

SITC 2020 Annual Meeting

Session 105: Integrating Radiation and Immunotherapy: New Products, Challenges, and Opportunities for Industry-Academic Collaborations

The Immuno-Radiobiology of Radiation Therapy

Zachary Morris, MD/PhD

Vice-Chair and Asst. Prof of Human Oncology

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

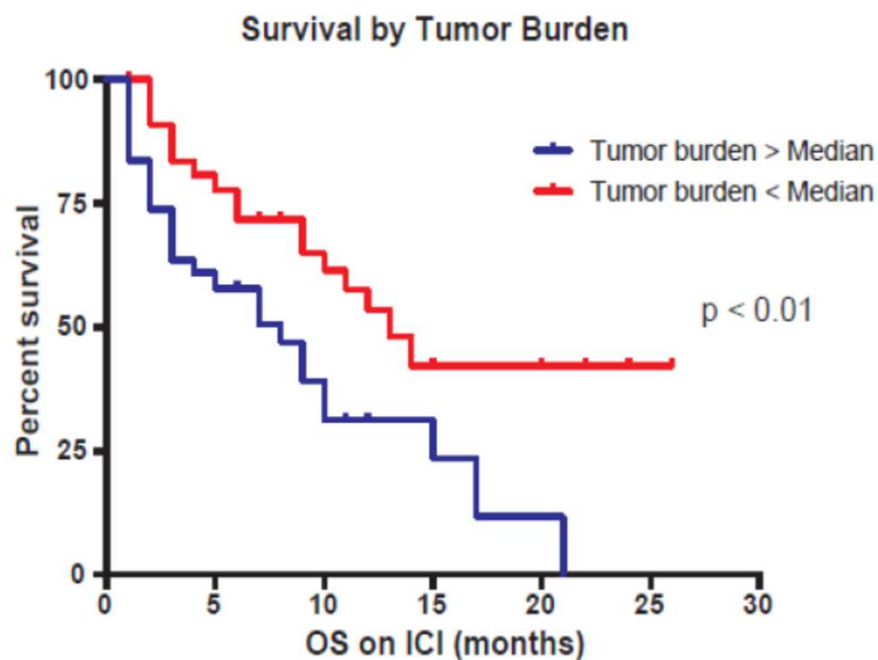


Disclosures



- University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health - Employer
- Scientific Advisory Board Member
 - Seneca Therapeutics
 - Archeus Technologies Inc.
- Ownership Interest
 - Seneca Therapeutics
 - Archeus Technologies Inc.
- Patents held through the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation
 - NM600 for targeted radionuclide delivery and immunomodulation
 - Bacterial membrane nanoparticle to enhance the in situ vaccine effect of radiation
 - Brachytherapy catheter for intratumoral injection

Response to some immunotherapies may be inversely correlated with the burden of metastatic disease



eTable 3. Association Between Baseline Sum of Target Lesion Diameters and 5-Year Survival in All Patients Receiving Nivolumab (N = 270)^a

Sum of Target Lesion Diameters (mm)	5-Year Survivors	All Other Patients	P value
Melanoma Median (IQR) Range	n = 30 75 (48-134) 22-374	n = 77 111 (69-189) 10-377	.0427
RCC Median (IQR) Range	n = 9 98 (89-110) 42-236	n = 25 139 (88-191) 43-615	.0542
NSCLC Median (IQR) Range	n = 16 83 (62.5-117) 11-291	n = 113 95 (59-147) 10-292	.5084
All 3 tumor types Median (IQR) Range	n = 55 88 (52-116) 11-374	n = 215 109 (65-165) 10-615	.0244

^a Analysis is based on t tests for comparing the 2 subsets of baseline sum of target lesion diameters. IQR indicates interquartile range.

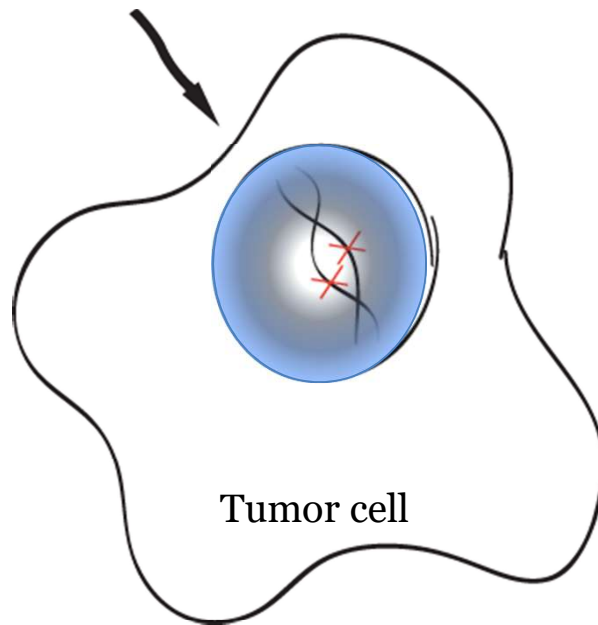
Topalian et al. JAMA Oncol 2019.

Fig. 3B. Patients whose TB was lower than the median showed improved OS.

Sridharan et al. Oral Oncology 2018.

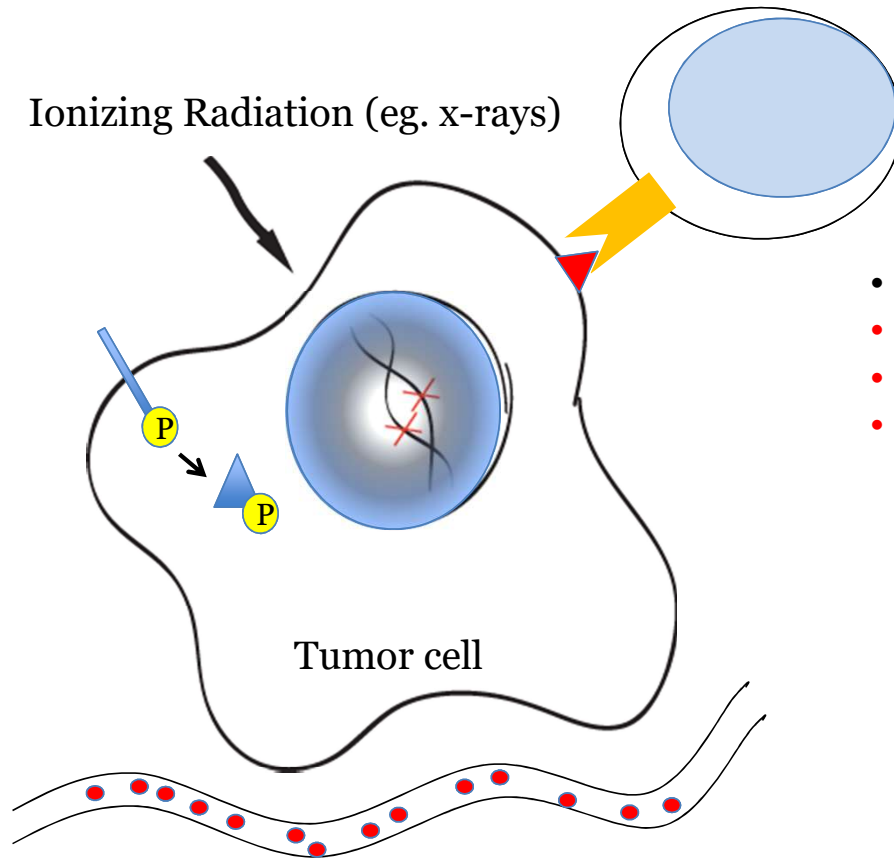
Radiation directly kills tumor cells and may reduce the burden of metastatic disease

