

# Immunotherapy in Gastrointestinal Malignancies

Winter Cancer Symposium

Rio Grande, Puerto Rico

Weill Cornell Medicine/ New York-Presbyterian

March 1-3, 2024

Manish A. Shah, MD FASCO

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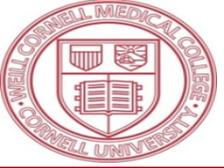
Chief, Solid Tumor Program

New York-Presbyterian/ Weill Cornell Medicine

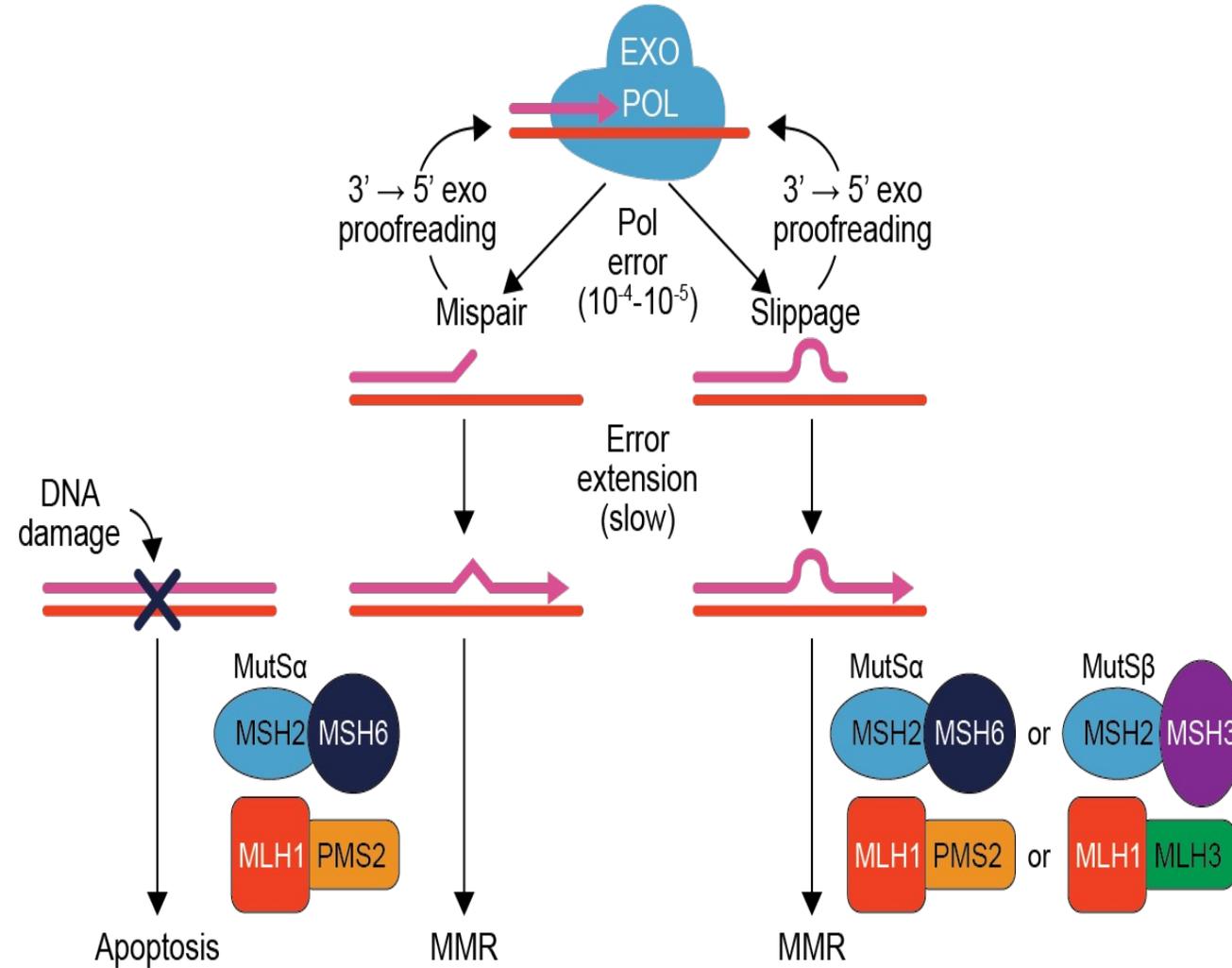
# Agenda

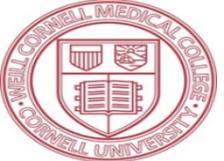
- Mismatch Repair
- Rectal cancer
- Localized Colorectal Cancer
- Gastroesophageal Cancer
- Hepatobiliary Cancer
- Immunotherapy toxicity



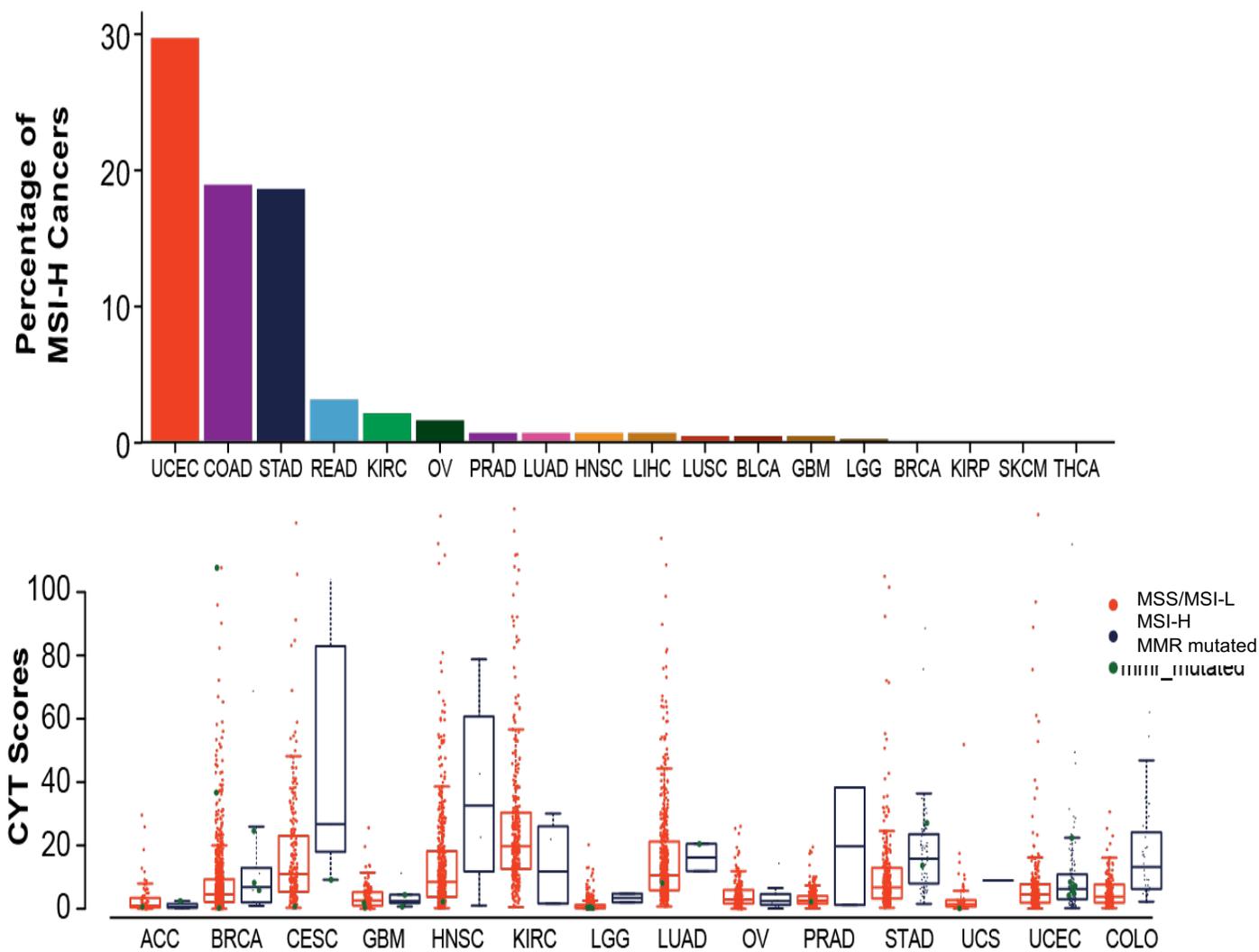


# MISMATCH REPAIR LEADS TO VERY HIGH MUTATIONAL BURDEN



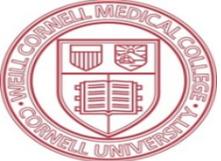


# PAN-CANCER LANDSCAPE OF MMR DEFICIENCY



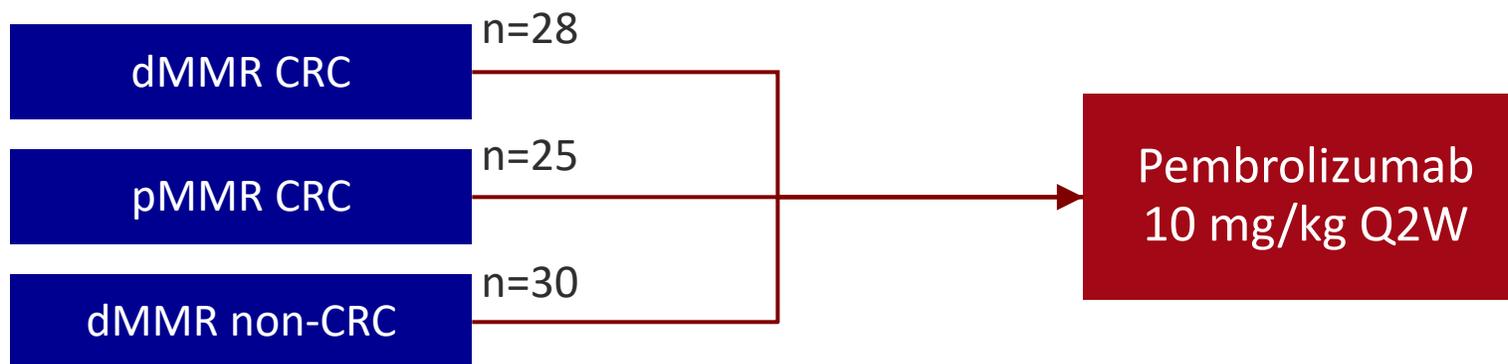
Hause RJ et al. *Nat Med.* 2016;22:1342-1350.



MIXED-DMMR/MSI-STATUS mCRC<sup>1,2</sup>

Phase II multicenter, open-label trial of pembrolizumab as monotherapy in three different treatment-refractory patient populations

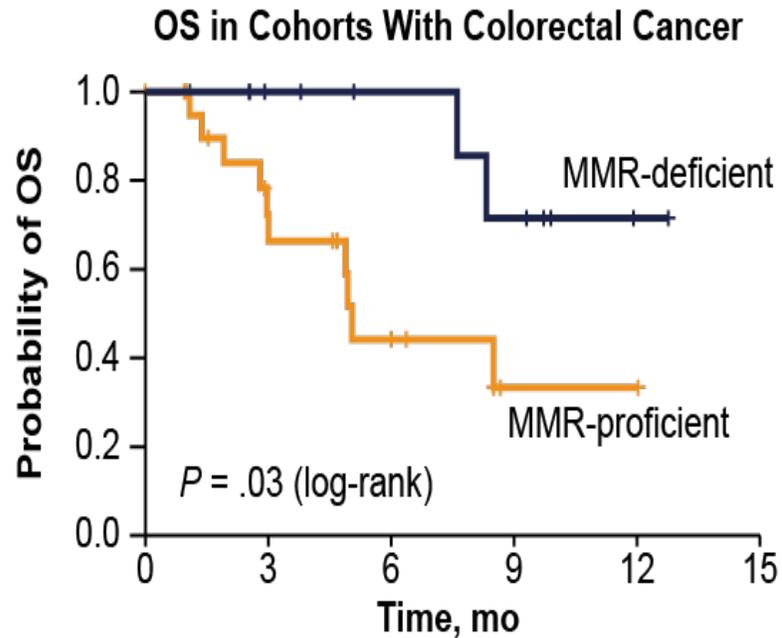
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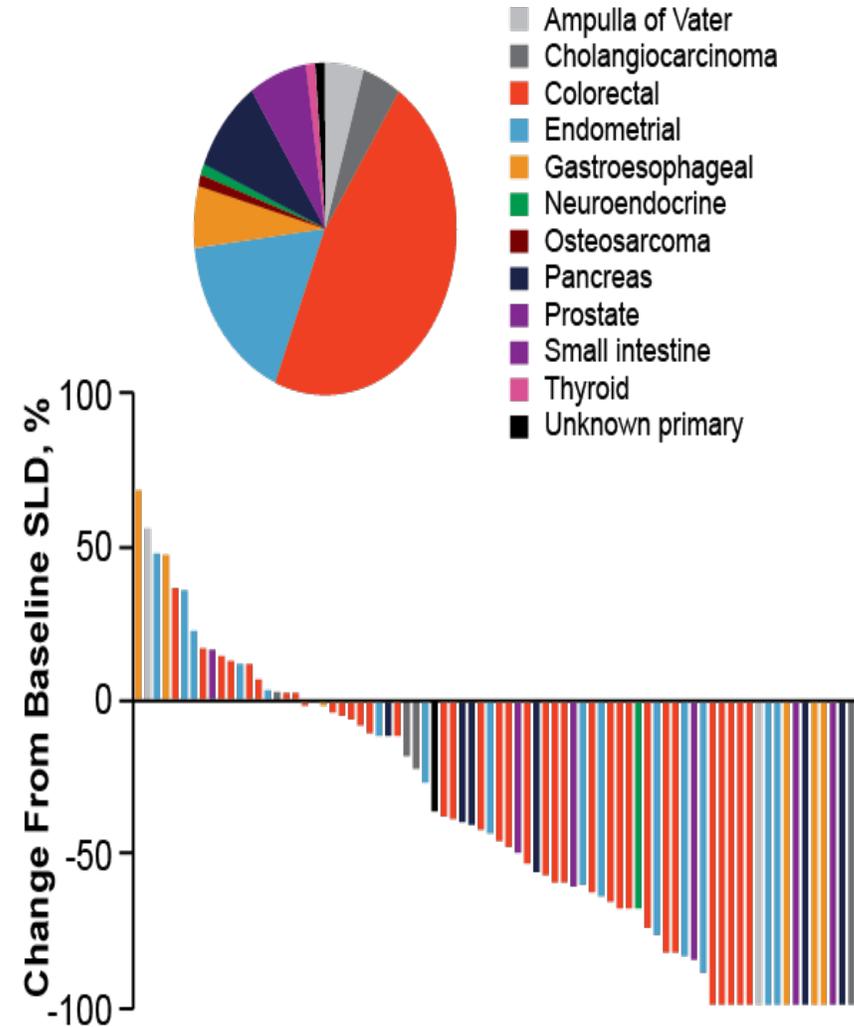
- **Primary Outcome Measures:** irPFS<sup>\*†</sup>, irORR<sup>†</sup> (using irRC)
- **Secondary Outcome Measures:** OS, irPFS/PFS (using irRC and RECIST 1.1), ORR, IRAEs, MSI and treatment response, markers of MSI status

- dMMR and pMMR CRC groups had received a median of 3 and 4 prior treatment regimens, respectively

1. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT01876511. 2. Le DT et al. Oral presentation at ASCO 2016. TPS3631.



