

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Skin Cancers

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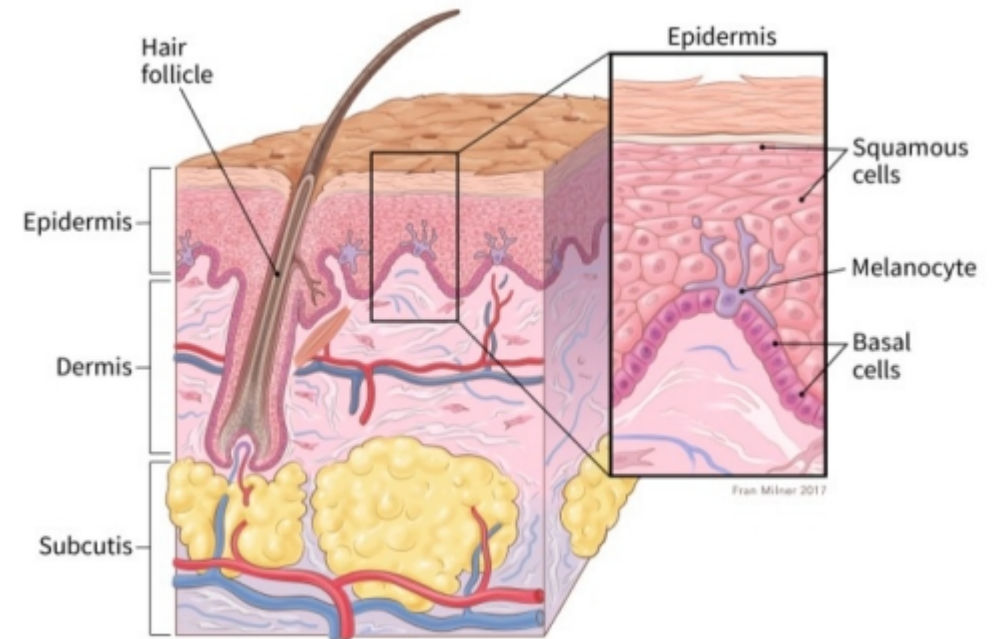


# Disclosures

- Consulting Fees: Bristol-Myers Squibb, Regeneron, Novartis, Array Biopharma, Jounce, New Link Genetics
- Contracted Research: Exelixis
- 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

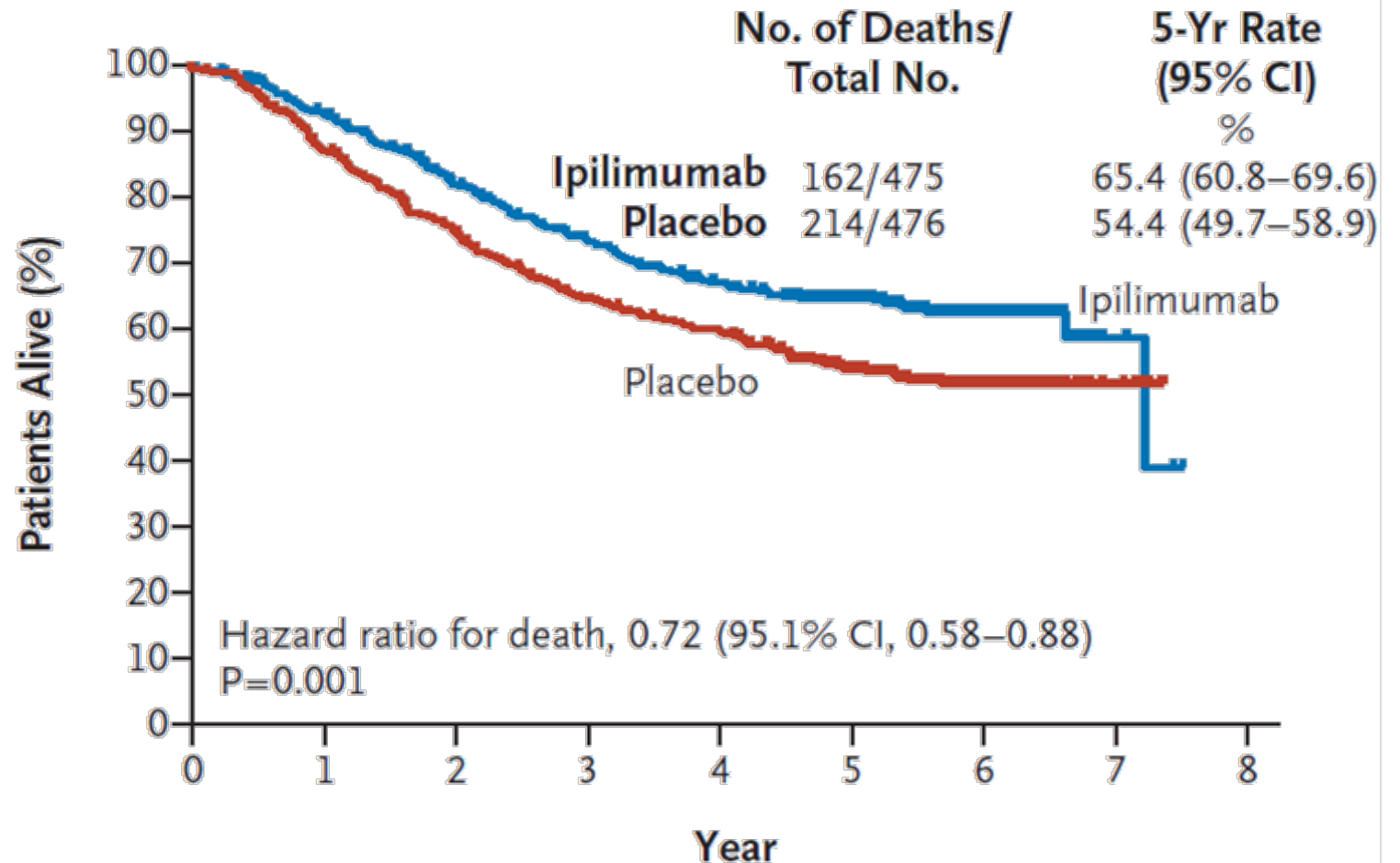
Drug	Indication	Dose
High-dose interferon alfa-2b	Adjuvant – high risk for systemic recurrence	Induction: 20m IU/m <sup>2</sup> IV 5x/wk for 4 wks Maintenance: 10m IU/m <sup>2</sup> s.c. 3x/wk for 48 wks
Interleukin-2 (Aldesleukin)	Stage IV	600k IU/kg/dose Q8hr, up to 14 doses; 9 days of rest; can repeat 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

# 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

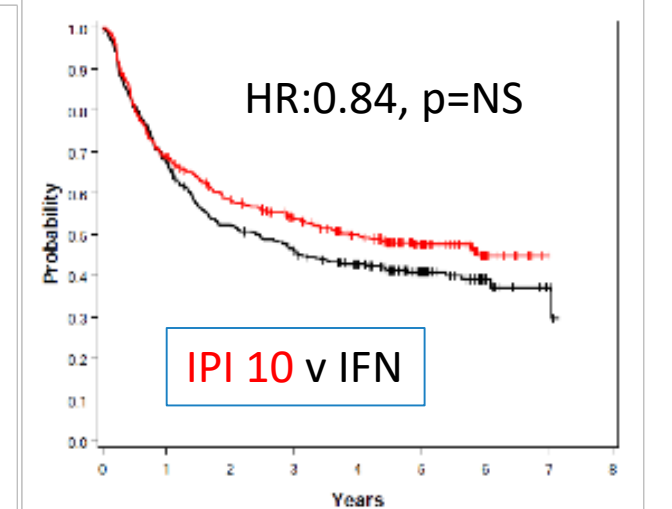
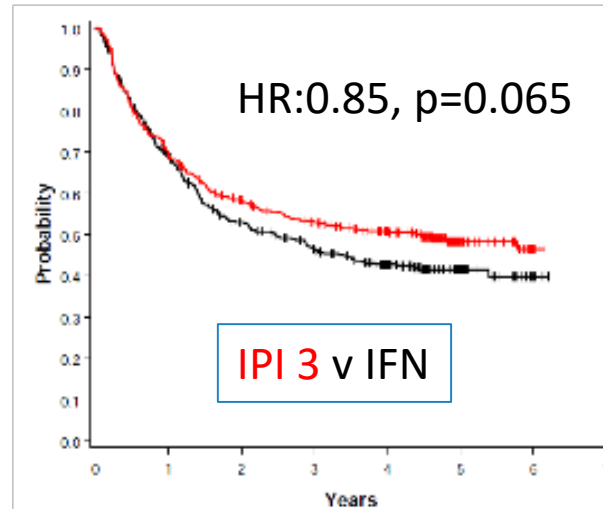


# Adjuvant Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

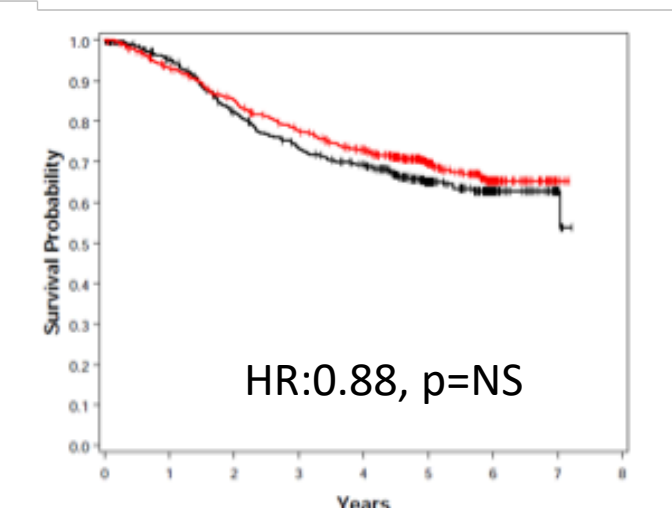
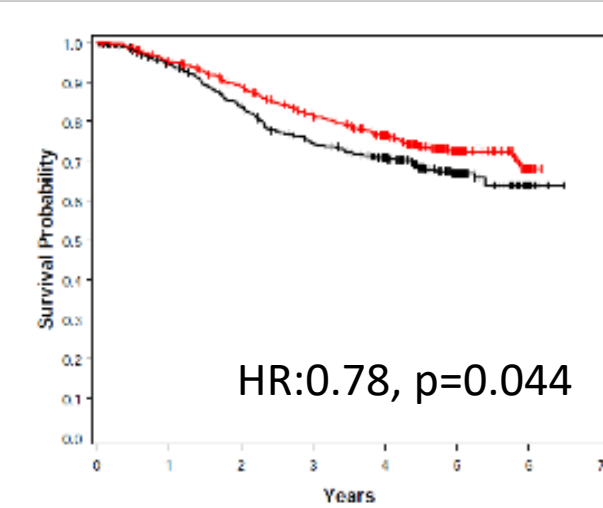
- ECOG 1609

