

Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancer Krzysztof Misiukiewicz, MD Associate Professor Tisch Cancer Institute







Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

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Disclosures

• Disclosures:

Advisory board honoraria: MERCK, BAYER, EISAI

• I will not be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.







Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

- Immuno-Oncology (I-O) developments in treatment of head and neck cancers
 - Expression of immunologic markers to guide treatment
 - Preventive vaccination against virally mediated cancers
 - PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of metastatic disease



Schoenfeld JD, Cancer Immunol Res, 2015









Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)



PD-1 acts as "off-switch" for T cells, allowing cancer cells to evade immune attack



Antibodies against PD-1 and PD-L1 boost the immune response against cancer cells







FDA-approved Checkpoint Inhibitors for Use in Head and Neck Cancers

- Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV Q3W(anti-PD-1)
 - KEYNOTE 012/055: Patients with recurrent or metastatic (R/M) squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (HNSCC) with disease progression on or after platinum-containing chemotherapy
 - Accelerated Approval by FDA August 5, 2016
- Nivolumab 240 mg IV Q2W or 480 mg IV Q4W (anti-PD-1)
 - CheckMate 141: Patients with R/M HNSCC with disease progression on or after a platinumbased therapy
 - Breakthrough Therapy Designation by FDA April, 2016
 - Approval November 10, 2016





KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC Nonrandomized, Phase 1b Trial, Cohorts[†] B, B2



Response assessment: Every 8 weeks until disease progression

Primary end points: ORR (RECIST v1.1, central imaging vendor review), safety

Secondary end points: ORR (investigator), PFS, OS, duration of response (DOR), ORR in HPV+ patients[§]

[†]Additional cohorts included bladder cancer, TN breast cancer, and gastric cancer. [‡]Treatment beyond progression was allowed. [§] Initial cohort only. *Median duration of disease not reached.











KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC Nonrandomized, Phase 1b Trial, Cohorts[†] B, B2

80-Overall Survival (%) 70-............... ·----. Caller Jauler 50-40-Overall population 30-- HPV-positive 20-HPV-negative Months Number at risk Overall population HPV-positive HPV-negative

- ORR = 18%
 - CR = 4%
 - PR = 14%
- mOS = 8.0 months
- mPFS = 2.2 months







KEYNOTE-055: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC after Progression on Platinum/Cetuximab Phase II Trial, Single Arm



Bauml J JCO 2017

Response assessment: Imaging every 6 to 9 weeks (central radiology review) **Primary end points:** ORR (RECIST v1.1) by Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors and safety **Secondary end points:** ORR (RECIST v1.1) in all dosed patients, ORR for HPV+, PD-L1+, DOR, PFS, OS *75% of patients had \geq 2 prior lines of therapy for metastatic disease







KEYNOTE-055: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC after Progression on Platinum/Cetuximab Phase II Trial, Single Arm

	All Patients	HPV Status		PD-L1 Status		
Outcome	N=171	Positive n=37	Negative n=131	≥1% n=140	<1% n=26	≥50% n=48
ORR, %	16	16	15	18	12	27
mPFS, mo	2.1					
6-mo PFS,%	23	25	21	24	20	31
6-mo OS, %	59	72	55	59	56	60

Bauml J, et al, J Clin Oncol. 2017

- Neither tumor PD-L1 expression or HPV status are sufficiently robust in guiding the use of pembrolizumab at this time.







CheckMate 141: Nivolumab vs Investigator's Choice in R/M HNSCC after Platinum Therapy Phase III Randomized, Safety and Efficacy Trial

Key Eligibility Criteria

- R/M SCCHN of the oral cavity, pharynx, or larynx
- Progression on or within 6 months of last dose of platinum-based therapy
- Irrespective of no. of prior lines of therapy
- Documentation of p16 to determine HPV status (oropharyngeal)
- Regardless of PD-L1 status^a

Stratification factor

• Prior cetuximab treatment

^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.

