Consider intravenous corticosteroids</li> <li>Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis</li> <li>Add PCP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (&gt;30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day (or equivalent dose of methylprednisolone)</li> <li>If no improvement in 2–3 days, add additional/alternative immune suppressant, e.g., infliximab</li> <li>Provide supportive care as needed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discontinue immunotherapy</li> <li>Continue intravenous corticosteroids</li> <li>Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis</li> <li>Add PCP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (&gt;30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)</li> </ul>

Puzanov et al. JITC 2017

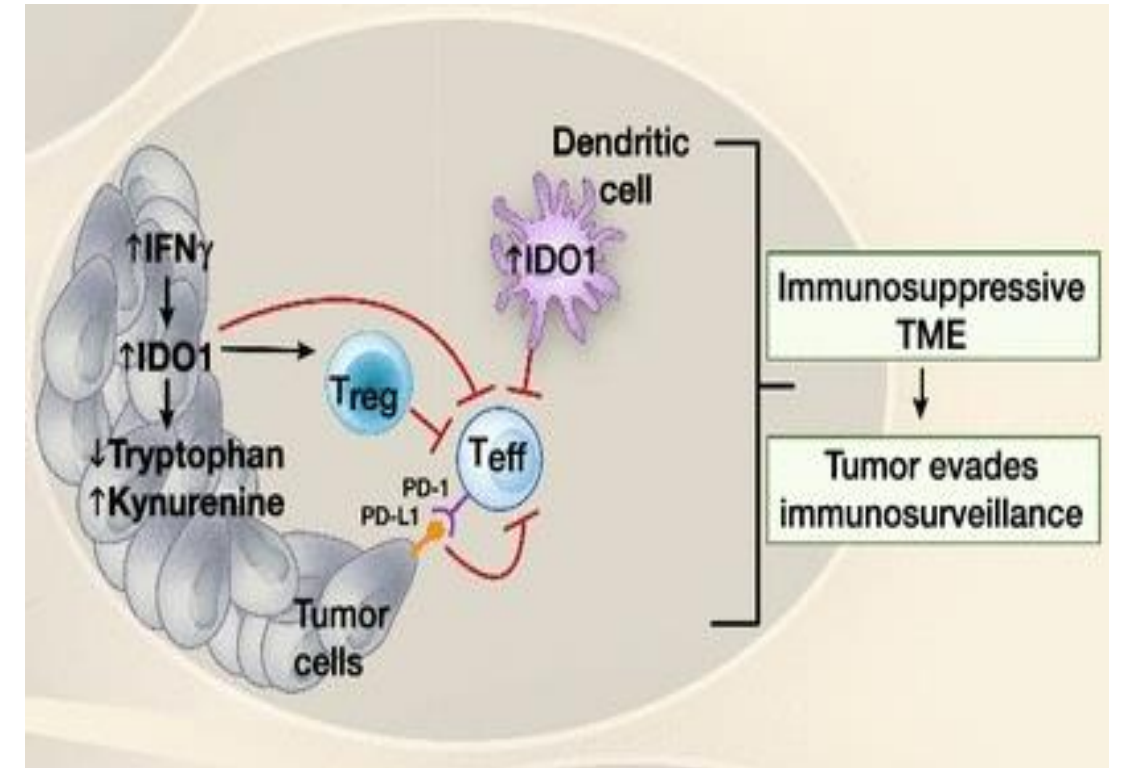
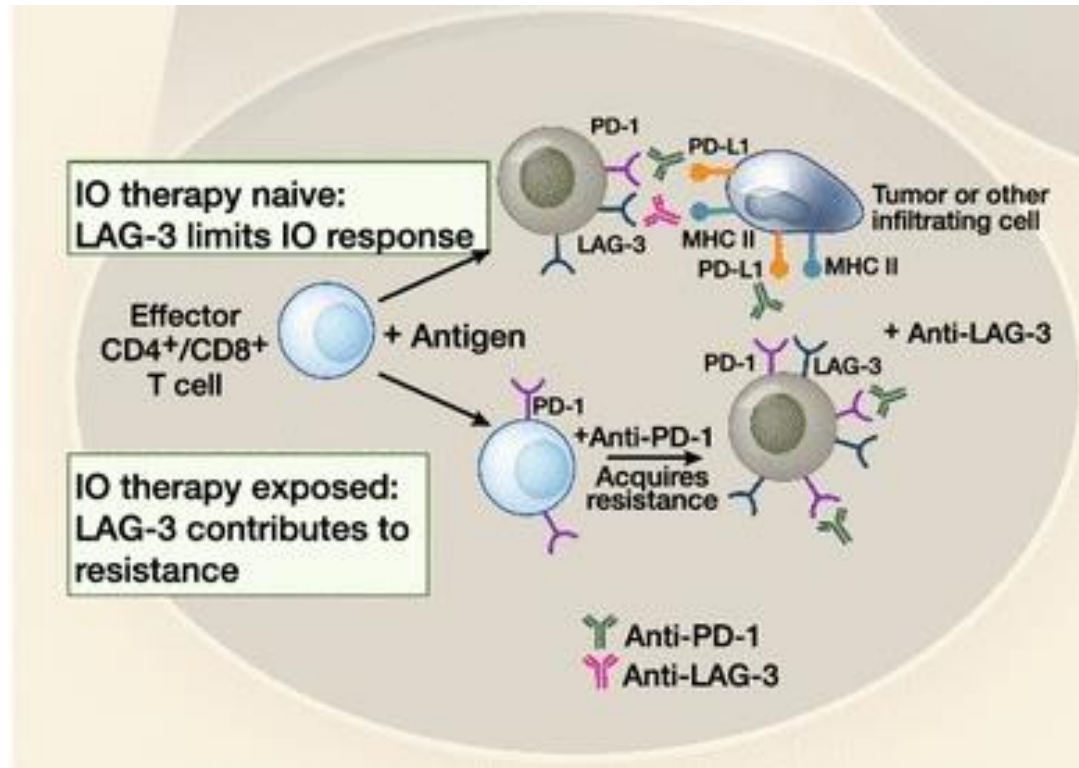
# Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma



