

MDAnderson Cancer Center

Making Cancer History®

# Perioperative Therapy in Surgically Resectable Urothelial Carcinoma

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**Professor** 

Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology

## DISCLOSURE INFORMATION

Arlene Siefker-Radtke, MD

Advisory Boards: Abbvie, Astellas, AstraZeneca, Basilea, Bicycle Therapeutics, Bristol Myers Squibb, Genentech, G1 Therapeutics, Gilead, Ideaya Biosciences, Immunomedics, Janssen, LOXO-Oncology, Merck Sharp and Dohme, Mirati, Nektar Therapeutics, Seattle Genetics, and Taiho

Clinical trials: Basilea Pharmaceutical, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Loxo, Merck, Mirati, and Nektar Therapeutics

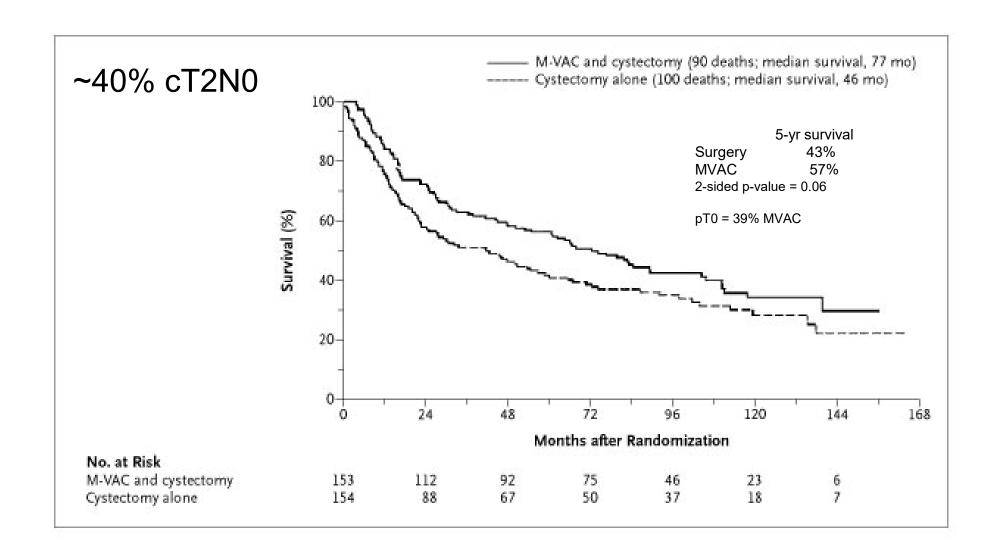
Speaker (non-promotional): Janssen



## Muscle Invasive: cT2-4aN0 Disease

- Neoadjuvant chemotherapy now standard
  - Cisplatin (not carboplatin!)
  - MVAC historical standard
  - DDMVAC acceptable improved toxicity and shorter time to surgery
  - Some consider GC
  - Ifosfamide with doxorubicin and gemcitabine
- Adverse prognostic factors
  - Lymphovascular invasion (LVI)
  - Positive EUA
  - Tumor at ureteral orifice/hydronephrosis
  - HG upper tract
  - Extension to local but resectable organs

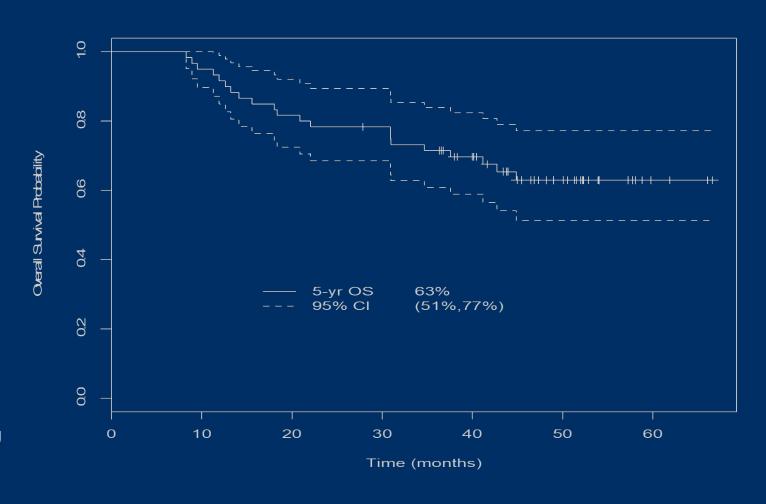
## **SWOG Intergroup Trial**



Grossman et al. NEJM 349;9: 859-866, 2003

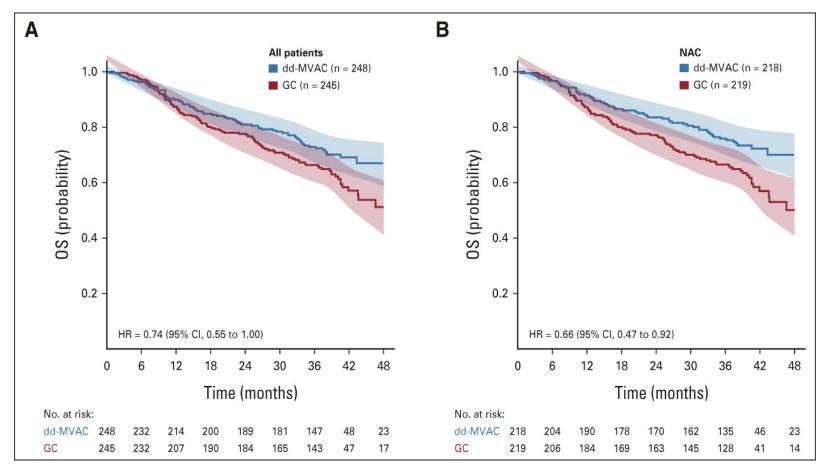
# Dose-Dense Therapy: Neoadjuvant DDMVAC

- MVAC q 2 weeks X 4 with Bevacizumab
- High risk patients (predicted ~ 80% likelihood of >= pT3b disease)
- pT0 = 38%,  $\leq$  pT1 = 53%
- 5-year OS 63%
  - Med f/u 49 mo
- Less toxic than traditional MVAC
  - Neutropenic fever 27%
  - Fatigue 12 %
- Bevacizumab: no appreciable benefit
- Similar DDMVAC trials Plimack et al. and Choueiri et el. with similar pT0 rates, short FU





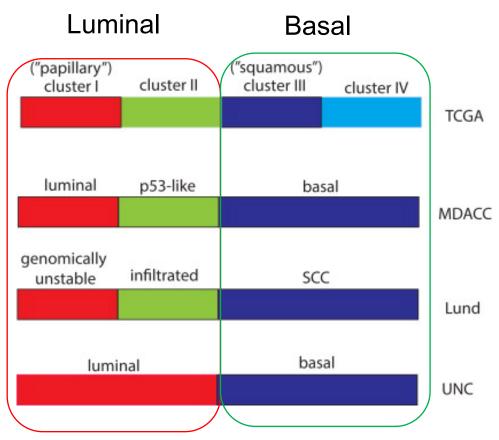
# VESPER Trial: Perioperative DDMVAC vs GC



- N=500
  - cT2-4aN0 (neoadjuvant 89%))
    - 90-95% cT2N0
  - >=pT3 any N (adjuvant 11%)
    - 73% N+
- Chemotherapy
  - DDMVAC x 6
  - GC x 4
- Primary endpoint improved PFS not met (HR 0.77 (95% CI 0.57-1.02), P=0.066
  - DDMVAC 3-yr: 64%
  - GC 3-yr: 56%
- OS in neoadjuvant group favored DDMVAC (HR - 0.66 (95% CI 0.47-0.92)



