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Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Gastrointestinal Cancers

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AAEM AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE CHAMPION OF THE EMERGENCY PHYSICIAN

ACCC Association of Community Cancer Centers

HOPA Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association

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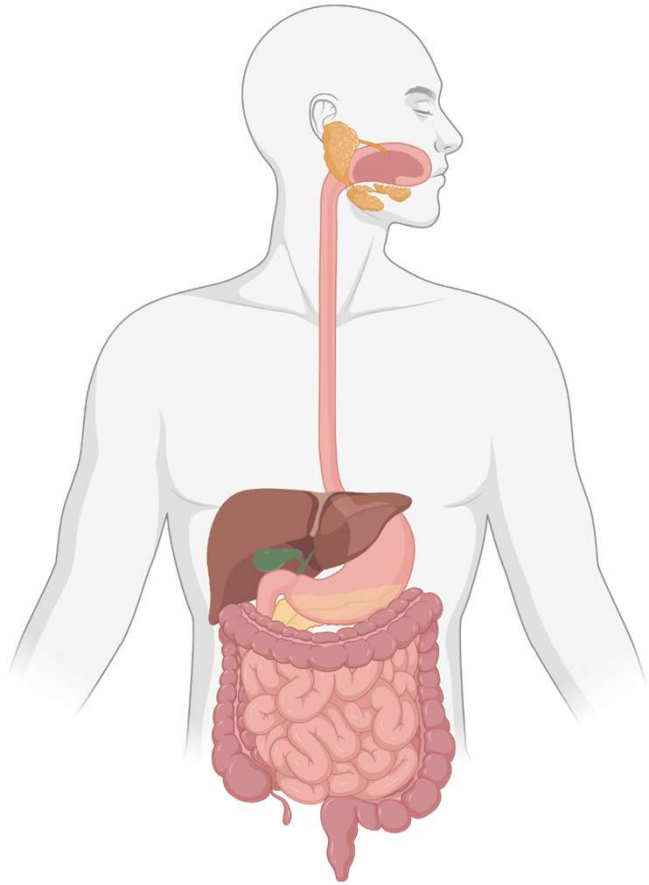
Disclosures

- Consulting Fees: Exelixis Advisory Board
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.

Outline

- Hepatocellular carcinoma
- Colorectal cancer
- Other GI malignancies



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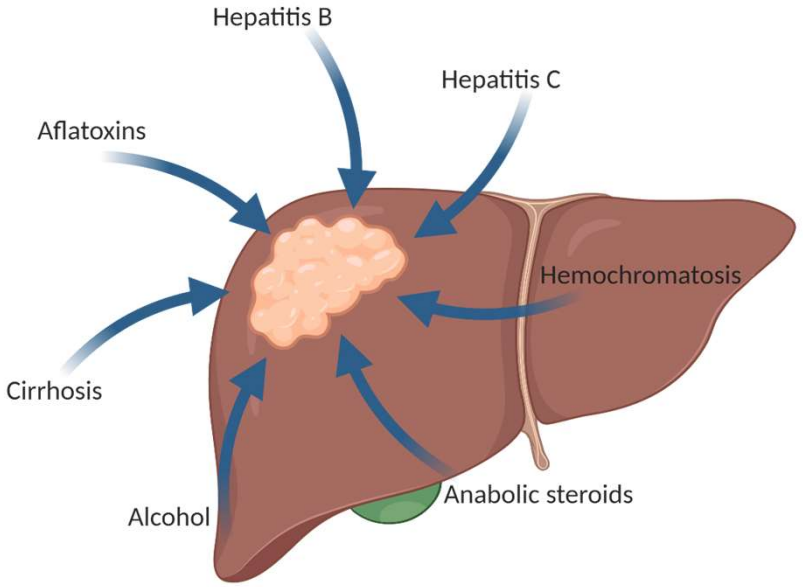
Hepatocellular carcinoma

- HCC is the most common type of primary liver cancer
- 3rd leading cause of cancer death worldwide
- Treatment options:
  - Curative: orthotopic liver transplantation, surgical resection
  - Chemoembolization, radiofrequency ablation, microwave ablation, radiation, chemotherapy, targeted therapy
- Many patients are ineligible for surgery/transplant/RFA – there's a need for systemic therapies in HCC



