

IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY

MERKEL CELL CARCINOMA

Jürgen C. Becker, tscr, DKTK & UK Essen

UV- & Virus-associated Carcinogenesis

Priority Report

The Distinctive Mutational Spectra of Polymyvirus-Negative Merkel Cell Carcinoma

Paul William Harms^{1,2,3}, Pankaj Vats^{4,5}, Monique Elise Verhaegen⁶, Dan R. Robinson⁷, Yi-Mi Wu², Saravanan Mohan Dhanasekaran², Nallivasam Palanisamy^{2,8}, Javed Siddiqui^{1,9}, Xuhong Cao¹⁰, Fengyuan Su¹¹, Rui Wang¹², Hong Xiao^{13,14}, Lakshmi P. Kurra¹⁵, Christopher Keram¹⁶, Arul M. Chinnaiyan¹⁷

Abstract

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) may contribute via inhibition of tumor (RB1) by mutated viral genes of MCPV. We sequenced our MCV-Negative, p53 integrative sequencing as well as a validation (n = 16). In addition TP53, RB1, and PI3K/AKT.

Introduction

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare, aggressive, neuroendocrine carcinoma. It is characterized by metastasis. It has a high impact in the immunosuppressed. We used the time of diagnosis to elucidate the role that a subset of cases

Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCV-Negative, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

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Cancer Research

Abstract

Mutational Landscapes of MCPV-positive and MCPV-negative Merkel Cell Carcinomas with Implications for Immunotherapy

Gerald Goh^{1,2}, Trent Walradt³, Vladimir Markarov⁴, Astrid Blom⁵, Nadeem Riaz^{6,7}, Ryan Douman⁸, Jonathan Levinsohn⁹, Jaehyuk Choi^{8,10}

Abstract

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is an uncommon, but highly malignant, cutaneous tumor. Merkel cell polyoma virus (MCPV) has been implicated in a majority of MCC tumors. However, viral-negative tumors have been reported to be more prevalent in some geographic regions subject to high sun exposure. While the impact of MCPV and viral transgenes on MCC development has been extensively investigated, little is known about the etiology of viral-negative tumors. We performed targeted capture and massively parallel DNA sequencing of 619 cancer genes to compare the gene mutations and copy number alterations in MCPV-positive (n = 13) and -negative (n = 21) MCC tumors and cell lines. We found that MCPV-positive tumors displayed very low mutation rates, but MCPV-negative tumors exhibited a high mutation burden associated with a UV-induced DNA damage signature. All viral-negative

Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCPV, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

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Priority Report

UV-Associated Mutations Underlie the Etiology of MCV-Negative Merkel Cell Carcinomas

Stephen Q. Wang¹, Kelly Waldock¹, Irem A. Vergara¹, Jan Schneider^{2,3,4}, Jason Madore⁵, James S. Wilfong⁶, Andrew J. Celestachi^{7,8}, Ricardo De Paol-Deppol⁹, Jason Li¹⁰, Richard Lupat¹¹, Timothy Semple¹², Gisela Mir Arnaiz¹³, Andrew Fellows¹⁴, J. Helen Leonard¹⁵, George Hubay¹⁶, Graham J. Mann¹⁷, John F. Thompson¹⁸, Carleen Cullinane¹⁹, Meredith Johnston²⁰, Mark Shackleton²¹, Shahneen Sandhu²², David DL Bowtell^{23,24}, Ricky W. Johnston²⁵, Stephen B. Fox^{26,27}, Grant A. McArthur²⁸, Anthony T. Papanicolaou^{29,30}, Richard A. Scolyer³¹, Anthony J. Gill³², Rodney J. Hicks³³, and Richard W. Toftm³⁴

Abstract

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Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCPV, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

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REPORTS

Merkel Cell Polyomavirus-Infected Merkel Cell Carcinoma Cells Require Expression of Viral T Antigens

Roland Houben^{1,2}, Masahiro Shuda^{3,4}, Rita Weinkam⁵, David Schrama⁶, Huichen Feng²

Abstract

Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) is a rare, aggressive, neuroendocrine carcinoma. It is characterized by metastasis. It has a high impact in the immunosuppressed. We used the time of diagnosis to elucidate the role that a subset of cases

Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCPV, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

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Cancer Research

Clonal Integri Human Merl

Huichen Feng, Masahiro Shuda

Abstract

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Current Opinion in Virology

Merkel cell polyomavirus infection and Merkel cell carcinoma

Wei Liu, Margo MacDonald and Jianxin You

Abstract

Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCPV) is the only polyomavirus discovered to date that is associated with a human cancer. MCPV infection is highly prevalent in the general population. Nearly all healthy adults asymptotically shed MCPV from their skin. However, in elderly and immunosuppressed individuals, the infection can lead to a lethal form of skin cancer, Merkel cell carcinoma. In the last few years, new findings have established links between MCPV infection, host immune response, and Merkel cell carcinoma development. This review discusses these recent discoveries on how MCPV interacts with host cells to achieve persistent infection and, in the immunocompromised individual, contributes to MCC development.

Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCPV, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

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Keywords: Merkel cell carcinoma, MCPV, TP53, RB1, PI3K/AKT