Atkins, Semi. Oncology 2015

# Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

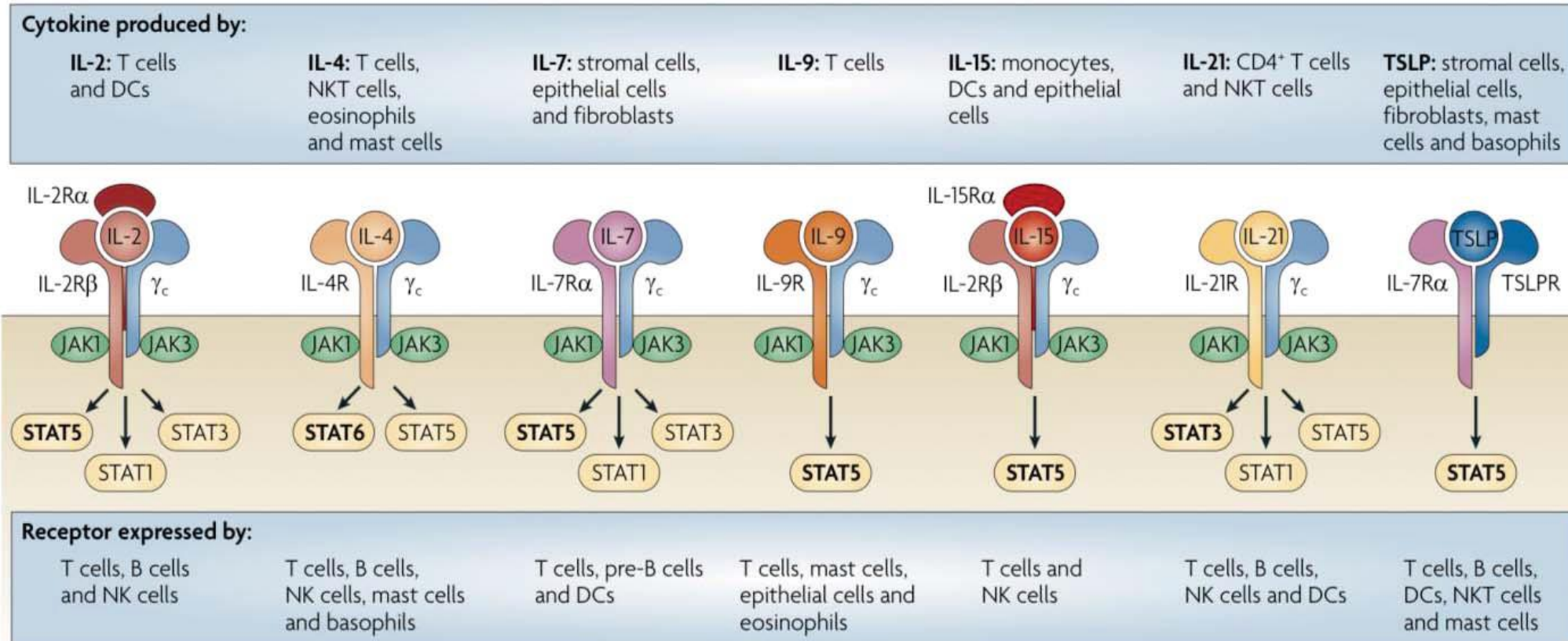
## Targeting New Immune Checkpoints



Ascierto, McArthur J Transl Med 2017

# Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

## Cytokine-based Strategies



Lee, Margolin Cancers 2011  
 Rochman et al. Nat Rev Immunol 2009

# Case #1: Metastatic Melanoma BRAF Mutant

- 49 y/o male melanoma patient
- Presented with biopsy confirmed mediastinal LN involvement; melanoma had BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutation



# Pilot Study: Radiotherapy (RT) + Intratumoral Immunocytokine (IT-IC) + Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Advanced Melanoma

*A UWCCC Clinical Trial (IND being prepared) with collaboration from Apeiron, NMS and NCI*

- Goals:
  - First in human Phase-1 testing of IT-IC with an IC that can bind to tumor and mediate ADCC
  - First in human IT-IC of such an IC immunologically timed after local RT
  - First in human testing of this in combination with anti-CTLA4 and/or anti-PD1
  - Toxicity/Tolerance/Anti-tumor effects
  - Serial biopsies of the same lesions, to look for the changes seen in murine tumors

Protocol Chairs: Mark Albertini, M.D.

Radiation Oncology Co-Chair: Zachary Morris, M.D., Ph.D

Laboratory Co-Chair: Jacqueline A. Hand, Ph.D

Pathology Co-Chair: Erik Ranheim, M.D., Ph.D.

NCI Grant (R35 CA197078-01) PI: Paul M. Sondel, M.D., Ph.D.

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

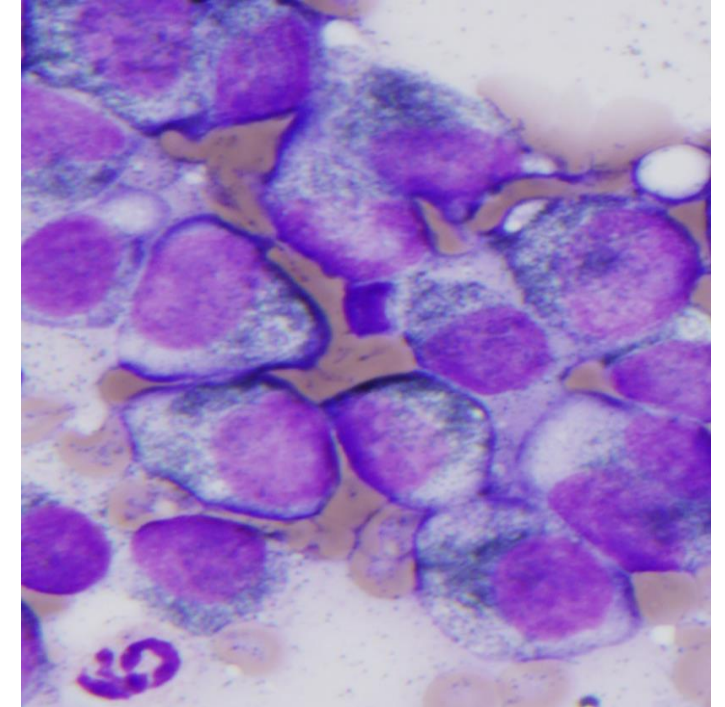
# Case #1: Metastatic Melanoma BRAF Mutant

- 49 y/o male melanoma patient
- Presented with biopsy confirmed mediastinal LN involvement; melanoma had BRAF<sup>V600E</sup> mutation

