

# Immuntherapien und zielgerichtete Therapien beim schlecht-differenzierten und anaplastischen Schilddrüsenkarzinom

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**JAHRESTAGUNG**

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und Schweizerischen Gesellschaften für  
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**2023**  
13.-16. Okt.

 **Hamburg**

# DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

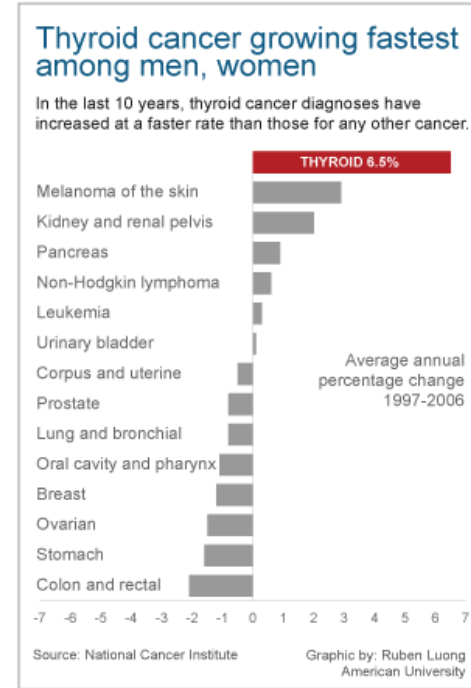
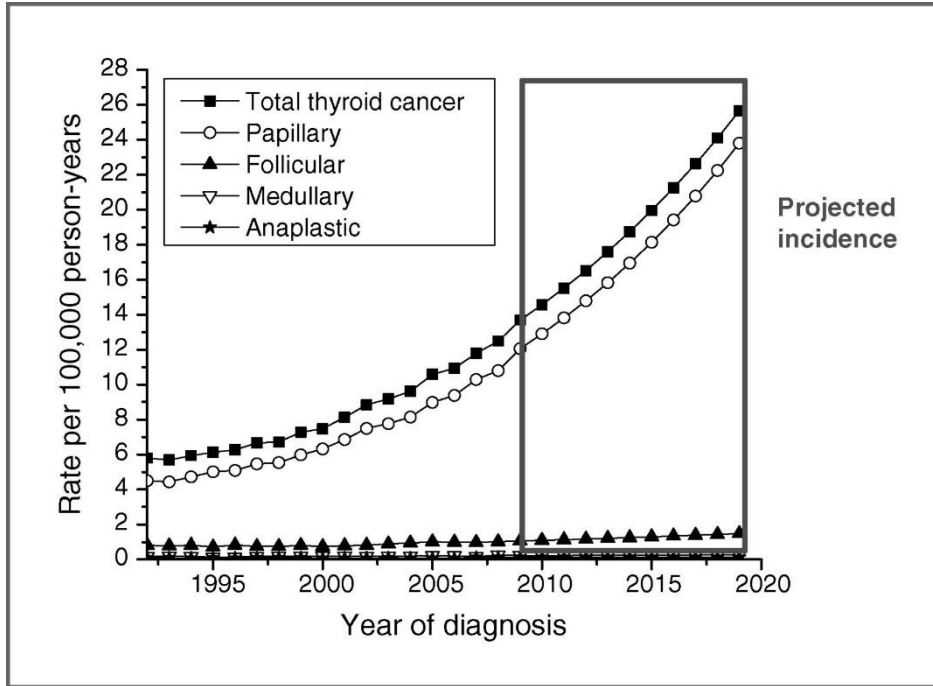
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Advisory Board: Eisai, Janssen, Roche



# Erhöhte Inzidenz von Schilddrüsen-Karzinomen in Europa, USA und weltweit (15/100.000)



# Schilddrüsen-Karzinom Subtypen

Type	%	age	spread	prognosis	10-year survival
Papillary	60-70	20-40	lymphatic	Excellent	74 - 93 %
Follicular	20-25	40-50	blood stream	Good	43 - 94 %
Poorly differentiated	1-3	Elderly	aggressive local, LN	poor	5-9 %
Anaplastic	1-3	>65		very poor	1-3 %
Medullary (C-cells)	10	elderly, but familial cases occur		variable, more aggressive in familial cases	65%

# Molekulare Progression

Altered gene	Papillary thyroid carcinoma	Follicular thyroid carcinoma	Poorly differentiated thyroid carcinoma	Anaplastic thyroid carcinoma
RET/PTC	20%	0	0	0
TP53	0	0	20–30%	65–70%
BRAF	45%	0	15%	20–25%
RAS	10–15%	45%	30–35%	50–55%
β-Catenin	0	0	20–25%	65%
PAX8:PPAR	0	35%	0	0

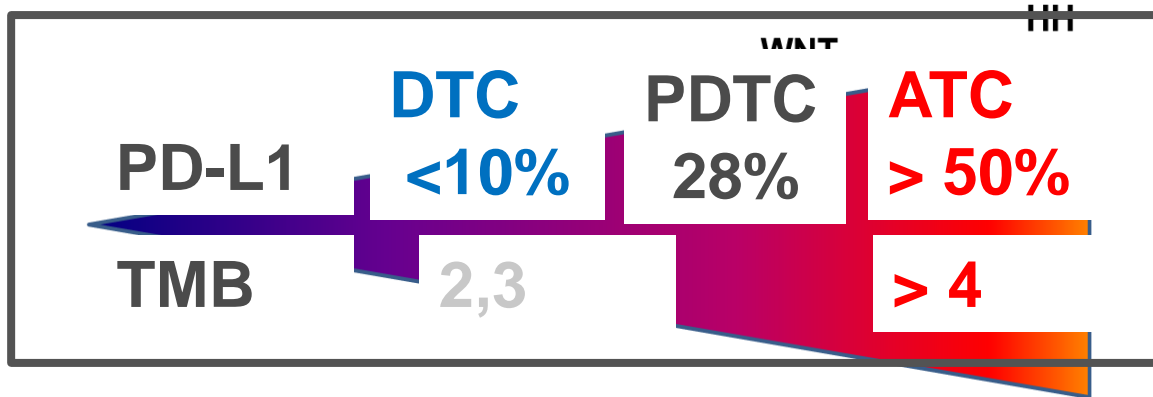
oft > 100 somatische Mutationen

Reddy et al., 2015

# Eine Zunahme der Mutationslast ist assoziiert mit einer höheren PD-L1 Expression

Differentiated → Anaplastic

mouse models with consecutive addition of further mutations



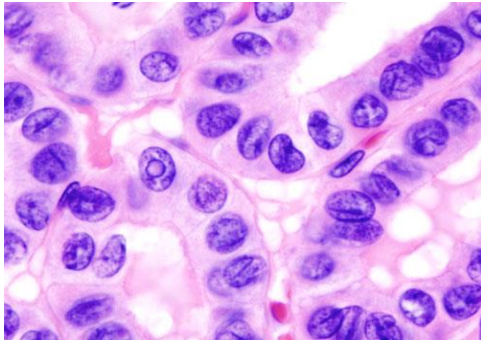
**Biomarkers for treatment response to checkpoint inhibitors:**

