

Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Skin Cancers

Anthony J. Olszanski, MD, RPh
Associate Professor
Fox Chase Cancer Center











Disclosures

- Consulting Fees:
 - Novartis

• I will be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.





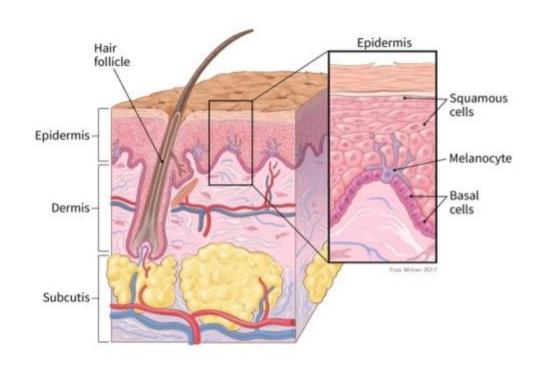






Background

- 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 ≥ 12 yr	3 mg/kg Q3W for 4 doses





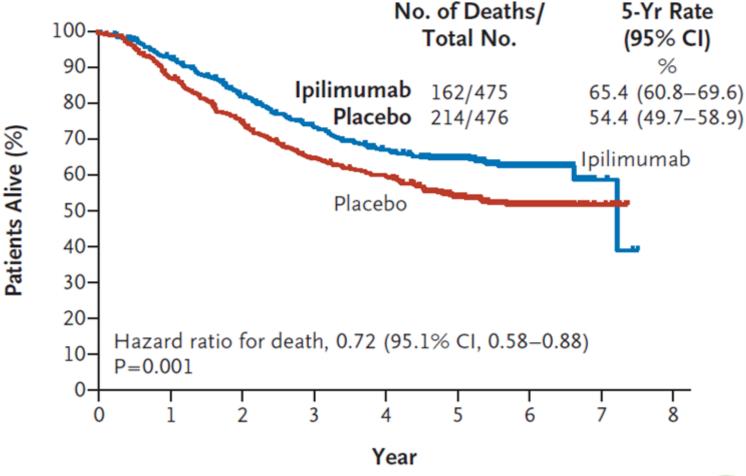






Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- 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











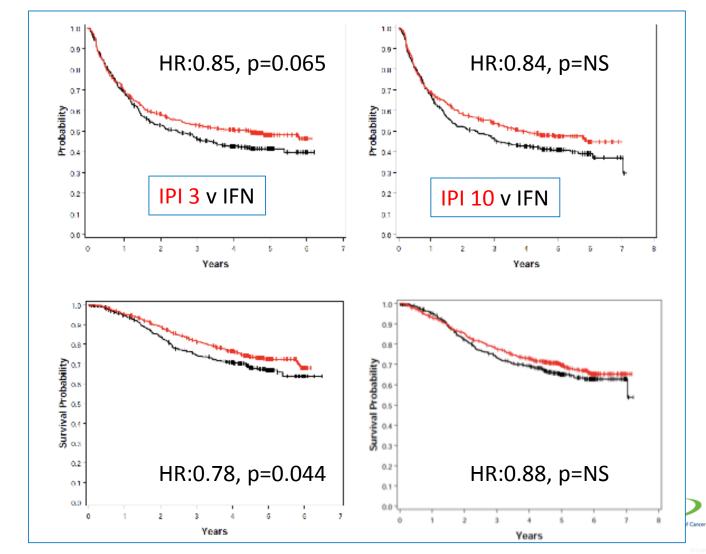


Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- 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

