

# Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

US Food & Drug Administration  
Oncologic Drugs Advisory Committee  
September 26, 2024

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Vice President,  
Late Development Oncology

**BMS**



# Introduction

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

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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 $\geq 1\%$		
<b>Overall Survival</b>						
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) <sup>b</sup>	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 <sup>c</sup>	0.0021 <sup>S1</sup>	0.0110 <sup>S2</sup>	-	<0.0001 <sup>S3</sup>	0.0010 <sup>S4</sup>	-

## 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 ( $\geq 1$ and <1)

- OPDIVO with Chemotherapy vs. Chemotherapy: unstratified OS HR was **0.69 (95% CI: 0.56, 0.84)** for PD-L1 CPS  $\geq 1$  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  $\geq 1$  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 <sup>1</sup>	NCCN <sup>2</sup>
Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma	Nivolumab + fluoropyrimidine, and platinum-containing chemotherapy	No restriction	No restriction <sup>Cat 1</sup>
	Nivolumab + ipilimumab	No restriction	No restriction <sup>Cat 2A</sup>
	Pembrolizumab + fluoropyrimidine, and platinum-containing chemotherapy	No restriction	CPS $\geq 10$ <sup>Cat 1/2A</sup> CPS $< 10$ <sup>Cat 2B</sup>
	Tislelizumab + chemotherapy	TBD	TBD

<sup>1</sup>Opdivo USPI.

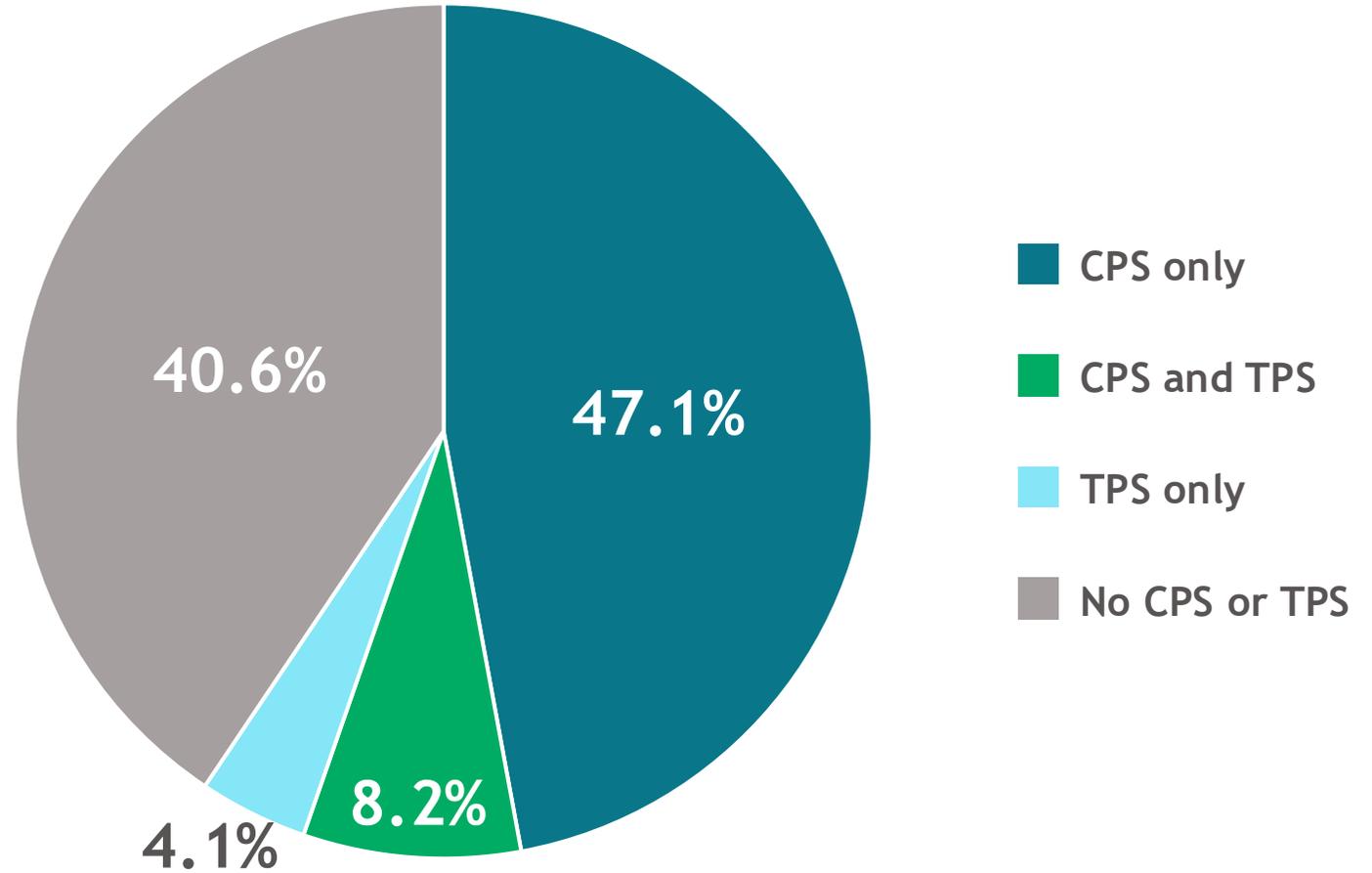
<sup>2</sup>NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) Esophageal Cancer. Version 4.2024 – July 30, 2024.

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

## Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma

**~ 60%**

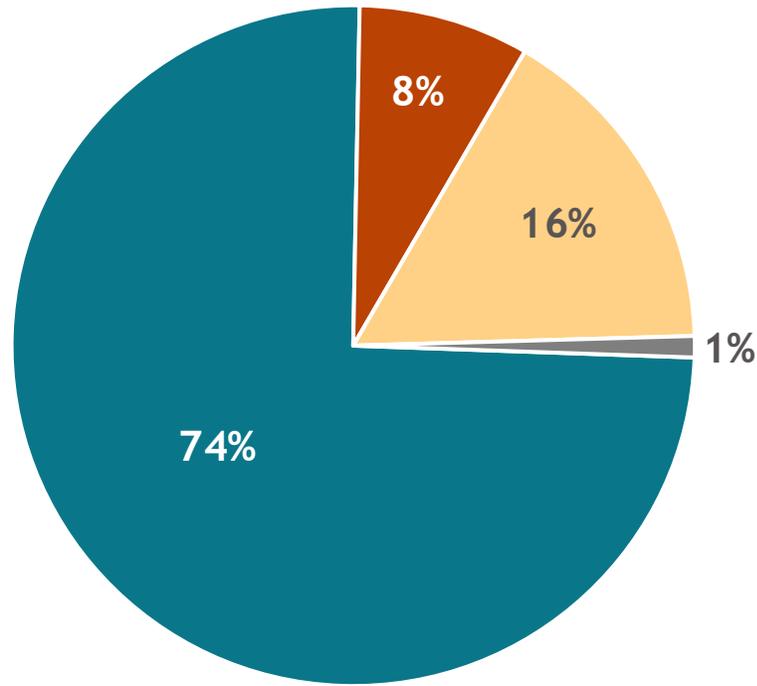
of ESCC patients  
are tested for  
PD-L1 expression