Approved checkpoint inhibitors for HCC

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2017	Second line	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
Pembrolizumab	2018	Second line	200 mg Q3W or 400 mg Q6W
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	2020	Second line	Nivo 1 mg/kg + Ipi 3 mg/kg for 4 doses, then nivo maintenance
Atezolizumab + bevacizumab	2020	First line	Atezolizumab 1200 mg Q3W + bevacizumab 15 mg/kg Q3W

Efficacy of ICIs in sorafenib-experienced HCC

Study	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	ORR	Landmark OS
CheckMate 040	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	Nivolumab	20%	9-month: 74%
		Nivolumab 1 mg/kg + ipilimumab 3 mg/kg Q3W	32%	24-month: 48%
		Nivolumab 3 mg/kg + ipilimumab 1 mg/kg Q3W	31%	24-month: 30%
		Nivolumab 3 mg/kg Q2W + ipilimumab 1 mg/kg Q6W	31%	24-month: 42%
KEYNOTE-240	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	Pembrolizumab + BSC	18.3%	Median: 13.9 months
		Placebo + BSC	4.4%	Median: 10.6 months
Study 22	Advanced HCC with previous sorafenib	Durvalumab	10.6	Median: 13.57 months
		Tremelimumab	7.2	Median: 15.11 months
		Tremelimumab (300 mg x 1) + durvalumab 1500 mg Q4W	24.0	Median: 18.73 months
		Tremelimumab (75 mg x 4) + durvalumab 1500 mg Q4W	9.5	Median: 11.30 months

Yau, ESMO 2019; El-Khoueiry, Lancet 2017; Finn, J Clin Oncol 2020; Yau, ASCO 2019; Finn, N Engl J Med 2020; Kelley ASCO 2020.

Efficacy of ICIs in untreated HCC

Study	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	ORR	Landmark OS
CheckMate 459	Advanced, untreated HCC	Nivolumab	15%	Median: 16.4 months
		Sorafenib	26%	Median: 14.7 months
IMbrave150	Unresectable, untreated HCC	Atezolizumab + bevacizumab	27.3%	12-month: 67.2%
		Sorafenib	11.9%	12-month: 54.6%

In development: Other immunotherapy strategies for HCC

- Combinations with existing immune checkpoint inhibitors
- Alternative immune checkpoints
- Cellular therapies

In development: Combination therapy with ICIs in HCC

Pembrolizumab plus lenvatinib

Untreated HCC	Phase 1b trial results	Phase 3 trial ongoing
n=100 patients	Median OS 22 mo	FDA did not grant accelerated approval request: did not represent "meaningful advantage" over currently available options
Pembro 200 mg IV Q3W plus len 12 mg (≥60 kg) or 8 mg (<60kg)	Median PFS 8.6 mo	
	ORR 36%	
	TRAEs 95% (grade ≥3 67%, grade ≥4 4%)	