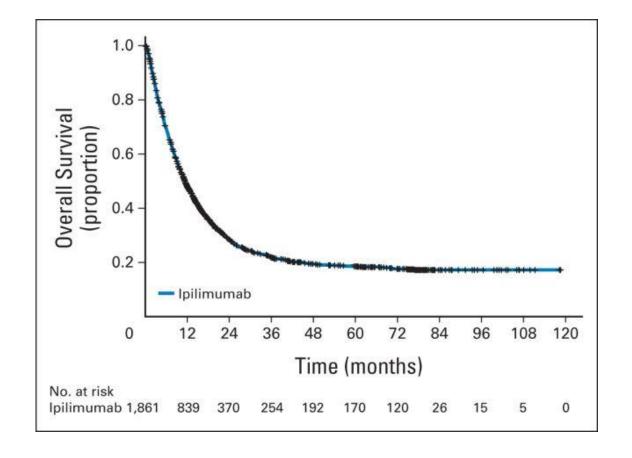
OS





Ipilimumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

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













Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

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





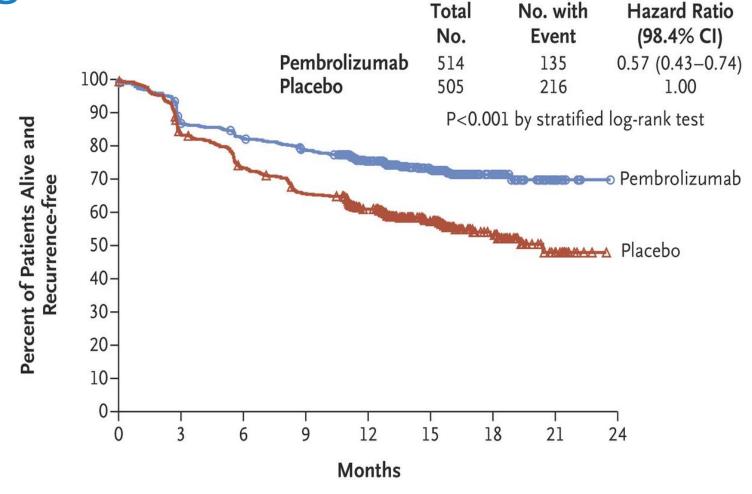






Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

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







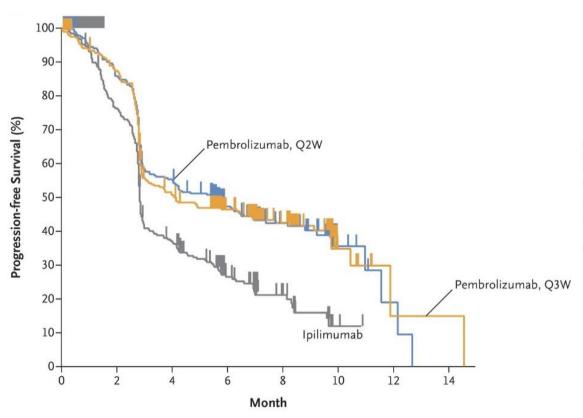


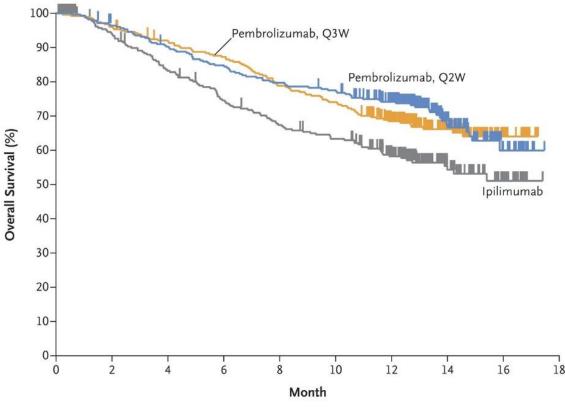




Pembrolizumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

Phase III KEYNOTE-006 Trial















Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Approved Indication		
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				





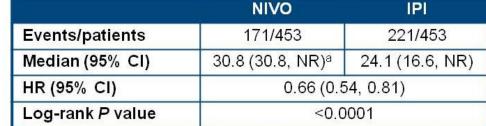


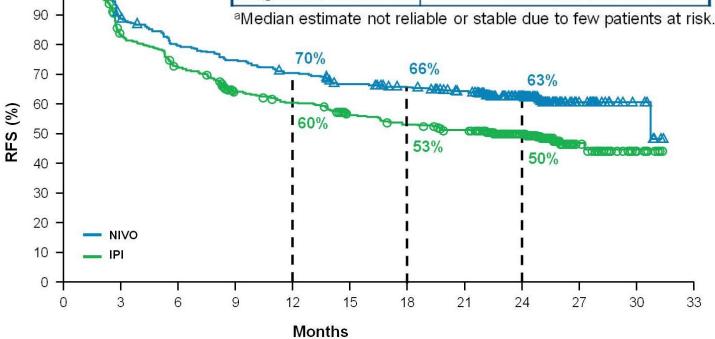




Adjuvant Nivolumab vs Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- 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















Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumah ı Inilimumah	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
Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	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





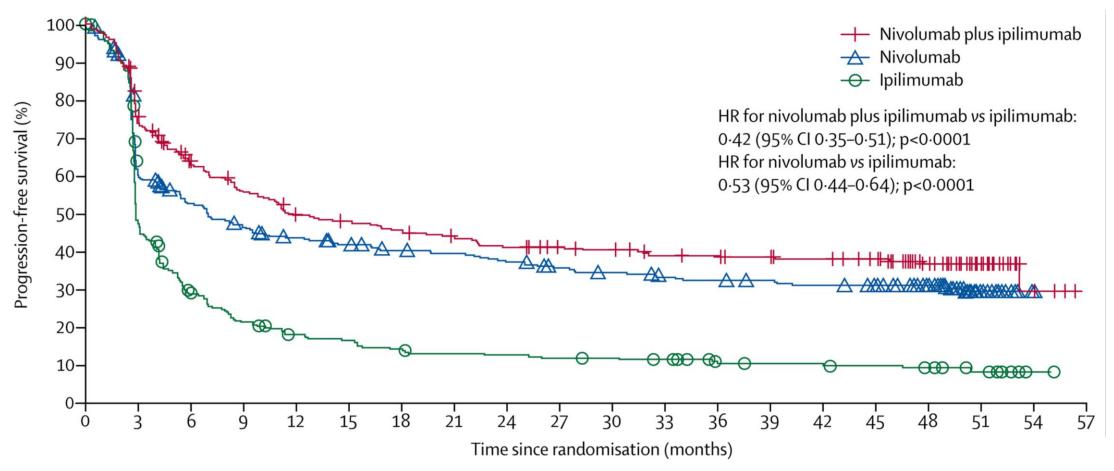






Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

Phase III CheckMate 067 Trial







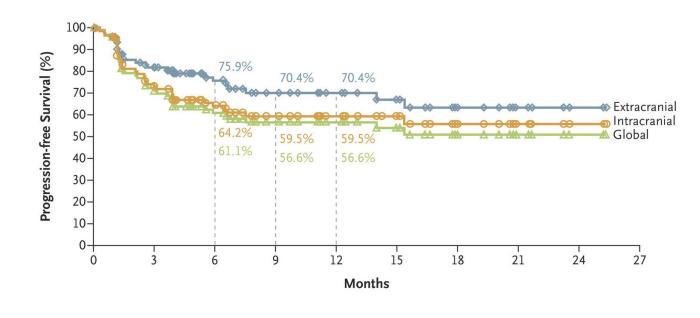






Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Patients with Asymptomatic Brain Metastases

