



# Accelerated Approval for Oncology Drug Products: Regulatory Overview

Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting  
Nivolumab Hepatocellular Carcinoma  
April 29, 2021

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Deputy Director (acting), Office of Oncologic Diseases, FDA



# Outline

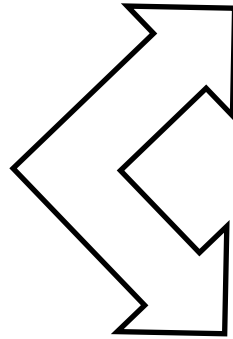
- Regulatory Background
- Accelerated Approval Experience
- Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee Agenda
- Conclusions



# Outline

- **Regulatory Background**
- Accelerated Approval Experience
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U.S. Approval of  
Drugs and Biologics



Accelerated approval pathway

Regular (or traditional) approval  
pathway



# Accelerated Approval Requirements

- Serious and life-threatening disease
- Substantial evidence of Efficacy and Safety
- Endpoint reasonably likely to predict clinical benefit
- Meaningful therapeutic benefit over available therapy
- Confirmatory trial

21 CFR Part 314, Subpart H; 21 CFR Part 601, Subpart E



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# Oncology Accelerated Approval Experience

- 151\* Oncology Accelerated Approvals
  - 35\* Accelerated Approvals for anti-PD-(L)1 antibodies
- 74 (49%)\* converted to regular approval (median 3 years)
- 10 (6%)+ withdrawn indications

\* to January 1, 2021

+ to April 2021

PD-(L)1: programmed death-(ligand) 1



# Accelerated Approval (AA) Withdrawal

- AA indications may be withdrawn by the FDA if:
  - Postmarketing trial(s) fails to confirm a benefit
  - Failure to perform postmarketing trial with due diligence
- Voluntary Withdrawal or FDA initiated withdrawal proceedings





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# Accelerated Approvals

- 76\* Total indications for anti-PD-(L)1 antibodies
  - 35\* Accelerated Approvals
- Communication with companies
  - Withdrawal or advisory committee discussion

\* to January 1, 2021

+ to April 2021

PD-(L)1: programmed death-(ligand) 1



# Voluntary Withdrawals

- 3<sup>rd</sup> line metastatic small cell lung cancer
  - Nivolumab
  - Pembrolizumab
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line advanced/metastatic urothelial carcinoma
  - Durvalumab
  - Atezolizumab

# Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting

Day 1: April 27, 2021

## **Metastatic Triple Negative Breast Cancer**

1. Atezolizumab

Day 2: April 28, 2021

## **Metastatic Urothelial Carcinoma Cisplatin-ineligible**

2. Pembrolizumab
3. Atezolizumab

Day 3: April 29, 2021

## **Metastatic Gastric/Gastroesophageal Junction Cancer**

4. Pembrolizumab

## **Hepatocellular Carcinoma**

5. Pembrolizumab
6. Nivolumab



# Key Issues: Nivolumab Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- Treatment landscape changed with OS benefit from alternative checkpoint inhibitor in 1<sup>st</sup> line
- Benefit not verified in confirmatory trial in 1<sup>st</sup> line disease setting
- Low response rate

OS: Overall Survival



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# Accelerated Approval Conclusions

- Tradeoff: earlier marketing of promising drugs with increased uncertainty
- Accelerated approval has successfully allowed for approval of transformative oncology drugs years earlier
- Re-evaluation necessary when results change the risk/benefit

## **Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee Discussion**

- Should the indication be maintained while additional trial(s) are conducted or completed



**U.S. FOOD & DRUG**  
ADMINISTRATION



# Nivolumab

## Hepatocellular Carcinoma (HCC)

April 29, 2021

Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee Meeting

Steven Lemery, MD, MHS  
Director, Division of Oncology 3,  
Office of Oncologic Diseases, FDA