- 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



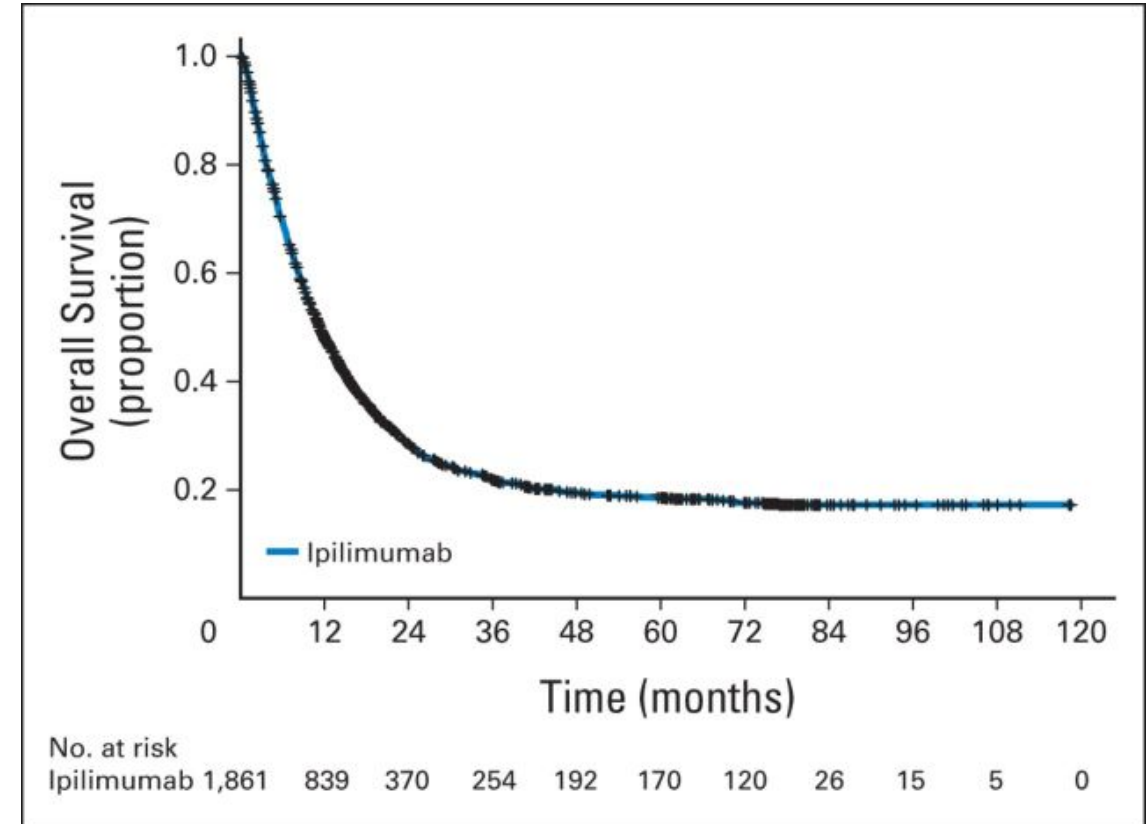
OS





# Ipilimumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

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



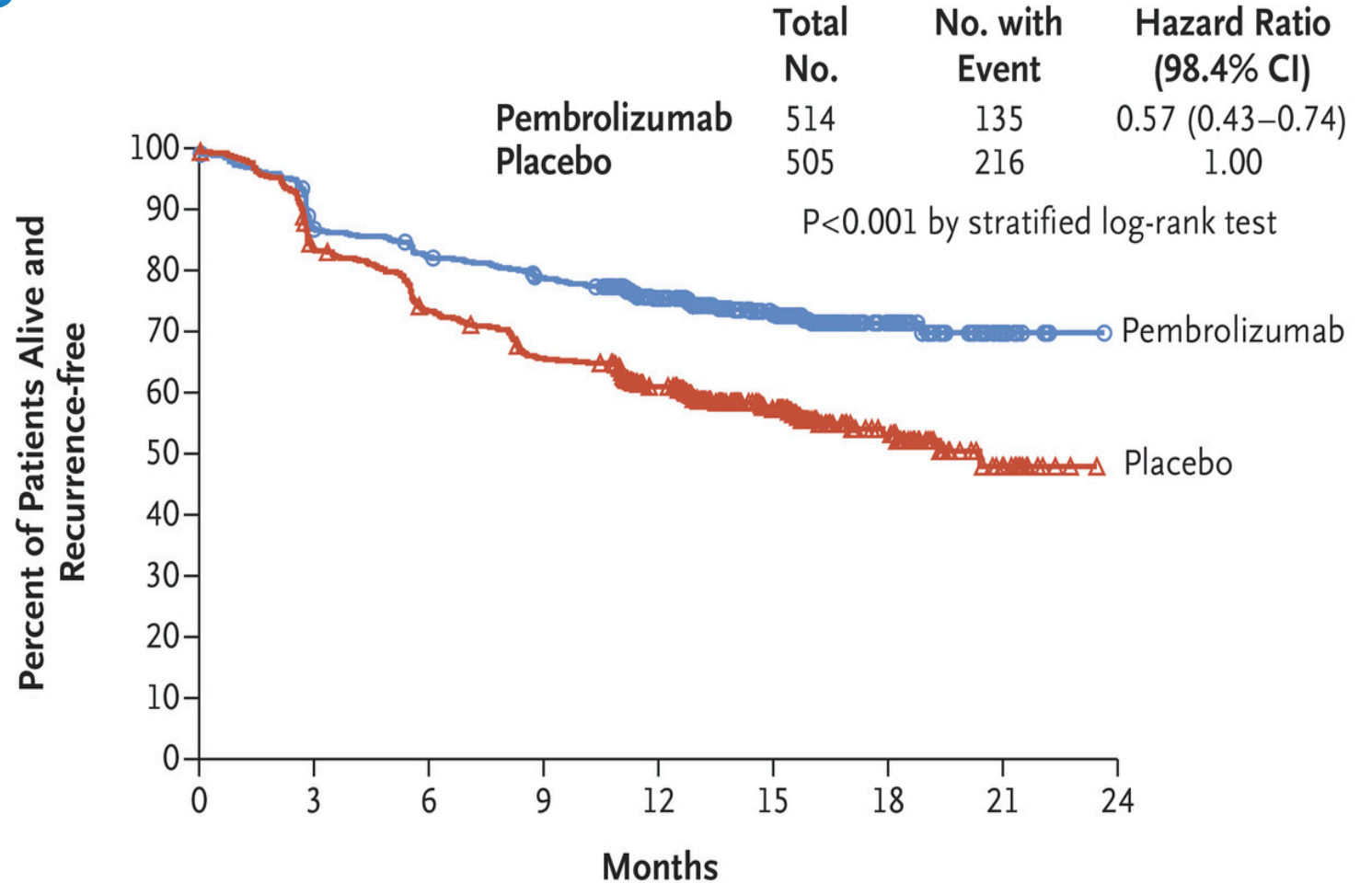


# Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

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

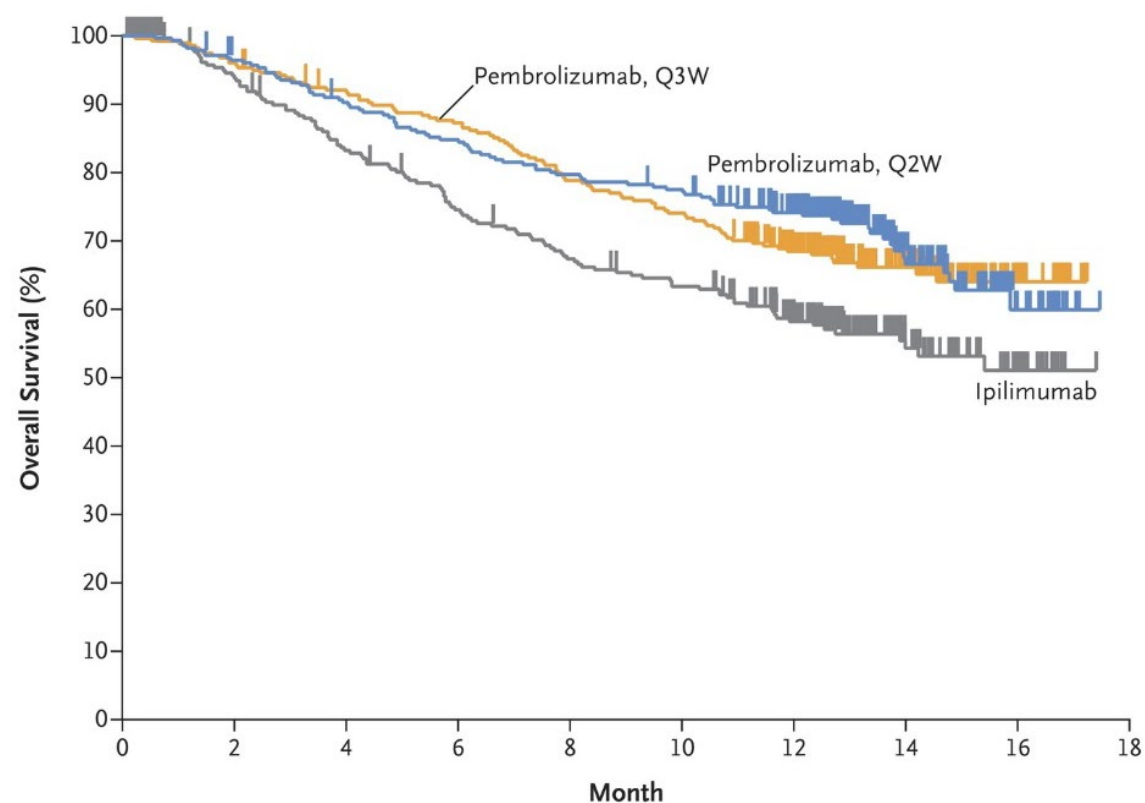
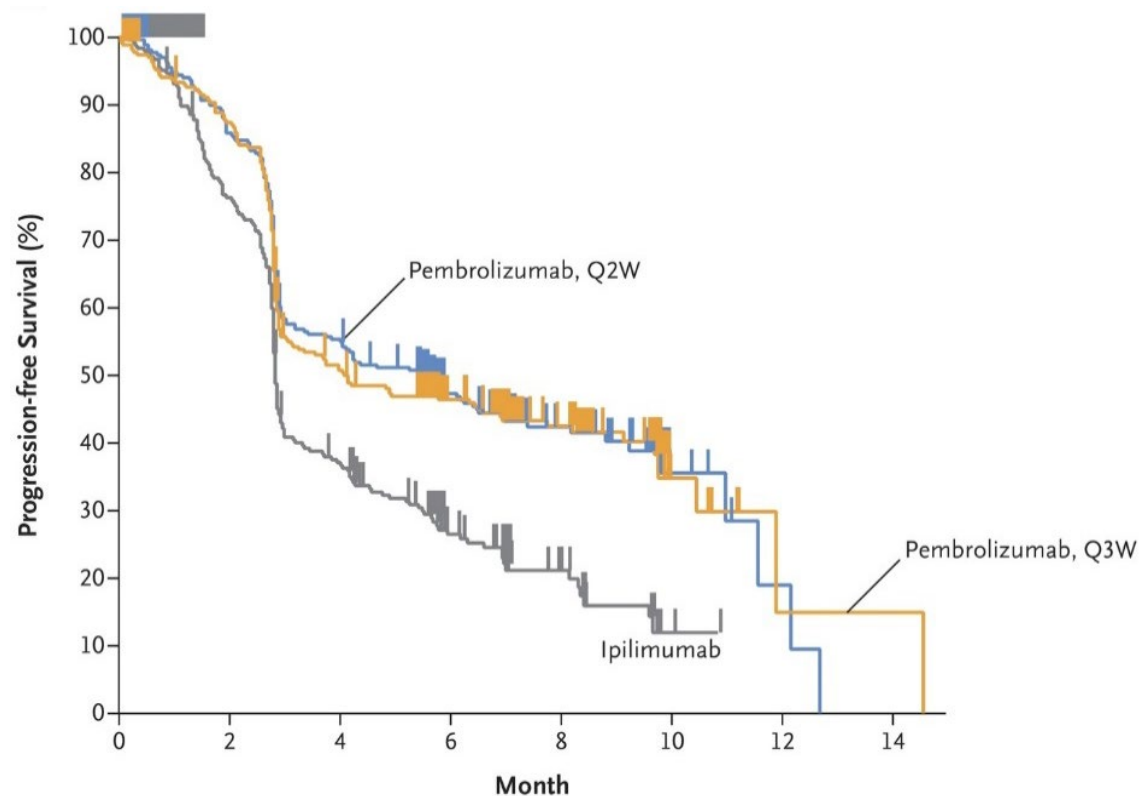
# Adjuvant Pembrolizumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- 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

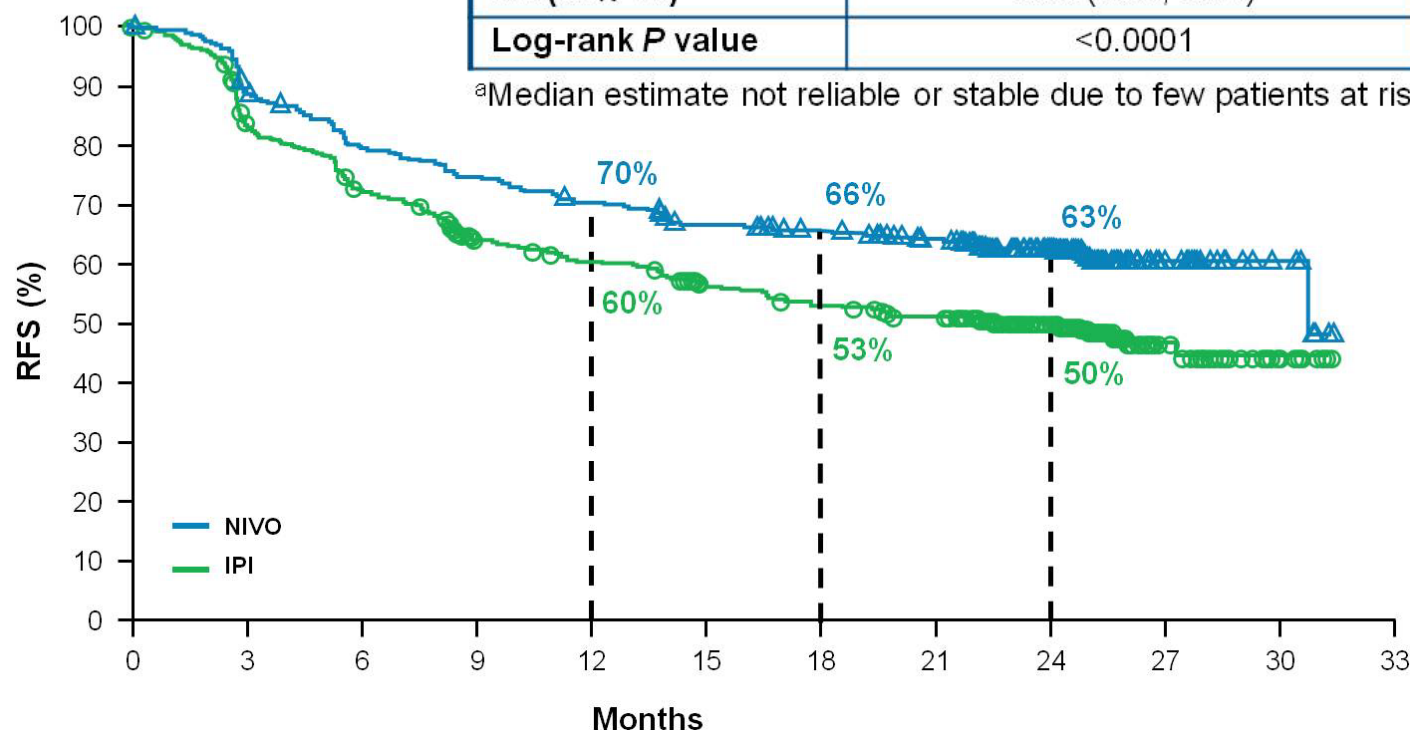
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Nivolumab	2014	Unresectable/metastatic melanoma with progression after other therapy	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W*
	2017	Adjuvant treatment of melanoma after complete resection	240 mg Q2W or 480 mg Q4W
*Original approval was 3 mg/kg Q2W, updated to flat dosing regimen			

# 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

	NIVO	IPI
Events/patients	171/453	221/453
Median (95% CI)	30.8 (30.8, NR) <sup>a</sup>	24.1 (16.6, NR)
HR (95% CI)	0.66 (0.54, 0.81)	
Log-rank P value	<0.0001	

<sup>a</sup>Median estimate not reliable or stable due to few patients at risk.