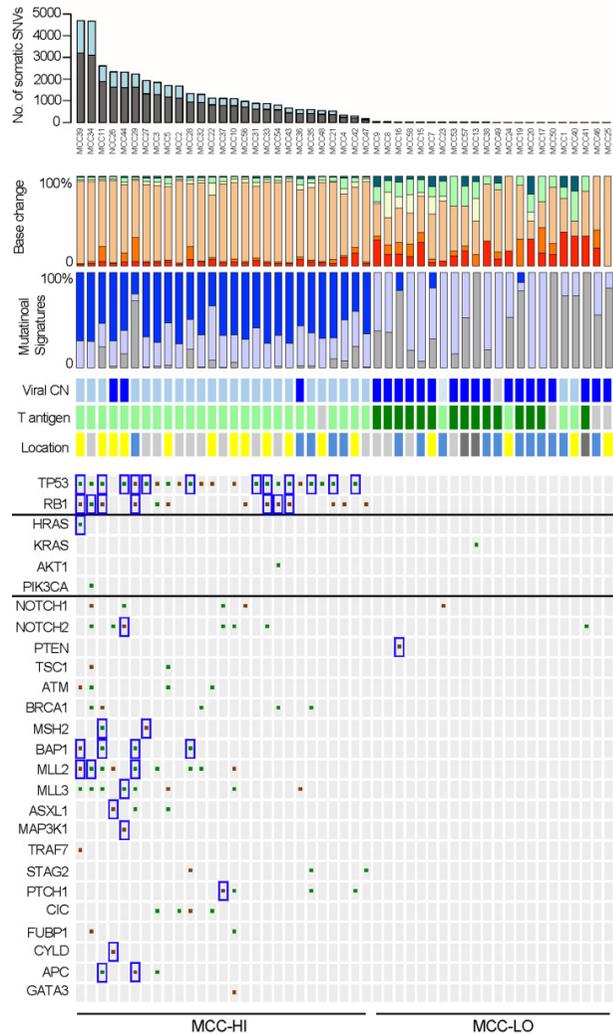
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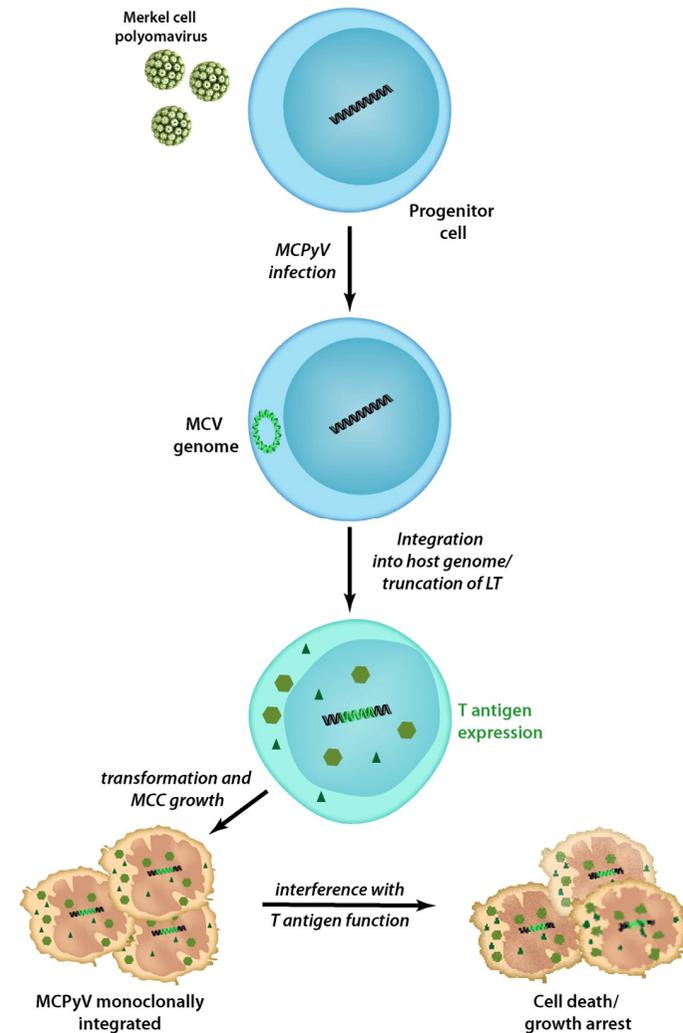
Corresponding Author: Jianxin You, PhD, Department of Microbiology, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA. E-mail: jianxin.you@upenn.edu

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UV- & Virus-associated Carcinogenesis



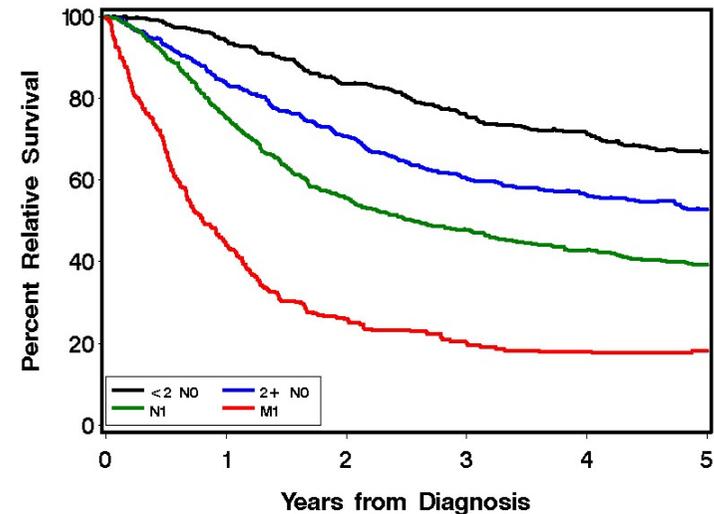
Goh 2015



Schrama 2013

MCC - Prognosis

- tumor stage
 - ☺ stage I < II < III < IV ☹
- gender
 - ☹ males < females ☺
- Localization
 - ☹ head/neck < trunk < extremities ☺
- histological and immunohistological features
 - ☹ small cell size, high mitotic index, high density of blood vessels, loss of MHC class I expression
 - ☺ solar elastosis, inflammatory infiltrate



MCC – Chemotherapie

high objective response rates

- *first line* up to 57%
- *second line* up to 45%
- *third line* up to 20%

but

- **no** controlled randomized trials
- **no** confirmed correlation between objective responses and overall survival
- **no** confirmed correlation between dose intensity and response
- significant rate of **therapy-associated deaths**

MCC - Spontaneous Regressions

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com
 ScienceDirect
 British Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery 48 (2010) 199–200




Short communication
Spontaneous regression of advanced merkel-cell-like small cell carcinoma of the parotid gland
 D.C. Mulder^{a,*}, A.J.W.P. Rosenberg^a, P.W. Storm-Bogaard^b, R. Koole^a
^aOral Surgery, University Medical Centre Utrecht, Heidelberglaan 100, P.O. Box 85500, 3584 CX Utrecht, The Netherlands

Total Spontaneous Regression of Advanced Merkel Cell Carcinoma after Biopsy: Review and a New Case
 ANTONIO GIOVANNI RIGHETTA, MD,* MONICA MANCINI, MD,* ANDREA TORRONI, MD,[†]
 BRUNO LORE, MD,[†] GIORGIO IANNETTI, MD,[†] BARBARA SARDELLA, MD,[‡] AND STEFANO CALVIERI, MD*

The authors have indicated no significant interest with commercial supporters.