# Accelerated Approval

1. Serious and-life threatening disease
2. Substantial evidence of safety/efficacy with meaningful therapeutic benefit over available therapy, and
3. Endpoint reasonably likely to predict benefit
4. Confirmatory trial(s)



# Current Accelerated Approval Indications

- As a single agent: treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who have been previously treated with sorafenib
- In combination with ipilimumab: treatment of patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) who have been previously treated with sorafenib

# Key Issues

1. Low response rate
  - CheckMate-040
2. CheckMate-459 did not confirm benefit
3. Treatment landscape evolving
  - IMbrave150
  - CheckMate-040 nivolumab and ipilimumab
4. Is there a role for monotherapy?
5. Alternative studies to CheckMate-459?

# Approvals in Advanced HCC

First-line	Post-sorafenib
Sorafenib (2007)	Regorafenib (2017)
Lenvatinib (2018)	Nivolumab (AA – 2017)
Atezolizumab / bevacizumab (2020)	Pembrolizumab (AA - 2018)
	Cabozantinib (2019)
	Ramucirumab (AFP ≥ 400 ng/mL) (2019)
	Nivolumab + Ipilimumab (AA - 2020)

AA=accelerated approval; AFP=alpha fetoprotein



# CheckMate-040 Design

- Multicohort, multinational trial
- Patients progressed on or were intolerant to sorafenib
- Important eligibility
  - Child-Pugh A (or B)
  - Excluded
    - Hepatic encephalopathy
    - Clinically significant ascities
- Primary endpoint: Objective response rate (ORR) per central review

# CheckMate-040 Patient Characteristics

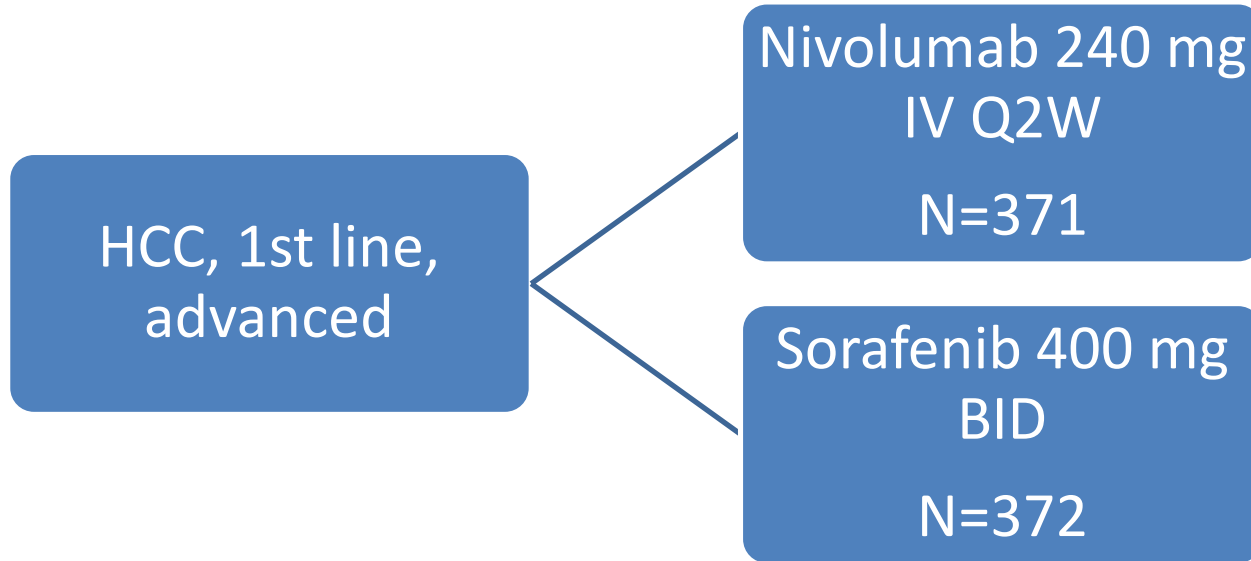
Parameter	% N=154
Hepatitis B virus (HBV) seropositive	34
Hepatitis C virus (HCV) seropositive	29
Child-Pugh (CP) A5	68
Child-Pugh (CP) A6	31
Vascular invasion	29
Extrahepatic disease	71
AFP $\geq$ 400	37

