

Merkel Cell Carcinoma News from an Oral Session

9507 Oral Abstract Session, Mon, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM

Two-year efficacy and safety update from JAVELIN Merkel 200 part A: A registrational study of avelumab in metastatic Merkel cell carcinoma progressed on chemotherapy. *First Author: Paul Nghiem, University of Washington Medical Center at South Lake Union, Seattle, WA*

Conclusions: At ≥ 2 y of follow-up, avelumab shows continued durable responses and meaningful survival outcomes in pts with mMCC, exceeding the outcomes associated with cytotoxic chemotherapy. Efficacy and safety results confirm the lasting clinical benefit of avelumab in pts with mMCC. Clinical trial information: [NCT02155647](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT02155647)

[J Clin Oncol 36, 2018 \(suppl; abstr 9507\)](#)

9506 Oral Abstract Session, Mon, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM

Durable tumor regression and overall survival (OS) in patients with advanced Merkel cell carcinoma (aMCC) receiving pembrolizumab as first-line therapy. *First Author: Paul Nghiem, University of Washington and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA*

Conclusions: These results represent the longest observation to date of patients with aMCC receiving first-line anti-PD-1, and demonstrate durable tumor control, a favorable OS rate, and a manageable safety profile.

[J Clin Oncol 36, 2018 \(suppl; abstr 9506\)](#)

9505 Oral Abstract Session, Mon, 8:00 AM-11:00 AM

Nivolumab (Nivo) as neoadjuvant therapy in patients with resectable Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC) in CheckMate 358. *First Author: Suzanne Louise Topalian, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg/Kimmel Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy and Kimmel Cancer Center, Baltimore, MD*

Conclusions: Nivo administered for 4 wks before surgery in MCC was safe and induced substantial radiologic and pathologic tumor regressions in 40% and 65% of patients, respectively. In some pts, this obviated the need for more extensive surgery. The majority of operated patients remain tumor-free at 12 mo. The median PFS and OS in patients undergoing surgery have not been reached. Neoadjuvant anti-PD-1 therapy for resectable MCC warrants further investigation in larger studies. Clinical trial information: [NCT02488759](#)

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