Merkel Cell Carcinoma of the Eyelid
Review of the Literature and Report of Patients with Merkel Cell Carcinoma Showing Spontaneous Regression
 Guy S. Missotten, MD, PhD, D. de Wolff-Rouendaal, MD, PhD, R. J. W. de Keizer, MD, PhD



Journal of Dermatological Science 24 (2000) 203–211
www.elsevier.com/locate/jdermsci

Spontaneous regression of Merkel cell carcinoma: a comparative study of TUNEL index and tumor lymphocytes between spontaneous regression and after treatment




Complete spontaneous regression in Merkel cell carcinoma
 Martin J.J. Vesely^a, Dylan J. Murray^a, Peter C. Neligan^{a,*},
 Christine B. Novak^{a,c}, Patrick J. Gullane^c, Danny Ghazarian^b

EXTRAORDINARY CASE REPORT

Complete Spontaneous Regression of Metastatic Merkel Cell Carcinoma: A Case Report and Review of the Literature
 J. C. Wooff, MD,* J. R. Trites, MD, FRCSC,[†] N. M. G. Walsh, MD, MRCPI, FRCP (C), FRCPath (UK),*
 and M. J. Bullock, MD, FRCP (C)*

VOLUME 29 · NUMBER 12 · APRIL 20 2011

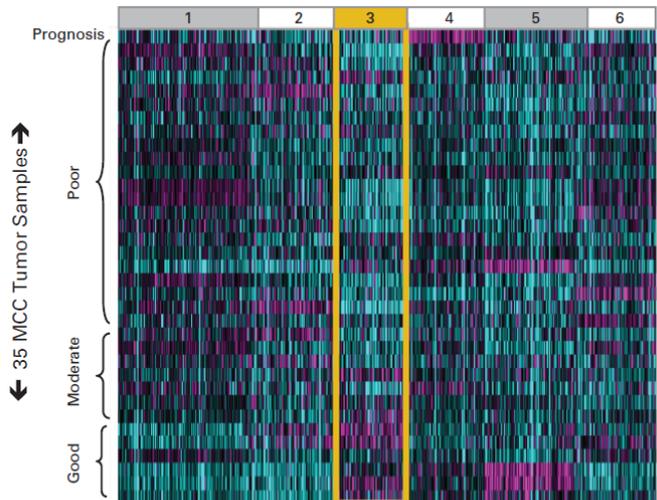
JOURNAL OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

ORIGINAL REPORT

Validation of Intratumoral CD8+ Lymphocyte Invasion As an Independent Predictor of Survival

Kelly G. Paulson, Jayasri G. Iyer, Andrew R. Tegeder, Renee Thibodeau, Janell Schelter, Shinichi Koba, David Schrama, William T. Simonson, Bianca D. Lemos, David R. Byrd, David M. Koelle, Denise A. Galloway, J. Helen Leonard, Margaret M. Madeleine, Zsolt B. Argenyi, Mary L. Disis, Juergen C. Becker, Michele A. Cleary, and Paul Nghiem

←51,562 Probes Clustered by Expression→ (unsupervised)



Enrichment

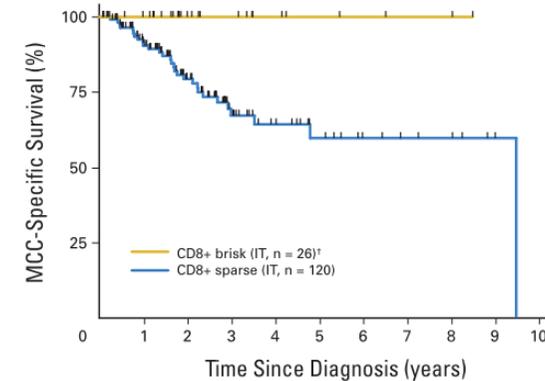
Top Biologic Processes	Expectation Value
Gene ontology	
Immune system process	4.44E-112
Immune response	2.39E-102
Defense response	4.55E-82
Panther	
Immunity and defense	4.89E-71

Low mRNA expression High mRNA expression

Table 2. Genes Most Highly Upregulated in Good Prognosis Tumors

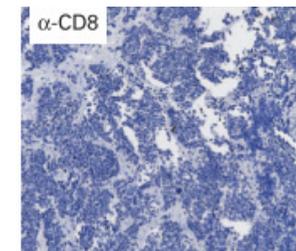
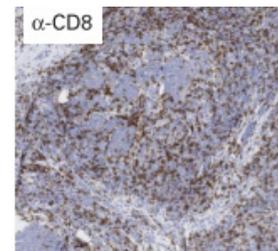
Gene Abbreviation	Gene's Full Name
ALDH1A1	Aldehyde dehydrogenase 1 family, member A1
AMICA1	Adhesion molecule, interacts with CXADR antigen 1
BHLHE41	Basic helix-loop-helix family, member e41
CCL19	Chemokine (C-C motif) ligand 19
CCR2	Chemokine (C-C motif) receptor 2
CD8a	CD8a molecule
CGA	Glycoprotein hormones, alpha polypeptide
CHI3L1	Chitinase 3-like 1
CHIT1	Chitinase 1
CHRNA9	Cholinergic receptor, nicotinic, alpha 9
FAM46C	Family with sequence similarity 46, member C
FBP1	Fructose-1,6-bisphosphatase 1
GZMA	Granzyme A
GZMB	Granzyme B
GZMH	Granzyme H
GZMK	Granzyme K
HLA-DPA1	Major histocompatibility complex, class II, DP alpha 1
HLA-DRB5	Major histocompatibility complex, class II, DR beta 5
IGJ	Immunoglobulin J polypeptide
IGKC	Immunoglobulin kappa constant
ITGBL1	Integrin, beta-like 1
KLRK1	Killer cell lectin-like receptor subfamily K, member 1 (NKG2D)
LYZ	Lysozyme
MMP7	Matrix metalloproteinase 7
POU2AF1	POU class 2 associating factor 1
PROM1	Prominin 1
SLAMF1	Signaling lymphocytic activation molecule family member 1
TMEM200A	Transmembrane protein 200A
TNFRSF17	Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 17
TRBC1	T cell receptor beta constant 1

NOTE. The 30 genes in cluster bin 3 (Fig 1) most highly upregulated in good prognosis patients as compared with poor prognosis patients are listed in alphabetical order. Fold overexpression ranged from five- to 13-fold.

