

IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY FROM CHECKPOINT-INHIBITORS TO TIL AND CAR-T THERAPY

John Haanen MD PhD



DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

I have the following financial relationships to disclose:

I have provided consultation, attended advisory boards, and/or provided lectures for: Agenus, AZ, BMS, CureVac, GSK, Imcyse, Iovance Bio, Immunocore, Ipsen, Merck Serono, MSD, Molecular Partners, Novartis, Orgenesis, Pfizer, Roche/Genentech, Sanofi, Third Rock Ventures

I participated in the SAB of Achilles Tx, BioNTech, Instil Bio, PokeAcell, T-Knife, Scenic and Neogene Therapeutics (AZ).

Through my work NKI received grant support from Amgen, Asher Bio, BioNTech, BMS, MSD, Novartis, Sastra Cell Therapy

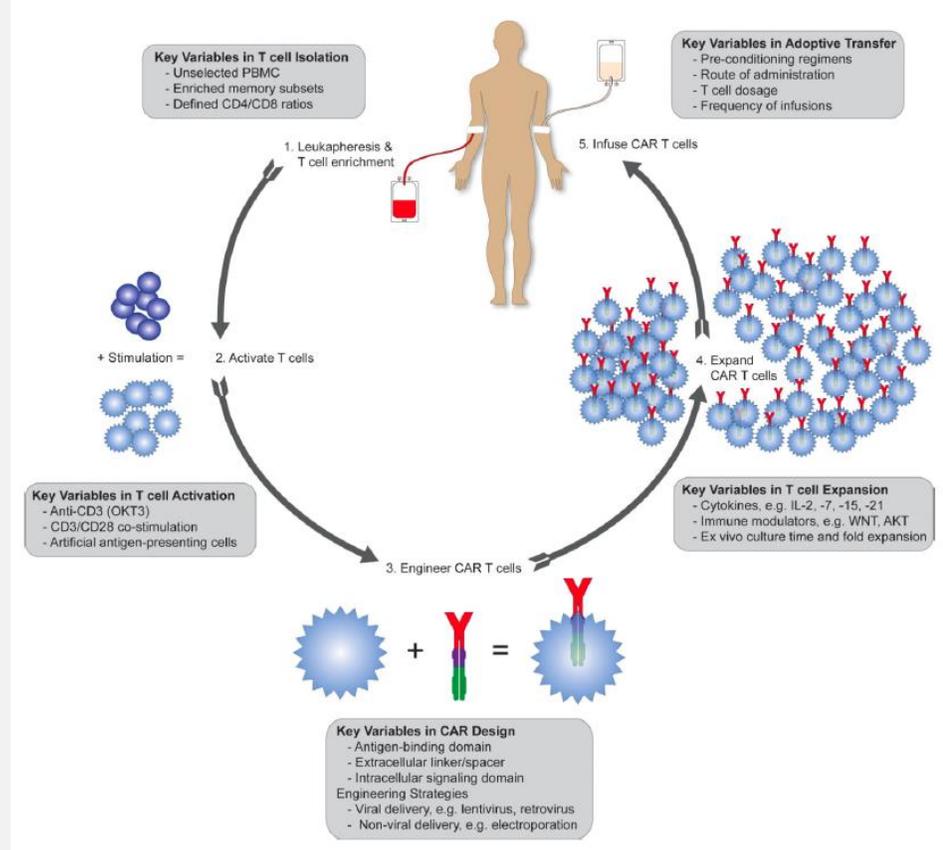
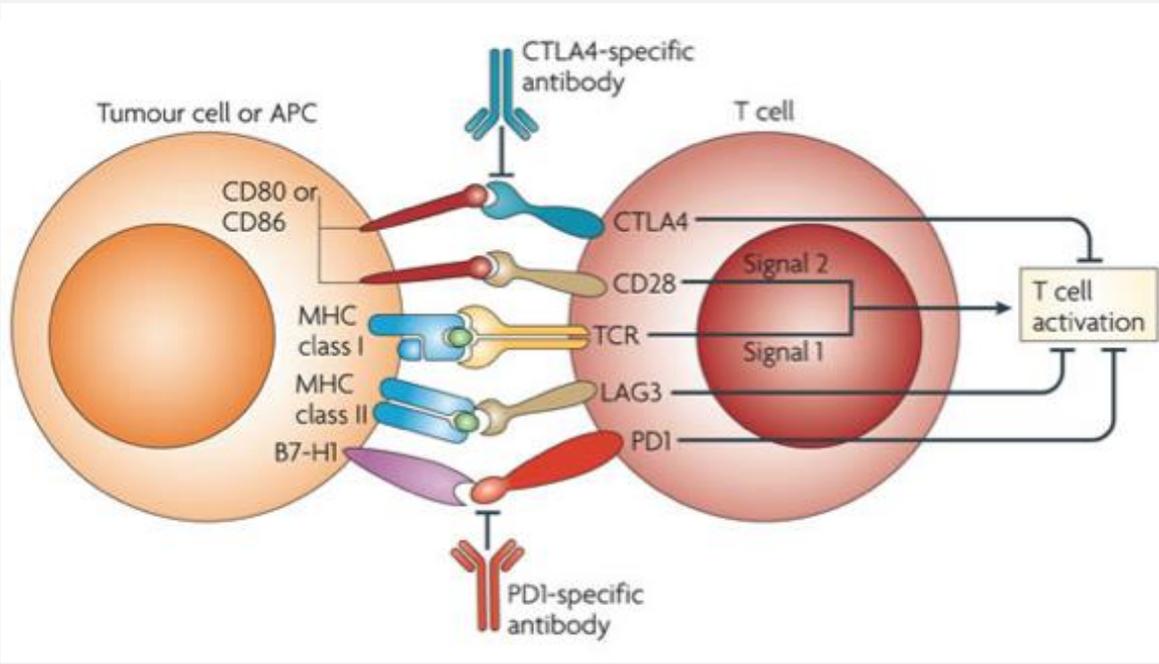
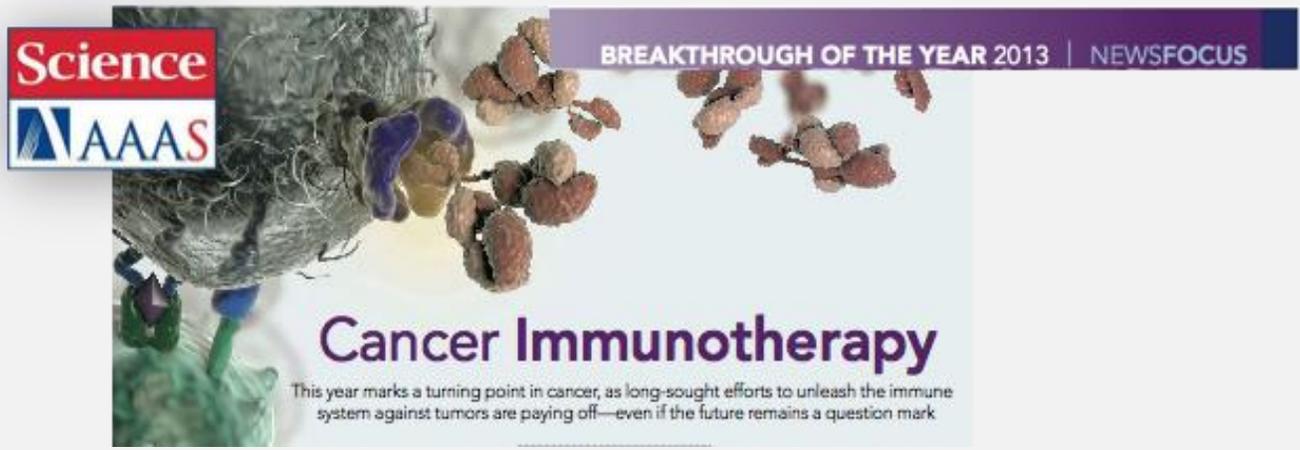
I am Editor-in-Chief of ESMO IOTECH



CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

...fighting cancer by unleashing or harnessing the immune system to combat cancer...







Nobelförsamlingen

The Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018



Ill. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media

James P. Allison

Prize share: 1/2



Ill. Niklas Elmehed. © Nobel Media

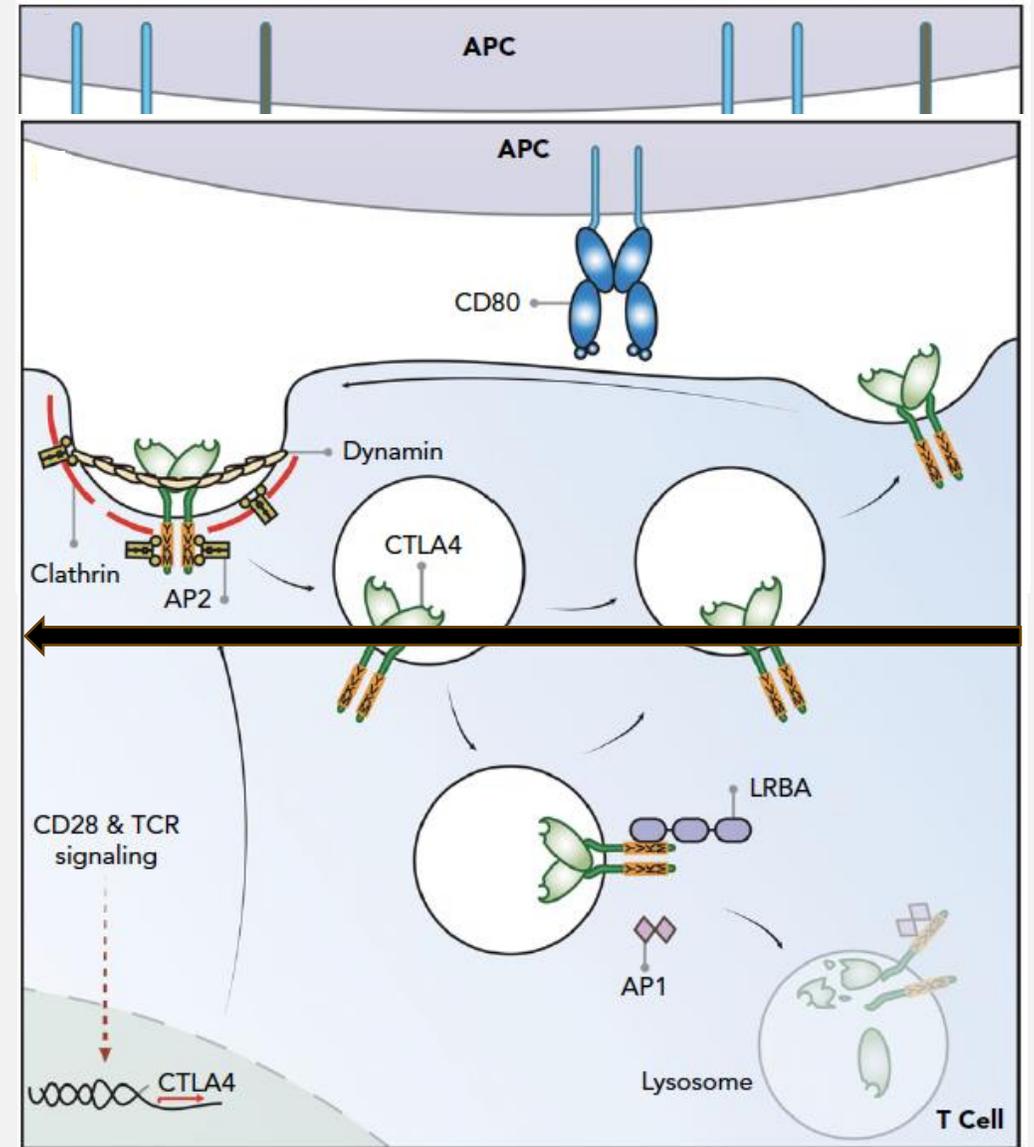
Tasuku Honjo

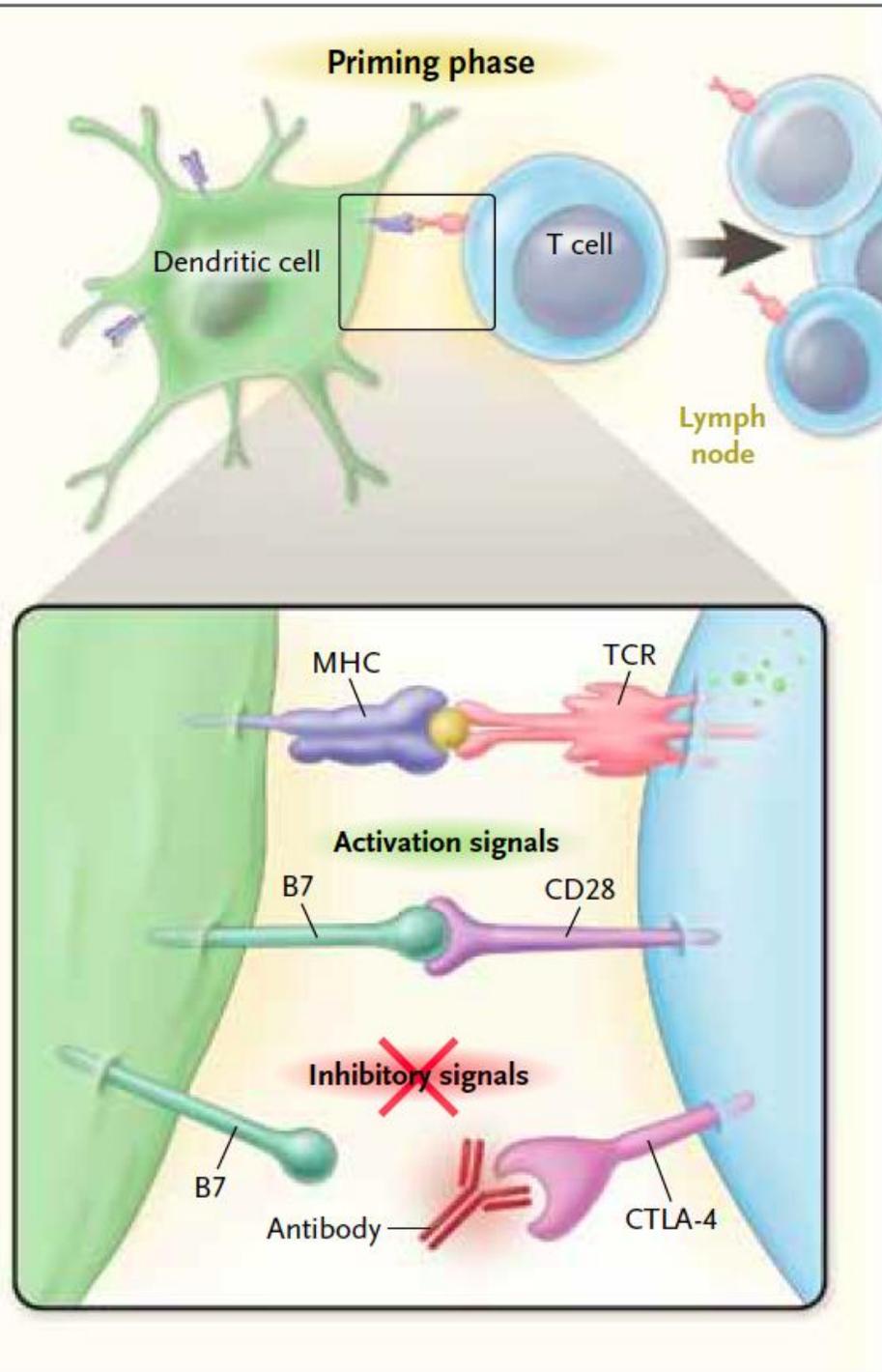
Prize share: 1/2

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018 was awarded jointly to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo "for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation."

CD28 AND CTLA4

- CD28 and CTLA4 bind the same targets CD80 and CD86
- CTLA4 binds however these targets with higher affinity
- Timing of expression is different. CTLA4 expression is initiated following TCR/CD28 triggering
- CTLA4 is highly expressed on Tregs



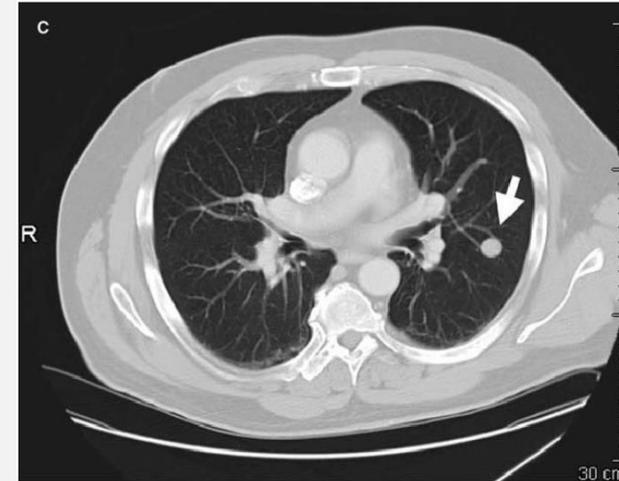
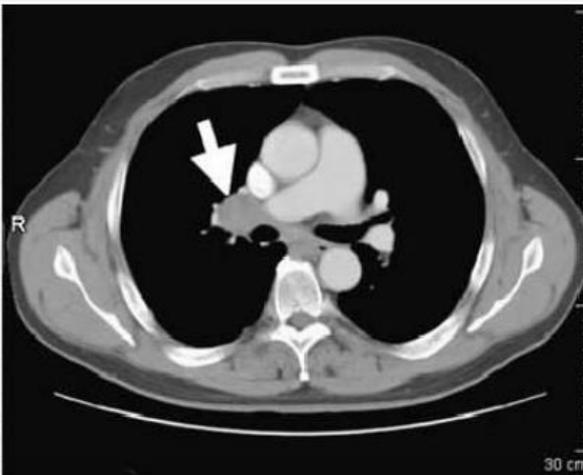


ANTI-CTLA4 BLOCKS CTLA4-CD80/86 INTERACTION?

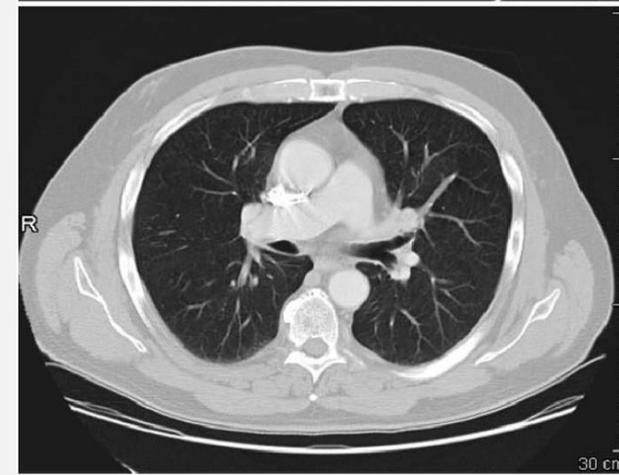
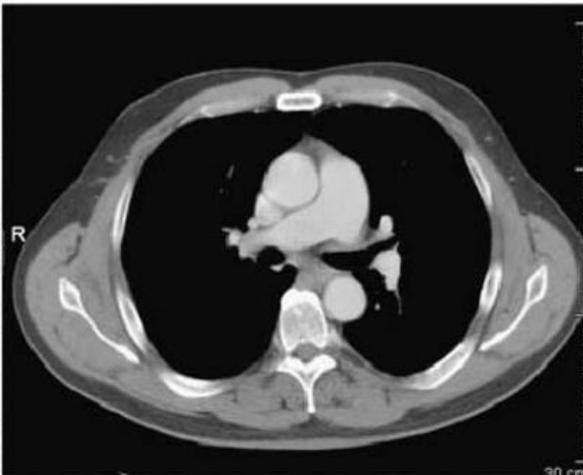
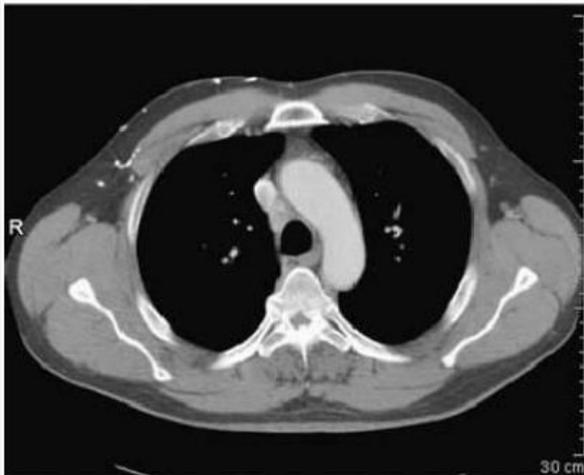
- Newly emerged data show that anti-CTLA4 is still active without blocking CTLA4 - CD80/86 interaction
- Anti-CTLA4 is highly effective in depleting Tregs
- Lineage-specific KO of *ctla4* in Tregs is enough to recapitulate the autoimmune phenomenon observed in *ctla4* ^{-/-} mice