Ionizing Radiation (eg. x-rays)



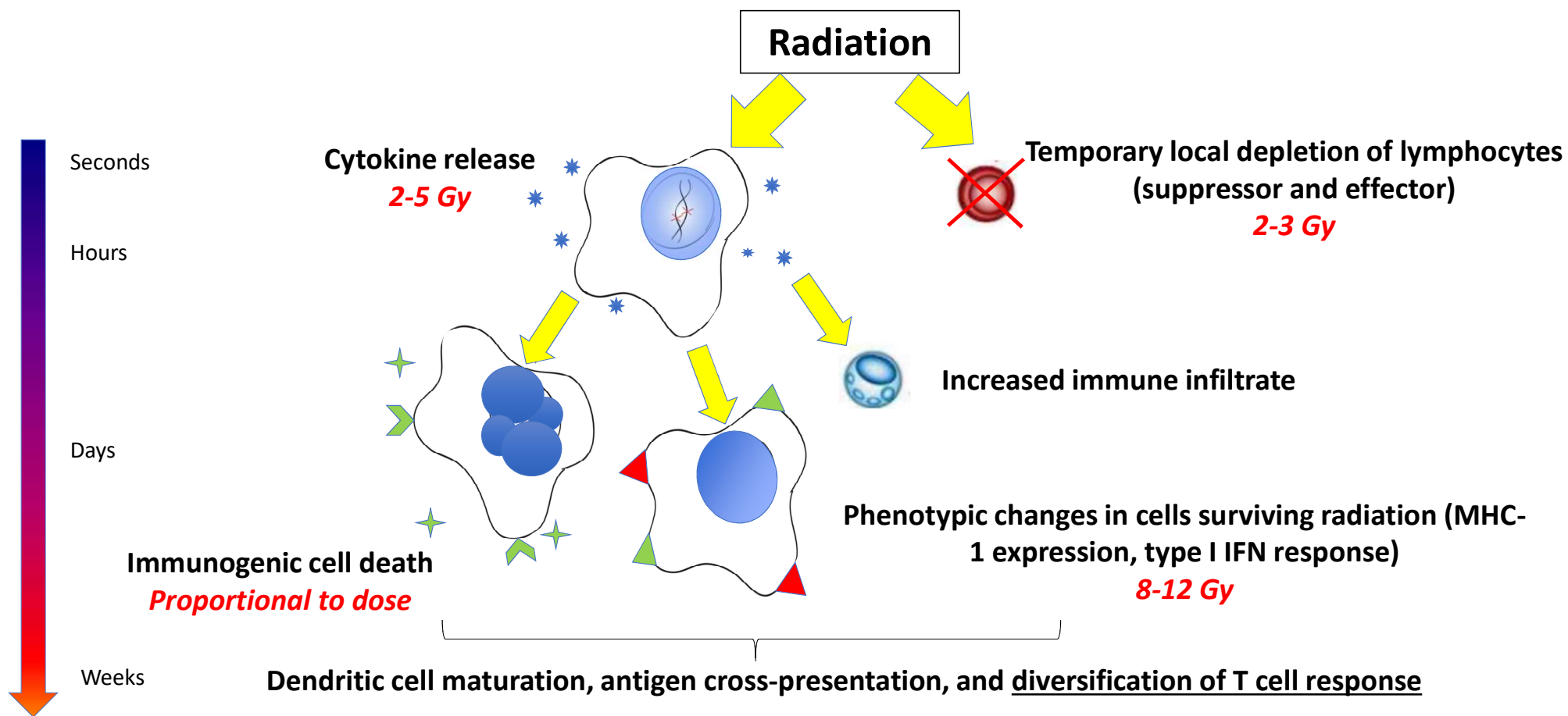
Radiotherapy directly kills tumor cells through induction of DNA damage resulting in death by mitotic catastrophe

Radiation may also favorably modify the tumor-immune interactions



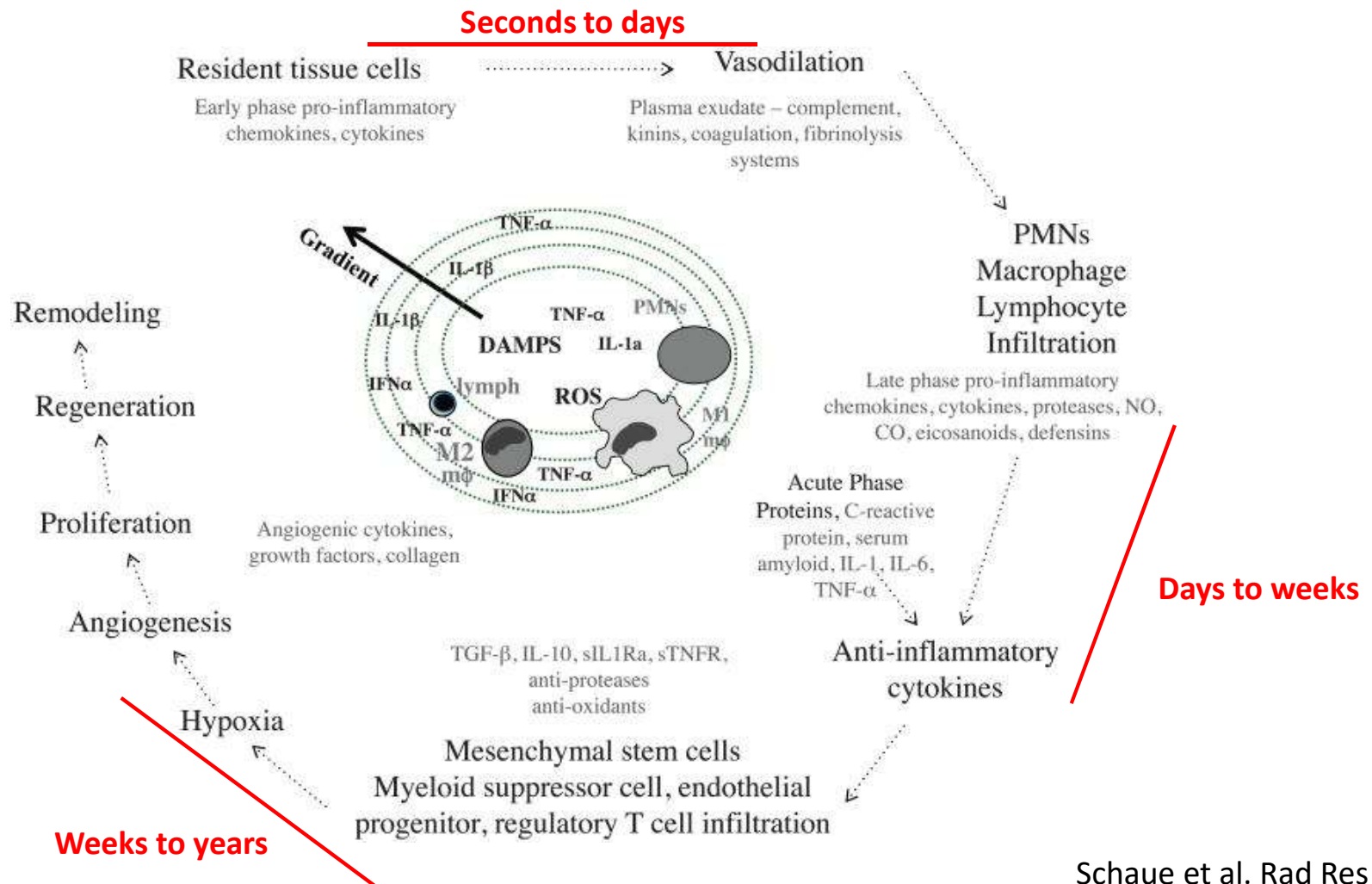
- Cell signaling pathways
- Stroma and vasculature
- Tumor-immune microenvironment
- Tumor cell susceptibility to immune response