Zhu, ASCO 2020

In development: Selected phase III trials of checkpoint inhibitors

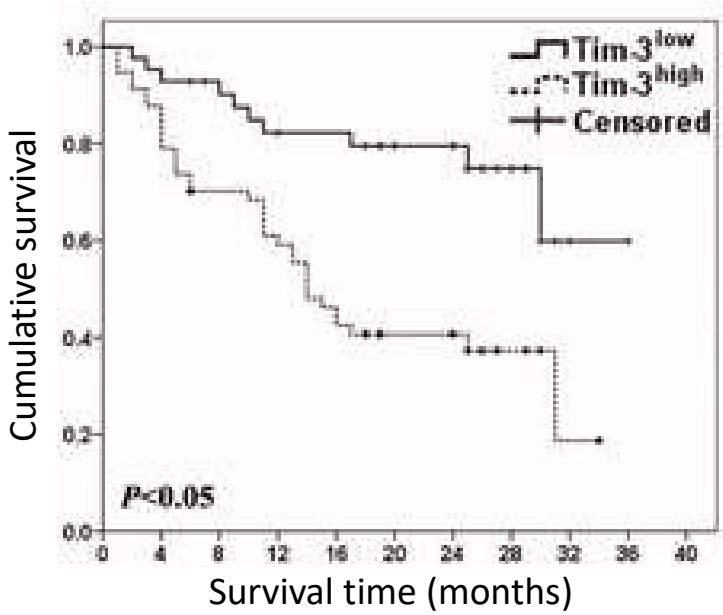
Trial ID	Targets	Drug arms	Status	N	Estimated completion
NCT03794440 (ORIENT-32)	PD-1, VEGF	• Sintilimab + bevacizumab biosimilar • Sorafenib	Active	566	Dec 2022
NCT03298451 (HIMALAYA)	CTLA-4, PD-L1	• Tremelimumab + durvalumab • Sorafenib	Active	1310	Jun 2021
NCT02576509 (Checkmate 459)	PD-1	• Nivolumab • Sorafenib	Result pending	726	July 2020
NCT03755739	PD-1	• Pembrolizumab • Peripheral vs hepatic infusion after TACE	Active	200	Nov 2021
NCT03062358 (KEYNOTE-394)	PD-1	• Pembrolizumab • Placebo	Active	450	Jan 2022
NCT03713593 (LEAP-002)	PD-1, VEGFR	• Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib • Lenvatinib	Active	750	July 2022
NCT03847428 (EMERALD-2)	PD-L1, VEGF	• Durvalumab + bevacizumab • Combination with resection/MWA vs resection/MWA alone	Not yet recruiting	888	June 2023
NCT03764293	PD-1, TKI	• Camrelizumab + apatinib • Sorafenib	Not yet recruiting	510	Jan 2022
NCT03434379 (IMbrave150)	PD-L1, VEGF	• Atezolizumab + bevacizumab • Sorafenib	Active	480	June 2022

Johnston, World J Gastroenterology 2019.

In development: Other immunotherapy strategies for HCC

- Combinations with existing immune checkpoint inhibitors
- Alternative immune checkpoints
- Cellular therapies

Trial	Intervention	Phase
NCT03680508	TSR-022 + TSR-042 (anti-TIM-3 + anti-PD-1)	2
NCT03652077	INCAGN02390 (anti-TIM-3)	1



Li, Hepatology 2012.

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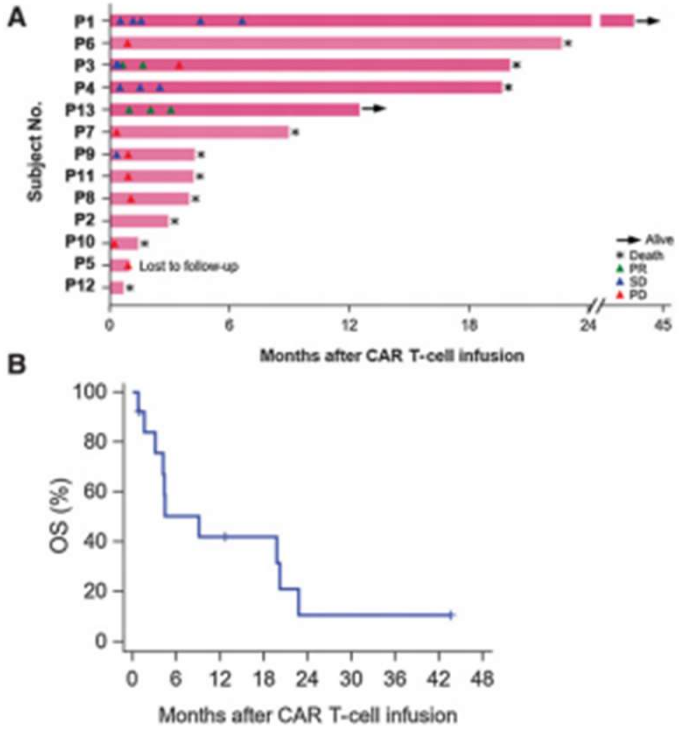
In development: Other immunotherapy strategies for HCC

- Combinations with existing immune checkpoint inhibitors
- Alternative immune checkpoints
- Cellular therapies
  - CAR-GPC3 T-cell therapy in patients with GPC+ HCC (Child Pugh A)
  - Other T-cell therapies in early phase clinical trials
    - Targeting NY-ESO-1, AFP, CD133, EpCAM, etc.