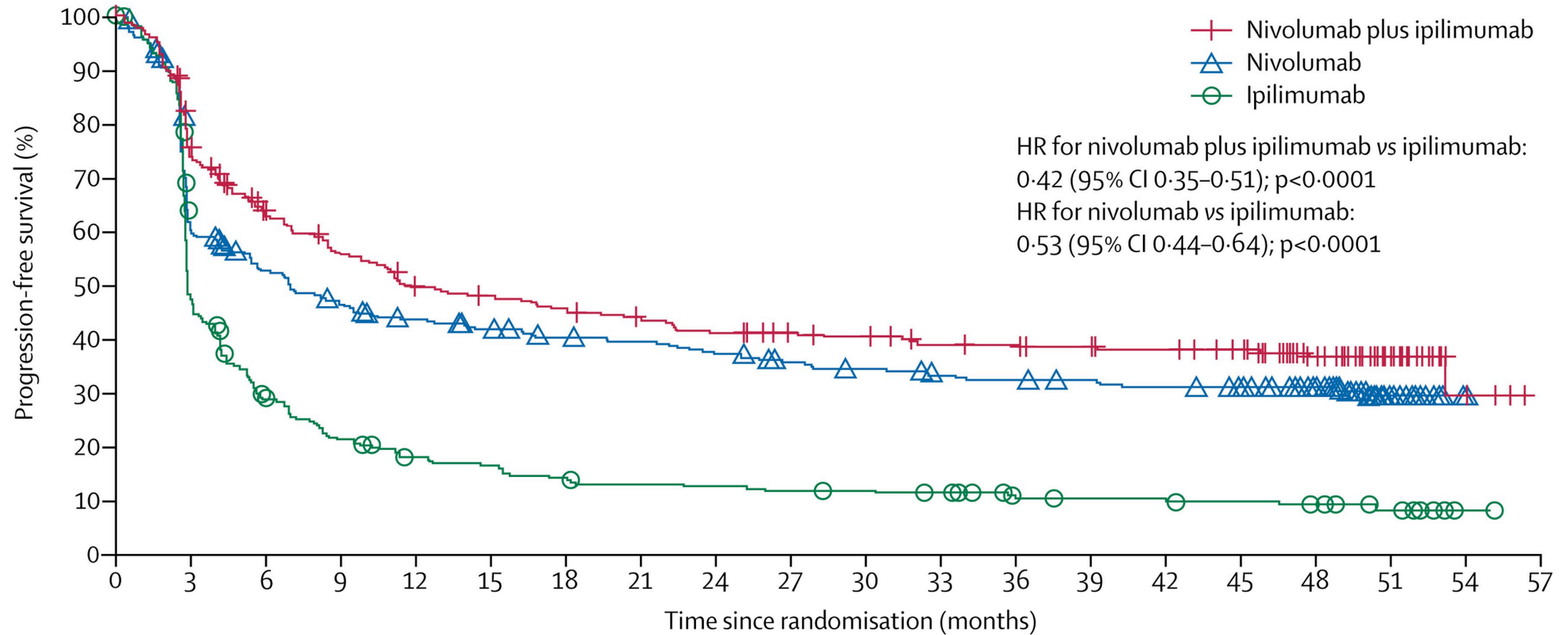


# Approved checkpoint inhibitors in melanoma

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

# Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma

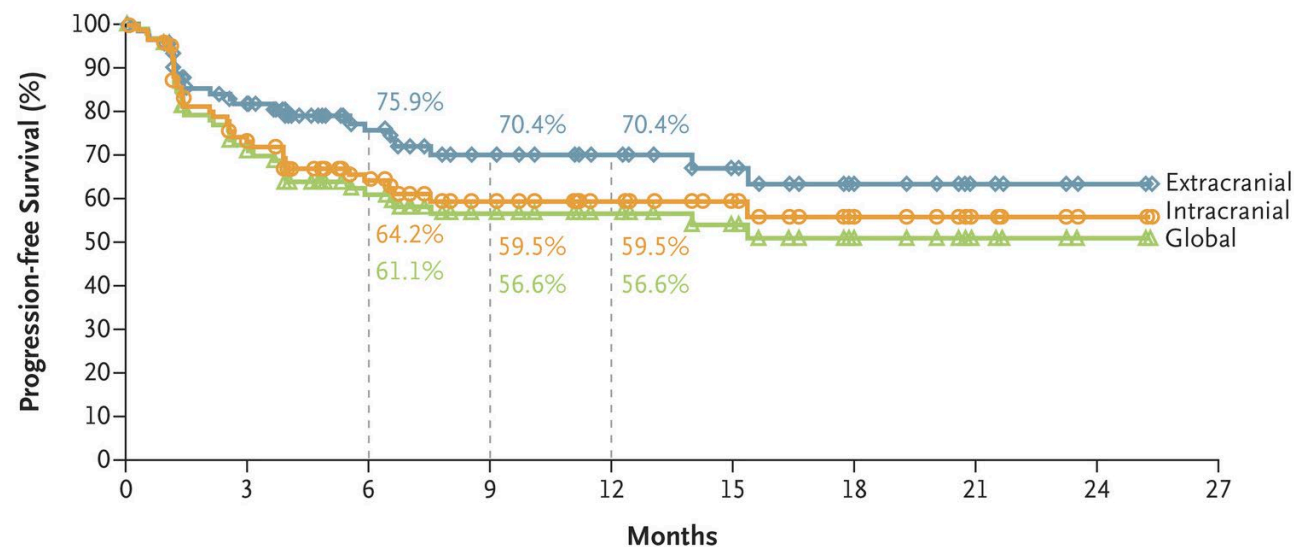
## Phase III CheckMate 067 Trial



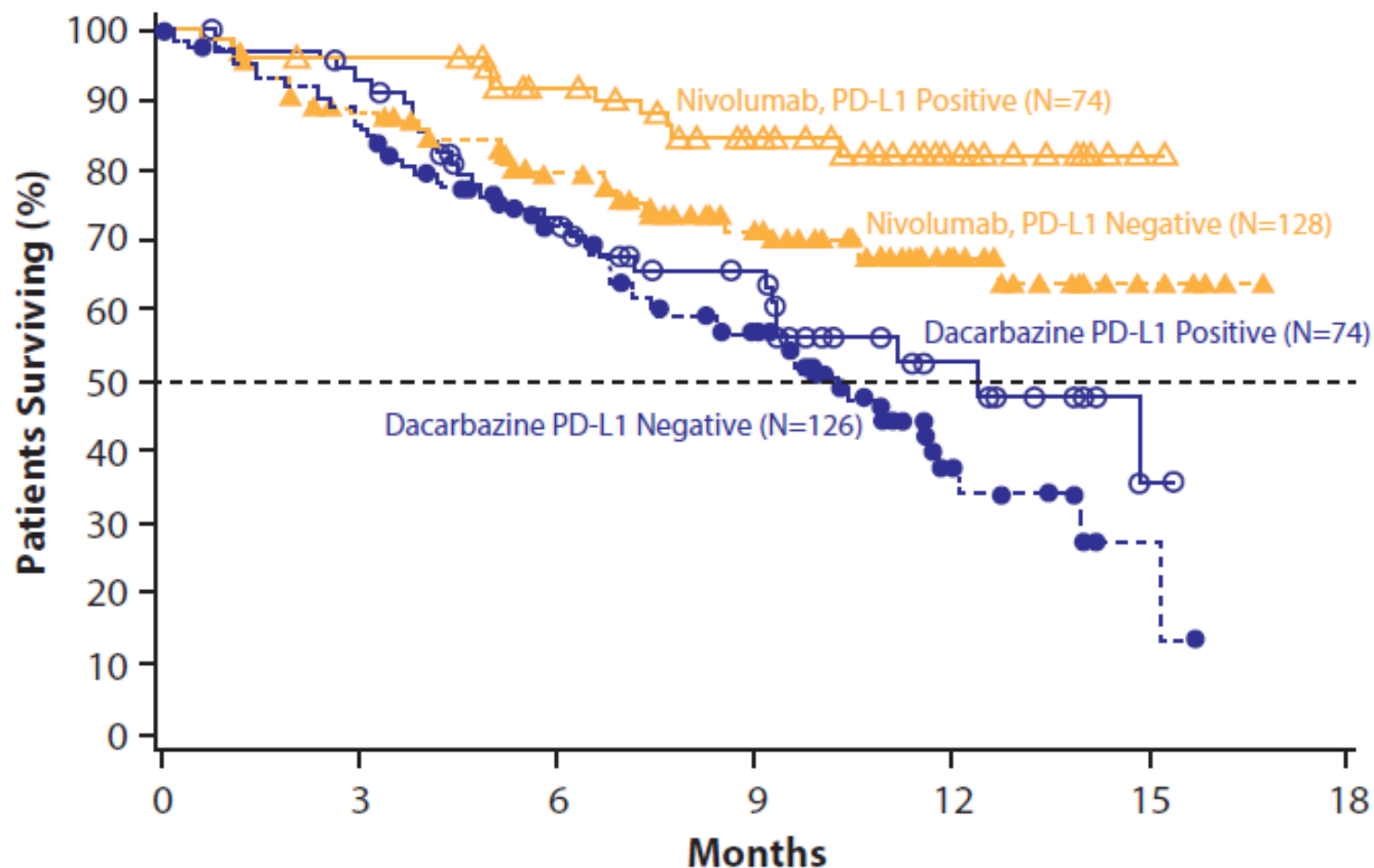


# Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Patients with Asymptomatic Brain Metastases

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)

