



**Dana-Farber**  
Cancer Institute

# Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Head and Neck

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# HEAD AND NECK CANCER

- Introduction: Epidemiology, Clinical Features, *HPV*, *New Staging System*, Treatment Modalities
- Concurrent Chemoradiotherapy
- Sequential Chemoradiotherapy
- Adjuvant Chemoradiotherapy
- Recurrent/Metastatic disease

# HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS (HPV)-POSITIVE HEAD AND NECK CANCER

- HPV 16 is the viral subtype in the vast majority of patients.
- Half of oropharynx cancers will have HPV 16 DNA.
- Often occurs in nonsmokers, nondrinkers
- Median age younger than HPV-negative patients; incidence increasing
- Associated with ↑ number of sexual partners and high-risk sexual practices
- Favorable prognosis
- In situ hybridization, p16 IHC, PCR

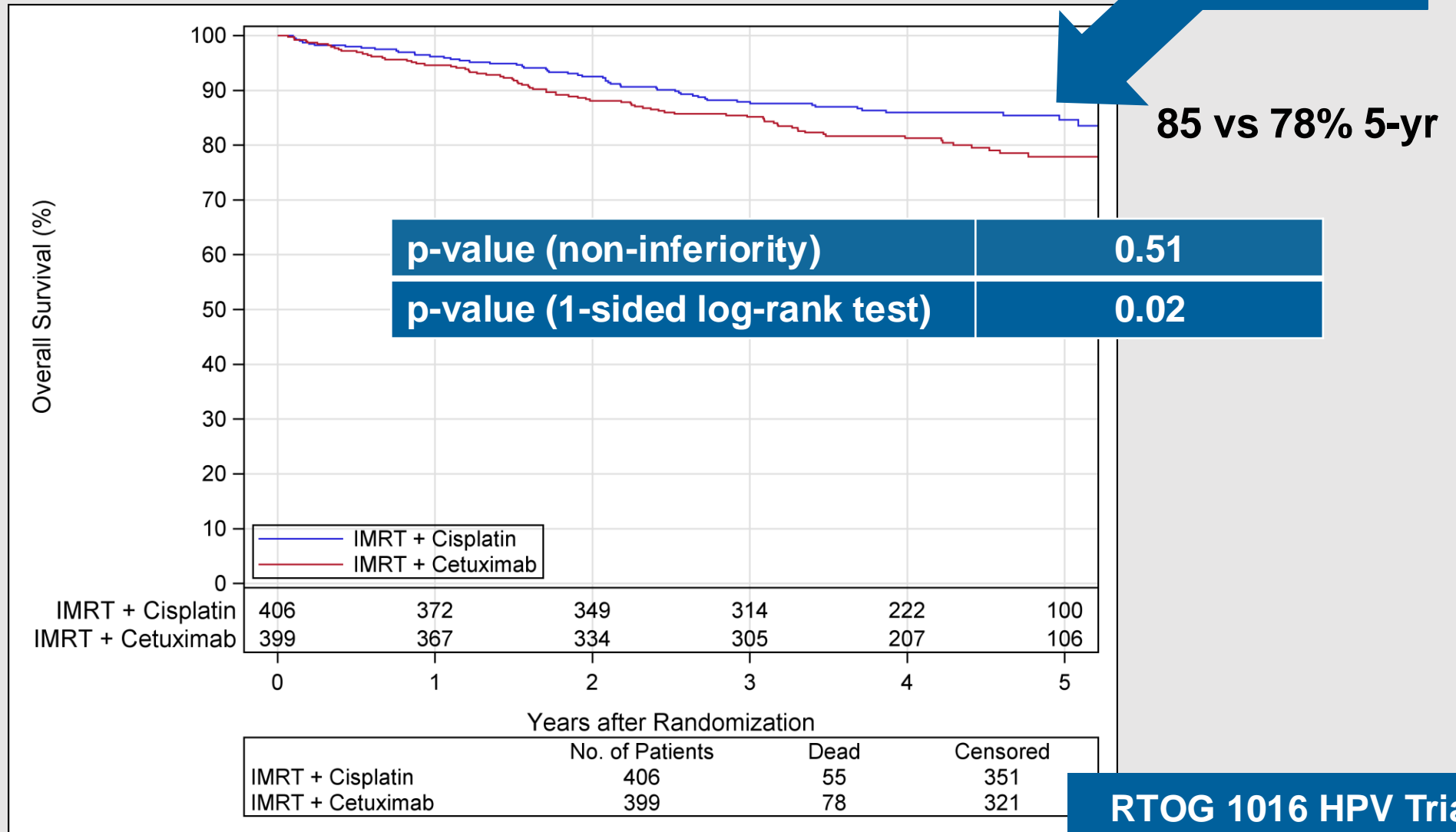
# PHASE III TRIAL OF RADIOTHERAPY PLUS CETUXIMAB VERSUS CHEMORADIOTHERAPY IN HPV-RELATED OROPHARYNX CANCER

R E G I S T E R	Mandatory  p16  testing	S	T Stage 1. T1-2 2. T3-4	R A N D O M I Z E	Arm 1 (Control): Accelerated IMRT, 70 Gy for 6 weeks <b>+ high dose DDP</b> (100 mg/m <sup>2</sup> ) Days 1 and 22 (Total: 200 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )  Arm 2: Accelerated IMRT, 70 Gy for 6 weeks <b>+ cetuximab (400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b> loading dose pre-IMRT, then 250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> weekly during IMRT, + 1 week after IMRT for a total of 8 doses of cetuximab
		T	N Stage 1. N0-2a 2. N2b-3		
		R	Zubrod		
		A	Performance Status		
		T	1. 0 2. 1		
		I	Smoking History		
F	1. ≤ 10 pack-years 2. > 10 pack-years				
Y					

**RTOG 1016 HPV Trial**

# OVERALL SURVIVAL

**Cisplatin**



**RTOG 1016 HPV Trial**



## Interim Futility Results of NRG-HN005, A Randomized, Phase II/III Non-Inferiority Trial for Non-Smoking p16+ Oropharyngeal Cancer Patients

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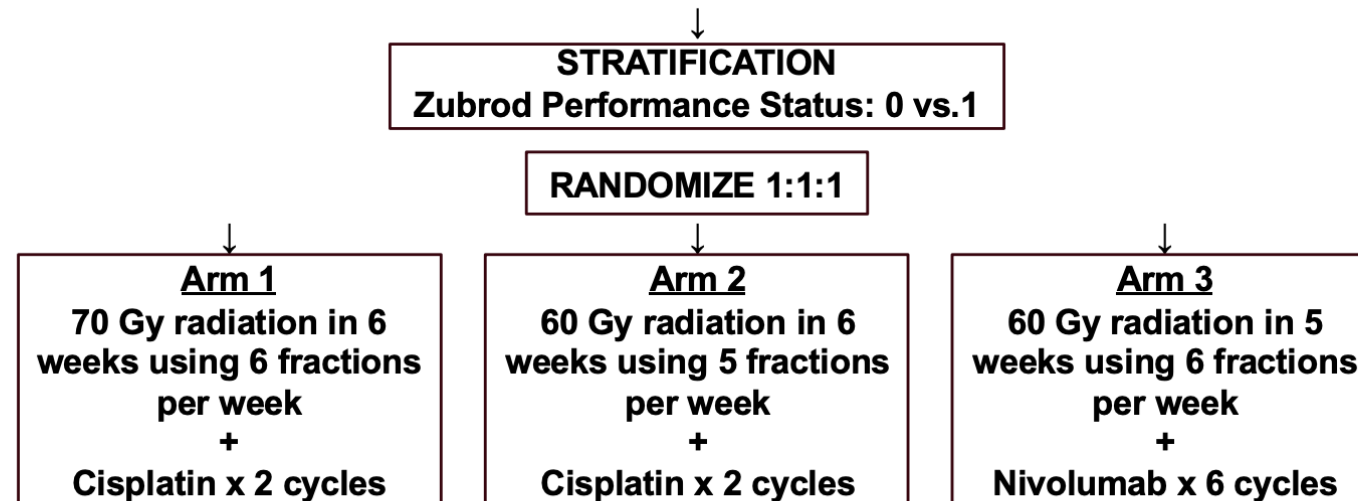
<sup>1</sup>University of California San Francisco <sup>2</sup>NRG Oncology Statistics and Data Management Center <sup>3</sup>Moffitt Cancer Center  
<sup>4</sup>Cleveland Clinic <sup>5</sup>Princess Margaret Hospital <sup>6</sup>MD Anderson Cancer Center <sup>7</sup>Dunedin School of Medicine <sup>8</sup>Penn State Health Cancer Institute <sup>9</sup>Emory University <sup>10</sup>Stanford University <sup>11</sup>University of Toronto <sup>12</sup>University of Oklahoma  
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Annual Meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology  
September 30, 2024



# NRG-HN005 Phase II Schema

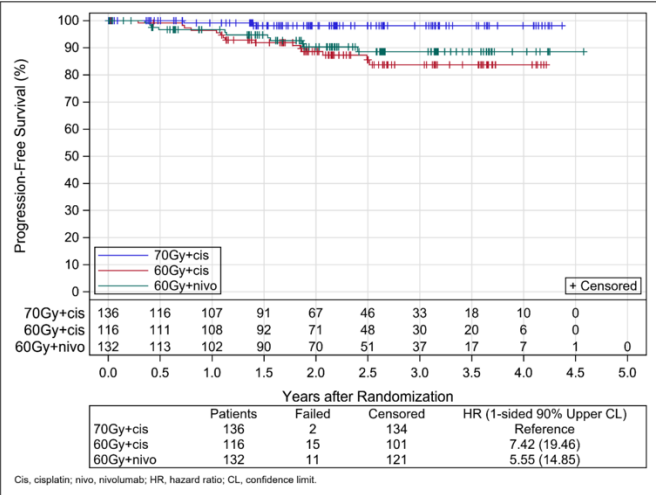
- Oropharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma, p16-positive
- $\leq 10$  pack-year history of smoking
- 8<sup>th</sup> ed. clinical stages T1-2N1M0 or T3N0-N1M0 (8<sup>th</sup> ed. stage I-II excluding T0, T1-2N0, or any N2)



# 2-Year Progression-Free Survival

At median follow-up of 2.2 years, 2-year PFS estimates are:

- Arm 1: 98.1% (95%CI 95.4, 100)
- Arm 2: 88.6% (95%CI 82.4, 94.7)
- Arm 3: 90.3% (95%CI 84.5, 96.1)

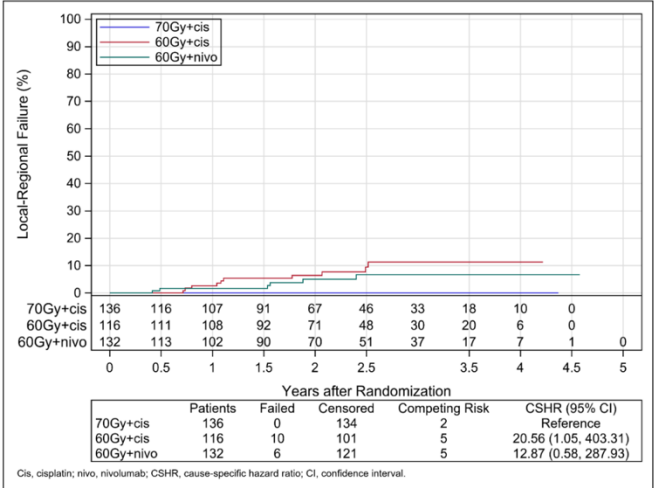


# NRG-HN005 Phase II

## 2-Year Locoregional Failure

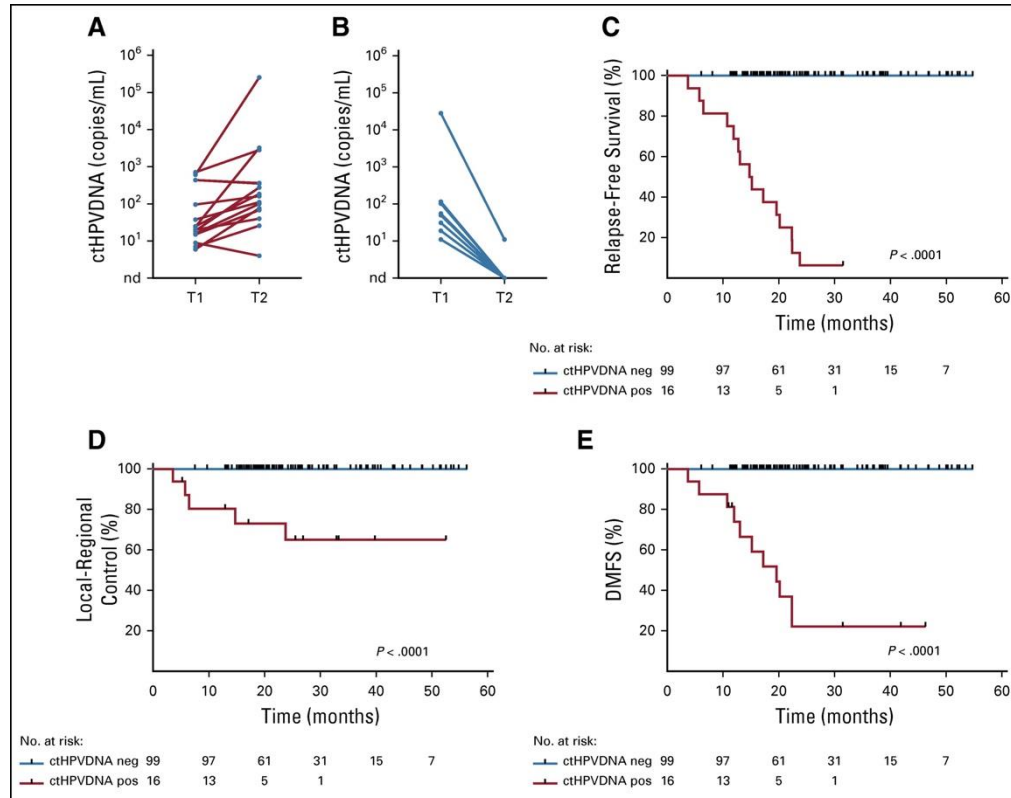
2-year LRF estimates are:

- Arm 1: 0%
- Arm 2: 6.5% (95%CI 2.8, 12.2)
- Arm 3: 5.0% (95%CI 1.8, 10.6)





# Plasma Circulating Tumor HPV DNA



Two consecutive positive tests for cfHPV had a PPV of 94% (95%CI, 70-90%) for disease recurrence

Consecutive negative tests NPV 100%

Median lead time between ctHPVDNA positivity and biopsy-proven recurrence was 3.9 month

# TREATMENT APPROACH

Disease Extent	Treatment
<b>T<sub>1</sub>N<sub>0-1</sub> or T<sub>2</sub>N<sub>0</sub></b>	<b>Surgery or RT</b>
<b>T<sub>2</sub>N<sub>1</sub> or T<sub>3-4</sub> or N<sub>2-3</sub></b>	<b>Combined modality</b>
<b>Recurrent or M<sub>1</sub></b>	<b>Surgery and/or RT Combined modality Chemotherapy</b>

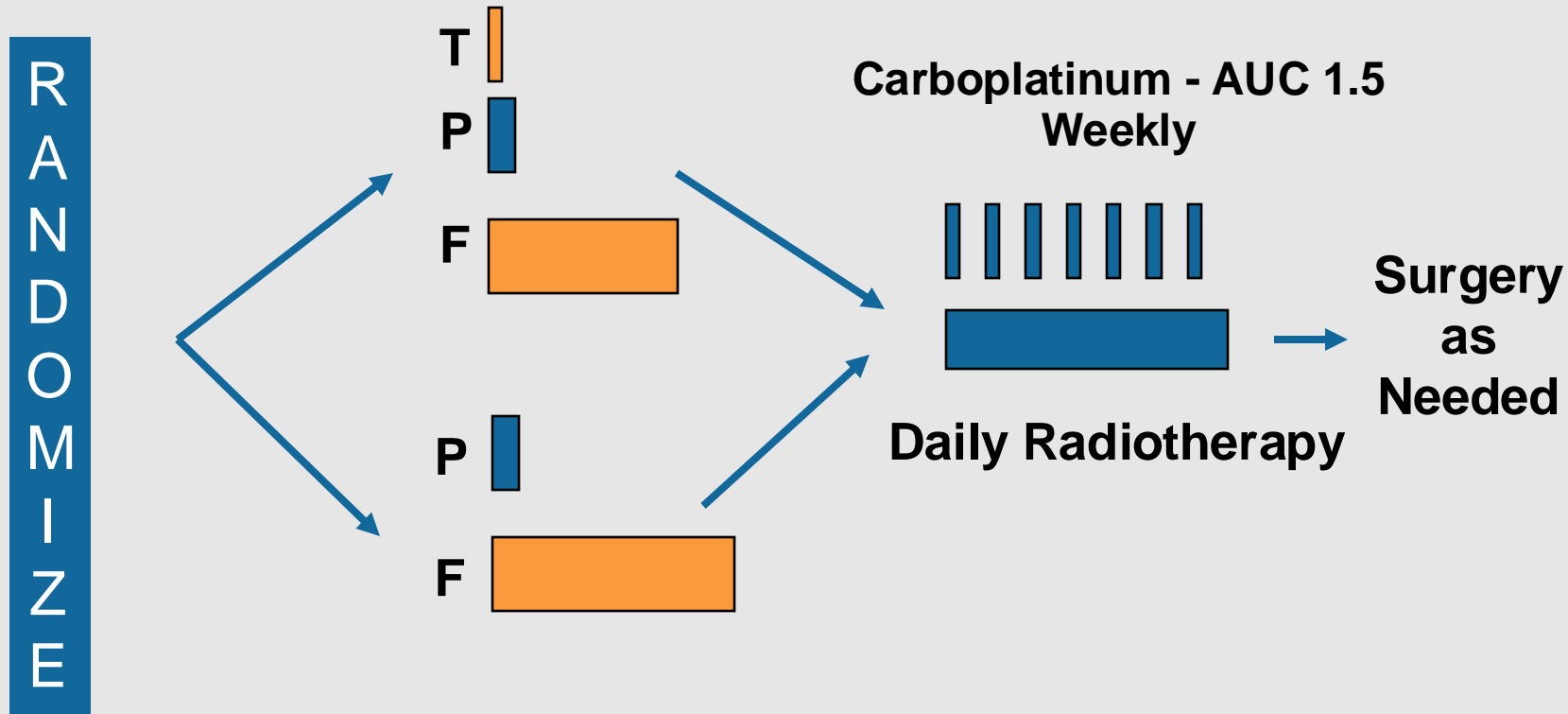
# CONCURRENT CHEMORADIOOTHERAPY

# CONCURRENT THERAPY: STANDARD OF CARE

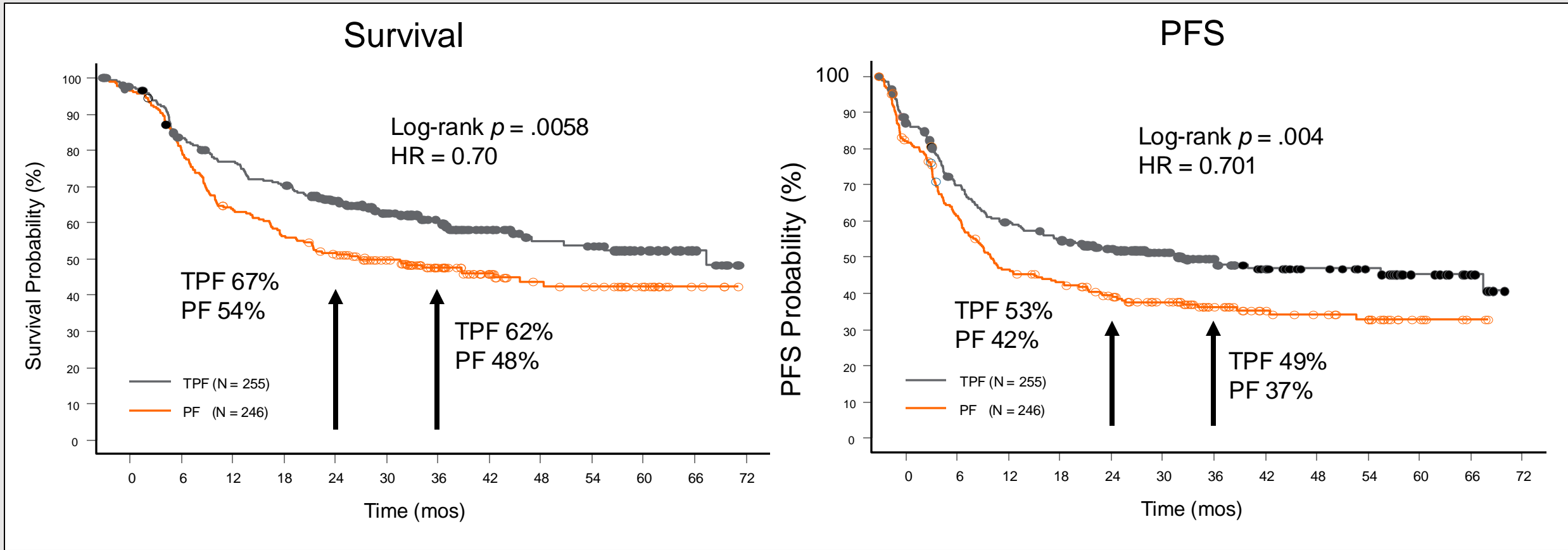
- Cisplatin 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> days 1, 22, and 43 of RT
- RT standard fractionation, 70 Gy over 7 weeks (2-Gy fractions)
- Alternative Chemotherapy regimens:
  - 1- Weekly cisplatin 40mg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - 2- Weekly Cetuximab
  - 3- Weekly carboplatin auc 1.5-2+Paclitaxel 30-45mg/m<sup>2</sup>

# SEQUENTIAL CHEMORADIO THERAPY

# TAX 324: SEQUENTIAL COMBINED MODALITY THERAPY TPF VS PF FOLLOWED BY CHEMORADIO THERAPY



**TPF: Docetaxel 75<sub>D1</sub> + Cisplatin 100<sub>D1</sub> + 5-FU 1000<sub>CI-D1-4</sub> Q 3 weeks x3**  
**PF: Cisplatin 100<sub>D1</sub> + 5-FU 1000<sub>CI-D1-5</sub> Q 3 weeks x 3**



**TPF significantly improves survival and PFS compared with PF in an ICT regimen followed by CRT**

# CLINICAL SCENARIOS TO CONSIDER INDUCTION THERAPY

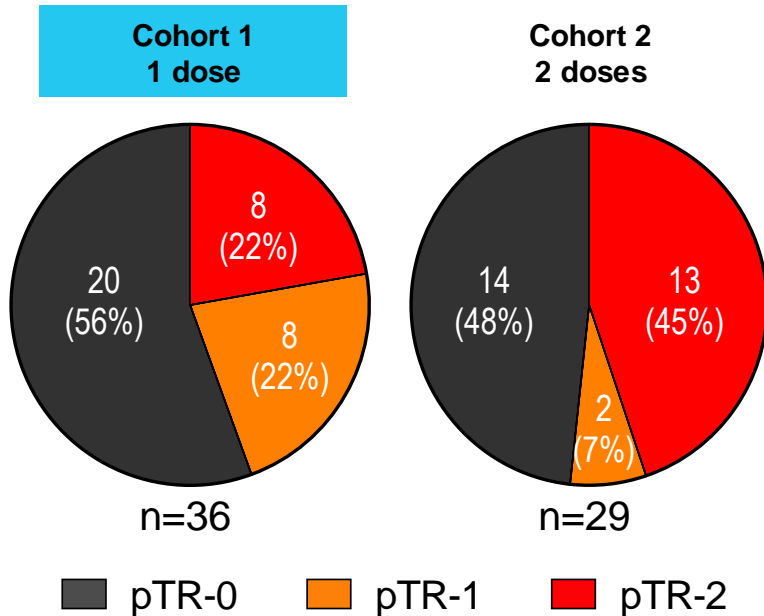
1. Potential distant metastasis
2. Delay in radiation simulation
3. Impending local issue (eg, airway)
4. Markedly advanced disease (eg, bulky, N<sub>2c</sub>, N<sub>2b</sub>, N<sub>3</sub>, low neck, dermal infiltration)
5. Organ preservation strategy in patients with markedly advanced disease



# Rationale for Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy

- Need to Improve OS in High-Risk SCC ( HPV neg, Larynx, Oral cavity, HP)
- Clear activity in R/M setting
- Neoadjuvant approach may help induce immune response to deliver durable benefit
- Neoadjuvant setting ideal : Untreated patients, lower burden of disease, intact tumor to allow for immune response
- “Immuno-reduction”- may alter surgery
- Reduced need for adjuvant approaches: Less RT, Less ChemoRT