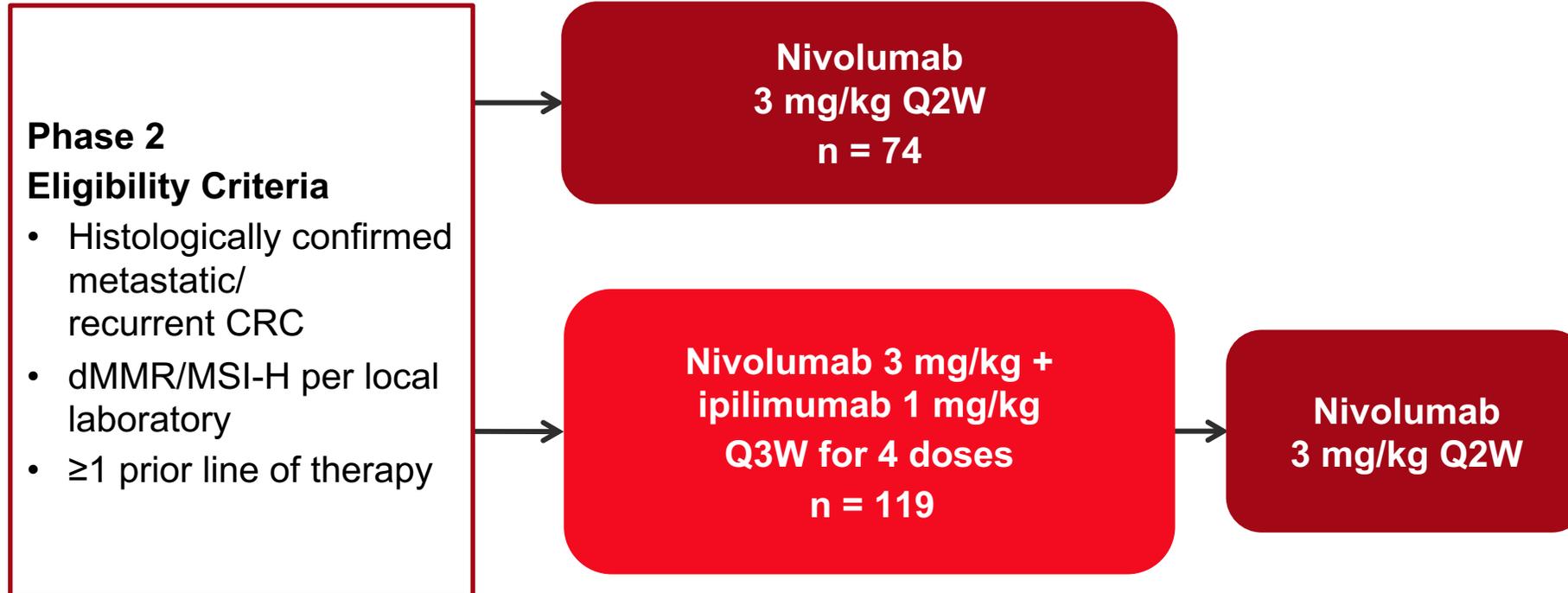
No. at Risk		0	3	6	9	12	15
MMR-deficient	11	9	7	5	1	0	0
MMR-proficient	21	12	5	1	1	0	0



Le DT et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2015;372:2509-2520.



# CheckMate-142: Nivolumab ± Ipilimumab in dMMR/MSI-H CRC



## Outcomes

- **Primary:** ORR per investigator assessment
- **Secondary:** ORR per blinded independent central review (BICR), PFS, OS, safety

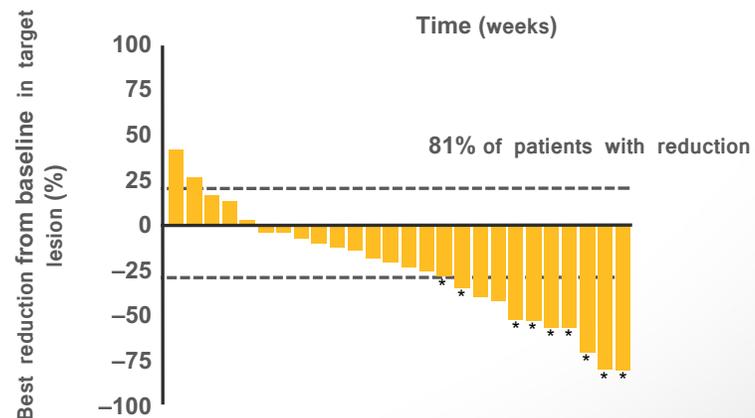
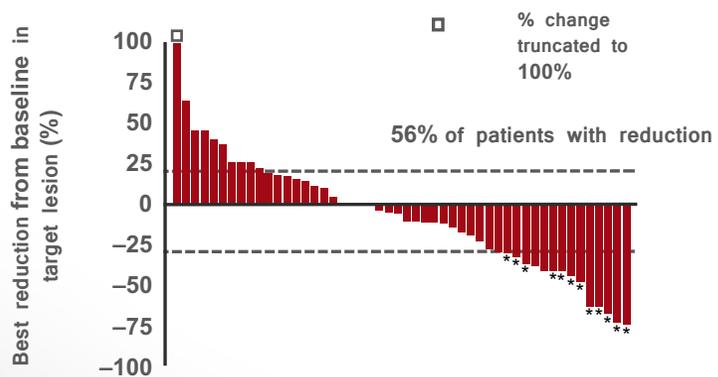
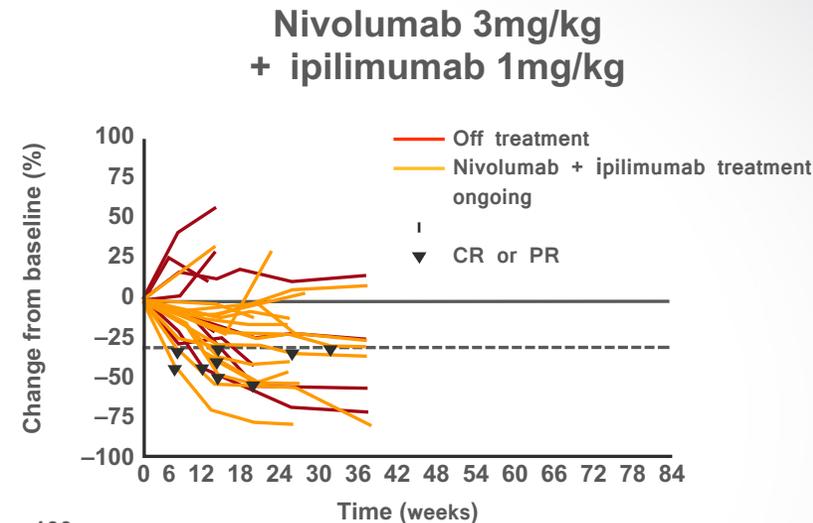
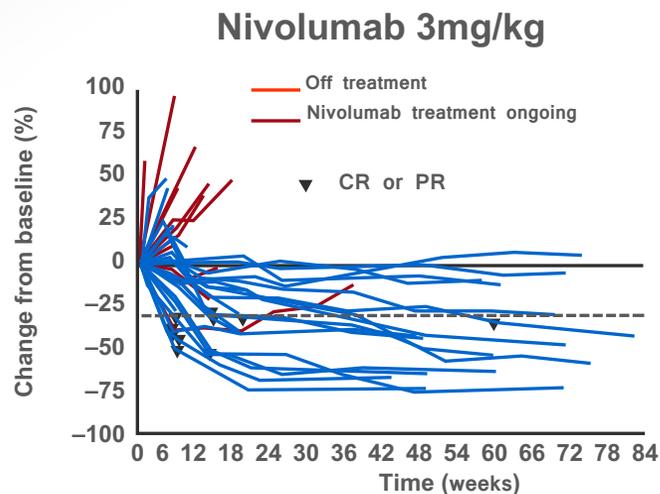
Overman MJ et al. *Lancet Oncol.* 2017;18:1182-1191.

Overman MJ et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2018;36:773-779.



# MSI-high tumours are responsive to PD-1 inhibitors

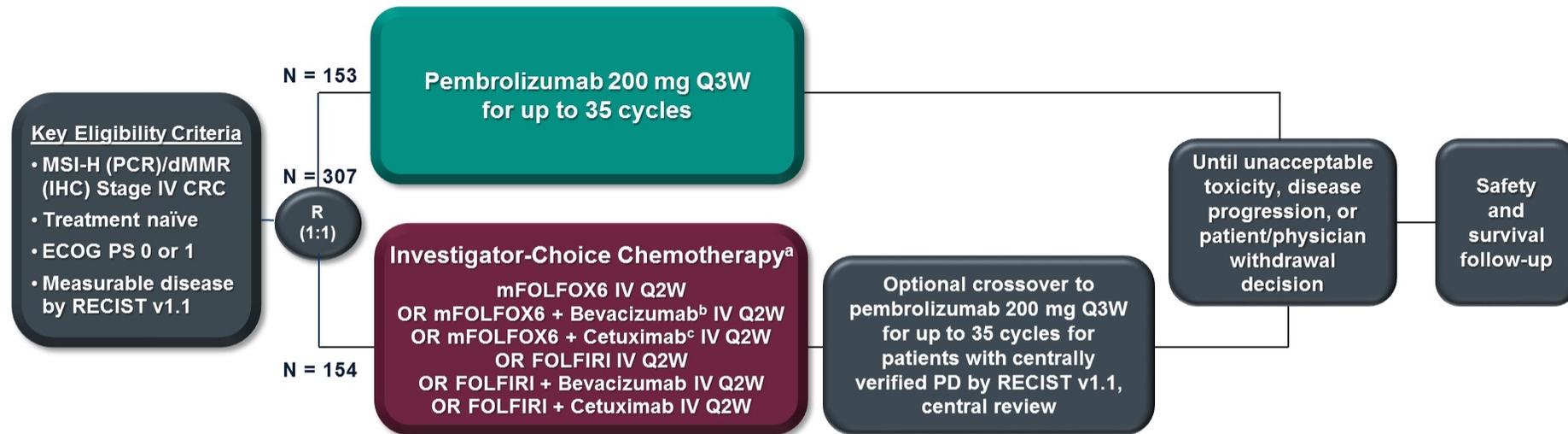
## Nivolumab ± ipilimumab (CheckMate-142, phase II)



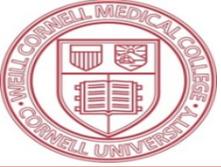
\*Lynch Syndrome (yes/no/unknown): MMR-deficient  
CRC = 54/7/39; MMR-proficient CRC = 0/100/0

# Keynote-177: Pembrolizumab vs Chemotherapy in 1L Treatment

## KEYNOTE-177 Study Design (NCT02563002)



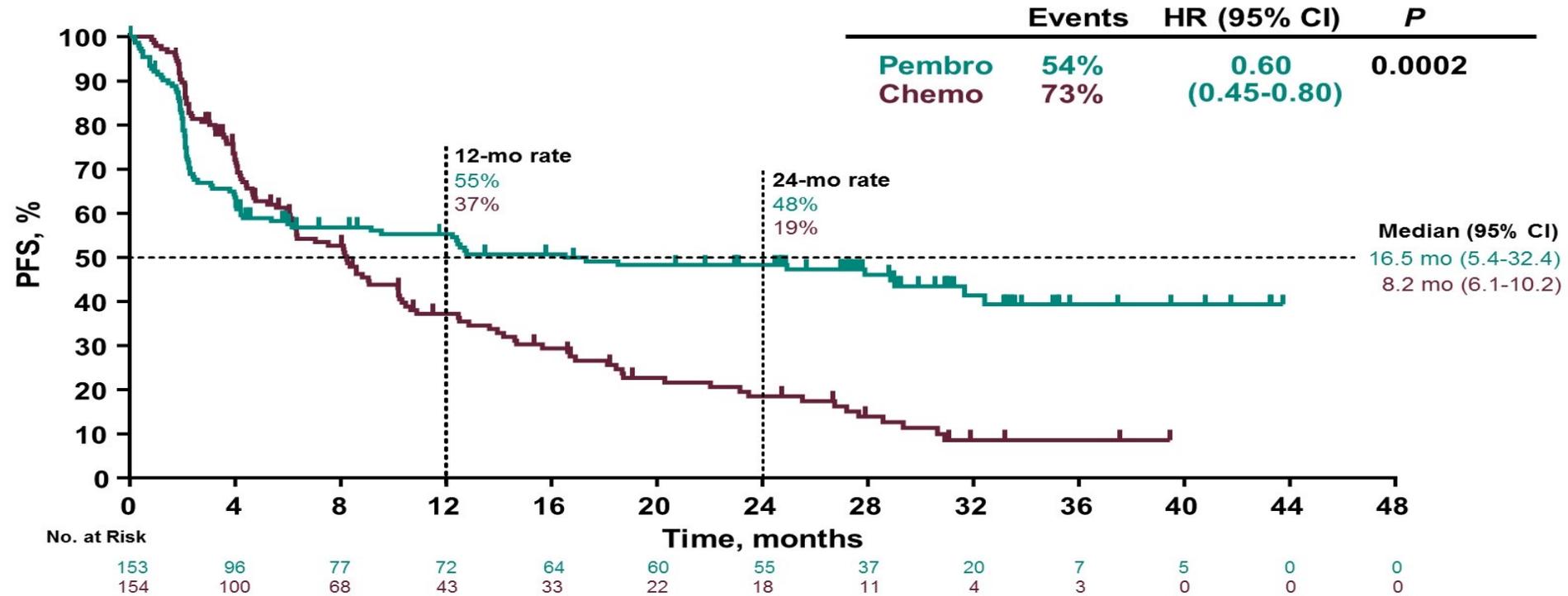
- Dual-Primary endpoints: PFS per RECIST v1.1 per blinded independent central review (BICR) and OS
- Secondary endpoints: ORR per RECIST v1.1 by BICR, safety
- Tumor response assessed at week 9 and Q9W thereafter per RECIST v1.1 by BICR