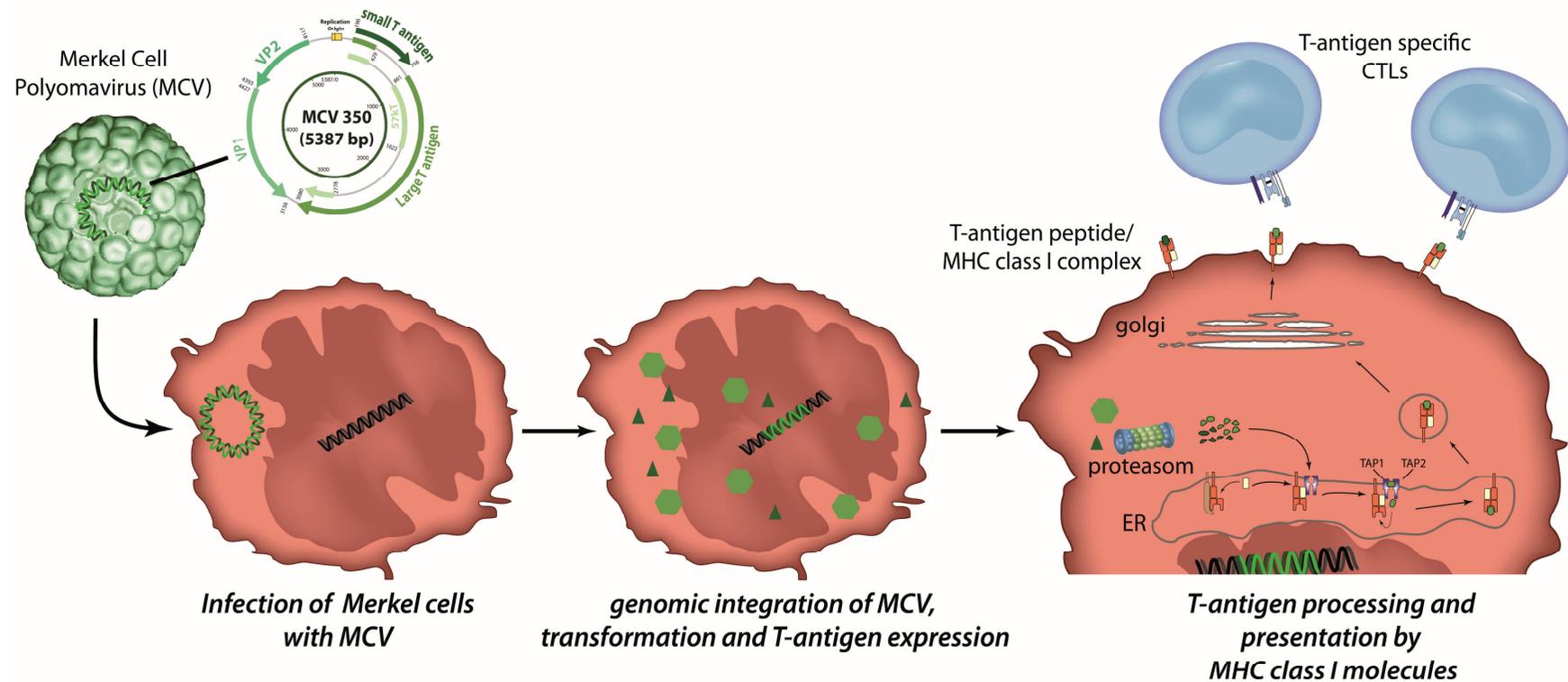


Good Prognosis

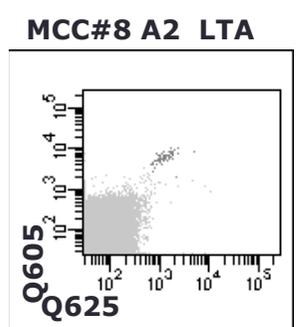
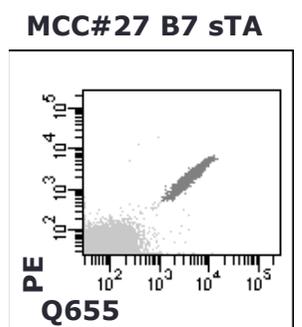
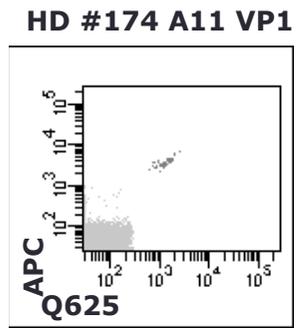
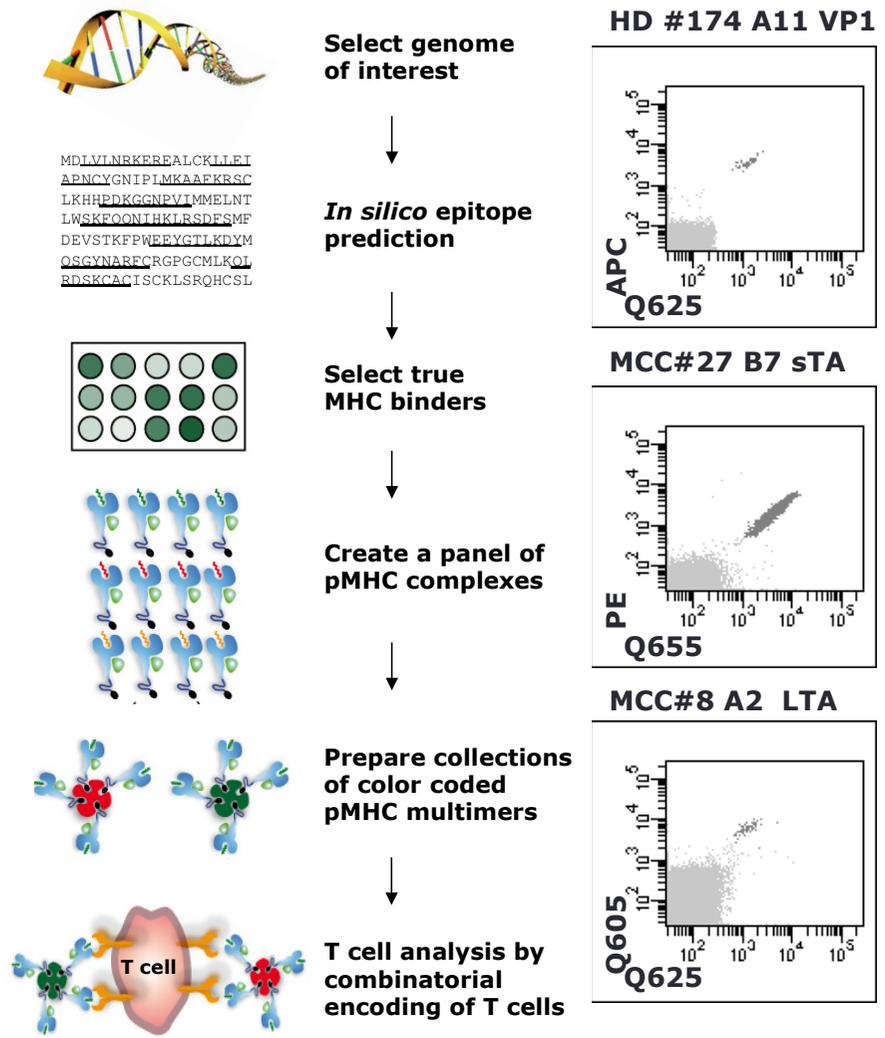
Poor Prognosis