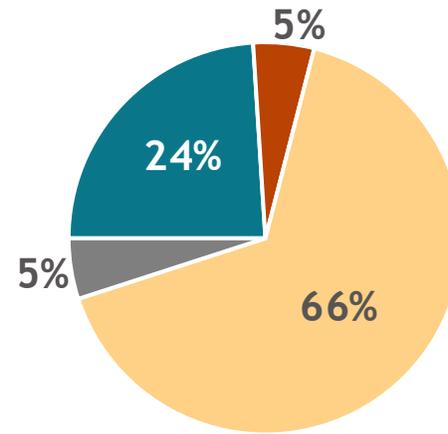
Flatiron analysis of PD-L1 CPS and TPS testing patterns of advanced ESCC patients who received 1L treatment from May 2022 to June 2024. PubD 00065623. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; 2024.

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

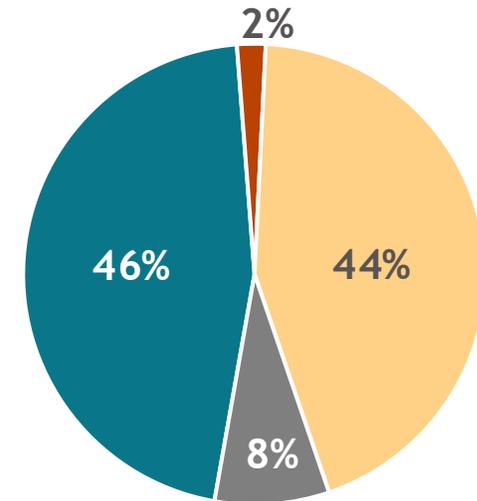
## Esophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma



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

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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

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## 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



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## Clinical Perspective



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## Conclusion



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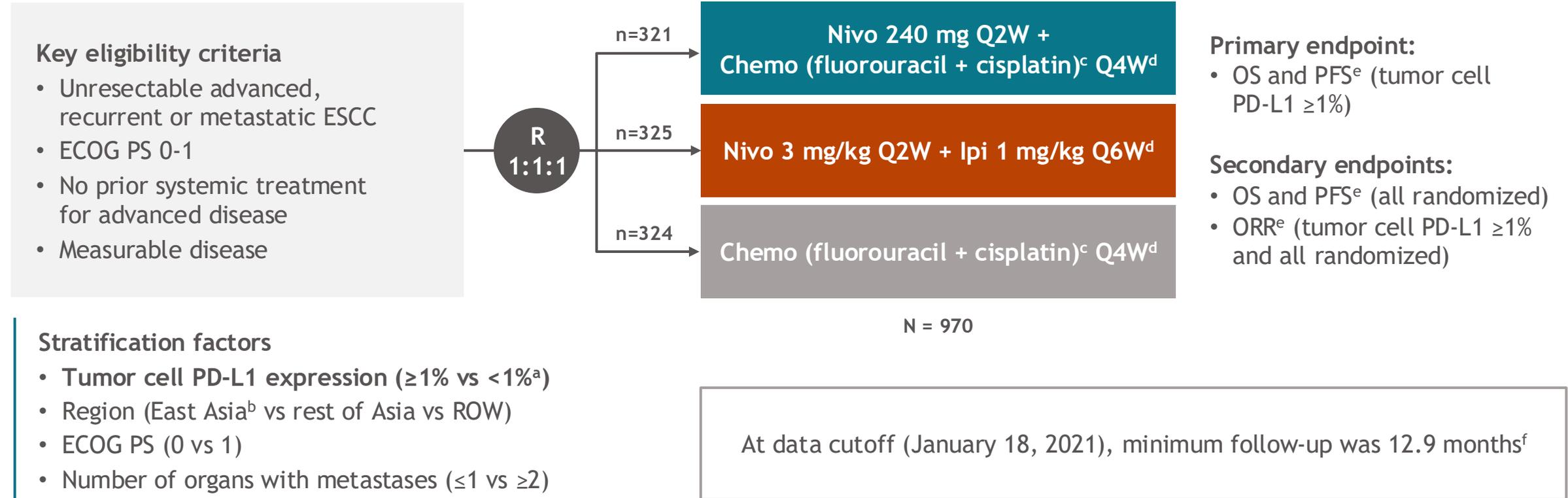


# Benefit Risk Profile in PD-L1 Subgroups

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# CheckMate 648 Study Design