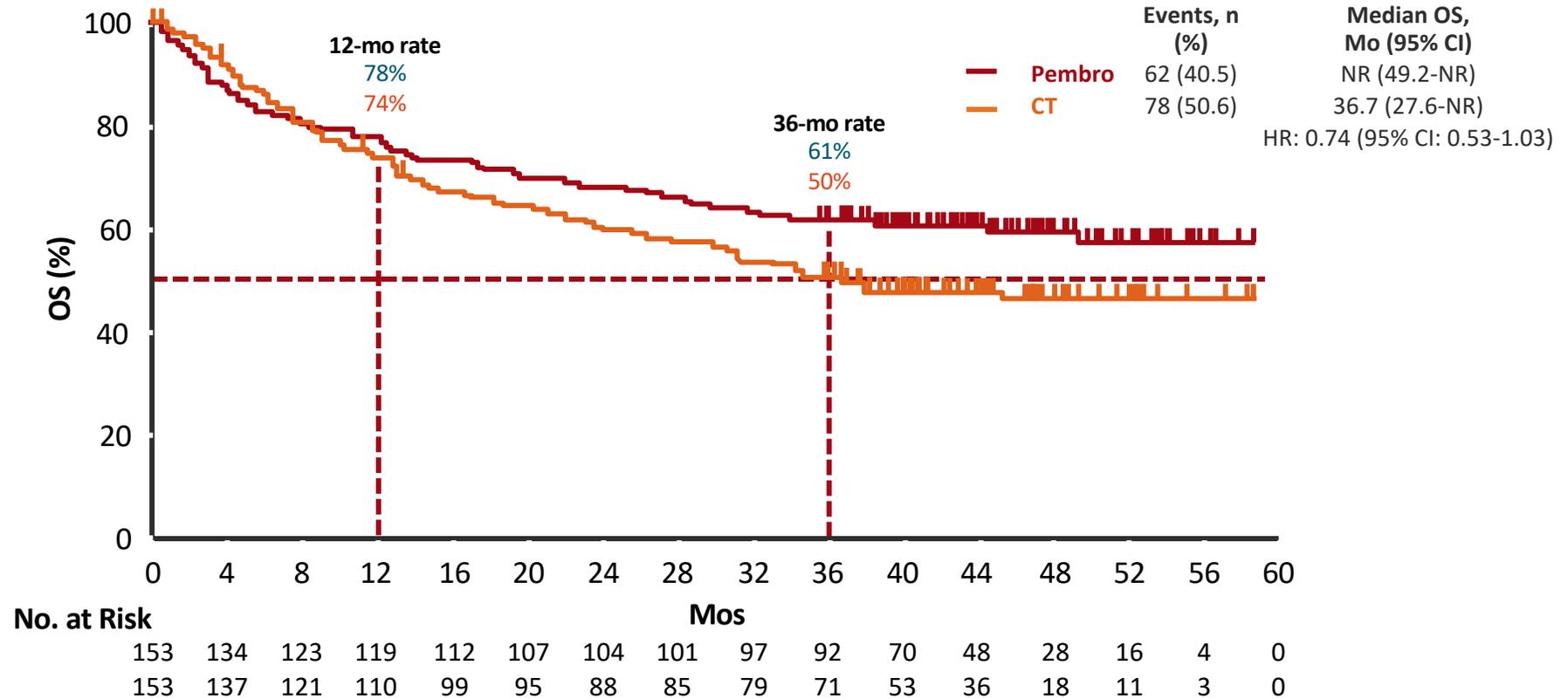
# KEYNOTE-177:

# PEMBROLIZUMAB VS CHEMOTHERAPY IN 1L TREATMENT

## Progression-Free Survival



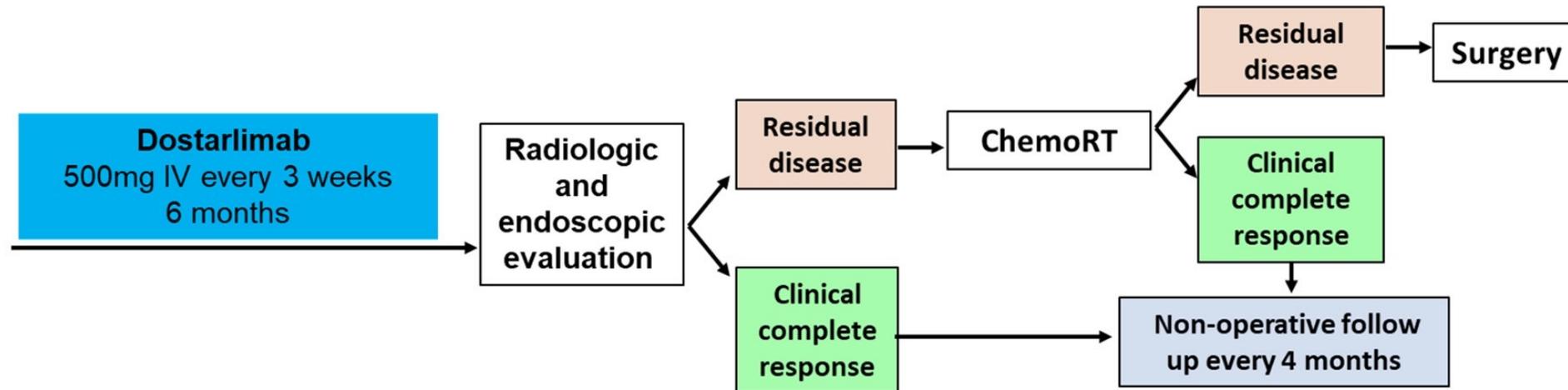
# KEYNOTE-177 Final Analysis: OS



André. ASCO 2021. Abstr 3500..



# TOTAL NEOADJUVANT THERAPY FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED RECTAL CANCER



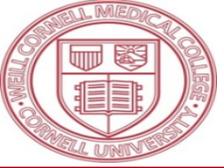
**Patient population:** Stage II and III mismatch repair deficient rectal cancer

**Target Enrollment:** 30 subjects

**Study Design:** Simon's two stage minimax design

NCT04165772



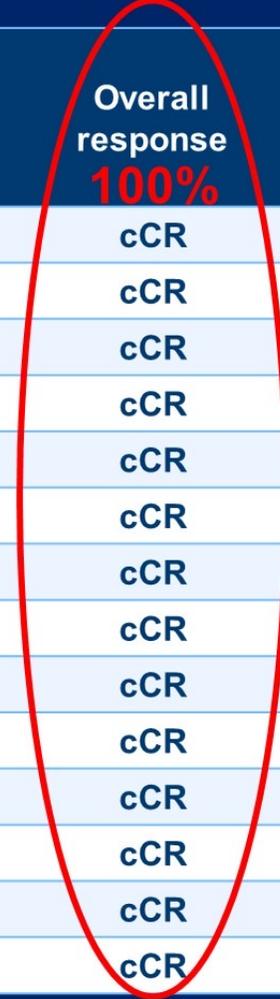


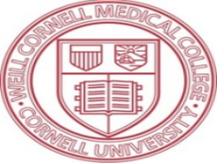
# TOTAL NEOADJUVANT THERAPY FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED RECTAL CANCER

## Individual responses to PD-1 blockade with dostarlimab

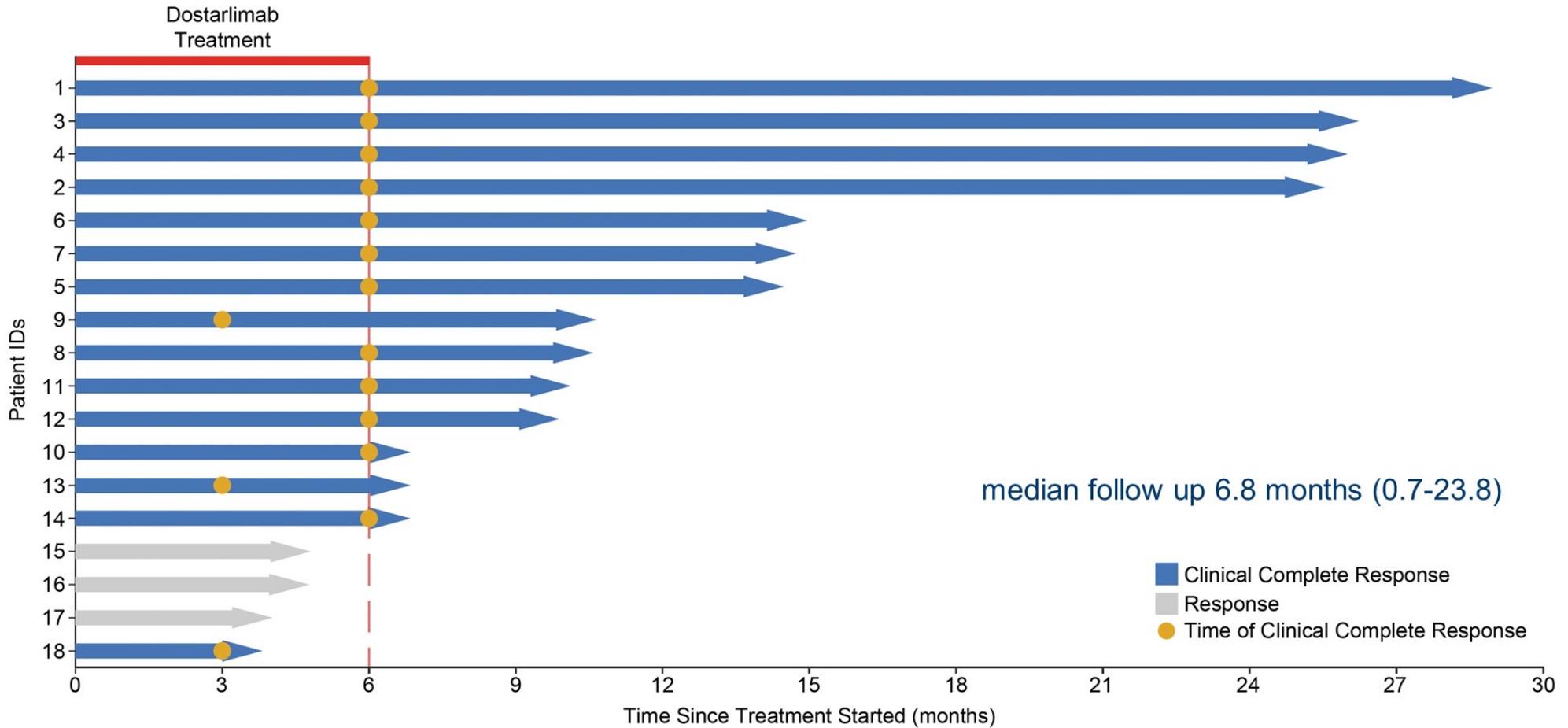
Patients who completed 6-months of dostarlimab

ID	Age	Stage T	Stage N	FU (months)	Digital rectal exam response	Endoscopic best response	Rectal MRI best response	Overall response <b>100%</b>
1	38	T4	N+	23.8	CR	CR	CR	cCR
2	30	T3	N+	20.5	CR	CR	CR	cCR
3	61	T1/2	N+	20.6	CR	CR	CR	cCR
4	28	T4	N+	20.5	CR	CR	CR	cCR
5	53	T1/2	N+	9.1	CR	CR	CR	cCR
6	77	T1/2	N+	11.0	CR	CR	CR	cCR
7	77	T1/2	N+	8.7	CR	CR	CR	cCR
8	55	T3	N+	5.0	CR	CR	CR	cCR
9	68	T3	N+	4.9	CR	CR	CR	cCR
10	78	T3	N-	1.7	CR	CR	CR	cCR
11	55	T3	N+	4.7	CR	CR	CR	cCR
12	27	T3	N+	4.4	CR	CR	CR	cCR
13	26	T3	N+	0.8	CR	CR	CR	cCR
14	43	T3	N+	0.7	CR	CR	CR	cCR



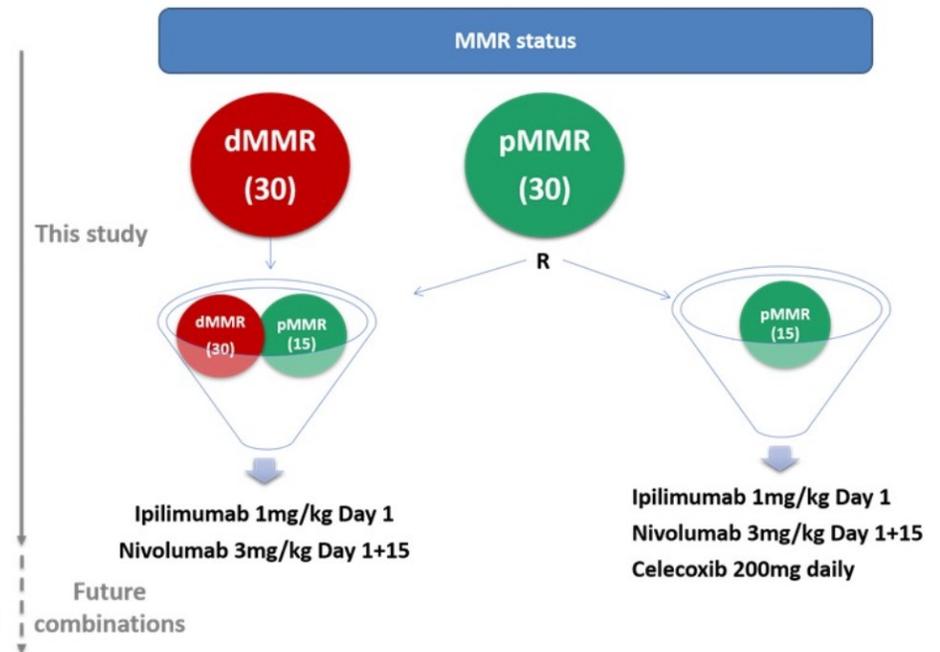


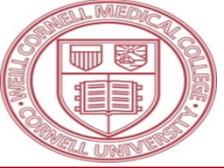
## Duration of response



## NICHE study design

- Open-label, exploratory study with an adaptive design
- **Study population:** non-metastatic, resectable and previously untreated adenocarcinoma of the colon
- **Original cohorts:** 30 patients with dMMR and 30 with pMMR tumors
- **Treatment** in all patients: nivolumab 3 mg/kg on D1+15 *plus* ipilimumab 1 mg/kg on D1
  - **pMMR cohort:** randomized to additionally receive celecoxib
  - **Surgery within 6 weeks** of registration
- Tumor and normal tissue at baseline and resection, plasma + PBMCs baseline during treatment and follow-up