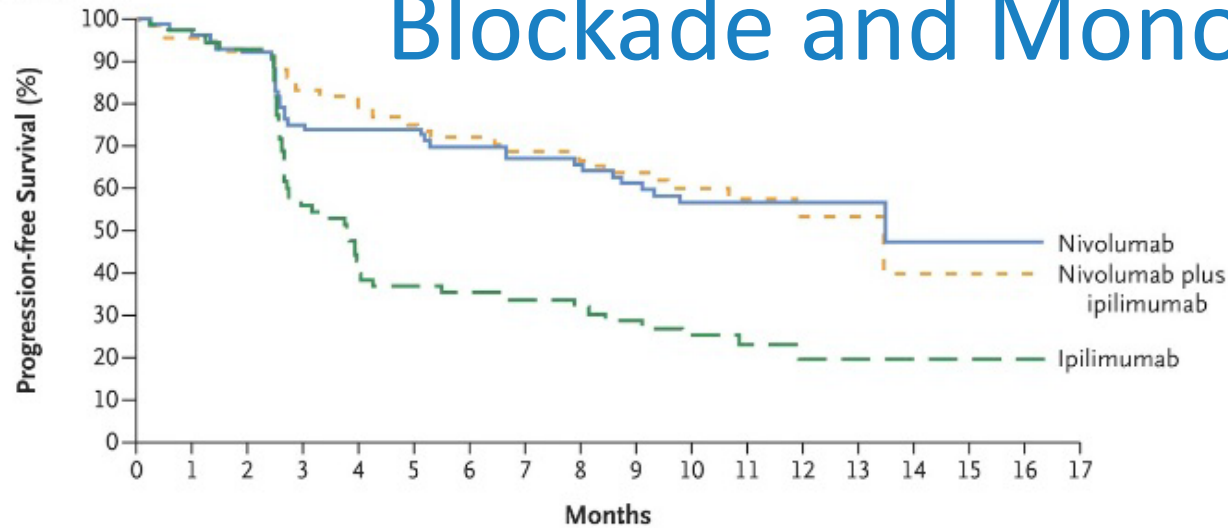


# Importance of Tumor PD-L1 Status with Anti-PD-1 Monotherapy

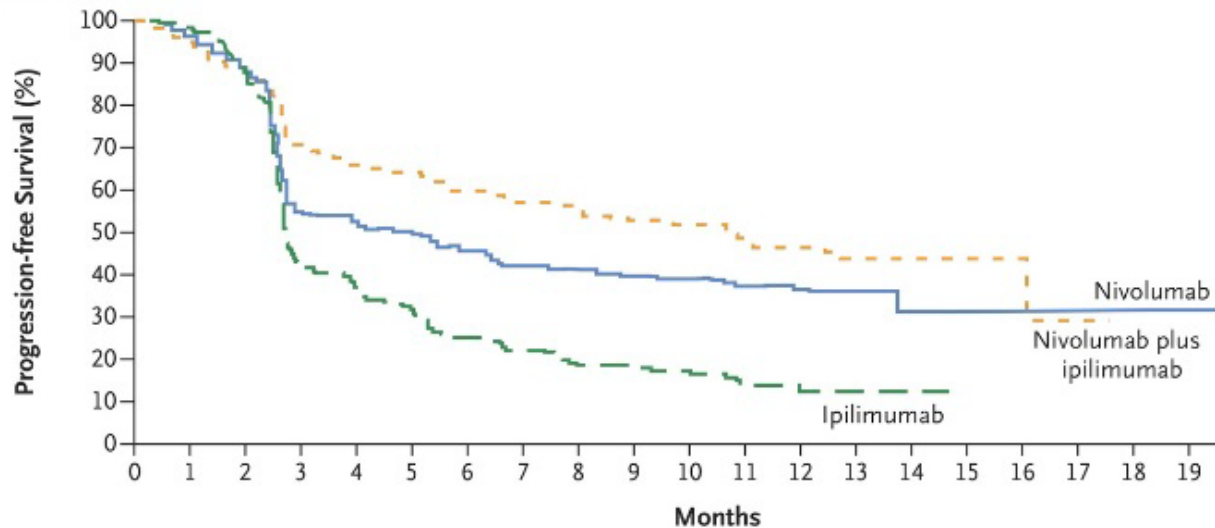


	Patients Who Died n/N	Median Survival mo (95% CI)
Nivolumab PD-L1 Positive	11/74	N.R.
Nivolumab PD-L1 Negative	37/128	N.R.
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Positive	29/74	12.4 (9.2–N.R.)
Dacarbazine PD-L1 Negative	64/126	10.2 (7.6–11.8)

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

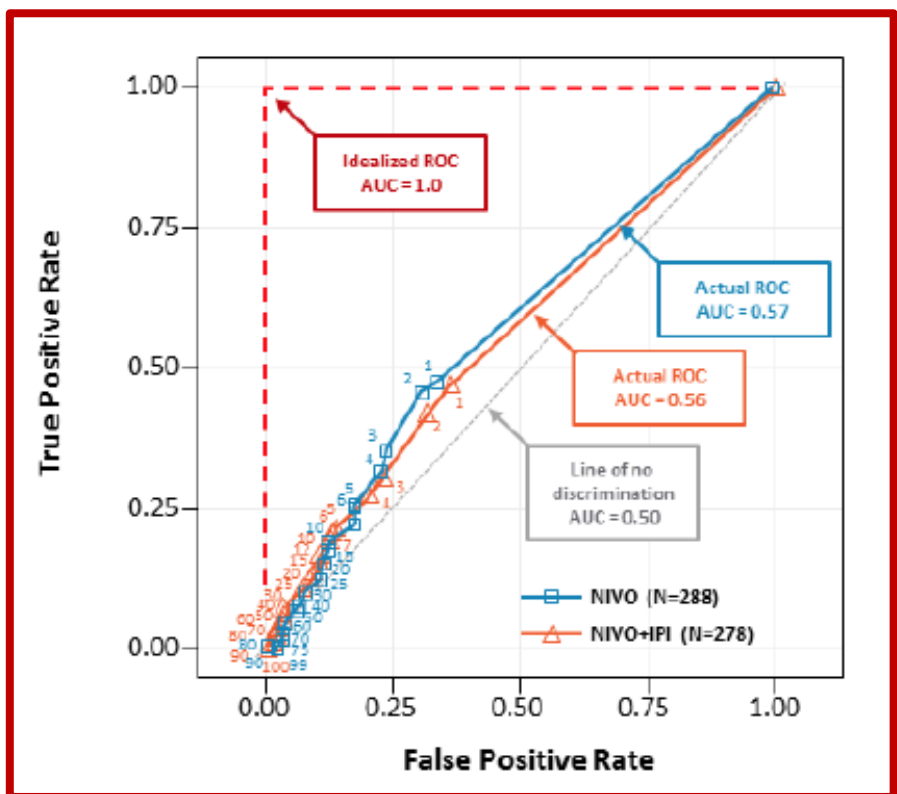


Tumor PD-L1 Positive Patients



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 (%)	$\geq 1$	$< 1$	$\geq 5$	$< 5$	$\geq 10$	$< 10$
Ipilimumab	19%	18%	21%	17%	20%	18%
Nivolumab	54%	35%	58%	42%	58%	44%
<u>Ipi/Nivo</u>	65%	54%	72%	56%	85%	55%

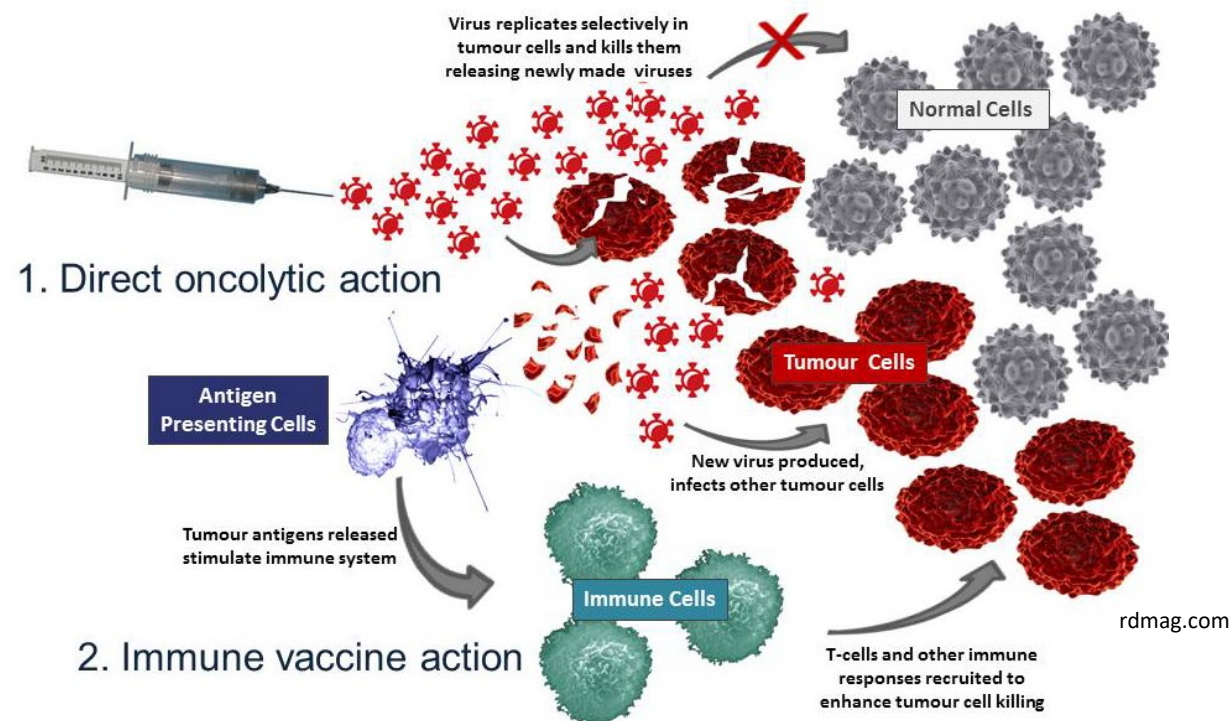
...but, PD-L1 status predicts higher response rate with combo at every PD-L1 expression cut-off

# In development: Neoadjuvant immunotherapy in advanced melanoma

Trial	Regimen	N	pCR (%)	med RFS (mo)	med FU (mo)
Amaria Lancet Oncol 2018	<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



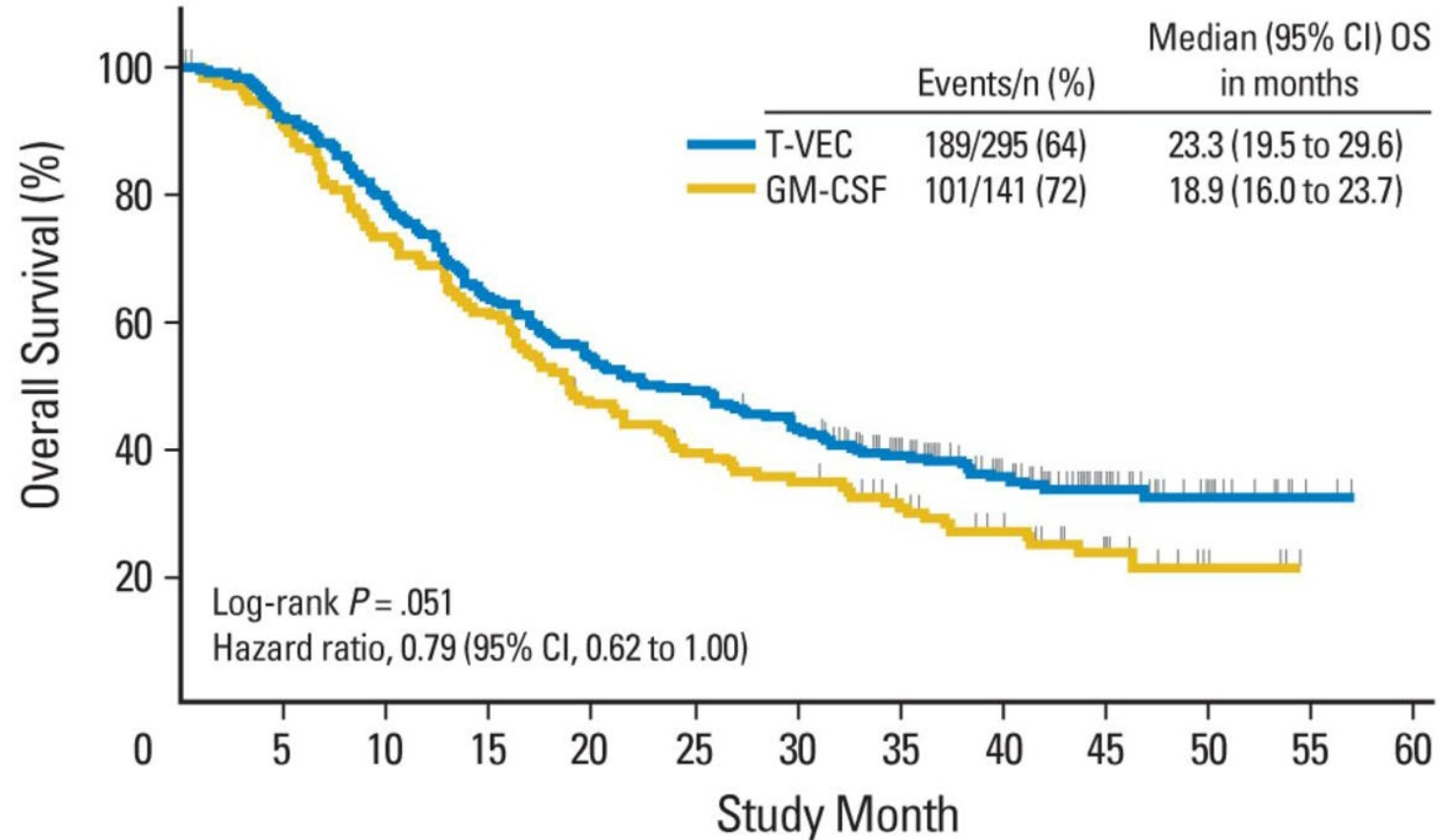
# Approved oncolytic virus in melanoma



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: $\leq 4$ 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, genetically-engineered herpes virus
  - Intralesional T-VEC 106 pfu/mL, 108 pfu/mL 3 weeks after initial dose, then Q2W
  - Subcutaneous GM-CSF



