

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

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Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



## Disclosures

 Principle Investigator and Sponsor of an Investigator Initiated Phase II Trial of Nivolumab as a Novel Neoadjuvant Pre-Surgical Therapy for Locally Advanced Oral Cavity Cancer that funded by Bristol Myers Squibb



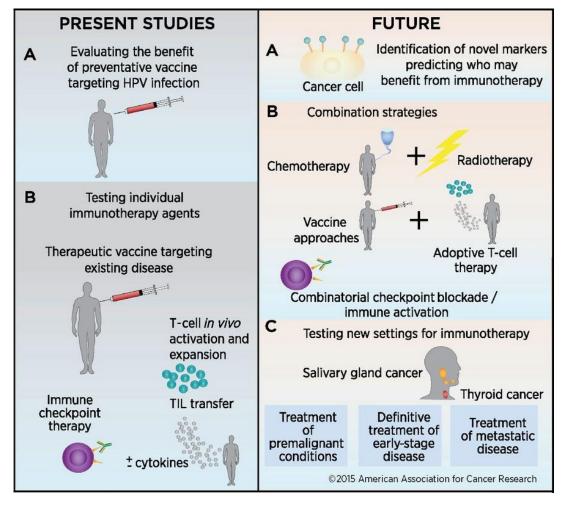




### I-O Developments

- Expression of immunologic markers to guide treatment
- Preventive vaccination against virally mediated cancers
- PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of metastatic disease

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers



Schoenfeld JD, Cancer Immunol Res, 2015

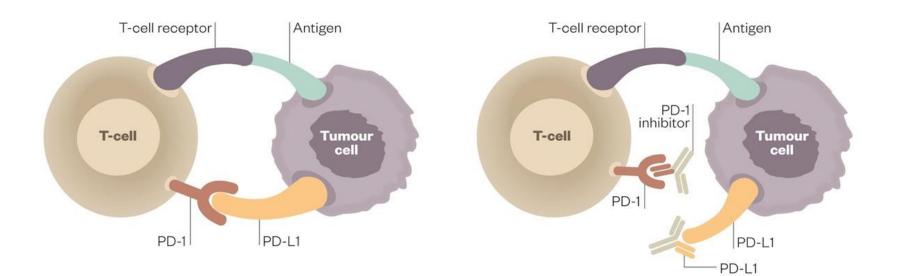








Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs)



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

Guha M, The Pharmaceutical Journal, 2014







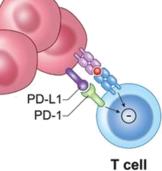


FDA-approved Checkpoint Inhibitors for use in Head and Neck Cancers

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

In Development:

- Durvalumab, Atezolizumab, Avelumab (anti-PD-L1)
- R2810, PRD001, Tesaro (anti-PD-1)
- Ipilimumab, Tremelimumab (anti-CTLA-4)



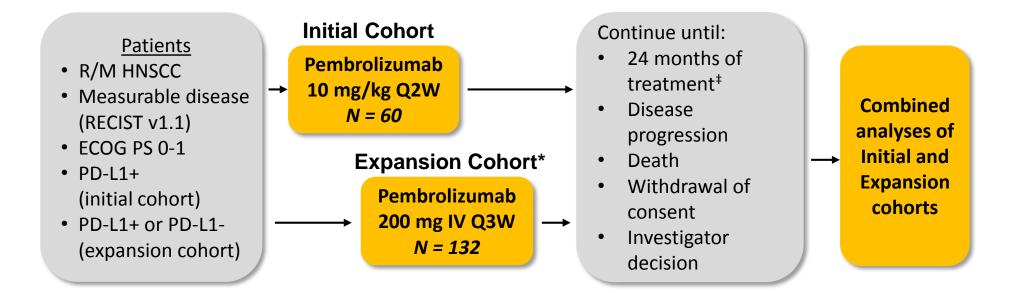
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### KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC Phase 1b trial, Cohorts<sup>+</sup> B, B2