# **Gene Expression**



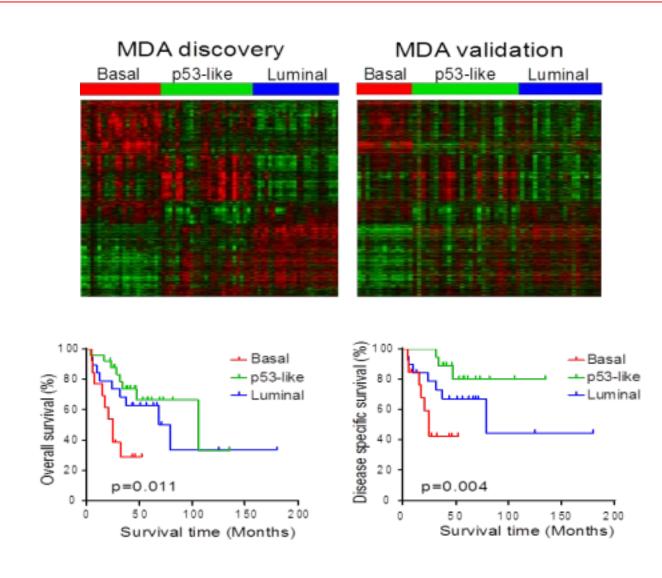
Relationships between the intrinsic subtypes identified by the groups at Lund University, MD Anderson Cancer Center, University of North Carolina, and TCGA centres

David J. McConkey, Woonyoung Choi, Andrea Ochoa, Arlene Siefker-Radtke, Bogdan Czerniak, Colin P.N. Dinney Therapeutic Opportunities in the Intrinsic Subtypes of Muscle-Invasive Bladder Cancer Hematology/Oncology Clinics of North America, Volume 29, Issue 2, 2015, 377–394 http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.hoc.2014.11.003

# Background: Gene Expression

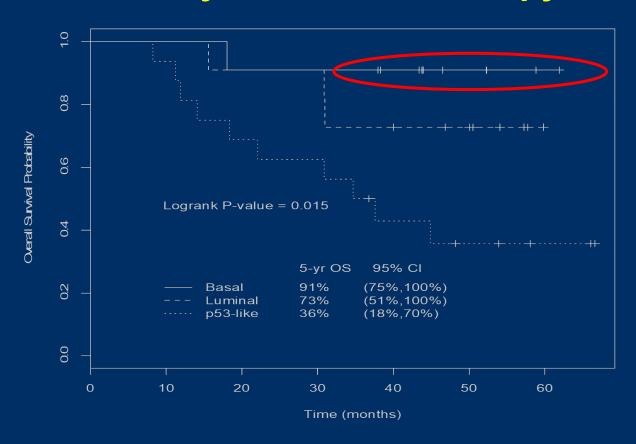
#### Three intrinsic subtypes:

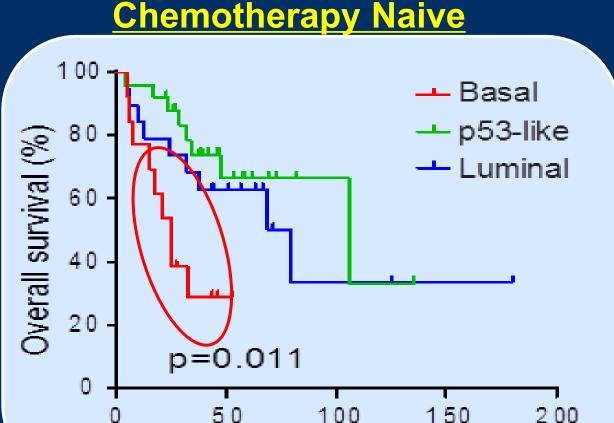
- Basal
  - Highest proliferation
  - "Stemness"
  - Worst clinical outcomes
- Luminal
  - Intermediate proliferation
  - FGFR3 mutations
- p53-like
  - Lowest proliferation
  - Stromal markers



# Basal tumors benefit from neoadjuvant chemotherapy: MDACC clinical trials

## **Neoadjuvant chemotherapy**





Survival time (Months)

# Paradigm Shift in Urothelial Cancer

• Urothelial cancer is no longer just 1 disease:

# "Basal"

- Chemo-sensitive
- Immune signature

### Therapies:

- GC/DDMVAC
- CTLA4?
- PD-1/PDL-1?
- Proteasome inhibitors
- + chemo?

# "p53-like"

- Chemo-resistance
- Stromal enrichment
- Bone mets
- Immune signature

## **Therapies:**

- PD-1/PD-L1?
- Met inhibitors?

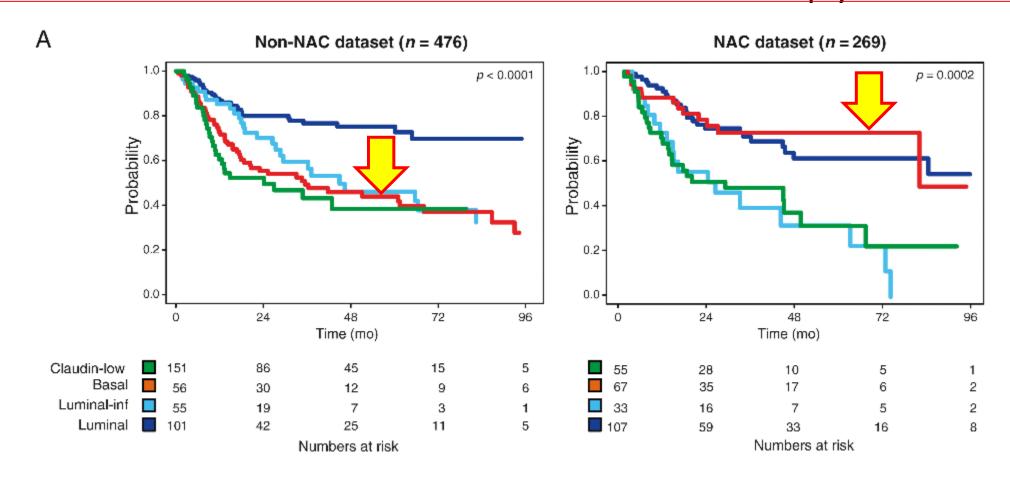
# "Luminal"

- Still some chemosensitivity
- "FGFR" signature

## Therapies:

- GC/DDMVAC
- FGFR inhibitors?
- Proteasome inhibitors
- + chemo?

# Additional retrospective analysis: basal tumours benefit from chemotherapy



## Paradigm shift in urothelial cancer

• Urothelial cancer is no longer just one disease

#### "Basal"

- Chemosensitive
- Immune signature
- Angiogenesis

#### Classification

• CK5/6+

#### **Therapies**

- GCb/DD-MVAC
- Immunotherapy
- Angiogenesis

#### "Basal-

#### Claudin Low"

- Immune signature
- MDSC?
- Does autocrine FGFR signalling play a role?

