

ADVANCES IN  
**Cancer**  
IMMUNOTHERAPY™



# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

Dan P Zandberg MD

Assistant Professor of Medicine

University of Maryland Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

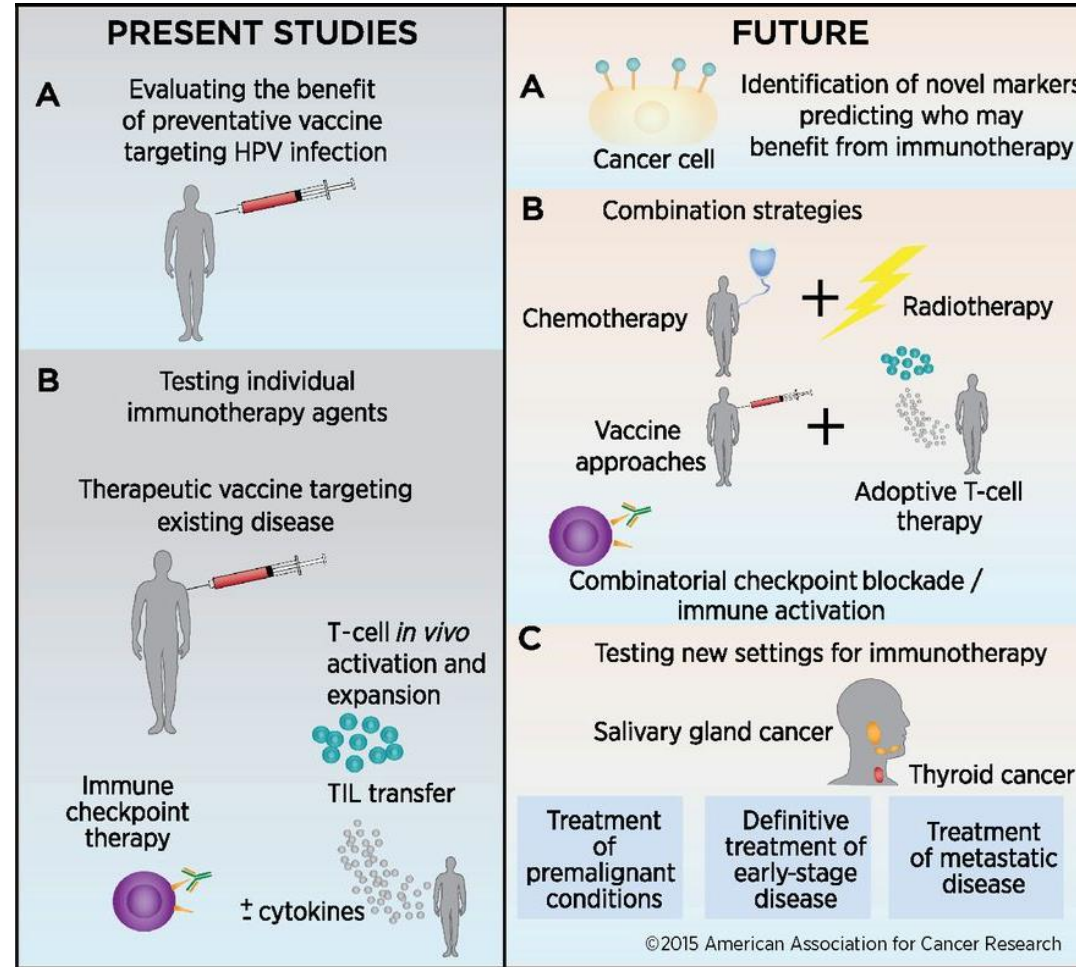
# Disclosures

- Research support from Merck, Bristol Myers Squibb, AstraZeneca/Medimmune, MacroGenics, Gliknik,

# Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Head and Neck Cancers

## I-O Developments

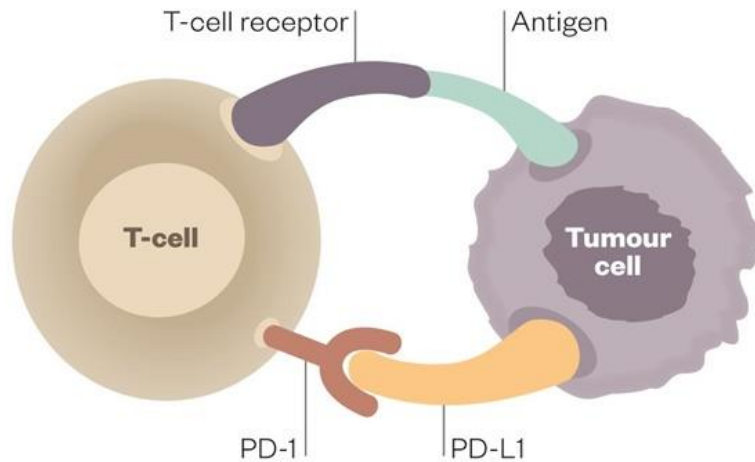
- Expression of immunologic markers to guide treatment
- Preventive vaccination against virally mediated cancers
- PD-1 checkpoint inhibitors for the treatment of metastatic disease



