

SASRO Meeting 2018, University of Zurich, Campus Irchel

# Neue Substanzen bei Kombinationstherapien

## New substances in combinational therapies

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# New substances in oncology and their combinations

## Topics of our talk

mode of action of new drugs and their combinations

efficacy

adverse effects

Patient counseling

## New substances in the cancer treatment

Immunotherapy (checkpoint inhibitors)

Targeted agents (tyrosine kinase inhibitors)

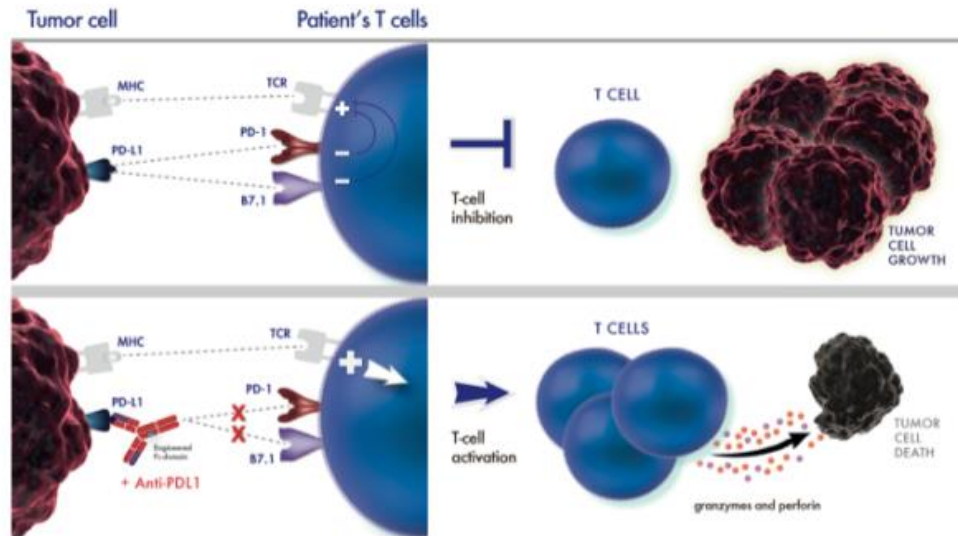


# Immunotherapy: checkpoint inhibitors

Immune cells (T-cell responses) are regulated through a balance of inhibitory and activating signals

Tumors cells can inhibit immune cells -> tumor growth

Mechanism of action of Immune therapy (Checkpoint inhibitors): «releasing the brake» -> immune cells recognize tumor



# Checkpoint inhibitors: mechanism of action

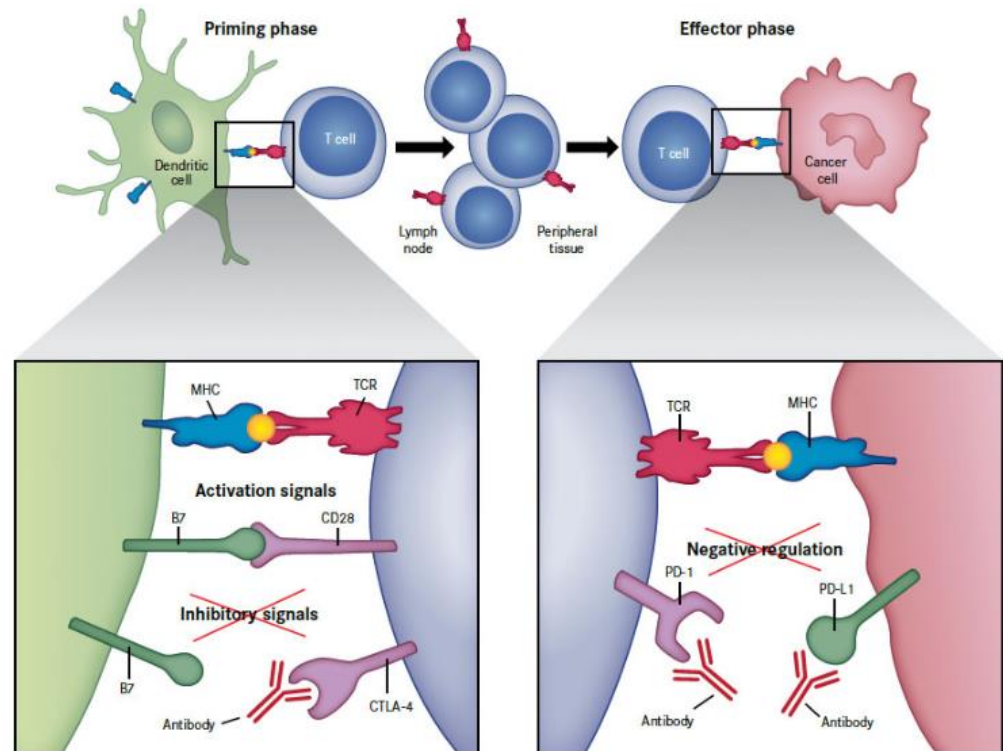
Monoclonal antibodies binding on cell surface proteins (receptors or their ligands)