#### Classification

• CK5/6+

#### **Therapies**

- IDO-IO?
- FGFR inhibitor + IO

#### "Luminal-P53-like"

- Stromal enrichment
- Chemoresistance
- Immune signature
- Bone metastases

#### Classification

- CK20+ or GATA3+
- Lack FGFR mutations or translocations
- ERBB2-

#### **Therapies**

- Immunotherapy
- Bone-targeting agents

#### "Luminal"

- FGFR-PPAR-y
- Intermediate chemosensitive
- Immunoquiescent

#### Classification

- FGFR3 mutations
- FGFR translocations
- CK20+ or GATA3+
- ERBB2-

#### **Therapies**

- FGFR inhibitors (+IO)
- TUR, initial surgery

#### "Luminal"

- ERBB2+
- Chemosensitive

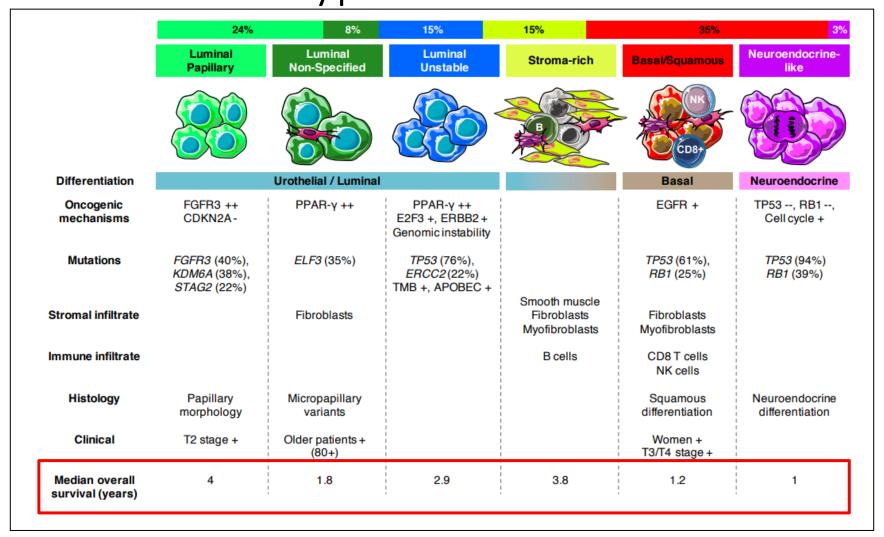
#### Classification

- ERBB2+
- CK20+ or GATA3+
- WT FGFR

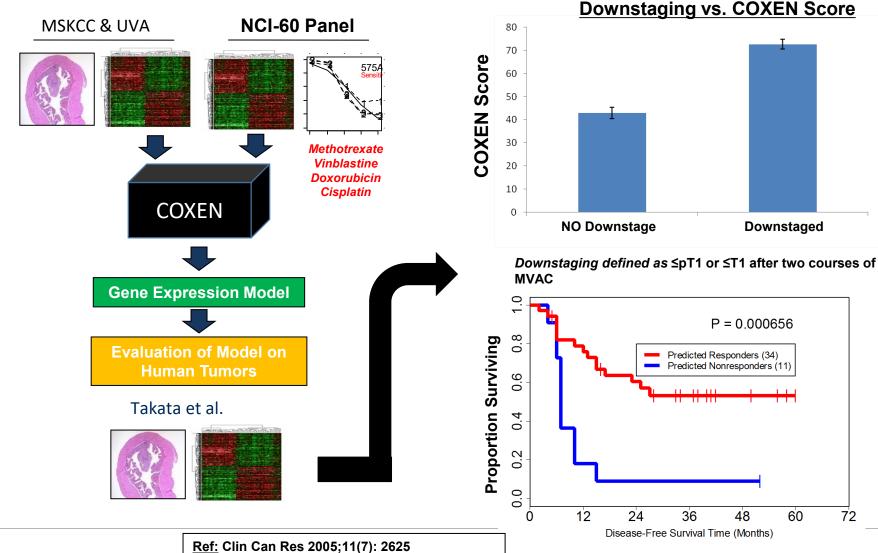
#### **Therapies**

- Chemotherapy
- HER2-targeted therapies

# Bladder cancer is composed of multiple tumors: Subtypes within subtypes



## S1314: COXEN background



Tx: Neoadjuvant MVAC (N=45) + surgery or XRT

Outcome: Downstaging, Overall survival

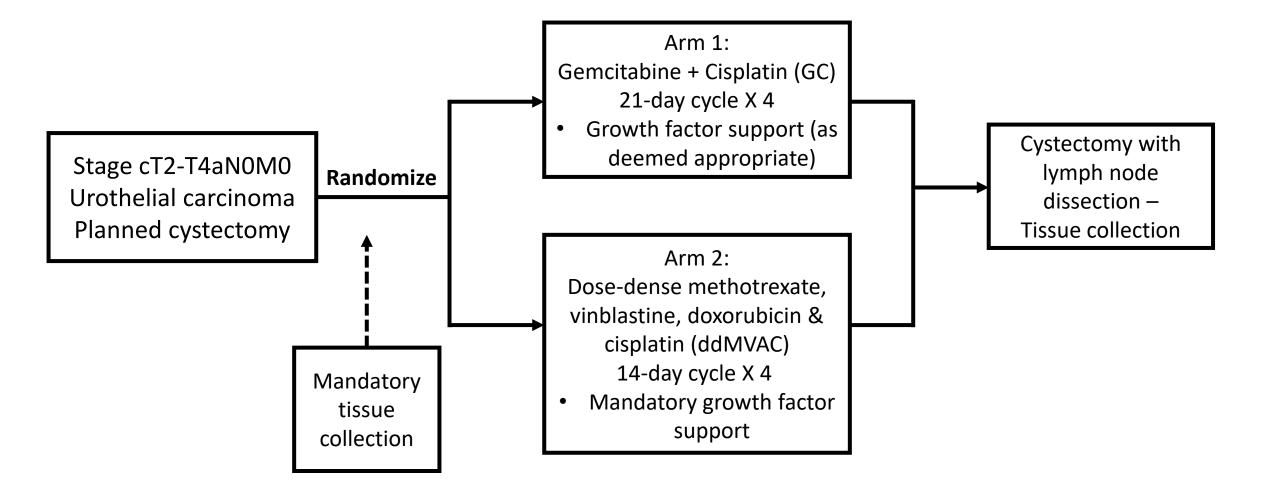


Slide courtesy of Tom Flaig, MD





## S1314: Schema







## Coxen Trial Results

**Table 3.** Results of logistic regression modeling of COXEN score and pathologic response at cystectomy.

COXEN score	Outcome	Arm	N	OR (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	<b>P</b> <sup>b</sup>	Sensitivity (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	PPV (95% CI)	NPV (95% CI)
GC <sup>a</sup>	pT0	GC	82	2.63 (0.82-8.36)	0.10	29% (13%-49%)	81% (69%-91%)	44% (22%-69%)	69% (56%-80%)
	≤pT1	GC	82	1.75 (0.60-5.34)	0.30	25% (13%-41%)	81% (66%-91%)	47% (34%-60%)	53% (40%-66%)
ddMVAC <sup>a</sup>	pT0	ddMVAC	85	1.12 (0.42-2.95)	0.82	37% (19%-58%)	63% (46%-78%)	33% (17%-53%)	44% (17%-53%)
ddMVAC <sup>a</sup>	≤pT1	ddMVAC	85	0.92 (0.37-2.27)	0.86	34% (21%-49%)	63% (46%-78%)	53% (34%-72%)	69% (55%-81%)
GC <sup>a</sup>	pT0	Pooled	167	1.84 (0.88-3.83)	0.10	33% (21%-47%)	78% (69%-85%)	42% (27%-58%)	70% (61%-78%)
	≤pT1	Pooled	167	2.33 (1.11-4.89)	0.02	32% (23%-43%)	81% (71%-89%)	65% (49%-79%)	52% (43%-61%)
ddMVAC <sup>a</sup>	pT0	Pooled	167	0.99 (0.49-2.02)	0.99	31% (19%-45%)	68% (58%-76%)	32% (20%-46%)	67% (58%-76%)
	≤pT1	Pooled	167	0.90 (0.46-1.75)	0.76	30% (21%-41%)	66% (55%-76%)	49% (35%-63%)	46% (37%-56%)

Abbreviations: NPV, negative predictive value; Pooled, GC + ddMVAC arms; PPV, positive predictive value.