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)





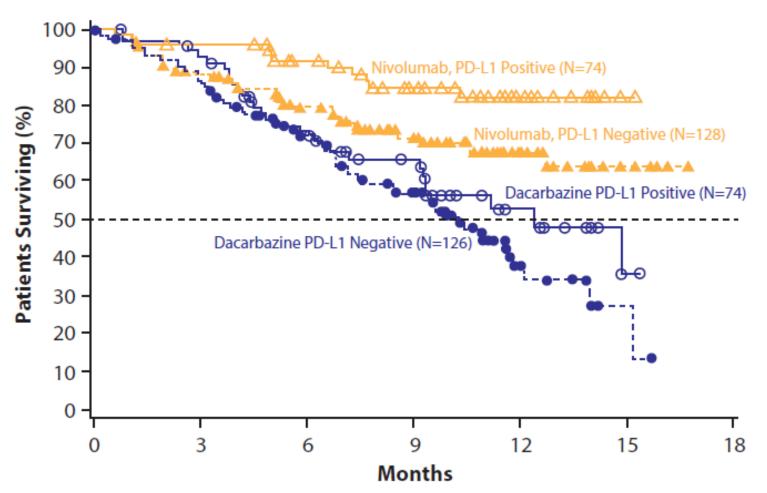








Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status with Anti-PD-1 Monotherapy



	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)



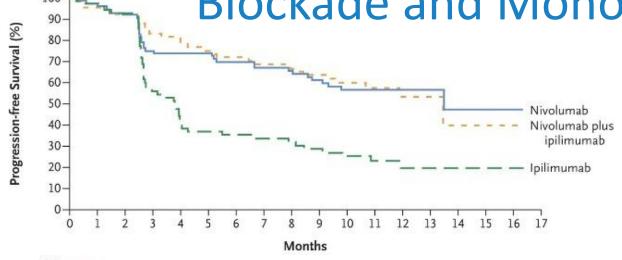




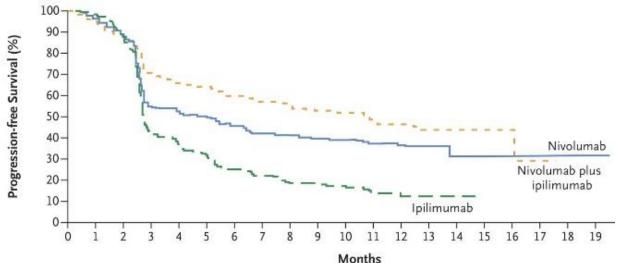




Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status between Combination Checkpoint Blockade and Monotherapy



Tumor PD-L1 Positive Patients



Tumor PD-L1 Negative Patients



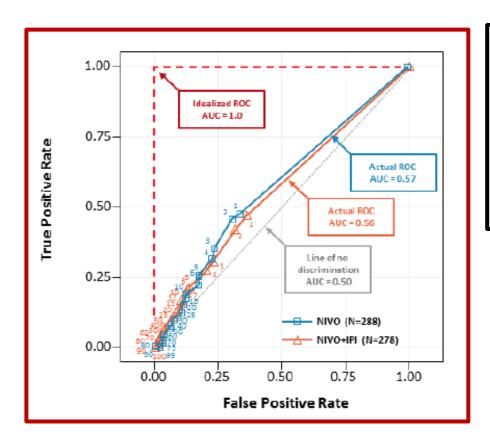








The use of PD-L1 status to predict overall survival is poor with single-agent PD-1 or combined ipi/nivo...



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

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











In development: Neoadjuvant immunotherapy in advanced melanoma

Trial	Regimen	N	pCR (%)	med RFS (mo)	med FU (mo)
Amaria Lancet Oncol 2018	Dab/Tram	21	58	19.7	18.6
Long Lancet Oncol 2019	Dab/Tram	35	49	23.0	27.0
Blank Nat Med 2018	lpi+nivo	10	33	NR	32
Amaria Nat Med 2018	Nivo Ipi+nivo	12 11	25 45	NR NR	20
Huang Nat Med 2019	Pembro	30	19	NR	18
Rozeman Lancet Oncol 2019	lpi+nivo	86	57	NR	8.3





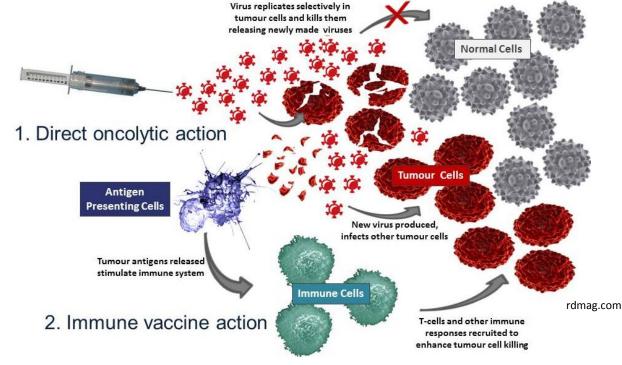






Approved oncolytic virus in

melanoma



Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
imogene epvec (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