- Cytology following fine needle aspiration of mediastinal lymph node



Courtesy of Dr. Meghan Lubner



Courtesy of Dr. Erik Ranheim

# Case #1: Treatment Options

- Immunotherapy
  - Pembrolizumab
  - Nivolumab
  - Nivolumab + ipilimumab
  - High-dose IL-2
  - Ipilimumab 3 mg/kg x 4
- Targeted Therapy
  - Dabrafenib + Trametinib
  - Vemurafenib + Cobimetinib
  - Encorafenib + Binimetinib
  - Vemurafenib
  - Dabrafenib
  - Trametinib



# What is the best sequencing of treatment for patients with advanced BRAF V600 mutant melanoma?

- EA6134: A Randomized Phase III Trial of Dabrafenib + Trametinib followed by Ipilimumab + Nivolumab at Progression vs Ipilimumab + Nivolumab followed by Dabrafenib + Trametinib at Progression in Patients with Advanced BRAFV600 Mutant Melanoma

# Case #1: Metastatic Melanoma BRAF Mutant

- Initial Therapy
  - Ipilimumab and nivolumab
  - Tolerated therapy with minimal side effects for the first 2 cycles
- Presented with significant headaches as well as nausea with vomiting 12 days after cycle #3 of ipilimumab and nivolumab

# 2 Weeks after cycle #3 of Ipi/Nivo

- Comprehensive laboratory studies including cortisol, TSH, T3, T4, testosterone



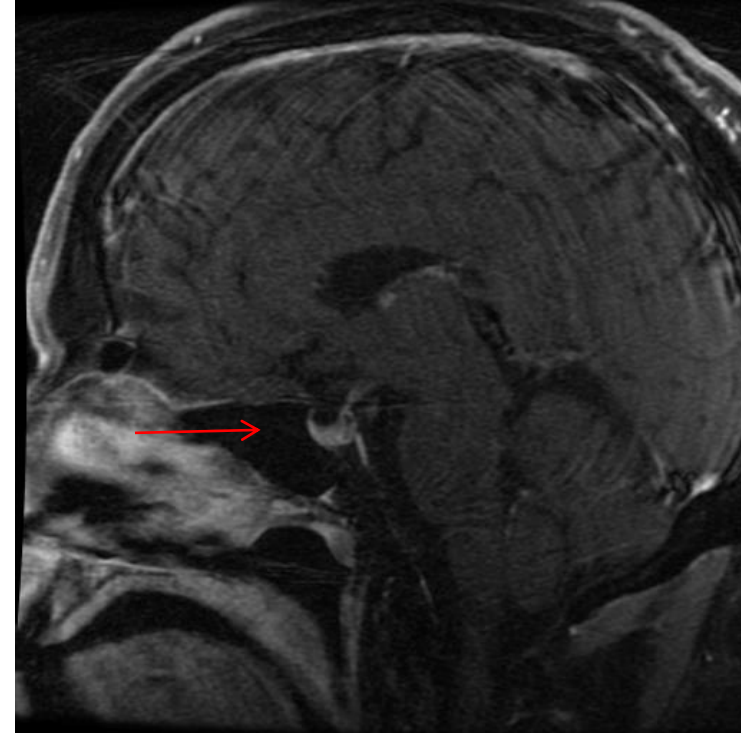
Courtesy of Dr. Meghan Lubner

# Management

- Methylprednisolone 1 mg/kg IV twice daily followed by transition to oral prednisone with a prolonged taper
- GI Prophylaxis: omeprazole
- PJP Prophylaxis: bactrim
- Fungal prophylaxis: clotrimazole
- Levothyroxine



