




# IMMUNOTHERAPY IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER

SIMON ABI AAD, MD

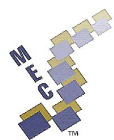




**SIMON ABI AAD, MD**  
**IMMUNOTHERAPY IN HEAD AND NECK CANCER**

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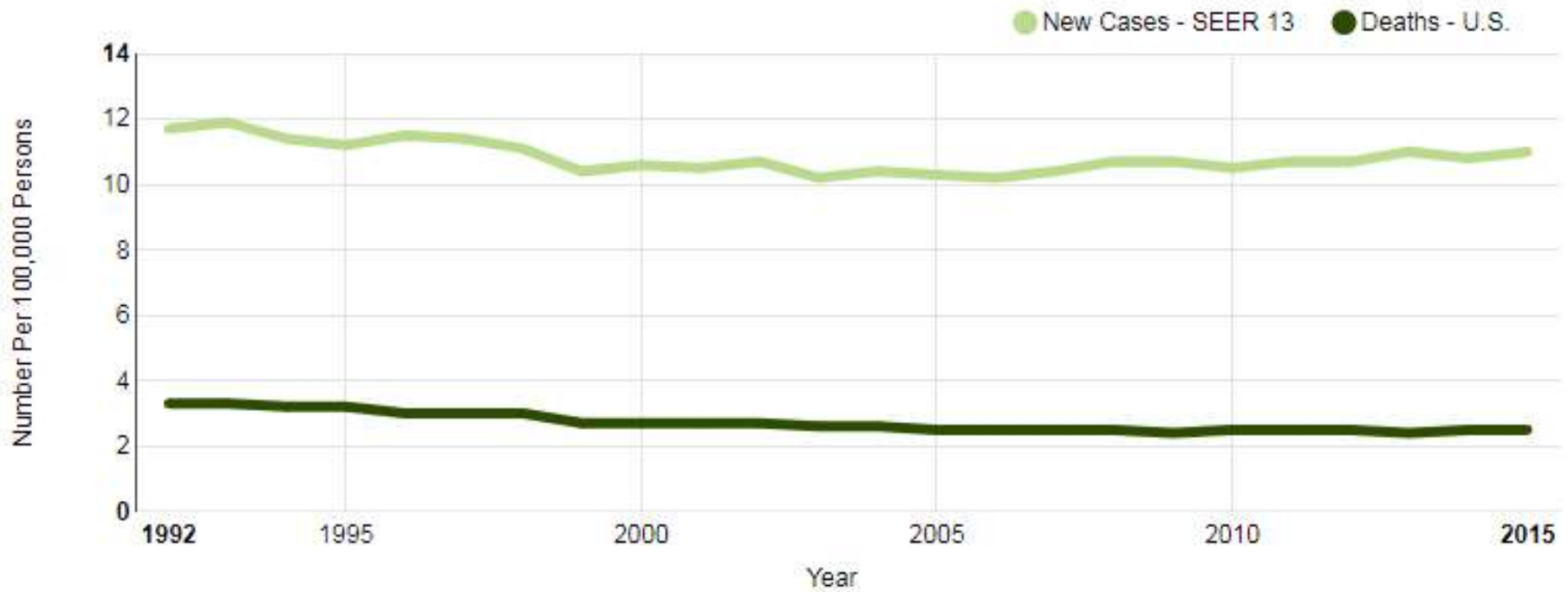


The Medical Educator Consortium

**Miami Cancer Meeting 2019**

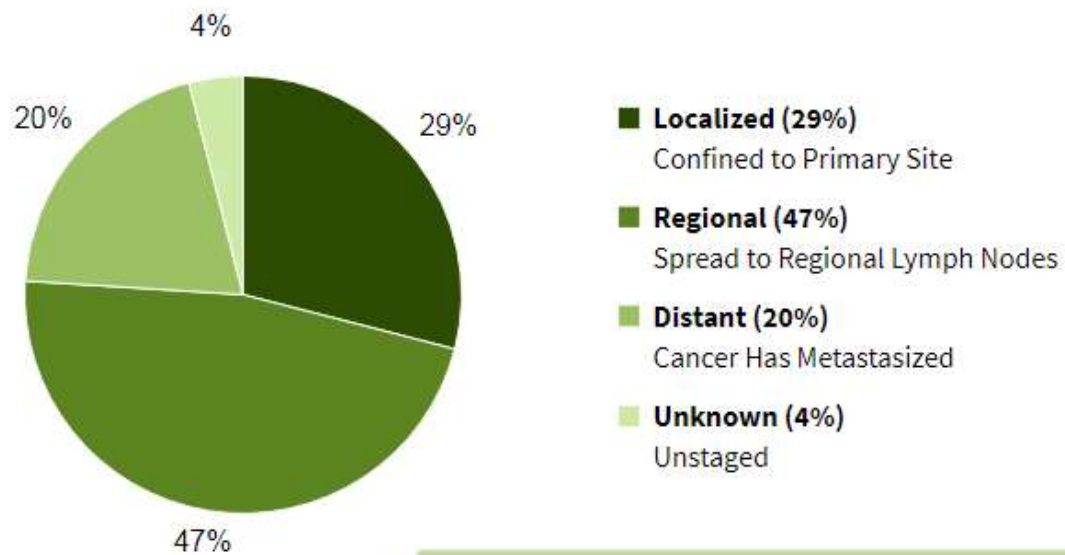


## Some Statistics



## Some Statistics

Percent of Cases by Stage



Estimated New Cases in 2018

51,540

% of All New Cancer Cases

3.0%

Estimated Deaths in 2018

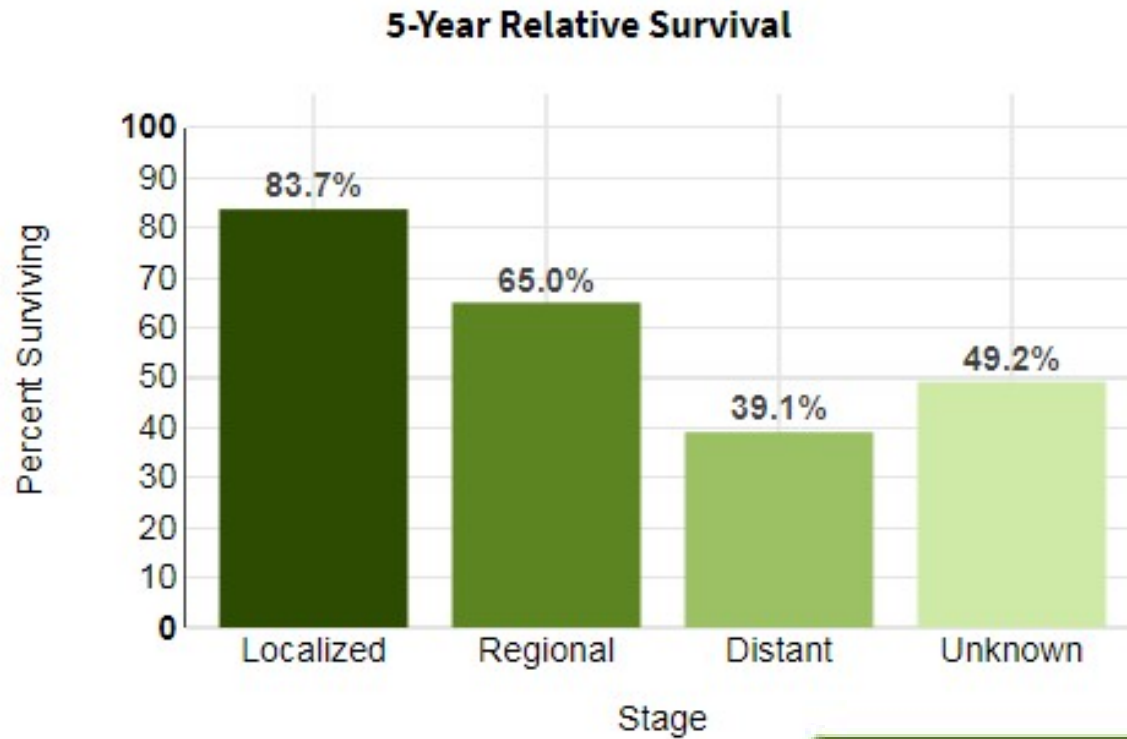
10,030

% of All Cancer Deaths

1.6%



## Some Statistics

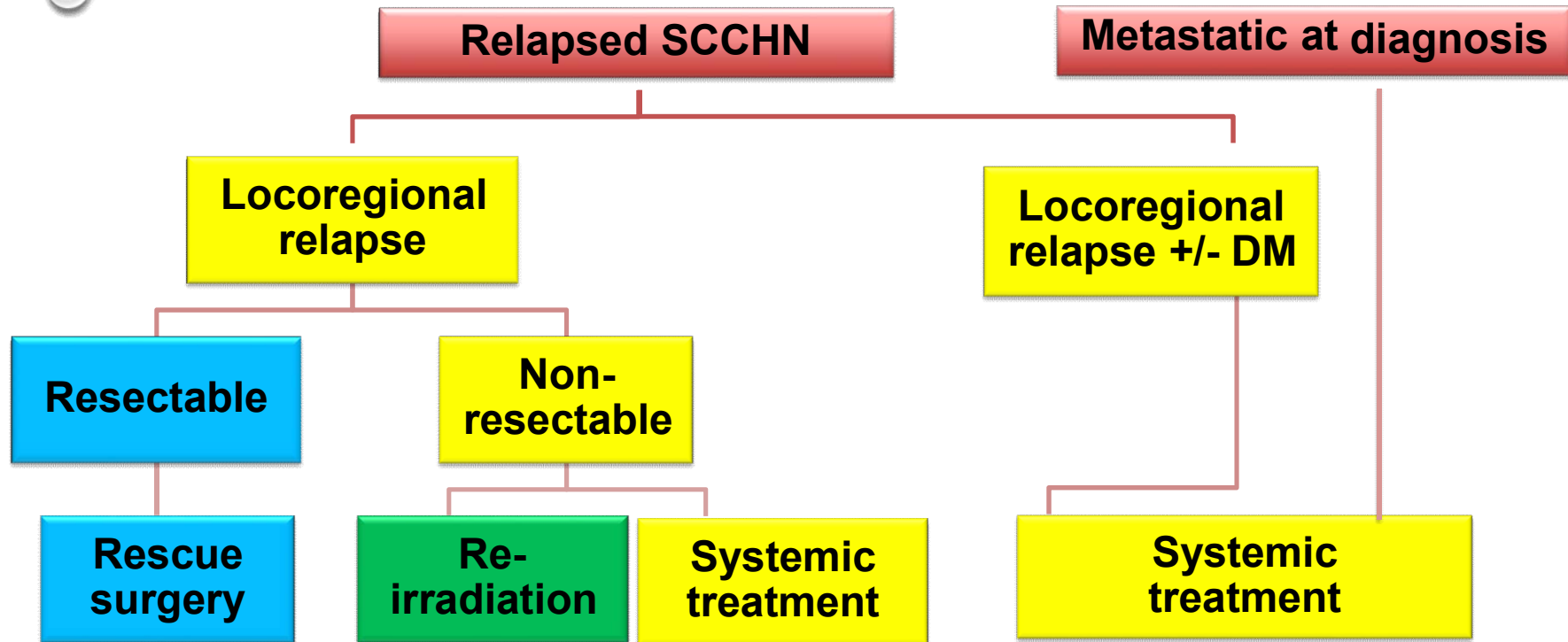


Percent Surviving  
5 Years

**64.8%**

2008-2014

# Treatment Options for R/M SCCHN



DM, distant metastases; R/M, recurrent and/or metastatic

# Factors Associated With Poor Outcome

## Patient Related

Poor performance status

Comorbidities

Poor cognitive status

Persistent use of carcinogens (smoking, alcohol)

## Disease Related

Tumor sites (primary and recurrences)

Advanced state

Great volume disease

History of aggressive disease

Paraneoplastic hypercalcemia

## Treatment Related

Previous treatments

Time to tumor progression

Poor or null response to previous treatment

## SCCHN R/M Not Suitable for Rescue Surgery or Re-Irradiation

- **Platinum-sensitive patients:**
  - Recurrence after a combined treatment that included platinum with a PFS of more than 6 months
  - Platinum-naïve patients with R/M disease
- **Platinum-refractory patients:**
  - Recurrence after a combined treatment that included platinum with a PFS of less than 6 months
  - Patients with progressive disease during a platinum-containing treatment for R/M disease

PFS, progression-free survival

## **Cisplatin-Refractory R/M SCCHN**

- **Survival is very poor ( $\leq 6$  months)**
- **Conventional anticancer treatments have not been effective in increasing survival**
- **Immunotherapy arises as a new treatment option in this setting**

# SCCHN May Benefit From Immune System–Targeted Treatments

- High mutational burden due to tobacco usage, and expression of HPV-associated oncogenes, may contribute to immunogenicity in SCCHN tumors
- In HNSCC, tumors create a highly immunosuppressive microenvironment and can evade immune detection by exploiting inhibitory immune checkpoints such as PD-1/PD-L1

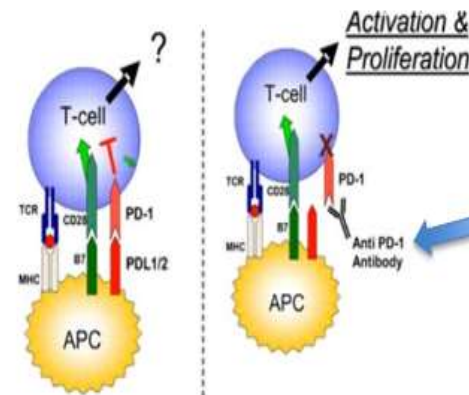
**Our goal is to:  
Break Tolerance!**

**Immune Surveillance:**

- Immune system recognizes malignant cells

**Immune Escape:**

1. **Antigen Presentation:** Loss of Antigen (Immune-editing), HLA ↓
2. **Immune Checkpoints:** PD1-PD-L1, CTLA4, TIM3
3. **Cytokines:** TGF-β, IL-4, IL-6
4. **Immunosuppressive ME:** IDO
5. **Cellular Immune Escape:** T-reas, M2 macrophages, MDSCs
6. **T-cell Anergy**



Blocking interaction PD-1 with PD-L1/2 may reactivate immune surveillance and elicit antitumor activity

**FLORIDA PRECISION ONCOLOGY**

Keck MK, et al. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2015;21(4):870-881. Ferris RL. *J Clin Oncol.* 2015;33(29):3293-3304.

## Targeting the PD1/PDL1 Pathway in HNSCC

	IO agent	N	Design	Population
Anti-PD-1	Nivolumab (Checkmate 141) <sup>1</sup>	240	Phase III	Unselected for PD-L1, platinum refractory based therapy)
	Pembrolizumab (Keynote-012) <sup>2,3</sup>	192	Single arm (Phase Ib)	PD-L1 positive (initial cohort) <sup>1</sup> and unselected for PD-L1 (expansion cohort) <sup>3</sup>
	Pembrolizumab (Keynote-055) <sup>4</sup>	171	Single arm (Phase II)	Unselected for PD-L1, after progression on platinum and cetuximab therapy
	Pembrolizumab (Keynote-040) <sup>5</sup>	247	Phase III	Unselected for PD-L1, PD after platinum-containing months of multimodal therapy using platinum regimen for R/M HNSCC or progression within 3-6
Anti-PD-L1	Durvalumab (study 1108) <sup>6</sup>	62	Single arm	Unselected for PD-L1 (received median 3 prior systemic Tx)
	Durvalumab (HAWK) <sup>7</sup>	112	Phase II Single arm	PD-L1 high (TC ≥25%), failure after 1 platinum-based chemotherapy in R/M setting
	Atezolizumab <sup>8</sup>	32	Phase Ia	Unselected for PD-L1, 53% received ≥2L

1. Ferris RL, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375(19):1856-1867. 2. Seiwert TY, et al. *Lancet Oncol*. 2016;17(7):956-965. 3. Chow LQ, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2016;34(32):3838-3845. 4. Bauml J, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2017;35(14):1542-1549. 5. Cohen EE, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2017;28(suppl 5):Abstract LBA45\_PR. 6. Segal NH, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2016;27(Suppl 6): Abstract 949O. 7. Zandberg D, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2017;28(Suppl 5):Abstract 1042O. 8. Bahleda R, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2017;28(Suppl 5):1044O.



# NIVOLUMAB VS INVESTIGATOR'S CHOICE IN RECURRENT OR METASTATIC SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA OF THE HEAD AND NECK: 2-YR OUTCOMES IN THE OVERALL POPULATION AND PD-L1 SUBGROUPS OF CHECKMATE 141

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<sup>1</sup>University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Hillman Cancer Center, Pittsburgh, PA, USA; <sup>2</sup>MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA; <sup>3</sup>Centre Leon Berard, Lyon, France; <sup>4</sup>Centre Antoine Lacassagne, FHU OncoAge, Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France; <sup>5</sup>Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA; <sup>6</sup>Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori and University of Milan, Milan, Italy; <sup>7</sup>Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust/The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK; <sup>8</sup>West German Cancer Center, University Hospital, Essen, Germany; <sup>9</sup>University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL, USA; <sup>10</sup>Gustave Roussy, Villejuif Cedex, France; <sup>11</sup>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA; <sup>12</sup>Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA; <sup>13</sup>Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, Madrid, Spain; <sup>14</sup>Dana-Farber/Harvard Cancer Center, Boston, MA, USA; <sup>15</sup>Universitätsspital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>16</sup>Kobe University Hospital, Kobe, Japan; <sup>17</sup>National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan; <sup>18</sup>Bristol-Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ, USA





# BACKGROUND

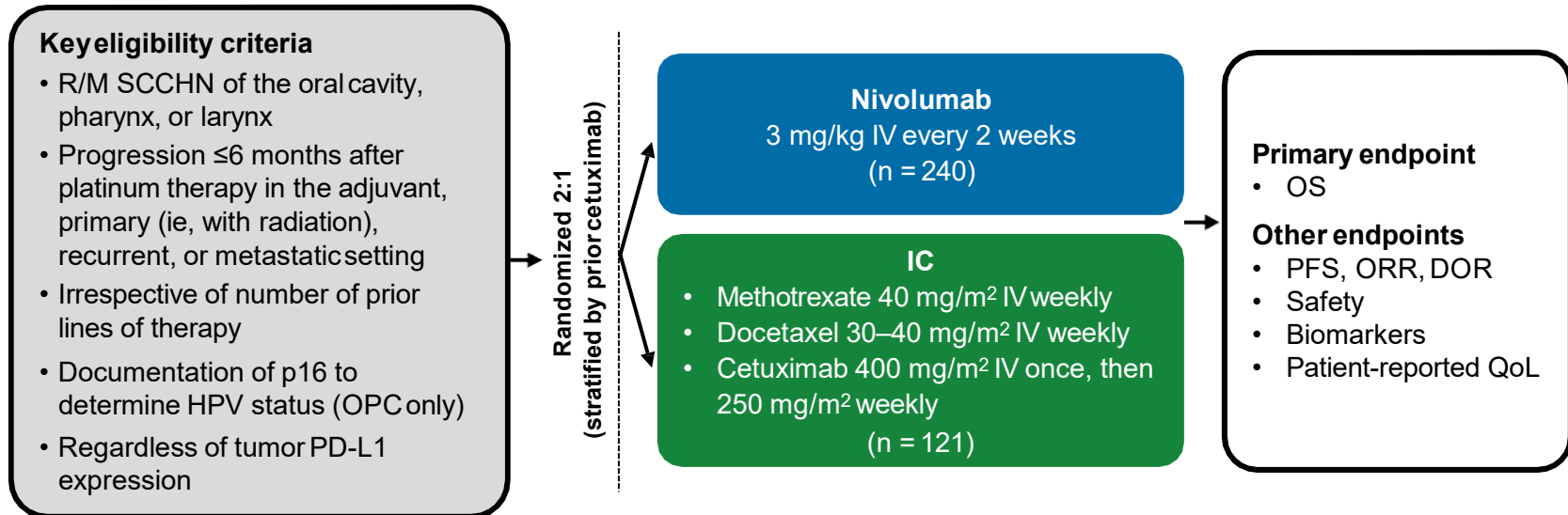
- Long-term prognosis for patients with recurrent or metastatic (R/M) squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (SCCHN) post–platinum therapy has historically been poor, with a median overall survival (OS) of <6 months<sup>1</sup>
- Nivolumab demonstrated significant OS benefit and better tolerability vs investigator’s choice (IC) in CheckMate 141, a randomized phase 3 trial:
  - Trial stopped early at the interim (primary) analysis due to statistically significant OS benefit
    - **Median OS: 7.5 vs 5.1 mo**; HR = 0.70 (97.73% CI: 0.51, 0.96);  $P = 0.01^2$
  - At minimum follow-up of 1-year, prolonged OS benefit was noted
    - **Median OS: 7.7 vs 5.1 mo**; HR = 0.71 (95% CI: 0.55, 0.90)<sup>3</sup>
  - Nivolumab was better tolerated, with stabilized quality of life, compared with IC (methotrexate, docetaxel, cetuximab)<sup>2-4</sup>
- At AACR 2018 (**2-year follow-up**) data in patients with R/M SCCHN post–platinum therapy from CheckMate 141



1. Saloura V, et al. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol* 2014;73:1227–1239. 2. Ferris RL, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375:1856–1867. 3. Gillison ML, et al. *The Oncologist* 2018; In Press. 4. Harrington KJ, et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2017;18:1104–1115.

