# Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy in NSCLC

## Luis E. Raez MD FACP FCCP Chief Scientific Officer & Medical Director Memorial Cancer Institute/Memorial Health Care System Research Professor at the I-Health Institute Florida Atlantic University (FAU) Past-President Florida Society of Clinical Oncology (FLASCO)

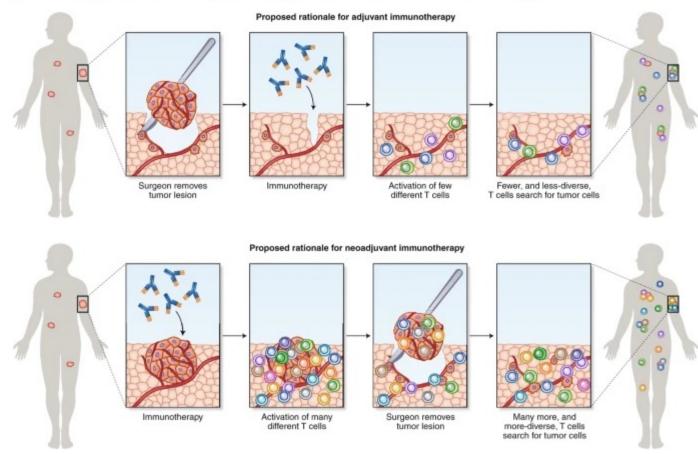








#### Fig. 1: Neoadjuvant and adjuvant approaches to immunotherapy.



In adjuvant approaches, shown above, immunotherapy (as indicated by the antibodies) is given after surgery, which results in the activation of T cells directed to different antigens, as indicated by the different colors. In neoadjuvant approaches, therapy is given before surgery, which results in the raising of a more diverse T cell response.

Versluis, J.M., Long, G. & Blank, C.U. Learning from clinical trials of neoadjuvant checkpoint blockade. Nat Med 26, 475–484 (2020).

# Rationale for Neoadjuvant Immune-Based Therapy in Resectable NSCLC



- Scientific:
- Tumor upregulation of PD-L1 is critical for the spread and survival of metastases<sup>1</sup>
- Neoadjuvant immunotherapy may activate the immune system robustly prior to surgery<sup>2,3</sup>
- · Neoadjuvant combined ICIs are superior to adjuvant therapy and enhance immune infiltration in
- Clinical development of more effective treatments for operable NSCLC<sup>6</sup>:
- Rapid readout of activity based on potential surrogate endpoints (MPR, pCR) of clinical benefit
- Assessment of role of surrogate endpoints (MPR, pCR) at predicting survival benefit
- Translational/biomarker analyses of samples pre- and post-neoadjuvant therapy

<sup>1.</sup> Chen L et al. Nat Commun. 2014;5:5241. 2. McGranahan N et al. Science. 2016;351(6280):1463-1469.

<sup>3.</sup> Topalian SL et al. Science. 2020;367(6477):eaax0182. 4. Liu J et al. Cancer Discovery. 2016;6(12):1382-1399.

<sup>5.</sup> Cascone T et al. Cancer Res. 2018;78(suppl 13):1719. 6. Chaft JE et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol. 2021;18(9):547-557.

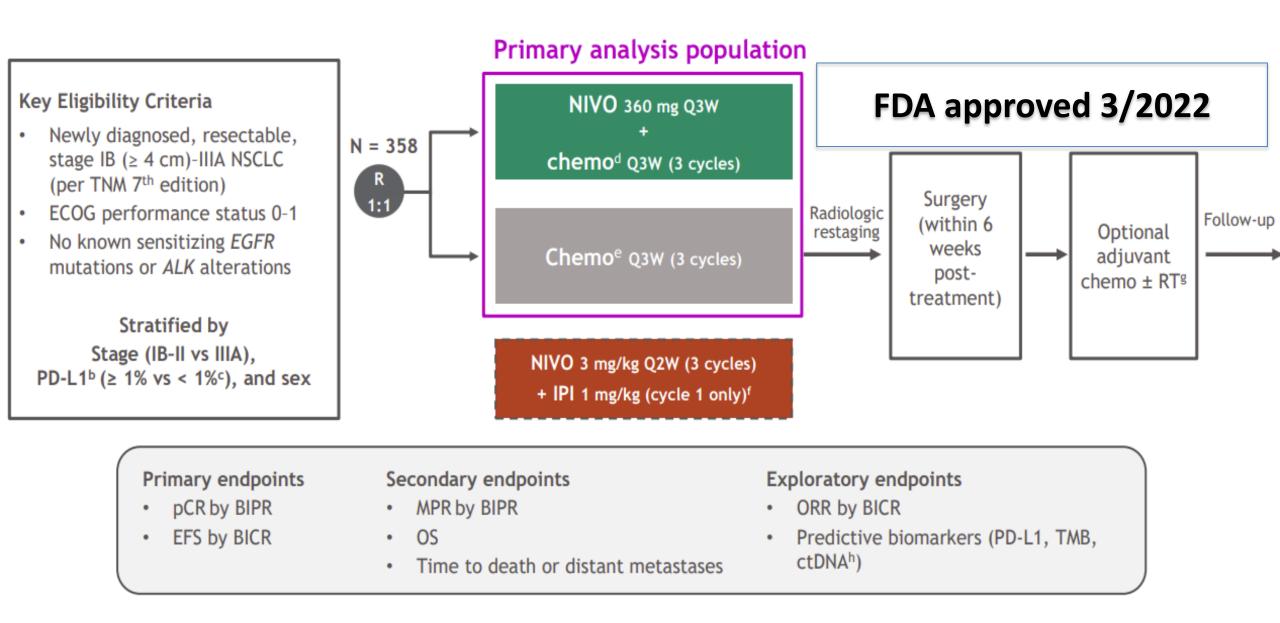


# Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy in NSCLC

- Checkmate 816
- NADIM II



# CheckMate 816 study design<sup>a</sup>



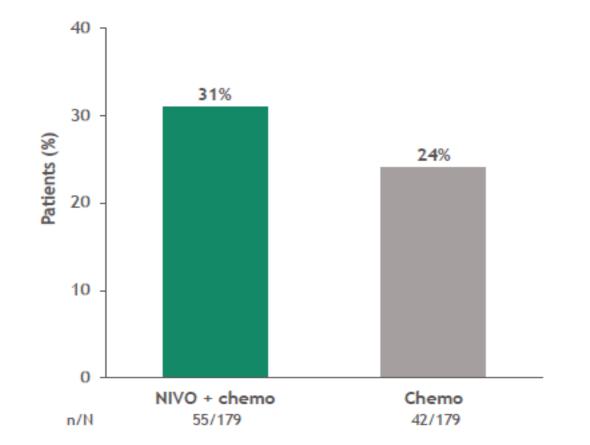
CheckMate 816: pCR with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo in resectable NSCLC

## Objective response rate and radiographic down-staging

#### Objective response rate

#### Patients with radiographic down-staging<sup>c</sup>

Patients, n (%)	NIVO + chemo (n = 179)	Chemo (n = 179)
ORRª	96 (54) <sup>b</sup>	67 (37) <sup>b</sup>
Best overall response		
Complete response	1 (1)	3 (2)
Partial response	95 (53)	64 (36)
Stable disease	70 (39)	88 (49)
Progressive disease	8 (4)	11 (6)
Not evaluable	1 (1)	1 (1)
Not reported	4 (2)	12 (7)



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Primary endpoint: pCR<sup>a</sup> rate with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo vs chemo

10

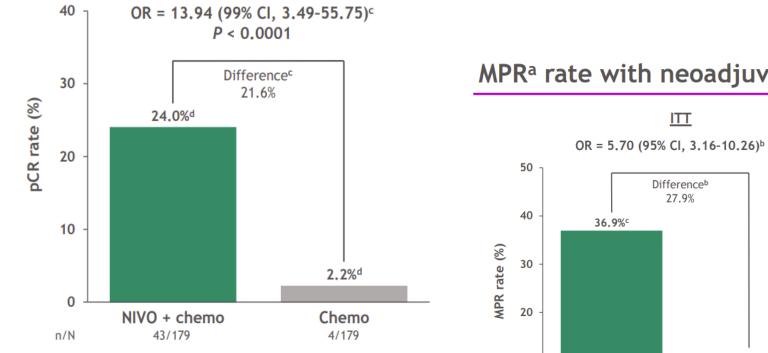
0

n/N

NIVO + chemo

66/179

#### Primary endpoint: ITT (ypT0N0)<sup>b</sup>



CheckMate 816: pCR with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo in resectable NSCLC

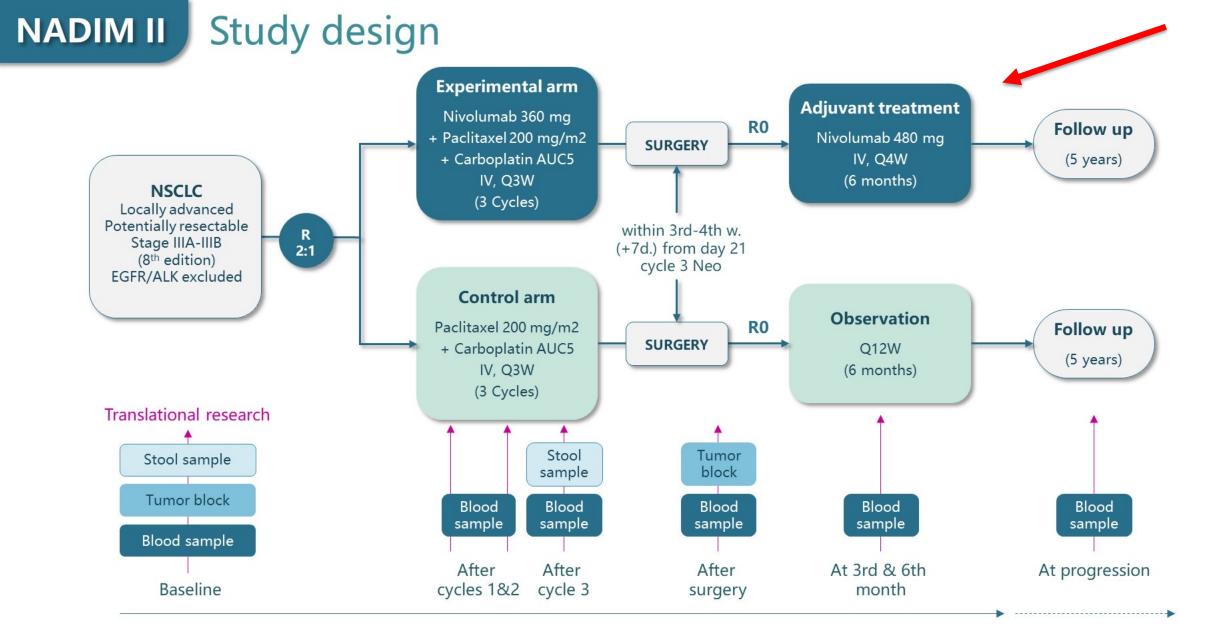
## MPR<sup>a</sup> rate with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo vs chemo



