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Evolving Role of Biomarker Testing in Solid Tumors: Implications for Clinical Pathways

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New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medicine*





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Disclosures

- **Manish A. Shah, MD, FASCO:** Research Funding – Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck, Oncolys BioPharma

Learning Objectives

- Describe the importance of biomarker testing and its impact on cancer care delivery and quality measures
- Summarize the latest guidelines and best practices associated with NGS testing methods for diagnostic and prognostic evaluation in a variety of solid tumors
- Identify strategies to address disparities and barriers associated with the cost-effective and optimal use of biomarker testing in solid tumors

The Role of Biomarkers and Precision Medicine in Solid Tumor Care

Overview of Biomarker-Directed Therapy

- Precision medicine has rapidly evolved over the last 25 years
- Over 70 FDA-approved drugs require biomarker testing
- Understanding biomarker testing platforms and limitations is critical to appropriate application of novel therapeutics

Progress in Precision Oncology Has Accelerated!

Scientific Discoveries

1960s-1980s

Discovery of key immune cells and molecules

1980s-1990s

Increased knowledge of cancer biology and molecular targets

2003

Human genome sequenced

Early 2000s

Demonstration that T cells provide antitumor surveillance

2005

TCGA project initiated

2018

TCGA published comprehensive list of driver mutations across 33 tumor types



Precision oncology uses molecular biomarkers to aid in the diagnosis, prognosis, or treatment of cancer

Innovation and scientific breakthroughs over decades have led to the discovery of many candidate biomarkers with potential clinical value

Several types of assays have been developed for genomic profiling, including high-throughput assays able to test for multiple biomarkers simultaneously (ie, next-generation sequencing [NGS])

Technological advances have contributed to lower cost and shorter turnaround time (TAT) for genome sequencing

Progress in Precision Oncology Has Accelerated! But it Is Not a New Concept

Trastuzumab approved for BC in 1998

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Progress in Precision Oncology Has Accelerated! But it Is Not a New Concept

Trastuzumab approved for BC in 1998

Imatinib approved for GIST in 2002

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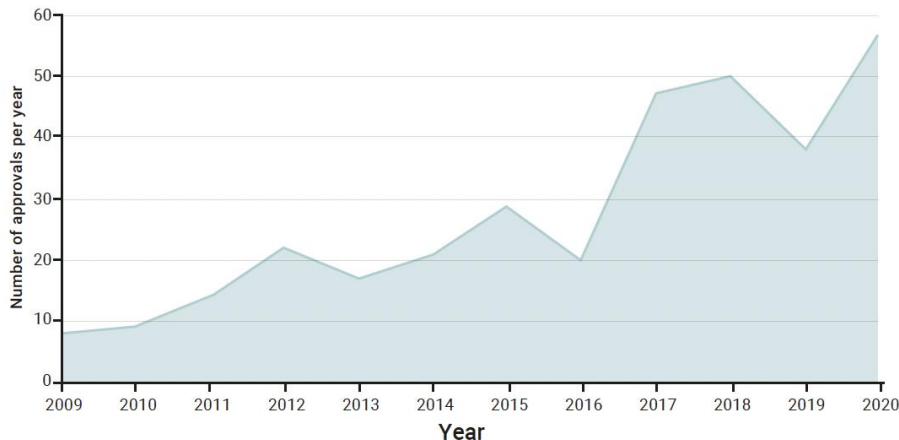
BC = breast cancer; GIST = gastrointestinal stromal tumor.

FDA. Accessed September 3, 2024.

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2024/103792s5354lbl.pdf;

https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2024/021588Orig1s063lbl.pdf.

