



POSTER

Pembrolizumab for Locally Advanced or Recurrent/ Metastatic Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Long- Term Results of the Phase 2 Keynote-629 Study

Munoz-Couselo E¹, Hughes BGM², Mortier L³, Grob JJ⁴, Gutzmer R⁵, Roshdy O⁶, González Mendoza R^{7*}, Schachter J⁸, Arance A⁹, Grange F¹⁰, Meyer N¹¹, Joshi A¹², Billan S¹³, Ojavee SE¹⁴, Yuan J¹⁴, Gumuscu B¹⁴ and Bratland Å¹⁵

¹Hospital Vall d'Hebron and Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Barcelona, Spain

²Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Herston, and University of Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia

³CHRU Lille - Hôpital Claude Huriez, Lille, France

⁴Aix-Marseille University, Marseille, France

⁵Johannes Wesling Medical Center, Ruhr University Bochum, Minden, Germany

⁶Jewish General Hospital, Montréal, Quebec, Canada

⁷Centro Estatal de Cancerología de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico

⁸Sheba Medical Center-Tel HaShomer, Ramat Gan, Israel

⁹Hospital Clínic Provincial de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain

¹⁰Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Reims-Hôpital Robert Debre, Reims, France

¹¹Institut Universitaire du Cancer and CHU de Toulouse, Toulouse, France

¹²Townsville University Hospital, Townsville, QLD, Australia

¹³Rambam Health Care Campus, Haifa, Israel

¹⁴Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA

¹⁵Oslo Universitetssykehus, Oslo, Norway

*Corresponding author: González Mendoza R, Centro Estatal de Cancerología de Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico

Background

- Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC) is the second common non-melanoma skin cancer and primarily treated with surgical resection [1]
- Patients with locally advanced (LA) or metastatic cSCC may not be candidates for curative surgery or radiation, and long-term prognosis is poor for metastatic disease [1-3]
- Pembrolizumab monotherapy is approved in certain countries, including the US, for treatment of LA or

recurrent/metastatic (R/M) cSCC not amenable to surgery based on results from the open-label phase 2 KEYNOTE-629 trial (NCT03284424) [4]