8.9%<sup>c</sup>

Chemo

16/179



NADIM II (NCT03838159) is a randomized, phase 2, open-label, multicentre study evaluating nivolumab + chemotherapy vs chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment for potentially resectable NSCLC



#ASC022

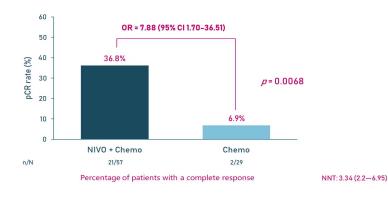
PRESENTED BY: Mariano Provencio MD, PhD. Hospital Puerta de Hierro Majadahonda-Madrid, SPAIN Spanish Lung Cancer Group

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#### NADIM II Primary endpoint - pCR

#### pCR<sup>a</sup> rate with neoadjuvant NIVO + CT vs CT in the ITT population<sup>b</sup>



\*PCR was defined as 0% residual viable tumor cells in both primary tumor (lung) and sampled lymph nodes; <sup>b</sup>Patients who did not undergo surgery were considered as non-responders Chemo, chemotherapy; ITT, intention-to-treat; Nivo, nivolumab; pCR, pathological complete response; RR, risk ratio



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2022 ASCO ANNUAL MEETING

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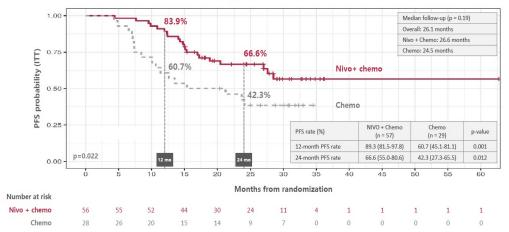
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Chemo, chemotherapy; ITT, intention-to-treat; MPR, major pathological response; Nivo, nivolumab; RR, risk ratio

#### **SECONDARY ENDPOINTS – Progression-free survival**

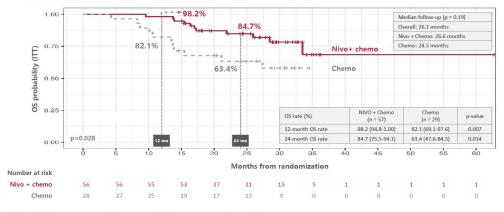


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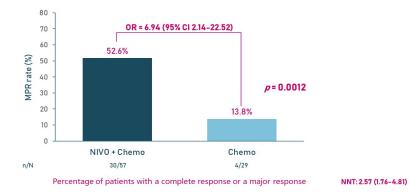
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#### **SECONDARY ENDPOINTS – Overall survival**



Dverall survival was defined as the time from randomization to death. OS was censored on the last date a participant was known to be alive Dr. Mariano Provencio, Hospital Universitario Puerta de Hierro-Majadahonda, Madrid, Spain

MPR<sup>a</sup> rate with neoadjuvant NIVO + CT vs CT in the ITT population <sup>b</sup>



aMPR was defined as ≤10% residual viable tumor cells in both the primary tumor (lung) and sampled lymph nodes; bPatients who did not undergo surgery were considered as non-responders

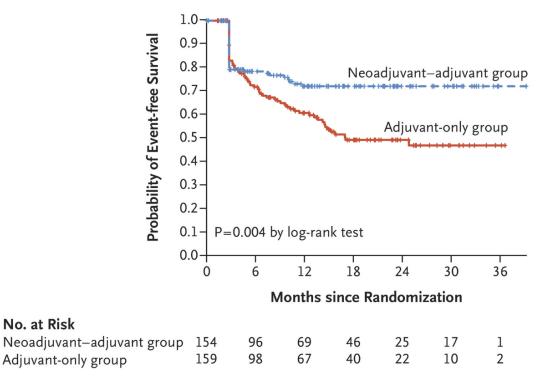




No. at Risk

## Neoadjuvant is better? At least in Melanoma

- Phase 2 trial, randomly assigned pts with stage IIIB to IVC melanoma that was amenable to surgical resection to 3 doses of neoadjuvant pembrolizumab, surgery, and 15 doses of adjuvant pembrolizumab (NEO–ADJ) or to surgery followed by pembrolizumab for 18 doses) for approximately 1 year (ADJ).
- NEO-ADJ group (154 pts) had longer EFS than the ADJ-only group (159 pts) (P=0.004).
- EFS at 2 years was 72% (NEO-ADJ) and 49% (ADJ).
- Grades 3 AEs or higher 12% in the NEO-ADJ and 14% in the ADL



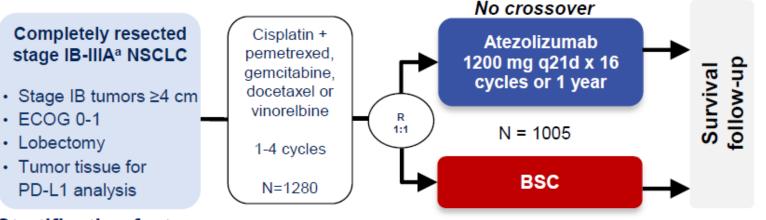
Patel S et al. N Engl J Med 2023; 388:813-823 DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2211437



# NEOADJUVANT PLUS ADJUVANT (PERIOPERATIVE) IMMUNOTHERAPY IN NSCLC

\*AEGEAN \*Keynote 671 \*Neotorch \*Checkmate 77T

# IMpower010: Phase III randomised trial of atezolizumab vs BSC in early-stage NSCLC



#### Stratification factors

Sex | Stage | Histology | PD-L1 status

#### Primary endpoint

Investigator-assessed DFS tested hierarchically

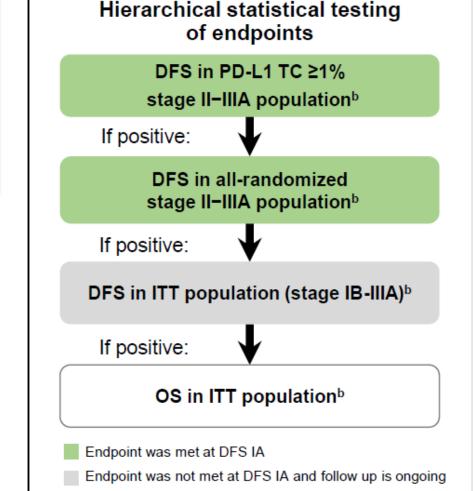
#### Key secondary endpoints

• OS in ITT | DFS in PD-L1 TC ≥50% | 3-yr and 5-year DFS

#### Key exploratory endpoints

OS biomarker analyses

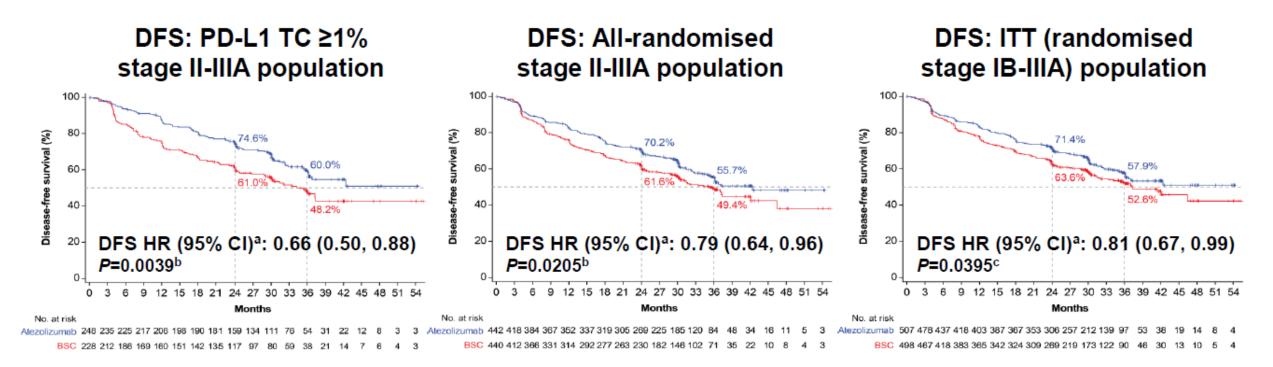
Clinical cutoff: 18 April 2022. Both arms included observation and regular scans for disease recurrence on the same schedule. ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, q21d, every 21 days. <sup>a</sup> Per UICC/AJCC staging system, 7th edition. <sup>b</sup> Two-sided α=0.05.