- Individual GC and MVAC coxen scores were not predictive of benefit
- The GC Coxen score predicted benefit when pooling GC and DDMVAC data

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup>Favorable based on prespecified COXEN algorithm and cut-off point.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup>Adjusted for two stratification factors: clinical stage at baseline (T2 vs. T3, T4a), PS (0 vs. 1) in logistic regression model.



## Neoadjuvant Pembrolizumab

Table 3. Pathologic Response to Pembrolizumab					
Response	All Treated Patients (N = 50)	PD-L1 CPS ≥ 10% (n = 35)			
Primary end point Pathologic complete response, No. (%) 95% CI	21 (42) 28.2 to 56.8	19 (54.3)	2 (13.3)		
Secondary end point Pathologic downstaging to pT<2, No. (%) 95% CI*	27 (54) 39.3 to 68.2	23 (65.7)	4 (26.7)		
Treatment failure, No. (%) pT2N0 pT3-4N0 pTanyN+ Additional MVAC chemotherapy†	2 (3.8) 6 (12) 10 (20) 5 (10)				
RECIST v1.1 PD	0				

Abbreviations: CPS, combined positive score; MVAC, methotrexate, vinblastine, doxorubicin, cisplatin; PD, disease progression; PD-L1, programmed death ligand-1.

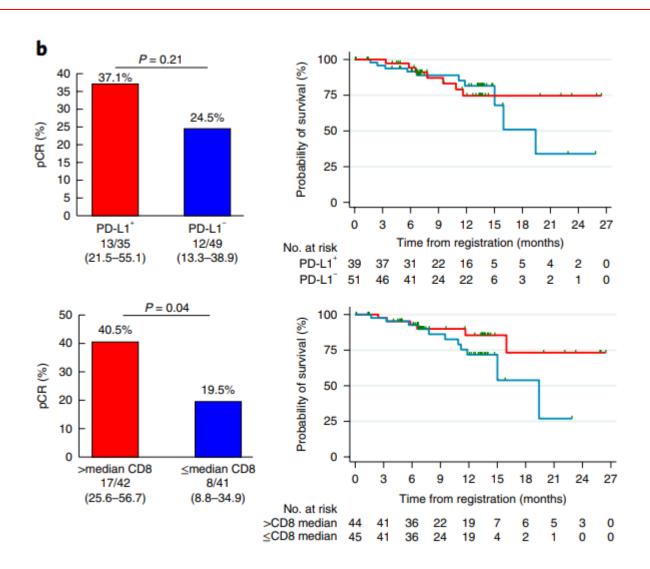
 $\dagger$ As a result of investigator decision after the evidence of radiologic non-response to pembrolizumab (n = 4) or because of the onset of immune-related, grade 3 transaminase increase (n = 1). These patients achieved pTis (n = 2), pT2pN2 (n = 1), and pT3pN1 (n = 2) stage at radical cystectomy.

- N=50
- Cisplatin ineligible: 92%
- cT2N0 42%
- Staging post TUR MRI of the bladder
- Median tumor volume: 0.7 cm<sup>3</sup> (range 0.4-1.5)
- pT0N0 42%

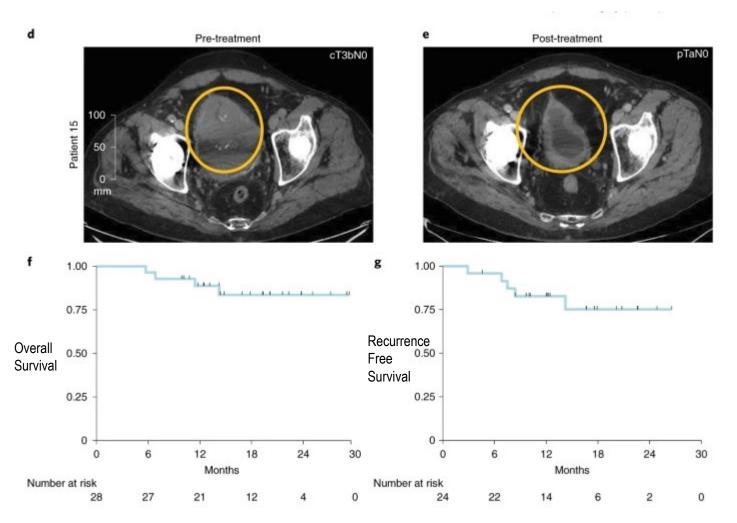
<sup>\*</sup>Including pTa (n = 3), pTis (n = 2), and pT1 (n = 1).

## Neoadjuvant Atezolizumab

- N=95, only 88 had cystectomy and were included in the analysis
- GFR<60mL/min: 41%</li>
- cT2N0 74%
- pT0N0 31% (ITT: 28%)



## Neoadjuvant Durvalumab + Tremelimumab



- N=28
- Cisplatin ineligible:90%
- cT2N0 47%
- pT0N0 37.5%, by ITT: 31.7%



## Study design - Adjuvant Nivolumab

 CheckMate 274 is a phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter study of adjuvant nivolumab versus placebo in patients with high-risk MIUC

N = 709

#### Key inclusion criteria

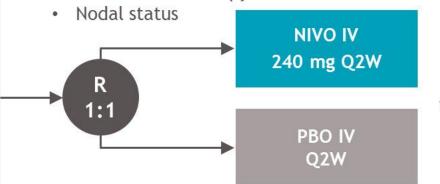
- Patients with ypT2-ypT4a or ypN+ MIUC who had neoadjuvant cisplatin chemotherapy
- Patients with pT3-pT4a or pN+ MIUC without prior neoadjuvant cisplatin chemotherapy and not eligible/refuse adjuvant cisplatin chemotherapy
- Radical surgery within the past 120 days
- Disease-free status within 4 weeks of dosing

Minimum follow-up, 5.9 months

Median follow-up in ITT population, 20.9 months (NIVO) and 19.5 months (PBO)

#### Stratification factors

- PD-L1 status (<1% vs ≥ 1%)<sup>a</sup>
- Prior neoadjuvant cisplatinbased chemotherapy



Treat for up to
1 year of adjuvant
therapy

Primary endpoints: DFS in ITT population and DFS in all

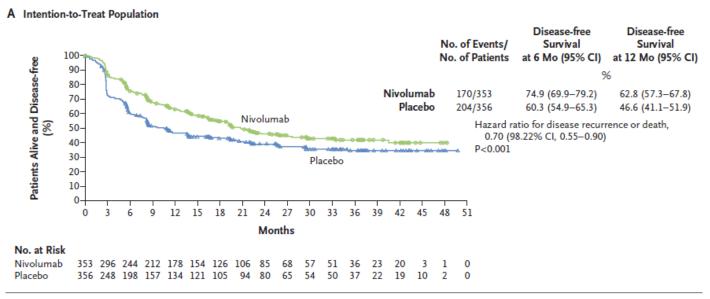
randomized patients with tumor PD-L1 ≥ 1% Secondary endpoints: NUTRFS, DSS, and OSb

Exploratory endpoints included: DMFS, safety, HRQoL

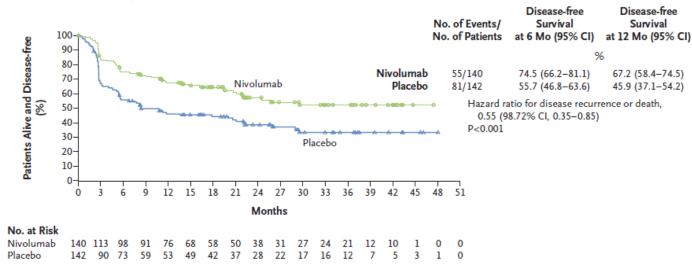
<sup>a</sup>Defined by the percent of positive tumor cell membrane staining in a minimum of 100 evaluable tumor cells using the PD-L1 IHC 28-8 PharmDx immunohistochemistry assay. <sup>b</sup>OS data were not mature at the time of the first planned interim analysis. OS and DSS data are not presented.

