# Melanoma: Have we Hit a Plateau or are we Making Progress?

Sanjiv S. Agarwala, MD Co-Founder & CMO, Cancer Expert Now Professor, Temple University School of Medicine



Metastatic melanoma

 Adjuvant Therapy for surgically resected melanoma



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 Adjuvant Therapy for surgically resected melanoma

### Metastatic Melanoma

- Immunotherapy
- Targeted therapy
- Choice of first line therapy between targeted and immunotherapy

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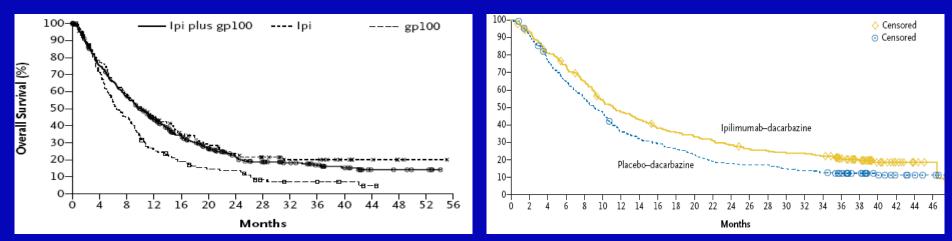
# Immunotherapy

- Single agent
  - Anti-CTLA4 (ipilimumab)
  - Anti-PD1 (pembrolizumab or nivolumab)
- Combination
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### Anti-CTLA4 Ipilimumab: First Positive Trial in Metastatic Melanoma



HR: 0.66 and 0.68 Pre-treated pts Ipi 3 mg/kg +/- gp100

Hodi FS, et al. N Engl J Med. 2010;363:711-23.

HR: 0.72 First line Ipi 10 mg/kg + DTIC

Robert C, et al. N Engl J Med. 2011;364:2517-26.

# Keynote-006 Front-line Pembrolizumab vs Ipilimumab

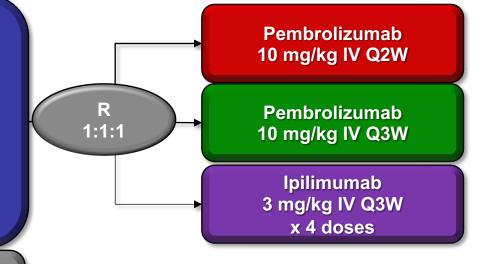
#### Patients

- Unresectable, stage III or IV melanoma
- ≤1 prior therapy, excluding anti–CTLA-4, PD-1, or PD-L1 agents
- Known BRAF status<sup>b</sup>
- ECOG PS 0-1
- No active brain metastases
- No serious autoimmune disease

#### Stratification factors:

- ECOG PS (0 vs 1)
- Line of therapy (first vs second)
- PD-L1 status (positive<sup>c</sup> vs negative)

#### <sup>a</sup>Patients enrolled from 83 sites in 16 countries.



- Primary end points: PFS and OS
- Secondary end points: ORR, duration of response, safety

<sup>b</sup>Prior anti-BRAF targeted therapy was not required for patients with normal LDH levels and no clinically significant tumor-related symptoms or evidence of rapidly progressing disease.

<sup>c</sup>Defined as membranous PD-L1 expression in ≥1% of tumor cells as assessed by IHC using the 22C3 antibody.

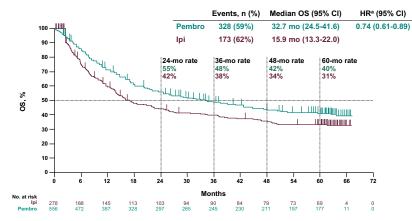
### Long-Term Survival From Pembrolizumab Completion and Pembrolizumab Retreatment: Phase 3 KEYNOTE-006 in Advanced Melanoma

G. V. Long<sup>1-4</sup>, J. Schachter<sup>5</sup>, A. Arance<sup>6</sup>, J.-J. Grob<sup>7</sup>, L. Mortier<sup>8</sup>, A. Daud<sup>9</sup>, M. S. Carlino<sup>1,2,10,11</sup>, A. Ribas<sup>12</sup>,
C. M. McNeil<sup>2,13</sup>, M. Lotem<sup>14</sup>, J. Larkin<sup>15</sup>, P. Lorigan<sup>16</sup>, B. Neyns<sup>17</sup>, C. U. Blank<sup>18</sup>, T. M. Petrella<sup>19</sup>, O. Hamid<sup>20</sup>,
E. Jensen<sup>21</sup>, C. Krepler<sup>21</sup>, S. J. Diede<sup>21</sup>, C. Robert<sup>22</sup>

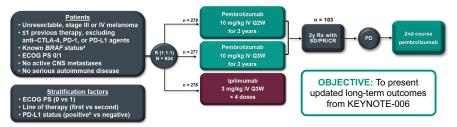
#### **ASCO 2020**

<sup>1</sup>Melanoma Institute Australia, Sydney, NSW, Australia; <sup>2</sup>University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW, Australia; <sup>1</sup>Skopal North Shore Hospital, Sydney, NSW, Australia; <sup>4</sup>Mater Hospital, North Sydney, NSW, Australia; <sup>1</sup>Sheba Medical Center, Tel HaShomer Hospital, Tel Aviv, Israel, <sup>4</sup>Hospital Clinic de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain; <sup>1</sup>Aik Marseille University, Höpital de la Timone, Marseille, France; <sup>1</sup>Université Lille, Centre Hospitalier Regional Universitaire de Lille, Lille, France; <sup>1</sup>UCSF, San Francisco, CA, USA; <sup>1</sup>Blacktown Hospital, Blacktown, NSW, Australia; <sup>1</sup>Crown Princess Mary Cancer Centre, Westmead Hospital, Sydney, NSW, Australia; <sup>1</sup>Shrie Missi de Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA; <sup>13</sup>Chris O'Brien Lifehouse, Camperdown, NSW, Australia; <sup>14</sup>Shriet Institute of Chocology, Hadassah Hebrew Medical Center, Jerusalem, Israel; <sup>14</sup>Royal Marsden Hospital, London, England; <sup>16</sup>University Of Manchester and the Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester, England; <sup>17</sup>Universitair Ziekenhuis Brussel, Brussels, Belgium; <sup>18</sup>Netherlands Cancer Institute, Amsterdam, Netherlands; <sup>19</sup>Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada; <sup>20</sup>The Angeles Clinic and Research Institute, Los Angeles, CA, USA; <sup>21</sup>Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA; <sup>22</sup>Coutave Roussy and Paris-Sud University, Villeiruit, France

#### **Overall Survival: Total Population**



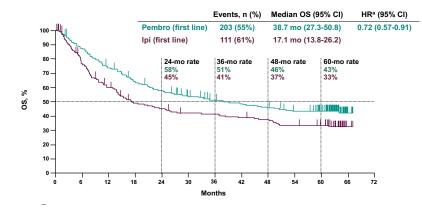
Data cut-off. July 31, 2019. "Based on Cox regression model with treatment as a covariate stratified by line of therapy (fst vs 2nd), PD-11 status (positive vs negative) and ECOG (0 vs 1); in instances where there were no patients in one of the treatment groups involved in a comparison for a particular stratum, that stratum was excluded from the treatment comparison.