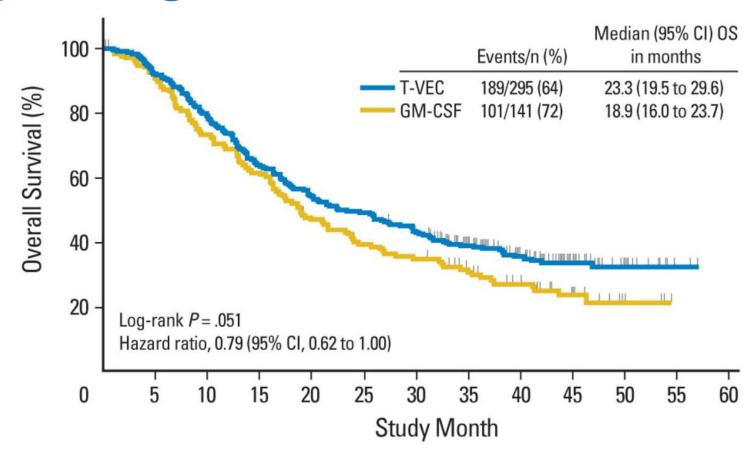




Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) in Stage III/IV Melanoma

Phase III OPTiM Trial

- Oncolytic, geneticallyengineered herpes virus
- Intralesional T-VEC
 106 pfu/mL,
 108 pfu/mL 3 weeks
 after initial dose, then
 Q2W
- Subcutaneous GM-CSF













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





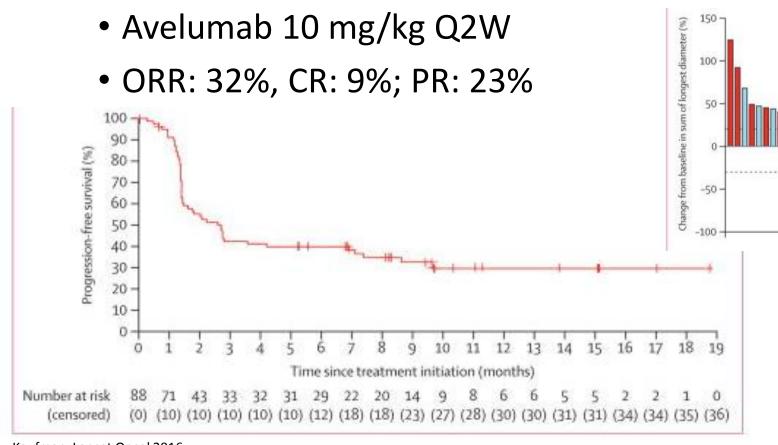






Avelumab in 2nd-line metastatic Merkel Cell carcinoma

• 1st FDA-approved treatment for this status







One previous line of any systemic therapy (n=39)
 Two or more previous lines of any systemic therapy (n=26)

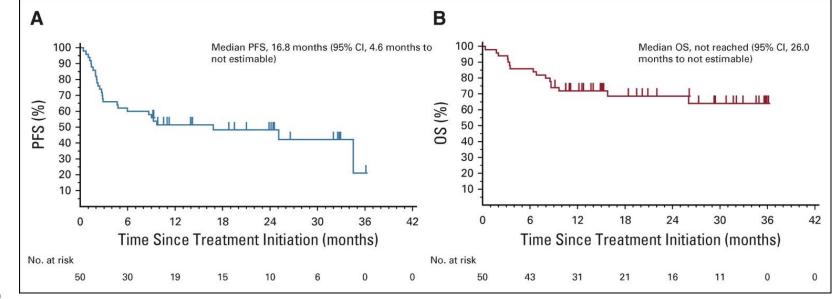






Pembrolizumab in 1st-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

- 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%





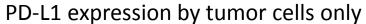








Pembrolizumab in 1st-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

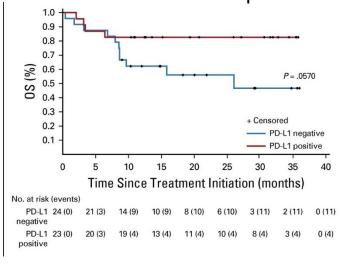


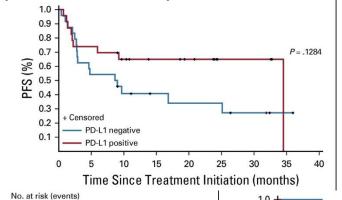
negative

positive

PD-L1 23 (0)

17 (6)

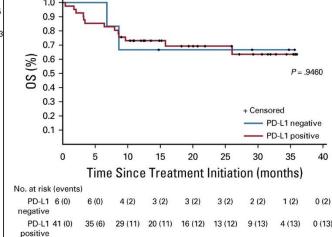


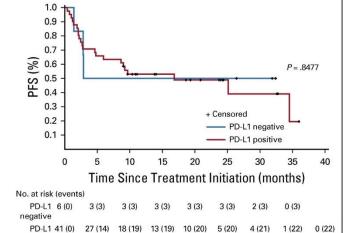


13 (11) 8 (14) 6 (14) 5 (15)

13 (8)











positive

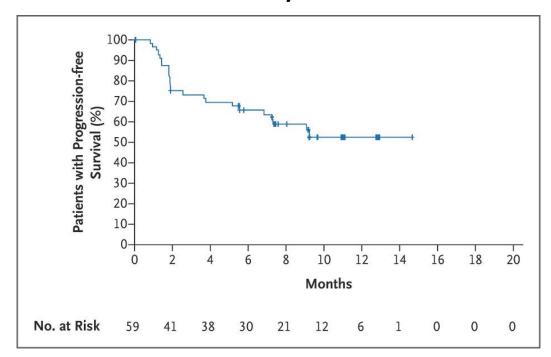


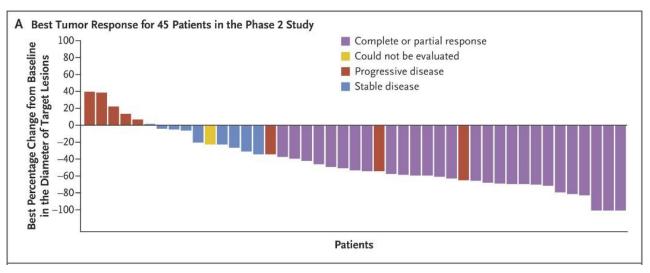




Cemiplimab in advanced/metastatic cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma

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





Migden, NEJM 2018.