Ferris & Gillison, NEJM, 2016









Checkmate 141: Nivolumab vs Investigator's Choice in R/M HNSCC after Platinum Therapy Overall Survival: 2 year report







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Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Treatment with Brief Increase in Tumor Size

Pseudoprogression

- Early appearance of an increase in tumor burden, subsequently followed by tumor regression
- Initially recognized in the melanoma trials, with incidence up to 10%









Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Treatment with Brief Increase in Tumor Size

Case Report – KEYNOTE-012



 Both KEYNOTE-012 and CheckMate 141 trials showed an exceedingly rare rate of pseudoprogression with pembrolizumab and nivolumab, respectively.

> Ferris RL, et al. N Engl J Med. 2016 Seiwert TY, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2016









Evaluating Biomarkers in HNSCC

- Current FDA approvals of pembrolizumab and nivolumab are NOT contingent upon tumor PD-L1 status
 - KEYNOTE 012/055: Response rates not significantly different on the basis of tumor PD-L1 staining
 - KEYNOTE 040: Phase III pembrolizumab vs. investigator's choice chemotherapy
 - Did not meet survival endpoints in total population but improved outcomes in patients with PD-L1 expressing tumor
 - CheckMate 141: Most benefit was seen in PD-L1-positive tumors





Evaluating Biomarkers in HNSCC

CheckMate 414: 2 year update











Immune-related Adverse Events

KEYNOTE 012

Table 2. Treatment-Related Adverse Events by Grade Severity (all-patients-astreated population; N = 132)

Treatment-Related Adverse Event	Grade 1 or 2 (≥ 10% of patients), No. (%)	Grade 3 (any occurrence), No. (%)	Grade 4 (any occurrence), No. (%)
Patients with ≥ 1 event	70 (53)	8 (6)	4 (3)
Hypothyroidism	14 (11)	0	0
Immune thrombocytopenic purpura	0	0	1 (1)
Abdominal pain	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Colitis	0	1 (1)	0
Dysphagia	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Nausea	6 (5)	1 (1)	0
Stomatitis	1 (1)	1 (1)	0
Facial edema	0	1 (1)	0
Fatigue	28 (21)	0	0
Localized edema	0	1 (1)	0
Infection	0	1 (1)	0
Decreased appetite	9 (7)	2 (2)	0
Dehydration	0	1 (1)	0
Diabetic ketoacidosis	0	0	1 (1)
Hyperglycemia	1 (1)	0	1 (1)
Type I diabetes mellitus	0	1 (1)	0
Laryngeal edema	0	0	1 (1)
Pneumonitis	2 (2)	2 (2)	0
Respiratory distress	0	1 (1)	0
Facial swelling	3 (2)	1 (1)	1 (1)

CheckMate 141

Event	nt Nivolumab (N=2	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4

Any event	139 (58.9)*	31 (13.1)
Fatigue	33 (14.0)	5 (2.1)
Nausea	20 (8.5)	0
Rash	18 (7.6)	0
Decreased appetite	17 (7.2)	0
Pruritus	17 (7.2)	0
Diarrhea	16 (6.8)	0
Anemia	12 (5.1)	3 (1.3)
Asthenia	10 (4.2)	1 (0.4)
Vomiting	8 (3.4)	0
Dry skin	7 (3.0)	0
Stomatitis	5 (2.1)	1 (0.4)
Weight loss	4 (1.7)	0
Mucosal inflammation	3 (1.3)	0
Peripheral neuropathy	1 (0.4)	0
Alopecia	0	0
Neutropenia	0	0





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Immune-related Adverse Events