Endpoint was not formally tested

# Recap of DFS and OS data from the DFS IA<sup>1,2</sup>

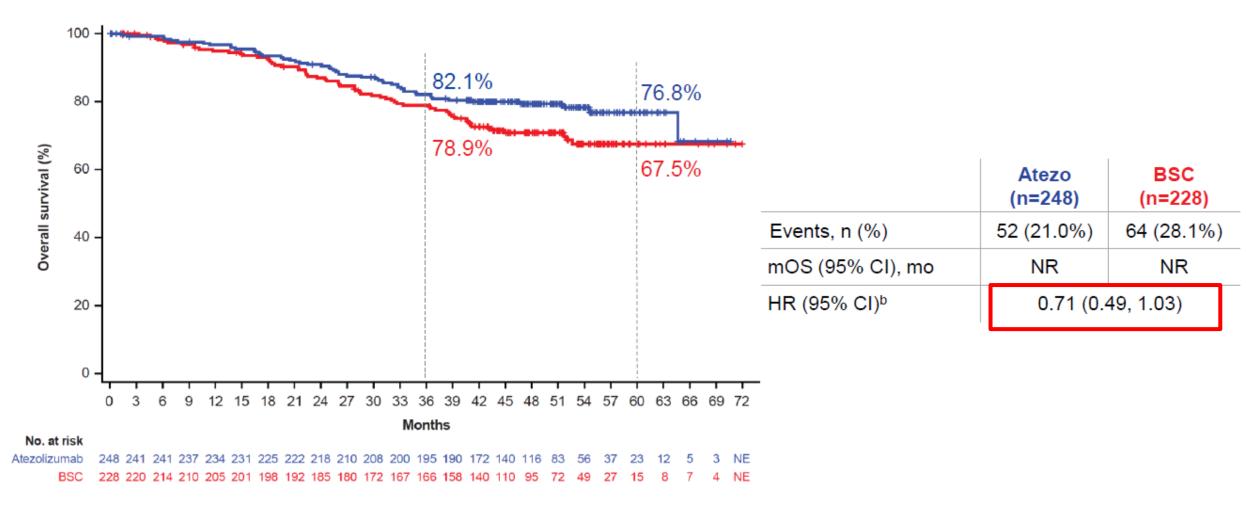
(data cutoff: 21 Jan '21, median follow-up: 32 months)



- OS data were not mature (event to patient ratio in ITT was 19% in atezolizumab arm, 18% in BSC arm)
  - PD-L1 TC ≥1% stage II-IIIA population: OS HR, 0.77 (95% CI: 0.51, 1.17)<sup>a</sup>
  - All-randomised stage II-IIIA population: OS HR, 0.99 (95% CI: 0.73, 1.33)<sup>a</sup>
  - ITT (randomised stage IB-IIIA) population: OS HR, 1.07 (95% CI: 0.80, 1.42)<sup>a</sup>

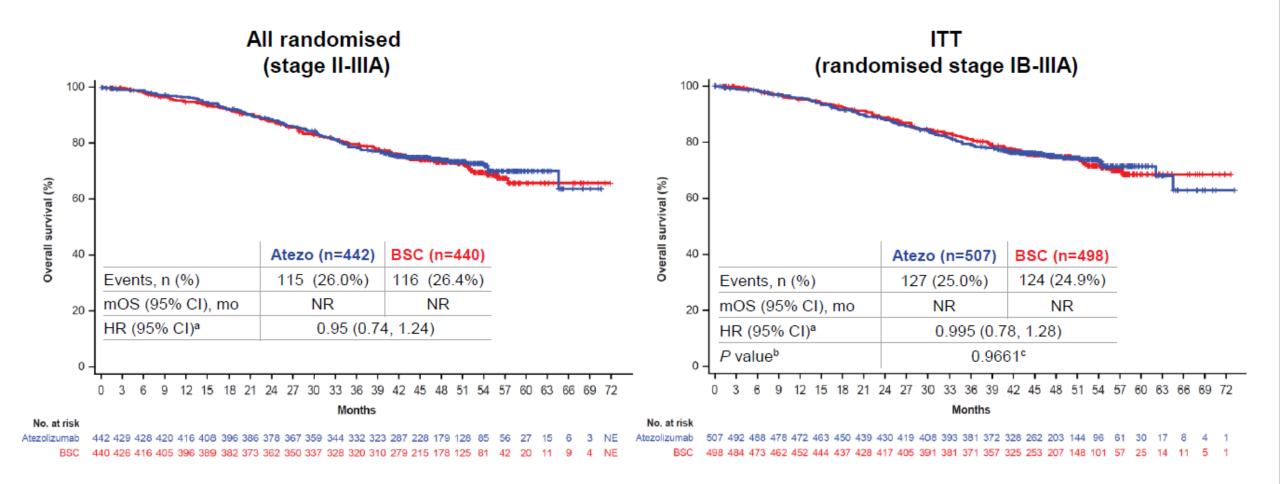
Clinical cutoff: 21 Jan 2021. a Stratified. Statistical significance boundary for DFS crossed. Statistical significance boundary for DFS not crossed. 1. Felip, E et al Lancet 2021; 938; 1344-1357; 2. Wakelee. HA et al ASCO 2021; abs #8500.

# Results of OS IA: PD-L1 TC ≥1%<sup>a</sup> (stage II-IIIA) (data cutoff: 18 Apr '22, median follow-up: 46 months)



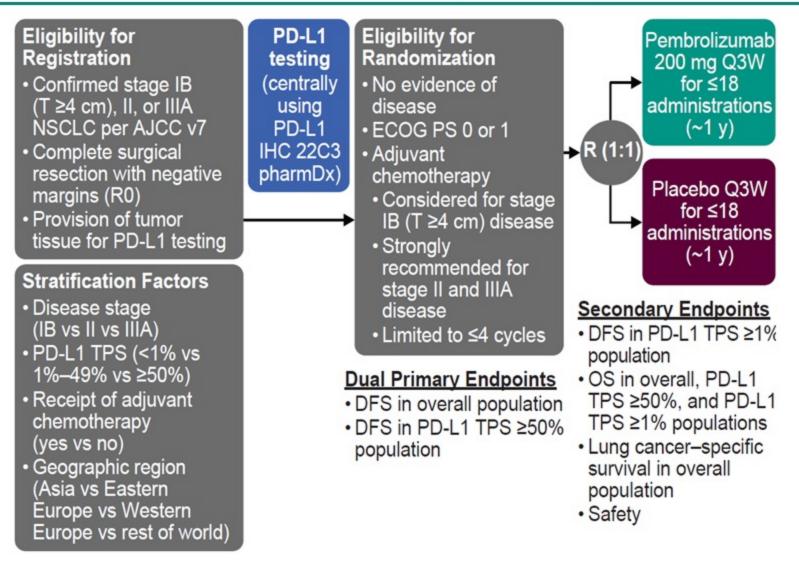
mOS, median overall survival; NR, not reached. aBy SP263 assay. bStratified.

## Results of OS IA: other primary populations (data cutoff: 18 Apr '22, median follow-up: 45 months)

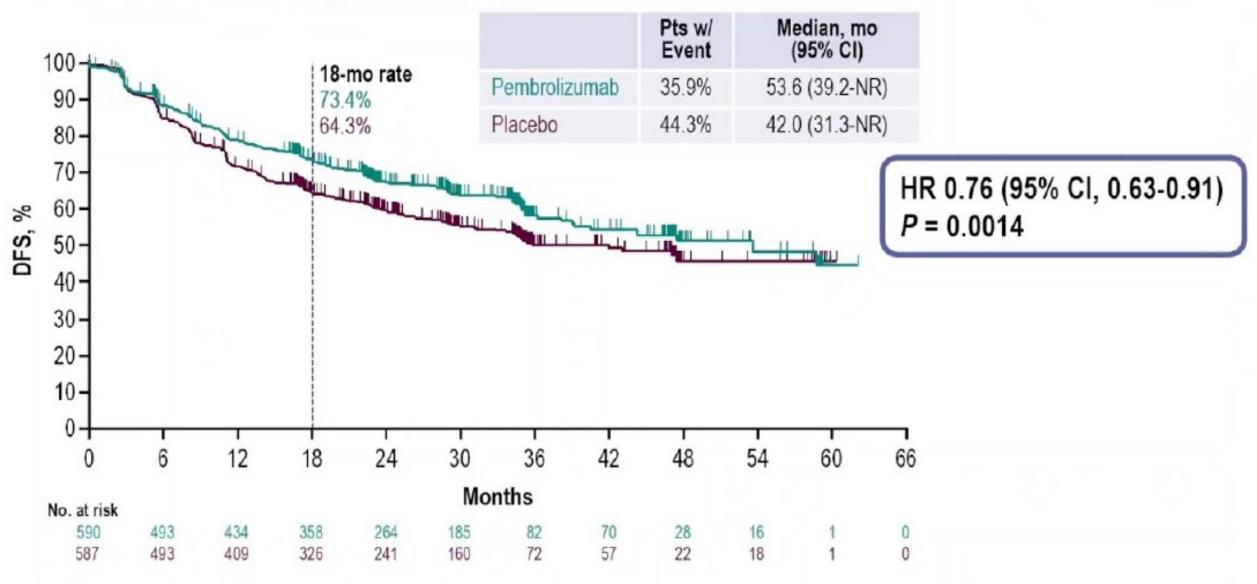


Clinical cutoff: 18 April 2022.<sup>a</sup> Stratified.<sup>b</sup> No formal testing until statistical significance observed for DFS in the ITT population due to the prespecified testing hierarchy. <sup>c</sup> Descriptive purposes only.

# PEARLS/KEYNOTE-091 Study Design



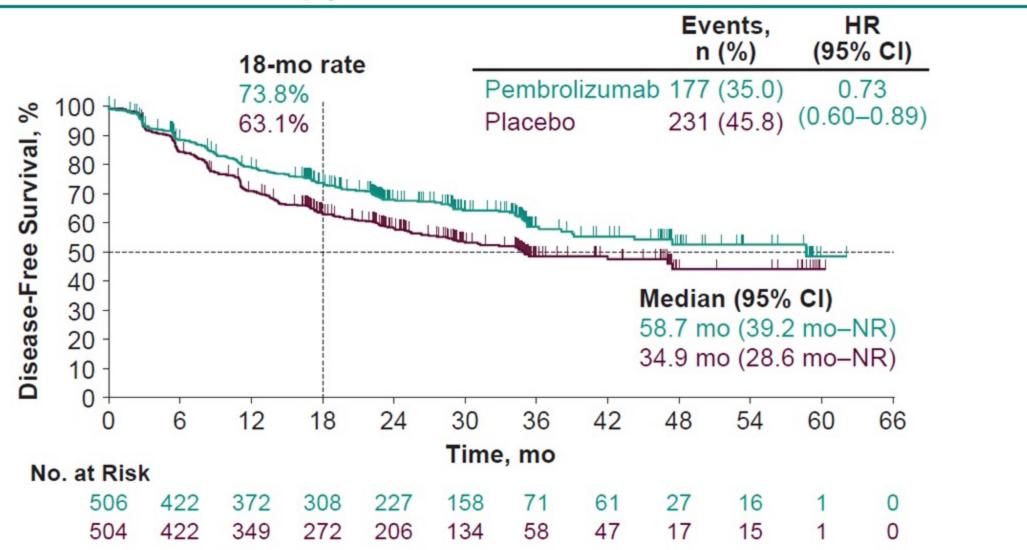
# **DFS, Overall Population**



### **ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY**

Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by investigator review. Data cutoff date: September 20, 2021 Content of this presentation is copyright and responsibility of the author, Luis Paz-Ares, Permission is required for re-use.