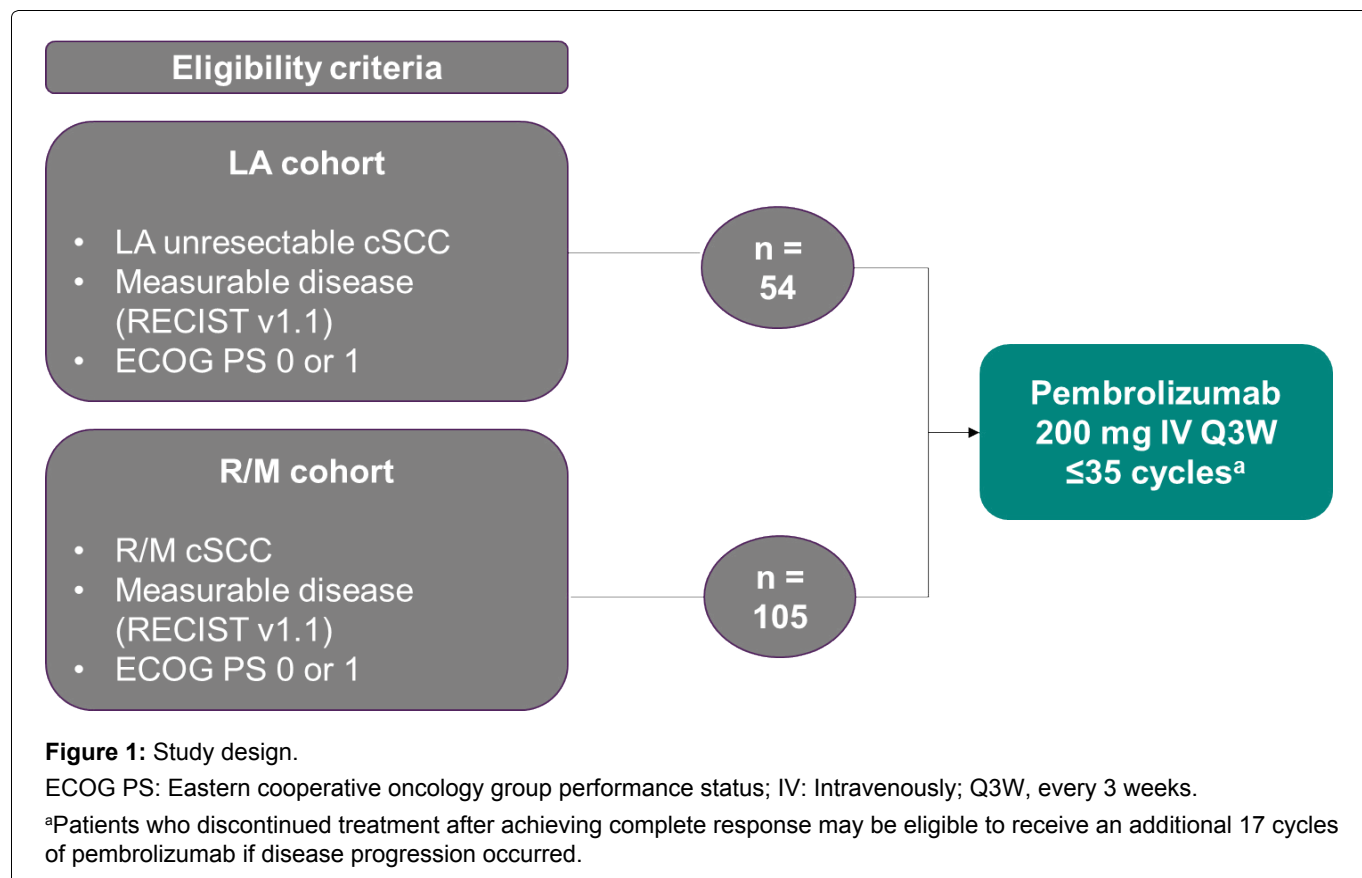
- Objective response rate (ORR) was 50.0% (95% CI, 36.1-63.9) with 9 (16.7%) complete responses (CRs) in the LA cohort and 35.2% (95%CI, 26.2-45.2) with 11 (10.5%) CRs in the R/M cohort
- 69.2% of patients in the total population experienced a treatment-related adverse event (AE) and 11.9% experienced a grade 3-5 treatment-related event



Citation: Munoz-Couselo E, Hughes BGM, Mortier L, Grob JJ, Gutzmer R, et al. (2024) Pembrolizumab for Locally Advanced or Recurrent/Metastatic Cutaneous Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Long-Term Results of the Phase 2 Keynote-629 Study. Int Arch Addict Res Med 9:041. doi.org/10.23937/2474-3631/1510041

Accepted: July 13, 2024; **Published:** July 15, 2024

Copyright: © 2024 Munoz-Couselo E, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.



Objective

- Present updated efficacy and safety results for pembrolizumab in LA and R/M cohorts of KEYNOTE-629 with an additional 38 months of follow-up

Methods

Figure 1

Statistical analysis

- Efficacy and safety were assessed in all patients who received ≥ 1 dose of study treatment
- The primary end point was ORR per RECIST v1.1 by blinded independent central review (BICR)
- The secondary end points were disease control rate (DCR; defined as CR + partial response (PR) + stable disease ≥ 12 weeks), duration of response (DOR) and progression-free survival (PFS) per RECIST v1.1 by BICR, overall survival (OS), and safety
- DOR was assessed in all patients with a confirmed CR or PR
- 95% CIs for ORR and DCR were calculated using the exact binomial Clopper-Pearson method
- Event rates over time for DOR, PFS, and OS were estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method

Results

- Median time from first dose to the data cutoff date of September 13, 2023, was 52.4 months