# Dose/ Timing in Neoadjuvant Pembrolizumab Studies



Cohort 1- pembrolizumab X 1 doses

Cohort 2- pembrolizumab X 2 doses

Exploratory analysis

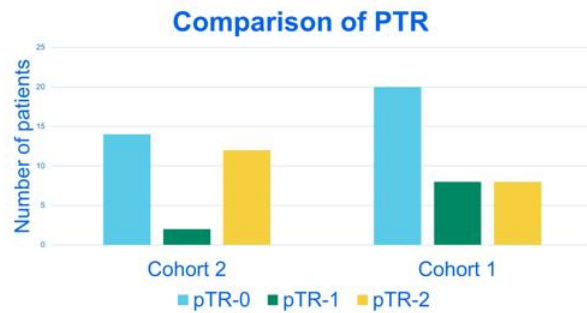
- 1 dose pembro before surgery – 22% pTR2
- 2 doses pembro before surgery – 45% pTR2

% patients with any pTR similar Cohort 1 and 2

- Pathologic response scale
  - **pTR0** < 10%
  - **pTR1** ≥ 10% and <50%
  - **pTR2** ≥ 50%

Uppaluri et al., CCR, 2020  
Oliveira et al., Sci. Immunol, 2023

# Cohort 1 versus 2



Characteristic	Cohort 2 (N=28)		Cohort 1 (N=36)		p-value	Diff (95% CI)
pTR Category						
pTR-0	14	50.0%	20	55.6%	0.11	-5.6 (-28.4 to 18.0)
pTR-1	2	7.1%	8	22.2%		-15.1 (-31.8 to 3.6)
pTR-2	12	42.9%	8	22.2%		20.6 (-2.1 to 41.5)
Pathologic risk category (positive margins/ENE)						
High risk	5	17.9%	18	50.0%	0.008	
Intermediate/low risk	23	82.1%	18	50.0%		32.1 (8.6 to 50.6)
Pathologic disease Stage, N (%)						
I-II	5	17.9%	3	8.3%	0.54	9.5 (-7.3 to 28.1)
III	5	17.9%	6	16.7%		1.2 (-17.0 to 21.0)
IVA-IVB	18	64.3%	27	75.0%		-10.7 (-32.3 to 11.3)

	Cohort 2 (N=28)		Cohort 1 (N=36)		p-value*	Diff (95% CI)
Downstaged (Clinical Stage > Pathologic Stage)	8	28.6%	7	19.4%	0.15	9.1 (-11.4 to 30.0)
Upstaged (Clinical Stage < Pathologic Stage)	2	7.1%	0	0.0%		7.1 (-3.8 to 22.6)
Stage unchanged (Clinical Stage = Pathologic Stage)	18	64.3%	29	80.6%		-16.3 (-37.1 to 5.4)

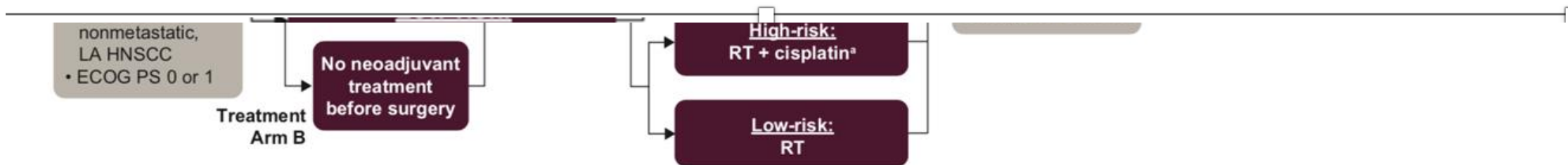
Uppaluri et al., CCR, 2020  
Oliveira et al., Sci. Immunol, 2023

# KEYNOTE-689: Phase 3 Study of Neoadjuvant and Adjuvant Pembrolizumab Combined With Standard of Care in Patients With Resectable, Locally Advanced Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma

2024-10-08

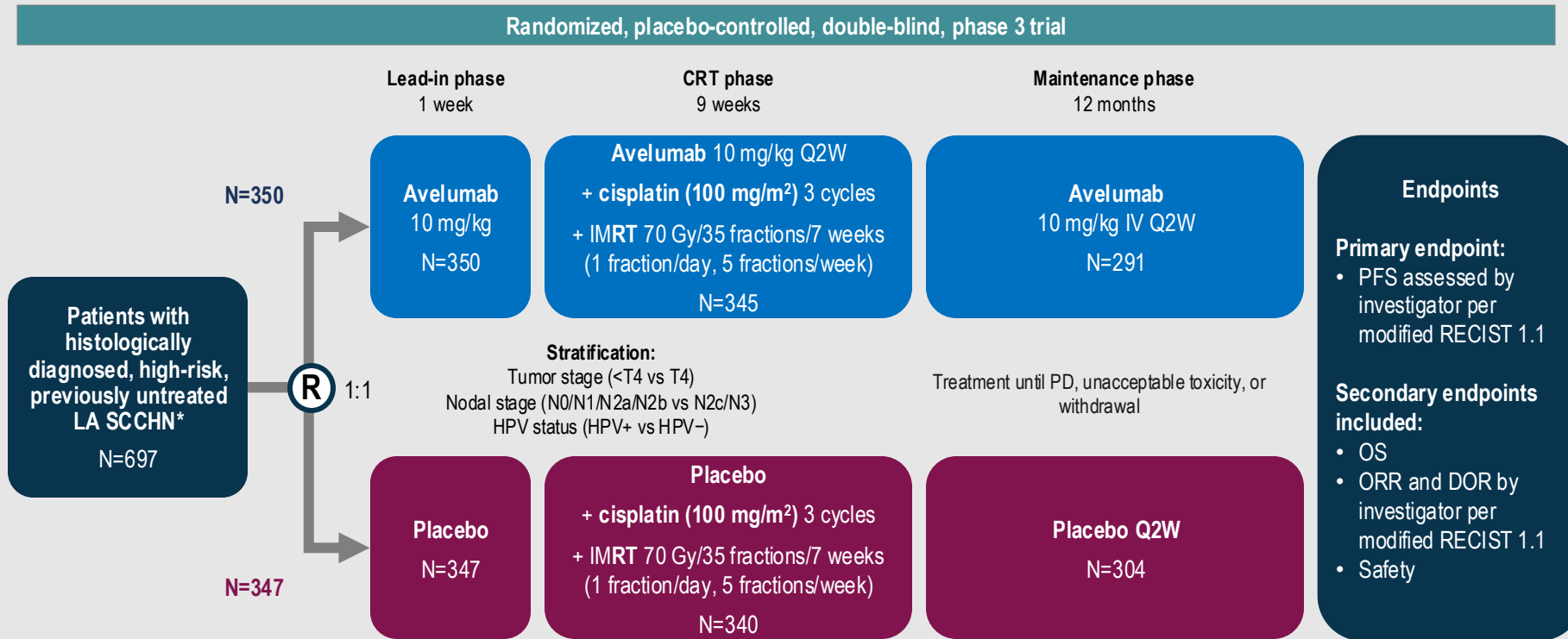
## PRESS RELEASE

KEYNOTE-689 is the first Phase 3 trial to demonstrate statistically significant and clinically meaningful improvement in EFS in the intent-to-treat population in the neoadjuvant and adjuvant setting for an anti-PD-1 therapy in earlier stages of head and neck squamous cell carcinoma



NCT03765918

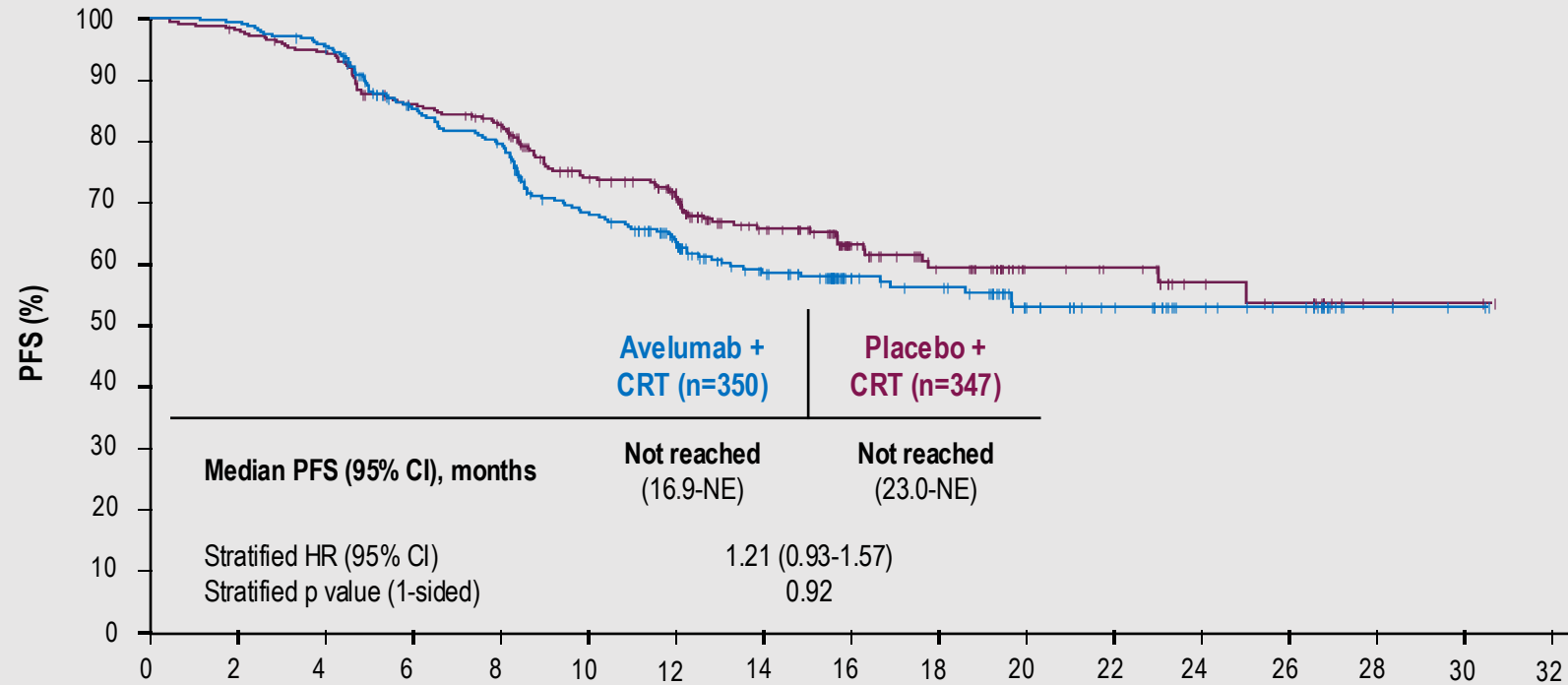
# JAVELIN HEAD & NECK 100: STUDY DESIGN



DOR, duration of response; HPV, human papillomavirus; IMRT, intensity-modulated radiation therapy; IV, intravenously; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; PFS, progression-free survival; Q2W, every 2 weeks; R, randomized; RECIST 1.1, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors version 1.1.

\* High-risk LA SCCHN (oral cavity, oropharynx, larynx, or hypopharynx): HPV-negative disease stage III, IVa, IVb; nonoropharyngeal HPV-positive disease stage III, IVa, IVb; HPV-positive oropharyngeal disease T4 or N2c or N3 (TNM staging per AJCC, 7th edition).

