SITC Tumor microenvironment San Diego, USA April 21st 2022

The cancer immune contexture and heterogeneity of the tumor microenvironment

Jérôme GALON

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Disclosures

Co-founder, chairman of the scientific advisory board, CSO Immuno-Oncology:

HalioDx – a Veracyte company

Collaborative Research Agreement (grants) :

Veracyte, Imcheck Therapeutics

Participation to Scientific Advisory Boards:

 IObiotech, Illumina, Northwest Biotherapeutics, Actelion, Amgen, Catalym, Merck MSD, Lunaphore

The continuum of cancer immunosurveillance



Immunity Review



The Continuum of Cancer Immunosurveillance: Prognostic, Predictive, and Mechanistic Signatures

Jérôme Galon, 1,2,3,* Helen K. Angell, 1,2,3 Davide Bedognetti, 4 and Francesco M. Marincola 4,5,*



Galon J et al. Immunity 2013

The continuum of cancer immunosurveillance



Mascaux C. ... Galon J. *Nature* 2019

Pagès F. ... Galon J. *Lancet* 2018 Mlecnik B. ... Galon J. *JCO* 2020 Angelova M. ... Galon J. *Cell* 2018 Van den Eynde M. ... Galon J. *Cancer Cell* 2018 Mlecnik B. ... Galon J. *JNCI* 2018

Phase 3 trials Ann Oncol 2020, JNCI CS 2020

The workdwide Immunoscore consortium

THE LANCET

International validation of the consensus Immunoscore for the classification of colon cancer: a prognostic and accuracy study

Franck Pagès, Bernhard Mlecnik, Florence Marliot, Gabriela Bindea, Fang-Shu Ou, Carlo Bifulco, Alessandro Lugli, Inti Zlobec, Tilman T Rau, Martin D Berger, Iris D Nagtegaal, Elisa Vink-Börger, Arndt Hartmann, Carol Geppert, Julie Kolwelter, Susanne Merkel, Robert Grützmann, Marc Van den Eynde, Anne Jouret-Mourin, Alex Kartheuser, Daniel Léonard, Christophe Remue, Julia Y Wang, P Bavi, Michael H A Roehrl, Pamela S Ohashi, Linh T Nguyen, SeongJun Han, Heather L MacGregor, Sara Hafezi-Bakhtiari, Bradly G Wouters, Giuseppe V Masucci, Emilia K Andersson, Eva Zavadova, Michal Vocka, Jan Spacek, Lubos Petruzelka, Bohuslav Konopasek, Pavel Dundr, Helena Skalova, Kristyna Nemejcova, Gerardo Botti, Fabiana Tatangelo, Paolo Delrio, Gennaro Ciliberto, Michele Maio, Luigi Laghi, Fabio Grizzi, Tessa Fredriksen, Bénédicte Buttard, Mihaela Angelova, Angela Vasaturo, Pauline Maby, Sarah E Church, Helen K Angell, Lucie Lafontaine, Daniela Bruni, Carine El Sissy, Nacilla Haicheur, Amos Kirilovsky, Anne Berger, Christine Lagorce, Jeffrey P Meyers, Christopher Paustian, Zipei Feng, Carmen Ballesteros-Merino, Jeroen Dijkstra, Carlijn van de Water, Shannon van Lent-van Vliet, Nikki Knijn, Ana-Maria Muşină, Dragos-Viorel Scripcariu, Boryana Popivanova, Mingli Xu, Tomonobu Fujita, Shoichi Hazama, Nobuaki Suzuki, Hiroaki Nagano, Kiyotaka Okuno, Toshihiko Torigoe, Noriyuki Sato, Tomohisa Furuhata, Ichiro Takemasa, Kyogo Itoh, Prabhu S Patel, Hemangini H Vora, Birva Shah, Jayendrakumar B Patel, Kruti N Rajvik, Shashank J Pandya, Shilin N Shukla, Yili Wang, Guanjun Zhang, Yutaka Kawakami, Francesco M Marincola, Paolo A Ascierto, Daniel J Sargent*, Bernard A Fox, Jérôme Galon