# CheckMate-040 Results

Parameter	Results
N	154
ORR (RECIST)	14% (9,21)
responses $\geq$ 6 mo	91%
responses $\geq$ 12 mo	55%
ORR (mRECIST)	18% (12,25)



# CheckMate-459

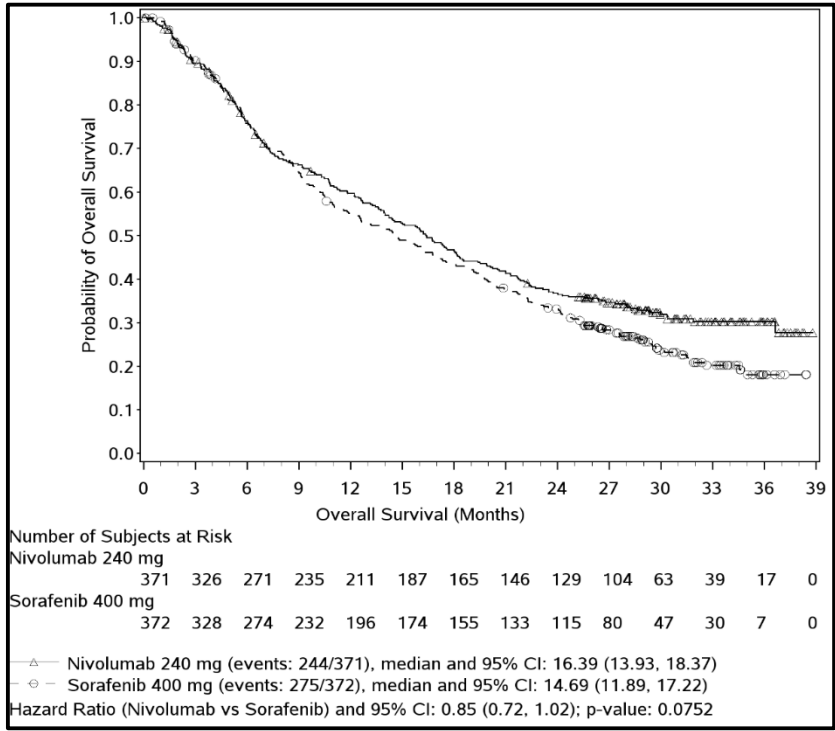


**Alpha allocation (2-sided)**

**Overall survival (OS)**

**0.05**

# CheckMate-459 Results

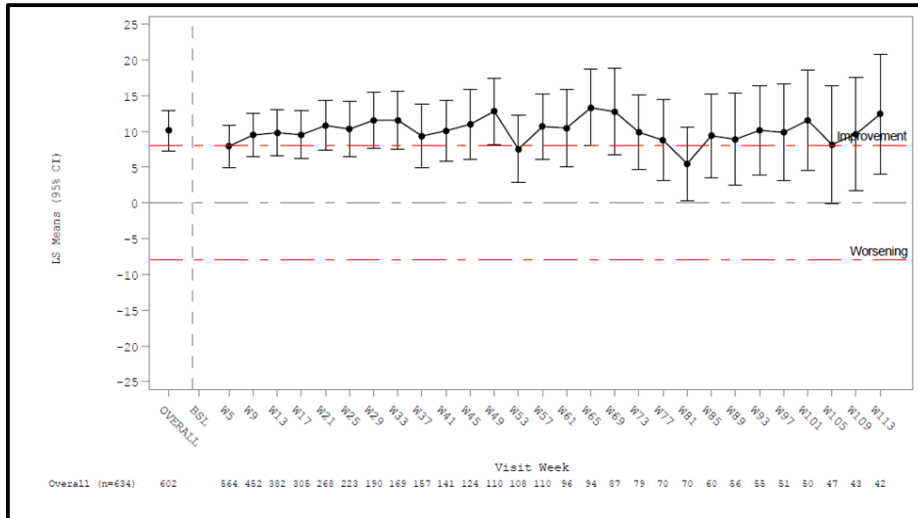


- Solid Line: Nivolumab
- Dotted Line: Sorafenib

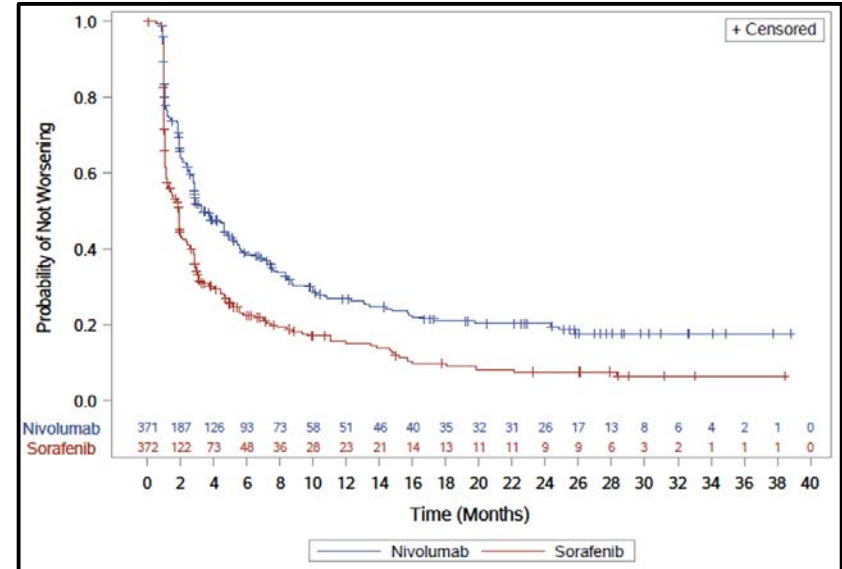
KM curves from BMS's briefing document

# Patient Reported Outcome Analyses

## FACT-Hep difference between arms

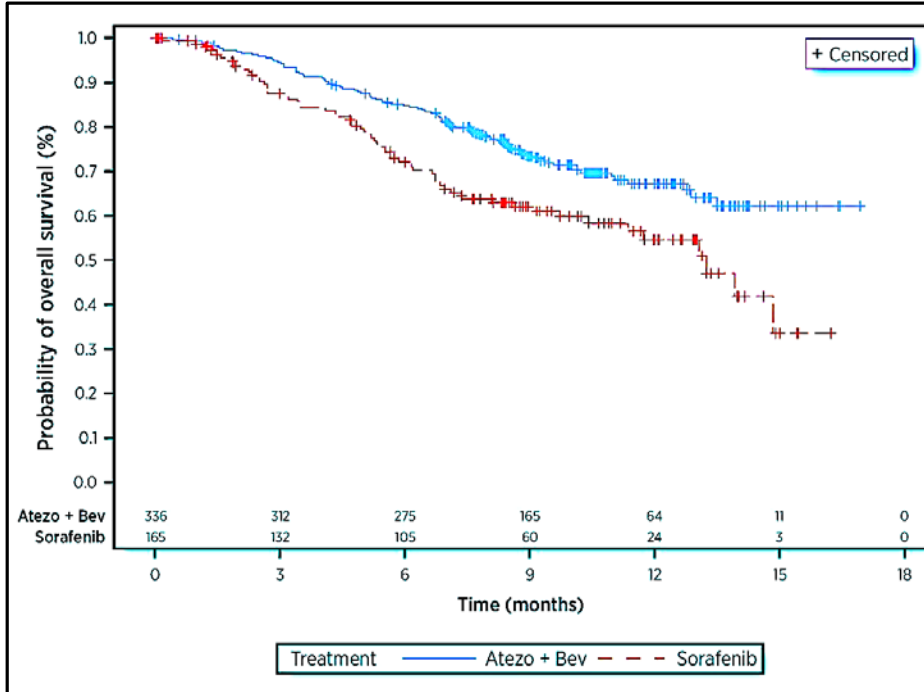