Accelerated Development of Precision Medicine



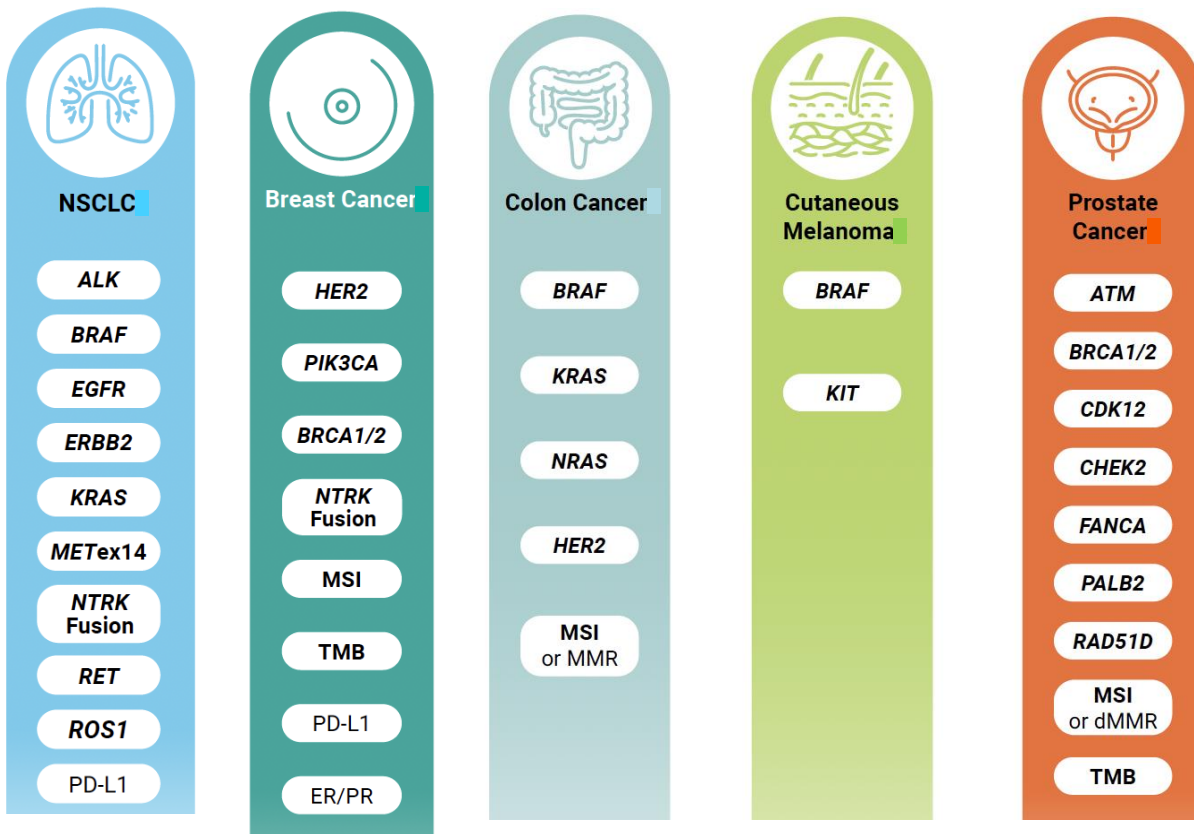
New cancer therapies 2009-2020

Of the 332 approvals

- >70 require biomarker testing
- Over 28 cancer types



Tumor-Specific Targets



Tumor-Agnostic Targets



All Solid Tumors

NTRK Fusion

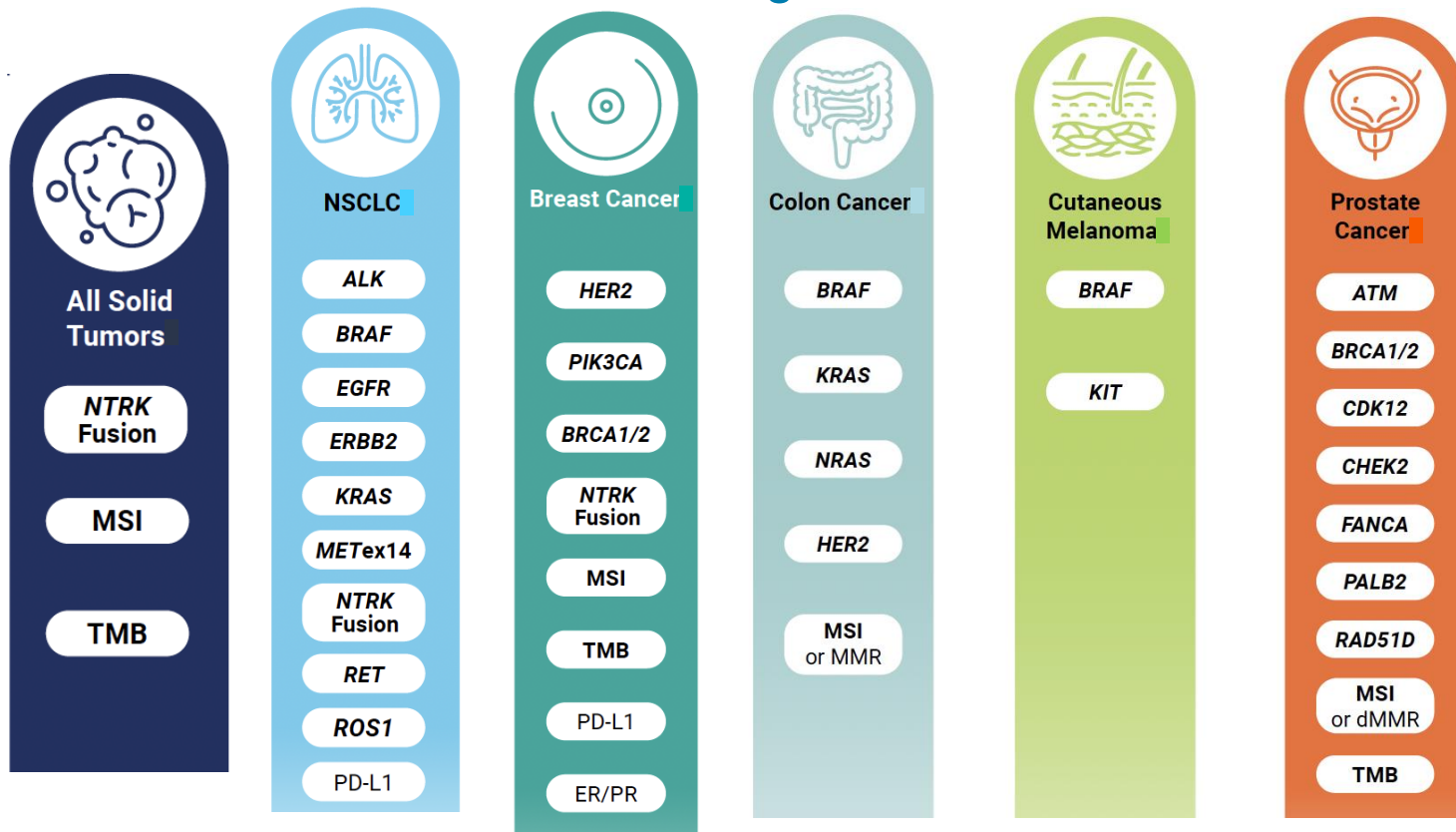
MSI

TMB



NCCN Guidelines

Understanding Biomarkers Critical across Solid Tumors



Growing Number of Guideline-Recommended Biomarkers in Multiple Cancer Types

Cancer Type	Targetable Alterations																		
	EGFR mt	ALK fusion	ROS1 fusion	BRN1 mt	ERBB2 (HER2) amp	ERBB2 (HER2) mt	RET fusion	RET mt	MET amp & ex 14 skip	NTRK fusion	MSI high	BRCA1/2 g	BRCA1/2 somatic	KRAS mt exons 2,3,4	NRAS mt exons 2,3,4	NRAS mt	PIK3CA mt	KIT mt	PALB2
NSCLC†	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓					
Colorectal†				✓	✓					✓	✓			✓	✓				
Breast†					✓					✓	✓	✓					✓		
Pancreatic†		✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Prostate†											✓	✓	✓					✓	
Ovarian										✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
Endometrial					✓					✓	✓								
Esophageal					✓					✓	✓								
Esophagogastric†					✓					✓	✓								
Gastric†					✓					✓	✓								
Cervical										✓	✓								
Cholangiocarcinoma				✓						✓	✓								
Melanoma†		✓	✓	✓						✓						✓		✓	
GIST				✓						✓									✓
Head & Neck					✓					✓									
Bladder																		✓	✓
Thyroid				✓				✓		✓									
Small bowel										✓	✓								

ASCO recommendation as of February 2022:

Multigene panel-based genomic testing should be used whenever more than one genomic biomarker is linked to a regulatory agency-approved therapy

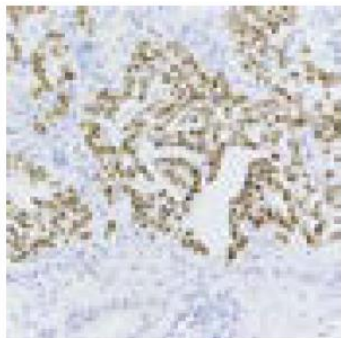
†NCCN Guidelines suggest that liquid biopsy may be considered for these cancer types under certain conditions, such as when patients are unable to undergo a traditional biopsy or tissue is insufficient for complete testing, upon relapse or progression-depending.

Biomarker Testing Methods

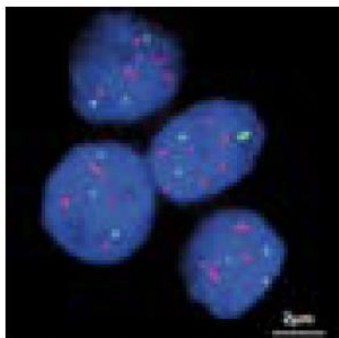


Precision Oncology Methods

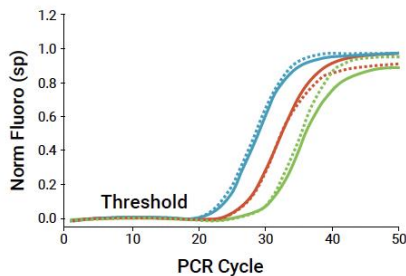
IHC



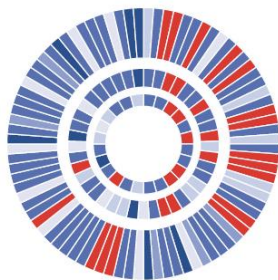
FISH



RT-PCR



NGS



Biomarker testing

- No one platform is perfect for every test
- Knowledge of the limits and expectations of the different platforms is critical



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Integrating/Refining Biomarker Testing in Clinical Pathways



Biomarker Testing – Multistep Process



Patient's
genome



Sample
(i.e.,
biomarker)



Genome
sequencing/
testing
(i.e., NGS)



Genome
analysis



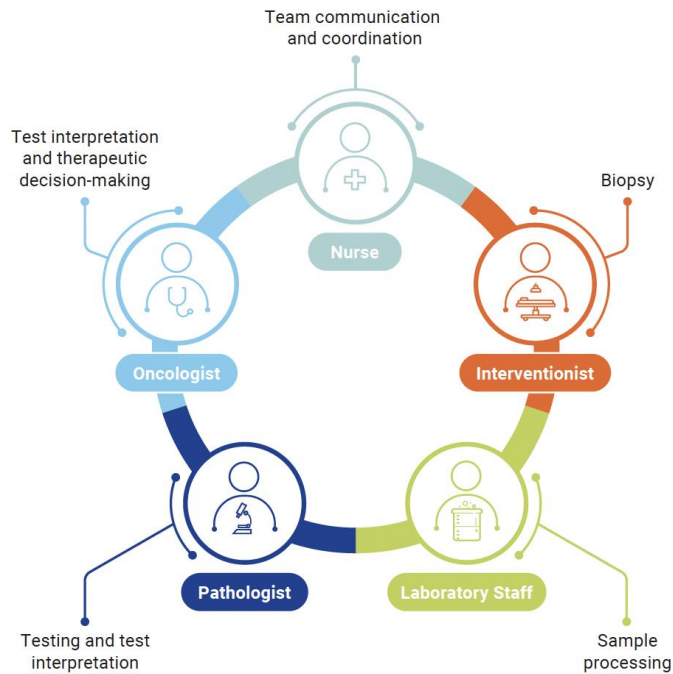
Pharmacogenetic
interpretation



Precision
medicine
application
(diagnostic,
treatment,
prediction,
prevention)

Biomarker Testing – Multistep Process

- Not as simple as ordering a blood test
- Requires a team
- Need to understand what tissue/how much/what type of biopsy, etc



Economic Considerations

Costs are expected to increase exponentially!

