

# Pre-Operative and Metastatic Setting Biomarkers for Immunotherapy in Lung Cancer

**Fred R. Hirsch, MD, PhD**

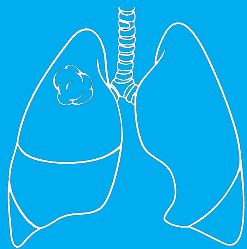
**Executive Director,**

**Professor in Medicine and Pathology,**

**Joe Lowe and Louis Price Professor of Medicine**

**Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai**

**Center for Thoracic Oncology**



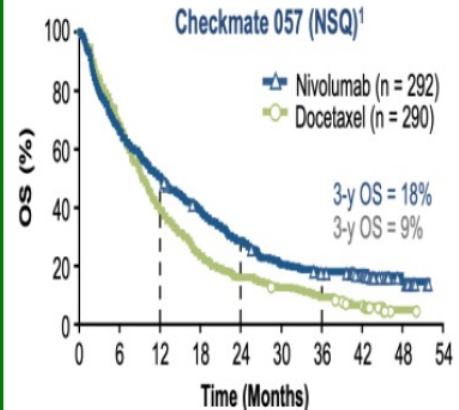
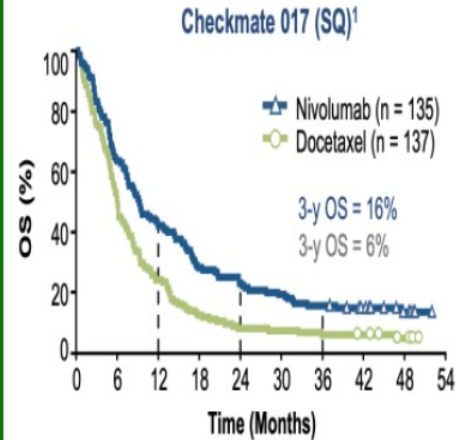
**Mount  
Sinai**

*The Tisch Cancer Institute*

# Immunotherapy – The Game Changer

Pretreated Patients

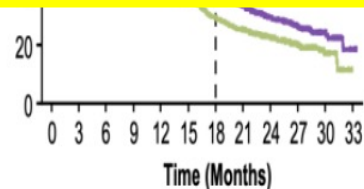
Untreated Patients



KEYNOTE-010 (SQ/NSQ; ≥1% PD-L1)<sup>2</sup>

100

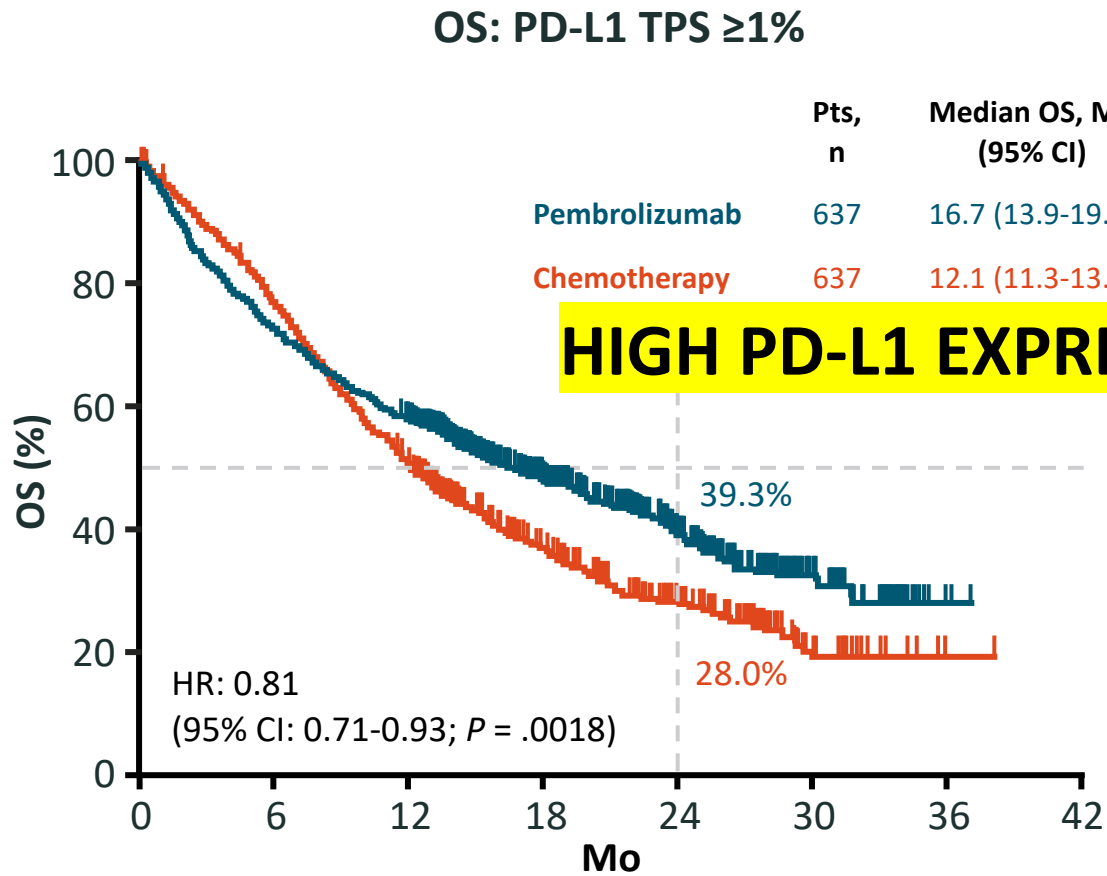
**ONLY ~ 40% of NSCLC WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT FROM IO!**  
**How to select the right patients?**



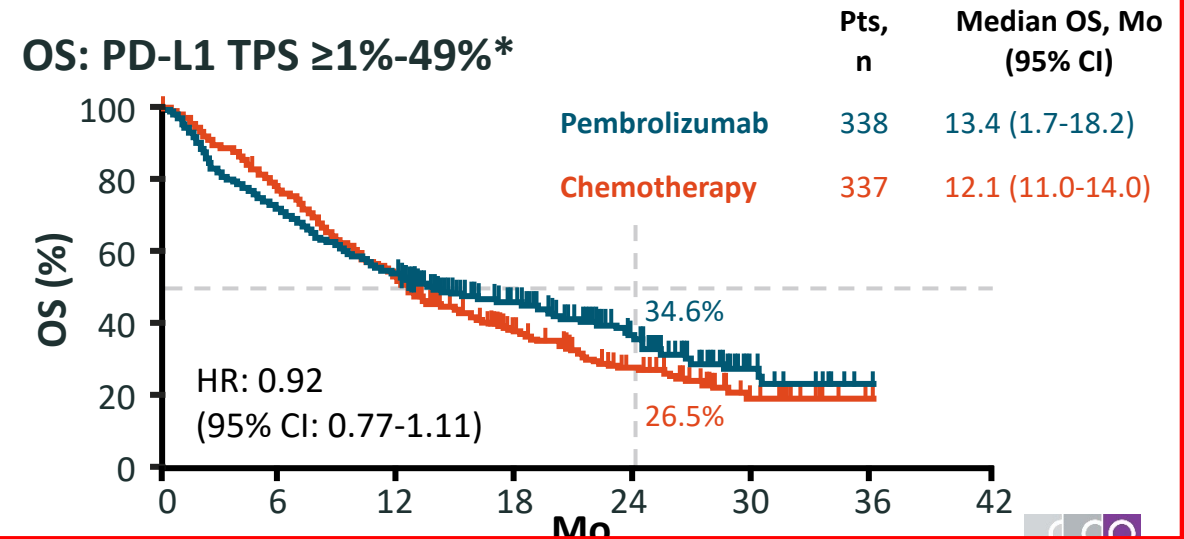
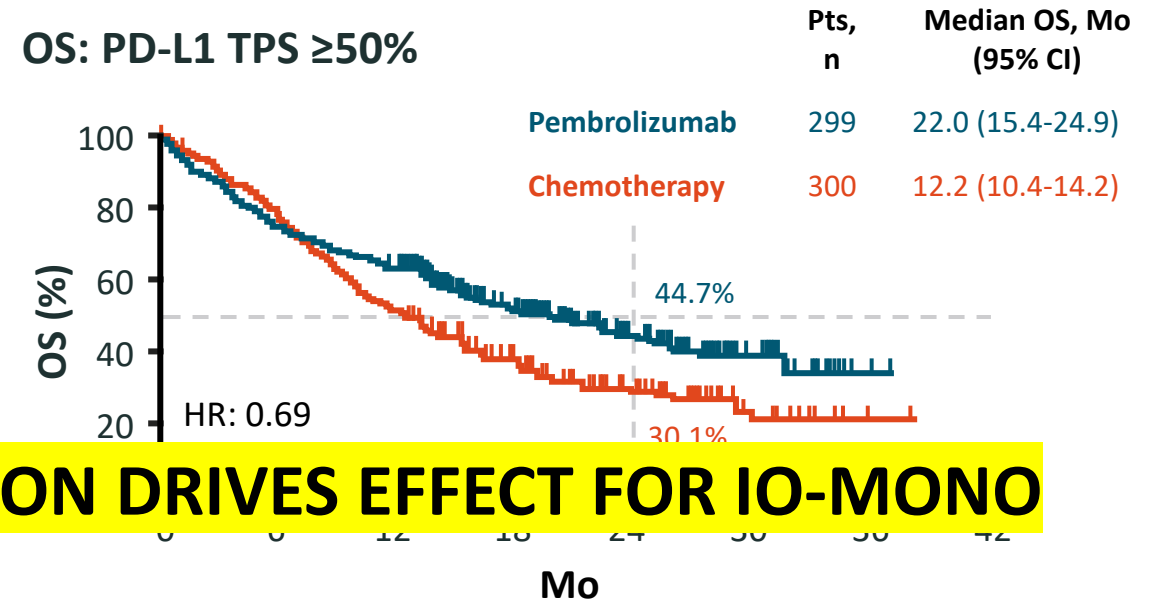
Trial	Selection Criteria	Treatment	PFS / OS (months)	Treatment-Related AEs, grade 3-5 (* All toxicities)	
KEYNOTE-024	PD-L1 ≥ 50%	Pembro	10.3 / 14.2	31% vs 53%	
KEYNOTE-042	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	14.4 / 13.2	18% vs 52%	
KEYNOTE-049	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	16.7 / 12.1	18% vs 41%	
KEYNOTE-054	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	19.2 / 14.7	59% vs 50%	
KEYNOTE-067	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	NR	67% vs 66%*	
KEYNOTE-075	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	18.1 / 13.6	57% vs 42%	
KEYNOTE-086	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	18.6 / 13.9	75% vs 61%	
KEYNOTE-091	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	15.9 / 11.3	70% vs 68%*	
KEYNOTE-092	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	14 / 13.9	69% vs 58%	
KEYNOTE-093	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	23.0 / 16.7	54% vs 38%	
KEYNOTE-094	PD-L1 ≥ 1%	Pembro	23.0 / 16.7	32% vs 37%	
MYSTIC	PD-L1 ≥ 25%	Durvalumab / Plat/Pem or Gem or Pacli	4.7 / 5.4	16.3 / 12.9	15% vs 35%
MYSTIC	PD-L1 ≥ 25%	Durva + Tremelimumab / Plat/Pem or Gem or Pacli	3.9 / 5.4	11.9 / 12.9	24% vs 35%
MYSTIC	TMB ≥ 16 mut/Mb (only OS)	Durva + Tremelimumab / Plat/Pem or Gem or Pacli	16.5	10.5	24% vs 35%



# KEYNOTE-042: First-line Pembrolizumab in PD-L1+ Advanced NSCLC



**HIGH PD-L1 EXPRESSION DRIVES EFFECT FOR IO-MONO**



# FDA-approved regimens for advanced/metastatic NSCLC not harboring tumor genomic alterations

PD-L1 level	Regimen	Histology	Approval endpoint
≥ 50%	<b>Pembrolizumab</b>	NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
	<b>Atezolizumab</b> <sup>a</sup>	NSCLC	<b>OS</b>
	<b>Cemiplimab</b>	NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
≥ 1%	<b>Pembrolizumab</b>	NSCLC	<b>OS</b>
	<b>Nivolumab + Ipilimumab</b>	NSCLC	<b>OS</b>
None	<b>Pembrolizumab</b> + Platinum + Pemetrexed <sup>b</sup>	NSq-NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
	<b>Pembrolizumab</b> + Carboplatin + Paclitaxel	Sq-NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
	<b>Atezolizumab</b> + Bevacizumab + Carboplatin + Paclitaxel	NSq-NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
	<b>Atezolizumab</b> + Carboplatin + Nab-paclitaxel	NSq-NSCLC	<b>OS &amp; PFS</b>
	<b>Nivolumab + Ipilimumab</b> + Platinum doublet	NSCLC	<b>OS</b>

