

### Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Melanoma

Dazhi Liu, Pharm.D, BCOP

Hematology/Oncology Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center







Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Association of Community Cancer Centers





- Nothing to disclose
- I will not be discussing non-FDA approved indications during my presentation.









What is Melanoma?

### "Melas" = Black

#### "Oma" = Growth





© 2018–2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer





Mellman et al. Nature 2011







# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Cytokines
  - Interferon-α2b- Adjuvant therapy- high dose intravenous (I.V.) part, followed by subcutaneous (SQ)
  - Pegylated Interferon-Adjuvant therapy, SQ
  - Interleukin-2-Stage IV, I.V.



Association of Community Cancer Center

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Checkpoint inhibitors
  - Ipilimumab, adjuvant and nonresectable/Stage IV, I.V.different dosing for adjuvant and nonresectable/Stage IV
  - Pembrolizumab, nonresectable/Stage IV, I.V.
  - Nivolumab, adjuvant and non resectable/Stage IV, I.V.
  - Ipilimumab in combination with nivolumab, Stage IV



Ribas NEJM 2012 Gordon et al Nature 2017









# FDA-approved Immunotherapies in Melanoma

- Oncolytic Viruses
  - Talimogene Laharparepvec; TVEC non resectable, intratumoral



Association of Community Concer Center

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



### Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma Cytokine-based Strategies



Lee, Margolin Cancers 2011 Rochman et al. Nat Rev Immunol 2009









## 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)



AAEM AMERICAN ACADEMY OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE



Association of Community Cancer Center



## 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 3 months for up to 3 years



Society for Immunotherapy of Cance



## Adjuvant Nivolumab vs. Ipilimumab in High-Risk Stage III Melanoma

- Patients with resected stage IIIB, IIIC, IV melanoma (either BRAF mutant or not)
- 1 year of adjuvent nivolumab 3 mg/kg or ipilimumab 10 mg/kg
- Primary endpoint is RFS





Weber et al. ESMO 2017



## 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

								Nľ	VO		IPI	
				Ev	Events/patients			171	/453		221/45	3
	100			Ме	Median (95% CI)			30.8 (30	.8, NR)ª	24.1	1 (16.6,	NR)
				HR	HR (95% CI)				0.66 (0.54, 0.81)			
				Lo	Log-rank P value				<0.0001			
	90 -		aMe	<sup>a</sup> Median estimate not reliable or stable due to few patients at risk								
	80 -	a	2m	~	700/							
	70 -		Sund	6			66	%	63%			
1	60 -			One	my	3					MAA	
5	50 -				60%	0	6-1-0		-			M
2	40 -				i		53	%	50%			
	40				T T				1			
	30 -				i		i		i i			
	20 -				-		l		- !			
	10 -	— IPI			î.		- i		- î			
	o 🕂	1	- 1			-		l		-1		
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
	Months					Miller et al. ASCO 2018						
							DA	AEM		ACC	C	Si

Society for Immunotherapy of Cano

Weber et al. ESMO 2017



## 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)





## **Treatment of Metastatic Melanoma**

- Chemotherapy (not 1<sup>st</sup> line)
  - Dacarbazine
  - Temozolomide
- Immunotherapy (PD-1 based)
  - Usually 1<sup>st</sup> line unless giving BRAF+MEK targeted therapy
- Targeted therapy (BRAF+MEK inhibitor combos)





## Ipilimumab + dacarbazine vs. dacarbazine



Robert et al. NEJM 2011







#### Pembrolizumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma Phase III KEYNOTE-006 Trial





#### Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab in Stage III/IV Melanoma Phase III CheckMate 067 Trial









#### **Combination Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for** Patients with Asymptomatic Brain Metastases

	Global	Intracranial	Extracranial
Best overall response, n (%)			
Complete response	4 (5)	16 (21)	5 (7)
Partial response	36 (48)	25 (33)	32 (43)
Stable disease	4 (5)	4 (5)	2 (3)
Progressive disease <sup>a</sup>	18 (24)	18 (24)	16 (21)
Not evaluable <sup>b</sup>	13 (17)	12 (16)	20 (27)
Objective response rate, % (95% CI)	53 (41-65)	55 (43-66)	49 (38-61)
Clinical benefit rate, % (95% Cl) <sup>c</sup>	59 (47-70)	60 (48-71)	52 (40-64)

Tawbi et al. ASCO 2017





sitc



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



	n/N	mo (95% Cl)
ivolumab D-L1 Positive	11/74	N.R.
ivolumab D-L1 Negative	37/128	N.R.
acarbazine D-L1 Positive	29/74	12.4 (9.2–N.R.)
acarbazine D-L1 Negative	64/126	10.2 (7.6–11.8)