Immuno-Radiation Biology of Radiation Therapy



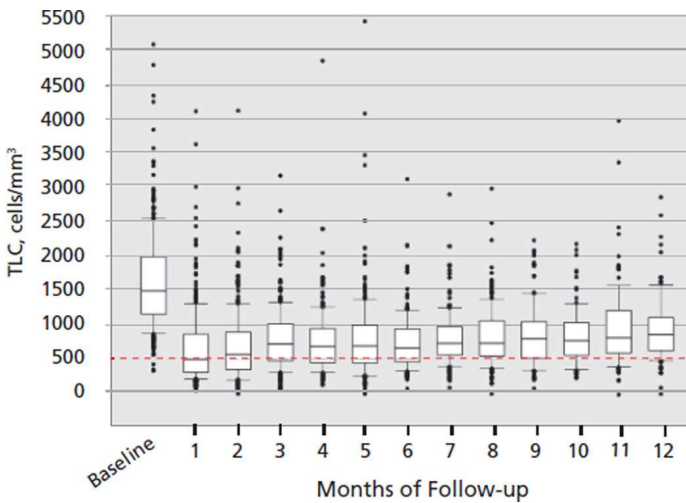
Time, dose, and fractionation may impact these mechanisms in different ways

Cytokine response following radiation therapy

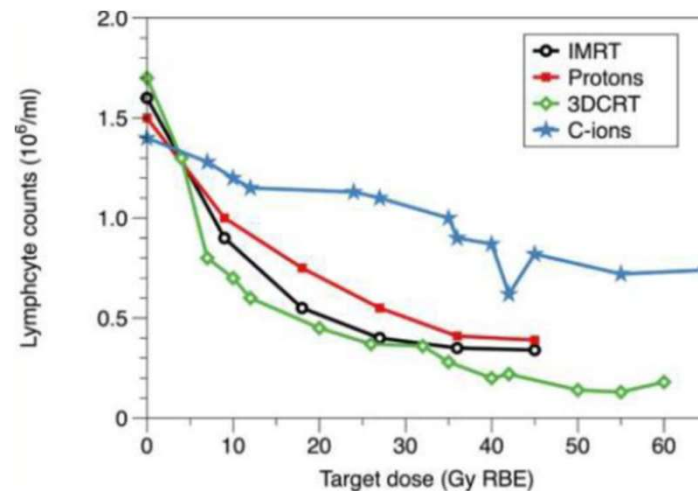
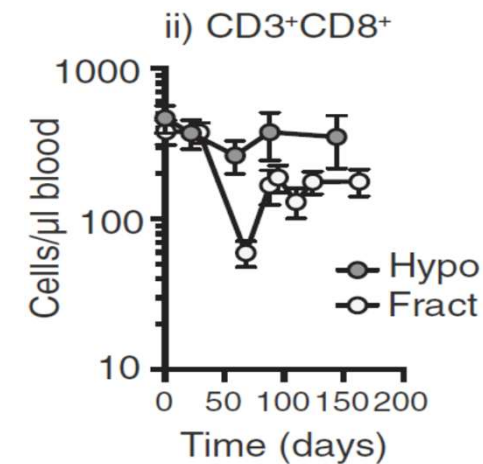
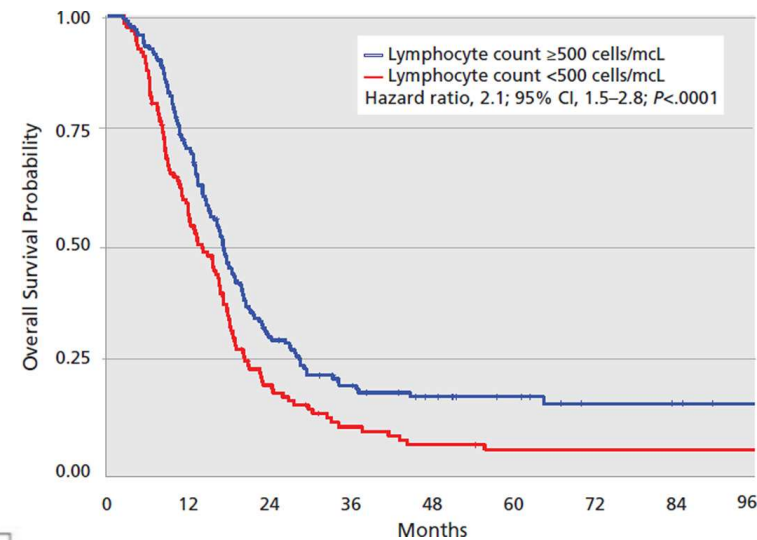


Schaue et al. Rad Res 2012

Large field, fractionated radiation therapy may reduce circulating lymphocyte counts



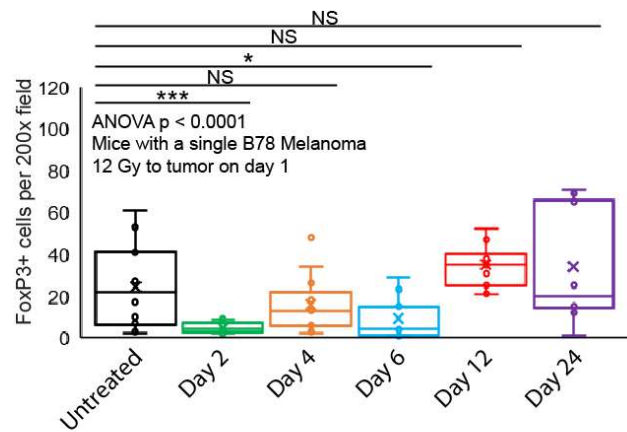
LD50 ~ 2 Gy, LD90 ~ 3 Gy
Apoptotic cell death²