- Two pembrolizumab arms pooled as similar efficacy<sup>2</sup>
- Patients completing ≥94 weeks of pembrolizumab with SD/PR/CR were considered to have completed 2 years of treatment
- Patients could receive a 2<sup>nd</sup> course of 1 year of pembrolizumab if progressed after SD/PR/CR
- Data cut-off: July 31, 2019; median follow-up: 66.8 months (range, 65.0-70.4); time from last patient enrolled to data cutoff, 65.0 months

<sup>a</sup>Prior anti-BRAF therapy was not required for patients with normal LDH levels and no clinically significant tumor-related symptoms or evidence of rapidly progressing disease. <sup>b</sup>Defined as ≥1% staining in tumor and adjacent immune cells as assessed by IHC using 22C3 antibody.

#### **Overall Survival: First Line Patients**

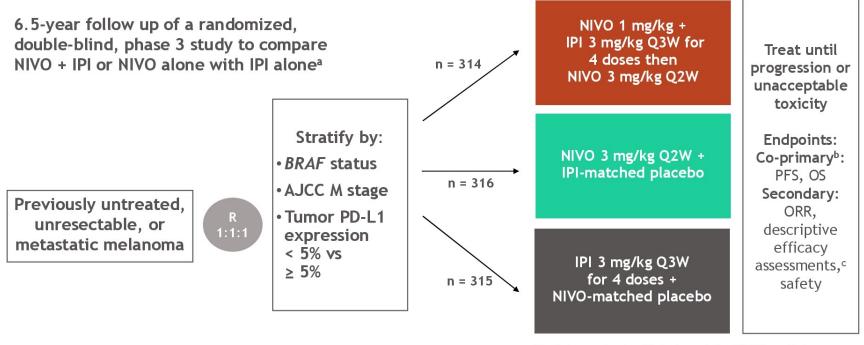


Data cut-off: July 31, 2019. "Based on Cox regression model with treatment as a covariate stratified by line of threary (1st vs 2nd), PD-L1 status (positive vs negative) and ECOG (0 vs 1); in instances where there were no patients in one of the treatment groups instrained for a particular stratum, that stratum vas excluded from the treatment comparison.

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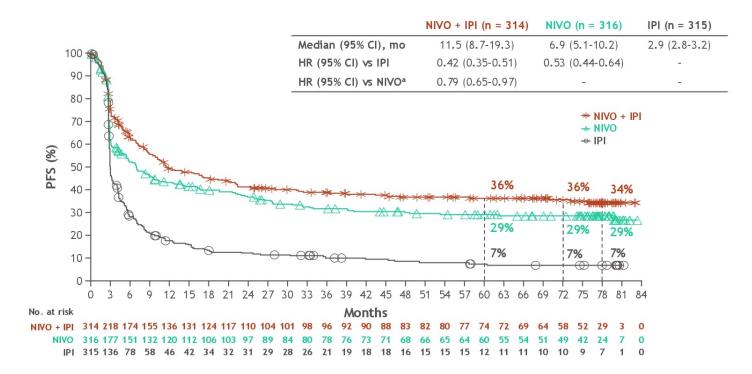
### CheckMate 067: study design



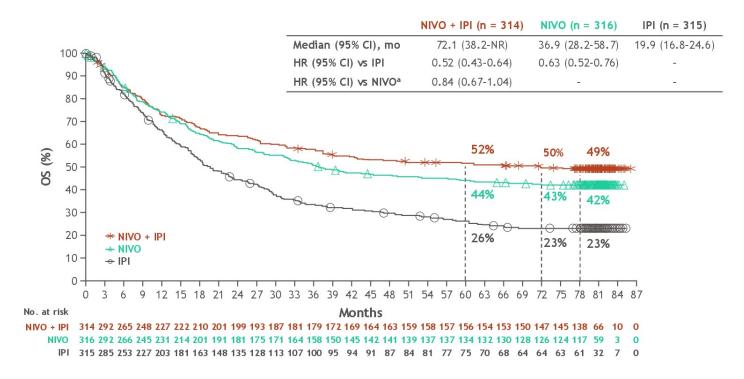
Database lock: October 19, 2020; minimum follow-up of 77 months for all patients

<sup>a</sup>The study was not powered for a comparison between NIVO+IPI and NIVO. <sup>b</sup>NIVO + IPI or NIVO vs IPI alone. <sup>c</sup>NIVO + IPI vs NIVO alone. AJCC, American Joint Committee on Cancer; M stage, metastasis stage; ORR, objective response rate; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; PFS, progression-free survival; Q2W, every 2 weeks; Q3W, every 3 weeks.

### Progression-free survival



### Overall survival



### **Safety Summary**

• With an additional 19 months of follow-up, safety was consistent with the initial report<sup>1</sup>

	NIVO+IPI (N=313)		NIVO (N=313)		IPI (N=311)	
Patients reporting event, %	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4
Treatment-related adverse event (AE)	95.8	58.5	86.3	20.8	86.2	27.7
Treatment-related AE leading to discontinuation	39.6	31.0	11.5	7.7	16.1	14.1
Treatment-related death, n (%)	2 (0.6) <sup>a</sup>		1 (0.3) <sup>b</sup>		1 (0.3) <sup>b</sup>	

- Most select AEs were managed and resolved within 3-4 weeks (85–100% across organ categories)
- ORR was 70.7% for pts who discontinued NIVO+IPI due to AEs, with median OS not reached