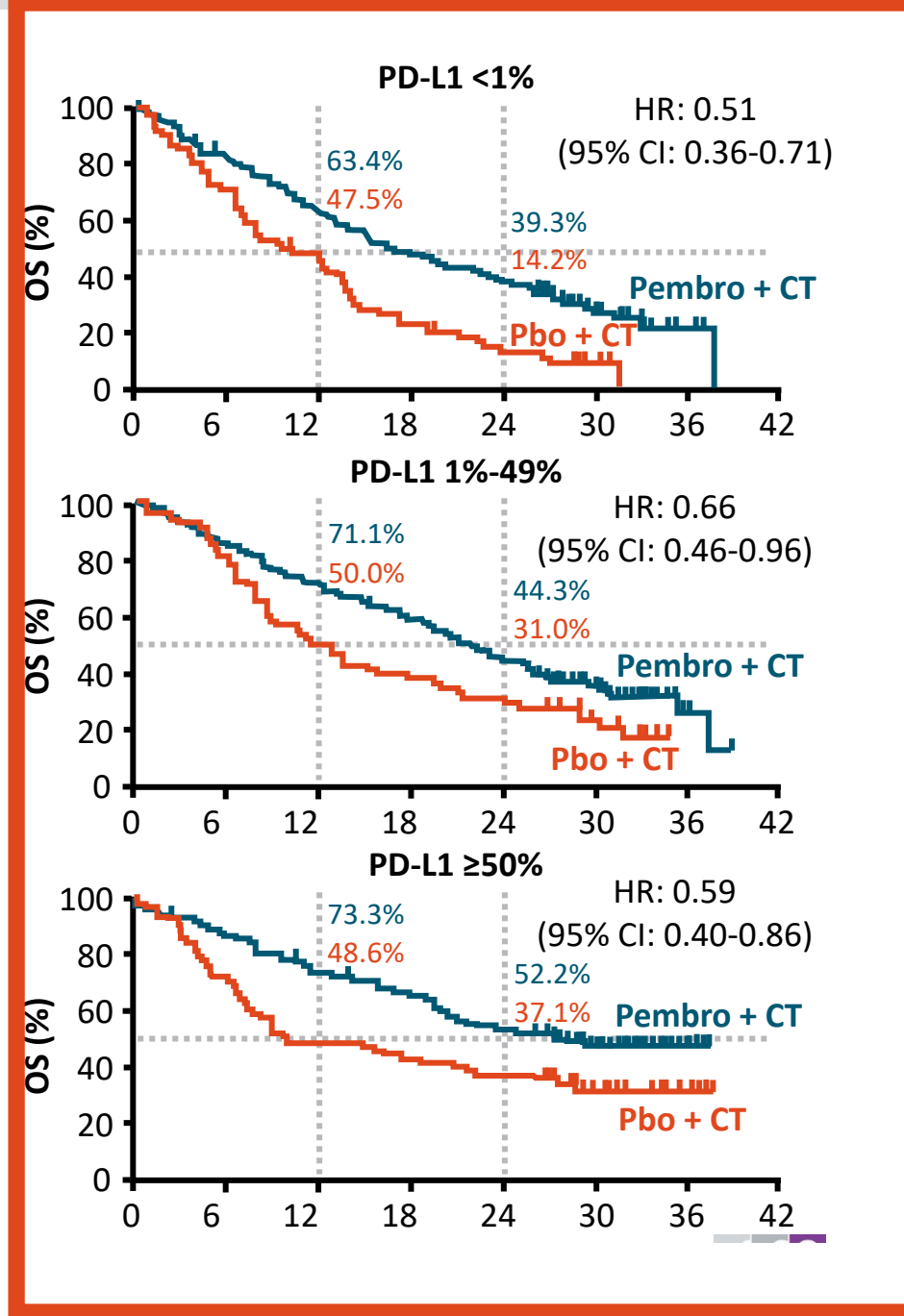
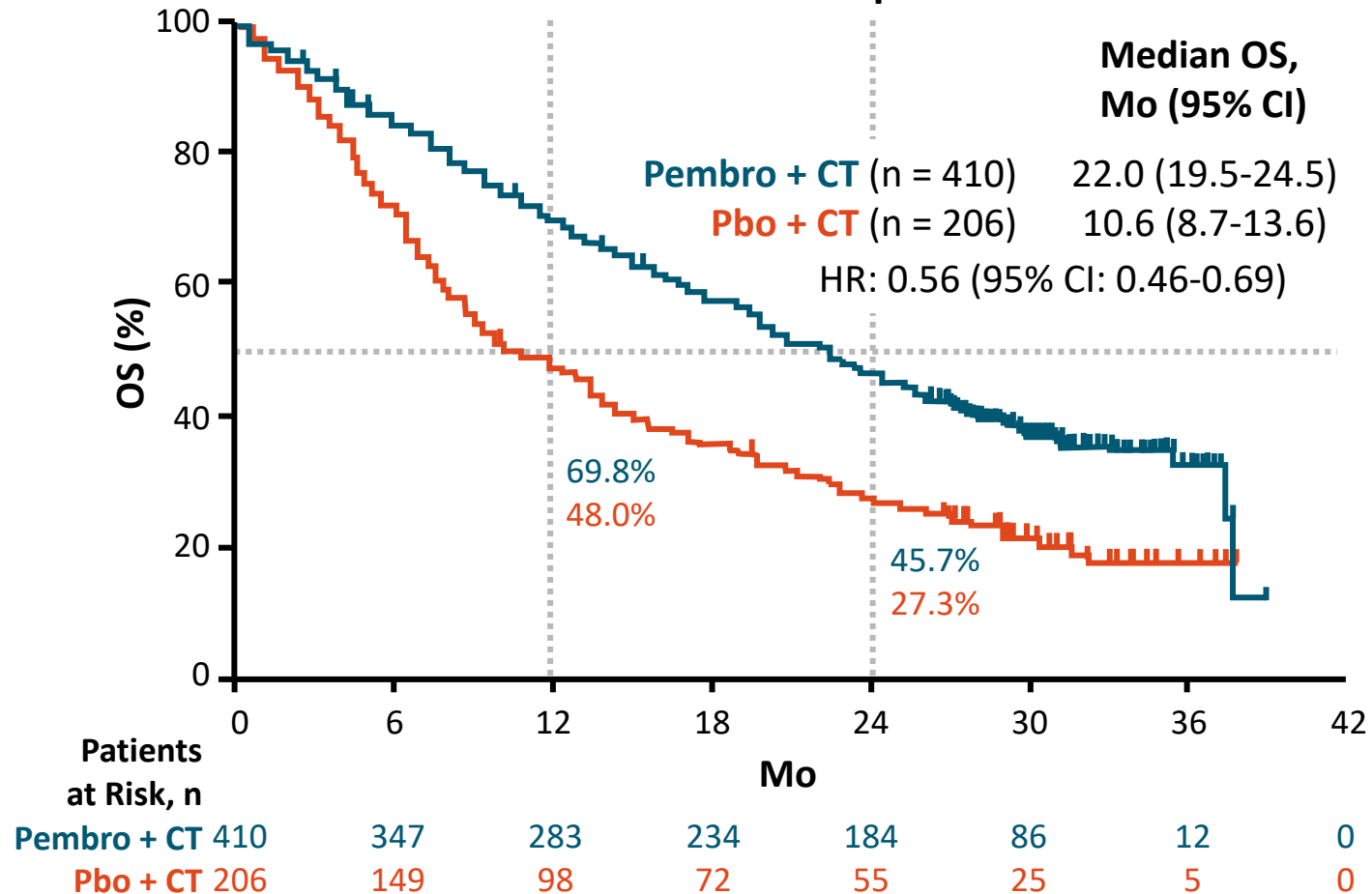
Abbreviations: NSCLC=non-small cell lung cancer; Nsq=non-squamous; OS=overall survival; PD-L1=programmed death ligand-1; PFS=progression-free survival; Sq=squamous.

<sup>a</sup> PD-L1 high population for atezolizumab defined as PD-L1 staining ≥ 50% of tumor cells or tumor-infiltrating immune cells covering ≥ 10% of the tumor area.

<sup>b</sup> Initial Accelerated approval in 2017 based on PFS.

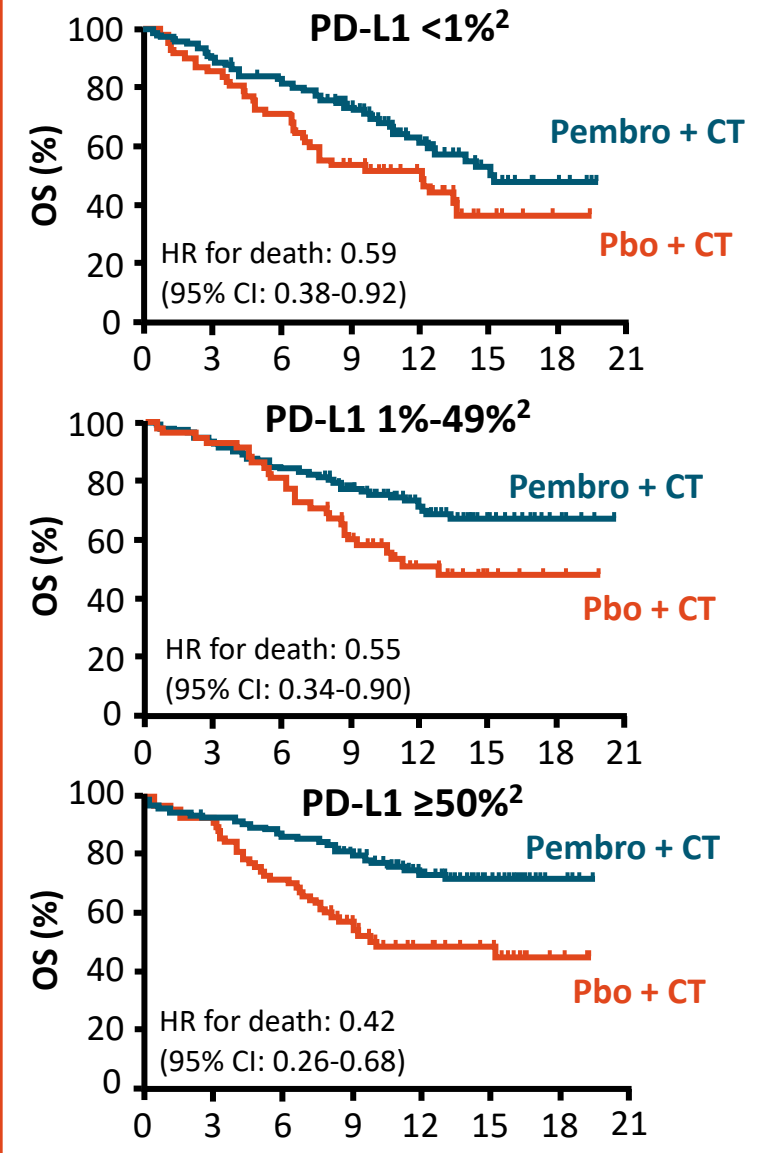
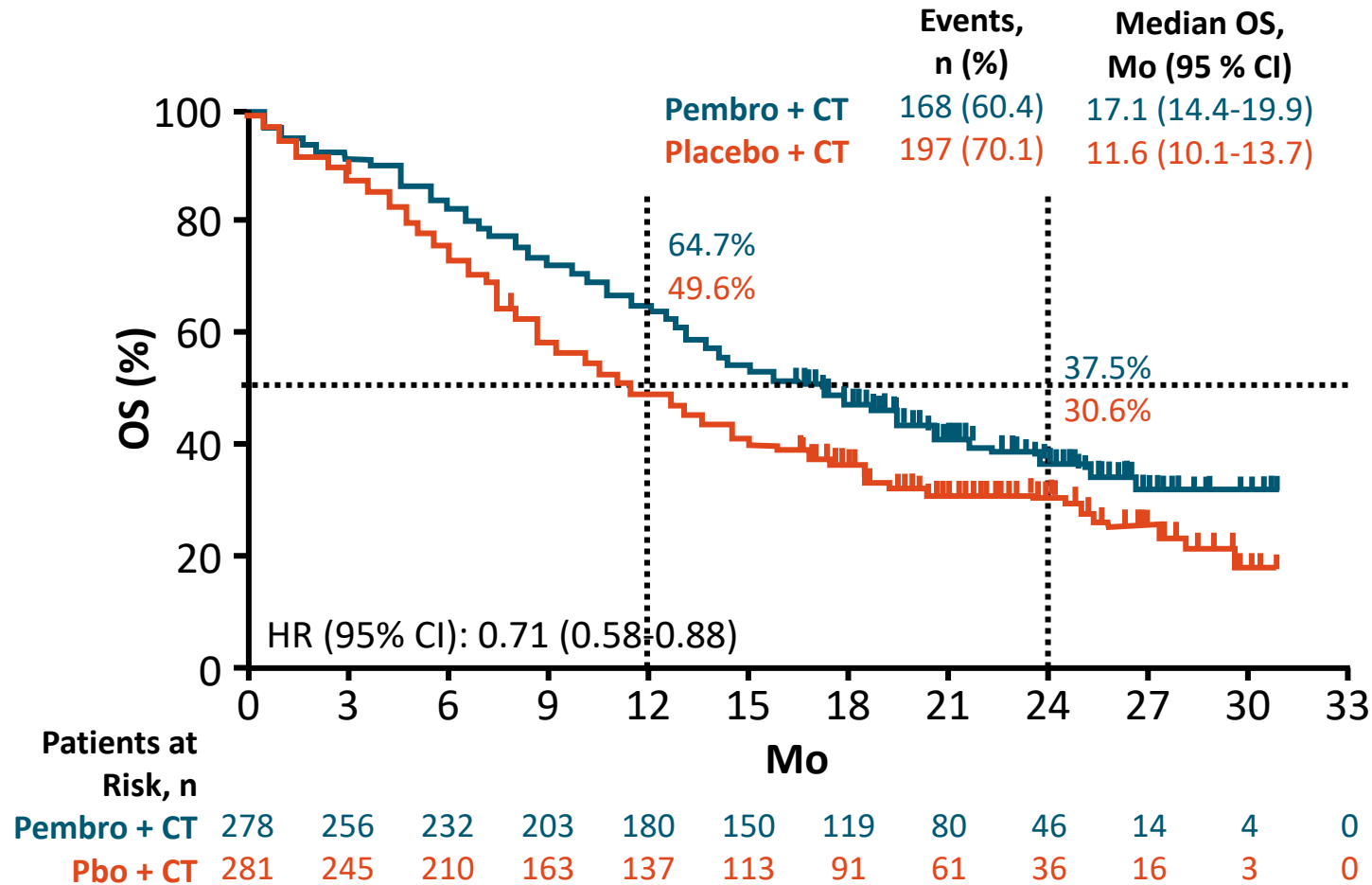
# KEYNOTE-189: 1L Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy for Adv Nonsq NSCLC

