

Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

US Food & Drug Administration
Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee
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Ian Waxman, MD

Vice President,
Late Development Oncology

BMS



Introduction

Opdivo® (nivolumab) Fully Approved for Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma on May 30, 2022

First-line treatment of adult patients with unresectable advanced or metastatic esophageal squamous cell carcinoma

- In combination with fluoropyrimidine and platinum-containing chemotherapy
- In combination with ipilimumab

**No restriction based
on PD-L1 status**

Current US Prescribing Information Includes Data by PD-L1 Expression Level in Section 14.12

Table 74: Efficacy Results - CHECKMATE-648

	OPDIVO with Cisplatin and Fluorouracil (n=321)	OPDIVO and Ipilimumab (n=325)	Cisplatin and Fluorouracil (n=324)	OPDIVO with Cisplatin and Fluorouracil (n=158)	OPDIVO and Ipilimumab (n=158)	Cisplatin and Fluorouracil (n=157)
	All Patients			TC PD-L1 expression $\geq 1\%$		
Overall Survival						
Deaths (%)	209 (65)	216 (66)	232 (72)	98 (62)	106 (67)	121 (77)
Median (months) (95% CI)	13.2 (11.1, 15.7)	12.8 (11.3, 15.5)	10.7 (9.4, 11.9)	15.4 (11.9, 19.5)	13.7 (11.2, 17.0)	9.1 (7.7, 10)
Hazard ratio (95% CI) ^b	0.74 (0.61, 0.90)	0.78 (0.65, 0.95)	-	0.54 (0.41, 0.71)	0.64 (0.49, 0.84)	-
p-value ^c	0.0021 ^{S1}	0.0110 ^{S2}	-	<0.0001 ^{S3}	0.0010 ^{S4}	-

Exploratory subgroup analyses of patients with TC PD-L1 expression <1% (N=492)

- OPDIVO with Chemotherapy (n = 163) vs. Chemotherapy (n = 165): unstratified OS HR was **0.99 (95% CI: 0.76, 1.29)** with median OS of 12 months (95% CI: 9.9, 15.5) on the OPDIVO with Chemotherapy arm and 12.2 months (95% CI: 10.7, 14) on the Chemotherapy arm.
- OPDIVO with Ipilimumab (n = 164) vs. Chemotherapy (n = 165): unstratified OS HR was **0.97 (95% CI: 0.74, 1.26)** with median OS of 12 months (95% CI: 10.1, 16.0) on the OPDIVO with Ipilimumab arm and 12.2 months (95% CI: 10.7, 14) on the Chemotherapy arm.

Exploratory subgroup analyses were also conducted by PD-L1 status per CPS (≥ 1 and <1)

- OPDIVO with Chemotherapy vs. Chemotherapy: unstratified OS HR was **0.69 (95% CI: 0.56, 0.84)** for PD-L1 CPS ≥ 1 subgroup and **0.98 (95% CI: 0.50, 1.95)** for PD-L1 CPS <1 subgroup.
- OPDIVO with Ipilimumab vs. Chemotherapy: unstratified OS HR was **0.76 (95% CI: 0.62, 0.93)** for PD-L1 CPS ≥ 1 subgroup and **1.0 (95% CI: 0.52, 1.94)** for PD-L1 CPS <1 subgroup.

TPS and CPS subgroup data, based on Agilent/Dako PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx test, provided in the clinical trial section.

NCCN Guidelines Complement Information Included in Opdivo Label

Tumor Type	Recommended First-line Regimen	Recommended Population to Treat	
		USPI ¹	NCCN ²
Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma	Nivolumab + fluoropyrimidine, and platinum-containing chemotherapy	No restriction	No restriction ^{Cat 1}
	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	No restriction	No restriction ^{Cat 2A}
	Pembrolizumab + fluoropyrimidine, and platinum-containing chemotherapy	No restriction	CPS ≥ 10 ^{Cat 1/2A} CPS < 10 ^{Cat 2B}
	Tislelizumab + chemotherapy	TBD	TBD

¹Opdivo USPI.

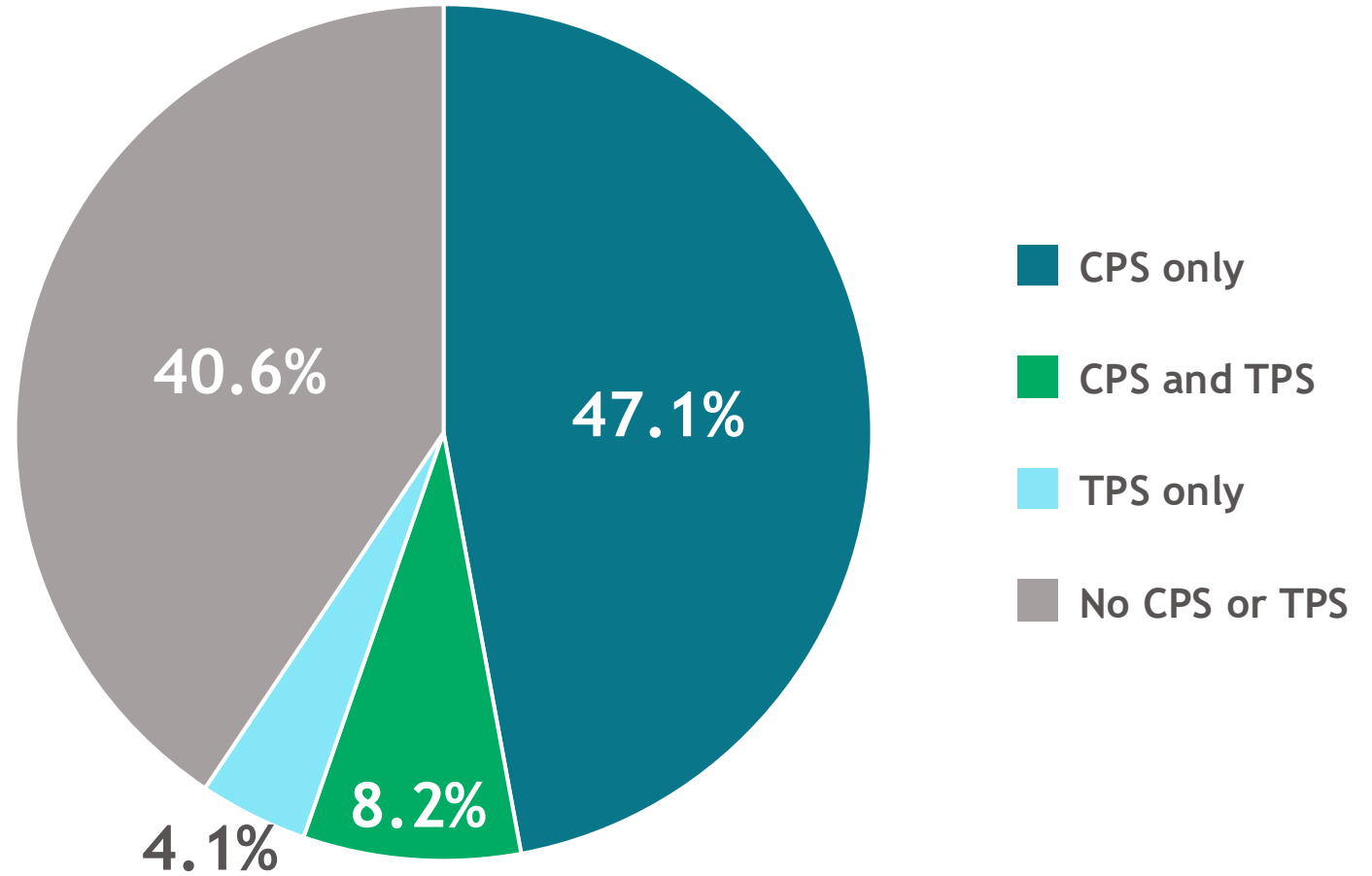
²NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) Esophageal Cancer. Version 4.2024 – July 30, 2024.