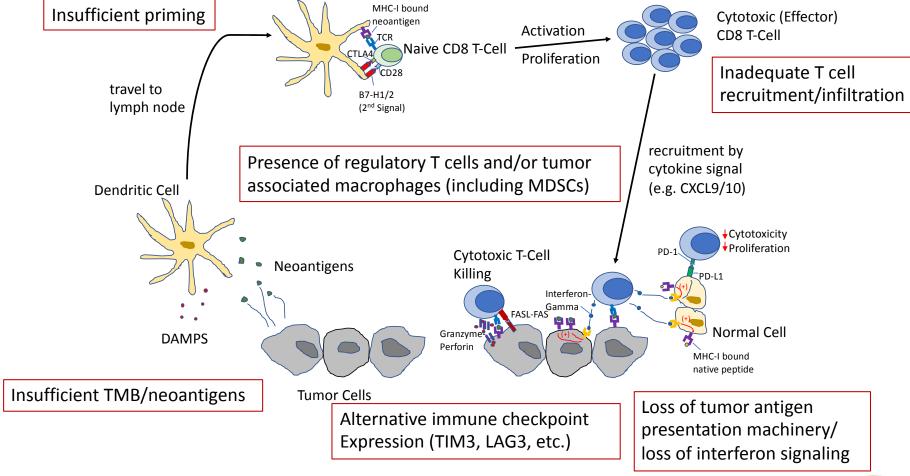






Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How does immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy fail?









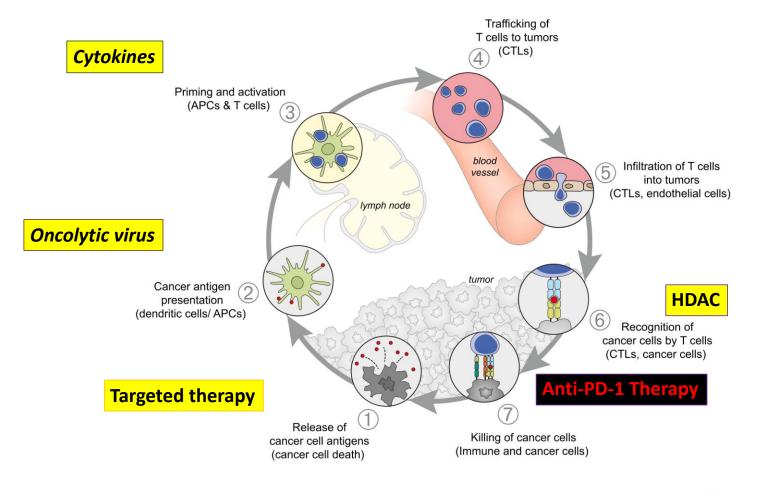




Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How do we overcome resistance?

Combination therapy







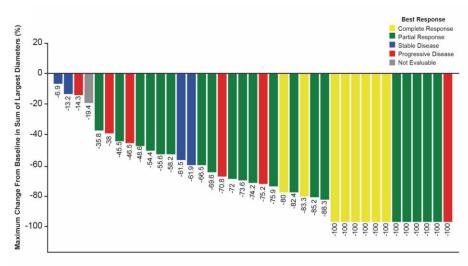




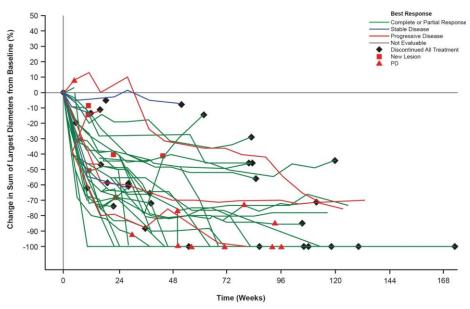


In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy

- Cobimetinib + vemurafenib + atezolizumab
- ORR: 71.8%
- Median duration of response: 17.4 mo



