



Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Skin Cancers

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Disclosures

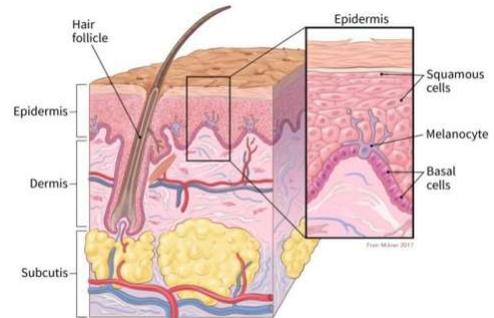
- Consulting Fees: Castle, Kimera Labs, Array
- Contracted Research: BMS, Replimune, Novartis, Regeneron, Immunocore, Iovance
- I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.



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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



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 \geq 12 yr	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses

Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

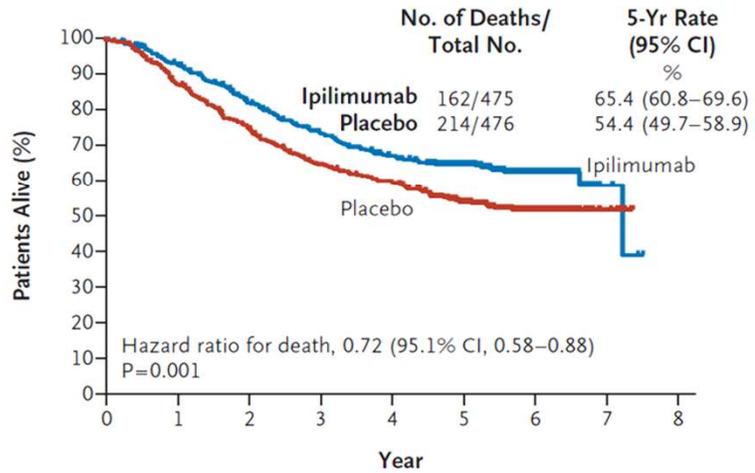
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Ipilimumab	2011	Unresectable/Metastatic melanoma: newly diagnosed or after progression	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses
	2015	Adjuvant therapy in stage III melanoma after complete resection	10 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses, then 10 mg/kg Q12W for 3 years
	2017	Unresectable/Metastatic melanoma: newly diagnosed or after progression, all patients \geq 12 yr	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses
	2020	Adjuvant therapy in stage III after complete resection 3mg/kg vs 10 mg/kg vs high dose interferon alpha-2b	3 mg/kg dose superior to interferon alpha-2b



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.
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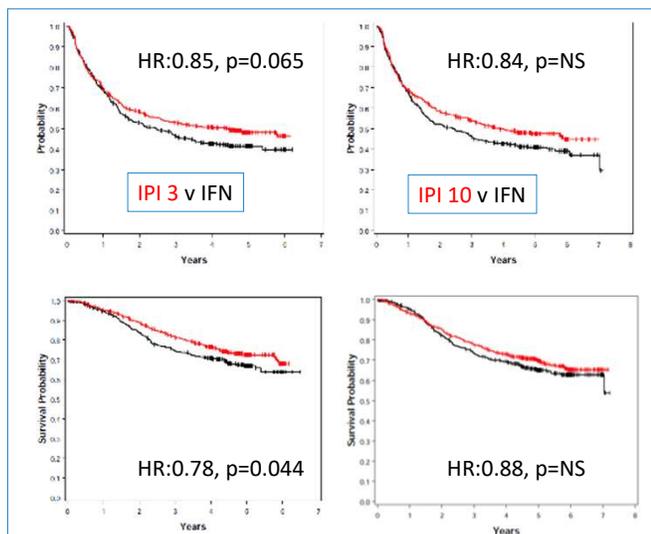
Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

• 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

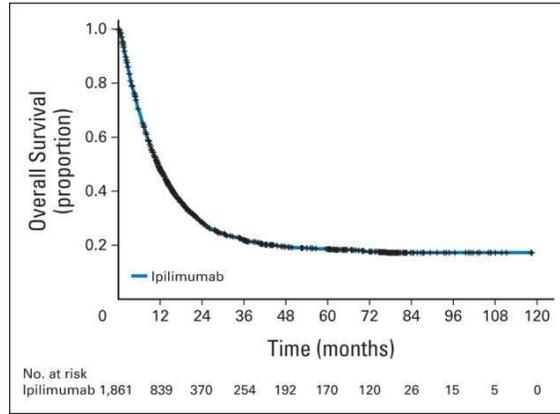


Tarhini, ASCO Annual Meeting 2019.
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Ipilimumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

- 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.
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Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Pembrolizumab	2014	Advanced/unresectable melanoma with progression after other therapy	200 mg Q3W*
	2015	1 st 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

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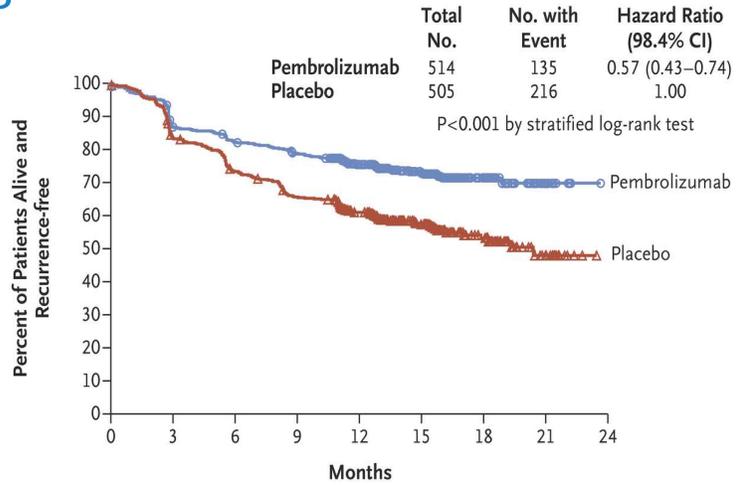




Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

• EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-054 phase III trial

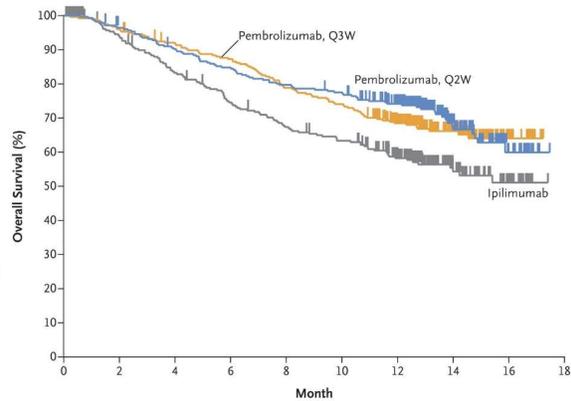
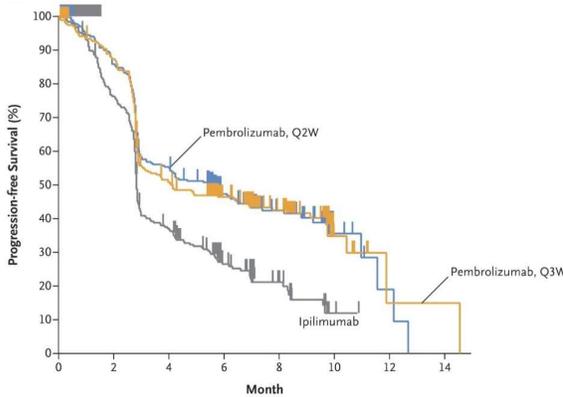
- NCT02362594
- Adjuvant pembrolizumab vs placebo
- Pembrolizumab 200mg Q3W for up to 1 year (~18 total doses)



Eggermont, NEJM 2018.
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Pembrolizumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma Phase III KEYNOTE-006 Trial



Robert, NEJM 2015.
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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

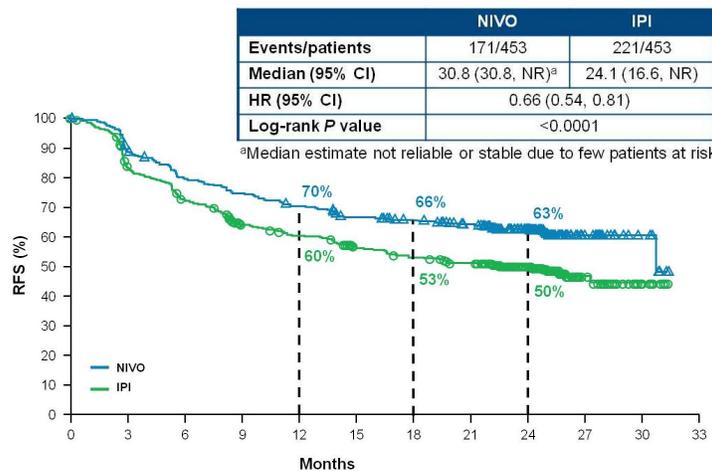


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Adjuvant Nivolumab vs Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- 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



Miller, ASCO 2018.
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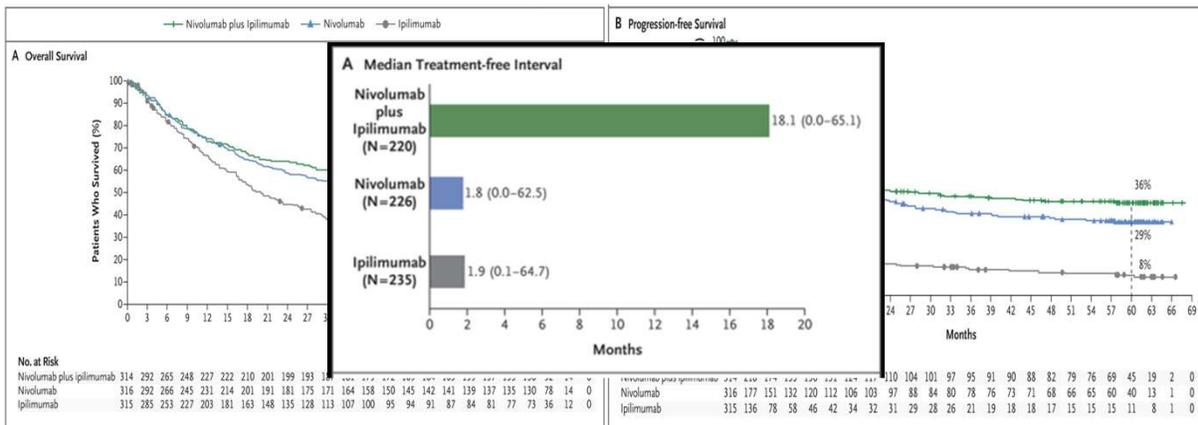
Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

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

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Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma Phase III CheckMate 067 Trial



Larkin J et al. N Engl J Med 2019; 381:1535-1546

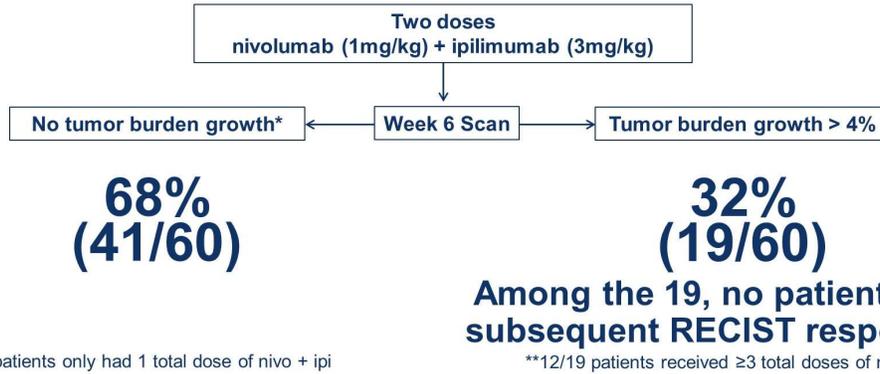
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A phase II study to evaluate the need for >2 doses of nivolumab + ipilimumab combination immunotherapy in patients with unresectable stage III/IV melanoma