## Responses in 29% of pMMR and 100% of dMMR tumors

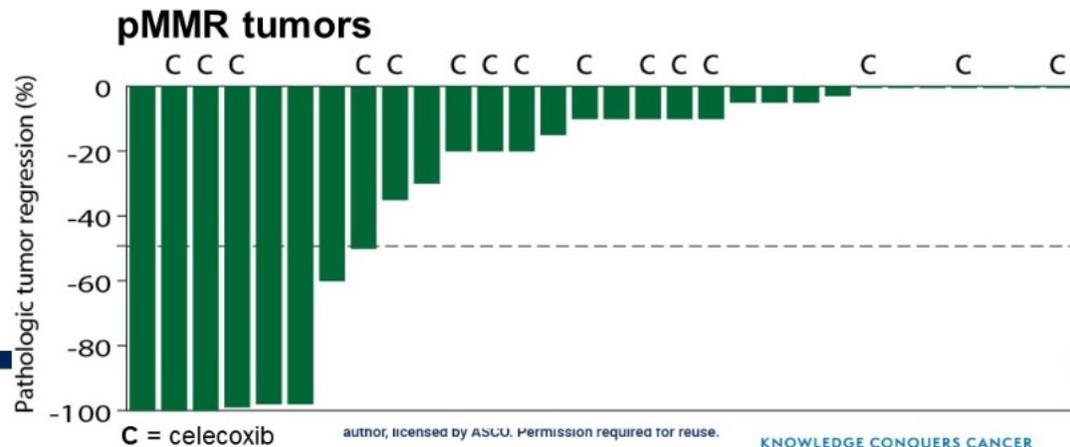
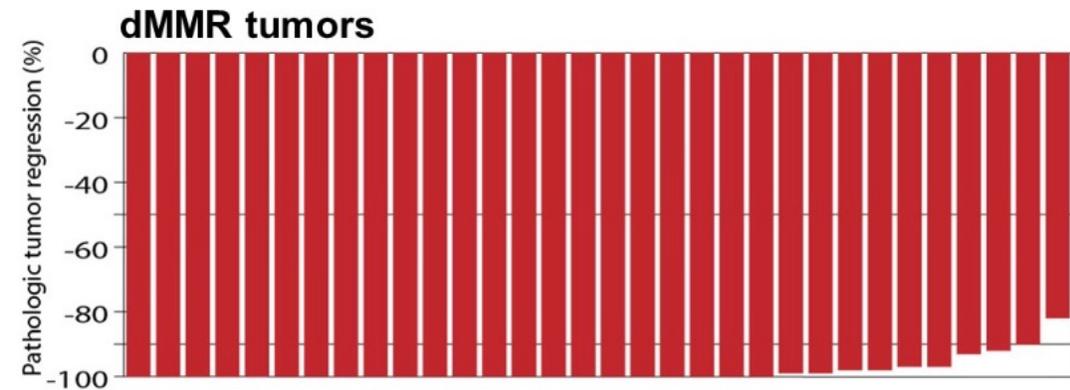
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Pathologic response	dMMR n= 32	pMMR n= 31
Major ( $\leq 10\%$ VTR)	31 (97%)	7 (23%) *
Complete	22 (69%)	4 (13%) *
Partial ( $\leq 50\%$ VTR)	1 (3%)	2 (6%)
Nonresponse ( $>50\%$ VTR)	0 (0%)	22 (71%)

- **dMMR: 32/32 (100%) responders**
  - Lynch: 13/13 MPR, 12 pCR
  - Non-Lynch: 18/19 MPR, 10 pCR; 1 PR
- **pMMR: 9/31 (29%) responders**

\*1 patient has not undergone surgery, now 1 year after treatment completion and no longer evidence of intraluminal or radiological disease, incl neg biopsies

VTR= viable tumor rest; MPR = major pathologic response; pCR = pathologic complete response; PR= partial response



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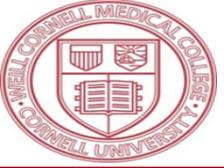
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## Neoadjuvant botensilimab plus balstilimab (BOT/BAL) in resectable mismatch repair proficient and deficient colorectal cancer: NEST-1 clinical trial

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*#authors share senior authorship*

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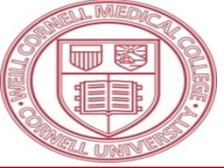
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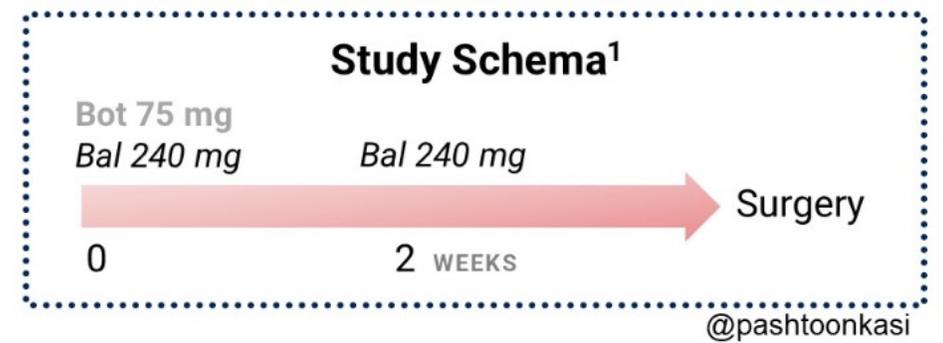
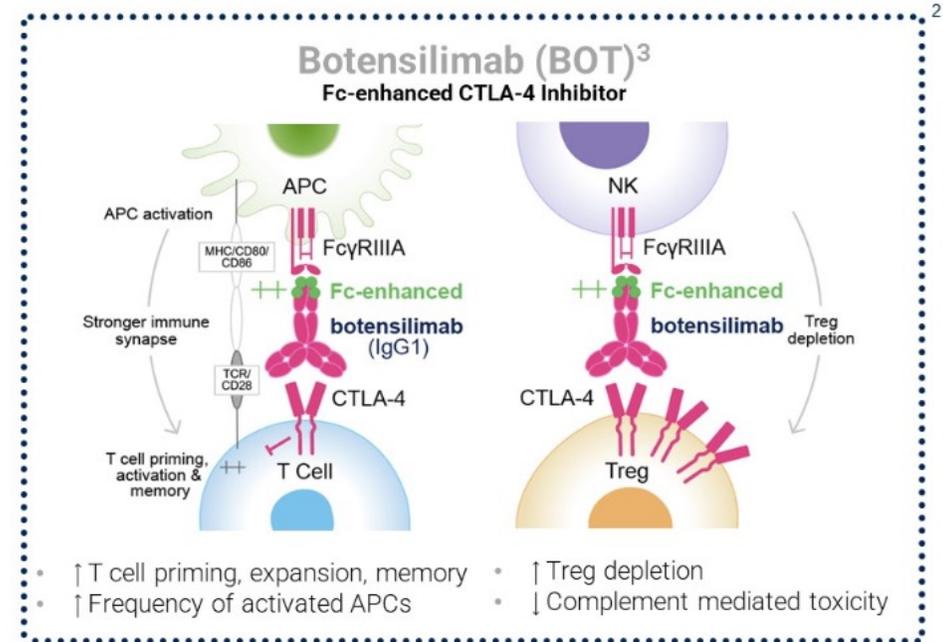


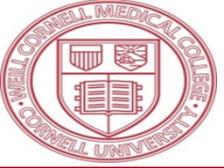
# THE NEST-1 CLINICAL TRIAL

## Background/Methods

- Effective therapies for colorectal cancer (CRC), particularly in those ~85-95% with **proficient mismatch repair/ microsatellite stable (pMMR/MSS)** cancer, are a critical unmet need.<sup>1</sup>
- **Botensilimab (BOT)**, a multifunctional next-generation **anti-CTLA-4 antibody**, with balstilimab (BAL), an anti-PD-1 antibody, has a response rate of >20% in patients with heavily pretreated pMMR/MSS metastatic CRC.<sup>2</sup>
- NEST-1 (NCT05571293) is the first study to evaluate **neoadjuvant** BOT and BAL in CRC patients eligible for surgery.
- **Investigator-initiated trial supported by Agenus Inc.**

1. Kasi PM et al. Oncogene. 2023 Oct; 42 (44): 3252-3259.  
 2. El-Khoueiry AB. Journal of Clinical Oncology 2023 41:4\_suppl, LBA8  
 3. Adapted from Wilky B, et al. Oral Presentation at CTOS 2023. Dublin, Ireland. Paper 31

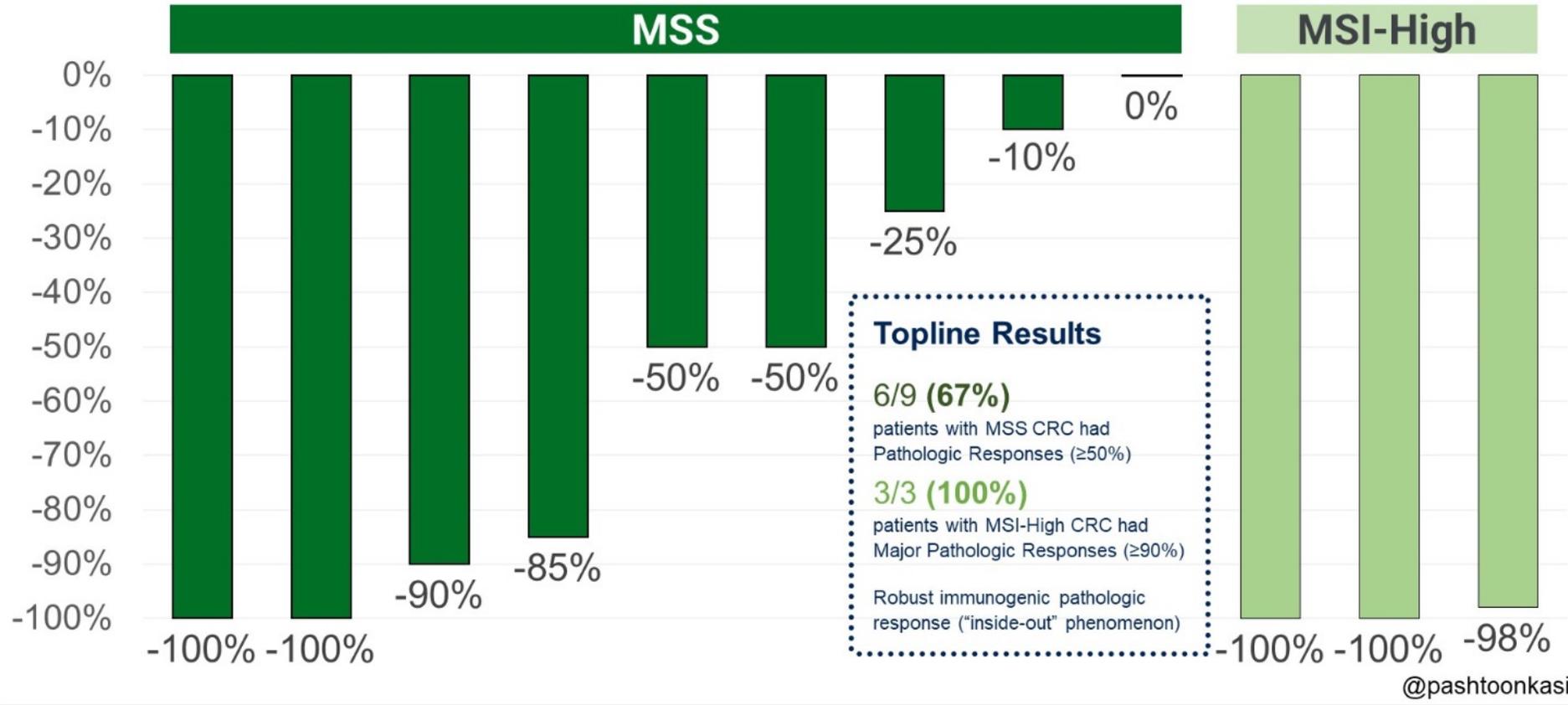




# THE NEST-1 CLINICAL TRIAL

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## NEST-1 Clinical Trial: Pathologic Tumor Reductions (%) by Patient



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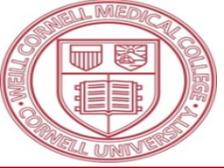
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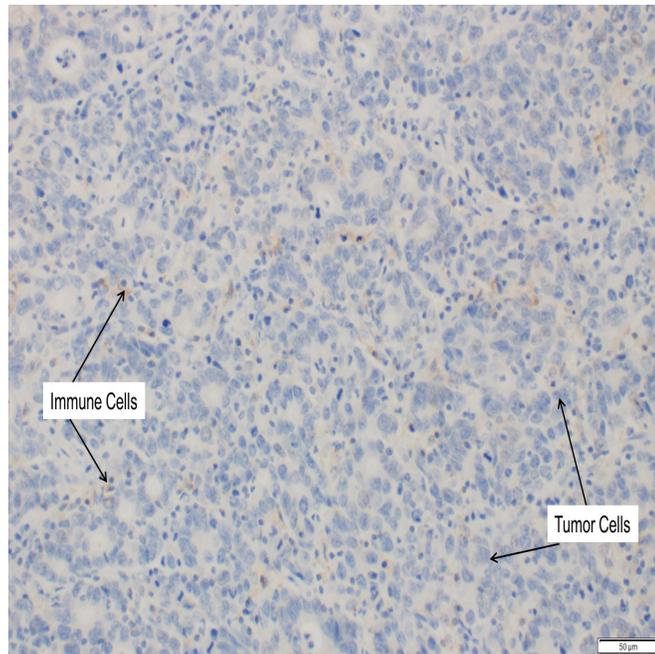
- Immunotherapy is effective in mismatch repair deficient colon cancer, and standard first line therapy for metastatic disease
  - KeyNote 177
- In non-metastatic colorectal cancer, immunotherapy is associated with high rates of pathologic response
  - In both - MMR deficient and MMR proficient CRC

- PD-L1 expression in gastric cancer is determined by **Combined Positive Score (CPS)**