Pages et al. The Lancet 2018

Prognostic value of the consensus Immunoscore

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Pages et al. The Lancet 2018

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

gina

OXFORD

Multicenter International Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer Study of the Consensus Immunoscore for the Prediction of Survival and Response to Chemotherapy in Stage III Colon Cancer

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Mlecnik B. et al. JCO 2020





ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Prognostic and predictive value of the Immunoscore in stage III colon cancer patients treated with oxaliplatin in the prospective IDEA France PRODIGE-GERCOR cohort study[†]

Pages F. et al. Ann Oncol 2020

JNCI Cancer Spectrum (2020) 4(3): pkaa023

doi: 10.1093/jncics/pkaa023 First published online April 5, 2020 Article

Contribution of Immunoscore and Molecular Features to Survival Prediction in Stage III Colon Cancer

Frank A. Sinicrope ^[6], Qian Shi², Fabienne Hermitte ^[6], Tyler J. Zemla², Bernhard Mlecnik ^{[6]4,5}, Al B. Benson⁶, Sharlene Gill⁷, Richard M. Goldberg ^{[6]8}, Morton S. Kahlenberg⁹, Suresh G. Nair¹⁰, Anthony F. Shields ^{[6]11}, Thomas C. Smyrk¹, Jerome Galon⁴, Steven R. Alberts ^{[6]1}

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Sinicrope . et al. JNCI Cancer Spec 2020

Immunoscore in stage III colon carcinoma patients

- Predefined cut-off from Worldwide SITC study, and Predefined statistical plan (Mayo Clinic)
- ✓ 4 independent cohorts, 2514 patients



Immunoscore predicts High-risk and No-risk patients in stage III colon cancer

Immunoscore: Inclusion into Cancer Guidelines



GROWN ME

Essential and desirable diagnostic criteria for colorectal cancer

Immune response

Immune response (Immunoscore)

"A standardized examination of the presence of lymphocytes at the invasive front of the tumour, using immunohistochemistry for CD3 and CD8, showed that this feature has significant prognostic power (Pages et al. Lancet 2018)."

WHO Classification of Tumours, 5th Edition, 2019

Immunoscore: Inclusion into Cancer Guidelines

International Agency for Research on Cancer





Essential and desirable diagnostic criteria for colorectal cancer

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"A standardized examination of the presence of lymphocytes at the invasive front of the tumour, using immunohistochemistry for CD3 and CD8, showed that this feature has significant prognostic power (Pages et al. Lancet 2018)."

WHO Classification of Tumours, 5th Edition, 2019

SPECIAL ARTICLE

Localised colon cancer: ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up †

G. Argilés¹, J. Tabernero², R. Labianca³, D. Hochhauser⁴, R. Salazar⁵, T. Iveson⁶, P. Laurent-Puig^{2,8,9}, P. Quirke¹⁰, T. Yoshino¹¹, J. Taleb^{7,8,0,12}, E. Martinelli¹¹ & D. Arnold¹⁴, on behalf of the ESMO Guidelines Committee⁵

ESMO

European Clinical Practice Guidelines for Gastrointestinal Cancers



ESMO

Immunoscore (Prognostic, Predictive)

Argiles et al. Ann Oncol 2020





Pan-Asian Guidelines 2021 for localised Colon Cancers

Japan (JSMO), China (CSCO), India (ISMPO), Malasya (MOS), Taiwan (TOS)



Pan-Asian adapted ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for the diagnosis treatment and follow-up of patients with localised colon cancer

T. Yoshino[®], G. Argile³, E. Oki¹, E. Martinell⁷, H. Taniguchi¹, D. Amold⁵, S. Mishima¹, Y. Li⁵, B. K. Smnotl¹, J. B. Ahn⁸, L. Faud², C. E. Chee¹³, K.-H. Yeh^{11,27}, P.-C. Lin¹³, C. Chua¹⁴, H. H. Hasbullah¹³, M. A. Lee¹⁴, A. Sharma¹⁷, Y. Sun¹⁴, G. Curiglian³³, H. Bando²⁷, F. Lordik¹², T. Yamanaka¹², J. Tabernen¹³, E. Baba¹⁴, A. Cervantes¹⁴, A. Ohtsu¹, S. Peters¹⁸, C. bhioka²² & G. Pentheroudakli²⁸ **Immunoscore** is considered for its full range indication in colon cancers, stage II and stage III, with inclusion of all risk groups, with 100% consensus voted for recommendation **Yoshino et al.** *Ann Oncol* 2021