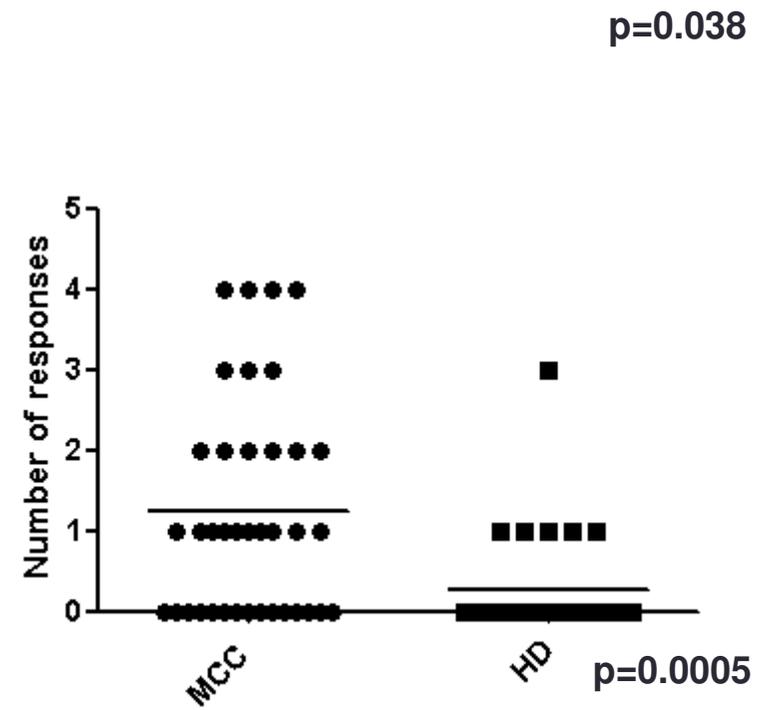
MCPyV derived T-Cell Epitopes



T-Cell Epitopes of MCPyV Encoded Proteins



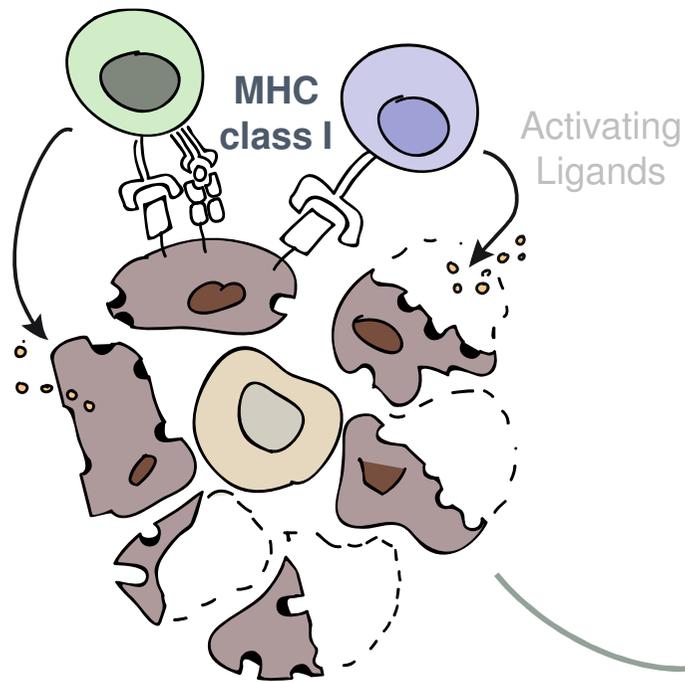
	No.	Responses detected in	frequency
HD	30	6	20%
MCC	38	22	58%