Shi, Clinical Cancer Research 2020

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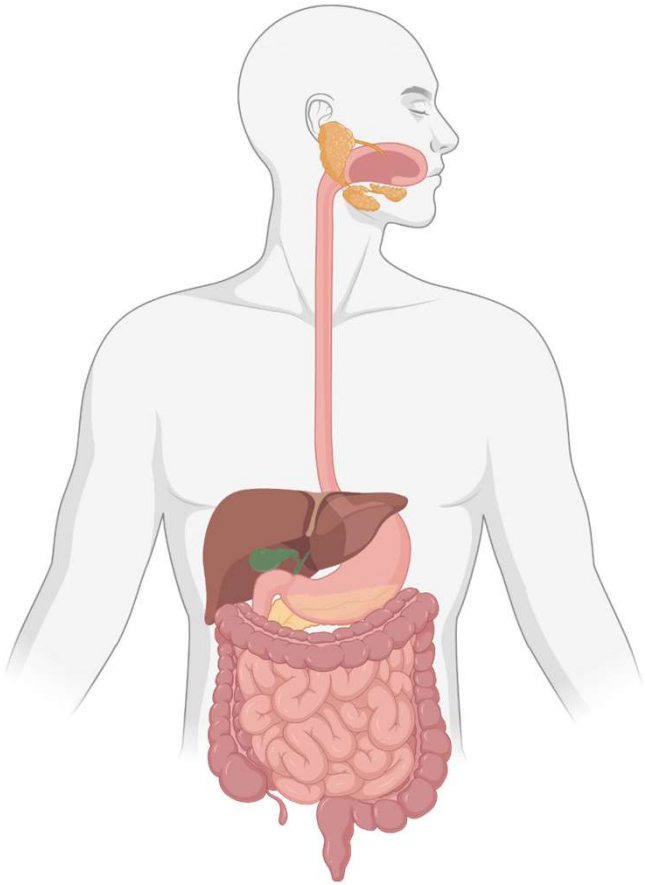

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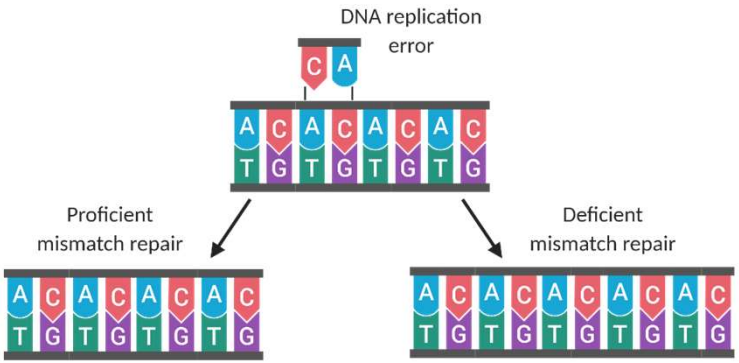
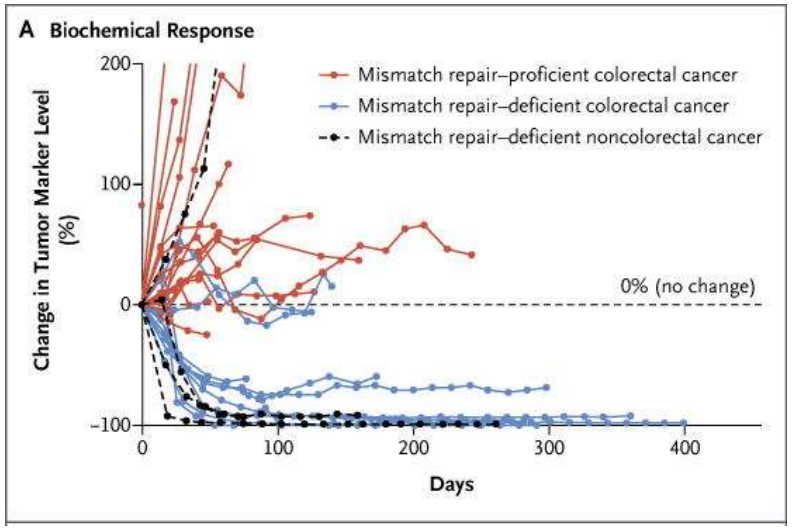
Colorectal cancer