Results



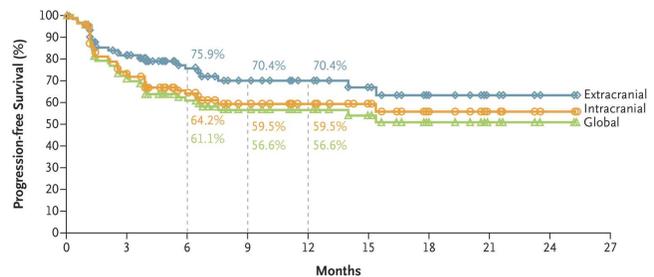
Postow, ASCO 2020.

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Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Patients with Asymptomatic Brain Metastases

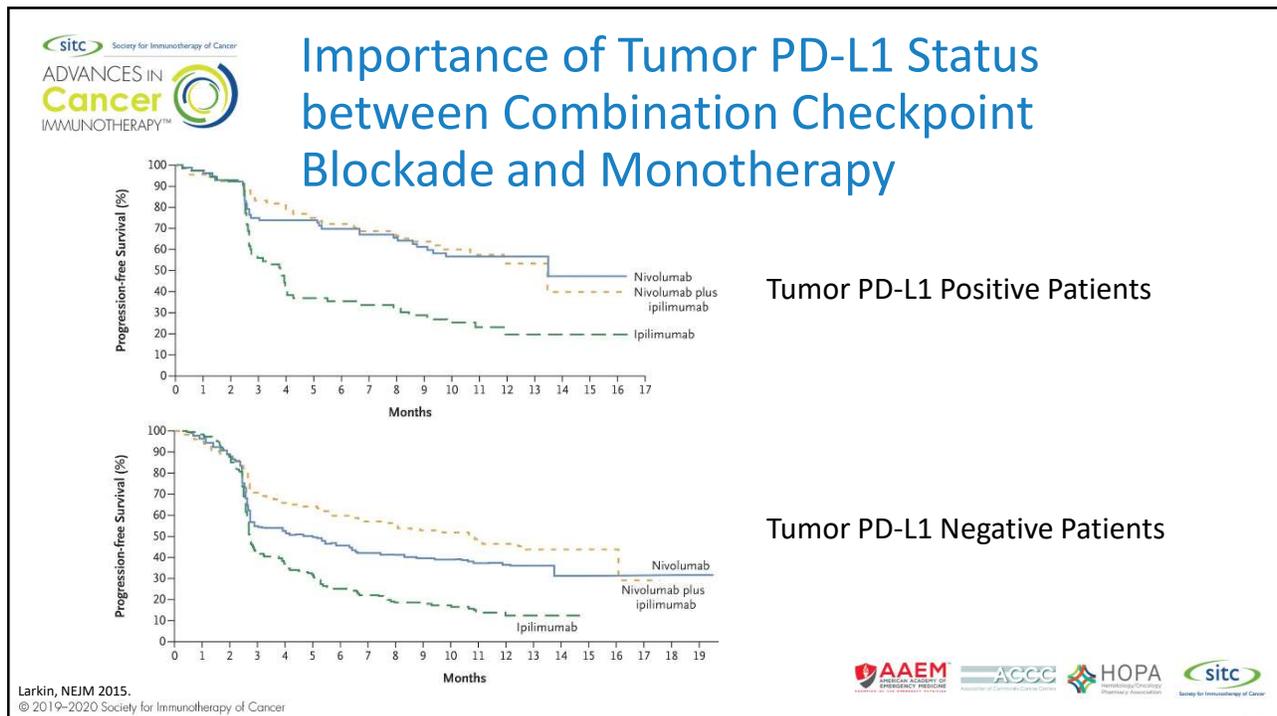
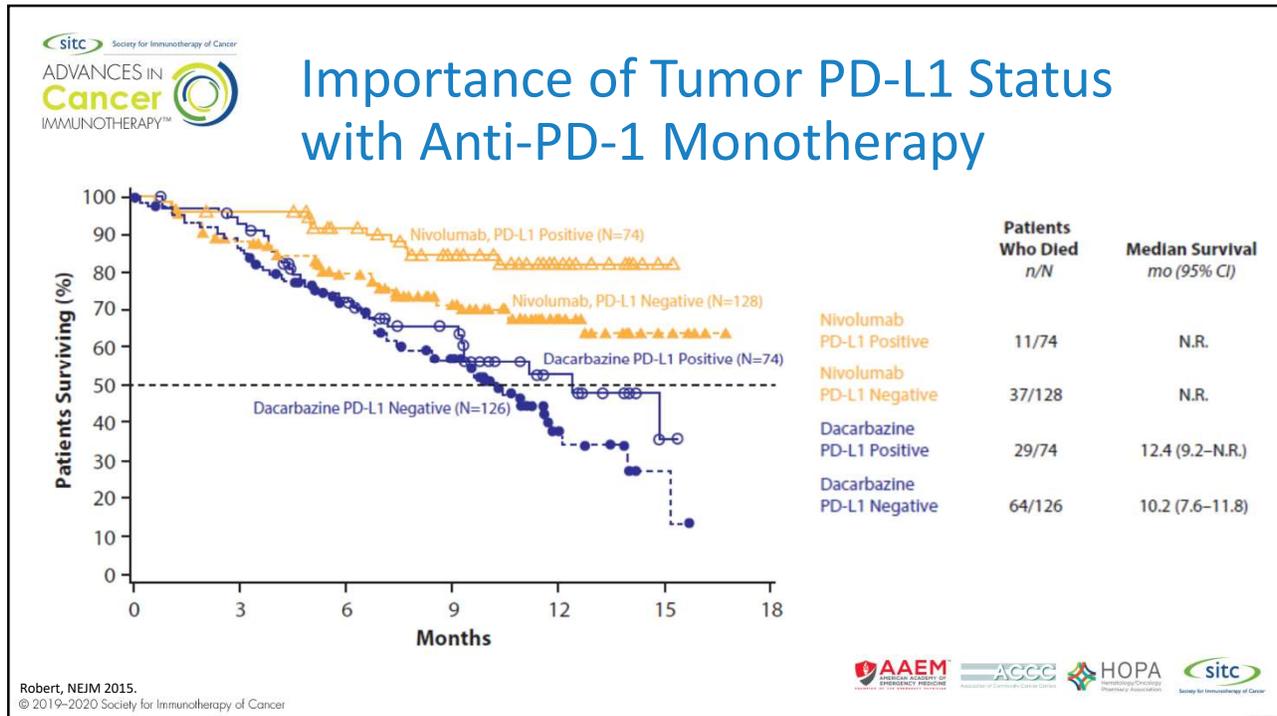
Variable	Intracranial (N=94)	Extracranial (N=94)	Global (N=94)
Best overall response — no. (%)*			
Complete response	24 (26)	7 (7)	8 (9)
Partial response	28 (30)	40 (43)	40 (43)
Stable disease for ≥6 mo	2 (2)	6 (6)	5 (5)
Progressive disease	31 (33)	28 (30)	33 (35)
Could not be evaluated†	9 (10)	13 (14)	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.