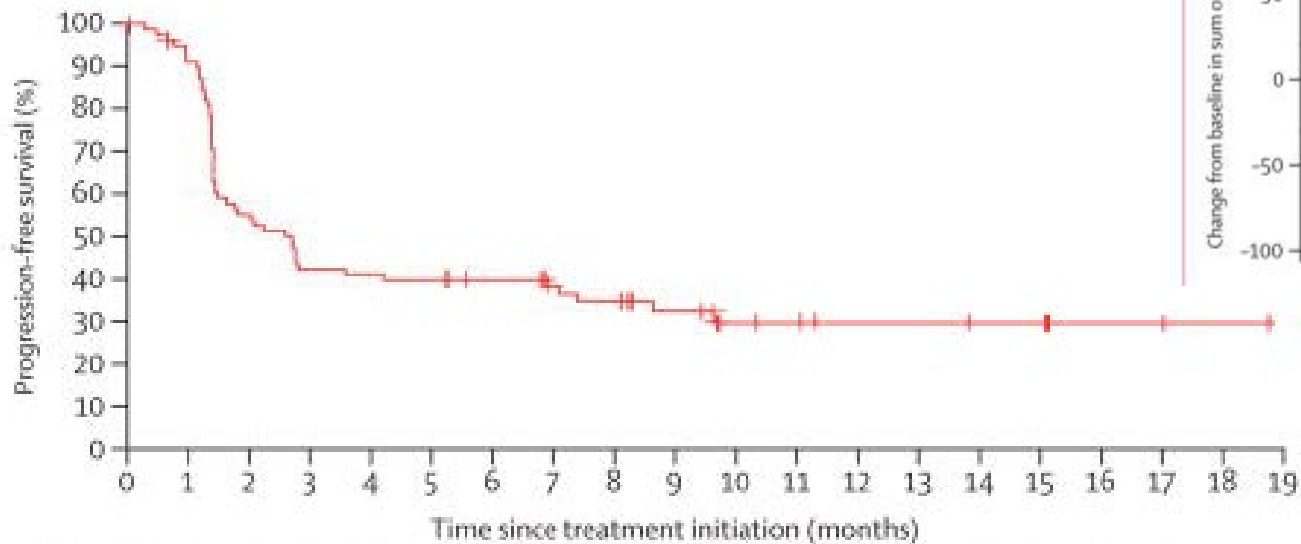


# Approved checkpoint inhibitors in other skin cancers

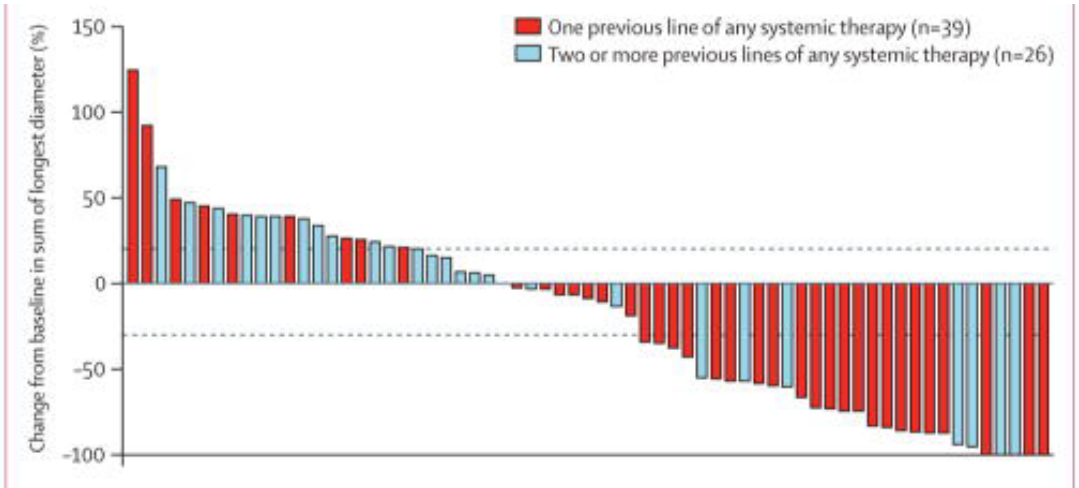
Drug	Approved	Indication	Dose
Avelumab	2017	Patients >12 yr with metastatic <b>Merkel cell carcinoma</b>	800 mg Q2W + premedication (first 4 cycles)
Pembrolizumab	2018	Adult/pediatric with recurrent advanced/metastatic <b>Merkel cell carcinoma</b>	Adults: 200 mg Q3W Pediatric: 2 mg/kg (up to 200 mg) Q3W
Cemiplimab-rwlc	2018	Metastatic <b>cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma</b> , not candidate for curative therapies	350 mg Q3W

# Avelumab in 2<sup>nd</sup>-line metastatic Merkel Cell carcinoma

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

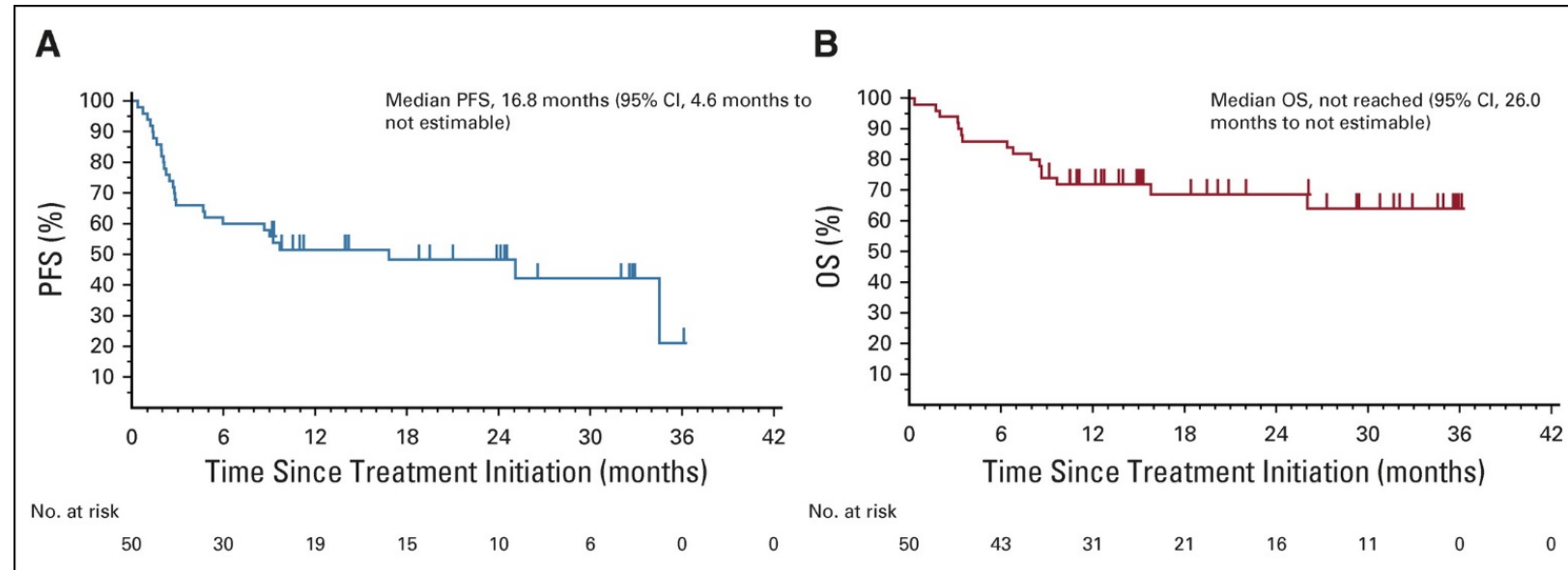


Number at risk	88	71	43	33	32	31	29	22	20	14	9	8	6	6	5	5	2	2	1	0
(censored)	(0)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(10)	(12)	(18)	(18)	(23)	(27)	(28)	(30)	(30)	(31)	(31)	(34)	(34)	(35)	(36)



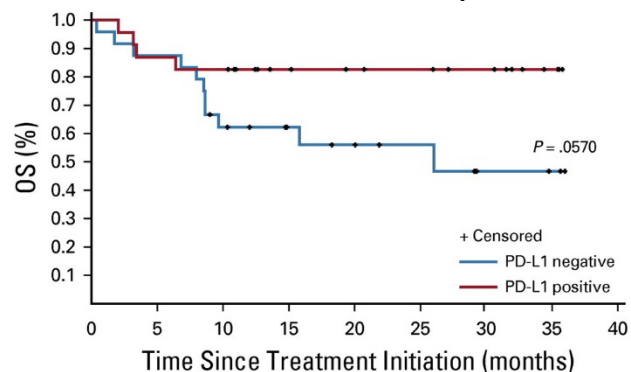
# Pembrolizumab in 1<sup>st</sup>-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

- 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%

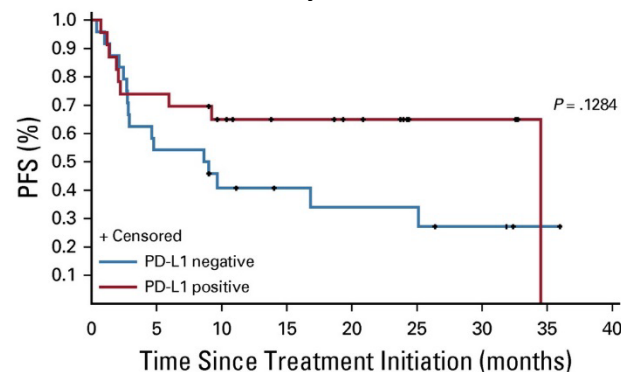


# Pembrolizumab in 1<sup>st</sup>-line advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma

## PD-L1 expression by tumor cells only

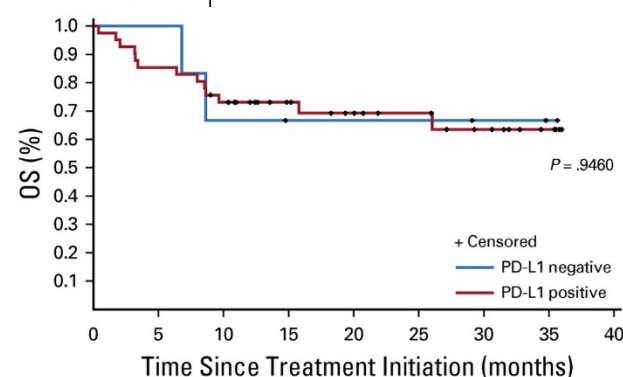


No. at risk (events)									
PD-L1 negative	24 (0)	21 (3)	14 (9)	10 (9)	8 (10)	6 (10)	3 (11)	2 (11)	0 (11)
PD-L1 positive	23 (0)	20 (3)	19 (4)	13 (4)	11 (4)	10 (4)	8 (4)	3 (4)	0 (4)

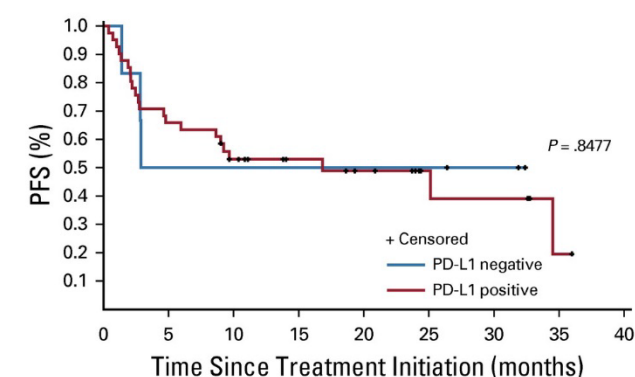


No. at risk (events)									
PD-L1 negative	24 (0)	13 (11)	8 (14)	6 (14)	5 (15)	5			
PD-L1 positive	23 (0)	17 (6)	13 (8)	10 (8)	8 (8)	3			