Anti CTLA 4 (on immune cells): **Ipilimumab**

Anti PD 1 (on immune cell): **Nivolumab, Pembrolizumab**

Anti PD L1 (on tumor cells) **Avelumab, Durvalumab, Atezolizumab**

(LAG3, TIM-3-GAL9)



# Approval for Checkpoint inhibitors in Switzerland

**Melanoma** (Nivo: monotherapy or combination with Ipi; adjuvant; pembro; 1st line)

**Lung cancer 1st line** (nivo: 1st line; pembro: 1st line if PDL1>50%)

**Lung cancer 2nd line** (pembro)

**Head&neck cancer 2nd line** (nivo)

**Kidney cancer** (nivo: 1st line in combination with Ipi, 2nd line monotherapy)

**Urothelial cancer** (nivo 2nd line; pembro after platinum)

**Hodgkin disease** (nivo after HD/ASCT and brenduximab; pembro after 3 lines)

CRC MSI high

**Merkel cell carcinoma** (avelumab)



# Combinations of Checkpoint inhibitors

Goal: to achieve better response and prolong survival

Costs: higher rates of adverse effects

two different checkpoint inhibitors (Melanoma, lung, renal cell, trials...)

Immunotherapy and chemotherapy (lung, different trials)

Immunotherapy and radiotherapy (trials, some completed)

Immunotherapy and vaccines (melanoma, trials)

Immunotherapy, chemotherapy and anti-VGEF antibody (published)

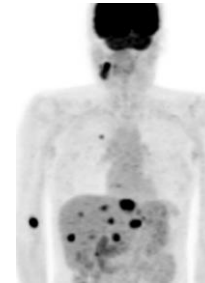


# Combination of pembrolizumab and chemotherapy in patient with head and neck cancer

51 year old female patient, heavy smoker; high alcohol consumption

10/2017:

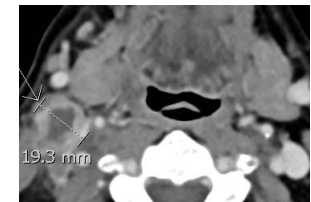
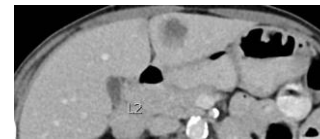
Squamous cell ca of the floor of the mouth  
cervical lymphadenopathy  
distant metastases (liver, bones)



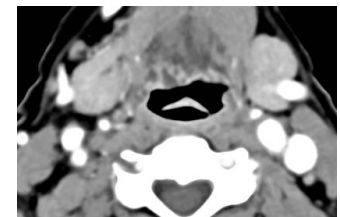
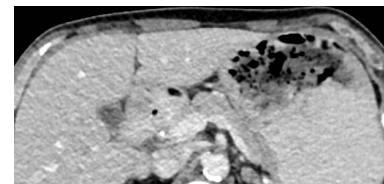
12/17:

Pembrolizumab, carboplatin and 5FU (clinical trial)

followed by pembrolizumab for 2 years



8/18: still in remission



# Combination of two checkpoint inhibitors (clinical trial)

68 yo male patient, heavy smoker

1/2016:

Laryngeal cancer pT3 pN0 M0

Radiotherapy with 70 Gy and cisplatin

12/16: Pulmonary metastases



Therapy:

ipilimumab and nivolumab (clinical trial)

After 2 cycles: Partial response



# Combination of pembrolizumab and radiotherapy in patient with recurrent nasopharyng

2010: chemotherapy (Cis/5FU) followed by RCT (70 Gy); bilateral neck dissection (2011)

2013: diplopia; metastasis of the right occipital condyle and clivus (confirmed)

Chemotherapy (carboplatin, fluorouracil and docetaxel): partial response

2014: progression; infiltration of the cavernous sinus and abducens nerve: stereotactic re-irradiation with CyberKnife, SD docetaxel and gemcitabine

10/15: progression (skull base, cavernous sinus, Meckel's cave and the internal carotid artery on the right side as well the middle cranial fossa , hypoglossal canal)

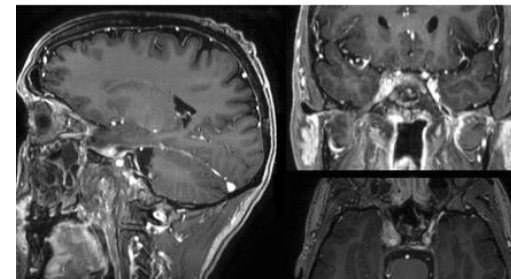
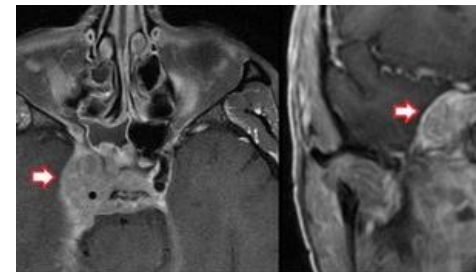
docetaxel and gemcitabine; SD

