

Immunoterapia neoadiuvante: evidenze disponibili e prospettive future



Negrar (VR) – 20 maggio 2022



Ponte naturale di Veja
Sant'Anna d'Alfaedo (VR)



Ettore D'Argento
UOC Oncologia Medica

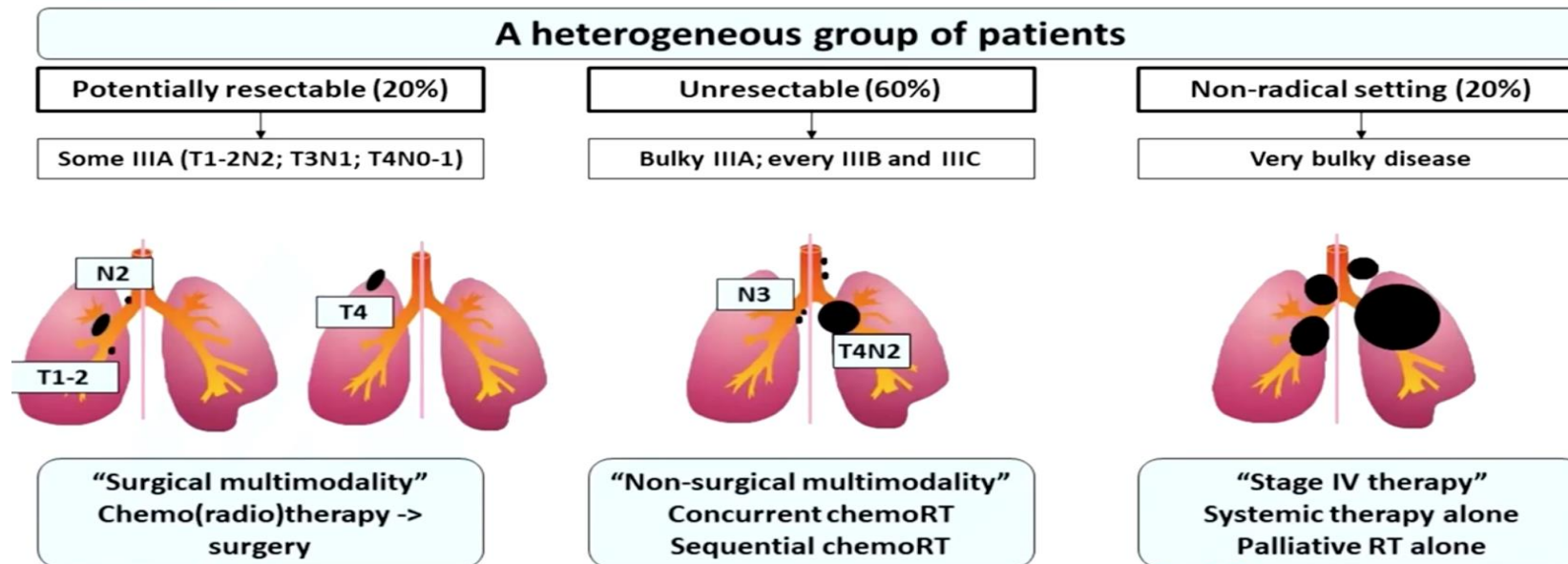
CARCINOMA POLMONARE:
QUALI NOVITÀ NEL 2022?



Roma, Ponte Sant'Angelo (Pons Aelius)

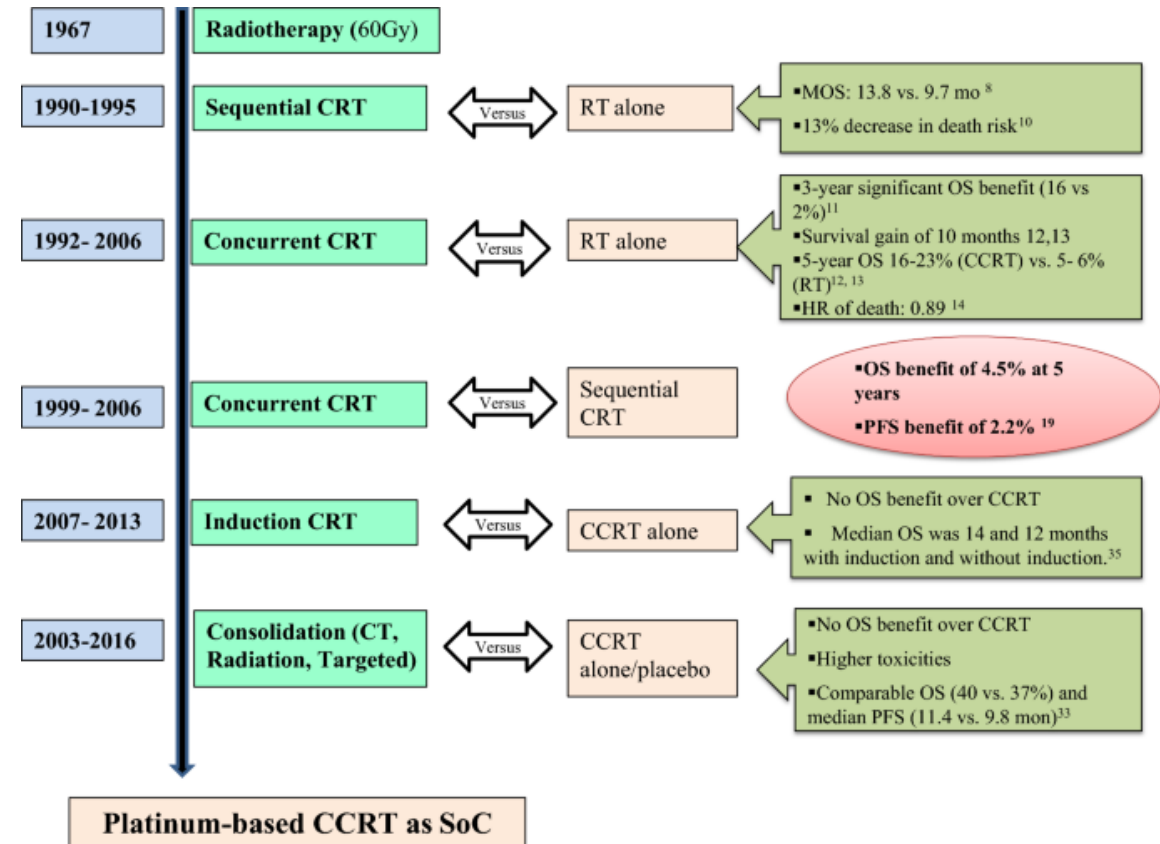


Roma 03/10/2021: incendio del Ponte di Ferro



- Therapeutically challenging subset
- Patients are treated for cure, but cure is elusive: 10%-30%
- Surgery and/or radiotherapy for local-regional control

Chemotherapy → High risk of systemic relapse

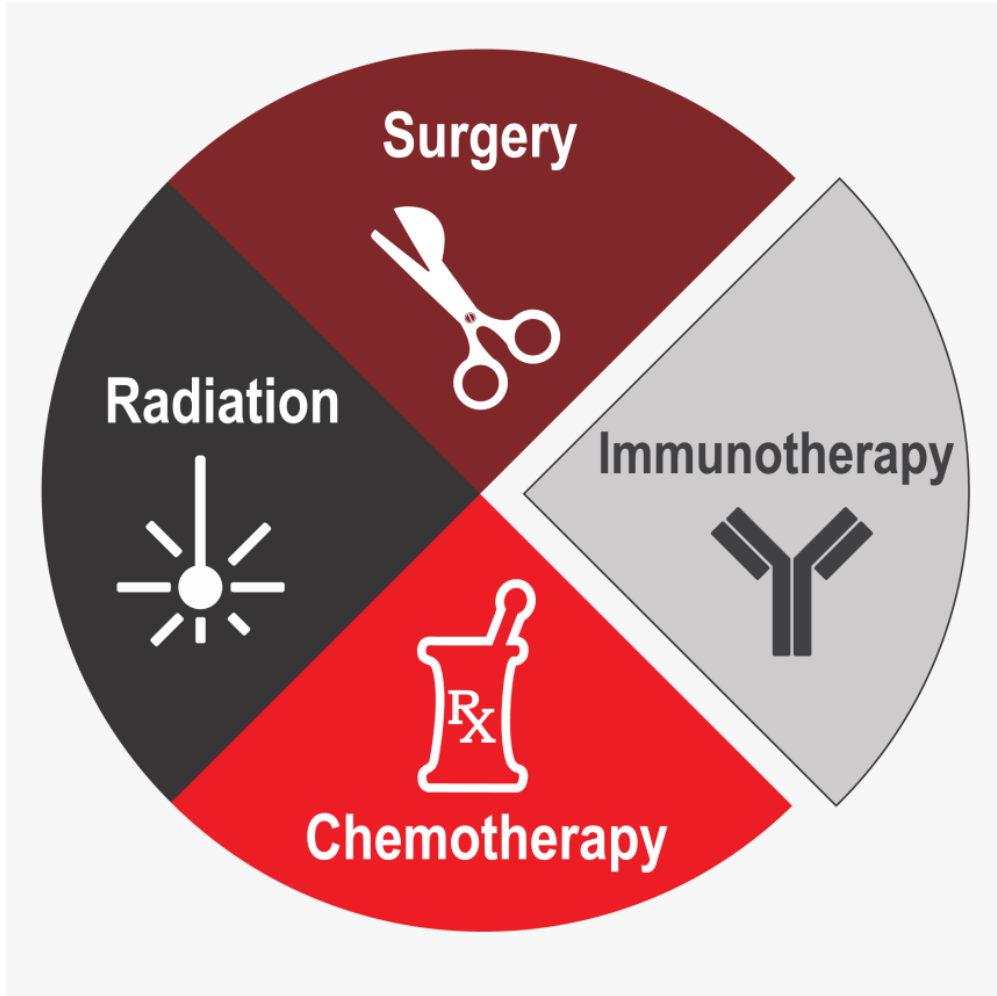


Stage	Incidence, %	Treatment	Est. 5-Yr Survival, %
III	30-35	Combined modality therapy	15-25

-
- Immunotherapy is providing new hope and changing the management of stage III NSCLC

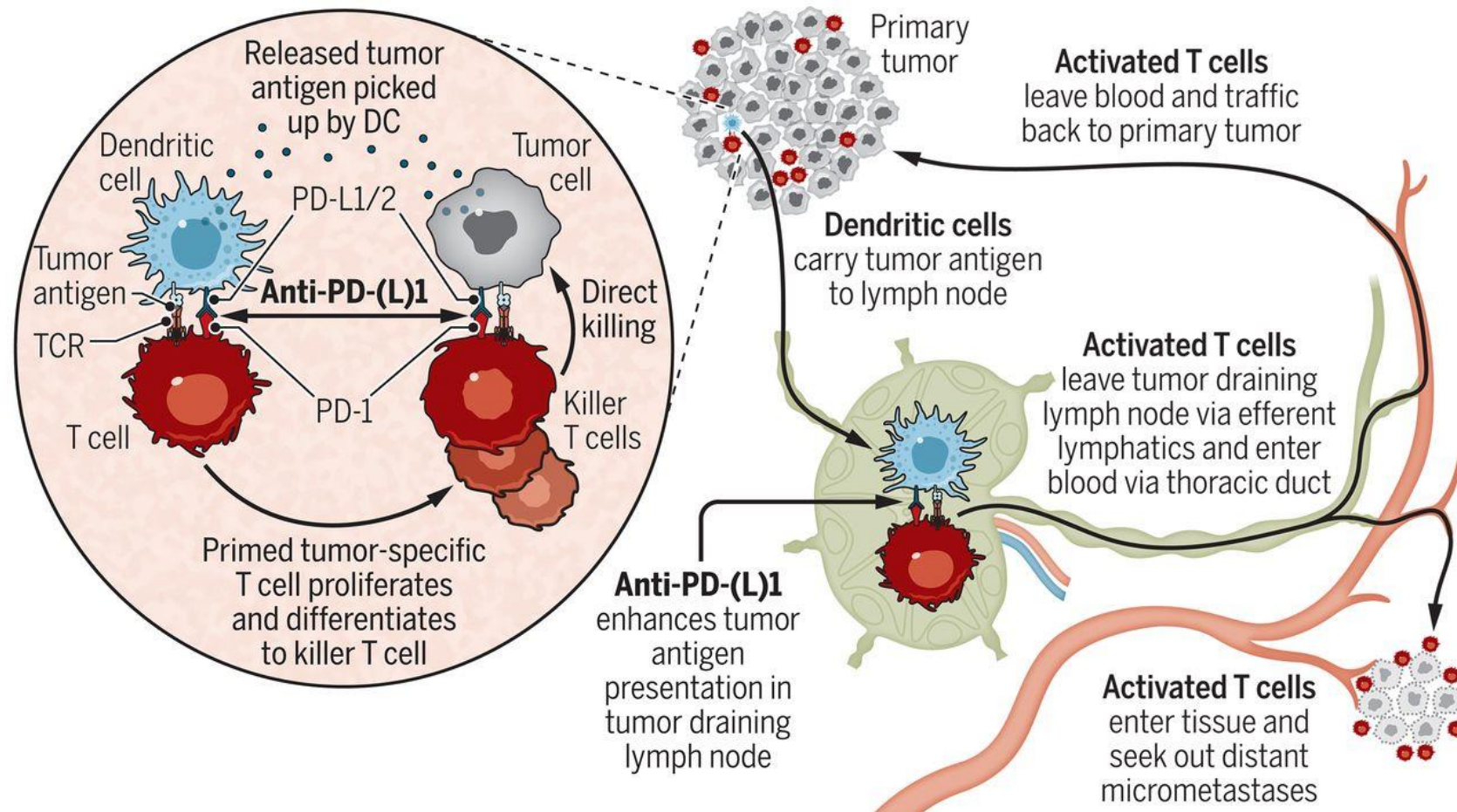
Roma, Ponte Settimia Spizzichino



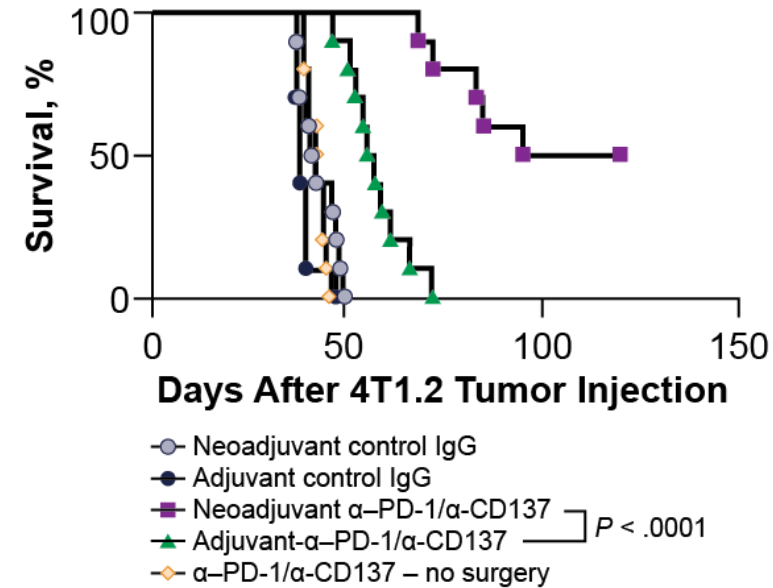
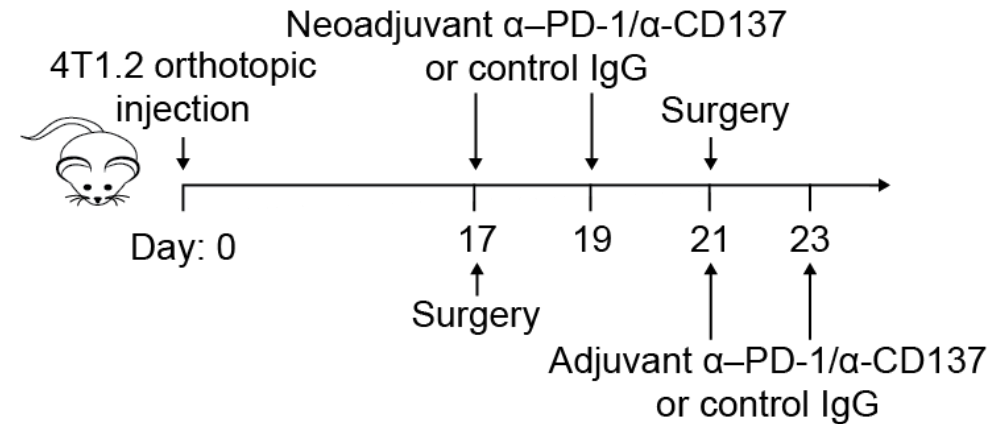
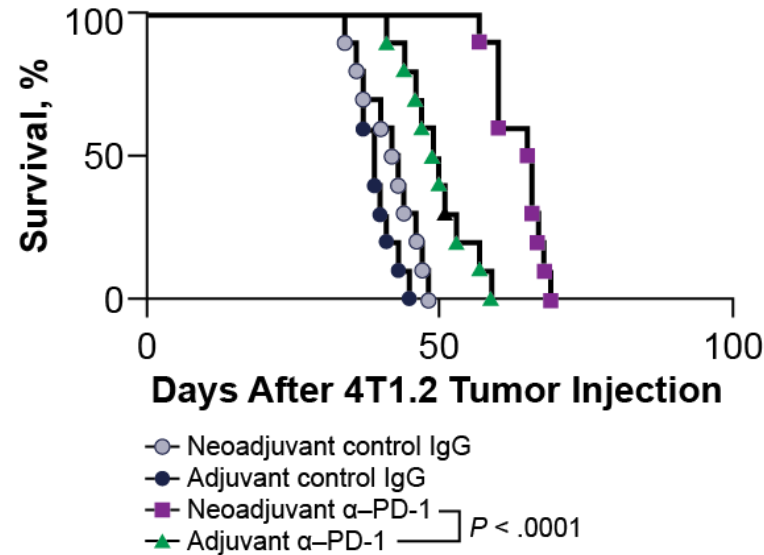
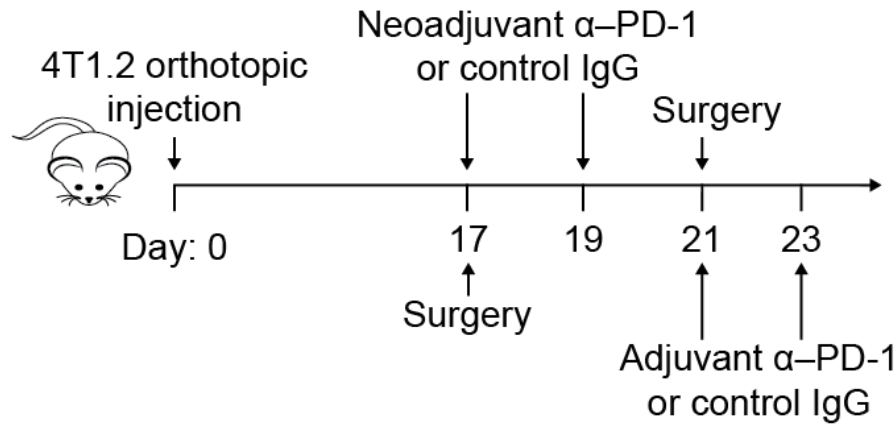