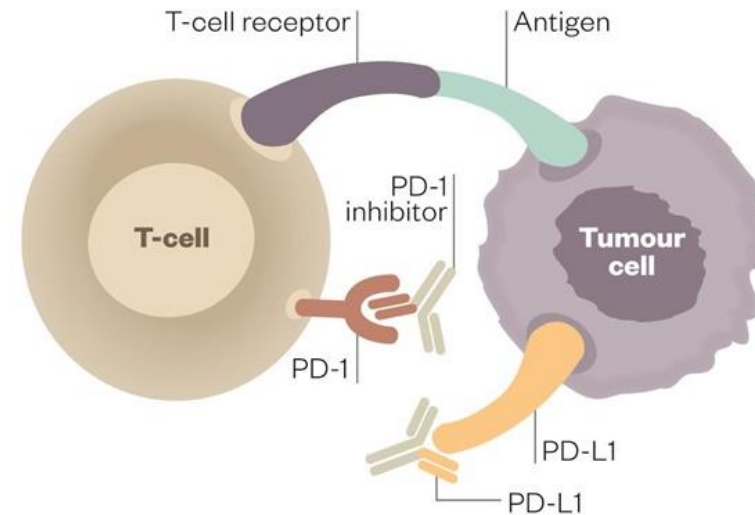
Schoenfeld JD, Cancer Immunol Res, 2015

# 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

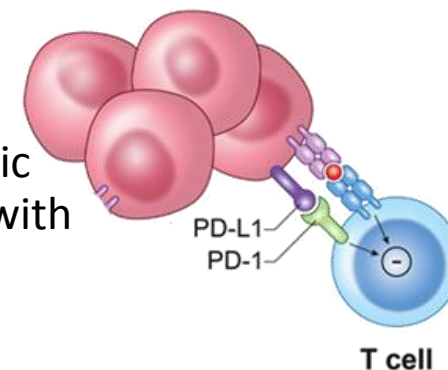


Antibodies against PD-1 and PD-L1 boost the immune response against cancer cells

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



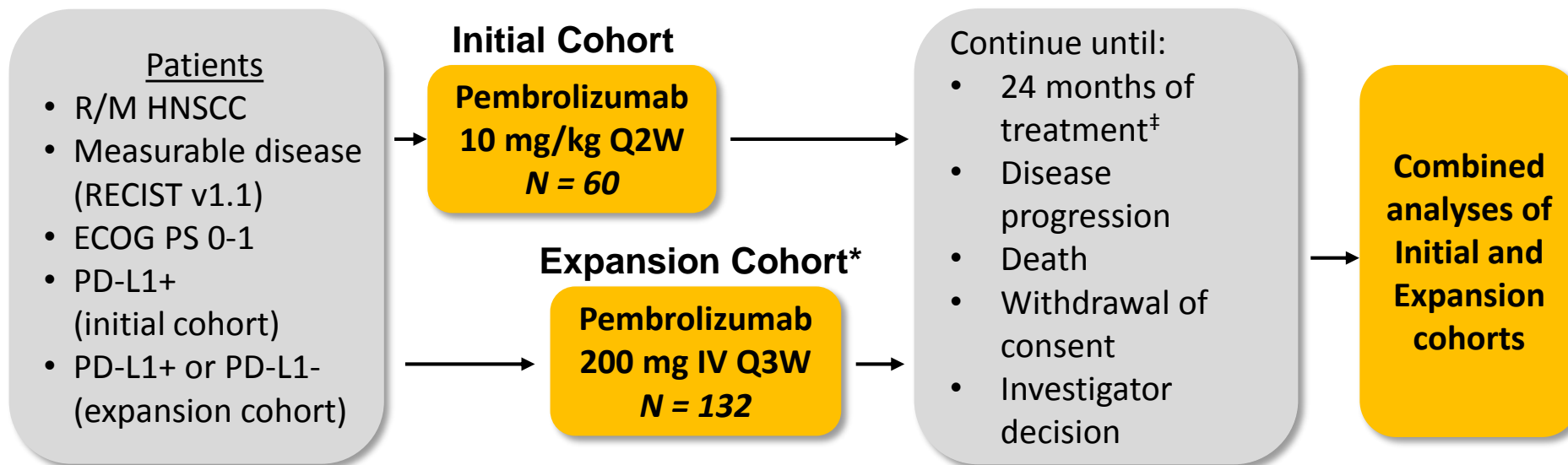
### In Development/Trials ongoing:

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



## 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.

\*Median duration of disease not reached.

## KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort

### Tumor Shrinkage

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

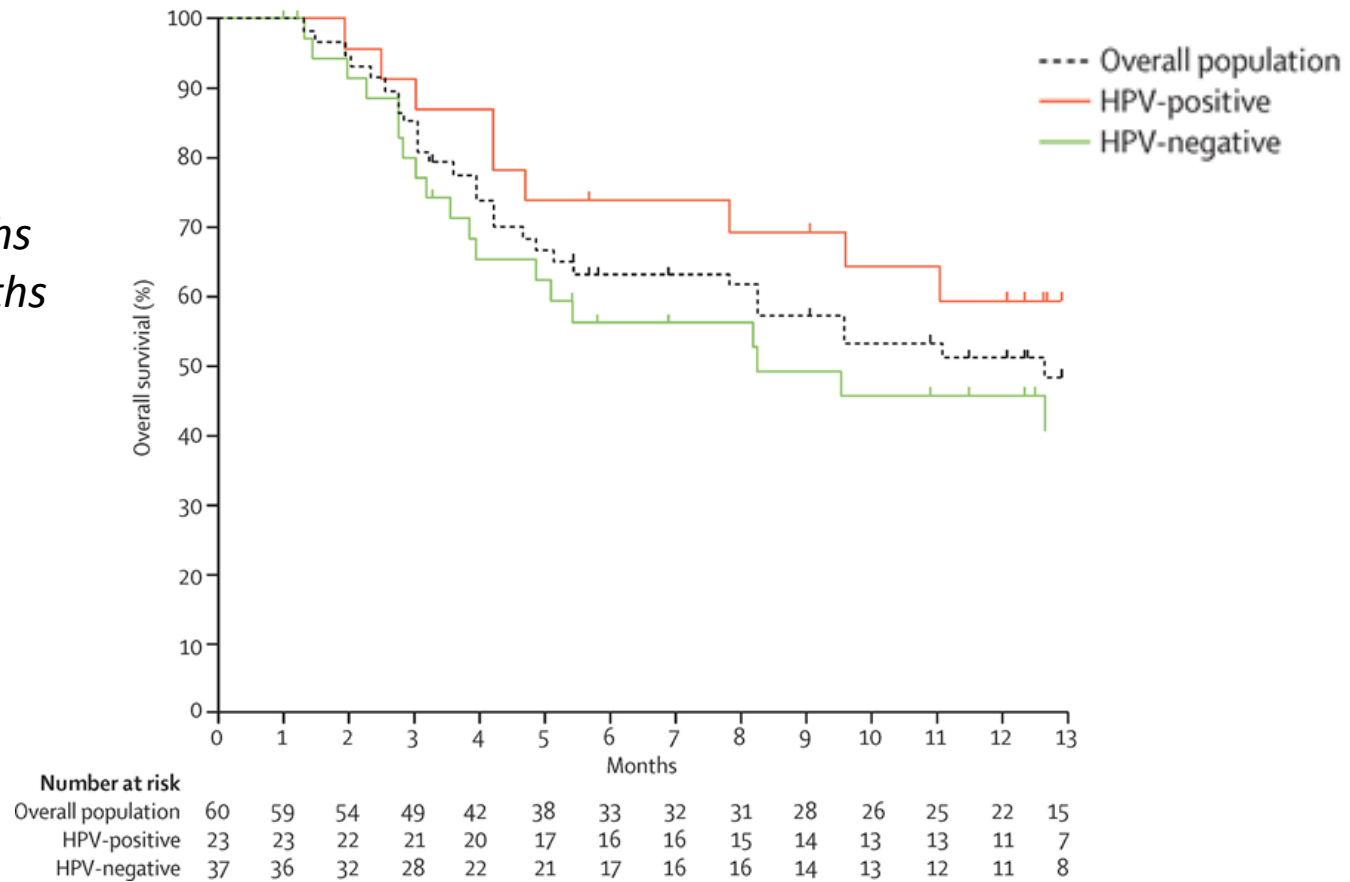


Seiwert TY Lancet Oncol 2016

## KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort

### Overall Survival

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

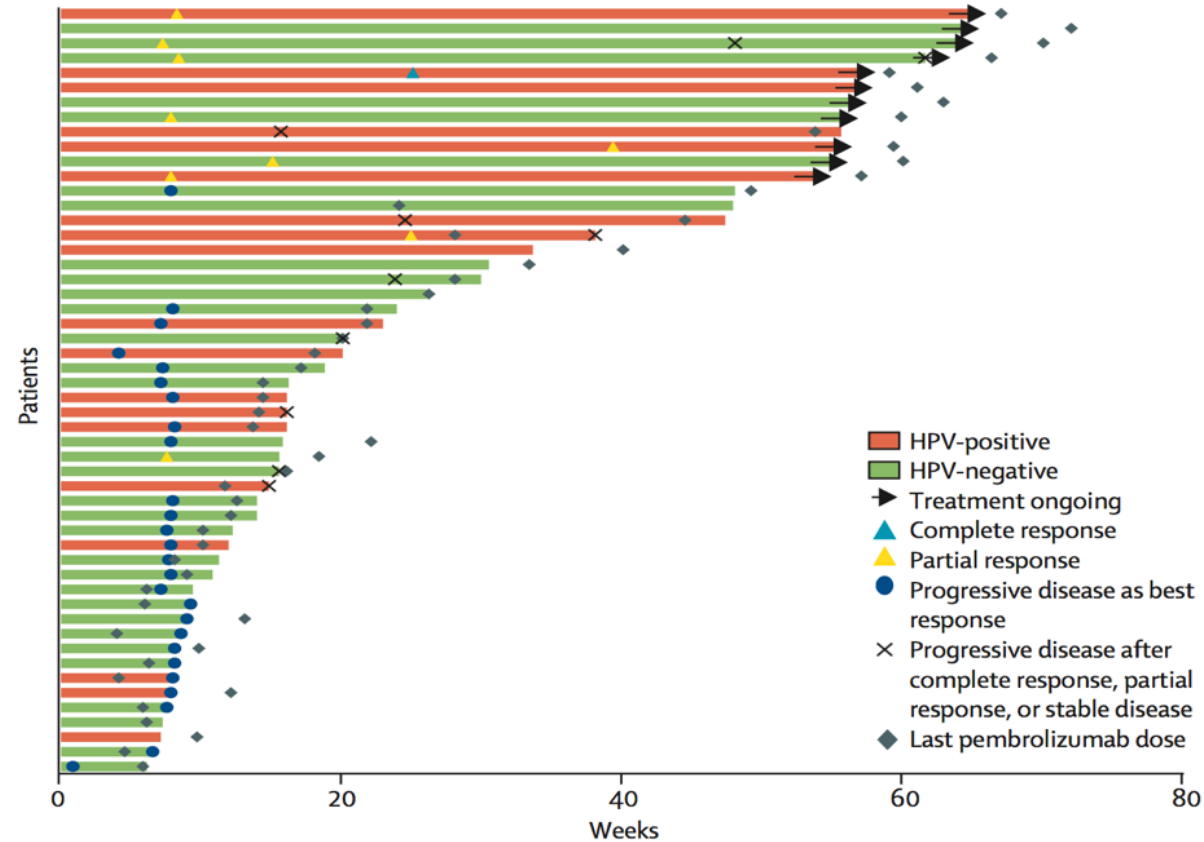


Seiwert TY, Lancet Oncol, 2016



## KEYNOTE-012: Pembrolizumab in HNSCC Cohort

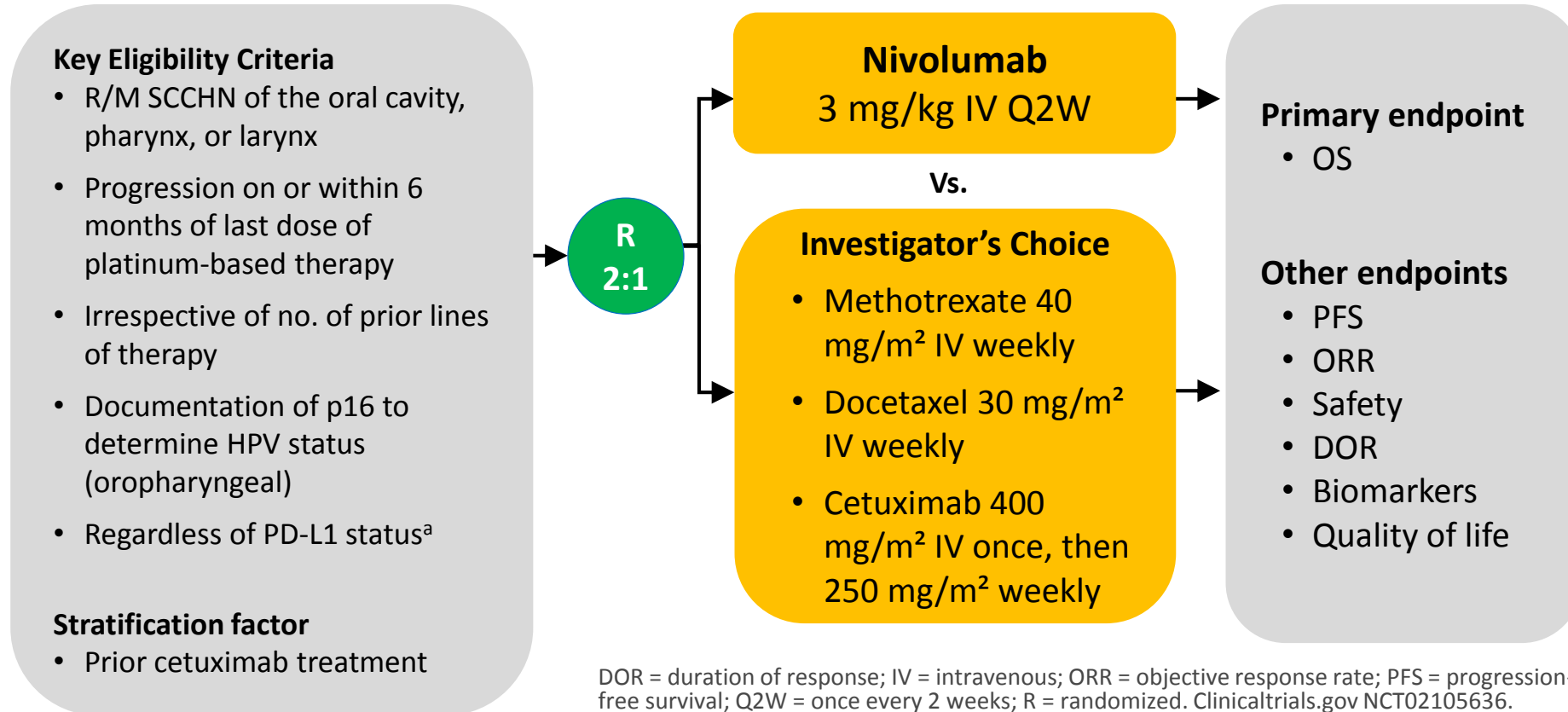
### *Durability of Response*



\*Those patients that do respond show prolonged duration of response, most responses early