Grade of immune-related AE (CTCAE/equivalent)	Corticosteroid management	Additional notes
1	Corticosteroids not usually indicated	Continue immunotherapy
2	 If indicated, start oral prednisone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day if patient can take oral medication. If IV required, start methylprednisolone 0.5-1 mg/kg/day IV If no improvement in 2–3 days, increase corticosteroid dose to 2 mg/kg/day Once improved to ≤grade 1 AE, start 4–6 week steroid taper 	 Hold immunotherapy during corticosteroid use Continue immunotherapy once resolved to ≤grade 1 and off corticosteroids Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis
3	 Start prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day (or equivalent dose of methylprednisolone) If no improvement in 2–3 days, add additional/alternative immune suppressant Once improved to ≤ grade 1, start 4–6-week steroid taper Provide supportive treatment as needed 	 Hold immunotherapy; if symptoms do not improve in 4–6 weeks, discontinue immunotherapy Consider intravenous corticosteroids Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis Add PCP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (>30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)
4	 Start prednisone 1-2 mg/kg/day (or equivalent dose of methylprednisolone) If no improvement in 2–3 days, add additional/alternative immune suppressant, e.g., infliximab Provide supportive care as needed 	 Discontinue immunotherapy Continue intravenous corticosteroids Start proton pump inhibitor for GI prophylaxis Add PCP prophylaxis if more than 3 weeks of immunosuppression expected (>30 mg prednisone or equivalent/day)

Table 2 Caparal suidance for carticostaraid management of immuna valated adverse sugerts

Puzanov Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer 2017









Developmental Immunotherapies for HNSCC



- Durvalumab, atezolizumab, avelumab, CK-301 (anti-PD-L1)
- Cemiplimab (anti-PD-1)
- Ipilimumab, tremelimumab (anti-CTLA-4)
- Varlilumab (anti-CD27)
- PF-04518600, tavolimab (anti-OX40)





Pardoll DM Nature 2012



Developmental Immunotherapies for HNSCC

Cemiplimab (REGN2810) for treatment of patients with cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC)

NCT02760498



- Largest prospective study in this disease
- ORR 46% in 82 patients in study
 - Much higher than RR in mucosal HNSCC as per KEYNOTE and CheckMate studies
- Responses durable, median DOR not reached
- Study ongoing







FDA approves cemiplimab for R/M cSCC

Cemiplimab (REGN2810) was FDA approved for treatment of patients with cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC)



- FDA approval was based on clinically meaningful and durable objective response rates
- 75/108 M cSCC / 33/108 LA cSCC
- ORR 47% (4% CR / 44% PR)
- 75/108 M cSCC RR47%
- 33/108 LA cSCC RR -49%
- 350mg IV Q3W (30min)FDA approved dose







Recently reported Immunotherapies for HNSCC

Key Eligibility Criteria

- R/M SCCHN of the oropharynx, oral cavity, hypopharynx, or larynx considered incurable by local therapies
- No prior systemic therapy in the R/M setting
- ECOG 0-1
- Results from HPV testing (oropharyngeal)
- Tissue for PD-L1 biomarker
 analysis









(NCT02358031)

KEYNOTE - 048



Study End Points: Pembrolizumab vs EXTREME and Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy vs **EXTREME**

Primary

- CPS \geq 20,^a CPS \geq 1,^a and total populations
 - OS
 - PFS^b

Secondary

- CPS \geq 20,^a CPS \geq 1,^a and total populations
 - PFS^b rates at 6 and 12 mo
 - ORR^b
 - Change from baseline and time to deterioration in quality of life (EORTC QLQ-C30 and H&N-35)^c
- Total population • Safety and tolerability

Key Exploratory

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- CPS \geq 20,^a CPS \geq 1,^a and total populations
 - Duration of response^b

phocytes, macrophases divided ^aAssessed at a central laboratory using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay. CPS = combined positive score = number of PD-L1-positive cells tumor cells, lym by total number of tumor cells × 100. Assessed perRECIST v1 h by blinded independent central review.



KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)

Key Eligibility Criteria

- SCC of the oropharynx, oral cavity, hypopharynx, or larynx
- R/M disease incurable by local therapies
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- Tissue sample for PD-L1 assessment^a
- Known p16 status in the oropharynx^b

Stratification Factors

- PD-L1 expression^a (TPS ≥50% vs <50%)
- p16 status in oropharynx (positive vs negative)
- ECOG performance status (0 vs 1)



^aAssessed using the PD₇L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. ^bAssessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70% and concert



Overall Survival: P vs E, CPS ≥20 Population

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Overall Survival: P vs E, CPS ≥1 Population

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Progression-Free Survival: P vs E

CPS ≥1

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Progression-free survival assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review.