Final OS in ITT Population



# KEYNOTE-407: 1L Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy for Adv Sq NSCLC

## OS in ITT Population<sup>1</sup>



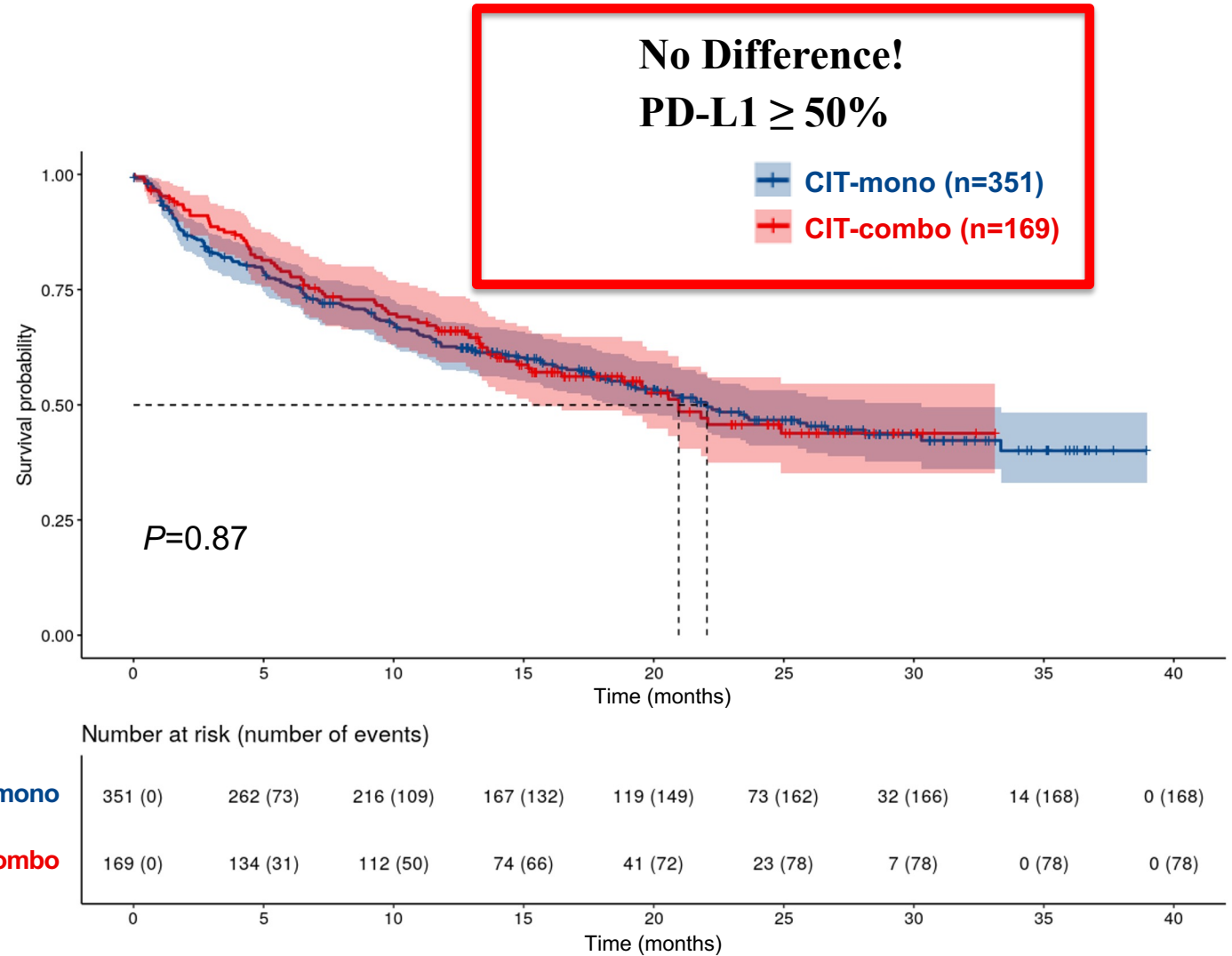
1. Paz-Ares. J Thorac Oncol. 2020;15:1657. 2. Gandhi. NEJM. 2018;378:2078.

# Primary outcome: overall survival

## Unadjusted analysis

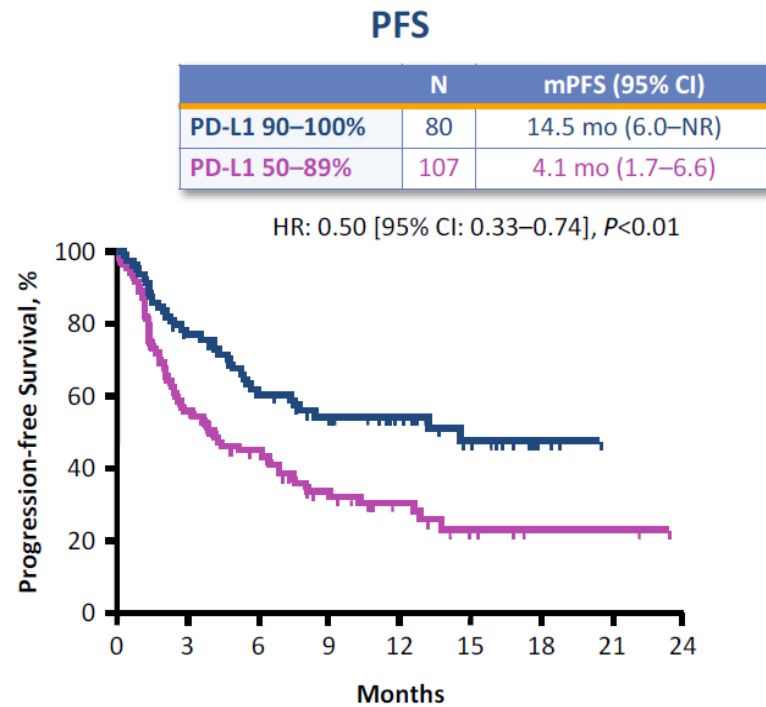
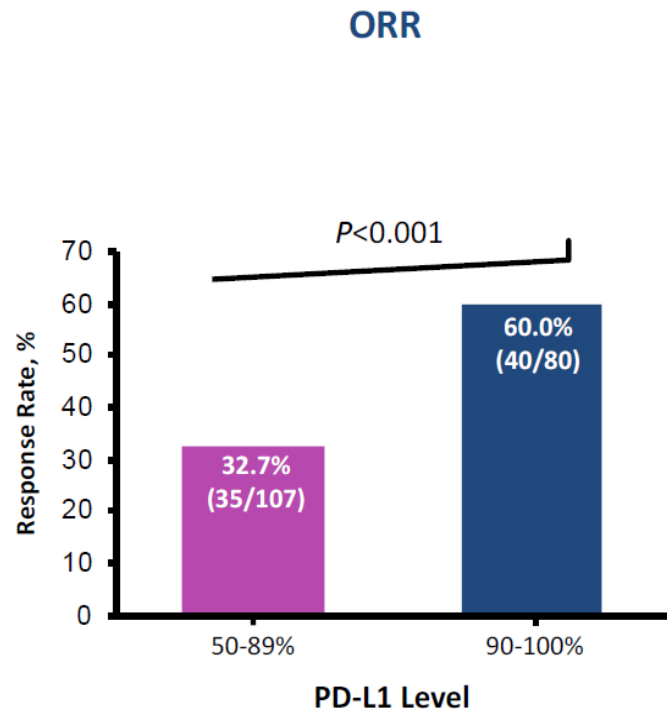
	CIT-mono (n=351)	CIT-combo (n=169)
Events, n (%)	168 (49)	78 (46)
OS, mo Median (95% CI)	22.05 (18.33, 30.29)	20.96 (15.31, NA)
Follow-up, mo Median (IQR)	23.46 (15.74, 28.71)	19.92 (14.92, 26.25)

CIT-combo vs CIT-mono (reference)	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P value
Unadjusted analysis	0.98 (0.75, 1.28)	0.868
Adjusted analysis	1.03 (0.77, 1.39)	0.833

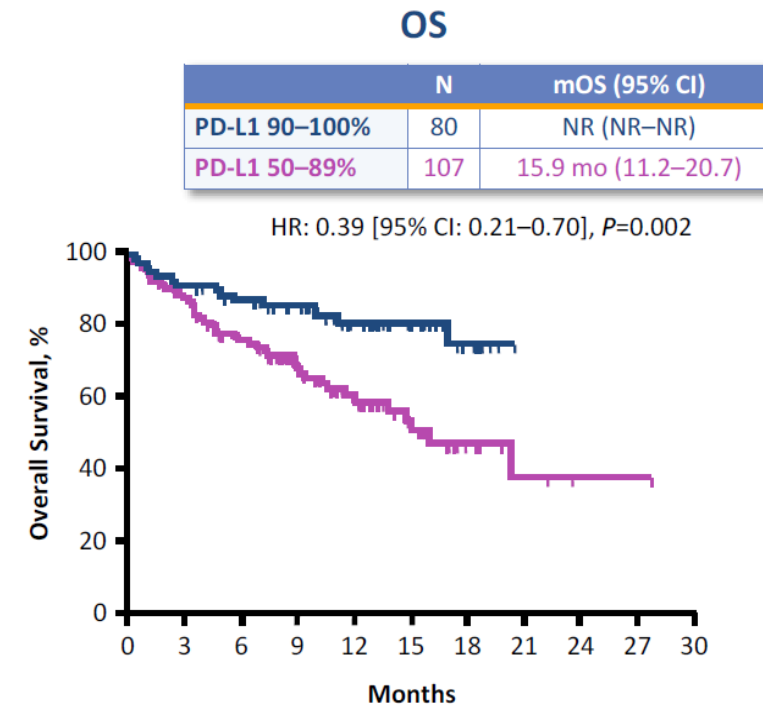


# PD-L1 $\geq 50\%$ patients are not equal

## Mono-immunotherapy more effective in patients with PD-L1 $\geq 90\%$



No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24
PD-L1 90-100%	80	58	44	34	27	12	3	0	0
PD-L1 50-89%	107	59	42	25	13	6	2	2	0



No. at risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
PD-L1 90-100%	80	73	66	57	38	22	10	0	0	0	0
PD-L1 50-89%	107	92	75	51	33	18	8	4	1	1	0