# CHECKMATE 141 STUDY DESIGN

- Randomized, open-label, phase 3 trial (NCT02105636)



- Data cutoff: September 2017 (minimum follow-up of 24.2 months)

DOR = duration of response; HPV = human papillomavirus; IV = intravenous; OPC = oropharyngeal cancer; ORR = objective response rate; OS = overall survival; PD-L1 = programmed death ligand 1; PFS = progression-free survival; QoL = quality of life

# BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

- Baseline characteristics were generally balanced between treatment arms, as previously reported

Patients, n (%)	Nivolumab (n = 240)	IC (n = 121)
<b>Tumor PD-L1 expression<sup>a</sup></b>		
≥1% (PD-L1 expressors)	96 (40.0)	63 (52.1)
<1% (PD-L1 non-expressors)	76 (31.7)	40 (33.1)
Not quantifiable <sup>b</sup>	68 (28.3)	18 (14.9)
<b>HPV status<sup>c</sup></b>		
Positive	64 (26.7)	29 (24.0)
Negative	56 (23.3)	37 (30.6)
Unknown/not reported	120 (50.0)	55 (45.5)

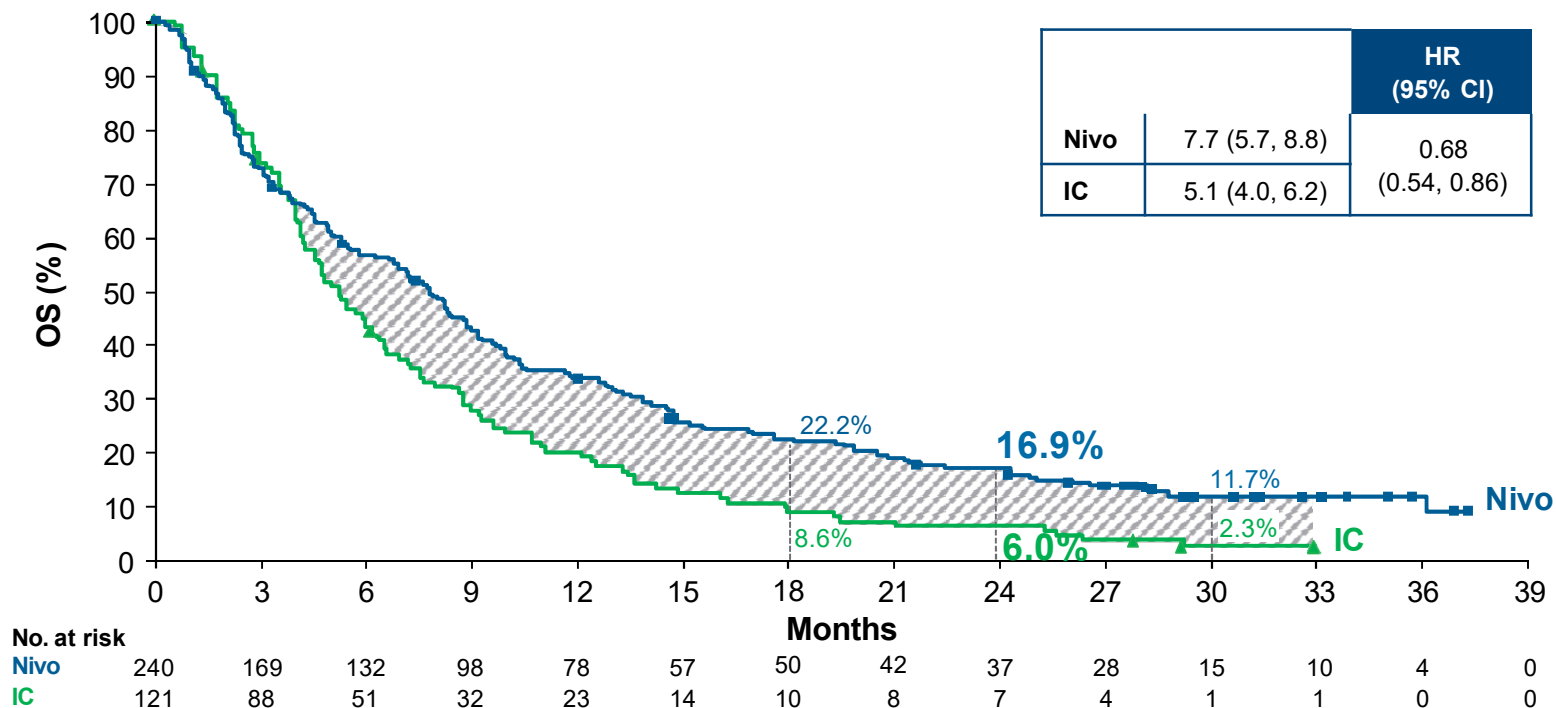
<sup>a</sup>PD-L1 status was determined using the Dako PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx test

<sup>b</sup>Tumor not present, sample not provided, or sample could not be processed

<sup>c</sup>HPV status was assessed using p16 immunohistochemical testing; required only for patients with OPC

# SUSTAINED OS BENEFIT IN THE OVERALL (ITT) POPULATION

- Nivolumab reduced the risk of death by 32% vs IC
- The 24-month OS rate was nearly tripled with nivolumab compared with IC

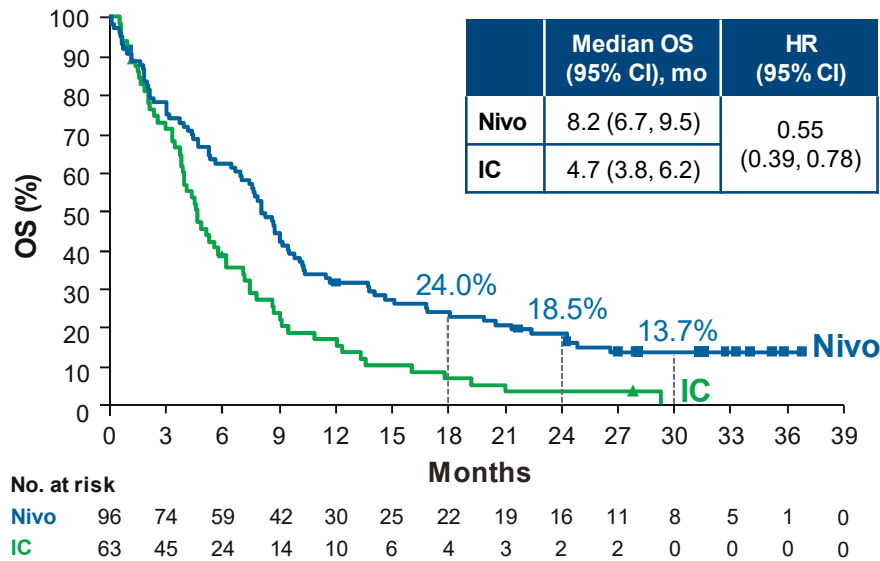


Symbols represent censored observations. ITT = intent-to-treat; Nivo, nivolumab

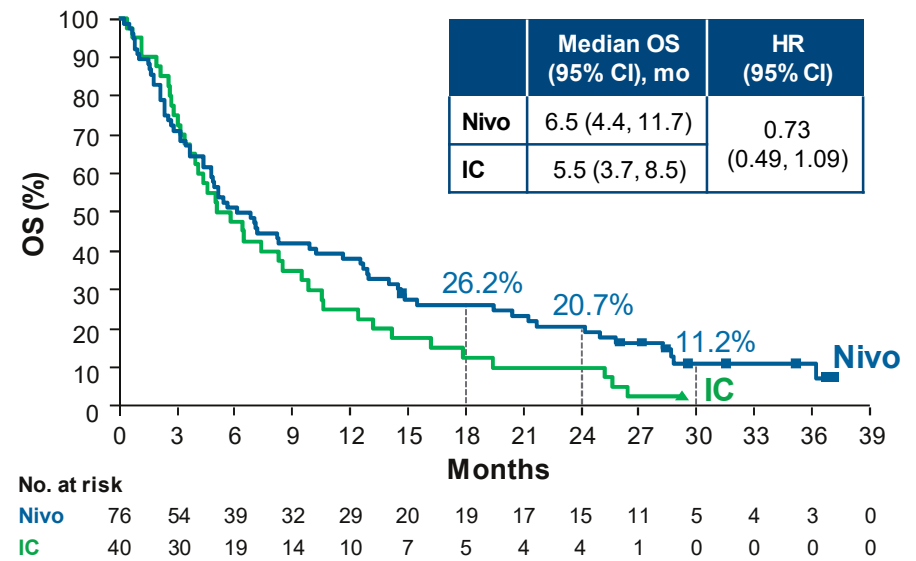
# OS BENEFIT ACROSS PD-L1 EXPRESSORS AND NON-EXPRESSORS

- OS rates at 18, 24, and 30 months were similar in both groups
  - PD-L1 expressors: nivolumab continued to provide OS benefit, with 45% reduction in risk of death vs IC
  - PD-L1 non-expressors: nivolumab resulted in 27% reduction in risk of death vs IC

**PD-L1 Expressors (≥1%)**



**PD-L1 Non-Expressors (<1%)**



Symbols represent censored observations

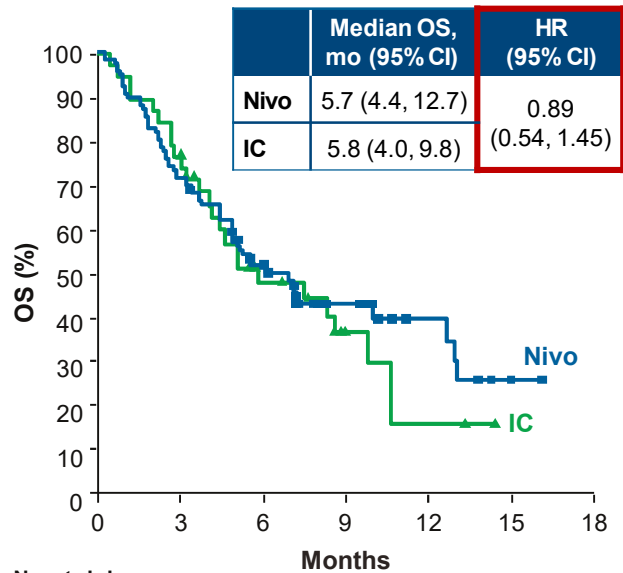
## OS IN PD-L1 NON-EXPRESSORS (<1%)

- In PD-L1 non-expressors, the HR for risk of death with nivolumab vs IC consistently trended lower with longer follow-up

# OS IN PD-L1 NON-EXPRESSORS (<1%)

- In PD-L1 non-expressors, the HR for risk of death with nivolumab vs IC consistently trended lower with longer follow-up

**Primary Analysis<sup>a</sup>**  
(Dec 2015 data cutoff)



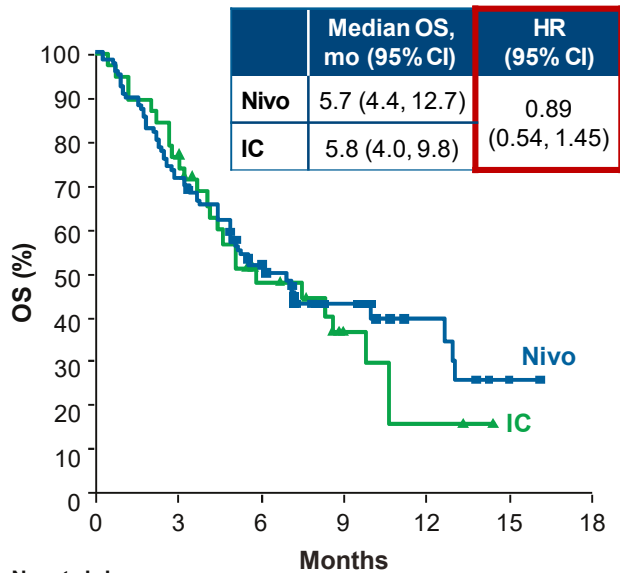
No. at risk	Months						
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
<b>Nivo</b>	73	52	33	17	8	3	0
<b>IC</b>	38	29	14	6	2	0	0

Symbols represent censored observations; <sup>a</sup>From NEJM, Ferris RL et al., Nivolumab for Recurrent Squamous-Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck, 375, 1856-67, Copyright © 2016 Massachusetts Medical Society. Reprinted with permission from Massachusetts Medical Society.

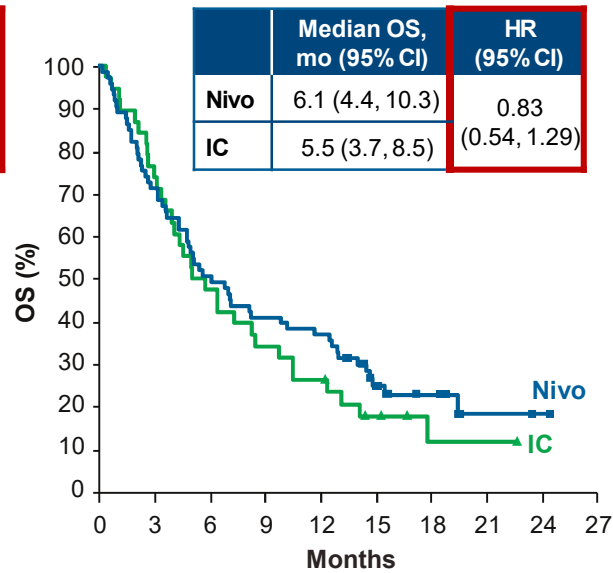
# OS IN PD-L1 NON-EXPRESSORS (<1%)

- In PD-L1 non-expressors, the HR for risk of death with nivolumab vs IC consistently trended lower with longer follow-up

**Primary Analysis<sup>a</sup>**  
(Dec 2015 data cutoff)



**1-Year Follow-up**  
(Sept 2016 data cutoff)



No. at risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27							
<b>Nivo</b>	73	52	33	17	8	3	0	73	52	37	30	27	13	8	3	1	0
<b>IC</b>	38	29	14	6	2	0	0	38	29	18	13	10	5	2	2	0	0

Symbols represent censored observations; <sup>a</sup>From NEJM, Ferris RL et al., Nivolumab for Recurrent Squamous-Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck, 375, 1856-67, Copyright © 2016 Massachusetts Medical Society. Reprinted with permission from Massachusetts Medical Society.