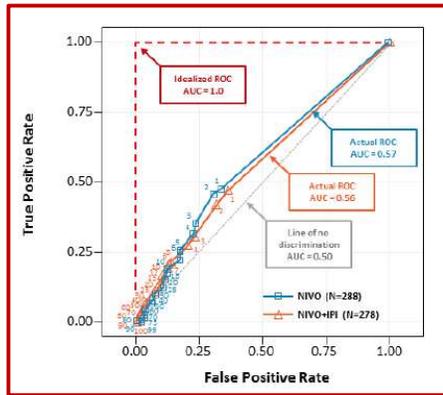
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The use of PD-L1 status to predict overall survival is poor with single-agent PD-1 or combined ipi/nivo...



PDL-1 (%)	≥ 1	< 1	≥ 5	< 5	≥ 10	< 10
Ipilimumab	19%	18%	21%	17%	20%	18%
Nivolumab	54%	35%	58%	42%	58%	44%
Ipi/Nivo	65%	54%	72%	56%	85%	55%

...but, PD-L1 status predicts higher response rate with combo at every PD-L1 expression cut-off

Wolchok, NEJM 2017.
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Approved combination therapy in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Atezolizumab + cobimetinib + vemurafenib	2020	BRAF V600 mutation-positive unresectable or metastatic melanoma	28-day cycle of vem/cobi, then atezo 840 mg Q2W + cobi 60 mg Q1D (21 D on, 7 D off) + vem 720 mg twice daily

IMspire150 – BRAFV600-positive melanoma

Atezolizumab + cobimetinib + vemurafenib vs Placebo + cobimetinib + vemurafenib

Median PFS: 15.1 vs 10.6 months

AEs leading to discontinuation: 13% vs 16%

Gutzmer, Lancet 2020
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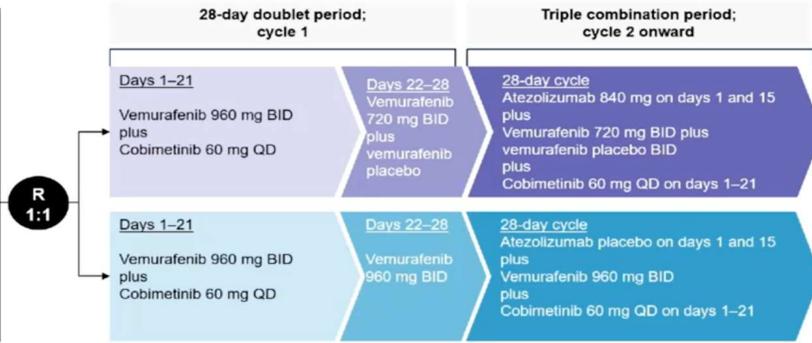




Evaluation of atezolizumab (A), cobimetinib (C), and vemurafenib (V) in previously untreated patients with BRAFV600 mutation-positive advanced melanoma: Primary results from the phase 3 IMspire150 trial

- Previously untreated, advanced BRAF^{V600} mutation-positive melanoma
 - ECOG PS 0 to 1
 - Measurable disease by RECIST v1.1
- Randomized 514 patients**
- Randomization stratified by:
- Geographic region and
 - Centrally tested LDH level (\leq ULN versus $>$ ULN)

- Primary endpoint**
- Investigator-assessed PFS



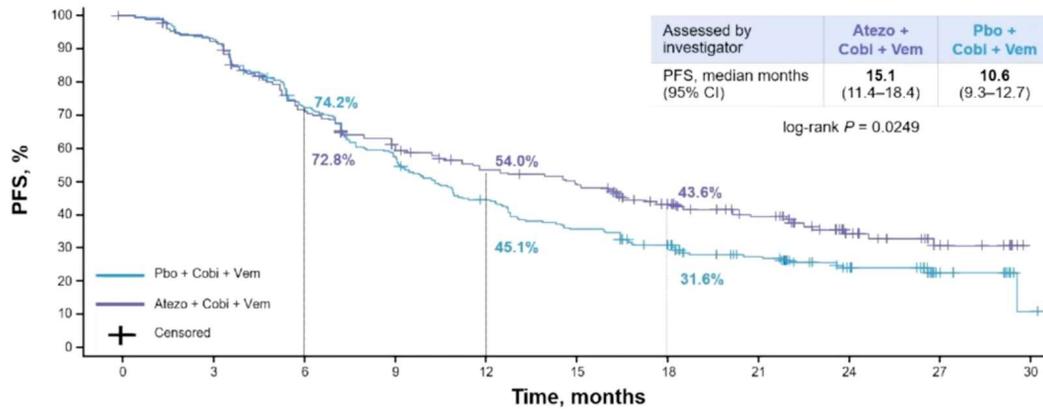
- Key secondary endpoints**
- PFS assessed by an IRC
 - Objective response (confirmed by observations at least 4 weeks apart)
 - DOR
 - OS

McArthur, AACR 2020.