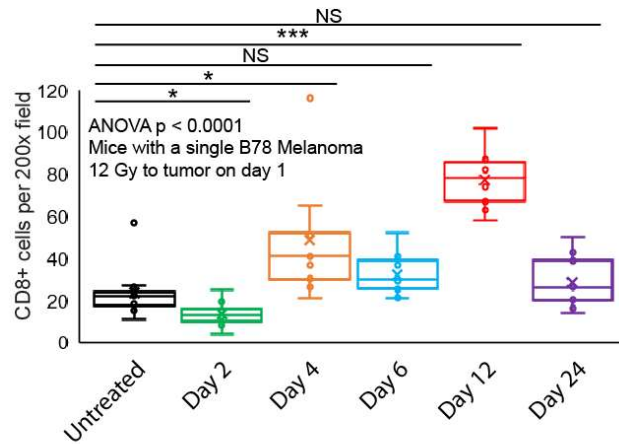
Afghani et al., JCO 2015 – Breast
Jiang et al., IJROBP 2016 – Esophageal
Joo et al., IJROBP 2016 – NSCLC
Rahman et al., IJROBP 2018 – Glioma
Kitayama et al., BMC Cancer 2011 – Rectal
Liu et al., Cancer Res Treat, 2017 – Nasopharynx
Crocenzi et al., JITC, 2016
Grossman et al., JNCCN, 2015
Durante and Formenti, BJR, 2019

Radiation can favorably impact tumor infiltrating T cells and distant non-radiated tumor sites may modify this effect

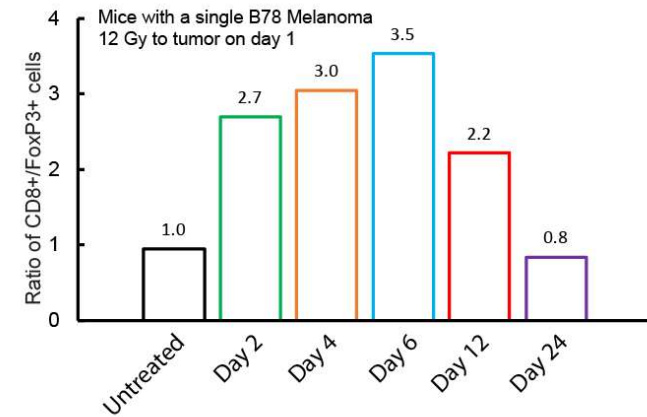
FoxP3+ Tregs



CD8+ T cells



Ratio of CD8+ : FoxP3+ cells



5 R's of the effects of radiation on myeloid cells

Recruitment

- M2 macrophage increased 7 days – 5 years after RT

Removal

- MDSCs reduced with RT + ImmRx combination, not RT alone

Reorganization

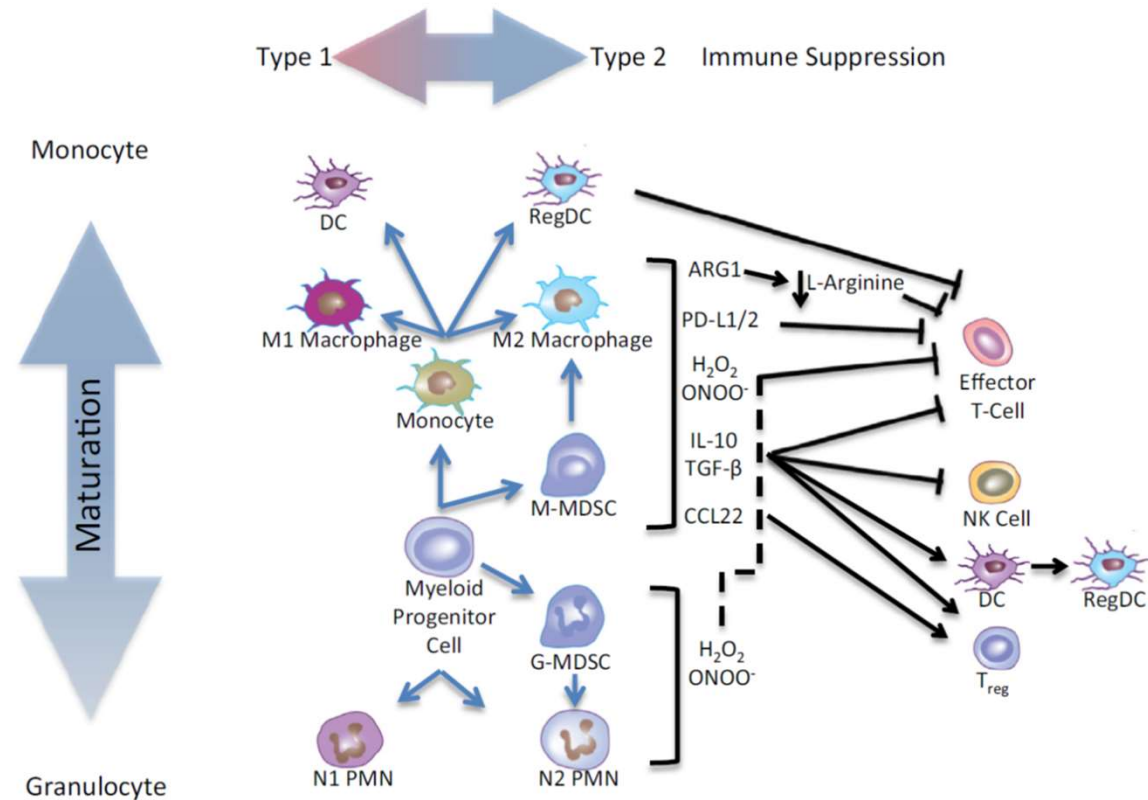
- Increased macrophages in hypoxic and necrotic regions