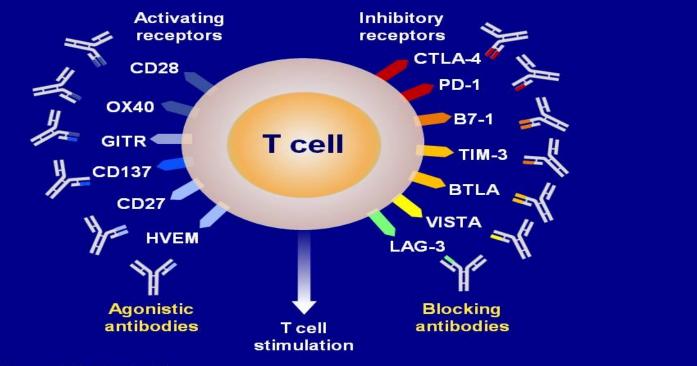
<sup>a</sup>Cardiomyopathy (NIVO+IPI, n=1); Liver necrosis (NIVO+IPI, n=1). Both deaths occurred >100 days after the last treatment. <sup>b</sup>Neutropenia (NIVO, n=1); colon perforation (IPI, n=1).<sup>1</sup> Combination anti-CTLA4 and anti-PD1 (ipilimumab + nivolumab) produced durable benefit in about 50% of patients but with significant toxicity

Is there another combination available?

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# **T-Cell Immune Checkpoints**

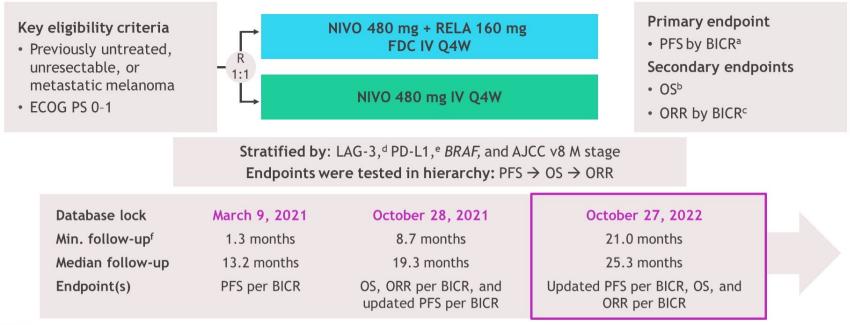


Mellman I et al. Nature. 2011;480:481-489.

Presented By Scott Gettinger at 2014 ASCO Annual Meeting

### Study design

• RELATIVITY-047 is a global, randomized, double-blind, phase 2/3 study

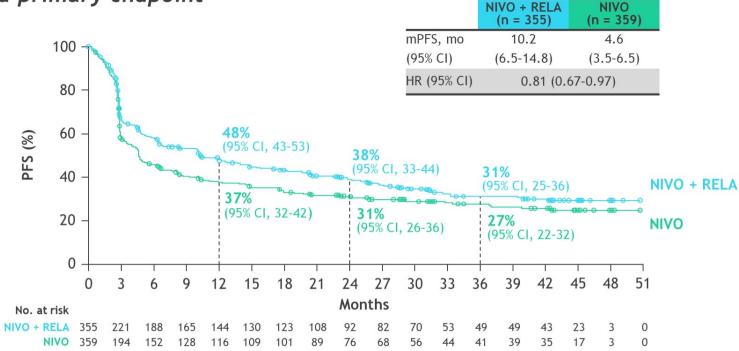


#### RELATIVITY-047 (NCT03470922).

<sup>a</sup>First tumor assessment (RECIST v1.1) was performed 12 weeks after randomization, every 8 weeks up to 52 weeks, and then every 12 weeks. <sup>b</sup>OS boundary for statistical significance was *P* < 0.04302 (2-sided) analyzed at 69% power; target HR, 0.75. 'ORR could not be formally tested and was descriptively analyzed. <sup>d</sup>LAG-3 expression on immune cells (1%) was determined by an analytically validated IHC assay (Labcorp, Burlington, NC, USA). <sup>e</sup>PD-L1 expression on tumor cells (1%) was determined by a validated Agilent Dako PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx test (Agilent, Santa Clara, CA, USA). <sup>f</sup>Minimum potential follow-up was defined as the time from last patient randomized to last patient, last visit.

### PFS by BICR

### Updated primary endpoint



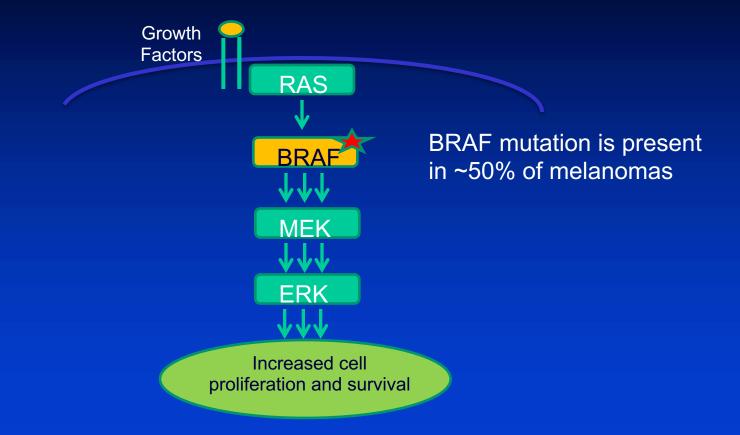
RELATIVITY-047 (NCT03470922). Median follow-up: 25.3 months.

Descriptive analysis. Statistical model for HR: stratified Cox proportional hazard model. Stratified by LAG-3, BRAF mutation status, and AJCC M stage. PD-L1 was removed from stratification because it led to subgroups with < 10 patients.