Roma, Isola Tiberina ed i suoi ponti

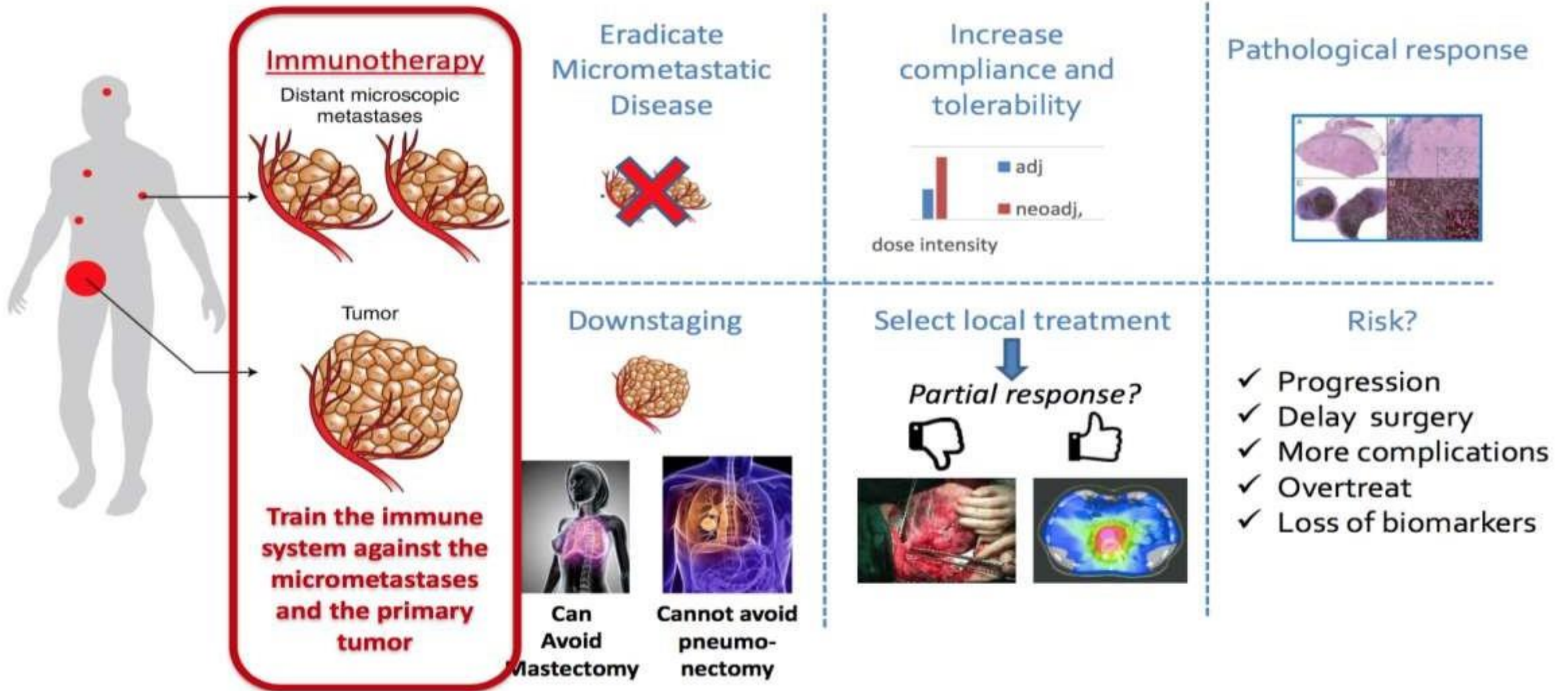
Enhancement of systemic antitumor T cell immunity after neoadjuvant PD-1 blockade



Neoadjuvant Anti-PD-1 + Anti-CD137 is Better Than Adjuvant (At Least in Mice)



Theoretical benefit for induction Treatment



Neoadjuvant ICI or ICI Plus Chemotherapy in Patients With Resectable and Operable Stage I–III Lung Cancers

Phase II Trials

Trial	Author(s)	Agent(s)	MPR, % (95% CI)	pCR, % (95% CI)
Johns Hopkins University/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (21 patients)	Forde et al ¹⁰	Nivolumab	43 (21 to 66)	14 (4 to 34)
LCMC3; Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium (82 patients)	Kwiatkowski et al ¹²	Atezolizumab	18 (11 to 28)	5 (2 to 12)
NEOSTAR; MD Anderson Cancer Center (44 patients)	Cascone et al ¹³	Nivolumab ± ipilimumab	25 (14 to 40)	18 (9 to 32)
NADIM; Spanish Lung Cancer Group (30 patients)	Provencio-Pulla et al ¹⁴	Nivolumab + paclitaxel/ carboplatin	80 (64 to 91)	75 (4 to 76)
Columbia University New York/MGH (30 patients)	Shu et al ¹¹	Atezolizumab + paclitaxel/ carboplatin	57 (36 to 76)	33 (18 to 52)
Duke/Dartmouth/Mayo Clinic (25 patients)	Ready et al ¹⁵	Pembrolizumab	28 (12 to 49)	8 (1 to 26)

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

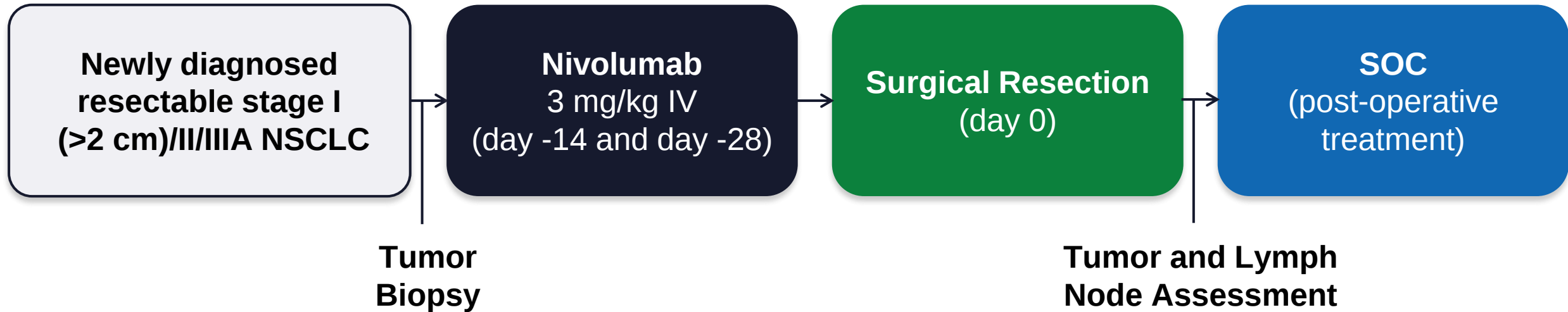
Neoadjuvant PD-1 Blockade in Resectable Lung Cancer

P.M. Forde, J.E. Chaft, K.N. Smith, V. Anagnostou, T.R. Cottrell, M.D. Hellmann, M. Zahurak, S.C. Yang, D.R. Jones, S. Broderick, R.J. Battafarano, M.J. Velez, N. Rekhtman, Z. Olah, J. Naidoo, K.A. Marrone, F. Verde, H. Guo, J. Zhang, J.X. Caushi, H.Y. Chan, J.-W. Sidhom, R.B. Scharpf, J. White, E. Gabrielson, H. Wang, G.L. Rosner, V. Rusch, J.D. Wolchok, T. Merghoub, J.M. Taube, V.E. Velculescu, S.L. Topalian, J.R. Brahmer, and D.M. Pardoll



Roma, Ponte Milvio

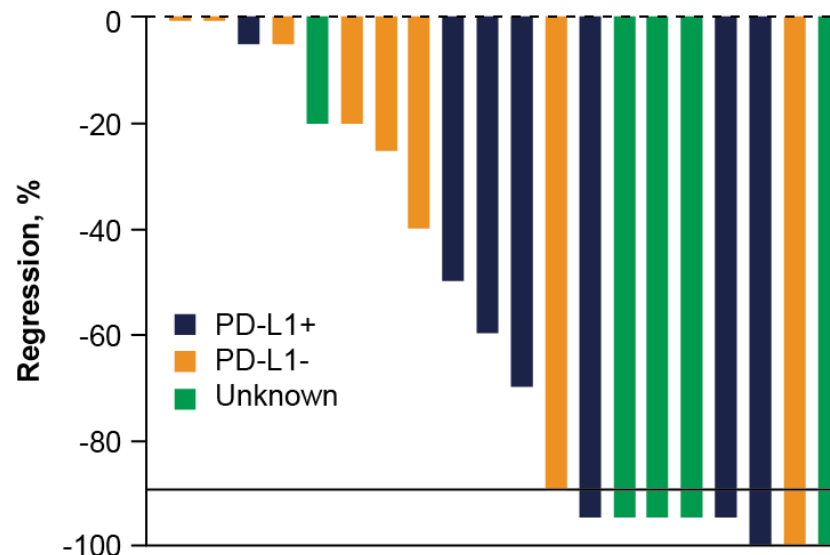
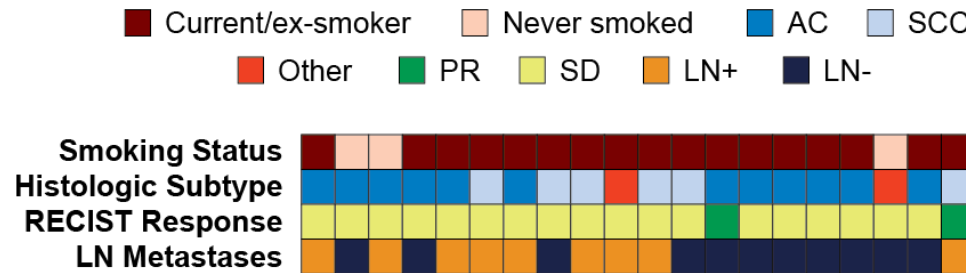
Neoadjuvant Nivolumab Schema



- **Primary endpoints:** Safety and feasibility
- **Also evaluated:** Tumor pathological response; expression of PD-L1; mutational burden; and mutation-associated, neoantigen-specific T-cell responses

Pathological Assessment of Response to Neoadjuvant Nivolumab

% of Pathological Regression According to Subgroup



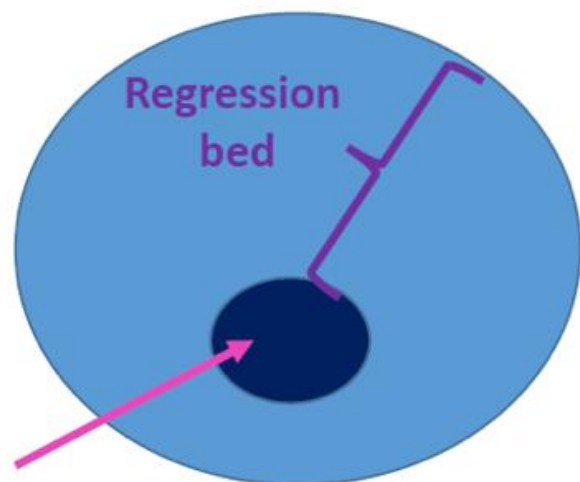
- Major pathological response occurred in 9/20 resected tumors (45%; 95% CI, 23-68)

Treatment related adverse events in 23%
No treatment-related surgical delays

New concept

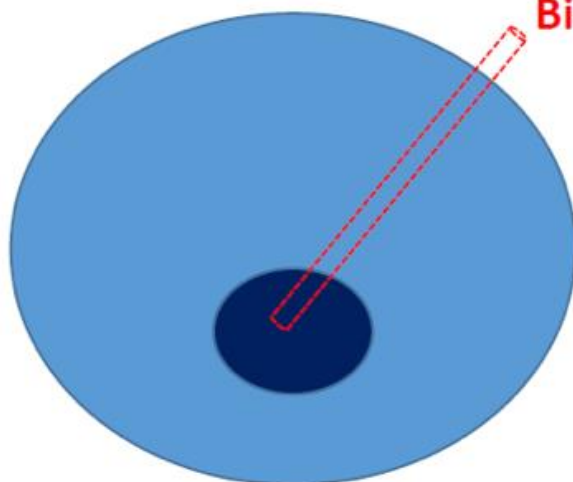
MPR_{bx} = Major pathologic response (MPR, $\leq 10\%$ residual viable tumor) assessed on biopsy, rather than definitive surgical resection

irPR score=10% RVT

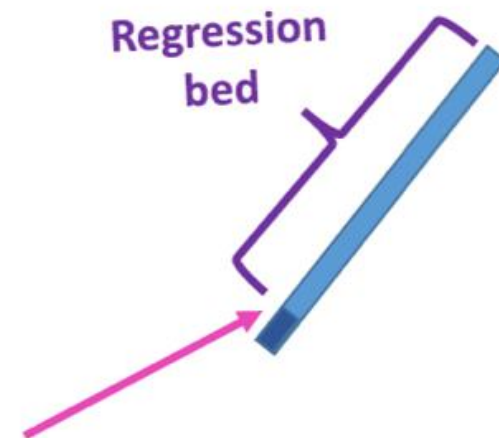


Residual tumor

Biopsy



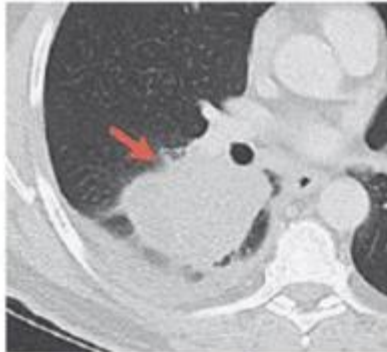
irPR score=10% RVT



Residual tumor

Radiographic response is not predictive

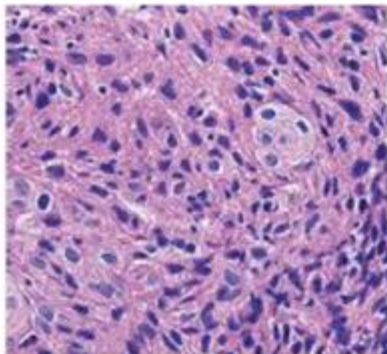
Patient 1



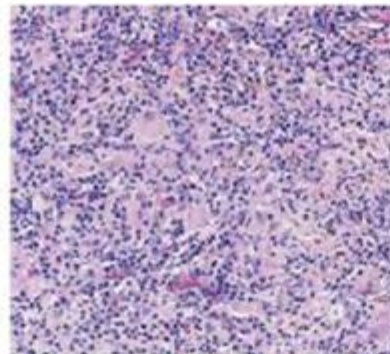
Pretreatment Imaging



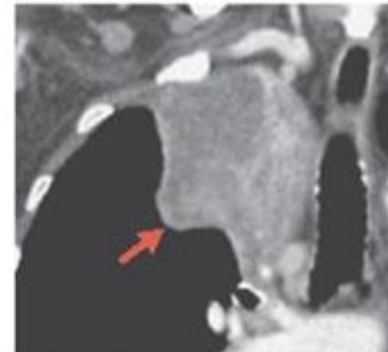
Week 4 (Before Surgery)



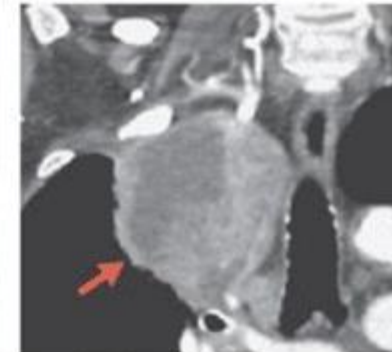
Pretreatment Tumor Biopsy Resection Specimen
CPR in Tumor
Residual Nodal Disease



