



University of California
San Francisco

Mesothelioma and Thymoma

Best of IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer 2022

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November 12, 2022

Disclosures

- Consulting
 - AstraZeneca, BMS, Cardinal Health, Genentech/Roche, Genzyme, Guardant, iTeos, Sanofi, Surface
- Research Funding (to institution)
 - Amgen, Celgene, JNJ, Merck, Novartis, OncoMed, Trizell
- I will discussing non-FDA approved treatment/ indications during my presentation today (research findings)

Phase III Study of Pemetrexed in Combination With Cisplatin Versus Cisplatin Alone in Patients With Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

By Nicholas J. Vogelzang, James J. Rusthoven, James Symanowski, Claude Denham, E. Kurt Hellman, Ulrich Gatzemeier, Michael Boyer, Salih Emri, Christian Manegold, Clet Niyiki, and Robert J. Gray

Purpose: Patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma are a rapidly progressing malignancy with a median survival time of 6 to 9 months, have previously responded poorly to chemotherapy. We conducted a phase III trial to determine whether treatment with pemetrexed plus cisplatin resulted in survival time superior to that of cisplatin alone.

Patients and Methods: 456 patients who were not eligible for surgery were randomly assigned to receive pemetrexed 750 mg/m² and cisplatin 75 mg/m² on day 1. Both regimens were given intravenously every 21 days.

Results: A total of 456 patients were assigned: 226 received pemetrexed and cisplatin, 222 received cisplatin alone, and eight never received therapy. Median survival time in the pemetrexed/cisplatin arm was 12.1 months versus 9.3 months in the control arm ($P = .020$, two-sided log-rank test). The hazard ratio for death of patients in the pemetrexed/

cisplatin arm was 0.77. Median time to progression was significantly longer in the pemetrexed/cisplatin arm: 5.7 months versus 3.9 months ($P = .0001$). Response rates were 41.3% in the pemetrexed/cisplatin arm versus 16.7% in the control arm ($P < .0001$). After 117 patients had enrolled, folic acid and vitamin B₁₂ were added to reduce toxicity, resulting in a significant reduction in toxicities in the pemetrexed/cisplatin arm.

Conclusion: Treatment with pemetrexed plus cisplatin and vitamin supplementation resulted in superior survival time, time to progression, and response rates compared with treatment with cisplatin alone in patients with malignant pleural mesothelioma. Addition of folic acid and vitamin B₁₂ significantly reduced toxicity without adversely affecting survival time.

J Clin Oncol 21:2636-2644. © 2003 by American Society of Clinical Oncology.

FDA approved 2/4/2004

Then 2004-2016...



2016: MAPS trial

Bevacizumab for newly diagnosed pleural mesothelioma in the Mesothelioma Avastin Cisplatin Pemetrexed Study (MAPS): a randomised, controlled, open-label trial



G rard Zalcman, Julien Mazieres, Jacques Margery, Laurent Greillier, Clarisse Audin, Romain Pinheiro, Romain Corre, Isabelle Monnet, Val rie Gounant, Fr d ric Riviere, Henri Janicot, Radj Genot, Quan Tran, Marie-Paule Lebitasy, Franck Morin, Christian Creveuil, Jean-Jacques Parienti, Arnaud Sastre, Cooperative Thoracic Intergroup (IFCT)

Summary

Background Malignant pleural mesothelioma is an aggressive cancer with poor prognosis, linked to occupational asbestos exposure. Vascular endothelial growth factor is a key mitogen for malignant pleural mesothelioma cells, therefore targeting of vascular endothelial growth factor might prove effective. We aimed to assess the effect on survival of bevacizumab compared to the present standard of care, cisplatin plus pemetrexed, as first-line treatment of advanced malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Lancet 2016; 387: 1405–14

Published Online
December 21, 2015
[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(15\)01238-6](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(15)01238-6)

This online publication has

OS benefit: 18.8 vs 16.1 mo, HR 0.77, p=0.0167

2016-2021: Not quite a desert

- Immunotherapy
 - Salvage PD-(L)1 inhibition
 - KEYNOTE-028, pembro in PD-L1+: PR 20%
 - Nivo-Meso, nivo in PD-L1 unselected: PR 15%
 - JAVELIN meso cohort, avelumab in PD-L1 unselected: PR 9.4%
 - Salvage CTLA4 inhibition
 - DETERMINE, tremelimumab (DETERMINE): RP2b study negative
 - Salvage combination
 - MAPS-2, nivo+ipi: PR 24%
 - INITIATE, nivo+ipi: PR 27%
 - NIBIT-Meso, durva+treme PR 28%

2020 WCLC in “Singapore”

First-line nivolumab plus ipilimumab in unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma (CheckMate 743): a multicentre, randomised, open-label phase 3 trial

Paul Baas, Arnaud Scherpereel, Anna K Nowak, Nobukazu Fujimoto, Scott Antonia, Youssef Oulkhair, Yolanda Bautista, Robin G. M. van Oort RP, Sanjay Popat, Thierry Jahan, Jérónimo Rodríguez-Cid, Praveen Aanur, Abderrahmane Bouhassira, Dariusz Kowalski, and the CheckMate 743 Investigators

Summary

Background Approaches to the treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) have been limited to chemotherapy, with no clear survival benefit with poor outcomes. Nivolumab plus ipilimumab has shown clinical activity in other cancer types, including first-line non-small-cell lung cancer. We hypothesised that this regimen would improve overall survival in MPM.