# Disease-Free Survival in Patients Who Received ≥1 Cycle of Adjuvant Chemotherapy



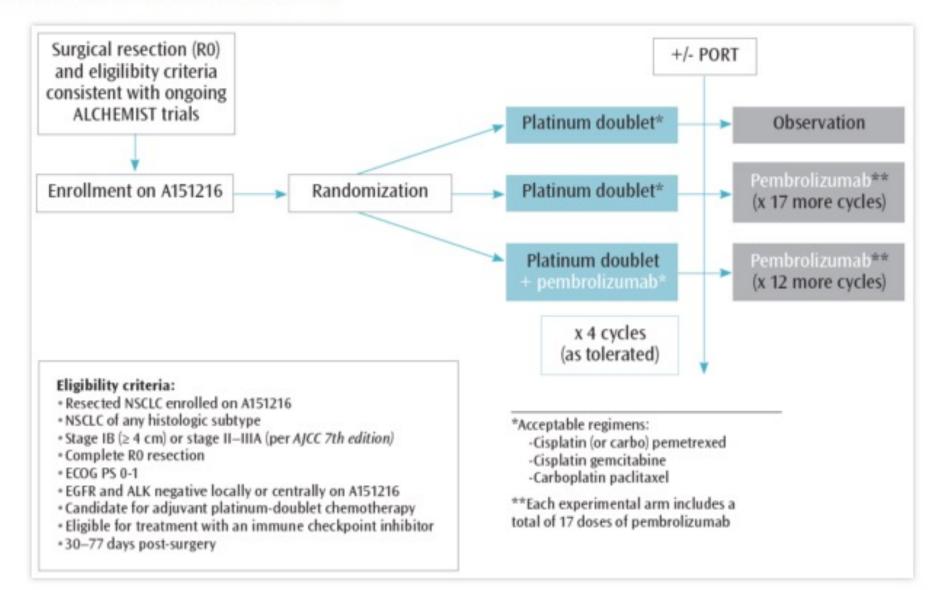
# **Summary and Conclusions**

- Pembrolizumab provided statistically significant, clinically meaningful DFS improvement versus placebo in the overall population
  - Median DFS of 53.6 months with pembrolizumab vs 42.0 months with placebo (HR, 0.76)
  - Generally consistent DFS benefit in participants with PD-L1 TPS <1%, 1-49%, and ≥50%</li>
  - OS data are immature
  - DFS in the PD-L1-defined populations and OS will be tested at future analyses according to the analysis plan
- · Pembrolizumab safety profile as expected
- Data suggest pembrolizumab has the potential to be a new adjuvant treatment option for patients with stage IB (T ≥4 cm) to IIIA NSCLC following complete resection and adjuvant chemotherapy when recommended, regardless of PD-L1 expression

**ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY** 

On January 26, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved pembrolizumab (Keytruda, Merck) for adjuvant treatment following resection and platinumbased chemotherapy for stage IB (T2a ≥4 cm), II, or IIIA non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), regardless PDL1

#### Figure 1. Schema: ALCHEMIST CHEMO-IO



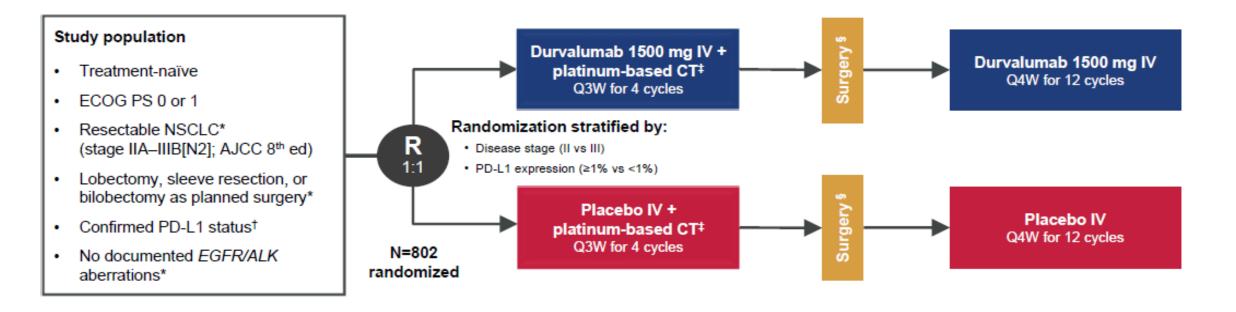


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Endpoints: All efficacy analyses performed on a modified population that excludes patients with documented EGFR/ALK aberrations<sup>1</sup>

#### Primary:

- pCR by central lab (per IASLC 2020<sup>1</sup>)
- EFS using BICR (per RECIST v1.1)

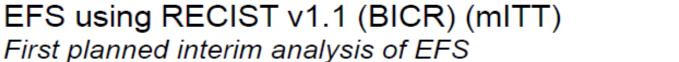
#### Key secondary:

- MPR by central lab (per IASLC 2020<sup>1</sup>)
- DFS using BICR (per RECIST v1.1)
- OS

\*The protocol was amended while enrollment was ongoing to exclude (1) patients with tumors classified as T4 for any reason other than size; (2) patients with planned pneumonectomies; and (3) patients with documented EGFR/ALK aberrations. \*Ventana SP263 immunohistochemistry assay. \*Choice of CT regimen determined by histology and at the investigator's discretion. For non-squamous: cisplatin + pemetrexed or carboplatin + pemetrexed. For squamous: carboplatin + pacitaxel or cisplatin + gencitabine (or carboplatin + gencitabine for patients who have comorbidities or who are unable to tolerate cisplatin per the investigator's judgment). \*Post-operative radiotherapy (PORT) was permitted where indicated per local guidance. <sup>11</sup>All efficacy analyses reported in this presentation were performed on the mITT population, which includes all randomized patients who did not have documented EGFR/ALK aberrations. AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; BICR, klinded independent central review; DFS, disease-free survival; EFS, event-free survival; mITT, modified intent-to-treat; MPR, major pathologic response; pCR, pathologic complete response.

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

DCO = Nov 10, 2022. EFS is defined as time from randomization to the earliest of: (A) progressive disease (PD) that precludes surgery; (B) PD discovered and reported by the investigator upon attempting surgery that prevents completion of surgery; (C) local/distant recurrence using BICR per RECIST v1.1; or (D) death from any cause. \*HR <1 favors the D arm versus the PBO arm. Median and landmark estimates calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method; HR calculated using a stratified Cox proportional hazards model; and P-value calculated using a stratified log rank. test. Stratification factors: disease stage (II vs III) and PD-L1 expression status (<1% vs ≥1%). Significance boundary = 0.009899 (based on total 5% alpha), calculated using a Lan-DeMets alpha spending function with O'Brien Fleming boundary. mEFS, median EFS; NR, not reached.

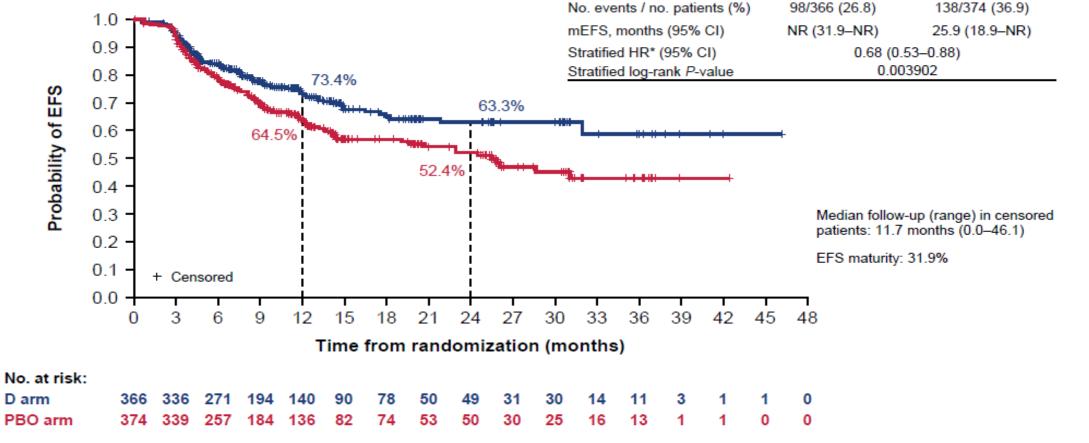




D arm

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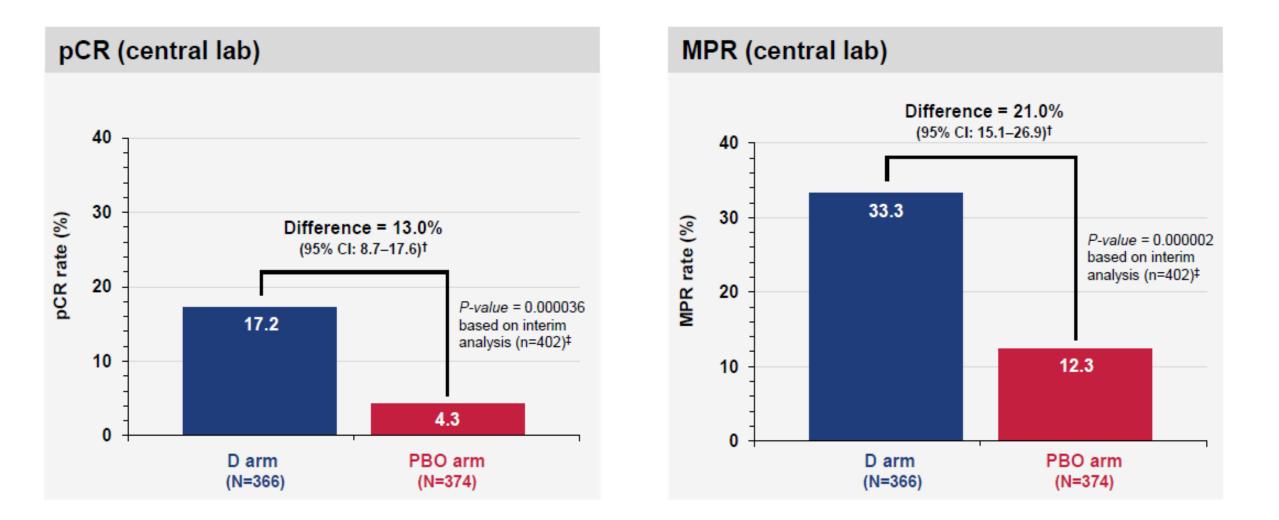
PBO arm