Sullivan et al. Nature Med. 2019



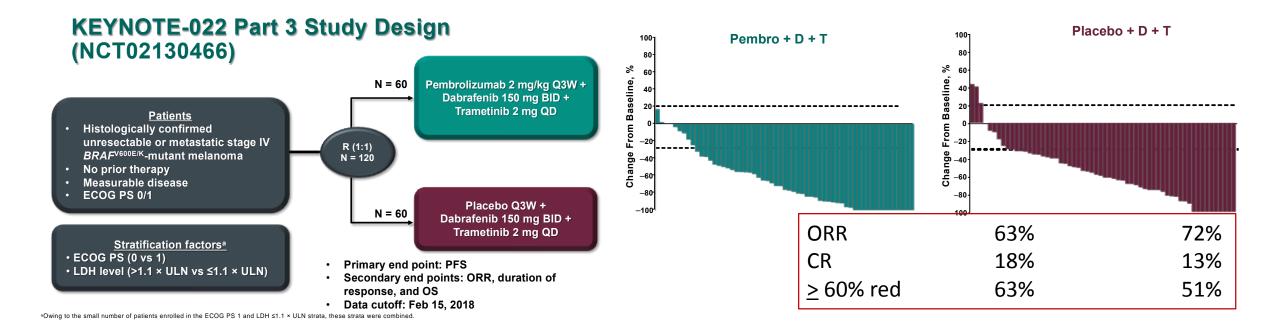








In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy











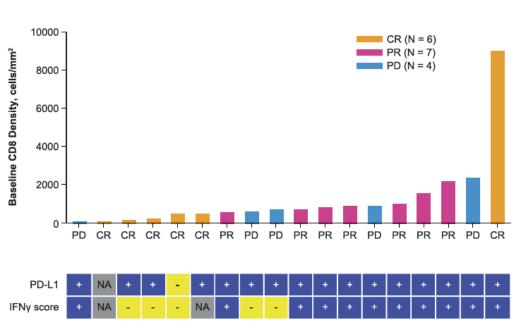


In development: Combined IO with **Oncolytic Virus**

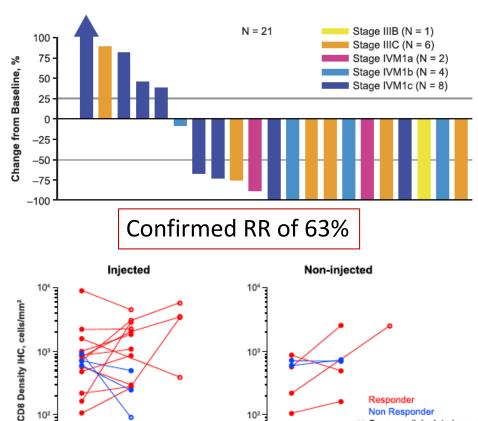
Wk1

Wk6

Wk30



Phase I: Pembrolizumab + TVFC



Ribas et al Cell 2017

Non Responder

Wk30

oo Cancer-cell depleted sample



10² -



Wk6



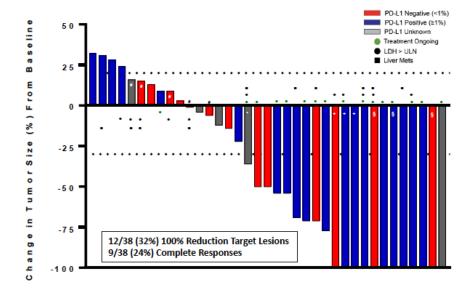




In development: Combined IO with IL-2 (NKTR-214)

Efficacy (response rate)
data from nonrandomized cohorts of
urothelial bladder cancer,
renal cell carcinoma, and
melanoma looks
promising

Stage IV IO-Naïve 1L Melanoma Cohort at RP2D Best Overall Response by Independent Radiology



1L Melanoma (n=38 Efficacy Evaluable)	Overall Response Rate
Confirmed ORR (CR+PR)	20 (53%)
CR	9 (24%)
DCR (CR+PR+SD)	29 (76%)
PD-L1 negative (n=14)	6 (43%)
PD-L1 positive (n=19)	13 (68%)
PD-L1 unknown (n=5)	1 (20%)
LDH > ULN (n=11)	5 (45%)
Liver metastases (n=10)	5 (50%)

High level of concordance in ORR between independent central radiology (53%) and investigator-assessed 19/38 (50%).







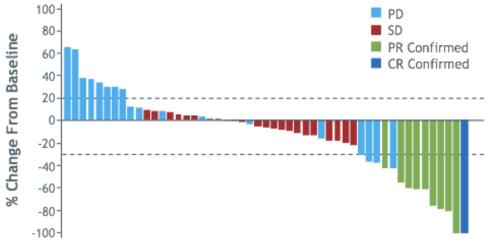


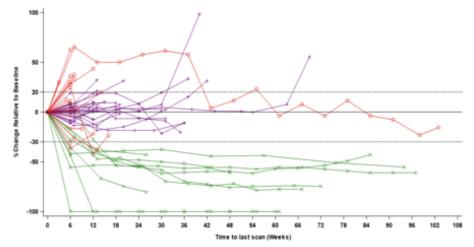


In development: Combined IO with

HDAC inhibitor

- Entinostat + pembrolizumab
- 19% ORR (1 CR, 9 PR)
- Median duration of response: 13 mo
- 9 additional patients with SD for >6 mo















Conclusions

- Melanoma was one of the foundational disease states for testing immunotherapies
- 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 rates and more durable responses











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*}











Case Studies











Case Study 1











CASE 1: Treatment decisions

50-year-old male, melanoma of right neck

- ≥ 6.5 mm, ulceration (T4b), mitoses ~ 12/mm², no LVI.
- MRI brain: No evidence of metastatic disease
- PET/CT: Right neck lymph node and right axillary tail node/mass FDG avid, cN2b disease (palpable)
- Final workup Stage: IIIC (pT4b, cN2b, cM0)











50-year-old male with newly diagnosed stage III melanoma, BRAF unknown.

What is the next best plan of treatment?

- A. Complete lymphadenectomy
- B. BRAF targeted therapy
- C. Observation
- D. Immunotherapy
- E. Talimogene laherparepvec











50-year-old male with newly diagnosed stage III melanoma, BRAF unknown.

What is the next best plan of treatment?

- A. Complete lymphadenectomy: This patient had macroscopic lymphadenopathy. Standard care includes CLND.
- B. BRAF targeted therapy: BRAF status is unknown; targeted therapy not indicated
- C. Observation
- D. Immunotherapy: With BRAF status unknown, PD-1 inhibitor is SOC
- E. Talimogene laherparepvec











Recurrence in 2016

- Patient was treated in 2014 and received interferon – discontinued post 3 doses
- PET/CT 2016: widespread metastatic disease
 - Neck
 - Chest
 - Abdomen
 - Pelvis
 - Upper and lower extremities













What are the current best options for this patient?