# PRIMARY ENDPOINT: PFS BY INVESTIGATOR PER MODIFIED RECIST 1.1



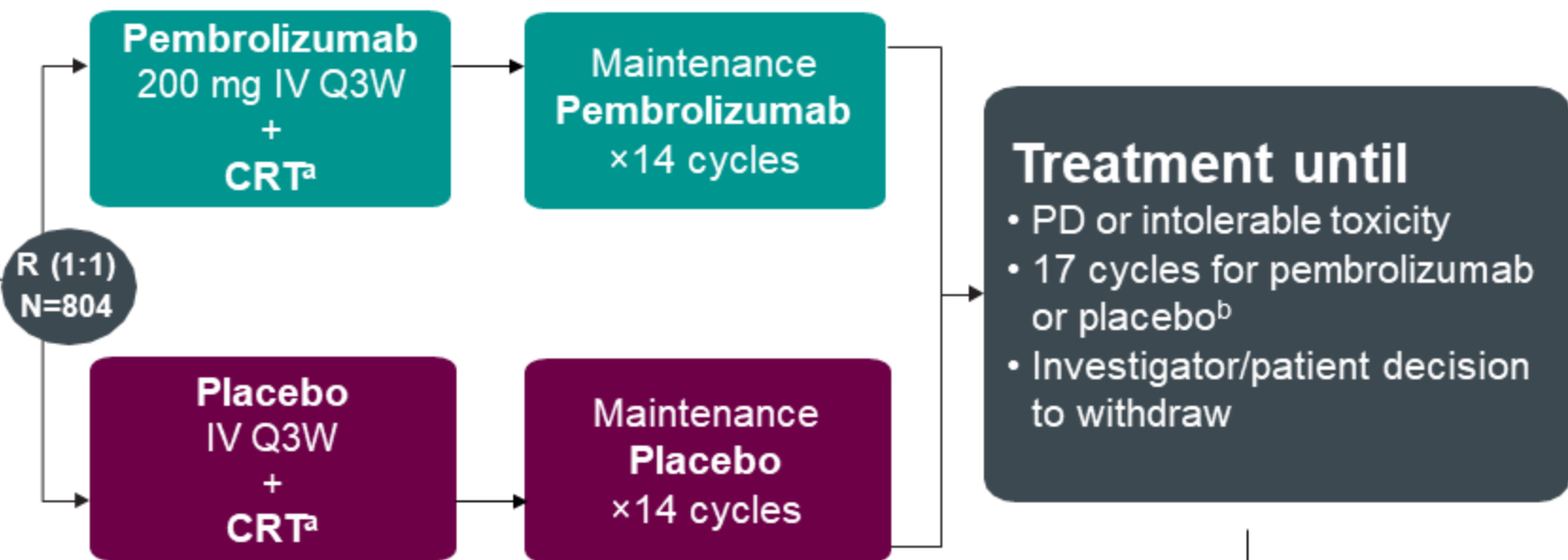
At risk	Months																
	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32
Avelumab + CRT	350	303	289	239	222	176	143	107	69	63	41	33	22	18	4	2	0
Placebo + CRT	347	303	291	257	241	200	172	121	75	56	31	28	18	15	3	2	0

NE, not estimable.

# KEYNOTE-412 Study Design (NCT03040999)

## Patients

- Newly diagnosed, pathologically proven, treatment-naïve unresected LA HNSCC
  - T3–T4 [N0–N3] or any N2a–3 [T1–T4] larynx/hypopharynx/oral cavity/ p16-negative oropharynx cancers
  - T4 or N3 p16-positive oropharynx cancer
- Evaluable tumor burden per RECIST v1.1
- ECOG PS 0 or 1
- Candidates for definitive high-dose cisplatin-based CRT



## Stratification Factors

- Radiotherapy regimen (AFX vs SFX)
- Tumor site/p16 status (oropharynx [p16+ vs p16-] or larynx/hypopharynx/oral cavity)
- Disease stage (III vs IV)

## Primary endpoint

- Event-free survival (EFS)

## Secondary endpoints included:

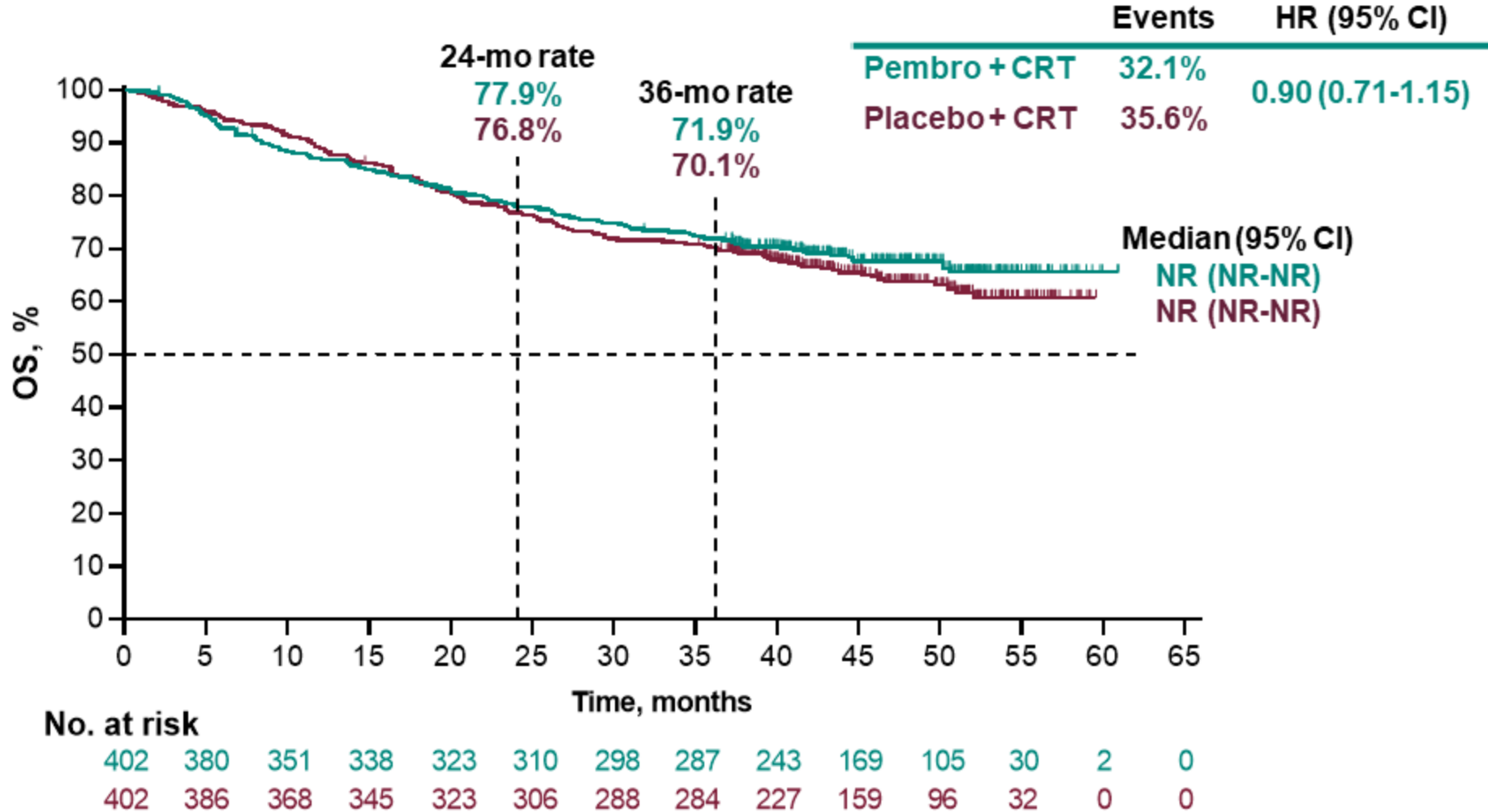
- OS
- Safety/tolerability

## Post-treatment follow-up to assess

- Safety
- Disease status
- Survival

<sup>a</sup>CRT included cisplatin (100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W) and accelerated fractionation (AFX) (70 Gy, 6 fractions/week for 5 weeks and then 5 fractions for the 6<sup>th</sup> week, 35 fractions in total) or standard fractionation (SFX) (70 Gy, 5 fractions/week for 7 weeks, 35 fractions in total). <sup>b</sup>A pembrolizumab/placebo priming dose was given 1 week before CRT, followed by 2 doses during CRT and 14 doses of maintenance therapy after CRT, for a total of 17 doses.

# Overall Survival, ITT Population

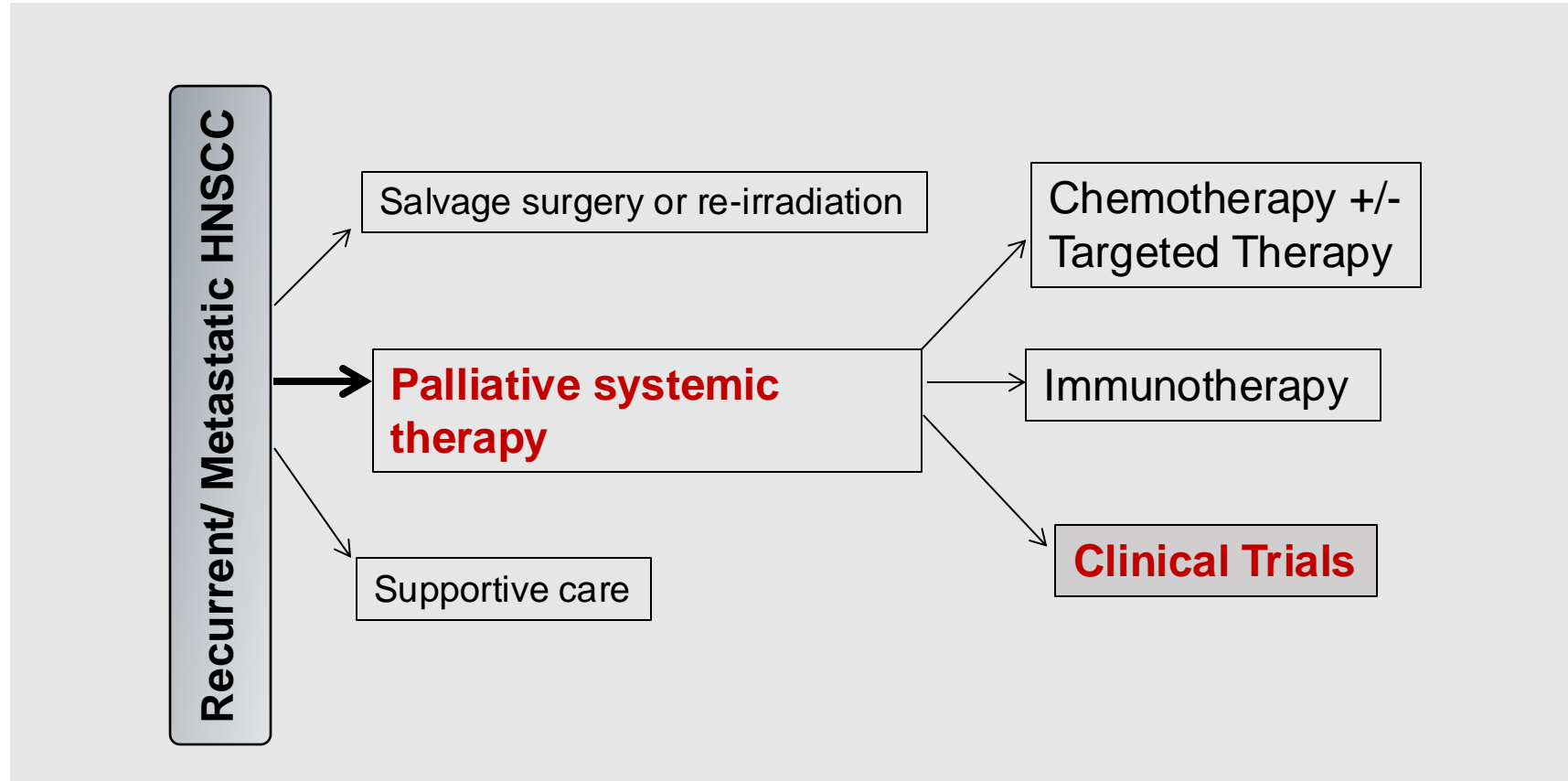


Data cutoff date: May 31, 2022.