## Pathologic response per IASLC 2020 methodology\* (mITT) *Final analysis*

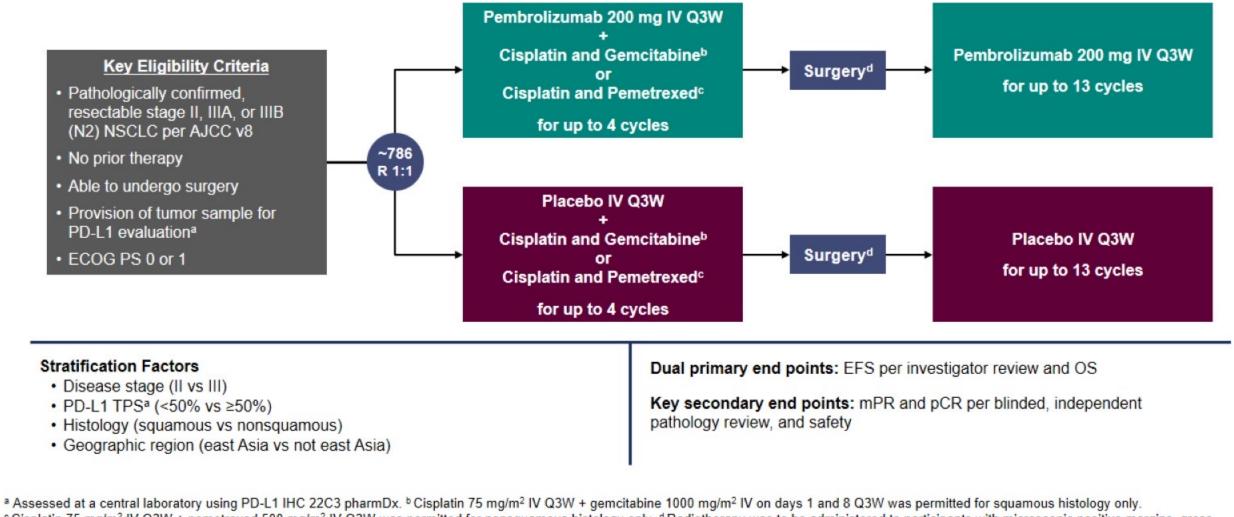


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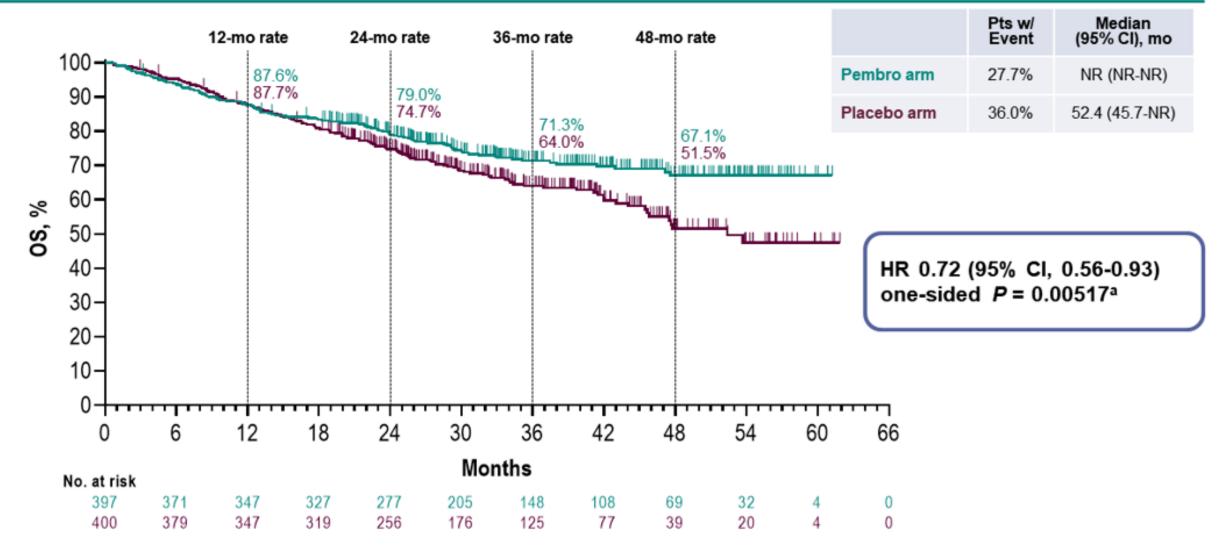
\*Using IASLC recommendations for pathologic assessment of response to therapy, including gross assessment and processing of tumor ked (Travis WD, et al. *J Thorac Oncol* 2020;15:709-40). pCR = a lack of any viakle tumor cells after complete evaluation of the resected lung cancer specimen and all sampled regional lymph nodes. MPR = less than or equal to 10% viakle tumor cells in lung primary tumor after complete evaluation of the resected lung cancer specimen. To ke eligikle for pathologic assessment, patients needed to have received three cycles of neoadjuvant study Tx per protocol. Patients who were not evaluable were classified as non-responders. <sup>1</sup>Cls calculated ky stratified Miettinen and Nurminen method. <sup>1</sup>No formal statistical testing was performed at the pCR final analysis (DCO: Nov 10, 2022; n=740 [data shown]). Statistical significance was achieved at the interim pCR analysis (DCO: Jan 14, 2022; n=402; P-value for pCR/MPR calculated using a stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test with a significance koundary = 0.000082 calculated using a Lan-DeMets alpha spending function with O'Brien Fleming koundary).

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



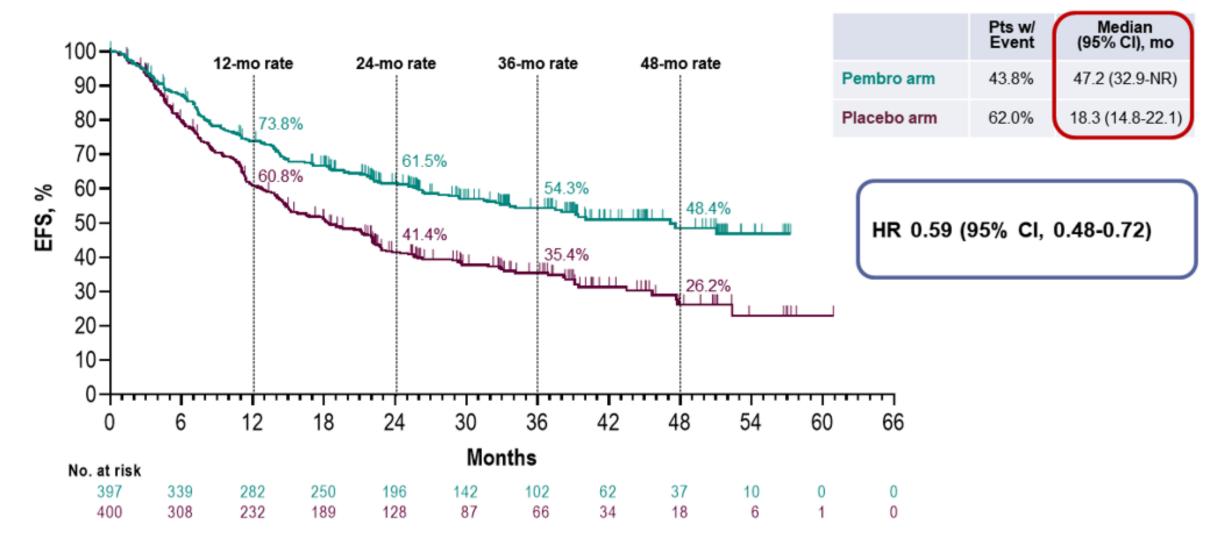
<sup>c</sup> Cisplatin 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV Q3W + pemetrexed 500 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV Q3W was permitted for nonsquamous histology only. <sup>d</sup> Radiotherapy was to be administered to participants with microscopic positive margins, gross residual disease, or extracapsular nodal extension following surgery and to participants who did not undergo planned surgery for any reason other than local progression or metastatic disease. ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT03425643.

## Overall Survival, IA2 Median Follow-Up: 36.6 months (range, 18.8-62.0)



OS defined as time from randomization to death from any cause. <sup>a</sup> Significance boundary at IA2, one-sided *P* = 0.00543. Data cutoff date for IA2: July 10, 2023.

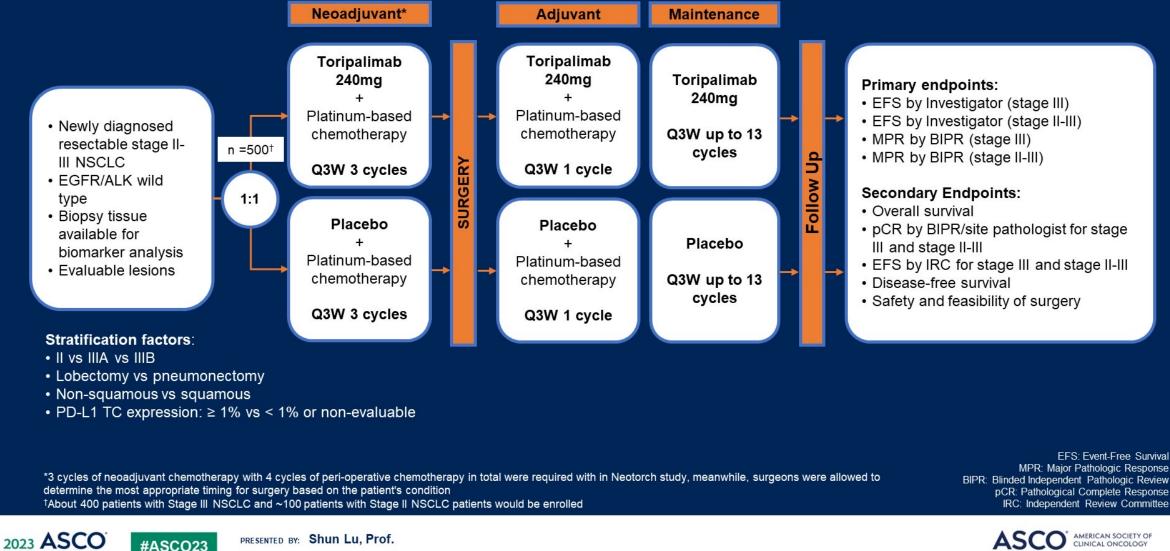
## Event-Free Survival, IA2 Median Follow-Up: 36.6 months (range, 18.8-62.0)



EFS defined as time from randomization to first occurrence of local progression precluding planned surgery, unresectable tumor, progression or recurrence per RECIST v1.1 by investigator assessment, or death from any cause. Data cutoff date for IA2: July 10, 2023.