TREATMENT WITH ANTI-CTLA-4 MAB

before

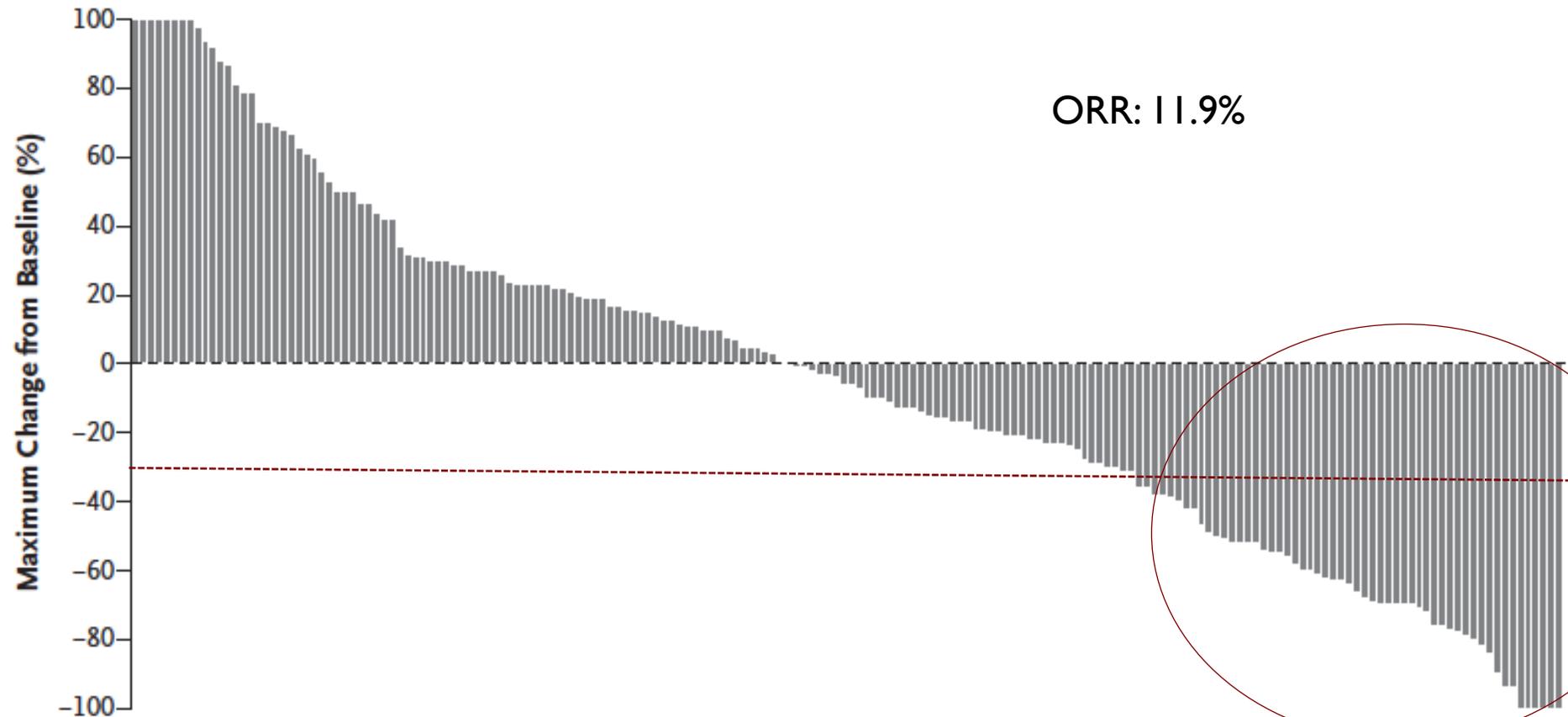


after



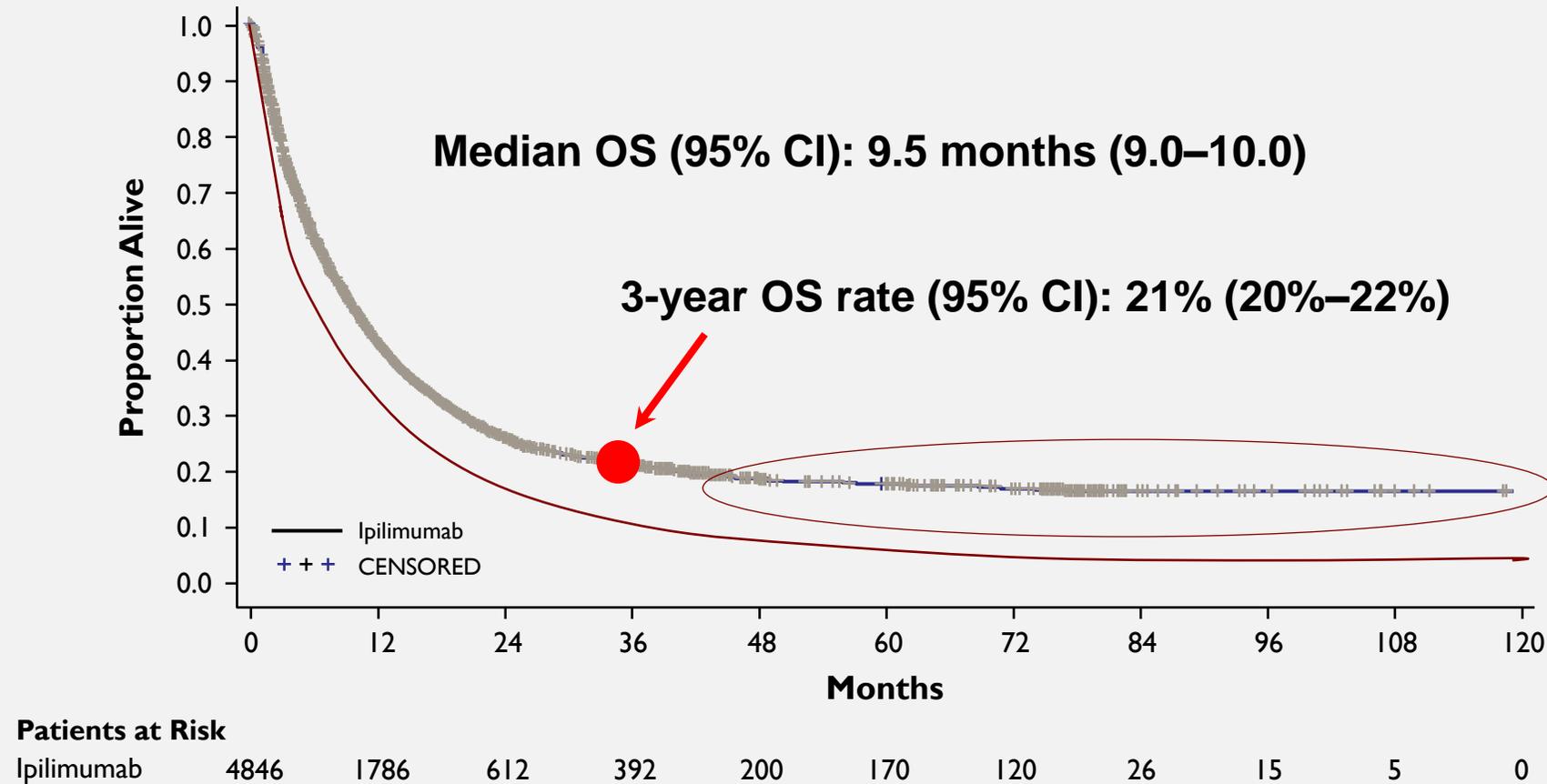
EFFICACY OF IPIILIMUMAB AS FIRST LINE TREATMENT FOR MELANOMA

C Ipilimumab

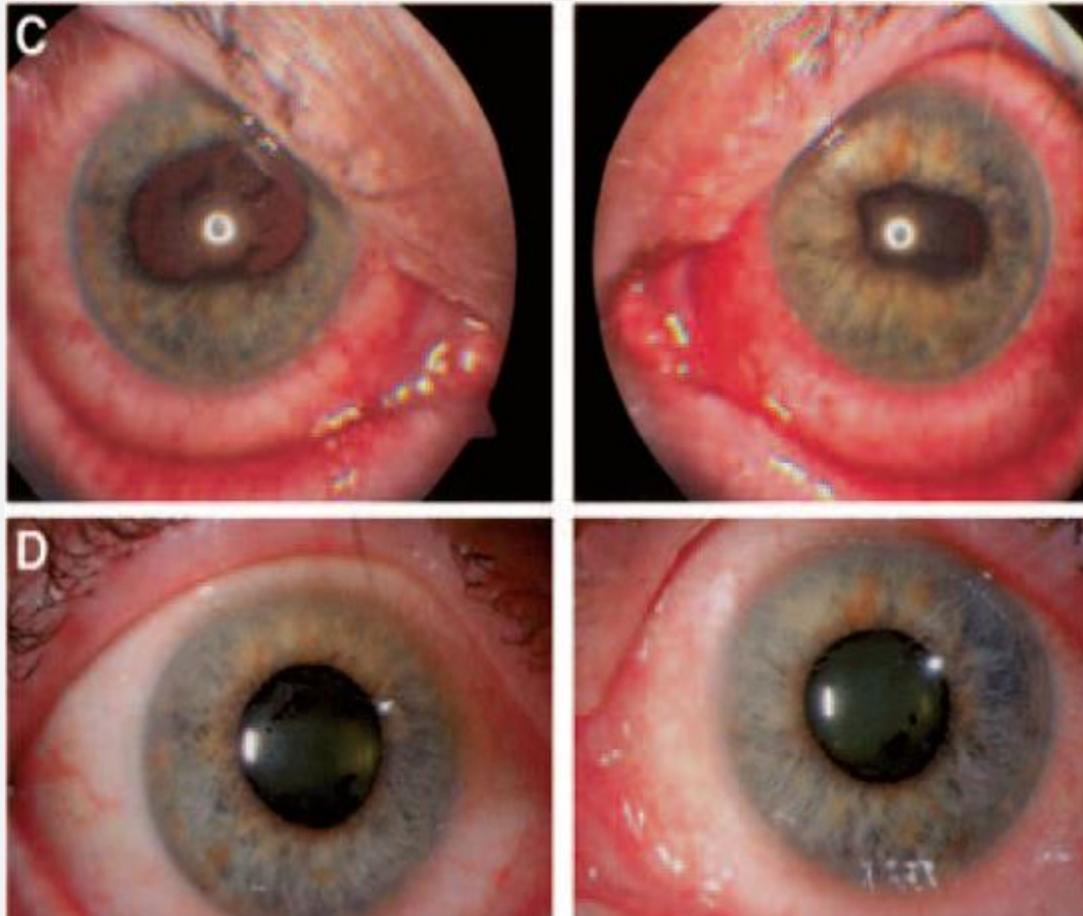


CTLA-4 blockade (ipilimumab) can induce long-term survival

(pooled overall survival analysis including Expanded Access Program data from 4846 patients)



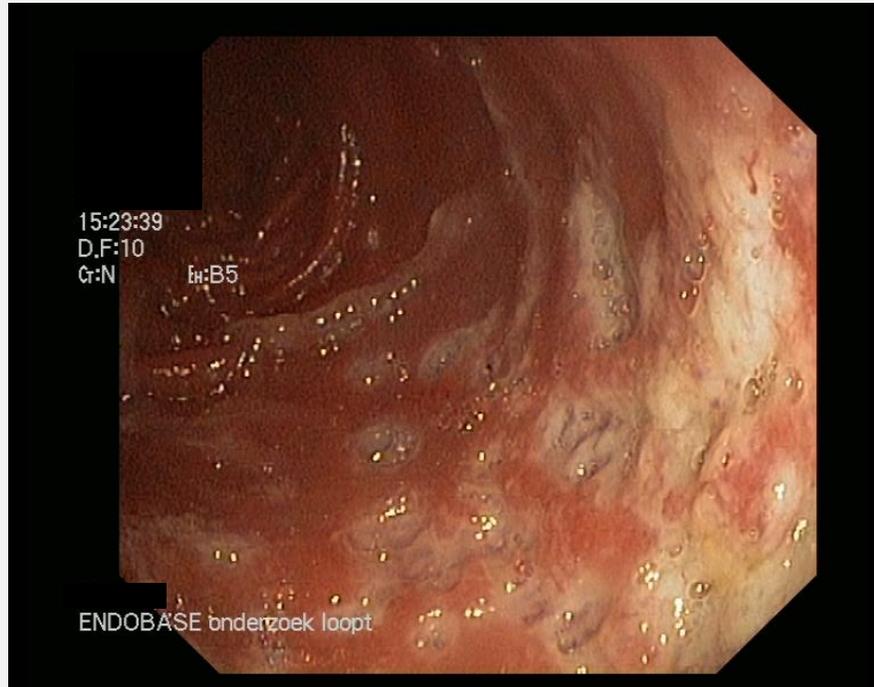
AUTO-IMMUNE UVEITIS AFTER ANTI-CTLA-4 TREATMENT



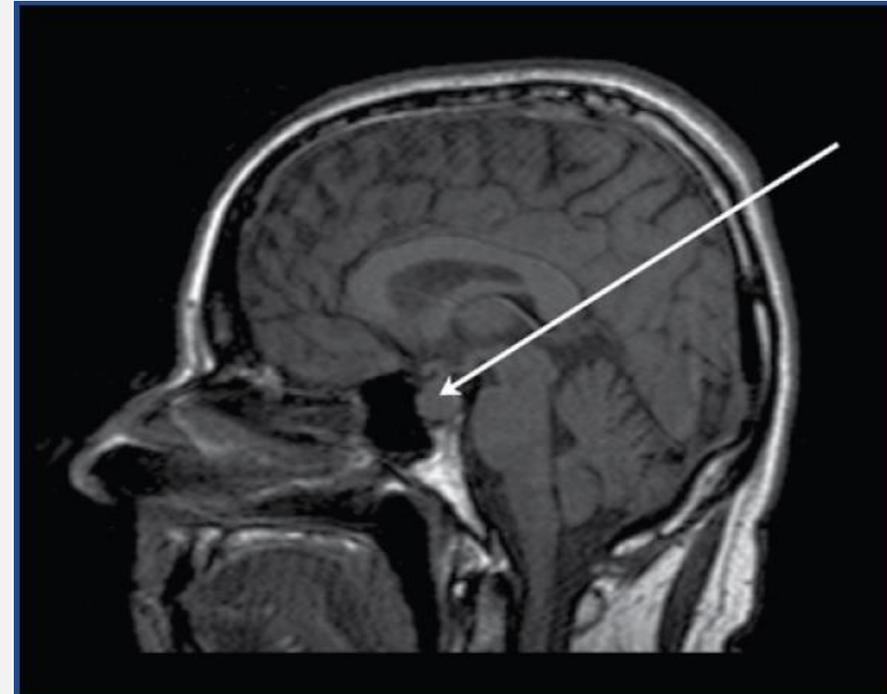
After
treatment

IMMUNE RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS UPON ANTI-CTLA-4 MAB TREATMENT

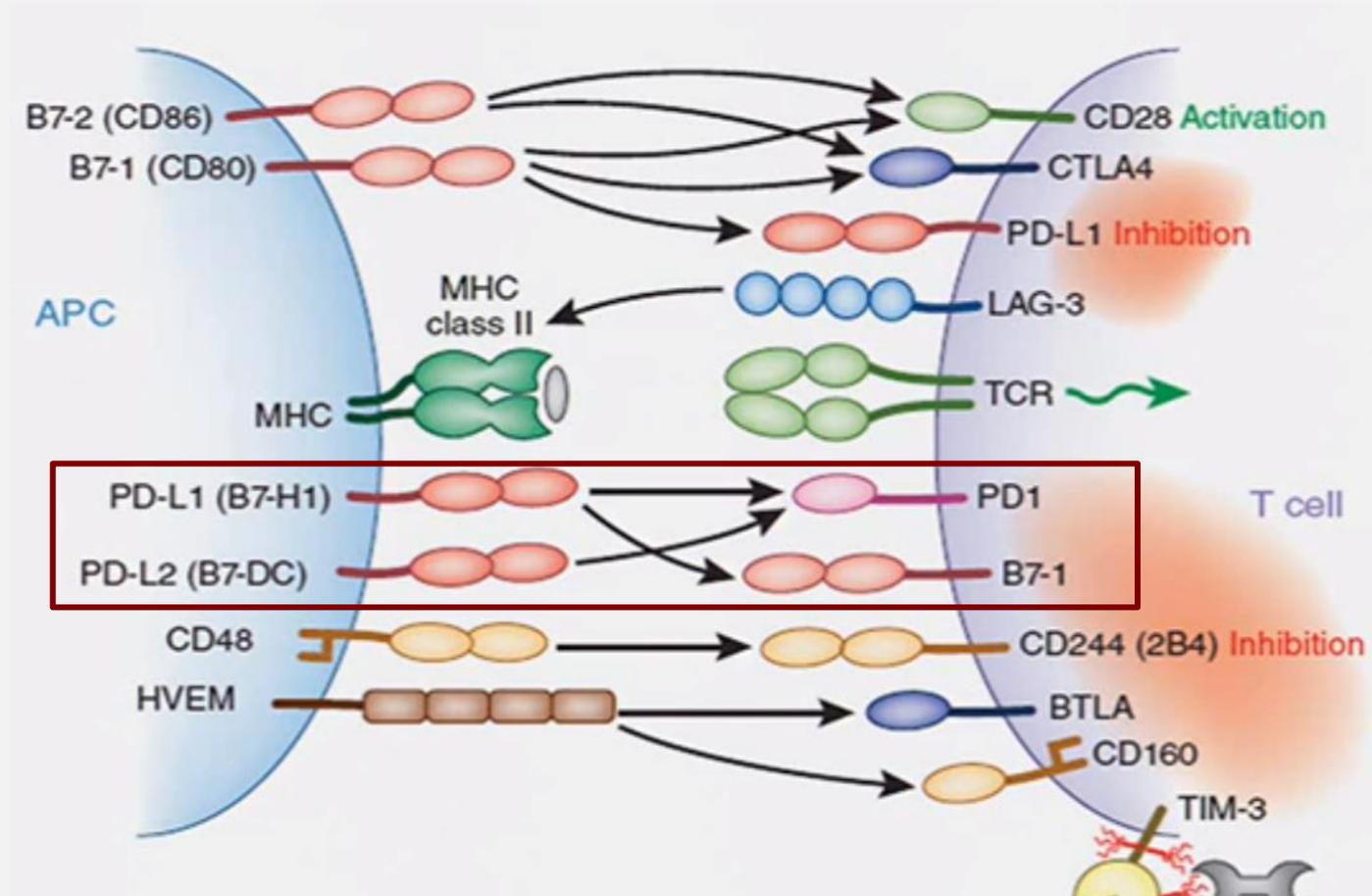
colitis



hypophysitis



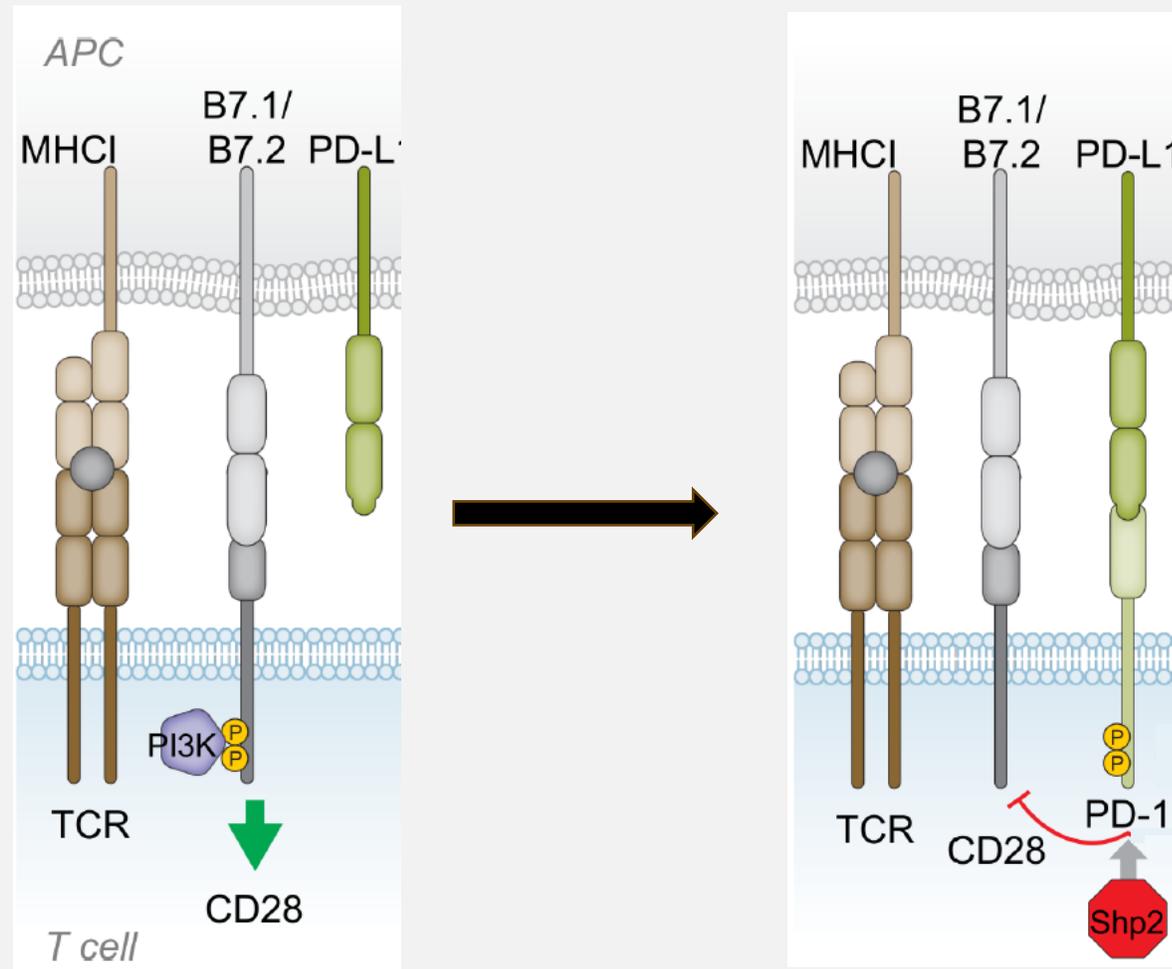
PD1 AND PD-L1 IMMUNE CHECKPOINTS



PROGRAMMED DEATH-1 RECEPTOR (PD1)

- Discovered in 1992 by Honjo and coworkers
 - Upregulated gene in relation to apoptosis
- Member of the Ig superfamily
- Cytoplasmic domains with ITIM and ITSM
 - Recruits phosphatases
 - Inhibits PI3K and AKT activity
- Inducibly expressed by CD4 and CD8 T cells, NKT cells, B cells, monocytes and subtypes of DC
- Expressed by both effector and regulatory T cells
- PD1/PD-L1 interaction involved in tolerance and chronic inflammation
- PD1/PD-L1 contributes to functional T cell exhaustion during chronic infection and cancer

PD-1 pathway inhibits T cell response directly downstream of the TCR and CD28



Immunity, Vol. 11, 141–151, August, 1999, Copyright ©1999 by Cell Press

Development of Lupus-like Autoimmune Diseases by Disruption of the *PD-1* Gene Encoding an ITIM Motif-Carrying Immunoreceptor

Hiroyuki Nishimura,* Masato Nose,[§]
Hiroshi Hiai,[†] Nagahiro Minato,[‡]
and Tasuku Honjo*^{||}

(reviewed by Miller and Flavell, 1994). Similar, tight, self-tolerance mechanisms are also considered to operate in B cells (reviewed by Goodnow et al.,

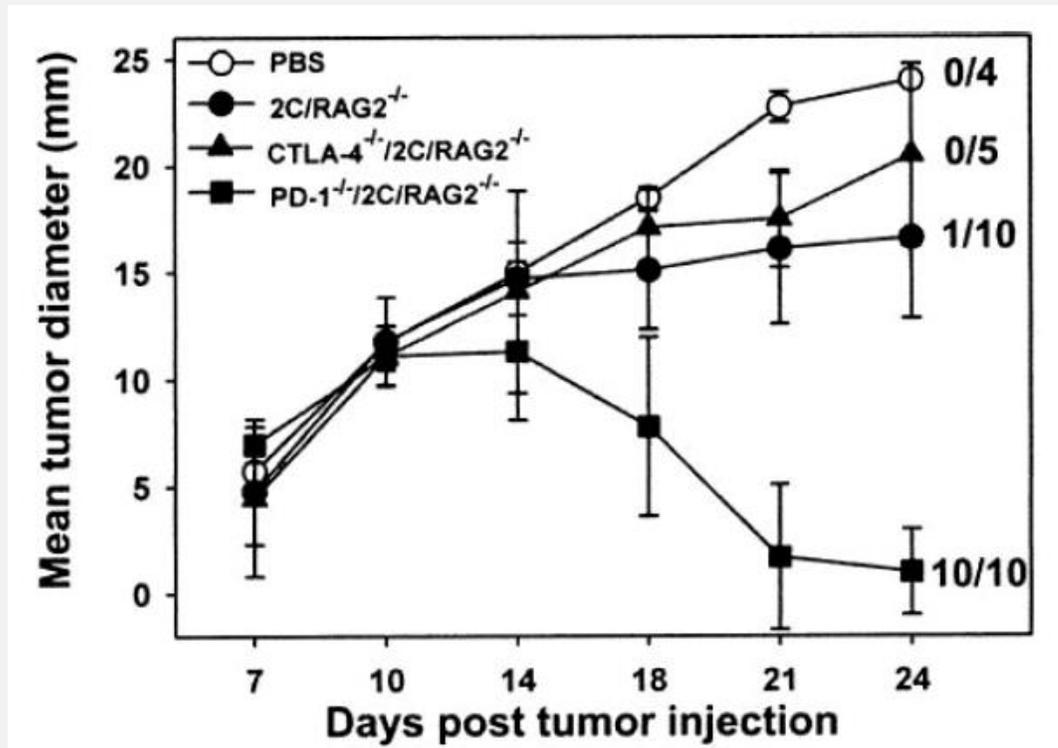
Autoimmune Dilated Cardiomyopathy in PD-1 Receptor-Deficient Mice

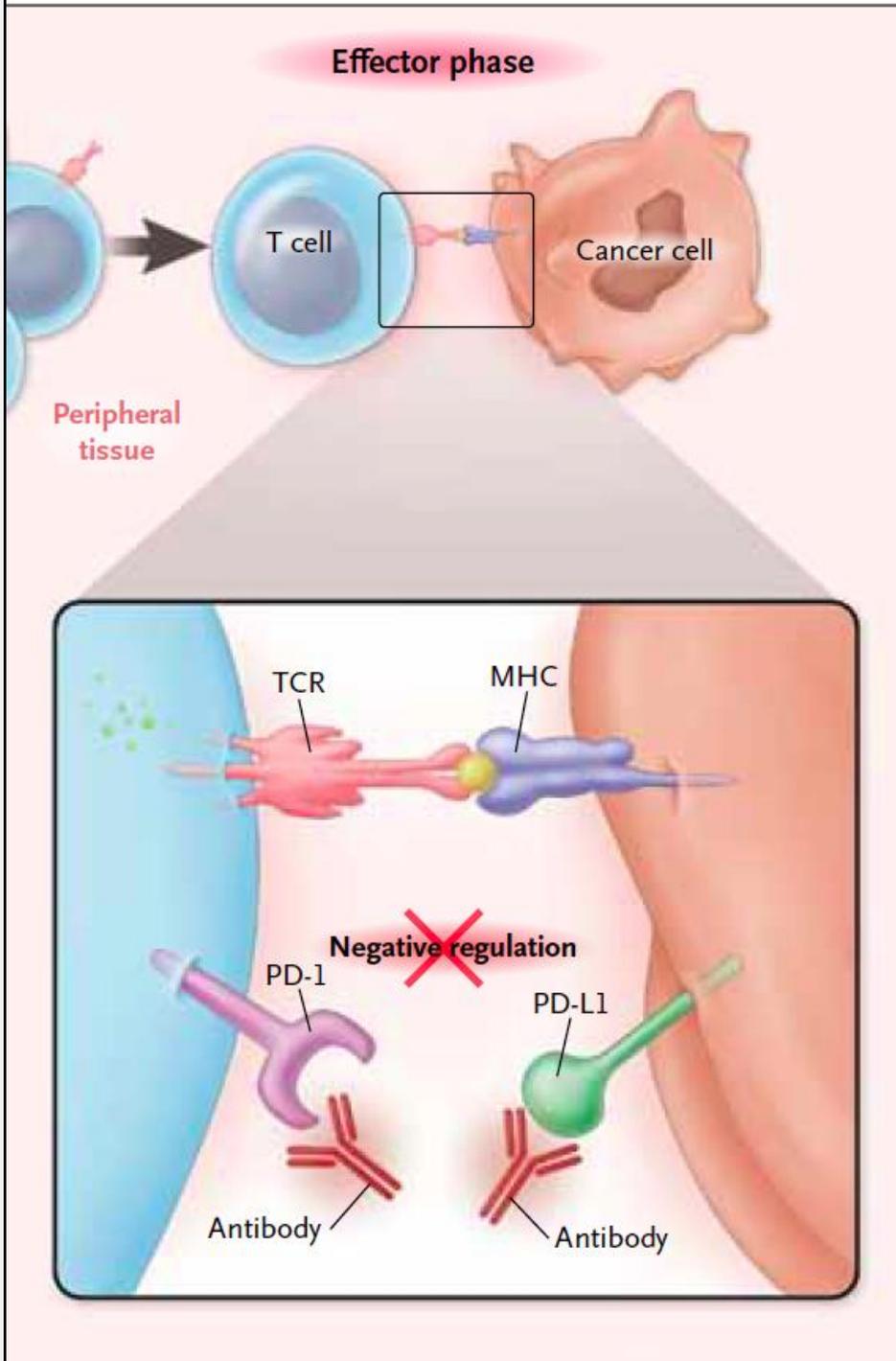
Hiroyuki Nishimura,¹ Taku Okazaki,¹ Yoshimasa Tanaka,²
Kazuki Nakatani,⁶ Masatake Hara,³ Akira Matsumori,³
Shigetake Sasayama,³ Akira Mizoguchi,⁴ Hiroshi Hiai,⁵
Nagahiro Minato,² Tasuku Honjo^{1*}