# PALLIATIVE CHEMOTHERAPY

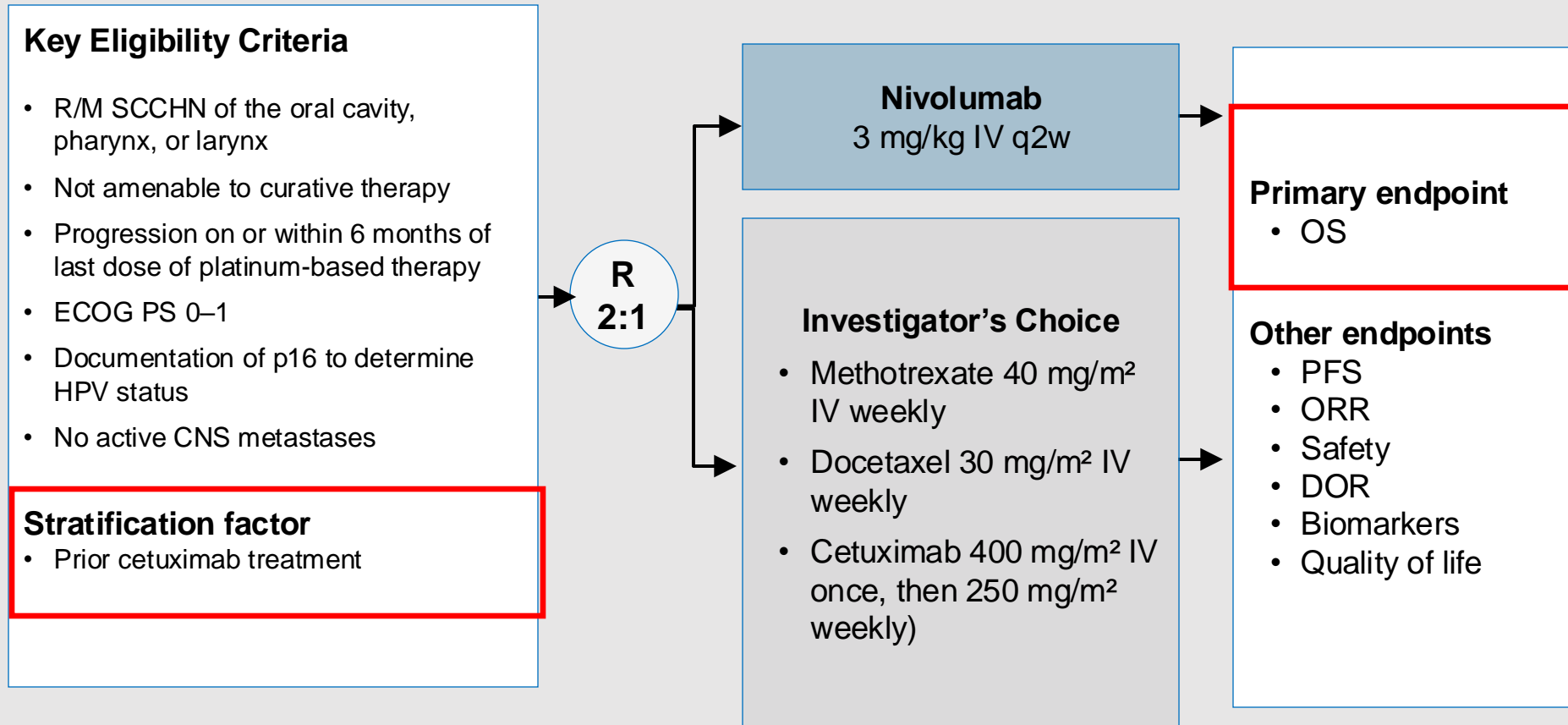
# MANAGEMENT OF RECURRENT/METASTATIC SCCHN



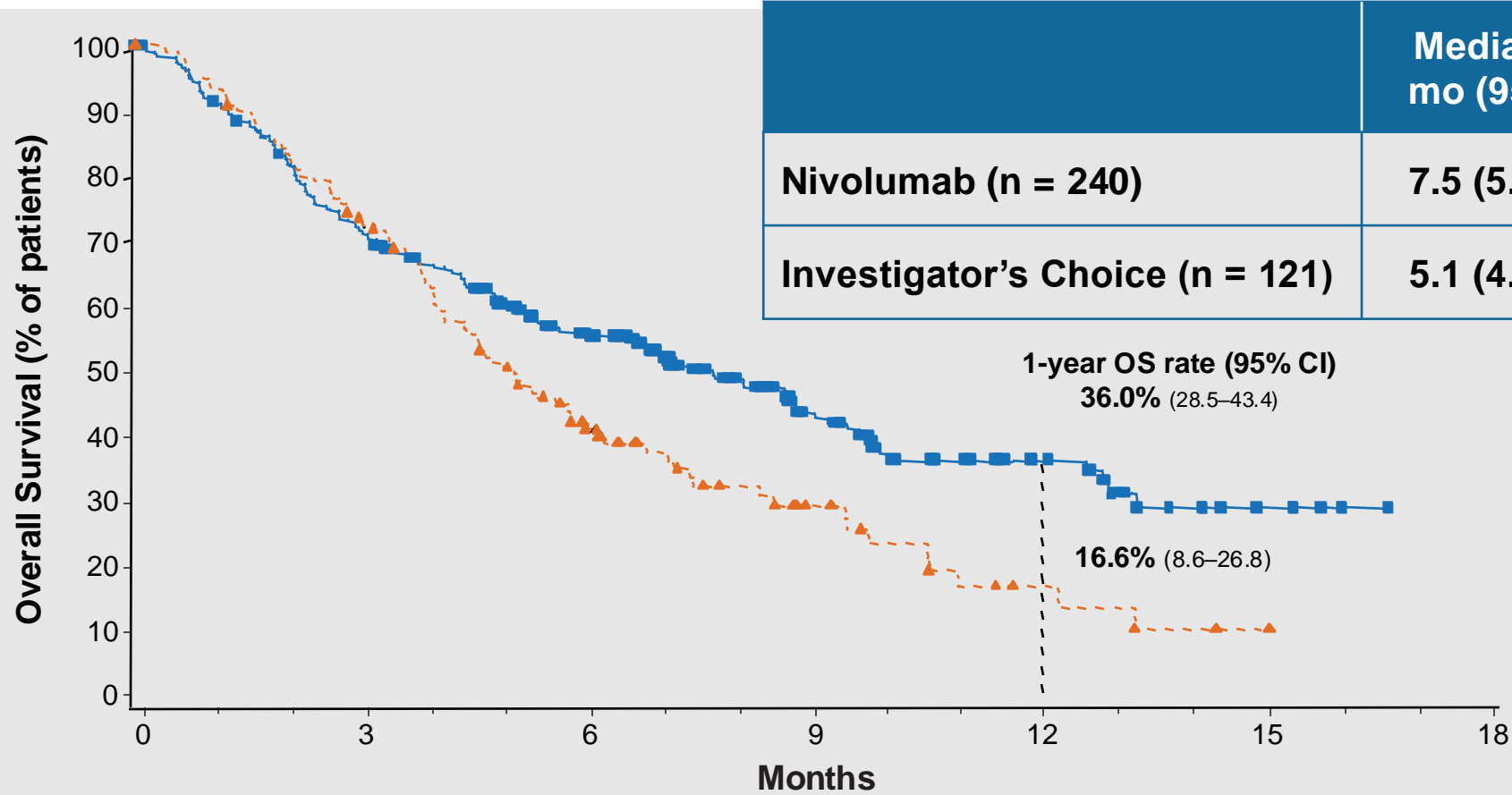
# CHECKMATE 141 STUDY DESIGN

## NIVOLUMAB VS. CHEMOTHERAPY

Randomized, global, phase 3 trial of the efficacy and safety of nivolumab versus investigator's choice in patients with R/M SCCHN



# OVERALL SURVIVAL



	Median OS, mo (95% CI)	HR (97.73% CI)	p-value
Nivolumab (n = 240)	7.5 (5.5–9.1)	0.70 (0.51–0.96)	0.0101
Investigator's Choice (n = 121)	5.1 (4.0–6.0)		

## No. at Risk

	0	3	6	9	12	15	18
Nivolumab	240	167	109	52	24	7	0
Investigator's Choice	121	87	42	17	5	1	0

# KEYNOTE-048

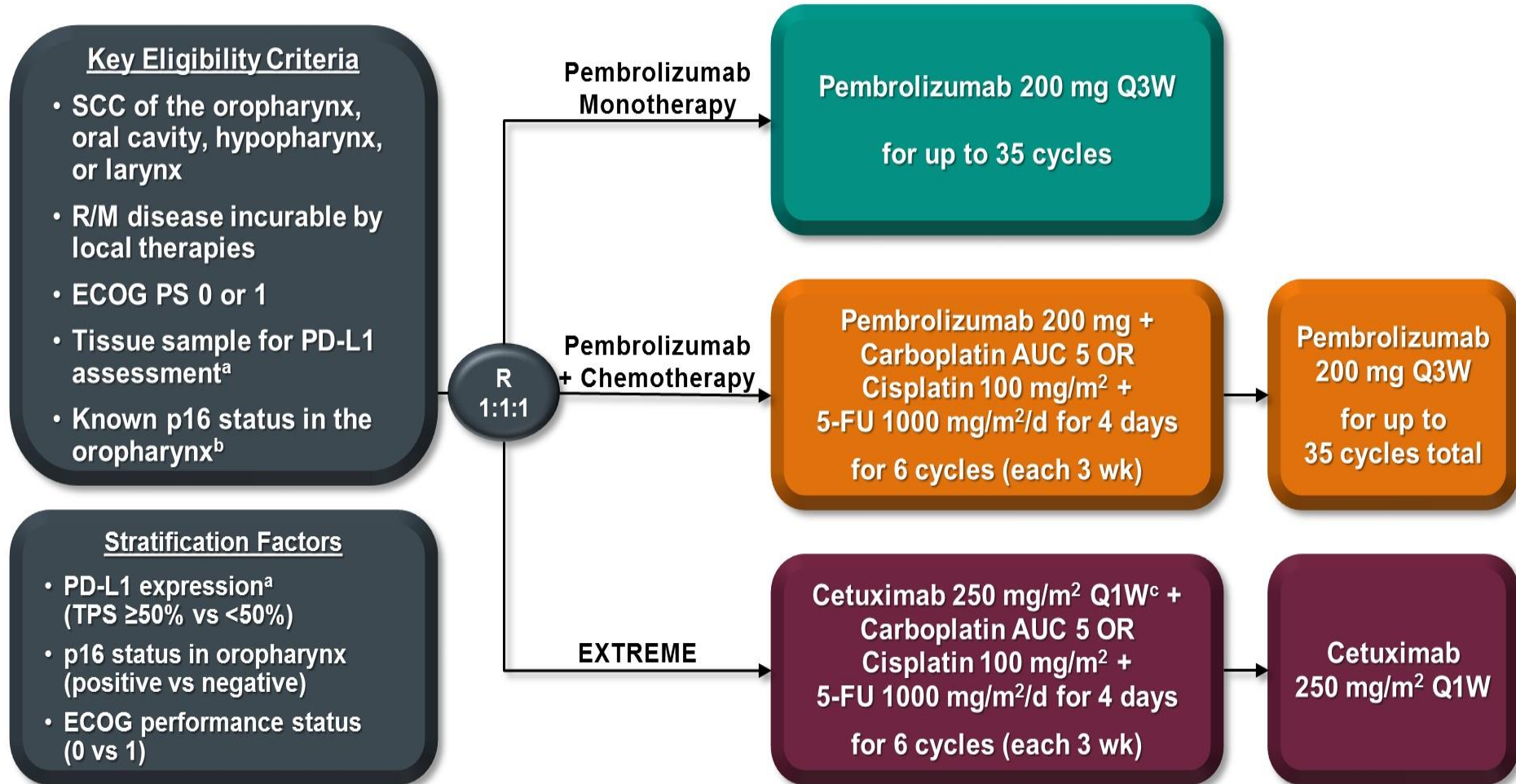
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## Pembrolizumab alone or with chemotherapy versus cetuximab with chemotherapy for recurrent or metastatic squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (KEYNOTE-048): a randomised, open-label, phase 3 study



*Barbara Burtness, Kevin J Harrington, Richard Greil, Denis Soulières, Makoto Tahara, Gilberto de Castro Jr, Amanda Psyrri, Neus Basté, Prakash Neupane, Åse Bratland, Thorsten Fuereder, Brett G M Hughes, Ricard Mesía, Nuttapong Ngamphaiboon, Tamara Rordorf, Wan Zamariah Wan Ishak, Ruey-Long Hong, René González Mendoza, Ananya Roy, Yayan Zhang, Burak Gumuscu, Jonathan D Cheng, Fan Jin, Danny Rischin, on behalf of the KEYNOTE-048 Investigators\**

# KEYNOTE-048 Study Design (NCT02358031)



<sup>a</sup>Assessed using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent). TPS = tumor proportion score = % of tumor cells with membranous PD-L1 expression.

<sup>b</sup>Assessed using the CINtec p16 Histology assay (Ventana); cutpoint for positivity = 70%. <sup>c</sup>Following a loading dose of 400 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

# Baseline Characteristics, ITT Population

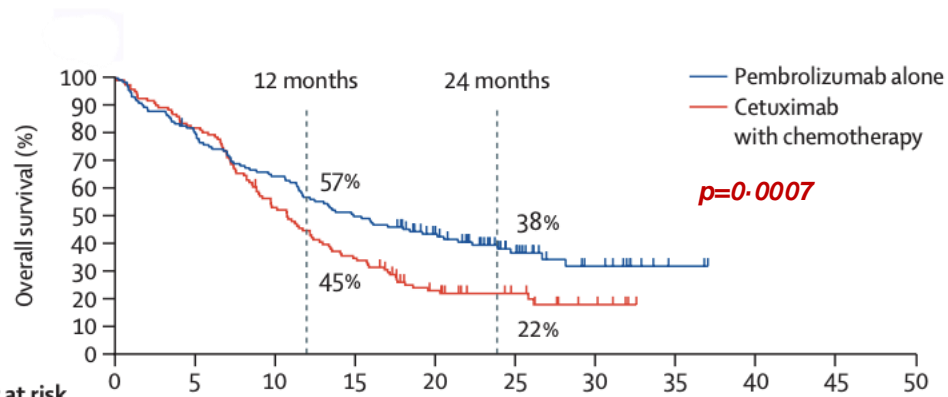
Characteristic, n (%)	Pembro Alone vs EXTREME		Pembro + Chemo vs EXTREME	
	Pembro N = 301	EXTREME N = 300	Pembro + Chemo N = 281	EXTREME N = 278 <sup>a</sup>
Age, median (range), yrs	62 (22-94)	61 (24-84)	61 (20-85)	61 (24-84)
Male	250 (83.1)	261 (87.0)	224 (79.7)	242 (87.1)
ECOG PS 1	183 (60.8)	183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

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

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

FA (data cutoff date: Feb 25, 2019).