FDA approved 10/2/20

Lancet 2021; 397: 375–86
Published Online
January 21, 2021
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)32714-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32714-8)

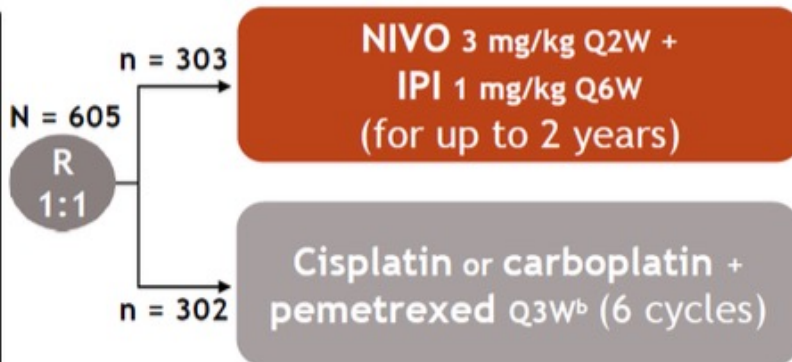
CheckMate 743: Nivolumab + ipilimumab

Key Eligibility Criteria

- Unresectable pleural mesothelioma
- No prior systemic therapy
- ECOG performance status 0-1

Stratified by:

histology (epithelioid vs non-epithelioid)
and gender



Until disease
progression,
unacceptable toxicity
or for 2 years for
immunotherapy arm