## **Neotorch Study Design**

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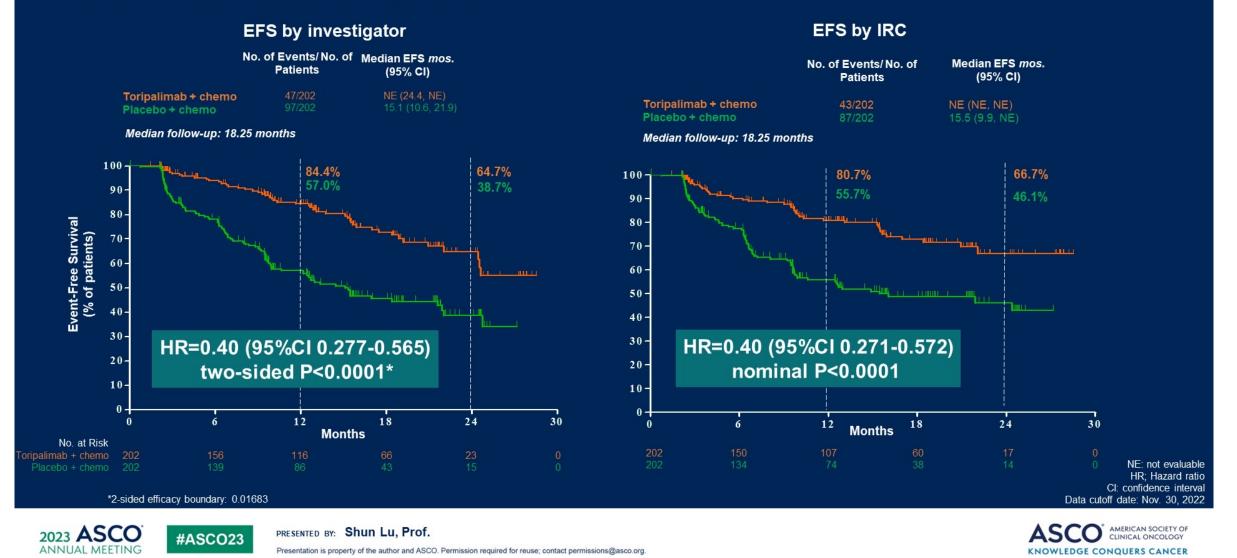
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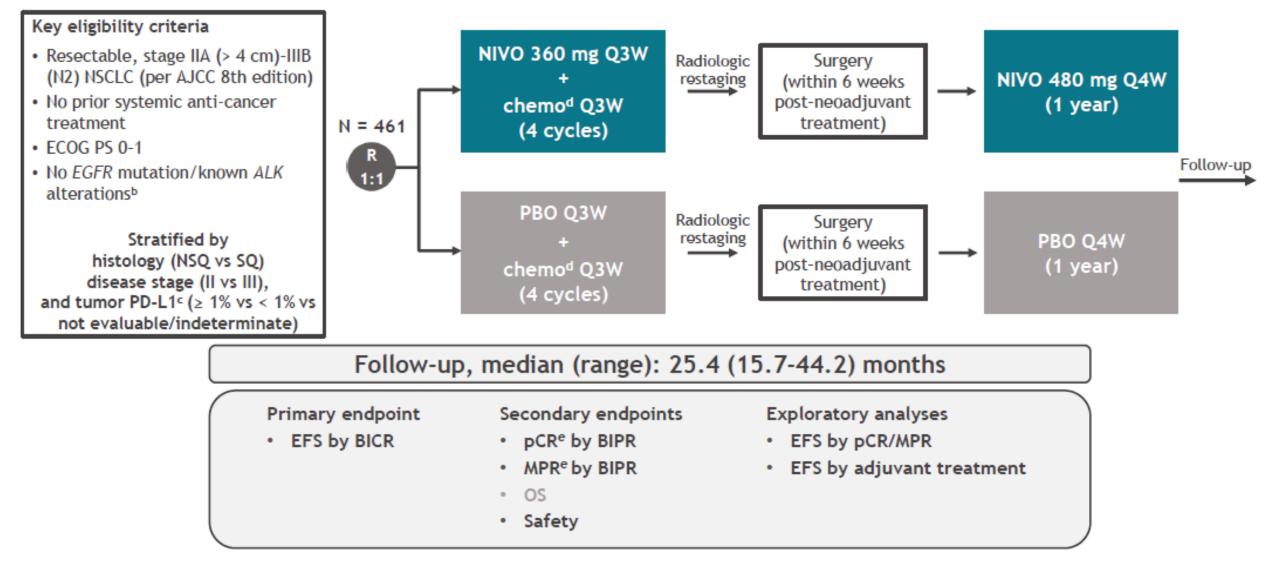
## **Event-Free Survival Analysis**

Intent-to-treat Stage III patients assessed by investigator per RECIST v1.1



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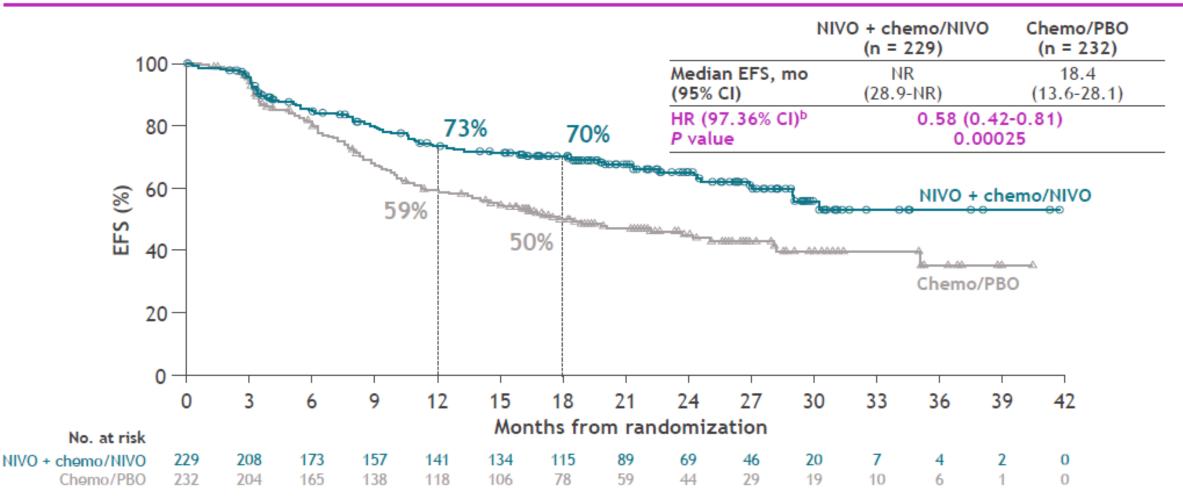
# CheckMate 77T<sup>a</sup> study design



#### Database lock date: September 6, 2023.

<sup>a</sup>NCT04025879. <sup>b</sup>EGFR testing was mandatory in all patients with NSQ histology. ALK testing was done in patients with a history of ALK alterations. EGFR/ALK testing done using US FDA/local health authority-approved assays. <sup>c</sup>Determined by the PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx assay (Dako). <sup>d</sup>NSQ: cisplatin + pemetrexed, carboplatin + pemetrexed, or carboplatin + paclitaxel; SQ: cisplatin + docetaxel or carboplatin + paclitaxel. <sup>e</sup>Assessed per immune-related pathologic response criteria.<sup>1</sup> BICR, blinded independent central review; BIPR, blinded independent pathological review. 1. Cottrell TR, et al. *Ann Oncol* 2018:29:1853-1860.

## Primary endpoint: EFS<sup>a</sup> per BICR with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo/adjuvant NIVO vs chemo/PBO

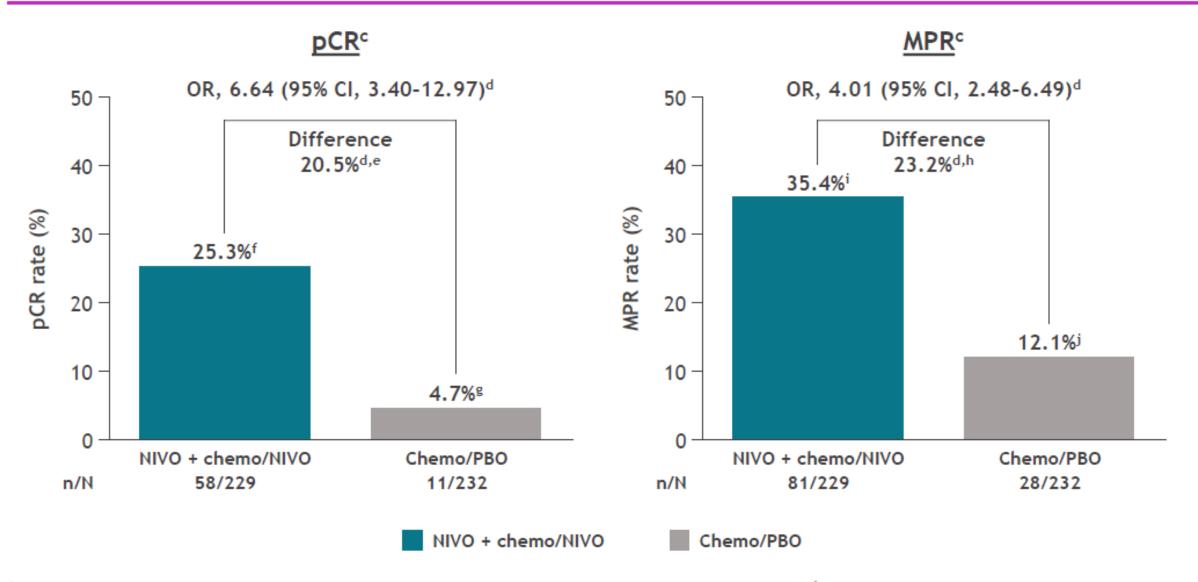


#### EFS per investigator assessment, NIVO + chemo/NIVO vs chemo/PBO: HR, 0.56; 95% CI, 0.41-0.76 ٠

#### Median follow-up (range): 25.4 months (15.7-44.2).

<sup>a</sup>Time from randomization to any disease progression precluding surgery, abandoned surgery due to unresectability or disease progression, disease progression/recurrence after surgery, progression in patients without surgery, or death due to any cause. Patients who received subsequent therapy were censored at the last evaluable tumor assessment on or prior to the date of subsequent therapy. <sup>b</sup>Unstratified HR (95% CI), 0.59 (0.44-0.79).

