Checkpoint Inhibitors in the Treatment of Advanced Urothelial Cancer

This program is an accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, reviewed and approved by the Canadian Urological Association. Completion of this program enables participants to claim a maximum of one (1) Section 1 credit.



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Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

- Describe the rationale for the use of checkpoint inhibitors in the treatment of advanced urothelial cancer (UC)
- Review current data for checkpoint inhibitors in the first-line treatment of UC in cisplatin-ineligible patients and in second-line treatment following progression on platinum-based chemotherapies

Case Presentation: Rapid progression after cystectomy and perioperative chemo

Mr. Patry: Presentation and History



- 74-year-old male diagnosed with high-grade UC of the bladder
- PMHx: Hypertension, dyslipidemia, type II diabetes
- Significant smoking history of 25 pack-years
- Normal renal function with eGFR of 75 mL/min/1.73m²

Mr. Patry: TURBT Details



- High-grade papillary UC
- Muscularis propria present and involved by tumour
- Lymphovascular invasion present
- No CIS seen
- Examination under anesthesia: palpable mass, mobile and not fixed

Mr. Patry: Staging



- CT C/A/P
- No pelvic or retroperitoneal lymphadenopathy
- No visceral metastases
- No hydronephrosis

Discussion Question



• Mr. Patry has agreed to undergo systemic therapy. What are his options?

First-line Systemic Therapies for UC

- Muscle-invasive UC
 - Radical cystectomy ± preoperative cisplatin-based chemo
- Locally advanced/metastatic UC
 - Cisplatin + gemcitabine
 - Median OS 14 months^{1,2}
 - HD-MVAC
 - Median OS 15.1 months³
 - Paclitaxel/cisplatin/gemcitabine
 - Median OS 15.8 months⁴

Mr. Patry: Treatment



- Receives ddMVAC as neoadjuvant chemo
- Post-chemo assessment by CT and cystoscopy reveals partial response
- No additional biopsy is undertaken
- Undergoes cystectomy, pelvic lymphadenectomy and neobladder

Mr. Patry: Final Pathology



- pT3a high grade UC of bladder
- Lymph nodes: 35 assessed, 4 positive
- Negative soft tissue margins
- Negative urethral and ureteral margins

Mr. Patry: Medical Oncology Assessment



 Reassessed by medical oncology post-op and no further adjuvant chemo is recommended

Mr. Patry: Follow-up



- CT at 3 month follow-up clear
- CT at 6 months however shows multiple pulmonary lesions suspicious for metastatic disease
- Percutaneous biopsy of index 1.2 cm pulmonary nodule consistent with metastatic UC
- ECOG PS 0 and asymptomatic
- Renal function normal (eGFR 70 mL/min/1.73 m²)

Discussion Question



- What are the treatment options for Mr. Patry now that he has metastatic disease?
 - Retreatment with a cisplatin-based chemotherapy?
 - A taxane-based chemotherapy?
 - Single-agent gemcitabine?
 - Immunotherapy?

Second-line Systemic Therapies for Locally Advanced or Metastatic UC

- Until recently there has been no standard second-line chemo option
- Single-agent chemotherapies studied in randomized trials:

Chemotherapy agent	n	ORR, %	mOS, months
Nab-paclitaxel vs. paclitaxel ¹	199	21 vs. 23	7.5 vs. 8.8
Vinflunine vs. BSC ²	370	9	6.9 vs. 4.6
Cabazitaxel vs. vinflunine ³	70	13 vs. 30	5.5 vs. 7.6

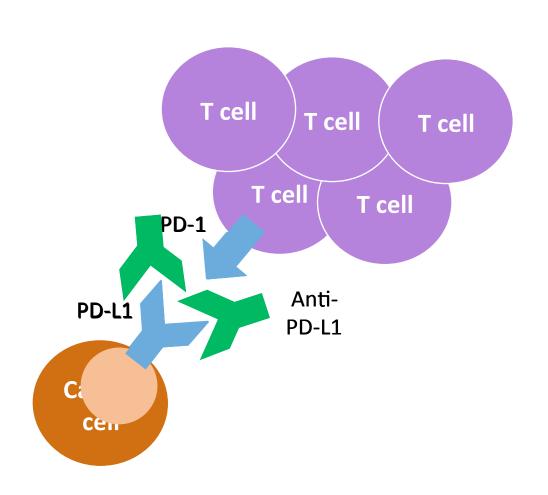
Paclitaxel is a reasonable choice given no vinflunine access in Canada

But better options are needed

Immunotherapies for Advanced UC

- The immune-based treatment intravesical BCG has been used successfully in NMIBC for over 3 decades
- Immunotherapy for advanced UC has focused on 3 checkpoint targets:
 - PD-L1: Programmed death ligand-1
 - PD-1: Programmed cell death protein-1
 - CTLA-4: Cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated protein 4
- Inhibitors of these checkpoint targets block negative co-signaling molecules that prevent an effective immune response
 - Reinvigorate T-cell-mediated antitumour activity

Blockade of Immune Checkpoints to Enhance T Cell Responses



Second-line Immunotherapies Approved in Canada for Advanced UC

- Notice of Compliance (NOC)
 - Pembrolizumab for post-platinum progression
- Notice of Compliance with conditions (NOC/c)*
 - Atezolizumab for post-platinum progression
 - Durvalumab for post-platinum progression
 - Avelumab for post-platinum progression
- No funded options but there are clinical trials and access programs