1/16 **pembrolizumab**; SD

6/2016 **stereotactic re-re-irradiation (45 Gy)**

9/16 **Pembrolizumab**

progression Doxetaxel and pembrolizuab; SD



# Combination of immunotherapy and oncolytic virus (clinical trial Talimogene laherparepvec)

51 year old female patient, no risk factors

6/15

Carcinoma of base of the tongue, pT2pN1 (1/15)

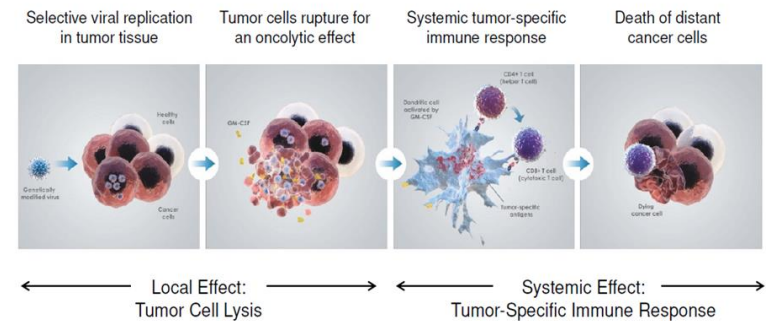
Transoral resection; adjuvant radiotherapy (30x2 Gy)

11/15 Relapse (cervical lymph nodes)

12/15 Chemotherapie (doxetaxel, cisplatin, 5FU)  
minor response

1-3/16 Accelerated RT 25x2.5 Gy=50 Gy  
Progression

Clinical trial with checkpoint-inhibitor and vaccine, exitus



# Adverse effects of checkpoint inhibitors

## Monotherapy vs combination:

More active in some trials; no benefit in other trials  
-> higher rates of AE

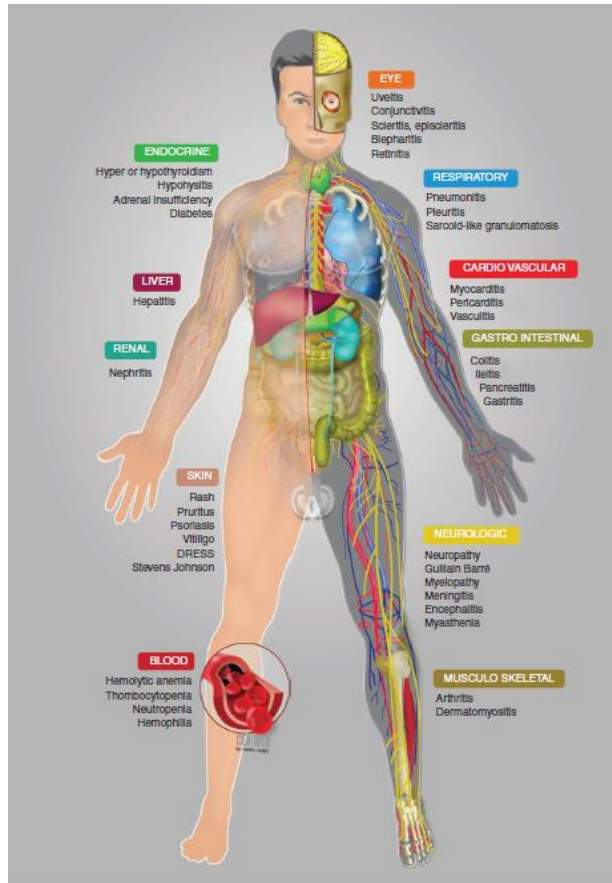


Table 3. Adverse Events.\*

Event	Nivolumab (N=313)		Nivolumab plus Ipilimumab (N=313)		Ipilimumab (N=311)	
	Any	Grade 3 or 4	Any	Grade 3 or 4	Any	Grade 3 or 4
	<i>number of patients with event (percent)</i>					
Any adverse event	311 (99.4)	136 (43.5)	312 (99.7)	215 (68.7)	308 (99.0)	173 (55.6)
Treatment-related adverse event†	257 (82.1)	51 (16.3)	299 (95.5)	172 (55.0)	268 (86.2)	85 (27.3)
Diarrhea	60 (19.2)	7 (2.2)	138 (44.1)	29 (9.3)	103 (33.1)	19 (6.1)
Fatigue	107 (34.2)	4 (1.3)	110 (35.1)	13 (4.2)	87 (28.0)	3 (1.0)
Pruritus	59 (18.8)	0	104 (33.2)	6 (1.9)	110 (35.4)	1 (0.3)
Rash	81 (25.9)	2 (0.6)	126 (40.3)	15 (4.8)	102 (32.8)	6 (1.9)
Nausea	41 (13.1)	0	81 (25.9)	7 (2.2)	50 (16.1)	2 (0.6)
Pyrexia	18 (5.8)	0	58 (18.5)	2 (0.6)	21 (6.8)	1 (0.3)
Decreased appetite	34 (10.9)	0	56 (17.9)	4 (1.3)	39 (12.5)	1 (0.3)
Increase in alanine amino-transferase level	12 (3.8)	4 (1.3)	55 (17.6)	26 (8.3)	12 (3.9)	5 (1.6)
Vomiting	20 (6.4)	1 (0.3)	48 (15.3)	8 (2.6)	23 (7.4)	1 (0.3)
Increase in aspartate amino-transferase level	12 (3.8)	3 (1.0)	48 (15.3)	19 (6.1)	11 (3.5)	2 (0.6)
Hypothyroidism	27 (8.6)	0	47 (15.0)	1 (0.3)	13 (4.2)	0
Colitis	4 (1.3)	2 (0.6)	37 (11.8)	24 (7.7)	36 (11.6)	27 (8.7)
Arthralgia	24 (7.7)	0	33 (10.5)	1 (0.3)	19 (6.1)	0
Headache	23 (7.3)	0	32 (10.2)	1 (0.3)	24 (7.7)	1 (0.3)
Dyspnea	14 (4.5)	1 (0.3)	32 (10.2)	2 (0.6)	13 (4.2)	0
Treatment-related adverse event leading to discontinuation	24 (7.7)	16 (5.1)	114 (36.4)	92 (29.4)	46 (14.8)	41 (13.2)