DFS, disease-free survival; DMFS, distant metastasis-free survival; DSS, disease-specific survival; HRQoL, health-related quality of life; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ITT, intent-to-treat; NUTRFS, non-urothelial tract recurrence-free survival; OS, overall survival; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; Q2W, every 2 weeks; R, randomized.

# Adjuvant Nivolumab



#### B Patients with a PD-L1 Expression Level of ≥1%



- N=709, "high-risk"
  - Post cisplatin:ypT2-4a or N+
  - No chemo:pT3-4a or N+
- Must have negative margin surgery
- Adjuvant to start within 120 days
- Disease-free by imaging within 4-weeks
- 1 year adj. nivo
- Median f/u: ~ 20 mo
- Improvement in DFS:
  - Nivo: 20.8 mo
  - Placebo: 10.8
- No survival data presented

## A031501 AMBASSADOR: Study Design

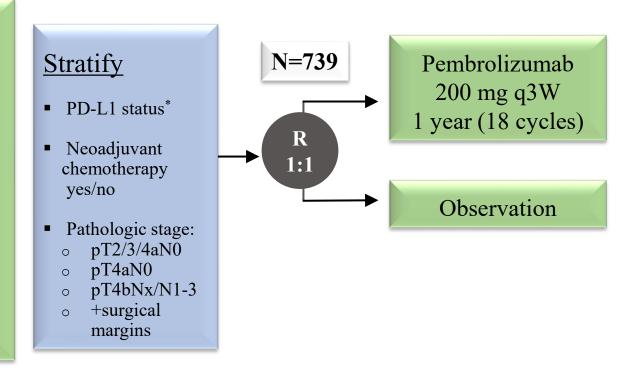
Phase 3 randomized, open label, multicenter study of adjuvant pembrolizumab vs observation in patients with high-risk muscle-invasive urothelial carcinoma (MIUC)



NCT03244384

#### **Key Eligibility**

- Muscle-invasive urothelial carcinoma: bladder, urethra, renal pelvis, ureter
- Post-radical surgery (cystectomy, nephrectomy, nephroureterectomy, or ureterectomy) ≥ 4 but ≤ 16 weeks
- Post-neoadjuvant chemotherapy and ≥ pT2 and/or N+/+margins OR
- cisplatin-ineligible or refusing and≥ pT3 and/or pN+/+margins



\*PD-L1 status was tested centrally and defined using the combined positive score: percentage of PD-L1-positive tumor cells and infiltrating immune cells relative to the total number of tumor cells. PD-L1 positive =  $CPS \ge 10\%$ , Dako PD-L1 immunohistochemistry 22C3 pharmDx assay. DFS: disease-free survival (defined as new MIUC, metastatic disease, or death without recurrence); OS: overall survival

#### **Dual Primary Endpoints**

- Disease-free survival
- Overall survival

#### **Key Secondary Endpoints**

- DFS/OS PD-L1 +/-
- Safety

#### **Correlative Endpoints**

- DFS/OS ctDNA +/-
- DFS/OS immune gene signatures
- DFS/OS tumor molecular subtype
- DFS/OS TCR clonality
- QOL











### **A031501 AMBASSADOR: Patient Characteristics**



	Pembrolizumab	Observation	
	(N=354)	(N=348)	
Median age, years (range)	69.0 (22.0-92.0)	68.0 (34.0-90.0)	
Race			
White	323 (91.2%)	310 (89.1%)	
Black or African American	14 (4.0%)	11 (3.2%)	
Asian	5 (1.4%)	10 (2.9%)	
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2 (0.6%)	2 (0.6%)	
Not reported/Unknown	10 (2.8%)	15 (4.3%)	
Gender			
Female	83 (23.4%)	95 (27.3%)	
Male	271 (76.6%)	253 (72.7%)	
Neoadjuvant therapy			
Yes	231 (65.3%)	218 (62.6%)	
Pathologic stage			
+ Surgical margins	9 (2.5%)	8 (2.3%)	
pT-any N+ (any)	180 (50.9%)	170 (48.8%)	
pT2/3N0 or NX	146 (41.2%)	150 (43.1%)	
pT4N0 or NX	19 (5.4%)	20 (5.8%)	
PD-L1 status			
Positive (central testing, Dako 22C3, CPS ≥ 10%)	202 (57.1%)	201 (57.8%)	
Primary tumor site			
Bladder	267 (75.4%)	264 (75.9%)	
Urethra	6 (1.7%)	12 (3.4%)	
Upper tract (renal pelvis and ureter)	81 (22.9%)	72 (20.7%)	
Histology			
Variant (mixed urothelial histology excluding any neuroendocrine carcinoma)	60 (16.9%)	51 (14.7%)	