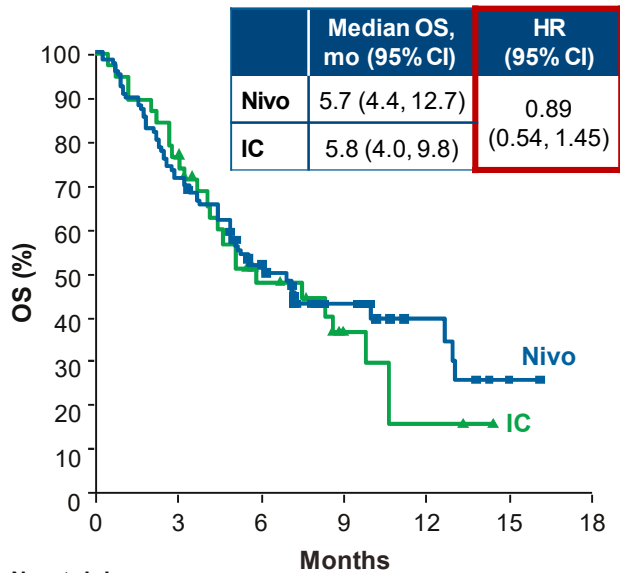




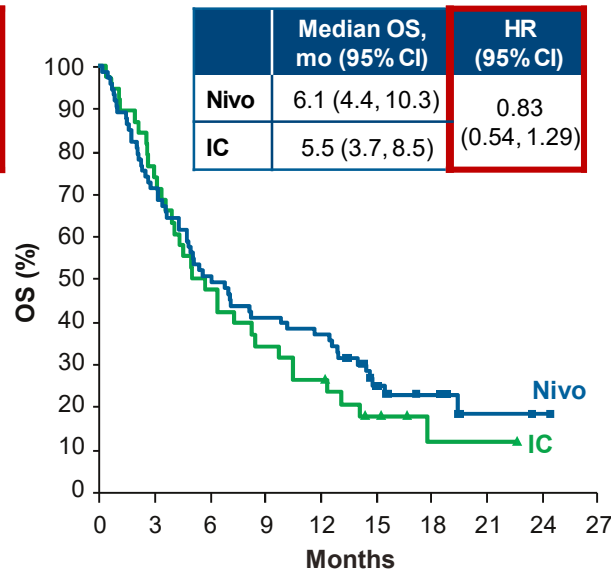
# OS IN PD-L1 NON-EXPRESSORS (<1%)

- In PD-L1 non-expressors, the HR for risk of death with nivolumab vs IC consistently trended lower with longer follow-up

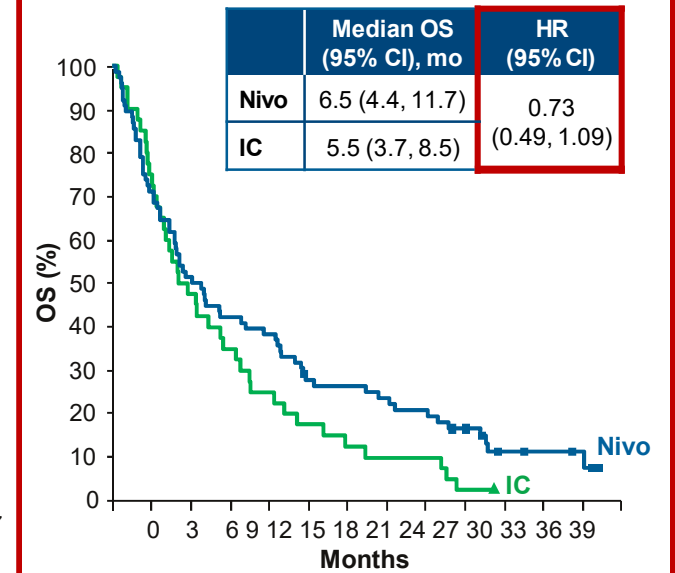
**Primary Analysis<sup>a</sup>**  
(Dec 2015 data cutoff)



**1-Year Follow-up**  
(Sept 2016 data cutoff)



**2-Year Follow-up**  
(Sept 2017 data cutoff)



No. at risk

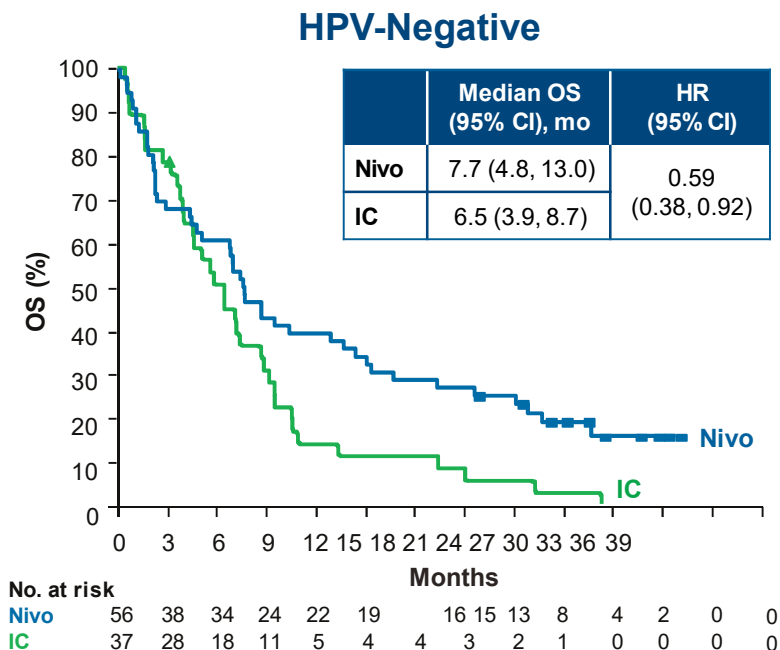
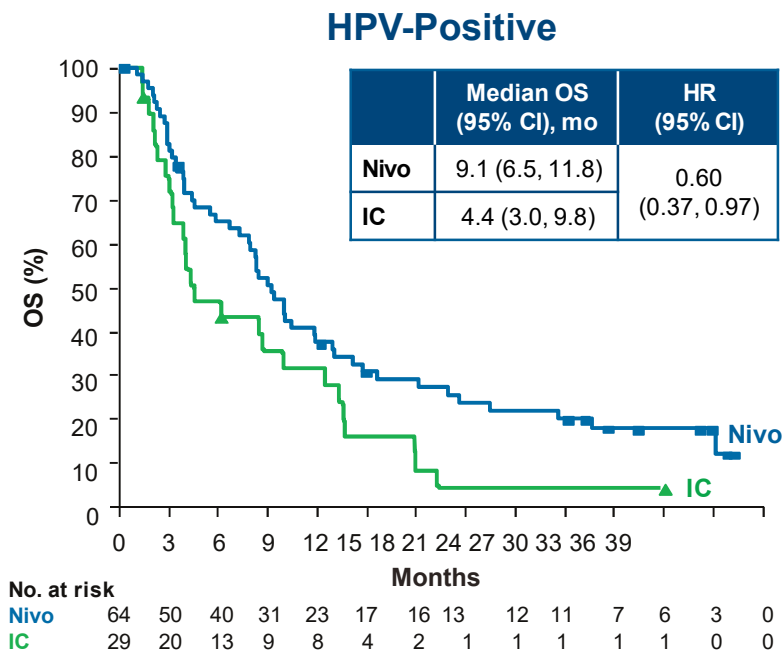
	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27							
<b>Nivo</b>	73	52	33	17	8	3	0	73	52	37	30	27	13	8	3	1	0
<b>IC</b>	38	29	14	6	2	0	0	38	29	18	13	10	5	2	2	0	0

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
<b>Nivo</b>	76	54	39	32	29	20	19	17	15	11	5	4	3	0
<b>IC</b>	40	30	19	14	10	7	5	4	4	1	0	0	0	0

Symbols represent censored observations; <sup>a</sup>From NEJM, Ferris RL et al., Nivolumab for Recurrent Squamous-Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck, 375, 1856-67, Copyright © 2016 Massachusetts Medical Society. Reprinted with permission from Massachusetts Medical Society.

# OS BY HPV STATUS

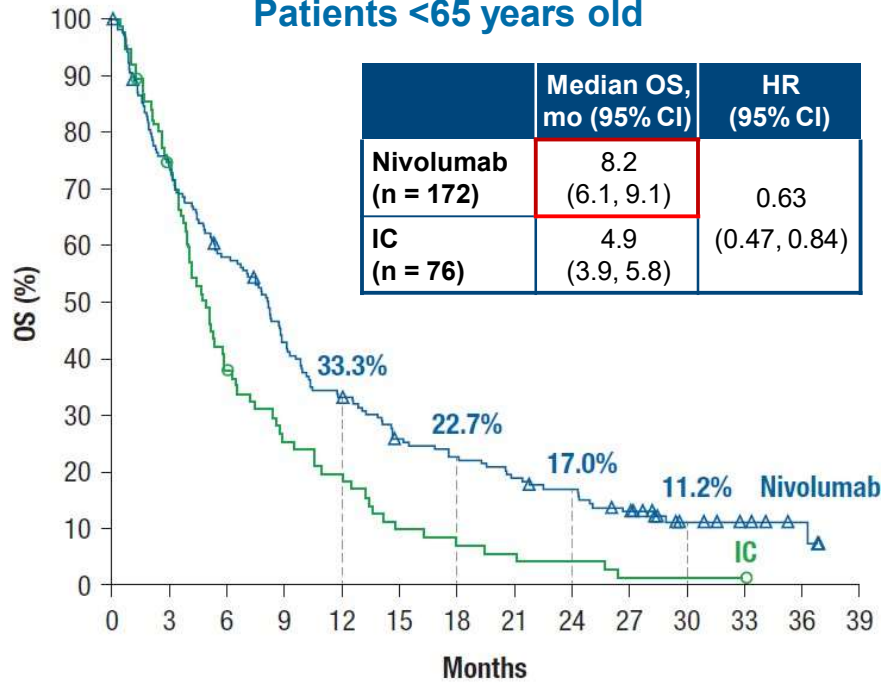
- Nivolumab demonstrated survival benefit in patients with HPV-positive and HPV-negative tumors, with comparable HRs for risk of death vs IC



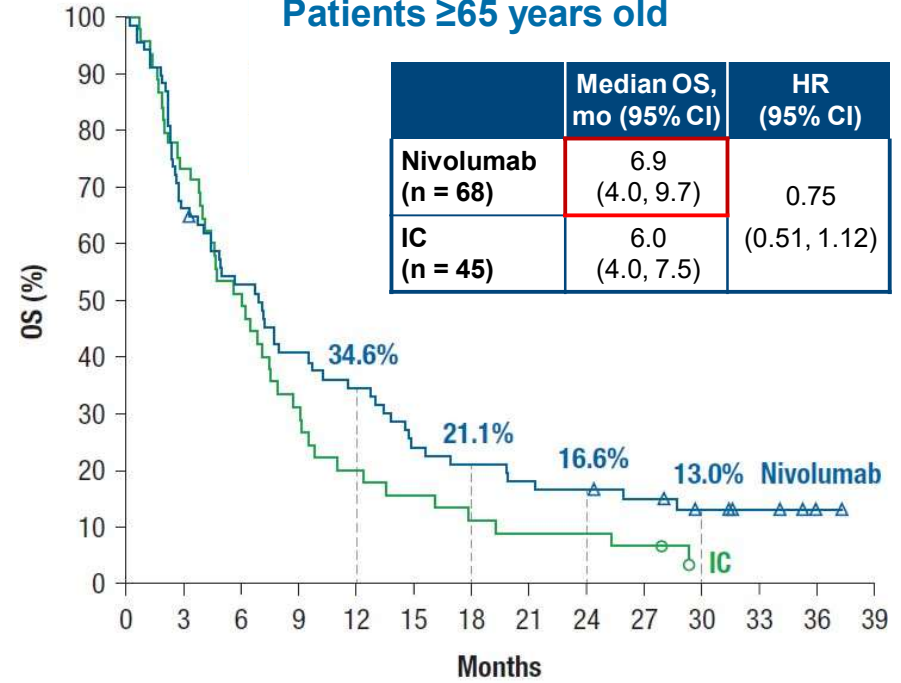
<sup>a</sup>HPV testing was required only for patients with OPC; symbols represent censored observations

# OVERALL SURVIVAL BY AGE

**Patients <65 years old**



**Patients ≥65 years old**



No. at risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
<b>Nivo</b>	172	124	97	71	55	41	36	30	26	19	9	6	3	0
<b>IC</b>	76	55	28	18	14	7	5	4	3	1	1	1	0	0

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39
<b>Nivo</b>	68	45	35	27	23	16	14	12	11	9	6	4	1	0
<b>IC</b>	45	33	23	14	9	7	5	4	4	3	0	0	0	0

Saba et al. ASCO 2018

# SUBSEQUENT THERAPIES AMONG PATIENTS WHO DISCONTINUED TREATMENT

- Nivolumab continued to improve in OS vs IC in spite of subsequent immunotherapy in 10.1% of patients in the IC arm

Patients, n (%)	Nivolumab (n = 228)	IC (n = 109)
<b>Any therapy<sup>a</sup></b>	91 (39.9)	43 (39.4)
<b>Radiotherapy</b>	30 (13.2)	14 (12.8)
<b>Surgery</b>	2 (0.9)	3 (2.8)
<b>Systemic therapy</b>	82 (36.0)	36 (33.0)
Taxanes	35 (15.4)	11 (10.1)
Monoclonal antibodies (bevacizumab, cetuximab)	31 (13.6)	8 (7.3)
Other – approved agents	31 (13.6)	12 (11.0)
Folic acid analogue	22 (9.6)	7 (6.4)
Platinum-based chemotherapy	16 (7.0)	11 (10.1)
Other – experimental agents	15 (6.6)	3 (2.8)
<b>Immunotherapy (nivolumab, pembrolizumab, durvalumab, urelumab)</b>	<b>12 (5.3)</b>	<b>11 (10.1)</b>
PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors (nivolumab, pembrolizumab, durvalumab)	9 (3.9)	10 (9.2)
Unassigned	1 (0.4)	0

<sup>a</sup>Patients may have received more than 1 type of subsequent therapy, which was defined as non-study anticancer therapy started on or after first dosing date (or randomization date, if patient was not treated)

# TREATMENT-RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS

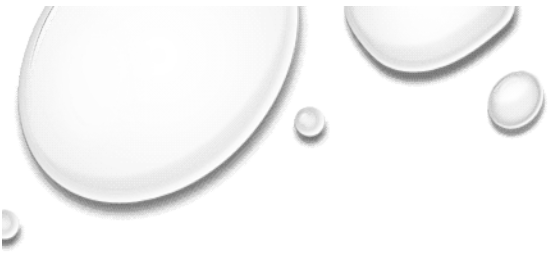
- The safety profile of nivolumab remained consistent with previous analyses,<sup>1,2</sup> and manageable
  - Fewer grade 3–4 events in the nivolumab arm vs the IC arm
  - No new safety signals were reported
- The incidence of serious TRAEs was lower in the nivolumab arm (7.2%) vs the IC arm (15.3%)
- Rates of death due to drug toxicity remained unchanged from the primary analysis<sup>1</sup>

	Nivolumab (n = 236)		IC (n = 111)	
	Any grade	Grade 3–4	Any grade	Grade 3–4
<b>Any TRAE, n (%)</b>	146 (61.9)	36 (15.3)	88 (79.3)	41 (36.9)
<b>TRAEs in ≥15% of patients, n (%)</b>				
Fatigue	37 (15.7)	5 (2.1)	20 (18.0)	3 (2.7)
Nausea	22 (9.3)	0	23 (20.7)	1 (0.9)
Anemia	12 (5.1)	3 (1.3)	19 (17.1)	6 (5.4)
Asthenia	10 (4.2)	1 (0.4)	17 (15.3)	2 (1.8)

1. Ferris RL, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375:1856–1867. 2. Gillison ML, et al. *The Oncologist* 2018; In Press.  
TRAE = treatment-related adverse event

# CONCLUSIONS

- Nivolumab improves OS vs IC in patients with R/M SCCHN post-platinum therapy, in the primary analysis of a randomized, phase 3 study (CheckMate 141)
  - Primary analysis: HR = 0.70 (97.73% CI: 0.51, 0.96);  $P = 0.01$
  - 2-year follow-up: HR = 0.68 (95% CI: 0.54, 0.86)
- With long-term (2-year) follow-up, nivolumab demonstrated prolonged OS benefit compared with IC in the overall population with
  - Efficacy across PD-L1 expressors and non-expressors
  - Efficacy regardless of tumor HPV status
  - A favorable safety profile compared with IC maintained; no new safety signals observed
  - No observed differences in baseline characteristics or safety profile among long-term survivors in the nivolumab arm compared with the overall nivolumab population
- Nivolumab is an established therapeutic option in R/M SCCHN post-platinum therapy, with demonstrated long-term benefits in OS and safety compared with monotherapy options



**UPDATED SURVIVAL RESULTS OF  
THE KEYNOTE-040 STUDY OF  
PEMBROLIZUMAB VS SOC  
CHEMOTHERAPY FOR  
RECURRENT OR METASTATIC  
HNSCC**

Denis Soulières et al. AACR 2018



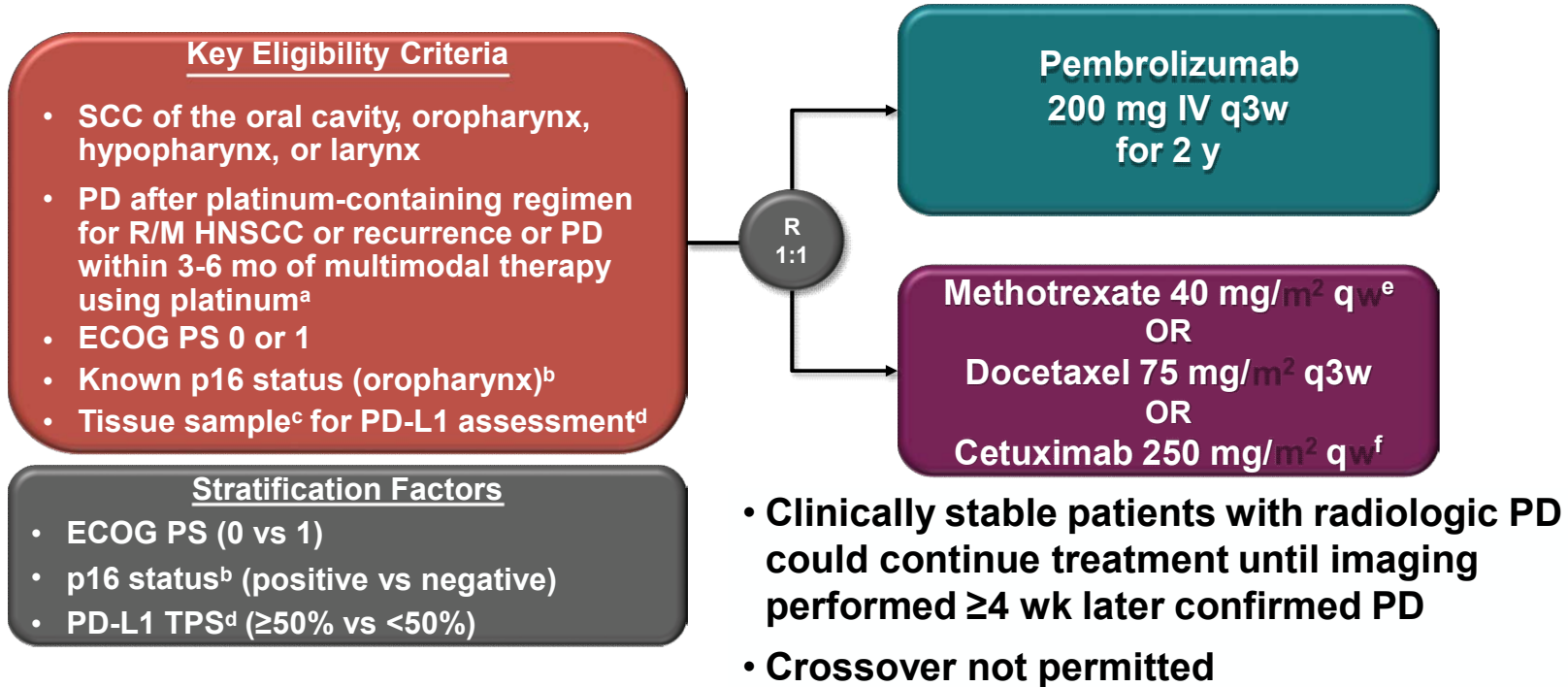
## PEMBROLIZUMAB AND HNSCC

Study	Population	ORR	Median DOR	Median PFS
KEYNOTE-012 <sup>1</sup>	PD-L1–positive R/M HNSCC (N = 61)	18%	12.2 months	2 months
KEYNOTE-012 expansion cohort <sup>2</sup>	R/M HNSCC of any PD-L1 expression (N = 132)	Total: 18% PD-L1+: 22% PD-L1–: 4%	Not reached	2 months
KEYNOTE-055 <sup>3</sup>	Platinum and cetuximab-refractory HNSCC of any PD-L1 expression (N = 171)	Total: 16% PD-L1+: 18% PD-L1–: 12%	8 months	2.1 months

1. Seiwert TY et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2016;17:956-965. 2. Chow LQM et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2016;34:3838-3845. 3. Bauml J et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2017;35:1542-1549.