Seiwert TY, Lancet Oncol, 2016

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

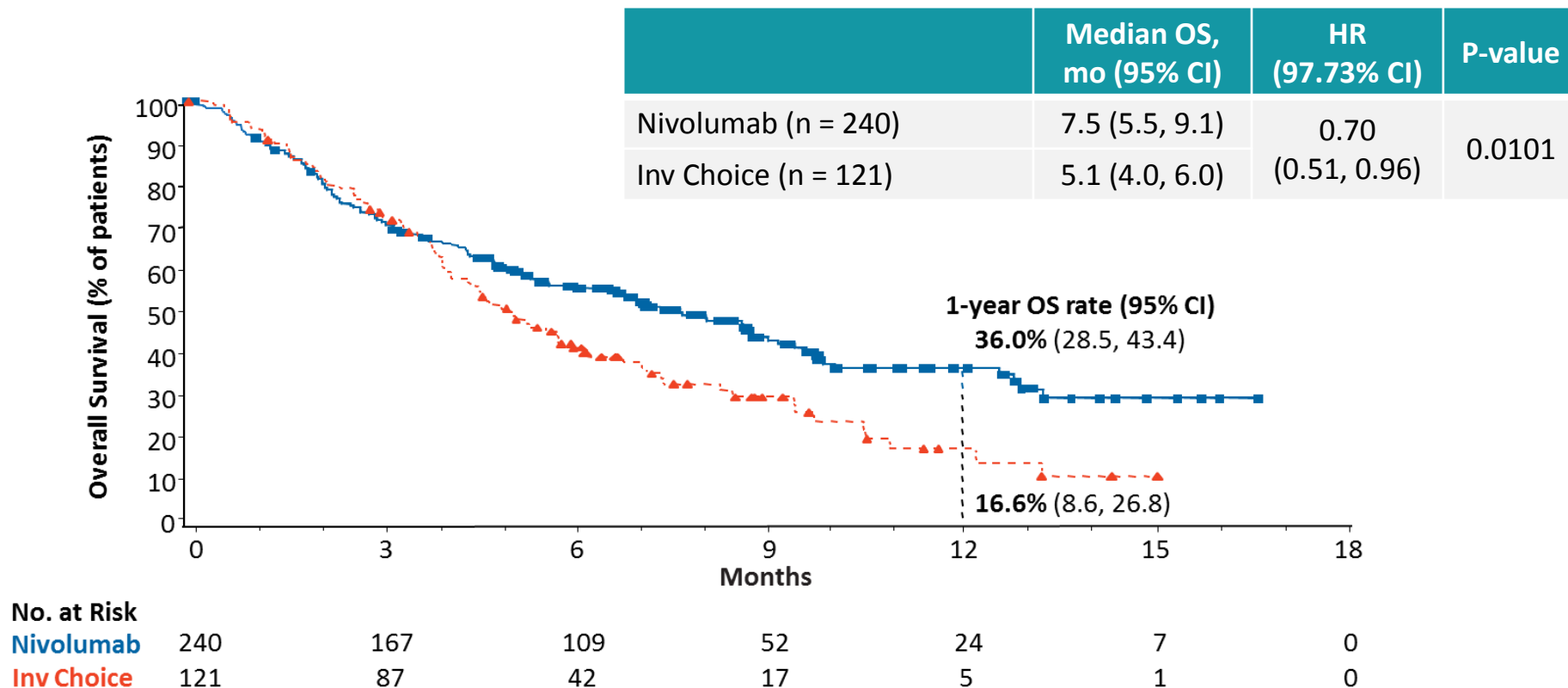


<sup>a</sup>Tissue required for testing

Ferris & Gillison, NEJM, 2016

## 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

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

**Table 3. Treatment-Related Adverse Events Occurring in at Least 5% of the Patients in Either Group.**

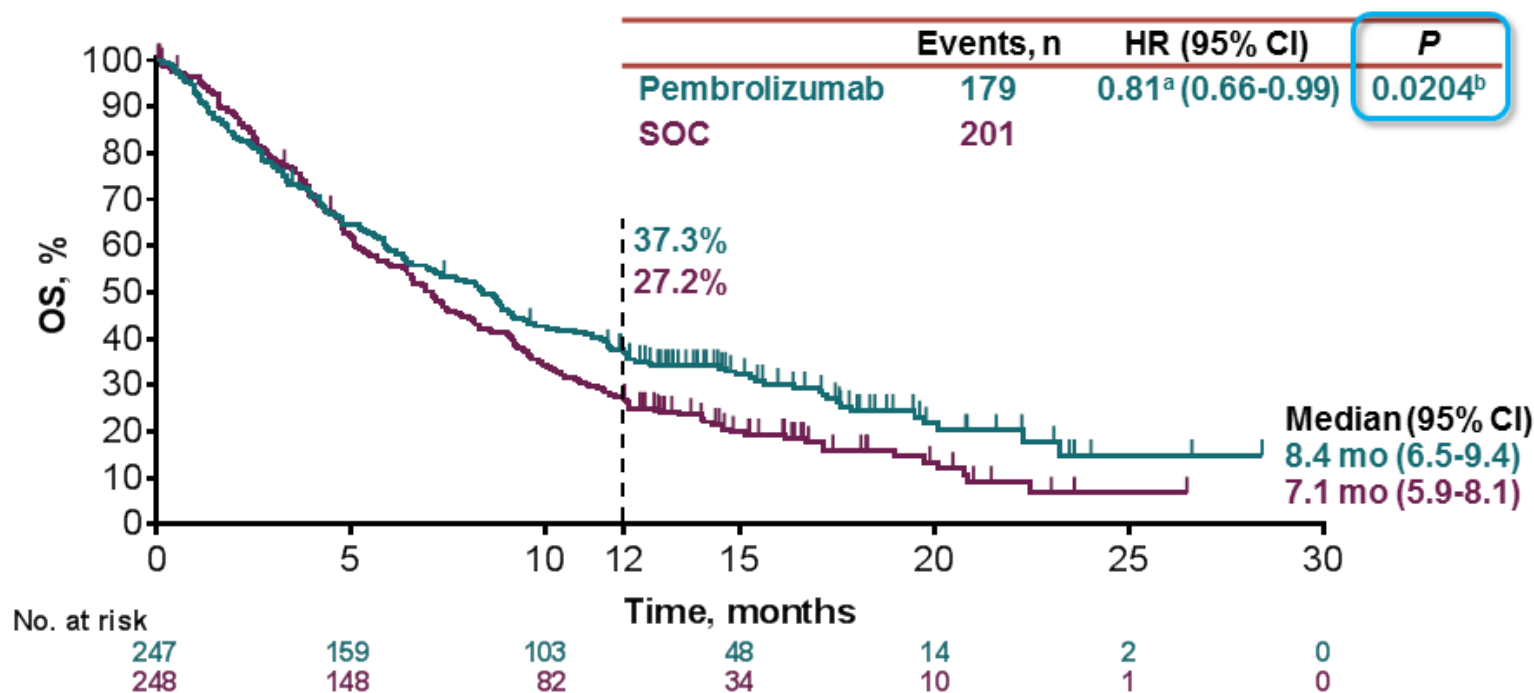
Event	Nivolumab (N = 236)		Standard Therapy (N = 111)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4	Any Grade	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>			
Any event	139 (58.9)*	31 (13.1)	86 (77.5)†	39 (35.1)
Fatigue	33 (14.0)	5 (2.1)	19 (17.1)	3 (2.7)
Nausea	20 (8.5)	0	23 (20.7)	1 (0.9)
Rash	18 (7.6)	0	5 (4.5)	1 (0.9)
Decreased appetite	17 (7.2)	0	8 (7.2)	0
Pruritus	17 (7.2)	0	0	0
Diarrhea	16 (6.8)	0	15 (13.5)	2 (1.8)
Anemia	12 (5.1)	3 (1.3)	18 (16.2)	5 (4.5)
Asthenia	10 (4.2)	1 (0.4)	16 (14.4)	2 (1.8)
Vomiting	8 (3.4)	0	8 (7.2)	0
Dry skin	7 (3.0)	0	10 (9.0)	0
Stomatitis	5 (2.1)	1 (0.4)	10 (9.0)	3 (2.7)
Weight loss	4 (1.7)	0	6 (5.4)	0
Mucosal inflammation	3 (1.3)	0	14 (12.6)	2 (1.8)
Peripheral neuropathy	1 (0.4)	0	7 (6.3)	0
Alopecia	0	0	14 (12.6)	3 (2.7)
Neutropenia	0	0	9 (8.1)	8 (7.2)