PD-L1 Expression and TMB (Tumor Mutation Burden)

39 PD-L1 low → PD-L1 high

# Schlecht-differenzierte Schilddrüsen-Karzinome (PDTC) entstehen fast immer aus einem differenziertem SD-CA

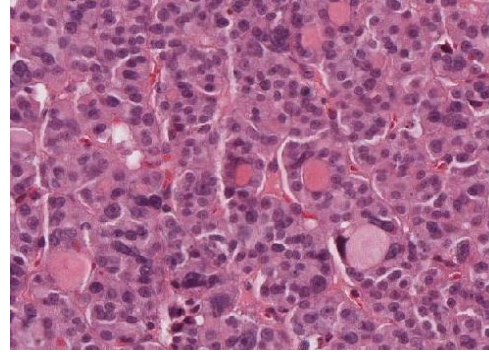
## Papillary thyroid carcinoma



50% **B-RAF** mutations  
10-20% **RET/PTC**-rearrangements  
10% **NTRK1/3**-rearrangement

targetable with **inhibitors**

## Follicular thyroid carcinoma

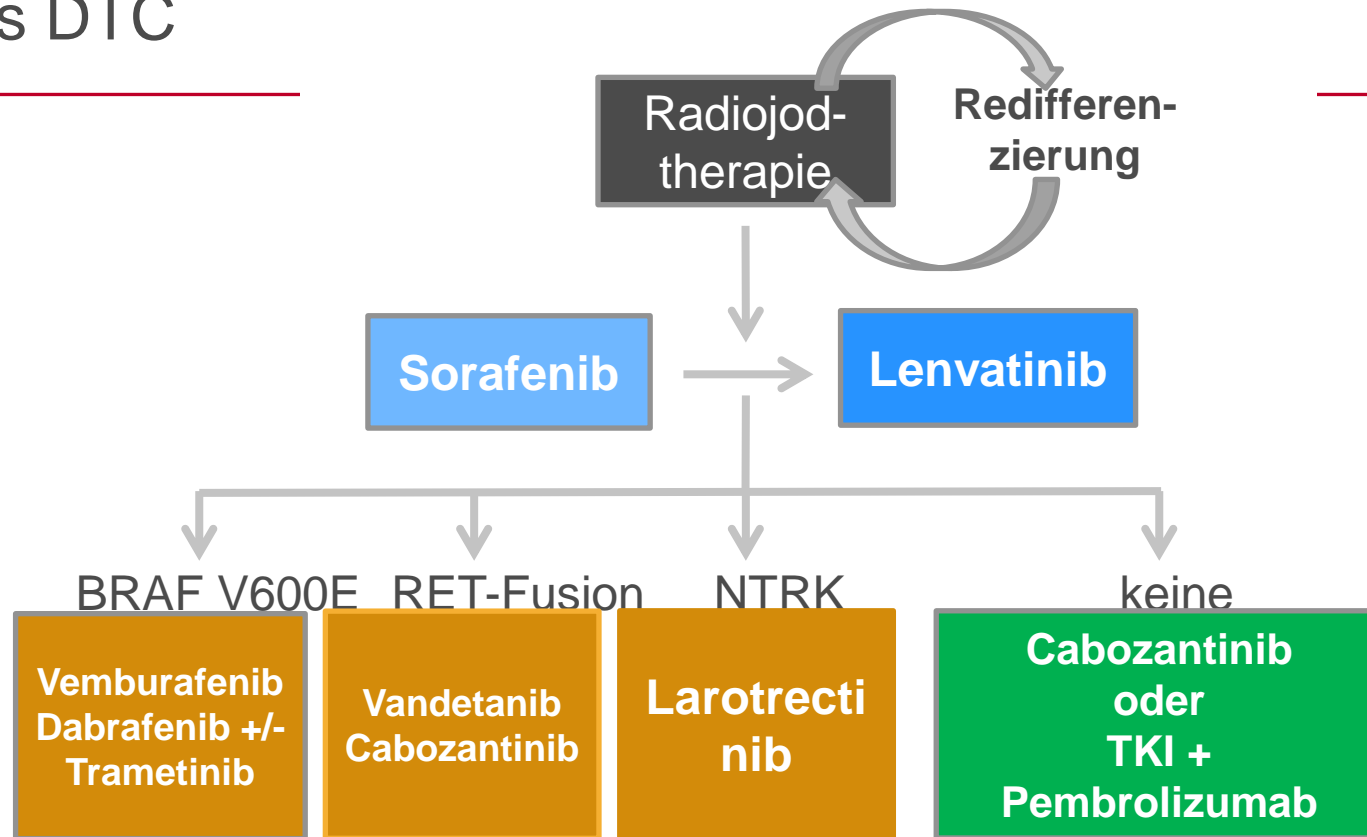


**50% RAS mutations**  
PAX8-rearrangements  
FOXO3a mutations  
PIK3CA-amplifications

**no targetable genetic lesions**

**Und tragen deren Treibermutationen als potentielle Treatment Targets**

# Systemtherapie des PDTC entspricht primär der eines DTC





# Systemtherapie Anaplastisches Schilddrüsenkarzinom

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1. Chemotherapie
2. Targeted Therapies: **BRAF** Inhibitoren
3. Andere Targets: **NTRK, RET, EGFR**
4. Immun- Kinase-Inhibitor-Kombination