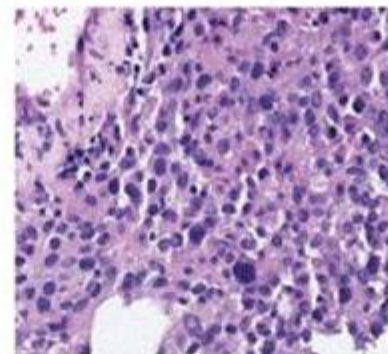
Patient 5



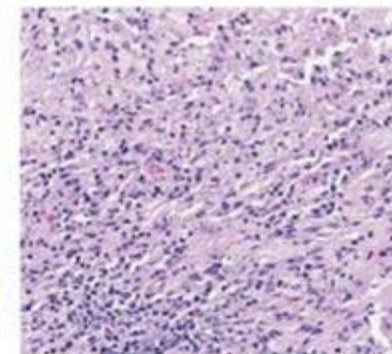
Pretreatment Imaging

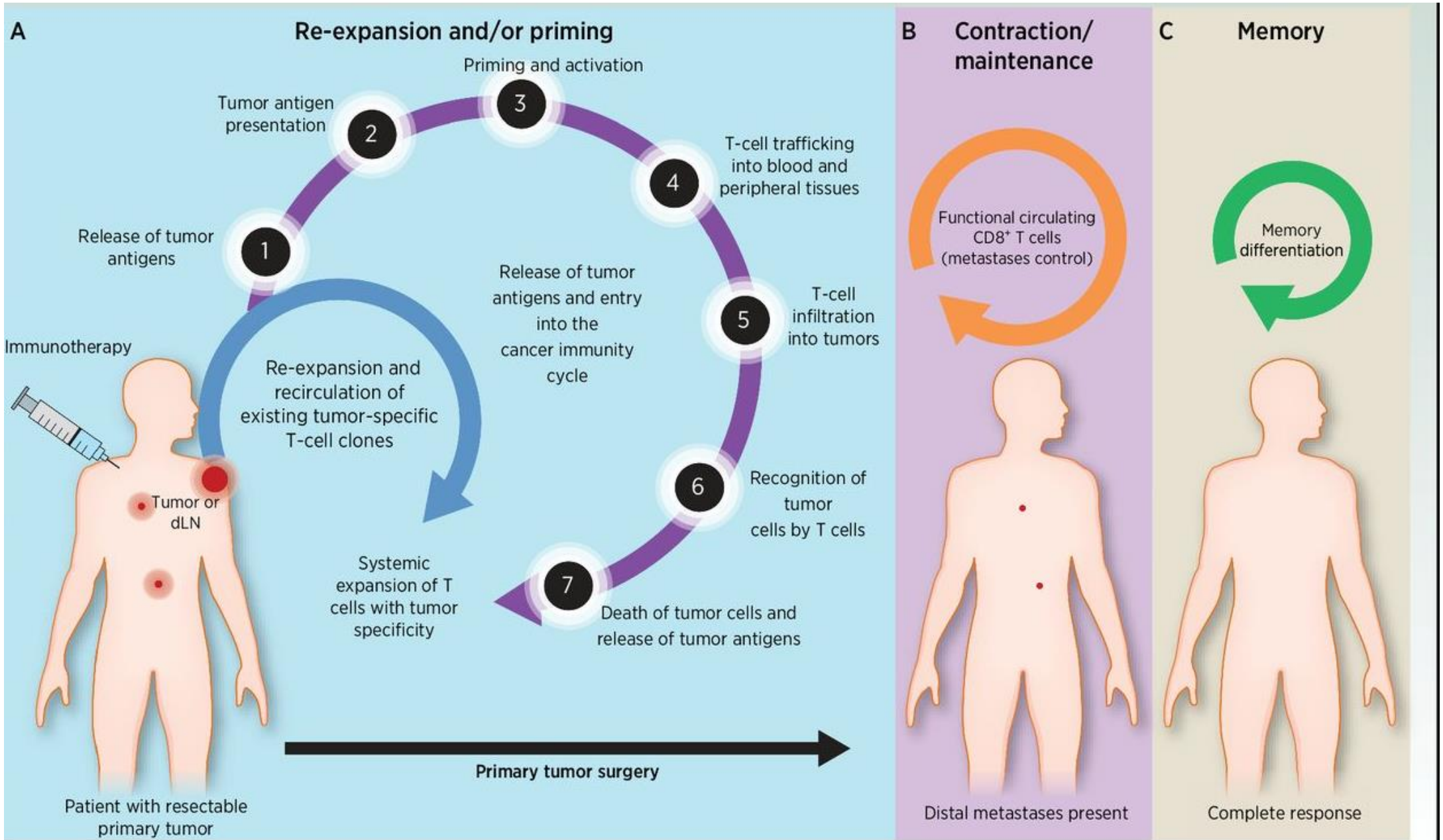


Week 4 (Before Surgery)

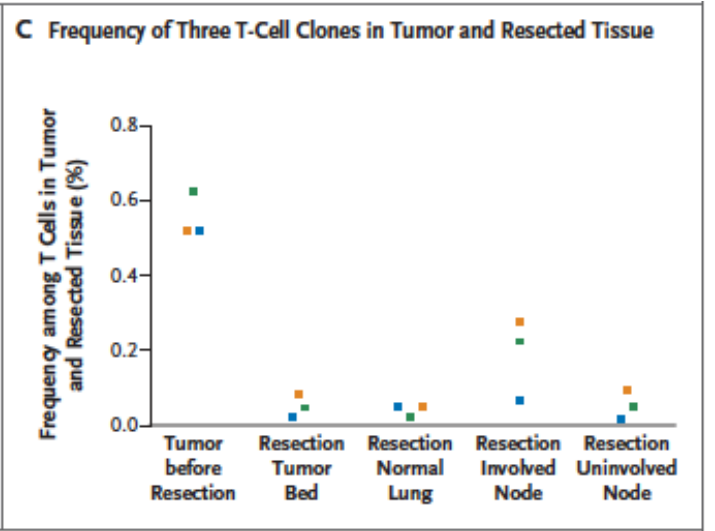
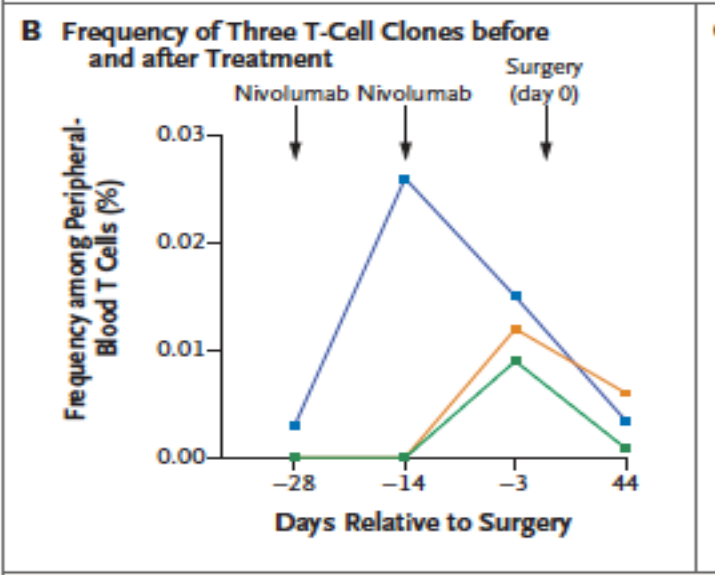
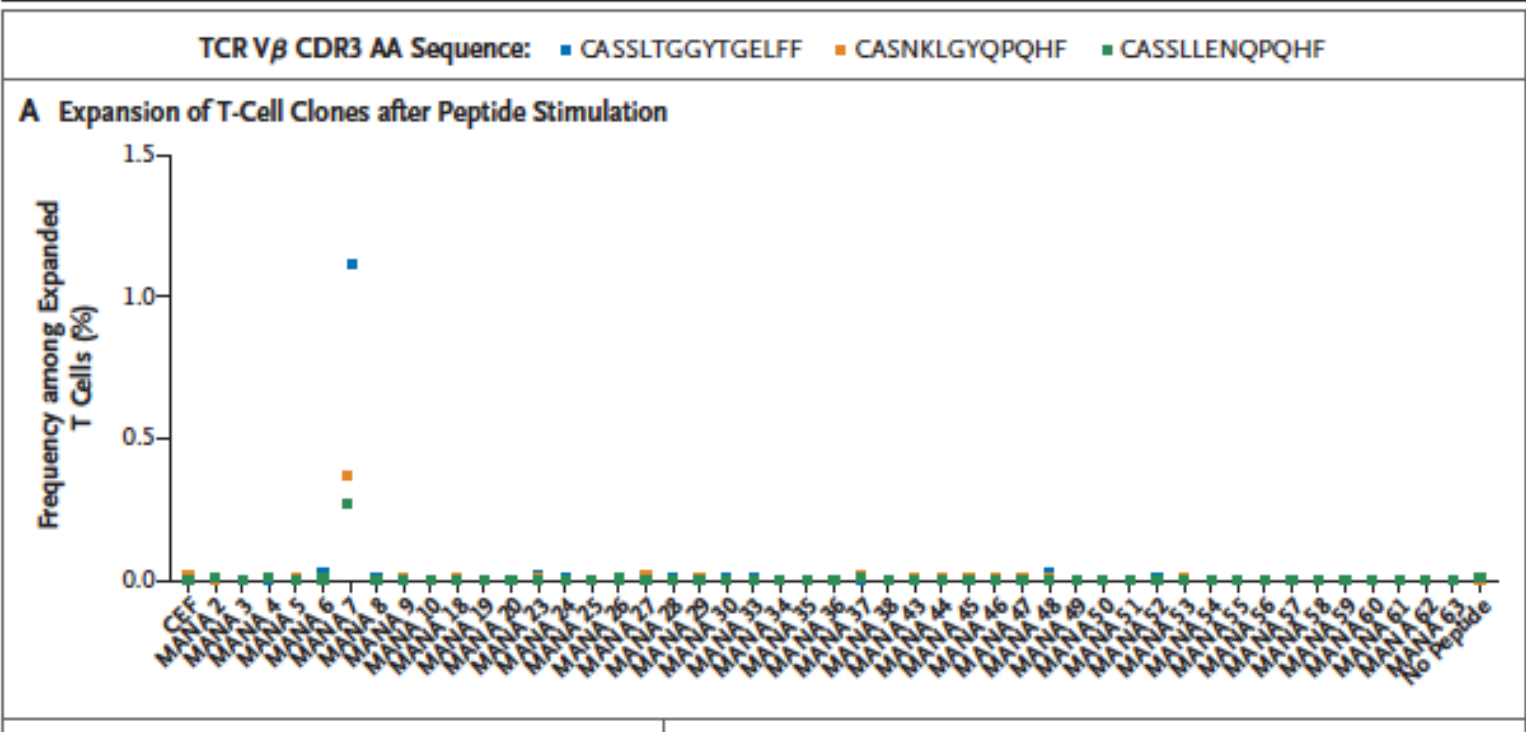


Pretreatment Tumor Biopsy Resection Specimen
MPR
90% Tumor Regression





Identification of Mutation-Associated, Neoantigen-Specific T Cells after Neoadjuvant Treatment with Nivolumab



1. Forde PM et al. N Engl J Med. 2018;378:1976-1986.

Surgical and Clinical Outcomes With Neoadjuvant Atezolizumab in Resectable Stage IB-IIIB NSCLC: LCMC3 Trial Primary Analysis

Jay M. Lee,¹ Jamie Chaff,² Alan Nicholas,³ G. Alexander Patterson,⁴ Saiana N. Waqar,⁴ Eric M. Toloza,⁵ Eric Haura,⁵ Dan J. Raz,⁶ Karen L. Reckamp,⁷ Robert E. Merritt,⁸ Dwight Owen,⁸ David J. Finley,⁹ Ciaran J. McNamee,¹⁰ Justin D. Blasberg,¹¹ Edward B. Garon,¹ John D. Mitchell,¹² Robert C. Doebele,¹² Frank Baciewicz,¹³ Misako Nagasaka,¹⁴ Harvey I. Pass,¹⁵ Katja Schulze,³ See Phan,³ Ann Johnson,³ Paul A. Bunn,¹² Bruce E. Johnson,¹⁶ Mark G. Kris,² David J. Kwiatkowski,¹⁰ Ignacio I. Wistuba,¹⁷ David P. Carbone,⁸ Valerie W. Rusch²

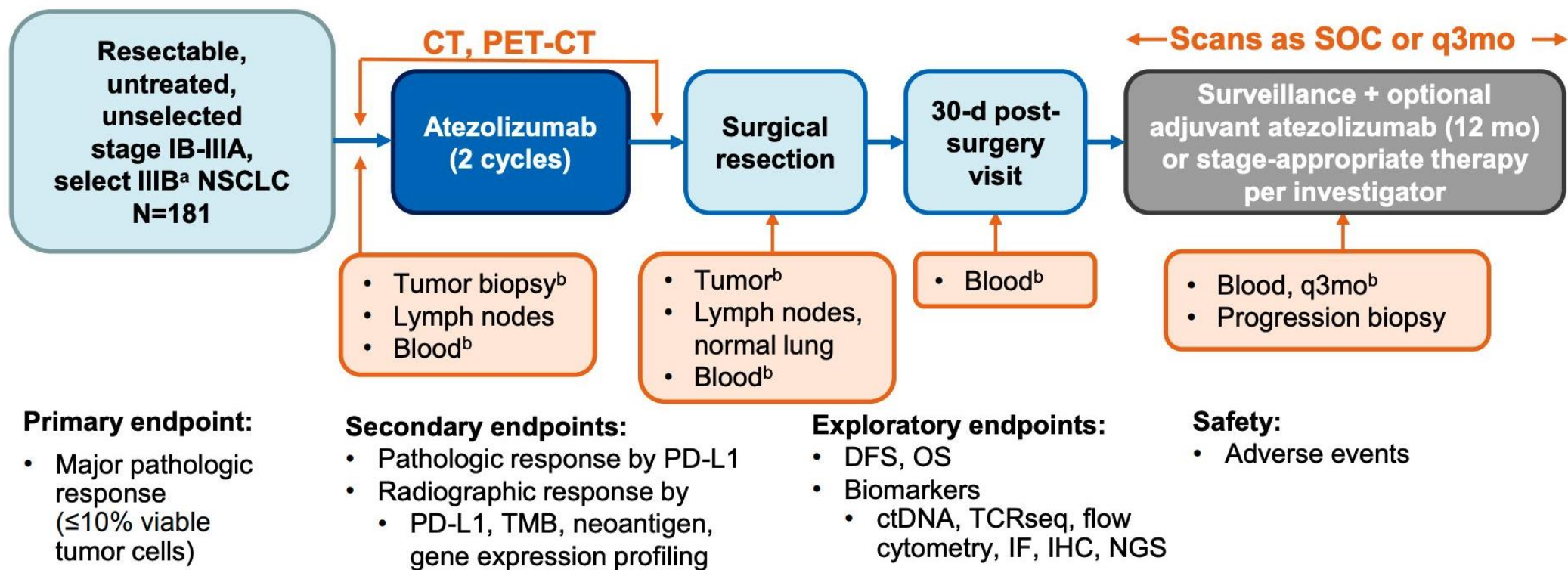
¹David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, USA; ²Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA; ³Genentech, Inc, South San Francisco, CA, USA; ⁴Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, MO, USA; ⁵Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa, FL, USA; ⁶City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center Los Angeles, CA, USA; ⁷Cedars Sinai (previously City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center), Los Angeles, CA, USA; ⁸The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, Columbus, OH, USA; ⁹Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, NH, USA; ¹⁰Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, MA, USA; ¹¹Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA; ¹²University of Colorado Cancer Center, Aurora, CO, USA; ¹³Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, USA; ¹⁴Karmanos Cancer Institute, Detroit, MI, USA; ¹⁵New York University, New York, NY, USA; ¹⁶Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA; ¹⁷The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA

Presented by Dr Jay M. Lee LCMC3: Neoadjuvant Atezolizumab in Resectable NSCLC JANUARY 28-31, 2021 | WORLDWIDE VIRTUAL EVENT



Roma, Ponte Flaminio

LCMC3 study design



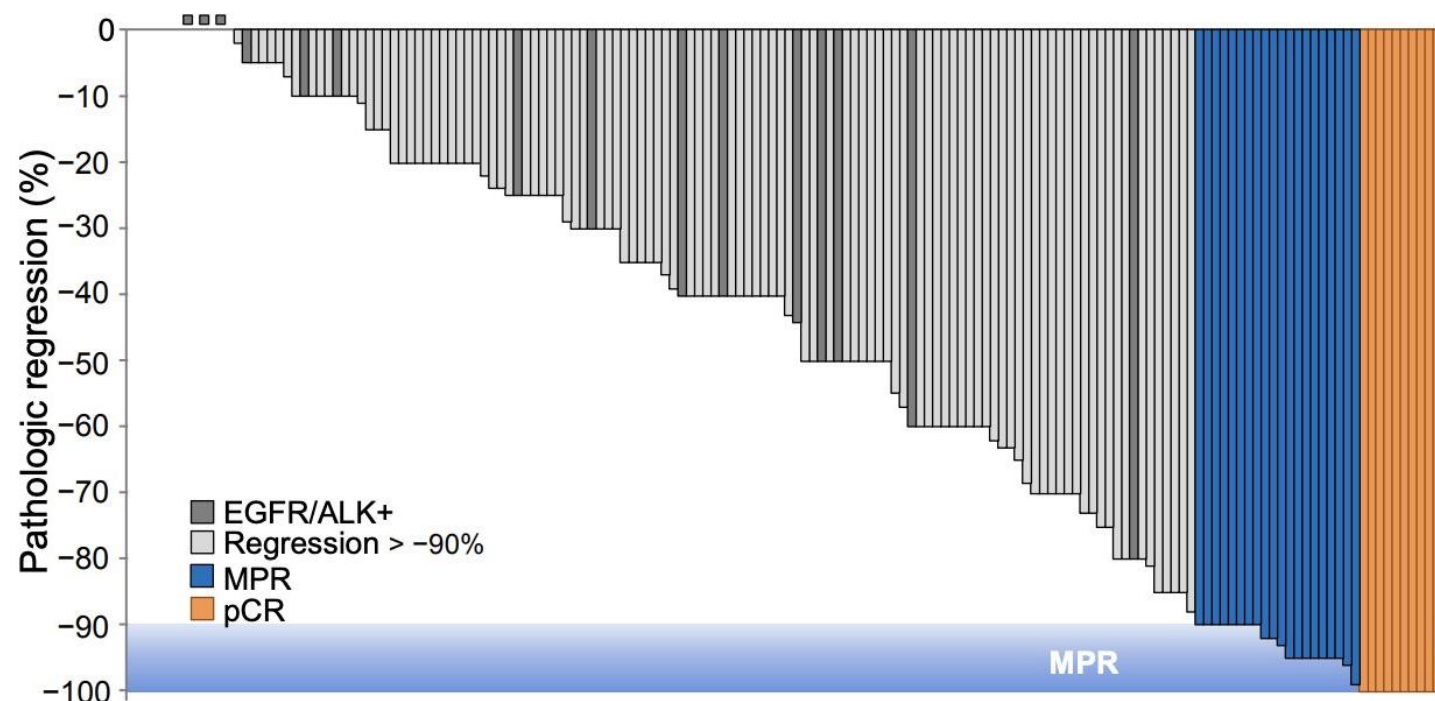
NCT02927301

ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; DFS, disease-free survival; IF, immunofluorescence; NGS, next-generation sequencing; PET-CT, positron emission tomography-computed tomography; q3mo, every 3 months. SOC, standard of care; TCRseq, T-cell receptor sequencing; TMB, tumor mutational burden.