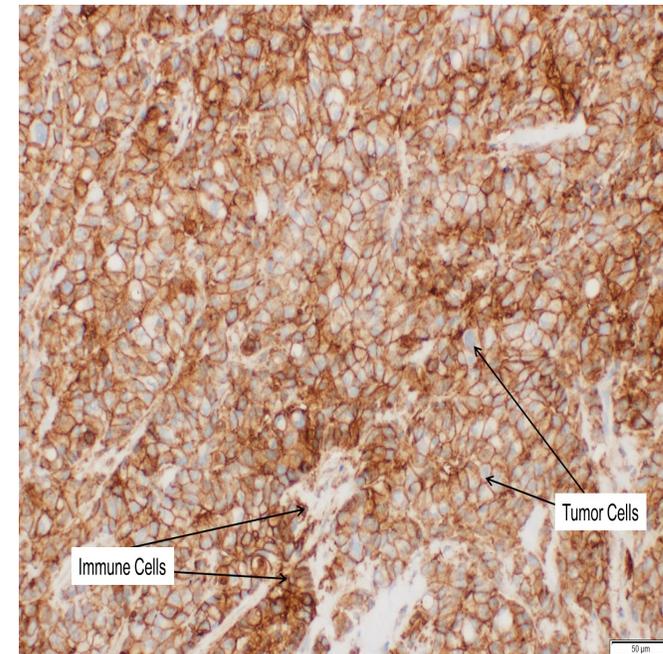
$$\text{CPS} = \frac{\text{No. of PD-L1 staining cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, macrophages)}}{\text{Total No. viable tumor cells}} \times 100$$

- A specimen is considered to have positive PD-L1 expression if  $\text{CPS} \geq 1$

PD-L1–  
negative



PD-L1–  
positive



# CheckMate 649 study design

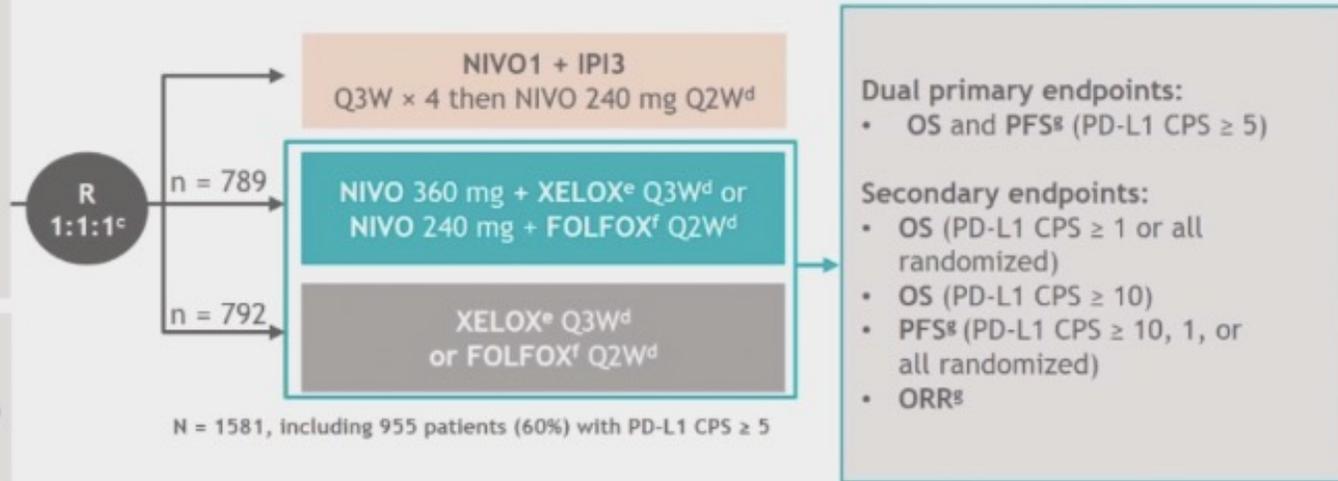
- CheckMate 649 is a randomized, open-label, phase 3 study<sup>a</sup>

### Key eligibility criteria

- Previously untreated, unresectable, advanced or metastatic gastric/GEJ/esophageal adenocarcinoma
- No known HER2-positive status
- ECOG PS 0-1

### Stratification factors

- Tumor cell PD-L1 expression ( $\geq 1\%$  vs  $< 1\%$ <sup>b</sup>)
- Region (Asia vs United States/Canada vs ROW)
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- Chemo (XELOX vs FOLFOX)

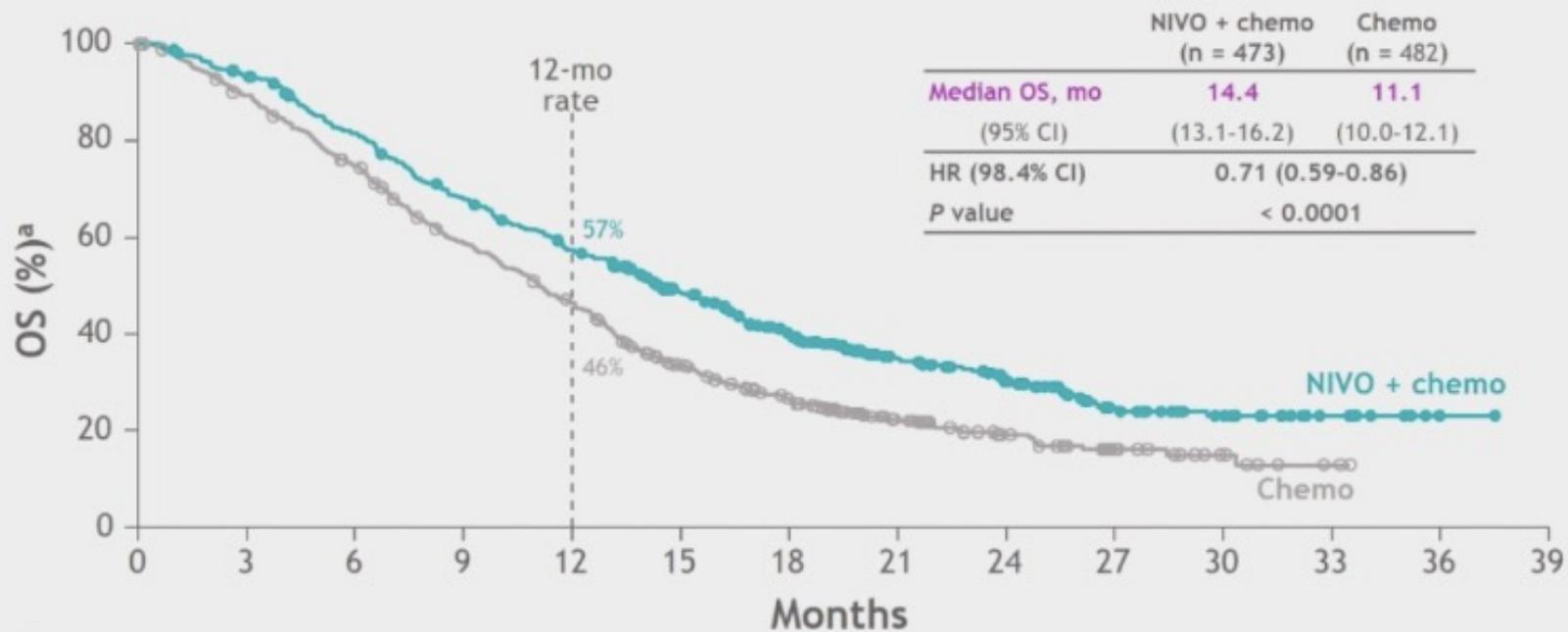


- At data cutoff (May 27, 2020), the minimum follow-up was 12.1 months<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT02872116; <sup>b</sup>< 1% includes indeterminate tumor cell PD-L1 expression; determined by PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx assay (Dako); <sup>c</sup>After NIVO + chemo arm was added and before new patient enrollment in the NIVO1+IPI3 group was closed; <sup>d</sup>Until documented disease progression (unless consented to treatment beyond progression for NIVO + chemo), discontinuation due to toxicity, withdrawal of consent, or study end. NIVO is given for a maximum of 2 years; <sup>e</sup>Oxaliplatin 130 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV (day 1) and capecitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> orally twice daily (days 1-14); <sup>f</sup>Oxaliplatin 85 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, leucovorin 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, and FU 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV (day 1) and FU 1200 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV daily (days 1-2); <sup>g</sup>BICR assessed; <sup>h</sup>Time from concurrent randomization of the last patient to NIVO + chemo vs chemo to data cutoff.

# Overall survival

Primary endpoint (PD-L1 CPS  $\geq$  5)



No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
NIVO + chemo	473	438	377	313	261	198	149	96	65	33	22	9	1	0
Chemo	482	421	350	271	211	138	98	56	34	19	8	2	0	0

- Superior OS, 29% reduction in the risk of death, and a 3.3-month improvement in median OS with NIVO + chemo versus chemo in patients whose tumors expressed PD-L1 CPS  $\geq$  5

<sup>a</sup>Minimum follow-up 12.1 months.

# First-Line Pembrolizumab Plus Chemotherapy for Advanced Esophageal Cancer: 5-Year Outcomes From the Phase 3 KEYNOTE-590 Study

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# Study Design of KEYNOTE-590 (NCT03189719)

## Key Eligibility Criteria

- Locally advanced/metastatic esophageal adenocarcinoma, ESCC, or Siewert type I GEJ adenocarcinoma
- Measurable disease per RECIST v1.1
- No prior treatment
- ECOG PS 0 or 1

N = 749

R  
1:1

n = 373

Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV Q3W  
for ≤35 cycles (~2 years)  
+  
Chemotherapy<sup>a</sup> (FP)

n = 376

Placebo IV Q3W  
for ≤35 cycles (~2 years)  
+  
Chemotherapy<sup>a</sup> (FP)

## Stratification Factors

- Geographic region (Asia vs rest of world)
- Histology (adenocarcinoma vs squamous cell carcinoma)
- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)

## End Points

- Primary: OS,<sup>b</sup> PFSC<sup>c,d</sup>
- Secondary: ORR<sup>d</sup>, DOR<sup>d</sup>, safety, PROs<sup>e</sup>

<sup>a</sup>FP: 5-fluorouracil 800 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/d continuous IV Q3W on days 1-5 (≤35 cycles) + cisplatin 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV Q3W on day 1 (≤6 cycles). <sup>b</sup>Assessed in patients with ESCC and PD-L1 CPS ≥10, patients with ESCC regardless of PD-L1 expression, all randomly assigned patients with CPS ≥10, and all randomly assigned patients regardless of PD-L1 expression. <sup>c</sup>Assessed in patients with ESCC regardless of PD-L1 expression, all randomly assigned patients with CPS ≥10, and all randomly assigned patients regardless of PD-L1 expression. <sup>d</sup>Assessed per RECIST v1.1 by investigator. <sup>e</sup>PROs (change from baseline to week 18 in EORTC QLQ-C30 and EORTC QLQ-OES18 scores) were analyzed in the FAS, defined as all randomly assigned patients who received ≥1 dose of study treatment and who had completed ≥1 PRO assessment during the follow-up period.

# Phase 3 KEYNOTE-590 Study (NCT03189719)

- It was determined at the first interim analysis, with a median follow-up of 22.6 months, pembrolizumab + chemotherapy significantly improved survival compared with placebo + chemotherapy in patients with advanced esophageal cancer<sup>1</sup>

	ITT N = 749	ESCC n = 548	CPS ≥10 n = 383	ESCC and CPS ≥10 n = 286
OS, HR (95% CI)	0.73 (0.62-0.86)	0.72 (0.60-0.88)	0.62 (0.49-0.78)	0.57 (0.43-0.75)
2-year OS rate, <sup>a,b</sup> %	28 vs 16	29 vs 17	31 vs 15	31 vs 15
PFS, HR (95% CI)	0.65 (0.55-0.76)	0.65 (0.54-0.78)	0.51 (0.41-0.65)	—

- Current analysis: 5-year efficacy and safety outcomes update
  - Median time from randomization to data cutoff (July 10, 2023)
    - 58.8 months (range, 49.2-70.6 months)

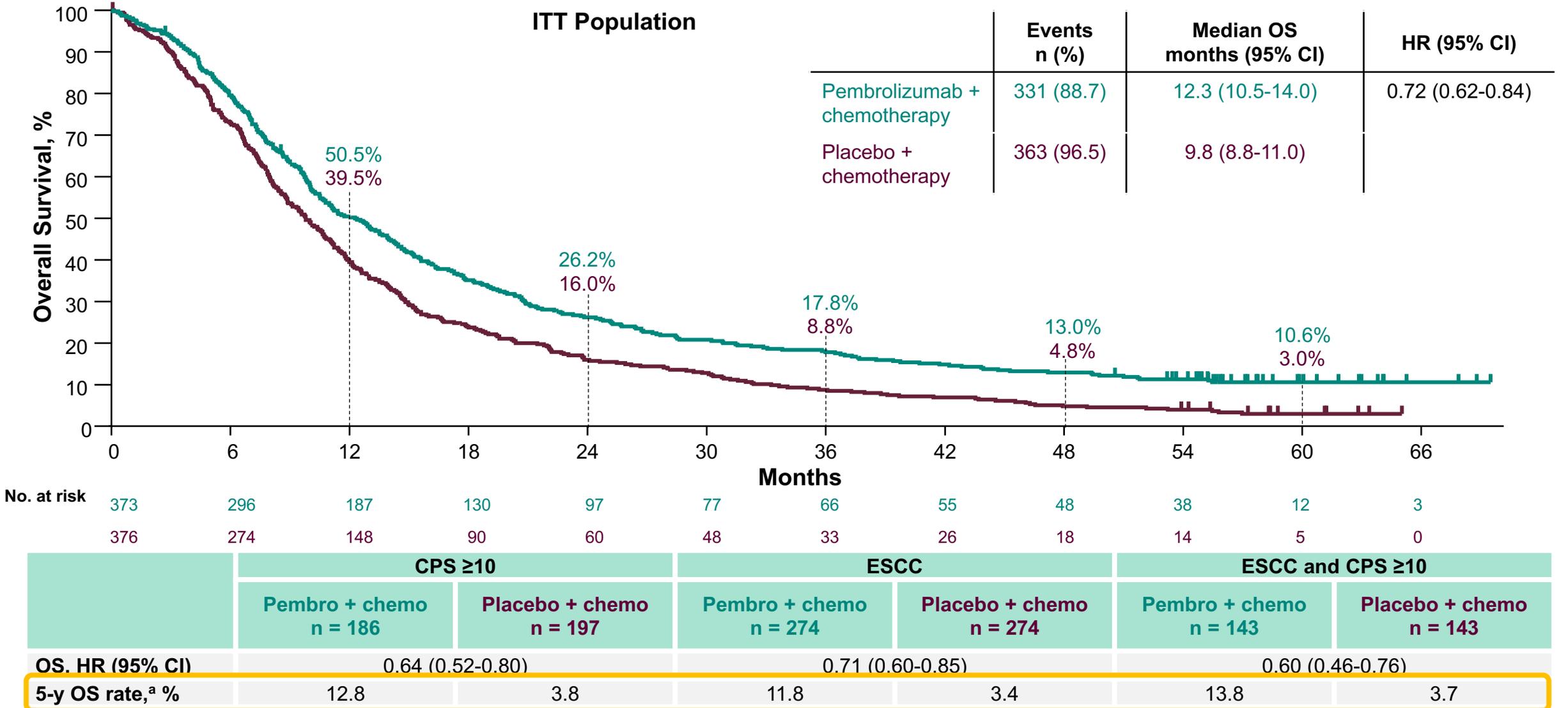
<sup>a</sup>Kaplan-Meier estimate.