^{*}The NOC/c policy facilitates earlier access to promising new medicines that treat, prevent or diagnose serious, life-threatening and/or severely debilitating diseases for which there is no alternative medicine available in Canada, or where the new medicine offers a significant improvement through its risk/benefit profile over existing medicines

Phase I/II Trials of Immunotherapy in Second-line Treatment of Locally Advanced and Metastatic UC

Trial	Drug	ORR, % (95% CI)	mOS, months (95% CI)
IMvigor210 – Cohort 2 $(n = 310)^1$	Atezolizumab 1,200 mg IV q3w	15 (11–19)	7.9 (6.6-9.3)
Study 1108 (n = 191) ²	Durvalumab 10 mg/kg q2w	17.8 (12.7-24.0)	18.2 (8.1 -NE)
JAVELIN (n = 241) ³	Avelumab 10 mg/kg q2w	17 (11–24)	6.5 (4.8-9.5)

IMvigor211: Phase III – 2nd-line Atezolizumab vs. Chemo in Locally Advanced or Metastatic UC

Key Eligibility Criteria

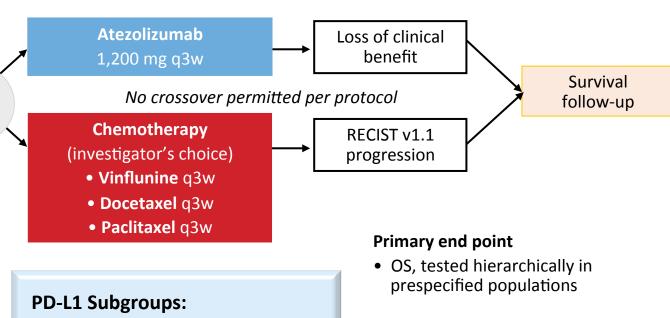
R

1:1

- mUC with progression during or following platinum-based chemotherapy – ≤ 2 prior lines of therapy
- Measurable disease per RECIST v1.1
- ECOG PS 0-1
- Evaluable sample for PD-L1 testing
- TCC histology as primary component (n = 931)

Stratification Factors

- No. of risk factors (0 vs. 1/2/3)
- Liver metastases (yes vs. no)
- PD-L1 status (0/1 vs. 2/3)
- Chemotherapy (vinflunine vs. taxanes)