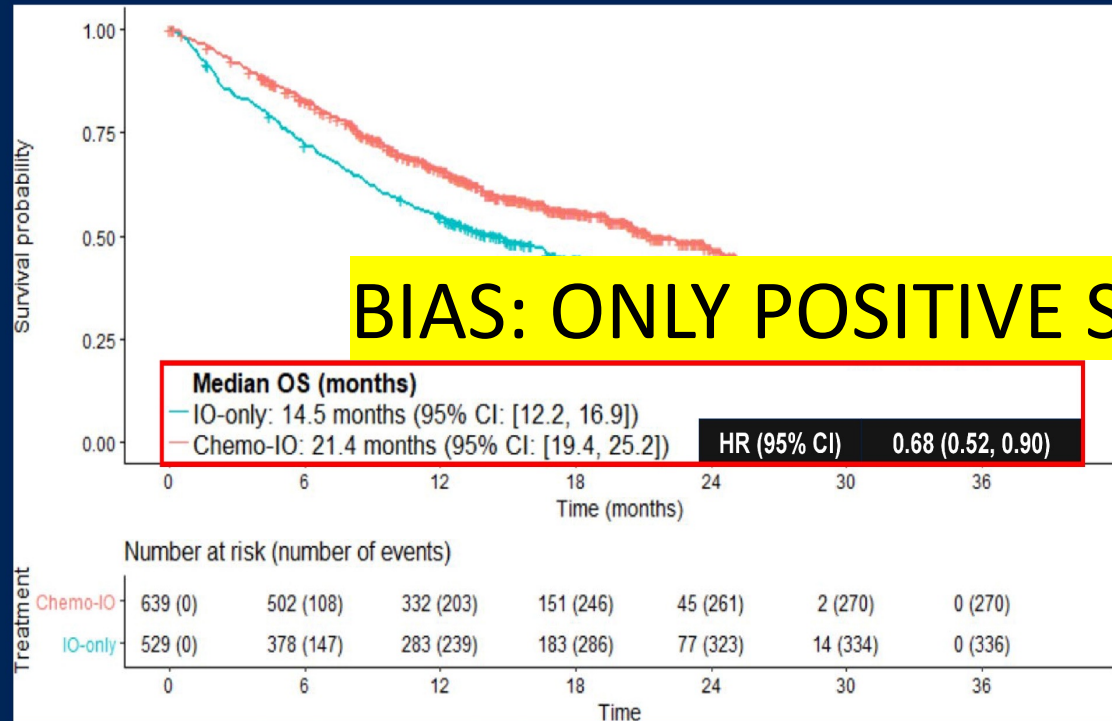
Clinical outcomes significantly improved for 1L NSCLC patients with PD-L1  $\geq 90\%$ , when treated with I-O monotherapy