## Time to deterioration FACT-Hep



KM curves from BMS's briefing document

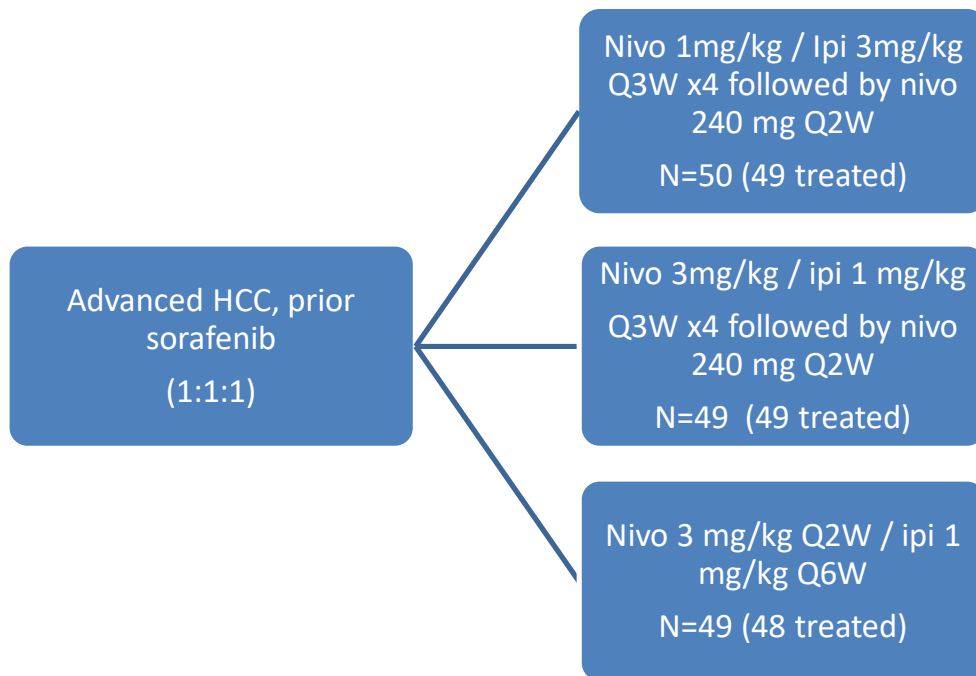
# The Treatment Landscape is Changing Atezolizumab/bevacizumab



From FDA Approval Summary (Casak et al., CCR, 2021)

- Excluded
  - Variceal bleeding within 6 mo
  - Untreated varices with bleeding
  - High risk of bleeding
- Required EGD within 6 mo

# CheckMate-040 Nivolumab / Ipilimumab Cohort



# CheckMate-040 Nivolumab / Ipilimumab

Parameter	Nivolumab (1 mg/kg) and Ipilimumab (3 mg/kg)
N	49
ORR (RECIST)	33% (20,48)
responses $\geq$ 6 mo	88%
responses $\geq$ 12 mo	56%
ORR (mRECIST)	35% (22,50)

# Ongoing Nivolumab Trials

	CM-9DW	CM-9DX	CM-74W
N	650	530	765
Interventions	Nivo/ipi vs sorafenib or lenvatinib	Nivo vs placebo	Nivo/ipi/TACE Nivo/placebo/TACE Placebo/placebo/TACE
HCC-line of treatment	1 <sup>st</sup> -line advanced HCC	Post curative resection or ablation	Intermediate stage exceeding BMU7, no prior TACE
Enrollment	Recruiting	Complete	Recruiting
Completion	2023	2023	2026
Primary Endpoints	OS	RFS	Arm A vs C (TTTP, OS)