- Precision oncology means that we select the right drug for the right target
- Most targets are rare – so few patients will receive the drug

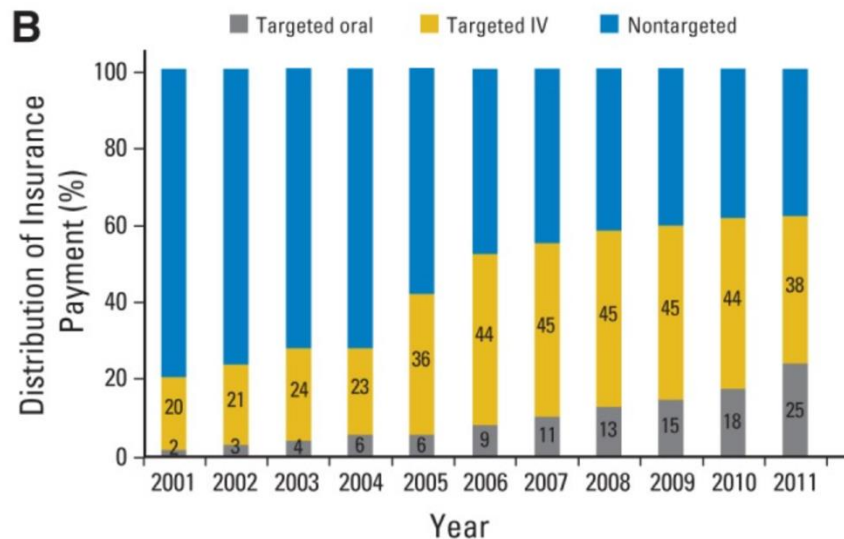
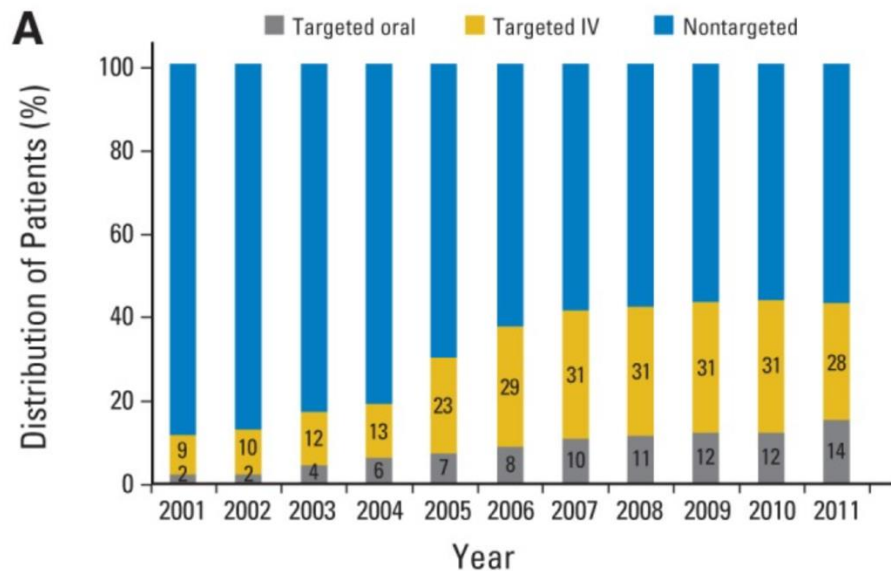
Economic Considerations

Costs are expected to increase exponentially!

- Drug development costs increase
 - Biomarker validation
 - Increasingly rare population
 - Longer time to identify and enroll patients
 - Approvals require companion diagnostic testing
 - Assay validation and incorporation across pathology labs
 - Value added – difficult to prove

Economic Considerations

Costs of targeted therapy disproportionately increase



Regulatory/Quality Considerations

- Emergence and evolving field of precision medicine require novel policy framework that balances the needs of patients, industry, and science without impeding progress or limiting access
- Recent tumor-agnostic FDA approvals



Regulatory/Quality Considerations

FDA leads the way for regulatory aspects

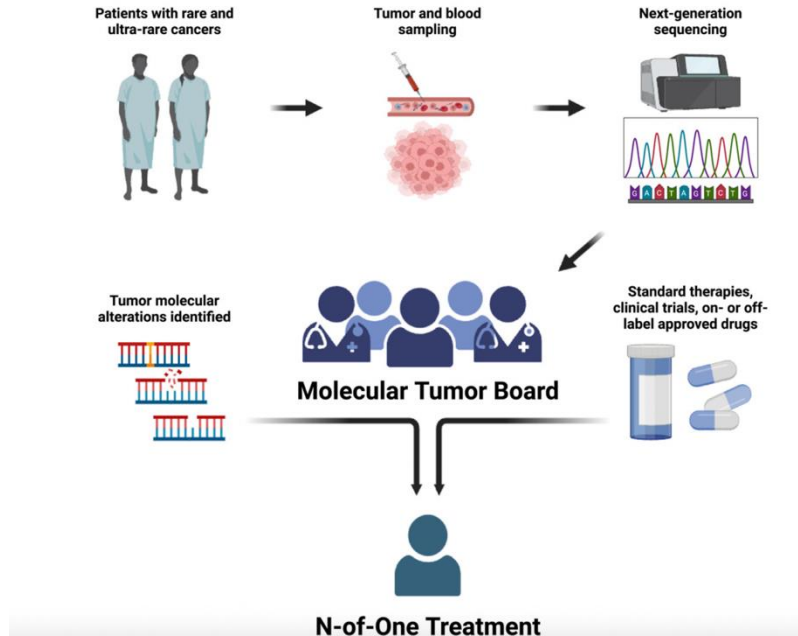
- 1996: Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) ensures that personal medical information stored, accessed, or processed adheres to privacy guidelines
- 2015: precisionFDA was introduced – a cloud-based site for community research and development
- 2020: FDA issued several guidance documents on manufacturing and clinical development of gene and cell-based therapeutic products
- 2021: FDA updated guidelines on new products, like the development of antisense oligonucleotides

Molecular Tumor Boards



Molecular Tumor Boards

Molecular Tumor Board for Unicorns



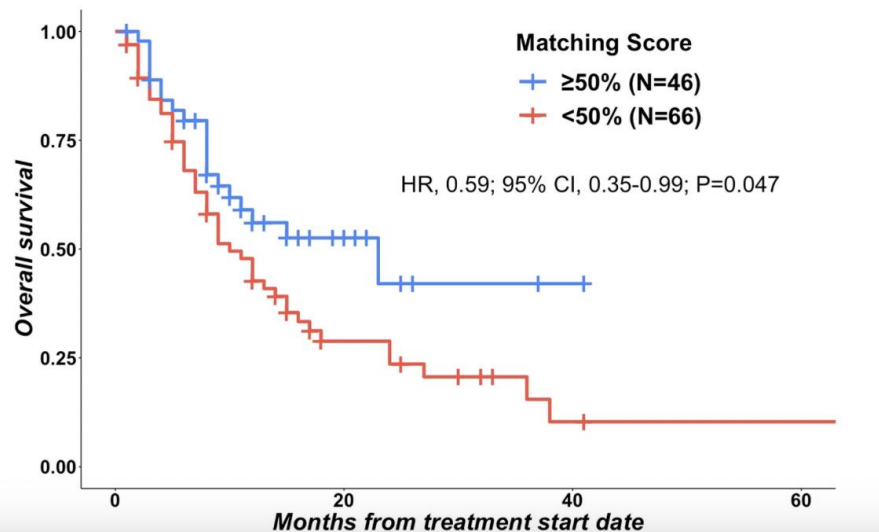
Molecular Tumor Board

- A multidisciplinary team that integrates molecular profiling to generate personalized treatment plans

Impact on Clinical Decision-Making

A study of 112 patients with rare/ultra-rare tumors

- 41% received treatment with a high degree of matching with their molecular alteration
- Patients who received targeted therapy had a better survival, higher response rate, and better outcomes





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Understanding Barriers and Disparities in Biomarker Testing

Barriers to Precision Medicine

- Patient and clinician understanding of testing
- Time it takes to get the test
- Adequate tissue acquisition
- Insurance/cost

Patient Disparities and Considerations

Precision medicine – initially believed to be an opportunity to overcome or address known healthcare disparities, because treatment is based purely on genetic or protein alterations

But disparities have grown

- Insurance/payment for testing
- Mistrust in healthcare system (genetic testing)
- Discordance in patient and clinician understanding about the importance of biomarker testing

Technology to Optimize Pathways and Biomarker Testing

Value Pathways Powered by NCCN

Oncology clinical pathways integrated into electronic health record (EHR)

- Treatment pathways highlight evidence-based treatment options
- Based on efficacy, toxicity, financial impact to patient and payor
- Refinement of NCCN Guidelines
 - Narrower list; 100% concordant
- Includes incorporation of biomarkers relevant for decision-making
- Embedded in decision support tool



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Case Studies and Specific Examples