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Results – Investigator-assessed PFS



McArthur, AACR 2020.

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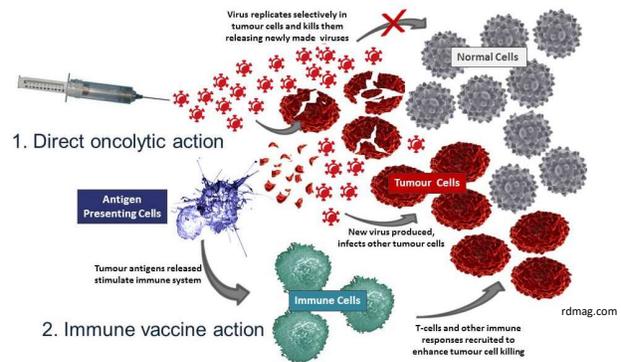


In development: Neoadjuvant immunotherapy in advanced melanoma

Trial	Regimen	N	pCR (%)	med RFS (mo)	med FU (mo)
Amaria Lancet Oncol 2018	<i>Dab/Tram</i>	21	58	19.7	18.6
Long Lancet Oncol 2019	<i>Dab/Tram</i>	35	49	23.0	27.0
Blank Nat Med 2018	Ipi+nivo	10	33	NR	32
Amaria Nat Med 2018	Nivo	12	25	NR	20
	Ipi+nivo	11	45	NR	
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.
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Approved oncolytic virus in melanoma



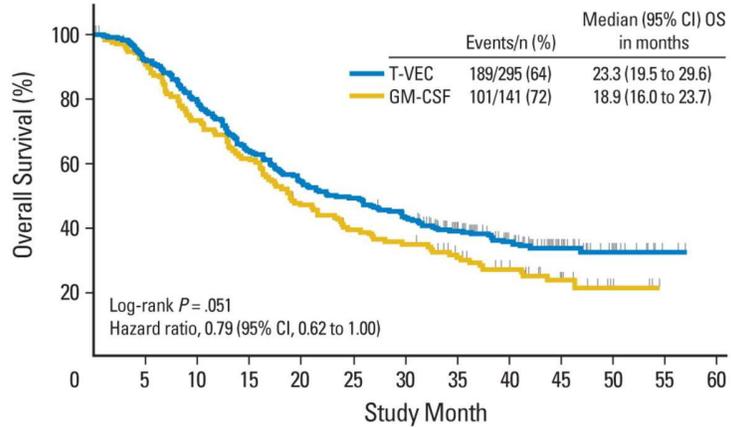
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Talimogene laherparepvec (T-Vec)	2015	Local treatment of unresectable cutaneous, subcutaneous, and nodal lesions in recurrent melanoma after surgery	Intralesional injection: ≤4 mL at 10 ⁶ PFU/mL starting; 10 ⁸ PFU/mL subsequent

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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.
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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

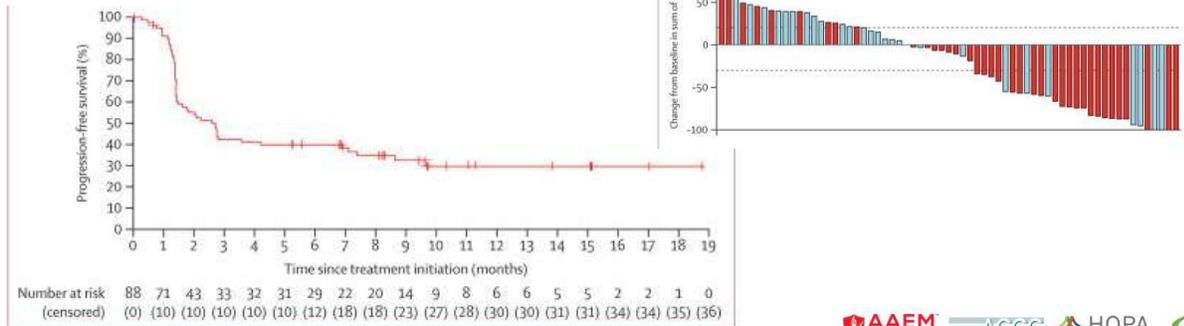
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Avelumab in 2nd-line metastatic Merkel Cell carcinoma

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

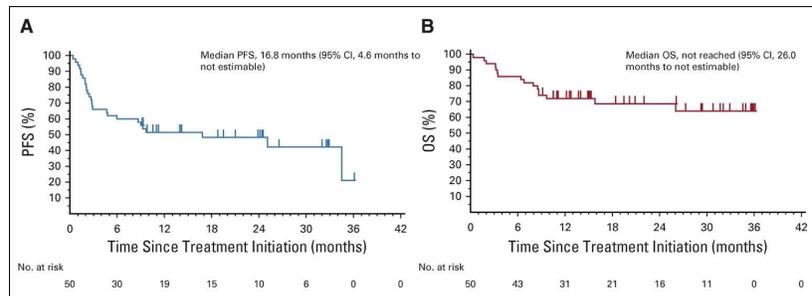


Kaufman, Lancet Oncol 2016.
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Pembrolizumab in 1st-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

- 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%



Nghiem, J Clin Oncol 2019.
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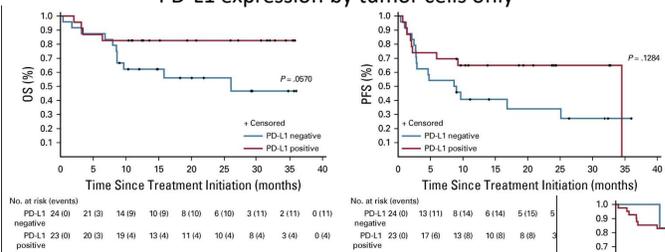