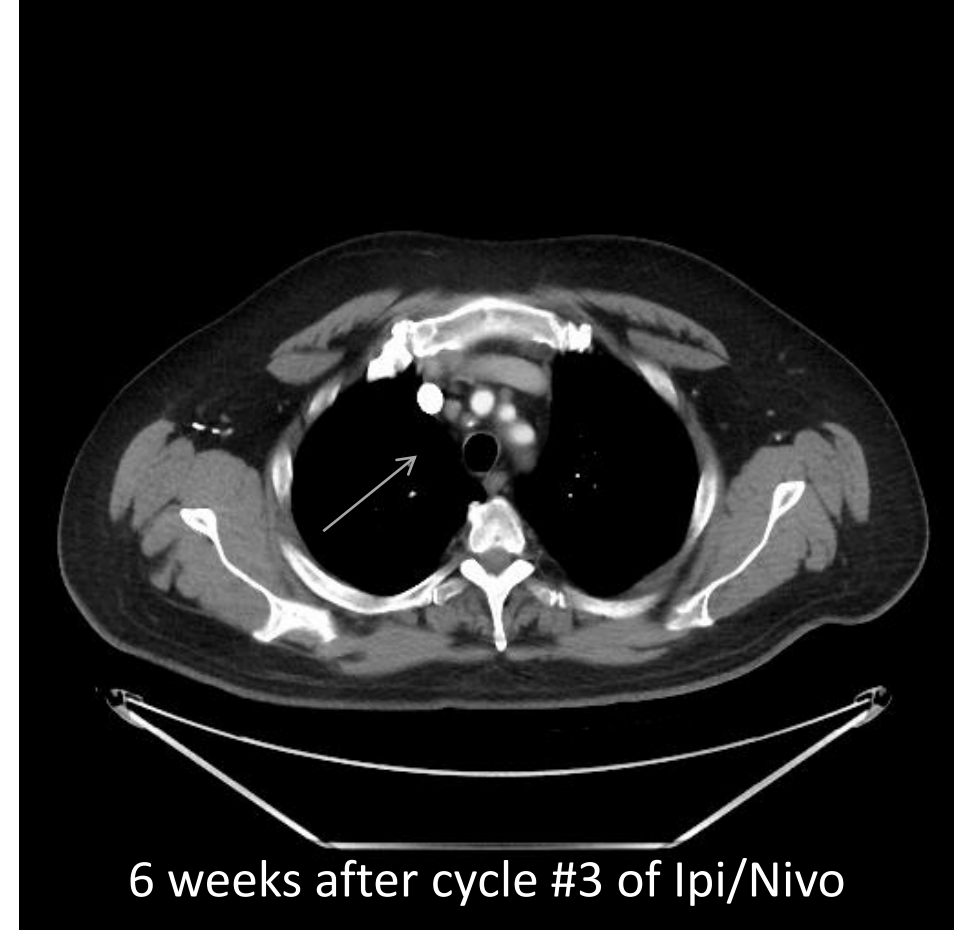
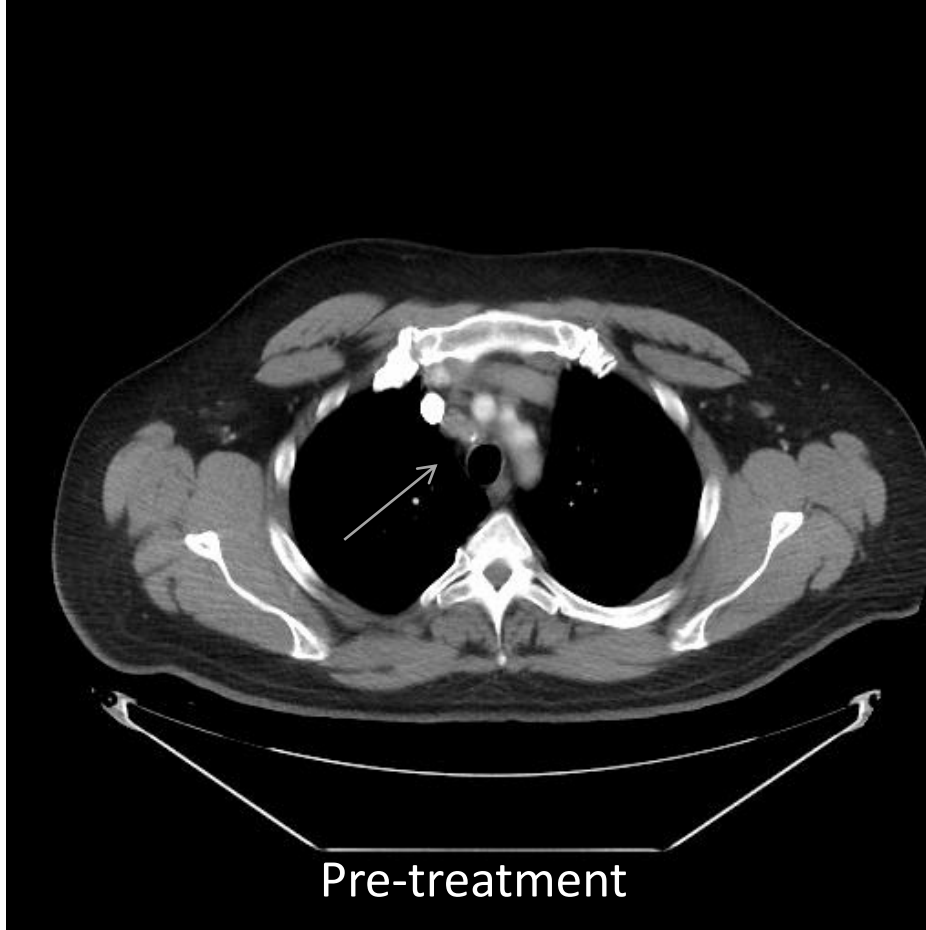
2 weeks after cycle #3 of  
Ipi/Nivo



6 weeks after cycle #3 of  
Ipi/Nivo

Courtesy of Dr. Meghan Lubner





Courtesy of Dr. Meghan Lubner

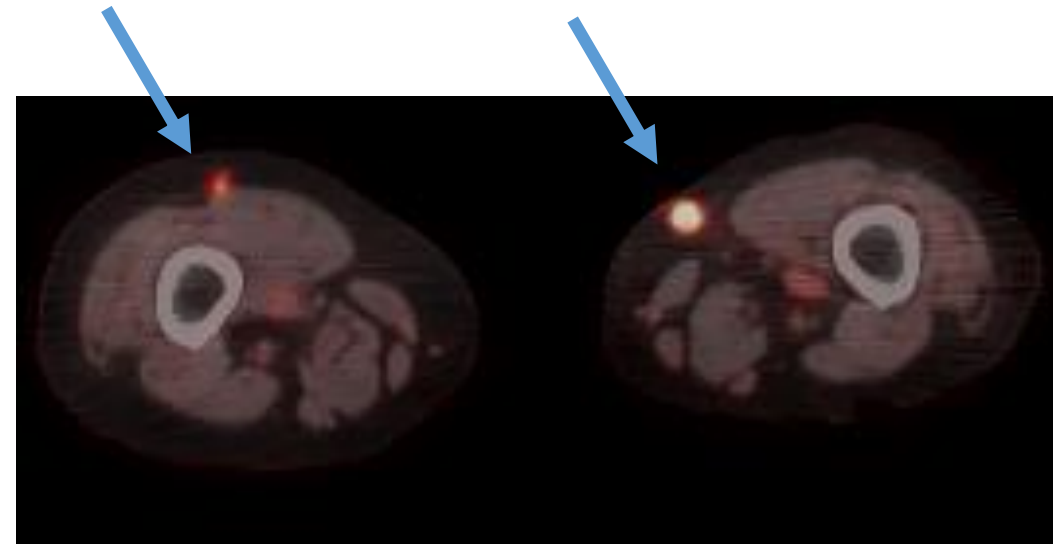
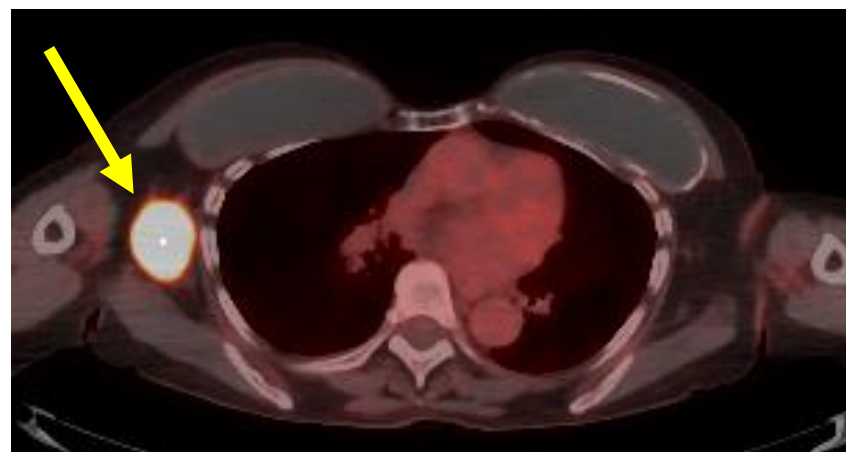
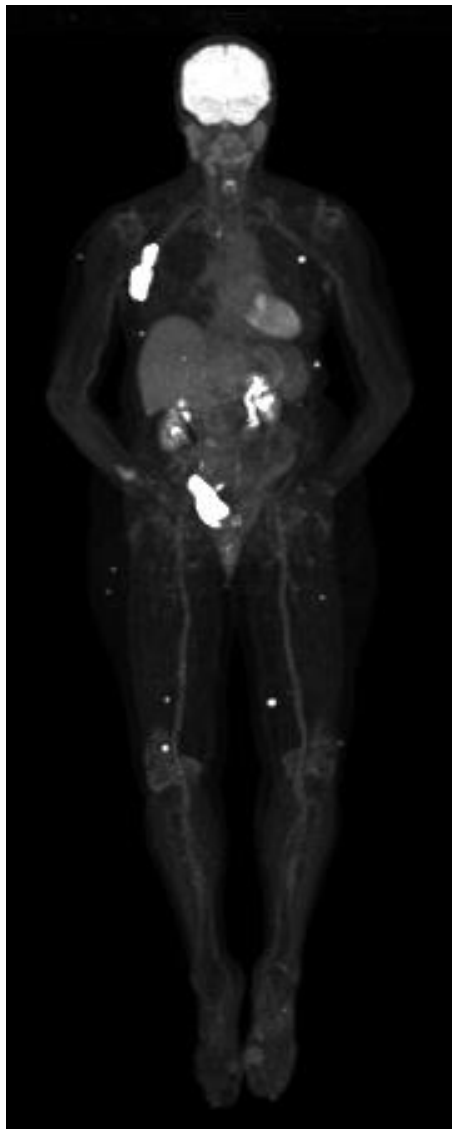
# Clinical Status 2.5 years after cycle #3 Ipi/Nivo