# FDA Pooled Analysis

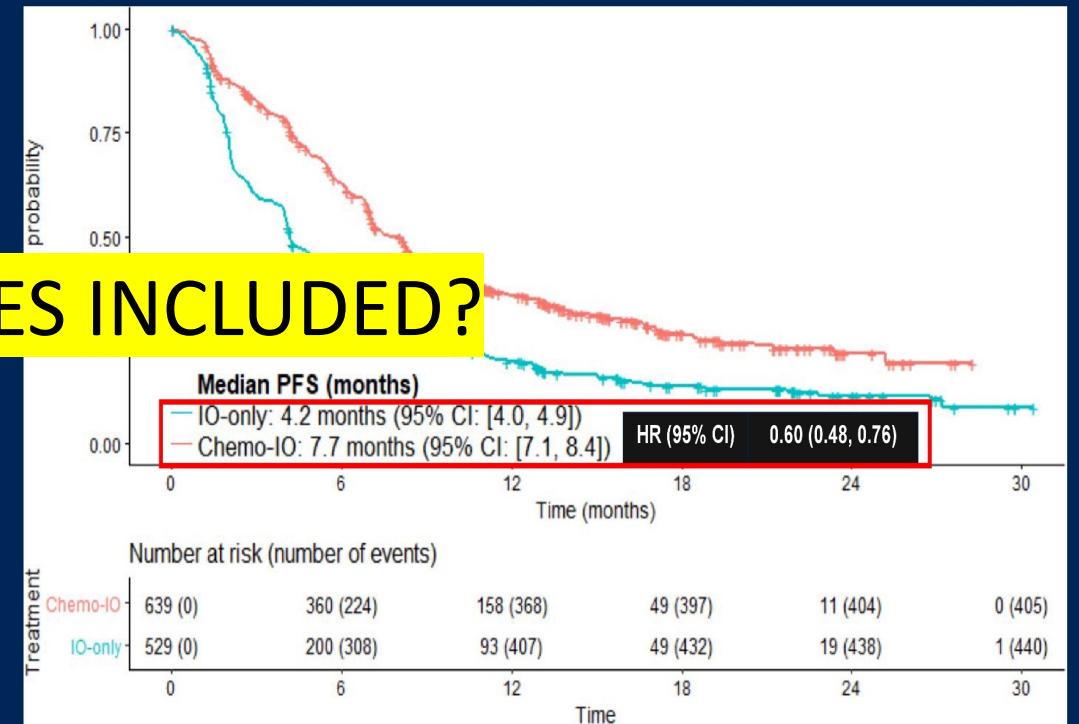
## Exploratory OS: NSCLC PDL1 1-49%

FDA



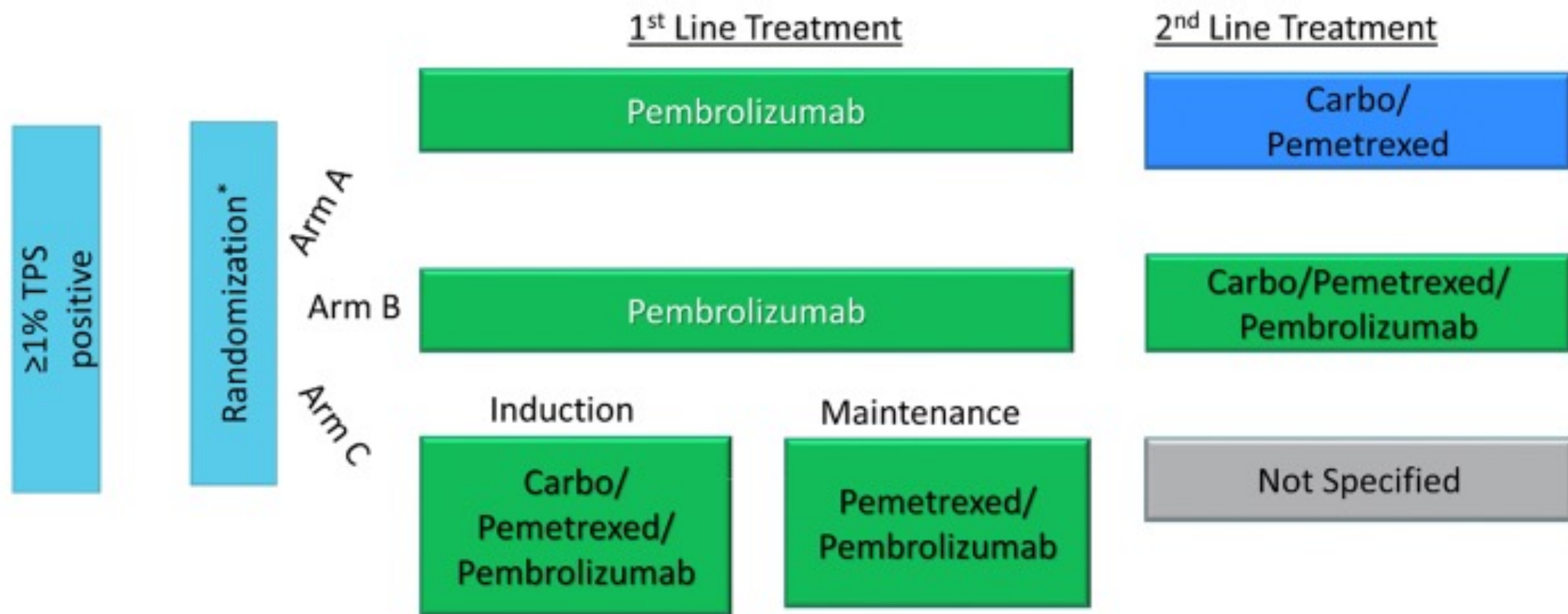
## Exploratory PFS: NSCLC PDL1 1-49%

FDA



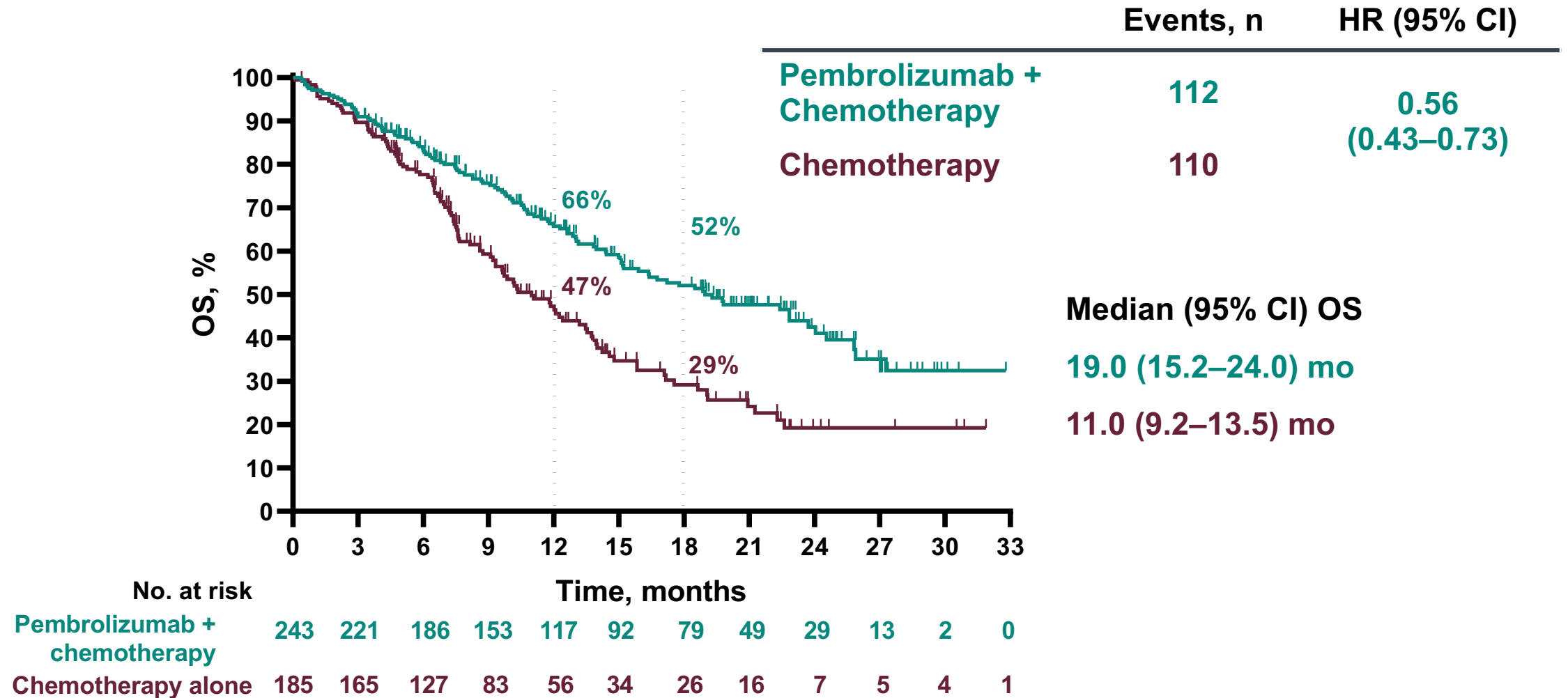
# INSIGNA

## Sequential vs Combination Administration of Pembrolizumab in Advanced NSCLC

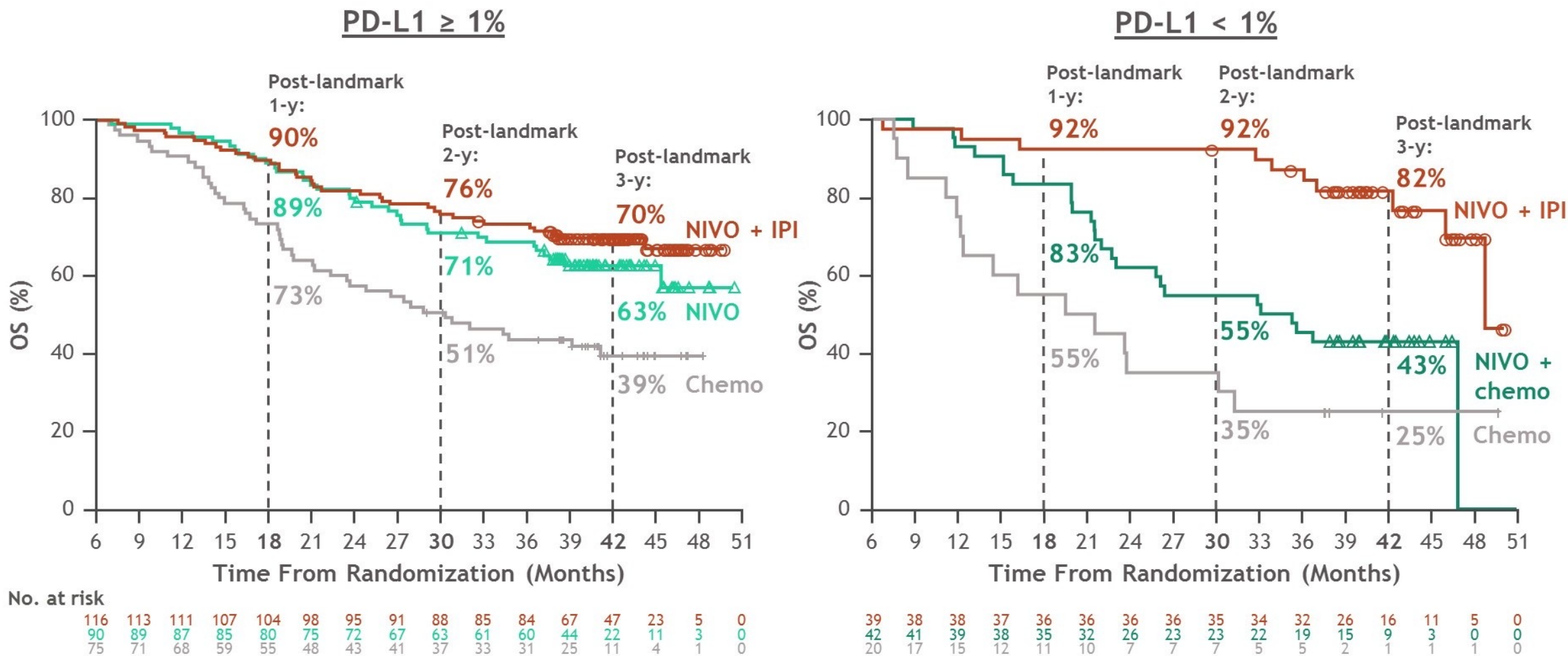


# Overall Survival

## Patients Without Tumor PD-L1 Expression (TPS <1%)



# Post-landmark OS in responders (CR or PR) at 6 months<sup>a</sup>



Database lock: February 28, 2020; minimum follow-up for post-landmark OS: 31.7 months. Dosages were NIVO (3 mg/kg Q2W) + IPI (1 mg/kg Q6W), NIVO (240 mg Q2W), and NIVO (360 mg Q3W) plus chemo.  
<sup>a</sup>Post-landmark analysis was performed among only patients who were alive at 6 months; CR or PR was based on assessment at 6 months.

# CURRENT TREATMENT PARADIGM: Advanced NSCLC (Non-Oncogenic)

**PD-L1 < 1%**

2 cycles of chemo plus  
Ipi/Nivo

OR

**Chemo plus IO**

**PD-L1 1-49%**

**Chemo plus IO**

**PD-L1 ≥ 50%**

**Single agent IO**

OR

Chemo plus IO

OR

Ipi/Nivo

# DOES HISTOLOGY MATTER?

BRIEF REPORT



## Programmed Death-Ligand 1 Tumor Proportion Score and Overall Survival From First-Line Pembrolizumab in Patients With Nonsquamous Versus Squamous NSCLC



Deborah B. Doroshow, MD, PhD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Wei Wei, MD, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Swati Gupta, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Jon Zugazagoitia, MD,<sup>d</sup> Charles Robbins, BS,<sup>e</sup> Blythe Adamson, PhD,<sup>f</sup> David L. Rimm, MD, PhD<sup>g,h</sup>

**WE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HISTOLOGY IMPACT**

2142 Doroshow et al

Journal of Thoracic Oncology Vol. 16 No. 12

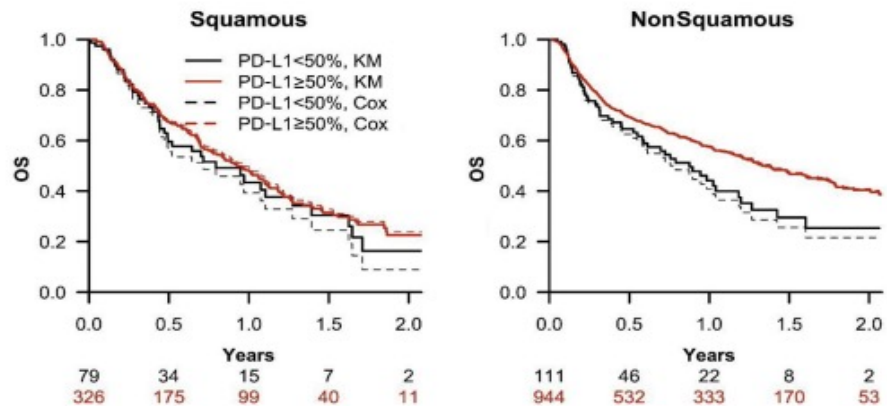
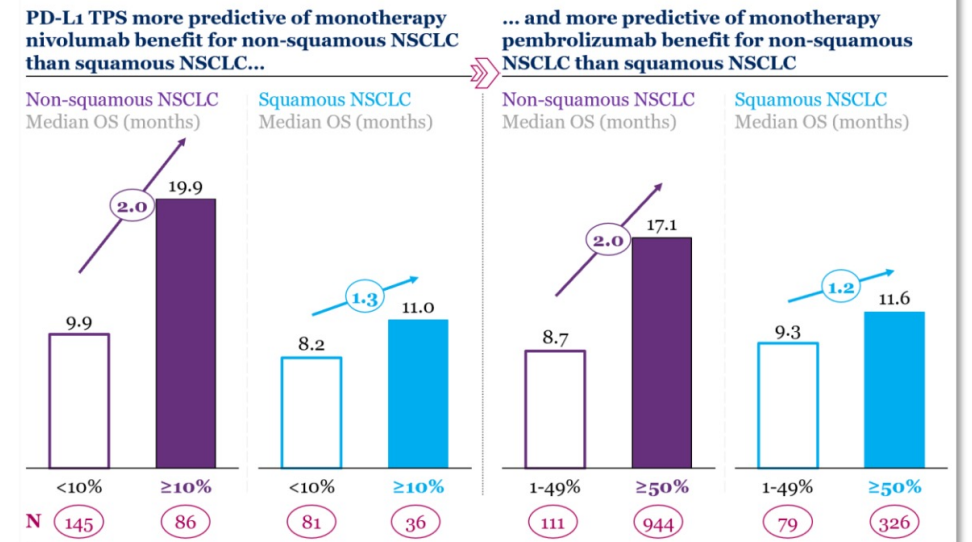


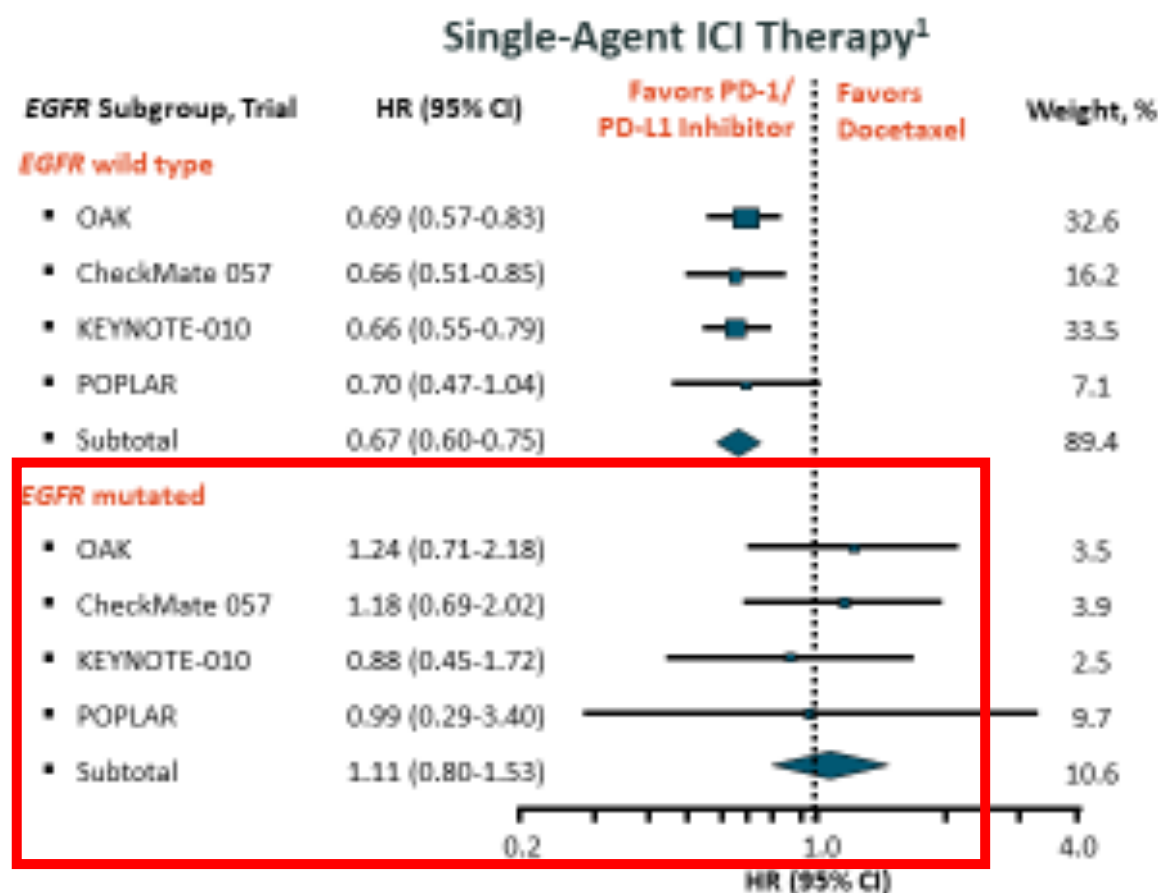
Figure 1. Overall survival for monotherapy ICI by PD-L1 TPS and NSCLC histology

Higher PD-L1 TPS more predictive of monotherapy ICI benefits for patients with non-squamous NSCLC than squamous NSCLC

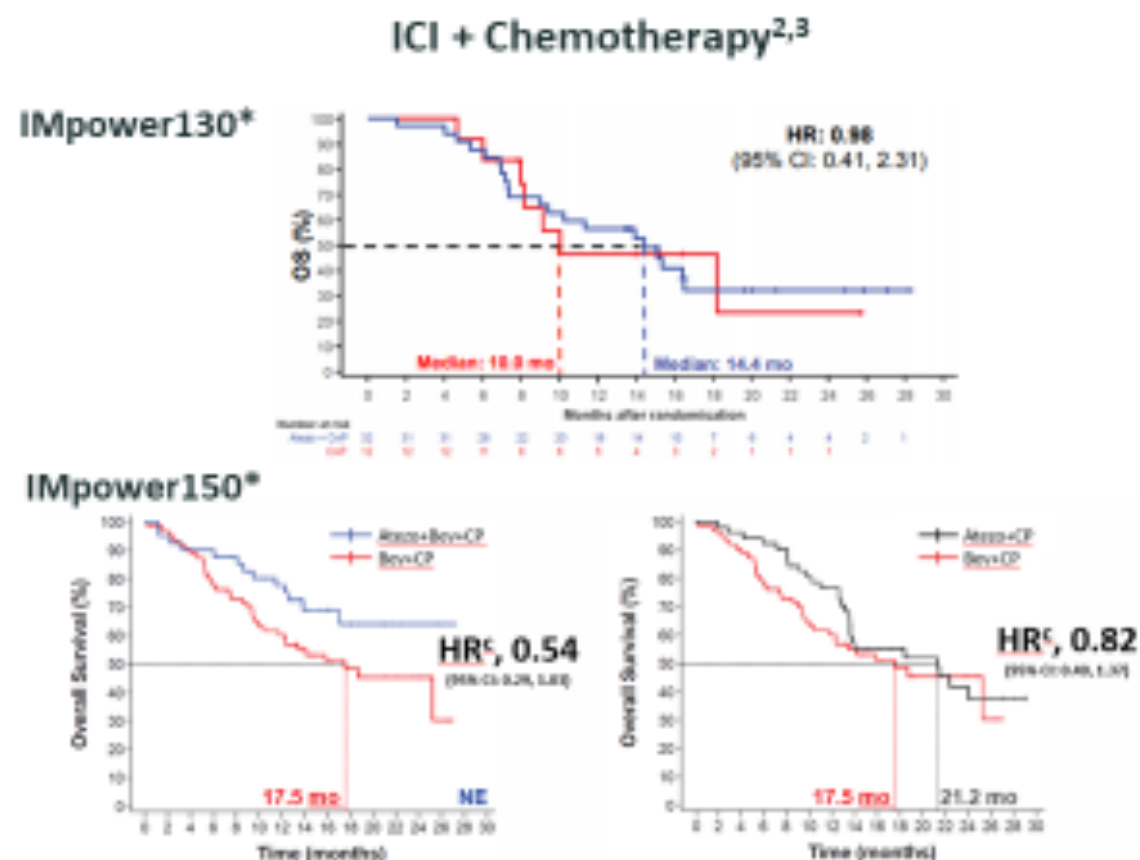


Meshulami et al, Clin Lung Cancer 2023

# Specific Genomic Predictors of Lack of Benefit With ICI-Based Therapy in Advanced NSCLC: *EGFR* Mutations



- EGFR mutations associated with lack of benefit to single-agent ICI therapy regardless of PD-L1 status