# Therapieoption 1: Chemotherapie

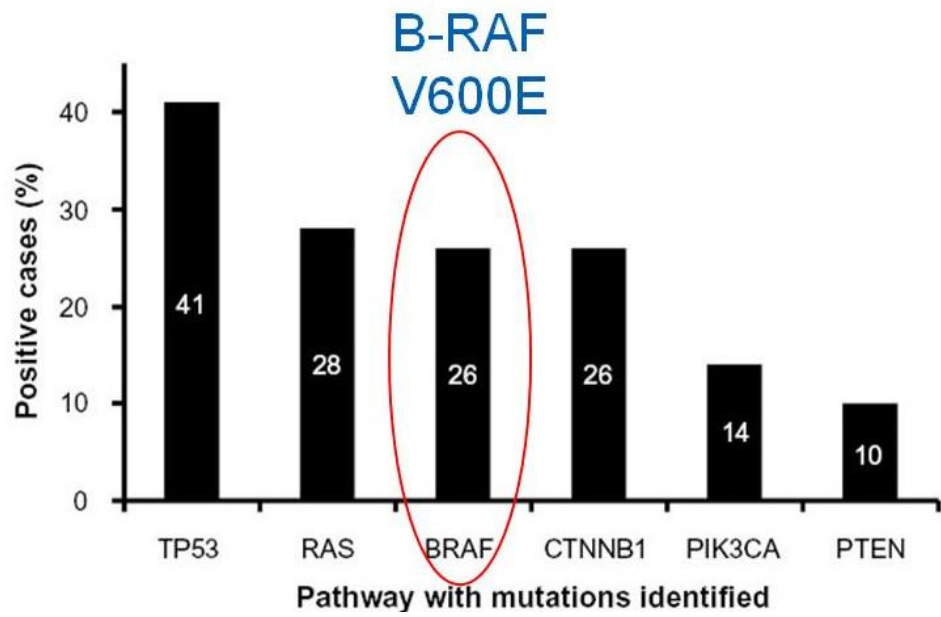
Doxorubicin:                    ORR    24%  
   PFS    3,4 Monate

Doxorubicin/Cisplatin:      ORR    28%  
   PFS    5 Monate

Carboplatin/Taxol:            ORR    27%  
   PFS    4,5 Monate

- ältere unfitte Patienten eher Doxo oder Taxol mono
- fitte Patienten Carboplatin/Taxol

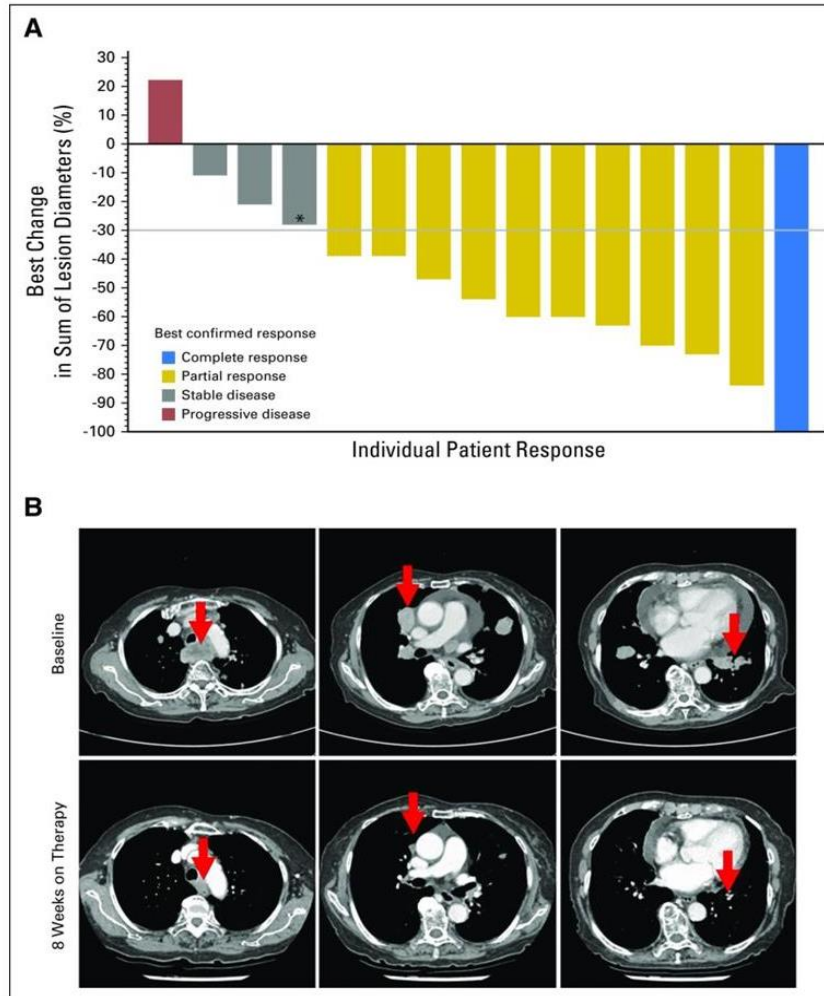
# Therapieoption 2: Molekulare Targets



# Dabrafenib + Trametinib

n = 16 patients  
Dabrafenib 150 mg 1-0-1  
Trametinib 2 mg 1-0-0

Subbiah et al., 2018



# Dabrafenib+Trametinib in BRAF V600E mutiertem ATC

**Table 2.** Best Overall Response to Therapy in Anaplastic Thyroid Cancer

Radiology Review Type	Intent-to-Treat (n = 16)		BRAF V600E Centrally Confirmed Patient Population (n = 15)	
	Investigator	Independent	Investigator	Independent
Best response*				
Complete response	1 (6)	0	1 (7)	0
Partial response	10 (63)	10 (63)	10 (67)	10 (67)
Stable disease	3 (19)	3 (19)	2 (13)	2 (13)
Progressive disease	2 (13)	3 (19)	2 (13)	3 (20)
Not evaluable	0	0	0	0
Overall response rate [95% CI]†	11 (69) [41.3 to 89.0]	10 (63) [35.4 to 84.8]	11 (73) [44.9 to 92.2]	10 (67) [38.4 to 88.2]

NOTE. Data are given as No. (%) unless otherwise noted.

Abbreviation: BRAF, B-Raf kinase.

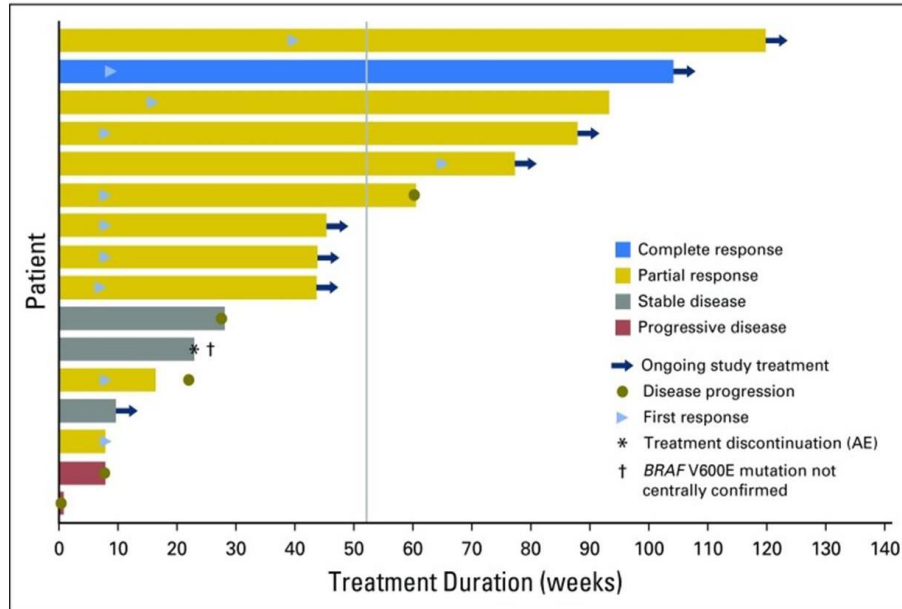
\*Investigator and independent assessment per RECIST v1.1.<sup>16</sup>

†Complete response plus partial response. CIs were estimated by using the exact Clopper-Pearson method.