Nishimura et al. Immunity 1999; Nishimura et al., Science 2001



Adoptive cell transfer of tumor-specific TCR transgenic 2C PD-1^{-/-} T cells rejected tumor cells

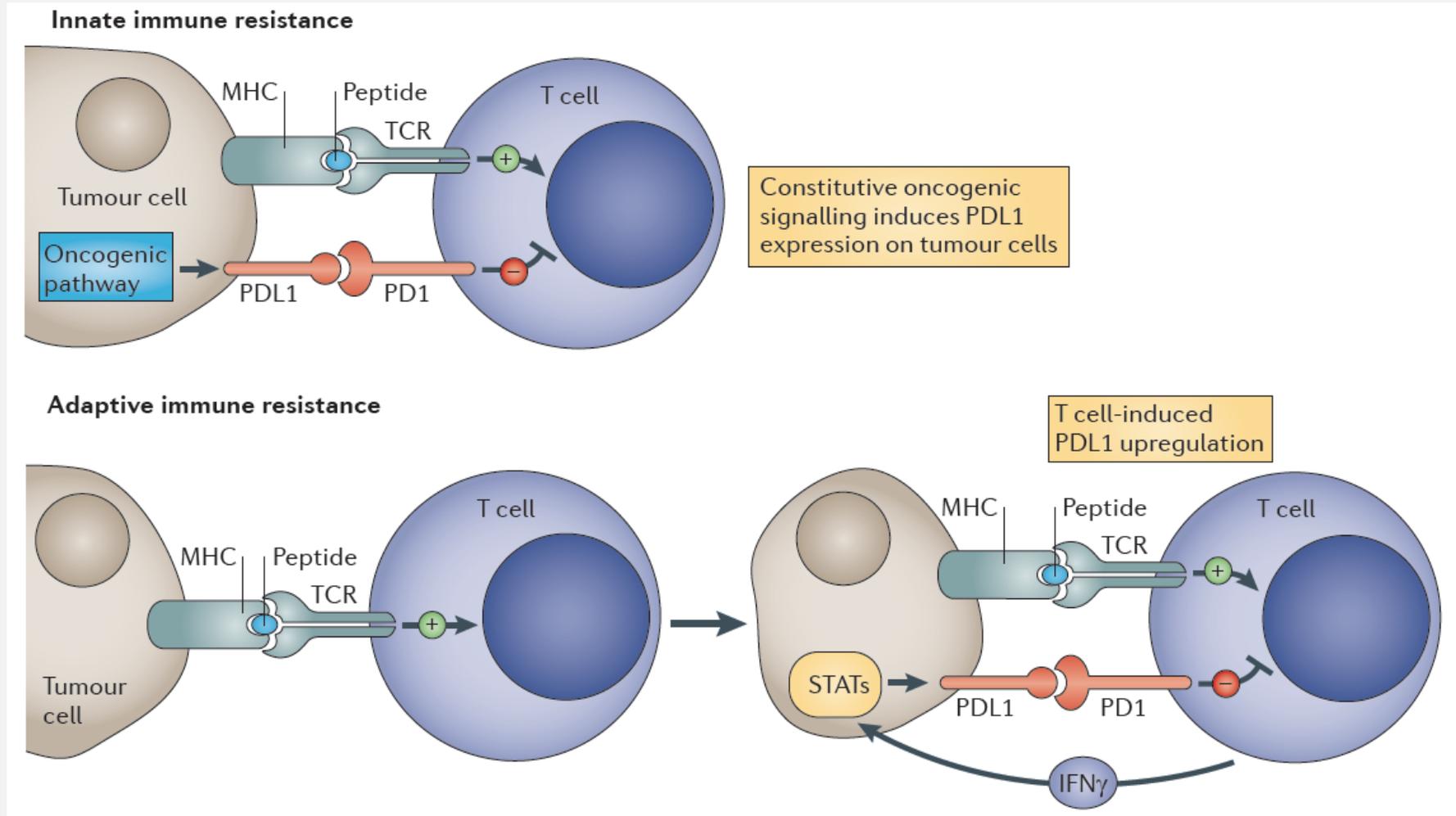




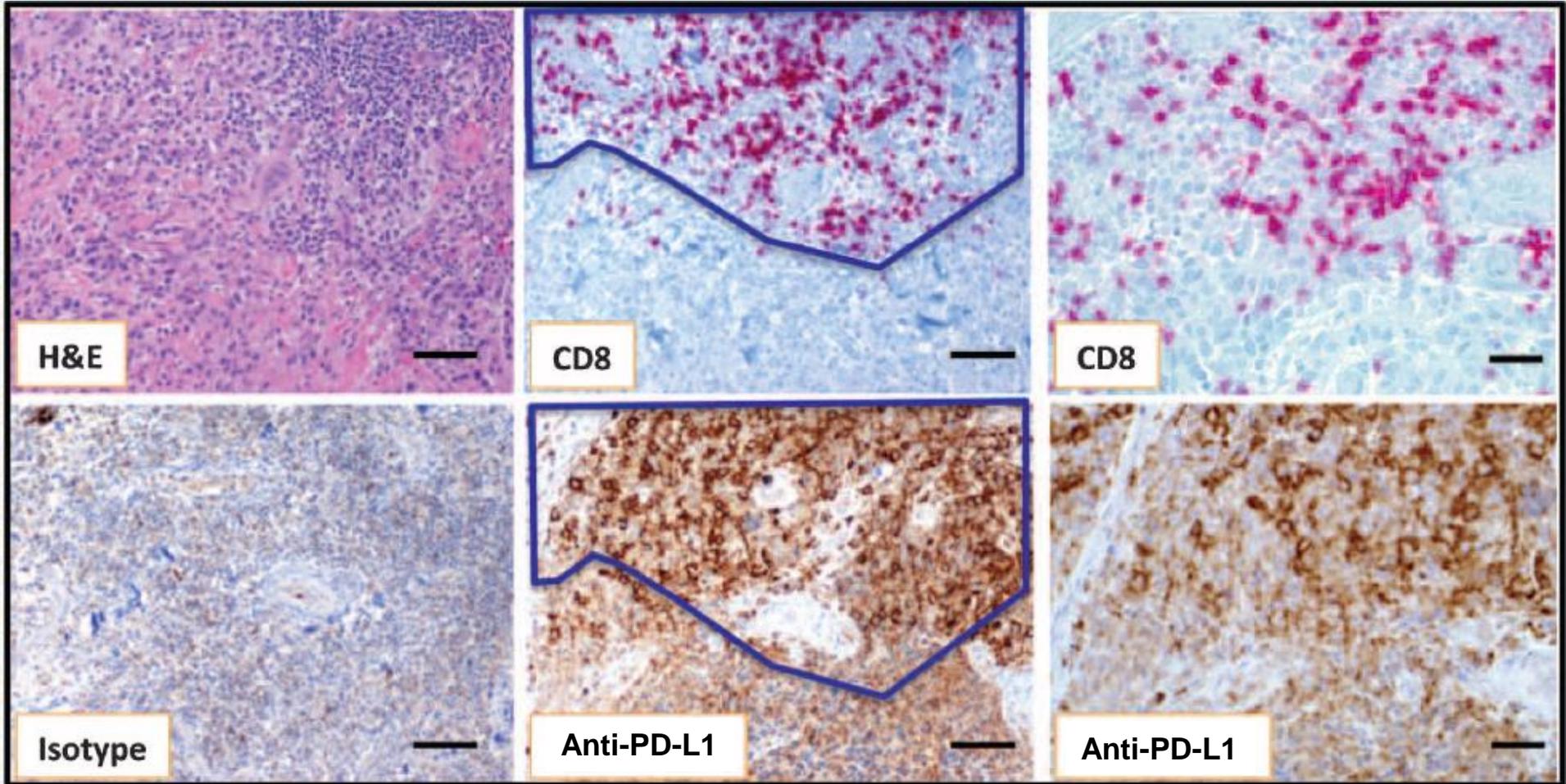
PD-1/PD-L1 PLAY A ROLE AT THE TUMOR/EFFECTOR PHASE

- Nivolumab: anti-PD-1
- Pembrolizumab: anti-PD-1
- Cemiplimab: anti-PD-1
- Spartalizumab: anti-PD-1
- Dostarlimab: anti-PD-1
- Atezolizumab: anti-PD-L1
- Durvalumab: anti-PD-L1
- Avelumab: anti-PD-L1

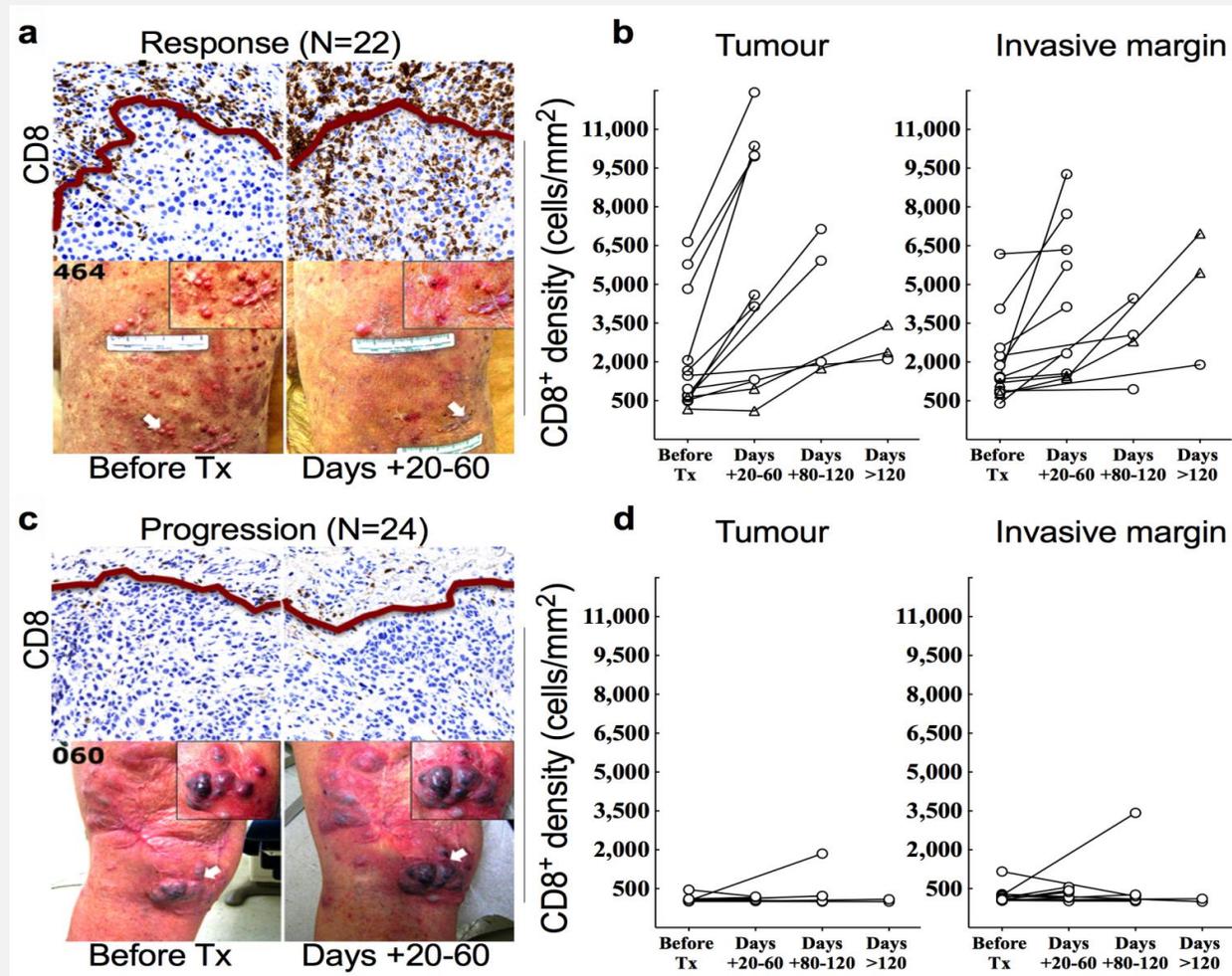
PD-L1 ON HUMAN TUMOR CELLS MEDIATES T CELL INHIBITION



EXPRESSION OF PD-L1 CO-LOCALIZES WITH TILS

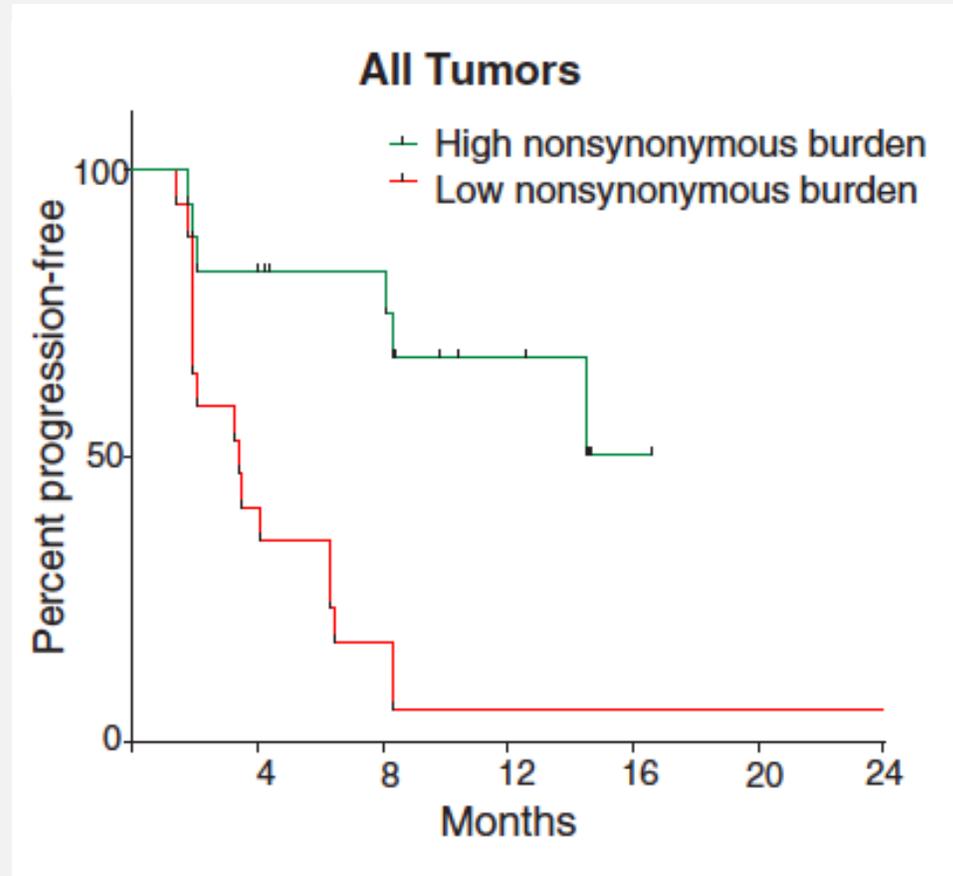


Evolution of CD8+ T-cells, according to treatment outcome

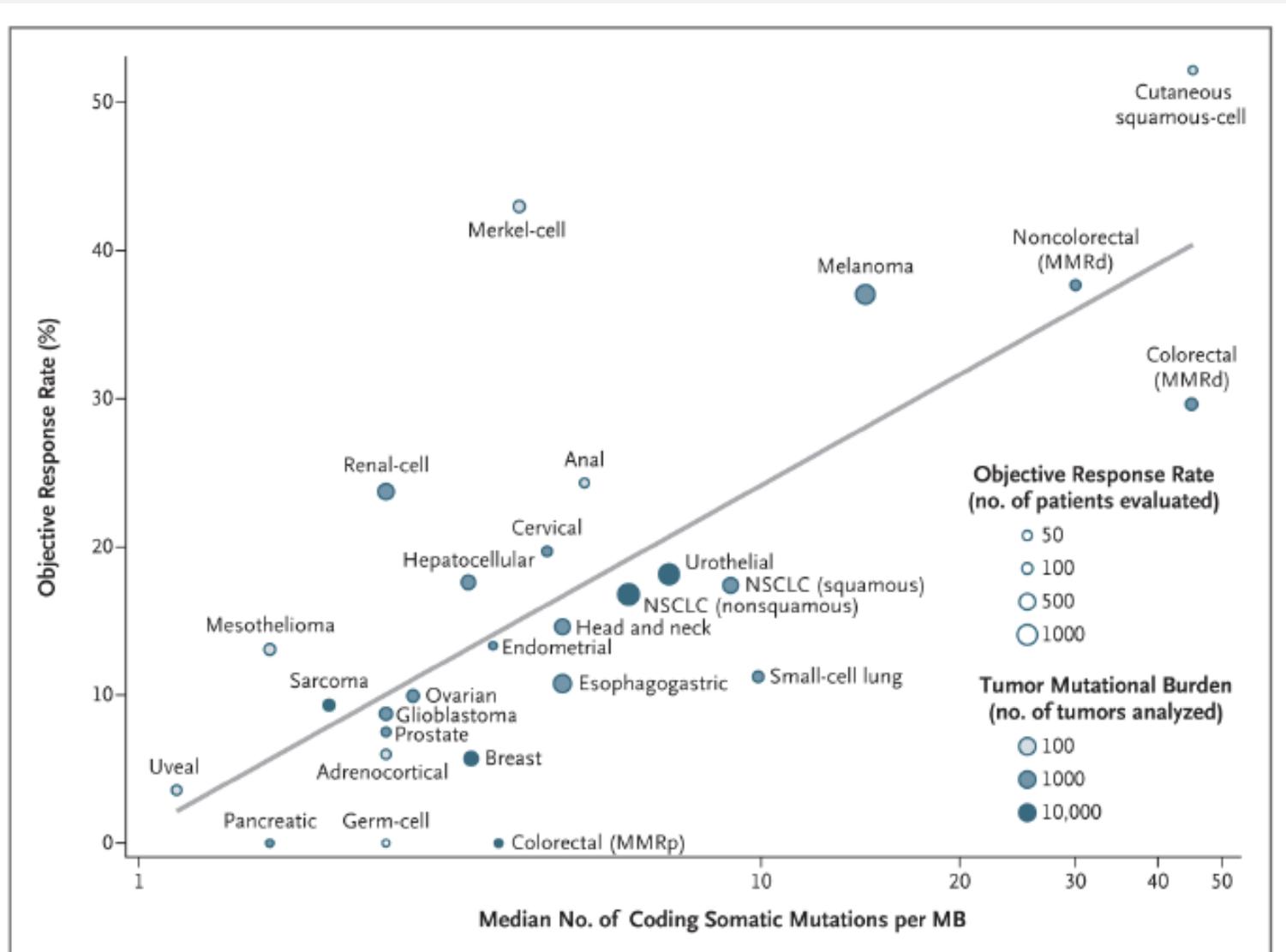


IHC Analysis of CD8+ T-cells in samples obtained before and during anti-PD1 treatment

MUTATIONAL BURDEN AND CLINICAL BENEFIT FROM ANTI-PD1 IN NSCLC



CORRELATION BETWEEN TMB AND RESPONSE TO ICB

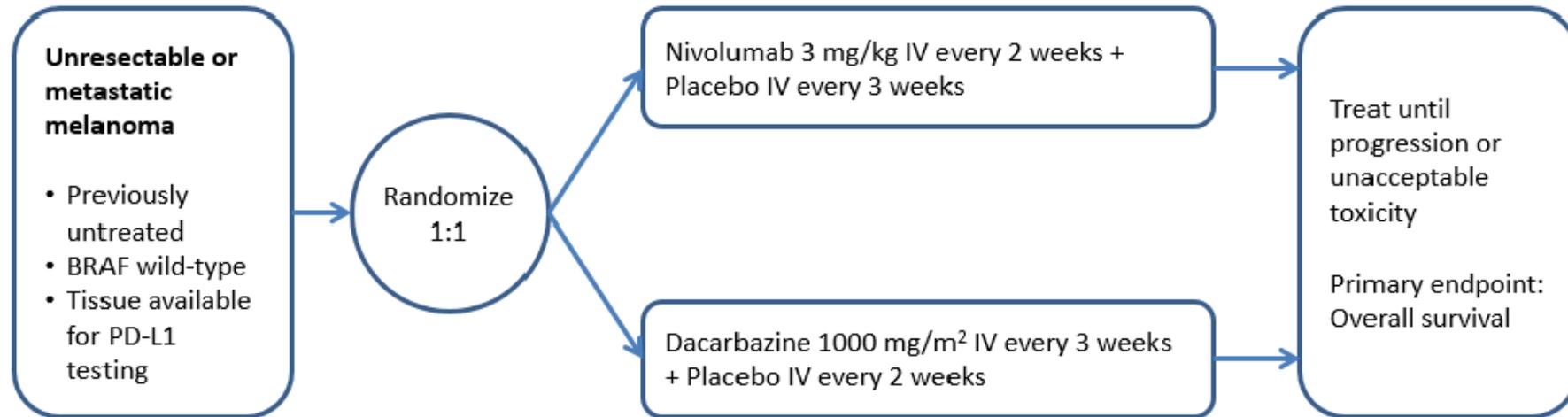


ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Nivolumab in Previously Untreated Melanoma without BRAF Mutation

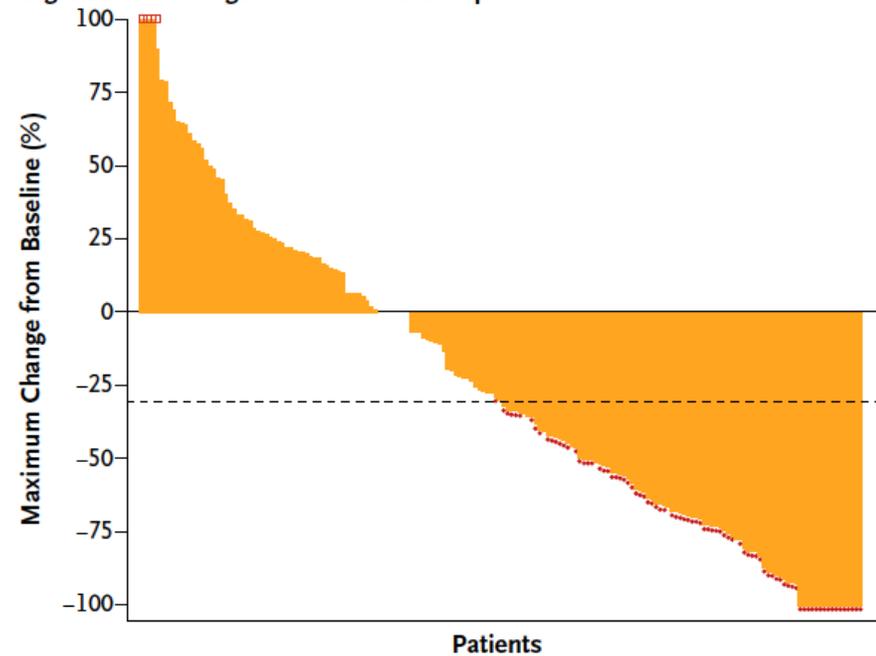
Caroline Robert, M.D., Ph.D., Georgina V. Long, M.D., Ph.D., Benjamin Brady, M.D.,
Caroline Dutriaux, M.D., Michele Maio, M.D., Laurent Mortier, M.D.,
Jessica C. Hassel, M.D., Piotr Rutkowski, M.D., Ph.D., Catriona McNeil, M.D., Ph.D.,
Ewa Kalinka-Warzocha, M.D., Ph.D., Kerry J. Savage, M.D.,
Micaela M. Hernberg, M.D., Ph.D., Celeste Lebbé, M.D., Ph.D.,
Julie Charles, M.D., Ph.D., Catalin Mihalciou, M.D., Vanna Chiarion-Sileni, M.D.,
Cornelia Mauch, M.D., Ph.D., Francesco Cognetti, M.D., Ana Arance, M.D., Ph.D.,
Henrik Schmidt, M.D., D.M.Sc., Dirk Schadendorf, M.D., Helen Gogas, M.D.,
Lotta Lundgren-Eriksson, M.D., Christine Horak, Ph.D., Brian Sharkey, Ph.D.,
Ian M. Waxman, M.D., Victoria Atkinson, M.D., and Paolo A. Ascierto, M.D.