Ferris & Gillison, NEJM, 2016

# Keynote 040: Pembrolizumab vs. Investigator's Choice in R/M HNSCC after Platinum Therapy *Overall Survival*

E Cohen\_ESMO 2017

## Overall Survival in ITT Population

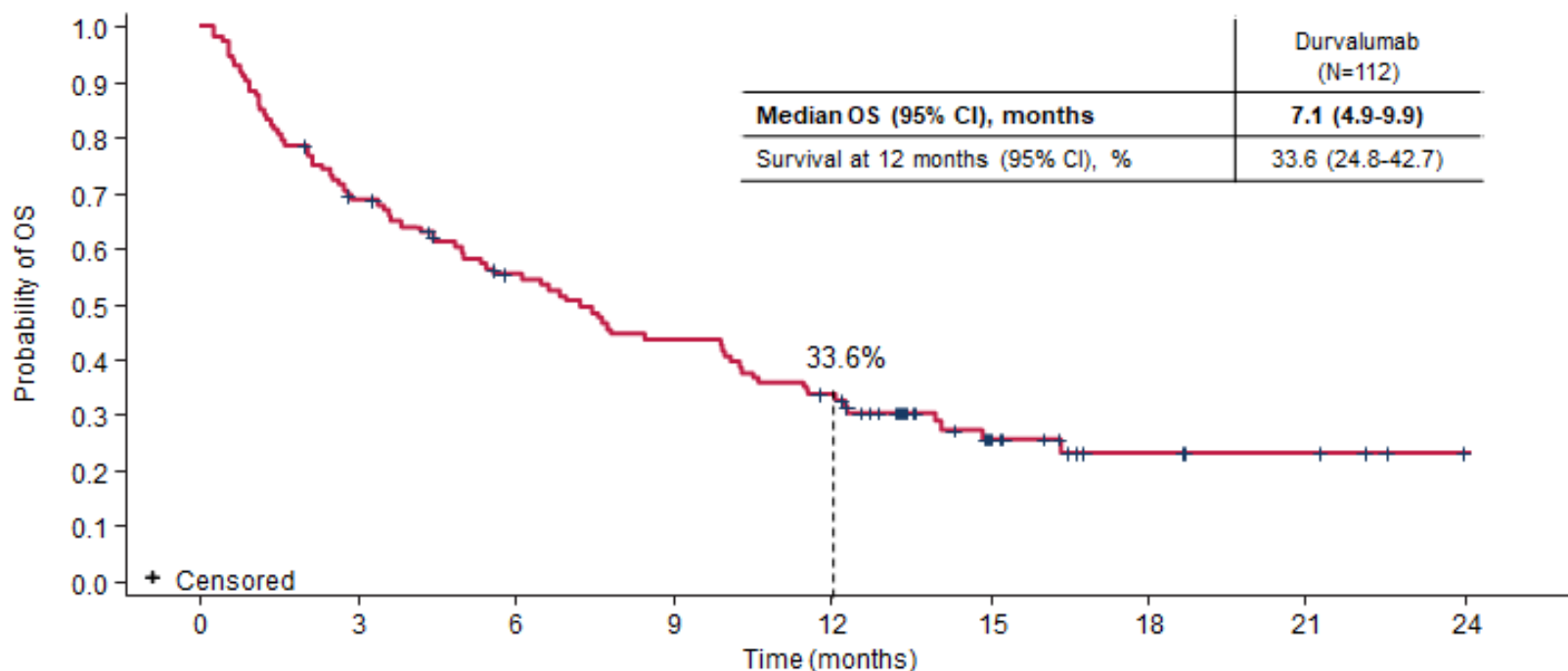


<sup>a</sup>Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Initially reported data: HR 0.82 (95% CI, 0.67-1.01),  $P = 0.0316$ . After the initial report, updated survival data were obtained for 4 patients. <sup>b</sup>One-sided  $P$  value based on the log-rank test stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.

MADRID 2017 **ESMO** congress

## Hawk Trial: Durvalumab in PD-L1 high R/M HNSCC after failure of platinum based therapy

### Overall Survival



	N=111
<b>ORR, n (%)</b>	18 (16.2 [95% CI, 9.90-24.41])
<b>DCR at 24 weeks n (%)</b>	26 (23.4)



# Patient Case Study 1

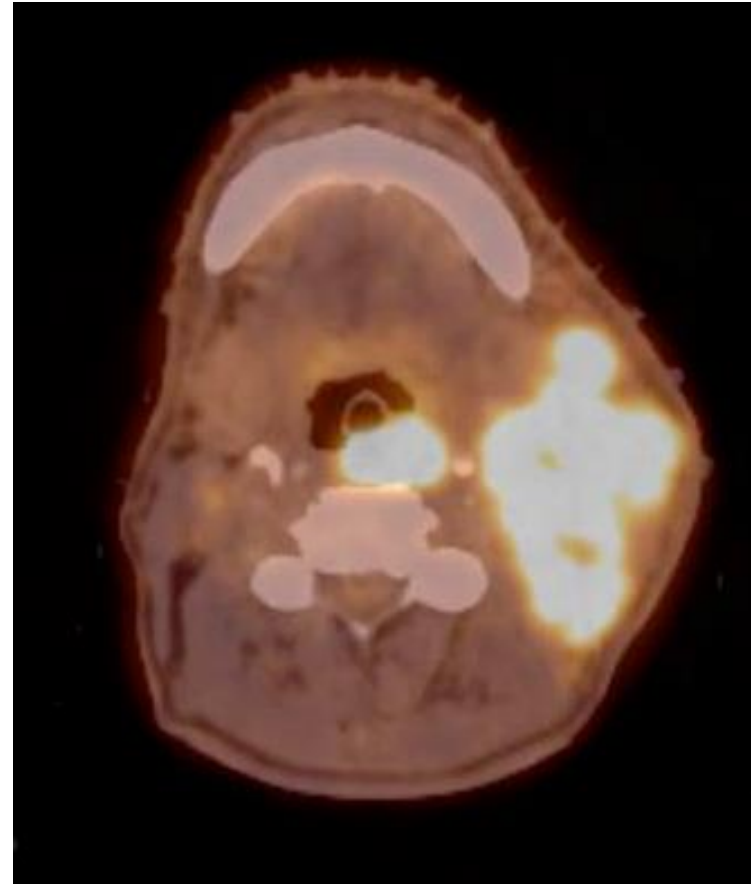
## Patient Background Information:

- 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

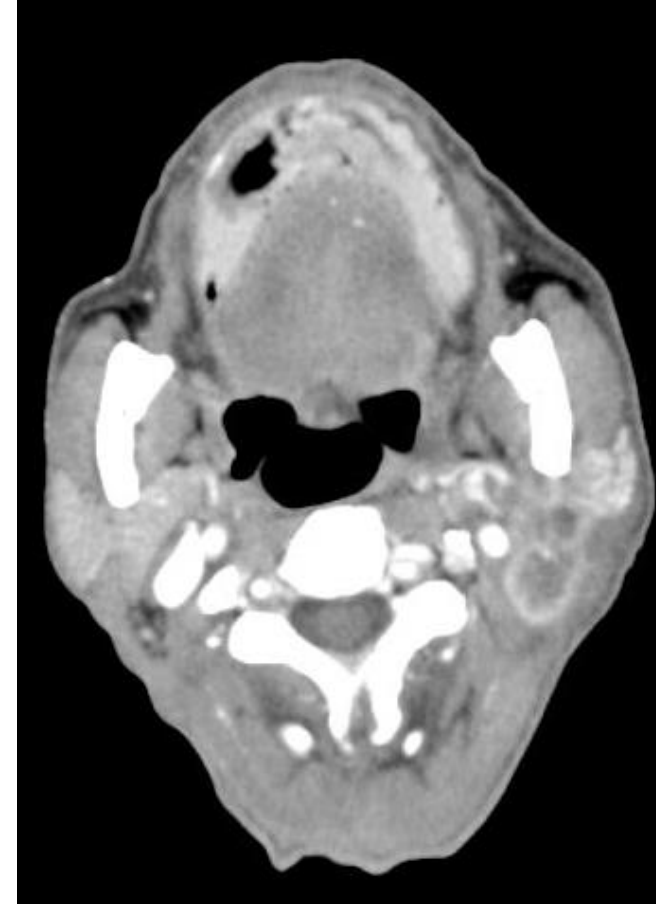
- Cervical disease decreased – pain improved
  - Carboplatin/paclitaxel 1<sup>st</sup> line
- PET CT revealed new osseous and axillary mets
  - Started on cetuximab 2<sup>nd</sup> line



## 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

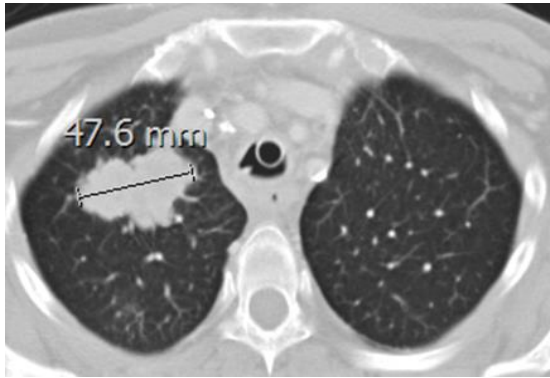
### October 2015

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

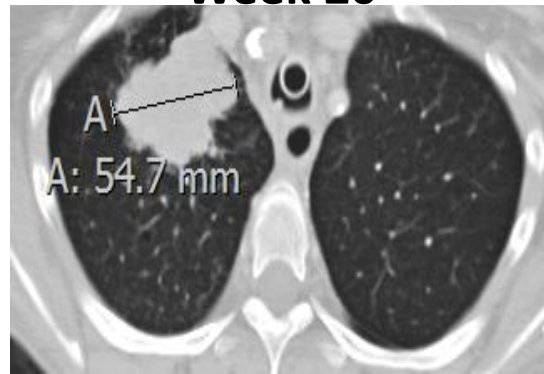


## Patient Case Study 2 Durvalumab in HNSCC

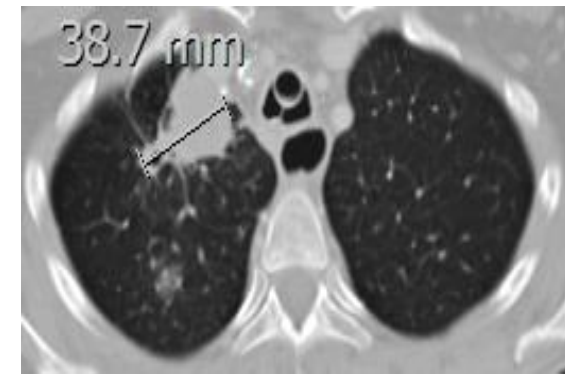
**Baseline**



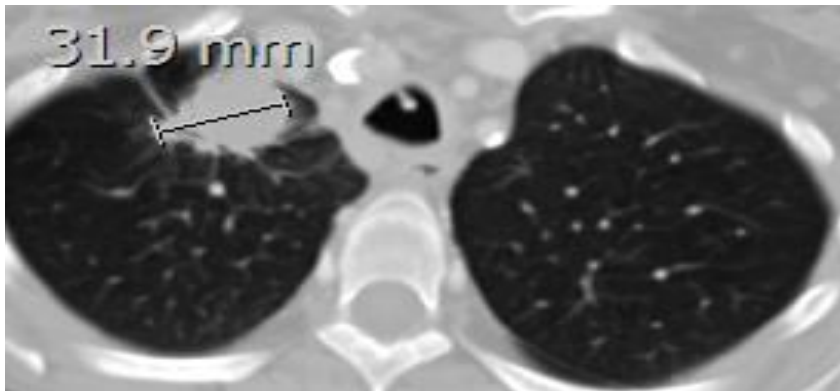
**Week 20**



**End of Treatment - Month 12**



**Post Treatment – Month 27**



**Post Treatment – Month 43**

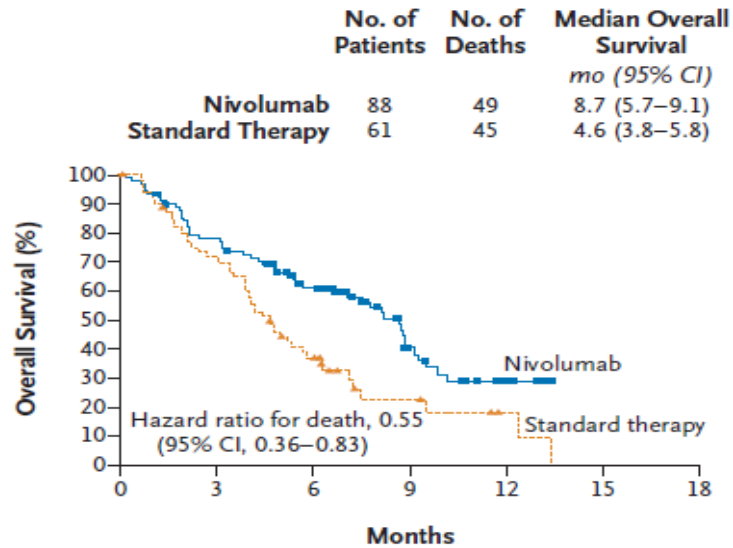




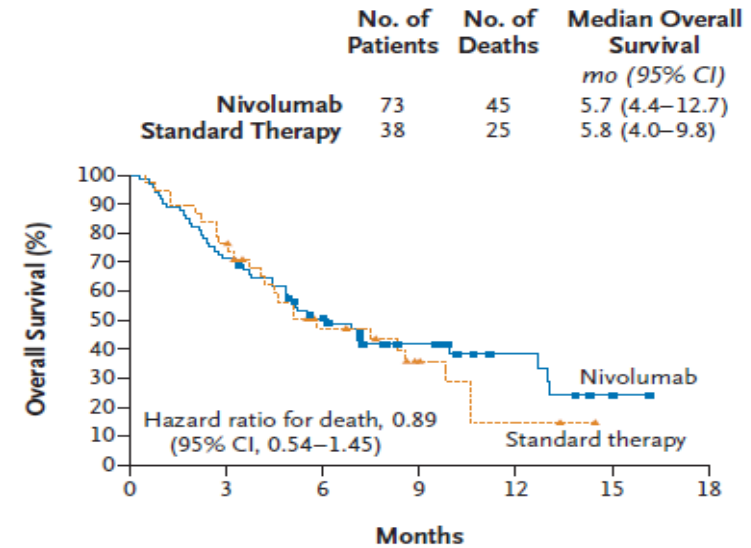
## Next Steps: Evaluating Biomarkers in HNSCC