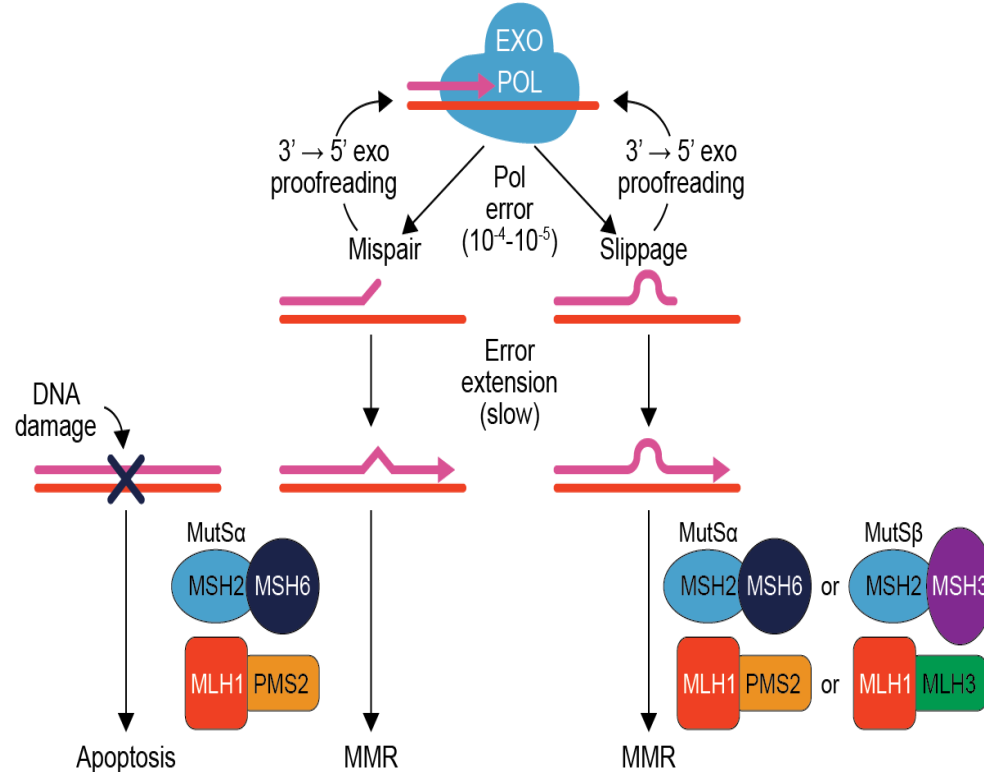
- Mismatch repair
- *NTRK*
- *HER2*



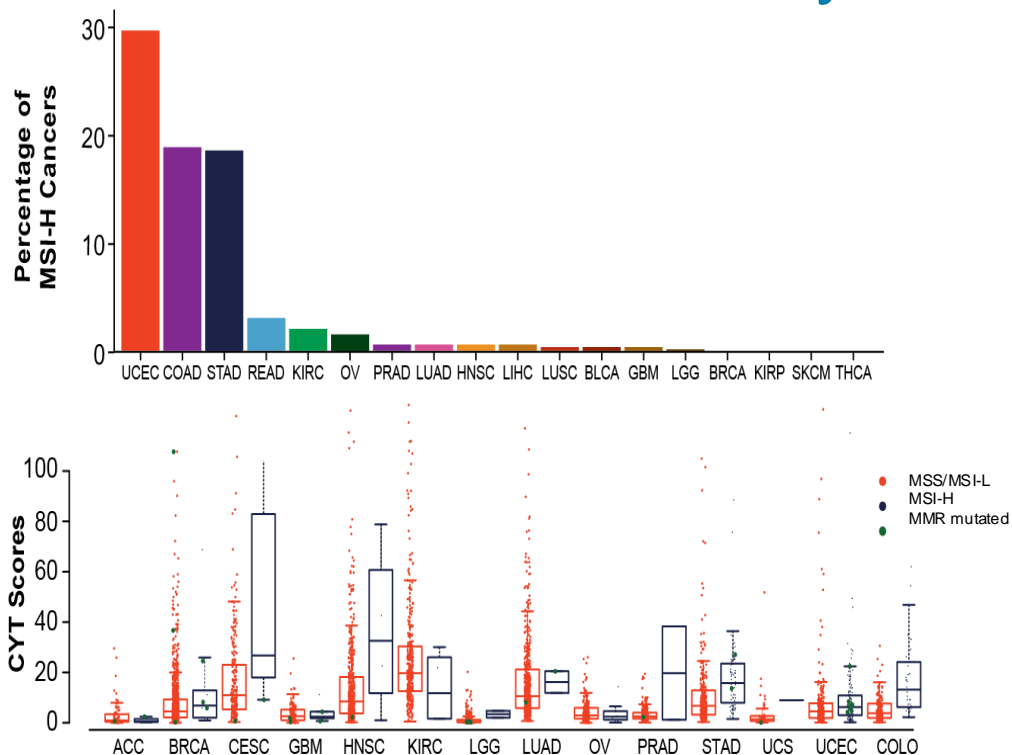
Mismatch Repair



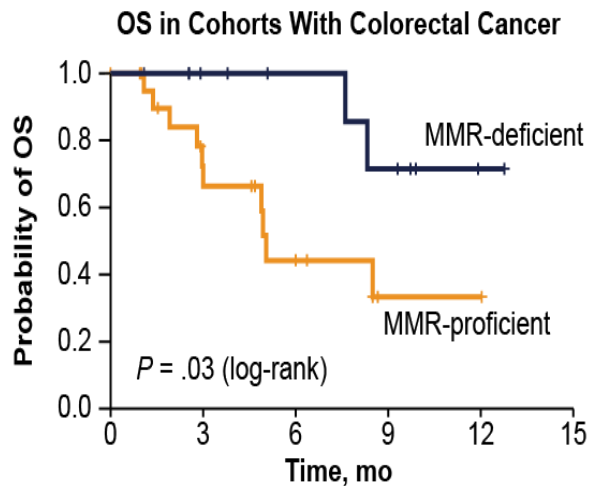
Mismatch Repair Leads to Very High Mutational Burden



Pan-Cancer Landscape of MMR Deficiency

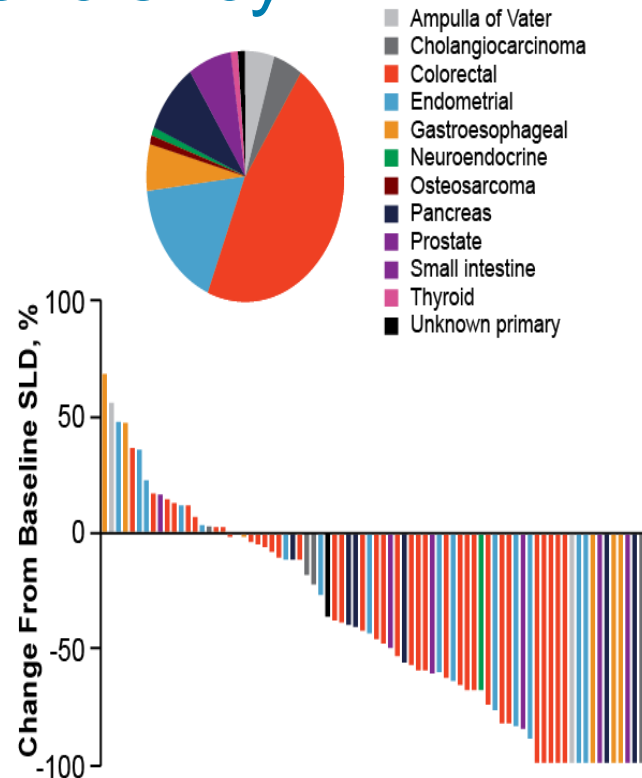


Pan-Cancer Landscape of MMR Deficiency



No. at Risk

MMR-deficient	11	9	7	5	1	0
MMR-proficient	21	12	5	1	1	0





Nivolumab plus ipilimumab vs chemotherapy as first-line treatment for microsatellite instability-high/mismatch repair-deficient metastatic colorectal cancer: expanded efficacy analysis from CheckMate 8HW

Heinz-Josef Lenz,¹ Sara Lonardi,² Elena Elez Fernandez,³ Eric Van Cutsem,⁴ Lars Henrik Jensen,⁵ Jaafar Bennouna,⁶ Guillermo Ariel Mendez,⁷ Michael Schenker,⁸ Christelle de la Fouchardiere,⁹ Maria Luisa Limon Miron,¹⁰ Takayuki Yoshino,¹¹ Jin Li,¹² José Luis Manzano Mozo,¹³ Giampaolo Tortora,¹⁴ Rocio Garcia-Carbonero,¹⁵ Rohit Joshi,¹⁶ Elvis Cela,¹⁷ Tian Chen,¹⁷ Lixian Jin,¹⁷ Thierry Andre¹⁸