Lyngaa, et al. Clin Cancer Res 2014

Cancer Immune Surveillance

Immune Response



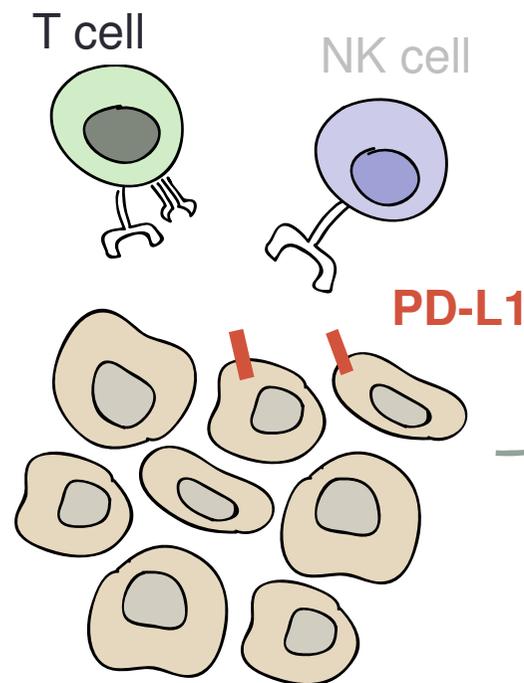
Loss of

- MHC class I or APM
- activating ligands

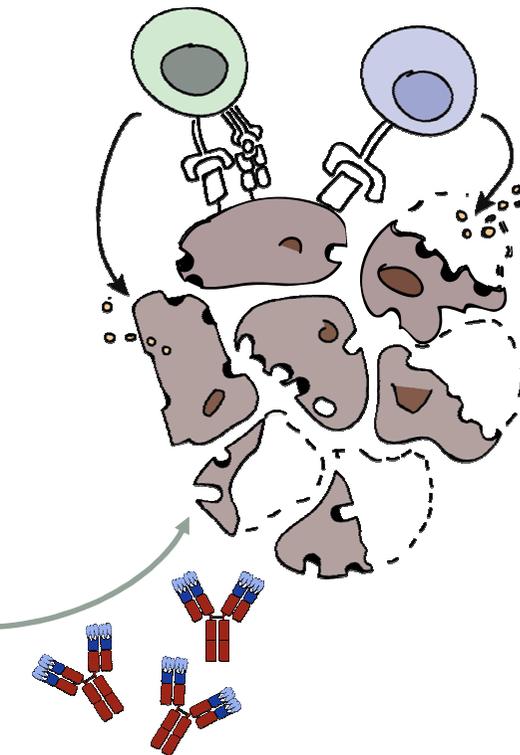
Induction of

- inhibitory ligands
- immune suppressive cytokines

Immune Escape

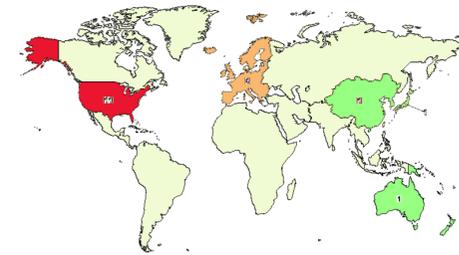


Immune Recognition



Therapeutic Intervention

MCC: Klinische Studien

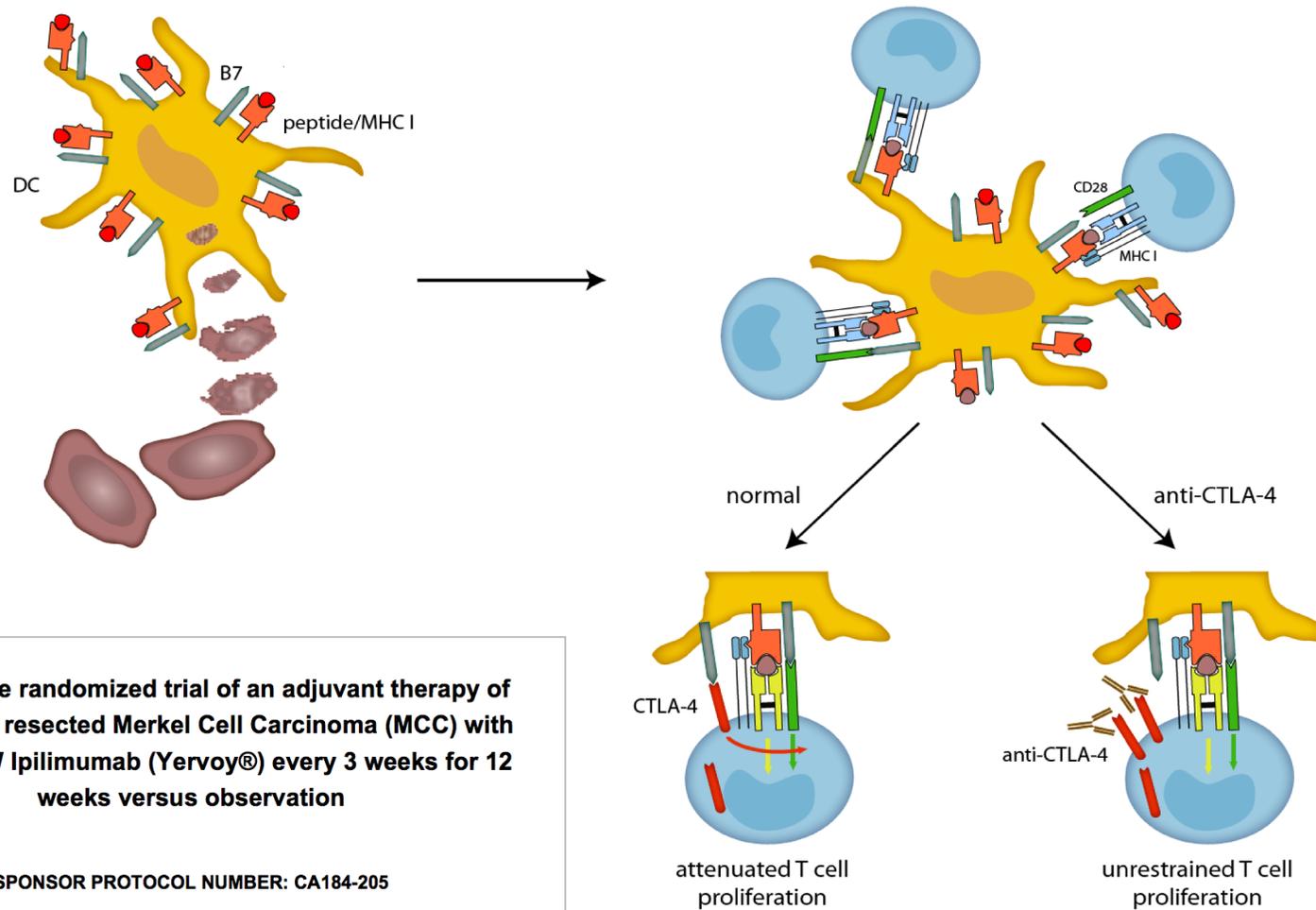


Studiennummer	Drug	Behandlung	Kombination	Mechanismus	Status	Patienten	Phase
NCT02054884	F16-IL-2	Antikörper-IL-2-Fusionsprotein	Paclitaxel	IL-2 transport ins Tumorstroma	rekrutiert	45/90	2
NCT02465957	aNK	Transfer von aktivierten NK-92 Zellen	-	NK-Zell vermittelte Lyse von Tumorzellen	rekrutiert	24	2
NCT01440816	IL-12-Plasmid	IL-12-DNA Elektroporation	-	Verstärkt TH1-Antworten, erhöht IFN-γ und zytolytische Aktivität	aktiv	15	2
NCT02267603	Pembrolizumab	Anti-PD-1	-	Blockiert inhibitorische Signale an CD8 ⁺ T- Zellen	rekrutiert	50	2
NCT02488759 (virus ass. Tumors)	Nivolumab	Anti-PD-1	-	Blockiert inhibitorische Signale an CD8 ⁺ T- Zellen	aktiv	199	1/2
NCT02155647	Avelumab	Anti-PD-L1	-	Blockiert inhibitorische Signale an CD8 ⁺ T- Zellen	aktiv	88	2
NCT02196961	Ipilimumab	CTLA-4 blockierender Antikörper	-	Blockiert CTLA-4 vermittelte Aktivierung von Immunantworten	rekrutiert	222	2
NCT01758458	CD8 ⁺ T cells	Adoptive T-Zell-Therapie	Aldesleukin	Expansion und Aktivierung von tumor-reaktiven Lymphozyten	rekrutiert	16	1/2
NCT02035657	GLA-SE	Toll-like Rezeptor-4 Agonist	-	Immunstimulation	aktiv	10	1
NCT02036476	Cabozantinib	Rezeptortyrosinkinase-Inhibitor	-	Inhibition des Tumorzellwachstums	rekrutiert	12	2
NCT02514824	MLN0128	mTOR Kinase-Inhibitor	-	Inhibition des Tumorzellwachstums	rekrutiert	34	1/2
NCT02351128	Lanreotide	Somatostatin-Analogon	-	Inhibition des Tumorzellwachstums	rekrutiert	35	2

Immuntherapie

Andere

NCT02196961: Ipilimumab Adjuvant



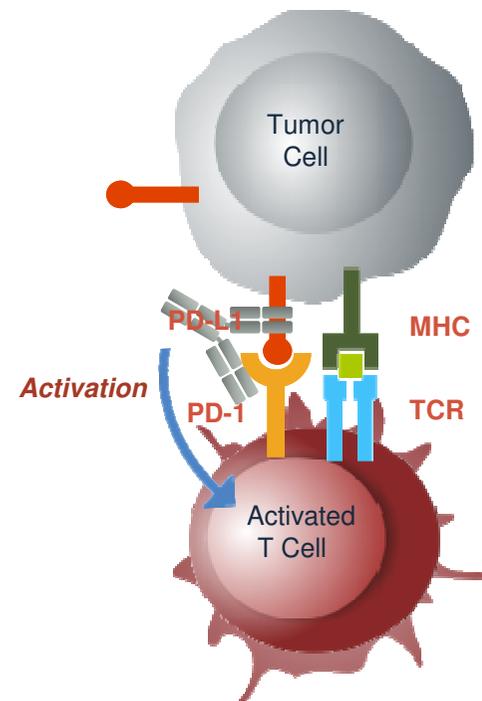
Prospective randomized trial of an adjuvant therapy of completely resected Merkel Cell Carcinoma (MCC) with 3mg/kg BW Ipilimumab (Yervoy®) every 3 weeks for 12 weeks versus observation