- CT scans stable and without evidence for progression
- Remains on hydrocortisone 10 mg in the AM and 5 mg in the PM as well as replacement levothyroxine

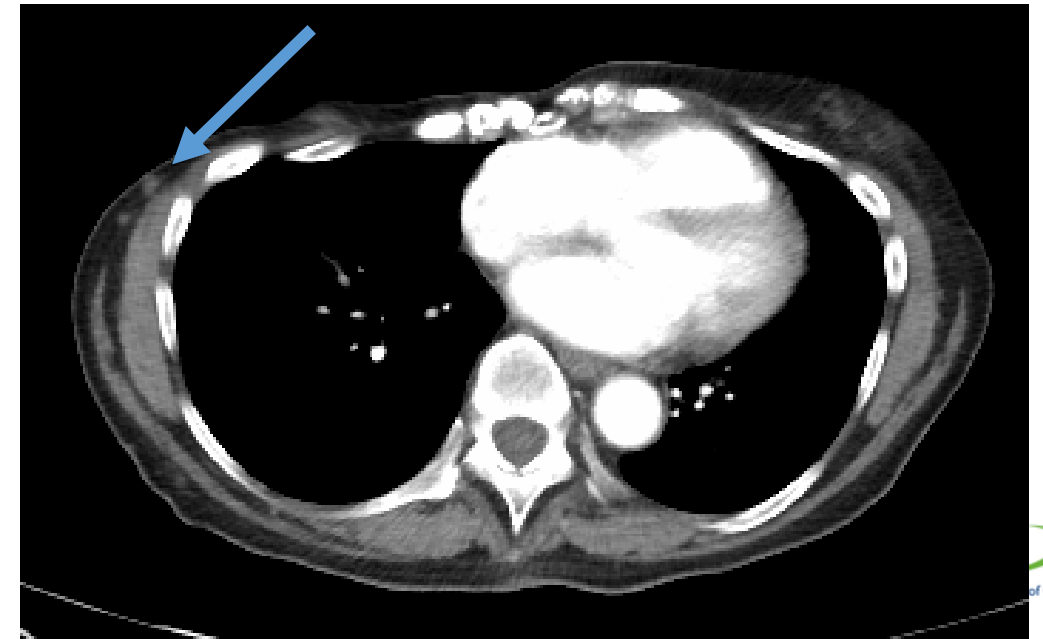
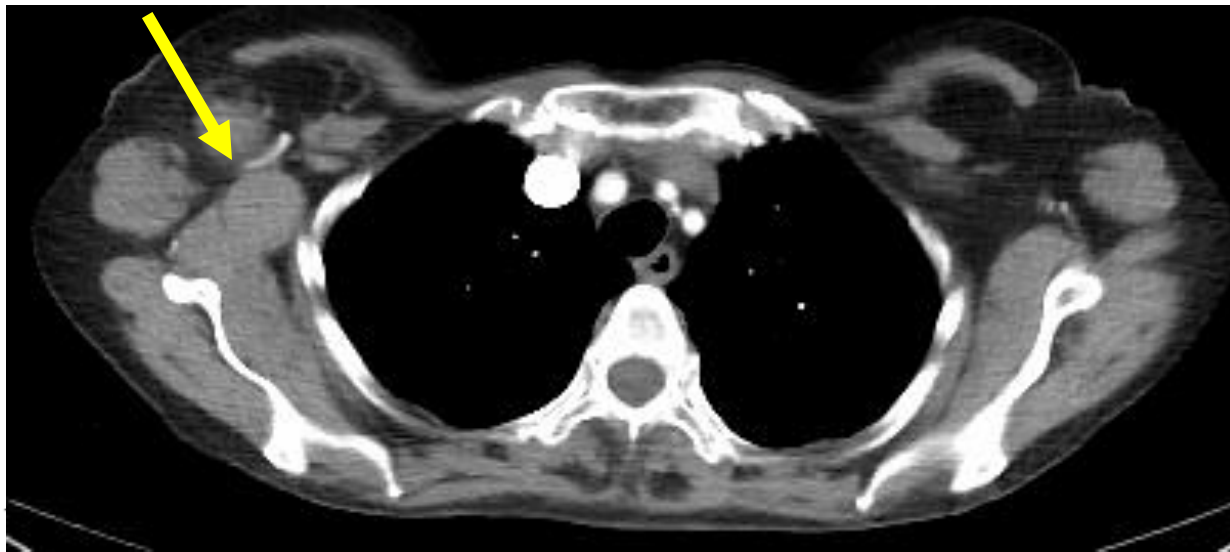
# Case #2: Metastatic Melanoma BRAF Mutant