¹University of Southern California Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center, Los Angeles, CA; ²Istituto Oncologico Veneto IOV-IRCCS, Padua, Italy;

³Vall d'Hebron University Hospital and Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Barcelona, Spain; ⁴University Hospitals Gasthuisberg and University of

Leuven (KU Leuven), Leuven, Belgium; ⁵University Hospital of Southern Denmark, Vejle Hospital, Vejle, Denmark; ⁶Centre Hospitalier

Universitaire de Nantes, Nantes, France; ⁷Hospital Universitario Fundacion Favaloro, Buenos Aires, Argentina; ⁸Centrul de Oncologie Sf

Nectarie, Craiova, Romania; ⁹Centre Léon Bérard, Lyon Cedex, France; ¹⁰Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Sevilla, Spain; ¹¹National

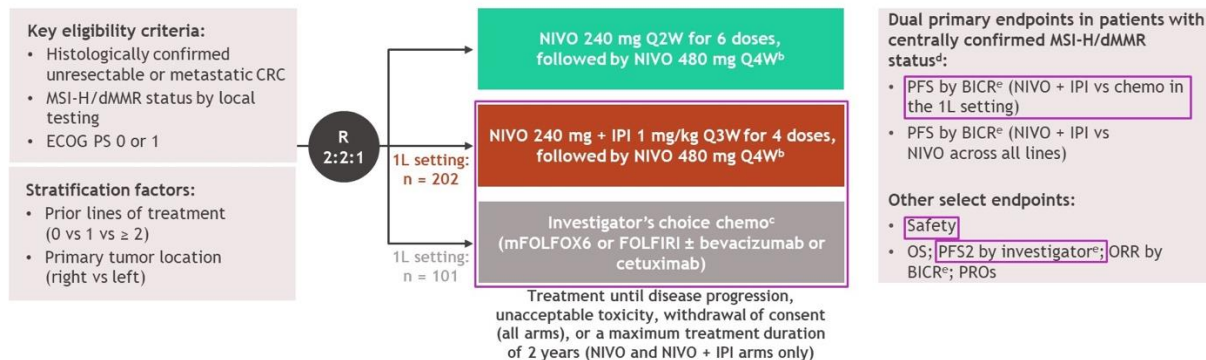
Cancer Center Hospital East, Chiba, Japan; ¹²Shanghai East Hospital, Shanghai, China; ¹³Institut Català d'Oncologia, Badalona, Spain;

¹⁴Fondazione Policlinico Universitario A. Gemelli IRCCS, Rome, Italy; ¹⁵Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre Ima12, Complutense University of

Madrid, Madrid, Spain; ¹⁶Cancer Research SA, Adelaide, Australia; ¹⁷Bristol Myers Squibb, Princeton, NJ; ¹⁸Sorbonne Université and Hôpital Saint Antoine, Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Paris, France

CheckMate 8HW (1L NIVO + IPI vs Chemo) Study Design

- CheckMate 8HW is a randomized, multicenter, open-label phase 3 study^a

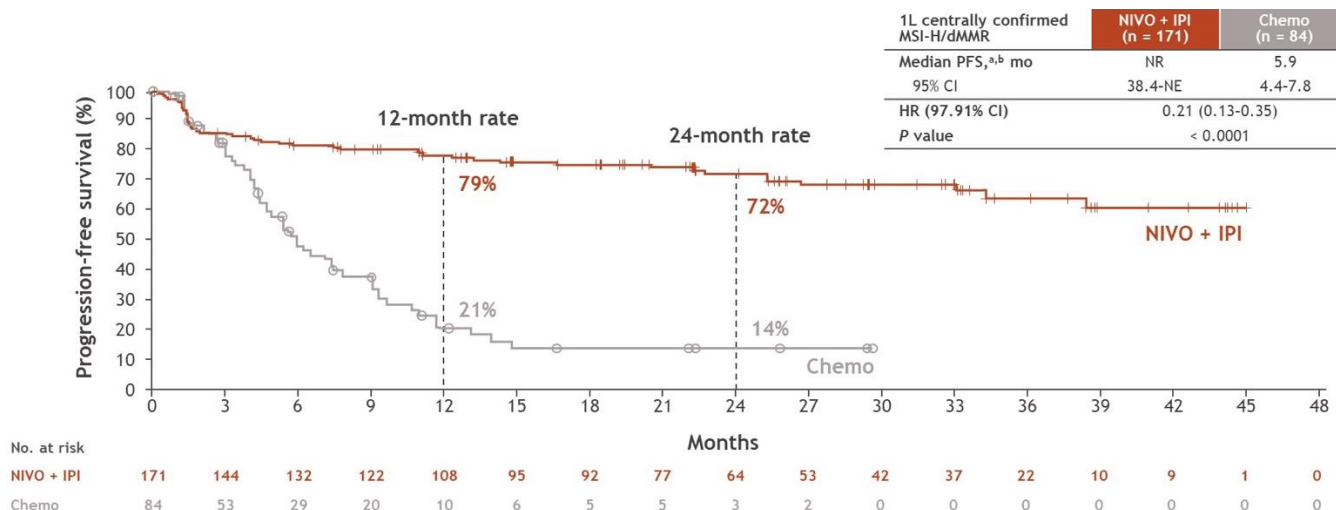


- At data cutoff (October 12, 2023), the median follow-up^f was 31.5 months (range, 6.1-48.4)

^aClinicalTrials.gov, NCT04008030. ^bPatients with ≥ 2 prior lines are randomized only to the NIVO or NIVO + IPI arms. ^cPatients receiving investigator's choice of chemotherapy are eligible to receive NIVO + IPI upon progression (crossover treatment). ^dConfirmed using either immunohistochemistry and/or polymerase chain reaction-based tests. ^eEvaluated using RECIST v1.1. ^fTime between randomization and data cutoff.

NIVO = nivolumab; IPI = ipilimumab; CRC = colorectal cancer; ECOG PS = Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; RECIST = Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors; PFS = progression-free survival; BICR = blinded independent central review; ORR = objective response rate; PROs = patient-reported outcomes.
Lenz HJ, et al. Presented at: ASCO; May 31-June 4, 2024; Chicago, IL. Abstract 3503.

CheckMate 8HW (1L NIVO + IPI vs Chemo) Progression-Free Survival



- PFS benefit with NIVO + IPI vs chemo was robust and consistent across the sensitivity and supportive analyses, including PFS by BICR in 1L all randomized patients (HR, 0.32; 95% CI, 0.23-0.46)

^aPer BICR. ^bMedian follow-up in patients with centrally confirmed MSI-H/dMMR, 31.6 months.

(1) MMRd solid tumor – use immunotherapy

- In the 2nd-line treatment setting
- 1st-line in CRC
- Non-operative management for rectal cancer



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NTRK in Cancer



Role of *TRK* in Normal Biology and Cancer

Neurotrophin family of receptors

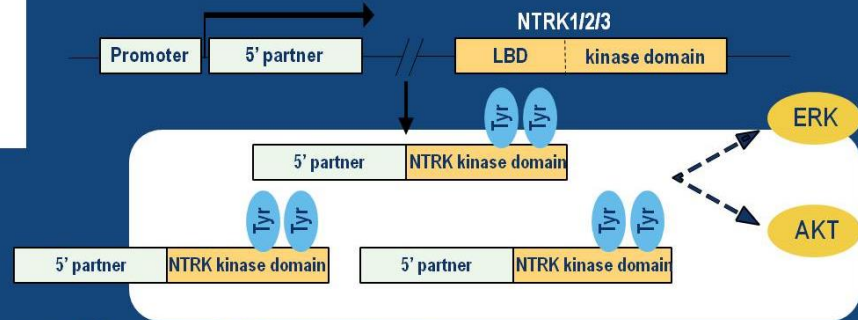
TRKA (*NTRK1*) → Pain, thermoregulation

TRKB (*NTRK2*) → Movement, memory, mood,
appetite, body weight

TRKC (*NTRK3*) → Proprioception

TRK fusions

- Ligand binding domain (LBD) replaced by 5' fusion partner
- Drives overexpression and ligand-independent activation



TRK uncommonly expressed in normal tissues or cancer
Fusion drives abnormally high expression and activation of TRK kinase domain

NTRK Biology

NTRK1, *NTRK2*, and *NTRK3* are common fusion partners with unrelated genes (intrachromosomal or interchromosomal translocation)

- The resulting fusion → ligand-independent receptor activation and uncontrolled activation of downstream pathways