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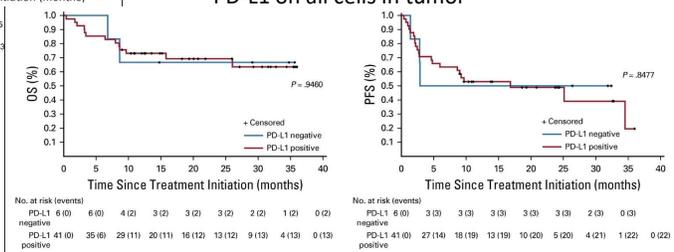
Pembrolizumab in 1st-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

PD-L1 expression by tumor cells only



Time Since Treatment Initiation (months)

PD-L1 on all cells in tumor



Time Since Treatment Initiation (months)

Nghiem, J Clin Oncol 2019.
© 2019–2020 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



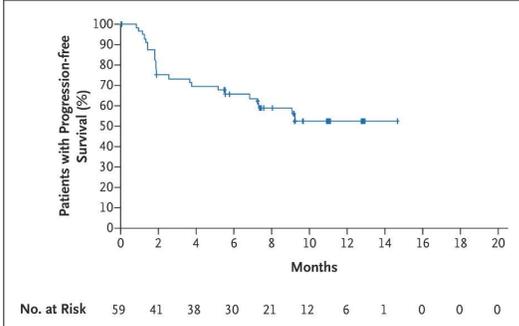





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Cemiplimab in advanced/metastatic cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma

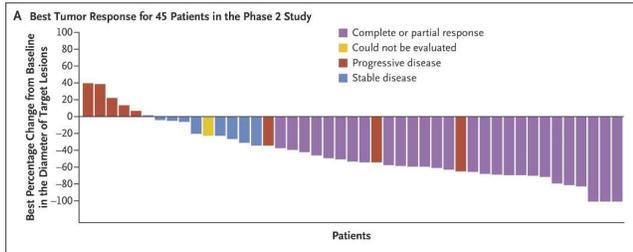
- Cemiplimab 3mg/kg Q2W
- 47% response rate in metastatic patients
- 60% of locally advanced had objective response



Months

No. at Risk: 59, 41, 38, 30, 21, 12, 6, 1, 0, 0, 0

A Best Tumor Response for 45 Patients in the Phase 2 Study



Migden, NEJM 2018.

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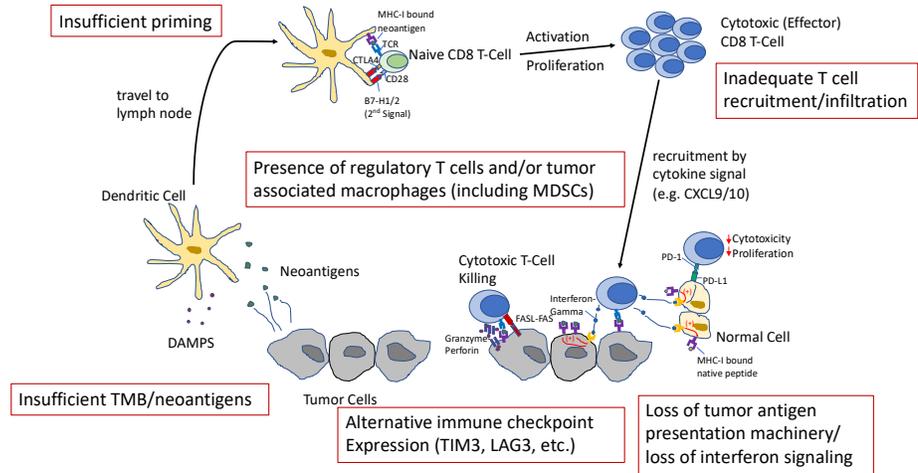







Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How does immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy fail?



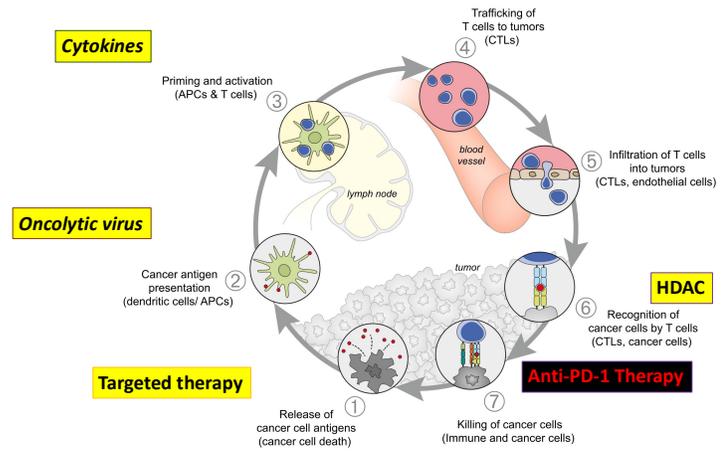
Modified from Liu, Jenkins, Sullivan. Amer J Clin Derm 2018.
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Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How do we overcome resistance?