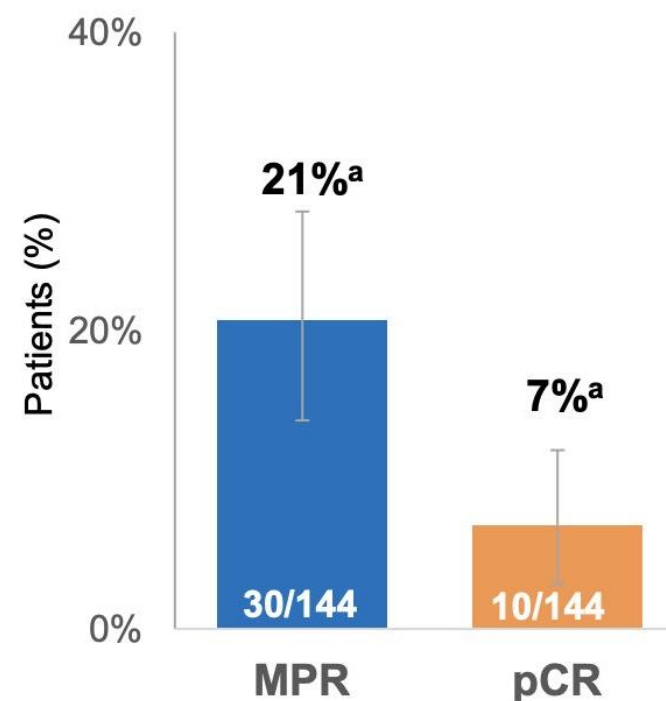
^a T4 due to mediastinal organ invasion were excluded. ^b Mandatory

Primary endpoint: major pathologic response in surgery population

Pathologic response in surgery population (n=159)



Major pathologic response in primary efficacy population (n=144)



Pathologic regression defined as % viable tumor cells – 100%.
MPR, major pathologic response; pCR, pathologic complete response.

^a Error bars indicate 95% CI.

Conclusions

- The primary endpoint of MPR was met, with an observed MPR of 21%
 - pCR rate was 7%
- Neoadjuvant atezolizumab monotherapy was well tolerated, with no new safety signals
- Following neoadjuvant atezolizumab, resection was performed:
 - with low perioperative morbidity and mortality
 - usually within the narrow protocol window (88%)
 - within short time frame from completion of atezolizumab
 - with high R0 resection rates (92%)
- This study provides additional clinical evidence for the ongoing placebo-controlled Phase III IMpower030 study of atezolizumab combined with platinum-based chemotherapy¹

1. NCT03456063.

ARTICLES

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-01224-2>

nature
medicine



Neoadjuvant nivolumab or nivolumab plus ipilimumab in operable non-small cell lung cancer: the phase 2 randomized NEOSTAR trial

Tina Cascone¹✉, William N. William Jr^{1,15}, Annikka Weissferdt^{2,3}, Cheuk H. Leung⁴, Heather Y. Lin⁴, Apar Pataer³, Myrna C. B. Godoy⁵, Brett W. Carter⁵, Lorenzo Federico⁶, Alexandre Reuben¹, Md Abdul Wadud Khan⁷, Hitoshi Dejima^{8,16}, Alejandro Francisco-Cruz⁸, Edwin R. Parra⁸, Luisa M. Solis⁸, Junya Fujimoto⁸, Hai T. Tran¹, Neda Kalhor², Frank V. Fossella¹, Frank E. Mott¹, Anne S. Tsao¹, George Blumenschein Jr¹, Xiuning Le¹, Jianjun Zhang¹, Ferdinandos Skoulidis¹, Jonathan M. Kurie¹, Mehmet Altan¹, Charles Lu¹, Bonnie S. Glisson¹, Lauren Averett Byers¹, Yasir Y. Elamin¹, Reza J. Mehran³, David C. Rice³, Garrett L. Walsh³, Wayne L. Hofstetter³, Jack A. Roth³, Mara B. Antonoff³, Humam Kadara⁸, Cara Haymaker⁸, Chantale Bernatchez^{6,8}, Nadim J. Ajami⁹, Robert R. Jenq^{9,10,11}, Padmanee Sharma^{12,13}, James P. Allison¹³, Andrew Futreal⁹, Jennifer A. Wargo⁷, Ignacio I. Wistuba^{1,8}, Stephen G. Swisher^{1,3}, J. Jack Lee^{1,4}, Don L. Gibbons¹, Ara A. Vaporciyan³, John V. Heymach^{1,14,17} and Boris Sepesi^{3,17}

Ipilimumab improves clinical outcomes when combined with nivolumab in metastatic non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), but



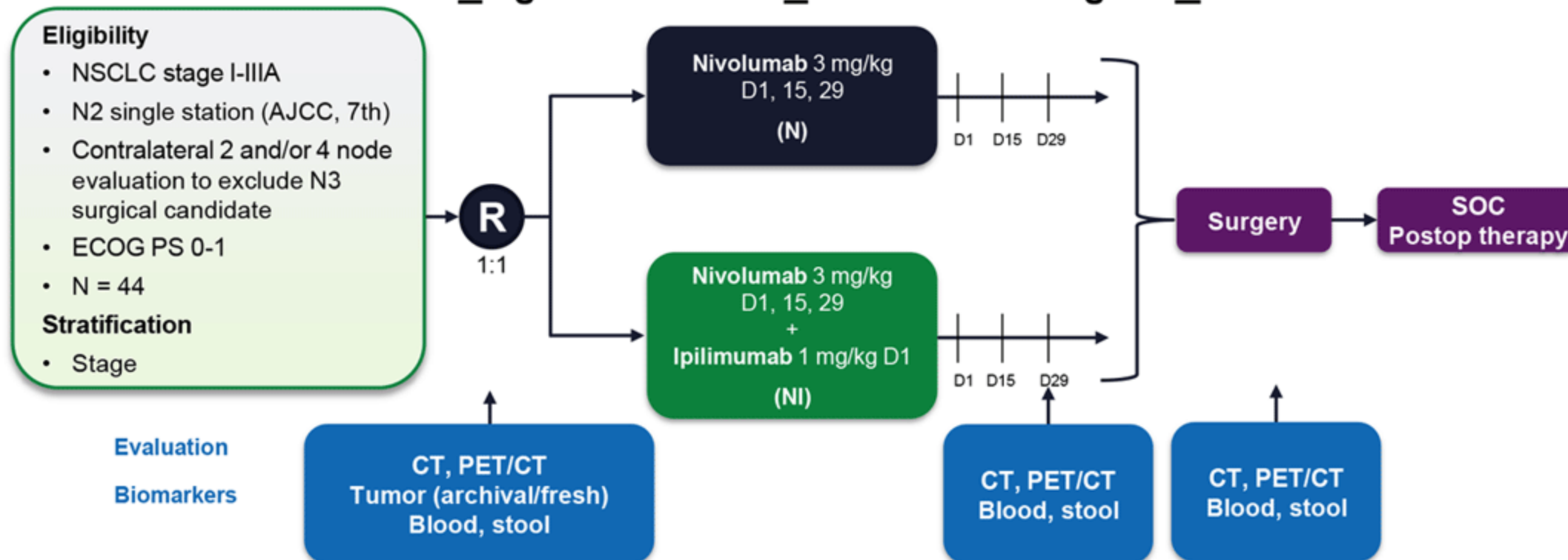
Roma, Ponte Cestio



Roma, Ponte Fabricio

NEOSTAR: study design

Phase 2 Study of Induction Checkpoint Blockade for Untreated Stage I-IIIa NSCLC Amenable for Surgical Resection



- **Primary endpoint:** $\leq 10\%$ viable tumor (MPR)

1. Cascone T et al. ASCO 2019. Abstract 8504.

NEOSTAR primary endpoint: MPR rate

Percentage viable tumor	Total (<i>n</i> = 44) <i>n</i> (%)	Nivo (<i>n</i> = 23) <i>n</i> (%)	Nivo + Ipi (<i>n</i> = 21) <i>n</i> (%)	□ value
MPR (≤10% viable tumor) ^{a+b}	13 (29%)	5 (22%) (95% CI: 7–44%)	8 (38%) (95% CI: 18–62%)	0.235
0% viable tumor (pCR) ^a	8 (18%)	2 (9%) (95% CI: 1–28%)	6 (29%) (95% CI: 11–52%)	0.126
1–10% viable tumor ^b	5 (11%)	3 (13%)	2 (10%)	
11–50% viable tumor	10 (23%)	6 (26%)	4 (19%)	
51–100% viable tumor	14 (32%)	10 (43%)	4 (19%)	
‡No surgery on trial	7 (16%)	2 (9%)	5 (23%)	

Articles

Neoadjuvant chemotherapy and nivolumab in resectable non-small-cell lung cancer (NADIM): an open-label, multicentre, single-arm, phase 2 trial



Mariano Provencio, Ernest Nadal, Amelia Insa, Maria Rosario Garcia-Campela, Joaquín Casal-Rubio, Manuel Dömine, Margarita Majem, Delvys Rodríguez-Abreu, Alex Martínez-Martí, Javier De Castro Carpeño, Manuel Cobo, Guillermo López Vivanco, Edel Del Barco, Reyes Bernabé Caro, Nuria Viñolas, Isidoro Barneto Aranda, Santiago Viteri, Eva Pereira, Ana Royuela, Marta Casarrubios, Clara Salas Antón, Edwin R Parra, Ignacio Wistuba, Virginia Calvo, Raquel Laza-Briviesca, Atocha Romero, Bartomeu Massutí, Alberto Cruz-Bermúdez

Summary

Background Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is terminal in most patients with locally advanced stage disease. *Lancet Oncol* 2020



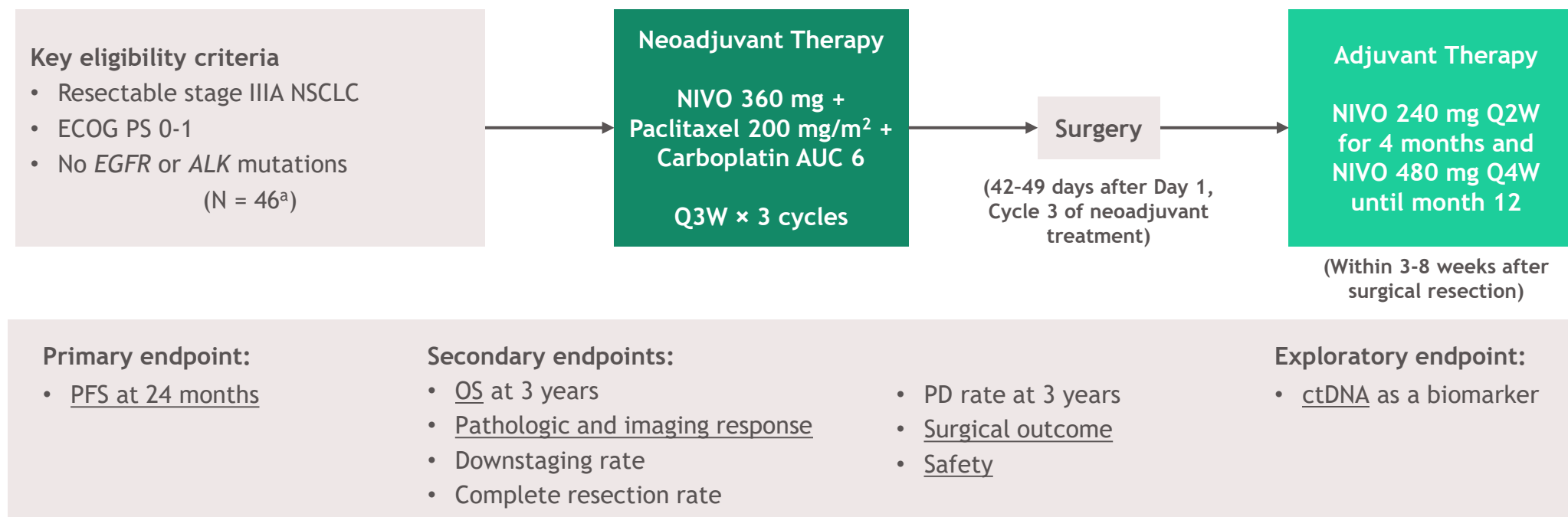
Roma, Ponte Sisto



Roma, Ponte Principe Amedeo di Savoia Aosta

NADIM (NCT03081689): study design

- NADIM was a phase 2, open-label study that assessed neoadjuvant NIVO in combination with chemotherapy in resectable stage IIIA NSCLC
- Patients received the combination prior to surgical resection, followed by adjuvant NIVO therapy

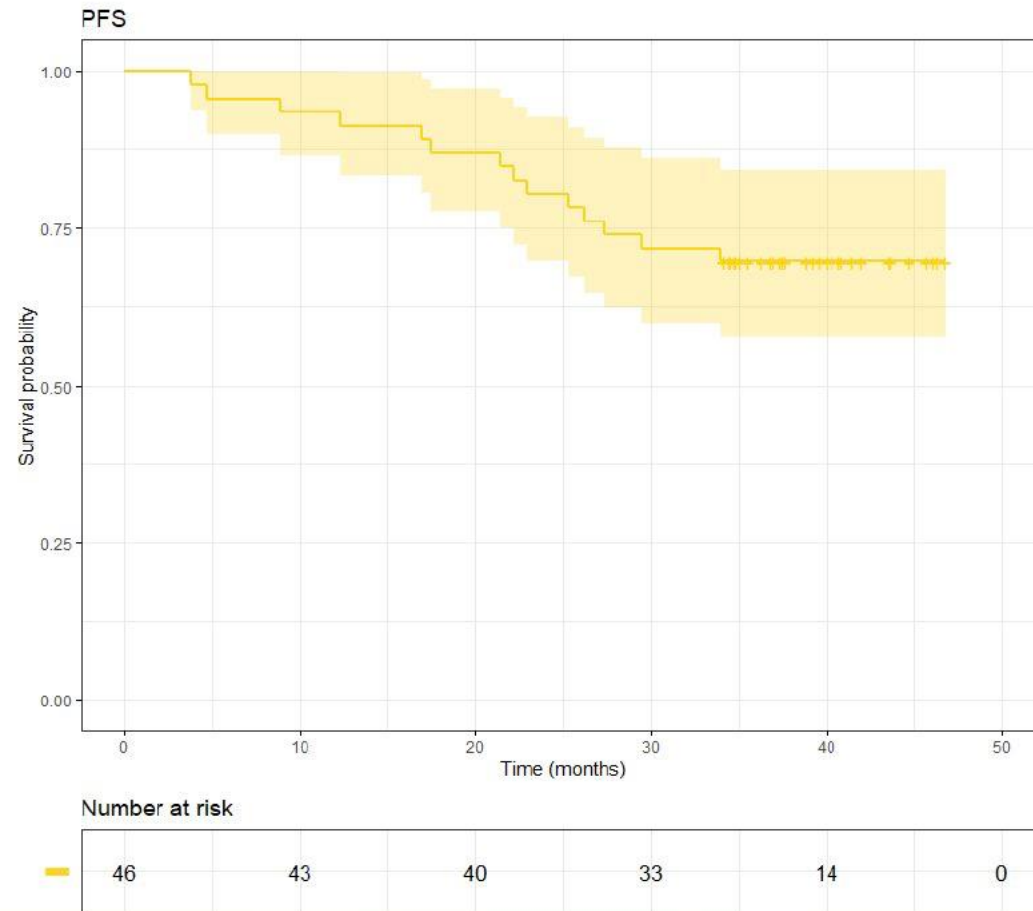


^aModified ITT population, which included all patients who received neoadjuvant treatment. Per-protocol population (n = 37) included all patients who had tumor resection and received ≥ 1 cycle of adjuvant treatment.

AUC, area under the curve; ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; NIVO, nivolumab; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; OS, overall survival; PD, progressive disease; PFS, progression-free survival; PS, performance status.

Provencio M et al. *Lancet Oncol.* 2020;21:1413-1422.