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<sup>§</sup>

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



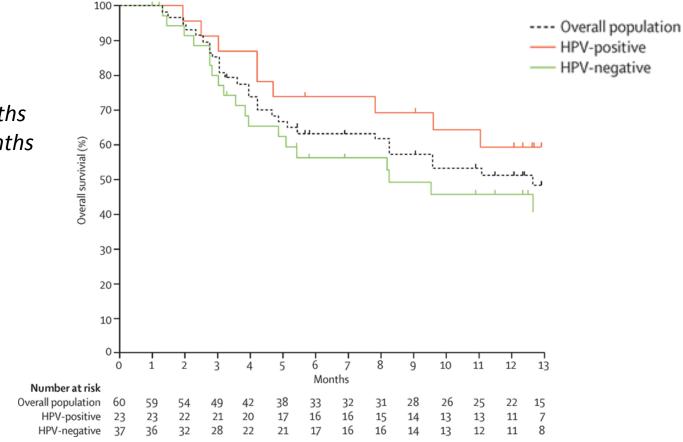








### KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort *Overall Survival*



Seiwert TY, Lancet Oncol, 2016



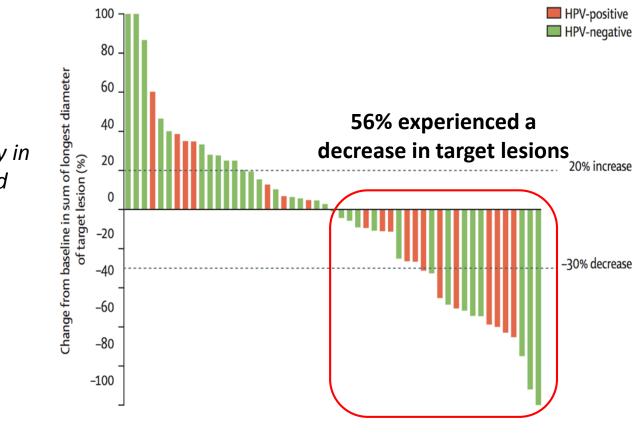




- ORR = 18%
- *mOS* = 8.0 *months*
- *mPFS* = 2.2 months



### KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort *Tumor Shrinkage*



Seiwert TY Lancet Oncol 2016





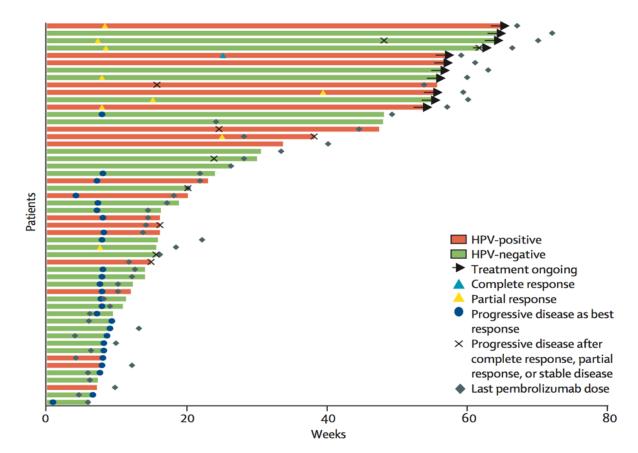


 Demonstrated activity in both HPV-positive and HPV-negative tumors



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### KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort Durability of Response



\*Those patients that do response show prolonged duration of response, most seen early on

Seiwert TY, Lancet Oncol, 2016

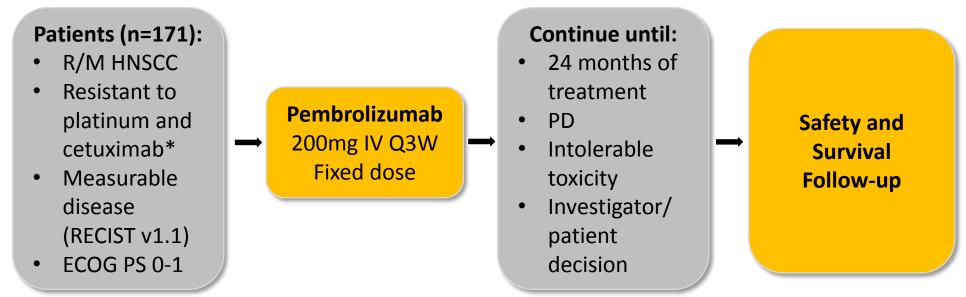








KEYNOTE-055: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC after Progression on Platinum and Cetuximab Phase 2 Trial, Single Arm



Bauml, JCO 2017

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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 ≥2 prior lines of therapy for metastatic disease





KEYNOTE-055: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC after Progression on Platinum and Cetuximab Phase 2 Trial, Single Arm

Outcome	All Patients N=171	HPV Status		PD-L1 Status		
		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

mDOR = 8 months mOS = 8 months

ORR = 16%

ORR: overall response; mDOR: median duration of response; mOS: median overall survival; CR: complete response; PR: partial response; SD: stable disease; PD: progressive disease

1% combined positive score (CPS) cutoff:

- Most patients (82%) were PD-L1 positive as determined by combined positive score (CPS) ≥1, and 28% of PD-L1-positive patients had a CPS ≥50%.
- Response rates were similar regardless of PD-1 expression.
- The 1 complete response recorded in the study occurred in a patient with a CPS of ≥50%.