50-year-old male with recurrent/metastatic melanoma: BRAF V600E+

- A. High-dose IL-2
- B. Darcarbazine
- C. PD-1 and CTLA4 combination
- D. Ipilimumab
- E. BRAF/MEK targeted therapy











What are the current best options for this patient?

50-year-old male with recurrent/metastatic melanoma: BRAF V600E+

- A. High-dose IL-2
- B. Darcarbazine
- C. PD-1 and CTLA4 combination: This is a preferred regimen
- D. Ipilimumab
- E. BRAF/MEK targeted therapy: This is a reasonable option





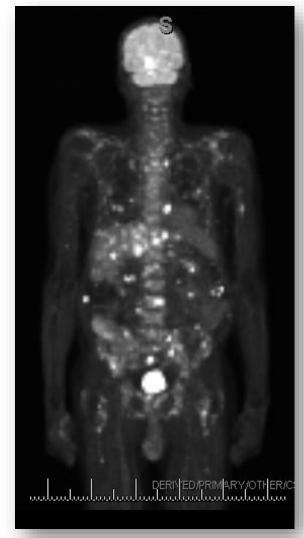






Checkpoint **Efficacy**

Before treatment



After treatment



Image @ AJ Olszanski











Treatment Decisions

- Underwent surgical resection of subcutaneous nodules
- Wide local excision of the abdominal lesion failed to show any viable tumor
 - (+) heavily pigmented cells
- Apparent complete pathologic response to therapy













Case Study 2











Case 2: In-transit metastasis

- 76 year-old-female
 - develops "rash" fall 2016
 - unresolved with antibiotics
 - worsens
- 1/2018: biopsy → melanoma
- PET scan
 - no clear primary
 - Left inguinal adenopathy
- History of ulcerative colitis (active)
- BRAF negative



Image © AJ Olszanski











Note: Significant comorbidity of ulcerative colitis

- required immunosuppression
- intermittent diarrhea/abdominal pain

What is most appropriate recommendation?

- A. Topical imiquimod
- B. PD-1 therapy
- C. CTLA-4 therapy
- D. Oncolytic vaccine
- E. Palliative care











Note: Significant comorbidity of ulcerative colitis

- required immunosuppression
- intermittent diarrhea/abdominal pain

What is most appropriate recommendation?

- A. Topical imiquimod
- B. PD-1 therapy
- C. CTLA-4 therapy Relative contraindication
- D. Oncolytic vaccine: Preferred in this patient who has injectable disease and is on immunosuppression for colitis
- E. Palliative care





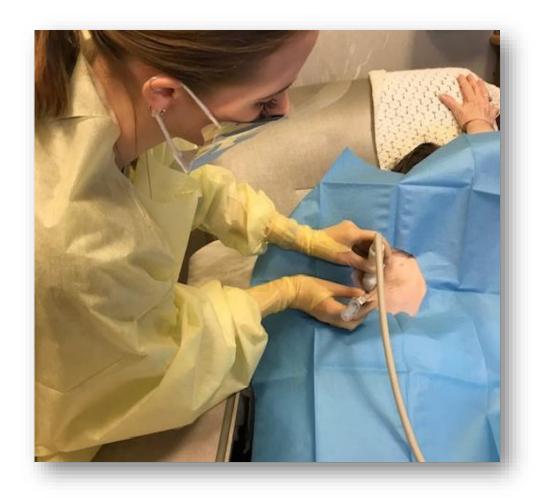






Injections

- In-office
- Local anesthetic
- Minimally-invasive
- US guidance with appropriate training
 - Intra-nodal injections
 - Intra-tumor injections
- Raises logistical issues





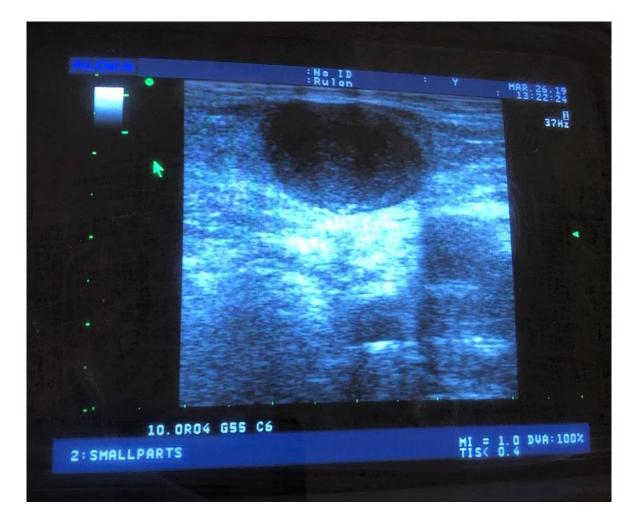








Video demonstration













Post TVEC

- Initiated TVEC 3/8/2017
- Completed 1/2/2018
 - no remaining injectable disease
- 15 injection sessions
- Groin node (not injected) smaller
- Now 78 years old and ambulating again



Image © AJ Olszanski











Case Study 3











Patient workup

30 year-old-female, initially Stage IIIC melanoma RUE

- WLE and SLNB: 2.5 mm nodular melanoma with 15 mitoses/mm²
- Ulcerated
- No LVI.
- 2 of 6 sentinel nodes positive
- pT3b, pN2a

Workup

- MRI brain normal
- PET/CT worrisome lesion in right iliac bone
- Biopsy
- NGS sent

→ metastatic melanoma

Pathologic Stage IV disease

• Final TNM stage pT3b, pN2a, pM1c











30 year-old-female, stage IV melanoma, BRAF WT

What is the best first line treatment?