# Phase III KEYNOTE-040 Study



<sup>a</sup>Limit of 2 prior therapies for R/M HNSCC. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Newly collected preferred. <sup>d</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay. TPS, tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. <sup>e</sup>Could be increased to 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> qw in the absence of toxicity. <sup>f</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

Cohen E, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2017;28(Suppl 5): Abstract LBA45\_PR.

## KEYNOTE – 040: PRIMARY AND UPDATED ANALYSES

- Primary analysis presented at ESMO 2017
  - Prespecified significance boundary:  $P = 0.0175$
  - Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017
  - No. of Death: 377 (data outstanding for 11 patients)
  - OS: HR 0.81 (95% CI 0.66-0.99),  $P = 0.02024$
- Updated analysis
  - Same data cutoff date: May 15, 2017 (i.e., update is without extending f/u duration)
  - Full acquisition of survival status, including the 11 pts previously outstanding
  - No. of death after acquisition of survival status: 388

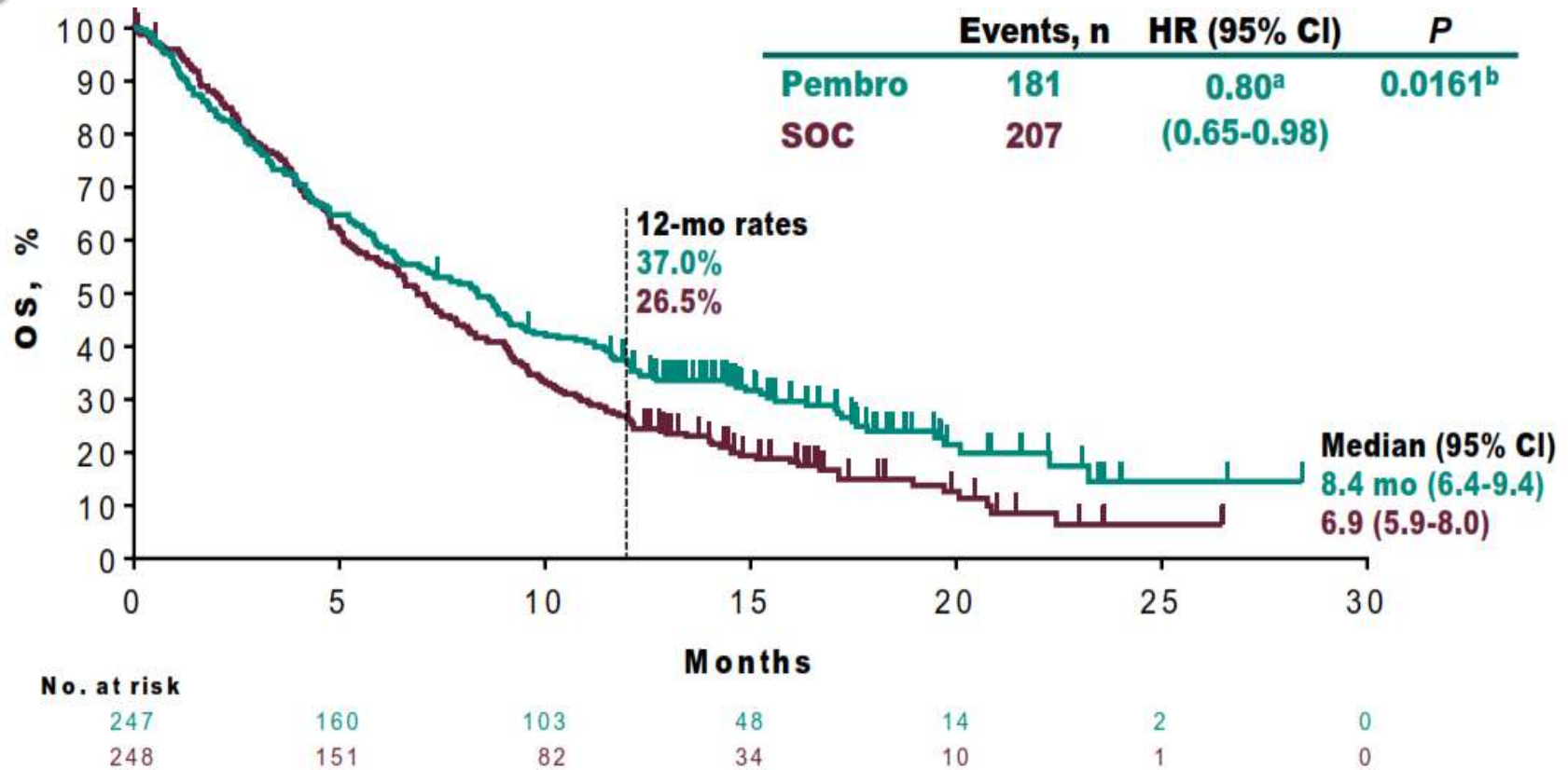


## KEYNOTE – 040: BASELINE CHARACTERISTICS

Characteristic, n (%)	Pembro N = 247	SOC N = 248
Age, median (range)	60 (19-85)	60 (34-78)
Male	207 (83.8)	205 (82.7)
ECOG PS 1	176 (71.3)	180 (72.6)
Current/former smoker	179 (72.5)	182 (73.4)
Region of enrollment		
Europe	147 (59.5)	158 (63.7)
North America	73 (29.6)	60 (24.2)
Rest of world	27 (10.9)	30 (12.1)

Characteristic, n (%)	Pembro N = 247	SOC N = 248
p16 positive (oropharynx)	61 (24.7)	58 (23.4)
PD-L1 TPS $\geq$ 50%	64 (25.9)	65 (26.2)
PD-L1 CPS $\geq$ 1	196 (79.4)	191 (77.0)
Prior therapy		
(Neo)adjuvant or definitive	34 (13.8)	40 (16.1)
First line	141 (57.1)	141 (56.9)
Second line	69 (27.9)	64 (25.8)
Third line	3 (1.2)	3 (1.2)

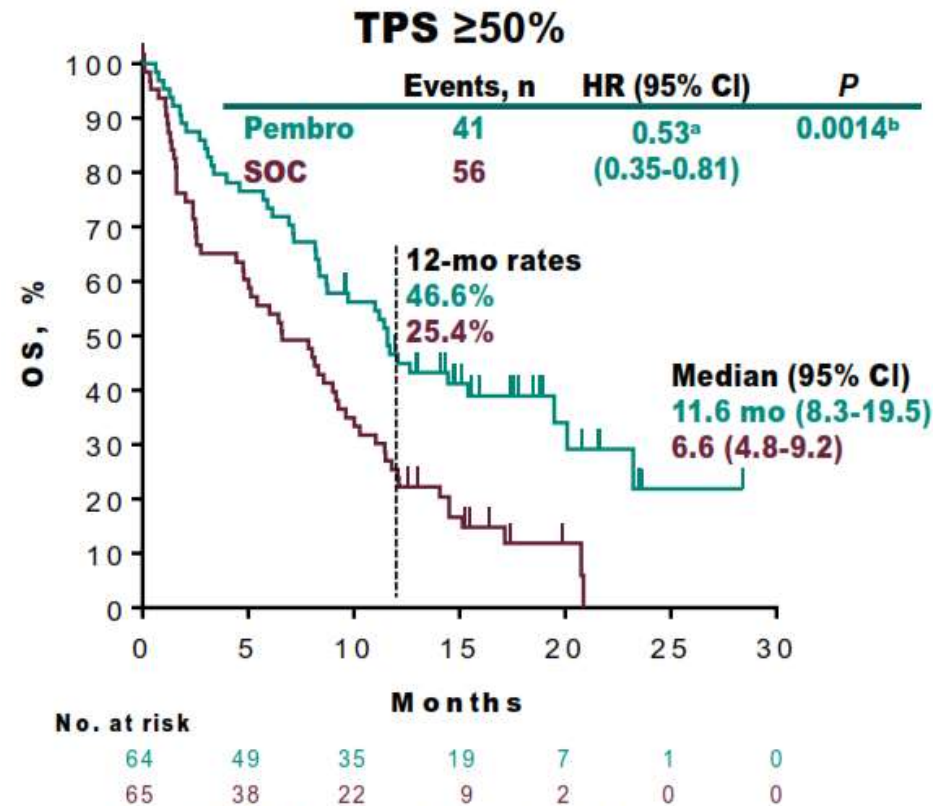
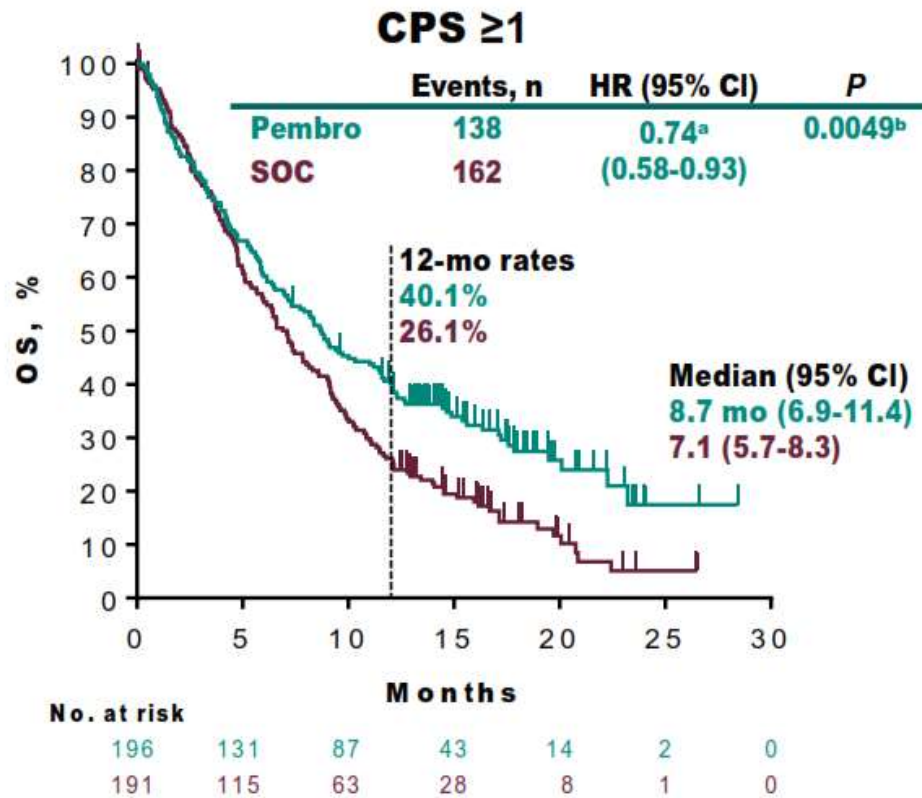
# Updated Overall Survival in ITT Population



<sup>a</sup>Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. <sup>b</sup>Nominal one-sided P value based on the log-rank test stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.



# Updated Overall Survival by PD-L1 Expression

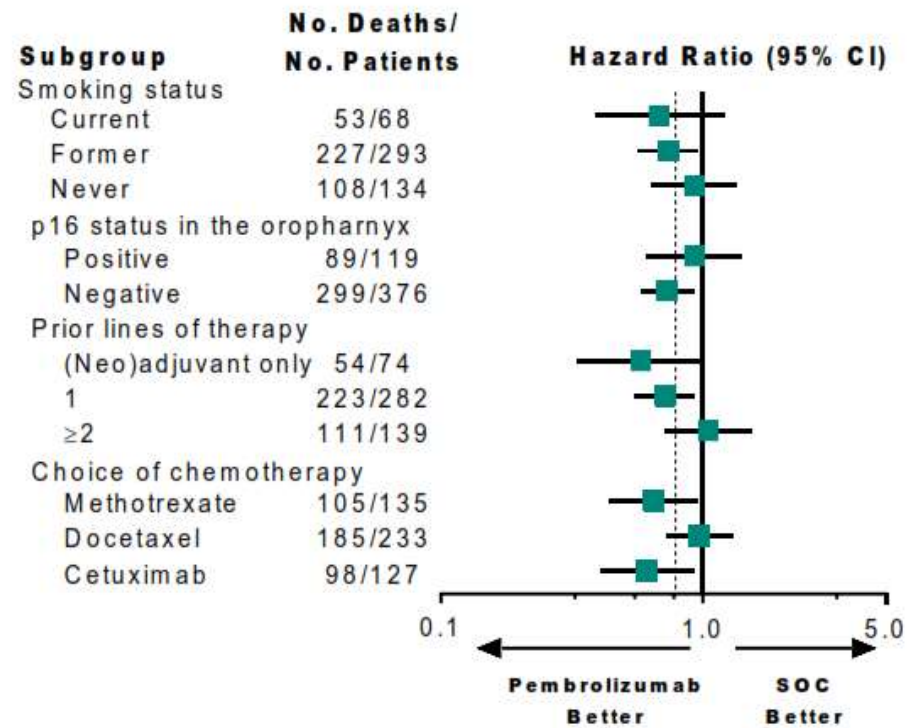
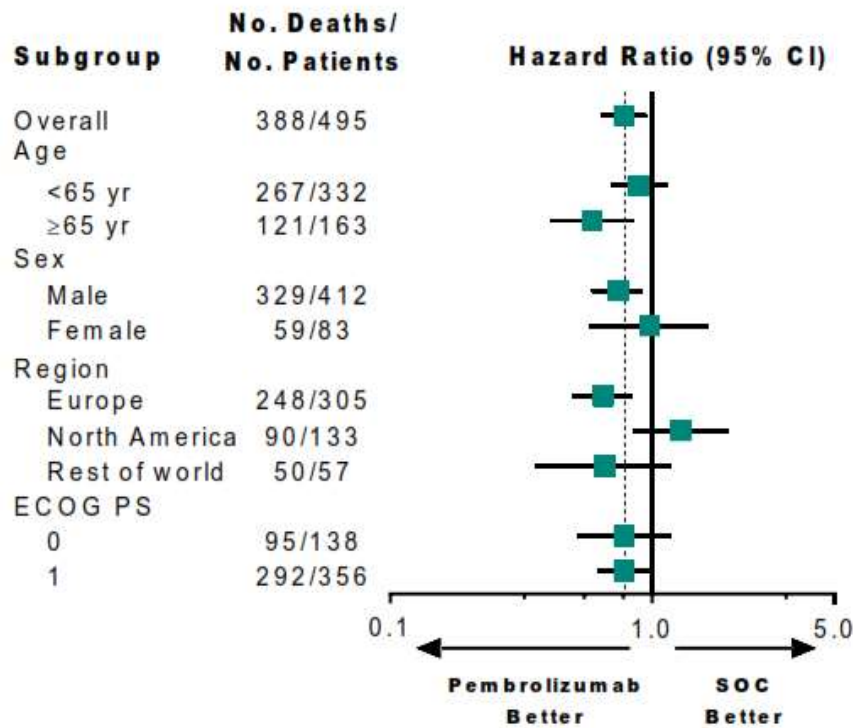


<sup>a</sup>Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. <sup>b</sup>Nominal one-sided P value based on the log-rank test stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.



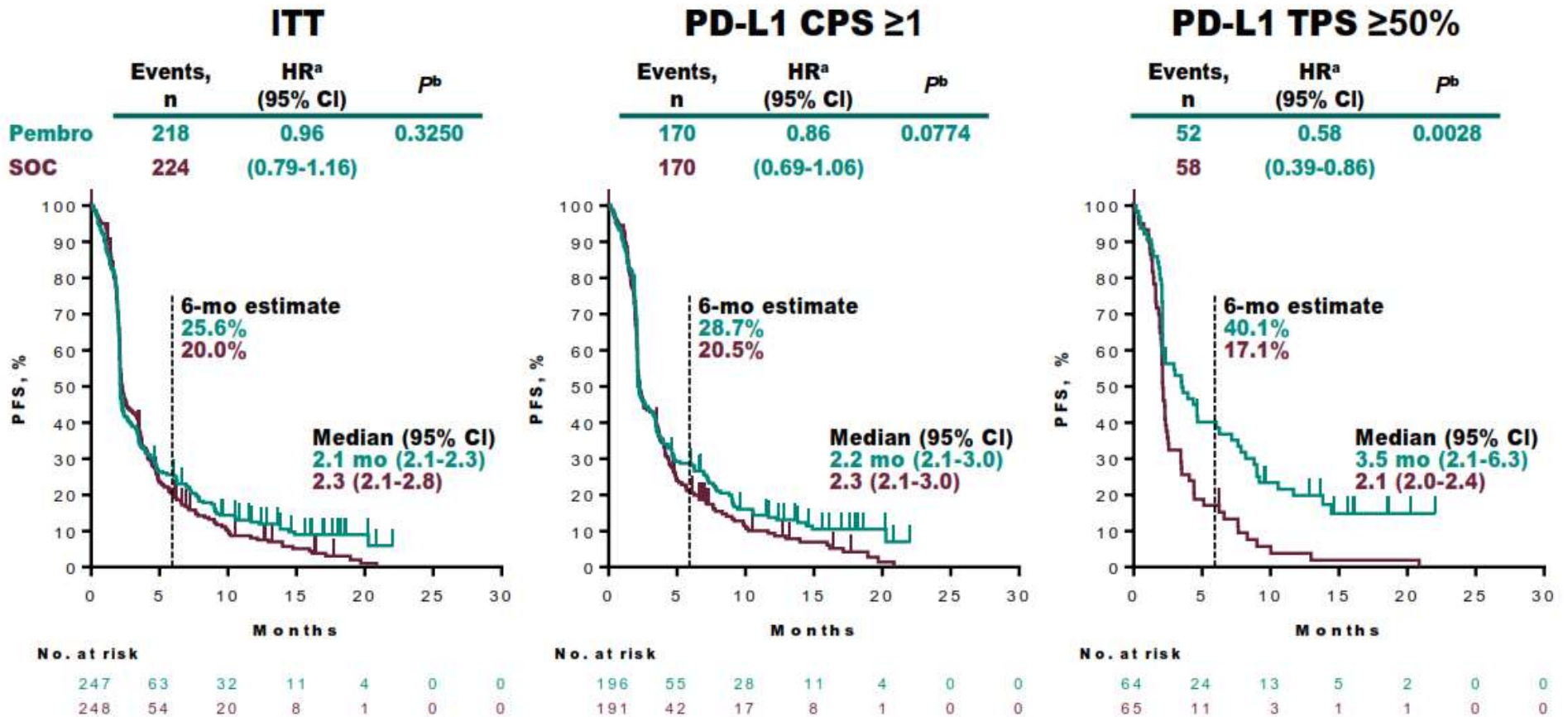


# Updated Overall Survival by Subgroups



Unstratified Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate.  
Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.

# UPDATED PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL



<sup>a</sup>Cox proportional hazards model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors.

<sup>b</sup>Nominal one-sided P value based on the log-rank test stratified by the randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.