Bauml J, et al, J Clin Oncol. 2017









KEYNOTE-055: Pembrolizumab in R/M HNSCC after Progression on Platinum and Cetuximab Phase 2 Trial, Single Arm

Progression Free Survival **Overall Survival** \*Neither the Progression-free Survival (%) effects of tumor Overall Survival (%) **PD-L1** positive patients **PD-L1 positive patients PD-L1 negative patients** PD-L1 expression nor HPV status are sufficiently robust in guiding the use of ICI therapy at this time. Time (months) Time (months) No. at risk PD-L1 positive PD-L1 negative 

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Bauml J, et al, J Clin Oncol. 2017





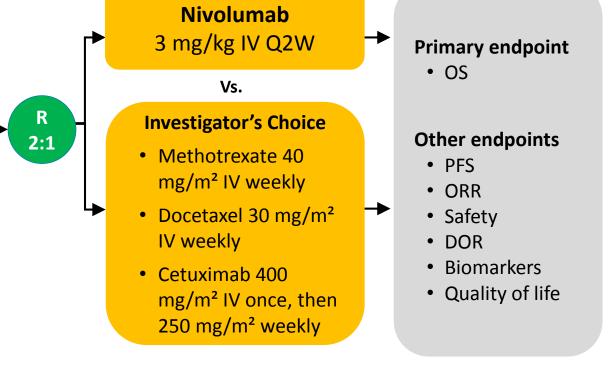
CheckMate 141: Nivolumab vs. Investigator's Choice in R/M HNSCC after Platinum Therapy *Phase 3 Randomized, Safety and Efficacy trial* 

#### **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<sup>a</sup>

#### **Stratification factor**

Prior cetuximab treatment



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



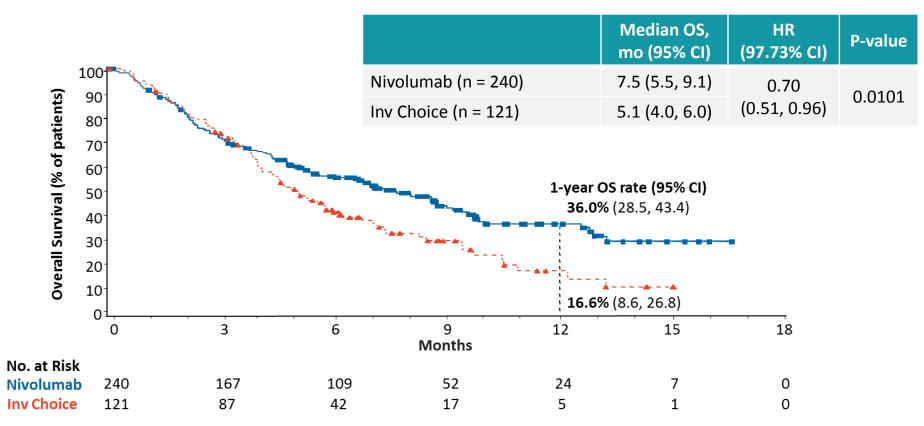




<sup>a</sup>Tissue required for testing



CheckMate 141: Nivolumab vs. Investigator's Choice in R/M HNSCC after Platinum Therapy *Overall Survival* 



Response Rate only 13%, but major impact on Survival

Ferris & Gillison, NEJM, 2016

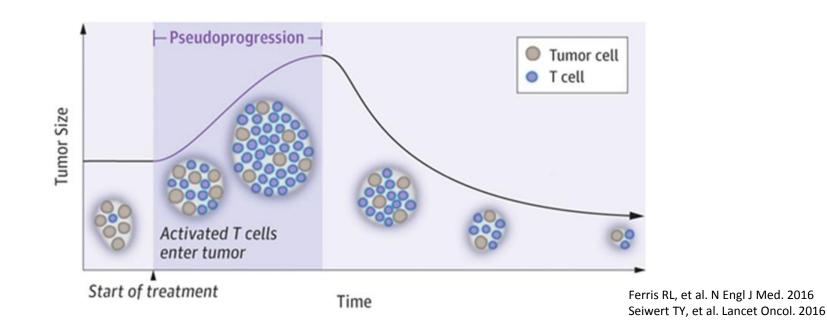








Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Treatment with Brief Increase in Tumor Size *Pseudoprogression* 



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









\*KEYNOTE-012 and CHECKMAKE-141 trials of pembrolizumab and nivolumab showed an exceedingly rare rate of pseudoprogression. Response to Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Treatment with Brief Increase in Tumor Size *Pseudoprogression:* Case Report from Keynote-012