Response Summary, P vs E

CPS ≥20

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Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro N = 133	EXTREME N = 122
ORR	31 (23.3)	44 (36.1)
CR	10 (7.5)	4 (3.3)
PR	21 (15.8)	40 (32.8)
SD	40 (30.1)	42 (34.4)
PD	42 (31.6)	13 (10.7)
Non-CR/non-PD ^a	8 (6.0)	6 (4.9)
Not evaluable or assessed ^b	12 (9.0)	17 (13.9)



CPS ≥1

Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro N = 257	EXTREME N = 255
ORR	49 (19.1)	89 (34.9)
CR	14 (5.4)	7 (2.7)
PR	35 (13.6)	82 (32.2)
SD	72 (28.0)	83 (32.5)
PD	100 (38.9)	34 (13.3)
Non-CR/non-PD ^a	11 (4.3)	11 (4.3)
Not evaluable or assessed ^b	25 (9.7)	38 (14.9)



^aPatients without measurable disease per central review at baseline who did not have CR or PD. ^bPatients who did not have a post-baseline imaging assessment evaluable for response or who did not have post-baseline imaging. Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence ≥15%, P vs E, Total Population



Pneumonia (n=3), sepsis (h=2), and hypoxia, osteomyelitis, and pulmonary artery thrombosis (n=1 each). Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Immune-Mediated AEs and Infusion Reactions, P vs E, Total Population



^aPneumonitis (n=1).

Considered regardless of attribution to preferred terms listed. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Summary and Conclusions: Pembrolizumab Monotherapy vs EXTREME

- Pembrolizumab significantly improved OS vs EXTREME in the PD-L1
 CPS ≥20 (HR 0.61, P = 0.0007) and CPS ≥1 (HR 0.78, P = 0.0086) populations
 - No PFS benefit for pembrolizumab
 - Although pembrolizumab had a lower ORR, responses were substantially more durable
- Pembrolizumab had a favorable safety profile vs EXTREME
 - Lower incidence of any-grade, grade 3-4, and grade 5 treatment-related AEs
 - Lower incidence of treatment-related AEs leading to discontinuation
 - Safety profiles as expected for pembrolizumab and EXTREME
- Data support pembrolizumab monotherapy as a new first-line standard-of-care for R/M HNSCC that expresses PD-L1







KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)

Key Eligibility Criteria

- SCC of the oropharynx, oral cavity, hypopharynx, or larynx
- R/M disease incurable by local therapies
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- Tissue sample for PD-L1 assessment^a
- Known p16 status in the oropharynx^b

Stratification Factors

- PD-L1 expression^a (TPS ≥50% vs <50%)
- p16 status in oropharynx (positive vs negative)
- ECOG performance status (0 vs 1)



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^aAssessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. ^bAssessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70% and cancer *Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m²PV of Cancer

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Overall Survival: P+C vs E, Total Population

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Progression-Free Survival: P+C vs E, Total Population

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Progression-free survival assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review.



Response Summary, P+C vs E, Total Population

Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro + Chemo N = 281	EXTREME N = 278
ORR	100 (35.6)	101 (36.3)
CR	17 (6.0)	8 (2.9)
PR	83 (29.5)	93 (33.5)
SD	78 (27.8)	94 (33.8)
PD	48 (17.1)	34 (12.2)
Non-CR/non-PD ^a	13 (4.6)	9 (3.2)
Not evaluable or assessed ^b	42 (14.9)	40 (14.4)



Duration of Response

^aPatients without measurable disease per central review at baseline who did not have CR or PD. ^bPatients who did not have a post-baseline imaging assessment evaluable for response or who did not have post-baseline imaging. Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence ≥15%, P+C vs E, Total Population

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Median (range) treatment duration was 5.8 mo (0.1-24.2) for pembrolizumab + chemotherapy and 4.9 mo (0.03-35.3) for EXTREME. ^aSeptic shock (n=5) and cerebral ischemia, hemorrhage, interstitial lung disease, sepsis, and tumor hemorrhage (n=1 each). ^aPneumonia (n=3), sepsis (h=2), and hypoxia, osteomyelitis, and pulmonary artery thrombosis (n=1 each). Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Immune-Mediated AEs and Infusion Reactions, P+C vs E, Total Population



^aPneumonitis (n=1).