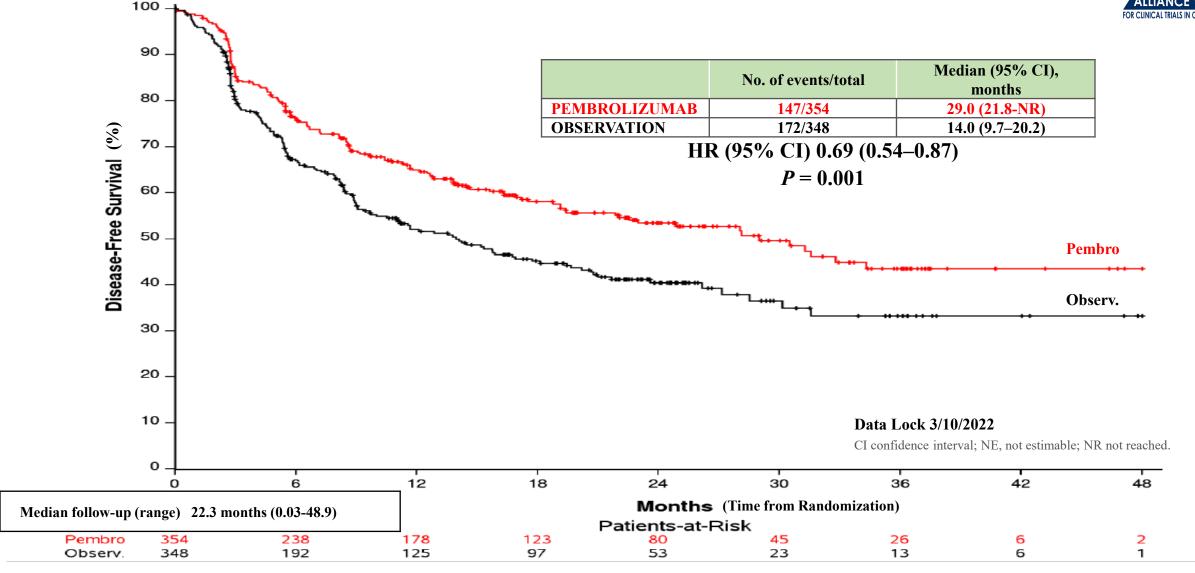






## A031501 AMBASSADOR: Disease-Free Survival (ITT)





**ASCO** Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

#GU24

PRESENTED BY: Andrea B. Apolo, MD



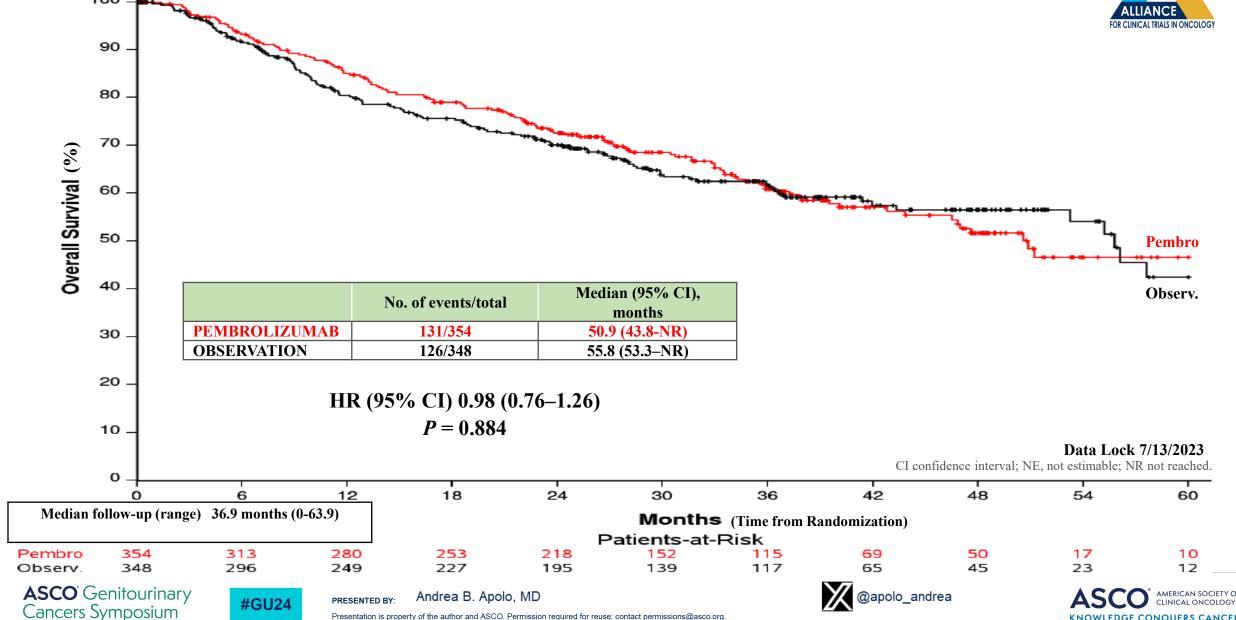


## A031501 AMBASSADOR: (interim) Overall Survival

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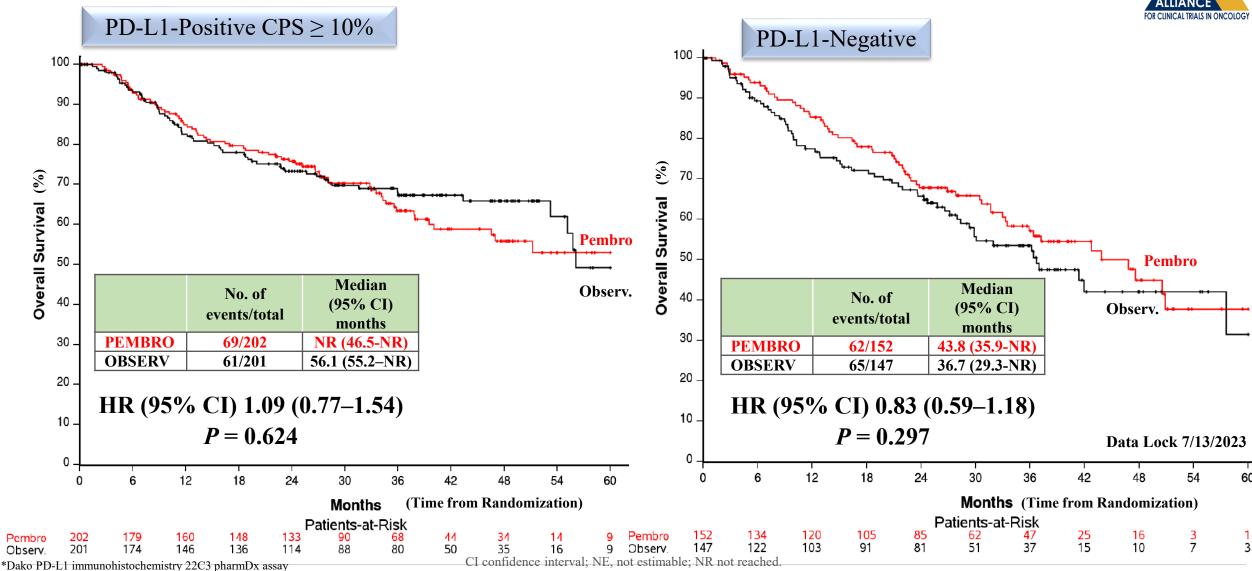


KNOWLEDGE CONQUERS CANCER



## **A031501 AMBASSADOR: Overall Survival by PD-L1\* Status**





**ASCO** Genitourinary Cancers Symposium

#GU24

ESENTED BY: Andrea B. Apolo, MD

@apolo\_andrea

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## Chemotherapy with immunotherapy:

. Two great standards go great together!



US/FDA Approval



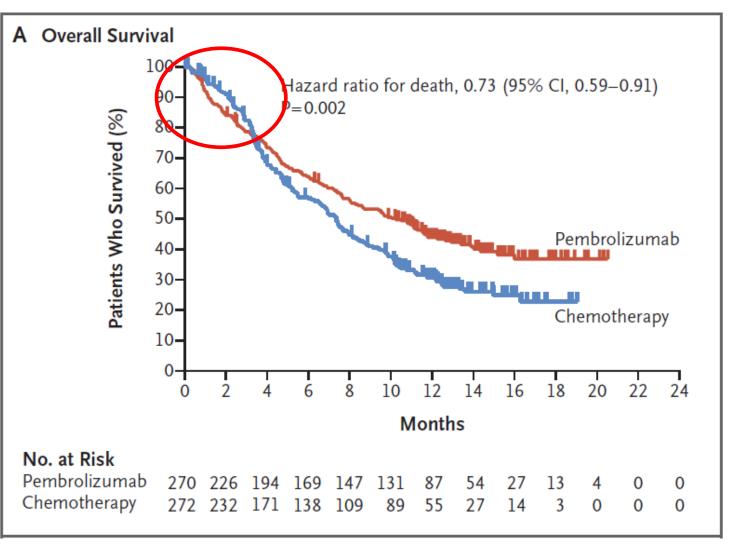


## Reasons to combine chemotherapy with immunotherapy:

- Two great standards go great together
- Control rapidly progressive disease bulkier cT3b-4a tumor
  - Is there a subset who benefit more from chemotherapy than IO

## A subset who needs chemotherapy more than IO?

 Does the cross-over reflect a group of patients who benefit more from chemotherapy than immunotherapy?