**ORR 69% (1 CR, 10 PR)**

Subbiah et al., 2018

# Dabrafenib+Trametinib mit PFS 14m

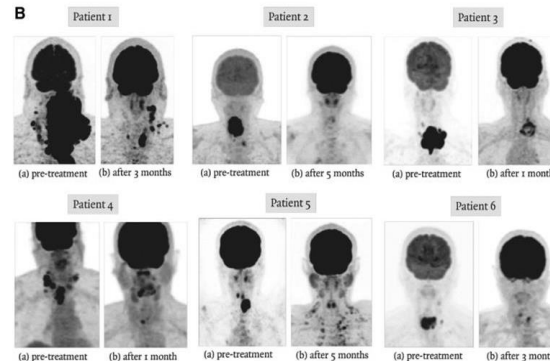
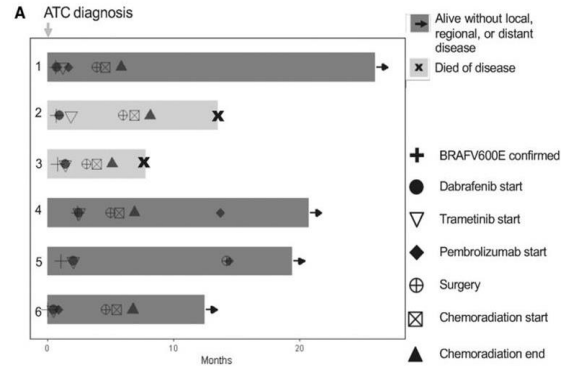


**PFS 14 Monate**

Subbiah et al., 2018

# Neoadjuvante Ansätze mit Dabrafenib + Trametinib in BRAF-mutierten ATC Patienten

n = 6 patients with unresectable tumor  
 neoadjuvant treatment with D/T followed by resection



Wang et al., 2019

# Weitere molekulare Targets in ATC

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- 1. RET-Fusionen:** Selpercatinib, 2 Pt Libretto Trial
- 2. NTRK Fusionen:** Larotrectinib/Entrectinib
- 3. EGFR Mutationen:** Erlotinib, Gefitinib, ...
- 4. MET-Mutationen:** Crizotinib, Cabozantinib



# PDTC/ATC: Entwicklungen aus dem Molekularen Tumorboard

## Tumor properties

- **highly proliferative** (constitutive kinase activation)
- **increased neoangiogenesis** (VEGF/FGFR-sig.)
- **high mutation frequency** (TMB )
- **high PD-L1 expression** (10 - 90% TPS)

### Lenvatinib

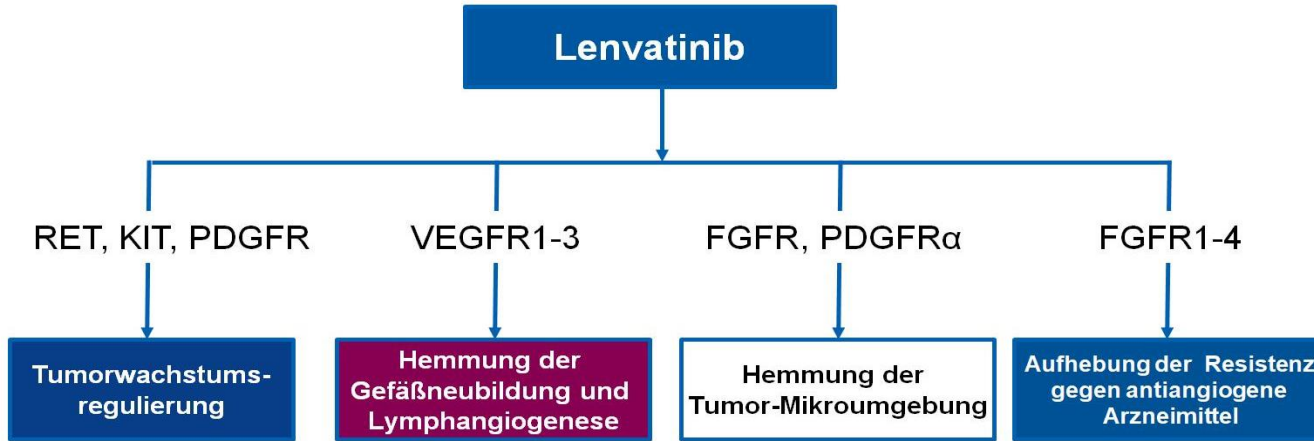
(blocks proliferation and VEGFR/FGFR signaling)

+

### Pembrolizumab

(immune checkpoint inhibitor)

# Lenvatinib: Wirkprinzip



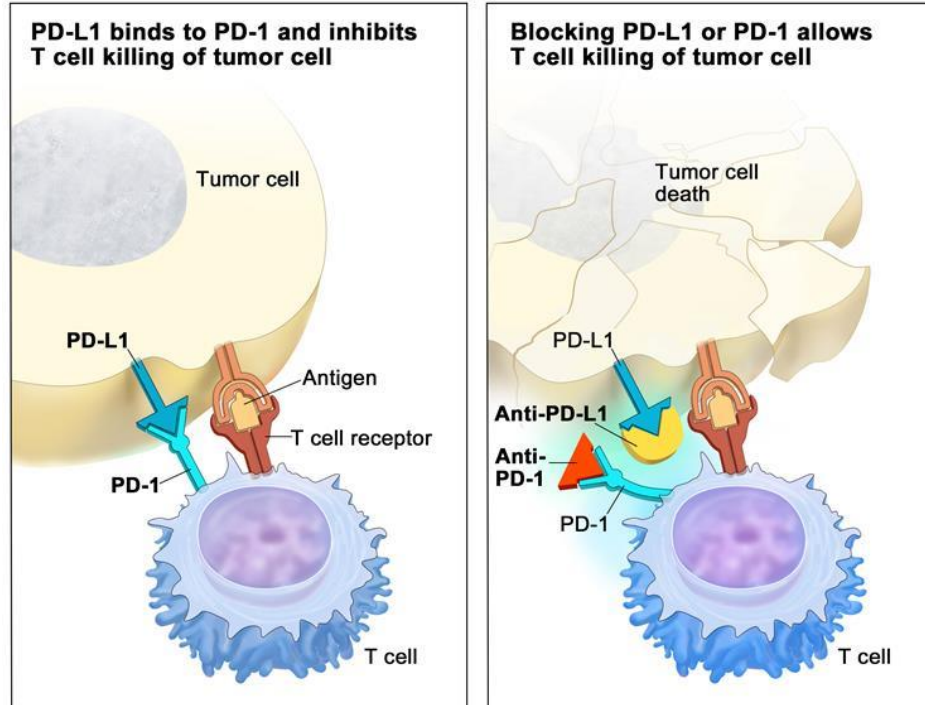
FGFR: Rezeptor des Fibroblasten-Wachstumsfaktors;  
PDGFR: Rezeptor des thrombozytären Wachstumsfaktors  
VEGFR: Rezeptor des vaskulären endothelialen Wachstumsfaktors  
RET: Rezeptor-Tyrosinkinase “rearranged during transfection”  
KIT: Stammzellfaktor-Rezeptor (SCFR, CD117)