- Categorized by microsatellite instability/mismatch repair status:
  - MSI-high/MMR-deficient: 15% (but 2-4% of metastatic CRC)
  - MSI-low/MMR-proficient: 85%





Le, N Engl J Med 2015

FDA approvals for colorectal cancer

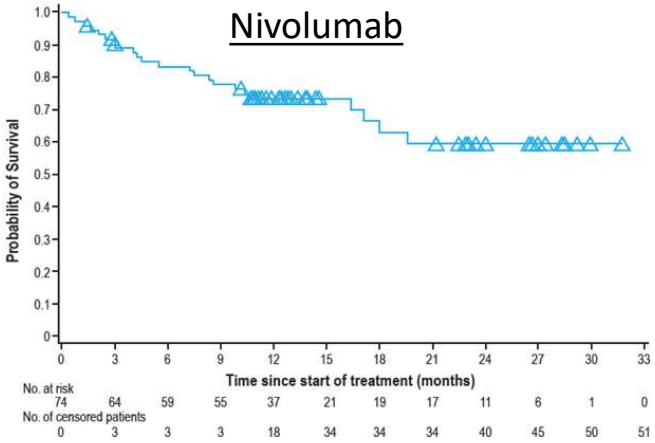
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2017	MSI-high/dMMR relapsed colorectal cancer following treatment with a fluoropyrimidine, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
Nivolumab + ipilimumab	2018	MSI-high/dMMR relapsed/refractory colorectal cancer following treatment with a fluoropyrimidine, oxaliplatin, and irinotecan	Nivo 3 mg/kg + ipi 1 mg/kg for 4 doses, then nivo maintenance
Pembrolizumab	2020	First-line MSI-high/dMMR colorectal cancer	200 mg Q3W or 400 mg Q6W

To date, all ICI approvals for CRC are for those with mismatch repair or microsatellite instability.

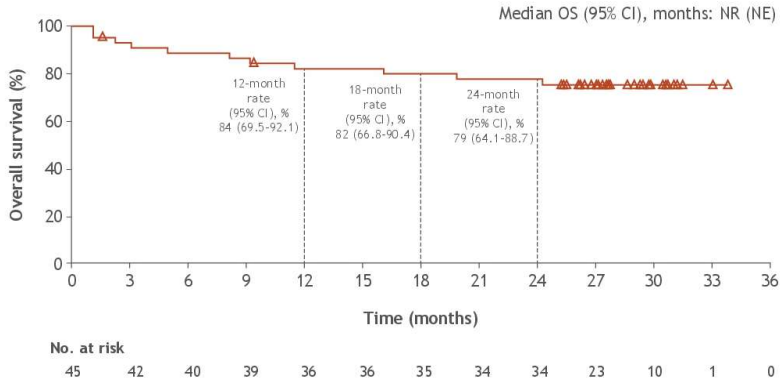
Efficacy of approved ICIs in CRC

Trial	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	ORR	Landmark PFS	Landmark OS
CheckMate 142	MSI-H/dMMR CRC with progression on prior treatment	Nivolumab	31.1%	12-month: 50.4%	12-month: 73.4%
	MSI-H/dMMR CRC with progression on prior treatment	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	58%	24-month: 60%	24-month: 74%