Most common AE:

Rash, Pneumonitis, Diarrhoea, Endocrine

Combined Ipilimumab and Nivolumab or Monotherapy in untreated Melanoma; Larkin et al, NEJM 2015



## Adverse effects of immunotherapy: Skin

Patient with local relapse of head&neck cancer

1st cycle ipilimumab and nivolumab:  
rash and pemphigoid skin  
reaction

-> good response to steroids



Discontinuation of Immune therapy  
(patient's decision)

-> salvage surgery

Skin reaction (3 months after last  
therapy):  
response to steroids  
Secondary infection



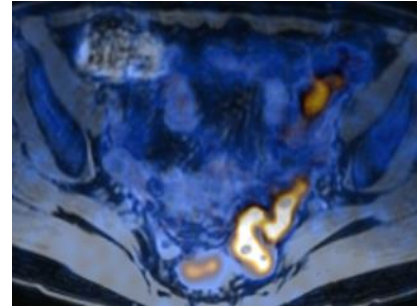
## Adverse effects of immune therapy: colitis and pneumonitis

Patient with local relapse of mesopharynx ca

2 cycles with nivolumab monotherapy

**Diarrhoea (6-7x day)**

-> good response to steroids

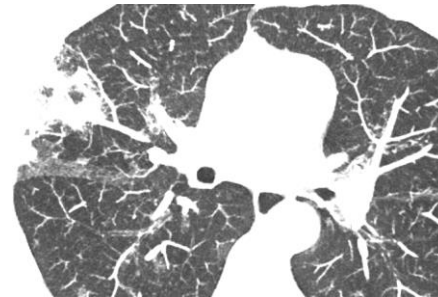


Patient with local relapse of Ca of floor of the mouth

Combination of nivolumab and anti-LAG3 (clinical trial)

Cough -> **pneumonitis**

-> good response to steroids



# Management of AE of immunotherapy

JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ASCO SPECIAL ARTICLE

Management of Immune-Related Adverse Events in Patients  
Treated With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy:  
American Society of Clinical Oncology Clinical  
Practice Guideline



*Annals of Oncology* 28 (Supplement 4): iv119–iv142, 2017  
doi:10.1093/annonc/mdx225

## CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Management of toxicities from immunotherapy:  
ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines for diagnosis,  
treatment and follow-up<sup>†</sup>



# Protein Kinase Inhibitors

## Tyrosin kinase Inhibitors (TKI):

Inhibition of kinase domains (intracellular part of receptor) -> blocks cell signalling

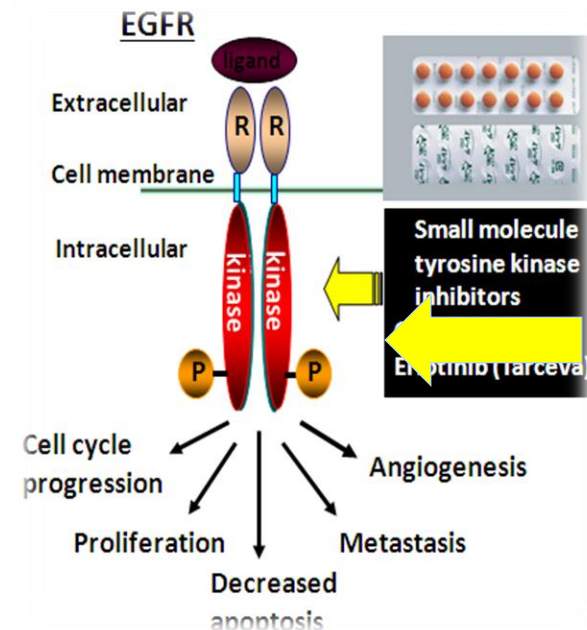
Different receptors: EGFR, HER2..

TKIs: gefinitib, erlotinib, osimertinib, lapatinib

lung ca, renal ca, mama ca, CML..