- 76 y/o female patient
- H/o stage IIC ovarian cancer
- Diagnosis of metastatic melanoma of unknown primary after presenting with enlarged bilateral axillary lymph nodes
- Ultrasound-guided core needle biopsies of right and left axillary lymph nodes revealed metastatic melanoma
- BRAF mutation in codon 600 of the BRAF gene was detected (V600E mutation)

# Pre-Treatment

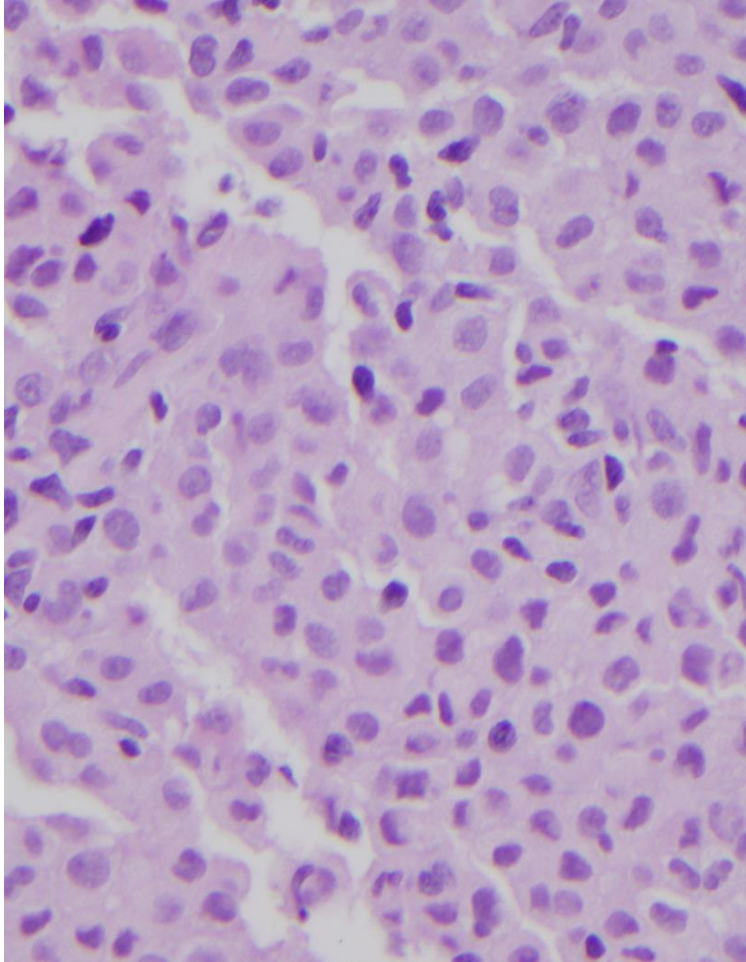


# Pre-Treatment

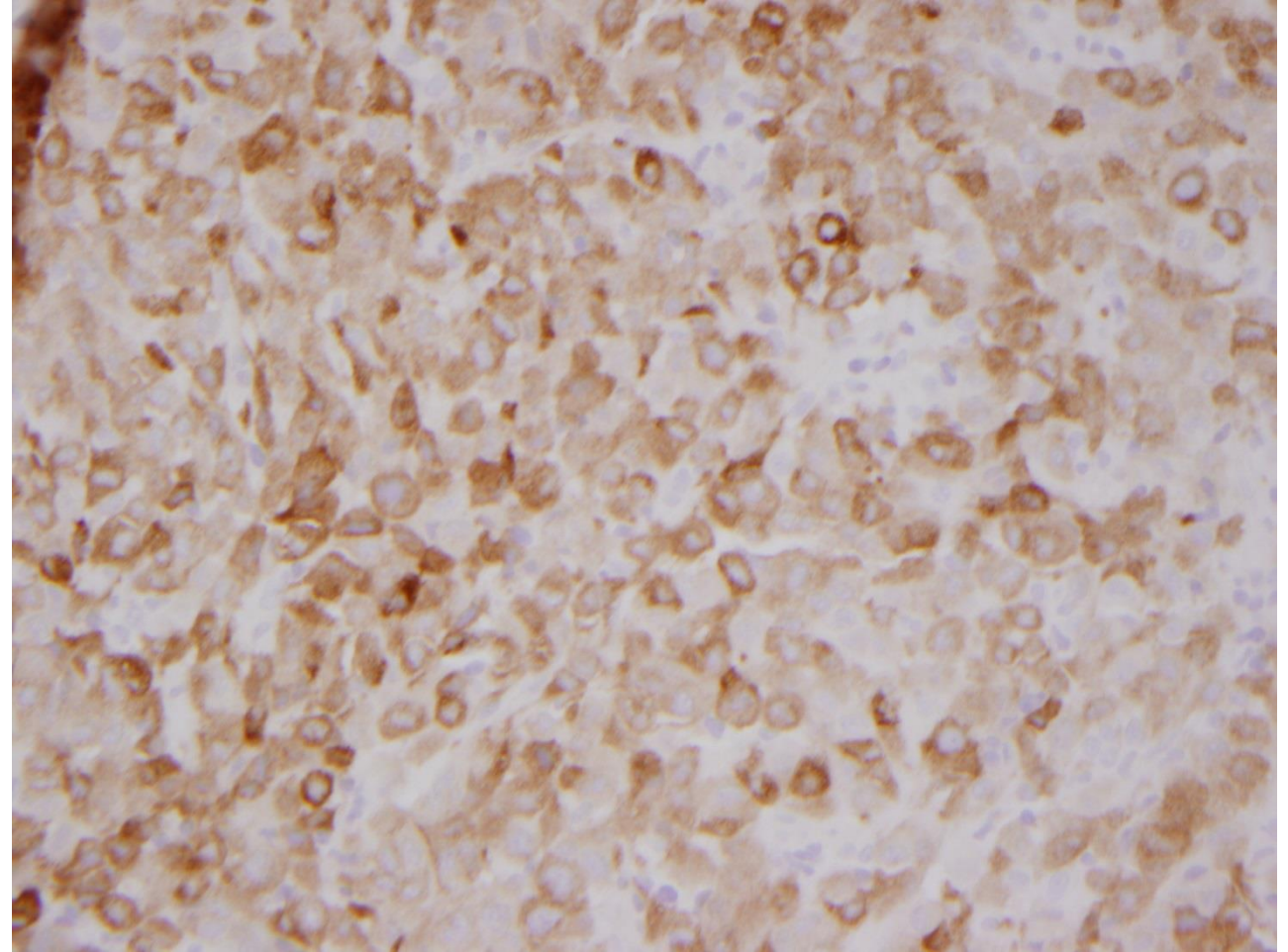




# Ultrasound guided core needle biopsy of right axillary lymph node



Hematoxylin and Eosin stain



Immunostains for Melanoma Cocktail (HMB 45 and Melan A)