## PD-L1 on all cells in tumor



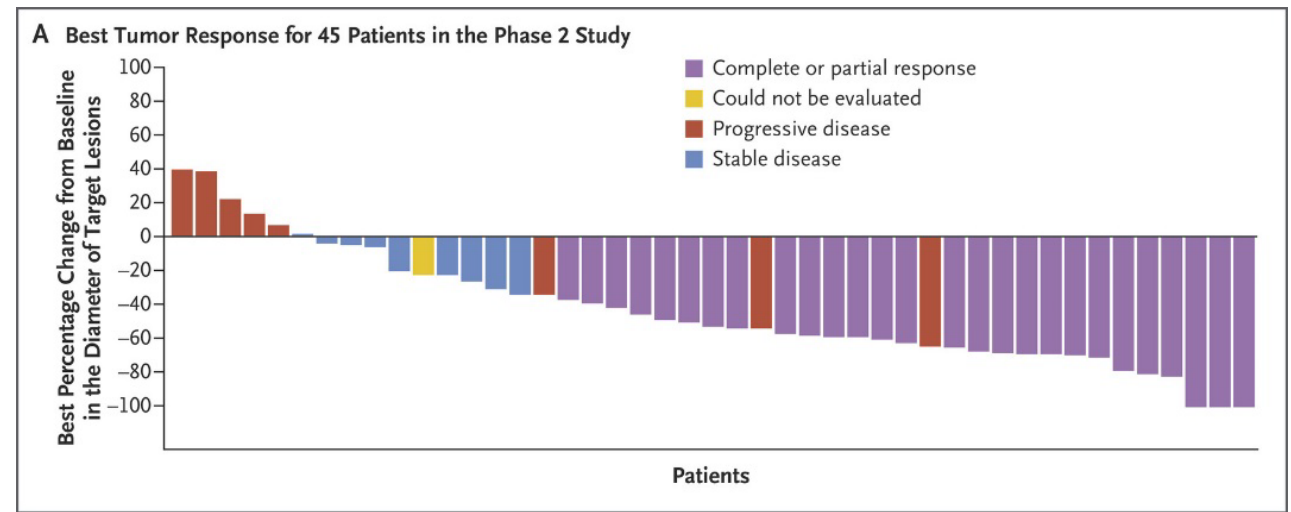
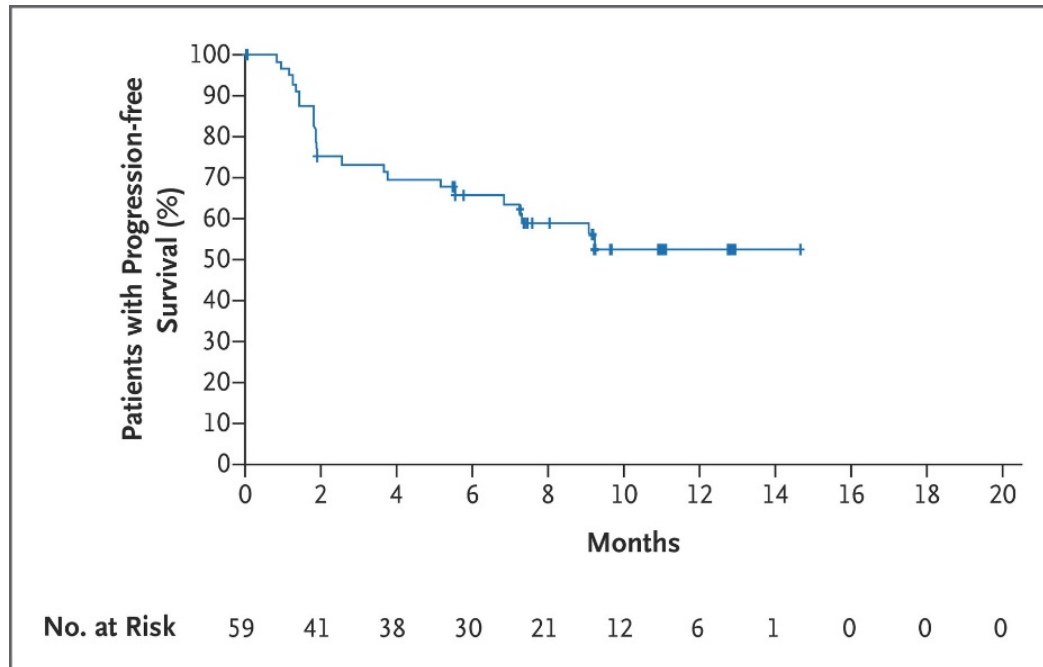
No. at risk (events)									
PD-L1 negative	6 (0)	6 (0)	4 (2)	3 (2)	3 (2)	2 (2)	1 (2)	0 (2)	
PD-L1 positive	41 (0)	35 (6)	29 (11)	20 (11)	16 (12)	13 (12)	9 (13)	4 (13)	0 (13)



No. at risk (events)									
PD-L1 negative	6 (0)	3 (3)	3 (3)	3 (3)	3 (3)	3 (3)	2 (3)	0 (3)	
PD-L1 positive	41 (0)	27 (14)	18 (19)	13 (19)	10 (20)	5 (20)	4 (21)	1 (22)	0 (22)

# Cemiplimab in advanced/metastatic cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma

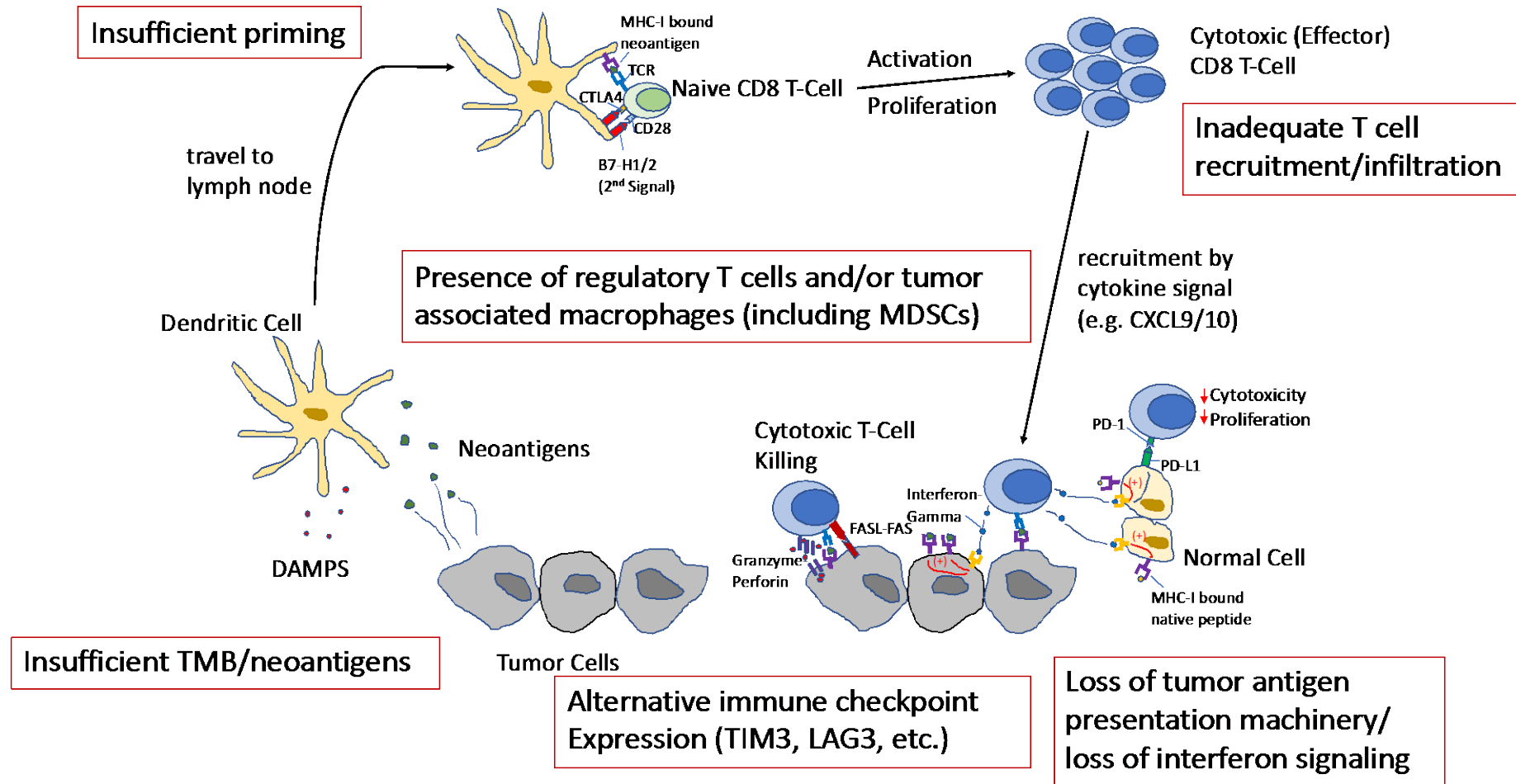
- Cemiplimab 3mg/kg Q2W
- 47% response rate in metastatic patients
- 60% of locally advanced had objective response



Migden, NEJM 2018.

# Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma

How does immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy fail?



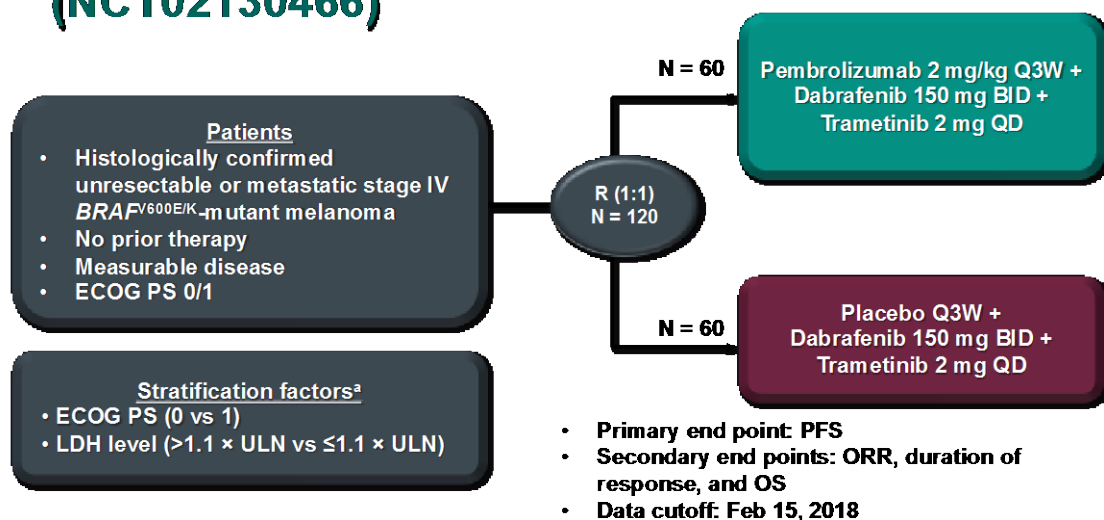
# Combination therapy



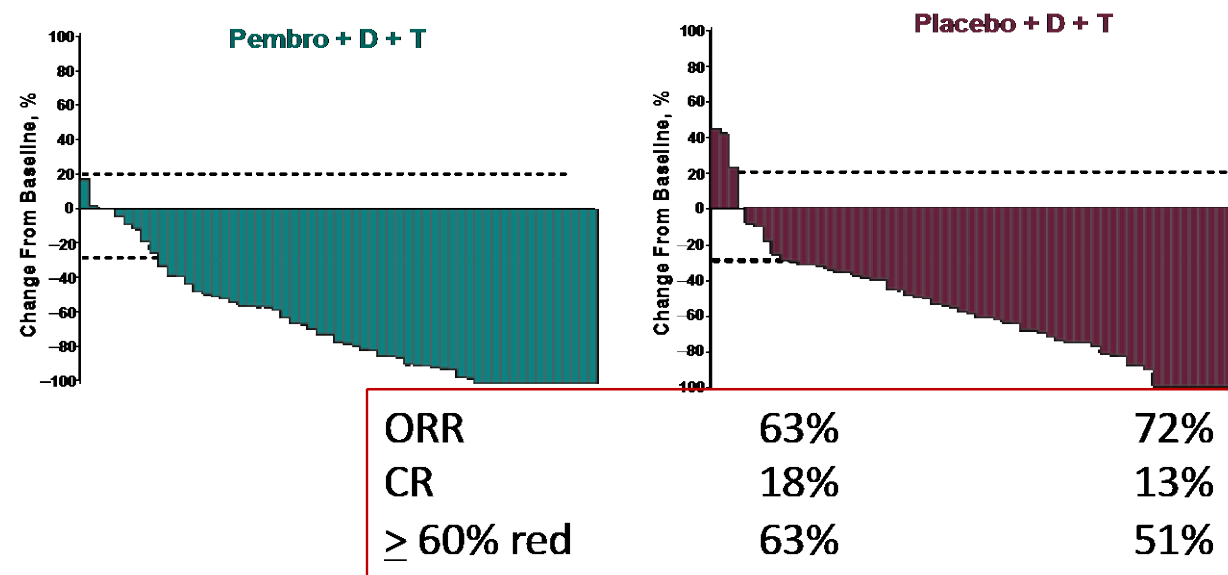


# In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy

## KEYNOTE-022 Part 3 Study Design (NCT02130466)



<sup>a</sup>Owing to the small number of patients enrolled in the ECOG PS 1 and LDH ≤1.1 × ULN strata, these strata were combined.



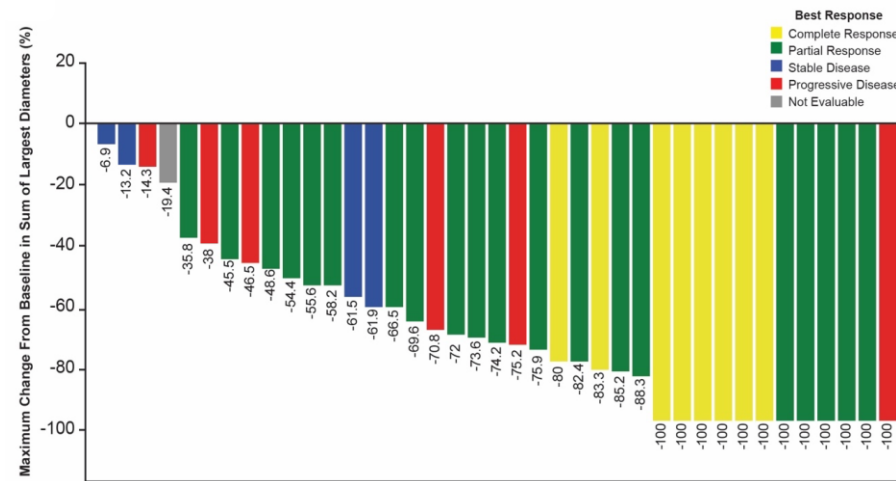
Update at SMR 2019  
(Ferrucci PF, et al.)