DESIGN OF CHECKMATE 066

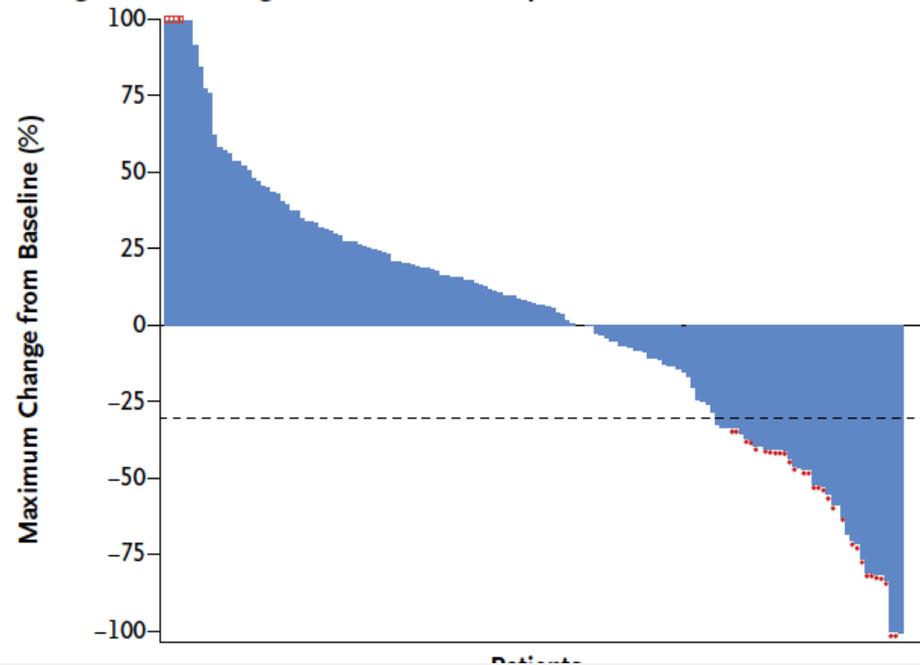


RESULTS OF THE CHECKMATE 066

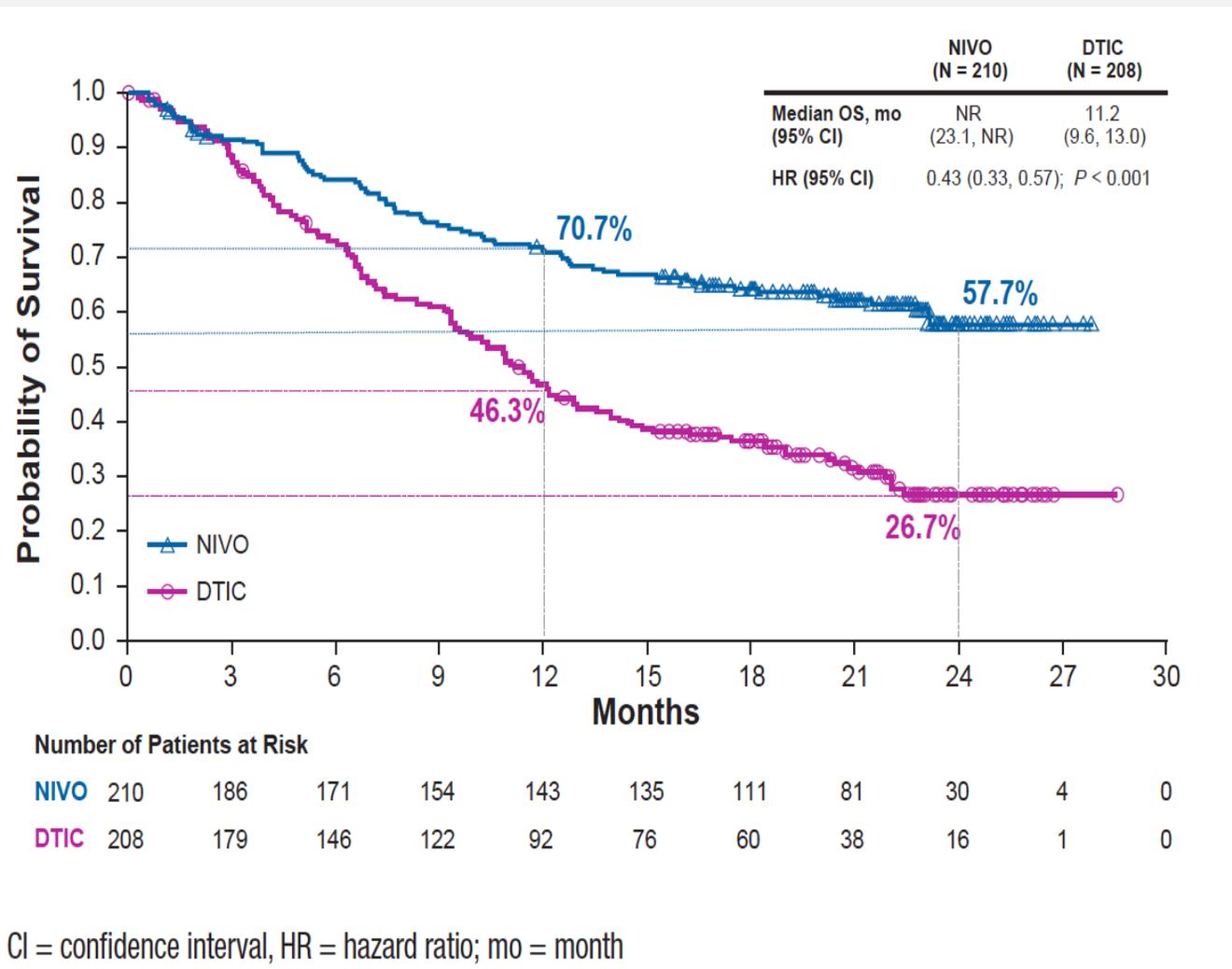
Target-Lesion Change in Nivolumab Group



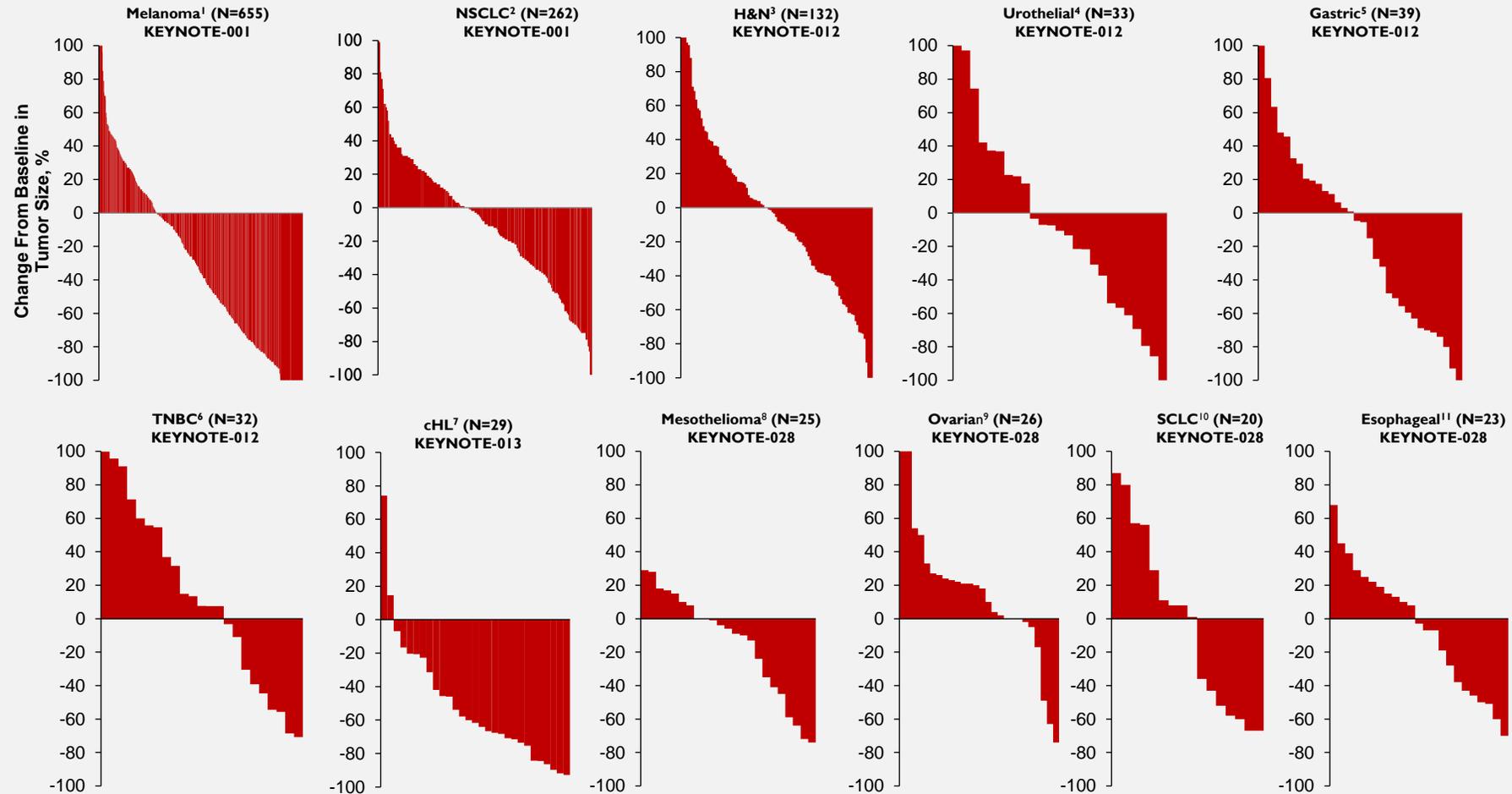
Target-Lesion Change in Dacarbazine Group



NIVOLUMAB IMPROVES PFS AND OS COMPARED TO DACARBAZINE

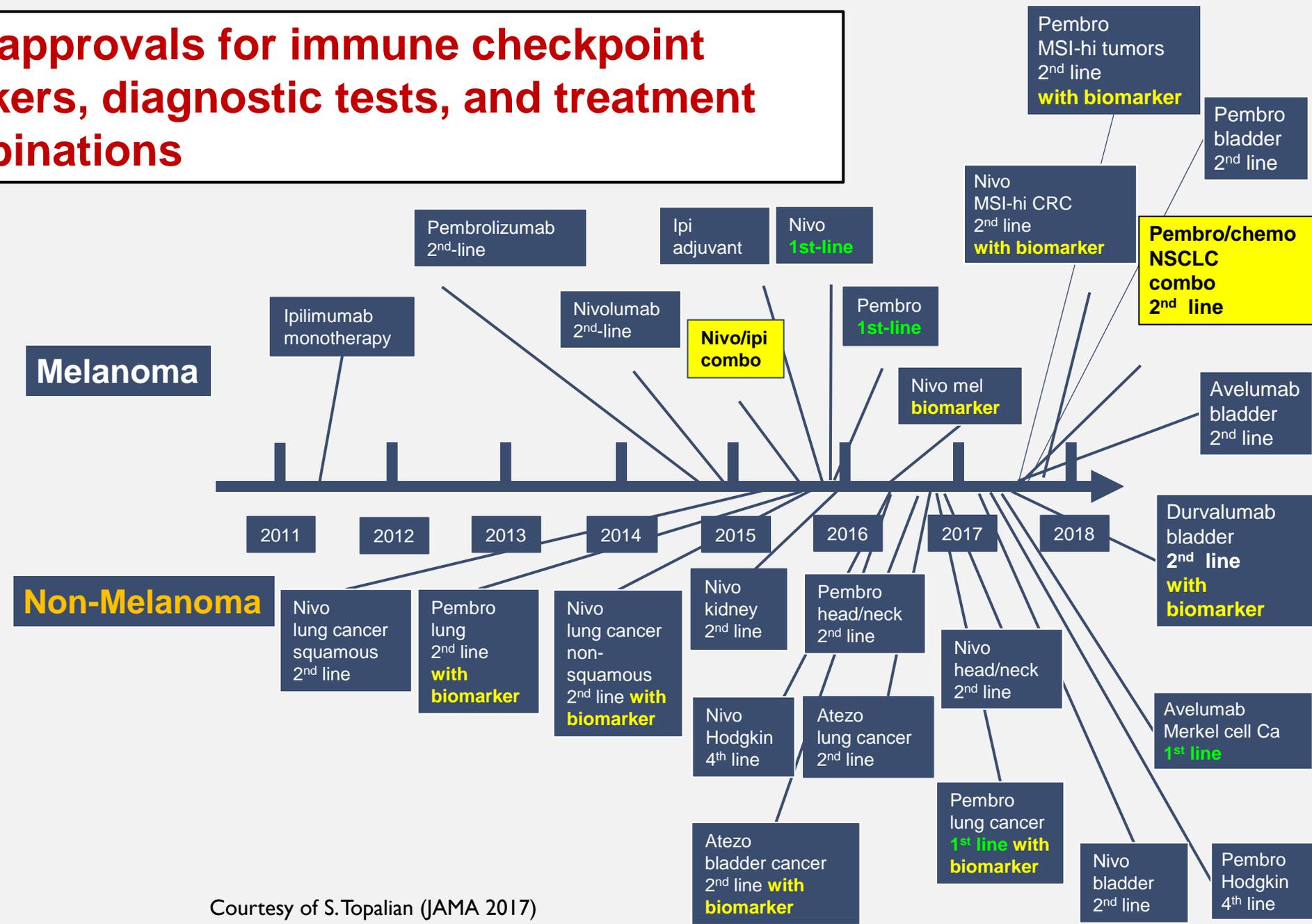


ANTI-PD1 DEMONSTRATES BROAD ANTITUMOR ACTIVITY



1. Daud A et al. 2015 ASCO; 2. Garon EB et al. ESMO 2014; 3. Seiwert T et al. 2015 ASCO; 4. Plimack E et al. 2015 ASCO; 5. Bang YJ et al. 2015 ASCO; 6. Nanda R et al. SABCS 2014; 7. Moskowitz C et al. 2014 ASH Annual Meeting; 8. Alley EA et al. 2015 AACR; 9. Varga A et al. 2015 ASCO; 10. Ott PA et al. 2015 ASCO; 11. Doi T et al. 2015 ASCO.

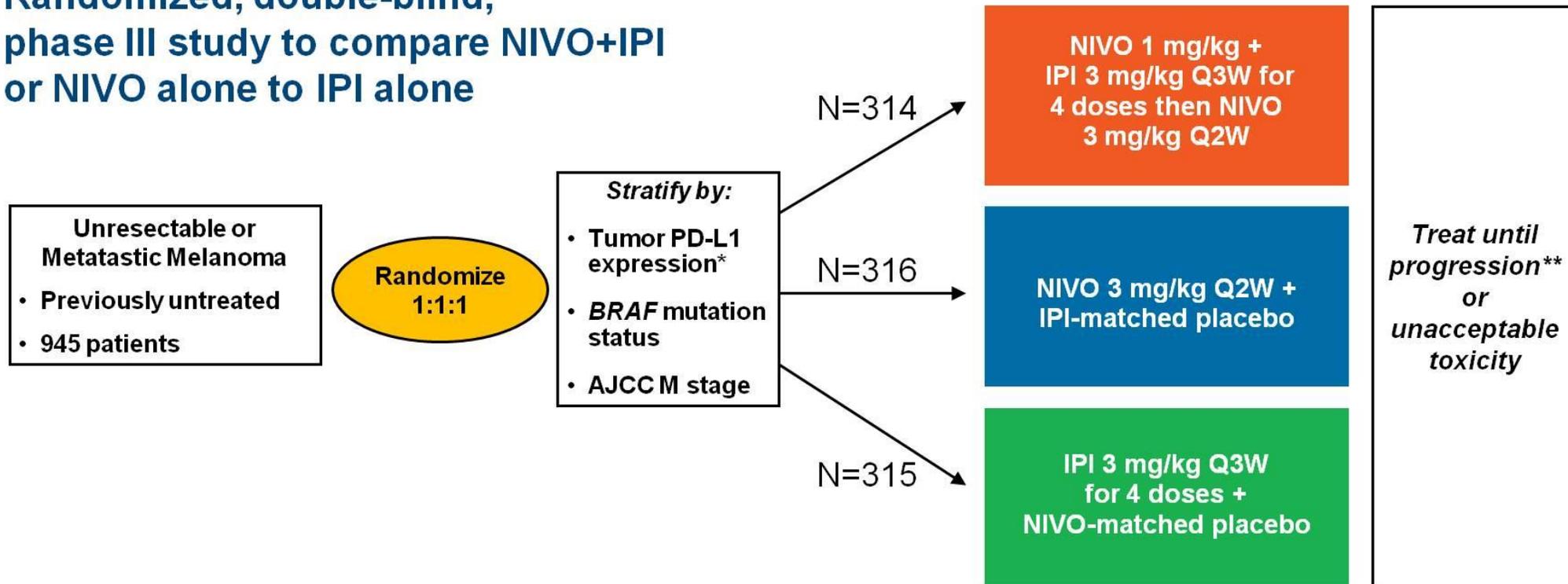
FDA approvals for immune checkpoint blockers, diagnostic tests, and treatment combinations



Courtesy of S.Topalian (JAMA 2017)

COMBINING CTLA-4 AND PD-1 BLOCKADE CHECKMATE 067 TRIAL

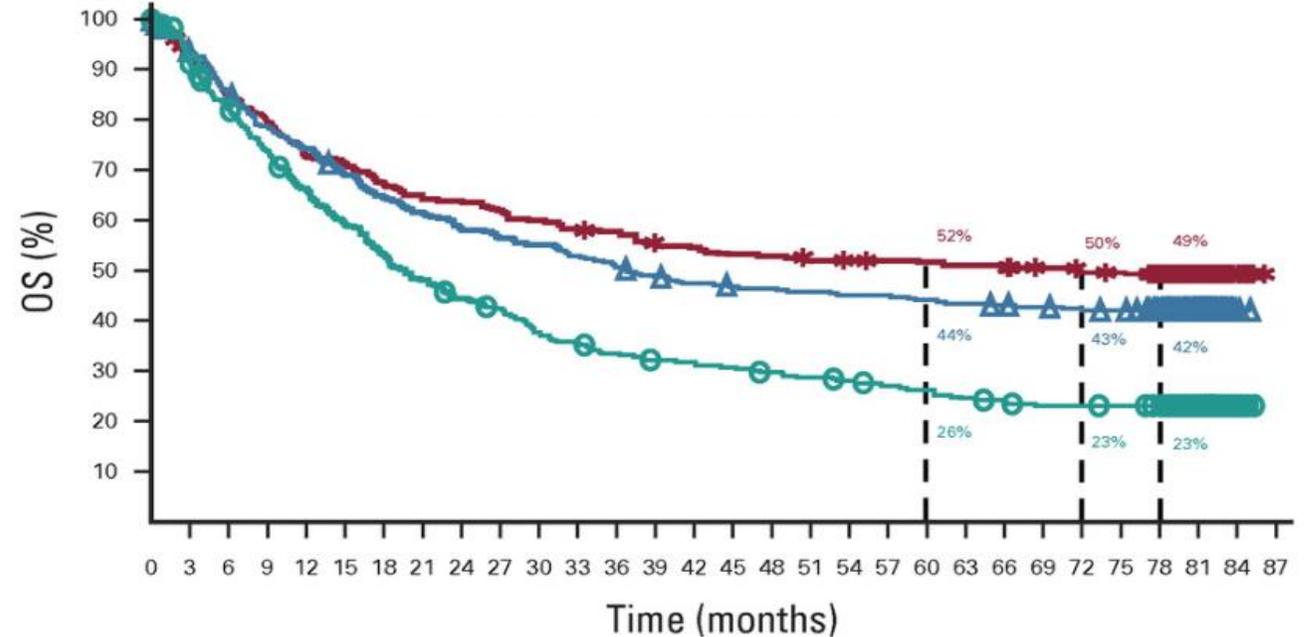
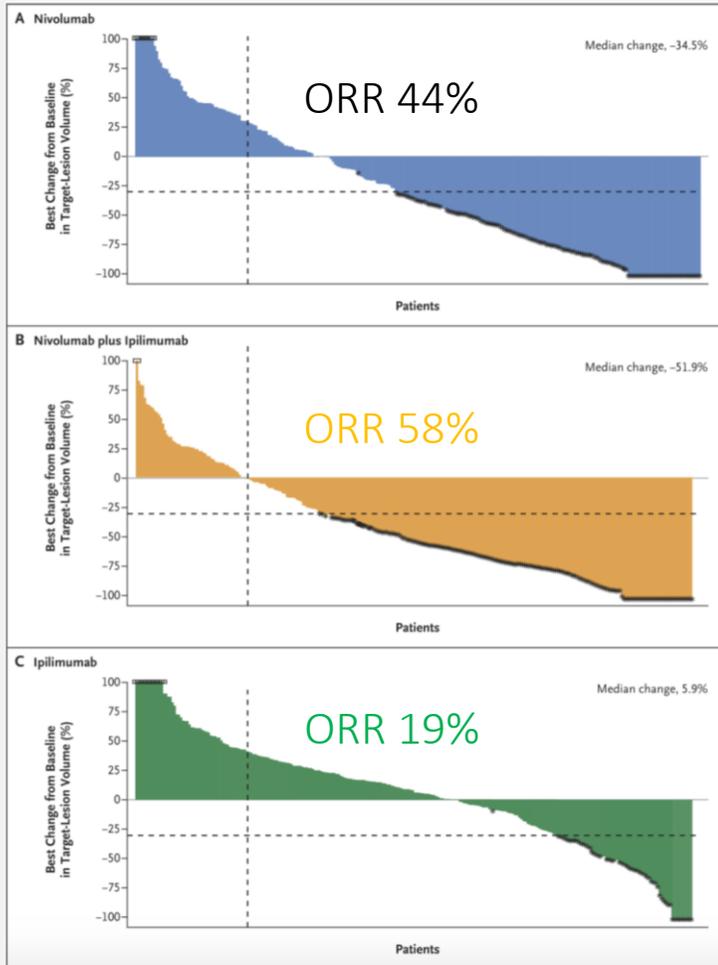
**Randomized, double-blind,
phase III study to compare NIVO+IPI
or NIVO alone to IPI alone**



*Verified PD-L1 assay with 5% expression level was used for the stratification of patients; validated PD-L1 assay was used for efficacy analyses.