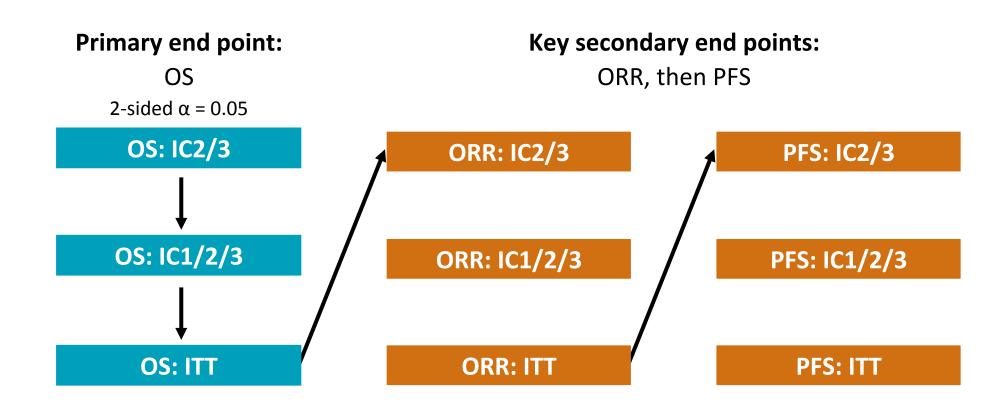


% PD-L1-positive immune cells (ICs) < 1% ≥ 1% but < 5% IC1 ≥ 5% IC2/3

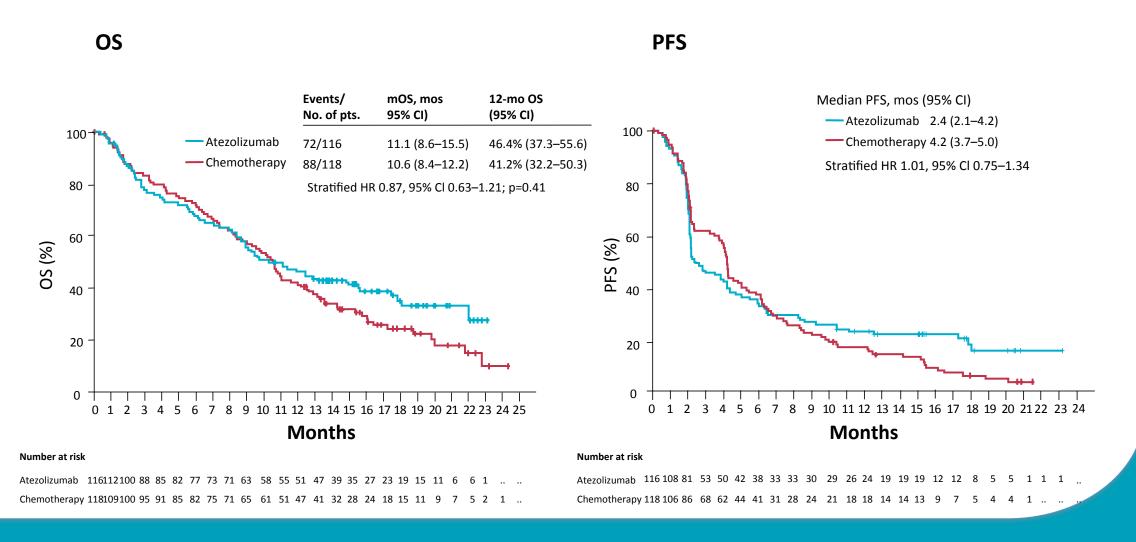
Additional end points

- Efficacy: RECIST v1.1 ORR, PFS and DOR
- Safety
- PROs: EORTC QLQ-C30

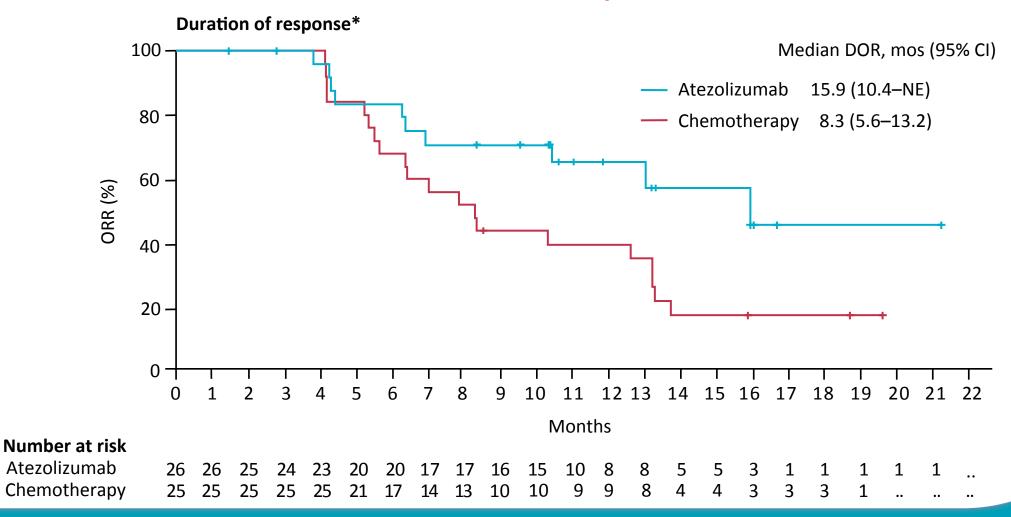
IMvigor211: Study Design



IMvigor211: Survival in the IC2/3 Population



IMvigor211: Duration of Response in the IC2/3 Population

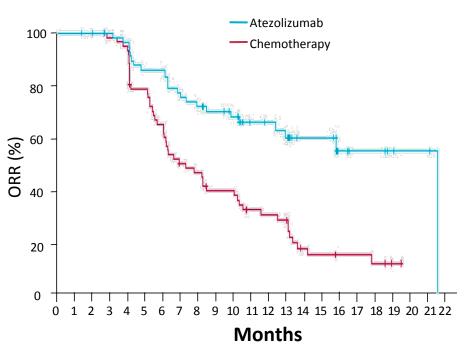


IMvigor211: Survival and Duration of Response in the ITT Population



mOS, mos Events/ 12-mo OS (95% CI) (95% CI) No. of pts. Atezolizumab 324/467 8.6 (7.8-9.6) 39.2% (34.8-43.7) Chemotherapy 350/464 8.0 (7.2-8.6) 32.4% (28.0-36.8) 80 Stratified HR 0.85, 95% CI 0.73-0.99 OS (%) 20 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 **Months**

Duration of Response*



Number at risk

Atezolizumab 467 443 405 348 327 309 280 259 245 218 201 192 177 166 138 113 90 76 59 47 34 20 13 5 1 - Chemotherapy 464 428 397 364 330 299 268 244 219 191 175 156 140 126 99 78 60 49 42 30 17 11 7 2 1 -

Number at risk

Atezolizumab 62 62 61 58 56 50 50 45 42 38 35 25 23 22 14 14 9 5 5 3 2 2

Chemotherapy 62 62 62 61 59 48 40 30 28 23 23 17 16 15 8 7 5 5 4 2 - -

IMvigor211: Summary

- Phase III trial negative for OS in the 2nd line setting
- Chemotherapy group did better than expected benefit appears to be driven by vinflunine
- Vinflunine irrelevant no Health Canada approval
- Further investigation of post-protocol treatment might be informative if there are differences based on what chemotherapy was given
- Atezolizumab still is a viable option in the Canadian context but funding will be an uphill battle with a negative phase III trial

KEYNOTE-045: Second-line Pembrolizumab in Advanced UC

Key Eligibility Criteria

- UC of the renal pelvis, ureter, bladder, or urethra
- Transitional cell predominant
- Progression after 1-2 lines of platinumbased chemo or recurrence
 12 months after perioperative platinum-based therapy
- ECOG PS 0-2
- Provision of tumour sample for biomarker assessment