Repolarization

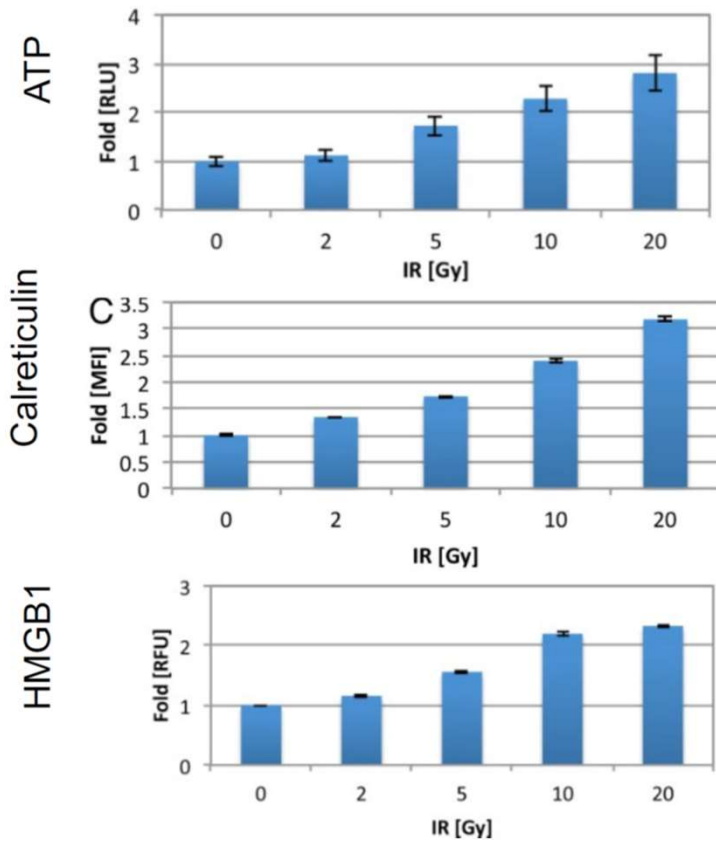
- Increased M2 phenotype

Re-presentation

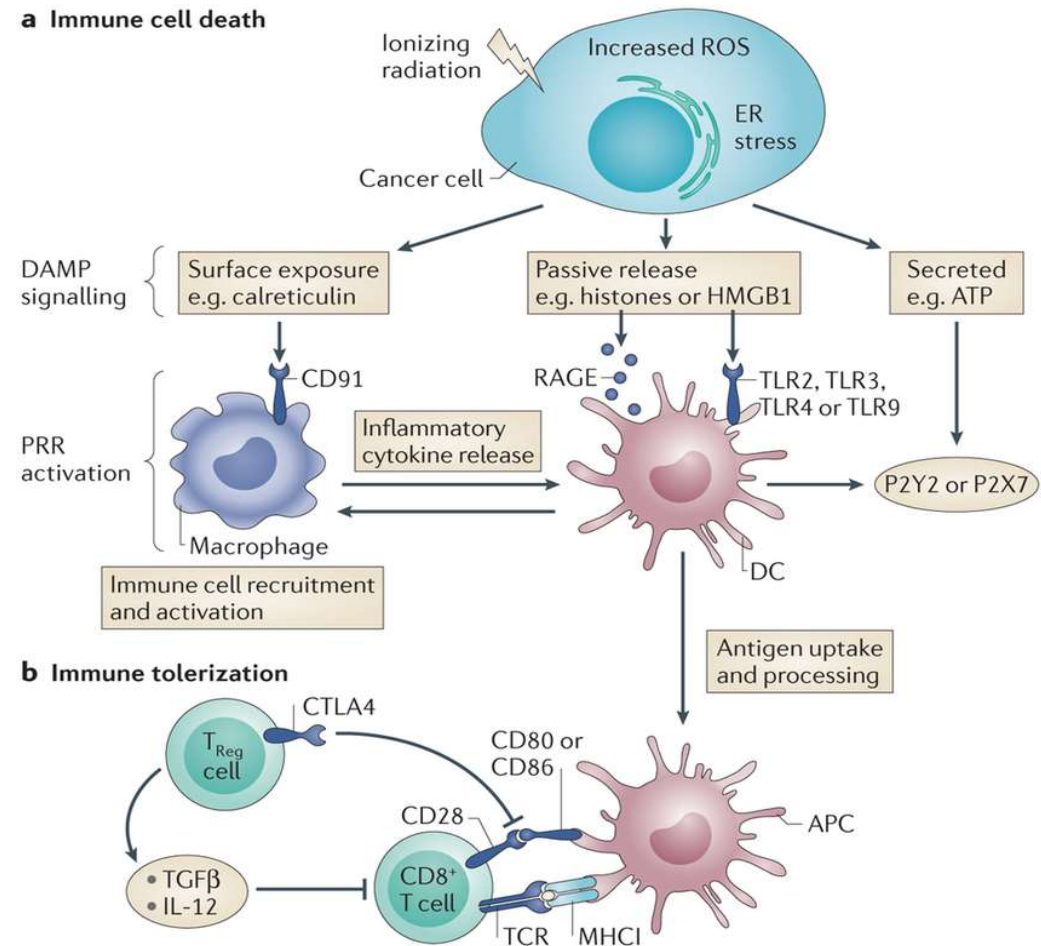
- Increased dendritic cell antigen cross presentation



Immunogenic tumor cell death following radiation

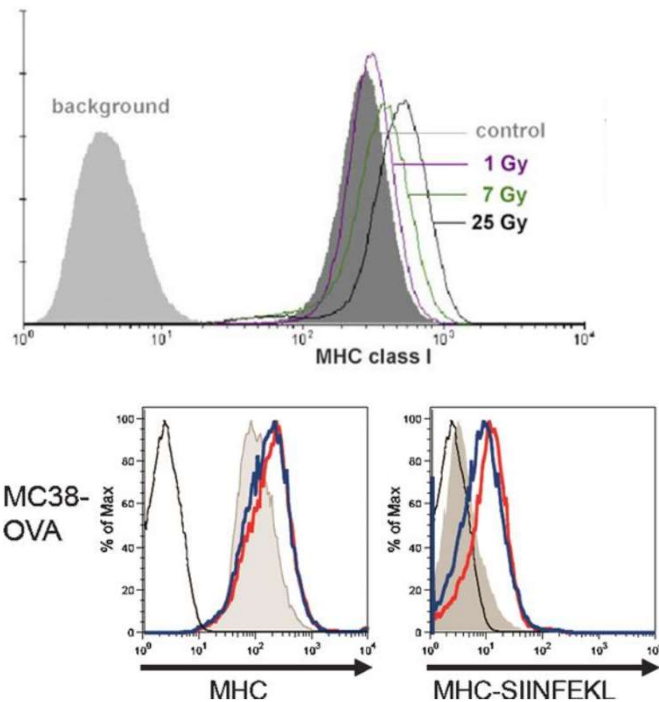


Golden et al., Immunooncology, 2014

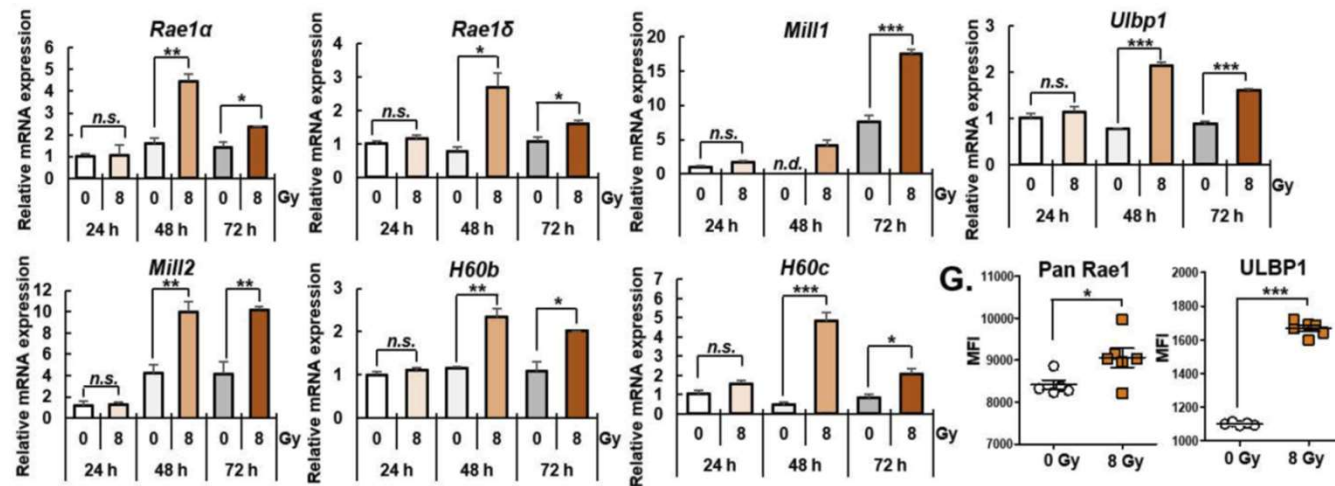


Barker et al., Nat Rev Cancer 2015

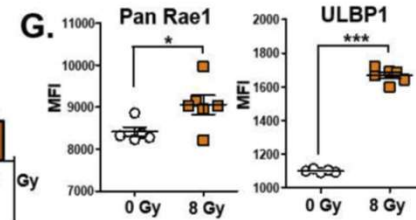
Radiation alters expression of genes that modify tumor cell susceptibility to immune response