RESULTS: PFS



ITT population:

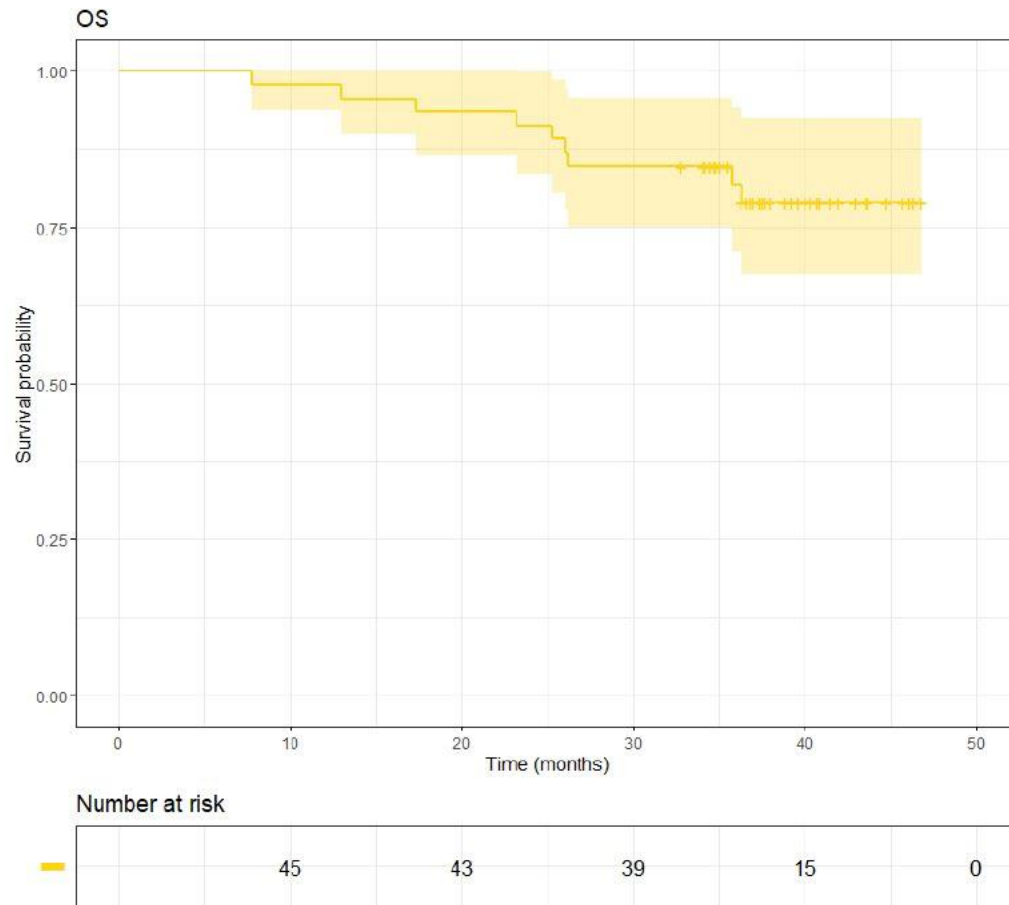
- **PFS 69.6% (95%CI: 54.1-80.7%) at 36 and 42 months.**

PP population:

- **PFS 81.1% (95%CI: 64.4-90.5%) at 36 and 42 months.**

The median PFS for patients who had progressive disease was 21.4 months (95% CI: 8.8–26.2 months)

RESULTS: OS



ITT population:

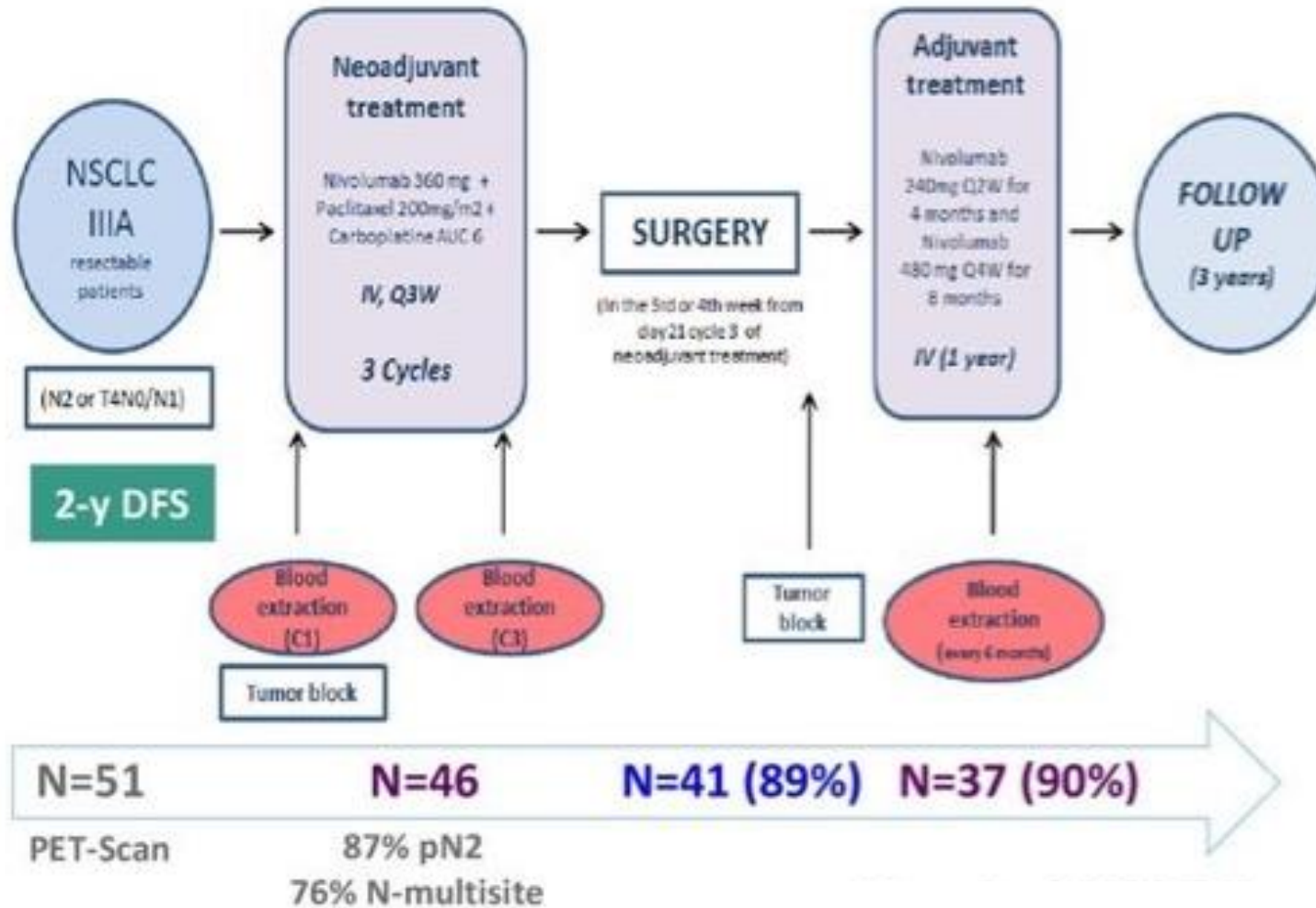
- **OS 81.9%** (95% CI: 66.8-90.6%) **at 36 months.**
- **OS 78.9%** (95%CI: 63.1-88.6%) **at 42 months.**

PP population:

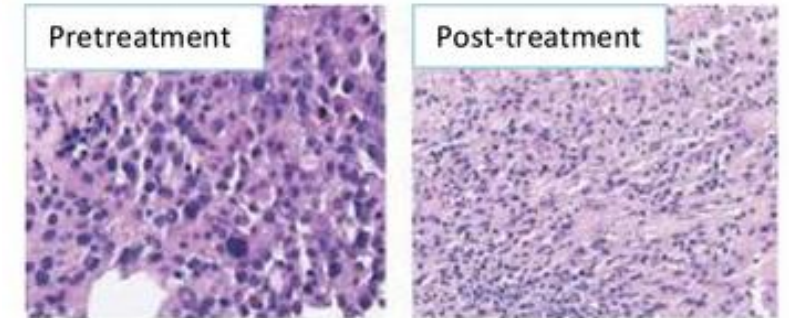
- **OS 91.0%** (95%CI: 74.2-97.0%) **at 36 months.**
- **OS 87.3%** (95%CI: 69.3-95.1%) **at 42 months.**

NADIM

Chemo-Immunotherapy for Stage IIIA Resectable NSCLC: Phase 2 Study



MPR ($\leq 10\%$ viable cells): 83%
pCR: 59%



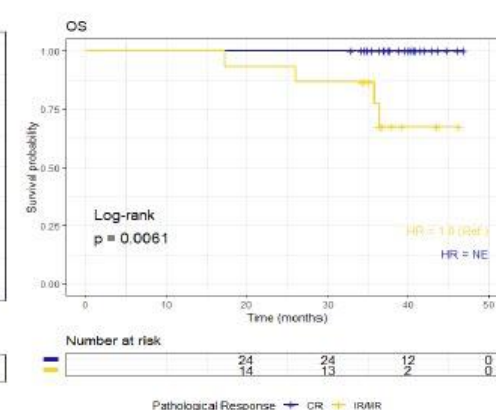
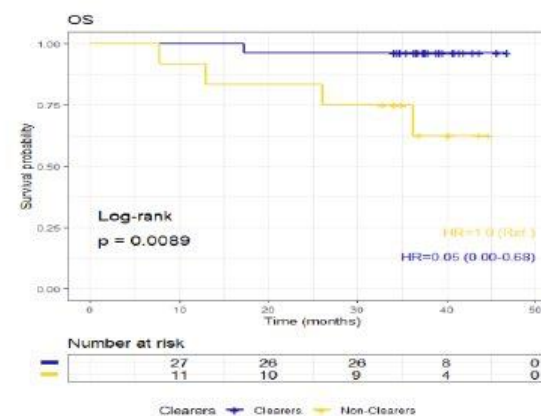
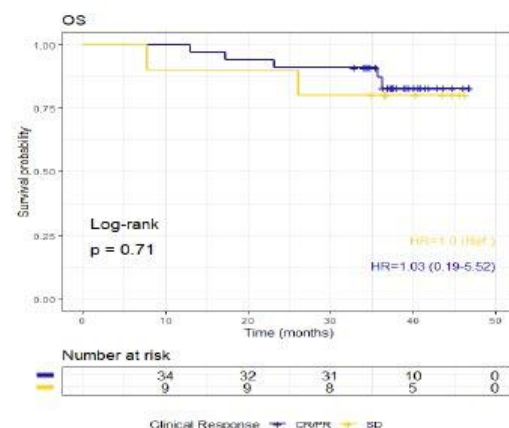
Survival surrogate	HR (PFS)	95% CI	P	Adjusted PFS C-statistic	95% CI	HR (OS)	95% CI	P	Adjusted OS C-statistic	95% CI
Clinical response (CR+PR vs SD)	0.93	0.24-3.56	0.921	0.61	0.45-0.78	1.03	0.19-5.52	0.974	0.68	0.44-0.93
Pathological response (Complete vs Major+Incomplete)	0.25	0.06-1.00	0.05	0.68	0.52-0.84	--	--	--	0.83	0.75-0.91
ctDNA Clearance	0.3	0.08-1.11	0.072	0.62	0.43-0.81	0.05	0.00-0.68	0.024	0.79	0.55-1.03

MOLECULAR RESPONSE

Clearers ■

Non-clearers ■

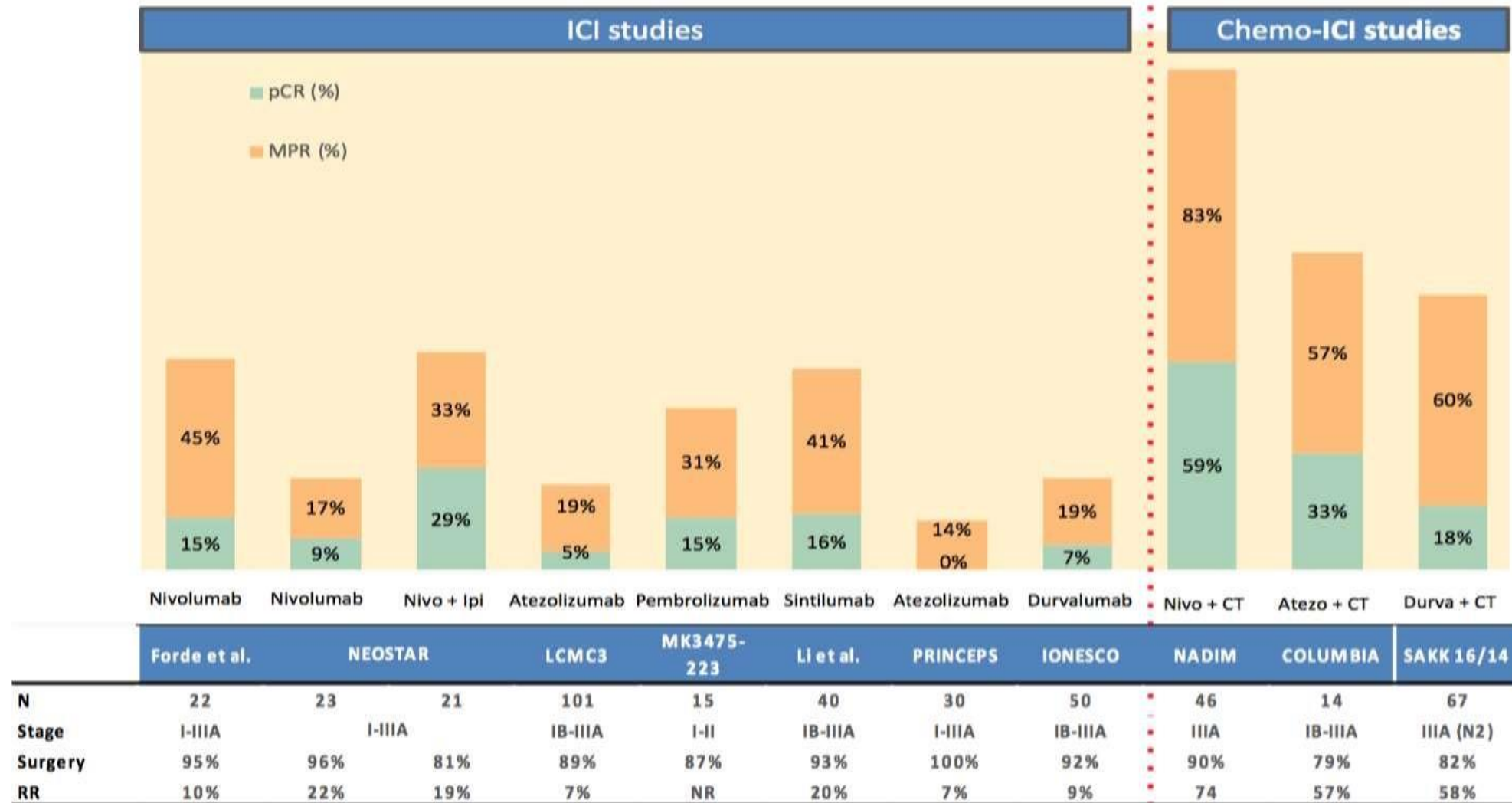
ctDNA clearance (i.e lack of detectable ctDNA at the end of neoadjuvant tx), **significantly predicted long-term survival.**



TAKE HOME MESSAGE

- NADIM showed **positive results in terms of survival, OS rate** at 36 months of **81.9% in the ITT** population rising to **91.0% in the PP** population with a 94% data maturity.
- **PFS** at 36 months **was 69.6% and 81.1% in the ITT and PP** population, respectively. Survival time was almost three times that reported in historical series, in which the 3-year OS did not exceed 30%.
- The addition of neoadjuvant nivolumab to chemotherapy did **not worse the safety profile**.
- In an exploratory analysis, **clinical responses** based on CT-scans and according to RECIST v1.1 criteria **did not predict survival** outcomes. However, in the multivariate analysis, pathological complete response (**pCR**) or **undetectable ctDNA levels after neoadjuvant** treatment significantly **predicted long-term survival**.

Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy or Chemo-immunotherapy?