# Pembrolizumab vs Extreme

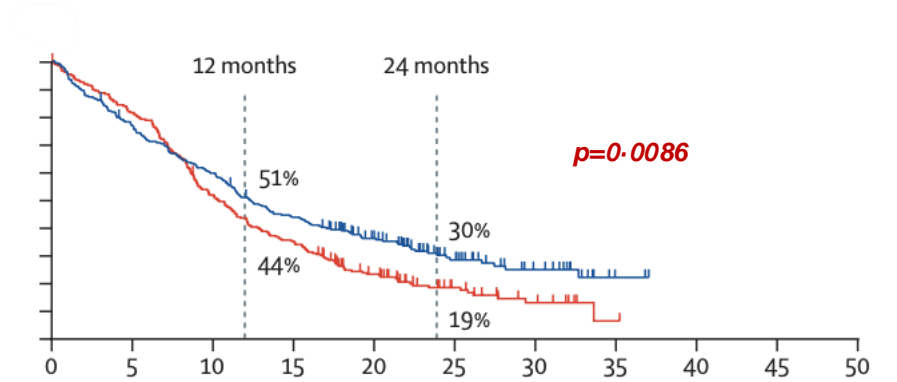


Number at risk (number censored)

Pembrolizumab alone	133 (0)	106 (1)	85 (1)	65 (2)	47 (12)	24 (29)	11 (40)	2 (49)	0 (51)	0 (51)	0 (51)
Cetuximab with chemotherapy	122 (0)	100 (0)	64 (1)	42 (1)	22 (8)	12 (17)	5 (22)	0 (27)	0 (27)	0 (27)	0 (27)

## CPS 20

HR 0.61 (95% CI 0.45-0.83,  $p=0.0007$ )  
 Median OS 14.9 months versus 10.7 months



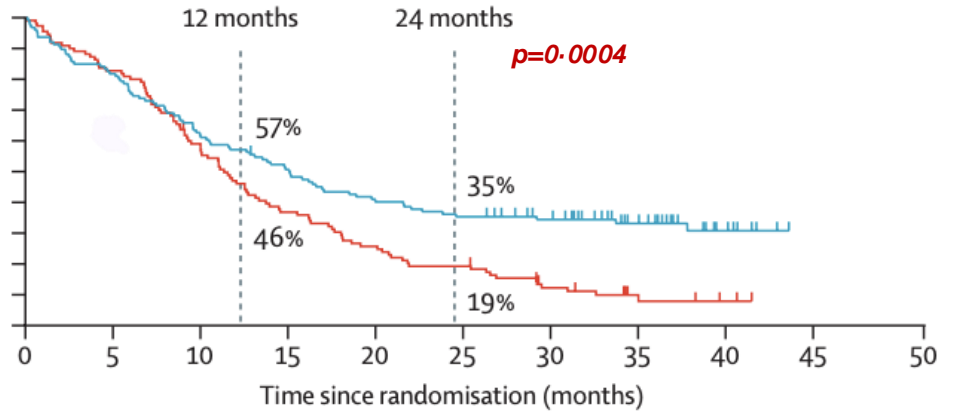
Pembrolizumab alone	257 (0)	196 (2)	152 (2)	110 (4)	74 (22)	34 (50)	17 (64)	2 (78)	0 (80)	0 (80)	0 (80)
Cetuximab with chemotherapy	255 (0)	207 (1)	131 (2)	89 (2)	47 (16)	21 (34)	9 (41)	1 (48)	0 (49)	0 (49)	0 (49)

## CPS 1

HR 0.78 (95% CI 0.64-0.96,  $p=0.0086$ );  
 Median OS 12.3 months versus 10.3 months



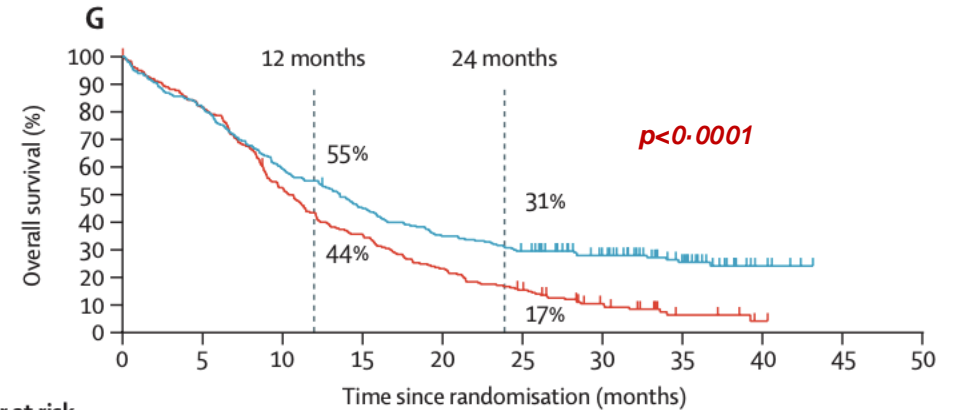
# Pembrolizumab/Chemotherapy vs EXTREME



126 (0)	102 (0)	77 (0)	60 (1)	50 (1)	44 (1)	36 (8)	21 (22)	4 (38)	0 (42)	0 (42)
110 (0)	91 (0)	60 (1)	40 (1)	26 (1)	19 (2)	11 (4)	4 (8)	1 (11)	0 (12)	0 (12)

## CPS 20

HR 0.60 (95% CI 0.45–0.82,  $p=0.0004$ )  
 Median OS 14.7 m versus 11.0 m



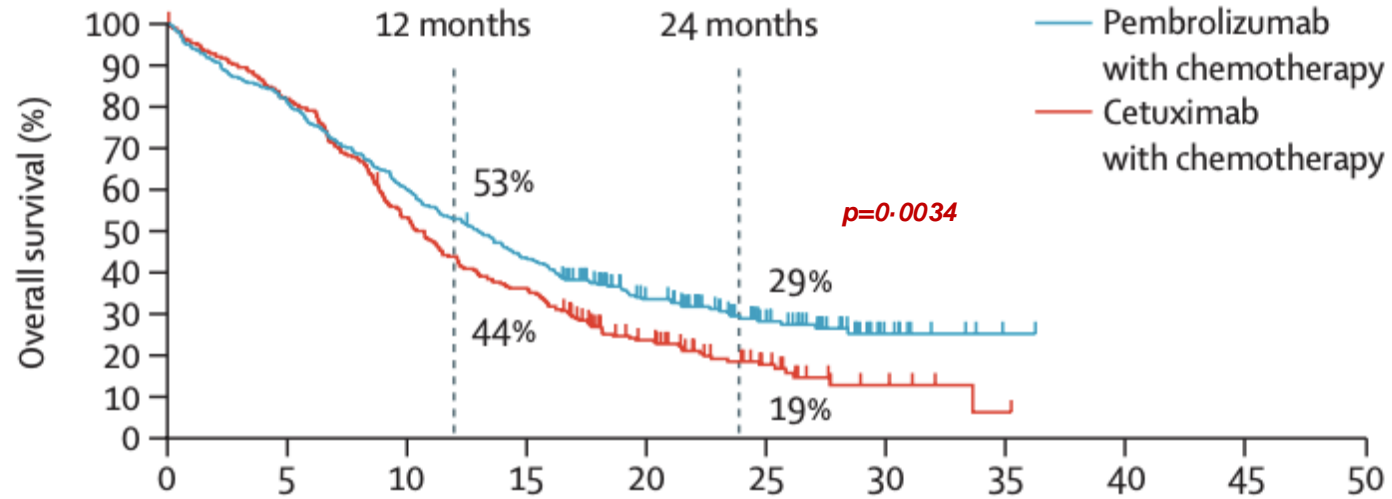
**Number at risk (number censored)**

Pembrolizumab with chemotherapy	242 (0)	197 (0)	144 (0)	109 (1)	84 (1)	70 (2)	52 (17)	29 (37)	5 (60)	0 (65)	0 (65)
Cetuximab with chemotherapy	235 (0)	191 (1)	122 (2)	83 (2)	54 (2)	35 (3)	17 (11)	5 (18)	1 (21)	0 (22)	0 (22)

## CPS 1

HR 0.65 (95% CI 0.53–0.80,  $p<0.0001$ ),  
 Median OS 13.6 months versus 10.4 months

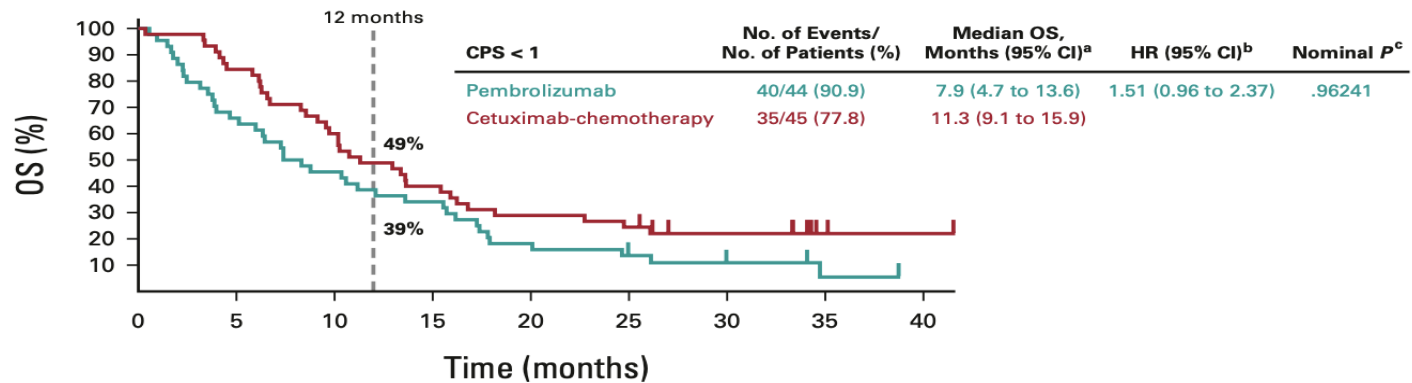
# Total Population



$HR\ 0.77\ [95\%\ CI\ 0.63-0.93],\ p=0.0034$

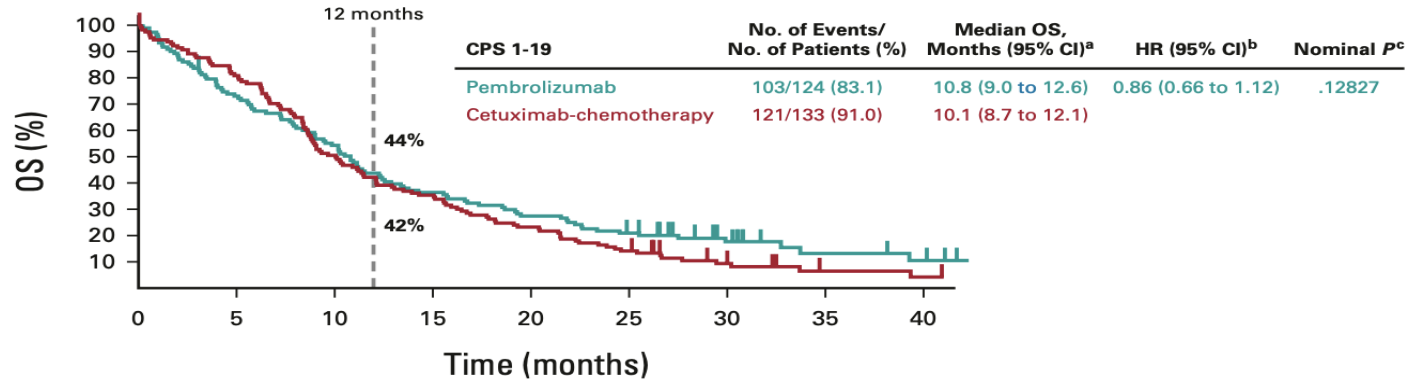
*Median OS 13.0 months versus 10.7 months*