# Biomarkers: PD-L1 on Tumor Cells

**A Overall Survival among Patients with Baseline PD-L1  $\geq 1\%$**



**B Overall Survival among Patients with Baseline PD-L1  $< 1\%$**

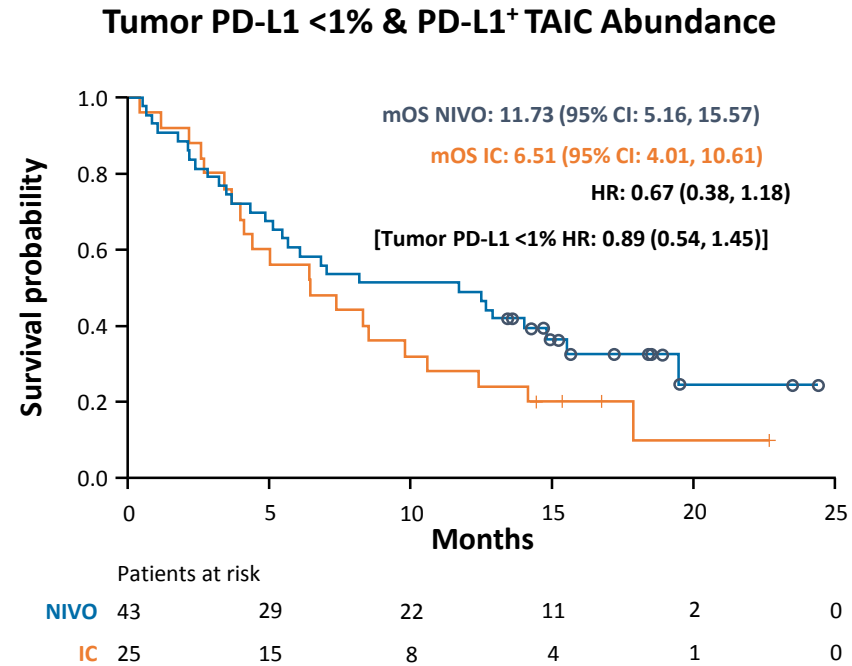
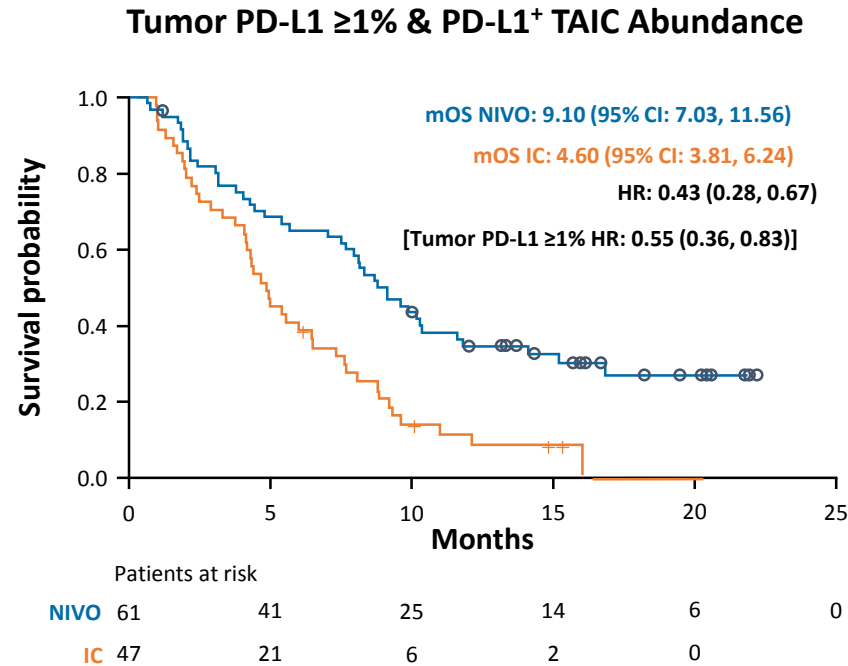


Variable	Nivolumab (N=240)		Standard Therapy (N=121)		Hazard Ratio for Death (95% CI)
	Patients no. (%)	Median Survival mo	Patients no. (%)	Median Survival mo	
All patients	240 (100.0)	7.5	121 (100.0)	5.1	0.69 (0.53–0.91)
PD-L1 expression level					
$\geq 1\%$	88 (36.7)	8.7	61 (50.4)	4.6	0.55 (0.36–0.83)
$\geq 5\%$	54 (22.5)	8.8	43 (35.5)	4.6	0.50 (0.30–0.83)
$\geq 10\%$	43 (17.9)	8.7	34 (28.1)	5.2	0.56 (0.31–1.01)