## Treatment-Related Aes with Incidence of > 10%

Event, n (%)	Pembrolizumab (N = 246)		SOC (N = 234)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3-5	Any Grade	Grade 3-5
Hypothyroidism	33 (13.4)	1 (0.4)	2 (0.9)	0
Fatigue	31 (12.6)	4 (1.6)	43 (18.4)	2 (0.9)
Diarrhea	20 (8.1)	4 (1.6)	24 (10.3)	1 (0.4)
Rash	19 (7.7)	1 (0.4)	34 (14.5)	1 (0.4)
Asthenia	18 (7.3)	1 (0.4)	28 (12.0)	4 (1.7)
Anemia	17 (6.9)	1 (0.4)	33 (14.1)	9 (3.8)
Nausea	12 (4.9)	0	29 (12.4)	1 (0.4)
Mucosal inflammation	9 (3.7)	1 (0.4)	30 (12.8)	5 (2.1)
Stomatitis	6 (2.4)	1 (0.4)	28 (12.0)	11 (4.7)
Neutrophil count decreased	3 (1.2)	1 (0.4)	25 (10.7)	20 (8.5)
Alopecia	1 (0.4)	0	25 (10.7)	0

AEs did not change in updated analysis. Relationship to treatment was determined by the investigator.  
Data cutoff date: May 15, 2017.



## SUMMARY

- After all survival data analyzed using the same data cutoff date and comparing with the primary analysis:
  - HR for OS decreased from 0.81 to 0.80
  - P-value for OS decreased from 0.02024 to 0.0161
  - Better treatment effect in patients with PDL1 expressing tumors
  - Apparent effect of immune checkpoint inhibitors in SOC arm after failure of SOC

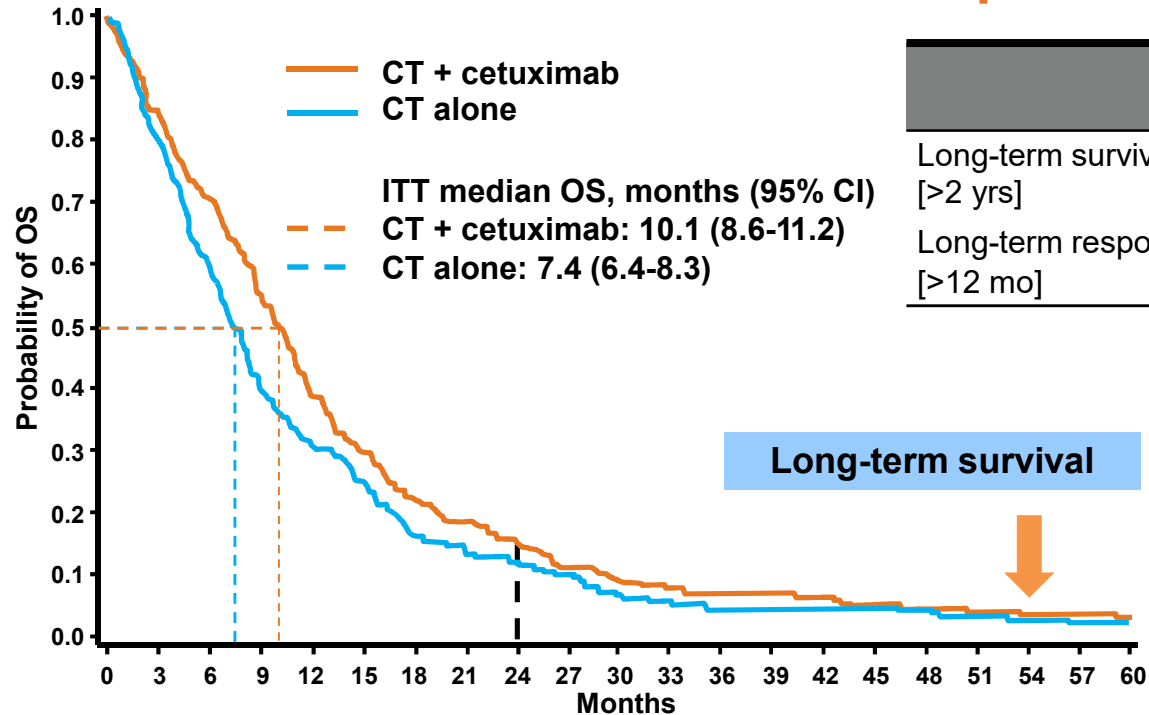
# Summary of IO Efficacy Data in R/M HNSCC

Treatment	CheckMate 141 <sup>1</sup> all comers		KEYNOTE 040 <sup>2</sup> all comers		Study 1108 <sup>3</sup> all comers	HAWK <sup>4</sup> PD-L1 + only	NCT01375842 <sup>5</sup> all comers
	Nivo N = 240	SOC N = 121	Pembro N = 247	SOC N = 248	Durva N = 62	Durva N = 111	Atezo N = 32
ORR, %	13.3	5.8	14.6	10.1	11	16.2	22
mPFS, mo	1.0	2.3	2.1	2.3		2.1	2.6
mOS, mo	7.7	5.1	8.4	7.1	8.9	7.1	6.0
12-mo OS rate, %	34%	19.7	37.3	27.2	42%	33.6	36

Nivo, nivolumab; pembro, pembrolizumab; durva, durvalumab; atezo, atezolizumab; SOC, standard of care

1. Ferris RL, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2016;375(19):1856-1867. 2. Cohen EE, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2017;28(Suppl 5): Abstract LBA45\_PR. 3. Segal NH, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2016;27(Suppl 6): Abstract 949O. 4. Zandberg D, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2017;28(Suppl 5):Abstract 1042O. 5. Bahleda R, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2017;28(Suppl 5):Abstract 1044O.

# EXTREME Trial: Overall Survival 5-Year Follow-Up



	CT* n = 220	Cetuximab + CT* n = 222
Long-term survivors [>2 yrs]	25 (11%)	31 (14%)
Long-term responders [>12 mo]	3 (1%)	12 (5%)

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60
CT + cetuximab	221	183	152	117	81	62	46	38	31	23	18	16	14	14	13	10	9	8	7	7	6
CT alone	220	173	127	83	65	52	34	29	25	21	14	12	9	8	8	8	8	6	5	4	2

Vermorken JB, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2008;359(11):1116–1127. Vermorken JB, et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(Suppl): Abstract 6021

## EXTREME: Grade 3/4 Adverse Events

value n (%)	Platinum/5FU + Cetuximab [n = 219]	Platinum/ 5FU [n = 215]	P
Any event	179 (82)	164 (76)	.19
Neutropenia	49 (22)	50 (23)	.91
Anemia	29 (13)	41 (19)	.12
Thrombocytopenia	24 (11)	24 (11)	1.00
<b>Skin reactions</b>	<b>20 (9)</b>	<b>1 (&lt;1)</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Hypokalemia	16 (7)	10 (5)	.31
Cardiac events	16 (7)	9 (4)	.22
Vomiting	12 (5)	6 (3)	.23
Asthenia Anorexia	11 (5)	12 (6)	.83
<b>Hypomagnesemia</b>	<b>11 (5)</b>	<b>3 (1)</b>	<b>.05</b>
Febrile neutropenia	<b>11 (5)</b>	<b>3 (1)</b>	<b>.05</b>
Dyspnea	10 (5)	10 (5)	1.00
	9 (4)	17 (8)	.11

Vermorken JB, et al. New Engl J Med 2008;359:1116-27



# KEYNOTE-048: Phase 3 Study of First-Line Pembrolizumab for Recurrent/Metastatic Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (R/M HNSCC)

Barbara Burtness,<sup>1</sup> Kevin Harrington,<sup>2</sup> Richard Greil,<sup>3</sup> Denis Soulières,<sup>4</sup> Makoto Tahara,<sup>5</sup> Gilberto de Castro,<sup>6</sup> Amanda Psyrris,<sup>7</sup> Neus Basté Rotllan,<sup>8</sup> Prakash Neupane,<sup>9</sup> Åse Bratland,<sup>10</sup> Thorsten Fuereder,<sup>11</sup> Brett GM Hughes,<sup>12</sup> Ricard Mesia,<sup>13</sup> Nuttapon Ngamphaiboon,<sup>14</sup> Tamara Rordorf,<sup>15</sup> Wan Zamaniah Wan Ishak,<sup>16</sup> Ananya Roy,<sup>17</sup> Jonathan Cheng,<sup>17</sup> Fan Jin,<sup>17</sup> Danny Rischin<sup>18</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Yale School of Medicine and Yale Cancer Center, New Haven, CT, USA; <sup>2</sup>The Institute of Cancer Research/The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust National Institute of Health Research Biomedical Research Centre, London, UK; <sup>3</sup>Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg Cancer Research Institute, and Cancer Cluster Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria; <sup>4</sup>Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Montréal, QC, Canada; <sup>5</sup>National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Japan; <sup>6</sup>Instituto do Cancer do Estado de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo, Brazil; <sup>7</sup>National Kapodistrian University of Athens, Attikon University Hospital, Athens, Greece; <sup>8</sup>Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona, Spain (currently at Institut Gustave Roussy, Paris, France); <sup>9</sup>University of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KS, USA; <sup>10</sup>Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway; <sup>11</sup>Medical University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria; <sup>12</sup>Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital and University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia; <sup>13</sup>Catalan Institute of Oncology, Hospitalet de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>14</sup>Ramathibodi Hospital, Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand; <sup>15</sup>University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland; <sup>16</sup>University Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; <sup>17</sup>Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA; <sup>18</sup>Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, VIC, Australia

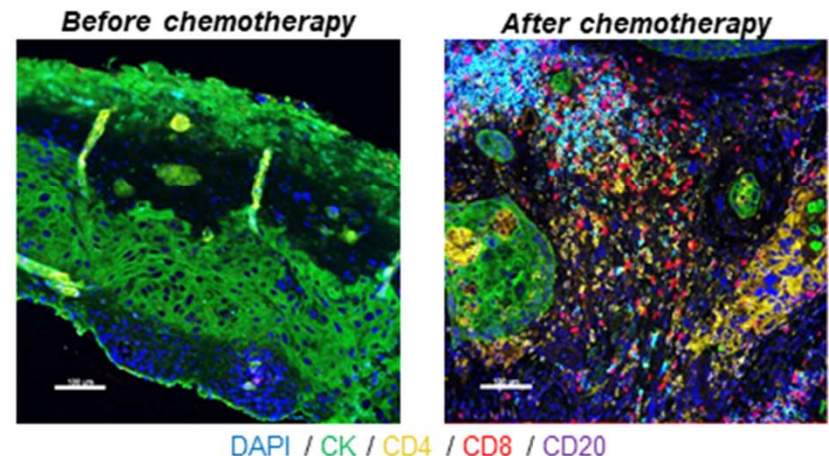




# Immunotherapy and HNSCC

- PD-1 inhibitors pembrolizumab and nivolumab are approved for second-line R/M HNSCC treatment<sup>1,2</sup>
- Higher PD-L1 expression is associated with improved response to pembrolizumab<sup>1</sup>
- Chemotherapy is a rational combination partner for anti-PD-1 therapy<sup>3</sup>
  - Disrupts tumor architecture and may overcome immune exclusion
  - Results in antigen shedding
  - Induces rapid disease control

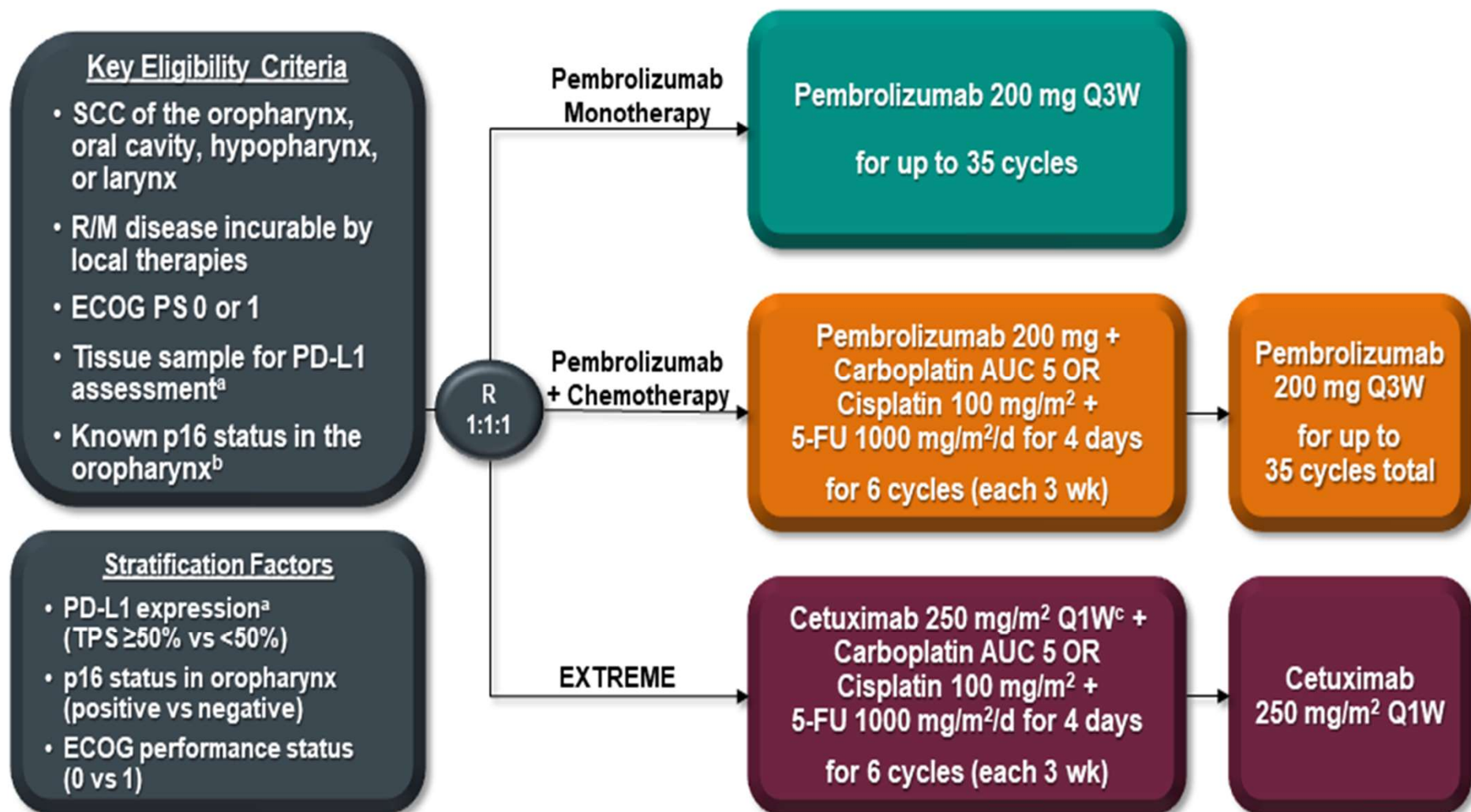
Chemotherapy induces tumor infiltration by lymphocytes



Images courtesy of D Rimm and WG Yarbrough, Yale School of Medicine and Yale Cancer Center.

1. Cohen EA et al. *Ann Oncol* 2017;28(suppl 5): abstr LBA45\_PR.
2. Ferris RL et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375:1856-67.
3. Economopoulou P et al. *Ann Oncol* 2016;27:1675-85.

# KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)



<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

# Study End Points: Pembrolizumab vs EXTREME and Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy vs EXTREME

## Primary

- CPS  $\geq 20$ ,<sup>a</sup> CPS  $\geq 1$ ,<sup>a</sup> and total populations
  - OS
  - PFS<sup>b</sup>

## Secondary

- CPS  $\geq 20$ ,<sup>a</sup> CPS  $\geq 1$ ,<sup>a</sup> and total populations
  - PFS<sup>b</sup> rates at 6 and 12 mo
  - ORR<sup>b</sup>
  - Change from baseline and time to deterioration in quality of life (EORTC QLQ-C30 and H&N-35)<sup>c</sup>
- Total population
  - Safety and tolerability

## Key Exploratory

- CPS  $\geq 20$ ,<sup>a</sup> CPS  $\geq 1$ ,<sup>a</sup> and total populations
  - Duration of response<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Assessed at a central laboratory using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay. CPS = combined positive score = number of PD-L1-positive cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, macrophages) divided by total number of tumor cells  $\times 100$ .

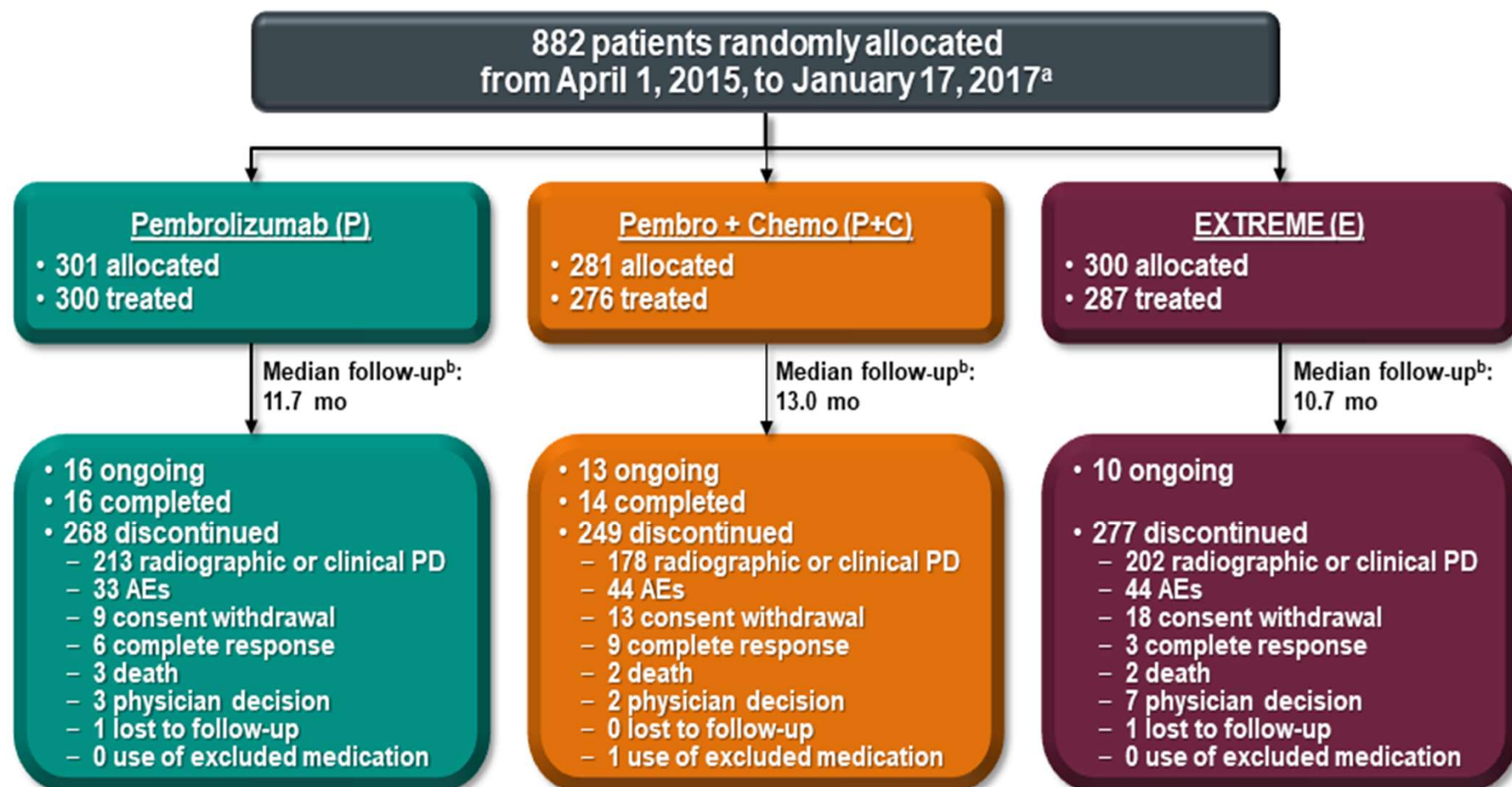
<sup>b</sup>Assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central review.