- A. BRAF/MEK therapy
- B. Chemotherapy
- C. IL-2 with XRT
- D. PD-1 + CTLA-4 combination
- E. Resection of metastatic site











30 year-old-female, stage IV melanoma, BRAF WT

What is the best first line treatment?

- A. BRAF/MEK therapy
- B. Chemotherapy
- C. IL-2 with XRT
- D. PD-1 + CTLA-4 combination: This is standard of care
- E. Resection of metastatic site











Toxicity Management

Status post 3 doses of dual agent immunotherapy -- developed side effects including

- Nausea, vomiting
- GERD symptoms
- Weight loss
- Early satiety
- Anorexia



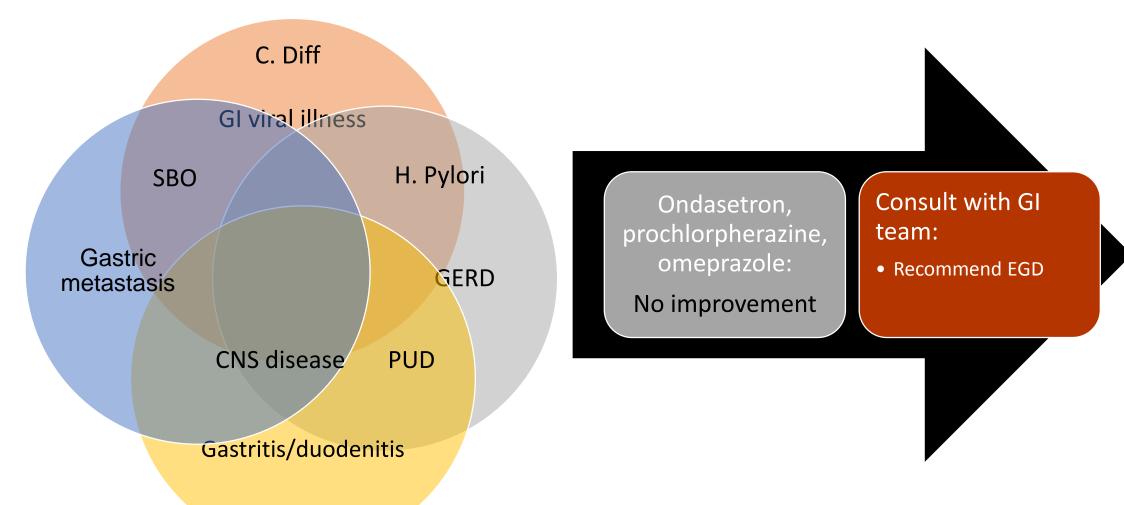








Differential diagnosis? Treatment and work-up?













Results of EGD

Stomach:

- Severe active gastritis
 - consistent with immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy effect

Duodenum:

- Erosive duodenitis
 - consistent with immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy effect











What treatment(s) for immune-mediated gastritis would be appropriate?

- A. Proton-pump inhibitor
- B. H. Pylori prophylaxis
- C. Oral steroids 0.5 mg/kg
- D. High dose IV steroids 1-2 mg/kg
- E. Dose reduction of immunotherapy











What treatment(s) for immune-mediated gastritis would be appropriate?

- A. Proton-pump inhibitor: This should be added but is not a primary treatment
- B. H. Pylori prophylaxis
- C. Oral steroids 0.5 mg/kg
- D. High dose IV steroids 1-2 mg/kg: This is most appropriate
- E. Dose reduction of immunotherapy











Treatment course

Completed 4 doses of ipi/nivo combo, initiated single agent nivolumab

Developed severe arthralgias and myalgias after 1 dose

Second hospital admission for IV steroids

 symptoms again resolved with a 1 month taper of steroids











Treatment course

Re-initiated single agent nivolumab

received 2 additional doses



New Symptoms

- significant fatigue
- new headaches
- mild nausea
- general malaise











What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Recurrent gastritis/duodenitis
- B. Hypophysitis
- C. CNS metastasis
- D. Viral illness
- E. Hyperthyroidism











What is the most likely diagnosis?

- A. Recurrent gastritis/duodenitis: Possible given history, but symptoms are different
- B. Hypophysitis: Based on the myriad of symptoms, this is the most likely diagnosis
- C. CNS metastasis: CNS disease should be ruled out
- D. Viral illness: Possible but other more serious etiologies should have first consideration
- E. Hyperthyroidism: Not likely based on symptoms











Which diagnostic test should be ordered?

- A. Prolactin
- B. Cortisol and ACTH
- C. TSH
- D. FSH/LH levels
- E. Human gonadotropin











Which diagnostic test should be ordered?

- A. Prolactin
- B. Cortisol and ACTH:
- C. TSH
- D. FSH/LH levels
- E. Human gonadotropin

Diagnostic test results

- Random cortisol (12:10 PM) = 0.5 (3-16)
- 9 AM cortisol < 0.4 (5-23)
- ACTH < 5 (6-50)











Immune-mediated side effects



Immune-related AEs

- Occurs across a wide range of organ systems
- HCPs must remain vigilant and have heightened sensitivity

Hypophysitis

- Required 3rd hospital admission for IV steroids
- Now requires lifelong steroid repletion for hypophysitis/adrenal insufficiency