Divergent results on lenvatinib monotherapy in ATC:

- neg. results in international trial (Wirth et al., 2021) ORR 3%
- pos. results with ORR 39 % in Japanese trial (Tahara et al., 2019)

Stjepanovic N, et al. *Biologics*. 2014;8:129-139.

# Immun-Checkpoint-Inhibition



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Biomarkers for response: PD-L1  
Expression und Mutationslast

**Spartalizumab 400 mg  
Every 4 Weeks  
(N = 42)**

# Spartalizumab beim ATC



Characteristic	
Central pathology review	
ATC	38 (90.5)
Other	2 (4.8)
Missing	2 (4.8)
Age, years, median (range)	62.5 (46-83)
Sex, male	23 (54.8)
ECOG PS	
0	17 (40.5)
1	25 (59.5)
Prior treatment regimens	
0	17 (40.5)
1	20 (47.6)
≥ 2	5 (11.9)
Prior radiation	
Yes	30 (71.4)
Prior thyroidectomy and/or neck dissection	
Yes	28 (66.7)
Metastatic sites at study entry	
Lung	35 (83.3)
Lymph node	20 (47.6)
Bone	5 (11.9)
Liver	3 (7.1)
<i>BRAF</i> V600 mutation by Cobas 4800	
Mutant	12 (28.6)
Nonmutant	26 (61.9)
Missing	4 (9.5)

	n = 42	%
ORR	8	19 %
CR	3	7 %
PR	5	12 %
SD	5	12 %
PD	25	69 %
DCR (> 6 mo)	11	31 %

Capdevila et al., JCO 2020

# Spartalizumab beim ATC

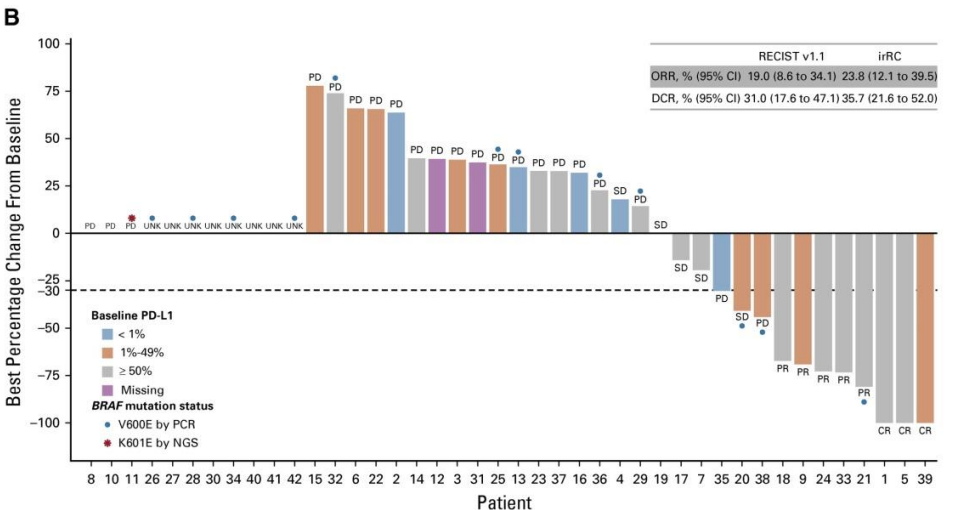
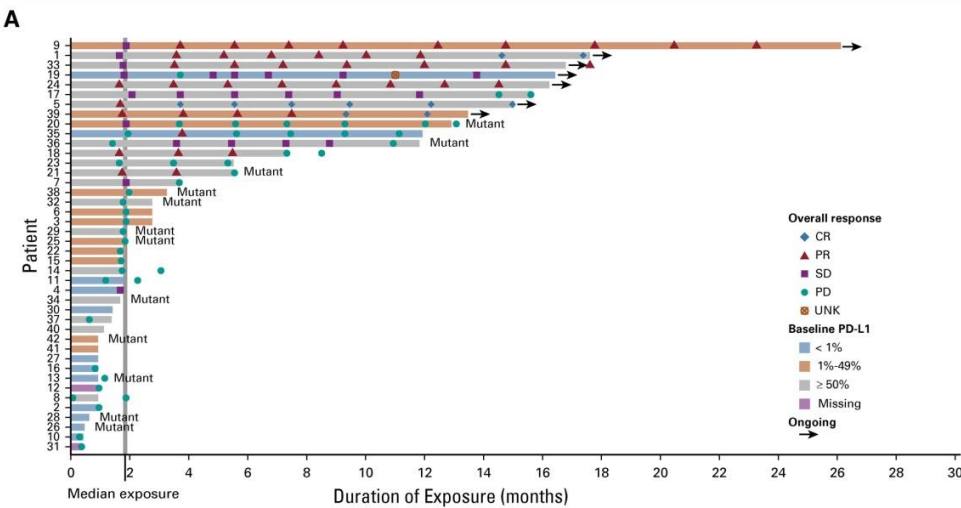