<sup>c</sup>To be presented at a later date.





# Disposition of All Randomized Patients



<sup>a</sup>There was an enrollment hold for the pembrolizumab + chemotherapy arm from Aug 13, 2015 to Oct 2, 2015.

<sup>b</sup>Defined as the time from randomization to the date of death or database cutoff date of Jun 13, 2018, if the patient was alive.

# Baseline Characteristics, ITT Population

Characteristic, n (%)	Pembro Alone vs EXTREME		Pembro + Chemo vs EXTREME	
	Pembro N = 301	EXTREME N = 300	Pembro + Chemo N = 281	EXTREME N = 278 <sup>a</sup>
Age, median (range), yrs	62 (22-94)	61 (24-84)	61 (20-85)	61 (24-84)
Male	250 (83.1)	261 (87.0)	224 (79.7)	242 (87.1)
ECOG PS 1	183 (60.8)	183 (61.0)	171 (60.9)	170 (61.2)
Current/former smoker	239 (79.4)	234 (78.0)	224 (79.7)	215 (77.3)
p16 positive (oropharynx)	63 (20.9)	67 (22.3)	60 (21.4)	61 (21.9)
PD-L1 status				
TPS $\geq$ 50%	67 (22.3)	66 (22.0)	66 (23.5)	62 (22.3)
CPS $\geq$ 20	133 (44.2)	122 (40.7)	126 (44.8)	110 (39.6)
CPS $\geq$ 1	257 (85.4)	255 (85.0)	242 (86.1)	235 (84.5)
Disease status <sup>b</sup>				
Metastatic	216 (71.8)	203 (67.7)	201 (71.5)	187 (67.3)
Recurrent only <sup>c</sup>	82 (27.2)	94 (31.3)	76 (27.0)	88 (31.7)

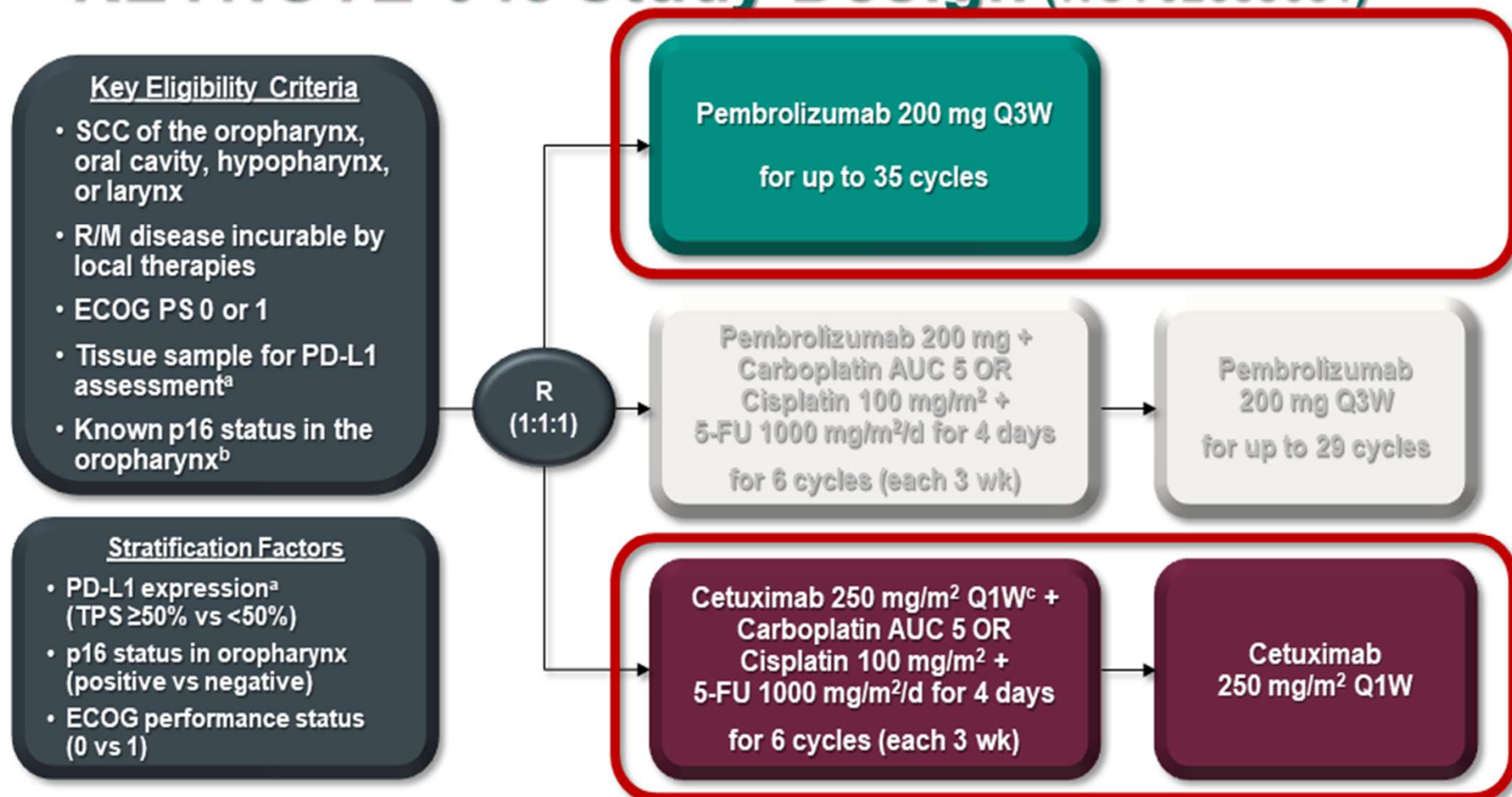
<sup>a</sup>Patients randomized to EXTREME during the pembro + chemo enrollment hold were excluded from all pembro + chemo vs EXTREME efficacy comparisons.

<sup>b</sup>3 patients in the pembro arm, 3 patients in the EXTREME arm, and 4 patients in the pembro + chemo arm had neither metastatic nor recurrent disease.

<sup>c</sup>Includes locally recurrent disease and disease that spread to cervical lymph nodes. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



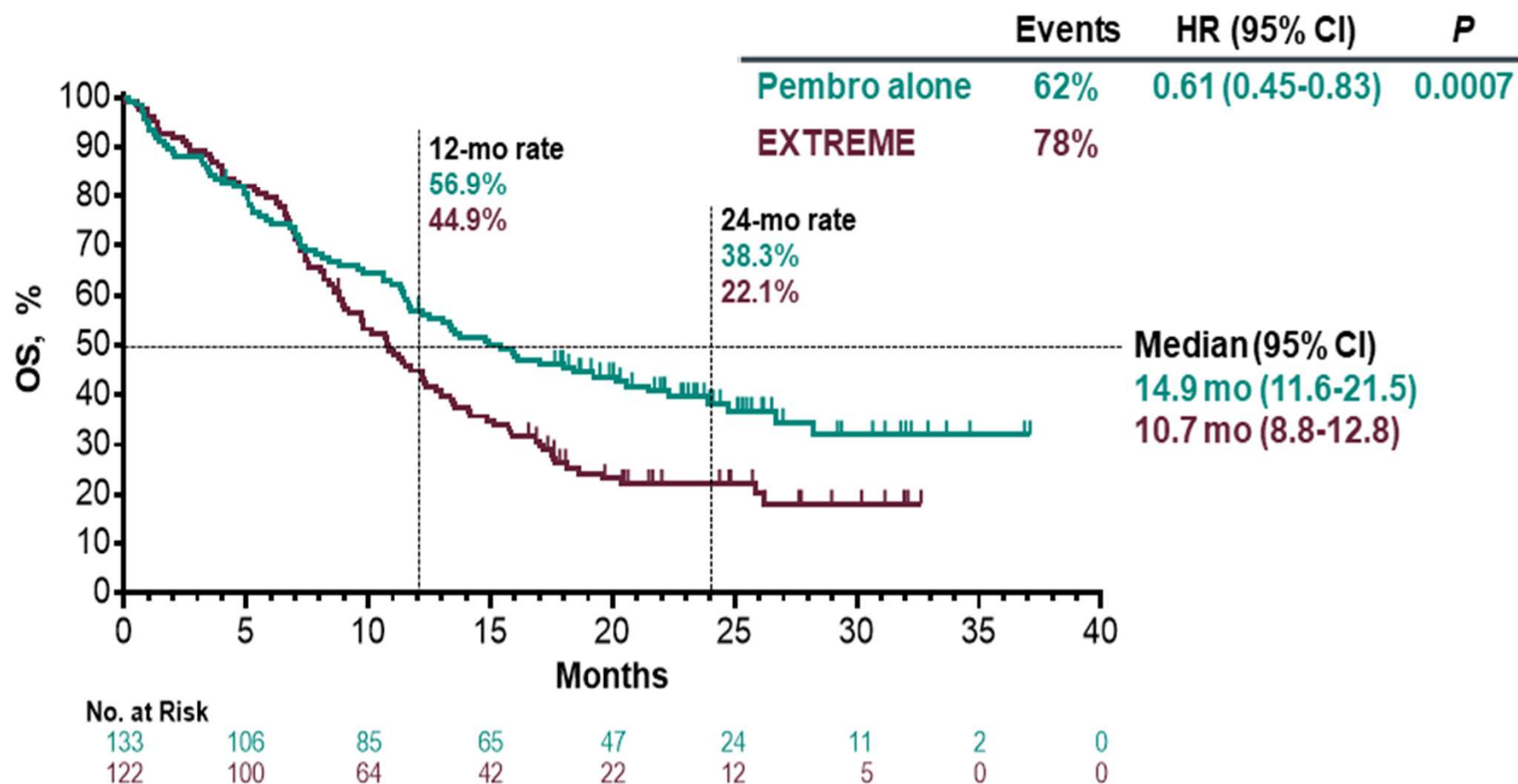
# KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)



<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the Cintec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

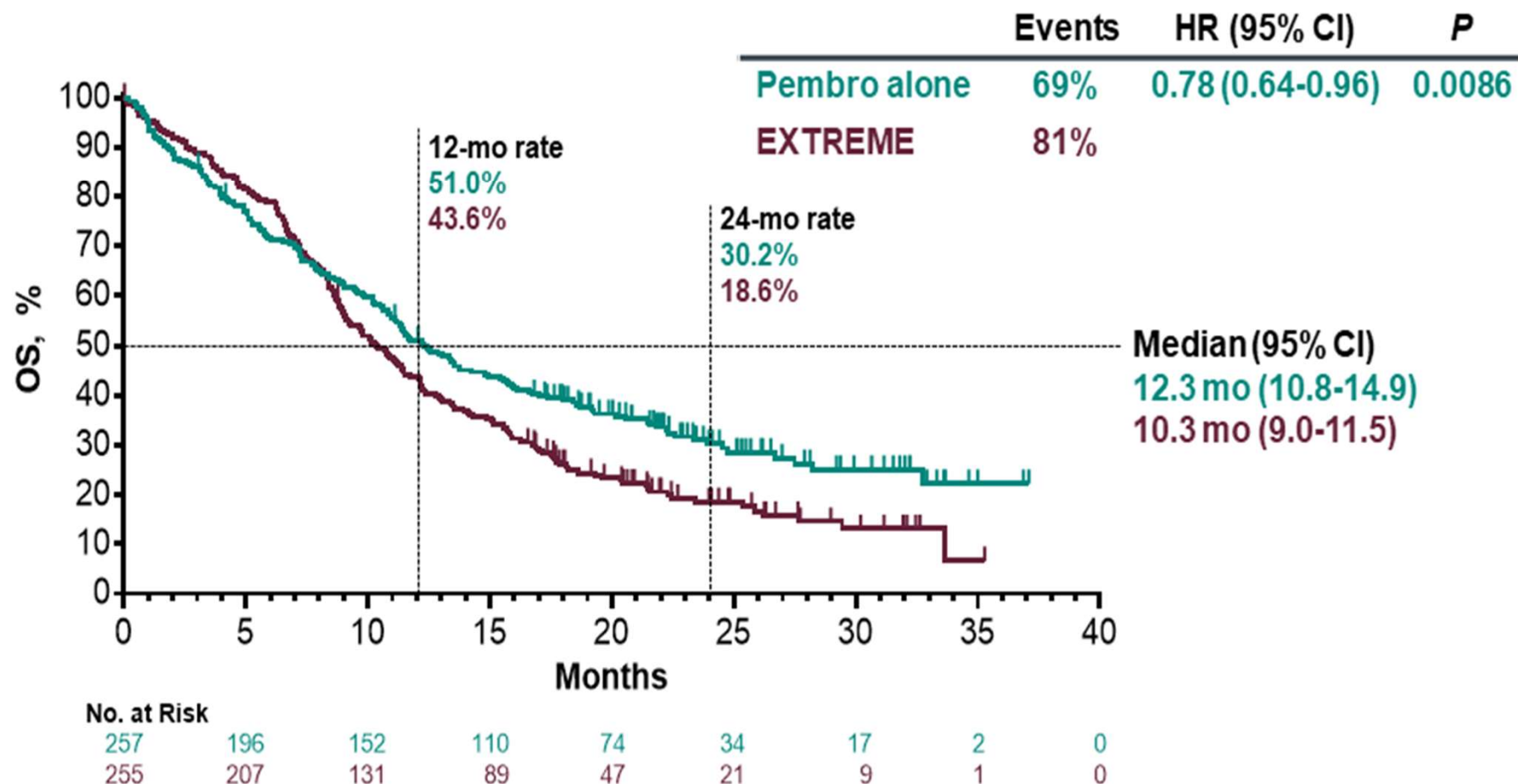


# Overall Survival: P vs E, CPS $\geq 20$ Population



Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

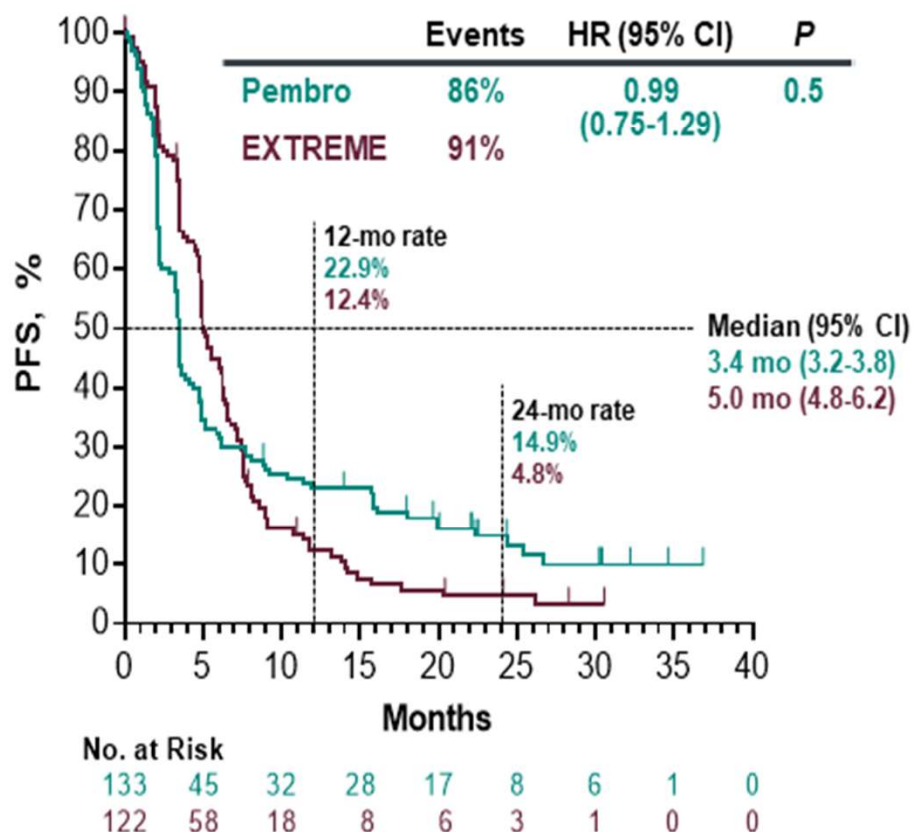
# Overall Survival: P vs E, CPS $\geq 1$ Population



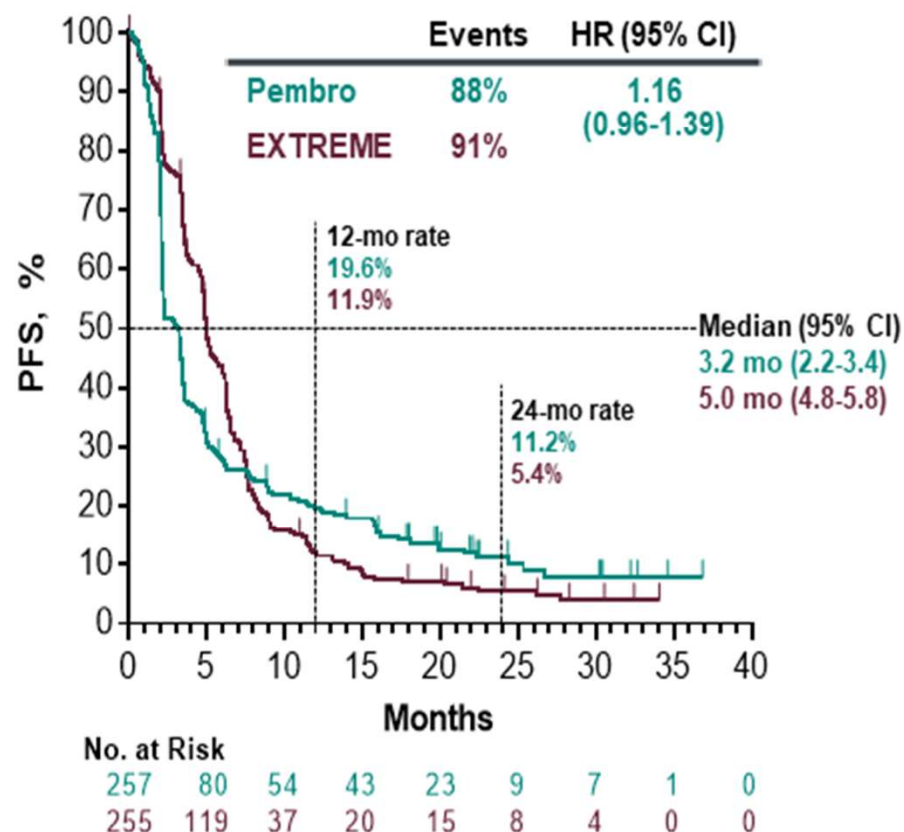
Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