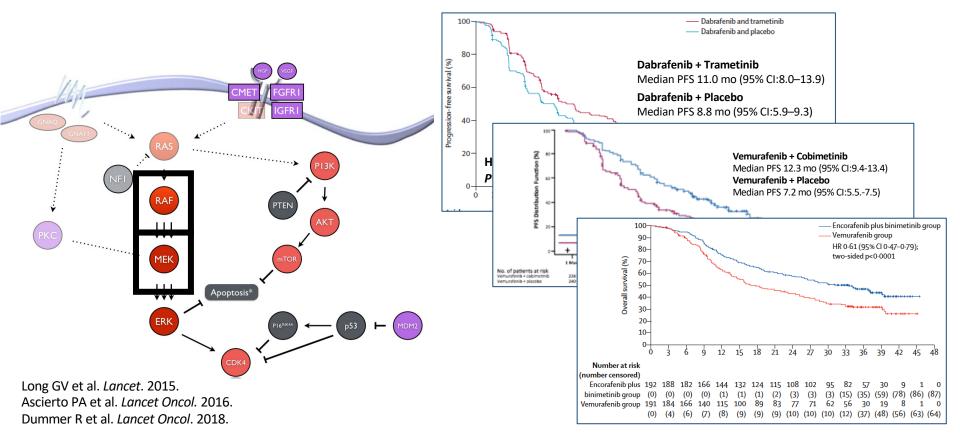
### Metastatic Melanoma

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# **BRAF** Mutation



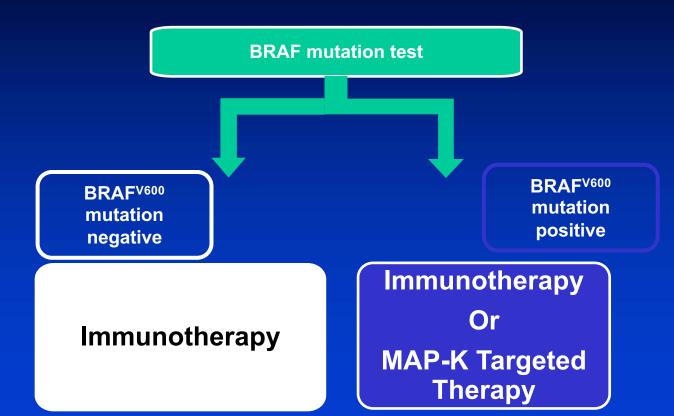
### Dual BRAF and MEK Inhibition Is Associated With High Response Rates and Improved PFS and OS



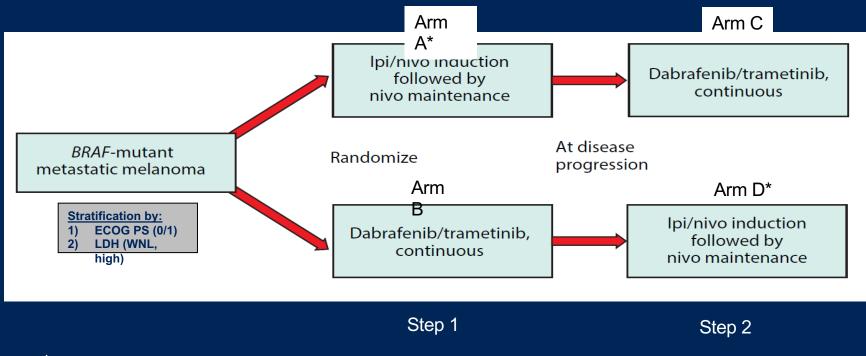
### Metastatic Melanoma

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# Melanoma Therapy Decision Point

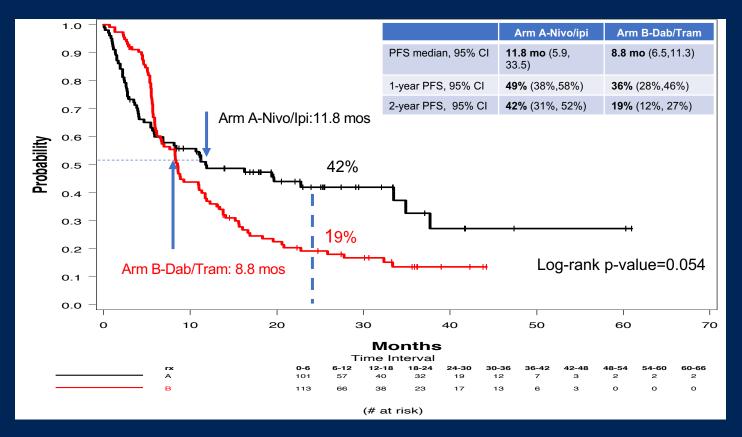


### **DREAMseq Trial Treatment Schema**



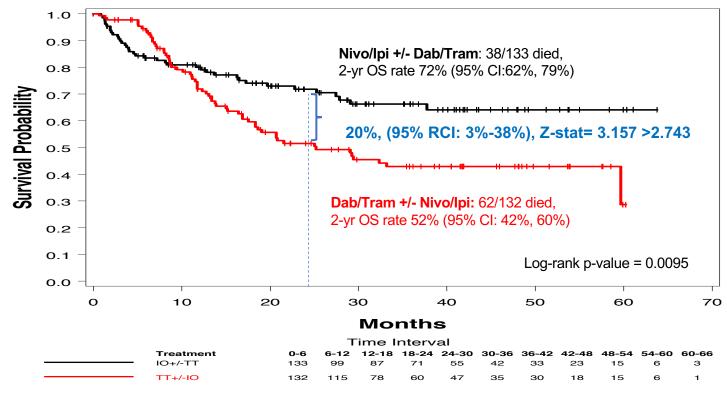
\*Nivo/Ipi Induction = 12 wks; nivo maintenance = 72 wks

### Progression Free Survival (PFS): Step1 (n=214)



Michael B. Atkins, MD

### Overall Survival (OS): Step 1 +/- Step 2



(# at risk)



Metastatic melanoma

 Adjuvant Therapy for surgically resected melanoma

# **Adjuvant Therapy**

Immunotherapy

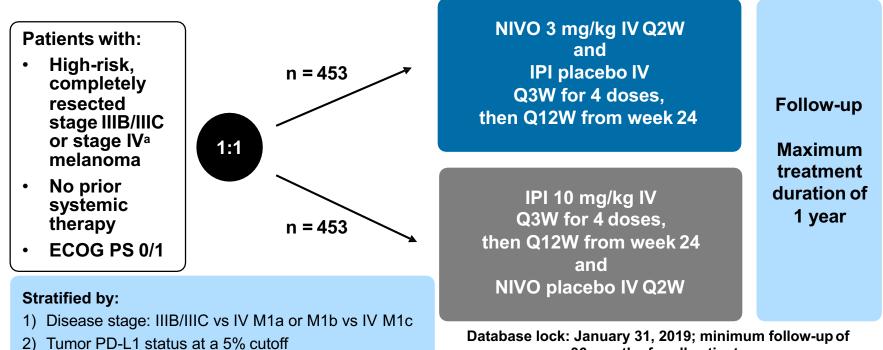
Targeted therapy

# **Adjuvant Therapy**

Immunotherapy

Targeted therapy

### CheckMate 238: Study Design

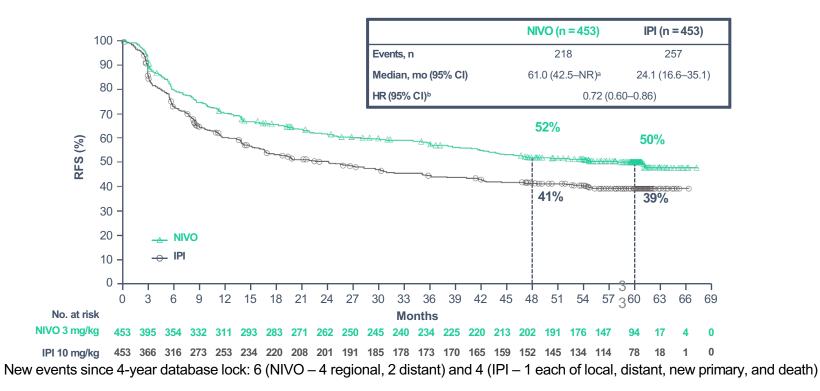


36 months for all patients

#### NCT02388906.ªPer American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) Cancer Staging Manual, seventh edition.