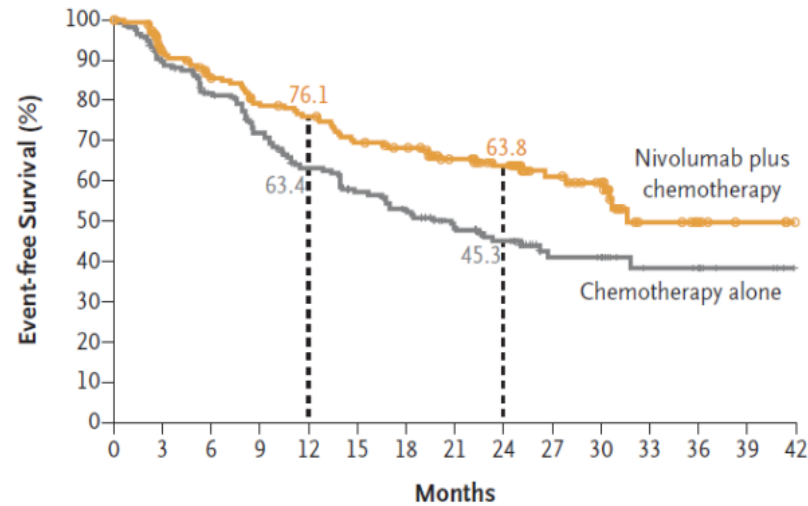
- EGFR mutations associated with lack of benefit to chemo-IO combination therapy

# Neoadjuvant chemoimmunotherapy-CM 816

## Eligibility:

Stage IB (>4 cm)-  
IIIA NSCLC (7<sup>th</sup> Ed)

A

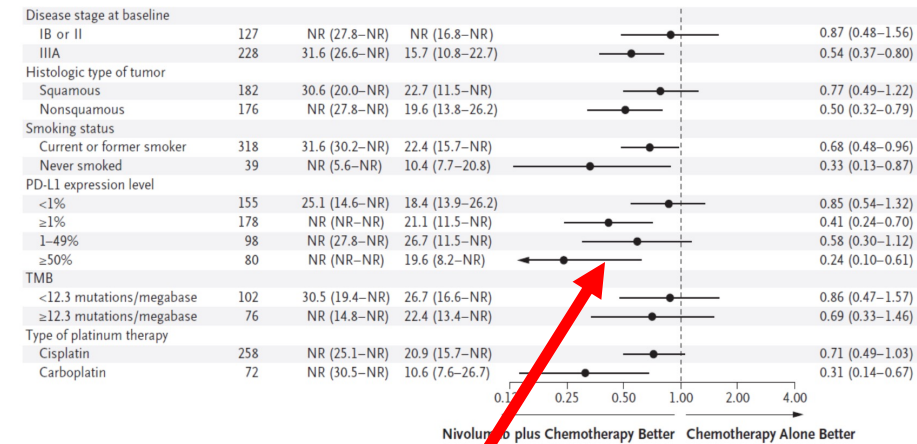


### No. at Risk

Nivolumab plus chemotherapy	179	151	136	124	118	107	102	87	74	41	34	13	6	3	0
Chemotherapy alone	179	144	126	109	94	83	75	61	52	26	24	13	11	4	0

Primary end point EFS and pCR: 24% vs 2.2%

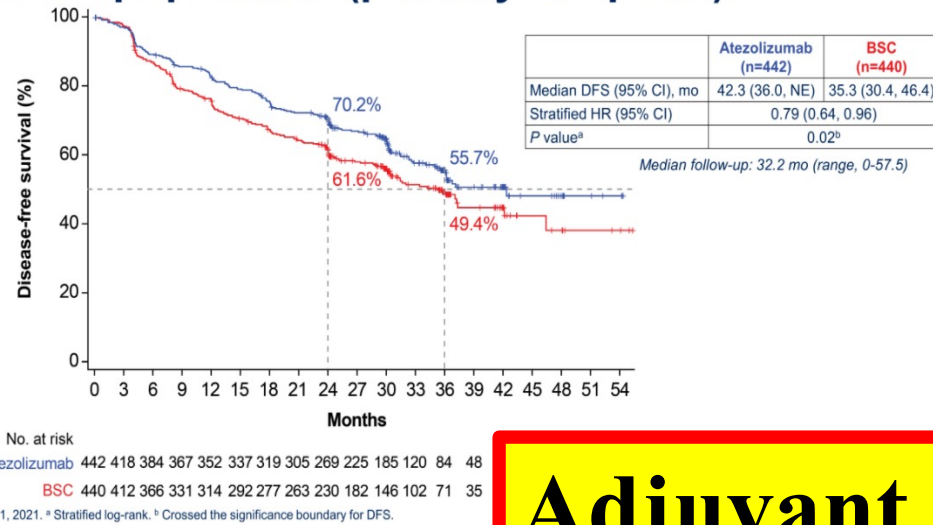
Forde et al, N Engl J Med 2022; 386:1973



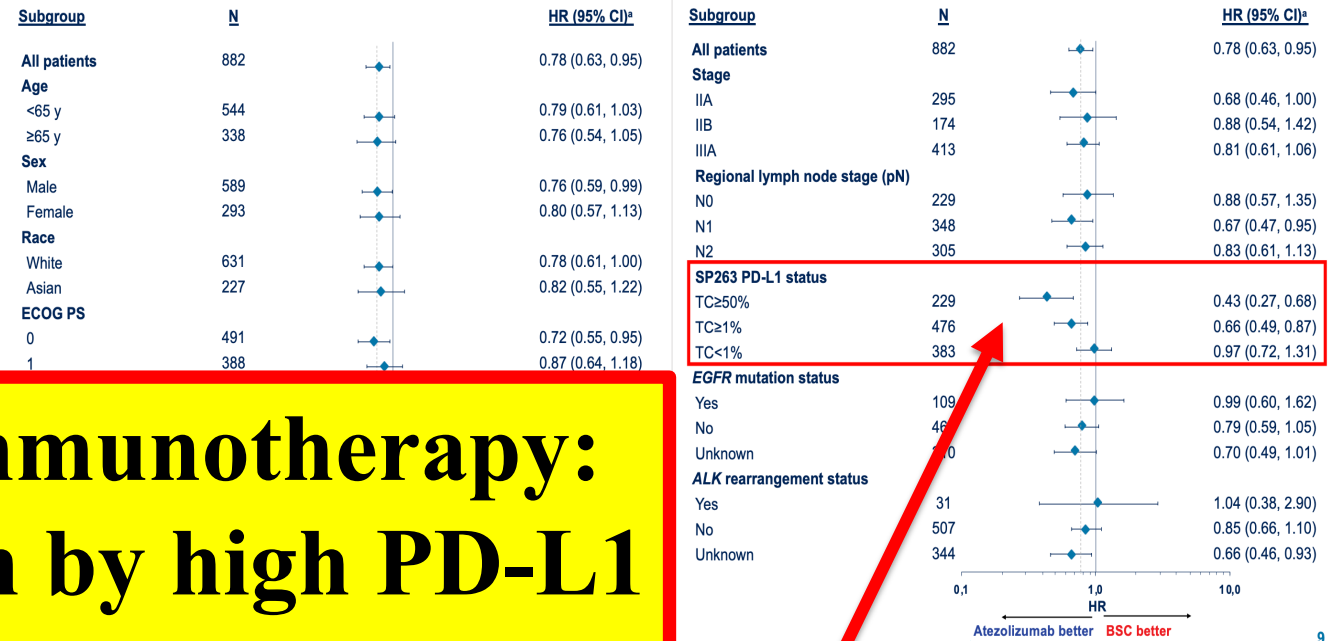


# IMpower010 : ADJUVANT ATEZOLIZUMB

## IMpower010: DFS in the all-randomized stage II-IIIa population (primary endpoint)

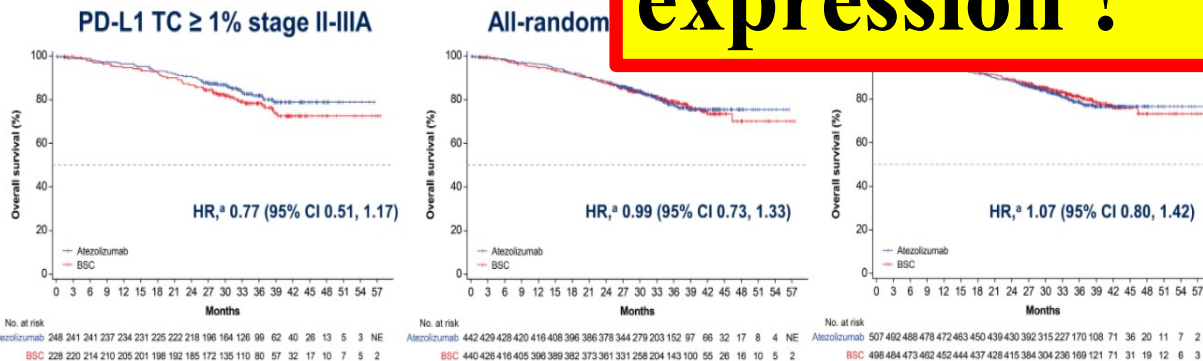


## IMpower010: DFS in key subgroups of the all-randomized stage II-IIIa population



**Adjuvant Immunotherapy:  
 Effect driven by high PD-L1  
 expression !**

## IMpower010: early OS data DFS analysis

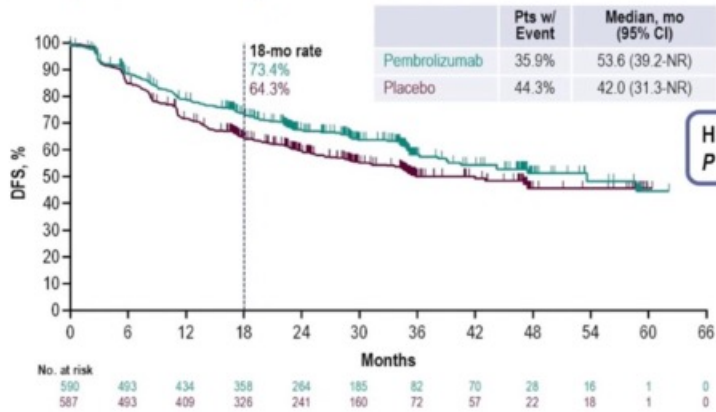


# ADJUVANT PEMBROLIZUMAB; NO CORRELATION TO PD-L1

PLENARY

16, 17 & 18 MARCH 2022

## DFS, Overall Population



## ADJUVANT PEMBROLIZUMAB

IAL PLENARY

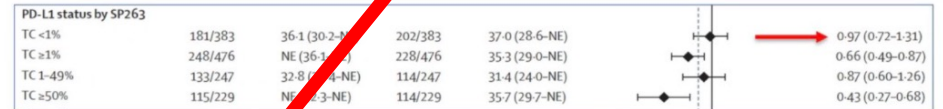
16, 17 & 18 MARCH 2022

## WHAT ABOUT THE PD-L1 NEGATIVES?

PEARLS Trial



Impower 010



Felip E et al, Lancet 2021, Paz-Ares L et al ESMO Plenary 2022

ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY

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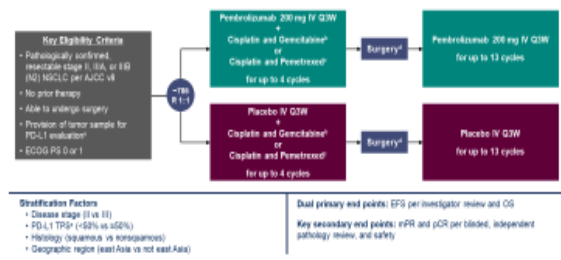
ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY

Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by investigator review. Data cutoff date: September 20, 2021

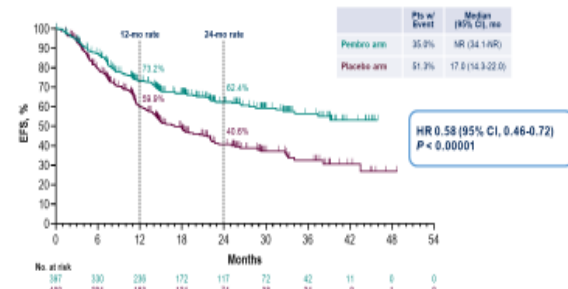
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# ADJUVANT PEMBROLIZUMAB+ CHEMOTHERAPY: RESECTABLE NSCLC