## Reasons to combine chemotherapy with immunotherapy:

- Two great standards go great together
- Control rapidly progressive disease liver metastases
  - . Is there a subset who benefit more from chemotherapy than IO
- Chemotherapy may impact antigen presentation
- Chemotherapy may increase PDL1 expression
  - And overcome a mechanism of resistance with poor outcomes

# Methods- Neoadjuvant GC + Pembrolizumab

**Study Design:** Phase 1b/2 study with 2 cohorts: cisplatin–eligible (I) and –ineligible (II)

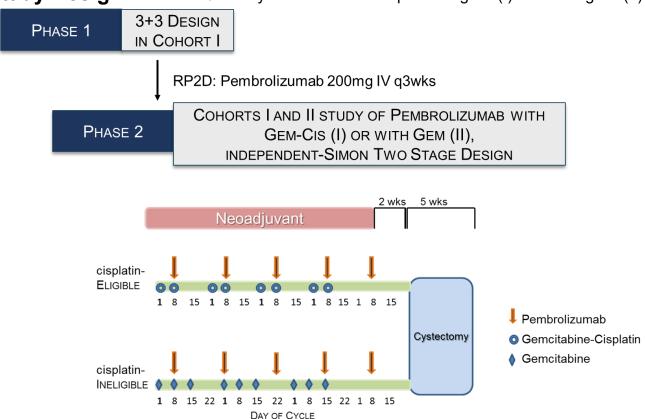


Fig 1: Treatment schematic of the HCRN GU14-188 neoadjuvant chemo-immunotherapy trial in urothelial cancer subjects that meet cisplatin eligible or ineligible criteria.



# Results – Downstaging and OS

#### N = 40

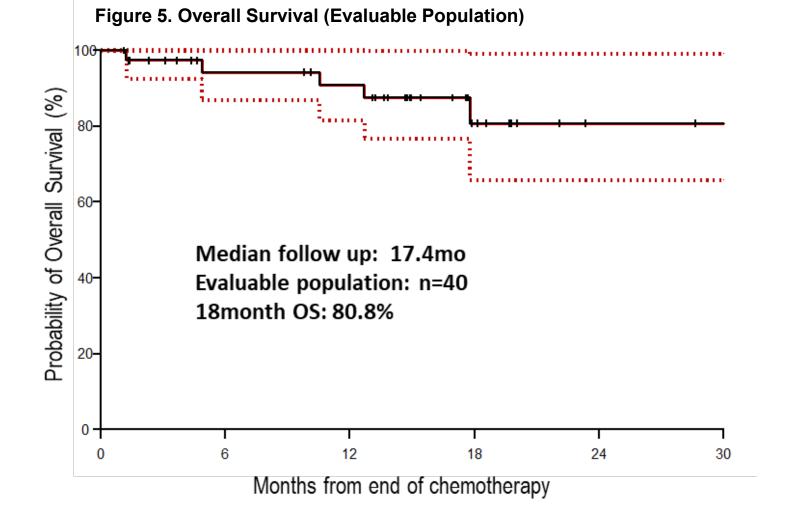
- cT2: 20 (51%)
- cT3: 18 (44%)
- cT4: 2 (5%)

#### N = 35

- ≤ pT0N0: 15 (42%)
- $\leq$  pT1N0: 21 (60%)

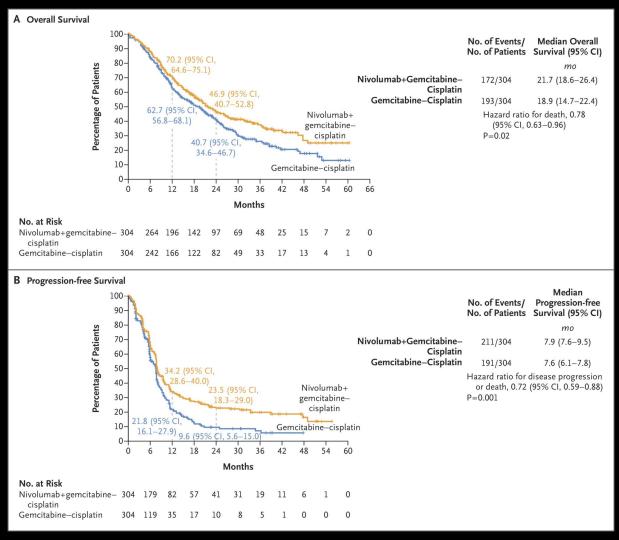
## pStage by ITT n=40

- $\leq$  pT0N0: 15 (38%)
- $\leq$  pT1N0: 21 (53%)





## GC with Nivolumab, Metastatic Urothelial Cancer Overall Survival and Progression-free Survival.

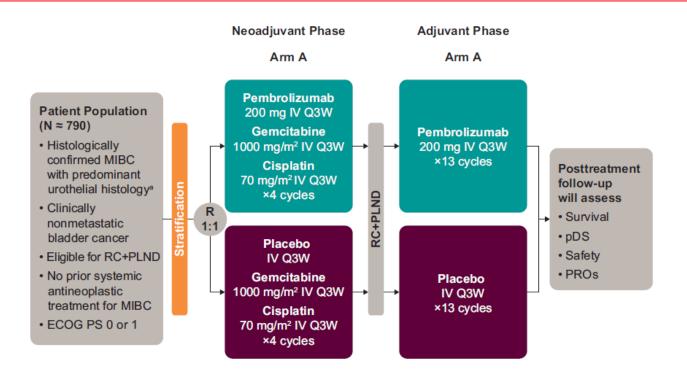


ORR GC: 57.6% cCR GC: 21.7%

van der Heijden MS et al. N Engl J Med 2023;389:1778-1789



# Phase III Neoadjuvant GC + Pembrolizumab



#### Stratification

- PD-L1 status (CPS ≥10 or <10)
- Disease stage (T2 or T3/4)
- Region (United States or Europe or most of world)

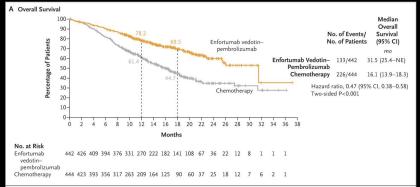
#### **End Points**

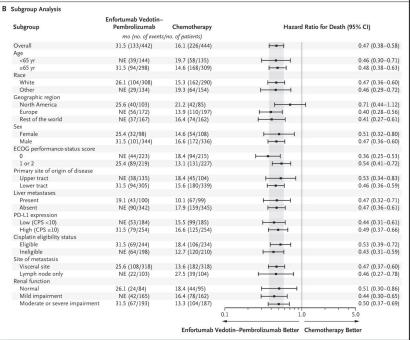
- Primary: pCR,<sup>b</sup> EFS<sup>b</sup>
- Secondary: OS,b DFS,b pDS,b safety and tolerability
- · Exploratory: PROs, biomarkers

BICR, blinded independent central review; CPS, combined positive score; DFS, disease-free survival; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFS, event-free survival; IV, intravenously; MIBC, muscle-invasive bladder cancer; OS, overall survival; pCR, pathological complete response; pDS, pathological downstaging; PLND, pelvic lymph node dissection; PRO, patient-reported outcome; Q3W, every 3 weeks; R, randomization; RC, radical cystectomy.

a Histology and presence of muscle invasion will be confirmed by BICR. Patients with mixed histology are eligible provided the urothelial component is ≥50%. Patients whose tumors contain any neuroendocrine component are not eligible. Patients with urothelial carcinomas not originating from the bladder (eg, upper tract [ureters, renal pelvis], urethra) are not eligible. Pumors expressing PD-L1 CPS ≥10 and tumors in all patients irrespective of CPS.