	PFS at 24 mos	DOR at 24 mos
Pembro+D/T	41%	55%
Placebo+D/T	16%	16%

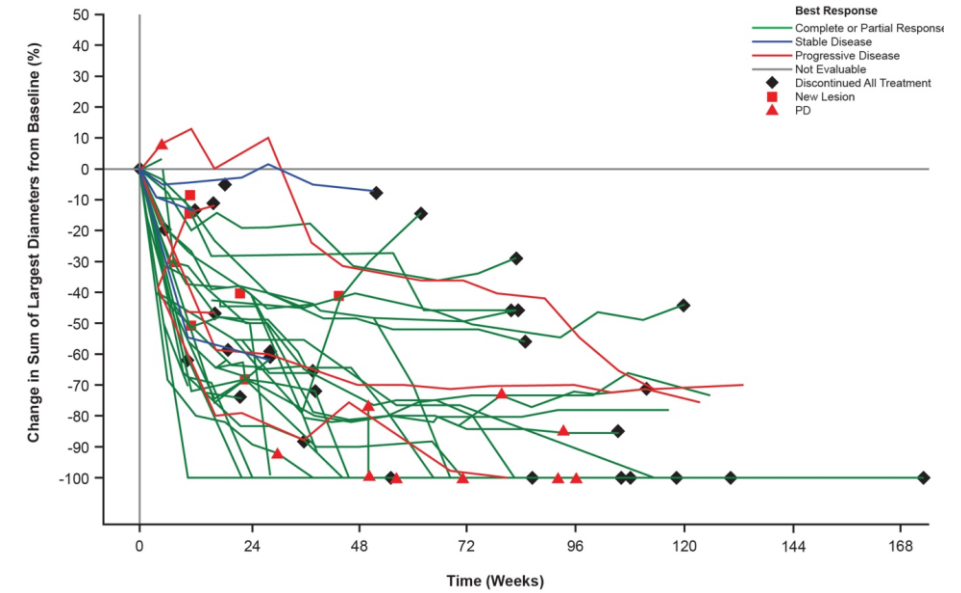
## In development: Combined IO with BRAF targeted therapy

## Phase I: Cobimetinib + vemurafenib + atezolizumab

- ORR: 71.8%
- mDOR: 17.4 mos



Sullivan et al. Nature Med. 2019

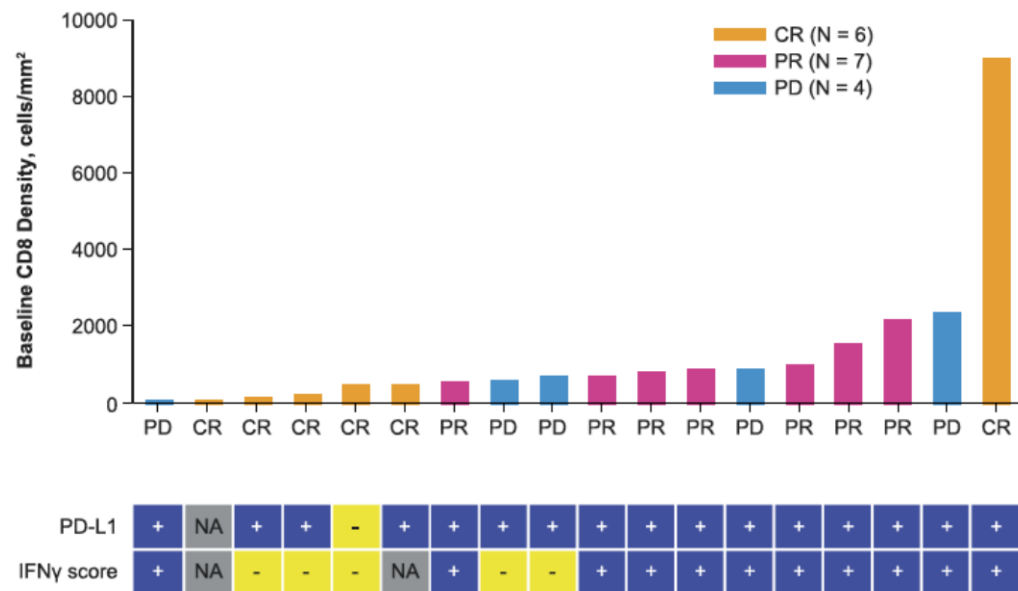


# IMspire150: Phase III Study of Atezolizumab vs Placebo + Vemurafenib/Cobimetinib

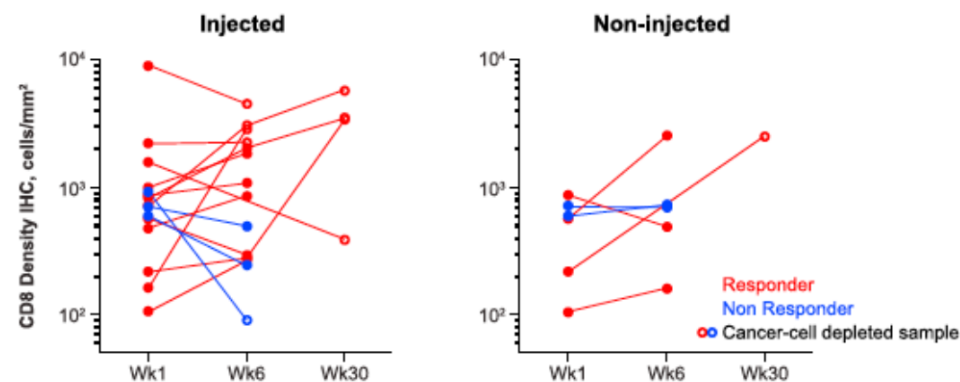
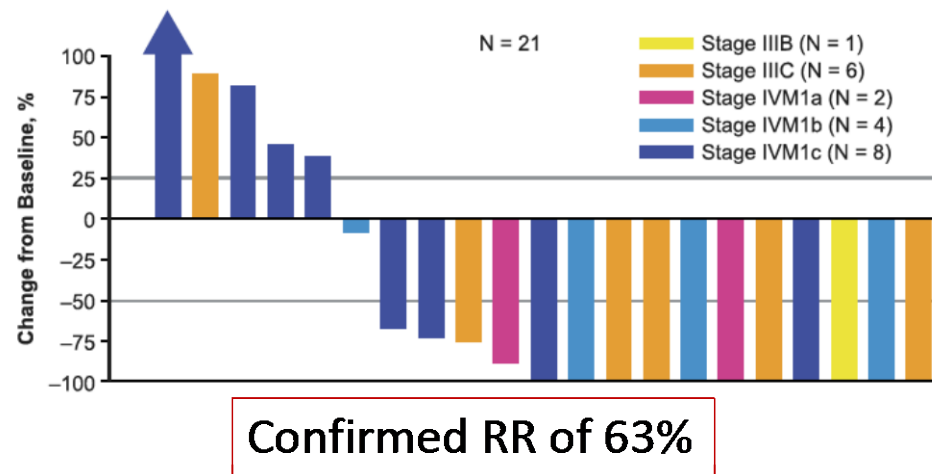
- PFS HR 0.78 (P=0.0249) favoring triple combo despite similar ORR (66% vs 63%)
- Grade 3 TRAEs 79% Atezo/V/C vs 73% P/V/C (Increased CPK, AST/ALT, and rash)

Gutzmer R, et al. Lancet Oncol 2020

# In development: Combined IO with Oncolytic Virus



Phase I: Pembrolizumab + TVEC

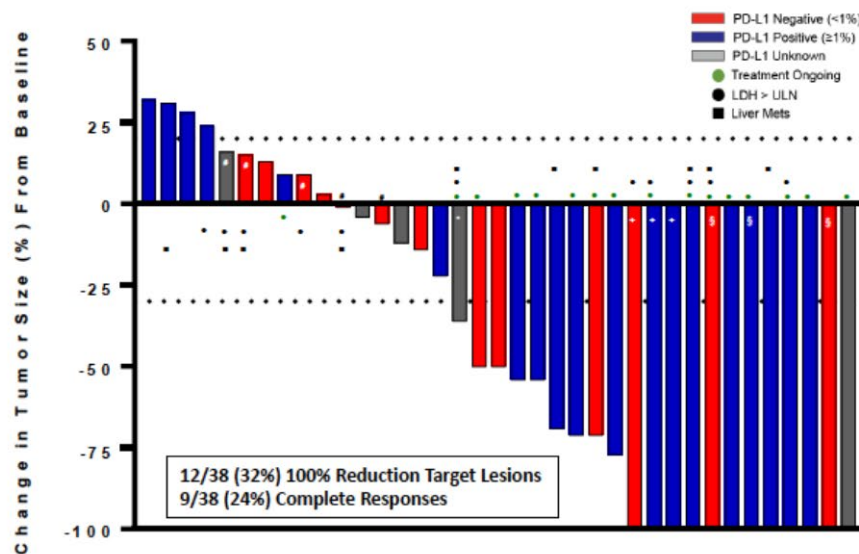


Ribas et al Cell 2017

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

Efficacy (response rate) data from non-randomized 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

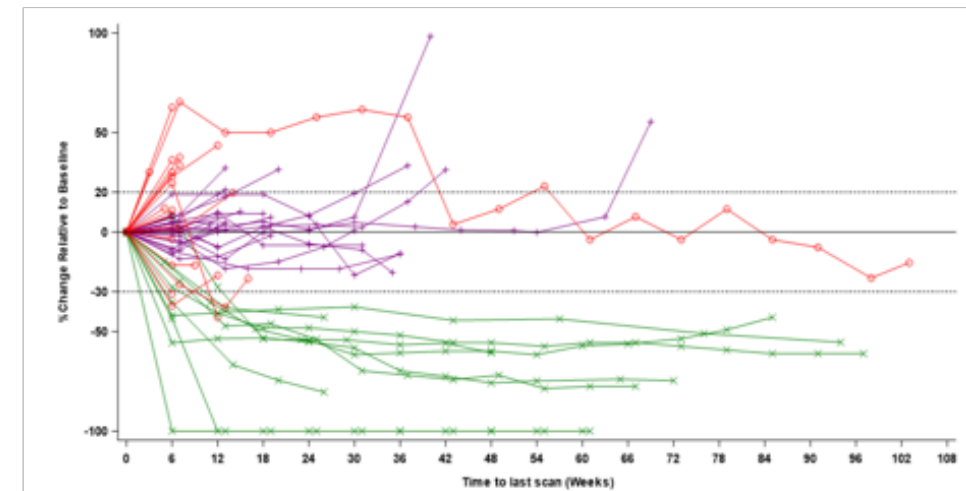
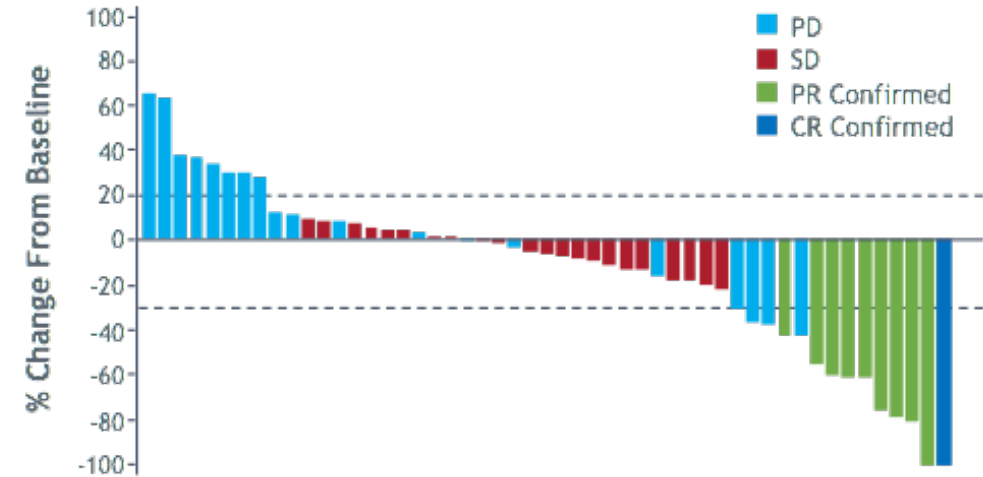


1L Melanoma (n=38 Efficacy Evaluable)	Overall Response Rate
Confirmed ORR (CR+PR)	20 (53%)
CR	9 (24%)
DCR (CR+PR+SD)	29 (76%)
PD-L1 negative (n=14)	6 (43%)
PD-L1 positive (n=19)	13 (68%)
PD-L1 unknown (n=5)	1 (20%)
LDH > ULN (n=11)	5 (45%)
Liver metastases (n=10)	5 (50%)