Adaptive immunity decreases with tumor progression



Bindea G. et al. *Immunity* 2013

Mlecnik B. et al. J Clin Oncol 2011

Oncogenesis of lung squamous cell carcinoma

 \checkmark



Analysis of 122 pre-cancer lesions across 9 developmental stages



Immune evasion before tumour invasion in early lung squamous carcinogenesis

Céline Mascaux^{1,2,3,4,14,15,18}*, Mihaela Angelova^{5,6,7,8,16,18}, Angela Vasaturo^{5,6,7,8}, Jennifer Beane², Kahkeshan Hijazi², Geraldine Anthoine¹, Bénédicte Buttard^{5,6,7,8}, Françoise Rothe⁹, Karen Willard–Gallo¹⁰, Annick Haller^{11,17}, Vincent Ninane¹², Arsène Burny¹³, Jean–Paul Sculier¹, Avi Spira² & Jérôme Galon^{5,6,7,8}*

Mascaux C et al. Nature 2019

Main gene expression patterns across 9 developmental stages



Immune functions mostly associated with genes ascending from high-Grade

Mascaux C et al. Nature 2019

Immune escape mechanisms in pre-cancer lesions



Immune evasion before tumor invasion (SCC)

->

- Decreased expression of co-inhibitors in Low-Grade
- Increased expression of co-inhibitors in High-Grade

 Increased expression of suppressive cytokines in High-Grade

Mascaux C et al. Nature 2019

Pre-Neoplastic / Pre-Cancer Lesion evolution



Epithelial cells Stroma Tumor cells

Immune microenvironment

Mascaux C. ... Galon J. Nature 2019

Metastasis analysis

One primary tumor

Colorectal cancer





Multiple metastatic sites

Liver Metastasis

Lung Metastasis



N=603 metastases

Immunoscore within multiple metastases at different sites

Mlecnik et al. *JNCI* 2018 Van den Eynde M. *et al. Cancer Cell* 2018



What drives metastasis

What are the metastatic escape mechanisms

A Novel theory of cancer evolution

Current theories of cancer evolution

Models



Immune pressure from Darwinian selection

NO

NO

- The 4 proposed theories of cancer evolution
- > All theories are tumor cell-centric. None involves a role of the immune system.



Article

Evolution of Metastases in Space and Time under Immune Selection

Mihaela Angelova,¹ Bernhard Mlecnik,^{1,2} Angela Vasaturo,¹ Gabriela Bindea,¹ Tessa Fredriksen,¹ Lucie Lafontaine,¹ Bénédicte Buttard,¹ Erwan Morgand,¹ Daniela Bruni,¹ Anne Jouret-Mourin,³ Catherine Hubert,³ Alex Kartheuser,³ Yves Humblet,³ Michele Ceccarelli,^{4,5} Najeeb Syed,⁶ Francesco M. Marincola,^{7,8} Davide Bedognetti,^{9,10} Marc Van den Eynde,^{1,3,10} and Jérôme Galon^{1,11,*}

Angelova M. et al. Cell 2018

Cell

What drives metastasis





> 11 years

Evolvogram of tumor clones



- Clonal evolution and cancer evolvogram
- ✓ Non-recurrent clones are immunoedited. Progressing clones are immune privileged

Immunoscore and Immunoediting within metastases



- ✓ For Immunoediting to occur, High-Immunoscore is necessary
- ✓ Immunoscore is not sufficient, since High-Immunoscore may not show immunoediting

Spatial mapping of the metastatic microenvironment



Distance between CD3 + cells and tumor cells Ki67+ are associated with Immunoscore and Immunoediting groups, and with metastasis recurrence.