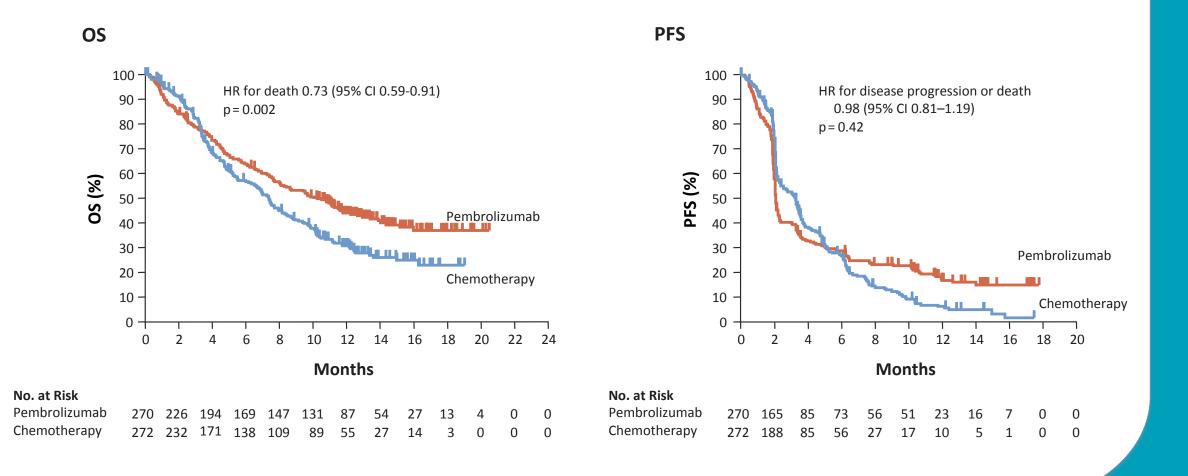
n = 270 Pembrolizumab 200 mg IV q3w R (1:1) n = 542 Paclitaxel 175 mg/m² q3w OR OR OR Vinflunine 320 mg/m² q3w

Stratification Factors

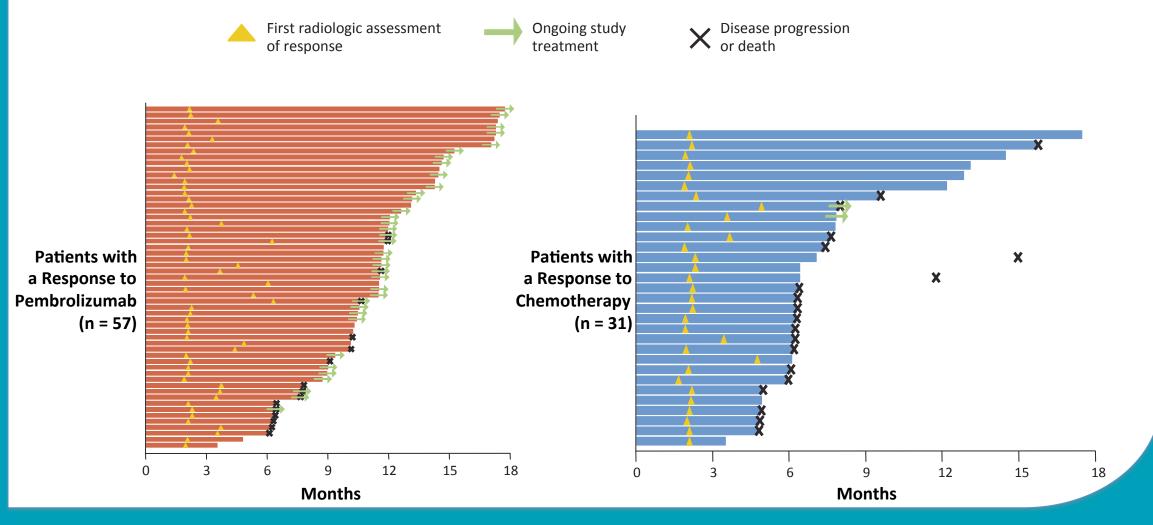
- ECOG PS (0/1 vs. 2)
- Hemoglobin level (< 10 vs. ≥ 10 g/dL)
- Liver metastases (yes vs. no)
- Time from last chemo dose (< 3 vs. ≥ 3 months)

- Dual primary end points: OS and PFS
- Key secondary end points: ORR, DOR, safety
- Response: RECIST v1.1 by blinded, independent central review
- Both unselected and biomarker-selected patients

KEYNOTE-045: Survival



KEYNOTE-045: Time to Response and Duration of Response



PD-L1 as a Biomarker of Response to PD-1/PD-L1 Inhibitors

- Several IHC biomarker assays have been developed to:
 - Screen for presence of PD-1/PD-L1 epitopes
 - Estimate % of PD-1— or PD-L1—expressing T cells/tumour cells
- BUT sensitivity and specificity are poor:
 - Average specificity = 58%
 - i.e., 42% of those not likely to respond are PD-L1—positive
 - Average sensitivity = 72%
 - i.e., 28% of those who are PD-L1—negative may benefit
- Additional factors may be involved in determining response to anti-PD-1/PD-L1

Mr. Patry: Immunotherapy Treatment



- It's decided that Mr. Patry is a good candidate for immunotherapy
- PD-L1 expression is not assessed
- He is started on pembrolizumab 200 mg Q3W

Discussion Question

- Mr. Patry tolerated chemotherapy fairly well but did experience nausea and vomiting. He wonders what types of side effects he might expect with immunotherapy.
 - What do you tell him?
 - What additional monitoring is required?