# KEYNOTE-048: Subgroup Analysis by CPS



No. at risk:

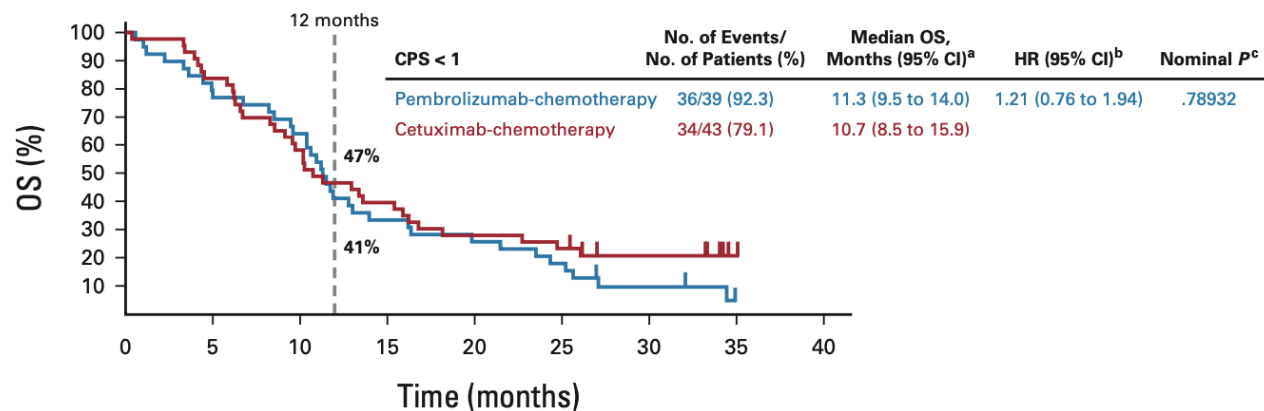
Pembrolizumab	44	29	20	15	8	5	3	1	0
Cetuximab-chemotherapy	45	38	27	18	13	11	7	2	1



No. at risk:

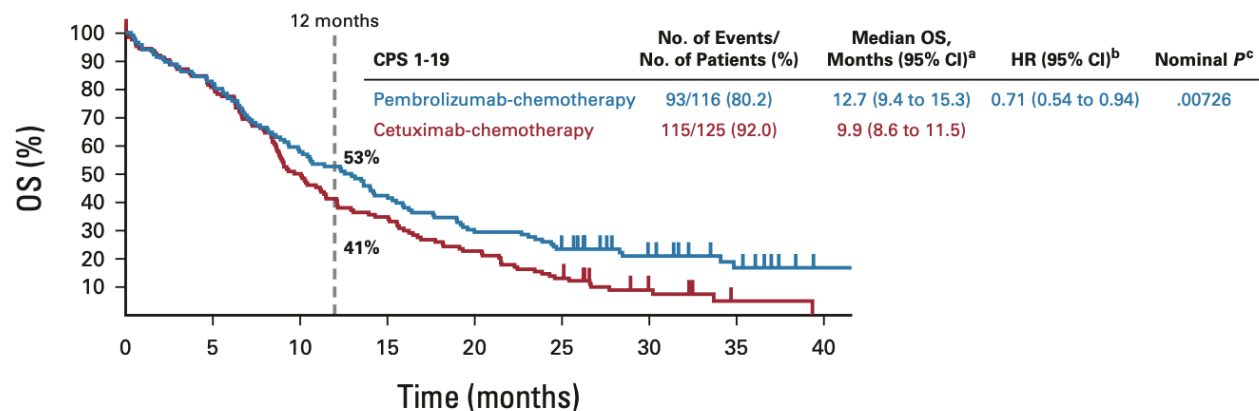
Pembrolizumab	124	90	67	45	34	25	14	6	4
Cetuximab-chemotherapy	133	107	67	47	31	19	8	3	2

# KEYNOTE-048: Subgroup Analysis by CPS



No. at risk:

Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy	39	30	25	13	10	7	3	0	0
Cetuximab-chemotherapy	43	36	25	17	12	10	6	1	0

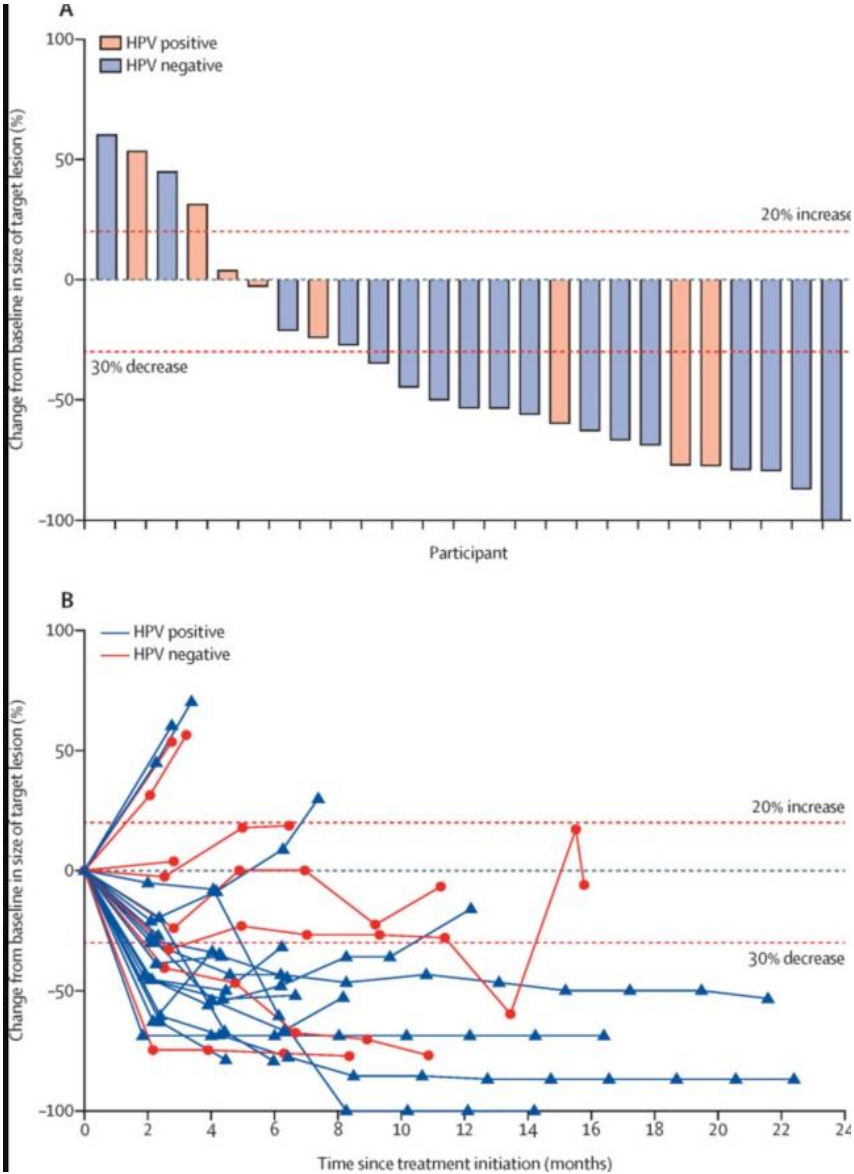


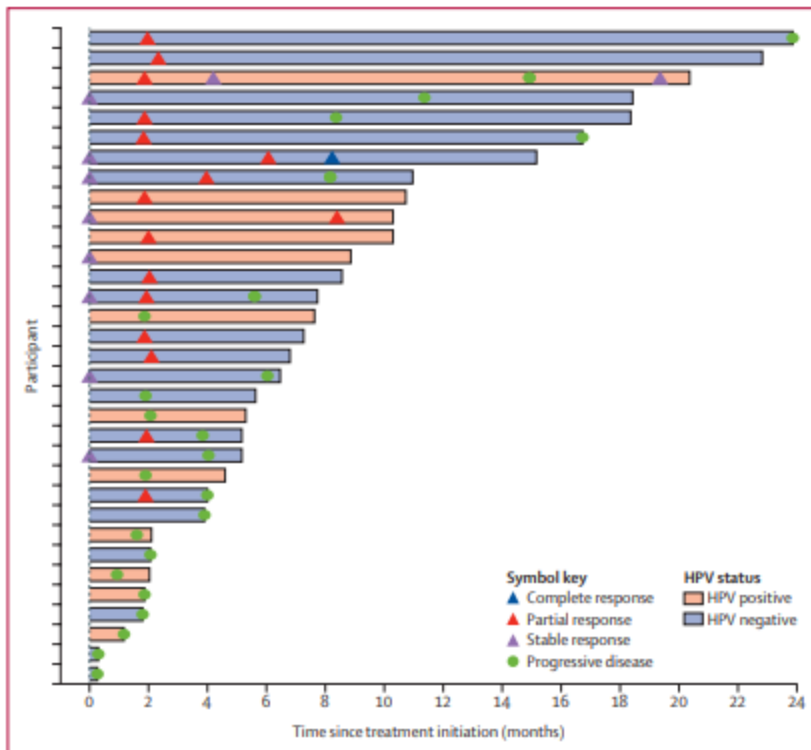
No. at risk:

Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy	116	95	67	49	34	26	16	8	1
Cetuximab-chemotherapy	125	100	62	43	28	16	6	1	0

# Pembrolizumab+Cetuximab Recurrent Head and Neck Cancer

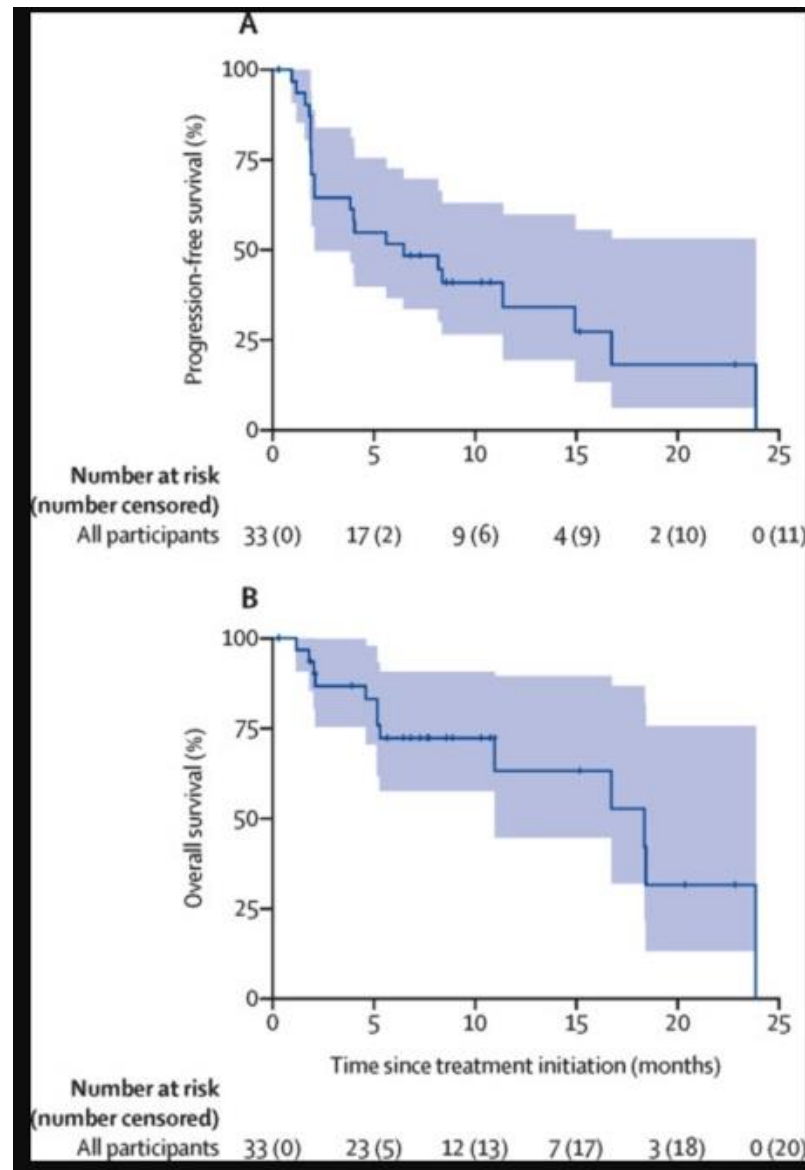
*Sacco et al June 2021 ,  
Lancet Oncology*





ORR 45 % ( 15/33 pts)