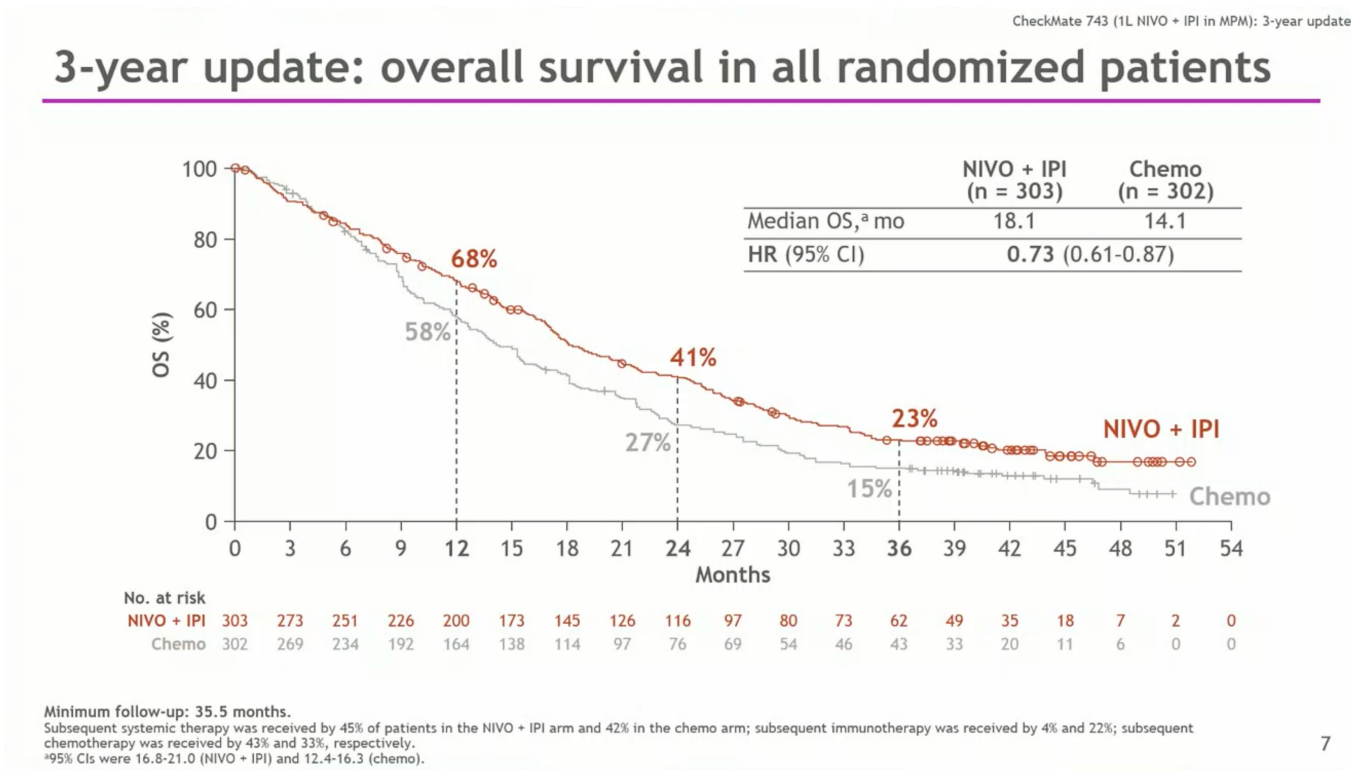
Primary Endpoint

- OS

Secondary Endpoints

- ORR, DCR, and PFS by BICR
- PD-L1^c expression as a predictive biomarker

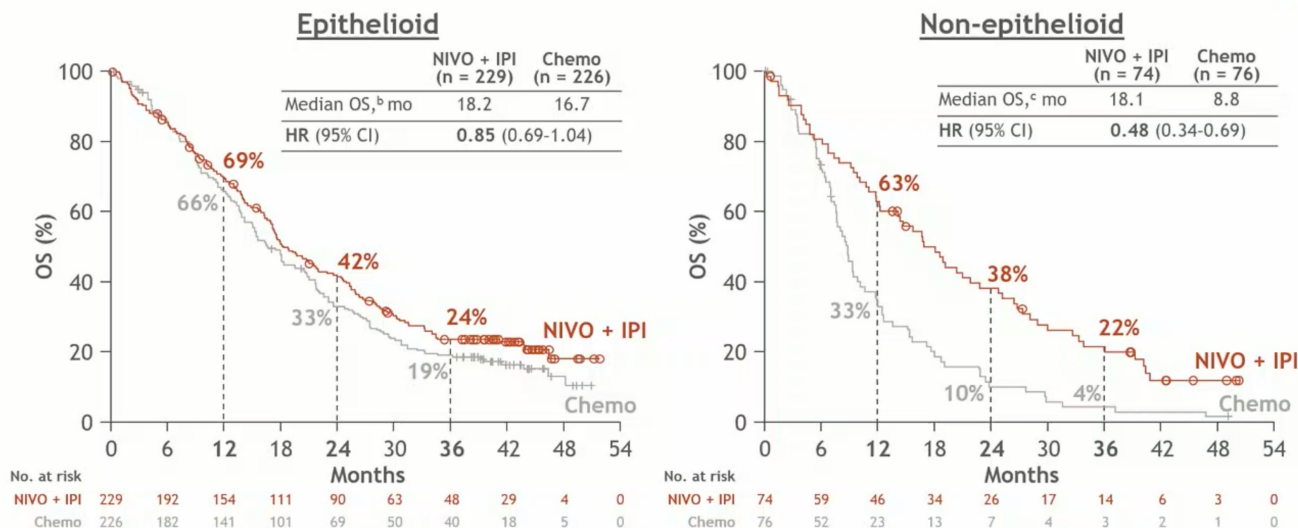
CheckMate 743: Nivolumab + ipilimumab– 3 year update



CheckMate 743: Nivolumab + ipilimumab– 3 year update

CheckMate 743 (1L NIVO + IPI in MPM): 3-year update

3-year update: OS by histology^a



Minimum follow-up: 35.5 months.

In patients with epithelioid histology, subsequent systemic therapy was received by 47% in the NIVO + IPI arm vs 44% in the chemo arm; subsequent immunotherapy was received by 4% vs 22%; subsequent chemotherapy was received by 45% vs 35%, respectively. In patients with non-epithelioid histology, subsequent systemic therapy was received by 39% in the NIVO + IPI arm vs 37% in the chemo arm; subsequent immunotherapy was received by 5% vs 20%; subsequent chemotherapy was received by 38% vs 26%, respectively.

^aHistology per CRF; ^b95% CIs were 16.9-21.9 (NIVO + IPI) and 14.9-20.3 (chemo); ^c95% CIs were 12.2-22.8 (NIVO + IPI) and 7.4-10.2 (chemo).

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What about 2nd and 3rd line?



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NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2022 Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

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PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY^{a,b}

FIRST-LINE SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Preferred

- Pemetrexed 500 mg/m² day 1
Cisplatin 75 mg/m² or carboplatin AUC 5^c day 1
Administered every 3 weeks (category 1 for cisplatin-based combination; category 2A for carboplatin-based combination)^{1,2-4}
- Pemetrexed 500 mg/m² day 1
Cisplatin 75 mg/m² or carboplatin AUC 5^c day 1
Bevacizumab^d 15 mg/kg day 1
Administered every 3 weeks for 6 cycles followed by maintenance bevacizumab 15 mg/kg every 3 weeks until disease progression (category 1 for cisplatin-based combination; category 2A for carboplatin-based combination)^{5,6,e}
- Nivolumab 360 mg every 3 weeks (or 3 mg/kg every 2 weeks) and ipilimumab 1 mg/kg every 6 weeks until disease progression, unacceptable toxicity, or up to 2 years in patients without disease progression^{7,e,f} (category 1) (preferred in non-epithelioid)

Preferred^g

- Pemetrexed (if not administered as first-line) (category 1)¹²
Consider rechallenge if good sustained response at the time initial chemotherapy was interrupted¹³
- Nivolumab ± ipilimumab^{14,15,16} (if not administered in first-line)