Chemotherapy vs. Immunotherapy

Chemotherapy

- Halt or interfere with cell division by damaging the DNA or RNA that controls the division process
- Faster-dividing cells (eg, cancer cells) more susceptible than slower-dividing, normal cells
- Trigger cancer cell apoptosis
- AEs: due to effects on fast-growing noncancer cells (eg, GI tract, scalp, mouth)

Checkpoint inhibitors

- Interfere with effects of checkpoint proteins that are preventing an effective immune response
- Restore T-cell-mediated anti-tumour activity
- AEs: autoimmune effects on normal tissue

Select Immunotherapy-related AEs

Ocular

Uveitis, episcleritis

Pulmonary

Pneumonitis

Hepatic

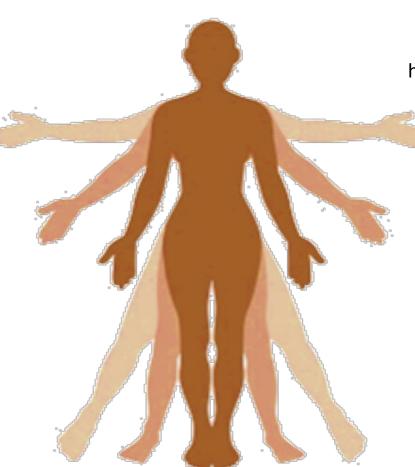
Increased liver function enzymes

Pancreatic

Elevated lipase levels

Infusion-related

Infusion-related reaction or hypersensitivity



Endocrine

Hypothyroidism, hyperthyroidism, hypopituitarism, hypophysitis, adrenal insufficiency

Dermatologic

Pruritus, rash, vitiligo, alopecia

Renal

Nephritis, renal failure

Gastrointestinal

Diarrhea, colitis, nausea

General

Fatigue, headache, decreased appetite, arthralgia

KEYNOTE-045: Most Common AEs

Pembrolizumab (n = 266)

Chemotherapy (n = 255)

	Any Grade	Grade 3, 4, or 5	Any Grade	Grade 3, 4, or 5
Any event	162 (60.9)	40 (15.0)	230 (90.2)	126 (49.4)
Event leading to discontinuation of Tx	15 (5.6)	12 (4.5)	28 (11.0)	16 (6.3)
Event leading to death	4 (1.5)	4 (1.5)	4 (1.6)	4 (1.6)
Pruritus	52 (19.5)	0	7 (2.7)	1 (0.4)
Fatigue	37 (13.9)	3 (1.1)	71 (27.8)	11 (4.3)
Nausea	29 (10.9)	1 (0.4)	62 (24.3)	4 (1.6)
Diarrhea	24 (9.0)	3 (1.1)	33 (12.9)	2 (0.8)
Decreased appetite	23 (8.6)	0	41 (16.1)	3 (1.2)
Asthenia	15 (5.6)	1 (0.4)	36 (14.1)	7 (2.7)
Anemia	9 (3.4)	2 (0.8)	63 (24.7)	20 (7.8)
Constipation	6 (2.3)	0	52 (20.4)	8 (3.1)

Monitoring and Management of Immunotherapy-related AEs

- Thyroid function, blood counts, liver function, and metabolic panels should be tested/taken during treatment of checkpoint inhibitors.
- Most irAEs are mild—moderate and reversible, and occur within the first 3 months of treatment
- BUT some occur after the final dose of therapy
 - e.g., pneumonitis and endocrine events often occur later
- Early detection of irAEs is key
- Immunotherapy may need to be delayed or stopped in certain situations
 - Most (not all) grade 3/4 irAEs will require treatment discontinuation
 - After resolution of the irAE, immunotherapy can be restarted
- Mild cutaneous reactions can be managed with topical steroids

Discussion Questions

- 8 weeks after starting pembrolizumab treatment, Mr. Patry returns with a rash on his torso, arms and legs:
 - Erythematous macules/papules/plaques
 - Pruritus

- How would you manage his rash?
- Does Mr. Patry need to discontinue his immunotherapy treatment?

Management of Anti-PD-1 Inhibitor-induced Dermatologic AEs

Maculopapular rash

Pruritus

Vitiligo

Grade 0

Gentle skin care instructions and sun-protective measures

Topical corticosteroids bid **AND** oral antihistamines

Topical corticosteroids bid **AND** sun protection

Grade 1

Continue drug at current dose and monitor for change in clinical severity of AE

Reassess after 2 weeks; if reactions worsen or remain stable, proceed to next step

Management of Anti-PD-1 Inhibitor-induced Dermatologic AEs (cont'd)

Maculopapular rash

Pruritus

Vitiligo

Grade 2

Topical corticosteroids
bid AND oral
antihistamines AND oral
corticosteroids
(prednisone 0.5 mg/kg
or equivalent

Topical moderate/highpotency corticosteroid bid **AND** Oral antihistamines Topical corticosteroid bid **AND** Strict sun protection **AND** consider phototherapy

Reassess after 2 weeks. If reactions worsen or remain stable, counsel patient and encourage continuation of anticancer treatment (vitiligo); **OR** proceed to next step (pruritus, maculopapular rash) **AND** Strict sun protection

Management of Anti-PD-1 Inhibitor-induced Dermatologic AEs (cont'd)

Maculopapular rash

Pruritus

Vitiligo

Intolerable Grade 2 or Grade ≥ 3

Dose modifications as per package insert

Topical corticosteroids bid AND Oral antihistamines

AND Oral corticosteroids

(prednisone 0.5 mg/kg or equivalent)

Dose modifications as per package insert; continue treatment of skin reaction with:

Oral antihistamines AND

Oral antihistamines AND
Oral corticosteroids
(prednisone 0.5-1mg/kg or equivalent for 5 days)

Reassess after 2 weeks. If reactions worsen or remain stable, dose interruption or discontinuation of anticancer treatment as per package insert may be necessary (pruritus, maculopapular rash) **AND** Strict sun protection

Discussion Questions

- Can we add checkpoint inhibitors in earlier disease states?
- What if Mr. Patry had renal failure and was ineligible for cisplatin?