<sup>b</sup>Data are for pembrolizumab + chemotherapy versus placebo + chemotherapy.

<sup>c</sup>Per RECIST v1.1 by investigator review.

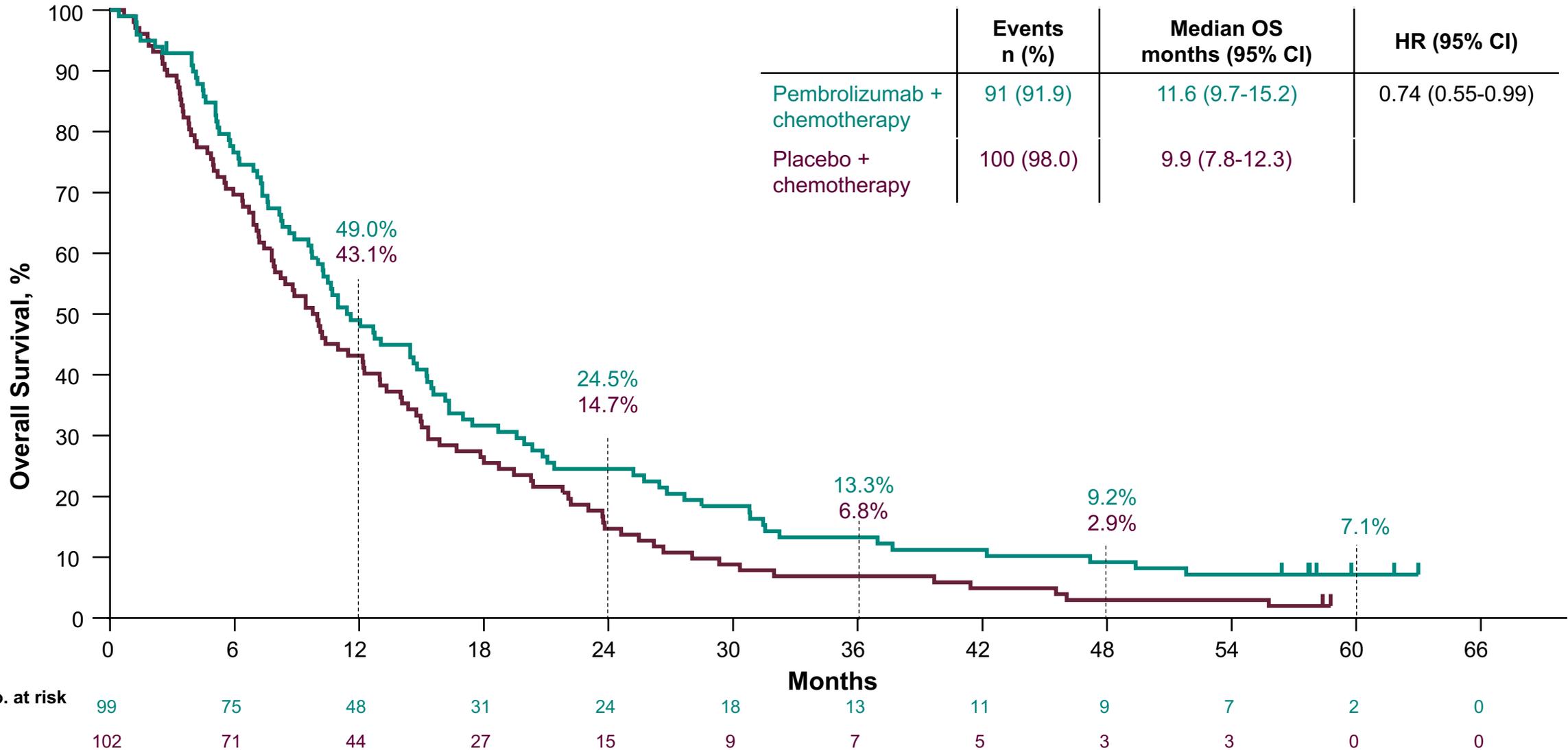
1. Sun J-M et al. *Lancet*. 2021;398:759-771.

# Overall Survival



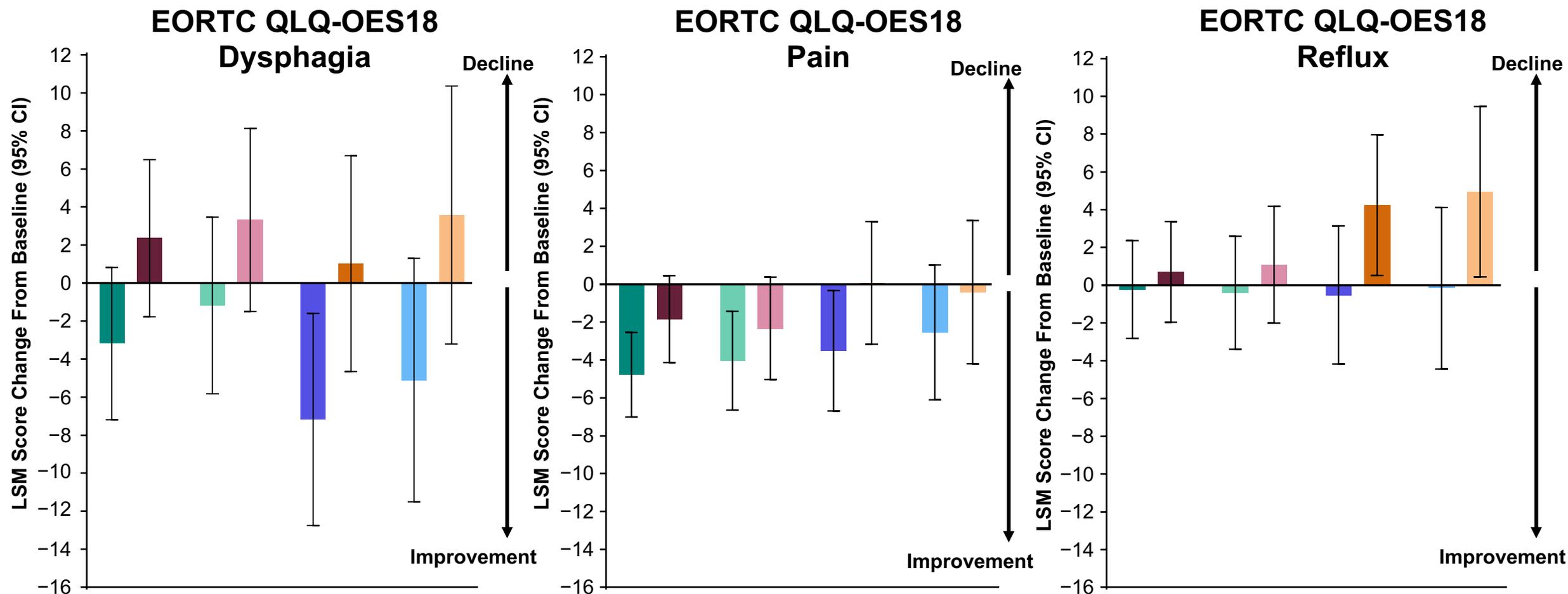
<sup>a</sup>Kaplan-Meier estimate. Data cutoff: July 10, 2023.

# Overall Survival: Adenocarcinoma



<sup>a</sup>Kaplan-Meier estimate. Data cutoff: July 10, 2023.

# Least Squares Mean Change From Baseline to Week 18 in Patient-Reported Outcomes



FAS    ESCC    CPS ≥10    ESCC and CPS ≥10  
 Pembrolizumab + chemotherapy    Placebo + chemotherapy

# Conclusions

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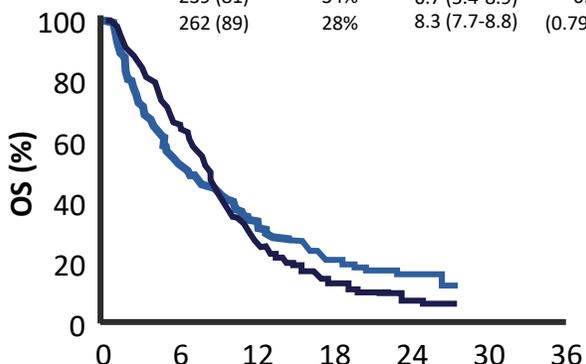
- After 5 years of follow-up, the addition of pembrolizumab to chemotherapy shows continued, durable efficacy compared with placebo + chemotherapy in advanced esophageal cancer
  - 5-year OS rates were higher with pembrolizumab + chemotherapy (10.6%) than with placebo + chemotherapy (3.0%) for the ITT population
- The addition of pembrolizumab to chemotherapy did not have a detrimental effect on health-related quality of life during treatment
- No new safety signals were observed
- These data continue to support the use of pembrolizumab + chemotherapy for advanced esophageal cancer as first-line therapy

# PD-1 Inhibitors in MSI-H/dMMR Gastric Cancer

**KEYNOTE-061:**

**2L Pembrolizumab vs Chemo**

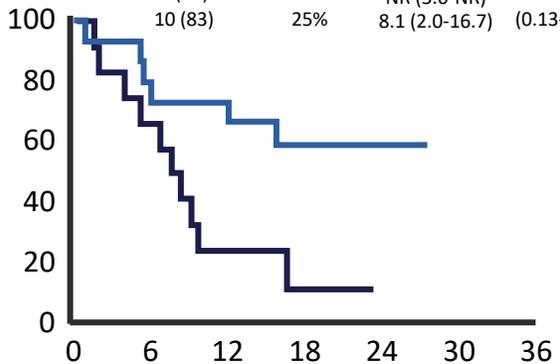
Events n (%)	12-Mo Rate	Median, Mo (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
239 (81)	34%	6.7 (5.4-8.9)	0.94
262 (89)	28%	8.3 (7.7-8.8)	(0.79-1.12)



**KEYNOTE-061: Pembrolizumab vs**

**Chemo in MSI-H**

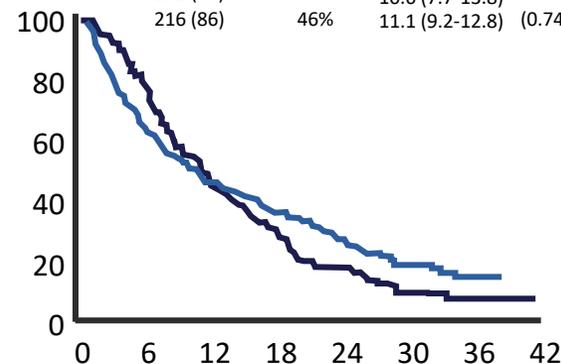
Events n (%)	12-Mo Rate	Median, Mo (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
6 (40)	73%	NR (5.6-NR)	0.42
10 (83)	25%	8.1 (2.0-16.7)	(0.13-1.31)



**KEYNOTE-062:**

**1L Pembrolizumab vs Chemo**

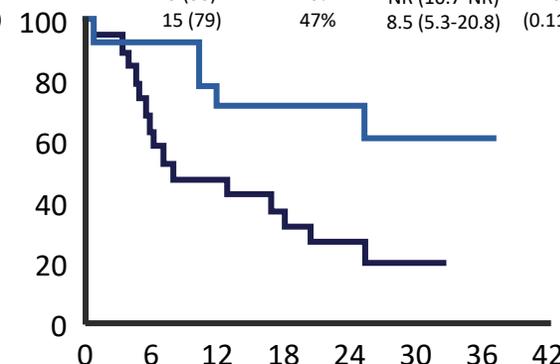
Events n (%)	12-Mo Rate	Median, Mo (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
201 (79)	47%	10.6 (7.7-13.8)	0.91
216 (86)	46%	11.1 (9.2-12.8)	(0.74-1.10)



**KEYNOTE-062: Pembrolizumab vs**

**Chemo in MSI-H**

Events n (%)	12-Mo Rate	Median, Mo (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)
5 (36)	79%	NR (10.7-NR)	0.29
15 (79)	47%	8.5 (5.3-20.8)	(0.11-0.81)



No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36
Pembro	296	155	101	53	16	0	0
Chemo	296	191	83	36	12	0	0

No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36
Pembro	15	12	11	6	3	0	0
Chemo	12	8	3	1	0	0	0

No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42
Pembro	256	162	120	94	59	23	4	0
Chemo	250	192	114	75	38	15	2	0

No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42
Pembro	14	13	11	10	9	4	2	0
Chemo	19	13	9	7	4	3	0	0

	Keynote-059 (3L+)	KEYNOTE-061 (2L)		KEYNOTE-062 (1L)	
Response	Pembro (n = 7)	Pembro (n = 15)	Chemo (n = 12)	Pembro (n = 14)	Chemo (n = 19)
ORR, n (%)	4 (57)	7 (47)	2 (17)	8 (57)	7 (37)
Median DOR, mo (range)	Not reached (20.0+ to 26.8+)	Not reached (5.5 to 26.0+)	Not reached (2.2+ to 12.2+)	21.2 (1.4+ to 33.6+)	7.0 (2.0 to 30.4+)

**MSI-H or dMMR is strongly associated with improved outcomes with immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy. Activity is independent of the line of therapy.**

# IMbrave150: Atezolizumab + Bevacizumab vs Sorafenib for First-line Treatment of Hepatocellular Cancer

- Multicenter, randomized, open-label phase III trial<sup>[1]</sup>
  - GO30140: randomized phase Ib study showed potential benefit of atezolizumab + bevacizumab for patients with advanced HCC (ORR 36%)<sup>[2]</sup>