SPONSOR PROTOCOL NUMBER: CA184-205

EUDRACT NUMBER: 2013-000043-78

Anti PD-1 for advanced MCC

- Multicenter, Phase II, single arm of pembrolizumab, 2mg/kg q3wks as **first line** therapy
- PI: Paul Nghiem and the Cancer Immunotherapy Trials Network (CITN), CTEP
- ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02267603



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

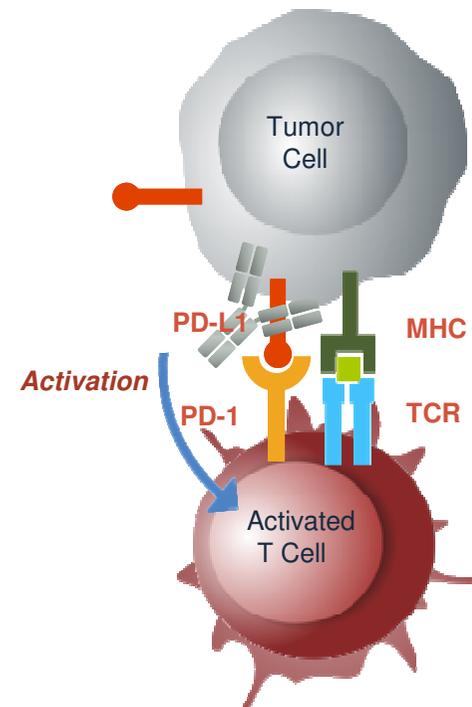
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

PD-1 Blockade with Pembrolizumab in Advanced Merkel-Cell Carcinoma

Paul T. Nghiem, M.D., Ph.D., Shailender Bhatia, M.D., Evan J. Lipson, M.D.,
Ragini R. Kudchadkar, M.D., Natalie J. Miller, B.A.,
Lakshmanan Annamalai, D.V.M., Ph.D, Sneha Berry, M.S.,
Elliot K. Chartash, M.D., Adil Daud, M.B., B.S., Steven P. Fling, Ph.D.,
Philip A. Friedlander, M.D., Harriet M. Kluger, M.D.,
Holbrook E. Kohrt, M.D., Ph.D.,* Lisa Lundgren, M.S., Kim Margolin, M.D.,
Alan Mitchell, M.Sc., Thomas Olencki, D.O., Drew M. Pardoll, M.D., Ph.D.,
Sunil A. Reddy, M.D., Erica M. Shantha, M.D., William H. Sharfman, M.D.,
Elad Sharon, M.D., M.P.H., Lynn R. Shemanski, Ph.D., Michi M. Shinohara, M.D.,
Joel C. Sunshine, M.D., Ph.D., Janis M. Taube, M.D., John A. Thompson, M.D.,
Steven M. Townson, Ph.D., Jennifer H. Yearley, D.V.M., Ph.D.,
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Anti-PD-L1 for advanced MCC

- Phase II, single arm of avelumab 10 mg/kg q2wks as **second line** therapy
- Multicenter US and Europe
- PI: Howard Kaufman, Rutgers University
- ClinicalTrials.gov identifier: NCT02155647



Avelumab in patients with chemotherapy-refractory metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma: a multicentre, single-group, open-label, phase 2 trial



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Summary

Background Merkel cell carcinoma is a rare, aggressive skin cancer with poor prognosis in patients with advanced disease. Current standard care uses various cytotoxic chemotherapy regimens, but responses are seldom durable. Tumour oncogenesis is linked to Merkel cell polyomavirus integration and ultraviolet-radiation-induced mutations, providing rationale for treatment with immunotherapy antibodies that target the PD-L1/PD-1 pathway. We assessed treatment with avelumab, an anti-PD-L1 monoclonal antibody, in patients with stage IV Merkel cell carcinoma that had progressed after cytotoxic chemotherapy.

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See Online/Comment

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045\(16\)30441-7](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S1470-2045(16)30441-7)

NCT02155647 - Avelumab

Effective for therapy resistant MCC

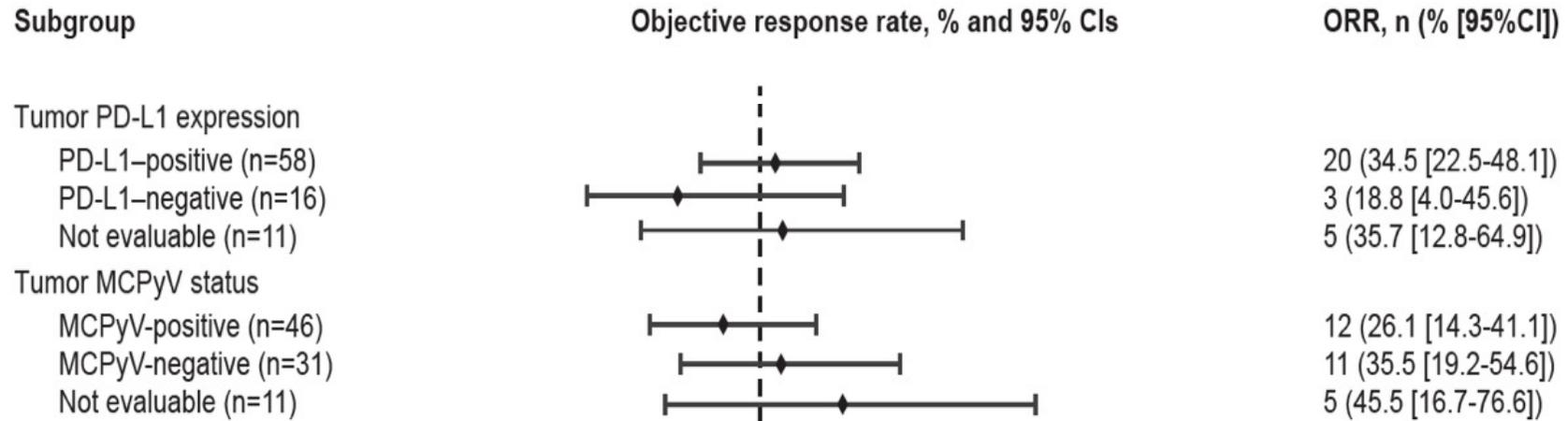
BOR by RECIST v1.1* (n=88)	
Complete response, n (%)	8 (9.1)
Partial response, n (%)	20 (22.7)
Stable disease, n (%)	9 (10.2)
Progressive disease, n (%)	32 (36.4)
Non-CR/non-PD, n (%)	1 (1.1)
Non-evaluable, n (%)	18 (20.5)
Objective response rate, % (95.9% CI)†	31.8 (21.9, 43.1)

2/8 CRs occurred in patients with visceral disease

* Confirmed best overall response according to independent review committee assessment.