Useful in Certain Circumstances

- Gemcitabine 1000–1250 mg/m² days 1, 8, and 15
Cisplatin 80–100 mg/m² day 1
Administered in 3- to 4-week cycles^{8,9}
- Pemetrexed 500 mg/m² every 3 weeks¹⁰
- Vinorelbine 25–30 mg/m² weekly¹¹

SUBSEQUENT SYSTEMIC THERAPY

Other Recommended

- Vinorelbine^{17,18}
- Gemcitabine^{19,20}

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

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PEMbroliZumab Plus Lenvatinib In Second And Third Line Malignant Pleural MEsotheLiomA Patients; A Single Arm Phase II Study (PEMMELA)

L.H. Douma, C.J. de Gooijer, V. v.d. Noort,
F. Lalezari, J. de Vries, M. Vermeulen, B. Schilder,
I. Smesseim, P. Baas, J.A. Burgers

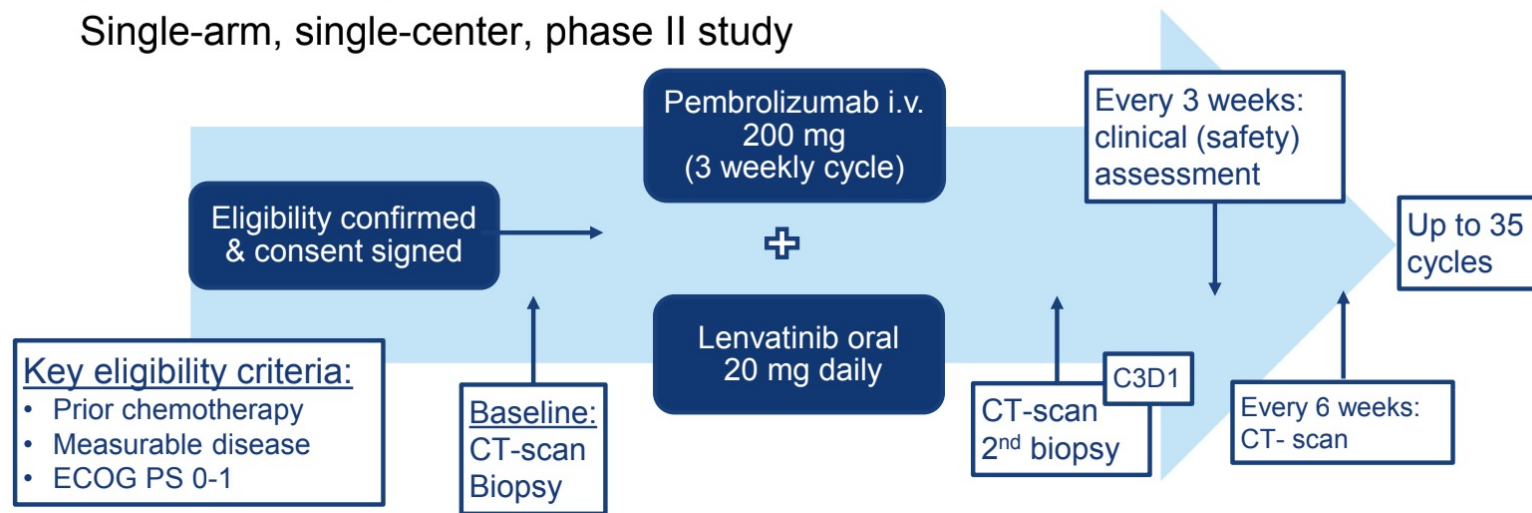
Netherlands Cancer Institute
Department of Thoracic Oncology



Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

Trial design

Single-arm, single-center, phase II study



Primary endpoint: ORR by PI

Secondary: ORR by central review, PFS, OS, tox

Plan n=38 pts

Target ORR 22→40%

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

	All patients (n=38)
Sex (male), n(%)	33 (86.8)
Median age (range), years	70.5 (36-83)
ECOG PS 0, n(%)	19 (50)
Histology, n(%)	
Epithelioid	34 (89.5)
Non-epithelioid	2 (5.3)
Mixed	2 (5.3)
PD-L1 status, n(%)	
Positive (≥1%)	18 (47.4)
Negative (<1%)	17 (44.7)
Not available	3 (7.9)