Nivolumab



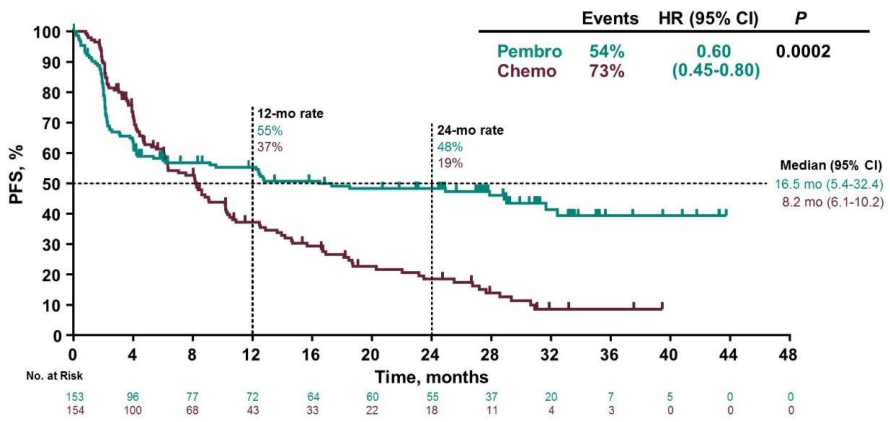
Nivolumab + ipilimumab

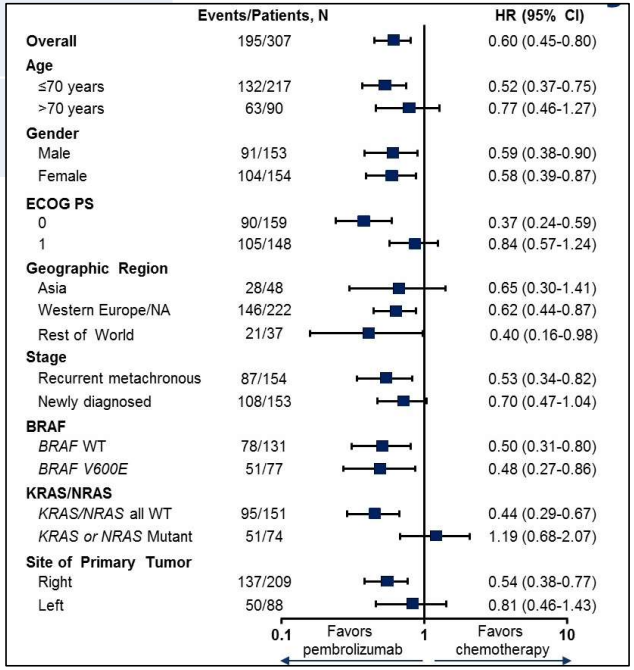


Andre, ASCO 2020; Overman, Lancet Oncol 2017; Overman, ASCO-GI 2019.

Efficacy of approved ICIs in CRC

Trial	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	ORR	Landmark PFS	Landmark OS
KEYNOTE -177	Untreated, unresectable/metastatic MSI-H/dMMR CRC	Pembrolizumab	43.8 %	Median: 16.5 months	-
		Investigator's choice	33.1 %	Median: 8.2 months	-





Andre, ASCO 2020; Overman, Lancet Oncol 2017; Overman, ASCO-GI 2019.

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In development: Immunotherapy for MSS/pMMR CRC

Clinical trial number	Patient population	Treatment(s)	Treatment type(s)
NCT04262687	1st-line MSS/pMMR, high immune infiltrate, metastatic CRC	Pembrolizumab + XELOX + bevacizumab	Anti-PD-1 + chemotherapy + anti-angiogenic
NCT04108481	Liver-predominant, MSS/pMMR CRC with 2 prior therapies	Durvalumab + ^{90}Y embolization	Anti-PD-L1 + radiotherapy
NCT03832621	MSS, MGMT-silenced metastatic CRC	Nivolumab + ipilimumab + temozolamide	Anti-PD-1 + anti-CTLA-4 + chemotherapy
NCT03993626	Previously treated MSS CRC	CXD101 + nivolumab	HDAC inhibitor + anti-PD-1
NCT04044430	Previously treated MSS, BRAF V600E metastatic CRC	Nivolumab + encorafenib + binimetinib	Anti-PD-1 + MEK inhibitor + BRAF inhibitor
NCT04301011	MSS CRC with progression on prior therapies	Pembrolizumab + TBio-6517	Anti-PD-1 + oncolytic virus
NCT03639714	MSS CRC with progression on prior therapy	Nivolumab + ipilimumab + GRT-C901 + GRT-R902	Anti-PD-1 + anti-CTLA-4 + neoantigen vaccines
NCT04126733	MSS CRC with progression on prior therapy	Nivolumab + regorafenib	Anti-PD-1 + multi-kinase inhibitor