Spatial mapping of the metastatic microenvironment

Cumulative distribution function of nearest neighbors between CD3+ and PD-L1+



HiNo metastases have a higher percentage of T cells (CD3⁺) that have the nearest PD-L1+ within a radius of $25\mu m$

A Novel theory of cancer evolution

Models





Immune pressure from Darwinian selection

NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

- Parallel immune selection model
- Dynamic interaction of tumor-cells with immune-cells and Darwinian selection of immune escape variant, with parallel evolution and multiverse of metastases.

Anti-CD19 CAR T Cell Therapy in DLBCL

Axicabtagene ciloleucel (axi-cel) is an autologous anti-CD19 CAR T therapy with CD3ζ/CD28-based signaling directed to CD19-expressing cells

Axi-cel approved for the treatment of relapsed or refractory large B cell lymphoma after ≥ 2 lines of systemic therapy



CAR, chimeric antigen receptor; scFv, single-chain variable fragment.

26

CAR-T cells



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Axicabtagene Ciloleucel CAR T-Cell Therapy in Refractory Large B-Cell Lymphoma

S.S. Neelapu, F.L. Locke, N.L. Bartlett, L.J. Lekakis, D.B. Miklos, C.A. Jacobson,
I. Braunschweig, O.O. Oluwole, T. Siddiqi, Y. Lin, J.M. Timmerman, P.J. Stiff,
J.W. Friedberg, I.W. Flinn, A. Goy, B.T. Hill, M.R. Smith, A. Deol, U. Farooq,
P. McSweeney, J. Munoz, I. Avivi, J.E. Castro, J.R. Westin, J.C. Chavez, A. Ghobadi,
K.V. Komanduri, R. Levy, E.D. Jacobsen, T.E. Witzig, P. Reagan, A. Bot, J. Rossi,
L. Navale, Y. Jiang, J. Aycock, M. Elias, D. Chang, J. Wiezorek, and W.Y. Go

ZUMA-1 Trial: Long-Term Follow Up



 Overall
 89
 82
 67
 56
 53
 49
 48
 47
 42
 38
 31
 19
 16
 12
 6
 6
 4
 3
 3
 3
 1
 0

 CR
 63
 61
 58
 53
 50
 47
 46
 45
 45
 137
 30
 19
 16
 12
 6
 6
 4
 3
 3
 3
 1
 0

PR 26 21 9 3 3 2 2 2 2 1 1 1

ZUMA-1 with refractory large B cell lymphoma treated with axi-cel have 83% ORR and 58% CR Axi-Cel Maintained Ongoing Responses at Median Follow-Up of 27.1 Months

Improval of CAR-T cell therapy

- ✓ Improved CAR constructs
- ✓ Get better intracellular CAR signaling (1st, 2nd, 3rd generation CARs)
- Get better targets (especially for solid tumors)
- ✓ Get dual targets, inducible CAR, killing-construct CAR
- ✓ Select subtypes of T-cells for infusion

But,

- \checkmark Ignoring the fact that a cancer is not tumor cells in a test-tube
- \checkmark and that adoptive CAR-T cells are not working alone, but within a patient



Tumor microenvironment analysis: Zuma 1 - Protocol and Timing of Paired Biopsies

Tumor biopsy: baseline and within 3 weeks post axi-cel



axi-cel, axicabtagene ciloleucel.

ZUMA-1 clinical trial Translational Biomarkers analysis

- Which patients are responding to CAR-T based on pre-treatment biopsies?
- ➢ What are the changes in TME Post-CAR-T?
- What are the mechanisms of relapse?
- Can we predict toxicities?

- Zuma-1 trial (DLBCL): tumor biopsies (n=135)
- Zuma-7 trial (DLBCL): tumor biopsies (n=252)
- DLBCL patients: tumor biopsies (n=249)

TME: Tumor MicroEnvironment

ZUMA-1 Pre and Post-CAR-T cell treatment analysis



Treatment with Axi-Cel Results in Rapid and Dramatic Changes in the Tumor Immune Microenvironment





Top transcripts from a pre-specified 43 immune gene panel upregulated in tumor 7-21 days after treatment. IDO1 and other genes not in the 43 panel are pending.