# pCR<sup>a</sup> and MPR<sup>b</sup> per BIPR



<sup>a</sup>0% residual viable tumor cells post-surgery in both primary tumor (lung) and sampled lymph nodes per immune-related pathologic response criteria. <sup>b</sup>≤ 10% residual viable tumor cells post-surgery in both primary tumor (lung) and sampled lymph nodes per immune-related pathologic response criteria. <sup>c</sup>Patients who did not undergo surgery or received alternative anti-cancer treatment prior to surgery were classified as non-responders. <sup>d</sup>Calculated using the stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel method. <sup>e</sup>J95% CI: <sup>e</sup>14.3-26.6; <sup>f</sup>19.8-31.5; <sup>§</sup>2.4-8.3; <sup>h</sup>15.8-30.6; <sup>J</sup>29.2-41.9; <sup>J</sup>8.2-17.0. BIPR, blinded independent pathological review.



# Conclusions:

- Neo-adjuvant chemo/immunotherapy is standard of care
- Pre-operative chemo/immunotherapy (Perioperative chemo/IO) is becoming standard of care
- Unlikely that we will have a neo-adjuvant vs. adjuvant or neo-adjuvant vs. Perioperative trial results soon

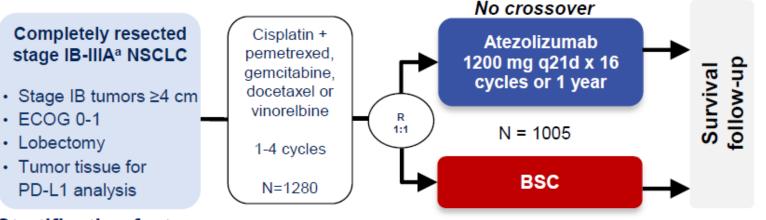


# ADJUVANT IMMUNOTHERAPY IN NSCLC

\*IMPOWER 010 \*Keynote 091 \*\*Alliance A80801



# IMpower010: Phase III randomised trial of atezolizumab vs BSC in early-stage NSCLC



#### Stratification factors

Sex | Stage | Histology | PD-L1 status

#### Primary endpoint

Investigator-assessed DFS tested hierarchically

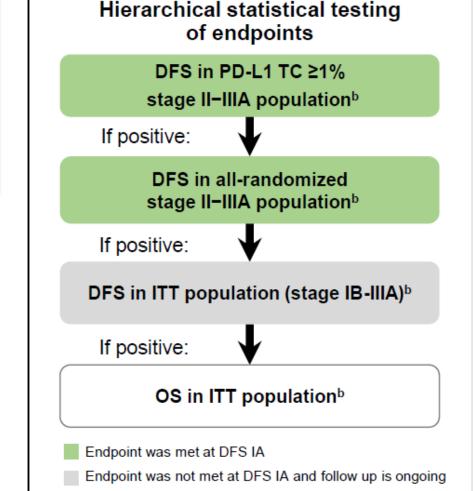
#### Key secondary endpoints

• OS in ITT | DFS in PD-L1 TC ≥50% | 3-yr and 5-year DFS

#### Key exploratory endpoints

OS biomarker analyses

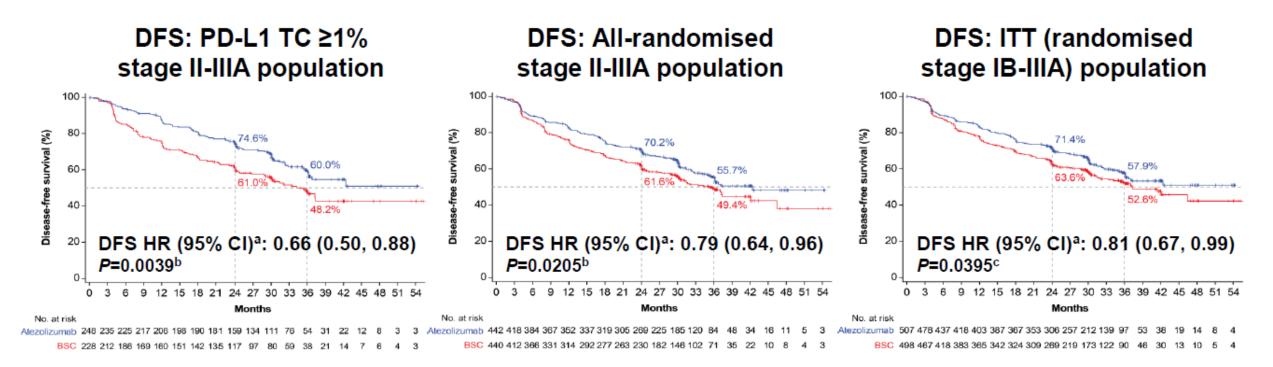
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Endpoint was not formally tested

# Recap of DFS and OS data from the DFS IA<sup>1,2</sup>

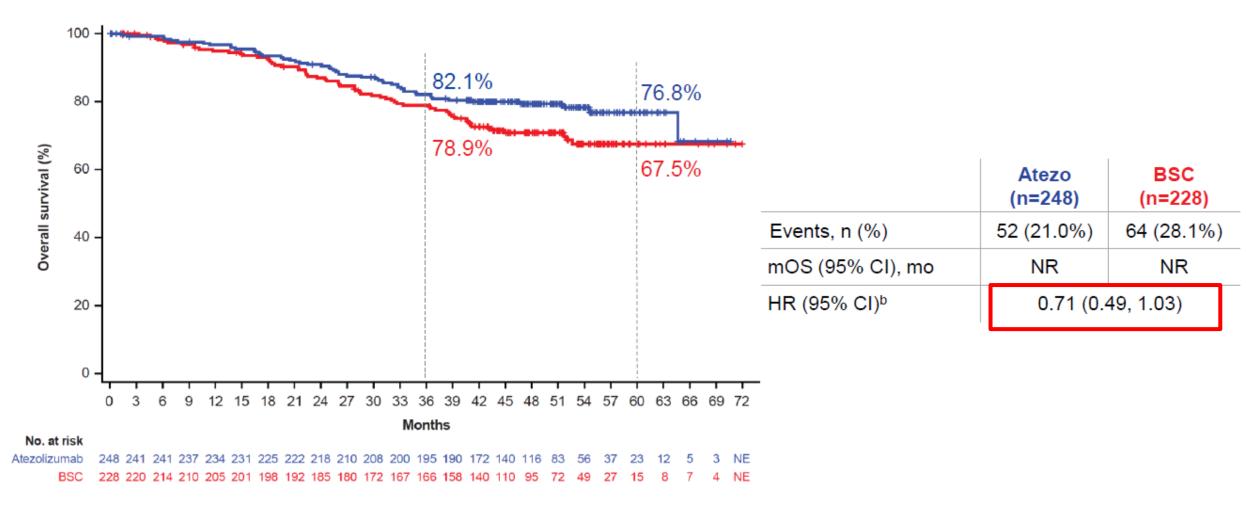
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  - PD-L1 TC ≥1% stage II-IIIA population: OS HR, 0.77 (95% CI: 0.51, 1.17)<sup>a</sup>
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  - ITT (randomised stage IB-IIIA) population: OS HR, 1.07 (95% CI: 0.80, 1.42)<sup>a</sup>

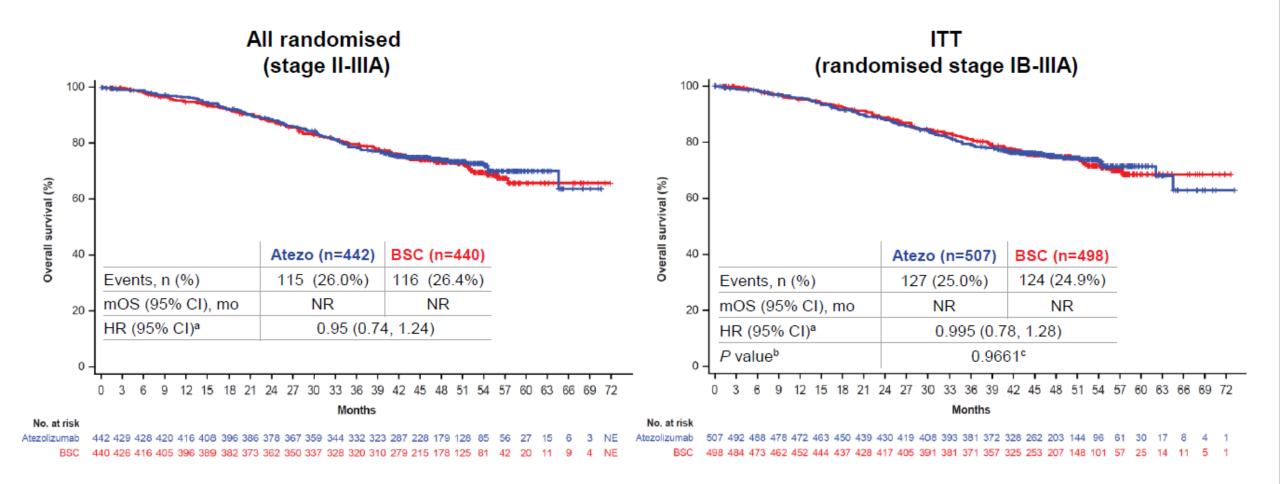
Clinical cutoff: 21 Jan 2021. a Stratified. Statistical significance boundary for DFS crossed. Statistical significance boundary for DFS not crossed. 1. Felip, E et al Lancet 2021; 938; 1344-1357; 2. Wakelee. HA et al ASCO 2021; abs #8500.