Global, randomized, open-label, phase 3 study<sup>1</sup>

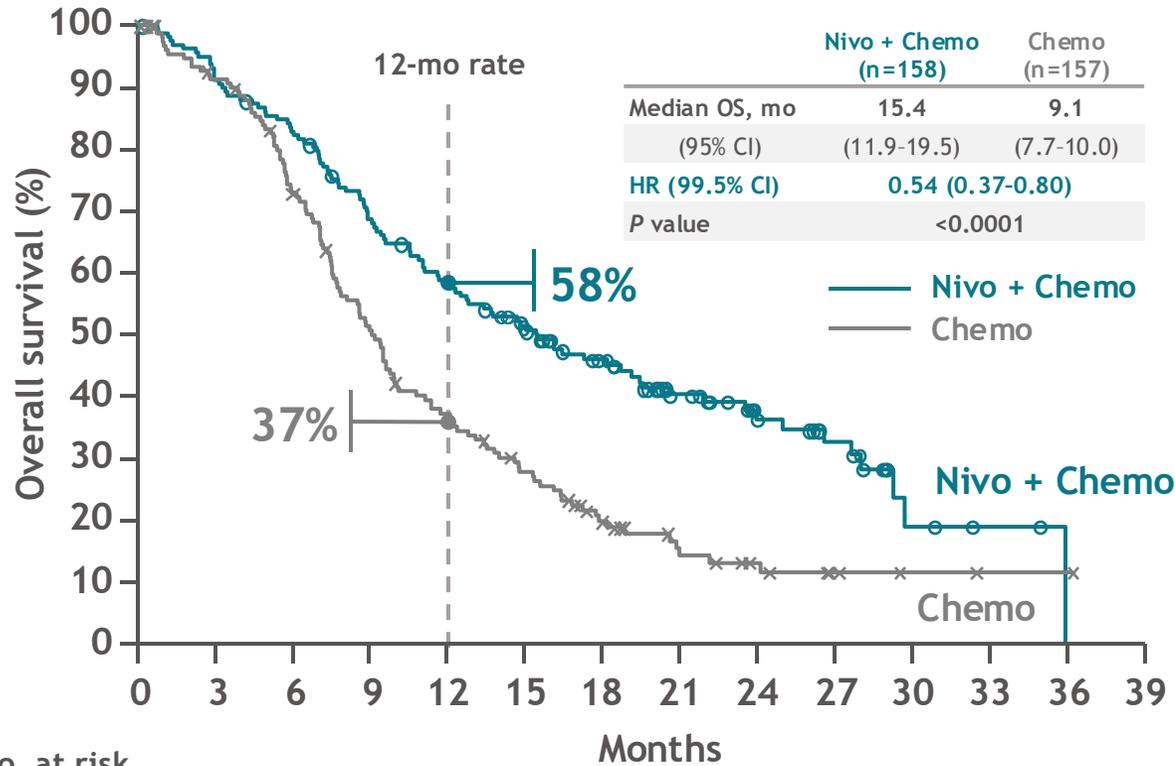


<sup>1</sup>Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022; 386:449-462. <sup>a</sup> $< 1\%$  includes indeterminate tumor cell PD-L1 expression; determined by PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx assay (Dako). <sup>b</sup>East Asia includes patients from Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. <sup>c</sup>Fluorouracil 800 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV daily (days 1-5) and cisplatin 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV (day 1). <sup>d</sup>Until 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. <sup>e</sup>Per BICR. <sup>f</sup>Time from last patient randomized to clinical data cutoff.

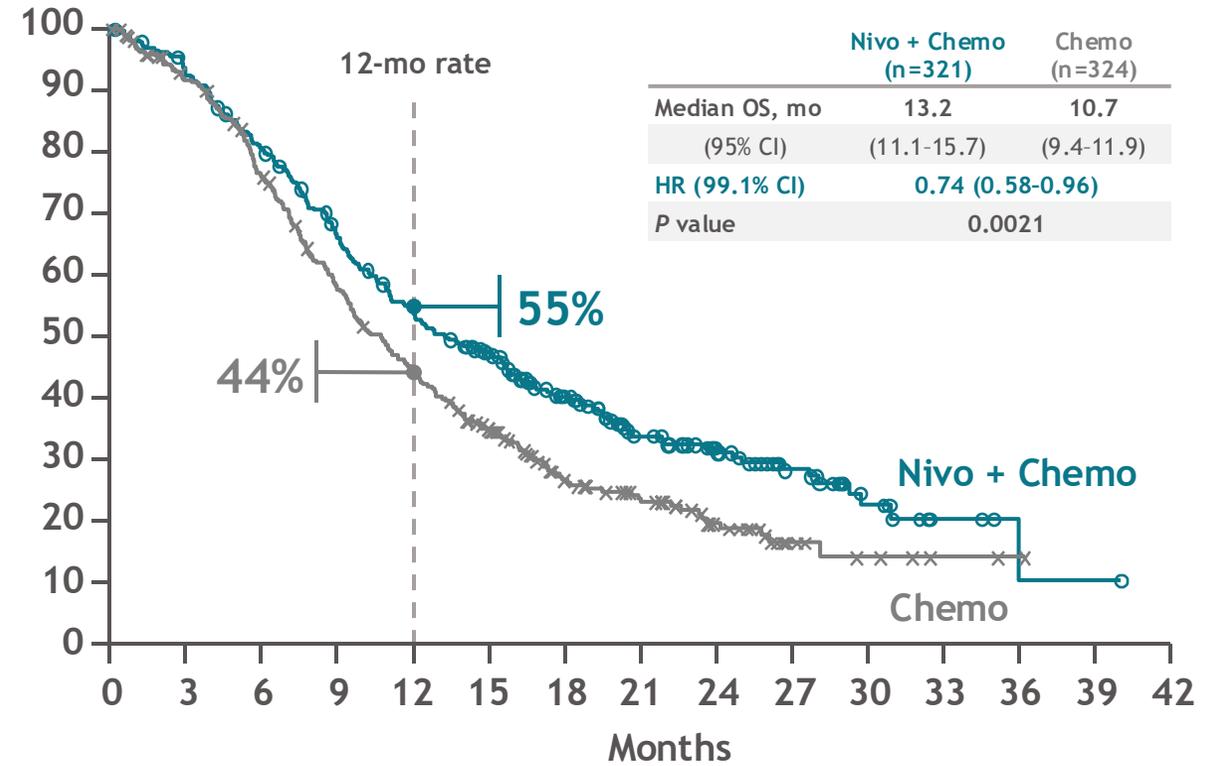
# Statistically Significant and Clinically Meaningful OS Benefit

## CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo

Primary endpoint (tumor cell PD-L1 ≥1%)<sup>a</sup>



All randomized<sup>a</sup>



No. at risk

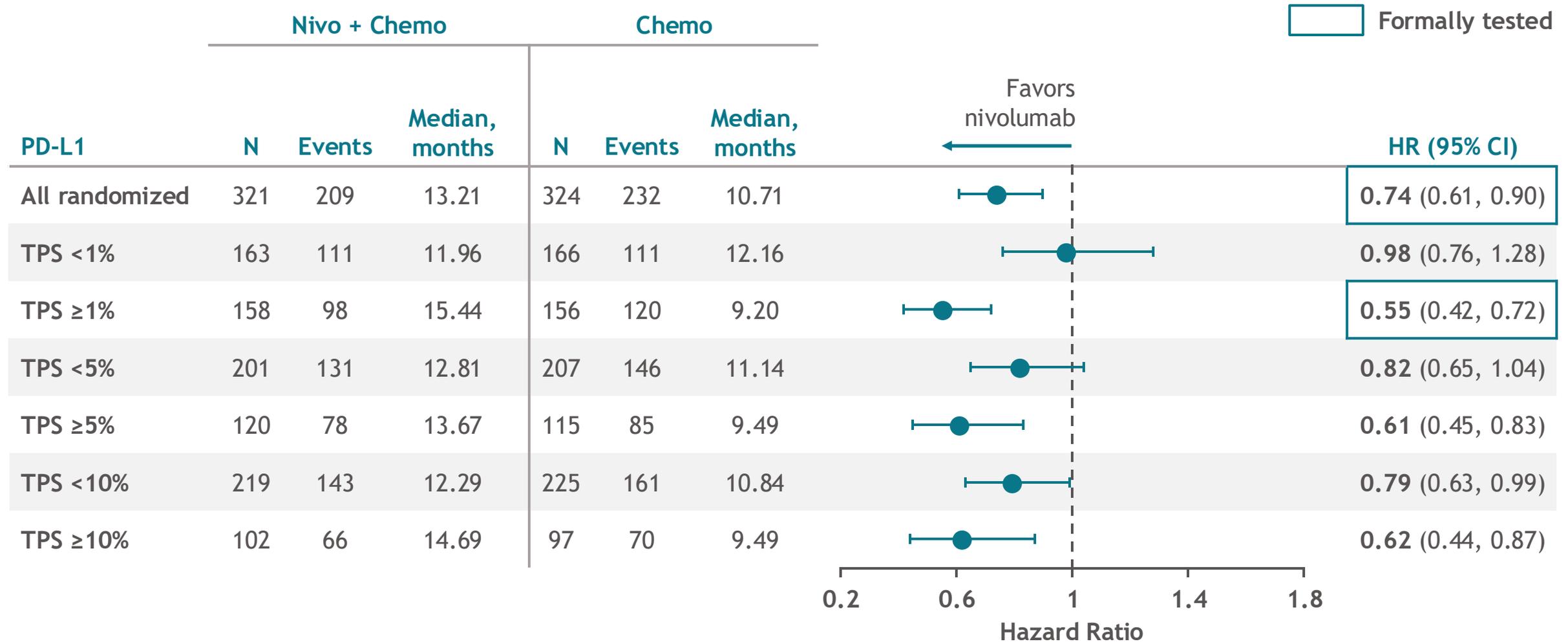
	Nivo + Chemo	158	143	129	105	88	70	53	36	22	16	4	2	0	0
Chemo	157	135	105	72	52	36	21	12	8	4	2	1	1	0	0

	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	

<sup>a</sup>Minimum 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

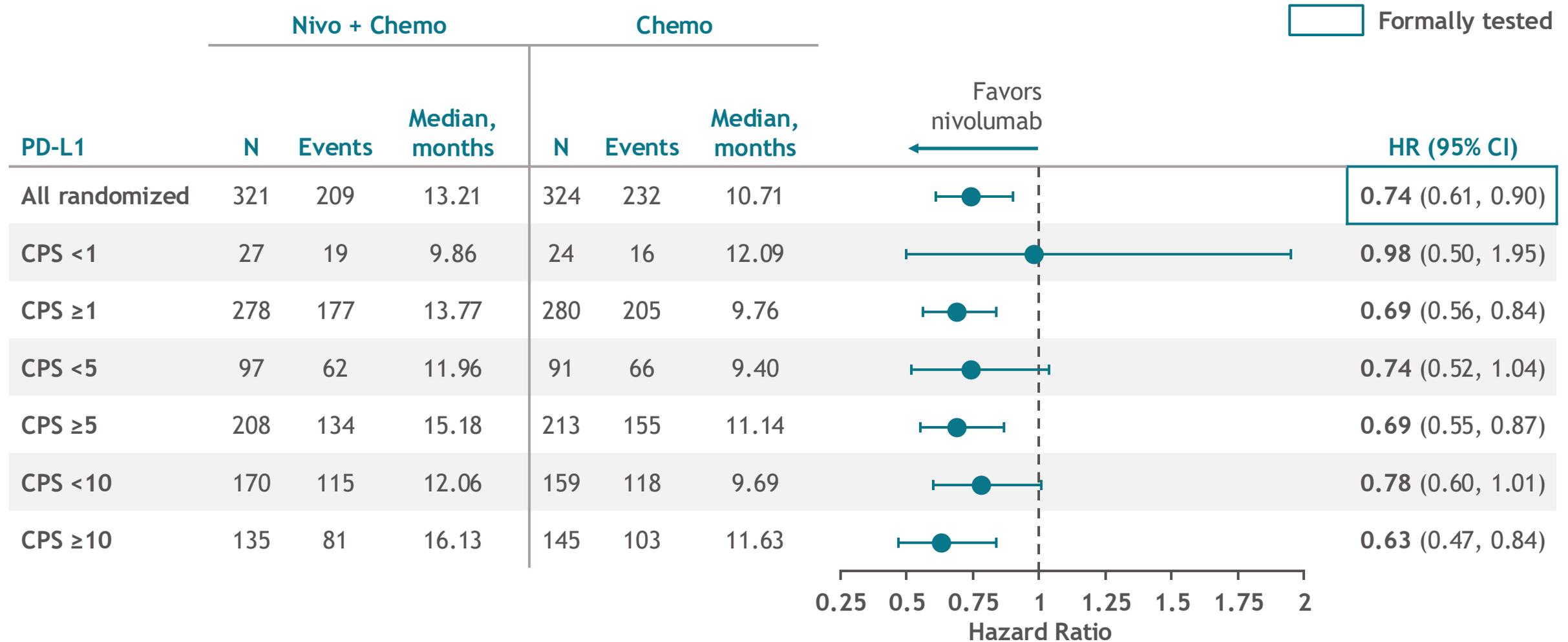
## CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo



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

# OS in Exploratory PD-L1 CPS Subgroups

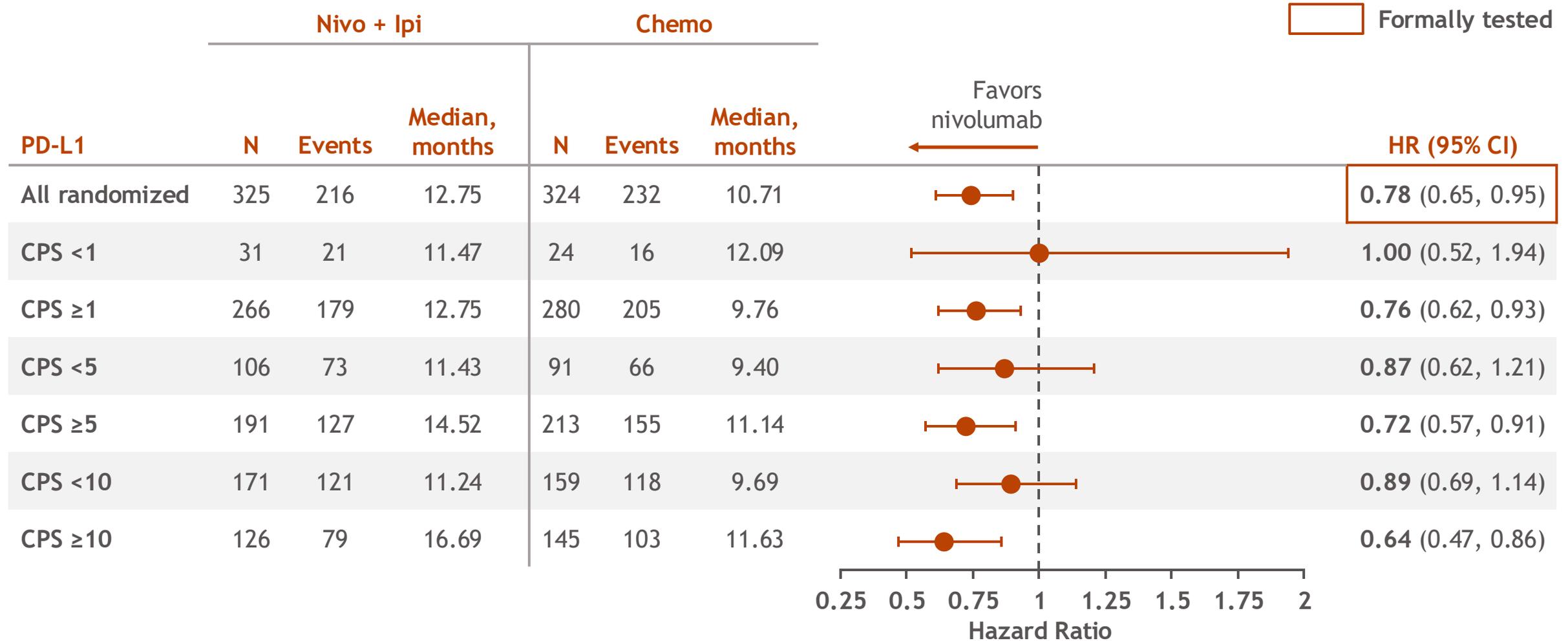
## CheckMate 648, Nivo + Chemo



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 (%) <sup>1,2</sup>		
	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 <sup>a</sup>	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**

<sup>1</sup>Data on file. BMS-REF-NIVO-0303. Princeton, NJ: Bristol-Myers Squibb Company; 2024. <sup>2</sup>Doki Y, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:449-462. <sup>a</sup>Reflects 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

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**Ronan J. Kelly, MBBCh, MBA, FASCO**

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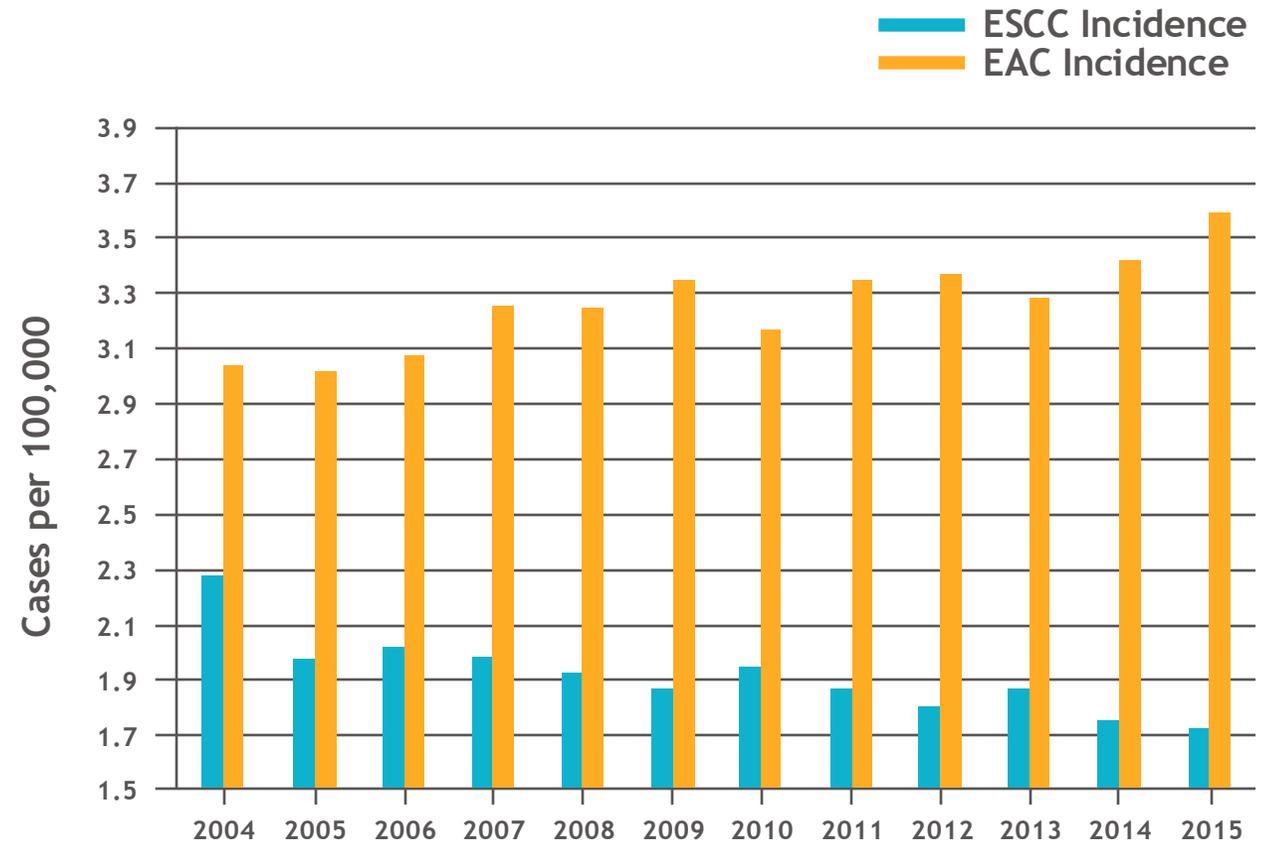
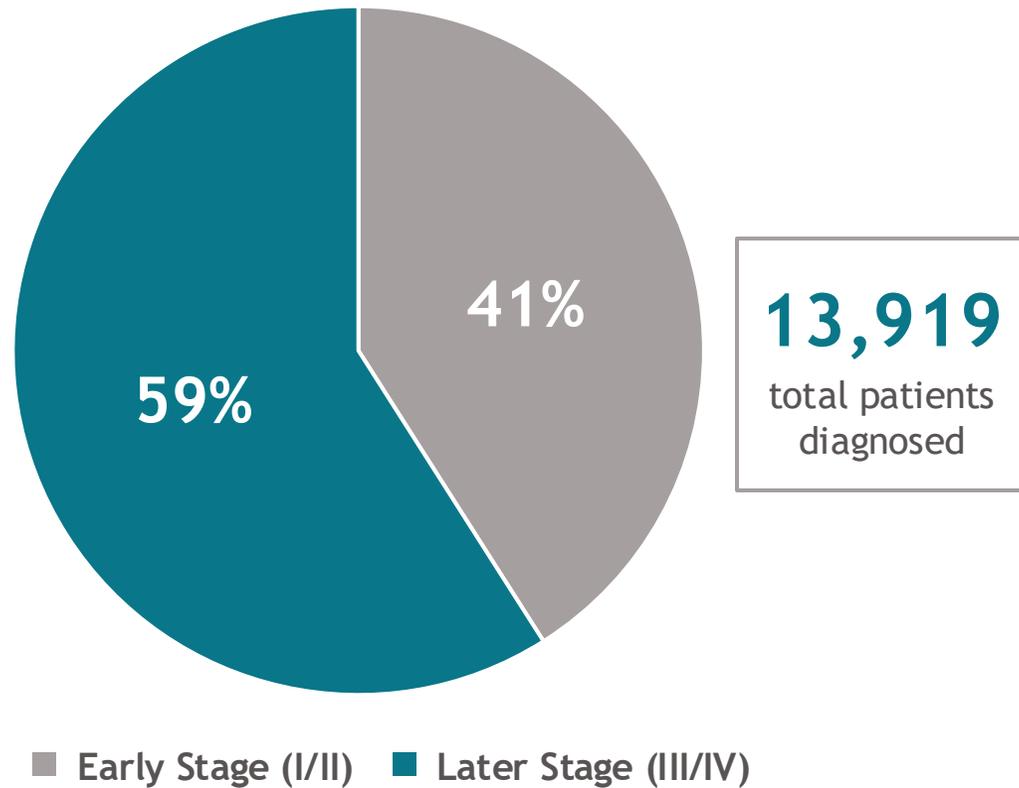