RT dose leads to increased MHC-I expression on tumor cells

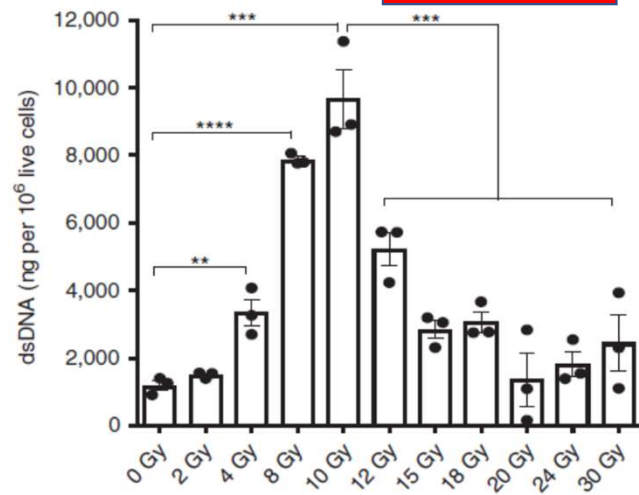


RT leads to increased expression of NKG2D ligands on tumor cells

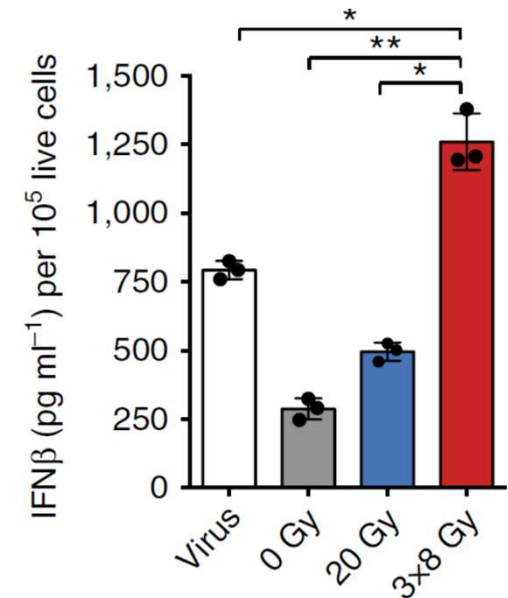
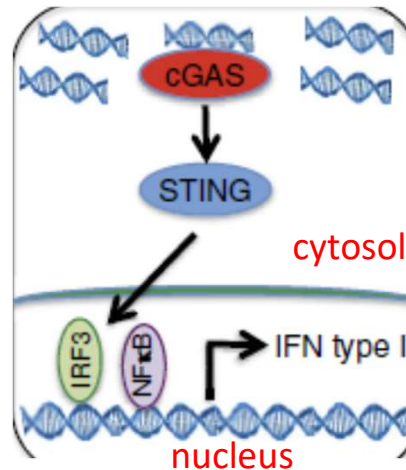


Radiation alters expression of genes that modify tumor cell susceptibility to immune response

Trex1 exonuclease expression \uparrow at higher doses decreases dsDNA



Cytoplasmic dsDNA and type I IFN response \uparrow with RT dose to 8-12 Gy

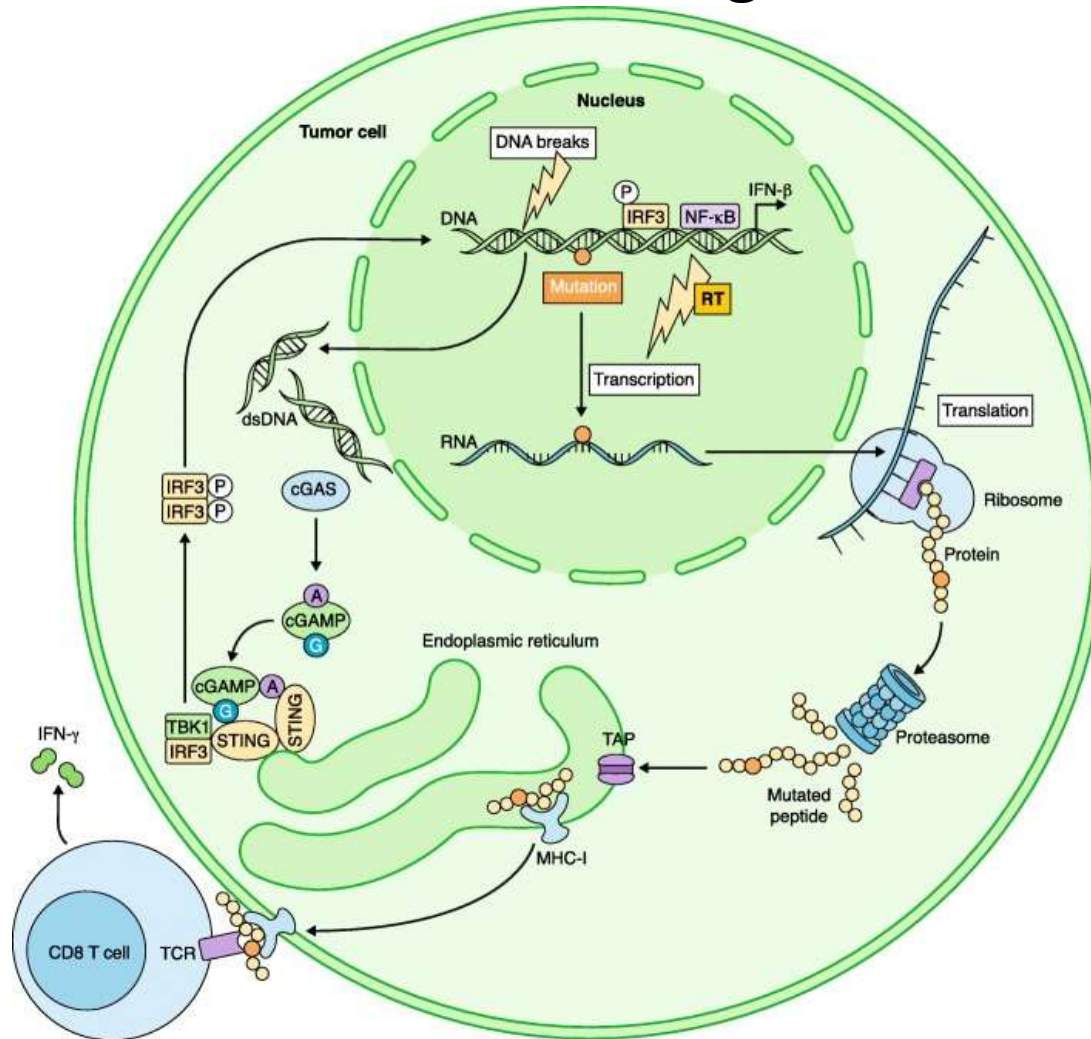


Radiation may also lead to activation of cGAS/STING in DCs and tumor stroma, potentially via tumor cell exosomes