Nivolumab + platinum-doublet chemotherapy vs chemotherapy as neoadjuvant treatment for resectable (IB-IIIA) non-small cell lung cancer: event-free survival results from the phase 3 CheckMate 816 trial

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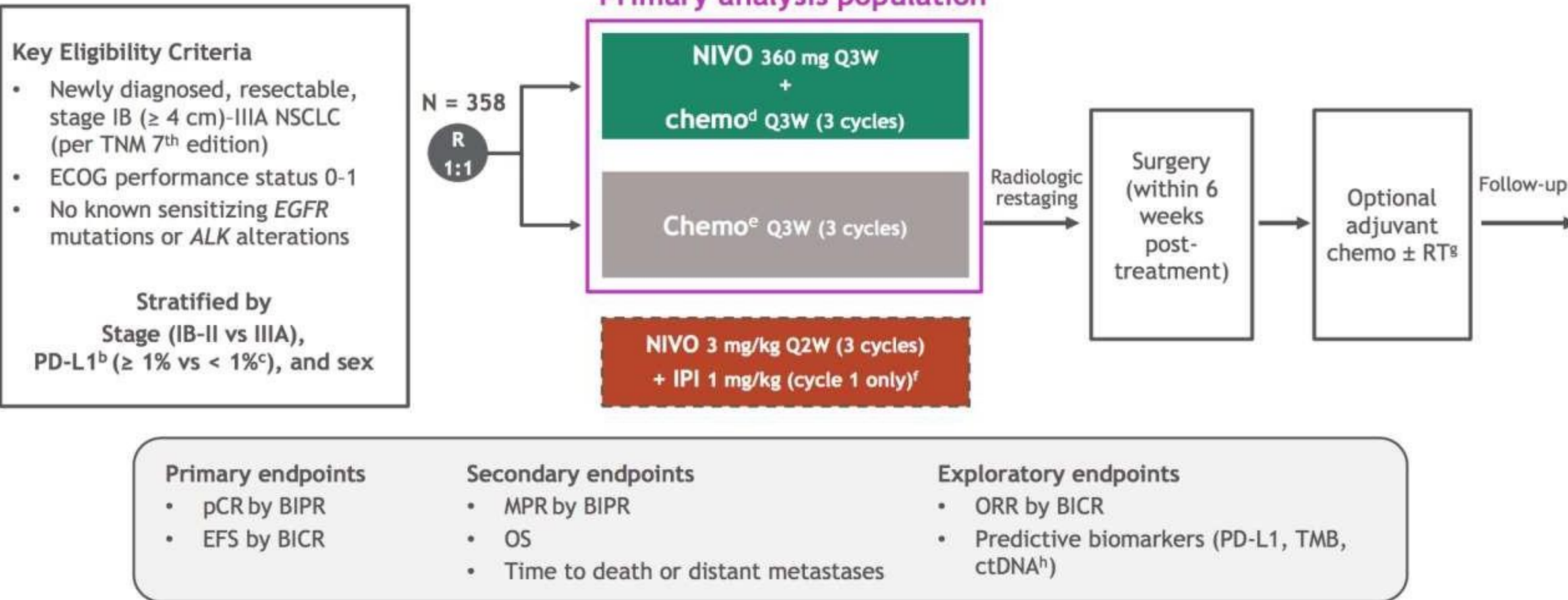
Presentation Number CT012

ID: 1506-IT-2200031; EXP: 12/04/2024

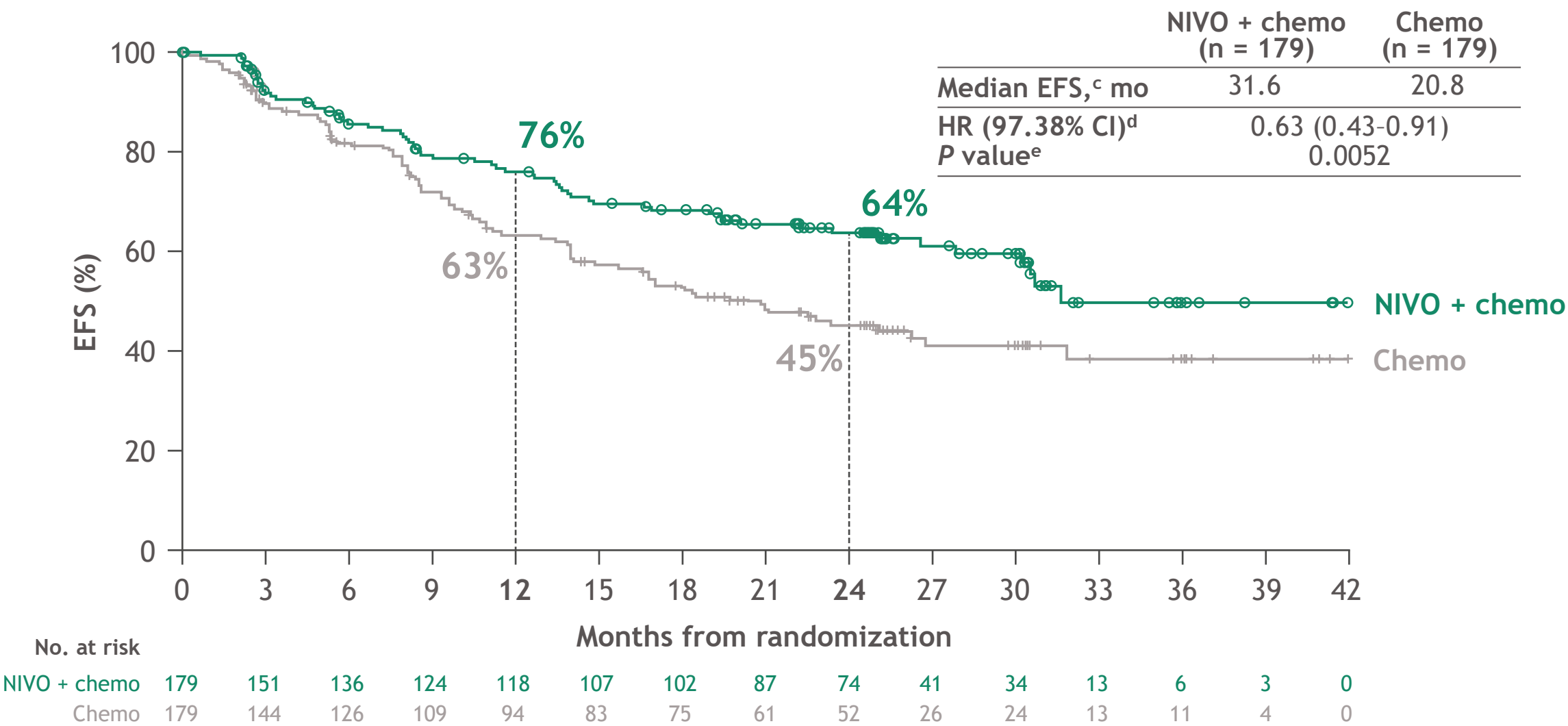


Roma, Ponte della Musica – Armando Trovajoli

CheckMate 816 study design^a

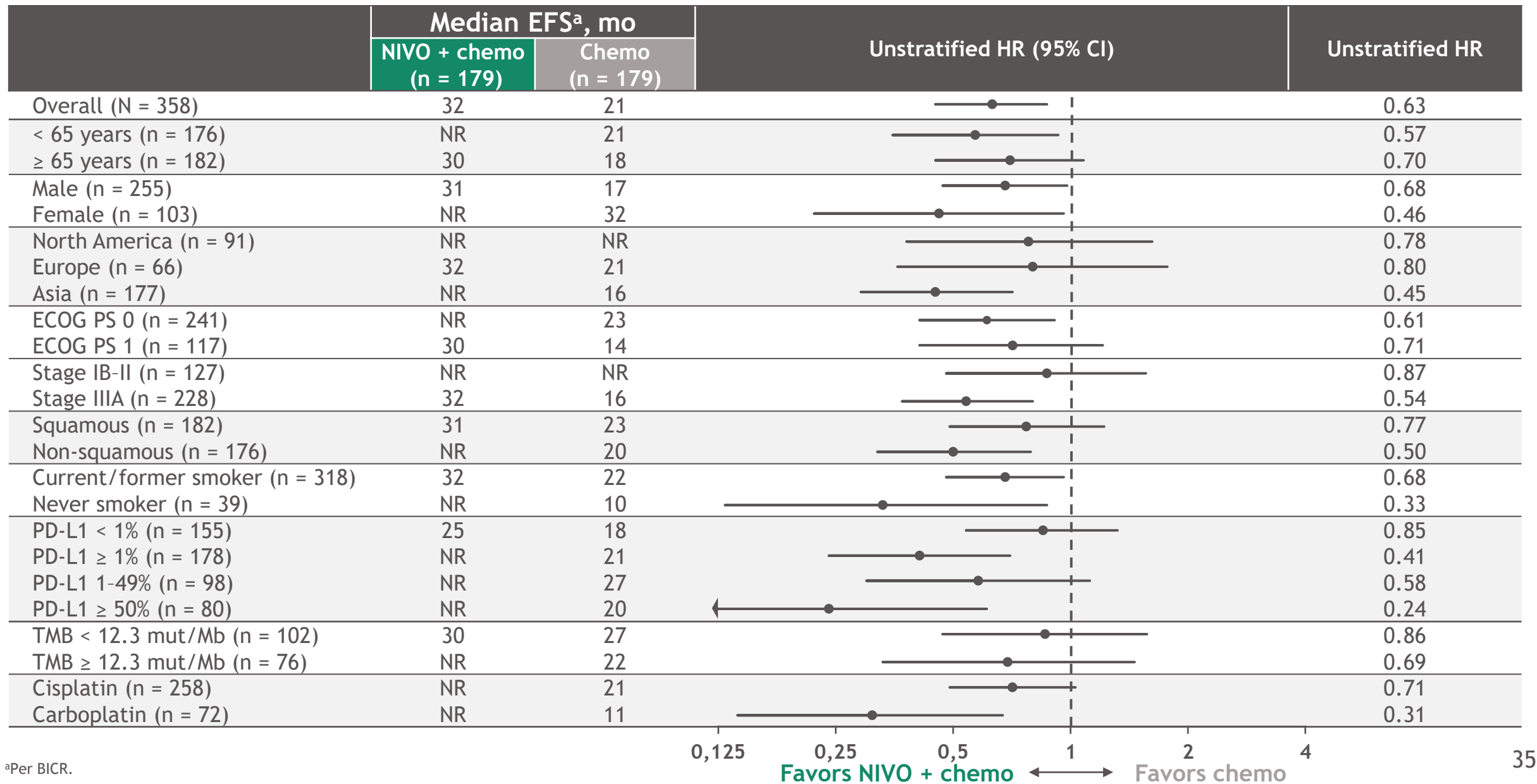


Primary endpoint: EFS^{a,b} with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo vs chemo



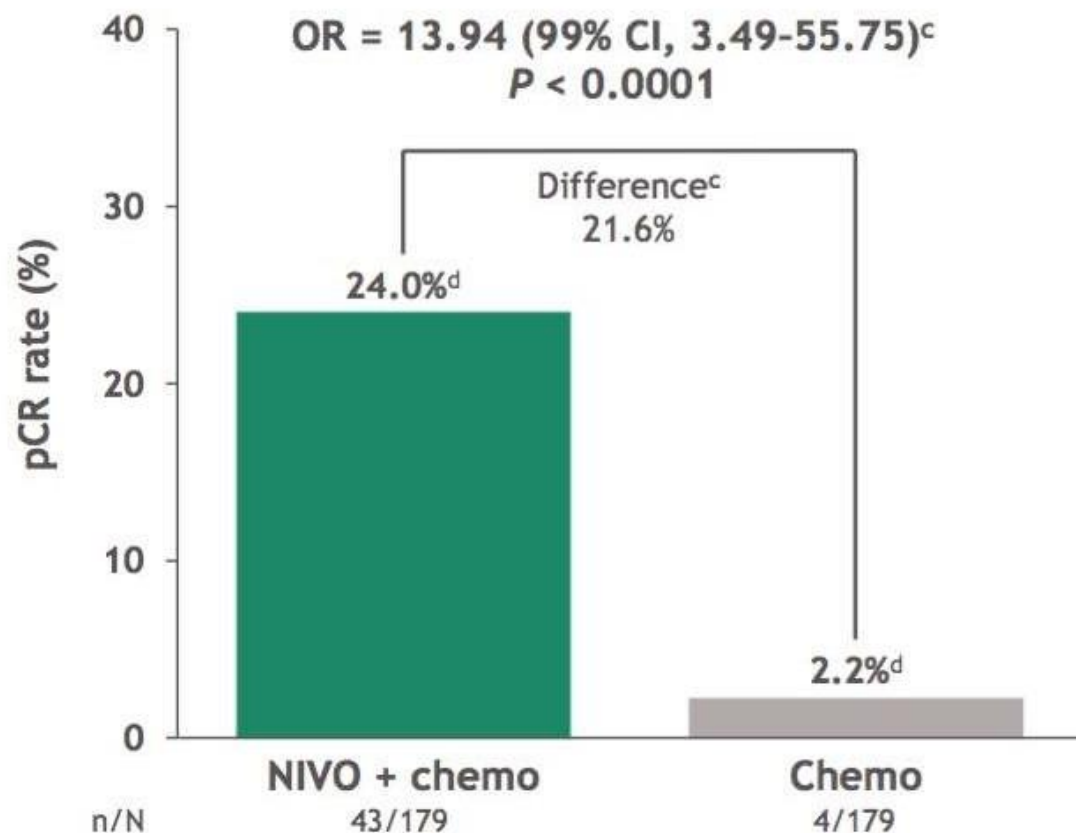
Minimum follow-up: 21 months; median follow-up, 29.5 months.
^aPer BICR; ^bEFS defined as the time from randomization to any progression of disease precluding surgery, progression or recurrence of disease after surgery, progression for patients without surgery, or death due to any cause; patients with subsequent therapy were censored at the last evaluable tumor assessment on or prior to the date of subsequent therapy; ^c95% CI = 30.2-NR (NIVO + chemo) and 14.0-26.7 (chemo); ^d95% CI = 0.45-0.87; ^eThe significance boundary at this interim analysis was 0.0262.

EFS subgroup analysis

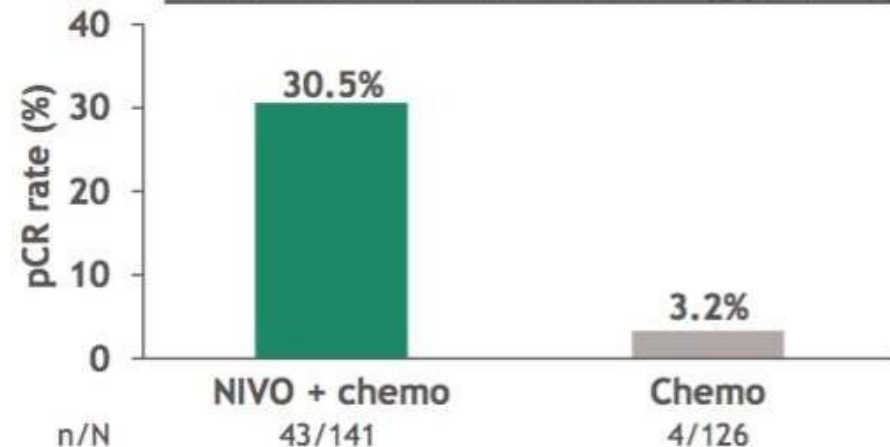


Primary endpoint: pCR^a rate with neoadjuvant NIVO + chemo vs chemo

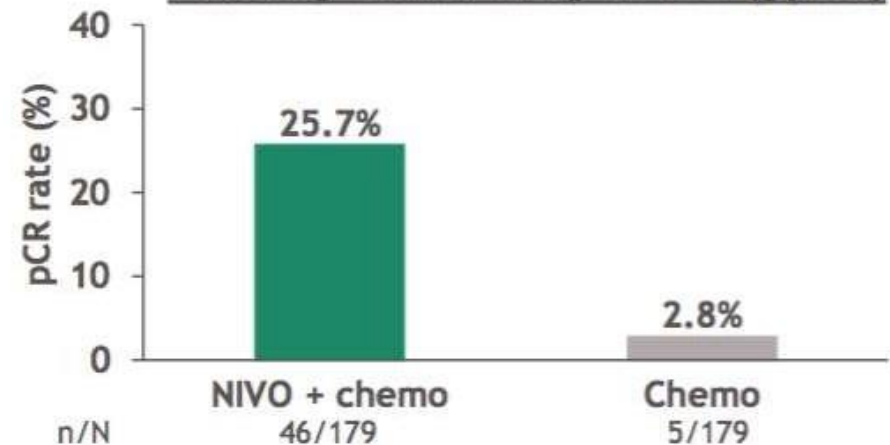
Primary endpoint: ITT (ypT0N0)^b



Patients with resection^e (ypT0N0)

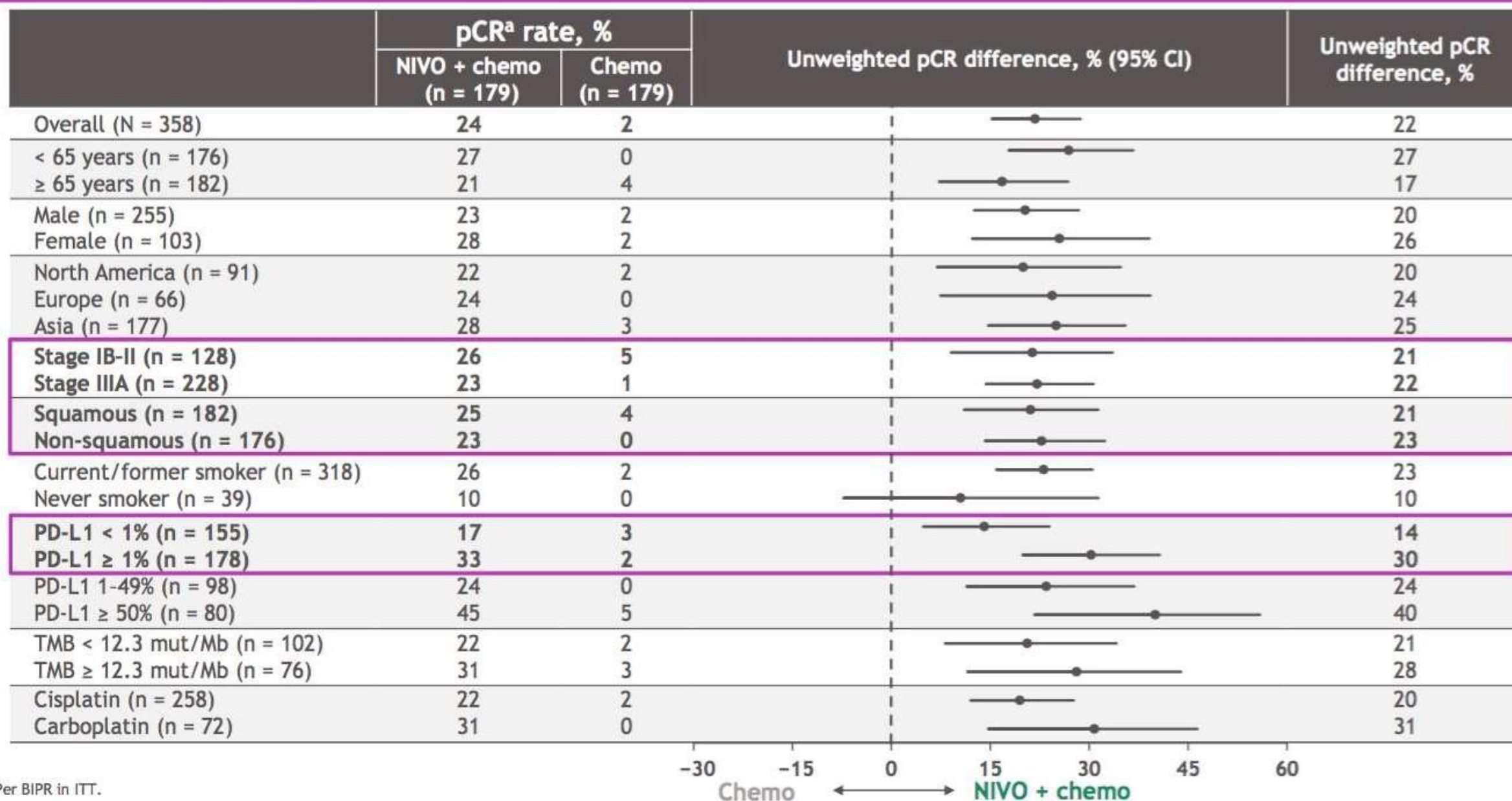


Primary tumor only in ITT (ypT0)