Primary endpoint: RFS

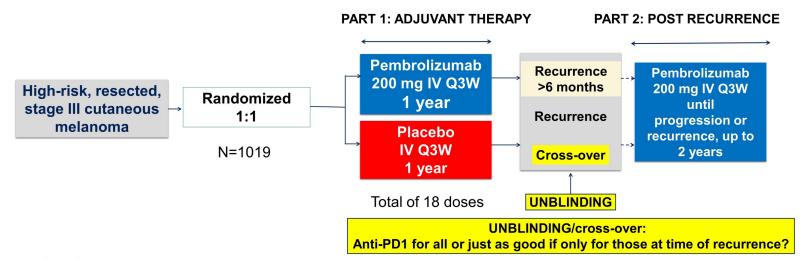
### Primary Endpoint: 60-Month RFS Update



<sup>a</sup>Median not stable. <sup>b</sup>Stratified. Mo, month; NR, not reached.

Weber J et al. SMR 2021.

### EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-54 Study Design



#### Stratification factors:

EORTC

- ✓AJCC-7 Stage: IIIA (>1 mm metastasis) vs. IIIB vs. IIIC 1-3 positive lymph nodes vs. IIIC ≥4 positive lymph nodes
- ✓ Region: North America, European countries, Australia/New Zealand, other countries

#### **Primary Endpoints:**

• RFS (per investigator) in overall ITT population, and in patients with PD-L1-positive tumors Secondary Endpoints:

•DMFS and OS in these 2 populations; Safety, Health-related quality of life

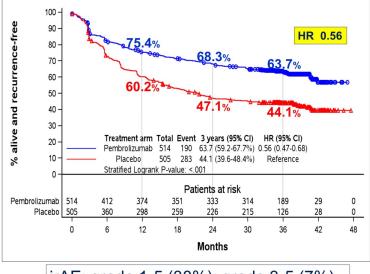
#### EORTC 1325/KEYNOTE-54: RFS ASCO (2020) and DMFS (ESMO 2020)

#### RFS updated analysis @ 3YR (ASCO 2020)<sup>1</sup>

Cut-off date (30-Sep-2019); median follow-up: 3 years;
 473 RFS events

**EORTC** 

The future of cancer therapy

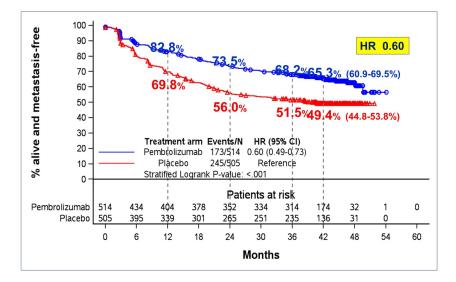


irAE: grade 1-5 (38%); grade 3-5 (7%)

<sup>1</sup>Eggermont AMM, et al. J Clin Oncol 2020;38:3925-36

#### DMFS final analysis @ 3.5 YR (ESMO 2020)<sup>2</sup>

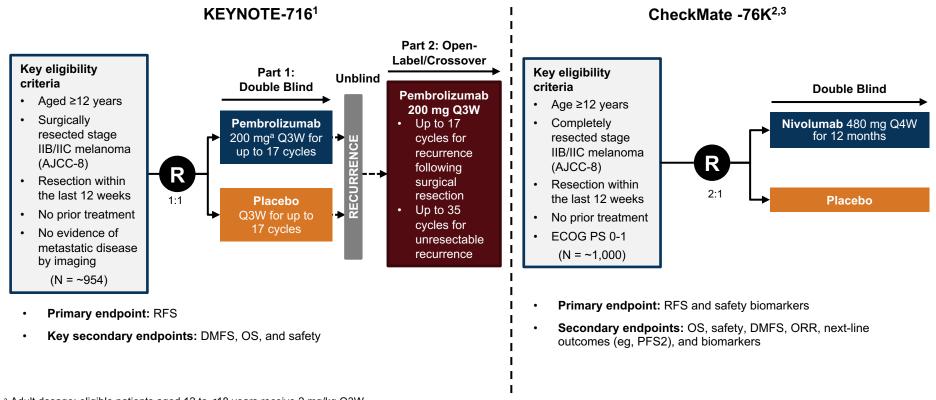
 Cut-off date (3-Apr-2020); median follow-up: 3.5 years; 418 DMFS events (423 planned: ~87% power HR=0.725)



<sup>2</sup>Eggermont AMM, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2021;22:643-654

# What about Stage II Melanoma?

## Ongoing Trials of Adjuvant Anti–PD-1 Antibodies for Stage IIB/C Melanoma

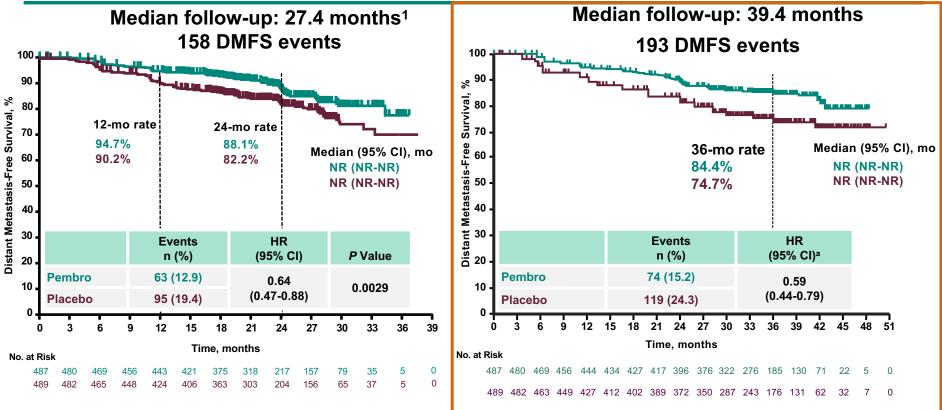


<sup>a</sup> Adult dosage; eligible patients aged 12 to <18 years receive 2 mg/kg Q3W.