Combination therapy



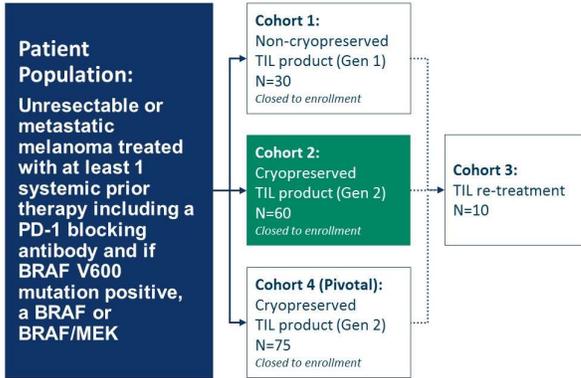
Modified from Chen and Melman. Immunity 2015.
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Long-term follow up of lifileucel (LN-144) cryopreserved autologous tumor infiltrating lymphocyte therapy in patients with advanced melanoma progressed on prior therapies

Study design



Cohort 2 Endpoints:

- Primary: Efficacy defined as investigator-assessed Objective Response Rate (ORR) following RECIST 1.1
- Secondary: Safety and efficacy

Other Key Eligibility Criteria:

- One tumor lesion resectable for TIL generation (~1.5cm in diameter) and ≥ one tumor lesion as target for RECIST 1.1 assessment
- Age ≥ 18 years at the time of consent
- ECOG Performance Status of 0-1

Methods:

- Data Extract: 23 April 2020 for Cohort 2
- Cohort 2 Safety and Efficacy sets: 66 patients who underwent resection for the purpose of TIL generation and received lifileucel infusion

Sarnaik, ASCO 2020.

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Results

RESPONSE	PATIENTS, N=66 n (%)
Objective Response Rate	24 (36.4)
Complete Response	2 (3.0)
Partial Response	22 (33.3)
Stable Disease	29 (43.9)
Progressive Disease	9 (13.6)
Non-Evaluable ⁽¹⁾	4 (6.1)
Disease Control Rate	53 (80.3)
Median Duration of Response	Not Reached
Min, Max (months)	2.2, 26.9+

- After a median study follow-up of 18.7 months, median DOR was still not reached (range 2.2, 26.9+)
- Response was seen regardless of location of tumor resected
- Mean number of TIL cells infused: 27.3 x 10⁹

PREFERRED TERM	Cohort 2 (N=66)		
	Any Grade, n (%)	Grade 3/4, n (%)	Grade 5, n (%)
Number of patients reporting at least one Treatment-Emergent AE	66 (100)	64 (97.0)	2 (3.0)*
Thrombocytopenia	59 (89.4)	54 (81.8)	0
Chills	53 (80.3)	4 (6.1)	0
Anemia	45 (68.2)	37 (56.1)	0
Pyrexia	39 (59.1)	11 (16.7)	0
Neutropenia	37 (56.1)	26 (39.4)	0
Febrile neutropenia	36 (54.5)	36 (54.5)	0
Hypophosphatemia	30 (45.5)	23 (34.8)	0
Leukopenia	28 (42.4)	23 (34.8)	0
Fatigue	26 (39.4)	1 (1.5)	0
Hypotension	24 (36.4)	7 (10.6)	0
Lymphopenia	23 (34.8)	21 (31.8)	0
Tachycardia	23 (34.8)	1 (1.5)	0

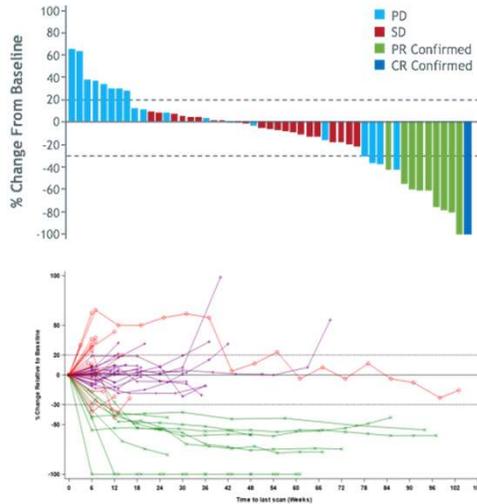
Sarnaik, ASCO 2020.

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In development: Combined IO with HDAC inhibitor

- Entinostat + pembrolizumab
- 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.

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Conclusions

- Melanoma was one of the foundational disease states for testing immunotherapies
- Immunotherapy has markedly improved outcomes in melanoma
- 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 rate, more durable responses and may overcome resistance to single agent therapy

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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. Sullivan¹, Michael B. Atkins², John M. Kirkwood³, Sanjiv S. Agarwala⁴, Joseph I. Clark⁵, Marc S. Ernstoff⁶, Leslie Fecher⁷, Thomas F. Gajewski⁸, Brian Gastman⁹, David H. Lawson¹⁰, Jose Lutzky¹¹, David F. McDermott¹², Kim A. Margolin¹³, Janice M. Mehnert¹⁴, Anna C. Pavlick¹⁵, Jon M. Richards¹⁶, Krista M. Rubin¹, William Sharfman¹⁷, Steven Silverstein¹⁸, Craig L. Slingluff Jr¹⁹, Vernon K. Sondak²⁰, Ahmad A. Tarhini²¹, John A. Thompson²², Walter J. Urba²³, Richard L. White²⁴, Eric D. Whitman²⁵, F. Stephen Hodi²⁶ and Howard L. Kaufman^{1*}

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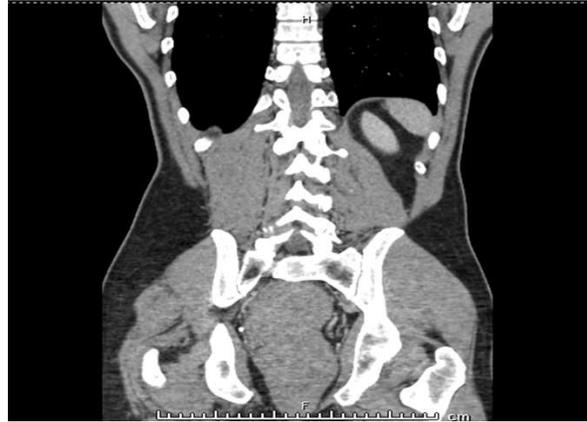
Case Studies

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Case Study 1

- 50 year-old man presenting with increasing left lower quadrant pain, constipation and rectal bleeding. ECOG PS 1
- Colonoscopy revealed large ulcerated pigmented mass extensively involving the rectum.
- Biopsy: melanoma
- NGS: BRAF, NRAS, KIT all WT
- PET/CT and CT CAP: large hypermetabolic mass occupying entire anorectal area, hypermetabolic bilateral paraaortic LNs.
- MRI brain: no brain metastases