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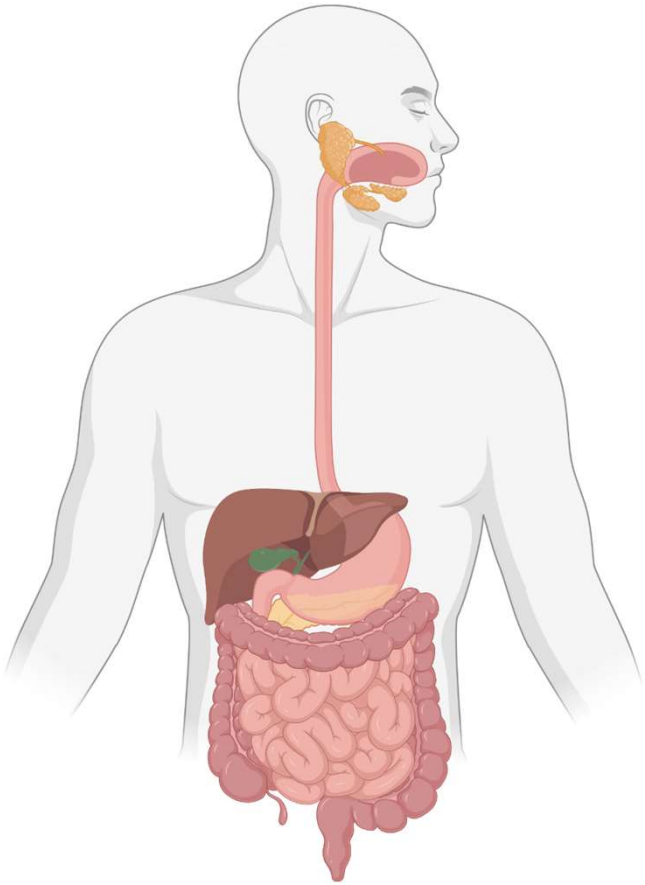

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FDA approvals for other GI cancers

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Pembrolizumab	2017	Previously treated PD-L1+ advanced/recurrent **gastric or gastroesophageal junction cancer**	200 mg Q3W or 400 mg Q6W
Pembrolizumab	2019	Previously treated PD-L1+ recurrent/advanced/metastatic **squamous cell carcinoma of the esophagus**	200 mg Q3W or 400 mg Q6W
Nivolumab	2020	**Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma** after previous chemotherapy	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W

Efficacy of approved checkpoint inhibitors

Trial	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	ORR	Median PFS (months)	Median OS (months)
KEYNOTE-059	Previously treated gastric/gastroesophageal cancer	Pembrolizumab	ITT: 11.6% PD-L1+: 15.5%	ITT: 2.0 PD-L1+: 2.1	ITT: 5.6 PD-L1+: 5.8
KEYNOTE-180	Advanced/metastatic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after 2 prior therapies	Pembrolizumab	ITT: 14.3% PD-L1+: 13.8%	2.1	6.8
KEYNOTE-181	Advanced/metastatic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after 1 prior therapy	Pembrolizumab	22%	3.2	ITT: 8.2 PD-L1+: 10.3
		Chemotherapy	7%	2.3	ITT: 7.1 PD-L1+: 6.7
ATTRACTION-3	Advanced/metastatic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma after prior therapy	Nivolumab	19.3%	HR: 1.1	10.9
		Chemotherapy	21.5%		8.4

Fuchs, JAMA Oncol 2018; Shah, JAMA Oncol 2018; Metges, ESMO GI 2019; Kato, Lancet Oncol 2019.

Conclusions

- Immune checkpoint inhibitors are beginning to fill the need for systemic therapies in hepatocellular carcinoma
- To date, only MSI-high/MMR-deficient colorectal cancers have approved immunotherapy options
- For gastric, gastroesophageal, and esophageal cancers, PD-L1 expression may be important for checkpoint inhibitor responses
- Future directions for all indications include combination therapies

Acknowledgements

- Some figures created using biorender.com

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Case Study

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Case Study

Mr. Z is a 72 year old male presenting with a diagnosis of right-sided colon cancer.

PMH:

- Renal Cell Carcinoma pT1a s/p partial nephrectomy
- Prostate Cancer (Gleason 3+3) pT3 s/p prostatectomy

Undergoes ileocecal resection, pathology consistent with pT4N2a (4 of 17 lymph nodes)

Molecular testing:
MSI-H
BRAF V600E

Question 1

What adjuvant therapy would you offer?