1. Carlino MS et al. 2019 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting (ASCO 2019). Abstract TPS9596. 2. https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT04099

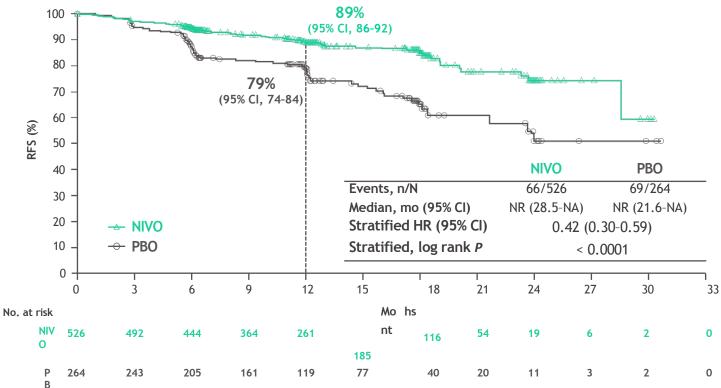
3. https://www.clinicaltrialsregister.eu/ctr-search/trial/2019-001230-34/AT.

# **DMFS: ITT Population**



Long GV et al. Lancet Oncol. 2022;23(11):1378-1388.

## Checkmate 76K: Primary endpoint RFS



NA, not available; NR, not reached.

# **Adjuvant Therapy**

Immunotherapy

Targeted therapy

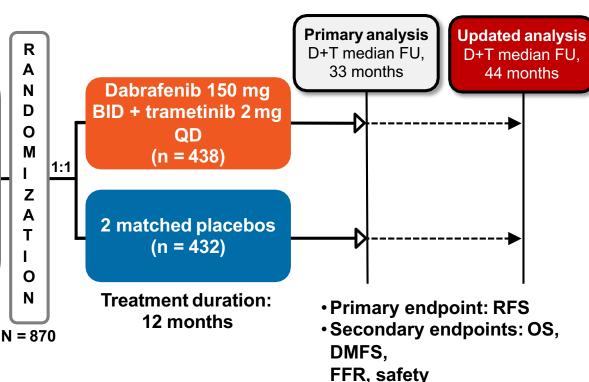
## COMBI-AD: STUDY DESIGN—AND EXTENDED FOLLOW-UP ANALYSIS IN 2018

#### Key eligibility criteria

- Completely resected stage IIIA (lymph node metastasis > 1 mm), IIIB, or IIIC cutaneous melanoma
- BRAF V600E/K mutation
- ECOG performance status 0 or 1
- No prior radiotherapy or systemic therapy
- Tissue collection was mandatory at baseline and optional upon recurrence

#### Stratification

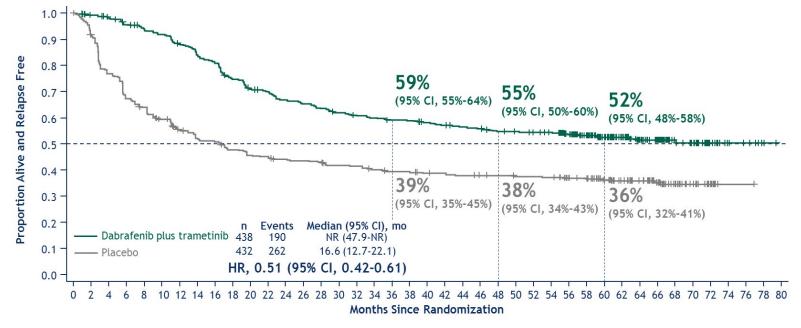
• BRAF mutation status (V600E, V600K)



Disease stage (IIIA, IIIB, IIIC)

BID, twice daily; DMFS, distant metastasis–free survival; D+T, dabrafenib + trametinib; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; FFR, freedom from relapse; FU, follow-up; QD, once daily. Long GV, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2017;377:1813-1823. **PRESENTED BY GV LONG AT ESMO 2018** 

## **Relapse-Free Survival**



#### No. at risk

 Dabrafenib plus trametinib 438 413 405 391 381 372 354 335 324 298 281 275 262 256 249 242 236 233 229 228 221 217 213 210 204 202 199 195 176 156 133 109 92 80 45 38 17 8 6 2 0
 Placebo
 432 387 322 280 263 243 219 204 199 185 178 175 168 166 164 158 157 151 147 146 143 140 139 137 136 133 133 132 121 115 99 80 69 56 35 26 13 1
 1
 0
 0

HR, hazard ratio; NR, not reached.

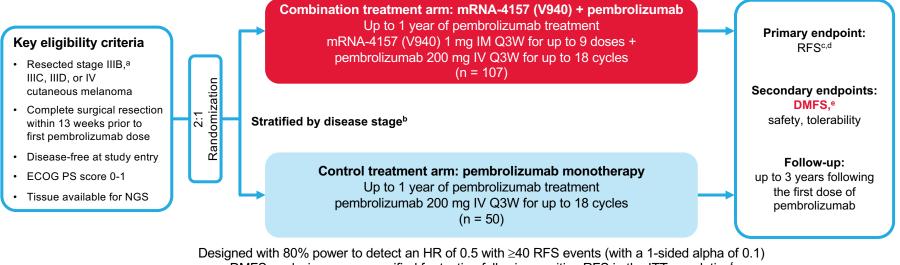
### **ASCO 2020**

# Where is Progress Being Made?

- RNA vaccine for adjuvant therapy
- Neoadjuvant therapy
- Overcoming immunotherapy resistance

### mRNA-4157-P201/KEYNOTE-942 (NCT03897881) Study Design

#### Randomized, phase 2, open-label study in adjuvant resected melanoma patients at high risk of recurrence



DMFS analysis was prespecified for testing following positive RFS in the ITT population<sup>f</sup> Median follow-up<sup>g</sup>: 23 months for mRNA-4157 (V940) + pembrolizumab 24 months for pembrolizumab monotherapy

<sup>a</sup>Patients with stage IIIB disease were eligible only if relapse occurred within 3 months of prior surgery of curative intent. <sup>b</sup>According to the 8th edition of the American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging Manual. <sup>c</sup>The primary endpoint was investigator-assessed RFS (defined as the time from first dose of pembrolizumab until the date of first recurrence [local, regional, or distant metastasis], a new primary melanoma, or death from any cause) in the intention-to-treat population. <sup>d</sup>The primary analysis for RFS was specified to occur after all patients completed ≥12 months on study and ≥40 RFS events were observed. Descriptive analysis was specified to occur when ≥51 RFS events were observed. <sup>e</sup>Investigator-assessed DMFS was defined as the time from first dose of pembrolizumab until the date of first distant recurrence or death from any cause. <sup>†</sup>The stratified log-rank test was used for comparison. <sup>g</sup>Time of database cutoff was November 14, 2022.