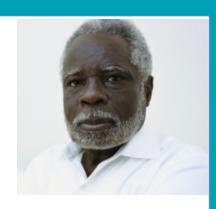
Case Presentation: Cisplatin-ineligible patient

Mr. Anderson: Presentation and History



- 76-year-old male presents with gross hematuria
- US of pelvis reveals 2 cm bladder mass; no hydronephrosis
- Lab work unremarkable apart from mild anemia of 115 g/L
- Renal function demonstrates serum creatinine of 155 μ mol/L and calculated GFR of 42 mL/min
- Comorbidities:
 - Prior CABG after MI, type II diabetes x 10 years, HTN
- Medications:
 - ASA 81 mg, rosuvastatin, metformin, perindopril, salbutamol puffer prn

Mr. Anderson: Workup and Staging



- Cystoscopy reveals large tumour consistent with UC
- TURBT reveals muscle invasive UC
 - Perioperatively the patient develops congestive heart failure
 - Echocardiogram reveals ejection fraction of 40%
- Stabilized with diuresis and ACE inhibitor
- Staging investigations with CT scan of chest/abdomen/pelvis
 - Multiple perivesical and retroperitoneal lymph nodes up to 2 cm in size
 - 2 liver metastases, largest 2.5 cm in size
 - Multiple sub-centimeter pulmonary nodules

Discussion Question

 What treatment options are available for this man with metastatic UC to liver/lung/node?

First-line Systemic Therapies for UC

- Muscle-invasive UC
 - Radical cystectomy ± preoperative cisplatin-based chemo
- Locally advanced/metastatic UC
 - Cisplatin + gemcitabine
 - Median OS 14 months^{1,2}
 - HD-MVAC
 - Median OS 15.1 months³
 - Paclitaxel/cisplatin/gemcitabine
 - Median OS 15.8 months⁴
- 30% to 50% are not eligible for cisplatin
 - Gemcitabine + carboplatin
 - Median OS 9 months^{5,6}

First-line Immunotherapy for Advanced UC in the Cisplatin-ineligible Population

- No immunotherapy is approved or available for first-line treatment of cisplatin-ineligible patients in Canada
- Pembrolizumab and atezolizumab have promising results in this population (single-arm phase II trials)
 - Approved in the US for these indications but not in Canada
- Only other options are clinical trials or carboplatin-based therapy
 - Carboplatin/gemcitabine is the most commonly used first-line therapy outside of a trial

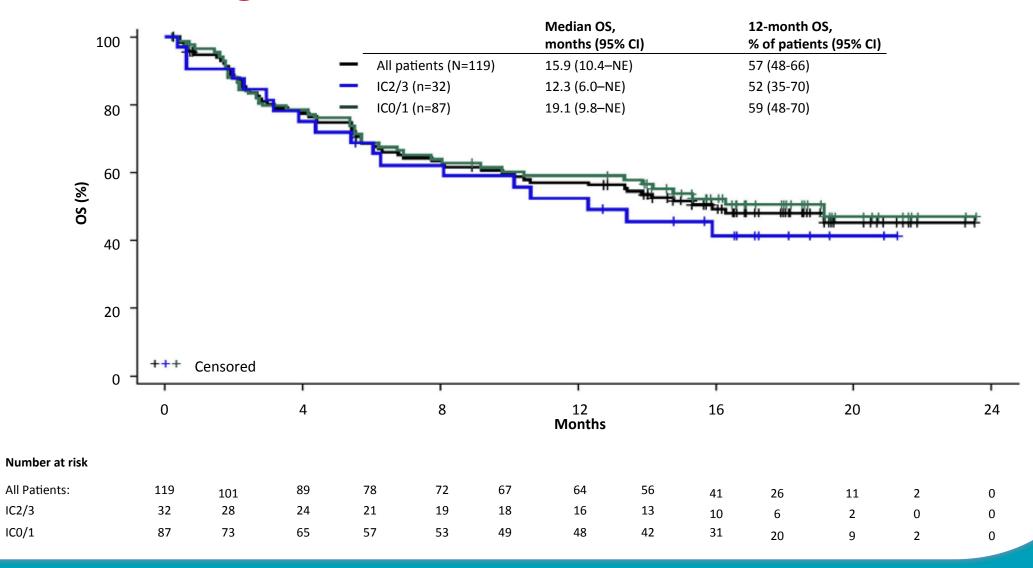
Phase I/II Trials of Immunotherapy in First-line Treatment of Cisplatin-ineligible Advanced UC

Trial	Drug	ORR, % (95% CI)	mOS, mos (95% CI)
IMvigor210 – Cohort 1 (n = 119) ¹	Atezolizumab 1,200 mg IV q3w	23 (16–31)	15.9 (10.4-NE)
KEYNOTE-052 (n = 350) ²	Pembrolizumab 200 mg q2w	24 (20–29)	NR