Accrual March 2021 – Feb. 2022

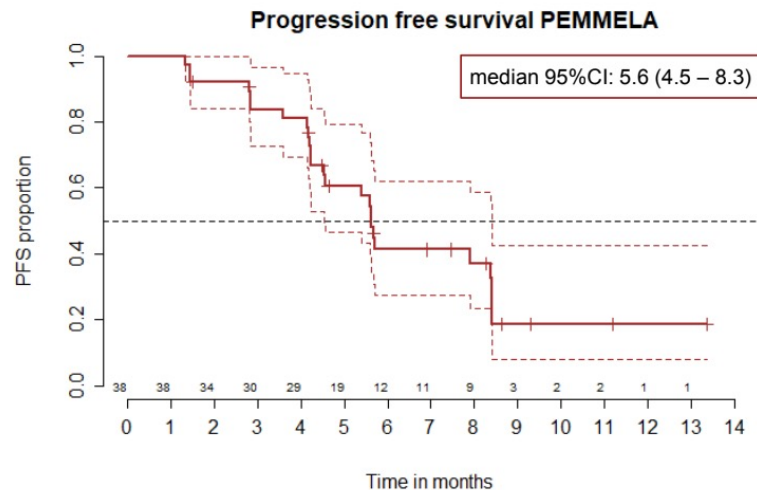
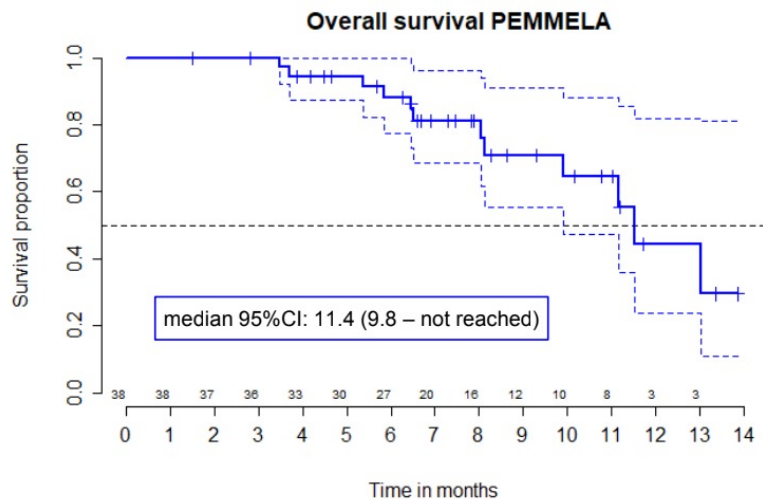
ORR

	Local investigator	Independent central reviewer (2 nd endpoint)
	PEM+LEN (N=38)	PEM+LEN (N=38)
Objective response (95% CI) -%	58 (41-74)	42 (26-59)
Best overall response – n(%)		
CR	0	0
PR	22 (58)	16 (42)
SD	16 (42)	22 (58)
PD	0	0
Objective response (only confirmed) (95% CI) -%	40 (24-57)	37 (22-54)

At evaluation, 13 patients still on treatment

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

OS & PFS (preliminary results)



Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

Safety summary – treatment related

	Grade 1-2 (n=38)	Grade 3 (n=38)	Grade 4 (n=38)
Fatigue	21	0	0
Hoarseness	21	0	0
Anorexia	13	3	0
Diarrhea	13	2	0
Hypertension	5	8	0
ALAT/ASAT increased	5	2	0
Stroke	0	2	0
Myositis	0	0	2

SAE's: 13 in 10 patients

**Lenvatinib: 29 out of 38 patients (76%) required
≥ 1 dose reduction/ permanent discontinuation**

**Pembrolizumab: 3 out of 38 (8%) patients
permanent discontinuation.**

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L: Authors conclusion

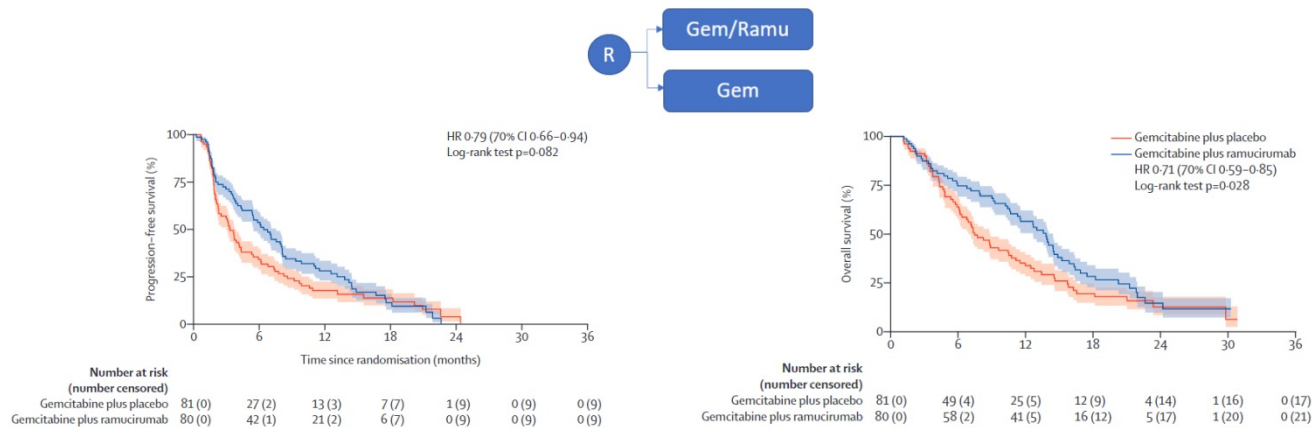
Conclusion

- The primary endpoint (ORR) was met with 58%
Highest ORR in MPM in second line treatment
- Promising clinical activity of pembrolizumab plus lenvatinib
- Remarkable but manageable toxicity
Dose reductions in 76%