**Patients could have been treated beyond progression under protocol-defined circumstances.

RESPONSE RATE AND (6.5Y) OVERALL SURVIVAL



No. at risk:

Nivolumab plus ipilimumab	314	292	265	248	227	222	210	201	199	193	187	181	179	172	169	164	163	159	158	157	156	154	153	150	147	145	138	66	10	0
Nivolumab	316	292	266	245	231	214	201	191	181	175	171	164	158	150	145	142	141	139	137	137	134	132	130	128	126	124	117	59	3	0
Ipilimumab	315	285	253	227	203	181	163	148	135	128	113	107	100	95	94	91	87	84	81	77	75	70	68	64	64	63	61	32	7	0

SAFETY SUMMARY

- With an additional 19 months of follow-up, safety was consistent with the initial report¹

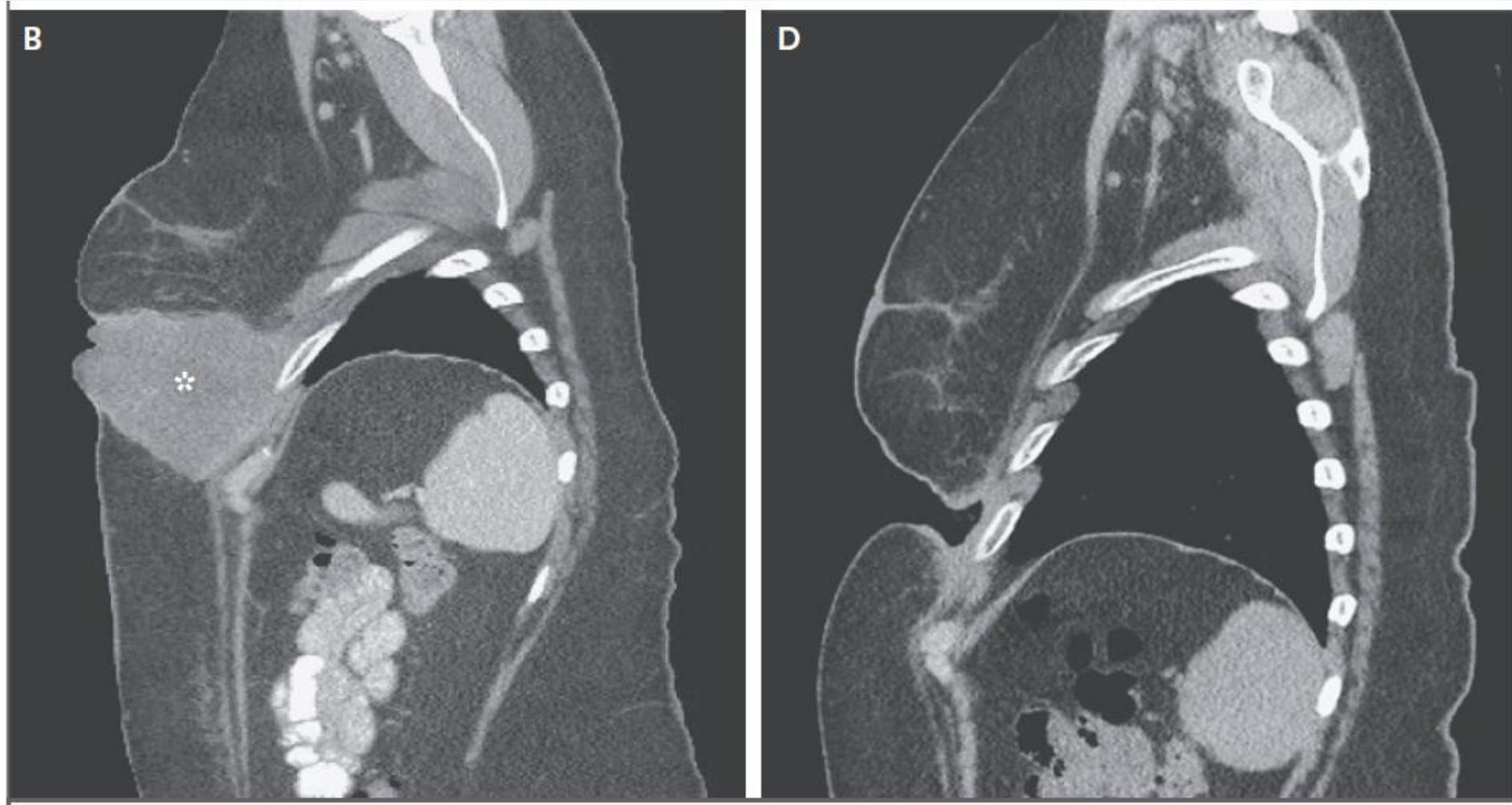
Patients reporting event, %	NIVO+IPI (N=313)		NIVO (N=313)		IPI (N=311)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4
Treatment-related adverse event (AE)	95.8	58.5	86.3	20.8	86.2	27.7
Treatment-related AE leading to discontinuation	39.6	31.0	11.5	7.7	16.1	14.1
Treatment-related death, n (%)	2 (0.6) ^a		1 (0.3) ^b		1 (0.3) ^b	

- Most select AEs were managed and resolved within 3-4 weeks (85–100% across organ categories)
- ORR was 70.7% for pts who discontinued NIVO+IPI due to AEs, with median OS not reached

^aCardiomyopathy (NIVO+IPI, n=1); Liver necrosis (NIVO+IPI, n=1). Both deaths occurred >100 days after the last treatment.

^bNeutropenia (NIVO, n=1); colon perforation (IPI, n=1).¹

RAPID COMPLETE REMISSION AFTER COMBINATION IMMUNOTHERAPY WITH ANTI-CTLA4 AND ANTI-PD1

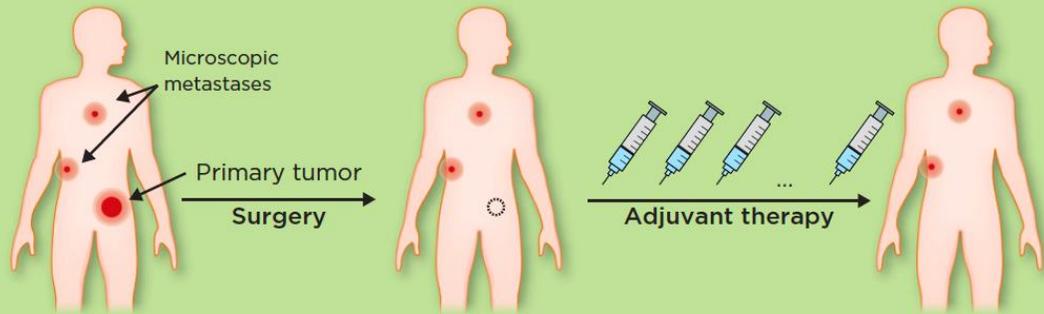


CONCLUSIONS

- After decennia of having lots of promise, immunotherapy became a breakthrough in cancer treatment (2013)
- Immune checkpoint inhibitors target the T-cell compartment of the immune system
- Immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibition has been approved in over 40 cancer indications
- Immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors has been approved alone or in combination with chemotherapy (NSCLC, TNBC, HNSCC) or VEGF-R targeting agents (RCC, HCC, endometrial cancer)
- Immunotherapy (in contrast to chemotherapy and targeted therapy) can result in cures even in metastatic setting, even in brain metastases patients
- Immune checkpoint inhibitors can induce sometimes severe and long-lasting autoimmune adverse events, and should be used by experienced doctors

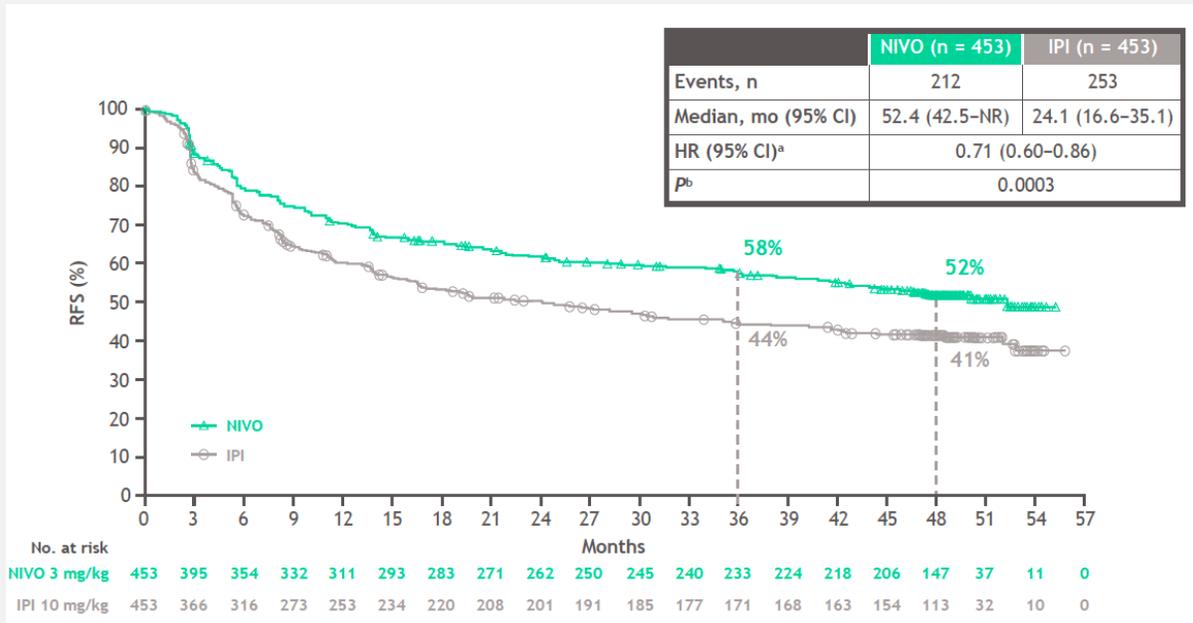
MOVING IMMUNOTHERAPY TO EARLIER STAGES

A. Adjuvant schedule



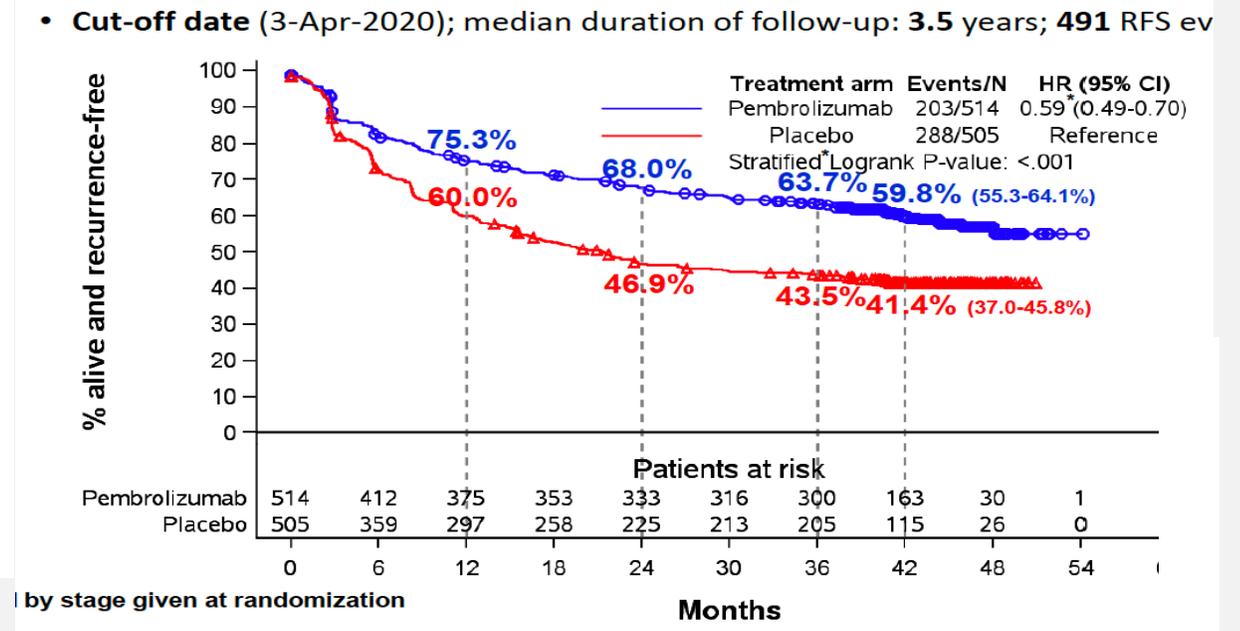
IMPROVEMENT IN RFS WITH ADJUVANT ANTI-PD-I IN STAGE III MELANOMA

4-year RFS Checkmate-238



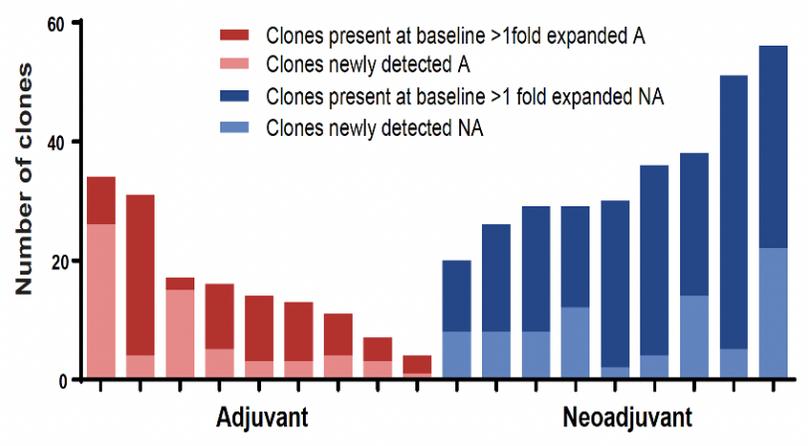
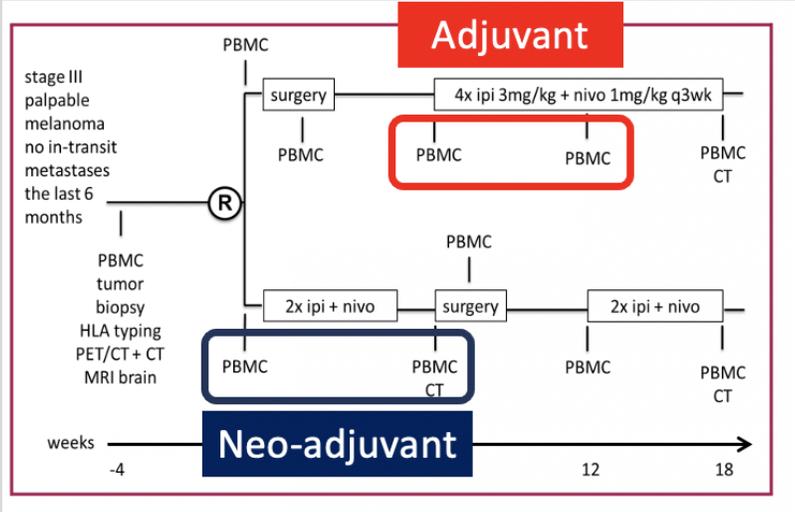
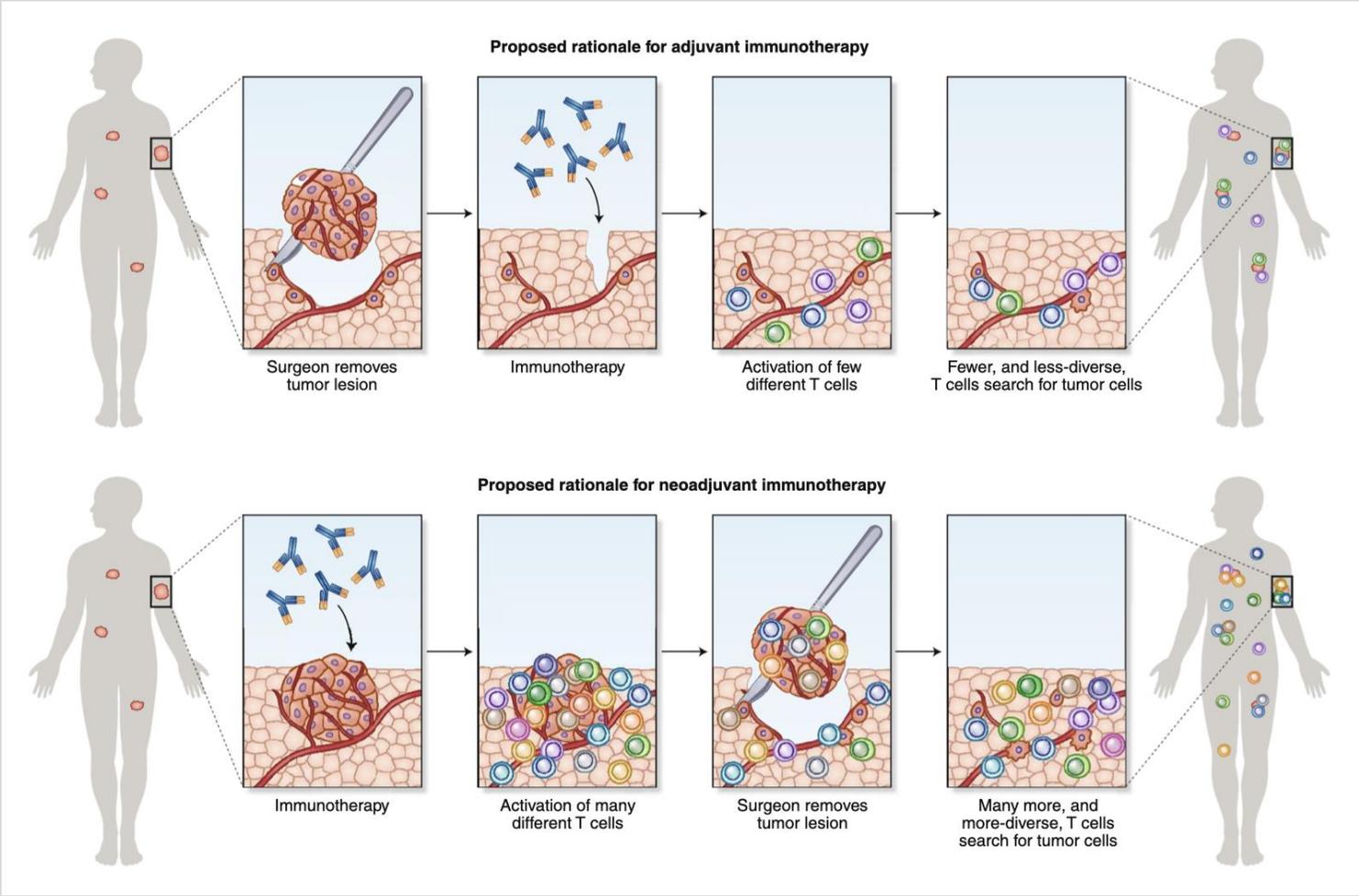
Presented by J Weber ESMO 2020

3.5 year RFS Keynote-54



Presented by A Eggermont ESMO 2020

IMMUNOLOGICAL PRIMING APPEARS BETTER WITH NEOADJUVANT THAN ADJUVANT IT



NEOADJUVANT-ADJUVANT OR ADJUVANT-ONLY PEMBROLIZUMAB IN ADVANCED MELANOMA

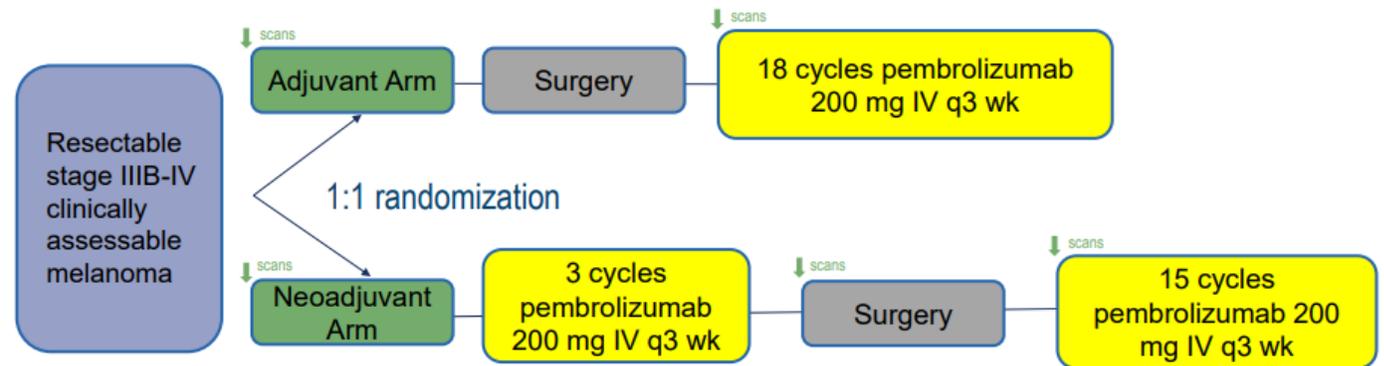
Trial

- Phase 2
- Open-label
- Randomized
- 313 Adults
- Histologically confirmed, clinically detectable, resectable stage IIIB to IVC melanoma



S1801 Study Schema

Primary endpoint: Event-free survival



↓ radiographic assessment (scans)

Additional criteria: strata included AJCC 8th ed. stage and LDH, adjuvant radiation allowed, concomitant radiation & pembrolizumab was not allowed, brain metastasis excluded, uveal melanoma excluded
Surgery type and extent was required to be pre-specified and carried out regardless of radiologic response to therapy

PARIS 2022 ESMO congress

Sapna P. Patel, MD

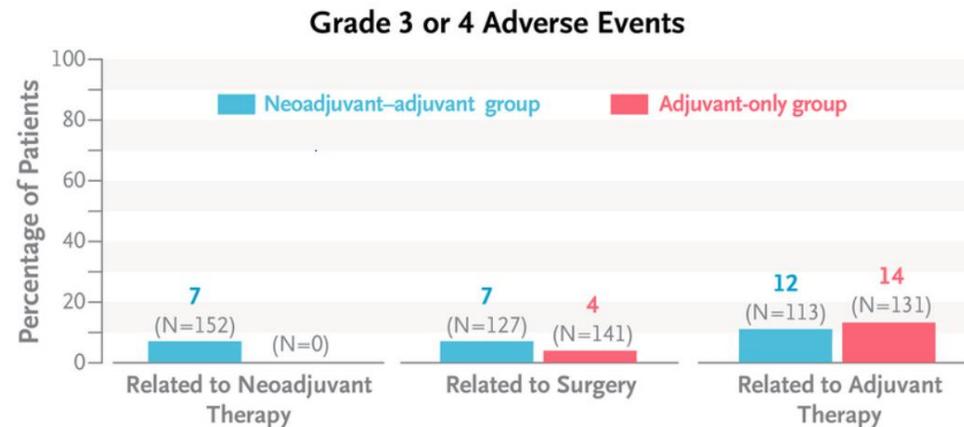
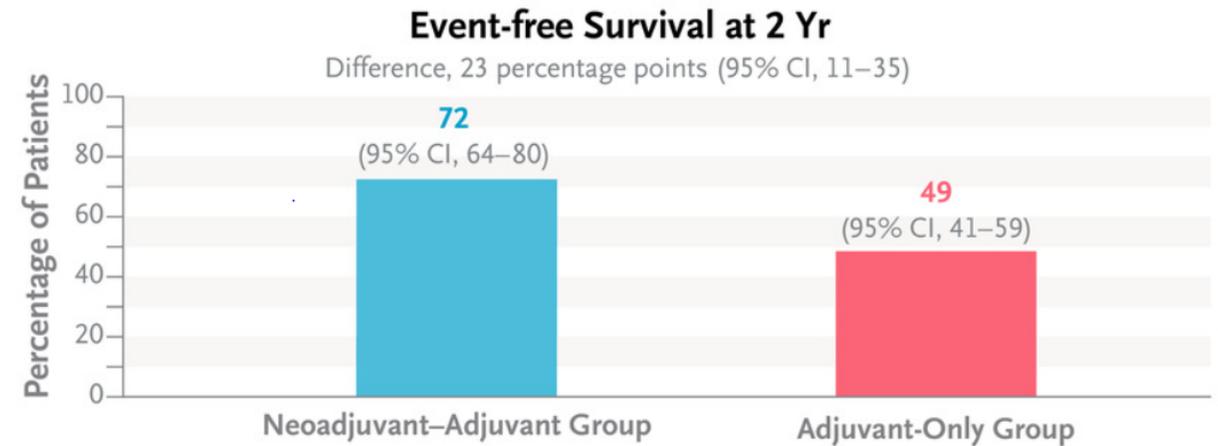
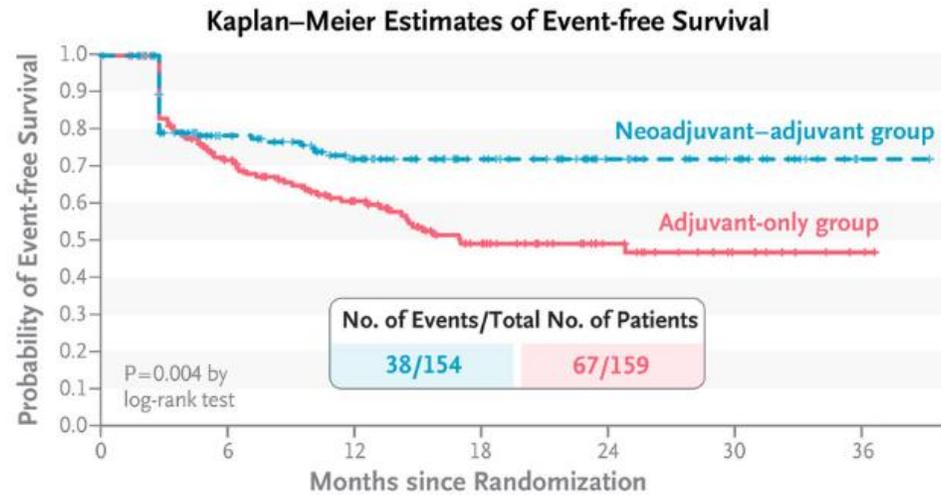
SWOG

CANCER RESEARCH NETWORK

NCI

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NEOADJUVANT-ADJUVANT OR ADJUVANT-ONLY PEMBROLIZUMAB IN ADVANCED MELANOMA

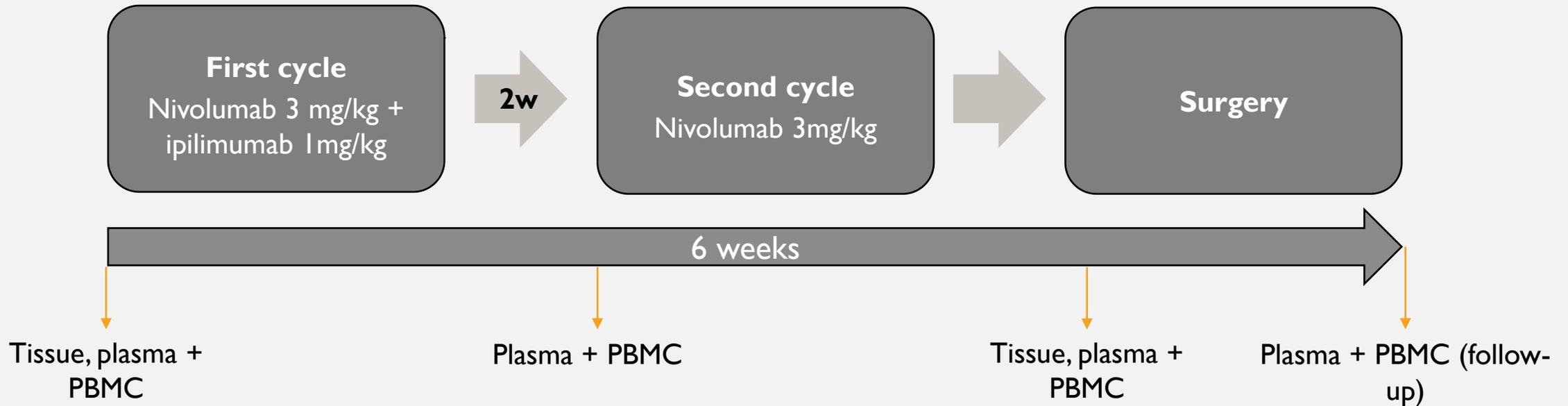


CONCLUSIONS

Among patients undergoing surgical resection for stage III or IV melanoma, event-free survival was longer with neoadjuvant plus adjuvant pembrolizumab therapy than with adjuvant pembrolizumab alone.