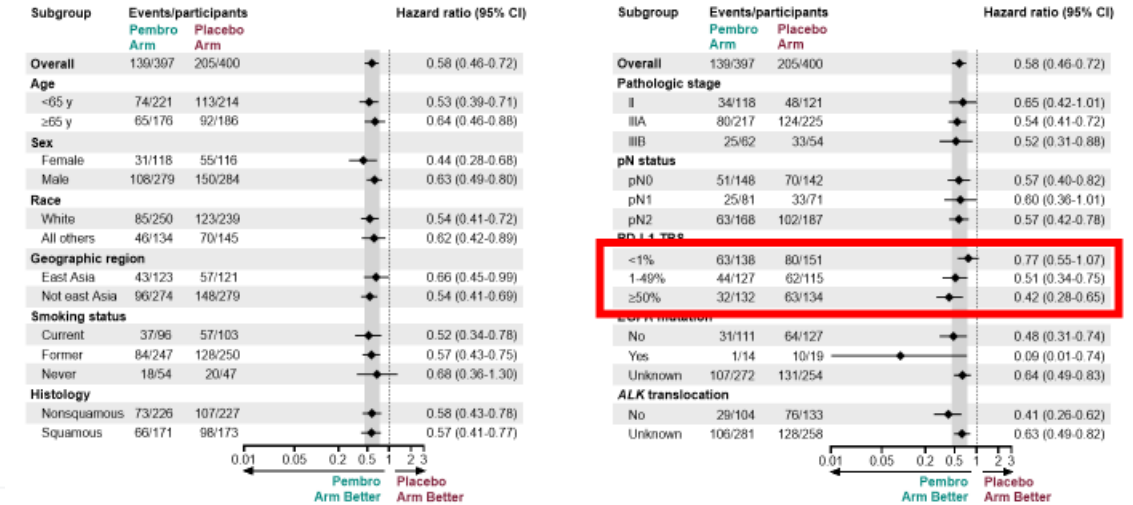
## KEYNOTE-671 Study Design Randomized, Double-Blind, Phase 3 Trial



## Event-Free Survival



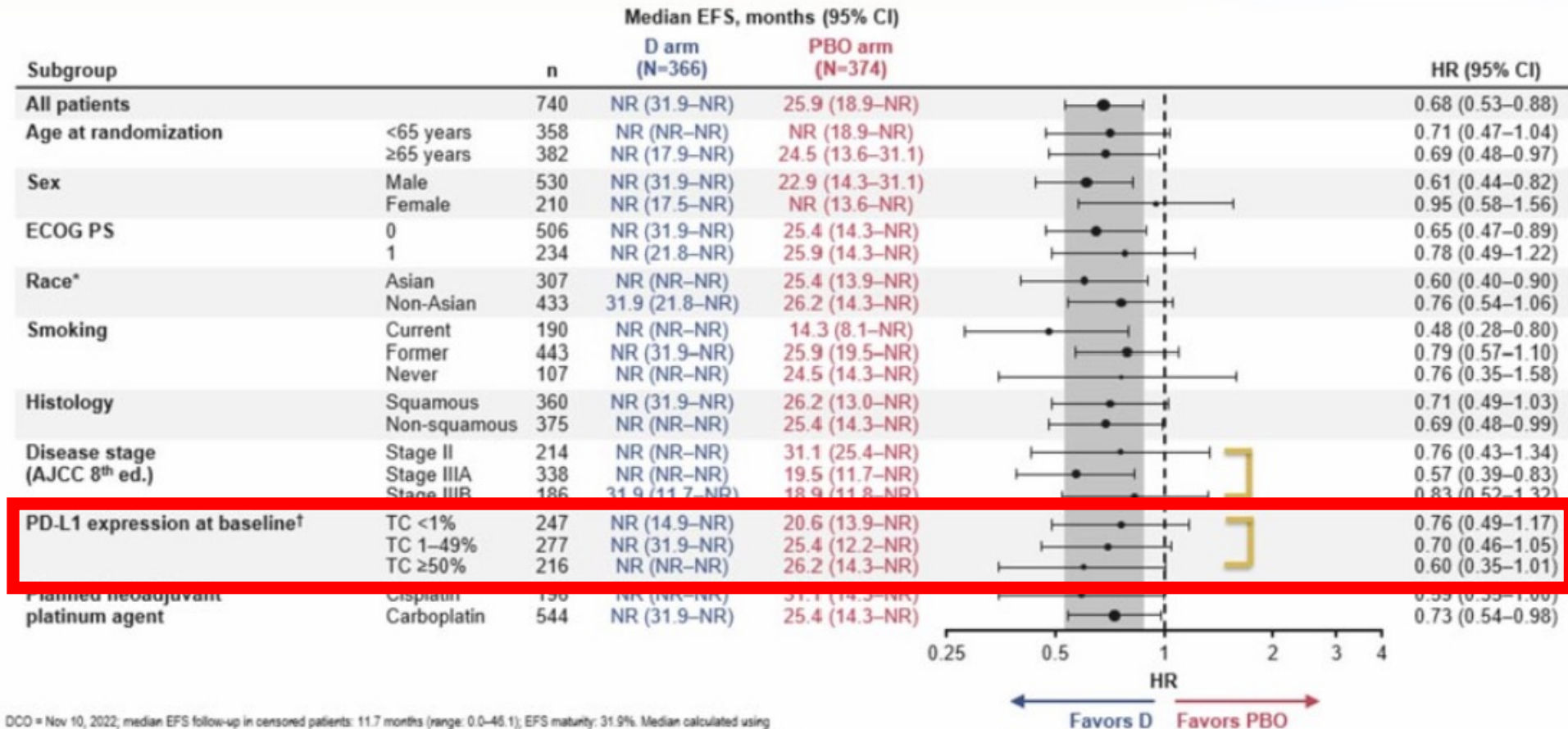
## Event-Free Survival in Subgroups



to prespecified analysis plan, subgroups with <30 participants are excluded from the forest plot. Subgroups for stage IIIA and IIIB and pN status were post hoc; all other subgroups were prespecified. cutoff date for IA1: July 29, 2022.

# AEGEN-STUDY: Perioperative Durvalumab

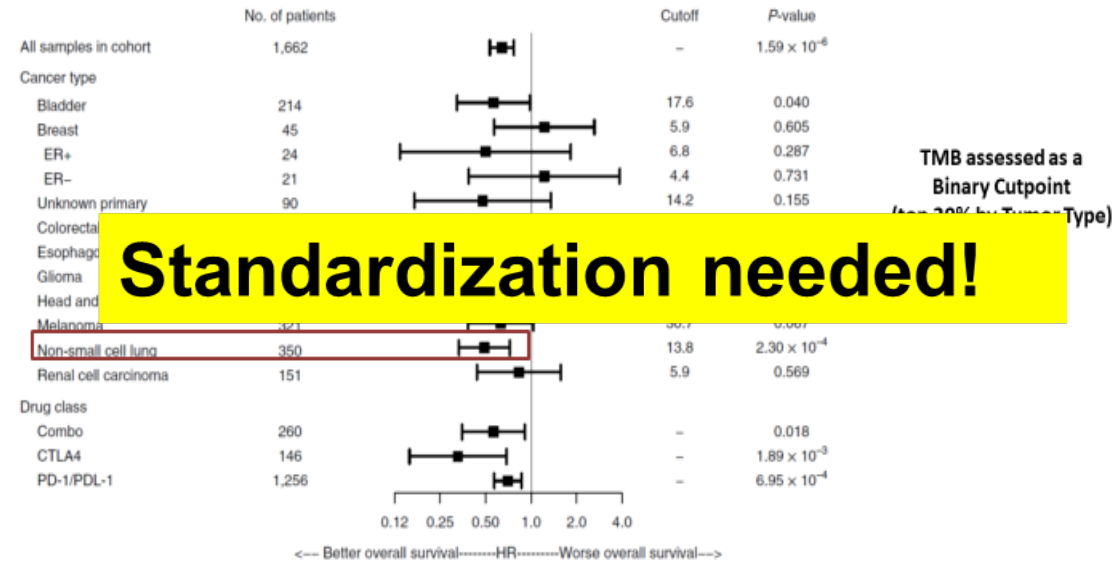
## EFS using RECIST v1.1 (BICR) by subgroup (mITT)



DDO = Nov 10, 2022; median EFS follow-up in censored patients: 11.7 months (range: 0.0-46.1); EFS maturity: 31.9%. Median calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method, HR for all patients (mITT) calculated using a stratified Cox proportional hazards model. HRs for subgroups calculated using unstratified Cox proportional hazards models. The size of circles is proportional to the number of events for each subgroup, and the horizontal bars represent the 95% CIs. \*Race was self-reported per the electronic case report form. †Determined using the Ventana SP263 immunohistochemistry assay.

Fig. 3

## Association of TMB with OS in patients with various types of cancer treated with CPIs (MSK-IMPACT)



Samstein, et. al., Nature Genetics 2019

## TMB Challenges

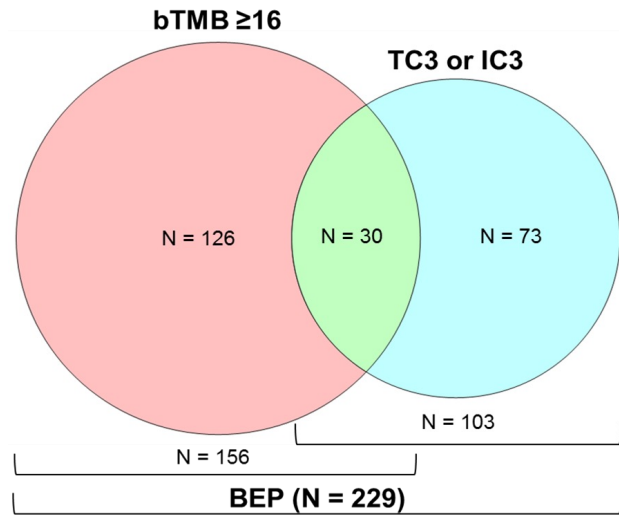
- Only a minority of mutations produce neoantigens
- TMB cut-off values require validation?

Reference	Sequencing Type	Threshold
Rizvi, Science 2015	WES	5 mut/Mb Nonsynonymous missense
Kowanetz, ESMO 2017		10 mut/Mb
Carbone, NEJM 2017	WES	7 mut/Mb Nonsynonymous missense
Rizvi, JCO 2018	IMPACT-MSKCC	7 mut/Mb Nonsynonymous
Hellmann, NEJM 2018		10 mut/Mb
Velcheti, ASCO 2018		16 mut/Mb

Factors to standardize:

- sequencing depth, mutations included, filtering process

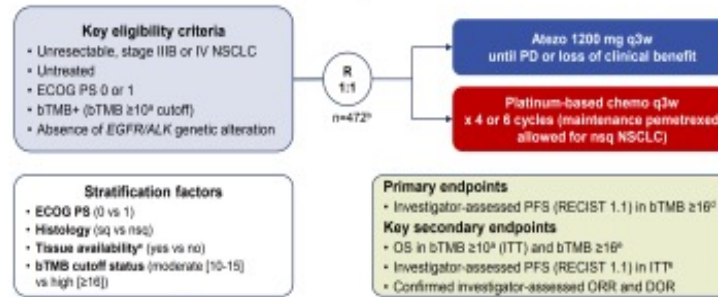
# Tumor mutational burden in blood (bTMB) is associated with Atezolizumab efficacy in 2<sup>nd</sup>-Line+ NSCLC (POPLAR & OAK Trials)



	PFS HR (95% CI)
bTMB ≥16	0.64 (0.46, 0.91)
TC3 or IC3	0.62 (0.41, 0.93)
<b>bTMB ≥16 + TC3 or IC3</b>	<b>0.38 (0.17, 0.85)</b>

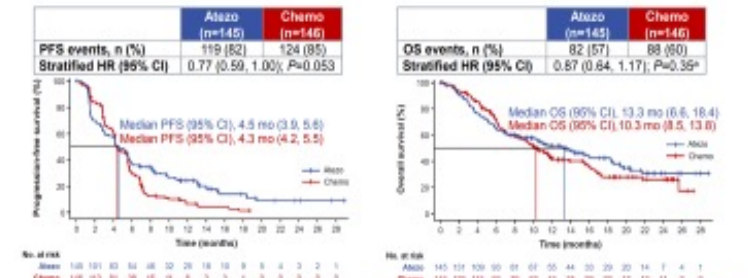
## PROSPECTIVE STUDY OF BLOOD-TMB: "NEGATIVE"

### BFAST Cohort C study design



NCT0178662  
 PD-L1 status was not determined because tissue collection was optional.  
 Atezolizumab: DCR, duration of response; ITT, intent-to-treat; nsq, non-squamous; ORR, objective response rate; sq, squamous; q3w, every 3 weeks  
 \* bTMB score of 10 = 0.1 mutations/Mb. \* One patient was excluded from analysis population due to randomization by error. Dziadziuszko et al. BFAST Cohort C.  
 † Local tissue availability was reported by investigators. ‡ bTMB score of 16 = 14.5 mutations/Mb. \* Endpoints were hierarchically tested. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2018.16.12>

### PFS and OS in the bTMB ≥16 population

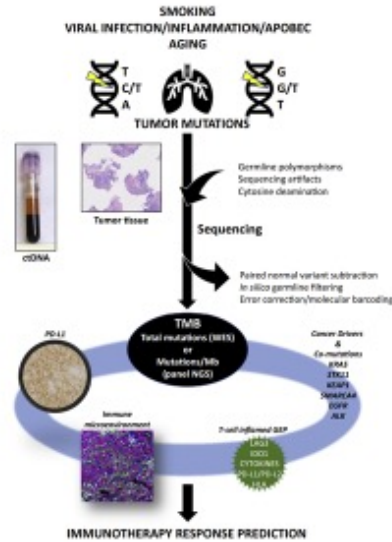


• Although progression rates were initially higher in the atezo vs chemo arm, PFS benefit was seen with atezo after 4 months  
 Data cutoff, 21 May 2020. Median follow-up, 16.2 mo.  
 \* Not formally tested for descriptive purposes only.  
 Confirmed ORR for bTMB ≥16 was 25.5% (95% CI: 18.7, 33.4) for atezo vs 17.8% (12.0, 25.0) for chemo  
 Dziadziuszko et al. BFAST Cohort C. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.2018.16.12>

R. Dziadziuszko et al.  
 J Thorac Oncol 16,(12); 2040-2050, 2023

# The Promises and Challenges of Tumor Mutation Burden as an Immunotherapy Biomarker: A Perspective from the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer Pathology Committee

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# TMB: COMPLEX! REFINEMENTS NEEDED!