PFS 1.7 mo

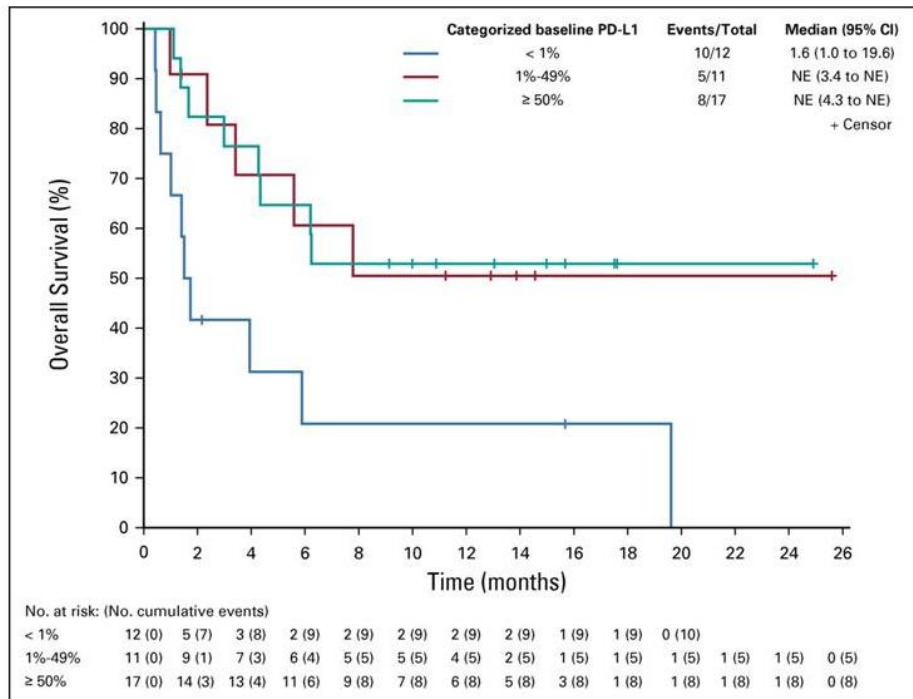
PFS rate at 1 year 17%

DCR 31%

Capdevila et al., JCO 2020



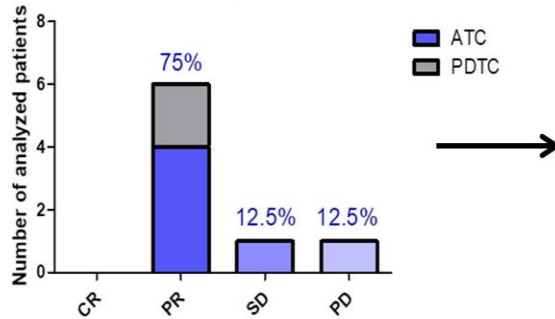
# Spartalizumab: Response korreliert Mit PD-L1 Expression im ATC



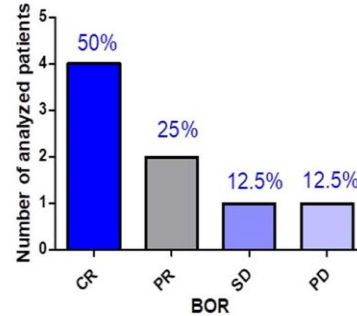
Capdevila et al., JCO 2020

# Individuelle Heilversuche mit Lenvatinib und Pembrolizumab

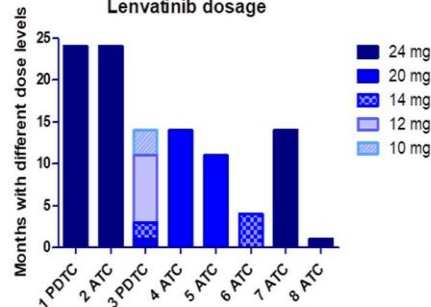
ORR after 3 to 4 months of treatment



BOR within 16 months of treatment

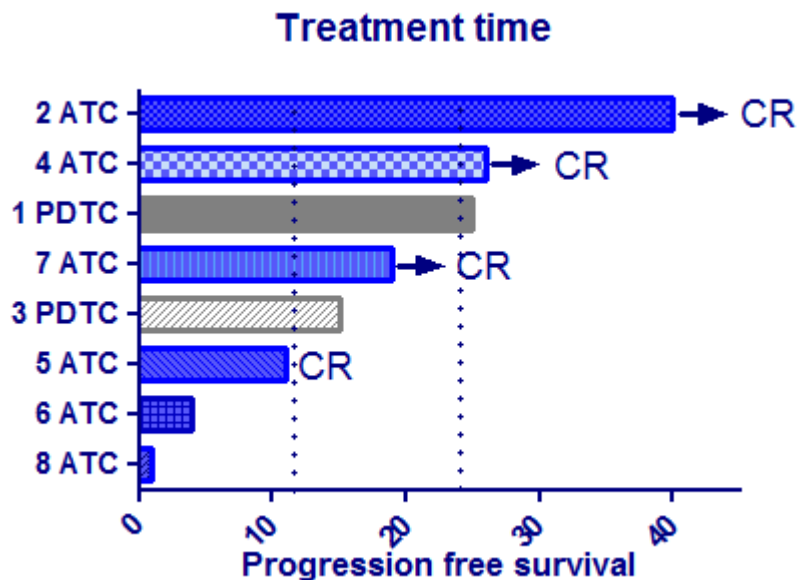


Lenvatinib dosage



ESMO 2018/2020  
 Dierks et al., Thyroid 2020

# Ansprechen auf Lenvatinib und Pembrolizumab in ATC/PDTC



Gesamt: PFS 17.75 mo, OS 18.5 mo  
 ATCs: PFS 16.5 mo, OS 17.5 mo

PD-L1 and TMB predict treatment response

OS ATC only

Entity	BOR	PD-L1 in %	CPS	Somatic mutations	TMB (mutations/MB)
PDTC 1	PR	50	40	106	13.79
ATC 2	CR	60	75	1447	81.87
PDTC 3	PR	10	10	79	4.08
ATC 4	CR	90	100	19	3
ATC 5	CR	80	100	29	3.3
ATC 6	SD	60	65	24	3.58
ATC 7	CR	5	7	138	5.59
ATC 8	PD	1	5	n.a.	n.a.