TACE=transarterial chemoembolization; BMU7=Beyond Milan and Up-to-7; RFS=recurrence free survival; TTTP=time to TACE progression

# Monotherapy Benefit/Risk Assessment

## Benefits

- Low chance of responding / long duration of response
- Different mechanism of action



## Risks

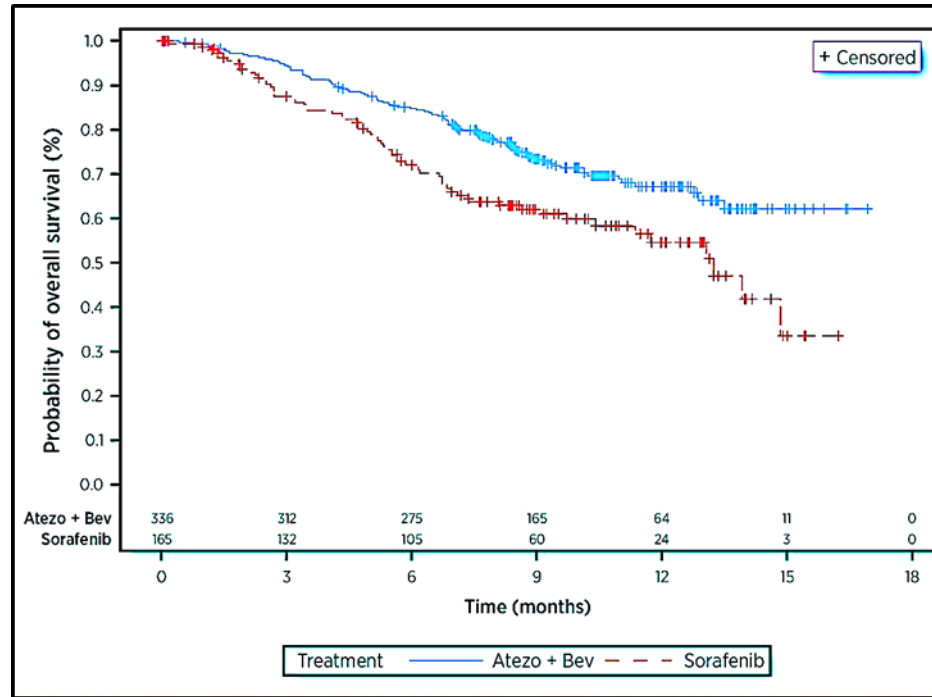
- Immune-related adverse events
- Most patients do not benefit / randomized trial negative

## Uncertainties

- Drug effect in patients with high bleeding risk



# How Would a New Application in the Second-Line Setting be Viewed?



IMbrave150

From FDA Approval Summary (Casak et al., CCR, 2021)

# How to Consider Nivolumab in Combination with Ipilimumab

Parameter	Nivolumab (1 mg/kg) and Ipilimumab (3 mg/kg)
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# Voting Question

## Given the following:

1. Low response rate of monotherapy in post-sorafenib setting.
2. Treatment landscape changed with OS benefit of alternative checkpoint inhibitor (atezolizumab) in combination with bevacizumab in the first-line setting.
3. Negative monotherapy trial versus sorafenib in the first-line setting.
4. The combination indication for nivolumab and ipilimumab will be maintained. The response rate of combination therapy is higher than monotherapy.

**Should the indication for the monotherapy use of nivolumab in patients previously treated with sorafenib be maintained pending conduct or completion of additional trial(s)?**

- **If your answer is “yes”, please discuss after the vote what ongoing or alternative trials may serve to confirm clinical benefit.**