J Thorac Oncol 15 (9); 1409-24. 2020

## Lung-MAP Composite Signature for Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor (ICI) Efficacy in Advanced Squamous Cell Lung Cancer (SCC)



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### ABSTRACT

**Background:** Advances in tumor biology/drug development have resulted in multiple approvals of ICI regimens in NSCLC. This pace has outperformed progress in biomarker development, leaving oncologists with limited decision-making tools, namely PD-L1 IHC and tumor mutational burden (TMB), which has recently gained FDA approval as a pan-tumor biomarker. We sought to develop a more comprehensive solution that integrates other genomic alterations detected by large panel comprehensive genomic profiling (CGP) to search for association with progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) and suggest the limited predictive value of PD-L1 IHC and TMB.

**Methods:** The Lung-MAP Protocol (Lung MAP, previously ST-400) is an infrastructure that evaluates biomarker-enriched (preoperatively on TV/segment NSCLC, in total, 500 SCC, pathologic ST-400 (n=252), and/or pathologic ST-400 (n=248)) research assays for entry into ST-400 (n=252), ST-400 (n=248), and ST-400 (n=248) (PD-L1, 10-20, >20 mut/Mb), PD-L1 (available for n=208), mutations in KEAP1, BRAF, MRE11, FOLR, MSH2 and PARP1, all Wilcoxon and Fisher's exact were assessed on each binary biomarker, and between pairs of binary markers, respectively. A Cox proportional hazards model evaluated the association between each biomarker and OS/PFS, adjusting for age, sex, smoking status, and TNM stage. Based on significance (determined at the nominal 0.1 level without correction for multiplicity), from the univariate analysis, multiple combination signatures were analyzed using a predetermined scoring system. Biomarkers included in the most significant combination signature were further assessed by adjusting for TMB and PD-L1 IHC in the univariate models, to demonstrate if adding these biomarkers provides additional value beyond TMB and PD-L1 IHC.

**Results:** Despite observed associations between TMB and ABRDIA mutations (P = 0.009), PD-L1 IHC and KEAP1/NFE2L2 mutations (P = 0.007) and ABRDIA mutations and KEAP1/NFE2L2 mutations (OR = 2.99, 95% CI, 1.43 – 5.91, P = 0.0016), the magnitude of correlation between markers was modest, suggesting complementary predictors. Higher TMB on an ordinal variable (>20 vs. 10-20 vs. 0-10) was the most significant positive predictor of OS (HR=0.79, 95% CI, 0.65-0.95, p=0.01). HLA-DCH was the most negative predictor of PFS (HR=1.46, 95% CI, 1.05-2.03, p=0.02). A combinatorial signature (3/3)g inclusive of TMB, PD-L1 IHC, HLA-DCH, ABRDIA, and KEAP1/NFE2L2 mutations was associated with better OS (HR=0.76, 95% CI, 0.63-0.92, p=0.003) and PFS (HR=0.84, 95% CI, 0.70-0.99, p=0.048). Landmark 3-year OS rates were 20% vs. 6% in 3/3g high vs. low 3/3g high represented 50% of the evaluable population.

**Conclusion:** We show that a composite ICIg extending beyond TMB and PD-L1 IHC captures the proportion of NSCLC patients likely to benefit from ICI therapy more effectively than single biomarkers. Such a signature could inform treatment selection in today's rapidly expanding therapeutic landscape. Validation from a large randomized controlled Phase III trial is planned.

### Methods

**Construction of the Composite-IO Biomarker**  
L PD-L1 IHC (0, 1-49%, ≥50%) and T1 CGP assay (TMB: 0-10, 10-20, ≥20) were routinely performed on participants of sub-studies 1 and A.



### RESULTS

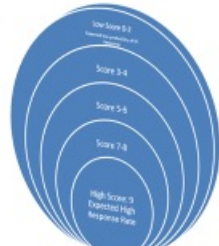
**Univariate analysis:** All Cox proportional hazards models adjusted for age, sex, smoking, and TNM status were used to evaluate the significance of association between each predictor and OS/PFS.

Predictors	OS			PFS		
	HR*	CI lower	CI upper	HR*	CI lower	CI upper
TMB	0.765	0.649	0.951	0.803	0.701	0.932
HLA-DCH +	1.029	0.731	1.448	0.876	1.480	1.950
PD-L1	0.655	0.675	1.325	0.884	0.946	1.030
ABRDIA mutation +	0.717	0.490	1.071	0.894	0.958	1.376
Keap1/Nfe2l2	1.167	0.865	1.587	0.893	0.980	1.271
Keap1/Nfe2l2 +	1.671	0.570	1.193	0.846	1.680	0.315
Keap1/Nfe2l2 + TMB	1.203	0.570	0.886	0.876	1.330	0.289

P < 0.15 for OS, while 3 predictors (TMB, HLA-DCH, PD-L1) reached

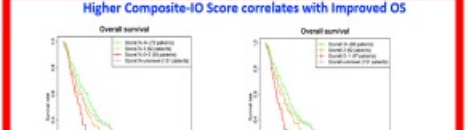
**COMPOSITE BIOMARKER SCORE:  
(PD-L1/TMB/HLA) CORRELATES WITH BETTER IO-OUTCOME  
(Gandara et al. SITC 2022)**

of the study cohort, 66% missing in 114/730.  
c) PD-L1 data was available on 66% Lung MAP participants, data missing in 116/730.



Composite score is Calculated

Score	OS			PFS		
	HR*	CI lower	CI upper	HR	CI lower	CI upper
Score 0	0.769	0.669	0.883	0.833	0.670	1.023
Score 1	0.740	0.646	0.866	0.808	0.703	0.961
Score 2	0.761	0.638	0.932	0.805	0.658	0.990
Score 3	0.726	0.623	0.866	0.800	0.687	0.967



# Impact of sex on IO-based therapy outcomes

Meta-analyses: OS results for lung cancer patients receiving IO, IO + chemotherapy vs chemotherapy<sup>2</sup>

		Pooled OS HRs (95% CI)	
		IO (PD-[L1])	IO (PD-[L1]) + chemo
Male	vs chemo	0.78 (0.60–1.00)	0.76 (0.64–0.91)
Female	vs chemo	0.97 (0.79–1.19)	0.44 (0.25–0.76)
Female vs male		0.83 (0.65–1.06)	1.70 (1.16–2.49)

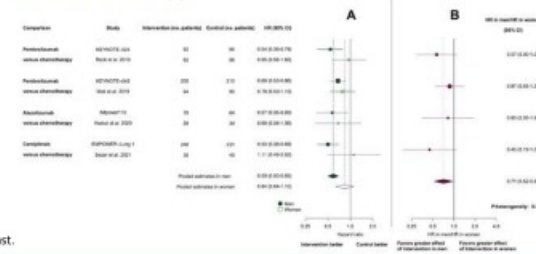
Innate immunity: Enhanced in females<sup>1</sup>

- Neutrophils phagocytic capacity
- Macrophagic activation
- Macrophagic phagocytic capacity
- APC efficiency
- Dendritic cell activities
- Toll-like receptors gene expression pathway

Adaptive immunity: Enhanced in females<sup>1</sup>

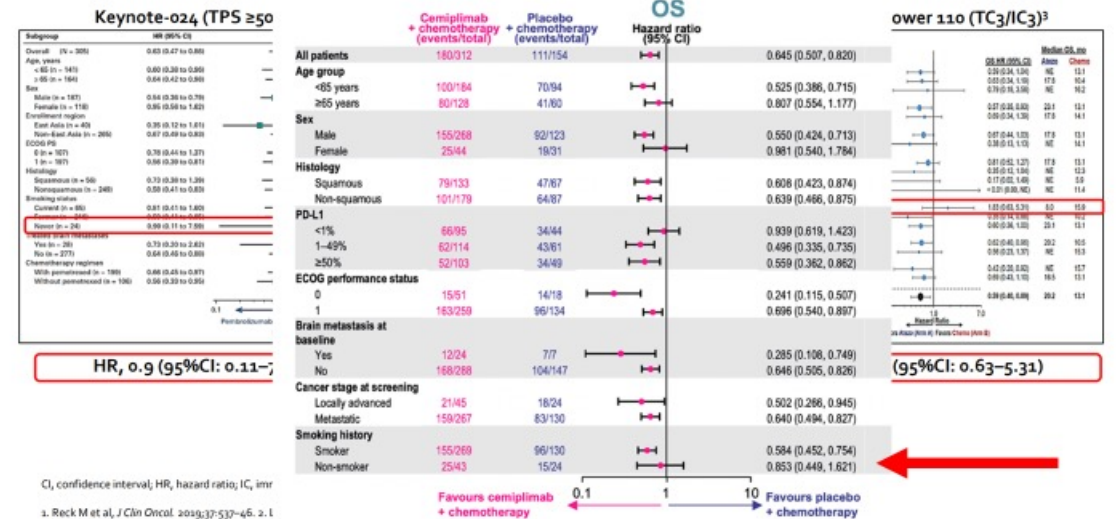
- CD4+ T-cell count; CD4/CD8 T-cell ratio
- T-cell proliferation
- Activated T-cell count
- T-cell cytotoxicity
- B-cell count
- Antibody production

Meta-analyses: OS results for lung cancer patients receiving IO vs chemotherapy<sup>2</sup>



1. Vavalà T, et al. Int J Mol Sci. 2021;22:11942. 2. Condorti F, et al. J Natl Cancer Inst.

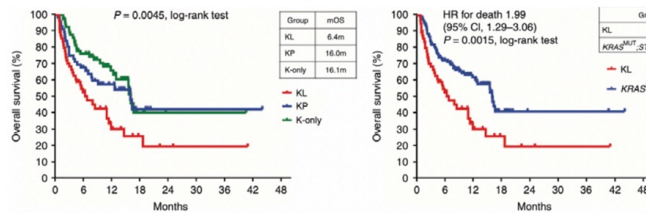
# The Problem of Never Smoker



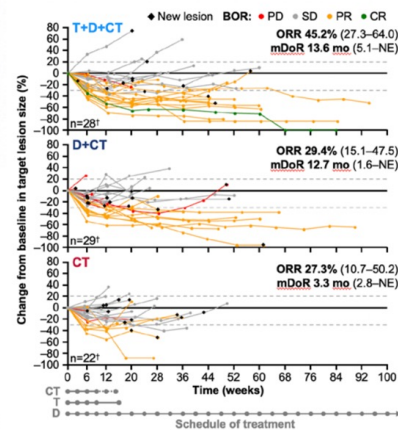
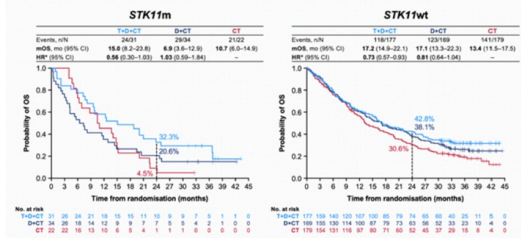
CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; IC, imr

1. Reck M et al, J Clin Oncol. 2019;37:537-46. 2. L

# Impact of immune-modulating mutations



OS by STK11 Mutation Status  
OS benefit observed for T+D+CT vs CT in STK11wt with HR 0.56 and estimated 32.3% alive at 2 yrs vs 4.5%





# CONCLUSIONS

PD-L1 Assay validated and  
advanced NSCLC.

The use of PD-L1 express

Poor IO response/outcom

“drivers”, Females, Never



outcome, particularly in

getting more unclear!

on 20 molecular

'1

TMB

THANKS; See you in NYC!