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

- Activity with anti-angiogenesis (as with MAPS, but here with IO instead of chemo)

Gemcitabine/Ramucirumab (VEGFR2) confers longer progression-free and overall survival



Pinto et al, Lancet Oncology 2021

Pembrolizumab + Lenvatinib 2/3L

- Activity with anti-angiogenesis (as with MAPS, but here with IO instead of chemo)
- What of patients previously exposed to IO?
 - Consider LungMAP S1800A, pembro/ramucirumab, success with prior-treated
- What of sarcomatoid? n=2 (and biphasic n=2)
- BEAT-MESO trial accruing: cisplatin, pemetrexed, bevacizumab +/- atezolizumab, n=400

Future WCLC?

- Chemoimmunotherapy
 - DREAM3R phase 3: Cis/pemetrexed +/- durva
 - ETOP 13-18 BEAT Meso: Carbo/pemetrexed/bev +/- atezo
 - CCTG IND227/IFCT1901: Platinum/pemetrexed +/- pembro

Future WCLC?

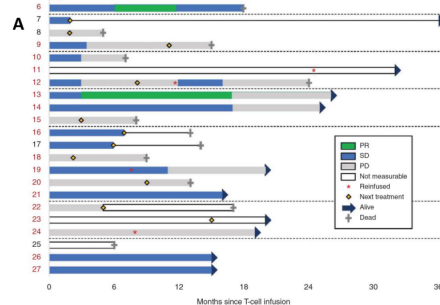
- Other immunotherapy
 - Cellular therapies...
 - Intra-pleural or systemic mesothelin and FAP-directed CARs

M28z Anti-mesothelin CAR-T: MSKCC

- Anti-MSLN scFv, m912 fused to CD28 and CD3 ζ signaling domain; retroviral transduction of T cells
- 23 mesothelioma patients treated with Cytoxan lymphodepletion
- CAR-T cells infused into pleural cavity; 0.3 - 60M CAR-T cells/kg; No DLT
- CAR-T cells detectable in blood for > 6 months in 17% of patients
- No objective tumor response by mRECIST; median OS, 17.7 months

Adusumilli et al., Cancer Discovery, 2021

Outcome of patients with mesothelioma who received pembrolizumab off protocol following M28z CAR T (n=18)



2 of 16 (12.5%) had PR after pembrolizumab
Median OS, 23.9 months

Ongoing study: Phase II study of fixed dose CAR-T (6×10^7 /kg) with pembrolizumab 4 weeks after CAR-T administration

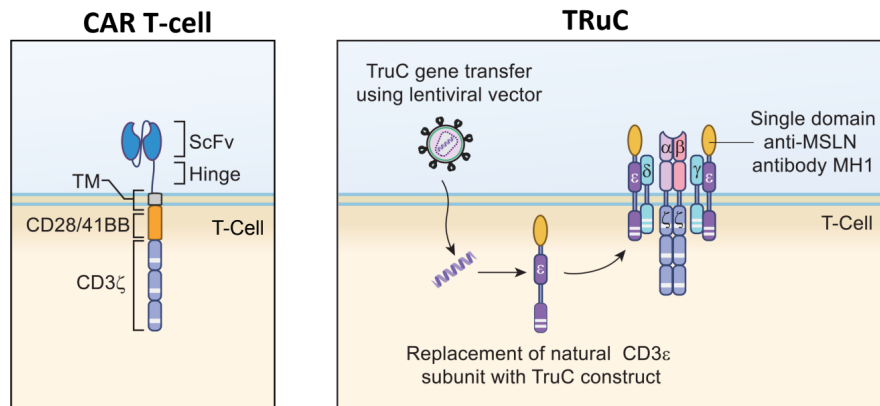
ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02414269

Adusumilli P et al., Cancer Discovery, 2021

Future WCLC?

- Other immunotherapy
 - Cellular therapies...
 - Intra-pleural or systemic mesothelin and FAP-directed CARs
 - Anti-mesothelin T cell receptor fusion construct (TRuC)

TC-210 (gavo-cel): anti-mesothelin T cell receptor fusion construct (TRuC)



TCR² Therapeutics

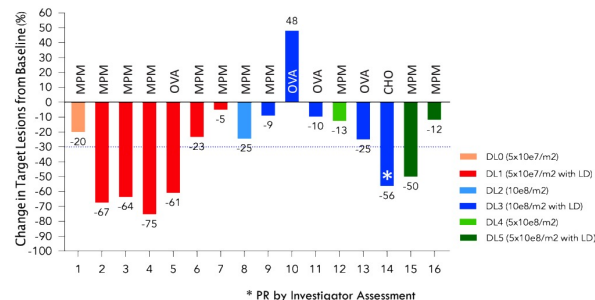
Future WCLC?