PD-L1 Testing Patterns – US Flatiron Analysis (N=170)

Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

~ 60%

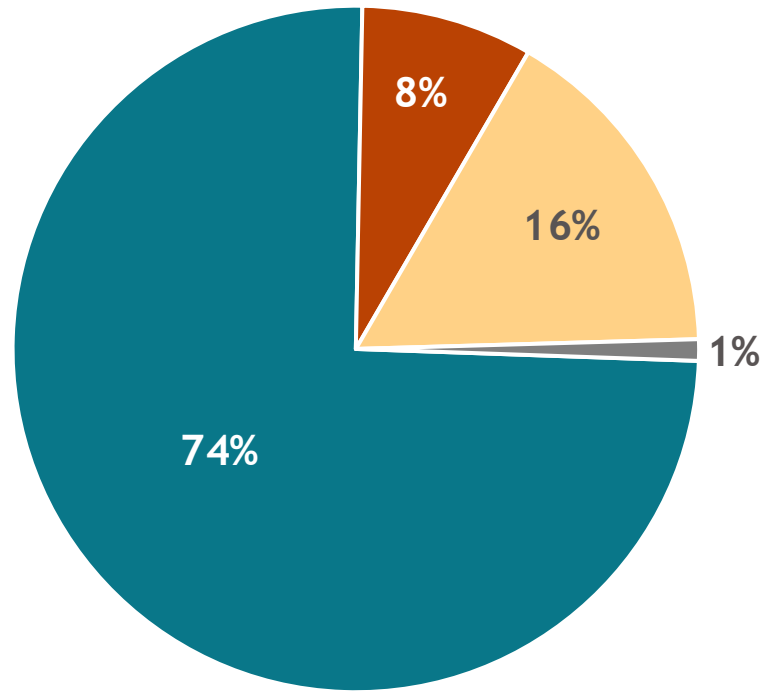
of ESCC patients
are tested for
PD-L1 expression



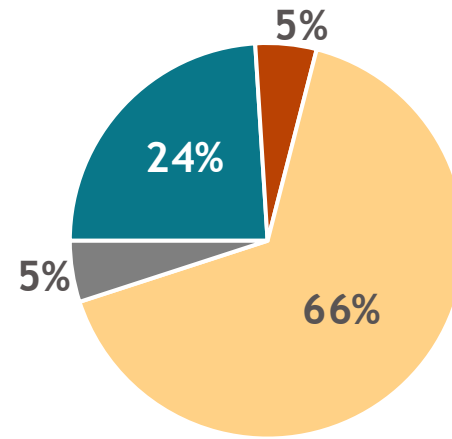
Flatiron analysis of PD-L1 CPS and TPS testing patterns of advanced ESCC patients who received 1L treatment from May 2022 to June 2024. PubD 00065623. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; 2024.

First-Line Treatment Patterns – Physician Survey (N=219)

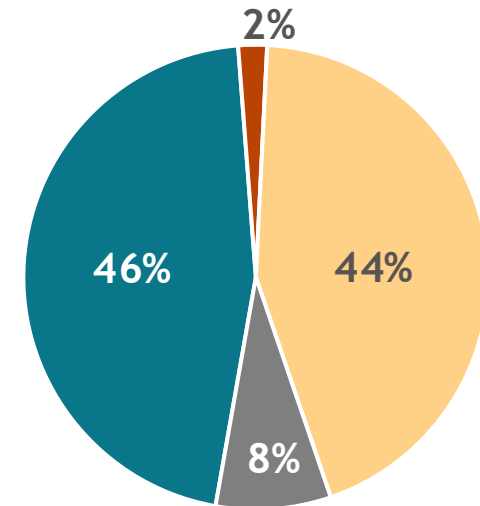
Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma



PD-L1 Positive
n=116 (53%)



PD-L1 Negative
n=40 (18%)



Unknown or Untested
n=63 (29%)

■ IO + Chemo ■ Nivo + Ipi ■ Chemo alone ■ Other

What We're Here to Discuss

1 ∞

Potential changes to the product label based on PD-L1 expression

2 ✓

We desire to do what's right for patients and ensure that information provided to physicians and patients is clear

3

Important challenges in seeking harmonization

Potential Labeling Options

Modify the indication to PD-L1 positive (by any FDA-approved test)

Benefit:

- Limits treatment to patients most likely to benefit based on clinical trial data
- Use of any FDA-approved test would minimize the need for clinicians to change their current testing practice

Considerations:

- PD-L1 is a dynamic biomarker and expression is heterogeneous leading to limitations in test interpretation
 - Some patients may have inadequate tumor tissue for biomarker testing and endoscopy may be contraindicated
-

Keep current indication

Benefit:

- Provides physicians/patients an opportunity to make informed decisions on an individual patient basis
- USPI and practice guidelines are aligned
- High prevalence of PD-L1 expression limits risk of overtreatment