Sacco et al June 2021 ,  
Lancet Oncology





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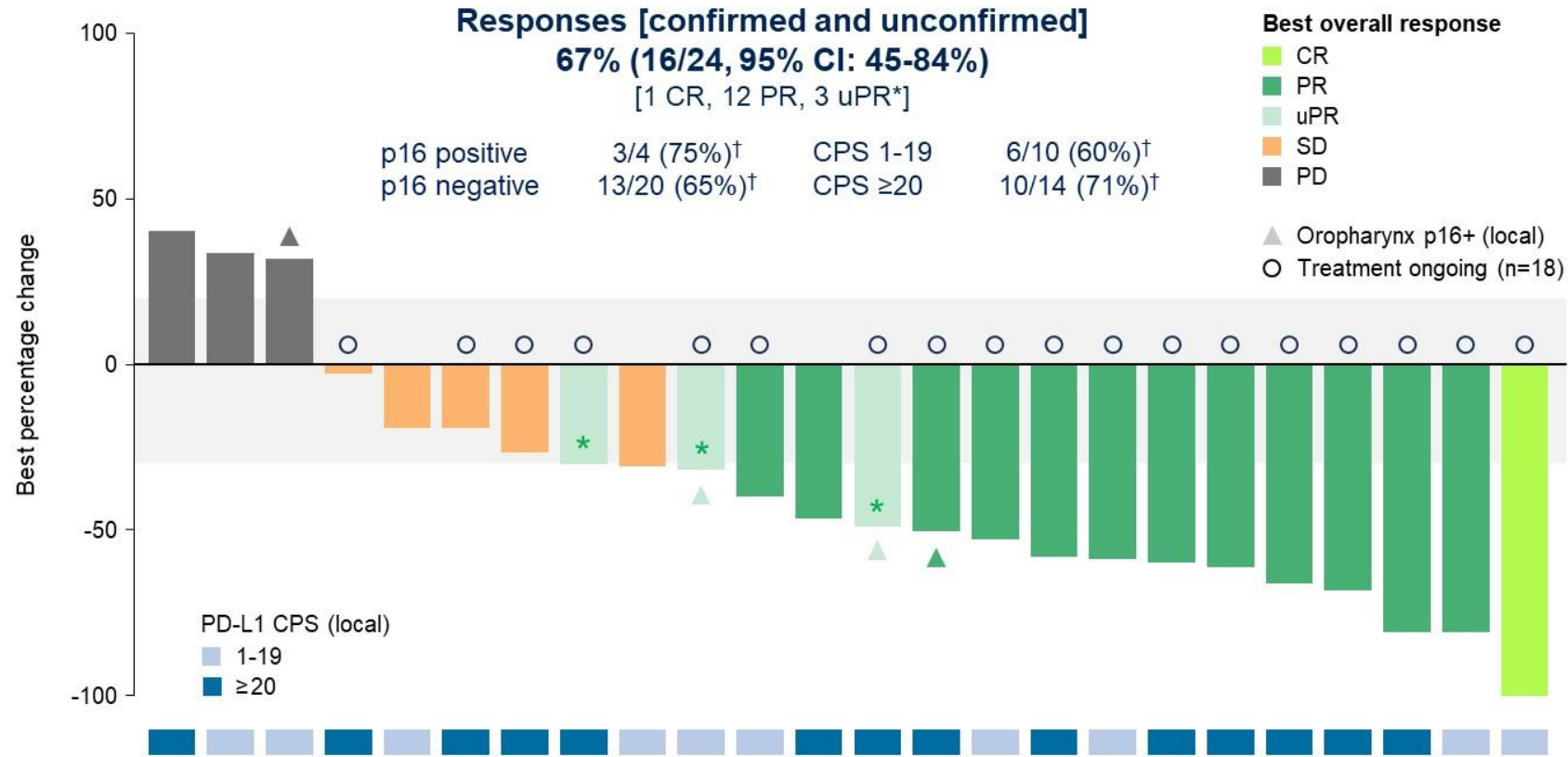
# Petosemtamab (MCLA-158) with pembrolizumab as first-line (1L) treatment of recurrent/metastatic (r/m) head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC): Phase 2 study

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# Overall response rate (RECIST 1.1, per investigator)

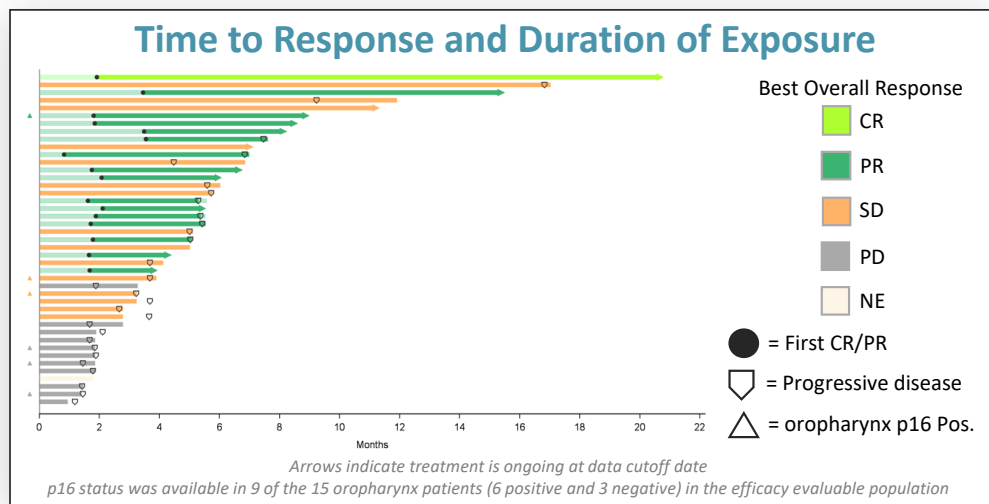
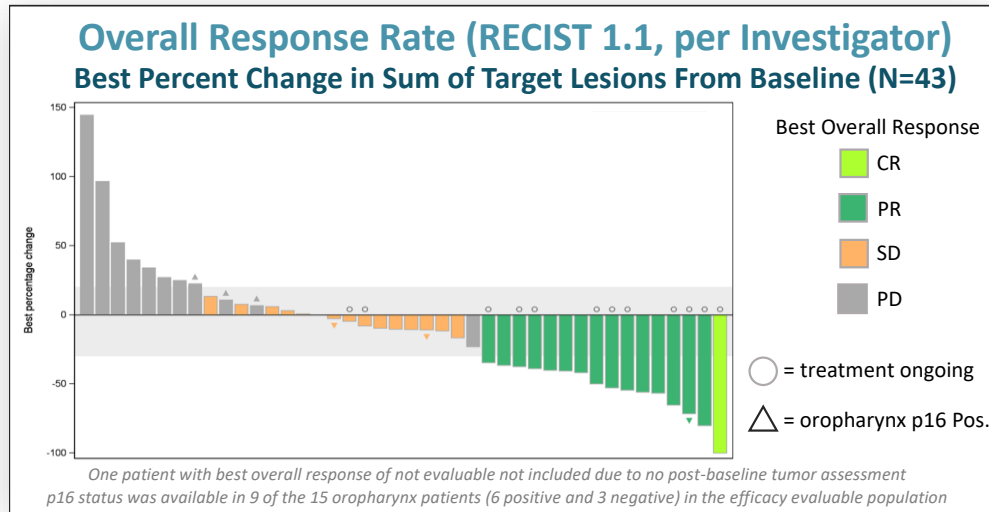
Best percent change in sum of target lesions from baseline (n=24)



\*All 3 uPR were confirmed as PR after data cutoff date; <sup>†</sup>Response values for p16 and PD-L1 CPS subgroups include CR, PR, and uPR. CI, confidence interval; CR, complete response; PR, partial response; SD, stable disease; uPR, unconfirmed partial response.



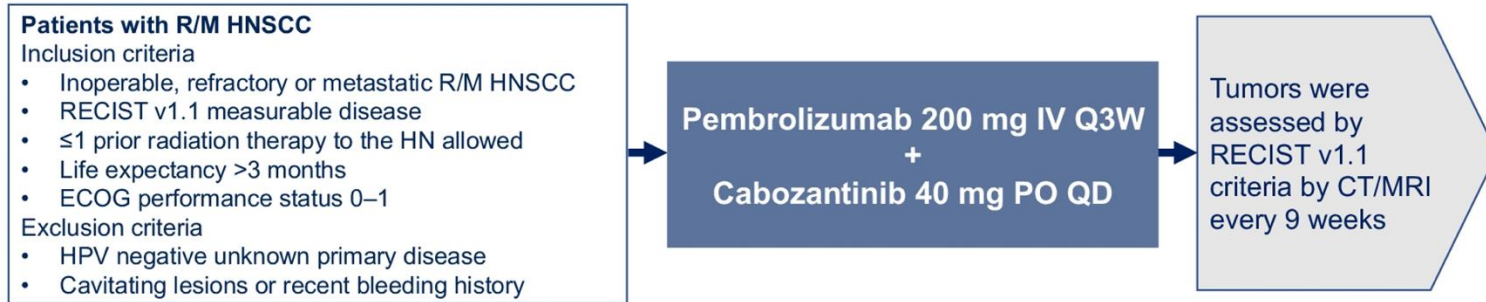
## Overview of Results for Petosemtamab Monotherapy from the Phase 1/2 Trial



Overall Clinical Efficacy	
ORR	<b>37.2%</b> [16/43; 95% CI: 23.0 - 53.3]
DCR (CR+PR+SD)	<b>72.1%</b> [31/43; 95% CI: 56.3 - 84.7]
Median time to response	<b>1.8 months</b> [range, 0.8 - 3.5]
On treatment at data cutoff date	<b>12/43 (28%) patients</b>
Median DOR	<b>6.0 months</b> [95% CI: 3.7 - NC] <i>10/16 (63%) responders had response ongoing at cutoff date</i>
Median PFS	<b>5.3 months</b> [95% CI: 3.7 - 6.8] <i>29/43 patients progressed, 14/43 censored</i>
Median OS	<b>11.5 months</b> [95% CI: 7.2 - 20.6] <i>29/49 patients still alive at data cutoff date</i>

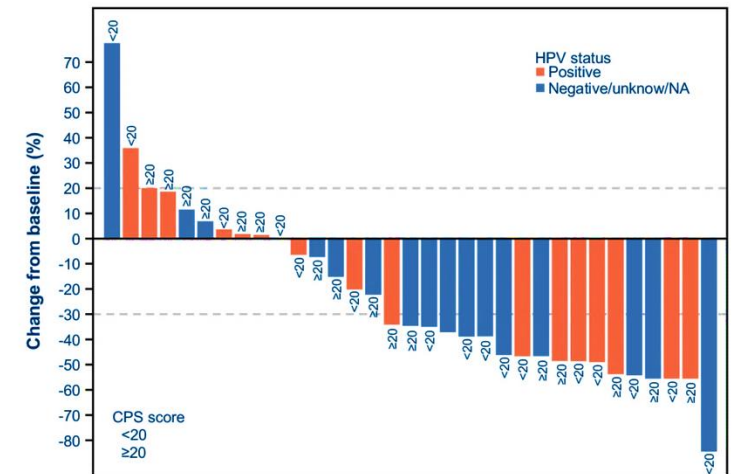


# Cabozantinib and Pembrolizumab : Phase II



Patient Characteristic		N=36 n (%)
Age, median (range), years		62 (54-67)
Gender	Male Female	30 (83) 6 (17)
ECOG performance status, %	0 1	18 (50) 18 (50)
Primary site	Oropharynx Oral cavity Hypopharynx Larynx Nasopharynx	22 (61) 2 (6) 2 (6) 4 (11) 6 (16)
HPV (p16)	Positive Negative Unknown	17 (47) 12 (33) 7 (20)
Prior therapy	Radiation Cisplatin Cetuximab	31 (89) 36 (100) 3 (8)
PD-L1 CPS score (total of 34)	CPS <1 CPS 1-19 CPS ≥20	2 (6) 15 (44) 17 (50)

	N=33 n (%)
ORR	18 (54)
CR	0 (0)
PR	18 (54)
SD	12 (36)
PD	3 (9)
Clinical benefit	30 (91)



# Head and Neck Cancer 2025 and Beyond

ChemoRT with or without surgery

HPV: New Staging, New treatment, New disease, De-escalation

Non-HPV: Is there room for Intensification?

Immunotherapy incorporated into all Phases of the treatment: Neo-adjuvant to palliative therapy

EGFR/IO and VEGF/IO in phase III

K689 likely practice changing

Head and Neck Cancer is a complex set of diseases with various nuances in treatment, treatment delivery and outcomes

ONE SIZE does not fit all patients: Multi-D care