ESMO 2018/2020

Dierks et al., Thyroid 2020



# Erste Daten zu Lenvatinib und Pembrolizumab in ATC/PDTC zeigen gutes Ansprechen

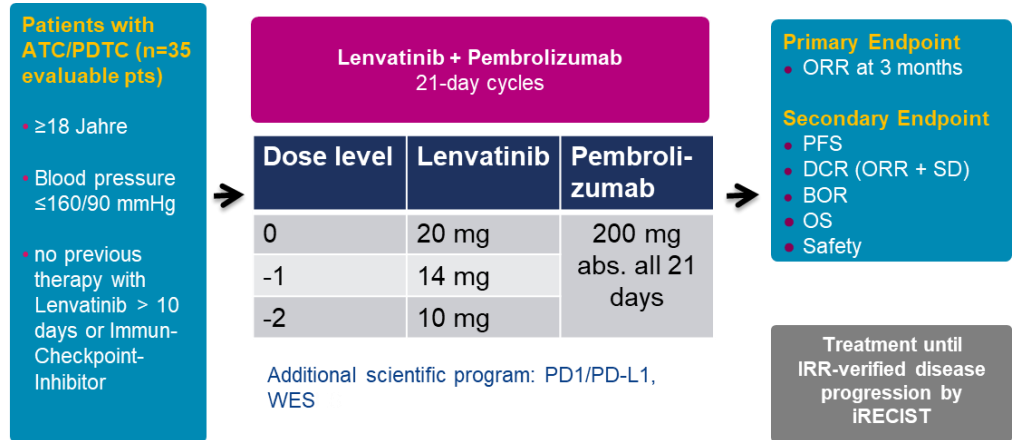
- PD-1 inhibitors are effective in ATC/PDTC with PD-L1 expression
- PD-1 inhibitors can be used in PD-L1-pos. PDTC
- The Lenvatinib/Pembrolizumab combination is effective in the majority of ATCs, but has more side effects than Checkpoint-inhibition alone

ATC	Spartalizumab ATC	Lenvatinib	Lenvatinib + Pembrolizumab
ORR	26 %	16-40 %	50 %
SD	5 %	40 %	50 %
PD	69 %	30-60 %	0 %
PFS	1,7 mo	2,5 - 6 mo	> 10 mo

# ATLEP trial: Phase II clinical trial with Lenvatinib/Pembrolizumab in patients with ATC/PDTC

- ATC a has very poor prognosis
- Multimodal therapy in ATC extends survival to 4-5 months
- Chemotherapy is effective in 10-20% of the pts
- 70% of ATC/PDTC pts have no targetable mutation/fusion
- Previous pilot study showed response to Lenvatinib/Pembrolizumab in 75% of PD-L1+ pts. (Dierks et al., Thyroid 2021)

ATLEP: Phase II monocentric trial in Freiburg (and Halle)



Additional scientific program: PD1/PD-L1, WES

Cooperation Centers: Diakoniekrankenhaus Stuttgart, LMU München, Würzburg, Klinikum Schwarzwald-Baar, Mainz, Münster, Magdeburg, Göttingen, Essen, Lübeck

=> included in the trial: 35/35 patients

# Patient characteristics

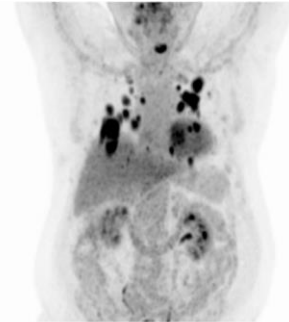
Median age at treatment start, years (range)	64	(39 - 82)
Gender, n (%)		
Men	21	(60 %)
Women	14	(40 %)
Performance status, n (%)		
ECOG 0	6	(17.1 %)
ECOG 1	23	(65.7 %)
ECOG 2	6	(17.1 %)
Pathological diagnosis, n (%)		
ATC	27	(77.1 %)
PDTC	8	(22.9 %)
Stage at treatment start, n (%)		
IVB (local relapse)	1	(2.9 %)
IVC (metastasized)	34	(97.1 %)
Previous therapy, n (%)		
Surgery	34	(97.1 %)
Cervical radiation therapy	28	(80 %)
Chemotherapy	28	(80 %)
Radioiodine therapy	7	(20.6 %)*

Patients with  
BRAF mutations  
excluded!

# ATLEP trial: primary endpoint 3 months ORR

Response after 3 months of treatment	Percentage	Patients
ORR (3 mo)	34.3 %	12/35
CR (3 mo)	0 %	0/35
PR (3 mo)	34.3 %	12/35
SD (3 mo)	60 %	21/35
PD (3 mo)	5.6 %	2/35

3 months



29.05.2019



16.09.2019

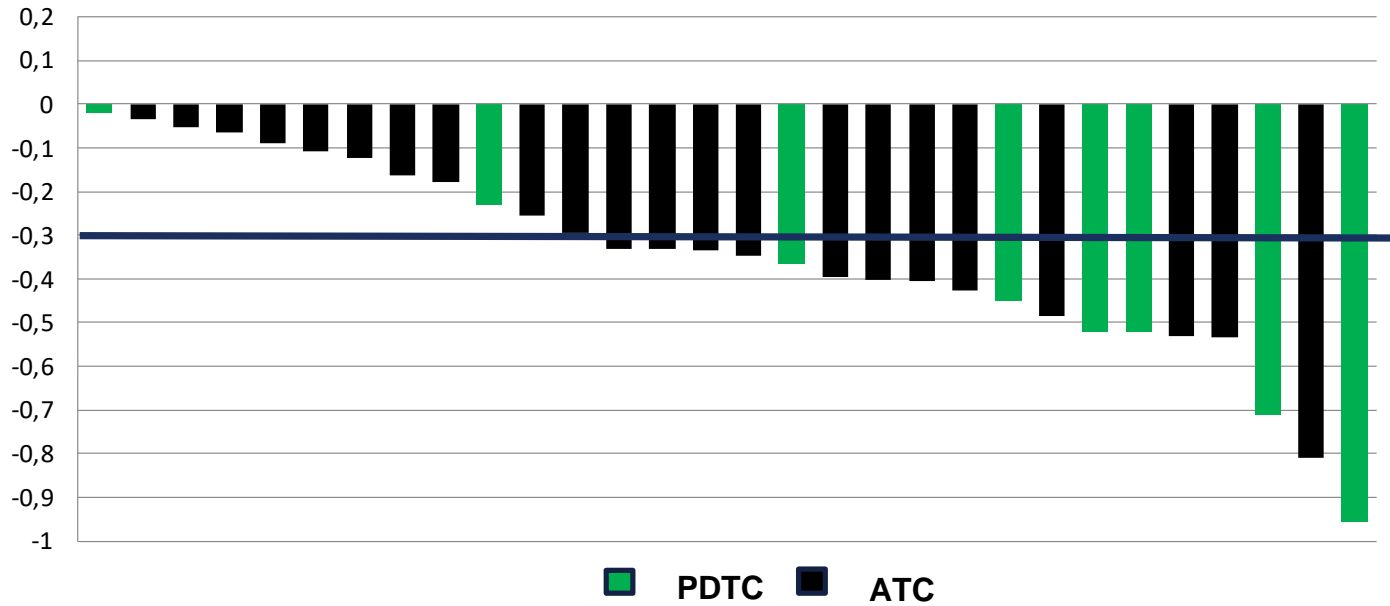
# ATLEP trial: BOR for Len/Pem in ATC and PDTC