Considerations:

- Raises concerns about exposing patients who are less likely to benefit to additional toxicity

Agenda

Benefit Risk Profile in PD-L1 Subgroups



Dana Walker, MD, MSCE
Vice President,
Global Program Lead,
Opdivo/Yervoy, GI and GU
BMS

Clinical Perspective



Ronan J. Kelly, MBBCh, MBA, FASCO
Charles A. Sammons
Cancer Center
Baylor University Medical Center

Conclusion



Ian Waxman, MD
Vice President,
Late Development Oncology
BMS

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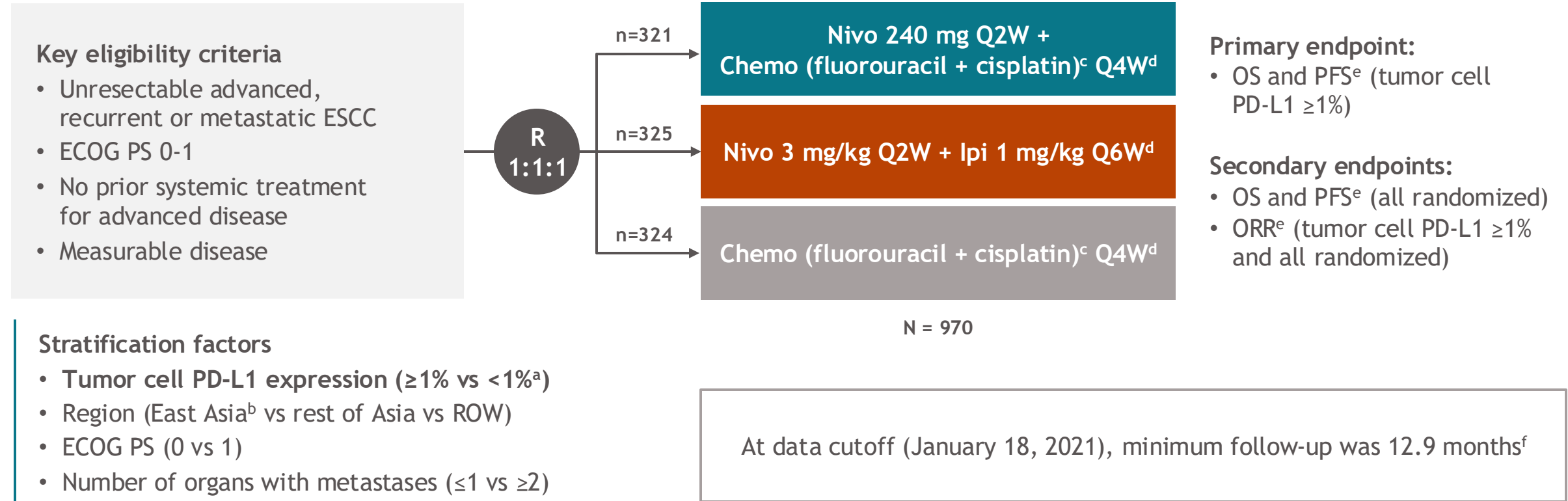
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Benefit Risk Profile in PD-L1 Subgroups

CheckMate 648 Study Design

Global, randomized, open-label, phase 3 study¹

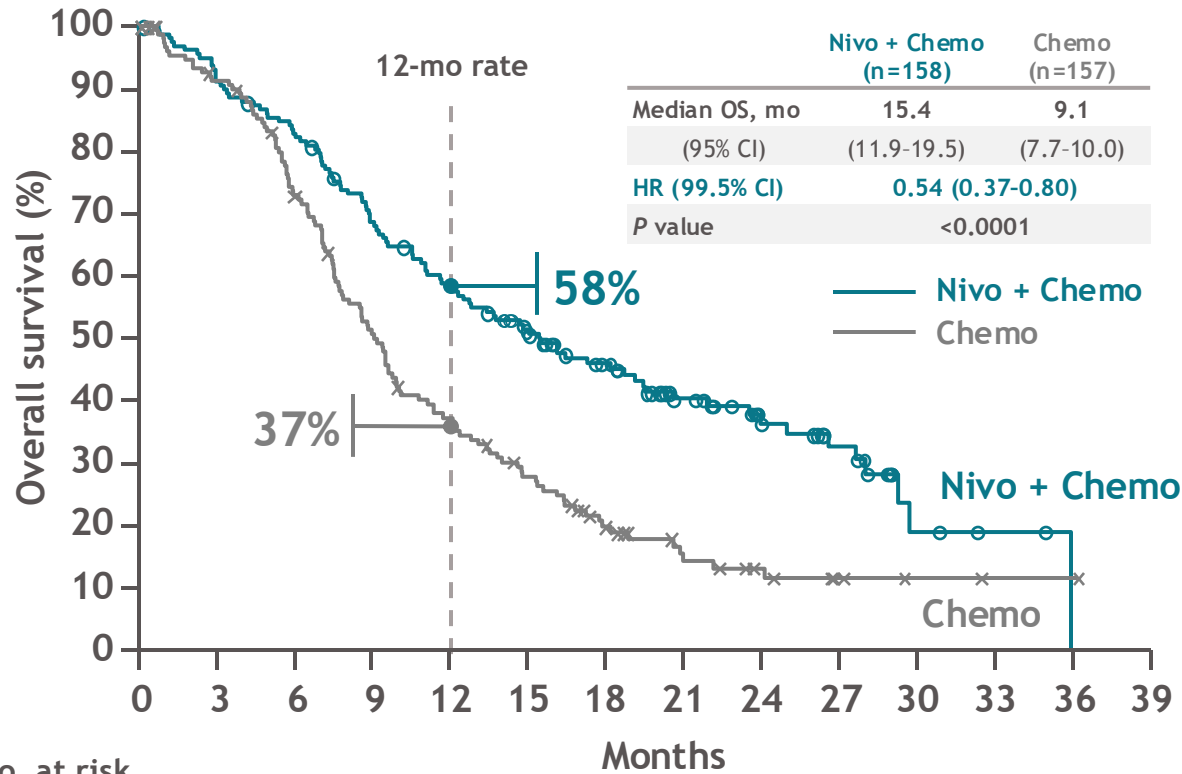


¹Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022; 386:449-462. ^a $< 1\%$ includes indeterminate tumor cell PD-L1 expression; determined by PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx assay (Dako). ^bEast Asia includes patients from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. ^cFluorouracil 800 mg/m² IV daily (days 1-5) and cisplatin 80 mg/m² IV (day 1). ^dUntil documented disease progression (unless consented to treatment beyond progression for Nivo + Ipi or Nivo + Chemo), discontinuation due to toxicity, withdrawal of consent, or study end. Nivo is given alone or in combination with Ipi for a maximum of 2 years. ^ePer BICR. ^fTime from last patient randomized to clinical data cutoff.