Courtesy of Dr. Erik Ranheim

# Case #2: Treatment Options

- Immunotherapy

- Pembrolizumab
- Nivolumab
- Nivolumab + ipilimumab
- High-dose IL-2
- Ipilimumab 3 mg/kg x 4
- Talimogene laherparepvec (TVEC)
- Experimental intralesional treatment

- Targeted Therapy

- Dabrafenib + Trametinib
- Vemurafenib + Cobimetinib
- Encorafenib + Binimetinib
- Vemurafenib
- Dabrafenib
- Trametinib

# Can predictive biomarkers assist with treatment decisions?

# PD-L1 Immunohistochemistry

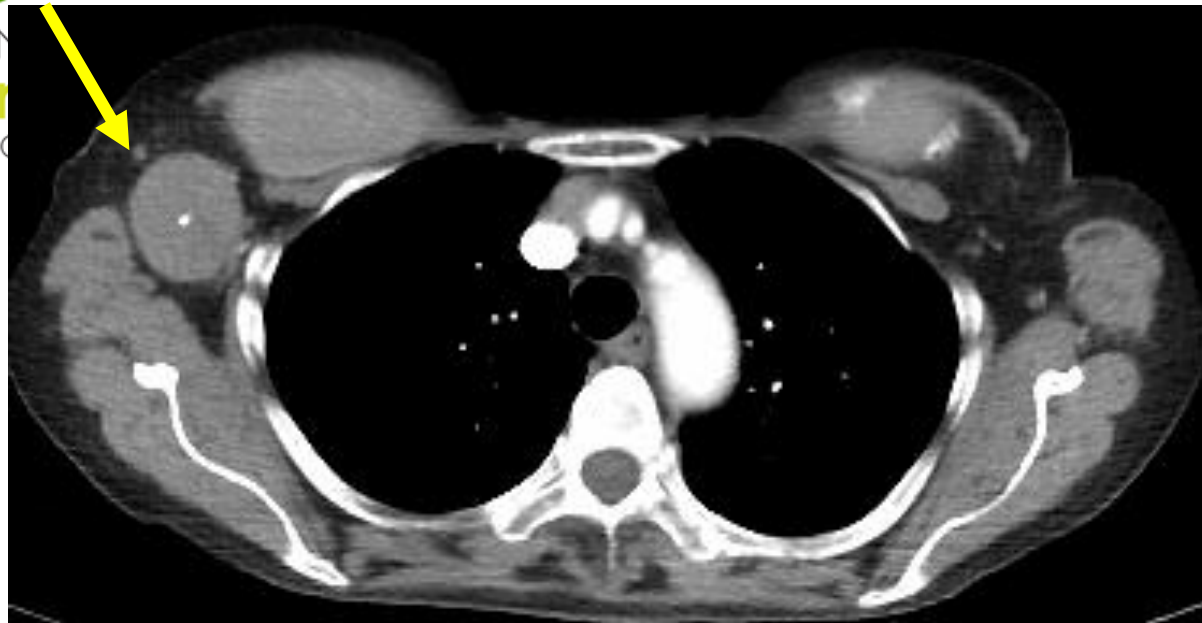
- PD-L1 immunohistochemistry was performed and was positive in less than 1% of tumor cells

# Case #2 Management

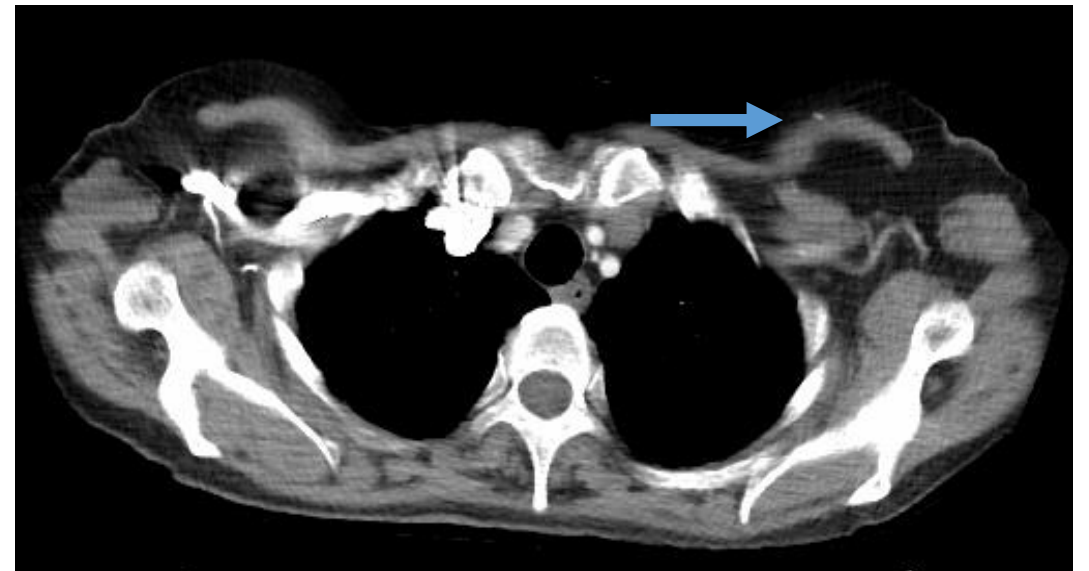
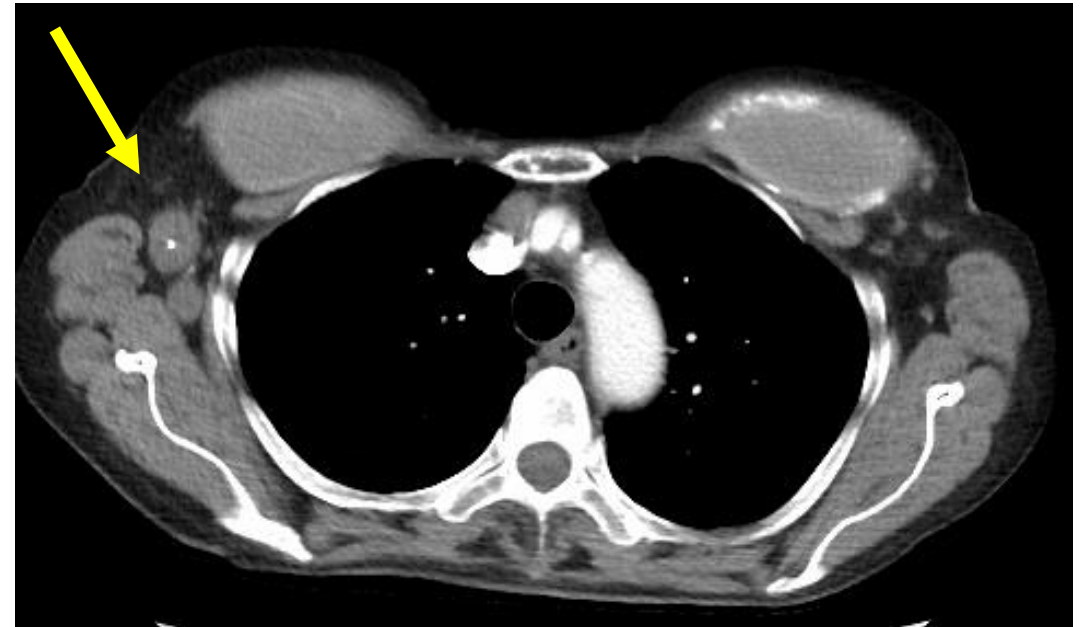
- Treatment with pembrolizumab with repeat disease assessments every 3 months
- No significant treatment-associated toxicity
- Significant anti-tumor response
- Treatment stopped after cycle 26 (approx. 18 months of treatment) due to separate medical and social considerations