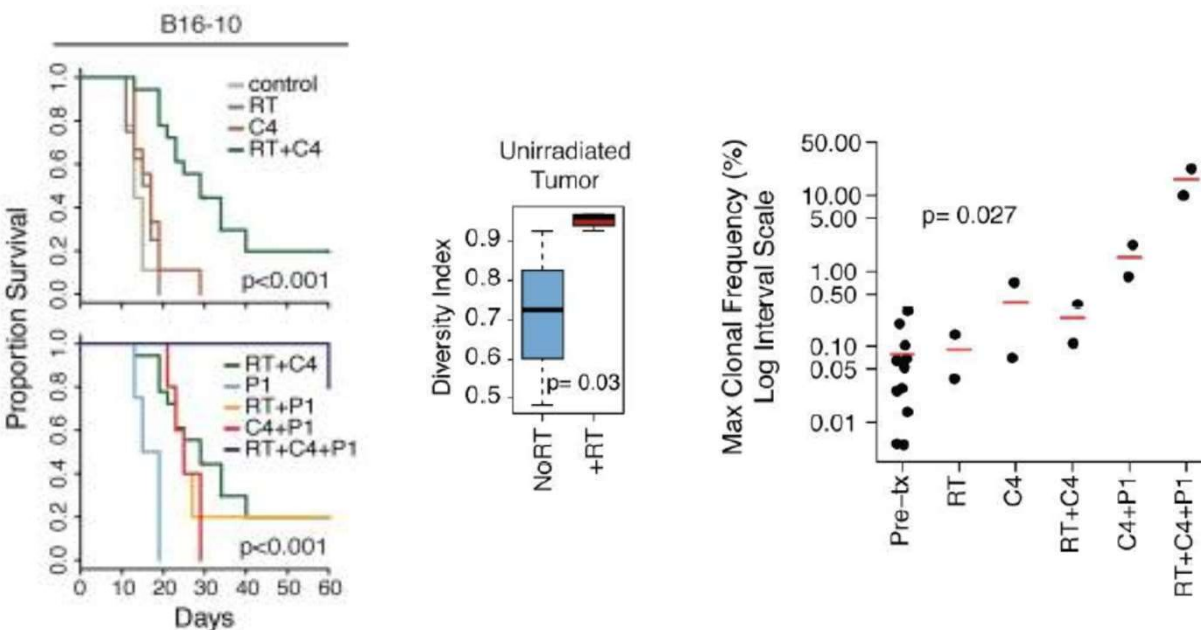
Radiation can have broad impact on the expression of markers of immune susceptibility on tumor cells

Key (Fold Change)		Class	Target	A375 (Human)			B78 (Murine)		
		<i>Days After RT Treatment:</i>		2.5	7	14	2.5	7	14
	>15.00	Death Receptors	Fas		*			**	
	14.99		DR6						*
	5.00-9.99		DR5	*	**		***	***	
	3.00-4.99	NK Cell Pathway	Rae-1		**				
	2.00-2.99	T Cell Regulation	ICOS-L						
	1.5-1.99		CD40		*		***	**	
	<1.5		OX40-L						
	1.5-1.99		CD137-L	*	**	*			
	2.00-2.99		PD-L1		*		*	**	
	3.00-4.99		MHC I-A		*			*	
	5.00-9.99	DNA Damage	p53						
	14.99		MDM2	*	*		**	*	
	>15.00		Bax	**	***	*	***	*	
		Other	ICD	CRT				**	

Radiation may modify the expression of pre-existing tumor-associated neoantigens



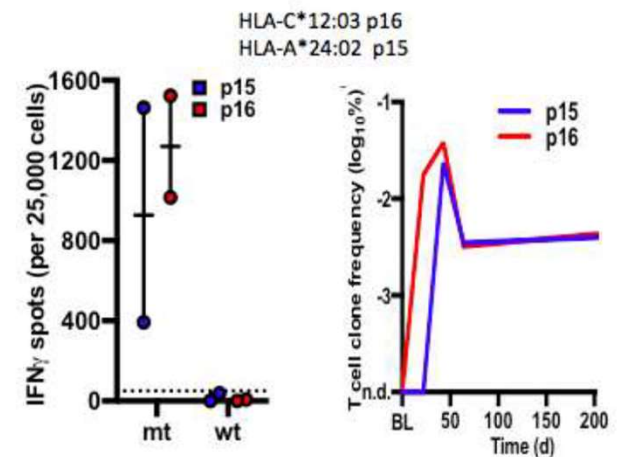
As a result of these cumulative mechanisms, radiation may elicit an *in situ* vaccine effect and this may prime response to immune checkpoint blockade



Radiation increases T cell receptor diversity among tumor infiltrating lymphocytes. Checkpoint blockade is needed for clonal expansion of this diversified T cell response.