PRESENTED BY: Adnan Khattak, MBBS, FRACP, PhD

2023 ASC

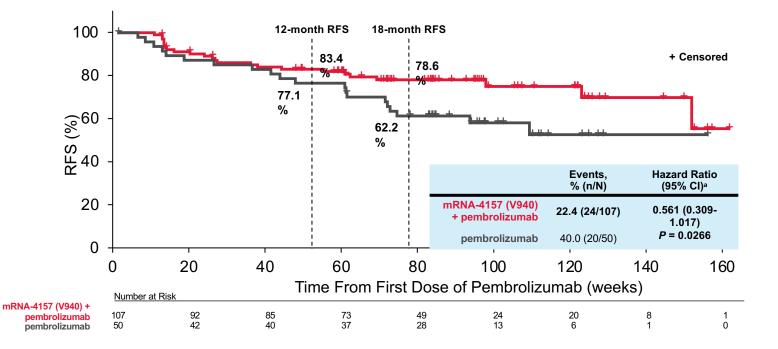
ANNUAL MEETING

#ASCO23



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### Primary Efficacy Endpoint: RFS<sup>1</sup>



<sup>a</sup>The hazard ratio and 95% CI for mRNA-4157 (V940) plus pembrolizumab versus pembrolizumab is estimated using a Cox proportional hazards model with treatment group as a covariate, stratified by disease stage (stages IIIB or IIIC or IIID vs stage IV) used for randomization. The *P* value is based on a 1-sided log-rank test stratified by disease stage (stages IIIB or IIIC or IIID vs stage IV) used for randomization.

1. Khattak A, et al. Presented at the American Association for Cancer Research® (AACR) Annual Meeting; April 14-19, 2023; Orlando, FL, USA. Oral presentation CT001.



presented by: Adnan Khattak, MBBS, FRACP, PhD

2023 ASCO

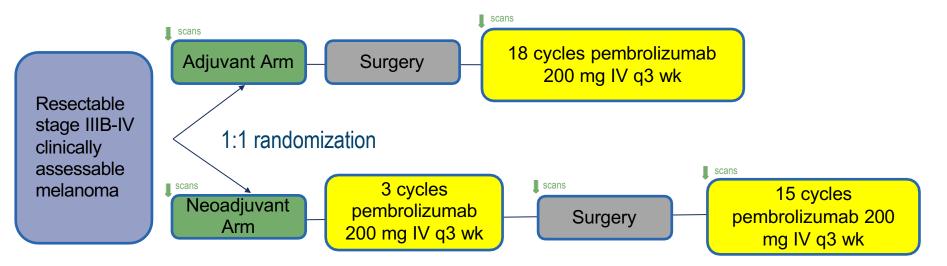
ANNUAL MEETING

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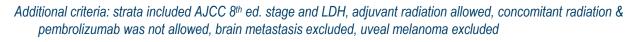
# S1801 Study Schema

### **Primary endpoint: Event-free survival**



SWOG

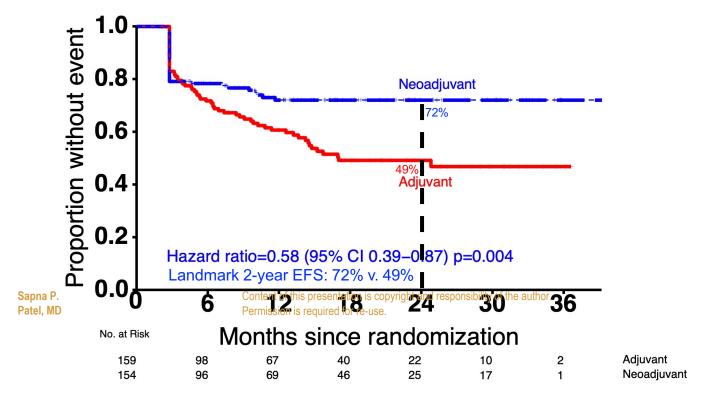
I radiographic assessment
(scans)



Surgery type and extent was required to be pre-specified and carried out regardless of radiologic response to therapy



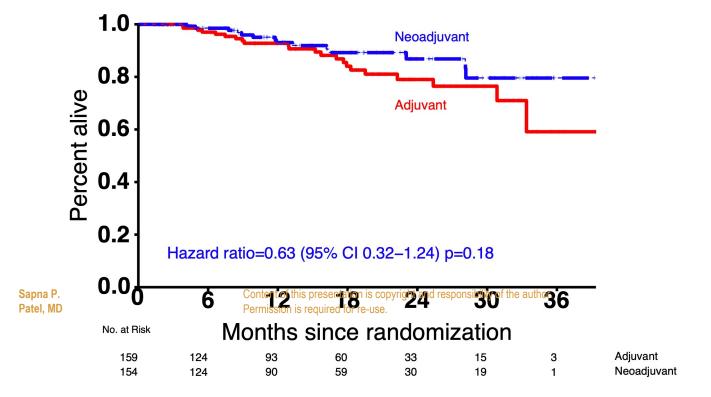
# S1801 primary endpoint: Event-free survival