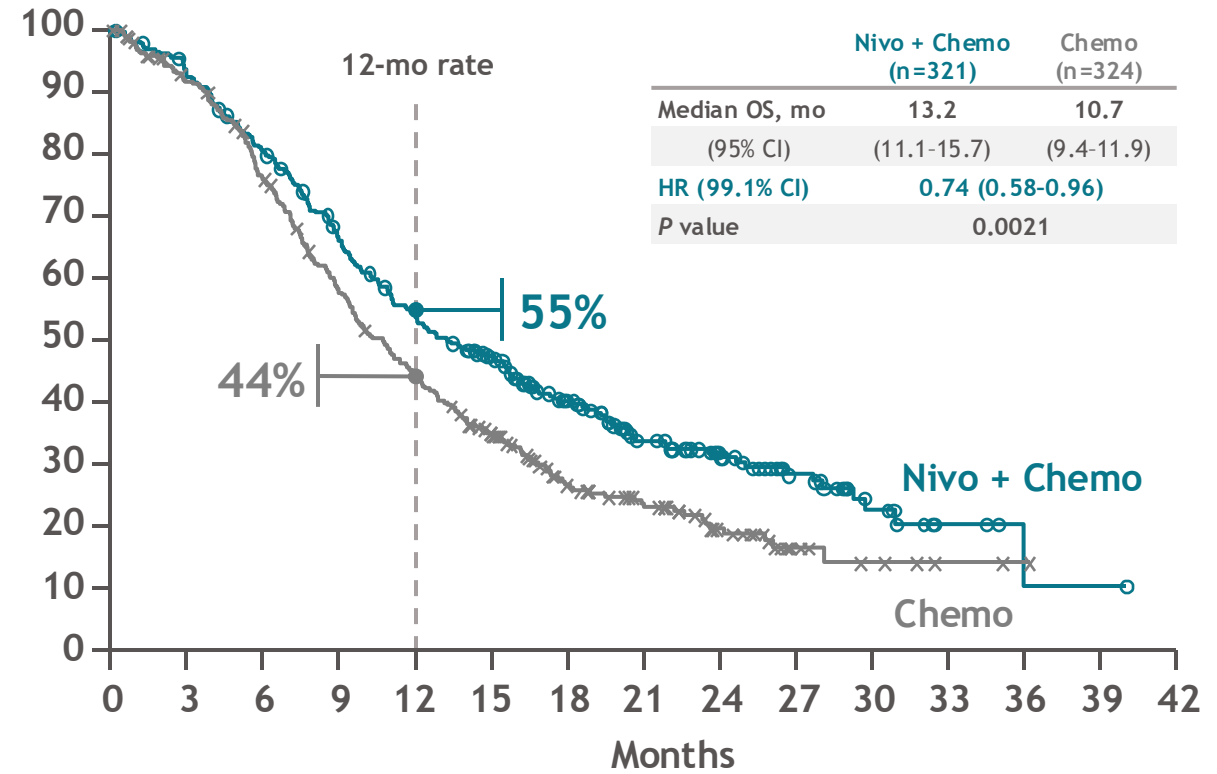
Statistically Significant and Clinically Meaningful OS Benefit

CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo

Primary endpoint (tumor cell PD-L1 ≥1%)^a



All randomized^a



No. at risk

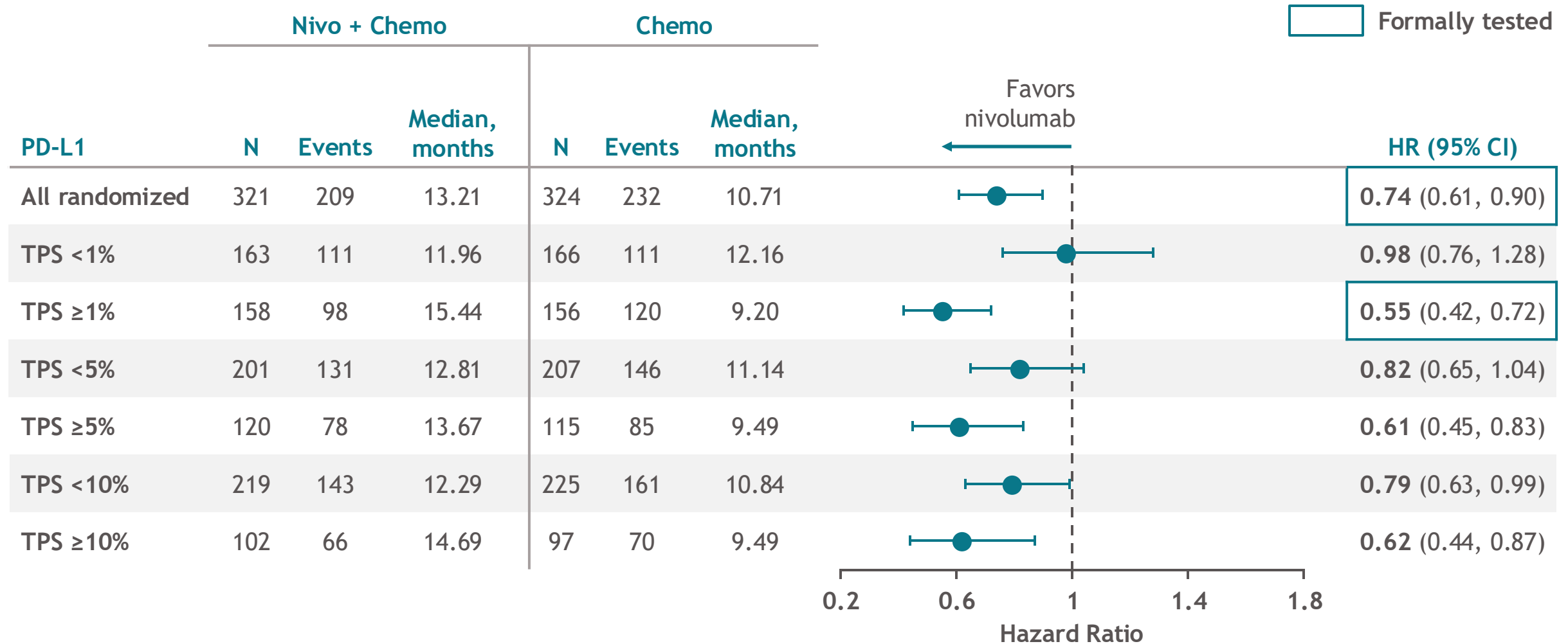
	Nivo + Chemo	158	143	129	105	88	70	53	36	22	16	4	2	0	0
Chemo	157	135	105	72	52	36	21	12	8	4	2	1	1	0	0