NICHE- STUDY DESIGN IN DMMR STAGE 2-3 COLON CANCER

- Investigator-initiated, non-randomized multicenter*



*6 participating hospitals in the Netherlands
PBMC = peripheral blood mononuclear cells

MAJOR PATHOLOGIC RESPONSE IN 95% OF PATIENTS; 67% PCR

Pathologic response (RVT)		Patients <i>n</i> = 107
Yes	(≤ 50%)	106 (99%)
Major	(≤10%)	102 (95%)
Complete	(0%)	72 (67%)
Partial	(10% - 50%)	4 (4%)
No	(≥50%)	1 (1%)

RVT = residual viable tumor

Adjuvant chemotherapy (CTx)

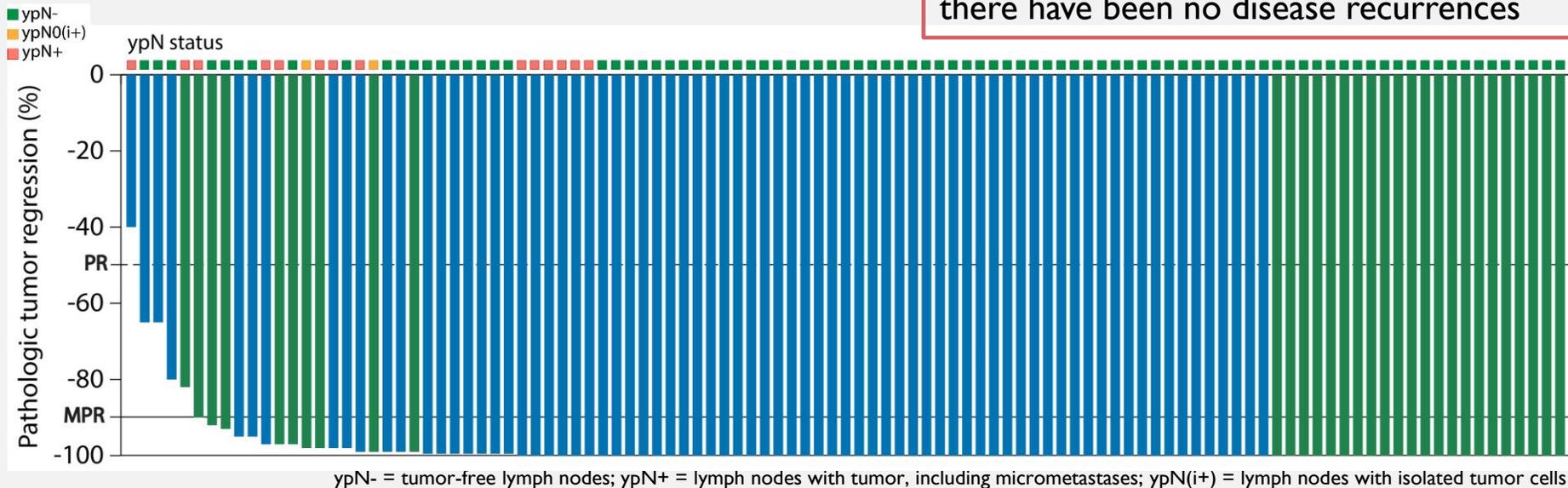
14 patients with ypN+ disease

- 3 patients received adjuvant CTx*
- 5 patients >70 years
- 6 patients refused

* 1 non-responder, 1 partial responder and 1 MPR

Disease recurrence

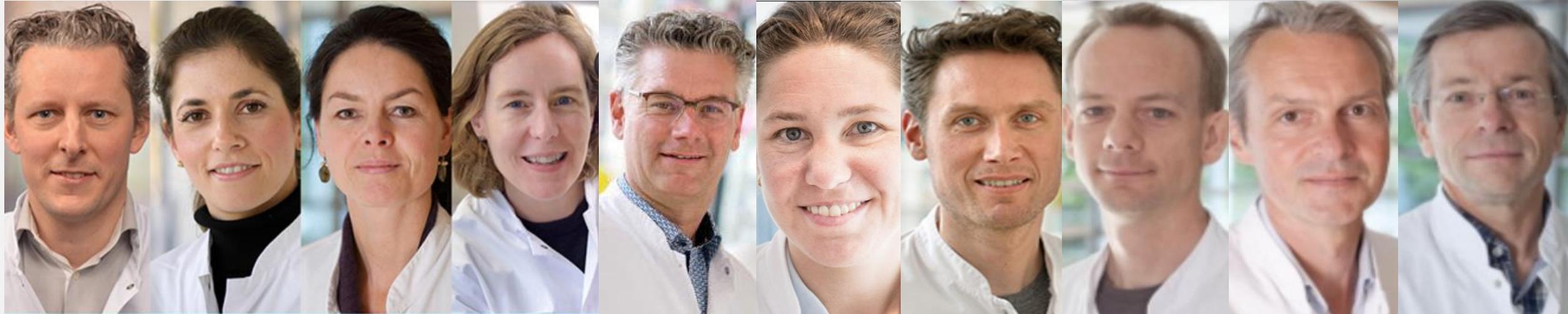
With a median follow-up of 13.1 months (1.4 -57.4), there have been no disease recurrences



Green bars = NICHE-1 cohort
Blue bars = NICHE-2 cohort

ypN- = tumor-free lymph nodes; ypN+ = lymph nodes with tumor, including micrometastases; ypN(i+) = lymph nodes with isolated tumor cells

NEOADJUVANT TRIALS AT THE NKI



Bladder

CRC, Gastric

SCCHN, cSCC

TNBC

Melanoma

NSCLC

NSCLC

RCC

RCC

Melanoma, RCC

M. vd Heijden

M. Chalabi

L. Zuur

M. Kok

C. Blank

W. Theelen

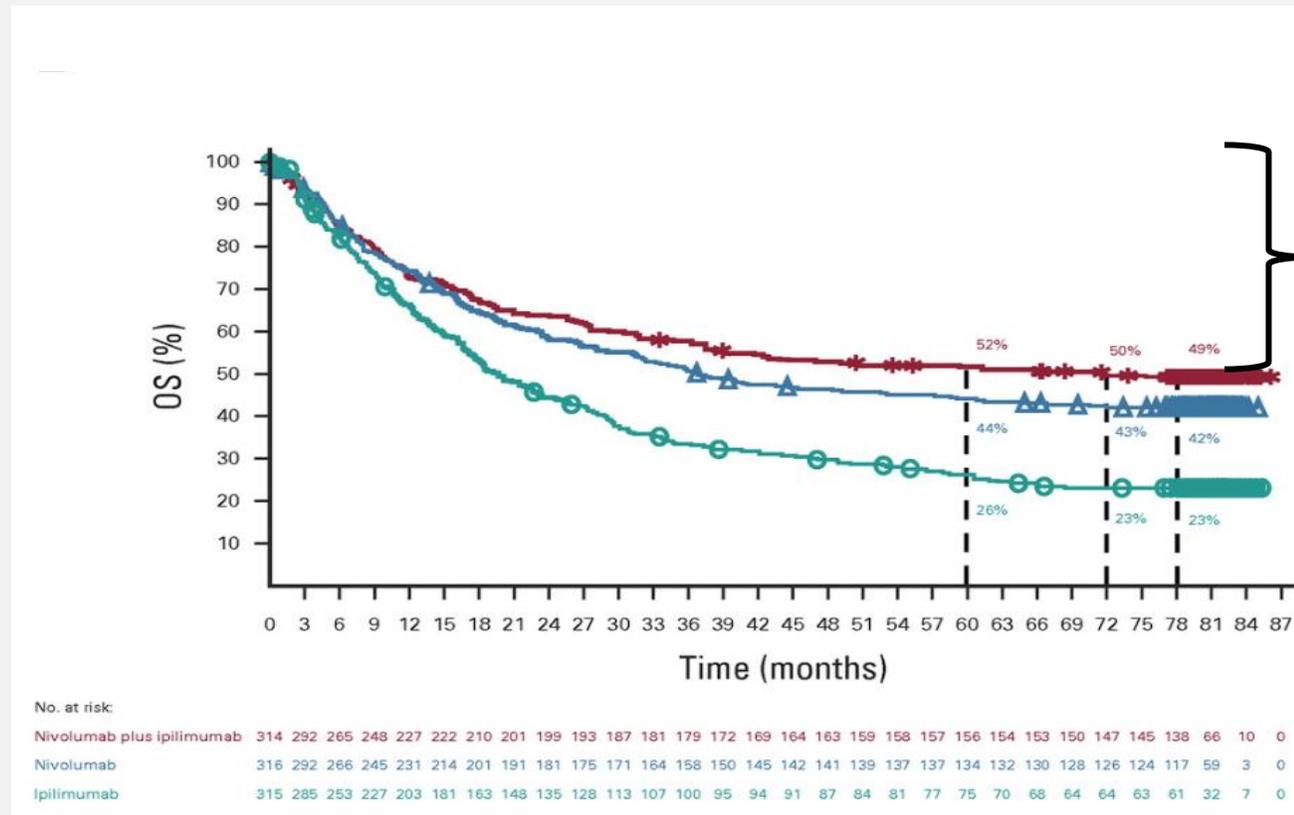
J. de Langen

H. v. Thienen

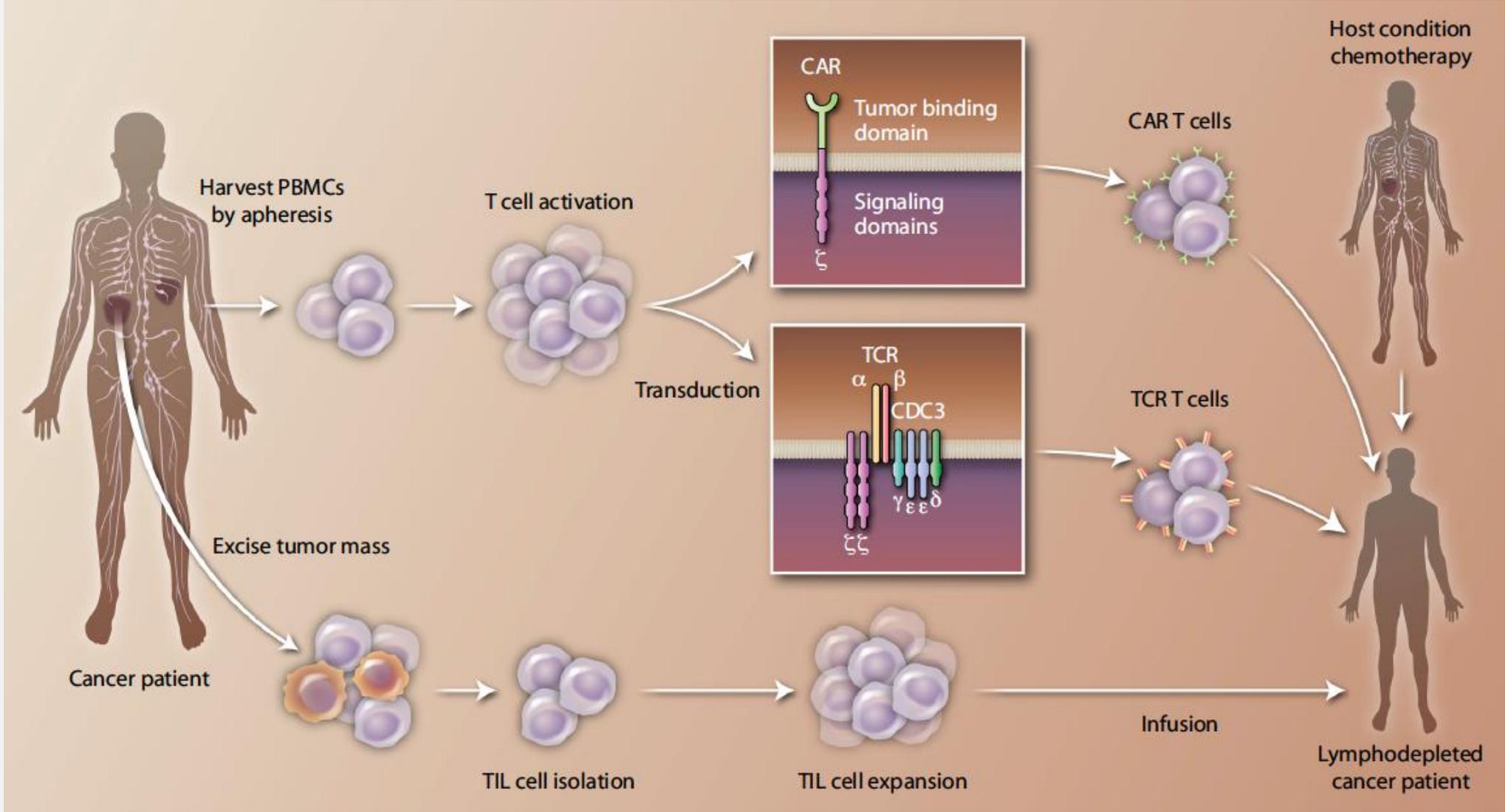
A. Bex.

J. Haanen

ONLY A MINORITY OF PATIENTS RESPOND LONG-TERM TO ICB-BASED THERAPIES

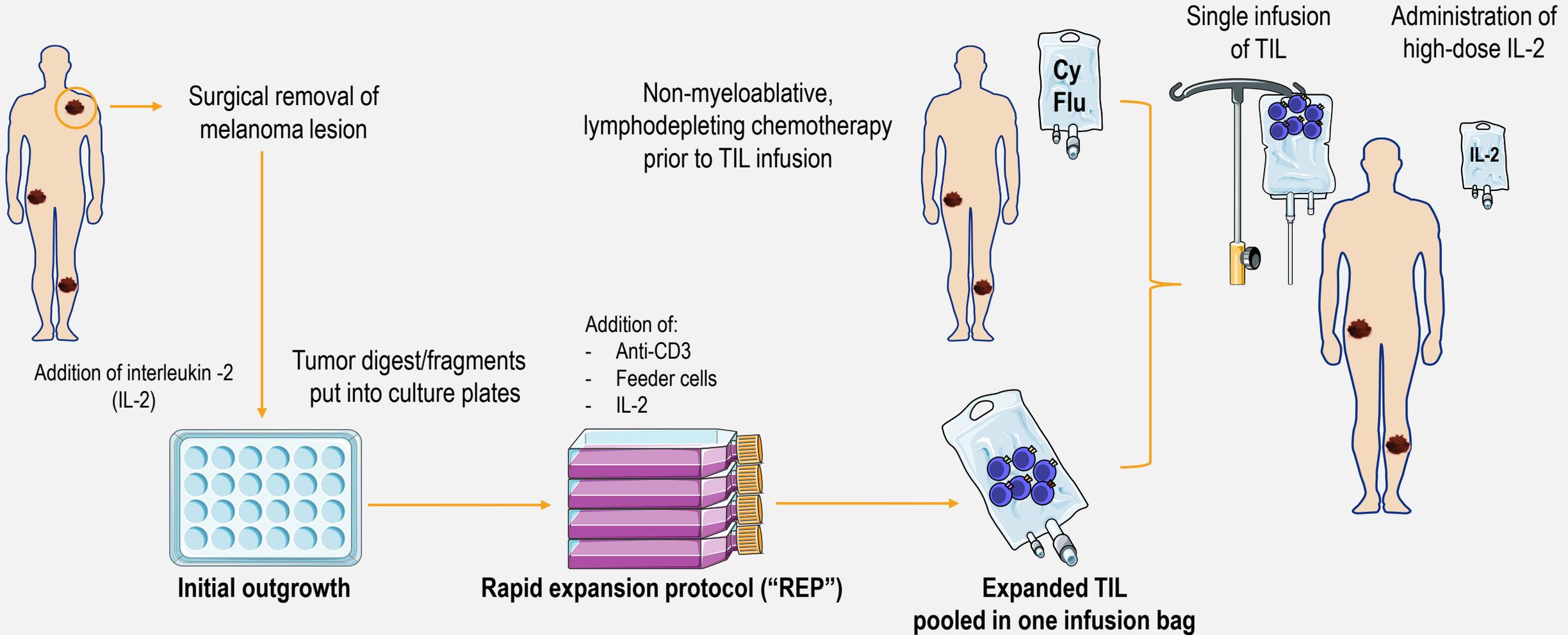


ADOPTIVE CELLULAR THERAPY PLATFORMS FOR SOLID CANCERS

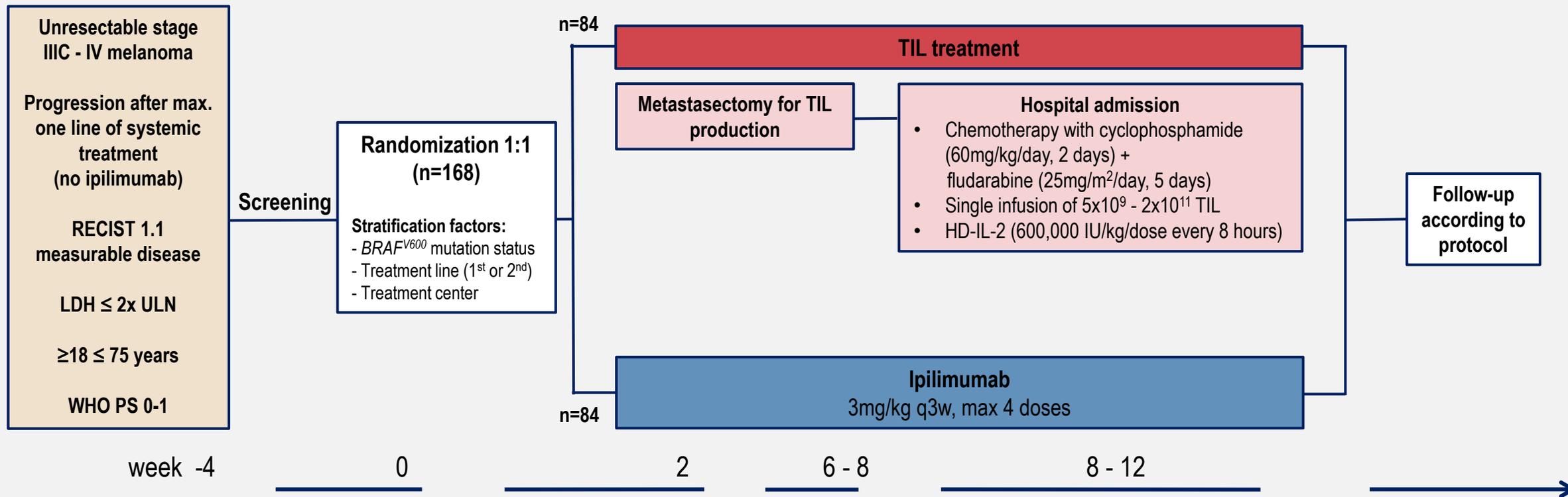


TUMOR-INFILTRATING LYMPHOCYTES (TIL)

Preparation and treatment



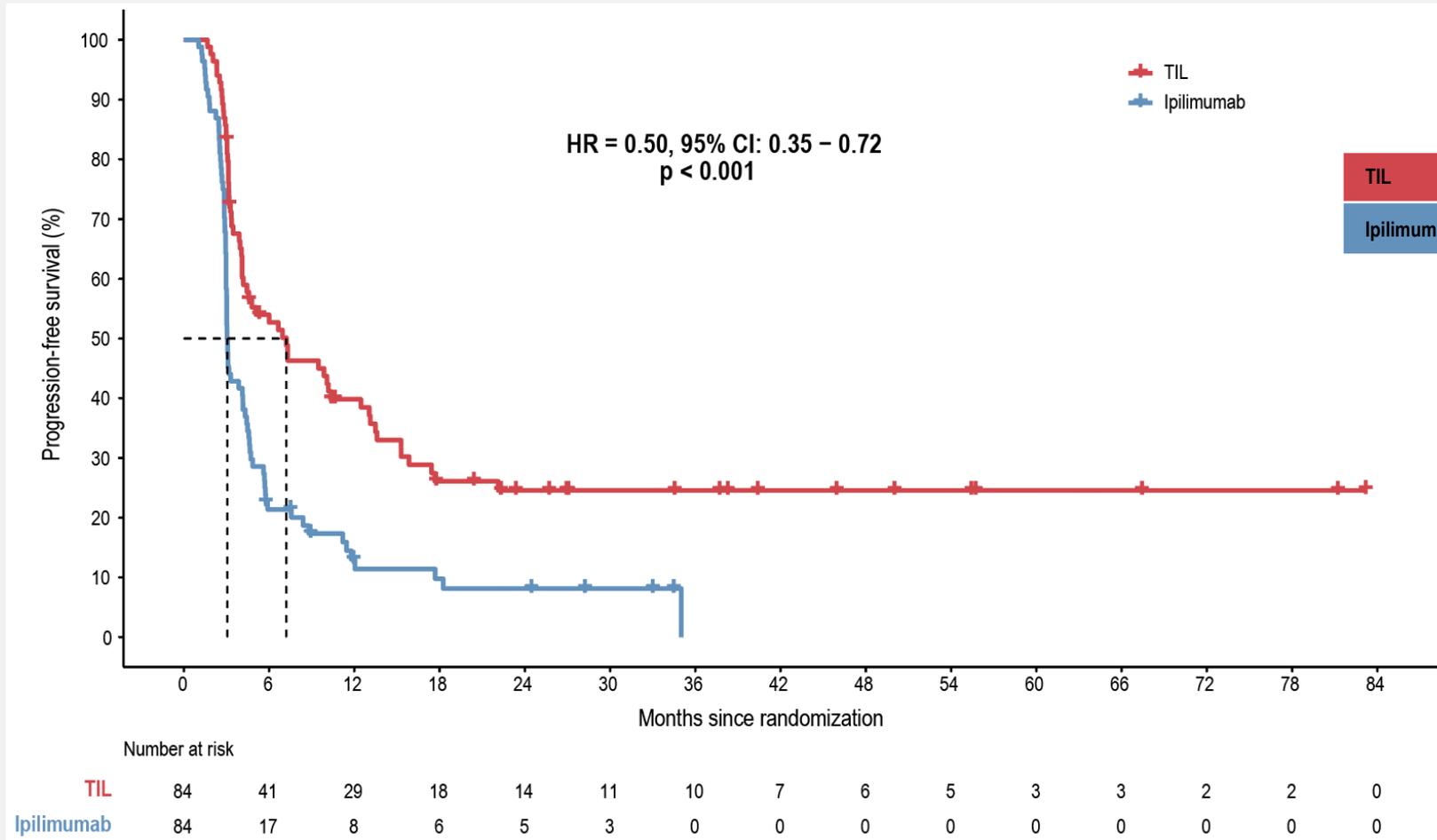
TRIAL DESIGN OF PHASE 3 RCT IN MELANOMA



Primary endpoint: Progression-free survival (PFS) according to RECIST 1.1 per investigator review in the intention-to-treat population (ITT)*