Patients with locally advanced or metastatic and/or unresectable HCC with no previous systemic therapy, Child-Pugh A, and ECOG PS  $\leq 1^*$   
(N = 501)

**Atezolizumab 1200 mg Q3W +  
Bevacizumab 15 mg/kg Q3W**  
(n = 336)

**Sorafenib 400 mg BD**  
(n = 165)

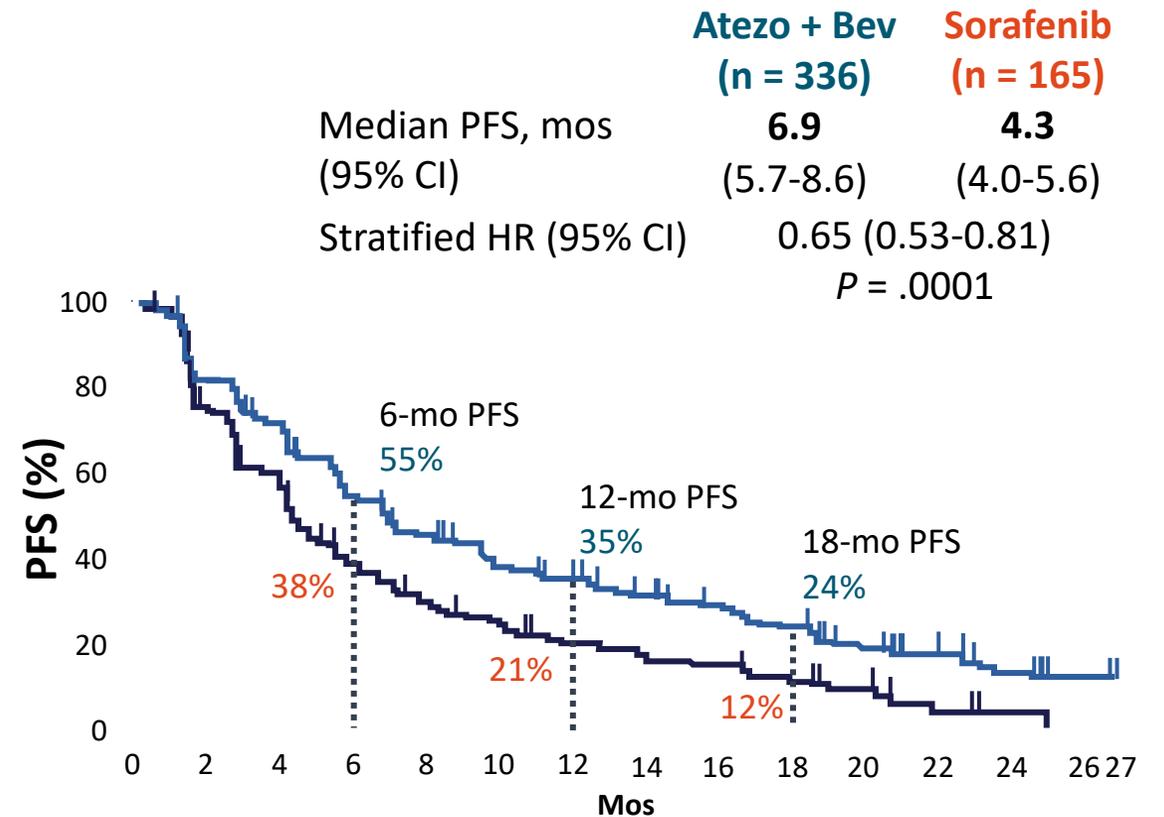
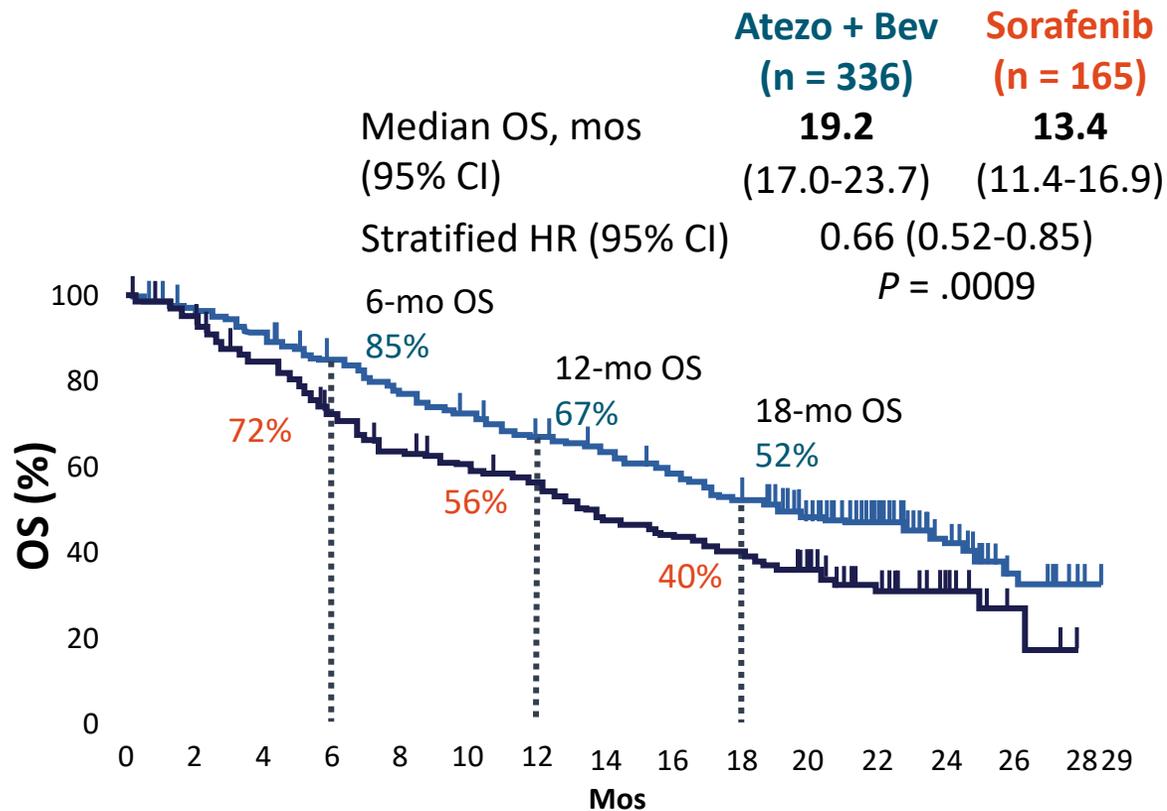
***Treatment until  
Progressive  
disease (PD) or  
intolerable  
toxicity***

- Coprimary endpoints: OS and PFS

\*Trial included subgroups of high-risk patients excluded from other contemporary phase III trials: ~ 40% had macrovascular invasion; specifically included patients with 50% hepatic involvement or main portal vein invasion or invasion of the portal vein branch contralateral to the primarily involved lobe.

# IMbrave150: Updated OS and PFS

- Primary analysis OS/PFS HR: 0.58/0.59 (median f/u 8.6 mos)



Median follow-up: 15.6 mos.

# Durvalumab ± tremelimumab

HIMALAYA trial is a multicentre phase III trial exploring the safety and efficacy of

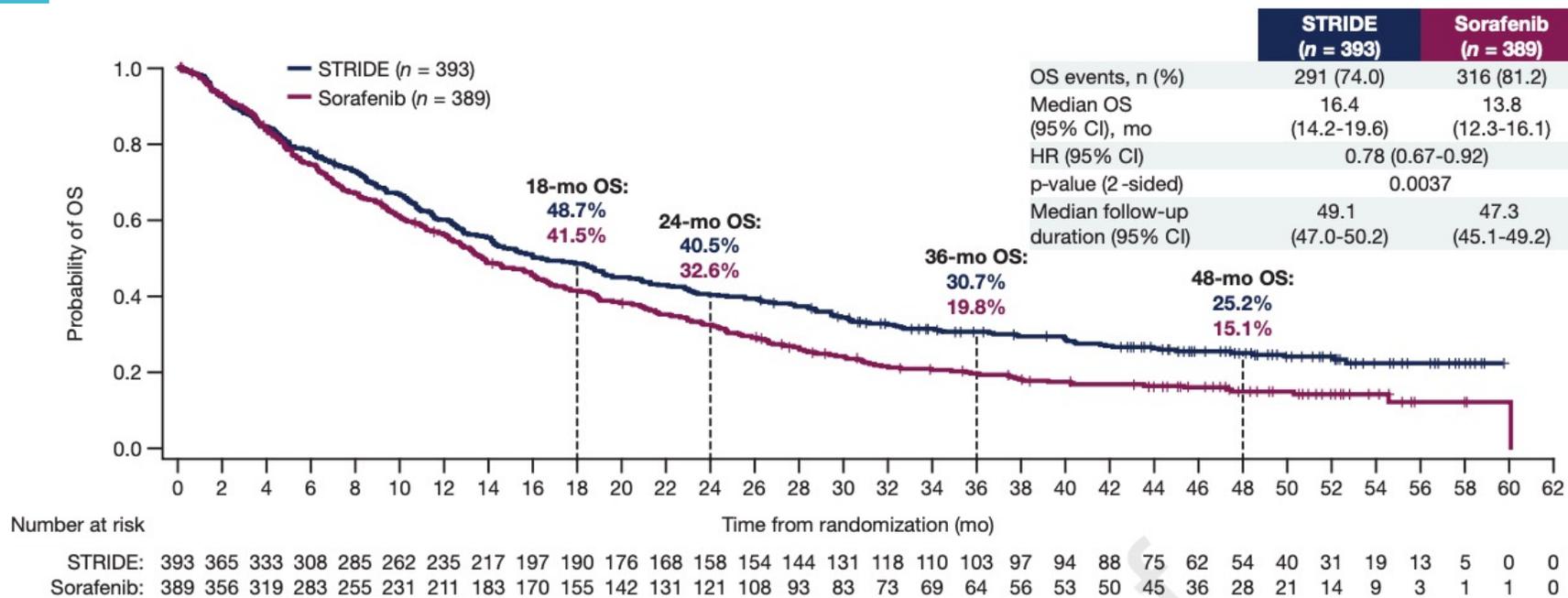
Durvalumab (a PD-L1 inhibitor) ±  
Tremelimumab (a CTLA-4 inhibitor)

VS

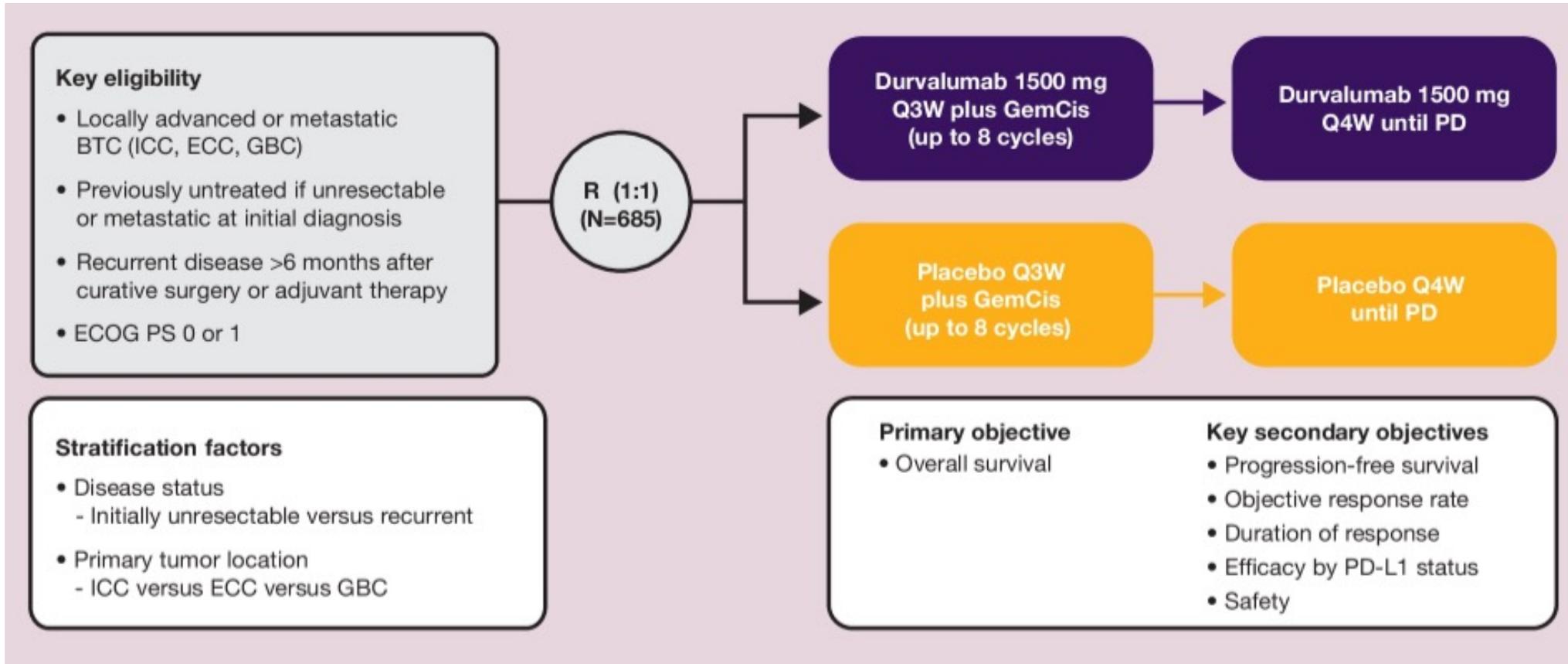
Sorafenib in patients with advanced HCC who have not received prior systemic therapy and are also not eligible for locoregional therapy