	Nivo + Chemo	321	293	253	203	163	133	92	60	40	26	12	4	1	1	0
Chemo	324	281	229	171	131	93	56	41	23	9	5	2	1	0	0	

^aMinimum follow-up 12.9 months. Stratified hazard ratio. Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462.

OS in PD-L1 TPS Subgroups

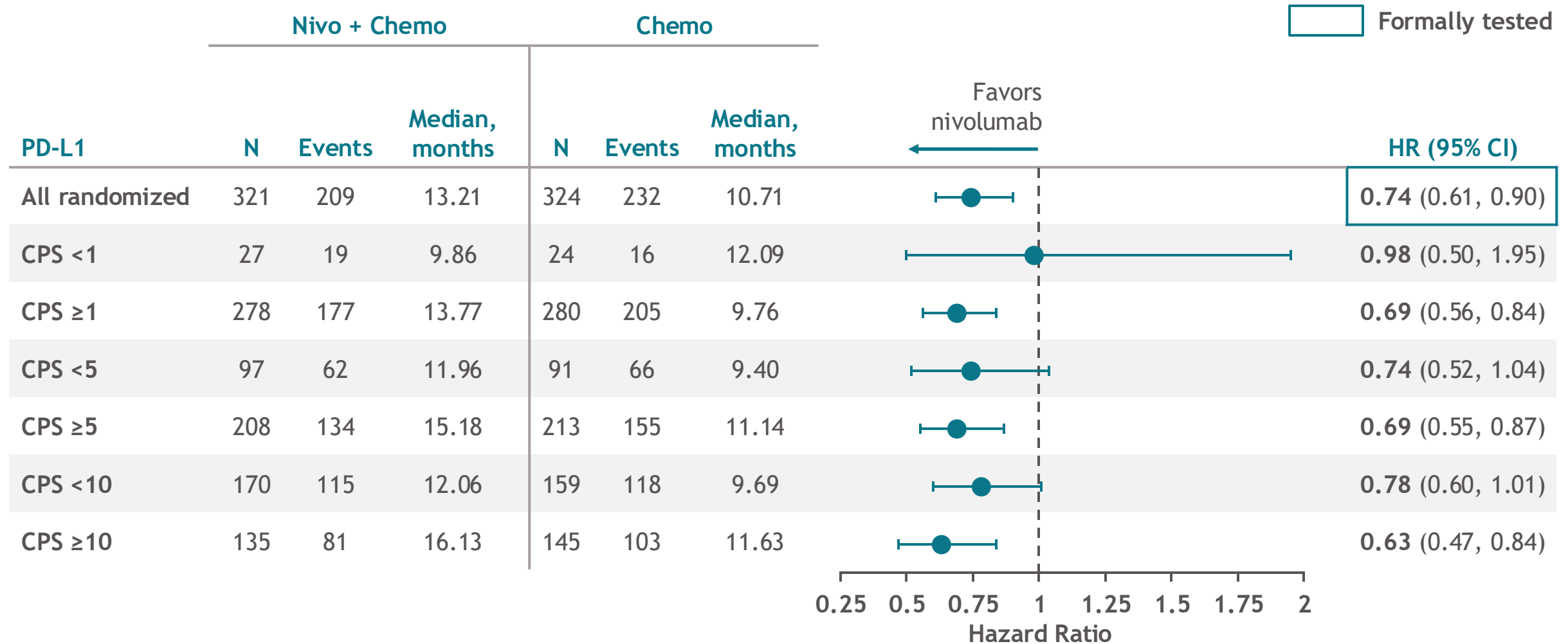
CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo



Unstratified hazard ratio. Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462.

OS in Exploratory PD-L1 CPS Subgroups

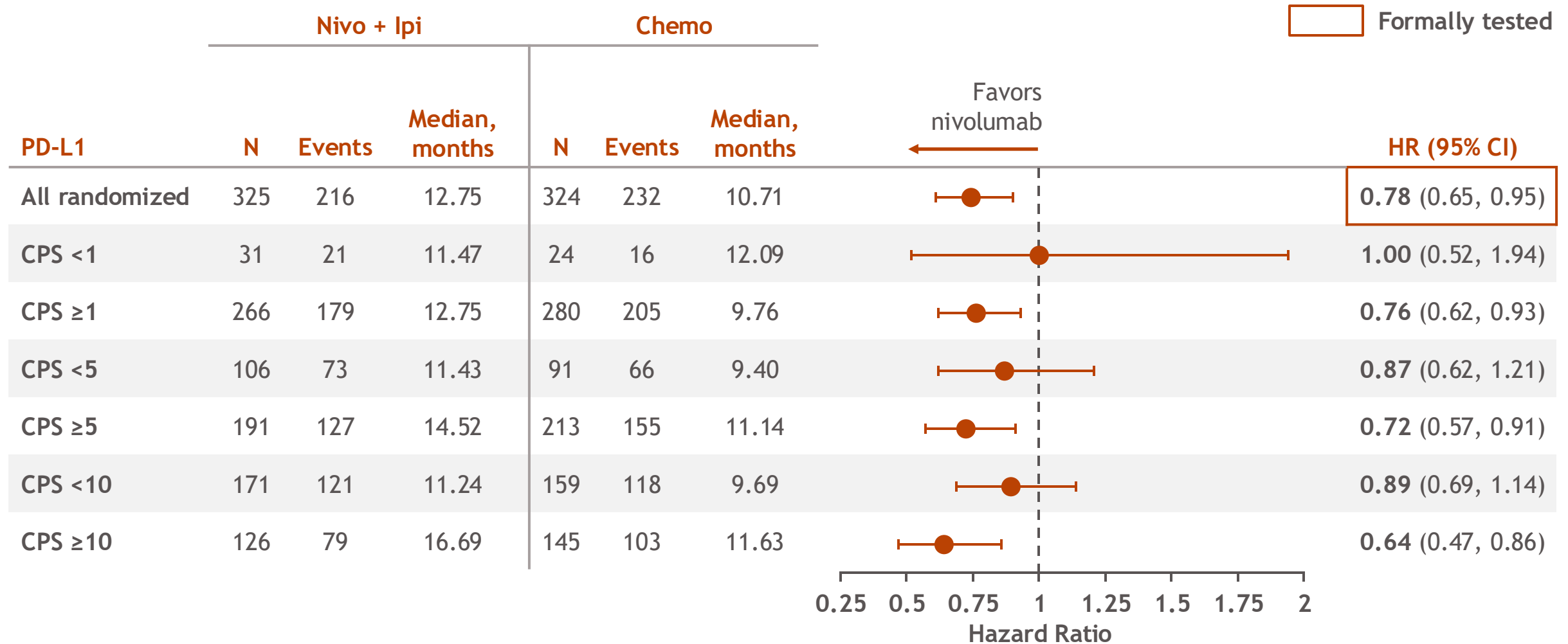
CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo



Unstratified hazard ratio. Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462.

OS in Exploratory PD-L1 CPS Subgroups

CheckMate 648, Nivo + Ipi



Unstratified hazard ratio. Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462.

Overall Safety

CheckMate 648

	Patients, n (%) ^{1,2}		
	Nivo + Chemo (N=310)	Nivo + Ipi (N=322)	Chemo (N=304)
All grade, all causality AEs	308 (99.4)	316 (98.1)	301 (99.0)
All grade, TRAEs	297 (95.8)	256 (79.5)	275 (90.5)
Grade 3/4	147 (47.4)	102 (31.7)	108 (35.5)
All grade, TRAEs leading to DC ^a	106 (34.2)	57 (17.7)	59 (19.4)
Grade 3/4	29 (9.4)	41 (12.7)	14 (4.6)
Treatment-related deaths	5 (1.6)	5 (1.6)	4 (1.3)

No difference in safety profile based on PD-L1 status

¹Data on file. BMS-REF-NIVO-0303. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; 2024. ²Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462. ^aReflects discontinuation (DC) of any component of a regimen.

Summary – First-Line Treatment of Advanced/Metastatic Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

- CM-648 demonstrated statistically significant and clinically meaningful OS benefit in the TPS $\geq 1\%$ and all randomized populations
 - Exploratory analyses suggest similar OS benefit across all levels of PD-L1 positivity
 - Long-term follow-up data are consistent with the data available at the time of approval
- The safety profile of Nivo + Chemo and Nivo + Ipi was consistent with the known safety profile of the individual drug components
 - Consistent safety profile regardless of PD-L1 status
- Positive benefit risk profile in all PD-L1 positive subgroups

Ronan J. Kelly, MBBCh, MBA, FASCO

Charles A. Sammons Cancer Center

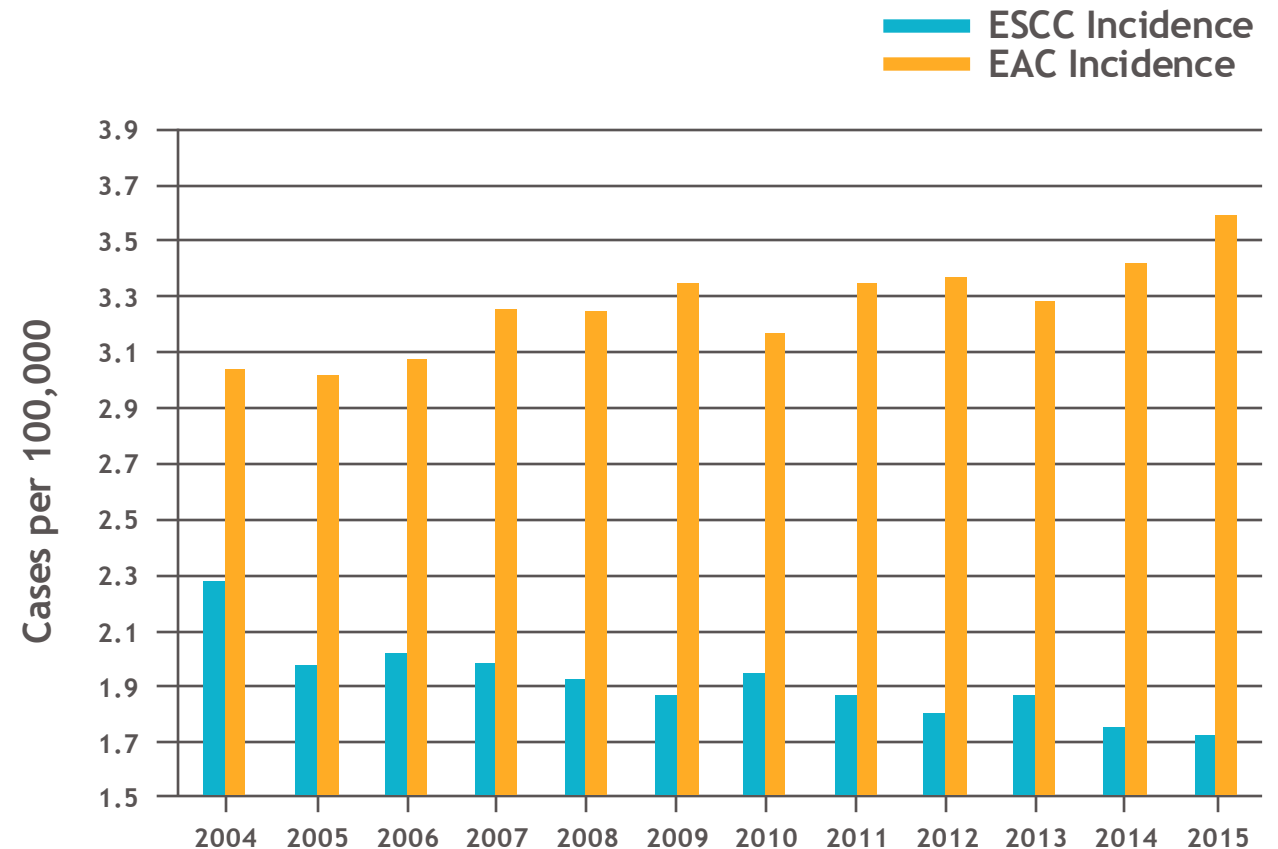
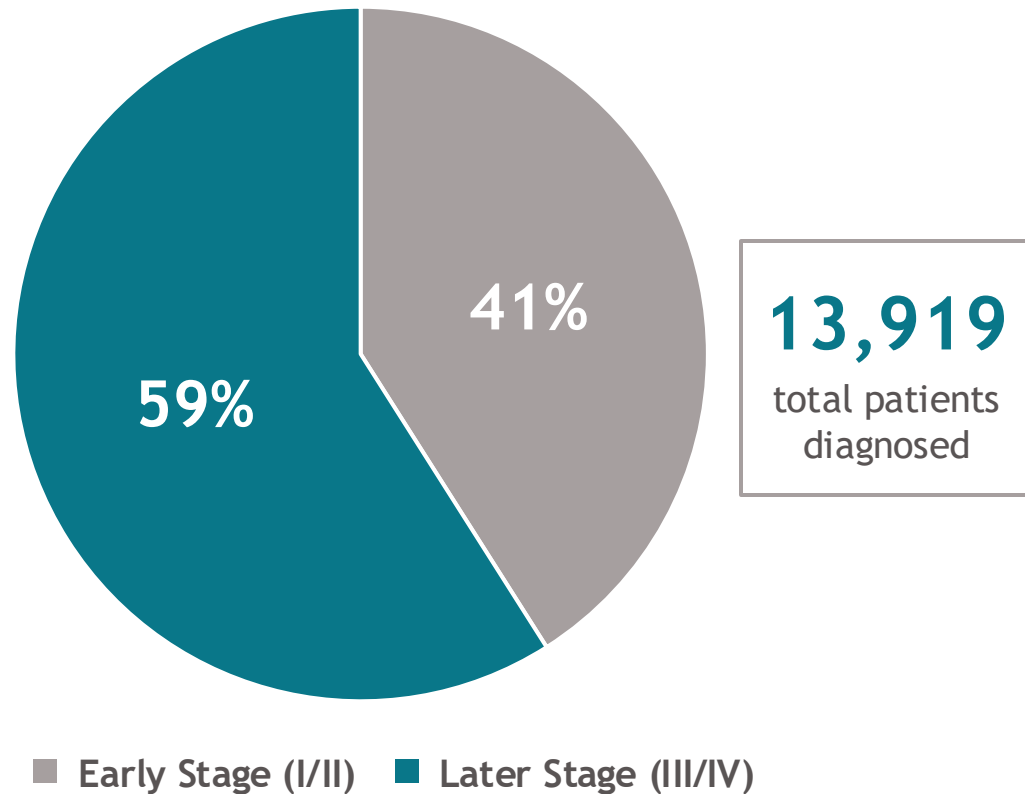
Baylor University Medical Center