# Clinical Perspective

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# ESCC is an Orphan Disease in the United States

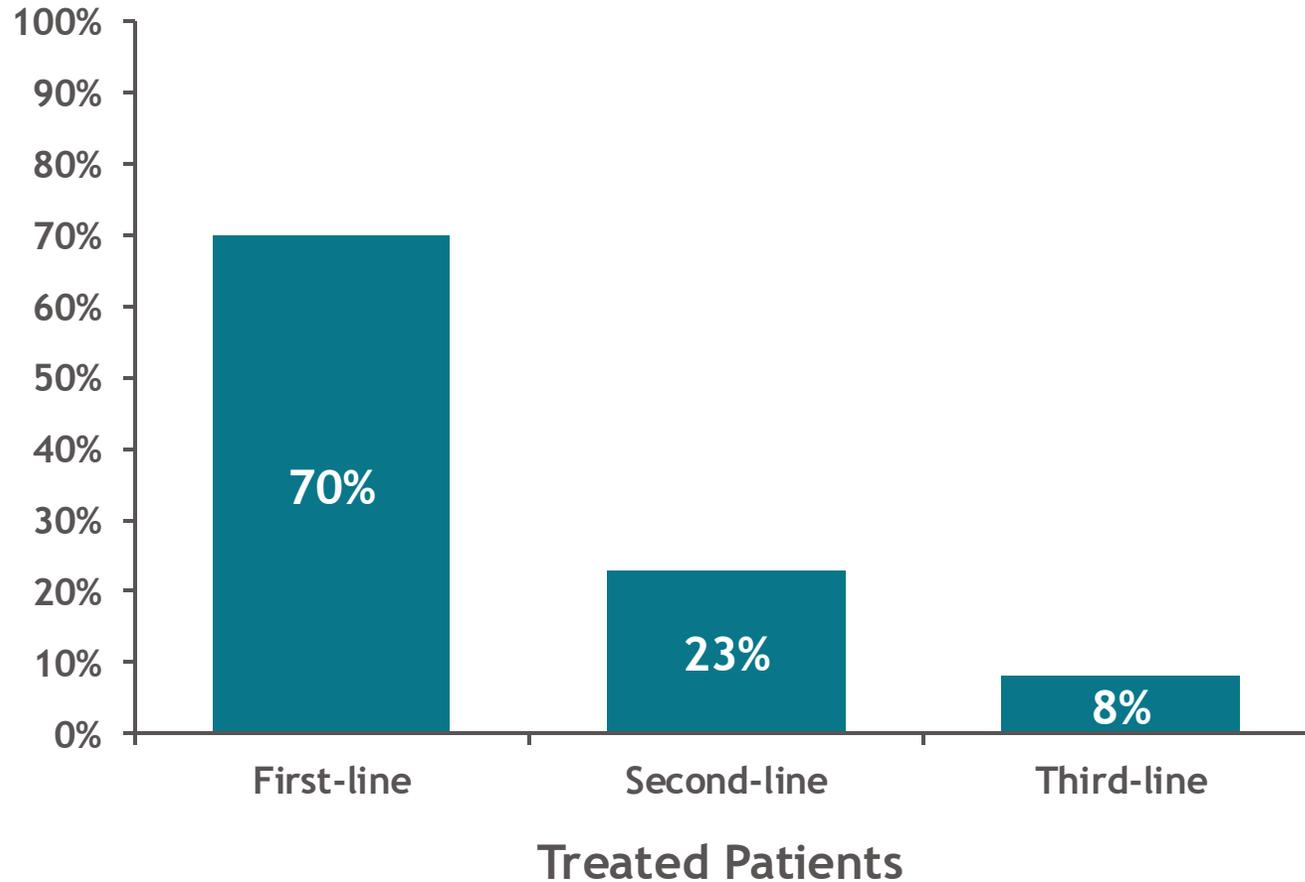
## ESCC: SEER Database Analysis<sup>a</sup> 2004-2015