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Case Study 1

1. What would be your next step:
 - A. Radical surgical resection as needed to excise all disease followed by RT.
 - B. Limited surgical resection to achieve negative margins if possible
 - C. Systemic chemotherapy with dacarbazine because immunotherapy does not work for mucosal melanomas
 - D. Immunotherapy with ipilimumab plus nivolumab or either drug as single agent

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Case Study 1

1. What would be your next step:
 - A. Radical surgical resection as needed to excise all disease followed by RT.
 - B. Limited surgical resection to achieve negative margins if possible
 - C. Systemic chemotherapy with dacarbazine because immunotherapy does not work for mucosal melanomas
 - D. Immunotherapy with ipilimumab plus nivolumab or either drug as single agent ✓

Case Study 1

The patient was enrolled in a clinical trial with ipilimumab 3mg/kg + nivolumab 1 mg/kg every 3 weeks x 4 followed by nivolumab 3 mg/kg every 4weeks.

One week after cycle 1 he developed grade 2 colitis and grade 2 hepatitis, resolved after treatment with steroids.

2. What would you do now?
 - A. Continue treatment at reduced doses of both drugs
 - B. Stop treatment and reconsider surgery or chemotherapy
 - C. Switch to single agent immunotherapy
 - D. Once AEs resolve after steroid taper, resume combination immunotherapy

Case Study 1

The patient was enrolled in a clinical trial with ipilimumab 3mg/kg + nivolumab 1 mg/kg every 3 weeks x 4 then nivolumab 3 mg/kg every 4weeks.

One week after cycle 1 he developed grade 2 colitis and grade 2 hepatitis, resolved after treatment with steroids.

2. What would you do now?

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- B. Stop treatment and reconsider surgery or chemotherapy
- C. Switch to single agent immunotherapy
- D. Once AEs resolve after steroid taper, resume combination immunotherapy ✓

Case Study 1

Treatment resumed with no changes. One week after cycle 2 he developed grade 4 colitis treated with steroids and infliximab x 2.

3. The best approach now is to:

- A. Complete the planned 4 cycles of ipi/nivo after AEs resolve
- B. Slowly taper steroids over at least 4 weeks and hold further combination immunotherapy
- C. Continue treatment after AEs resolve but give concomitant infliximab
- D. Immediately start dacarbazine-based regimen

Case Study 1

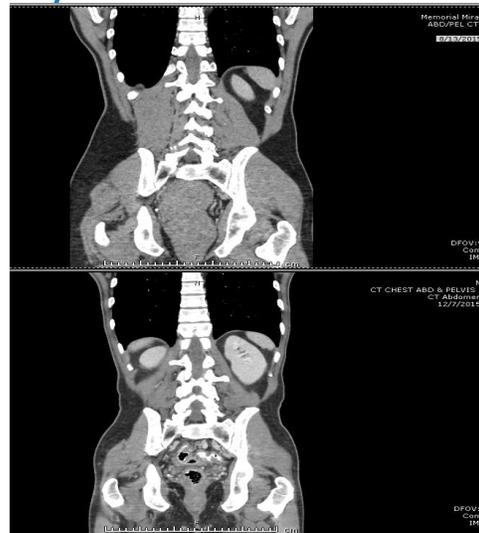
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- C. Continue treatment after AEs resolve but give concomitant infliximab
- D. Immediately start dacarbazine-based regimen

Case Study 1

- Treatment was held, patient was put on a low steroid taper.
- Colitis eventually resolved.
- CT shows near CR; PET negative
- Colonoscopy showed NED
- He underwent colonoscopy that revealed one remaining focus of active disease.
- Colectomy was performed
- He is disease-free at 5-year f/u.



Case Study 2

- 92 year-old woman with no known history of skin cancers until 2016 when she began to develop multiple, recurrent squamous cell carcinomas of the face.
- She underwent multiple resections with rapid recurrences at the resected site as well as dermal extension of the tumors to adjacent areas.
- Pathology was consistent with poorly differentiated squamous cell carcinoma.
- A lesion on the right cheek that had recurred multiple times was treated with radiation therapy.
- After a brief period of control, the right cheek tumor started to grow again
- Additional lesions in the nasal bridge, right eyebrow and right forehead appeared and grew rapidly.
- Right neck adenopathy was noted and biopsy revealed metastatic disease.

Case Study 2

1. What is the best treatment option for this elderly patient ?
 - A. Further attempts at resection and radiation therapy
 - B. Systemic chemotherapy or EGFR inhibitors such as cetuximab
 - C. Anti-PD1 blocking antibody therapy
 - D. Intratumor oncolytic virus therapy

Case Study 2

1. What is the best treatment option for this elderly patient ?
 - A. Further attempts at resection and radiation therapy
 - B. Systemic chemotherapy or EGFR inhibitors such as cetuximab
 - C. Anti-PD1 blocking antibody therapy ✓
 - D. Intratumor oncolytic virus therapy

Case Study 2

- She enrolled in a clinical trial testing the efficacy of an anti PD-L1 antibody in patients with metastatic or unresectable squamous cell carcinoma.
- Six weeks after her treatment there was further growth of the lesions with increased erythema and tenderness to palpation.

Case Study 2

2. What would you do now regarding her treatment?
- A. Immediately stop treatment and reconsider chemo/cetuximab
 - B. Discuss palliative care options including hospice
 - C. Continue therapy as planned
 - D. None of the above

Case Study 2

2. What would you do now regarding her treatment?
- A. Immediately stop treatment and reconsider chemo/cetuximab
 - B. Discuss palliative care options including hospice
 - C. Continue therapy as planned ✓
 - D. None of the above

Case Study 2

- Treatment was continued
- Over the following 4 weeks all lesions started to regress
- By week 12 all lesions had resolved
- A non-healing ulcer remained in the right forehead for 18 months
- Biopsy showed no residual SCC
- The patient has agreed to see a plastic surgery to graft the open wound.

Case Study 2



August 2017

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