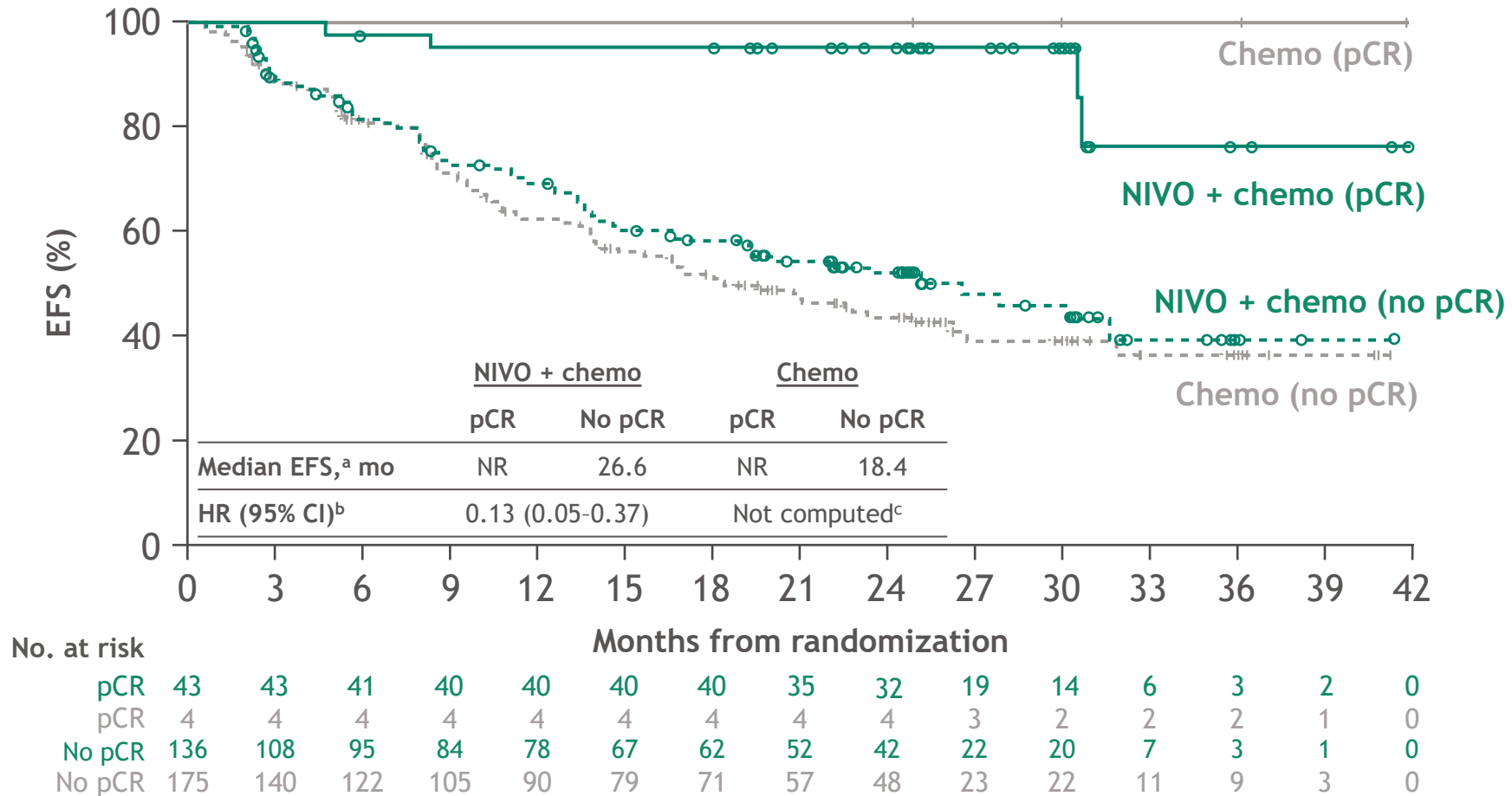
• pCR rate in the exploratory NIVO + IPI arm (ITT) was 20.4% (95% CI, 13.4-29.0)

pCR subgroup analysis



^aPer BIPR in ITT.

Exploratory analysis: EFS by pCR status

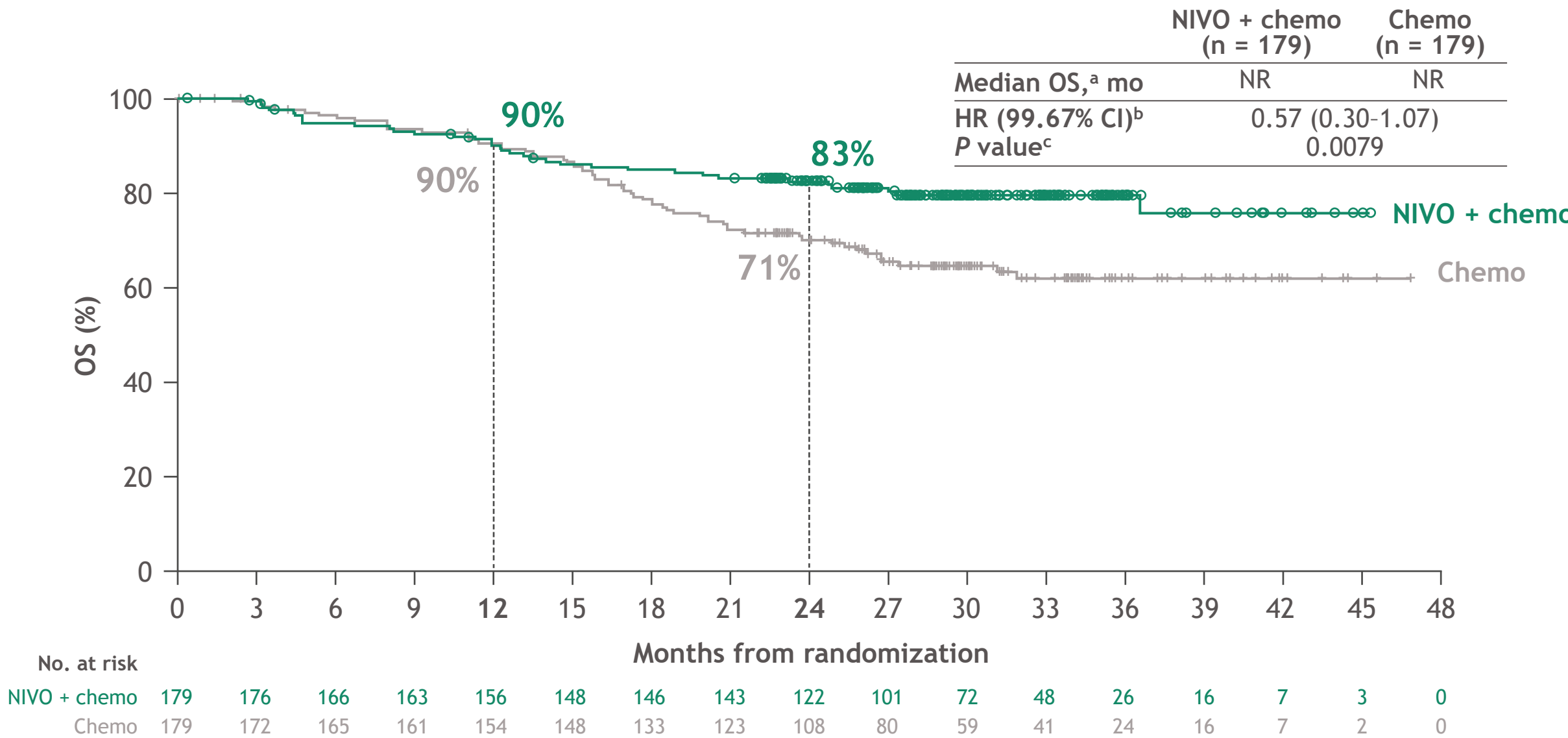


- pCR rates were significantly improved with NIVO + chemo vs chemo (24.0% vs 2.2%)
- In patients without pCR, HR (95% CI) for NIVO + chemo vs chemo was 0.84 (0.61-1.17)

Minimum follow-up: 21 months; median follow-up, 29.5 months.

^a95% CI = 30.6-NR (NIVO + chemo, pCR), 16.6-NR (NIVO + chemo, no pCR) and NR-NR (chemo, pCR), 13.9-26.2 (chemo, no pCR); ^bIn the pooled patient population (NIVO + chemo and chemo arms combined), EFS HR (95% CI) was 0.11 (0.04-0.29) for patients with pCR vs those without pCR; ^cHR was not computed for the chemo arm due to only 4 patients having a pCR.

Overall survival: interim analysis



Minimum follow-up: 21 months; median follow-up, 29.5 months.
^a95% CI = NR-NR (NIVO + chemo) and NR-NR (chemo); ^b95% CI = 0.38-0.87; ^cSignificance boundary for OS (0.0033) was not met at this interim analysis.

Adverse events^a summary

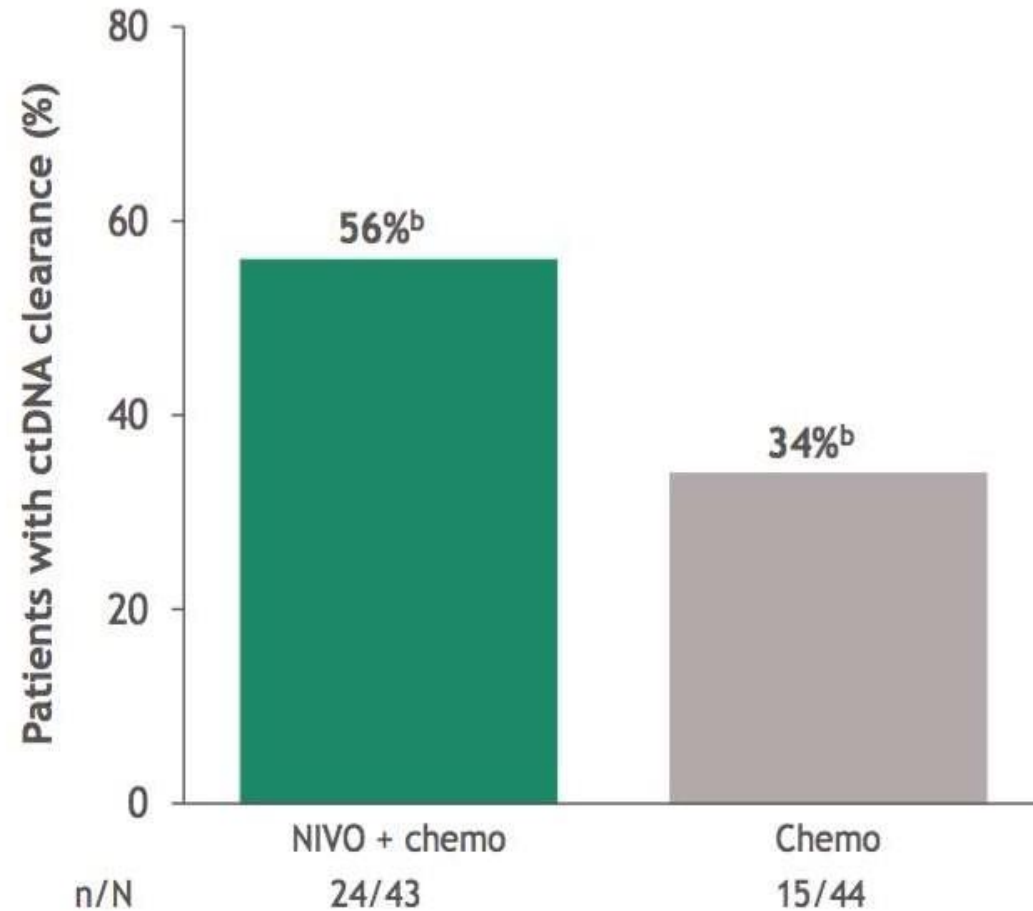
Patients (%)	NIVO + chemo (n = 176)		Chemo (n = 176)	
	Any grade	Grade 3-4	Any grade	Grade 3-4
All AEs	93	41	97	44
TRAEs	82	34	89	37
All AEs leading to discontinuation	10	6	11	4
TRAEs leading to discontinuation	10	6	10	3
All SAEs	17	11	14	10
Treatment-related SAEs	12	8	10	8
Surgery-related AEs ^{b,c}	42	11	47	15
Treatment-related deaths ^d	0		2	

- Grade 5 surgery-related AEs^e were reported in 2 patients in the NIVO + chemo arm and were deemed unrelated to study drug per investigator (1 each due to pulmonary embolism and aortic rupture)

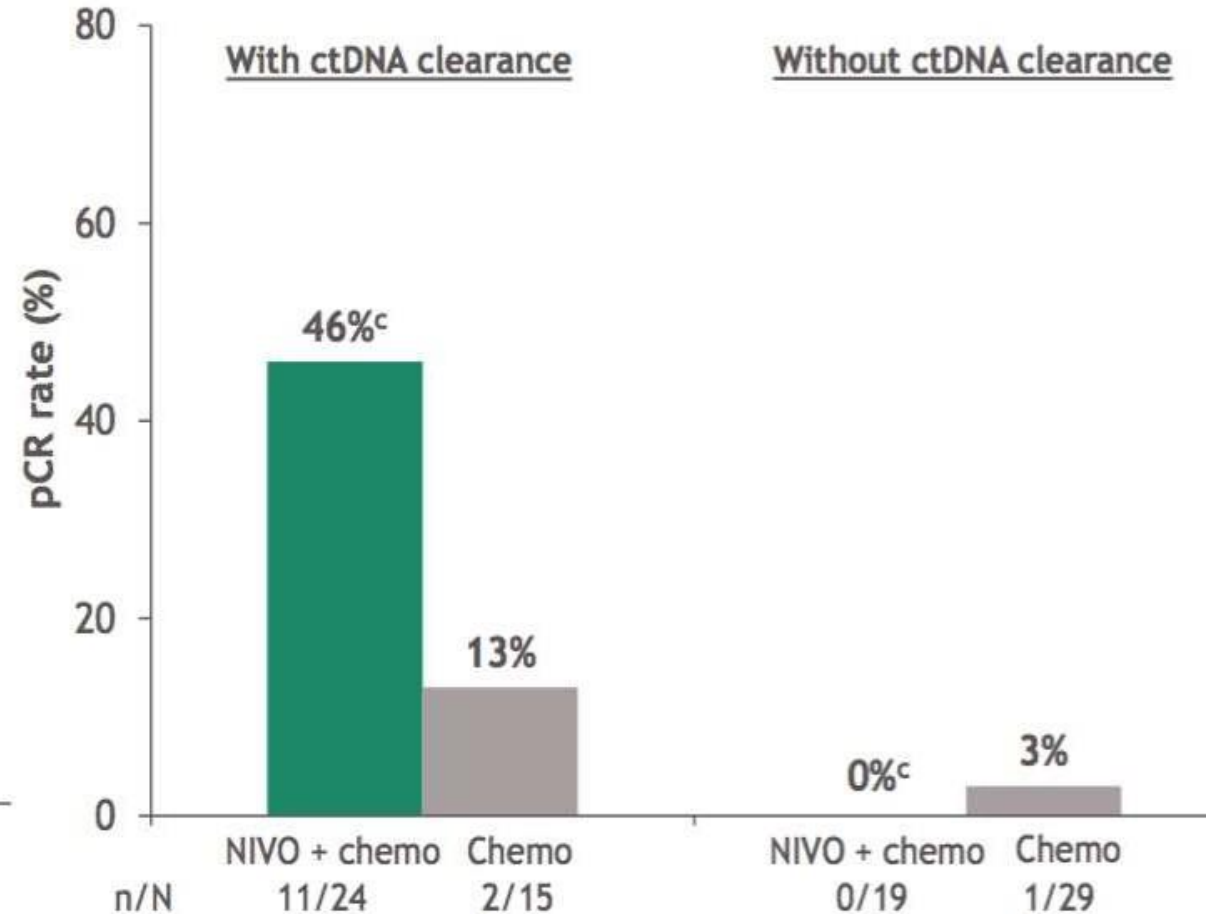
^aIncludes events reported between the first neoadjuvant dose and 30 days after the last neoadjuvant dose as per CTCAE Version 4.0; MedDRA Version 24.0; ^bIncludes events reported up to 90 days after definitive surgery; ^cDenominator based on patients with definitive surgery (n = 149 in the NIVO + chemo group, n = 135 in the chemo group); ^dTreatment-related deaths (not limited to 30 days window after last neoadjuvant dose) in the chemotherapy arm were due to pancytopenia, diarrhea, acute kidney injury (all in 1 patient), enterocolitis, and pneumonia; ^eGrade 5 AEs are defined as events that led to death within 24 hours of AE onset.