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









Patient Case Study 1

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



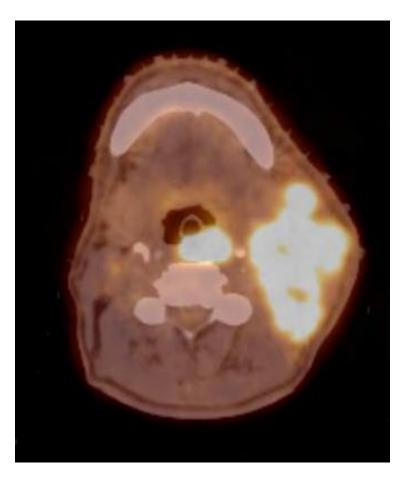




### Patient Case Study 1 November 2014

### • PET CT

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





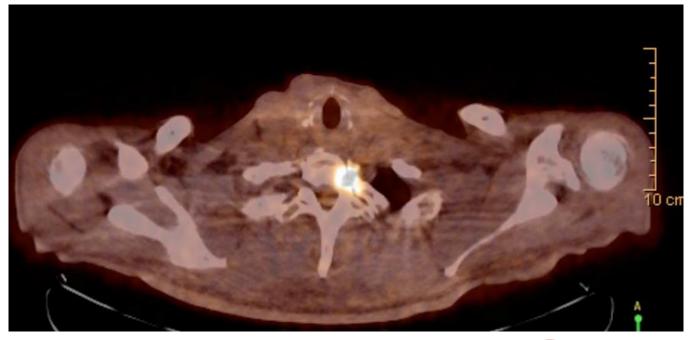






### Patient Case Study 1 January 2015

- Cervical disease decreased pain improved
  - Carboplatin/paclitaxel 1<sup>st</sup> line
- PET CT revealed new osseous and axillary mets
  - Started on cetuximab 2<sup>nd</sup> line







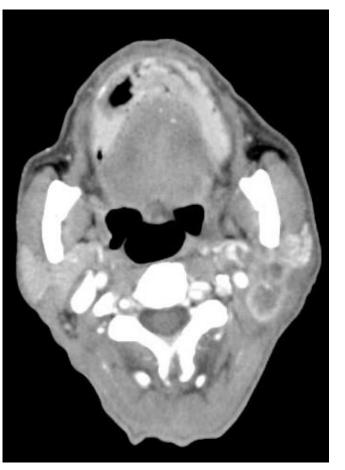


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### Patient Case Study 1 June 2015

- 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 Case Study 2

Patient Background Information:

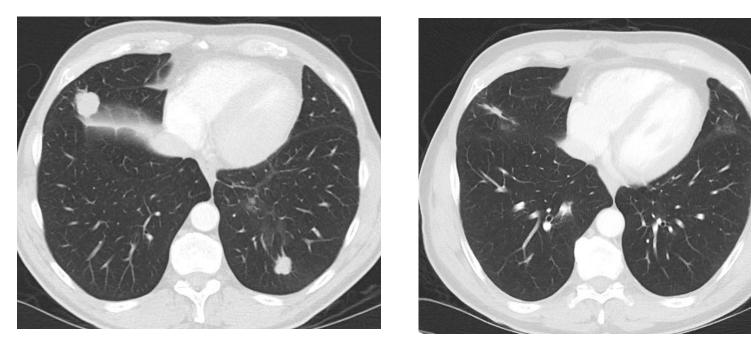
- 65 yo, prior smoker (10ppy)
- Presented with a large mass in the R oropharynx
- Underwent carboplatin/paclitaxel/cetuximab induction
- Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy with high dose cisplatin
- 3 months after CRT, presented with multiple pulmonary nodules
- Cetuximab in metastatic setting





Patient Case Study 2 February 2015

- Enrolled in KEYNOTE 055
  - Started on pembrolizumab
- Experienced a near CR











Next Steps: Evaluating Biomarkers in HNSCC

Current FDA approval of pembrolizumab and nivolumab is <u>NOT</u> contingent upon PD-L1 IHC

- KEYNOTE-012 and -055: response rates were not significantly different on the basis of tumor PD-L1 staining
- CHECKMATE-141: most benefit was seen in PD-L1 positive tumors



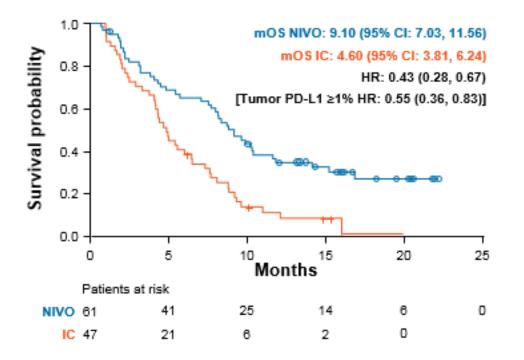


# Next Steps: PD-L1 Staining Outside of the tumor

How can we improve on these methods?

- PD-L1 staining is not limited to tumor, though the approved assays only look there
- In KEYNOTE and CHECKMATE 141, inclusion of tumor associated PD-L1+ immune cells improves diagnostic performance

Tumor PD-L1 ≥1% & PD-L1+ TAIC Abundance



Ferris et al AACR 2017









### 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
- 5. SITC Clinical Immunotherapy Guidelines are currently in development for HNSCC