BOR within 2 years	ATC %	ATC pts
CR	0%	0/27
PR	51.9 %	14/27
SD	48.1 %	13/27
PD	0 %	0/27
<b>ORR</b>	<b>51.9%</b>	14/27
CBR	100%	27/27

BOR within 2 years	PDTC %	PDTC pts
CR	0%	0/8
PR	75 %	6/8
SD	25 %	2/8
PD	0 %	0/8
<b>ORR</b>	<b>75 %</b>	6/8
CBR	100%	8/8

# ATLEP trial: Reduction in Tumor Size

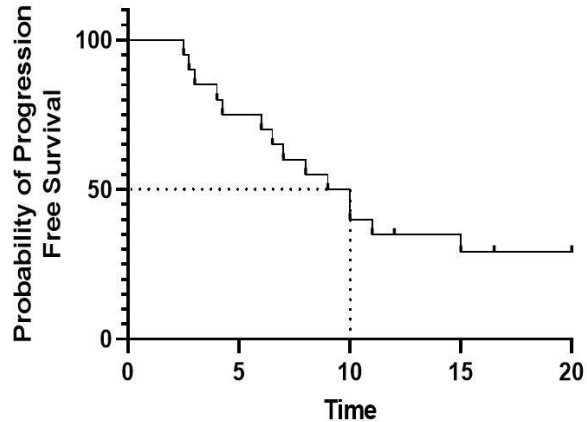
tumor reduction compared to baseline (n=32)



# ATLEP trial: PFS and OS in ATC pts

## PFS

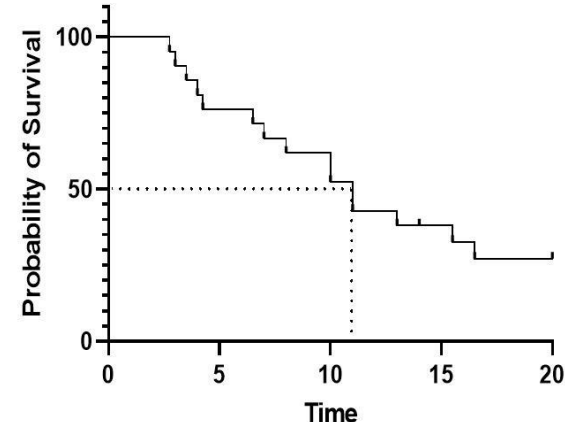
### PFS proportions: ATC pts



**Median PFS: 10 mo**  
**PFS 12 mo : 41.2 %**

## OS

### Survival proportions: ATC pts



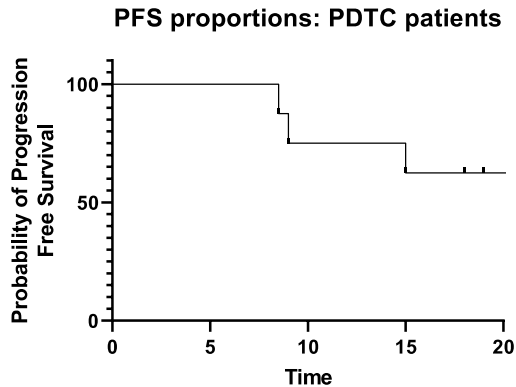
**Median OS: 11 mo**  
**OS 12 mo: 44 %**

25% of the patients have remissions longer than 20 months

# ATLEP trial: PFS and OS in PDTC pts

## PFS

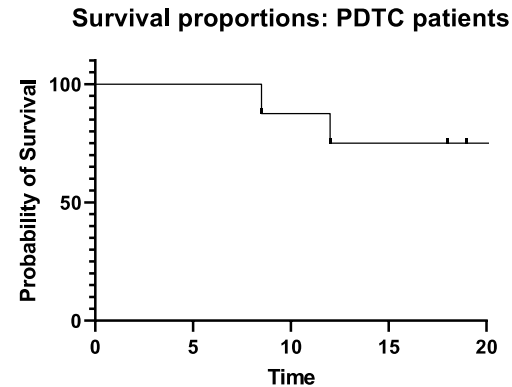
### PFS proportions: PDTC pts



**Median PFS > 20 mo**  
**PFS 12 mo : 75 %**

## OS

### Survival proportions: PDTC pts



**Median OS: not reached**  
**OS 12 mo: 75 %**



# ATLEP trial: Adverse events

CTCAE °II-IV most frequent hypertension (71.4 %), mucositis (74.2 %), hand-foot-syndrom (45.7 %)

AE	°III /IVAE
Fistula development	4 (11 %)
Arterial Hemorrhage	4 (11 %)
Sepsis	3 (8.3 %)
Pneumonia	1 (5.6 %)
Aspergillus pneumonia	4 (11 %)
Lung embolia	2 (5.6 %)
other thrombosis	3 (8.3 %)
Autoimmune hepatitis	2 (5.6 %)
Diarrhea	3 (8.3 %)
PRES	1 (2.8 %)

Prophylactic treatments:

Ampho-moronal 3 x daily  
Cotrim 3 x weekly  
Aciclovir 200 mg daily

# ATLEP trial: Conclusion

1. The Lenvatinib/Pembrolizumab combination is effective in ATC and PDTC pts.
2. The **primary endpoint** of the trial was reached (ORR at 3 months > 30%).
3. **Len/Pem improves ORR (52 %), CBR (100%), median PFS (10 mo) and OS (11 mo) in ATC compared to historic controls, and 25% have long-term responses over 2 years.**
4. ATC-specific **serious adverse events**: aspergillus pneumonia, fistulas and bleeding complications, but also general side effects of immunotherapy.
5. **Biomarkers**: Current data shows no correlation of PD-L1 status with OS and PFS, subanalysis and RNAseq/WES is ongoing.



# Thanks to our patients and their relatives, and to all involved scientists and physicians

## Main collaboration centers

### Oncology

**Dr. C. Miething**

Dr. K. Shoumariyeh

### Endocrine Surgery

**Prof. O. Thomsch**

Dr. Jänigen

### Nuclear Medicine

**Prof. J. Ruf**

Dr. C. Klein

Prof. P. Meyer

### Endocrinology

Prof. Seufert

Dr. Laubner

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### LMU München

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**Prof. Kroiss**

### Uniklinik Magdeburg

**Prof. M. Kreissl**

### Uniklinik Lübeck

**Prof. von Bubnoff**

### Uniklinik Würzburg

**Prof. Fasnacht**



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Prof. M. Binder

### Endocrine Surgery

**Prof. K. Lorenz**

Dr. Fick, Dr. Fischer

Düsseldorf, Göttingen,  
Villingen-Schwenningen,  
Hamburg, Mainz, Frankfurt,  
Jena

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