# Progression-Free Survival: P vs E

## CPS $\geq 20$



## CPS $\geq 1$



Progression-free survival assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review.  
Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

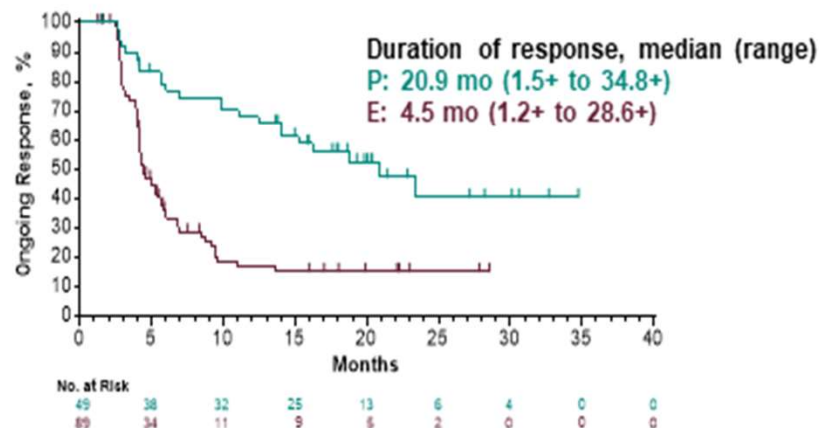
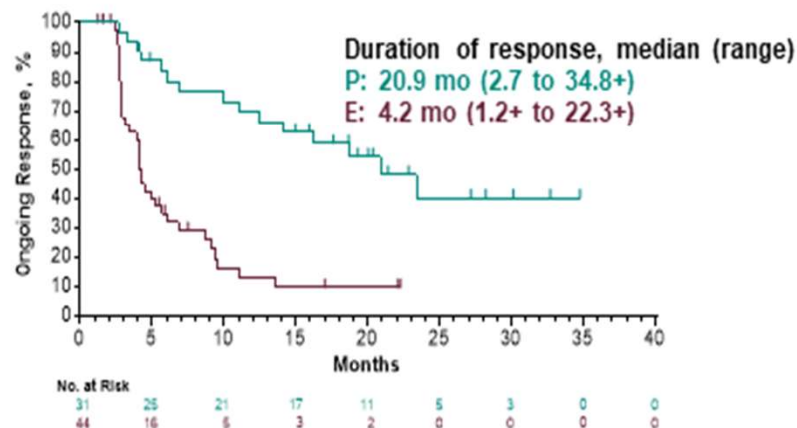
# Response Summary, P vs E

## CPS $\geq 20$

Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro N = 133	EXTREME N = 122
ORR	31 (23.3)	44 (36.1)
CR	10 (7.5)	4 (3.3)
PR	21 (15.8)	40 (32.8)
SD	40 (30.1)	42 (34.4)
PD	42 (31.6)	13 (10.7)
Non-CR/non-PD <sup>a</sup>	8 (6.0)	6 (4.9)
Not evaluable or assessed <sup>b</sup>	12 (9.0)	17 (13.9)

## CPS $\geq 1$

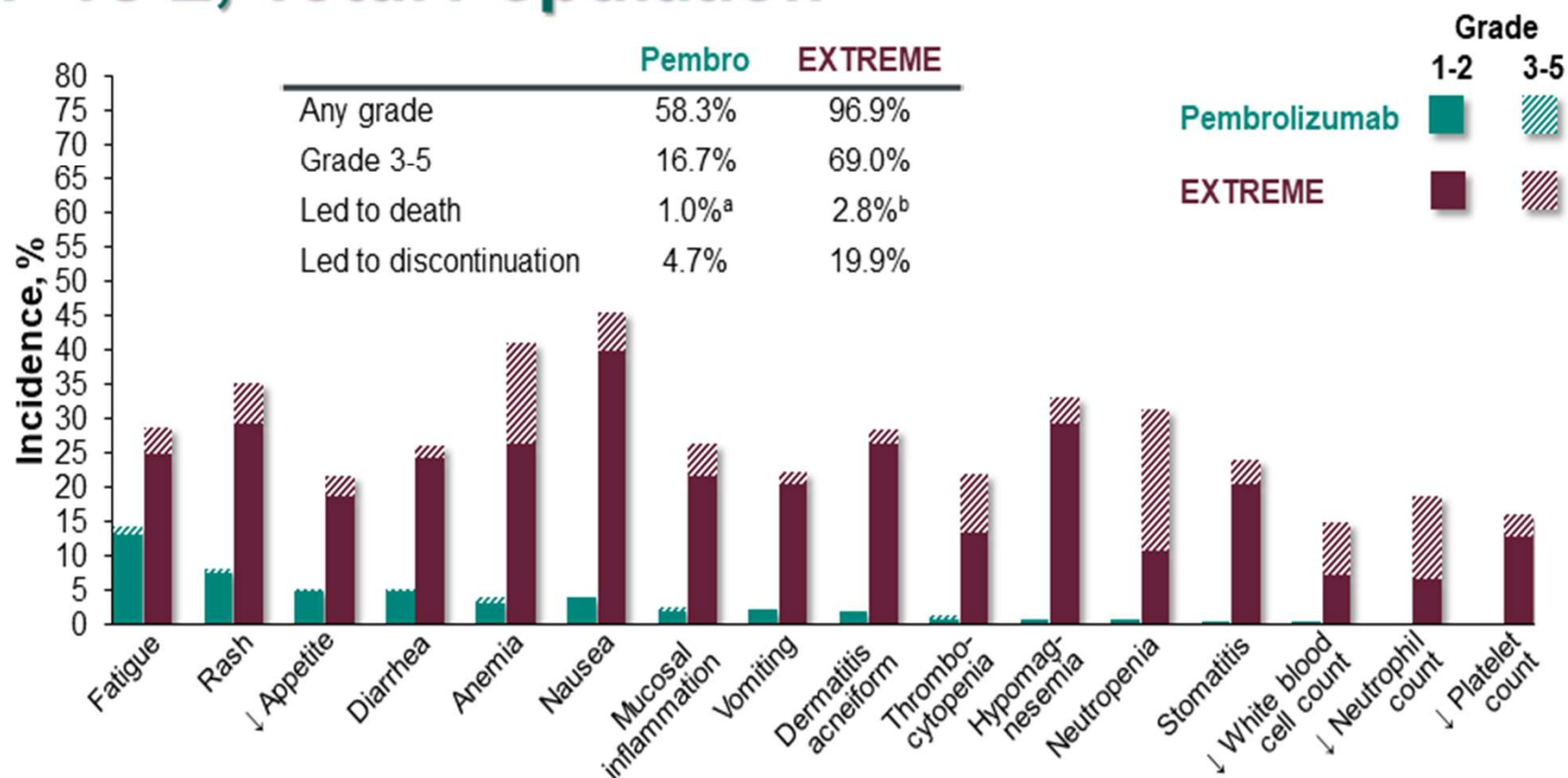
Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro N = 257	EXTREME N = 255
ORR	49 (19.1)	89 (34.9)
CR	14 (5.4)	7 (2.7)
PR	35 (13.6)	82 (32.2)
SD	72 (28.0)	83 (32.5)
PD	100 (38.9)	34 (13.3)
Non-CR/non-PD <sup>a</sup>	11 (4.3)	11 (4.3)
Not evaluable or assessed <sup>b</sup>	25 (9.7)	38 (14.9)



<sup>a</sup>Patients without measurable disease per central review at baseline who did not have CR or PD. <sup>b</sup>Patients who did not have a post-baseline imaging assessment evaluable for response or who did not have post-baseline imaging. Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



# Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence $\geq 15\%$ , P vs E, Total Population

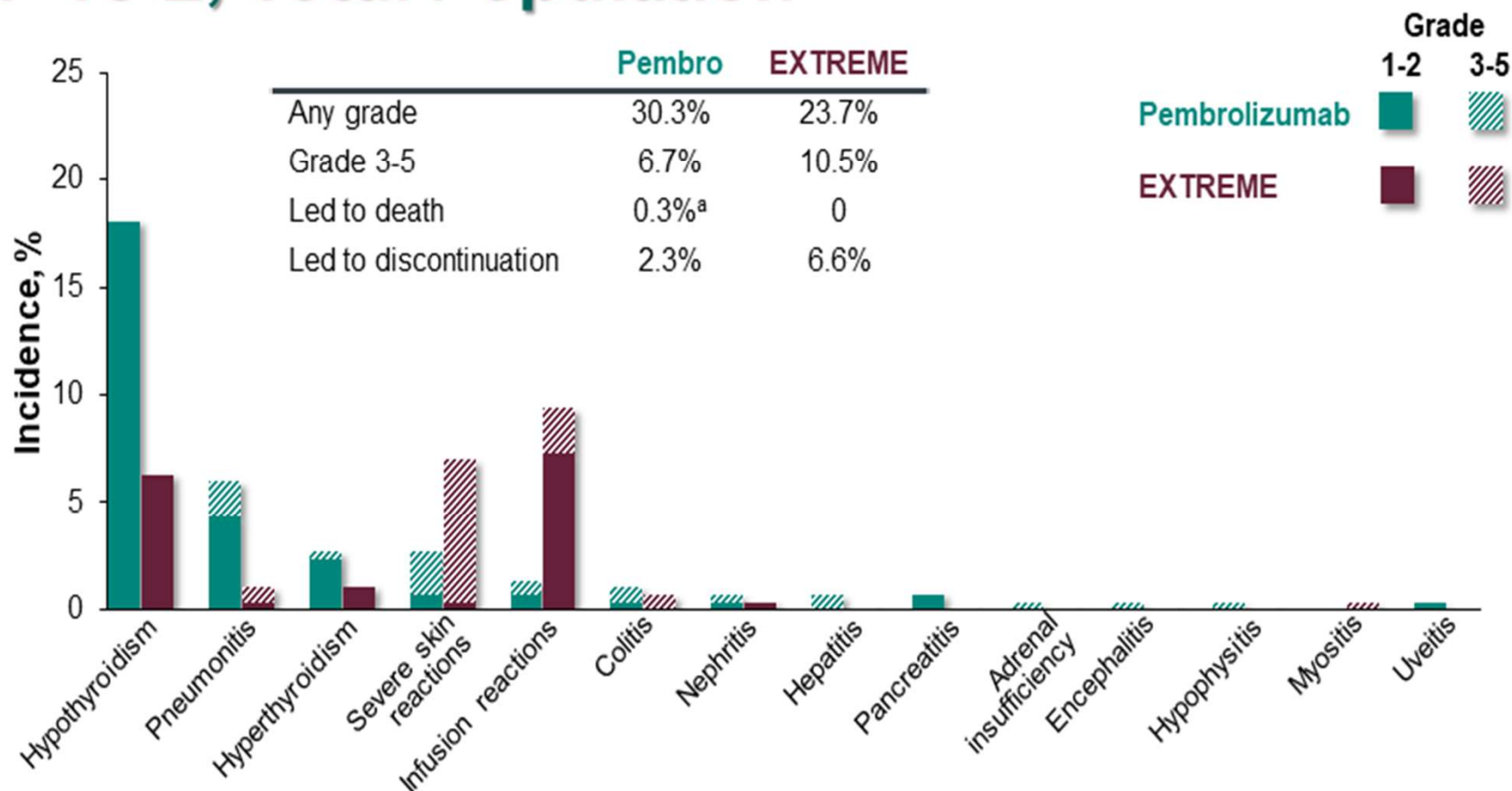


Median (range) treatment duration was 3.5 mo (0.03-24.2) for pembrolizumab and 4.9 mo (0.03-35.3) for EXTREME.

<sup>a</sup>Autoinflammatory disease, disseminated intravascular coagulation, and pneumonitis (n=1 each).

<sup>b</sup>Pneumonia (n=3), sepsis (n=2), and hypoxia, osteomyelitis, and pulmonary artery thrombosis (n=1 each). Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

# Immune-Mediated AEs and Infusion Reactions, P vs E, Total Population



<sup>a</sup>Pneumonitis (n=1).

Considered regardless of attribution to treatment or immune relatedness by the investigator. Related terms included in addition to preferred terms listed. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

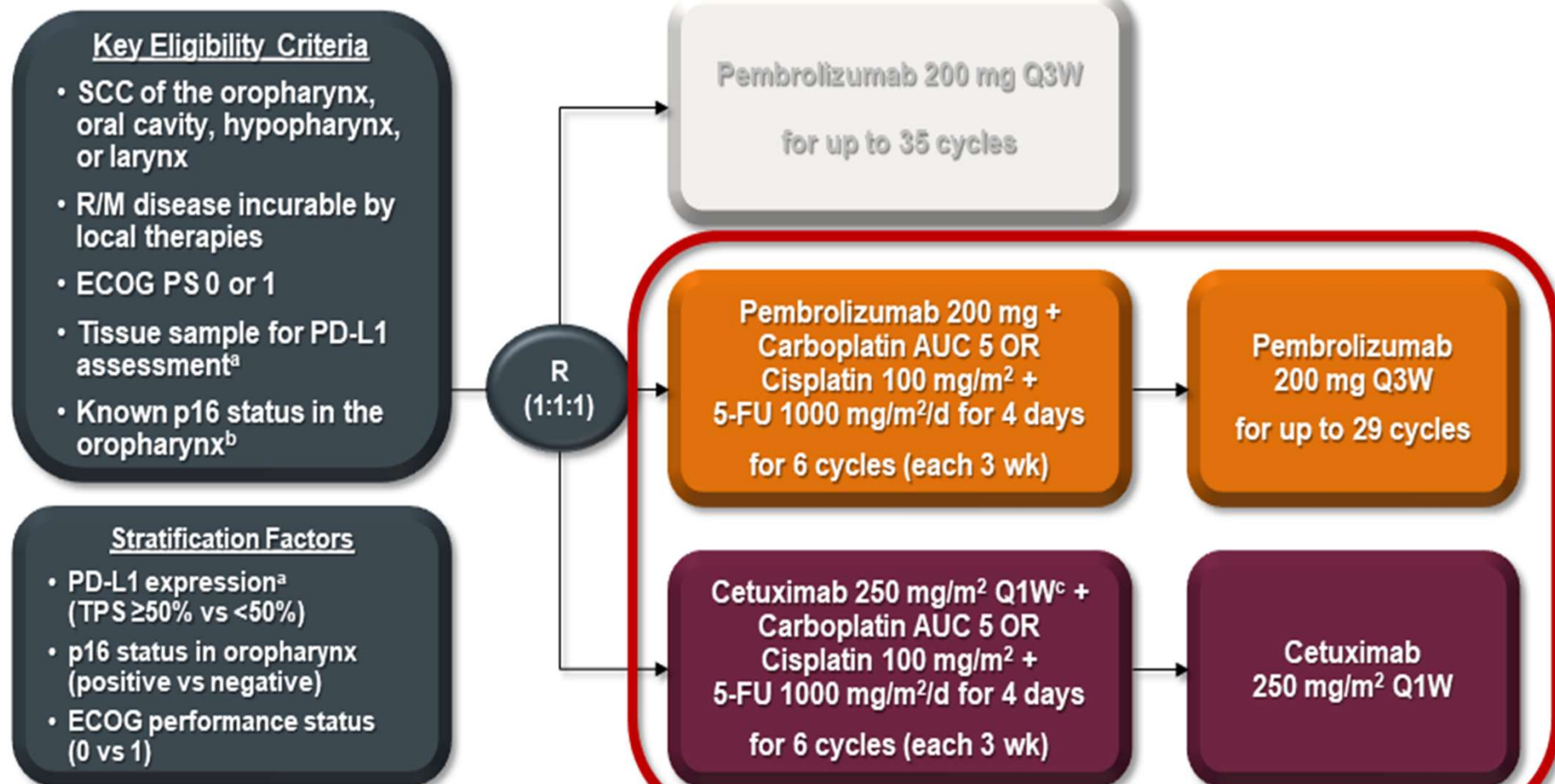
# Summary and Conclusions: Pembrolizumab Monotherapy vs EXTREME

- Pembrolizumab significantly improved OS vs EXTREME in the PD-L1 CPS  $\geq 20$  (HR 0.61,  $P = 0.0007$ ) and CPS  $\geq 1$  (HR 0.78,  $P = 0.0086$ ) populations
  - No PFS benefit for pembrolizumab
  - Although pembrolizumab had a lower ORR, responses were substantially more durable
- Pembrolizumab had a favorable safety profile vs EXTREME
  - Lower incidence of any-grade, grade 3-4, and grade 5 treatment-related AEs
  - Lower incidence of treatment-related AEs leading to discontinuation
  - Safety profiles as expected for pembrolizumab and EXTREME
- Data support pembrolizumab monotherapy as a new first-line standard-of-care for R/M HNSCC that expresses PD-L1



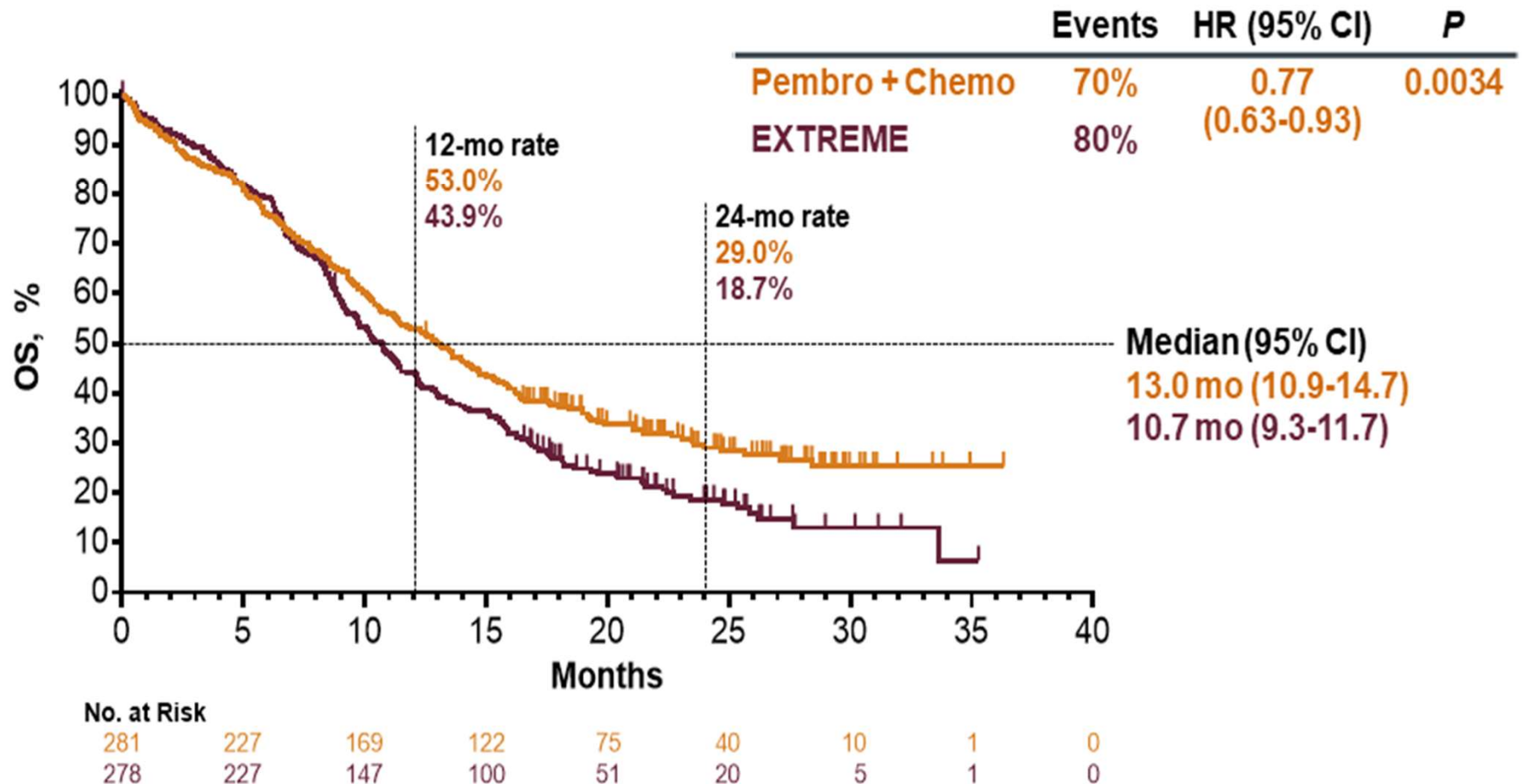


# KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)



<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score. <sup>b</sup>Assessed using the p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