Serine/threonine kinase inhibitors:  
(BRAFi, MEKi)

Melanoma, Thyroid ca





# Braf inhibitors (monotherapy)

vemurafenib, dabrafenib

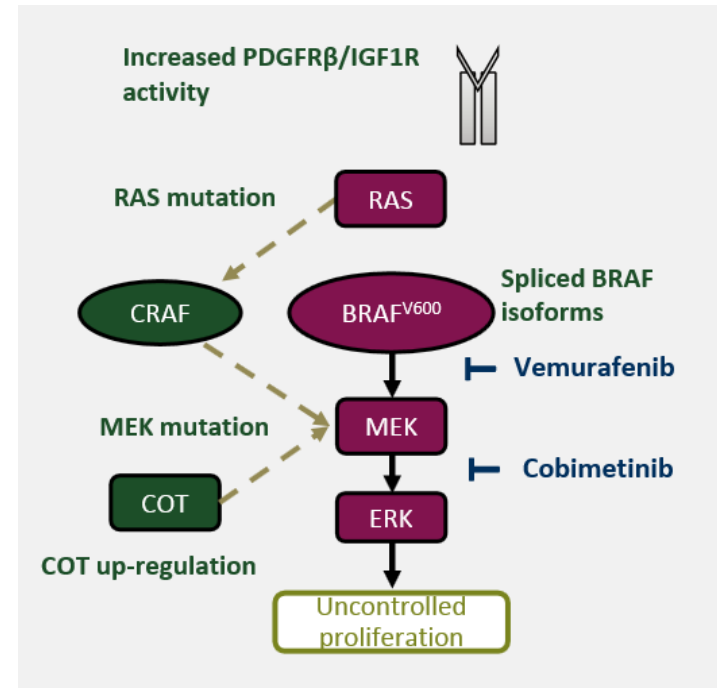
Active in melanoma with brafV600 mutations

BUT

short remissions



Skin AE





# Combination of Braf/mek inhibitors

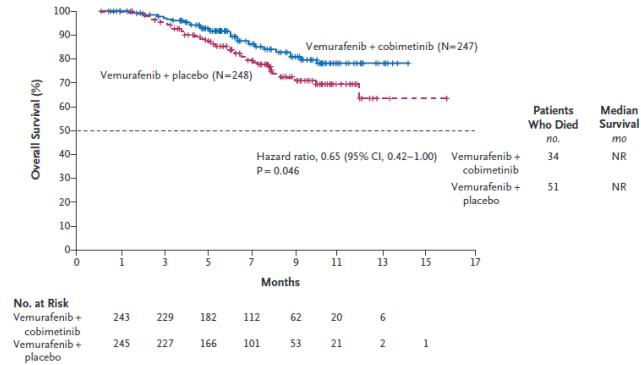
ESTABLISHED IN 1812

NOVEMBER 13, 2014

VOL. 371 NO. 20

## Combined Vemurafenib and Cobimetinib in BRAF-Mutated Melanoma

James Larkin, M.D., Ph.D., Paolo A. Ascierto, M.D., Brigitte Dréno, M.D., Ph.D., Victoria Atkinson, M.D., Gabriella Liszakay, M.D., Michele Maio, M.D., Mario Mandalà, M.D., Lev Demidov, M.D., Daniil Stroyakovskiy, M.D., Luc Thomas, M.D., Ph.D., Luis de la Cruz-Merino, M.D., Caroline Dutriaux, M.D., Claus Garbe, M.D., Mika A. Sovak, M.D., Ph.D., Ilsung Chang, Ph.D., Nicholas Choong, M.D., Stephen P. Hack, M.D., Ph.D., Grant A. McArthur, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., and Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D.



No. at Risk	1	3	5	7	9	11	13	15	17
Vemurafenib + cobimetinib	243	229	182	112	62	20	6		
Vemurafenib + placebo	245	227	166	101	53	21	2	1	

### Results:

Combination of braf/mek inhibitors compared to monotherapy braf i

- improves response and survival
- Less AE !