Clinical Perspective

ESCC is an Orphan Disease in the United States

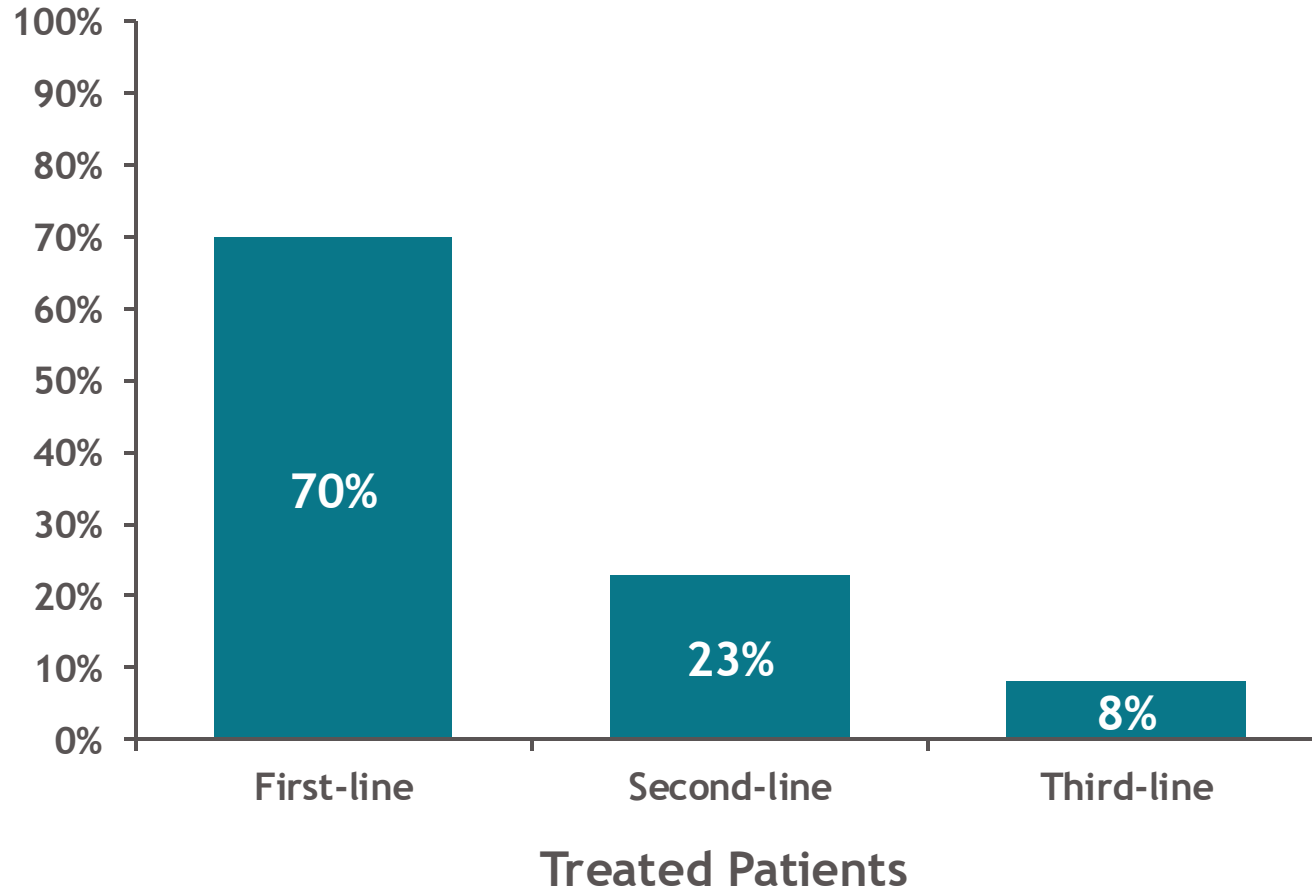
ESCC: SEER Database Analysis^a 2004-2015



^aPatients with known stage at diagnosis = 11,558. Then EO, et al. *World J Oncol.* 2020;11(2):55-64.