Pre-Treatment

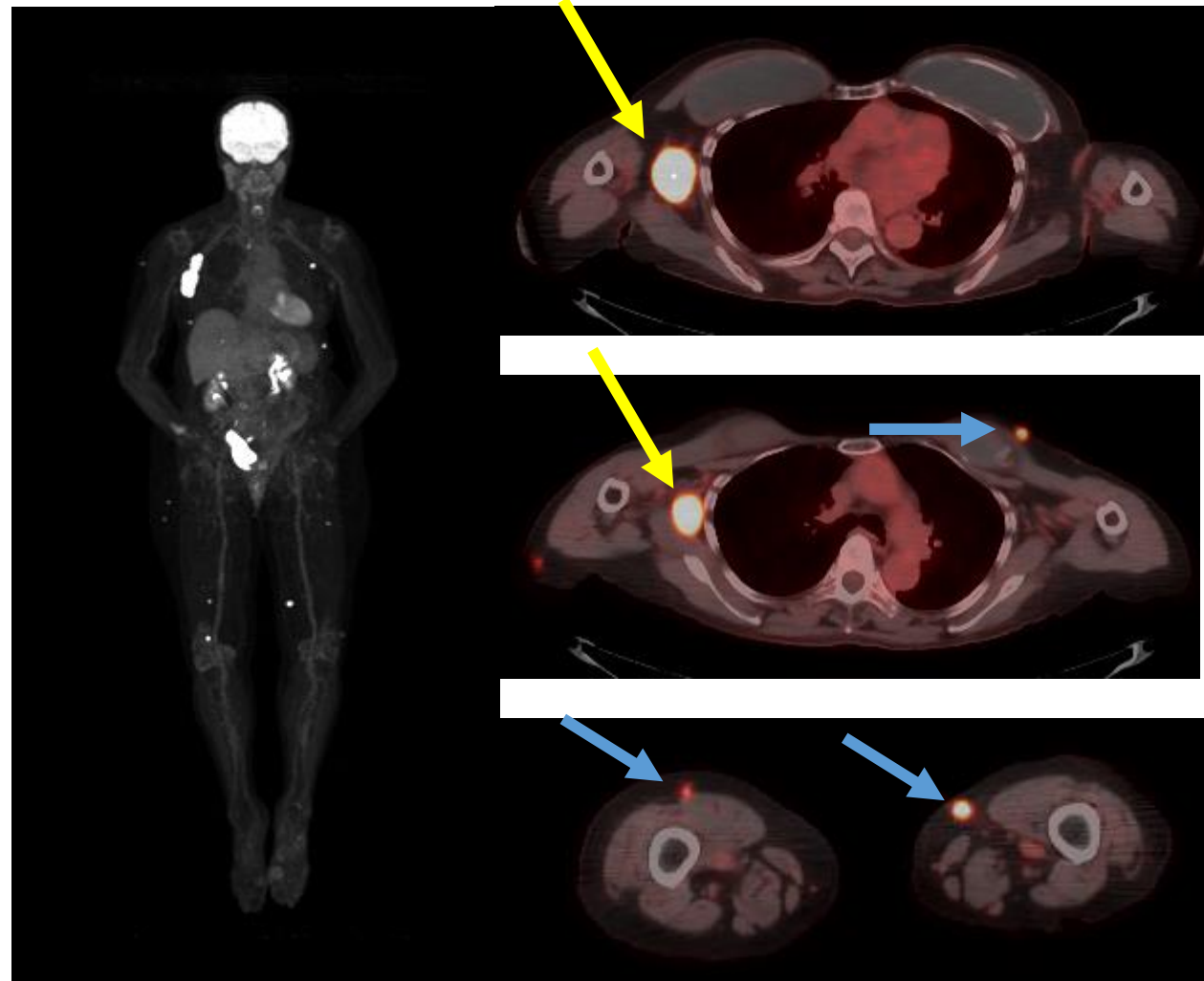


2+ weeks after cycle #4 of pembrolizumab



Pre-Treatment

2+ weeks after cycle #24 of pembrolizumab



# Clinical status after stopping Pembrolizumab

- Remains without evidence of disease progression when last seen 7 months after stopping pembrolizumab

# Take-Home Points:

## *Melanoma Immunotherapy*

- Laboratory insights have changed the standard of care for metastatic melanoma patients.
- Immunotherapy can achieve durable responses and improve survival in metastatic melanoma, even after managing immune-related adverse events.
- Awareness of possible immune-related adverse events is essential following immunotherapy.
- Improved biomarkers of response and improved biomarkers of toxicity are needed for patients treated with immune checkpoint blockade.
- Enthusiasm is present to study treatment combinations with immune checkpoint blockade.