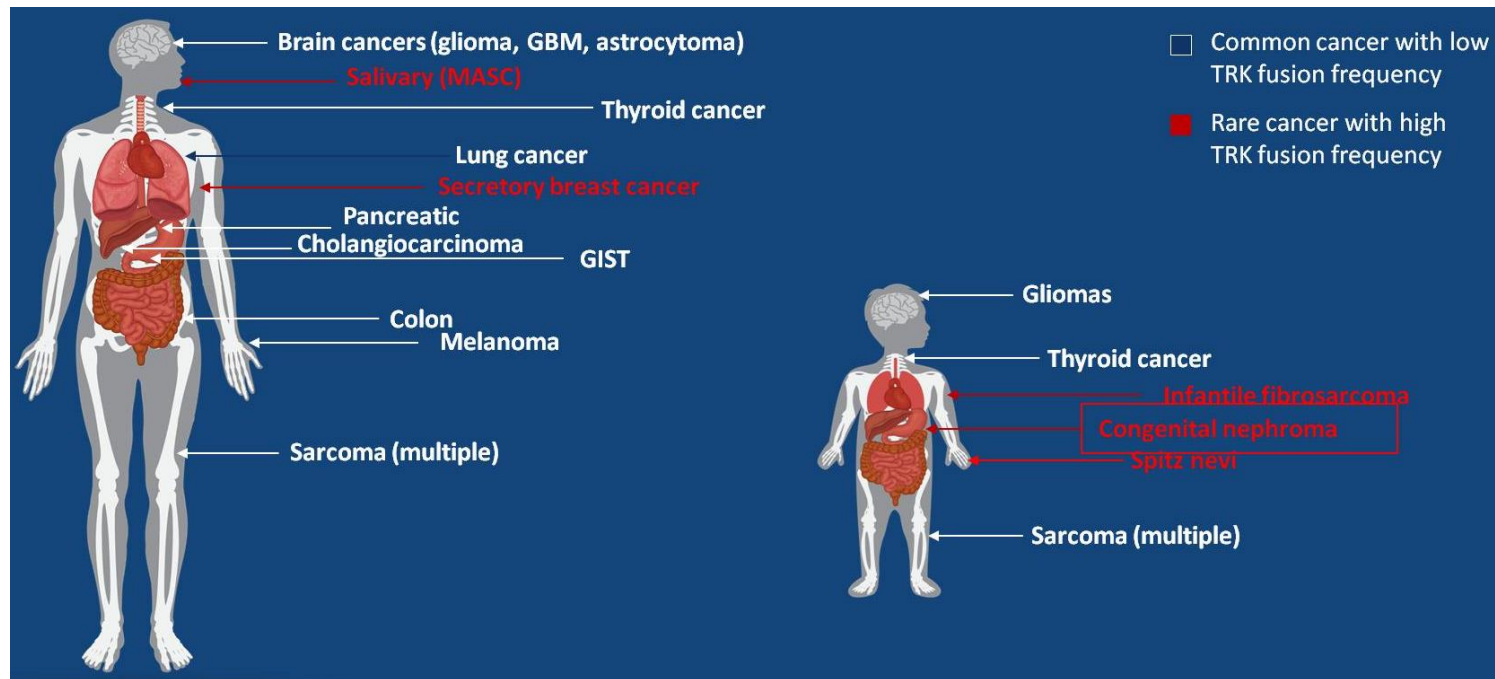
High frequency

- Infantile fibrosarcoma >90%
- Secretory carcinoma (breast/salivary gland) >90%
- Mesoblastic nephroma >85%

Others

- Pediatric high-grade gliomas 5.3%
- Melanoma, colorectal <1%
- Adult gliomas 0.5-2%

TRK Fusions Found in Diverse Cancer Histologies



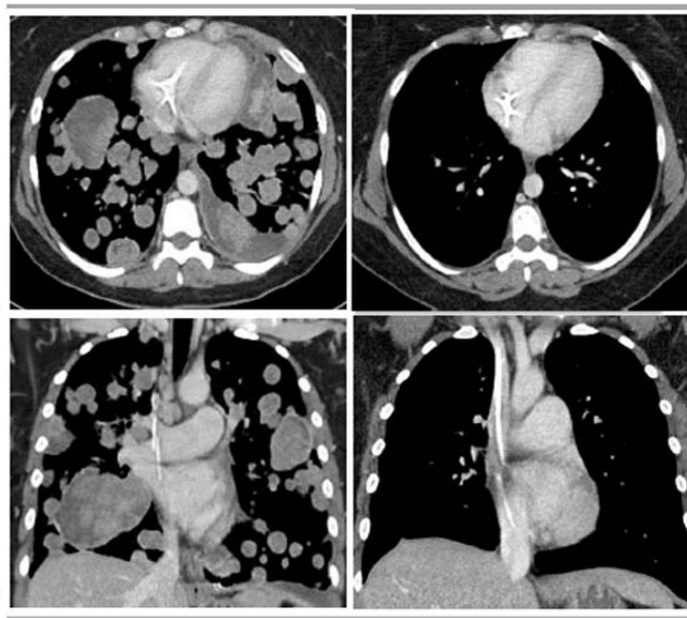
GBM = glioblastoma; MASC = mammary analogue secretory carcinoma.
Manea CA, et al. *Ann Med Surg* (London). 2022;79:103893. Cocco E, et al. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol*. 2018;15(12):731-747.

NTRK Inhibitors Approved in 2018

- Larotrectinib and entrectinib – approved in 2018
- Although *NTRK* fusions occur at low frequencies, it is recommended that *NTRK* fusion testing occur in all solid tumors
- Response rates are 60-80%

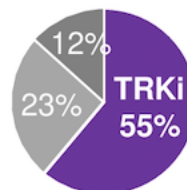
Patient #1: *LMNA-NTRK1* Fusion Soft-Tissue Sarcoma

- 42 yo female with undifferentiated sarcoma progressed through epirubicin, ifosfamide, sorafenib, and doxorubicin
- 100mg BID
- Rapid resolution of dyspnea and hypoxemia
- Confirmed partial response



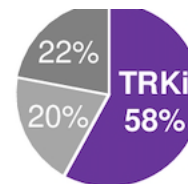
But, Healthcare Providers Generally Do Not Test as Often as They Should

- 43-year-old woman diagnosed with pT4aN0 **colon cancer**; deferred chemotherapy; right lower quadrant mass later recurred, with carcinomatosis and ascites
- Cancer is dMMR/MSI-high, TMB-high, and *NTRK* fusion positive; pembrolizumab started but PD after 2 months; nivolumab/ipilimumab started but PD again after 2 months



N = 85; A6
1.2020-1.2021

- 50-year-old nonsmoker with metastatic **lung adenocarcinoma**
- *EGFR/ALK/ROS1/BRAF* all negative, PD-L1 <1%; patient received carboplatin, pemetrexed, and pembrolizumab but PD
- NGS panel of original biopsy showed *NTRK* fusion



N = 591; A7
2.2020-3.2021

TMB = tumor mutation burden; PD = progressive disease.
Topping R, et al. Presented at: ASCO Quality Care Symposium; September 24-25, 2021; Boston, MA & Virtual. a229.

(1) MMRd solid tumor – use PD-1 inhibition

- In the 2nd-line treatment setting
- 1st-line in CRC
- Non-operative management for rectal cancer

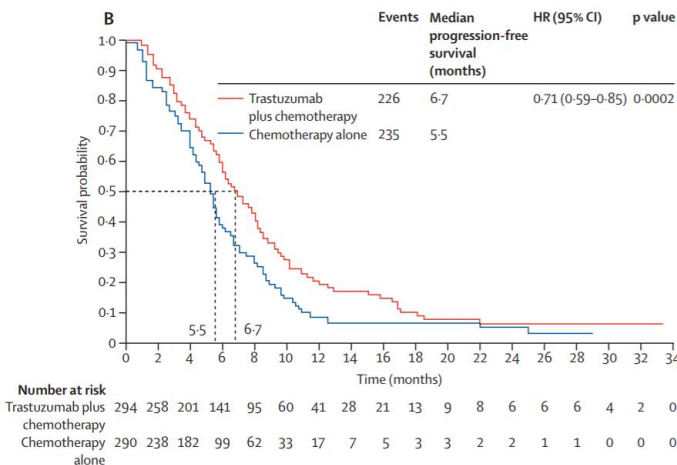
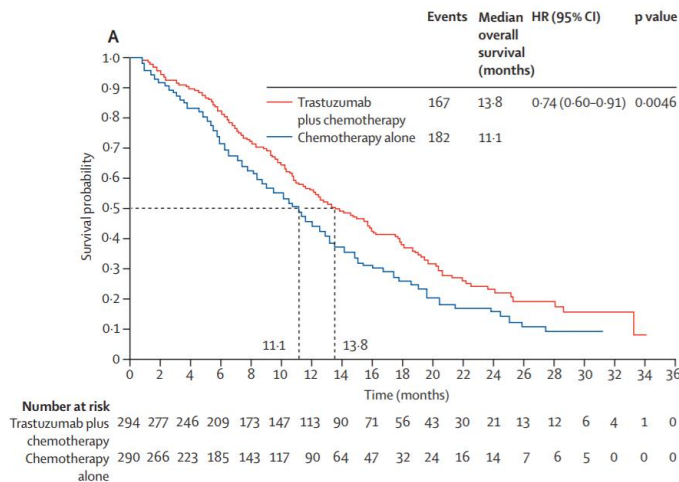
(2) *NTRK* inhibition