† A repeated CI for ORR (95.9% CI for the primary analysis) was calculated to account for the group sequential testing approach.

Neither MCPyV nor PD-L1 status predict response to Avelumab



Avelumab: Toxicity and side effects

n=88	Any grade n (%)	Grade 3 n (%)
Any TRAE	62 (70.5)	4 (4.5)
Fatigue	21 (23.9)	0
Infusion-related reaction [†]	15 (17.0)	0
Diarrhea	8 (9.1)	0
Nausea	8 (9.1)	0
Asthenia	7 (8.0)	0
Rash	6 (6.8)	0
Decreased appetite	5 (5.7)	0
Maculopapular rash	5 (5.7)	0

* Based on the worst grade per patient.

[†] composite definition with 5 different MedDRA terms. Signs and symptoms of a potential infusion-related reaction (eg, fever, chills, or rigors) reported on the day of infusion were queried with investigators to ascertain whether an AE of "infusion-related reaction" should be recorded.

BMS CA 209-358 (Nivo)

Non-Comparative, Two-Cohort, Single Arm, Open-Label,
Phase 1/2 Study of Nivolumab (BMS-936558) in Subjects
with

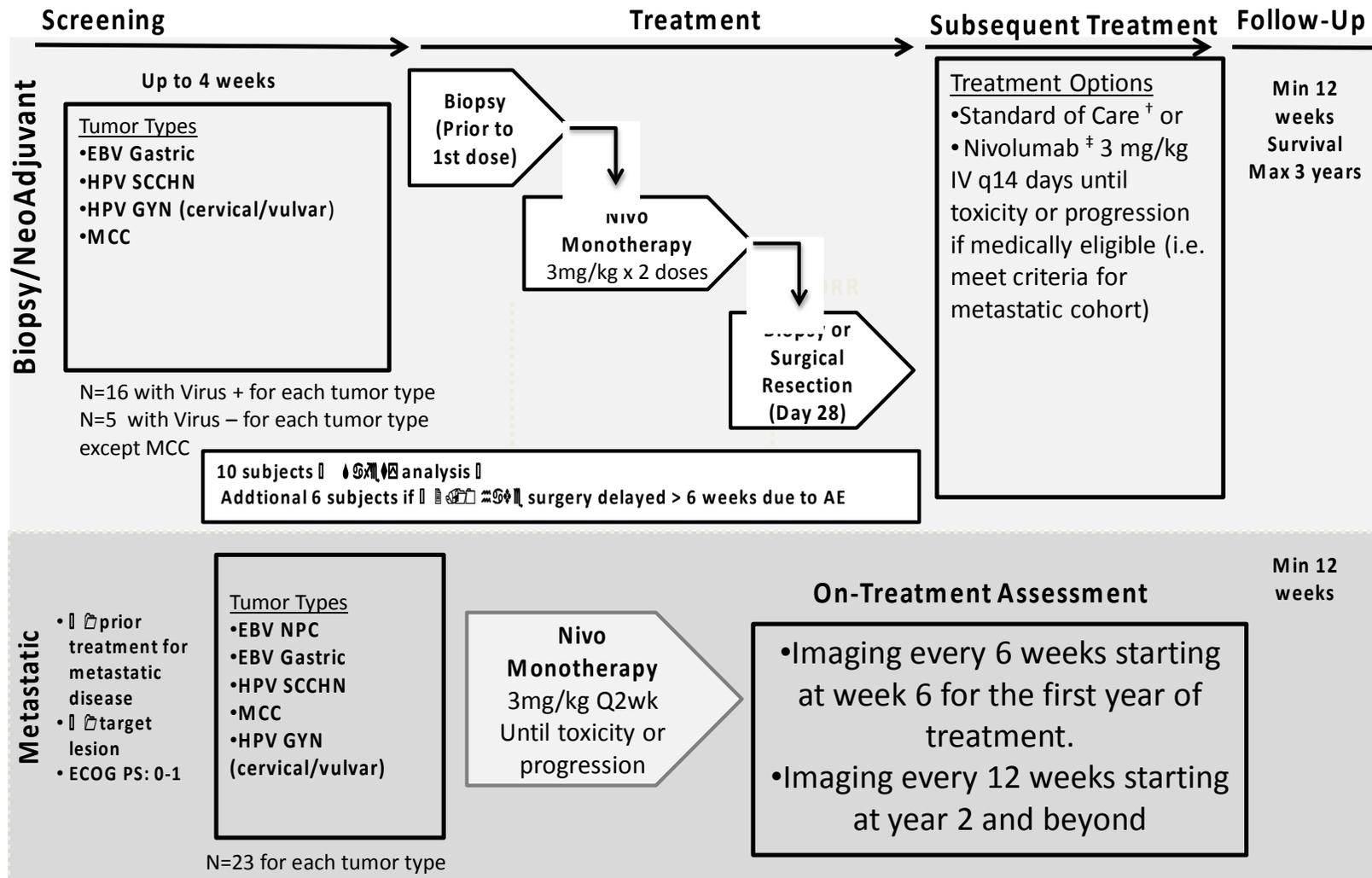
Virus-positive Solid Tumors

ClinicalTrials.gov - NCT02488759

Cohort A (Biopsy / Neoadjuvant): 84 subjects prior to surgery

Cohort B (Metastatic): 115 subjects with recurrent or metastatic disease who have had one prior line of therapy for recurrent or metastatic disease

BMS CA 209-358 (Nivo)



Σummary

- MCC is an immunogenic tumor eliciting adaptive T cell responses
- Immune responses impact the course of disease
- MCC is prone to multiple immune escape mechanisms
- PD-L1 is expressed on MCC cells, stroma cells or both and appear to be a prognostic marker depending on which cell expresses it
- **PD-1/PD-L1 immune checkpoint blockade is an efficient therapeutic option!**



IMmune MOdulating strategies for treatment of MErkel cell Carcinoma

8TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
HPV & POLYOMAVIRUS IN SKIN CANCER
16-18 NOVEMBER 2016 MECC MAASTRICHT, THE NETHERLANDS

Wednesday 16 November, 09.00-16.30, Maastricht
International Symposium on the Immunology and Immunotherapy of Merkel cell Carcinoma

Confirmed Speaker:

Christopher Bichakjian - Jürgen C. Becker - James DeCaprio
Nicole Fischer - Axel zur Hausen - Rikke Lyngaa - Paul Nghiem
Cathrin Ritter - David Schrama - Andreas Stang - Masahiro Shuda