ctDNA clearance and association with pathological response

ctDNA clearance rate (C1D1 to C3D1)^a



ctDNA clearance and pCR rates





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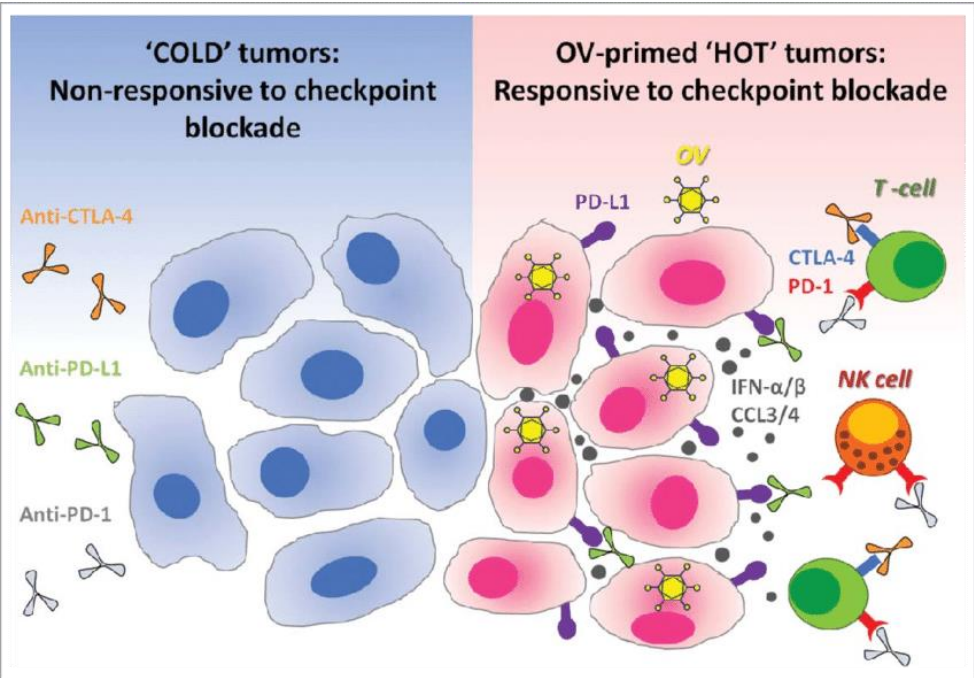
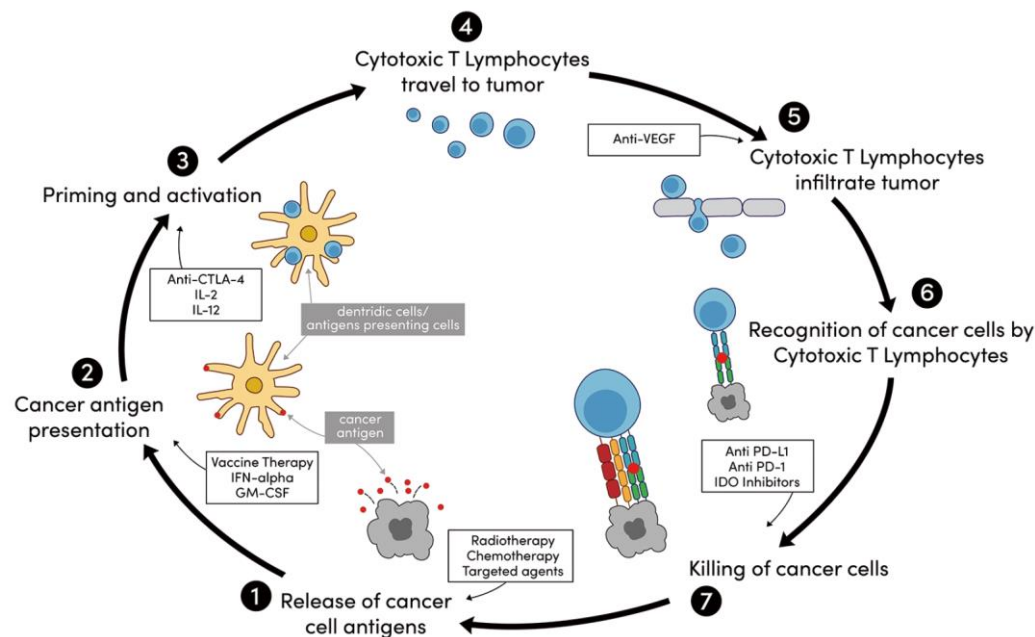
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Neoadjuvant Nivolumab plus Chemotherapy in Resectable Lung Cancer

P.M. Forde, J. Spicer, S. Lu, M. Provencio, T. Mitsudomi, M.M. Awad, E. Felip,
S.R. Broderick, J.R. Brahmer, S.J. Swanson, K. Kerr, C. Wang, T.-E. Ciuleanu,
G.B. Saylor, F. Tanaka, H. Ito, K.-N. Chen, M. Liberman, E.E. Vokes, J.M. Taube,
C. Dorange, J. Cai, J. Fiore, A. Jarkowski, D. Balli, M. Sausen, D. Pandya,
C.Y. Calvet, and N. Girard, for the CheckMate 816 Investigators*

Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy and CTRT

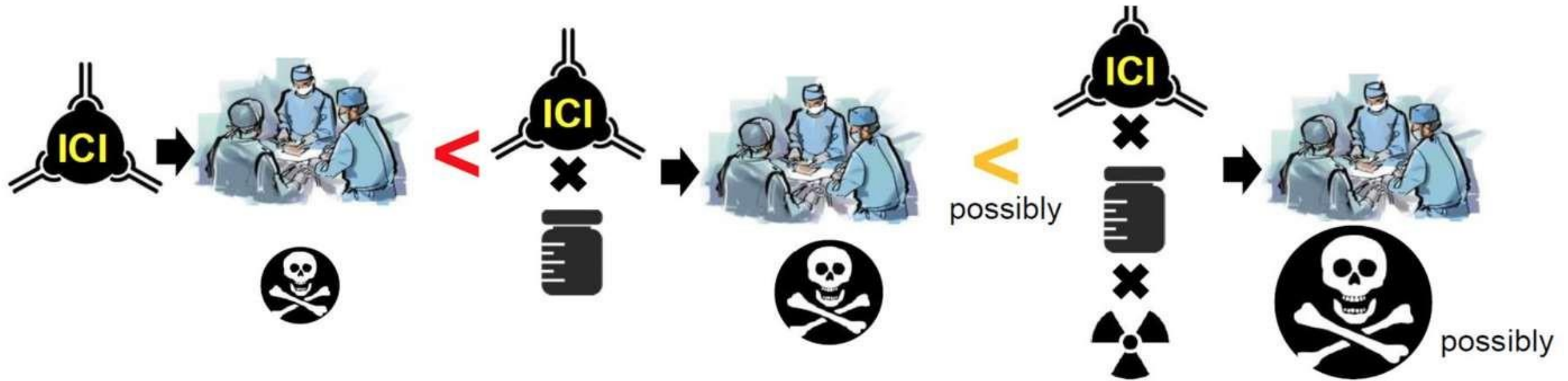
The Cancer-Immunity Cycle



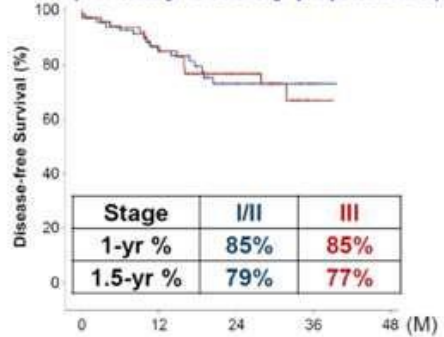
Chemoradiotherapy with ICI

Hong et al. ¹⁷	I/II	Single-arm cohort study	11	0/0/100	Durvalumab	Two cycles 1500 mg IV Q4W	pCR
Altorki et al. ²⁸	II	Randomized two-arm study	30	37/16/47	Durvalumab	Two cycles 1120 mg IV Q3W	MPR
			30	26/33/40	Durvalumab + SBRT		

Neoadjuvant IO: *what do we know so far?*



DFS (LCMC3)
(Primary efficacy population)



Neoadjuvant TRAEs (G3 ≤) : **6%**

PFS (NADIM)
(ITT population)
(Provencio et al. Lancet Oncol. 2020)



Neoadjuvant TRAEs (G3 ≤) : **30%**

When should single ICI be used?

- Early stage? Stage III but for stage I/II?
- Poor PS, comorbidities, elderly, platinum unfit?

Select the right patient for efficacy (*biomarkers*)

Tumor cells

PDL- 1 expression

TMB

Specific mutated gene pathways

- INF- γ
- KRAS
- STK11



Tumor microenvironment

PDL- 1 expression

- Immune cells with specific phenotypes
 - CD8+, CD4+ T-cells, FOXP3 T-cells
 - TAMs, myeloid cells

Diversity of TCR repertoires:

- TILs, TCR clonality



Circulating factors

ct-DNA

Cytokines

Inflammatory factors

Soluble proteins

Pheripheral blood cells:

- CD8+, CD 4+ T-cells, FOXP3 T-cells



Host-related markers

Gender

Age

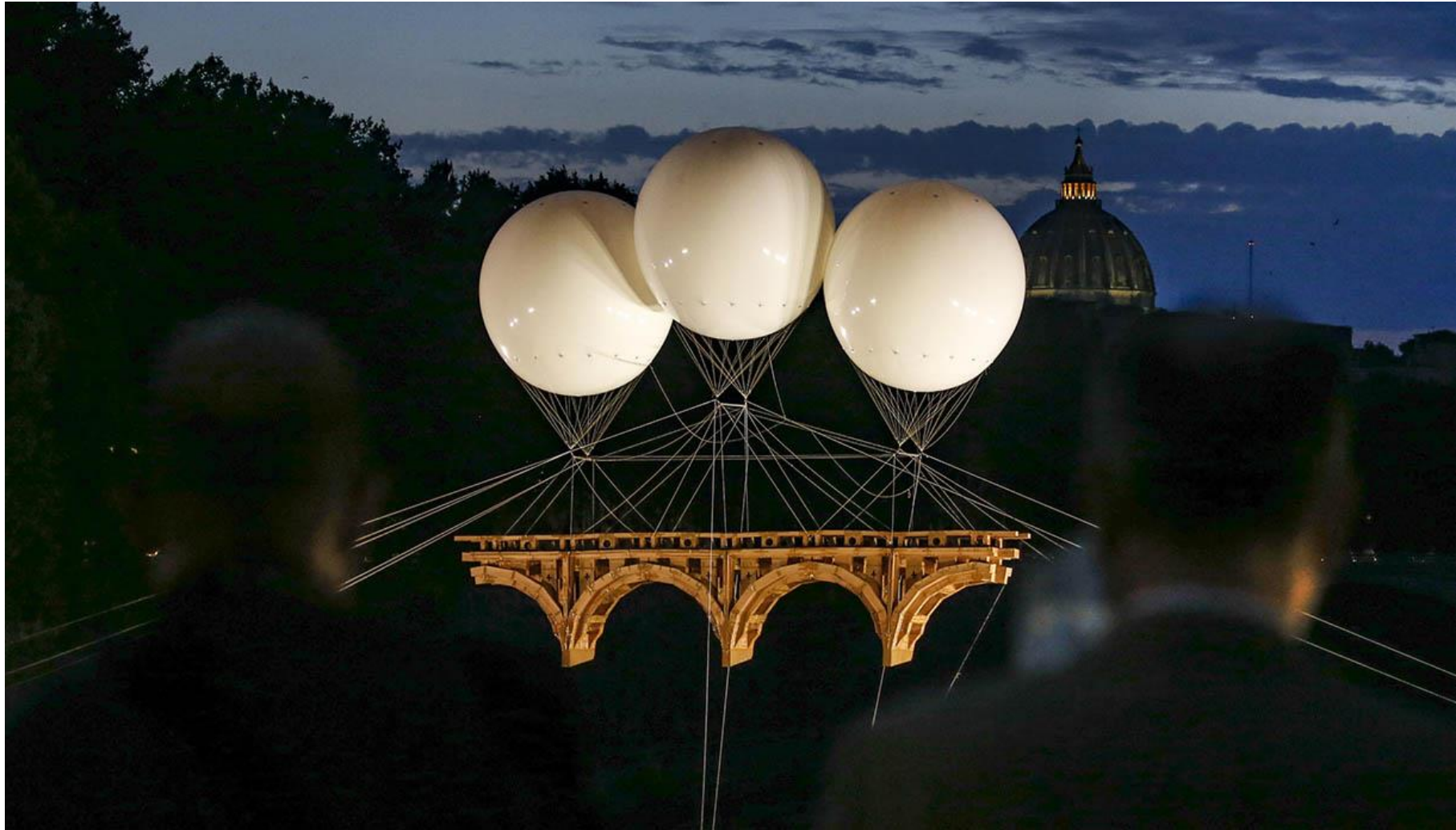
Intestinal microbiota

Specific mutations

Microbiome

Epigenetics





ARTICLE

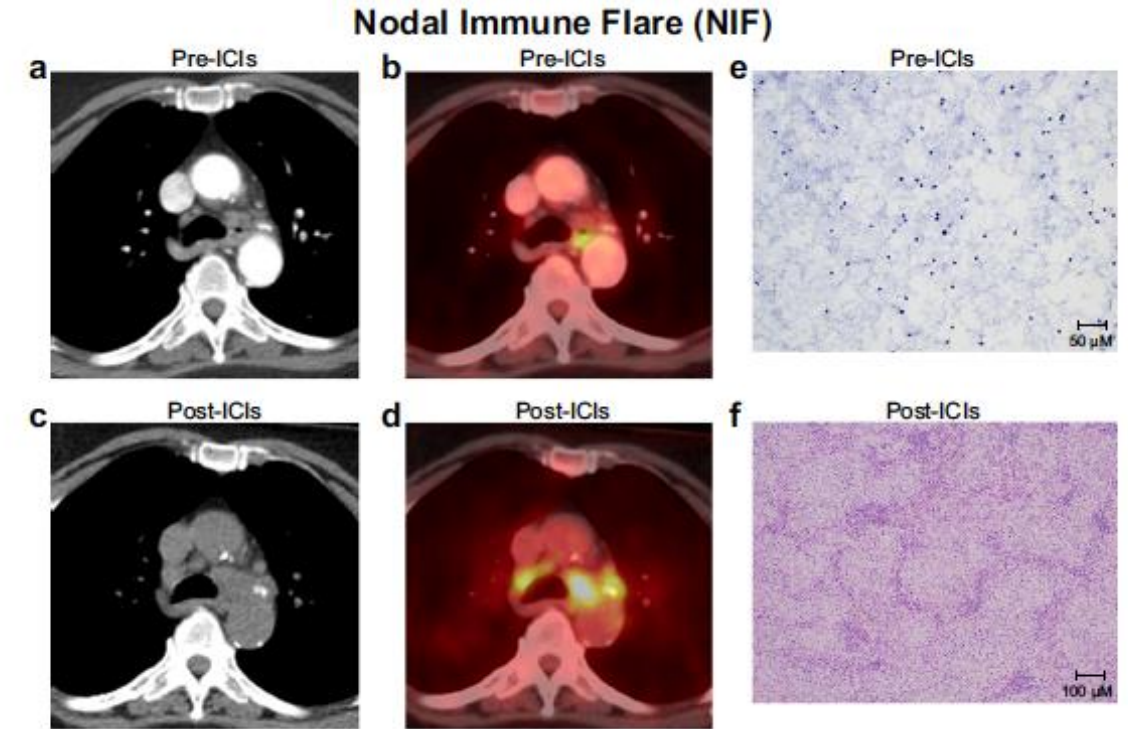
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-021-25188-0>

OPEN



Nodal immune flare mimics nodal disease progression following neoadjuvant immune checkpoint inhibitors in non-small cell lung cancer

Tina Cascone^{1✉}, Annikka Weissferdt^{2,3}, Myrna C. B. Godoy⁴, William N. William Jr.^{1,5}, Cheuk H. Leung⁶, Heather Y. Lin⁶, Sreyashi Basu⁷, Shalini S. Yadav⁷, Apar Pataer³, Kyle G. Mitchell³, Md Abdul Wadud Khan⁸, Yushu Shi^{6,9}, Cara Haymaker¹⁰, Luisa M. Solis¹⁰, Edwin R. Parra¹⁰, Humam Kadara¹⁰, Ignacio I. Wistuba^{1,10}, Padmanee Sharma^{7,11}, James P. Allison^{7,12}, Nadim J. Ajami¹³, Jennifer A. Wargo⁸, Robert R. Jenq^{13,14}, Don L. Gibbons¹, J. Jack Lee⁶, Stephen G. Swisher¹³, Ara A. Vaporciyan³, John V. Heymach^{1,15✉} & Boris Sepesi^{3,15}



«NIF is associated with an inflamed nodal immune microenvironment and with fecal abundance of genera belonging to the family Coriobacteriaceae of phylum Actinobacteria, but not with tumor responses or treatment-related toxicity. Our findings suggest that this apparent radiological cancer progression in lymph nodes may occur due to an inflammatory response after neoadjuvant immunotherapy, and such cases should be evaluated by pathological examination to distinguish NIF from true nodal progression and to ensure appropriate clinical treatment planning»

Surgery delay summary^a

	All stages		Stage IB/II		Stage IIIA	
	NIVO + chemo (n = 149)	Chemo (n = 135)	NIVO + chemo (n = 55)	Chemo (n = 52)	NIVO + chemo (n = 94)	Chemo (n = 83)
Patients with delayed surgery, ^{b,c} n (%)	31 (21)	24 (18)	9 (16)	13 (25)	22 (23)	11 (13)
AE	6 (4)	9 (7)	2 (4)	7 (13)	4 (4)	2 (2)
Length of delay in surgery, weeks						
Median (IQR)	2.0 (0.6-3.0)	2.4 (1.0-3.7)	2.1 (0.9-2.9)	2.1 (1.3-3.6)	1.9 (0.6-3.0)	2.6 (0.6-4.9)
Of patients with delayed surgery, proportion n (%) with delay of ^d						
≤ 2 weeks	17 (55)	11 (46)	4 (44)	6 (46)	13 (59)	5 (46)
> 2 and ≤ 4 weeks	8 (26)	8 (33)	4 (44)	5 (38)	4 (18)	3 (27)
> 4 and ≤ 6 weeks	3 (10)	2 (8)	0	0	3 (14)	2 (18)
> 6 weeks	3 (10)	3 (12)	1 (11)	2 (15)	2 (9)	1 (9)

- Median (IQR) time from last neoadjuvant dose to definitive surgery was 5.3 (4.6-6.0) weeks with NIVO + chemo and 5.0 (4.6-5.9) weeks with chemo for all patients with definitive surgery



Grazie per l'attenzione!