<sup>a</sup>Patients 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 Patterns<sup>1</sup>



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**< 50%** of patients in CM-648 received subsequent therapy<sup>2</sup>

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**Limited effective 2L treatment options and outcomes are poor**

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

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

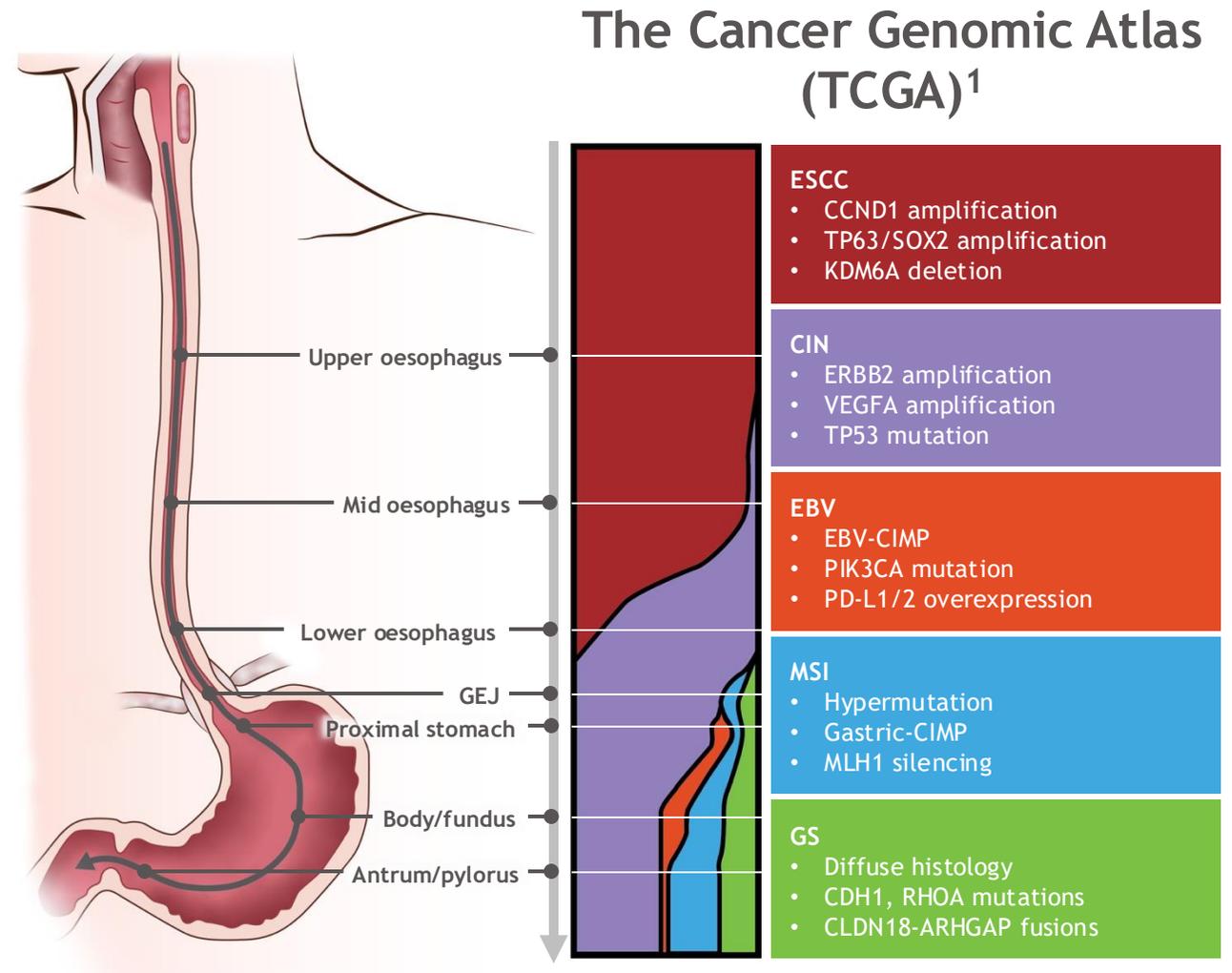
# ESCC Is Biologically Different From Gastroesophageal Adenocarcinomas

## 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-L1<sup>2</sup>



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

# Reality of PD-L1 Testing in Clinical Practice

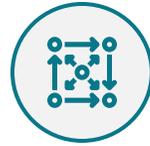
**~ 60%**

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

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**BMS**



# Conclusion

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# Challenging Situation Without a Clear-Cut Answer

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## 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

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## 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