Carboplatin-based treatment in a phase III trial in the same setting:

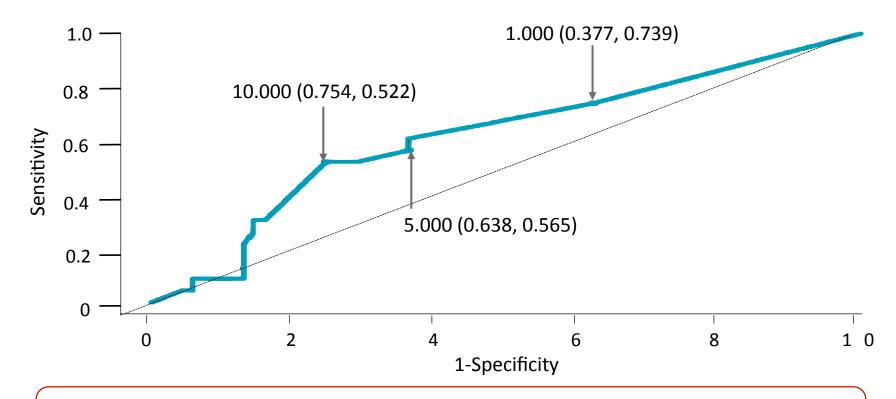
M-CAVI M-CAVI	EORTC Study 30986 (n = 238) ³	Gemcitabine + carboplatin vs. M-CAVI	GC 41.2 (NR) M-CAVI 30.3 (NR)	GC 9.3 (NR) M-CAVI 8.1 (NR)
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IMvigor210 – Cohort 1: Overall Survival



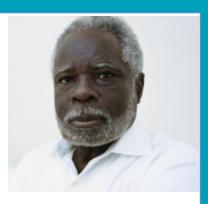
KEYNOTE-052 – Specificity and Sensitivity of PD-L1 Expression Combined Positive Score Cut Points

ROC Curve



Although a combined positive score of \geq 10% enriched for response to first-line pembrolizumab, low or absent PD-L1 expression did not preclude response.

Mr. Anderson: Treatment Considerations



- He has de novo metastatic disease and multiple comorbidities
- Cisplatin contraindicated based on his renal and cardiac function
- Treatment options in the current environment would be carboplatinbased chemotherapy
- If immunotherapy were available in the cisplatin-ineligible space, atezolizumab or pembrolizumab could be considered
 - Enroll in clinical trial if possible
 - PD-L1 testing needed if considering monotherapy with a checkpoint inhibitor¹
 - KEYNOTE-361 and IMvigor130 showed decreased OS in single-agent immunotherapy arms vs. chemo

Discussion Questions

- How would treatment differ if Mr. Anderson's renal and cardiac function were better?
- What if he had significant diabetic neuropathy?
- What if he had a history of ulcerative colitis?

Mr. Anderson: Additional Treatment Considerations



- How would treatment differ if Mr. Anderson's renal and cardiac function were better?
 - → Combination cisplatin-based chemo is the choice
- What if he had significant diabetic neuropathy?
 - → Significant neuropathy would make cisplatin difficult; it would also make carboplatin an issue and second-line taxanes
- What if he had a history of ulcerative colitis?
 - → Active autoimmune disease would preclude routine use of immunotherapy, either as cisplatin-ineligible first-line or in second line

Case Presentation: BCG-unresponsive, High-risk NMIBC

Mr. Harris: Presentation and History



- 67-year-old male presented with irritative voiding symptoms and microhematuria
- 45 pack-year history of smoking quit 7 years ago
- Obese, HTN, gout, type II diabetes, coronary artery disease

Mr. Harris: Workup



- Positive cytology
- CT-IVP normal (except for his 4.5 cm AAA)
- Cystoscopy shows red patches posterior wall
- TURBT: CIS of the bladder; prostatic urethra clear

Discussion Question



• What treatment is indicated for Mr. Harris?

Mr. Harris



- Receives induction BCG x 6
- Cytology now negative
 - Cystoscopy at 3 months inflamed
- Receives maintenance BCG x 3
- Cytology negative
- Planned random bladder biopsy
 - Persistent CIS