Treatment with Axi-Cel Results in Rapid and Dramatic Changes in the Tumor Immune Microenvironment associated with CR

Multiplex chromogenic brightfield stains using BrightPlex® technology





Pre-specified Immunosign separates Responders from non-Responders

In pre-treatment Samples



OR vs No OR (Objective.Response)



Immunosign[®] 21 pre-CAR-T infusion predicts clinical Response (OR and CR) Scholler et al. In revision

Mechanistic link between pre-treatment immune contexture and T-cell parameters







CAR-T cell treated patients (Zuma-1 trial, n=19) CAR-T cell treated patients (Zuma-7 trial, n=252)

Treatmnt-naive patients (DLBCL, n=67)

Correlation matrix for myeloid-secreted and T cell-produced cytokine and chemokines (horizontal axis) with T-cell subset–related genes (vertical axis) in the baseline TME from 3 independent cohorts of DLBCL patients



Pre-treatment immune contexture predicts response to CAR-T cell therapy and prolonged survival





Pre-treatment immune contexture predicts response to CAR-T cell therapy and prolonged survival

Variable	N	Hazard ratio (95% CI)		P value
Immunosign 21				
High	19	•	Reference	
Low	8	·	42.91 (1.88, 977.60)	0.020
Gender				
F	14	•	Reference	
Μ	12		0.33 (0.04, 2.78)	0.31
Subtypes				
GCB	15	•	Reference	
ABC	4		2.30 (0.06, 88.39)	0.65
Unknown	8		0.37 (0.00, 44.69)	0.68
IPI		_		
Low	7	•	Reference	
Intermediate	9		0.57 ((.004, 7.56)	0.67
High	11		0.08 (0.00, 9.03)	0.29
Baseline Tumor Burden (SPD) 27	•	1.00 (1.00, 1.00)	0.03
BCL2 overexpression				
Y	15	•	Reference	
N	6	-	0.24 (0.03, 2.20)	0.21
Unknown	6		0.00 (0.00, Inf)	1.000
MYC overexpression				
Y	8	•	Reference	
N	13	·	4.21 (0.29, 60.77)	0.29
Unknown	6		0.00 (0.00, Inf)	1.000
BCL6 overexpression				
Y	12	•	Reference	
N	10		8.84 (0.79, 99.00)	0.08
Unknown	5		6.54 1018 (0.00, Inf)	1.000
		0.001 0.1 10 1000		

Survival hazard ratios from cox multivariate analyses of ZUMA-1 patient and clinical characteristics





T-cell subset densities in pretreatment tumour biopsies associated with response to CAR-T

CD3 CD4 CD8 FoxP3 PD1 TIM3 LAG3





High densities of subsets of Cytotoxic T-cells (CD3+CD8+ expressing PD1+LAG3+/-TIM3-) are significantly associated with response to CAR-T cells



CAR-T : A Mechanistic Model of Efficacy and Toxicities



CAR-T : A Mechanistic Model of Efficacy and Toxicities



*Based on: Kochenderfer, JCO 2017; Neelapu, NEJM 2017; Locke, AACR 2017; Galon, ASCO 2017; Rossi, SITC 2017; Locke, ASH 2017; Rossi, Blood 201Z, ASH 2018, AACR2018, AACR 2019. TME – Tumor microenvironment .



nature reviews cancer





The immune contexture and Immunoscore in cancer prognosis and therapeutic efficacy

Daniela Bruni[™], Helen K. Angell[™] and Jérôme Galon[™]

Bruni et al. Nature Reviews Cancer 2020

Galon lab. INSERM, CRC, Paris, France

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HalioDx, a Veracyte company







🌐 Inserm













LABEX Immuno-Oncology

الصفوات القطري لرطبة المعادي A Qatar National Research Fund Member of Qatar Foundation

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Thanks Worldwide Consortium Centers

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