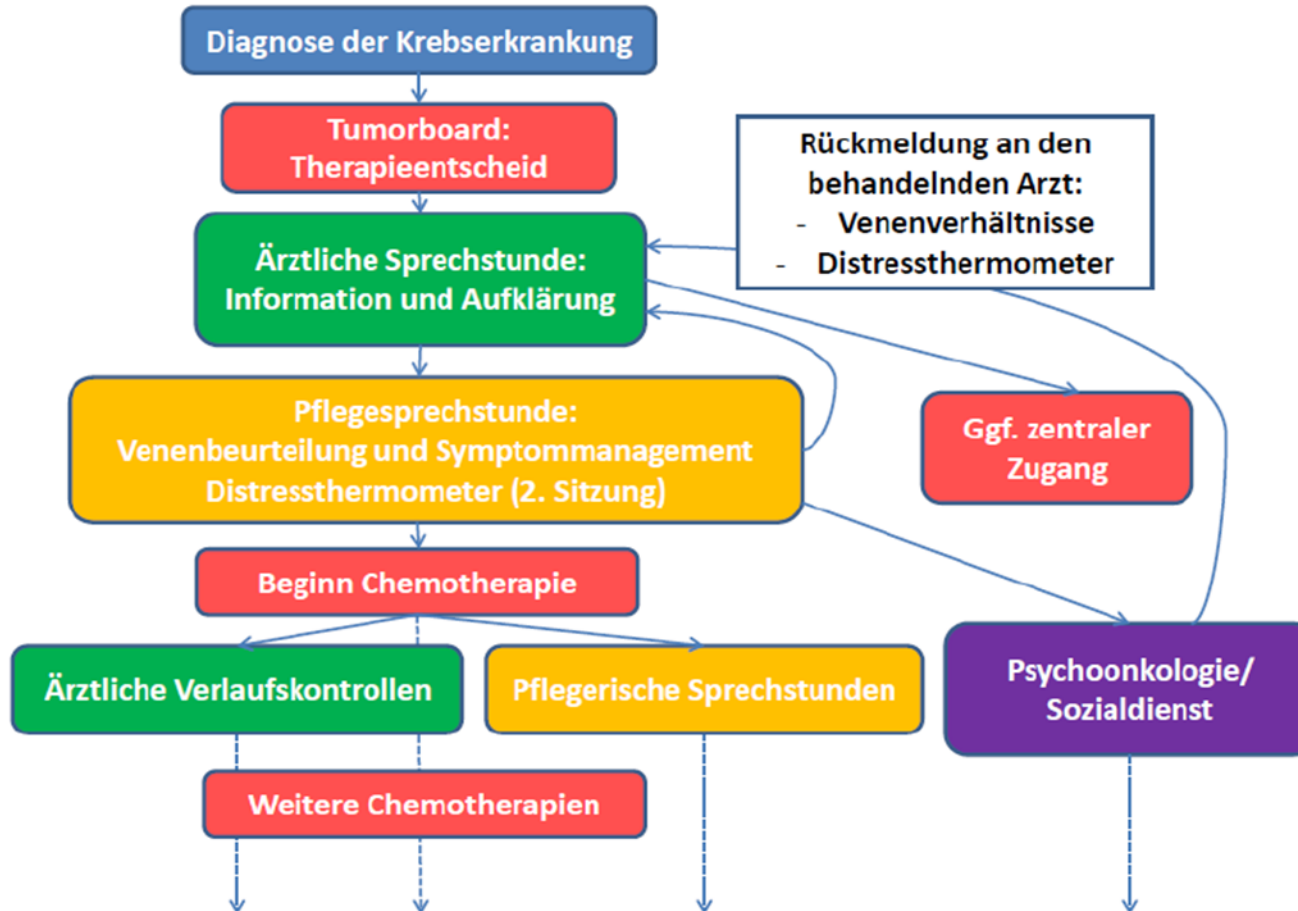
Table 3. Adverse Events.\*

Event	Dabrafenib plus Trametinib (N=350)		Vemurafenib (N=349)	
	Any Grade†	Grade 3	Any Grade†	Grade 3
Clinically significant adverse events occurring in ≥10% of patients				
Any event	343 (98)	167 (48)	345 (99)	198 (57)
Pyrexia‡	184 (53)	15 (4)	73 (21)	2 (1)
Nausea	121 (35)	1 (<1)	125 (36)	2 (1)
Diarrhea	112 (32)	4 (1)	131 (38)	1 (<1)
Chills	110 (31)	3 (1)	27 (8)	0
Vomiting	101 (29)	4 (1)	53 (15)	3 (1)
Arthralgia	84 (24)	3 (1)	178 (51)	15 (4)
Rash	76 (22)	4 (1)	149 (43)	30 (9)
Alopecia	20 (6)	0	137 (39)	1 (<1)
Hand-foot syndrome§	14 (4)	0	87 (25)	1 (<1)
Hyperkeratosis	15 (4)	0	86 (25)	2 (1)
Skin papilloma	6 (2)	0	80 (23)	2 (1)
Photosensitivity reaction	13 (4)	0	78 (22)	1 (<1)
Adverse events of interest occurring in <10% of patients				
Cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma (including keratoacanthoma)	5 (1)	5 (1)	63 (18)	60 (17)
Decrease in ejection fraction	29 (8)	13 (4)	0	0
Chorioretinopathy	2 (1)	0	1 (<1)	0
Dermatitis acneiform	22 (6)	0	20 (6)	4 (1)

# Concept of nurse consultation at the comprehensive cancer center Zurich (CCCZ)

- Start of new treatment or change of treatment: management of possible side effects, schedule, self-care
- Venous access: peripheral access vs central line (peripheral arm assessment)
- Psychological support: distress thermometer, referral to specialists if required
- Basic dietary advice to prevent weight loss
- Referral to the institute of complementary medicine if required and requested