- Other immunotherapy
 - Cellular therapies...
 - Intra-pleural or systemic mesothelin and FAP-directed CARs
 - Anti-mesothelin T cell receptor fusion construct (TRuC)

Gavo-cel: Phase I study

- Single intravenous infusion \pm lymphodepletion with cytoxan/fludarabine
- 17 patients treated (12 mesothelioma, 4 ovarian, 1 cholangiocarcinoma)
- Median number of prior treatments 5 (range 1-9)
- DLT at 5×10^8 cells/m² with lymphodepletion (grade ≥ 3 CRS in all 3 pts.)
- RP2D 1×10^8 cells/m² with lymphodepletion
- Lymphodepletion was associated with greater persistence of gavo-cel

Tumor Response (n=16 patients)



	Overall	LD Group
DCR	81%	77%
ORR (independent)	25%	31%
ORR (investigator)	31%	38%

DCR = PR or SD lasting at least 3 months

ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT 03907852

Data cut-off date: June 30th, 2021



MPM: malignant pleural/peritoneal mesothelioma; OVA: ovarian cancer; CHO: cholangiocarcinoma; DL: dose level; LD: lymphodepletion; DCR: disease control rate; ORR: overall response rate

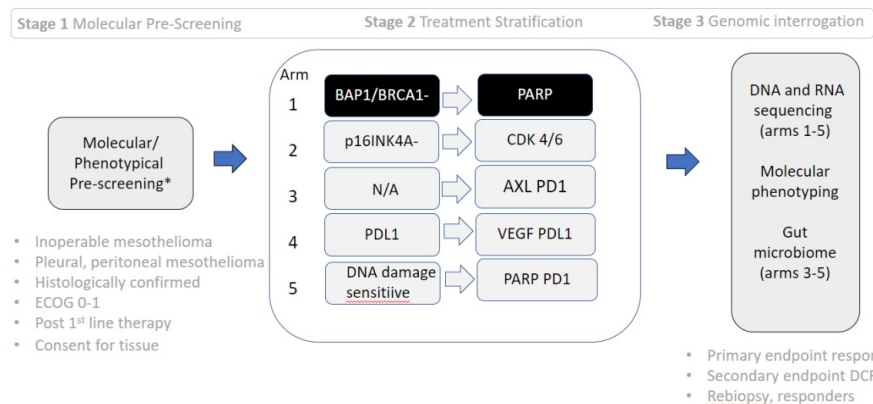
Future WCLC?

- Targeted therapy



Mesothelioma Stratified Therapy (MiST) study design

Trials.gov ID NCT03654833



Dean A. Fennell, University of Leicester & University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, UK

Thymoma

- First line CAP (thymoma) or carboplatin/paclitaxel (thymic carcinoma)



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NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2022 Thymomas and Thymic Carcinomas

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PRINCIPLES OF SYSTEMIC THERAPY

SECOND-LINE SYSTEMIC THERAPY (in alphabetical order)

THYMOMA

Other Recommended

- Etoposide^{4,8,9}
- Everolimus¹⁰
- 5-FU and leucovorin¹¹
- Gemcitabine ± capecitabine^{12,13}
- Ifosfamide¹⁴
- Octreotide^b (including LAR) +/- prednisone¹⁵
- Paclitaxel¹⁶
- Pemetrexed¹⁷

THYMIC CARCINOMA

Other Recommended

- Everolimus¹⁰
- 5-FU and leucovorin¹¹
- Gemcitabine ± capecitabine^{12,13}
- Lenvatinib^{c,18}
- Paclitaxel¹⁷
- Pembrolizumab^{d,19,20}
- Pemetrexed¹⁶
- Sunitinib²¹

Useful in Certain Circumstances

- Etoposide^{4,8,9}
- Ifosfamide¹⁴

^b Nuclear medicine scan to assess for octreotide-avid disease.

^c There is a high risk for side effects and frequent dose reductions may be needed.

^d Pembrolizumab is not recommended for patients with thymoma. In patients with thymic carcinoma, there is concern for a higher rate of immune-related adverse events than seen in most other malignancies treated with PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitor therapy. For example, grade 3–4 myocarditis has been reported in 5%–9% of patients receiving pembrolizumab.

[References THYM-C 3 of 3](#)

Thymoma

- Proto: Phase II sunitinib in B3 thymoma or thymic carcinoma 2L+

Sunitinib for Thymoma and Thymic carcinoma

	Thymic carcinoma (n=23)		Thymoma (n=16)	
	Patients (%)	95% CI	Patients (%)	95% CI
Objective response*	6 (26%)	10.2-48.4†	1 (6%)	0.2-30.2
Stable disease	15 (65%)	42.7-83.6	12 (75%)	47.6-92.7
Progressive disease	2 (9%)	1.1-28.0	3 (19%)	4.1-45.7
Disease control	21 (91%)	72.0-98.9	13 (81%)	54.4-96.0