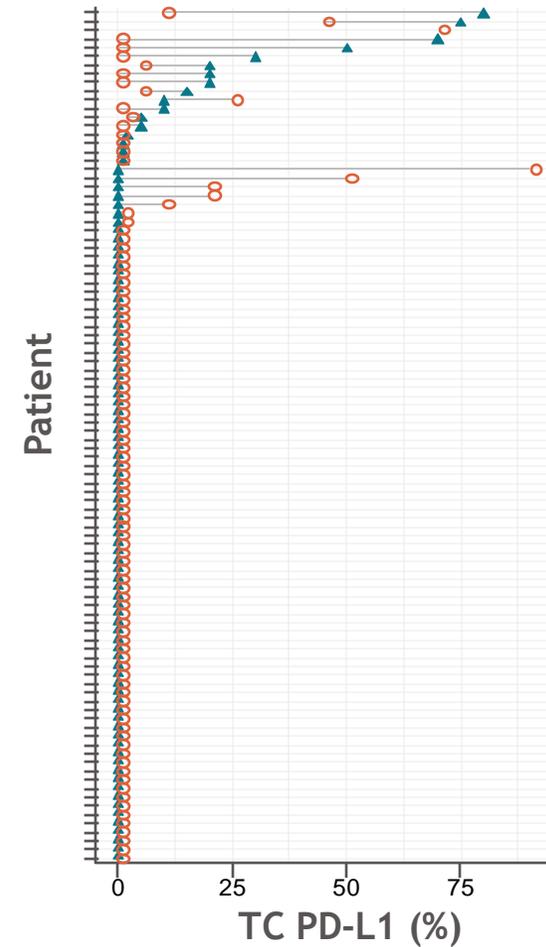
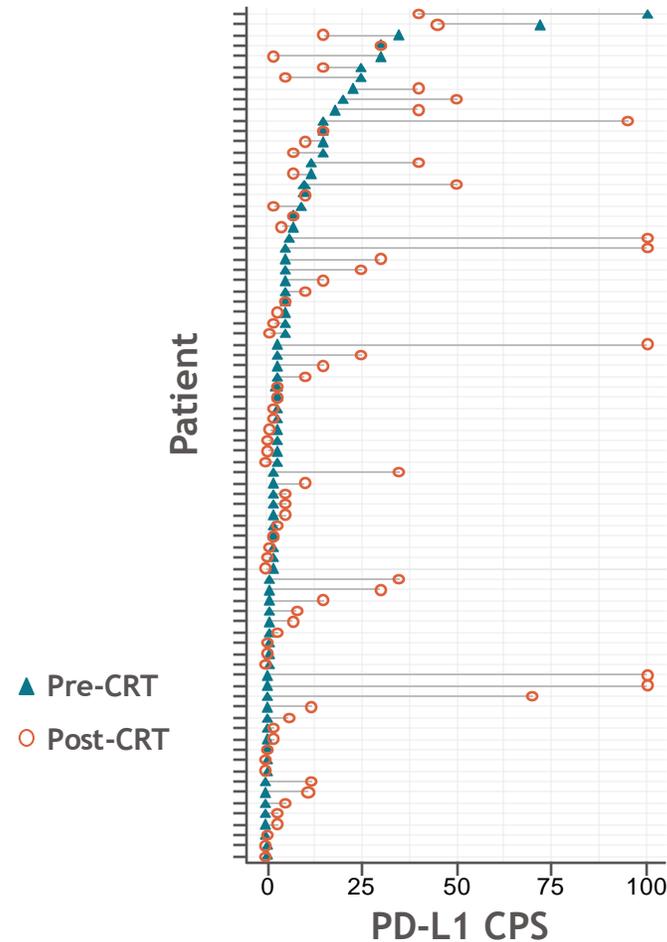
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# Post-CRT Changes in PD-L1 Expression

## CheckMate 577

- Increases in PD-L1 expression after neoadjuvant CRT (prior to study treatment) were observed in 51% of CPS-evaluable patients<sup>a</sup>
- Expression remained unchanged in 76% of TC PD-L1-evaluable patients<sup>b</sup>



<sup>a</sup>CPS-evaluable patients defined as patients with paired pre-CRT and post-CRT tumor tissue that was evaluable for PD-L1 CPS (n = 80).

<sup>b</sup>TC PD-L1-evaluable patients defined as patients with paired pre-CRT and post-CRT tumor tissue that was evaluable for TC PD-L1 (n = 98).

Kelly R, et al. ESMO GI 2023.

# DFS Based on Post-CRT Changes in PD-L1 Expression

## CheckMate 577

The magnitude of DFS benefit appeared to be greater with nivolumab vs placebo in patients with an increase in PD-L1 CPS post-CRT (HR, 0.30 [95% CI, 0.11-0.78]) compared with the overall PD-L1 CPS-evaluable population<sup>b</sup> (HR, 0.64 [95% CI, 0.36-1.15])

	Nivolumab	Placebo	Total
<b>PD-L1 CPS<sup>a</sup> evaluable,<sup>b</sup> n</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>80</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	25.1 (14.5-NE)	9.3 (5.6-26.3)	-
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.64 (0.36-1.15)</b>		-
<b>PD-L1 CPS change &gt; 0, n (%)</b>	<b>23 (45)</b>	<b>18 (62)</b>	<b>41 (51)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	NR (27.1-NE)	8.9 (5.6-NE)	-
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.30 (0.11-0.78)</b>		-
<b>PD-L1 CPS change = 0, n (%)</b>	<b>7 (14)</b>	<b>4 (14)</b>	<b>11 (14)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	16.0 (1.9-NE)	5.5 (5.4-22.8)	-
HR (95% CI)	NA <sup>c</sup>		-
<b>PD-L1 CPS change &lt; 0, n (%)</b>	<b>21 (41)</b>	<b>7 (24)</b>	<b>28 (35)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	8.3 (2.8-19.4)	15.1 (2.8-NE)	-
HR (95% CI)	NA <sup>c</sup>		-
<b>TC PD-L1<sup>d</sup> evaluable,<sup>e</sup> n</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>98</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	25.1 (14.5-NE)	7.1 (5.6-15.1)	-
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.56 (0.33-0.96)</b>		-
<b>TC PD-L1 change &gt; 0, n (%)</b>	<b>6 (9)</b>	<b>2 (6)</b>	<b>8 (8)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	19.8 (2.8-NE)	NA	-
HR (95% CI)	NA <sup>c</sup>		-
<b>TC PD-L1 change = 0, n (%)</b>	<b>49 (75)</b>	<b>25 (76)</b>	<b>74 (76)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	23.4 (9.8-NE)	5.6 (5.4-15.1)	-
HR (95% CI)	<b>0.51 (0.28-0.91)</b>		-
<b>TC PD-L1 change &lt; 0, n (%)</b>	<b>10 (15)</b>	<b>6 (18)</b>	<b>16 (16)</b>
Median DFS (95% CI), mo	39.2 (3.6-NE)	NR (2.9-NE)	-
HR (95% CI)	NA <sup>c</sup>		-

<sup>a</sup>Defined as the number of PD-L1-positive tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages divided by the total number of viable tumor cells multiplied by 100.

<sup>b</sup>PD-L1 CPS-evaluable patients were defined as patients with paired pre-CRT and post-CRT tumor tissue that was evaluable for PD-L1 CPS (n = 80).

<sup>c</sup>HR was not computed for subsets with fewer than 10 patients per treatment group.

<sup>d</sup>Defined as the number of positive tumor cells divided by the total number of viable tumor cells multiplied by 100.

<sup>e</sup>TC PD-L1-evaluable patients were defined as patients with paired pre-CRT and post-CRT tumor tissue that was evaluable for TC PD-L1 (n = 98).