Ferris et al. N Engl J Med. 2016 Nov 10;375(19):1856–1867

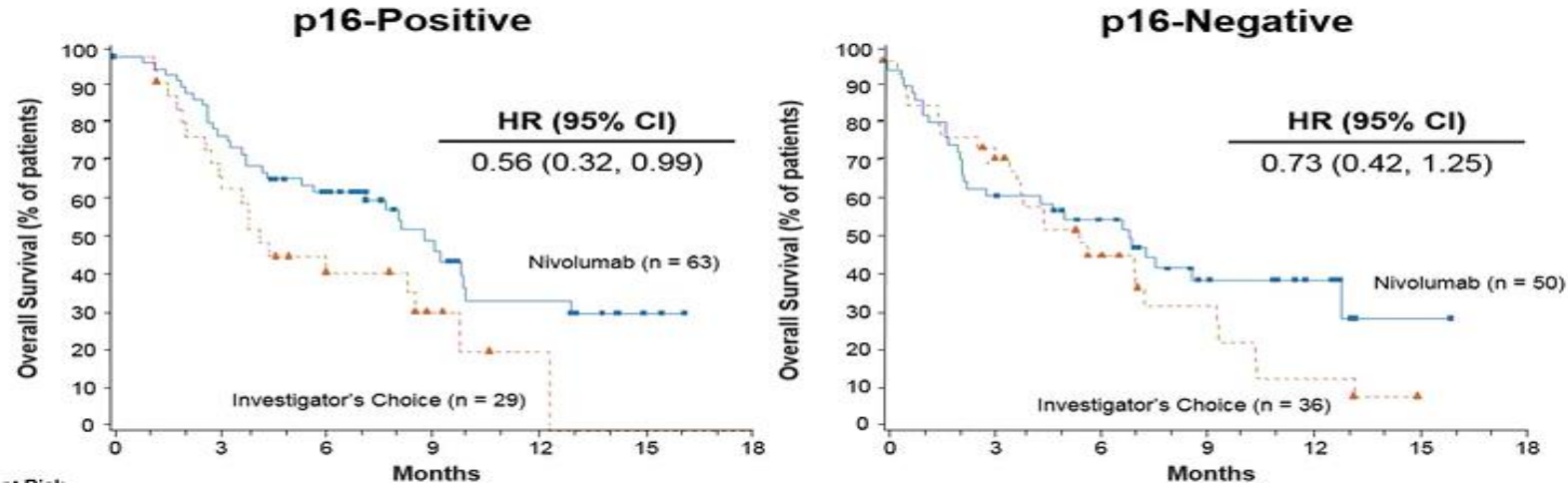


# Biomarkers: PD-L1 on Tumor and Immune Cells



Ferris et al. AACR Annual Meeting 2017 #CT021

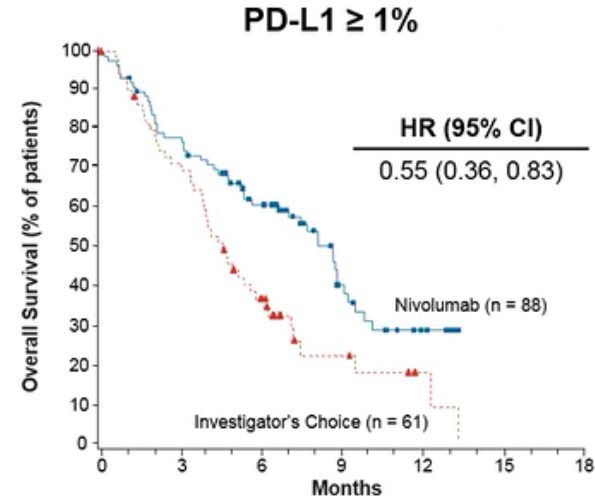
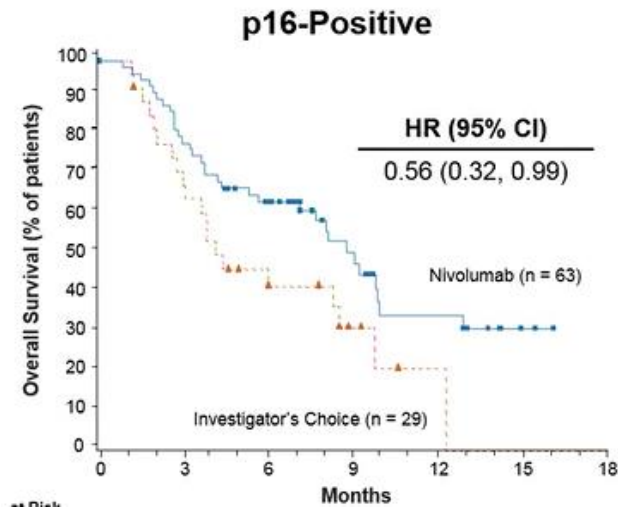
# HPV positive vs. Negative



Study	HPV (+)	HPV (-)
Durvalumab (HAWK)	29% (10/34)	10.8% (7/65)
Pembrolizumab (012)	25% (4/16)	14% (4/29)
Pembrolizumab (055)	16% (6/37)	15% (20/131)
Durvalumab (1108)	4% (1/25)	16% (4/25)

Ferris et al. J Clin Oncol 34, 2016 (suppl; abstr 6009)

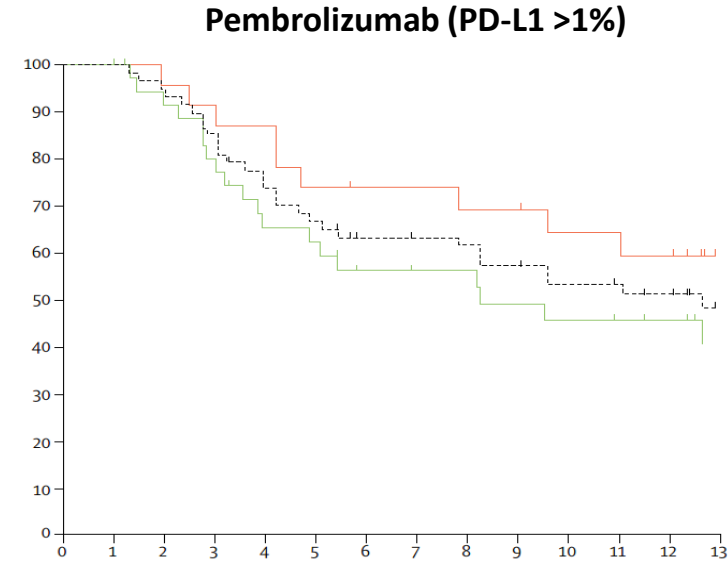
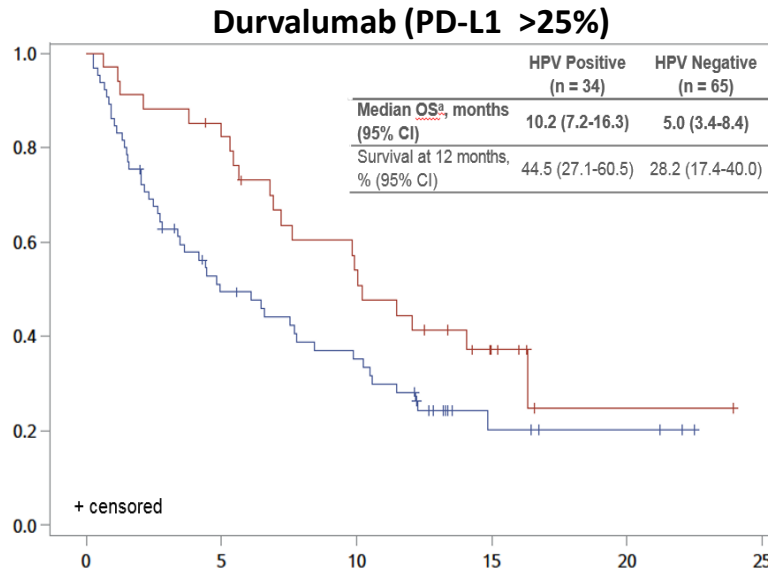
# HPV and PD-L1 Status



	Nivolumab		Investigator's Choice		Hazard ratio (95% CI)
	n	Median OS, mo	n	Median OS, mo	
PD-L1 $\geq$ 1%/p16-positive	23	8.8	14	3.9	0.50 (0.21, 1.19)
PD-L1 $\geq$ 1%/p16-negative	17	8.8	16	5.6	0.44 (0.18, 1.10)
PD-L1 < 1%/p16-positive	24	10.0	10	6.4	0.55 (0.22, 1.39)
PD-L1 < 1%/p16-negative	14	7.1	12	7.4	0.82 (0.31, 2.19)

Ferris et al. J Clin Oncol 34, 2016 (suppl; abstr 6009)

# HPV Positive vs. Negative



Study	PD-L1 Status	HPV (+)	HPV (-)
<b>Durvalumab (HAWK)</b>	<b>PD-L1 &gt; 25%</b>	<b>29% (10/34)</b>	<b>10.8% (7/65)</b>
<b>Pembrolizumab (012)</b>	<b>PD-L1 &gt; 1%</b>	<b>25% (4/16)</b>	<b>14% (4/29)</b>
Pembrolizumab (055)	Mixed	16% (6/37)	15% (20/131)
Durvalumab (1108)	Mixed	4% (1/25)	16% (4/25)



## Next Steps: Evaluating Biomarkers in HNSCC

Current FDA approval of Pembrolizumab and Nivolumab  
is NOT contingent upon PD-L1 IHC or HPV status

## Next Steps: Ongoing Trials

- Checkpoint inhibitors in first line treatment of R/M HNSCC
- Checkpoint inhibitors as part of definitive therapy in the locally advanced setting
- Combination Immunotherapy trials

## 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