Preclinical

Twyman-Saint Victor *et al.*, Nature, 2015

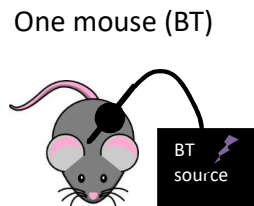


Radiation stimulated recognition of an immunogenic tumor mutation

Clinical

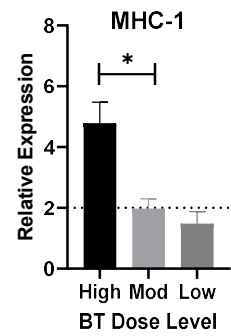
Formenti *et al.*, Nature Med, 2018

Heterogeneous dose radiation may be more effective for in situ vaccination

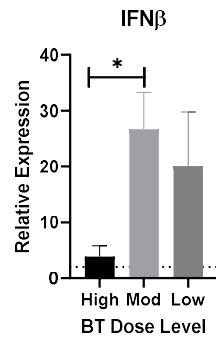


B78 melanoma two tumor model

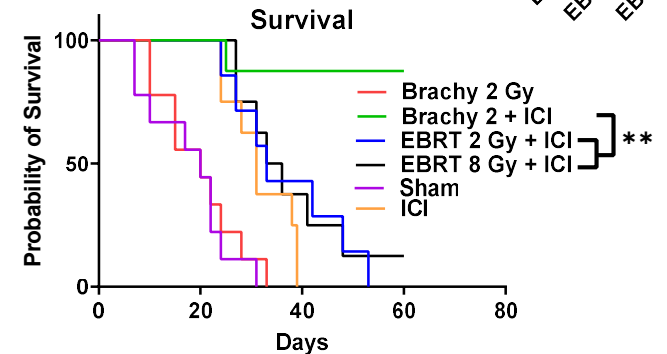
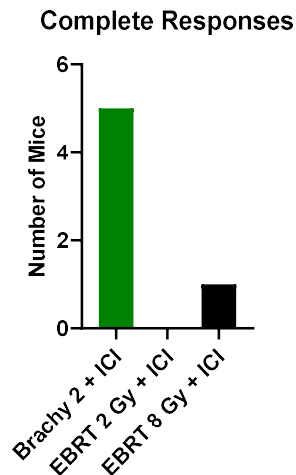
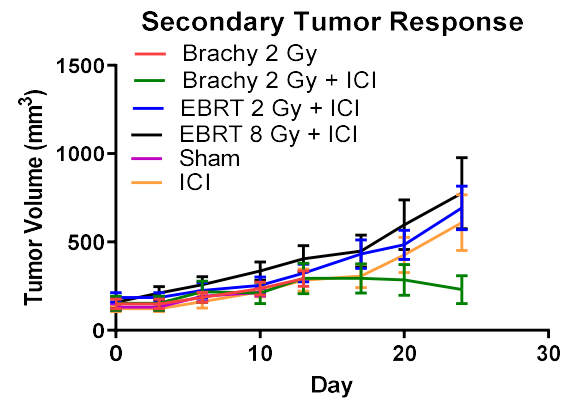
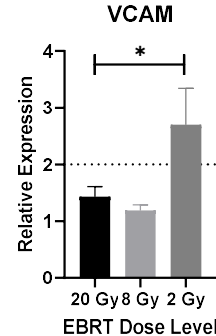
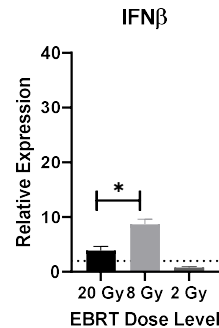
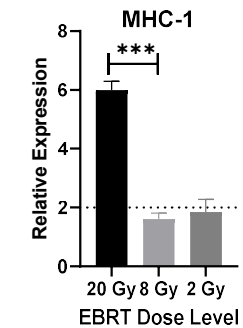
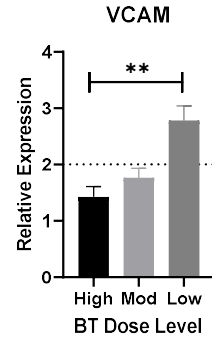
High Dose Optimal



Moderate Dose Optimal



Low Dose Optimal



Low dose radiation targeting metastatic tumor sites can help propagate anti-tumor immunity and the in situ vaccine effect

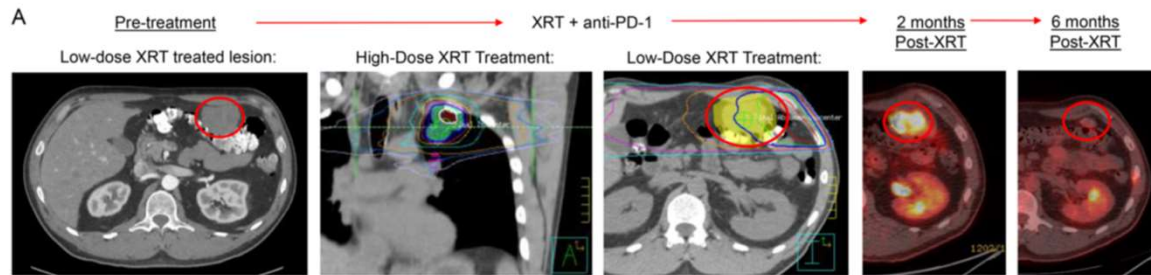
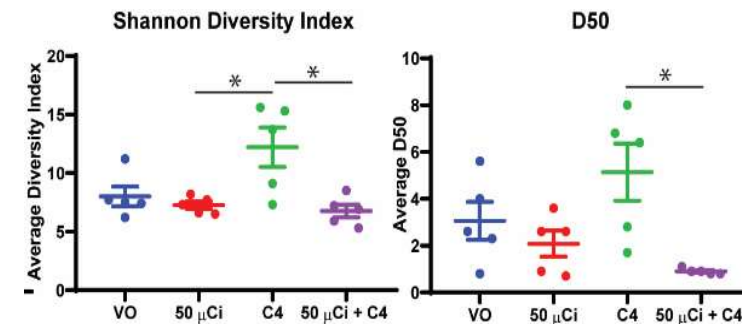
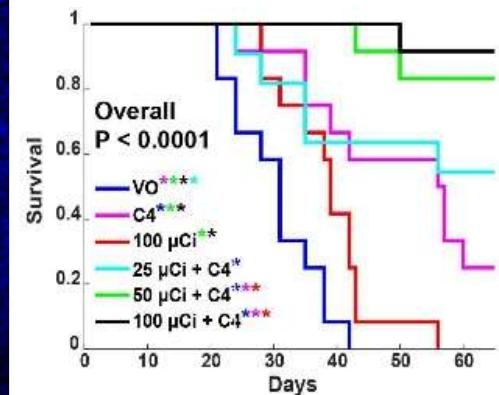
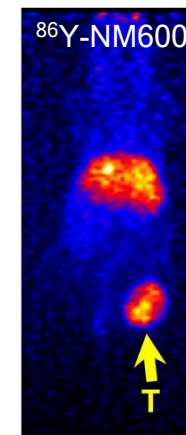
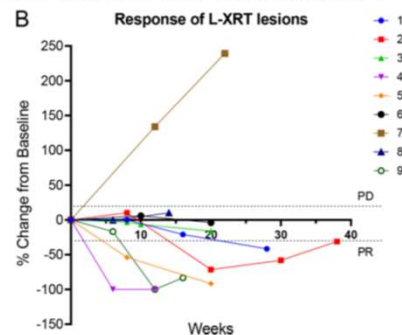


Table 1. Baseline Patient and Disease Characteristics and Treatment Strategies

ID #	Age	Sex	Histology	Immunotherapy Agent	Prior receipt of chemotherapy (Y/N)	Prior disease progression on immunotherapy* (Y/N)	High-Dose Radiation Site	High-Dose Radiation, (Gy/fx)	Low-Dose Site	Low-Dose Radiation (Gy/fx)	Total # of lesions measured
1	55	M	SCC	Pembrolizumab	Y	Y	Lung	50/4	Abdomen	8/4	6
2	69	M	MCC	Atezolizumab	Y	Y	Adrenal	70/10	Inguinal	6/6	4
3	56	F	Melanoma	Ipilimumab	Y	Y	Spleen	25/5	Liver	7.5/5	6
4	46	M	NPC	Pembrolizumab	Y	Y	Sternum	25/5	Neck	7/5	10
5	74	F	Melanoma	Ipilimumab/Nivolumab	Y	Y	Liver	30/5	Liver	5/5	6
6	30	F	Neuroblastoma	Pembrolizumab	Y	Y	Lung	60/10	Lung	7/5	6
7	62	F	Melanoma	OX40, 4-1BB	Y	Y	Lung	50/4	Lung	7/5	4
8	58	F	SGC	Pembrolizumab	Y	Y	Lung	20/5	Chest	7/5	4
9	73	F	ATC	Atezolizumab	Y	Y	Lung	50/4	Lung	7/5	4

Abbreviations: SCC, squamous cell carcinoma; SGC, salivary gland carcinoma; MCC, Merkel Cell Carcinoma; NPC, nasopharyngeal carcinoma; ATC, anaplastic thyroid carcinoma. *Progressive disease via Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1 (RECIST 1.1) on prior study or standard of care therapy utilizing an immunotherapy agent.



Questions are welcome
during the Q&A to follow!