## **Overall survival**



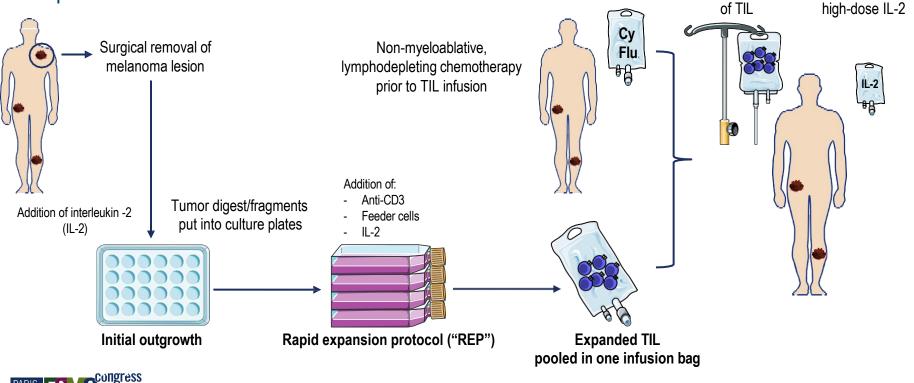




# **Tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL)**

### Preparation and treatment

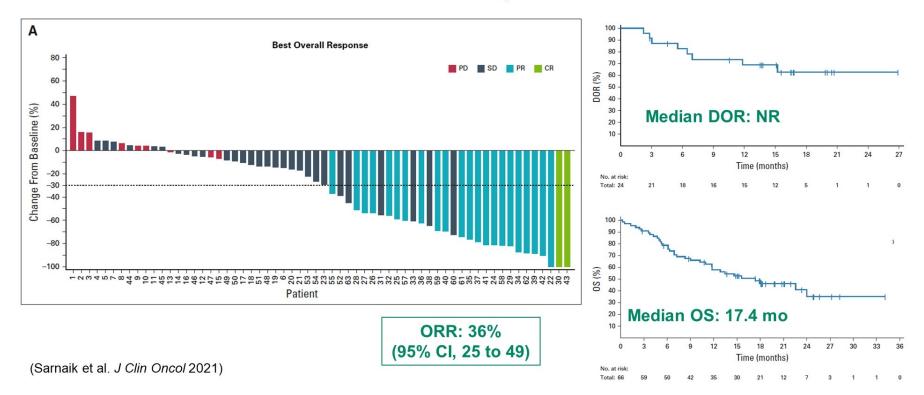
PARIS



Single infusion

Administration of

## Lifileucel for PD-1 Refractory Melanoma

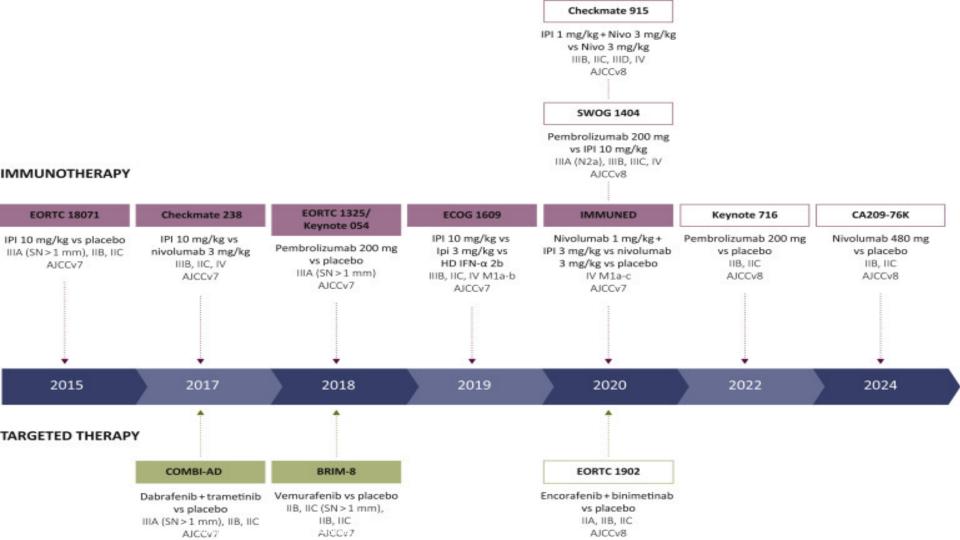


Metastatic Melanoma: Summary & Conclusions

- For first-line therapy of metastatic melanoma, combination immunotherapy has emerged as the preferred first-line option regardless of BRAF mutation status
  - Ipi/Nivo in most patients
  - Rela/Nivo in selected patients

# Adjuvant Therapy Summary & Conclusions

- Most patients with stage III disease are offered adjuvant therapy
  - Anti-PD1 an option for all appropriate patients
  - Targeted therapy (BRAF+MEK) for BRAF-MT patients
- Choice between targeted therapy or immunotherapy for BRAF-MT stage III patients remains a clinical decision
- Adjuvant anti-PD1 therapy is effective in terms of RFS for Stage IIB and IIC melanoma



# Systemic Therapy for Melanoma: ASCO Guideline Update

Rahul Seth, DO<sup>1</sup>; Sanjiv S. Agarwala, MD<sup>2</sup>; Hans Messersmith, MPH<sup>3</sup> (b); Krishna C. Alluri, MD<sup>4</sup> (b); Paolo A. Ascierto, MD<sup>5</sup> (b); Michael B. Atkins, MD<sup>6</sup> (b); Kathryn Bollin, MD<sup>7</sup> (b); Matias Chacon, MD<sup>8</sup> (b); Nancy Davis, MD<sup>9</sup> (b); Mark B. Faries, MD<sup>10</sup> (b); Pauline Funchain, MD<sup>11</sup> (b); Jason S. Gold, MD<sup>12</sup> (b); Samantha Guild, JD<sup>13</sup>; David E. Gyorki, MBBS<sup>14</sup> (b); Varinder Kaur, MD<sup>15</sup> (b); Nikhil I. Khushalani, MD<sup>16</sup> (b); John M. Kirkwood, MD<sup>17</sup> (b); Jennifer Leigh McQuade, MD<sup>18</sup> (b); Michael O. Meyers, MD<sup>19</sup> (b); Anthony Provenzano, MD<sup>20</sup>; Caroline Robert, MD, PhD<sup>21</sup> (b); Mario Santinami, MD<sup>22</sup> (b); Amikar Sehdev, MPH, MD<sup>23</sup>; Vernon K. Sondak, MD<sup>16</sup> (b); Gilliosa Spurrier, MSc<sup>24</sup>; Umang Swami, MS, MD<sup>25</sup> (b); Thach-Giao Truong, MD<sup>26</sup> (b); Katy K. Tsai, MD<sup>27</sup>; Alexander van Akkooi, MD, PhD<sup>28</sup> (b); and Jeffrey Weber, MD, PhD<sup>29</sup> (b)

DOI https://doi.org/10.1200/JC0.23.01136

### ASCO Committee Chairs: Rahul Seth, DO and Sanjiv Agarwala, MD