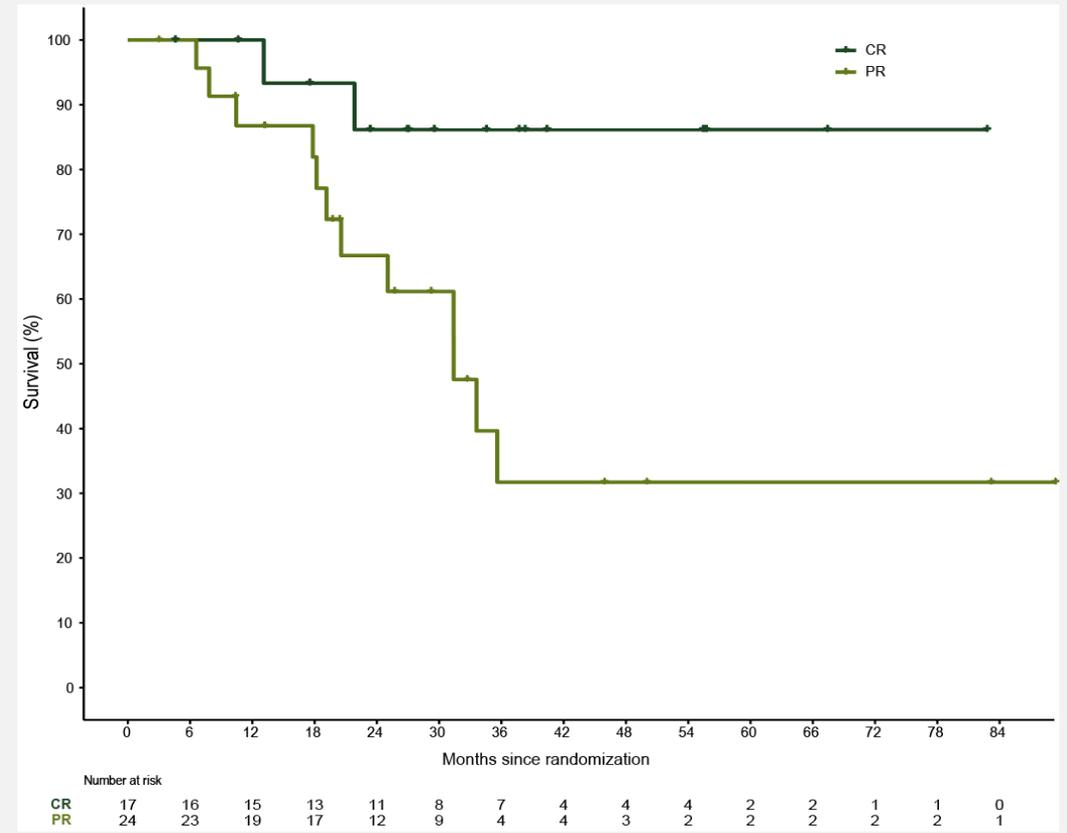
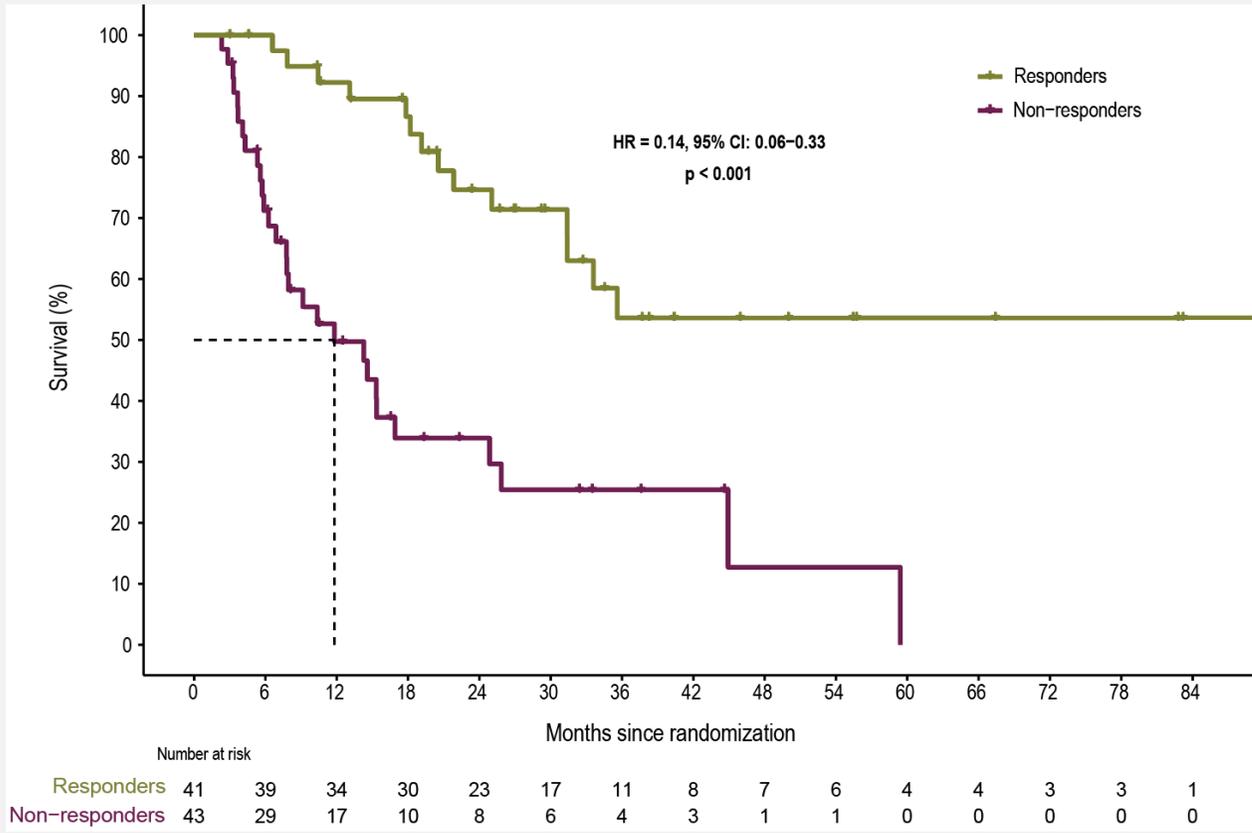
*Using the stratified (unweighted) log-rank test and the stratified cox regression model. The study was considered to be positive when PFS after TIL is significantly longer than ipilimumab, based on the log-rank test with a two-sided p-value below 0.05.

PFS ACCORDING TO RECIST 1.1 IN THE ITT POPULATION



	Median follow-up (months)	Median PFS (months)	95% CI	6 month PFS (%)	95% CI
TIL	33.5	7.2	4.2 - 13.1	52.7	42.9 - 64.7
Ipilimumab	33.0	3.1	3.0 - 4.3	21.4	14.2 - 32.2

OVERALL SURVIVAL IN TIL ARM (ITT)



TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT



TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT CY/ FLU & IL-2

Issues: Toxicity of Cy/ Flu
Toxicity of IL-2
Activity of IL-2 on other cell types, such as Tregs



TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT CY/ FLU & IL-2

Issues: Toxicity of Cy/ Flu
Toxicity of IL-2
Activity of IL-2 on other cell types, such as Tregs



Approach: Engineer immunocytokines that selectively induce the expansion of cells of interest

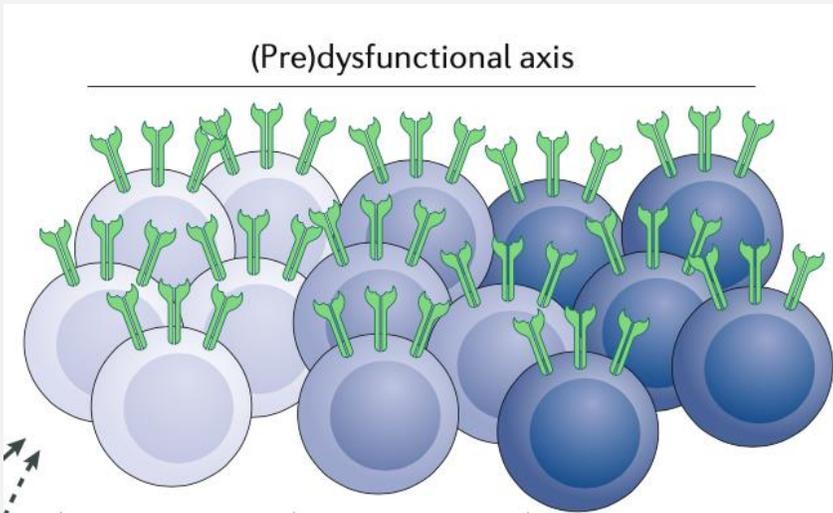


Benefits Potential to use reduced intensity host conditioning
Avoidance of IL-2 toxicity & avoidance of IL-2 activity on other cell types

TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT THE T CELLS THEMSELVES

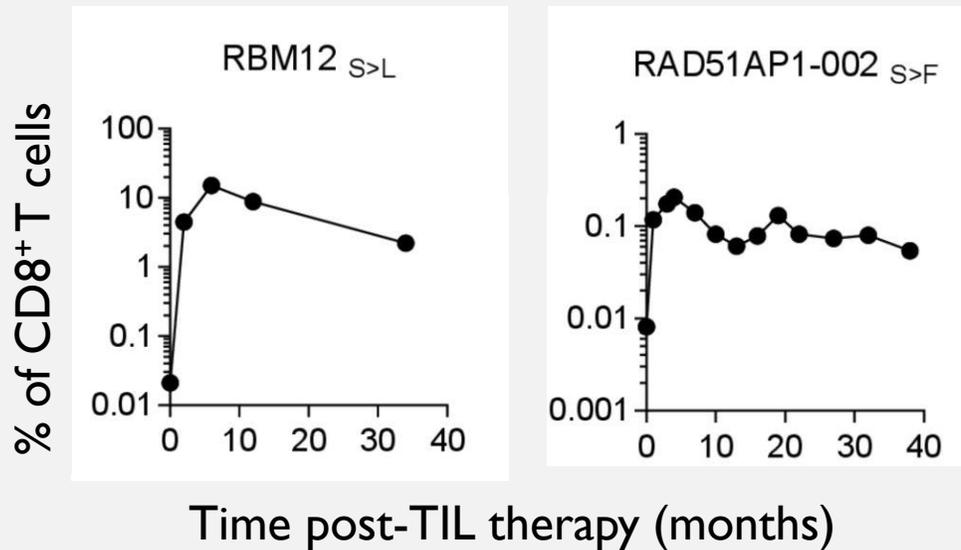


TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT THE T CELLS THEMSELVES



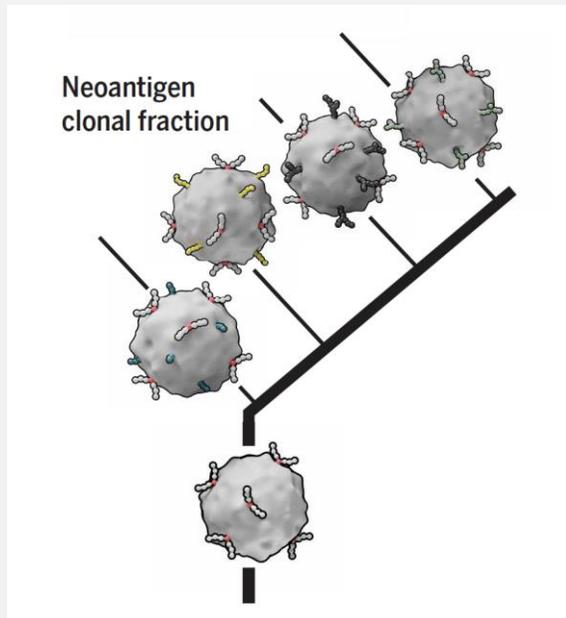
Many of the T cells are exhausted/dysfunctional

TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT THE T CELLS THEMSELVES



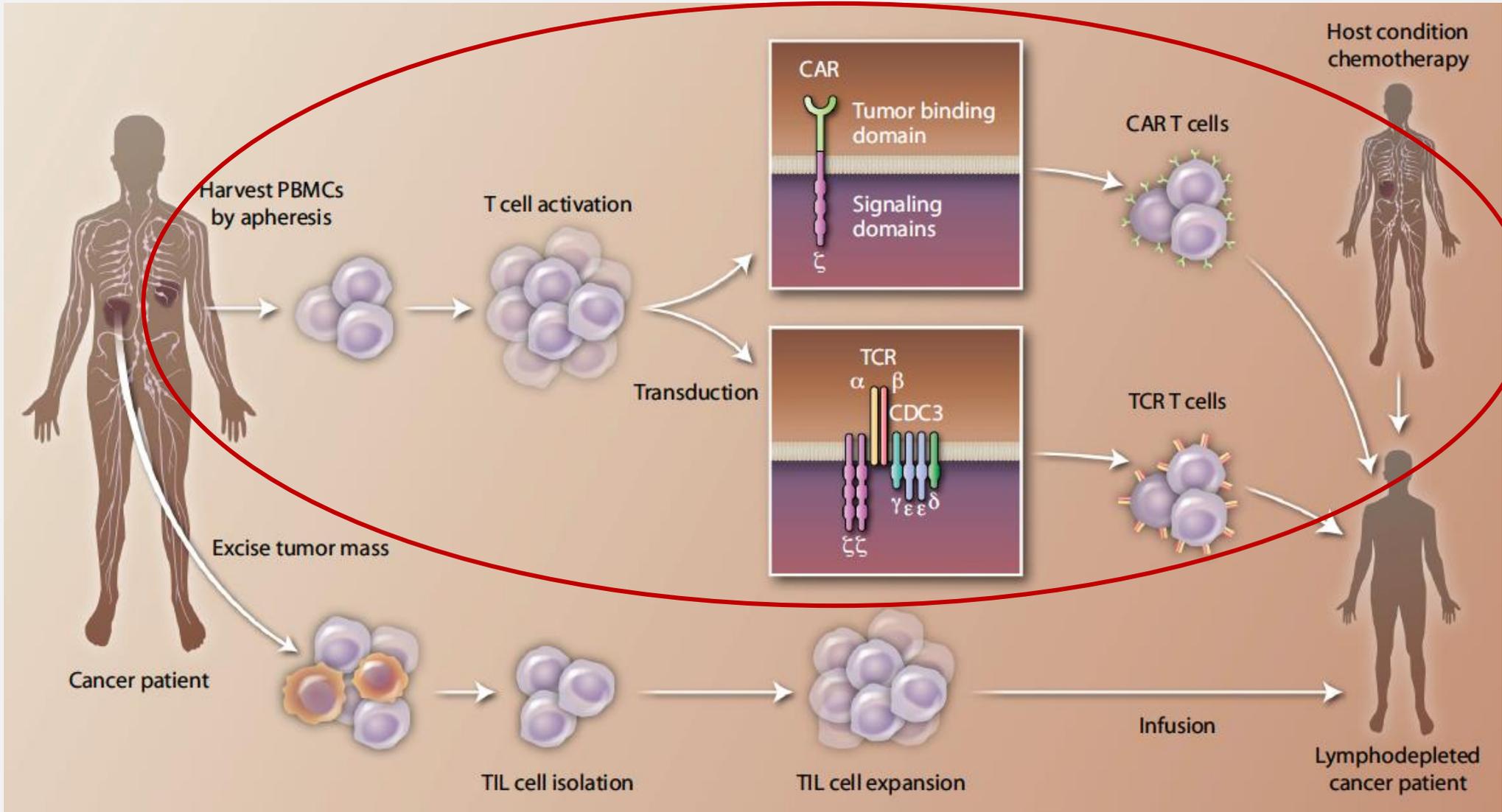
The frequency of neoantigen-specific T cells in TIL products is highly variable (Post TIL PB: <0.1% - >10%)

TIL THERAPY: AREAS OF POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT THE T CELLS THEMSELVES



& part of the T cell-recognized
neoantigens is subclonal

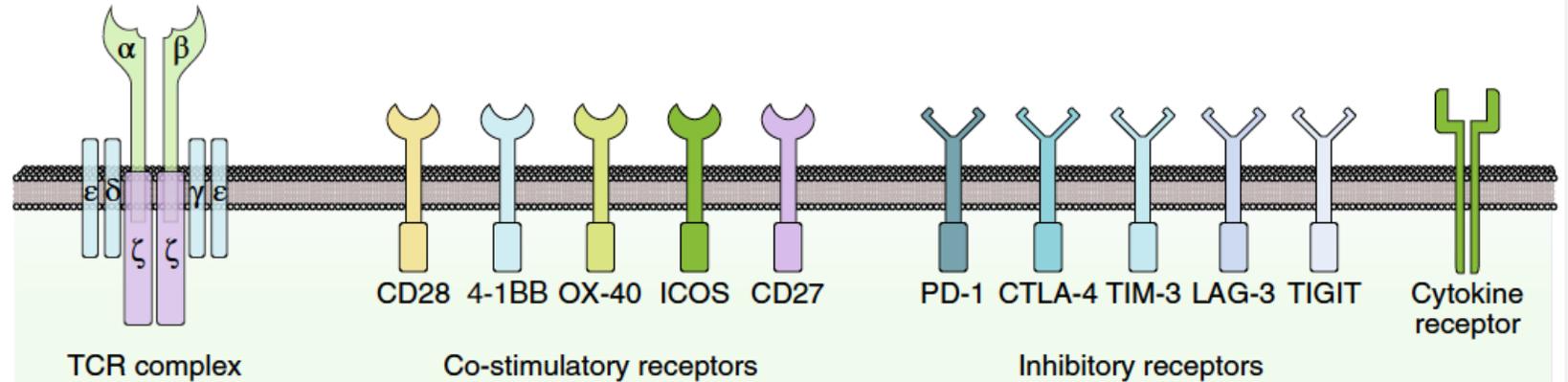
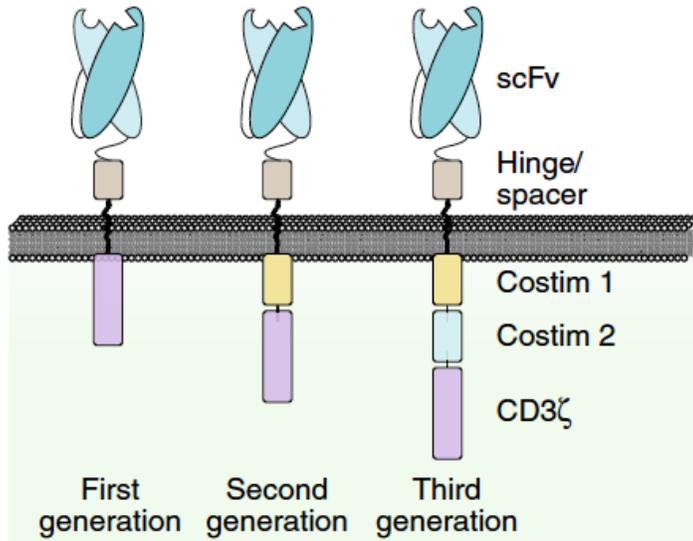
ADOPTIVE CELLULAR THERAPY PLATFORMS FOR SOLID CANCERS