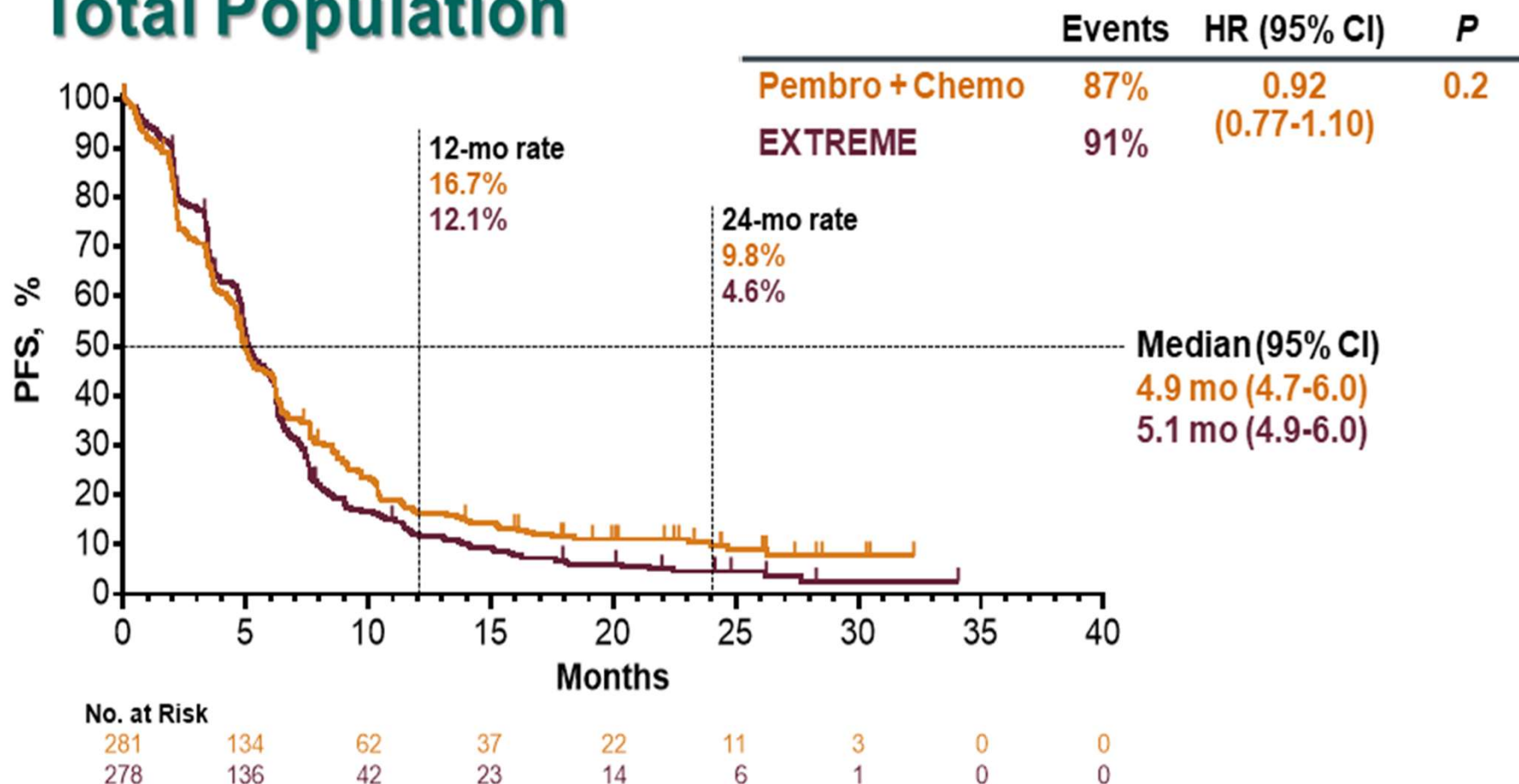
# Overall Survival: P+C vs E, Total Population



Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



# Progression-Free Survival: P+C vs E, Total Population

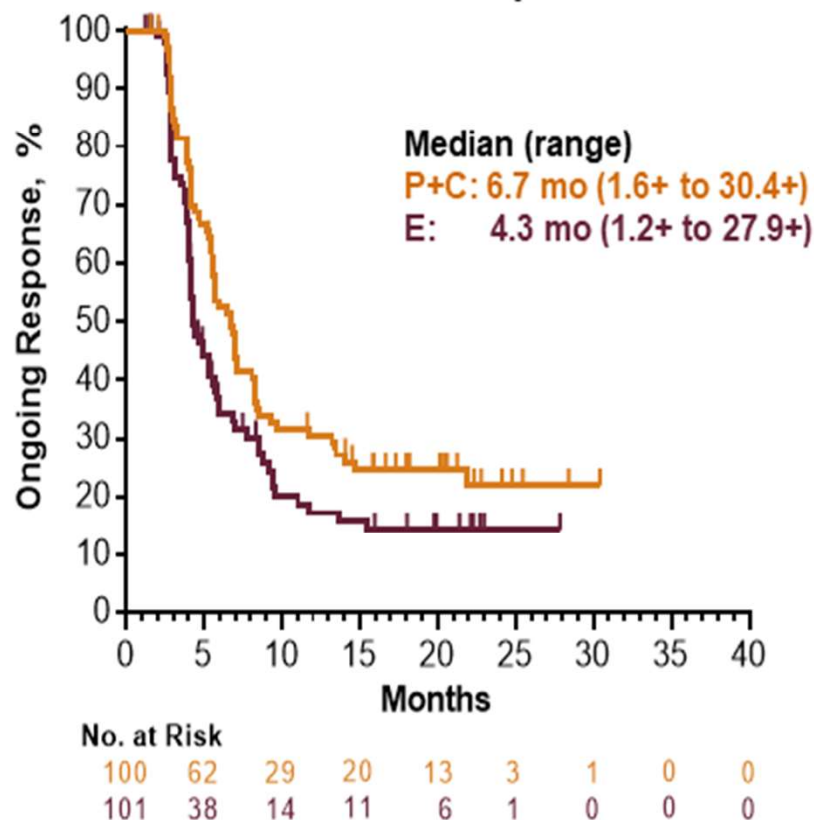


Progression-free survival assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review.  
Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

# Response Summary, P+C vs E, Total Population

Confirmed Response, n (%)	Pembro + Chemo N = 281	EXTREME N = 278
ORR	100 (35.6)	101 (36.3)
CR	17 (6.0)	8 (2.9)
PR	83 (29.5)	93 (33.5)
SD	78 (27.8)	94 (33.8)
PD	48 (17.1)	34 (12.2)
Non-CR/non-PD <sup>a</sup>	13 (4.6)	9 (3.2)
Not evaluable or assessed <sup>b</sup>	42 (14.9)	40 (14.4)

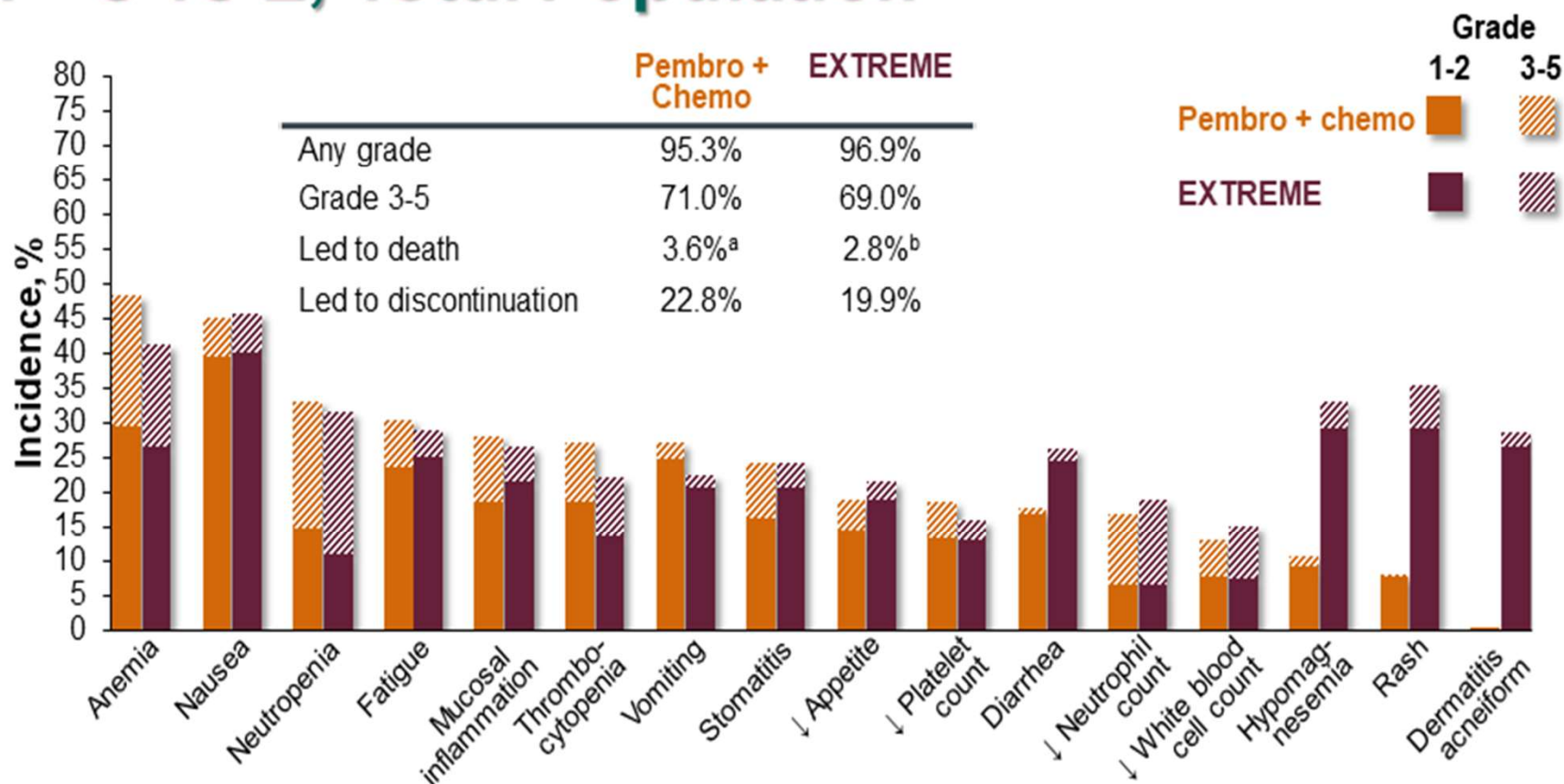
## Duration of Response



<sup>a</sup>Patients without measurable disease per central review at baseline who did not have CR or PD. <sup>b</sup>Patients who did not have a post-baseline imaging assessment evaluable for response or who did not have post-baseline imaging. Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central radiologic review. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.



# Treatment-Related AEs With Incidence $\geq 15\%$ , P+C vs E, Total Population

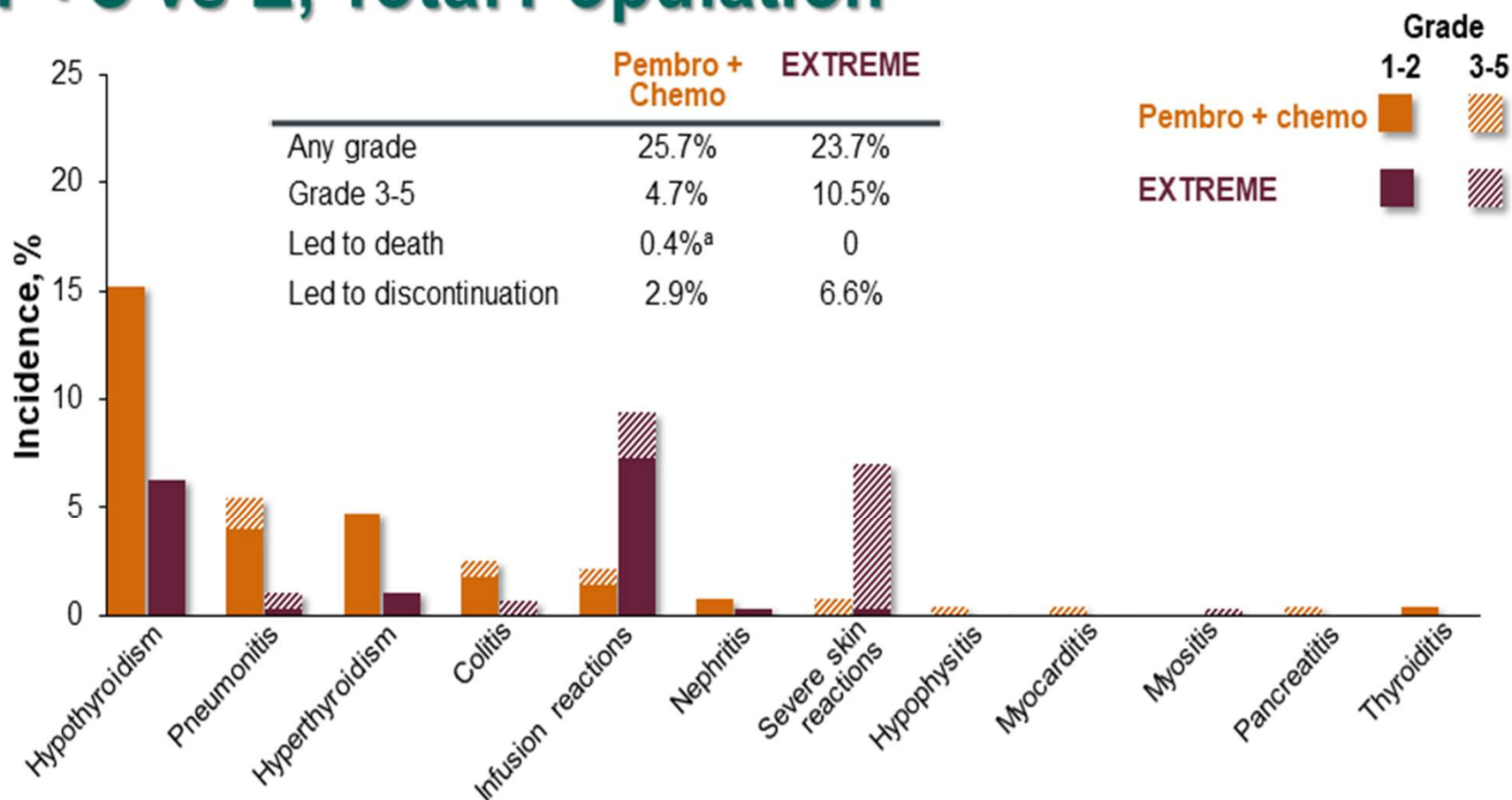


Median (range) treatment duration was 5.8 mo (0.1-24.2) for pembrolizumab + chemotherapy and 4.9 mo (0.03-35.3) for EXTREME.

<sup>a</sup>Septic shock (n=5) and cerebral ischemia, hemorrhage, interstitial lung disease, sepsis, and tumor hemorrhage (n=1 each).

<sup>b</sup>Pneumonia (n=3), sepsis (n=2), and hypoxia, osteomyelitis, and pulmonary artery thrombosis (n=1 each). Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

# Immune-Mediated AEs and Infusion Reactions, P+C vs E, Total Population



<sup>a</sup>Pneumonitis (n=1).

Considered regardless of attribution to treatment or immune relatedness by the investigator. Related terms included in addition to preferred terms listed. Data cutoff date: Jun 13, 2018.

**ONCOLOGY**

# Summary and Conclusions: Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy vs EXTREME

- Pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy with a platinum and 5-FU significantly improved OS vs EXTREME in the total population (HR 0.77,  $P = 0.0034$ )
  - No PFS or ORR benefit for pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy
  - Responses to pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy were more durable
- Pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy had a comparable safety profile vs EXTREME
  - Similar incidence of any-grade, grade 3-4, and grade 5 treatment-related AEs
  - No unexpected toxicity in the pembrolizumab + chemotherapy arm
- Data support pembrolizumab plus platinum-based chemotherapy as a new first-line standard-of-care for R/M HNSCC



# Overall Survival Hypotheses to be Tested at the Final Analysis

- Superiority of pembrolizumab alone in the total population
  - At current analysis, pembrolizumab was noninferior to EXTREME in the total population (noninferiority boundary, 1.2)
- Superiority of pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy in the CPS  $\geq 20$  population
- Superiority of pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy in the CPS  $\geq 1$  population
  - Only if superiority in the CPS  $\geq 20$  population demonstrated



# Ongoing Phase III Studies With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors in First-Line R/M HNSCC vs Standard of Care

Trial Name (NCT #)	Immunotherapy Agent(s) in Study	Phase	Population	Treatment Arms
<b>CheckMate 651</b> (NCT02741570)	Nivolumab, Ipilimumab	III	Previously untreated R/M HNSCC, ≥6 months since last dose of platinum	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab vs EXTREME
<b>KESTREL</b> (NCT02551159) completed accrual	Durvalumab Tremelimumab	III		Durvalumab vs Durvalumab + tremelimumab vs EXTREME

## Key Take-Home Messages

- **Pembrolizumab +/- Chemo is the new standard first- line treatment for R/M HNSCC, recommended by international guidelines**
- **Nivolumab and pembrolizumab are the standard-of-care options for patients with R/M HNSCC after platinum-based therapy**
  - In asymptomatic patients with no rapid progression, immune checkpoint can be continued until further radiographic assessment in 8 weeks
- **PD-L1 can not be used as a biomarker in SCCHN**
- **PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors are in general well tolerated, but irAEs can develop; early recognition and management are important**

# QUESTIONS?