# Himalaya Study

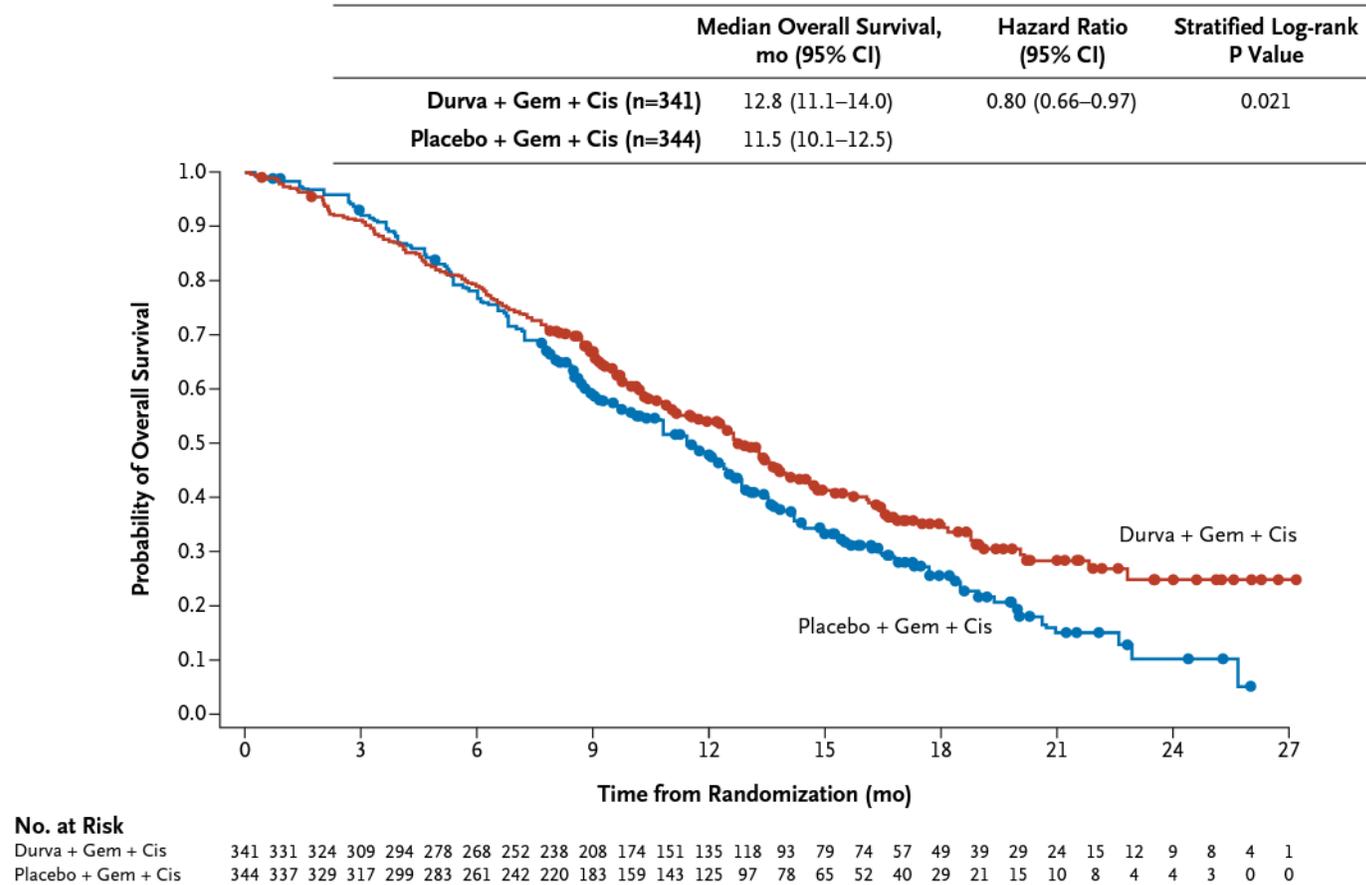
## 4-year Survival follow up



# Topaz-1 Trial – Gem/Cis/ Durvalumab in Biliary Tract Cancer

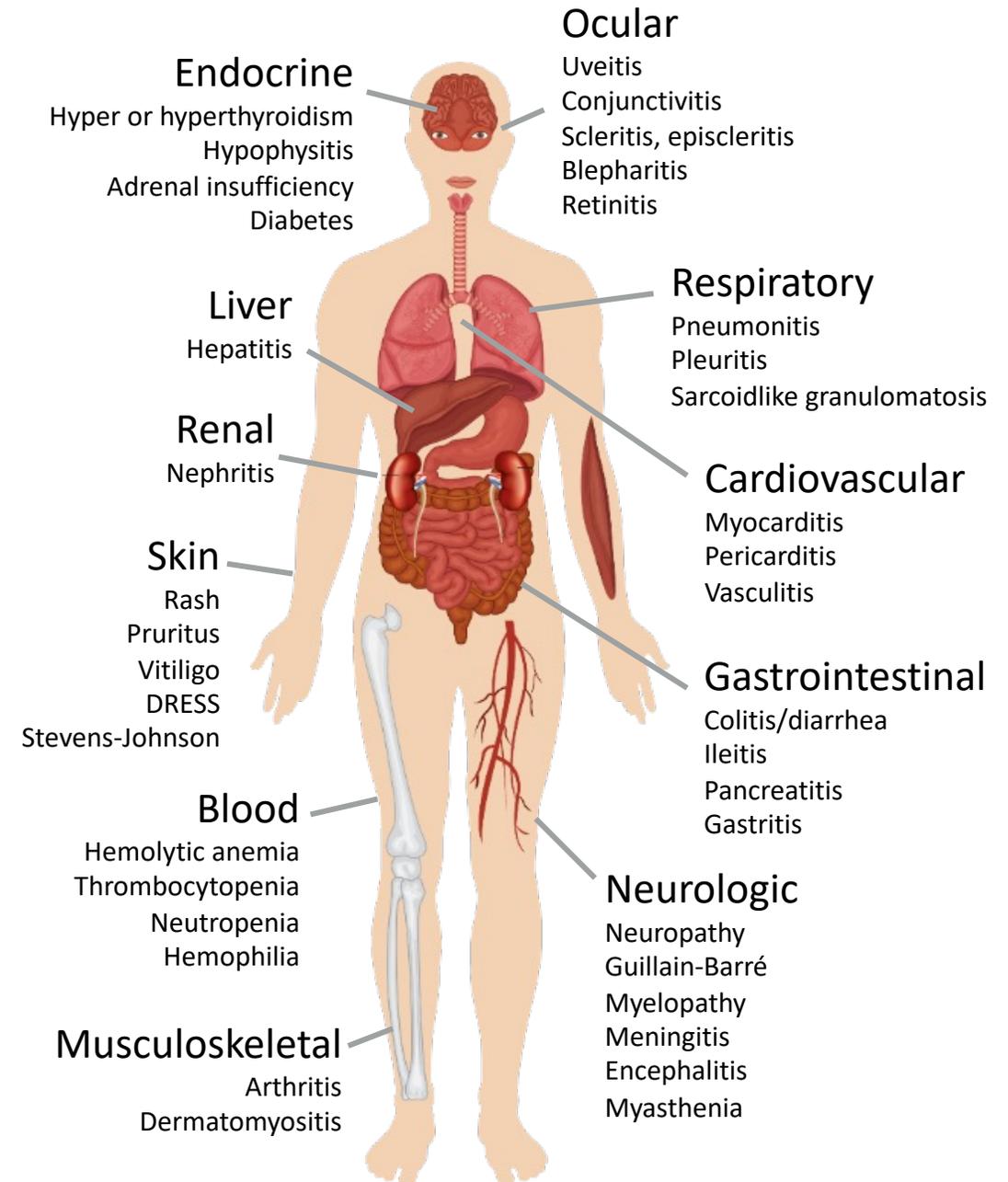


# Gem/Cis /Durva improves Overall Survival



# Spectrum of Immune-related Toxicity

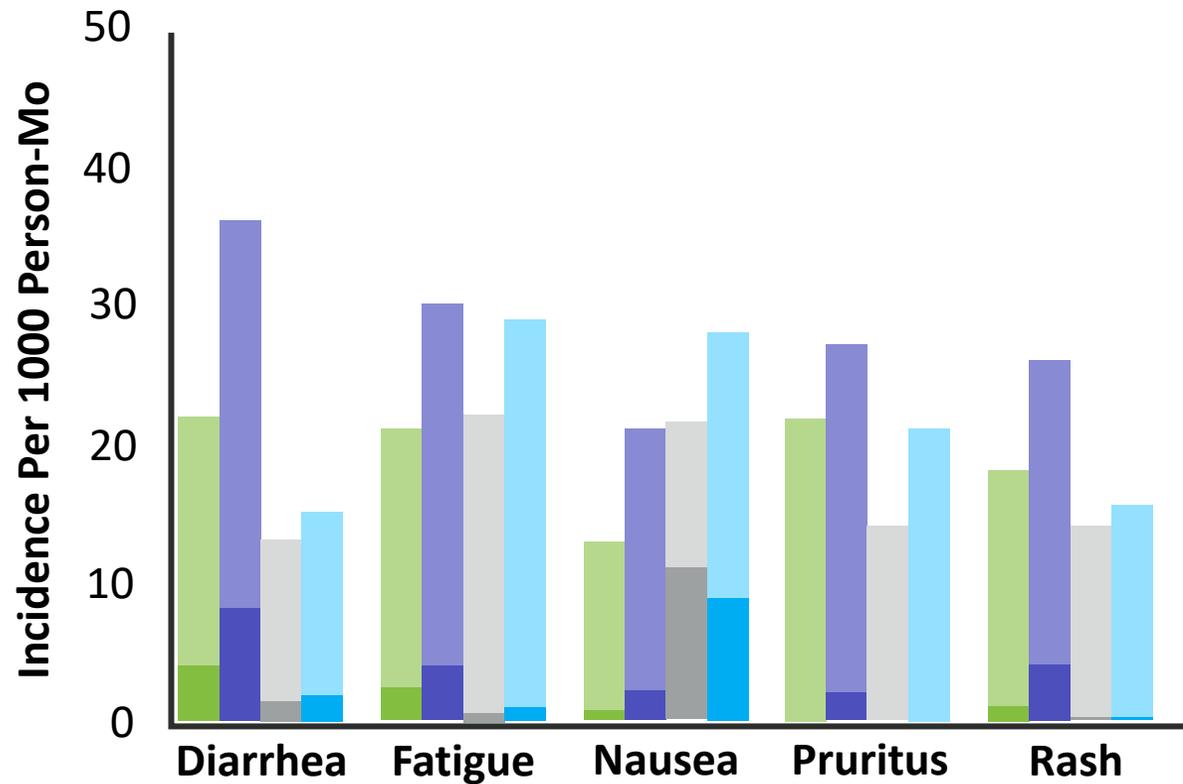
- Immunotherapies present with a novel spectrum of AEs that differ in important ways from those associated with chemotherapy and targeted agents
  - Immune-related AEs or immune-mediated AEs
  - Occur through an imbalance of tolerance and drug-induced immunity



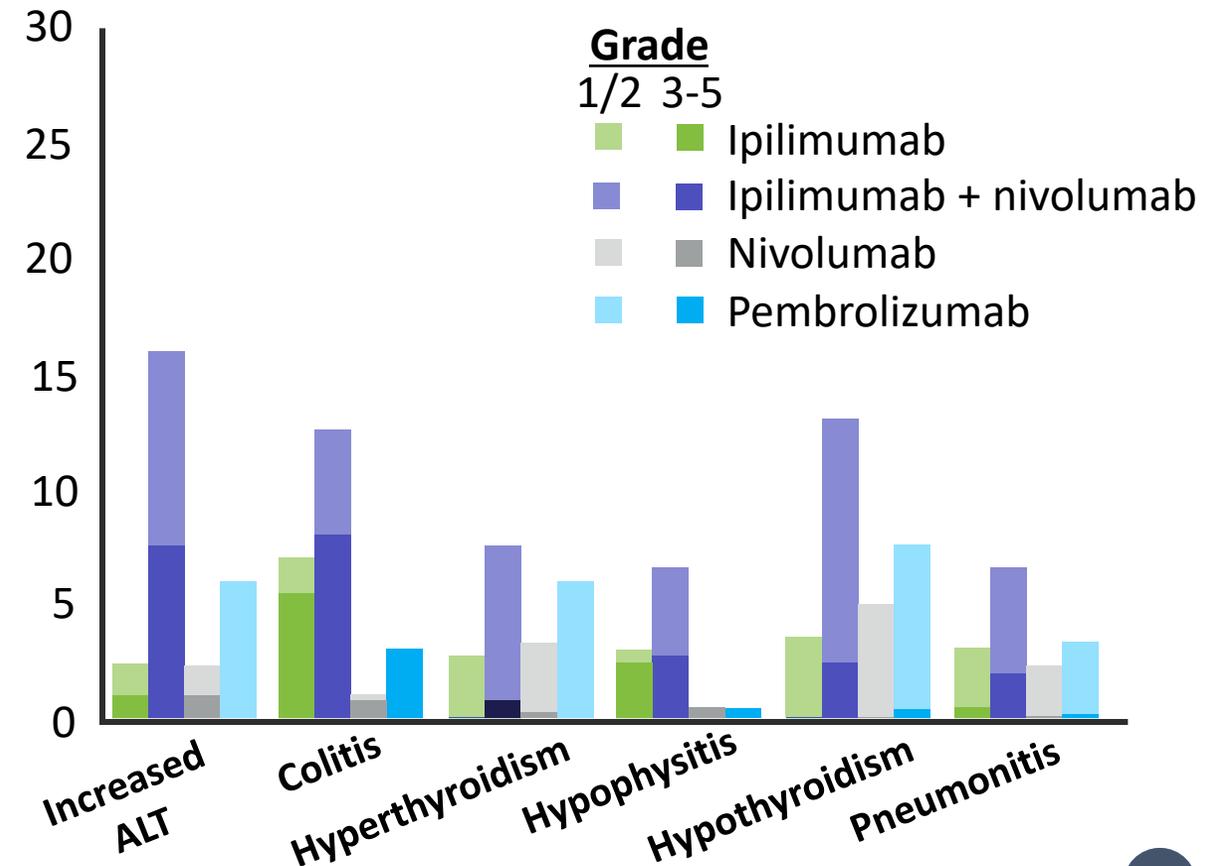
Champiat S et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2016;27(4):559-574.  
 Michot JM et al. *Eur J Cancer.* 2016;54:139-148.  
 Steven NM et al. *Rheumatology (Oxford).* 2019;58(Suppl 7):vii29-vii39.  
 Winer A et al. *J Thorac Dis.* 2018;10(Suppl 3):S480-S489.  
 Robert. Presented at: ASCO 2017.  
 Education session: Checkpoint inhibitor immunotherapy.

# Safety Profile of ICIs

## Most Common irAEs with ICIs



## irAEs of Special Interest with ICIs



# Conclusions

- Immunotherapy has changed the landscape of treatment for gastrointestinal malignancies
- Standard option for the following GI cancer settings
  - 1L MMR deficient CRC
  - Neoadjuvant therapy for MMRd rectal cancer
  - 1L therapy with chemotherapy for gastroesophageal cancer
  - 1L therapy with chemotherapy for biliary tract cancers
  - 1L therapy for hepatocellular cancer
- Management of Immunotherapy associated toxicities