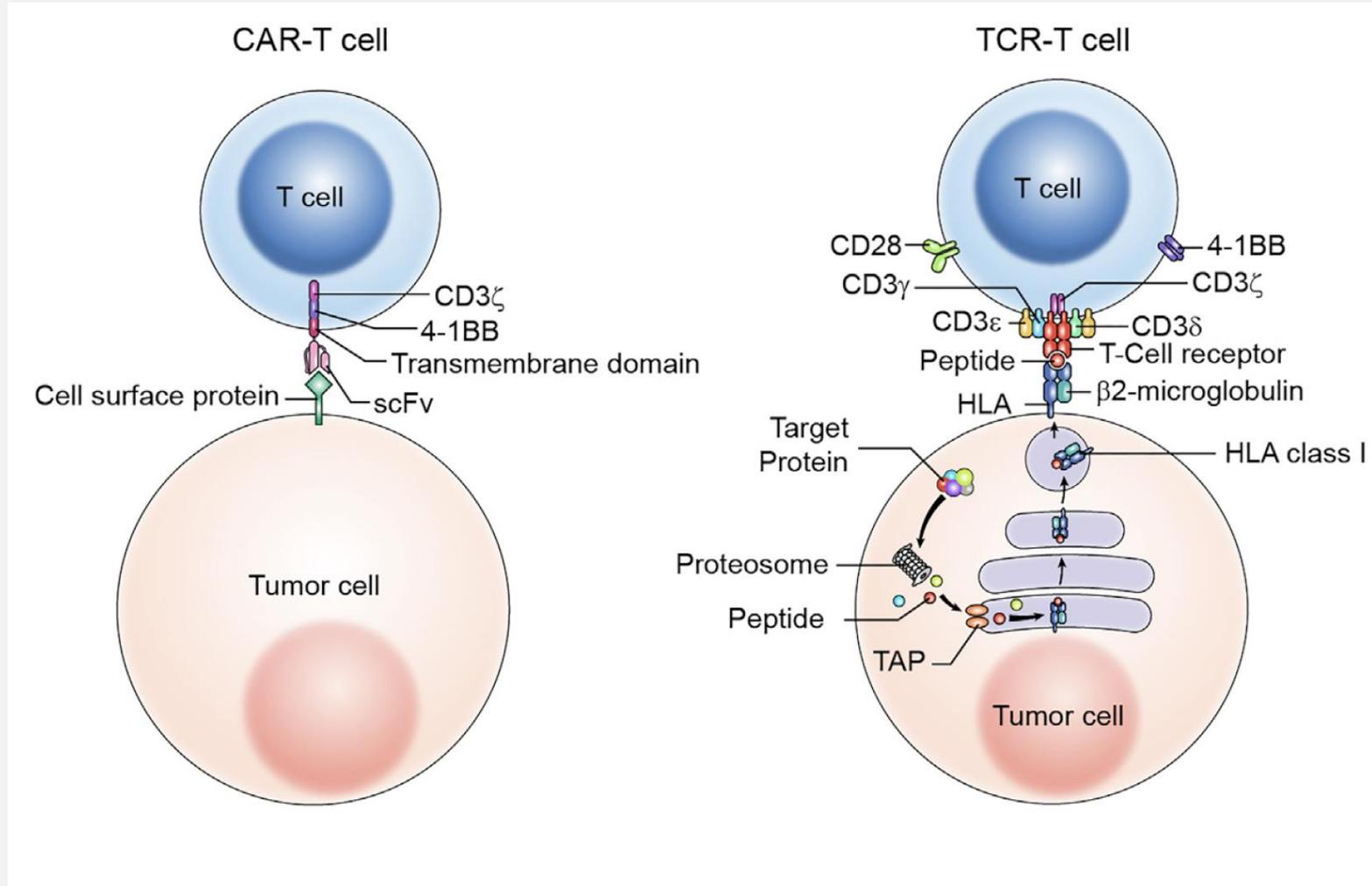
CAR VERSUS TCR

CAR

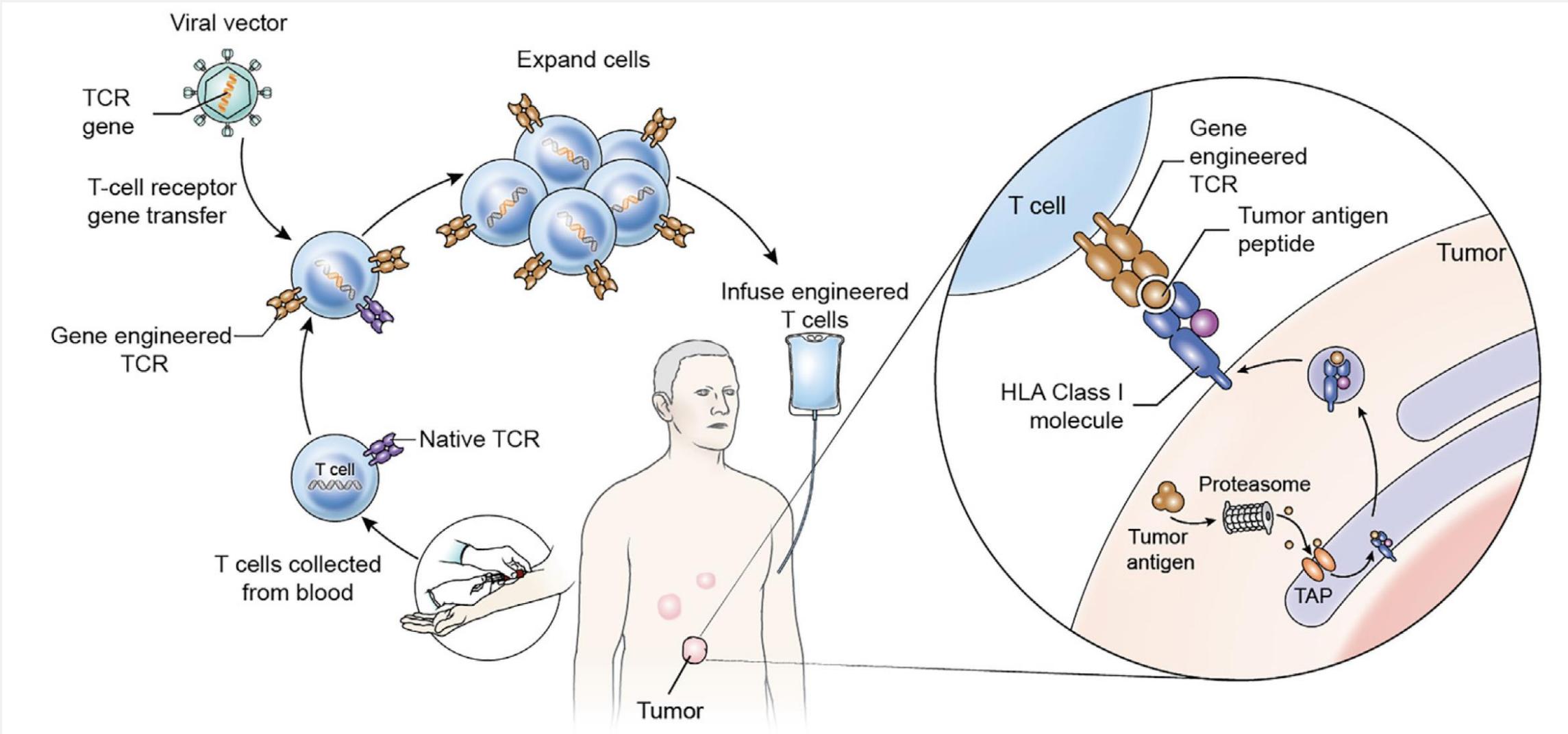
TCR



ANTIGEN RECOGNITION BY CAR-T AND TCR-T



T CELL RECEPTOR GENE-ENGINEERED T CELLS



TRIALS WITH ENGINEERED T CELLS DEMONSTRATING CLINICAL ACTIVITY IN SOLID CANCERS

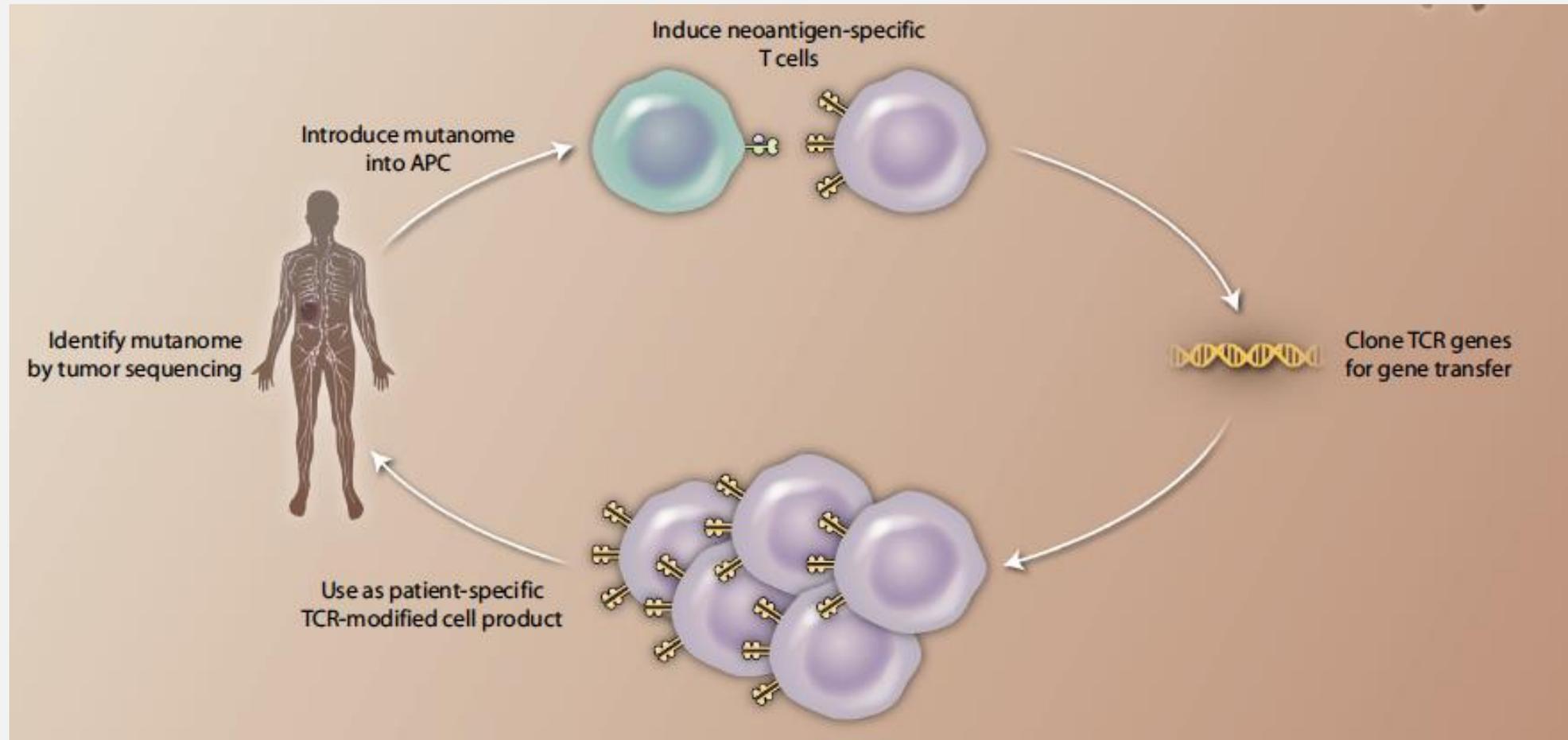
Antigen-targeting receptor	Conditioning regimen	Maximum cell dose	Transduction efficiency (median/range)	Systemic cytokine therapy	Tumor responses (responses/N)
MART1 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	107 × 10 ⁹	71	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	6/20
gp100 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	110 × 10 ⁹	82	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	3/16
NY-ESO-1 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	130 × 10 ⁹	78, 62 ^b	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	22/38
NY-ESO-1 TCR	cyclophosphamide 1,800 mg/m ² × 2 days fludarabine 30 mg/m ² × 4 days	14 × 10 ⁹	N/A ^c	none	6/12
NY-ESO-1 TCR	cyclophosphamide 600–1,800 mg/m ² × 2–3 days fludarabine 30 mg/m ² × 3–4 days	N/A ^c	N/A ^c	none	9/30
MAGE-A3 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	120 × 10 ⁹	90	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	4/17
MAGE-A3/A9/A12 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	79 × 10 ⁹	85	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	5/9
E6 TCR	cyclophosphamide 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	134 × 10 ⁹	60	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	2/12
E7 TCR	cyclophosphamide 30 or 60 mg/kg × 2 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 5 days	120 × 10 ⁹	96	aldesleukin 720,000 IU/kg q8hrs	6/12
CLDN18.2 CAR ¹⁰	cyclophosphamide 250 mg/m ² × 3 days fludarabine 25 mg/m ² × 2 days Nab-paclitaxel 100 mg or gemcitabine 1,000 mg × 1 day	5 × 10 ⁸	N/A ^c	none	18/37

^aClinical trials with ≥2 objective responses by RECIST criteria.

^bCD8⁺ and CD4⁺ T cells, respectively.

^cNot available.

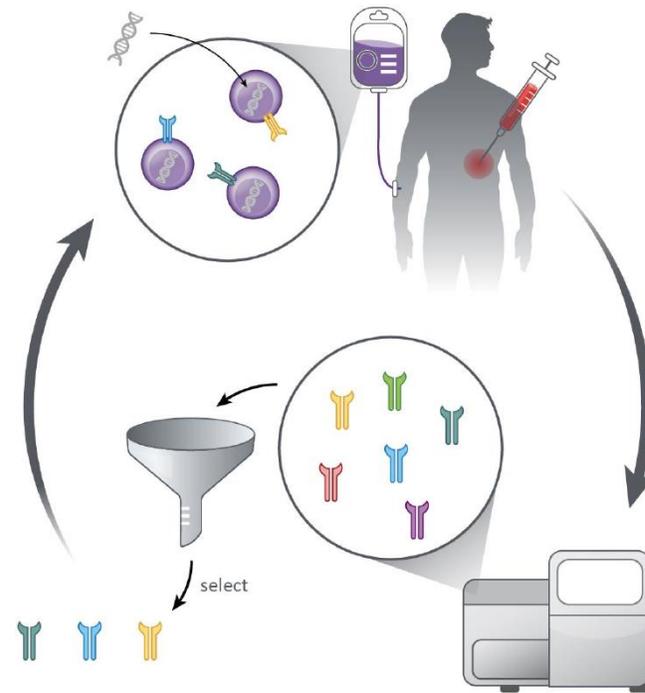
GENERATION OF NEOANTIGEN-SPECIFIC TCR GENE THERAPY



FROM TIL THERAPY TO AUTOLOGOUS TCR THERAPY?

Multi-specific, individualized TCR therapies

Use TCRs to generate multi-specific TCR-T cells

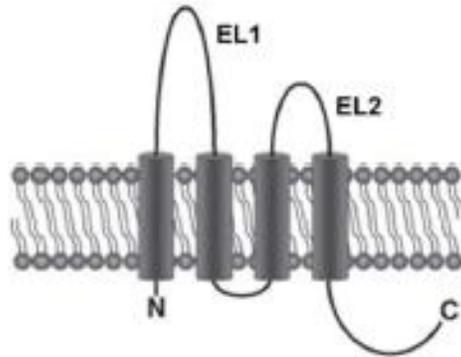


Isolate TIL

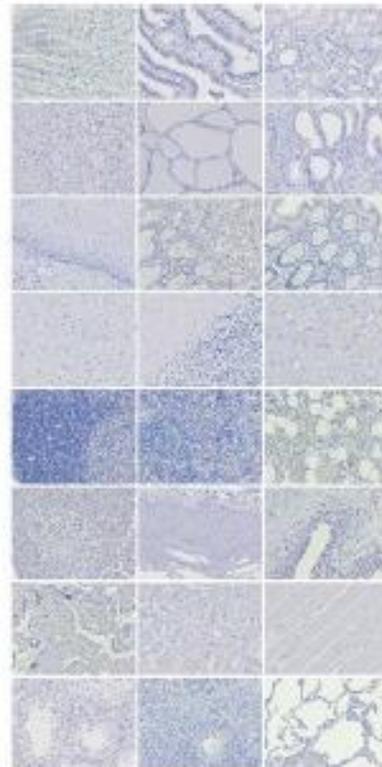
Identify neo-antigen reactive TCRs

CLAUDIN-6 (CLDN6) IS AN IDEAL TARGET FOR CAR-T CELL THERAPY

Targetable extracellular loops (EL)



Absent in healthy tissue

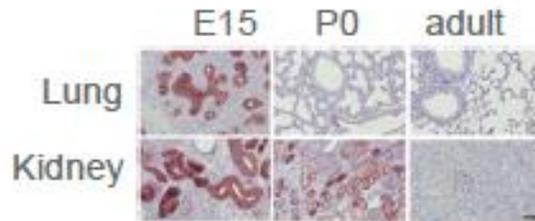


Expressed in various cancers



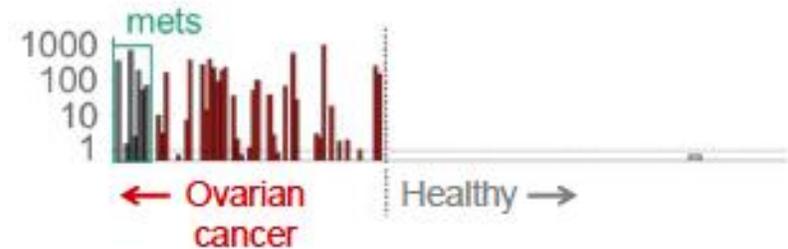
Indication	% CLDN6 ⁺
Testicular cancer	93
Ovarian cancer	56
Endometrial cancer	23
Lung cancer	11
Rare tumors	Up to 30

Silenced during organogenesis



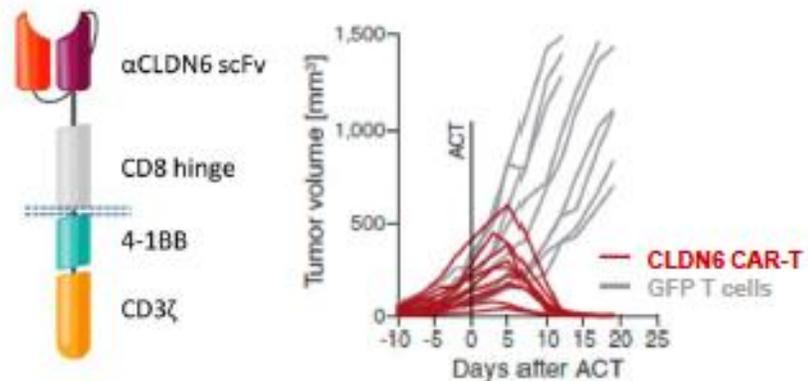
E15 = Embryonic week 15; P0 = at birth.
Reinhard, Rengstl, Oehm et al. Science 2020

Correlation with disease progression

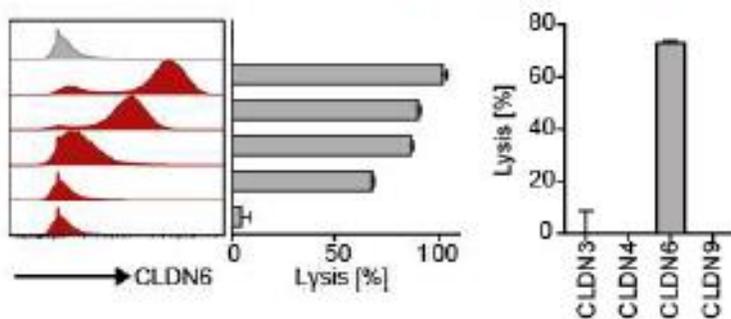


CO-DEVELOPMENT OF A CLDN6 CAR AND CARVAC

Potent 2nd generation CAR

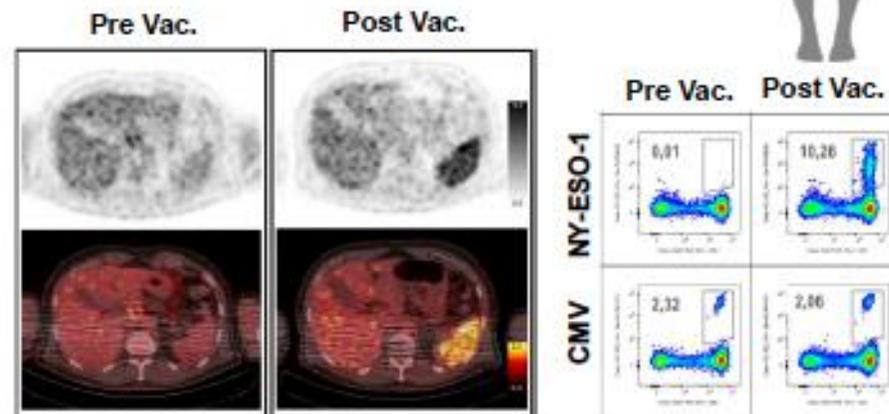
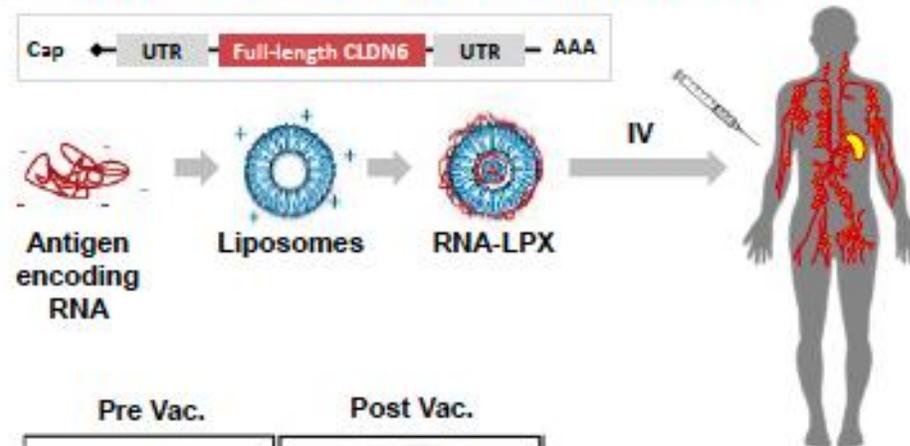


High sensitivity & specificity



4 Reinhard, Rengstl, Oehm et al. Science 2020

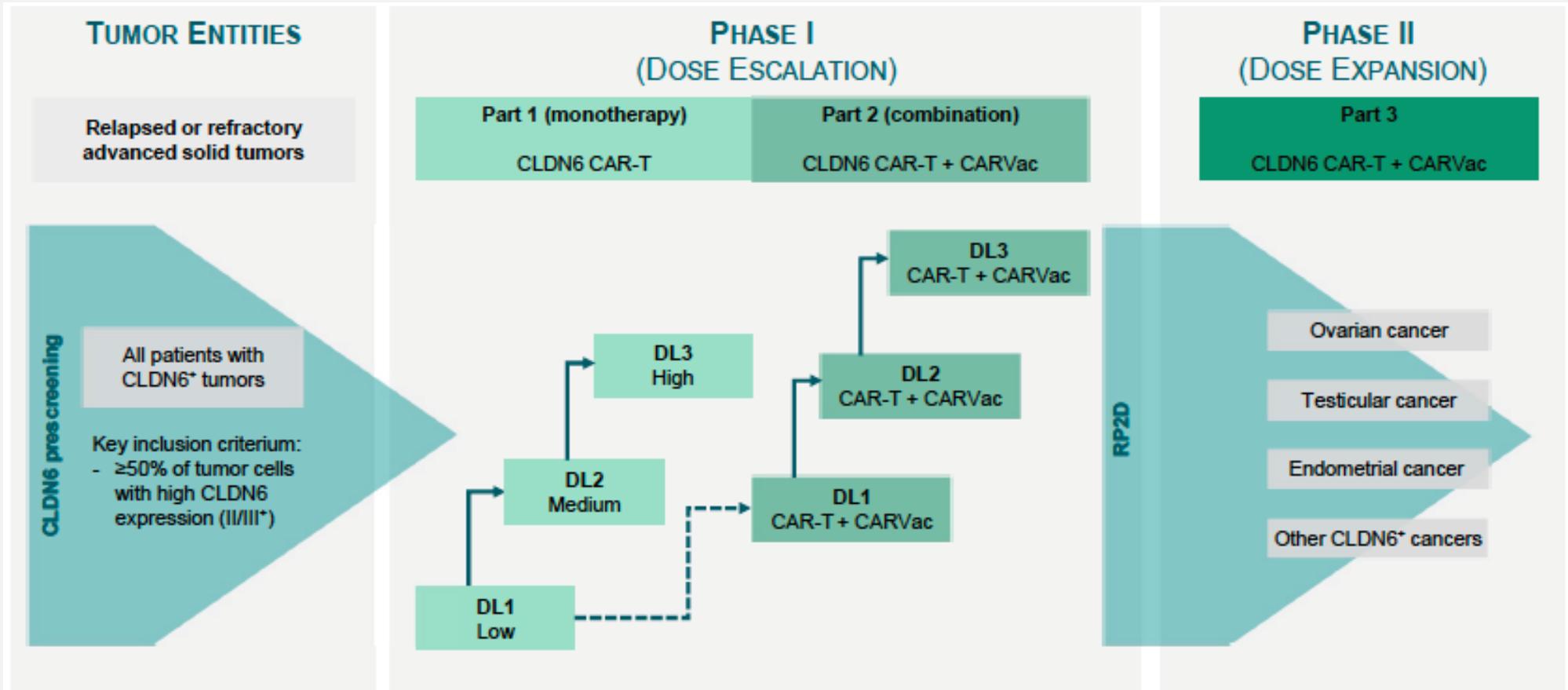
RNA Lipoplexes (LPX) targeting APCs



Kranz et al. Nature 2016, Sahin et al. Nature 2020

BIONTECH

DESIGN OF PHASE I TRIAL: 3 + 3 DOSE ESCALATION WITH BIFURCATION



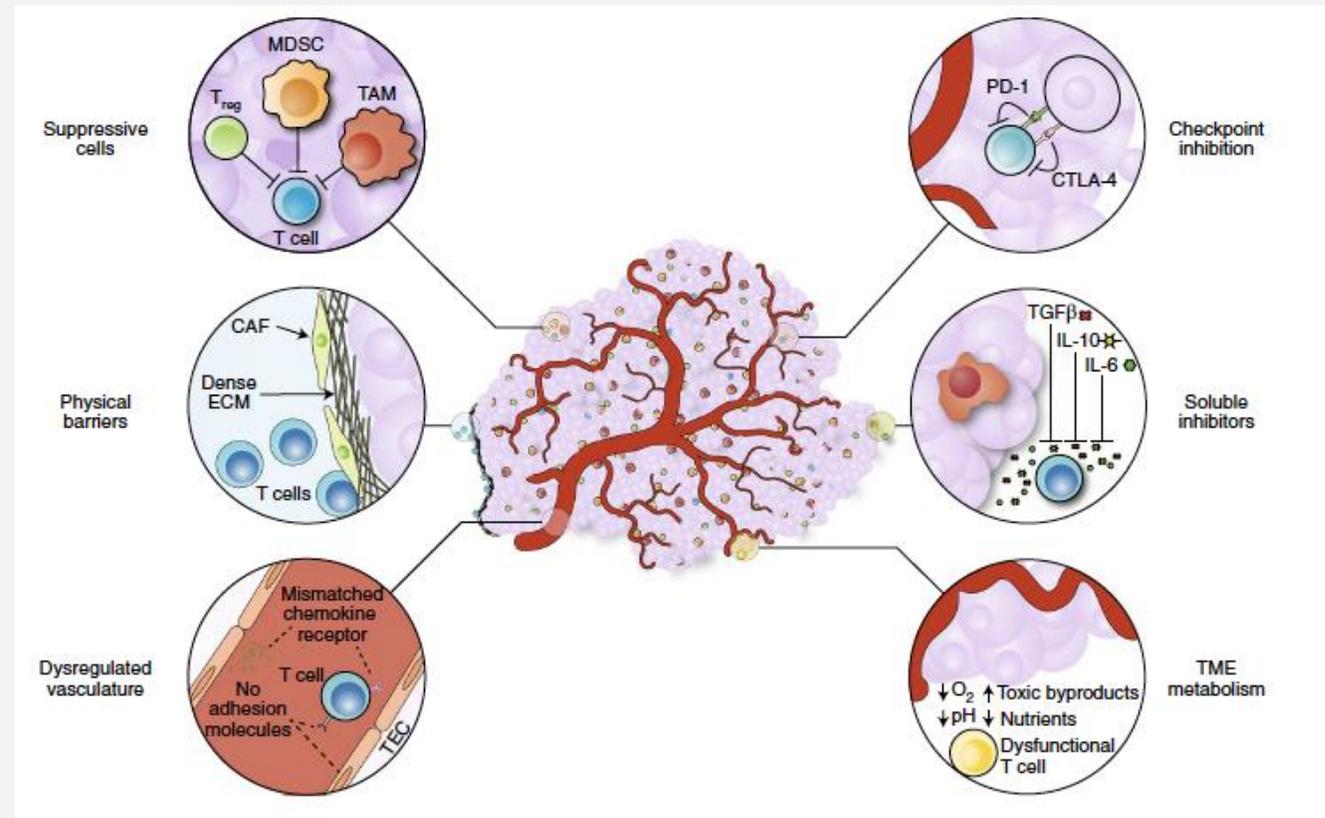
6 DL = dose level; RP2D = recommended Phase 2 dose

TAKE HOME MESSAGES

- There is growing interest (both pharma and academia) for adoptive cell therapy of solid cancers
- Currently, data from TIL treatment (melanoma, cervical cancer, NSCLC) are most mature and convincing. Targeting more than one antigen may be important.
- For solid cancers, no cell therapy has been approved yet
- TCR and CAR gene therapy is upcoming and early efficacy data hold promise
- It is likely that for solid cancers, cell therapy requires combination with other agents (ICB, vaccines) to maximize efficacy

OVERCOMING HURDLES OF ACT IN SOLID TUMORS

- Hostile TME
- Persistence of cells
- Lack of infiltration
- Development of exhaustion



THANK YOU!