# Results of OS IA: PD-L1 TC ≥1%<sup>a</sup> (stage II-IIIA) (data cutoff: 18 Apr '22, median follow-up: 46 months)



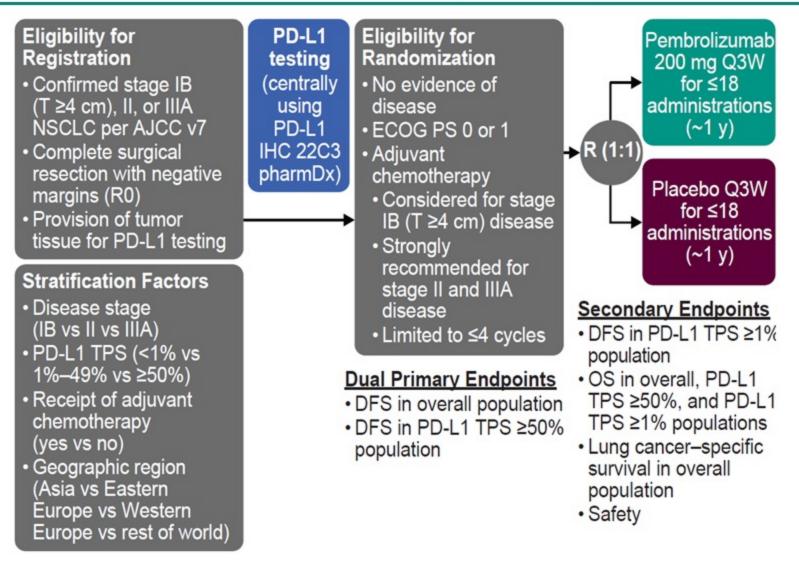
mOS, median overall survival; NR, not reached. aBy SP263 assay. bStratified.

## Results of OS IA: other primary populations (data cutoff: 18 Apr '22, median follow-up: 45 months)

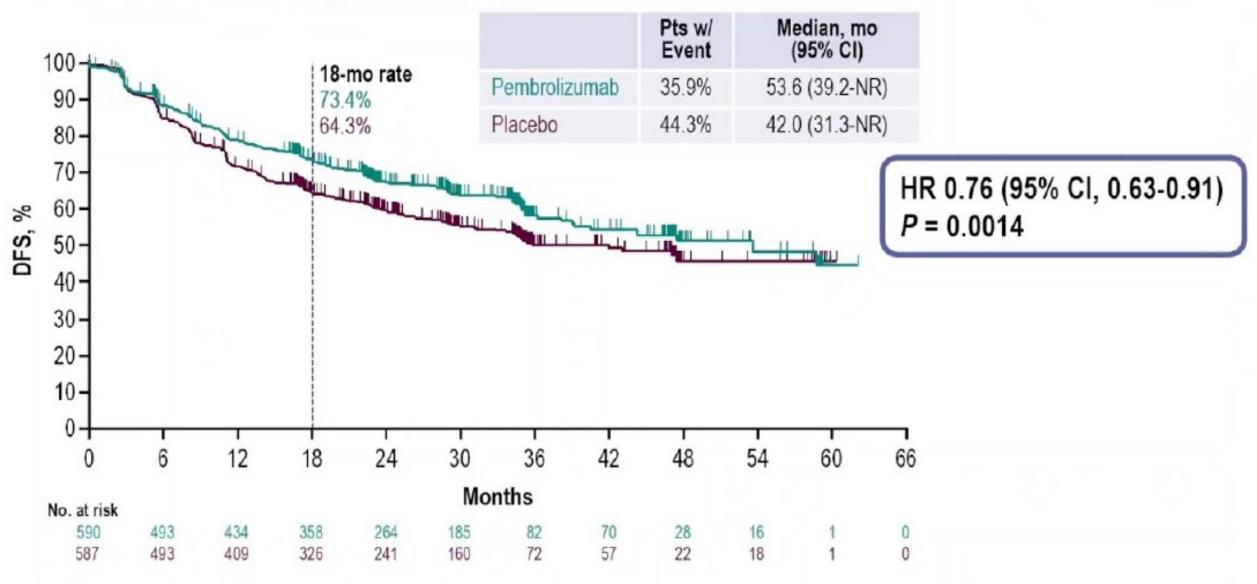


Clinical cutoff: 18 April 2022.<sup>a</sup> Stratified.<sup>b</sup> No formal testing until statistical significance observed for DFS in the ITT population due to the prespecified testing hierarchy. <sup>c</sup> Descriptive purposes only.

# PEARLS/KEYNOTE-091 Study Design



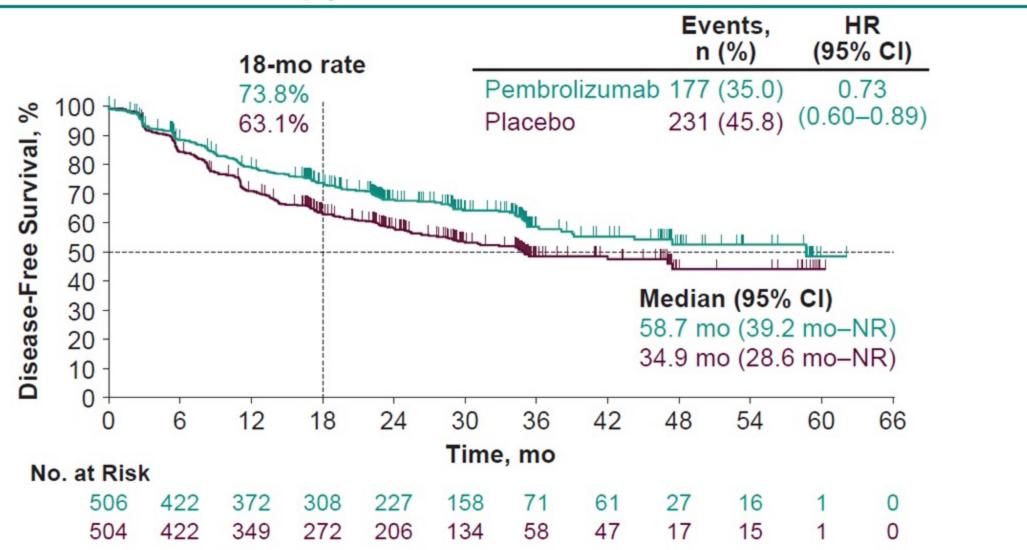
# **DFS, Overall Population**



### **ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY**

Response assessed per RECIST v1.1 by investigator review. Data cutoff date: September 20, 2021 Content of this presentation is copyright and responsibility of the author, Luis Paz-Ares, Permission is required for re-use.

# Disease-Free Survival in Patients Who Received ≥1 Cycle of Adjuvant Chemotherapy



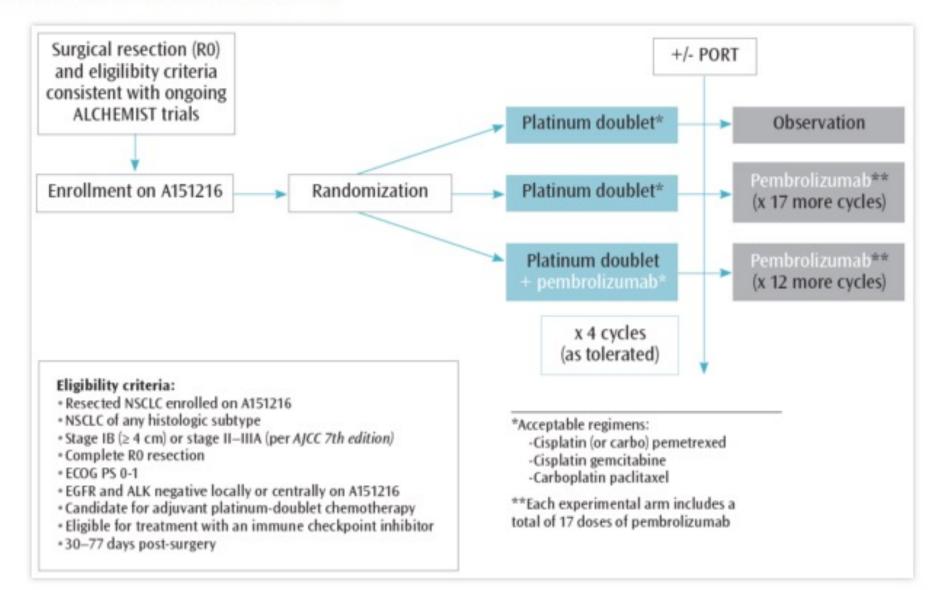
# **Summary and Conclusions**

- Pembrolizumab provided statistically significant, clinically meaningful DFS improvement versus placebo in the overall population
  - Median DFS of 53.6 months with pembrolizumab vs 42.0 months with placebo (HR, 0.76)
  - Generally consistent DFS benefit in participants with PD-L1 TPS <1%, 1-49%, and ≥50%</li>
  - OS data are immature
  - DFS in the PD-L1-defined populations and OS will be tested at future analyses according to the analysis plan
- · Pembrolizumab safety profile as expected
- Data suggest pembrolizumab has the potential to be a new adjuvant treatment option for patients with stage IB (T ≥4 cm) to IIIA NSCLC following complete resection and adjuvant chemotherapy when recommended, regardless of PD-L1 expression

**ESMO VIRTUAL PLENARY** 

On January 26, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved pembrolizumab (Keytruda, Merck) for adjuvant treatment following resection and platinumbased chemotherapy for stage IB (T2a ≥4 cm), II, or IIIA non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), regardless PDL1

#### Figure 1. Schema: ALCHEMIST CHEMO-IO





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