Patients









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



#### **Tumor PD-L1 Positive Patients**

#### **Tumor PD-L1 Negative Patients**







© 2018–2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer

Larkin et al. NEJM 2015



### **Adverse Events with Immunotherapies**

Association of Community Concer Centers

Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



© 2018–2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer



## **Treatment of Immune-Related AEs**

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

Puzanov et al. JITC 2017









Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma



Atkins, Semi. Oncology 2015









Developmental Immunotherapeutic Strategies for Melanoma Targeting New Immune Checkpoints





Ascierto, McArthur J Transl Med 2017









Pilot Study: Radiotherapy (RT) + Intratumoral Immunocytokine (IT-IC) + Ipilimumab + Nivolumab for Advanced Melanoma

A UWCCC Clinical Trial (IND being prepared) with collaboration from Apeiron, NMS and NCI

- Goals:
  - First in human Phase-1 testing of IT-IC with an IC that can bind to tumor and mediate ADCC
  - First in human IT-IC of such an IC immunologically timed after local RT
  - First in human testing of this in combination with anti-CTLA4 and/or anti-PD1
  - Toxicity/Tolerance/Anti-tumor effects
  - Serial biopsies of the same lesions, to look for the changes seen in murine tumors

Protocol Chairs: Mark Albertini, M.D. Radiation Oncology Co-Chair: Zachary Morris, M.D., Ph.D Laboratory Co-Chair: Jacqueline A. Hand, Ph.D Pathology Co-Chair: Erik Ranheim, M.D., Ph.D. NCI Grant (R35 CA197078-01) PI: Paul M. Sondel, M.D., Ph.D.





## Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) in Stage III/IV Melanoma

#### Median (95% CI) OS 100 Events/n (%) in months T-VEC 189/295 (64) 23.3 (19.5 to 29.6) **Overall Survival (%)** GM-CSF 80 101/141 (72) 18.9 (16.0 to 23.7) 60 40 1 1 11 11 20 Log-rank P = .051Hazard ratio, 0.79 (95% CI, 0.62 to 1.00) 50 5 15 25 30 35 40 45 0 10 20

Study Month

Andtbacka, Kaufman et al. JCO 2015

55







60

#### Phase III OPTiM Trial

- Oncolytic, geneticallyengineered herpes virus
- Intralesional T-VFC 10<sup>6</sup> pfu/mL, 10<sup>8</sup> pfu/mL 3 weeks after initial dose, then Q2W
- Subcutaneous GM-CSF





- A 65 year old man undergoes biopsy of an enlarging pigmented mole on the left shoulder. Pathologic review identifies a malignant melanoma, 2.4 mm deep, with ulceration. Margins are positive for in situ disease.
- Patient received wide excision
- Options for Adjuvant Therapy for Melanoma?







## Case Study 1

- Options for Adjuvant Therapy for Melanoma?
  - Observation
  - Interferon
  - Ipimumab
  - Nivolumab
  - Dabrafenib+Trametinib if BRAF V600 mutated

Kirkwood et al. *J Clin Oncol*Eggermont *JCO*Eggermont *NEJM*© 2018–2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer





## Case Study 1

- High dose interferon
  - Improvements in RFS
  - Unclear whether it improves OS
  - Side effects (myalgias, hematologic, liver, thyroid, fatigue)
- Pegylated interferon
  - No OS benefit
  - Weekly injection
- Ipilimumab 10 mg/kg
  - OS benefit vs. placebo
  - Toxicity (1% death rate)

Kirkwood et al. *J Clin Oncol* 1996 Eggermont *JCO* 2012 Eggermont *NEJM* 2016







## Case Study 1

- Adjuvent vemurafenib vs. placebo (BRIM-8)
  - Negative study
- Adjuvent dabrafenib +trametinib vs. placebo (COMBI-AD)
  Improve RFS
- Adjuvent nivolumab vs. ipilimumab (Checkmate-238)

Long et al. *NEJM* 2017 Weber et al. ESMO 2017 Eggermont *NEJM* 2016 © 2018–2019 Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer





Case study 2

- A 67 year old women with stage IV melanoma involving liver, skin and bone
- No other comorbitidies
- Disease progression after 2 doses of ipilimumab







## Case study 2

After the third pembrolizumab infusion, the patient develops new dyspnea and hypoxia. Which of the following us a nivolumab-related adverse effect that should be considered in the differential diagnosis?

- A. Pulmonary embolus
- B. Pneumonitis
- C. Pleural effusion
- D. Fungal pneumonia
- E. Congestive heart failure





## Case study 2

- After 4 cycles of pembrolizumab patient reported a severe new headache behind her eyes. On physical exam, she has no abnormal findings. Which of the following is the most appropriate initial management?
- A. Order a brain MRI
- B. Start high-dose prednisone
- C. Check labs
- D. Discontinue pembrolizumab