1. Pembrolizumab
2. Nivolumab + Ipilimumab
3. FOLFOX
4. Surveillance

Question 1

Currently immunotherapy is not considered standard of care in the adjuvant setting for MSI-H colon cancer.

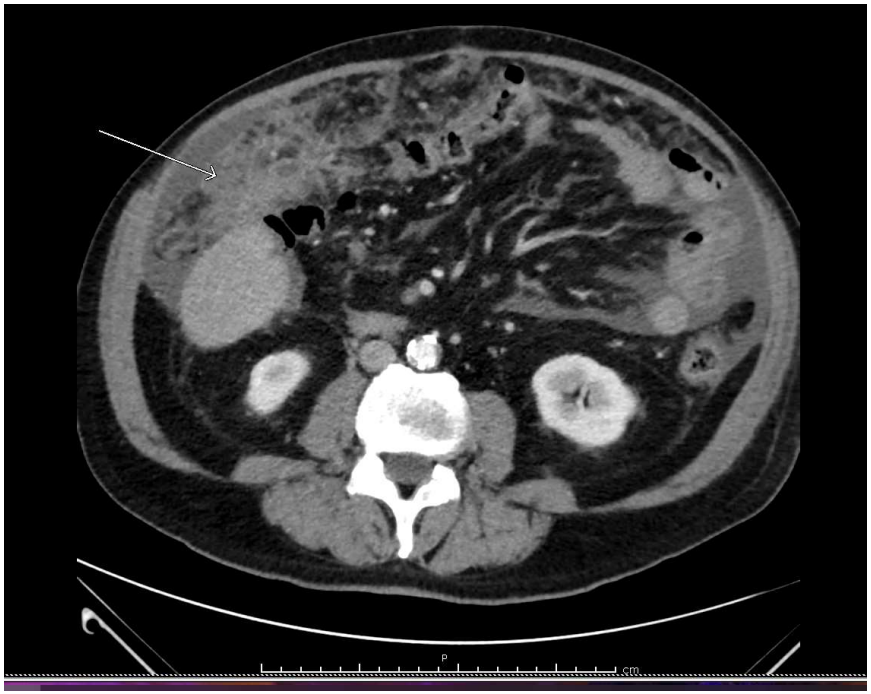
There are ongoing studies to investigate this option.

Trial	Patient population	Treatment arm(s)	NCT
ATOMIC	Stage III dMMR Colon Cancer	FOLFOX +/- Atezolizumab	NCT02912559
POLEM	Stage III dMMR or *POLE*-mutant Colon Cancer	5FU based chemotherapy +/- Avelumab	NCT03827044
-	Stage II Colon Cancer with positive ctDNA, dMMR	Pembrolizumab vs Placebo	NCT03832569
-	Stage II Rectal Cancer, dMMR	Dostarlimab followed by CRT and surgery	NCT04165772

Case Study

Mr. Z is started on FOLFOX and completes 12 cycles complicated by neuropathy. 1 month following completion of chemotherapy he presents with severe abdominal pain.

CEA 252.6



Question 2

What systemic therapy would you offer this patient?

1. FOLFIRI + Cetuximab
2. Pembrolizumab
3. Encorafenib + Binimetinib
4. Regorafenib

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Question 2

Of these options the most effective is likely to be pembrolizumab.

Though BRAF directed therapy is an option, this requires anti-EGFR therapy thus the approved regimen is Cetuximab + Encorafenib based on the BEACON study.

Regorafenib should only be considered once more efficacious therapies have been utilized in the second line setting.

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Case Study

Mr. Z is started Pembrolizumab 400mg q6 weeks. After the third cycle he is admitted with increasing abdominal pain and diarrhea 4-6 times a day.

CT A/P demonstrating increasing ascites and dilated small bowel loops.

Question 3

What is the next appropriate step in management?

1. Oral Vancomycin
2. Loperamide
3. Methylprednisolone
4. Infliximab

Question 3

Immune mediated colitis/enteritis is potentially life-threatening and needs prompt treatment and evaluation.

- Prednisone/Metylprednisolone 1-2mg/kg/d
- Colonoscopy
- Rule out infectious etiology
- Supportive management (IVF, loperamide, cholestyramine)
- Infliximab can be considered if no improvement in 48-72 hour

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Thank you!