# Possible patient pathway



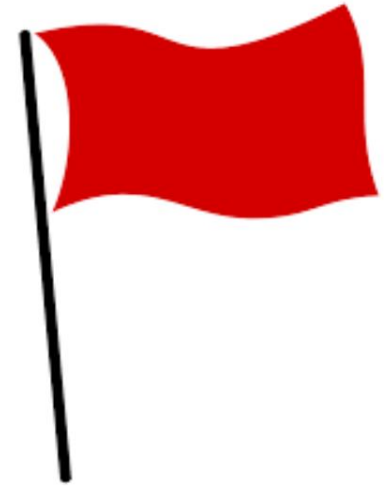
Reference: «Konzept Pflegesprechstunde Onkologie, Medizinbereich Innere Medizin-Onkologie» Kröner, A. et al (2016)

# Red flags for patients receiving immunotherapy

Patients need to know when to contact the medical team,  
as early assessment is crucial:

- Diarrhoea or bowel movements more frequent than usual
- Abdominal pain
- Skin changes such as rash or pruritus
- Shortness of breath
- New or worsening symptoms of cough

**->NO SELF-TREATMENT<-**



Reference: «Medikamente in der Tumortherapie – Handbuch für die Pflegepraxis» 5. Auflage, Kroner, T. et al (2018)

# Dermatological reactions during immunotherapy

Ipilimumab (Yervoy®), CTLA-4 antibody

## **Very common ( $\geq 10\%$ ):**

- Exanthema
- Pruritus

## **Common ( $\geq 1\%$ to $< 10\%$ ):**

- Xerodermia (skin dryness)
- Hypopigmentation (Melanoma patients)
- Generalised mucositis

## **Occasional ( $> 0.1\%$ to $< 1\%$ ):**

- Conjunctivitis
- Intensified lacrimation/inflammation of the lacrimal gland
- Change of hair colour

Reference: «Empfehlungen: dermatologische Reaktionen und unerwünschte Wirkungen unter medikamentöser Antitumorthherapie, Prävention und Interventionen», Onkologiepflege Schweiz (2016)



# Nivolumab (Opdivo®), PD-1 antibody

## **Very common ( $\geq 10\%$ ):**

- Xerodermia (skin dryness)/Pruritus

## **Common ( $\geq 1\%$ to $< 10\%$ ):**

- Exanthema
- Hypopigmentation

## **Occasional ( $> 0.1\%$ to $< 1\%$ ):**

- Conjunctivitis

Reference: «Empfehlungen: dermatologische Reaktionen und unerwünschte Wirkungen unter medikamentöser Antitumorthherapie, Prävention und Interventionen», Onkologiepflege Schweiz (2016)

## Pembrolizumab (Keytruda®), PD-1 antibody

### **Very common ( $\geq 10\%$ ):**

- Pruritus
- Exanthema

### **Occasional ( $> 0.1\%$ to $< 1\%$ ):**

- Hypopigmentation (Melanoma patients)
- Conjunctivitis
- Intensified lacrimation/inflammation of the lacrimal gland
- Change of hair colour/depigmentation of eye lashes and hair

Reference: «Empfehlungen: dermatologische Reaktionen und unerwünschte Wirkungen unter medikamentöser Antitumorthherapie, Prävention und Interventionen», Onkologiepflege Schweiz (2016)



## Atezolizumab (Tecentriq®), PD-L1 antibody

### **Very common ( $\geq 10\%$ ):**

- Exanthema
- Pruritus

Reference: [www.compendium.ch](http://www.compendium.ch)



## Avelumab (Bavencio®), PD-L1 antibody

### **Common ( $\geq 1\%$ to $< 10\%$ ):**

- Exanthema
- Pruritus

Reference: [www.compendium.ch](http://www.compendium.ch)

## Durvalumab (Imfinzi®), PD-L1 antibody

### **Very common ( $\geq 10\%$ ):**

- Exanthema
- Pruritus

### **Common ( $\geq 1\%$ to $< 10\%$ ):**

- Oral Mucositis

Reference: [www.compendium.ch](http://www.compendium.ch)

# Basic care advice

## Exanthema



- Early patient education
- Avoiding sun exposure and use of sun protection (SPF > 30)
- Skin cleaning with mild, soap free, pH-neutral wash lotions and wash syndets (e.g. Lubex®, Der-med®, Procutol® or with cleaning oils (e.g. Excipial® Balmandol)
- Face: once a day use of O/W systems (e.g. Excipial® U Hydrolotio)
- Whole body: consequente alcohol and perfume free, moisturising skin care with or without urea (e.g. Excipial® U Lipolotio)
- Careful tapping of the skin after washing
- Avoiding exposure to toxic-irritant substances on the hands
- Lowering the room temperature and increasing air moisture (humidity)
- Face: only dry shave and no use of aftershave

# Xerodermia and Pruritus

## Skin

- During the dry phase to use urea-containing lipolotion in an adequate amount (100gr lotion to use within 10 days) after showering or bathing (e.g. Excipial® U Lipolotion, Eucerin® 10% Urea Lotion, Bepanthol® Körperlotion, Antidry® calm Lotion)
- Skin cleaning with mild, soap free, pH-neutral wash lotions and wash syndets or with cleaning oils (see products on previous slide)
- High room humidity
- To apply consequent sun protection