## Enfortumab Vedotin with Pembrolizumab in Metastatic Urothelial Cancer Analysis of Overall Survival in Overall Population and in Prespecified Subgroups.



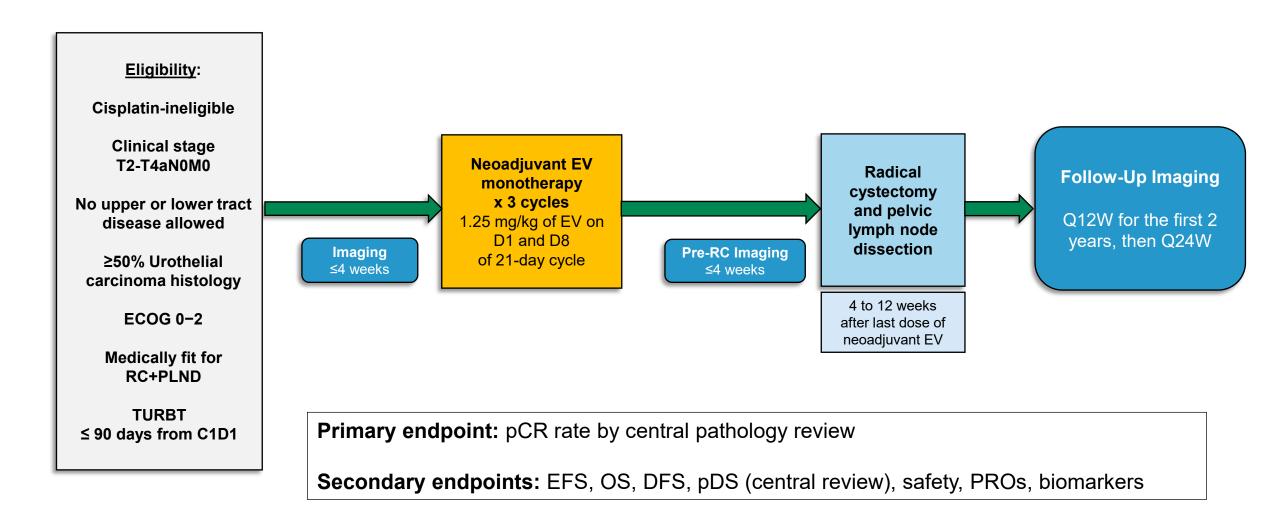


Powles T et al. N Engl J Med 2024;390:875-888

ORR EV+P: 67.7% cCR EV+P: 29.1%



## **EV-103 Cohort H Study Design**



DFS: Disease-free survival; ECOG: Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group; EFS: Event-free survival; EV: Enfortumab vedotin; OS: Overall survival; pCR: pathological Complete Response rate; pDS: pathological Downstaging; RC+PLND: radical cystectomy + pelvic lymph node dissection; PROs: Patient-reported outcomes; TURBT:

Slides Courtesy of Dan Petrylak, MD

## **Key Demographic and Disease Characteristics**

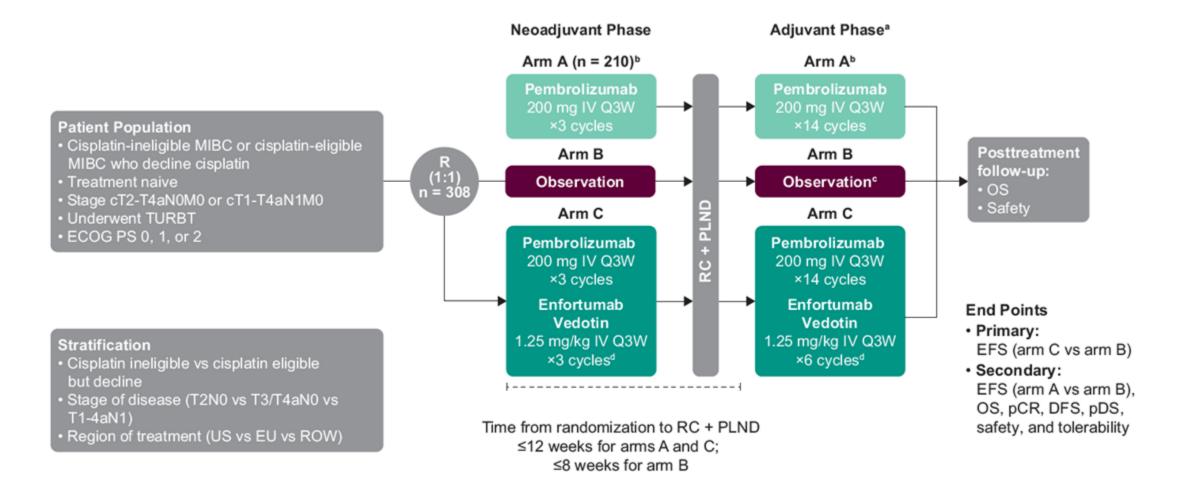
	Cohort H (N=22)
Male sex, n (%)	20 (90.9)
Median age (range), years	74.5 (56–81)
White race, n (%)	22 (100)
Current or former smoker, n (%)	21 (95.5)
Median enrollment time from diagnosis (range), months	1.6 (1–3)
ECOG performance status	
0	13 (59.1)
1	8 (36.4)
2	1 (4.5)
Current stage, n (%)	
cT2N0	15 (68.2)
cT3N0	6 (27.3)
cT4aN0	1 (4.5)
Histology type, n (%)	
Transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) only	15 (68.2)
TCC with squamous differentiation	3 (13.6)
TCC with other histologic variants	4 (18.2)
TCC+adenocarcinoma	1 (4.5)
TCC+micropapillary	2 (9.1)
TCC+sarcomatoid	1 (4.5)

Data cut date: 9 Sep 2021 Slide Courtesy of Dan Petrylak, MD

## **Efficacy: Central Pathology Review**

Pathological Response	Central Pathology Results (N=22) n(%) [95% Confidence Interval]
Pathological Complete Response Rate (defined as absence of any viable tumor tissue: ypT0 and N0)	<b>8 (36.4%)</b> [17.2–59.3]
Pathological Downstaging Rate (defined as presence of ypT0, ypTis, ypTa, ypT1, and N0)	<b>11 (50.0%)</b> [28.2–71.8]

## KEYNOTE-095/EV-303 Study Design



ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EU, European Union; IV, intravenously; Q3W, every 3 weeks; R, randomization; ROW, rest of world; TURBT, transurethral resection of the bladder tumor. aUntil disease progression, unacceptable adverse events (AEs), intercurrent illness preventing further treatment administration, or investigator's or patient's decision to withdraw. Prior to the protocol amendment 8, patients were enrolled in arm A. Enrollment for that arm will be stopped once the current protocol amendment is initiated, and further randomization will focus on arms B and C. Patients at high risk of recurrence after RC + PLND may receive treatment with adjuvant nivolumab per the approved product label. Administered on days 1 and 8 of every 3-week cycle.

## Conclusions:

- Cisplatin-based chemotherapy remains the standard for cT2-4aN0 surgically resectable urothelial cancer
- Adjuvant Immunotherapy
  - . Improvement in DFS (Nivolumab and pembrolizumab)
  - No improvement in OS (Pembrolizumab, Nivolumab pending)
    - Risk of overtreatment without overall survival benefit?
    - Signatera testing under study!
- Future Combinations with chemotherapy and antibody drug conjugates
  - Treatment of cisplatin-ineligible patients!