Considered regardless of attribution to treatment or immune relatedness by the investigator. Related terms included in addition to preferred terms listed. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



Developmental Immunotherapies for HNSCC

MASTERKEY 232/KEYNOTE-137

- Talimogene laherparepvec (T-Vec)
 - Genetically engineered herpes virus
- T-Vec 10⁶ PFU/mL <u>intratumoral injection</u> followed by 10⁸ PFU/mL Q3W
- Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV Q3W
- Eligibility:
 - R/M HNSCC not suitable for curative therapy
 - Progressed after platinum treatment
 - At least 1 injectable cutaneous, subcutaneous, or nodal tumor ≥ 10 mm in longest diameter







Conclusions

- 1. Chemotherapy offers short survival with many side effects
- 2. PD-1 antibodies nivolumab and pembrolizumab are approved in *platinum-refractory* recurrent / metastatic HNSCC.
- 3. Most patients have fewer side effects on PD-1 Abs than on chemotherapy
- 4. Clinical trials are underway to improve immunotherapy response rates and testing immunotherapy in other settings





- Patient Background Information:
 - 78 yo M with a history of CAD, HTN, HLD
 - Presents with painful L sided neck mass
 - Lost 30 lbs due to anorexia







Patient Case Study 1 November 2014

- PET CT
 - Large L sided cervical mass
 - Periepiglottic tumor with no airway compromise
 - Multiple cervical osseous metastases
- Palliative hypofractionated XRT initiated









Patient Case Study 1 January 2015

- Cervical disease decreased pain improved
 - Carboplatin/paclitaxel 1st line

- PET CT revealed new osseous and axillary mets
 - Started on cetuximab 2nd line











Patient Case Study 1 June 2015

- Progression in cervical nodes
 - Re-irradiation not an option
- Enrolled in KEYNOTE-055
 - Started on pembrolizumab









Patient Case Study 1 October 2015

- Patient experienced near CR
 - Response lasted 1 year
 - No side effects of note









- Patient Background Information:
 - 56 yo M with a history of smoking
 - Presents with painful L oral tongue mass and L sided neck mass
 - Lost 30 lbs due to anorexia







Patient Case Study 2 November 2014

- PET CT
 - L sided oral tongue mass
 - L neck metastases
 - No DM
- S/p surgical resection followed by adjuvant CRT with Cisplatin (+margins/ +ECE)
- Early recurrence 2 months after CRT completion









- Treatment options discussed :
 - CF + Erbitux followed by Erbitux (EXTREME) : RR 35% , OS 10.7m
 - Single agent chemotherapy or Erbitux alone
 - Doublet with Cis/Carb + Taxane
 - Immunotherapy ?







- Treatment received :
- Nivolumab (FDA approval for persistent disease)







- Patient Background Information:
 - 60 yo M with a history of LA SCCHN tx in 2016 with definitive CRT
 - Presents now with painful L sided neck mass and DM on PET scan
 - Lost 30 lbs due to anorexia







- PET CT
 - Large L sided cervical mass
 - Periepiglottic tumor with no airway compromise
 - Multiple cervical osseous metastases
- Palliative hypofractionated XRT initiated









Patient Case Study 3 November 2018

- Cervical disease decreased pain improved
 - 1st line treatment as of 11/2018?

• PET CT revealed new osseous and axillary mets









- Treatment options discussed
- CFE + E (EXTREME)
- Pembro alone
- CF Pembro + Pembro
- Clinical trial