Few Patients With ESCC Go Beyond First-Line

Real-World Treatment Patterns¹



< 50% of patients in CM-648 received subsequent therapy²

Limited effective 2L treatment options and outcomes are poor

¹Abraham P, et al. *Adv Ther.* 2020;37:3392-3403.

²Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022; 386:449-462.

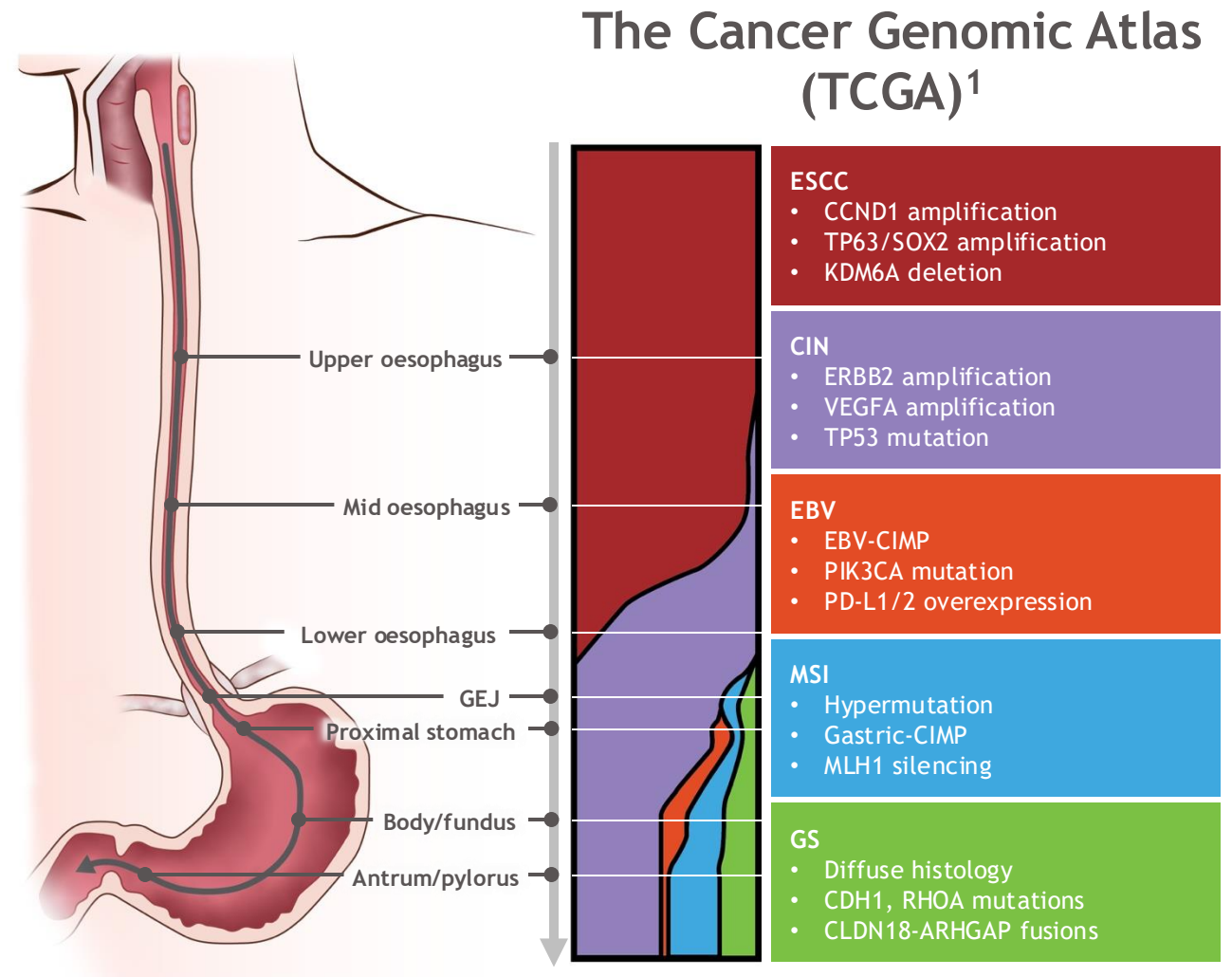
ESCC Is Biologically Different From Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinomas

Anatomic location of ESCC and genomic similarity to HNSCC

- Squamous esophageal cancer is more similar to squamous head and neck cancers than gastric cancer

Need to begin treatment quickly and palliate symptoms with radiotherapy

- Radiotherapy upregulates PD-L1²



¹Cancer Genomic Atlas Research Network, Analysis Working Group, et al. *Nature*. 2017;541(7636):169-175. <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>. ²Kelly R, et al. ESMO GI 2023.

Reality of PD-L1 Testing in Clinical Practice

~ 60%

of ESCC patients
are tested

- 47.1% CPS alone
- 8.2% CPS + TPS
- 4.1% TPS alone
- 40.6% Untested



• Heterogeneity of tumors



• Dynamic biomarker



• High interobserver variability



• Different assays and antibodies



• Different scoring systems (TPS vs CPS)

Conclusions and Recommendation

- Maintaining the current indication in ESCC is appropriate
 - The biology of ESCC is different from gastroesophageal adenocarcinomas
 - Only about 25% of patients make it to second-line treatment
 - Labeling is consistent with NCCN recommendations
- If a PD-L1 restriction is chosen, PD-L1 positivity by any FDA-approved test is easier for oncologists

Ian Waxman, MD

Vice President,
Late Development Oncology

BMS



Conclusion

Challenging Situation Without a Clear-Cut Answer

Modify indications based on PD-L1 positivity by any FDA-approved test

- Rational approach that would ensure only patients most likely to benefit receive treatment without requiring a major shift in current clinical testing practice
- However, this would also leave some patients without a potentially important treatment option
 - Risk could be minimized by choosing any measure of PD-L1 positivity

Keep current indication

- Leaves decision-making in the hands of the treating physician and maximizes the chance for patients to benefit, given the high prevalence of PD-L1 expression in ESCC and the shortcomings of available testing