## Scalp

- Lotions can as well be used for the scalp to treat itchyness (e.g. Excipial® U Hydro lotion)
- Hair care with mild shampoos (e.g. Johnsons® Baby Shampoo, Lubex hair®, Crimanex® Shampoo)
- To blow dry hair with cold or room temperature air
- To apply consequent sun protection

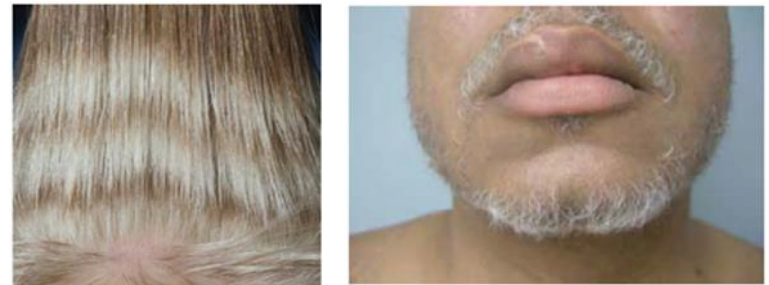
## Changes of the skin pigmentation and photosensitivity

- Early patient education
- To avoid sun and sun beds to exposed skin areas (i.e. face, ears, neck, arms and hands), to wear thickly woven clothes, if required to use UV-impermeable foils on windows
- Sun protection products against UV-A and UV-B rays with high sun protection factor (> 30)
- To avoid dry skin, itchiness and scratch marks or pressure marks on the skin (e.g. from wearing rucksacks or bras)
- Good skin moisturising



## Hair depigmentation

- No prevention possible
- Early patient education
- To use gentle hair tint from the hair dresser if the depigmentation is cosmetically disturbing



# Intensified lacrimation/inflammation of the lacrimal gland

## Basic care

- Initial eye assessment
- Eye hygiene
- To avoid mechanical and cosmetical eye irritation
- Sun glasses during sun exposure
- To treat conjunctivitis

## Interventions

- Reassessment
- Continuation of the basic care
- Referral to ophthalmologist (in case of inflammation urgent referral required)



# Conjunctivitis



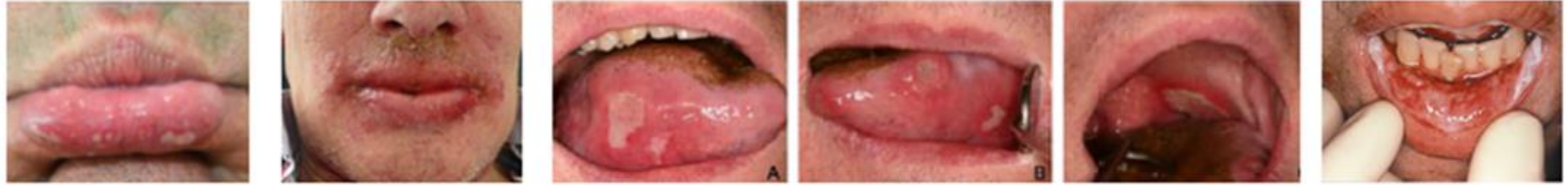
## Basic care

- Initial eye assessment
- To avoid exposure to other patients with conjunctivitis (avoid contamination)
- To avoid allergens
- To avoid eye drops with potential surface-toxic properties (preservatives, especially benzalkonium chloride)
- To avoid using moisturising eye drops over the expiration date)

## Interventions

- Reassessment
- Continuation of the basic care
- To use moisturising eye drops/gels in incomple cases
- Referral to ophthalmologist in purulent cases, sticky coated eyes, treatment refractory or prolonged cases

## Oral mucositis



- Early patient education with regards to symptoms and management
- To clean teeth at least twice daily during 2 minutes with a soft tooth brush
- Electrical or ultrasound tooth brush is allowed if the patient is used to it
- The use of dental floss is allowed if the thrombocytes or neutrophil granulocytes are within range
- To rinse the mouth at least 4 times daily with water or salt water (1 tea spoon of salt in 1 litre of water)
- To moisturise the lips (e.g. Bepanthen® Nasensalbe)
- To drink at least 1.5 – 2 litres daily to avoid dry mucosa and lips
- To refrain from alcohol and tobacco as they both irritate the oral mucosa additionally
- To avoid sour, spicy and crusty foods which could potentially damage to mucosa
- To avoid mouth washes from the pharmacy or drug store, since they normally contain alcohol which can dry out the mouth additionally

Reference: «Empfehlungen: dermatologische Reaktionen und unerwünschte Wirkungen unter medikamentöser Antitumorthherapie, Prävention und Interventionen», Onkologiepflege Schweiz (2016)





## Good to know



Onkologiepflege Schweiz (OPS) have created a patient information leaflet called «changes to skin, mucosa, hair and nails during medical anticancer treatment» (Original: «Veränderungen an Haut, Schleimhäuten, Haaren und Nägeln während der Krebsbehandlung mit Medikamenten»).

This leaflet gives an overview about possible dermatological side effects and recommendations to prevent these.

Thank you for your attention



UniversityHospital  
Zurich







Any questions?