- Even if rare, tumor testing can be important

Targeting *HER2*

Trastuzumab for Gastric Cancer (ToGA): Trastuzumab + Chemo in Advanced *HER2+* Gastric Cancer

- Primary endpoint: OS
- Trastuzumab + cisplatin/5FU vs cisplatin/5FU



Phase III Clinical Trials of *HER2*-Directed Therapy in Gastric Cancer

First-line → all negative

- JACOB: Capecitabine/cisplatin/trastuzumab +/- pertuzumab (N=780)
- HELOISE: Capecitabine/cisplatin + 2-dose levels of trastuzumab (N=400)

Second-line

- GATSBY: Paclitaxel vs T-DM1 (N=412)
 - T-DM1 was no better than paclitaxel

Phase III Clinical Trials of *HER2*-Directed Therapy in Gastric Cancer

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**ALL of these drugs
are effective and
APPROVED in
breast cancer**

- Lapatinib
- Pertuzumab
- T-DM1

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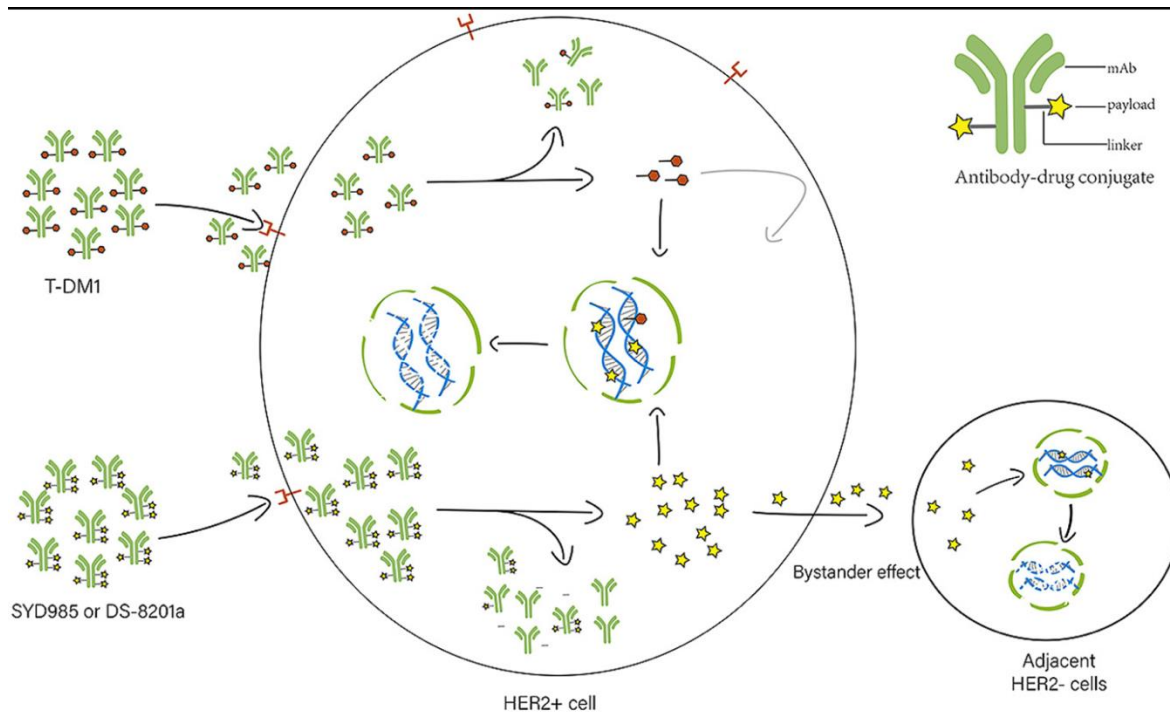
ALL of these drugs
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APPROVED in
breast cancer

- Lapatinib
- Pertuzumab
- T-DM1

**The SAME TARGET in different
solid tumors can behave differently**



Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (DS-8201a)



DESTINY-Breast04

Trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) vs treatment of physician's choice in patients with HER2-low unresectable and/or metastatic breast cancer: Results of DESTINY-Breast04, a randomized, phase 3 study

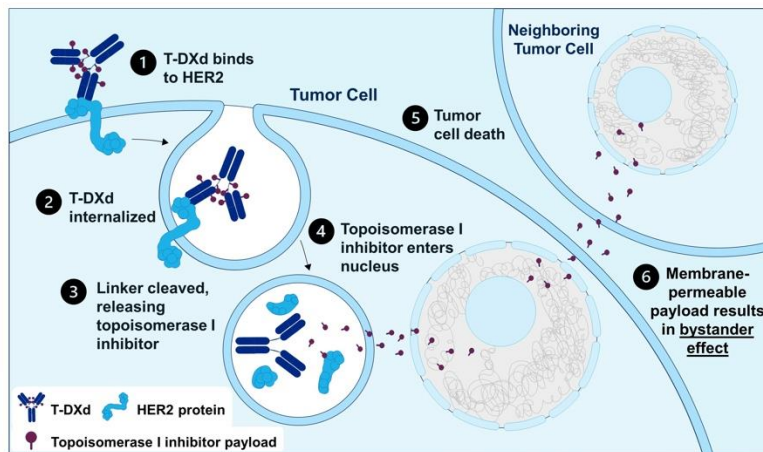
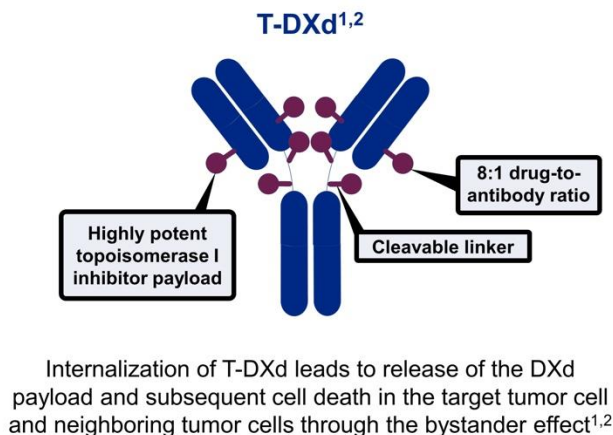
Shanu Modi Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Memorial Hospital, New York, NY, USA

June 5, 2022

Additional authors: William Jacot, Toshinari Yamashita, Joo Hyuk Sohn, Maria Vidal, Eriko Tokunaga, Junji Tsurutani, Naoto Ueno, Yee Soo Chae, Keun Seok Lee, Naoki Niikura, Yeon Hee Park, Xiaojia Wang, Binghe Xu, Dhiraj Gambhire, Lotus Yung, Gerold Meinhardt, Yibin Wang, Nadia Harbeck, David Cameron

On behalf of the DESTINY-Breast04 investigators

DESTINY-Breast04: T-DXd MOA, Bystander Effect, and Rationale for Targeting *HER2*-Low mBC



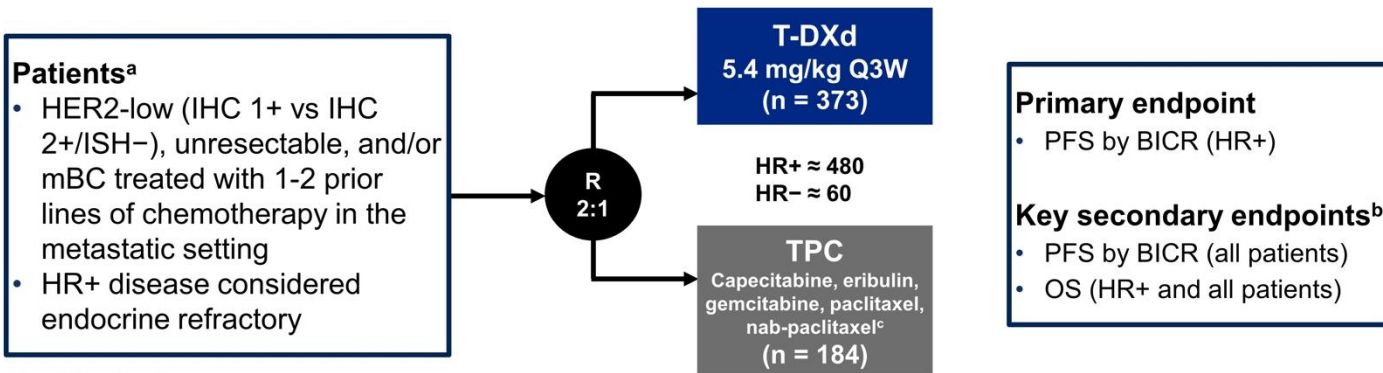
Adapted with permission from Modi S, et al. *J Clin Oncol* 2020;38:1887-96. CC BY ND 4.0.