A. Thomas Lancet Oncol 2015

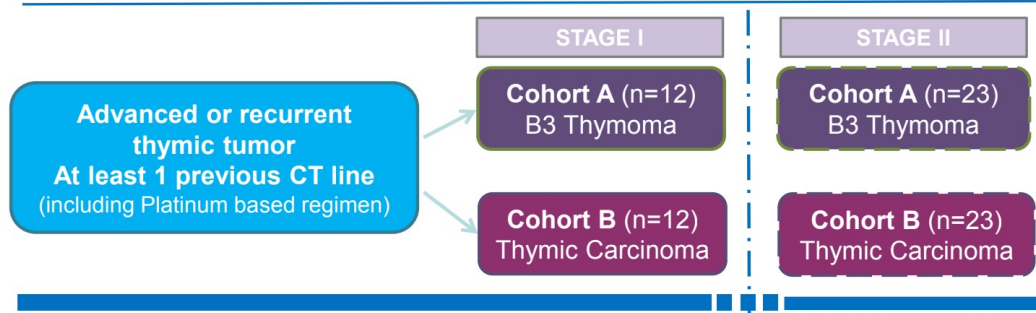
Thymoma

- Proto: Phase II sunitinib in B3 thymoma or thymic carcinoma 2L+

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Study design



Primary Endpoint: ORR

Secondary Endpoints: DCR, PFS, OS, Safety

Treatment: Sunitinib 50 mg once daily for 4 consecutive weeks followed by a 2-week rest period (schedule 4/2)

INTERIM ANALYSIS

Sunitinib for Thymoma and Thymic carcinoma

	Thymic carcinoma (n=23)		Thymoma (n=16)	
	Patients (%)	95% CI	Patients (%)	95% CI
Objective response*	6 (26%)	10.2-48.4†	1 (6%)	0.2-30.2
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A. Thomas Lancet Oncol 2015

Thymoma

- Proto: Phase II sunitinib in B3 thymoma or thymic carcinoma 2L+

Results

	INTERIM ANALYSIS Cohort A n=12	EFFICACY ANALYSIS Cohort B n=23	ITT ANALYSIS Cohort B n=31
Best Response – n (%)			
CR	0 (0.0)	1 (4.3)	1 (3.6)
PR	0 (0.0)	4 (17.4)	5 (17.9)
SD	11 (91.7)	15 (65.2)	19 (67.9)
PD	1 (8.3)	3 (13.0)	3 (10.7)
Not evaluated (*)	0	0	3
ORR - n (%) [95% CI]	0 (0.0) [0.0 - 26.5]	5 (21.7) [7.5 – 43.7]	6 (21.4) [8.3 - 41.0]
DCR - n (%) [95% CI]	11 (91.7) [61.5 - 99.8]	20 (87.0) [66.4 – 97.2]	25 (89.3) [71.8 - 97.7]

Legend: Cohort A: B3 Thymoma, Cohort B: Thymic Carcinoma; ITT: Intention To Treat; n: Number of subjects; CI: Confidence Interval; (*) Patients who did not receive at least one radiological evaluation after study entry; ORR: Objective response rate; DCR: disease control rate

B3 thymoma
mPFS 7.7m
mOS 47.9m

Thymic ca
mPFS 8.8m
mOS 27.8m

Sunitinib for Thymoma and Thymic carcinoma

	Thymic carcinoma (n=23)		Thymoma (n=16)	
	Patients (%)	95% CI	Patients (%)	95% CI
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A. Thomas Lancet Oncol 2015

Confirms signal for sunitinib in thymic carcinoma, less clear for B3 thymoma

Thymoma

- CD47 as target?
 - CD47 when expressed on tumor board sends “don’t eat me” signal to macrophages
 - Anti-CD47 monoclonal abs have been successful in heme malignancies
 - In a basket trial of 28 pts, best response was in a thymoma pt with high CD47 exp
- Sun et al from Stanford:
 - Thymic epithelial tissue microarray in 64 thymomas, 3 thymic carcinomas, 14 thymic controls
 - Thymic tumors had higher CD47 expression than nl tissue by 14 fold, mean H-score 75vs 4.6, $p=0.003$
 - Anti-CD47 may be a promising approach

Summary for mesothelioma and thymoma

- CheckMate 743 has established nivolumab+ipilimumab as a meso 1st line standard of care
 - Clear advantage for sarcomatoid
 - Likely comparable to chemo for epithelioid
 - PD-L1 not an effective predictive biomarker, but inflammation score might be
- Immunotherapy at *least* in 2nd line warranted
 - CONFIRM phase 3 trial: Nivo > placebo
 - But I'd still try for nivolumab+ipilimumab!
- Pembro/Lenvatinib promising in a phase 2, though in IO-inexperienced
- Cellular therapies to come, and updates in phase 3 chemo+IO combos
- Thymoma... alas no practice changers this year
 - Sunitinib with benefit at least in thymic carcinoma 2L+
 - CD47 might be a good thymoma target
 - Be mindful of immunotherapy adverse in thymic carcinoma (and don't use in thymoma off-trial)

ENROLL IN TRIALS!



Parnassus Heights



SFVA



University of California
San Francisco

Mission Bay



Mt. Zion