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

# In development: Combined IO with HDAC inhibitor

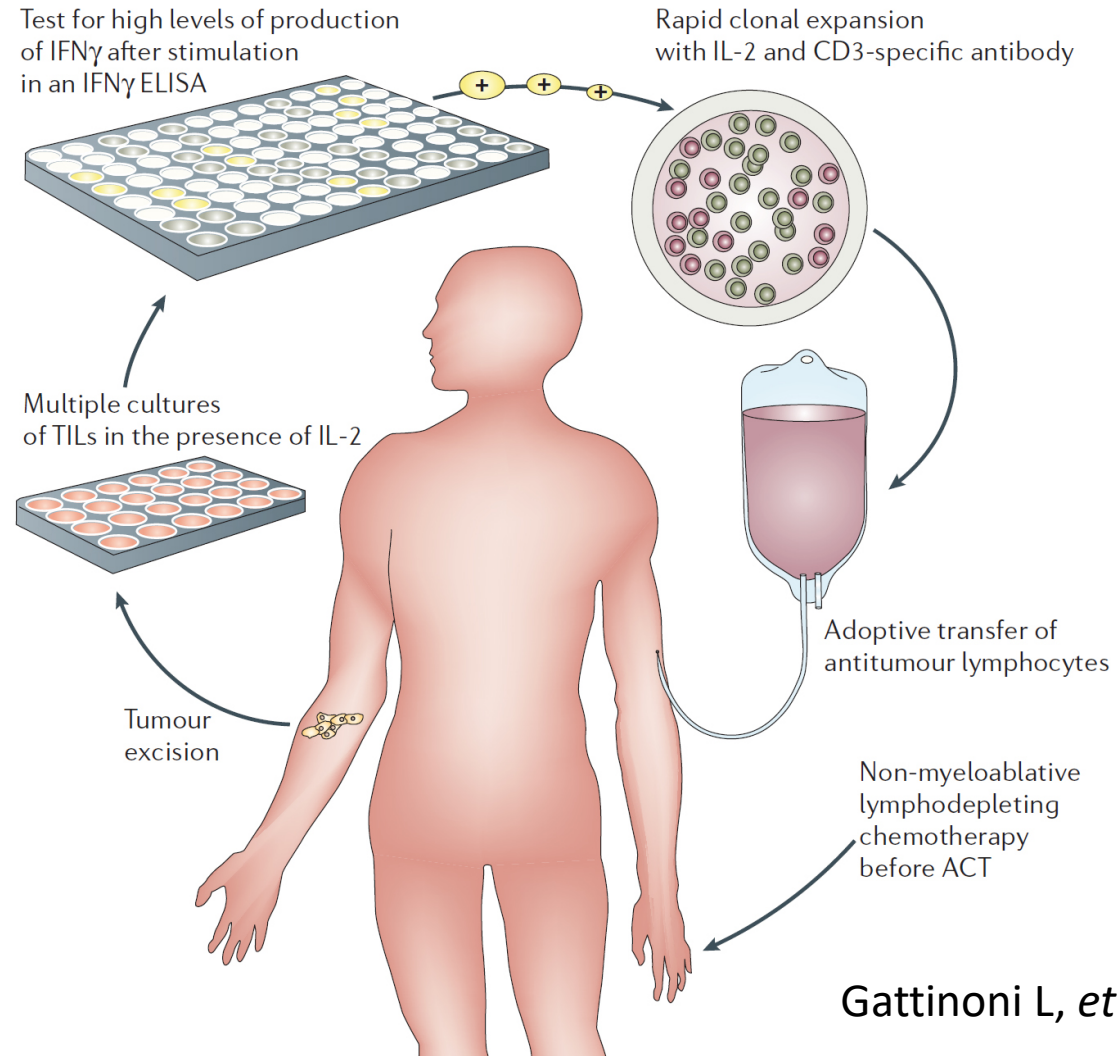
- Entinostat + pembrolizumab
- 19% ORR (1 CR, 9 PR)
- Median duration of response: 13 mo
- 9 additional patients with SD for >6 mo





# Adoptive Cell Therapy (TIL) Overcomes Immune Suppressive TME

- Overcomes poor anti-tumor immune response
- ORR is up to 50% in Melanoma
- Responses are durable

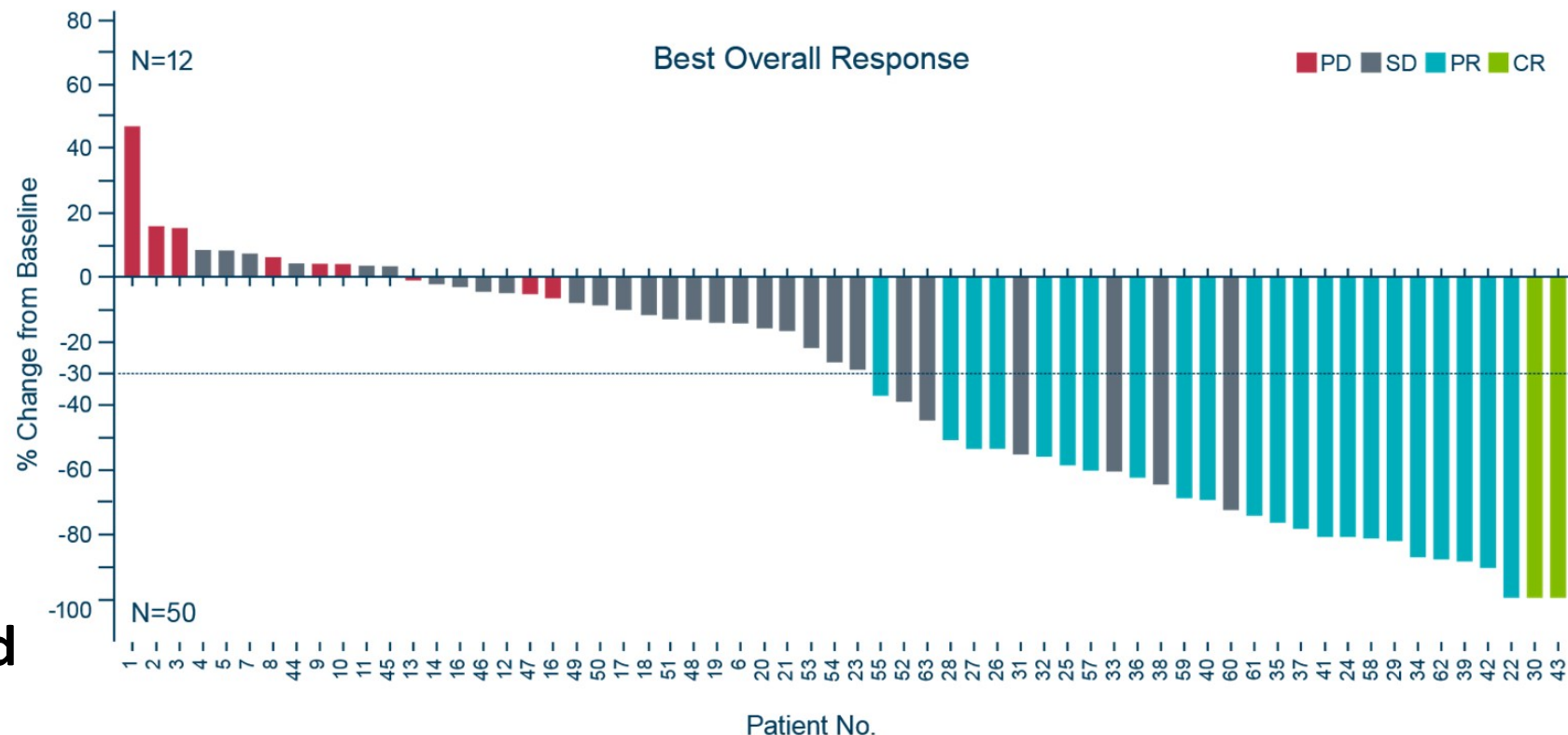


Gattinoni L, *et al.*, Nat Rev, 2006

## C-144-01 Cohort 2 Efficacy: Best Overall Response

81% (50/62) of patients had a reduction in tumor burden

**ORR = 36% (3% CR)**  
**Disease Control Rate = 80%**  
**Median DOR not yet reached**



Three subjects had no post TIL disease assessment due to early death, and one due to start of new anti-cancer therapy

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PRESENTED BY: **Amod Sarnaik, MD**  
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, USA

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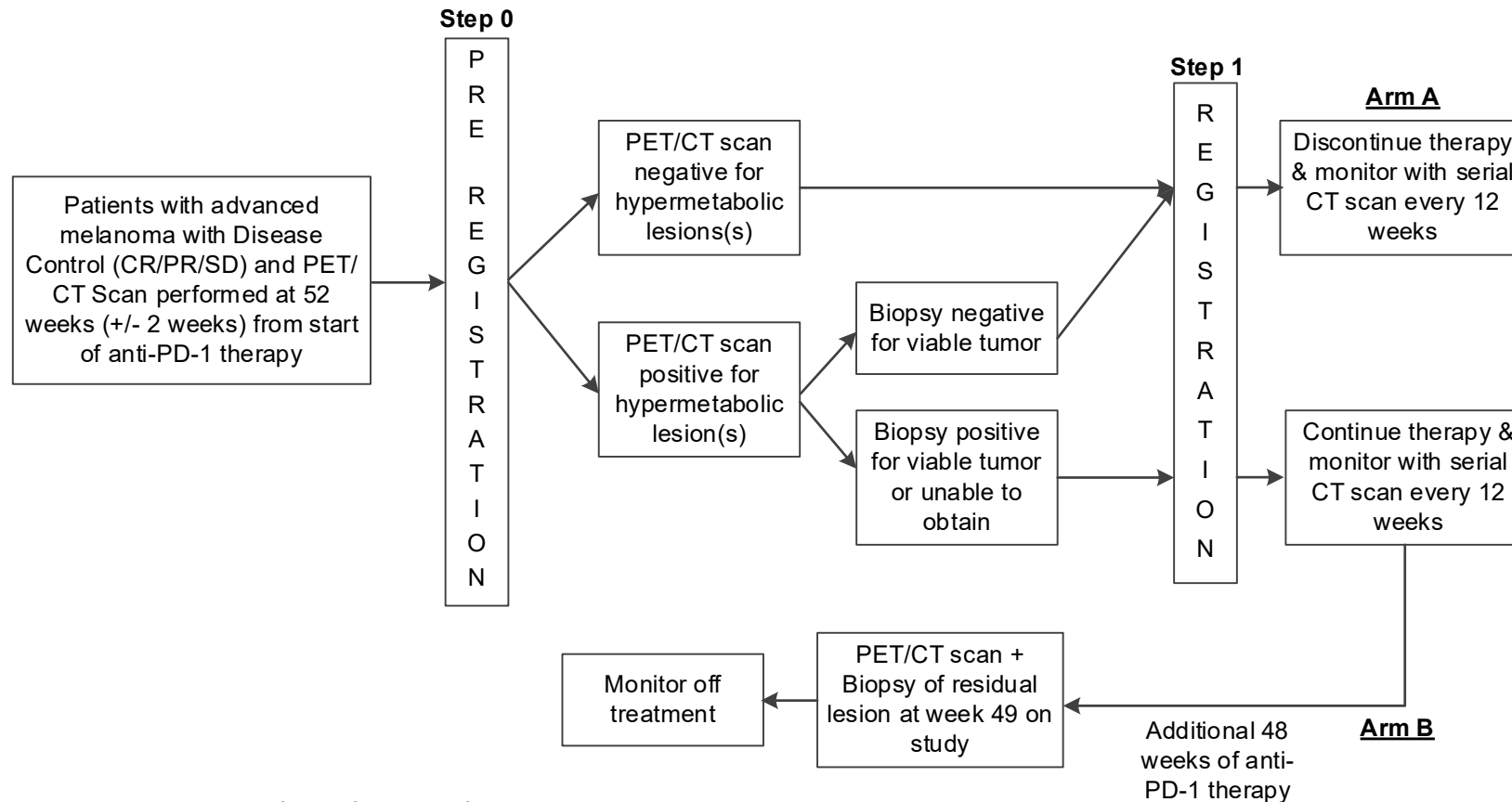
# Key anti-PD-1 questions in melanoma

- When can you safely discontinue anti-PD-1 therapy in a responding patient?
- Is there a reliable biomarker for safe discontinuation of therapy?

# A Phase II Study of Biomarker Driven Early Discontinuation of Anti-PD-1 Therapy in Patients with Advanced Melanoma (PET-Stop)

## Study Schema

EA6192



<https://www.clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04462406>

# 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**

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## An update on the Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer consensus statement on tumor immunotherapy for the treatment of cutaneous melanoma: version 2.0

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# Case Studies

# Case Study 1

Mr. Jones is a 45 yo M with a history of stage I melanoma excised from his right arm. Five years later he presents with a seizure and imaging studies identify a 3cm right parietal mass, a 1 cm left frontal mass, and right axillary adenopathy. Resection of the parietal mass showed metastatic melanoma, BRAF mutant. No steroids required and patient back to baseline. What is the next step?

- A. Surgery for the left frontal mass
- B. Stereotactic radiosurgery for management of the CNS disease
- C. Nivolumab plus Ipilimumab
- D. Pembrolizumab
- E. BRAF targeted therapy