- Results from a phase 1b study have reported efficacy of T-DXd in heavily pretreated patients (N = 54) with *HER2*-low mBC, with a mPFS of 11.1 months and an ORR of 37.0%³

HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; MOA, mechanism of action; mBC, metastatic breast cancer; mPFS, median progression-free survival; ORR, objective response rate; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan.
1. Nakada T, et al. *Chem Pharm Bull*. 2019;67:173-185. 2. Ogitani Y, et al. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2016;22:5097-5108. 3. Modi S, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2020;38:1887-1896.

DESTINY-Breast04: First Randomized Phase 3 Study of T-DXd for *HER2*-Low mBC

An open-label, multicenter study (NCT03734029)



Stratification factors

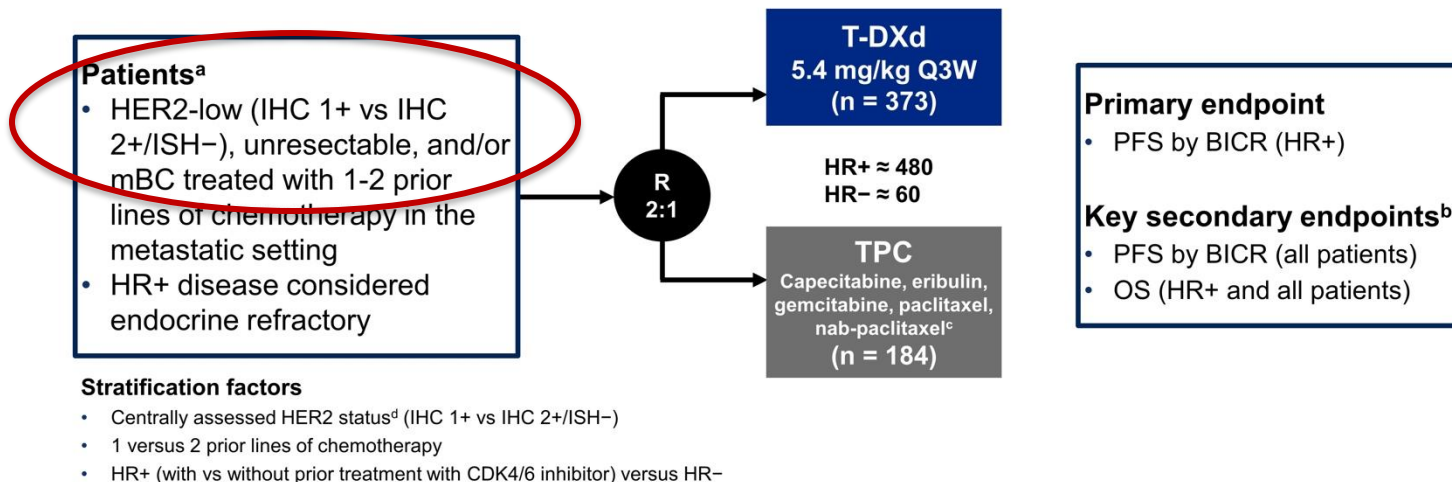
- Centrally assessed HER2 status^d (IHC 1+ vs IHC 2+/ISH-)
- 1 versus 2 prior lines of chemotherapy
- HR+ (with vs without prior treatment with CDK4/6 inhibitor) versus HR-

ASCO/CAP, American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists; BICR, blinded independent central review; CDK, cyclin-dependent kinase; DOR, duration of response; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HR, hormone receptor; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; mBC, metastatic breast cancer; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; Q3W, every 3 weeks; R, randomization; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; TPC, treatment of physician's choice.

^aIf patients had HR+ mBC, prior endocrine therapy was required. ^bOther secondary endpoints included ORR (BICR and investigator), DOR (BICR), PFS (investigator), and safety; efficacy in the HR- cohort was an exploratory endpoint. ^cTPC was administered accordingly to the label. ^dPerformed on adequate archived or recent tumor biopsy per ASCO/CAP guidelines.

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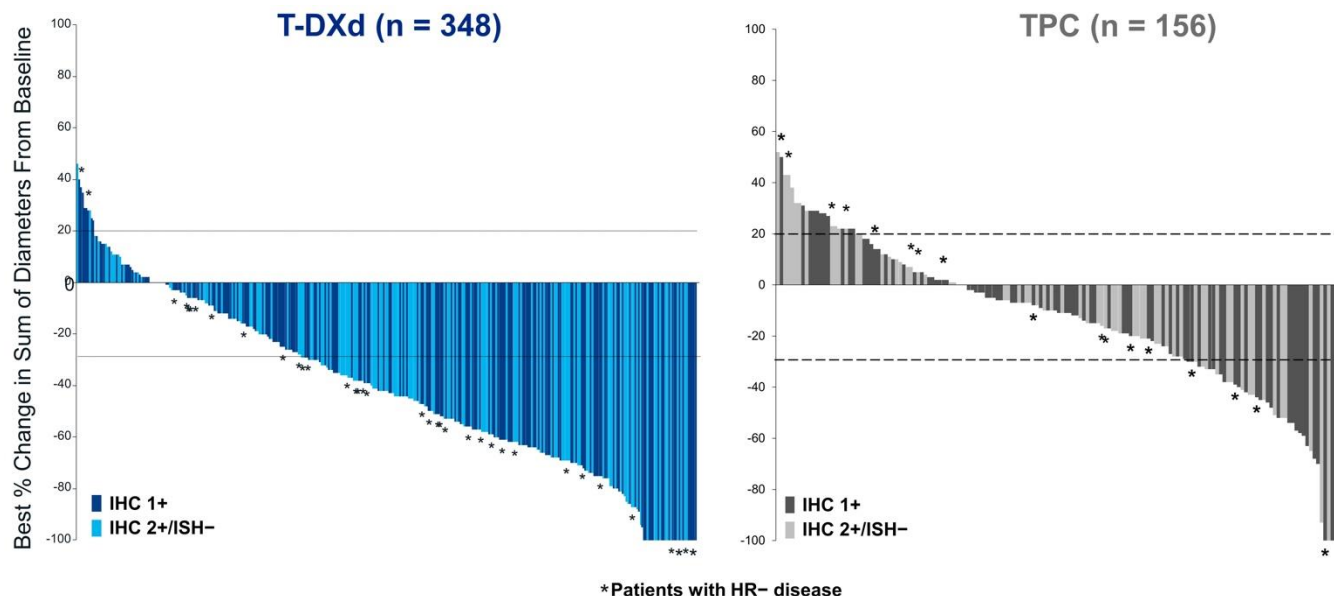
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DESTINY-Breast04: Best Change in Target Lesions (All Patients)



Shown are the best percentage changes from baseline in the sum of the largest diameters of measurable tumors in patients for whom data from both baseline and postbaseline assessments of target lesions by independent central review were available. The upper dashed horizontal line indicates a 20% increase in tumor size in the patients who had disease progression, and the lower dashed line indicates a 30% decrease in tumor size (partial response).
HR, hormone receptor; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; TPC, treatment of physician's choice.

Trastuzumab Deruxtecan

- Approved in breast cancer
- Targets *HER2*
- First to have efficacy in *HER2*-“low” tumors

Target evolution:

HER2-targeted therapy in breast cancer now includes *HER2*-“LOW” tumors

Key Learning Points

(1) **MMRd solid tumor – use PD-1 inhibition**

- In the 2nd-line treatment setting
- 1st-line in CRC
- Non-operative management for rectal cancer

(2) ***NTRK* inhibition**

- Even if rare, tumor testing can be important

(3) ***HER2***

- Targeting *HER2* is active across cancers – CRC, breast, lung
- Efficacy is not the same across cancers – more effective in breast
- Target evolution

Q&A Session