Discussion Question

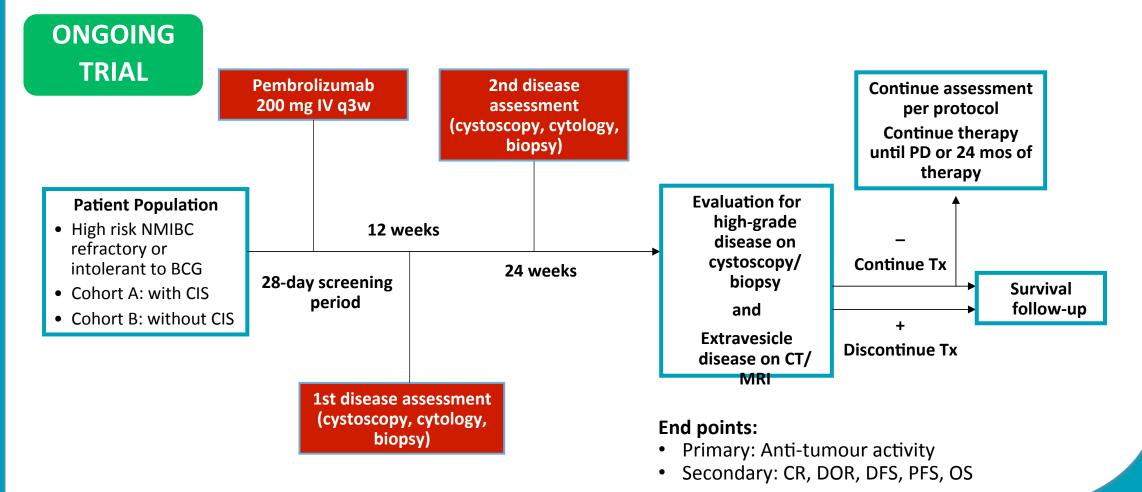


- What treatment options are available for Mr. Harris in light of his persistent CIS?
 - Repeat BCG induction?
 - Radical cystectomy?
 - Intravesical chemotherapy?
 - Inclusion in a clinical trial?

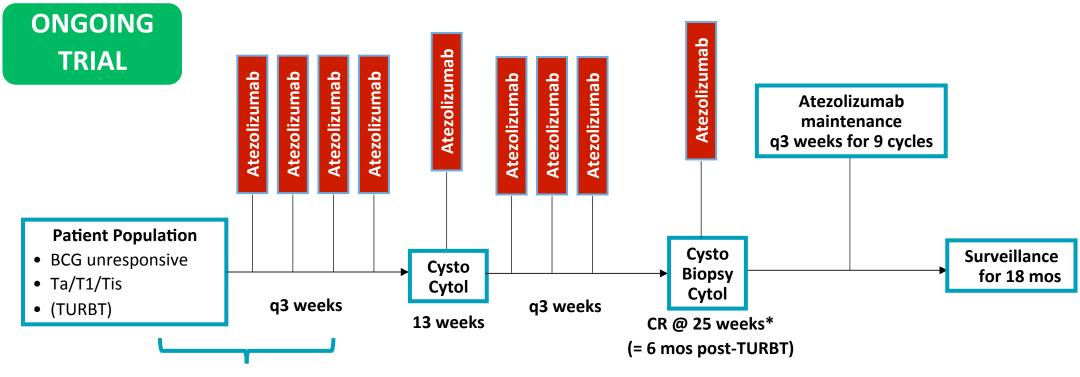
Treatment Options for BCG Failure

- Radical cystectomy recommended by CUA, AUA, and EAU guidelines¹⁻³
- However, radical cystectomy is associated with morbidity and mortality:
 - 90-day rate of major complications = 17%⁴
 - 90-day mortality rate = 2% to $10\%^{5-7}$
 - Considerations include: quality of life + duration of life + patient desire
- Salvage intravesicle chemo:8
 - < 30% recurrence free at 1 year
 - ~20% recurrence free at 2 years
- Consider clinical trial

KEYNOTE-057: Pembrolizumab in Patients with BCG-Unresponsive High-risk NMIBC



S1605 Trial: Atezolizumab in Patients with BCG-Unresponsive High-risk NMIBC



- Registration within 6 weeks of TURBT
- Start therapy within 5 days of registration

End points:

- Primary: CR at 6 mos in the CIS subgroup; eventfree survival at 18 mos in the overall population.
- Secondary: duration of CR, PFS, cystectomy-free survival, bladder cancer-specific survival, OS

The Future of Immunotherapy in UC

- First line trials are completed with some agents and underway with others
 - Immunotherapy monotherapy vs. combo vs. chemo
 - Chemo-immunotherapy
 - Other immune targets
- Adjuvant trials
- Neoadjuvant trials
- Trimodal therapies with checkpoint inhibitors (ie, chemoradiotherapy)
- NMIBC

Neoadjuvant Trials in MIBC: Interim Results Presented at ASCO 2018

• PURE-01¹

- 43 patients with MIBC
- Pembrolizumab 200 mg q3w × 3 cycles before radical cystectomy
- Pathologic CR in 39.5% (95% CI 26.3-54.4)
- Pathologic downstaging to pT<2 in 51.2%

• ABACUS²

- 69 patients with MIBC
- Atezolizumab 1,200 mg q3w × 2 cycles before radical cystectomy
- Pathologic CR in 29% (95% CI 18-42)
- Downstaging to NMIBC in 39%

Checkpoint Inhibitors in UC – Select Ongoing Phase III Trials

Treatments				
First-line/cisplatin ineligible – locally advanced or metastatic UC				
Atezolizumab ± gemcitabine/carboplatin vs. placebo + gemcitabine/carboplatin				
Durvalumab ± tremelimumab				
Pembrolizumab ± chemo vs. chemo alone				
Nivolumab + ipilimumab or nivolumab + gemcitabine/cisplatin vs. gemcitabine/cisplatin				
Adjuvant atezolizumab vs. observation in PD-L1–positive patients at high risk of recurrence following cystectomy				
Adjuvant nivolumab vs. placebo following resection				
Adjuvant pembrolizumab in muscle invasive and locally advanced UC				
l or metastatic UC				
Avelumab following first-line platinum chemo				

Conclusions

- First-line treatment for metastatic UC is still platinum-based chemotherapy if no trial is available
- Data in the second line and beyond suggest that immunotherapy is preferable to standard chemo
 - Best evidence is for pembrolizumab
- Chemo in the second-line setting has modest benefits but can be considered for immunotherapy ineligible or post-immunotherapy
- Multiple trials with immunotherapy are underway