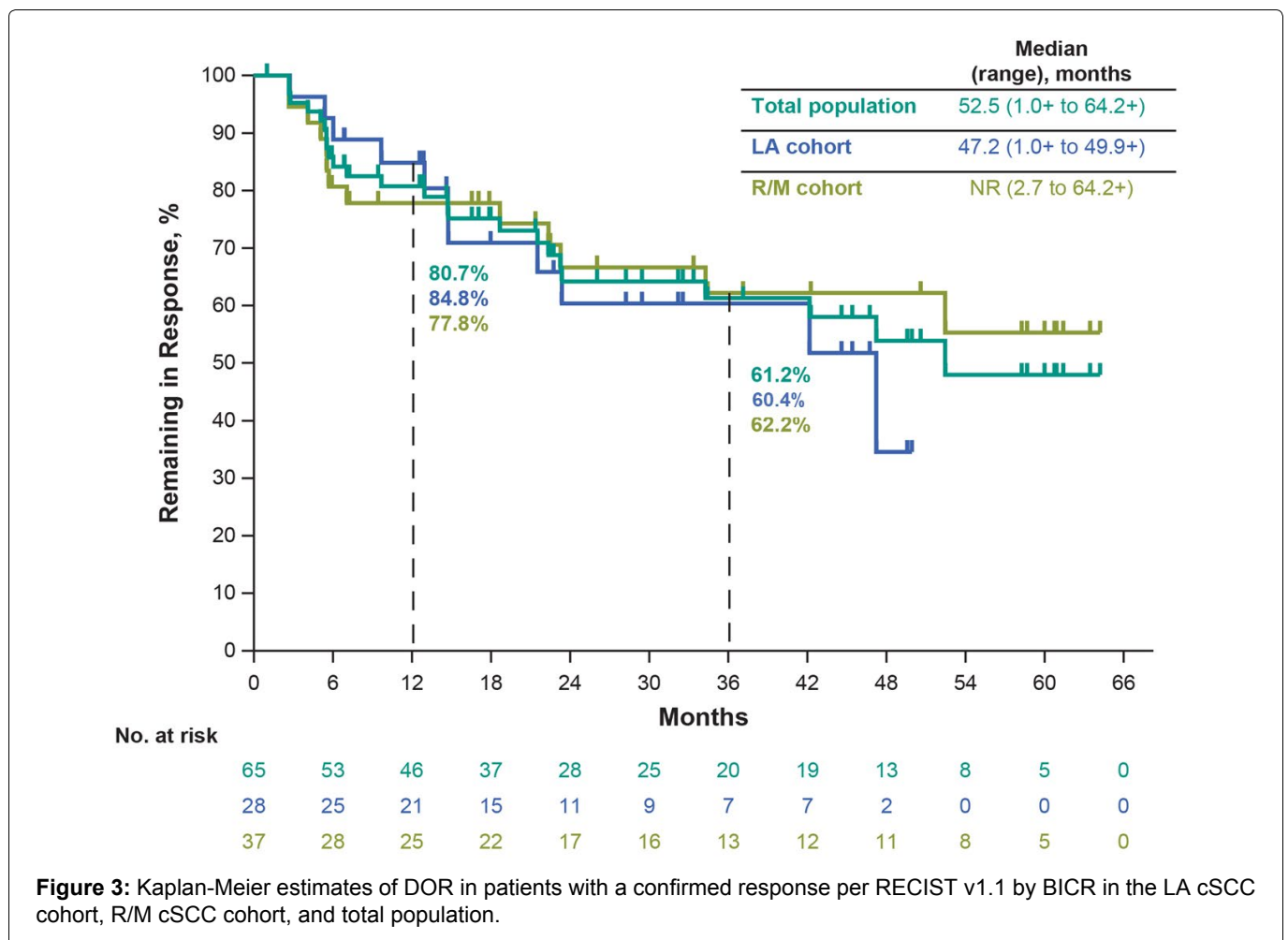
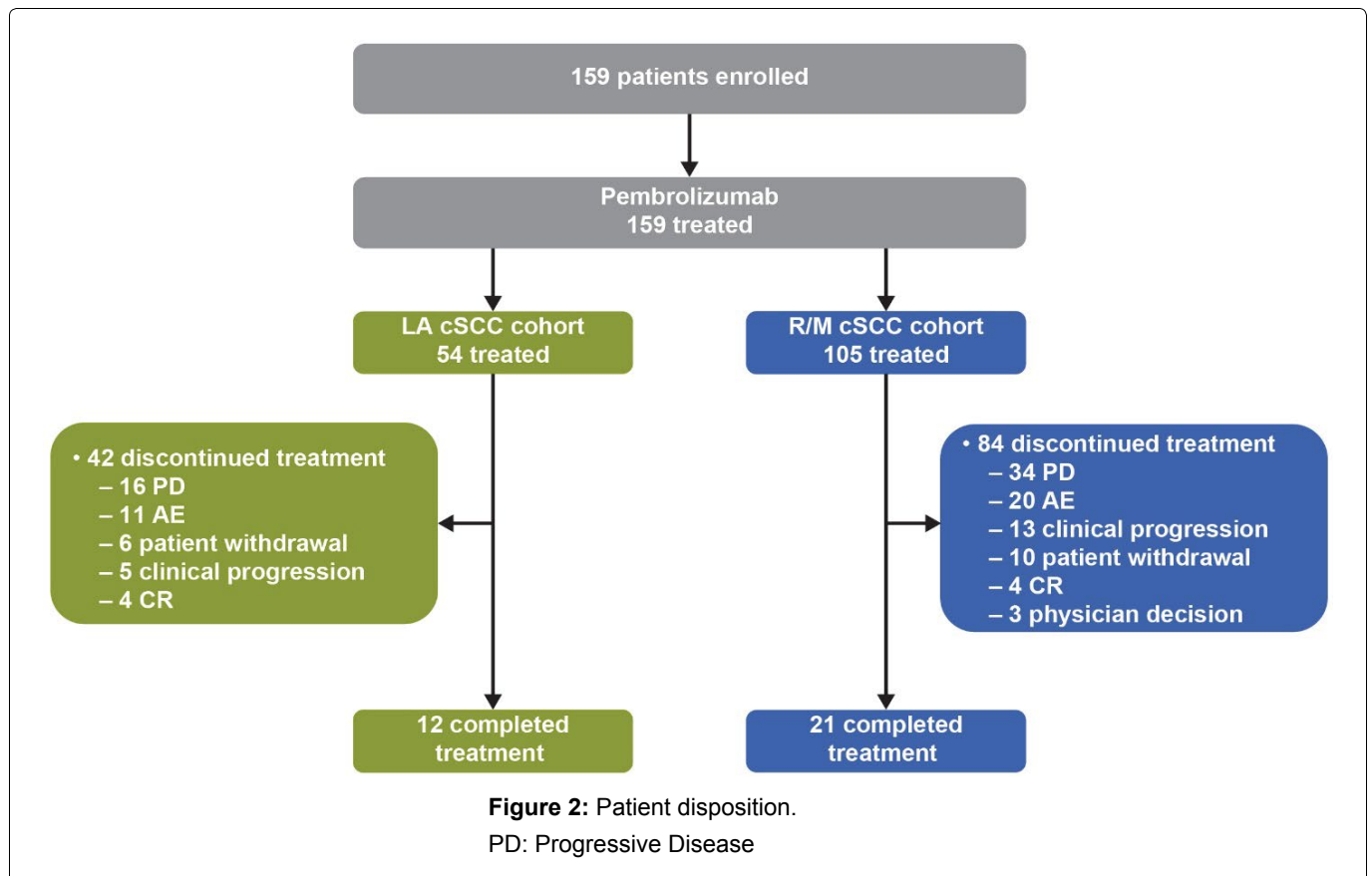
(range, 47.6-56.9) for the LA cohort, 64.7 months (range, 62.1-69.5) for the R/M cohort, and 63.1 months (range, 47.6-69.5) in the total population (Figure 2, Figure 3, Figure 4, Figure 5, Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3).

Conclusions

- With an additional 38 months of follow-up (median follow-up 63.1 months in the total population), pembrolizumab monotherapy continued to demonstrate durable antitumor activity in patients with LA or R/M cSCC
- In the current analysis, ORR, median PFS, and median OS are consistent with the initial analysis at a median time from first dose to data cutoff of approximately 15 months [4]
- One additional patient in the LA cohort achieved a CR since the last data cutoff
- Responses were durable, with a median DOR of 52.5 months and 61.2% of responders in the total population having extended responses that lasted ≥ 36 months
- The safety and tolerability of pembrolizumab remained manageable
- These findings continue to support the use of pembrolizumab monotherapy in patients with LA or R/McSCC

Acknowledgments

The authors thank the patients and their families and all investigators and site personnel. Medical writing



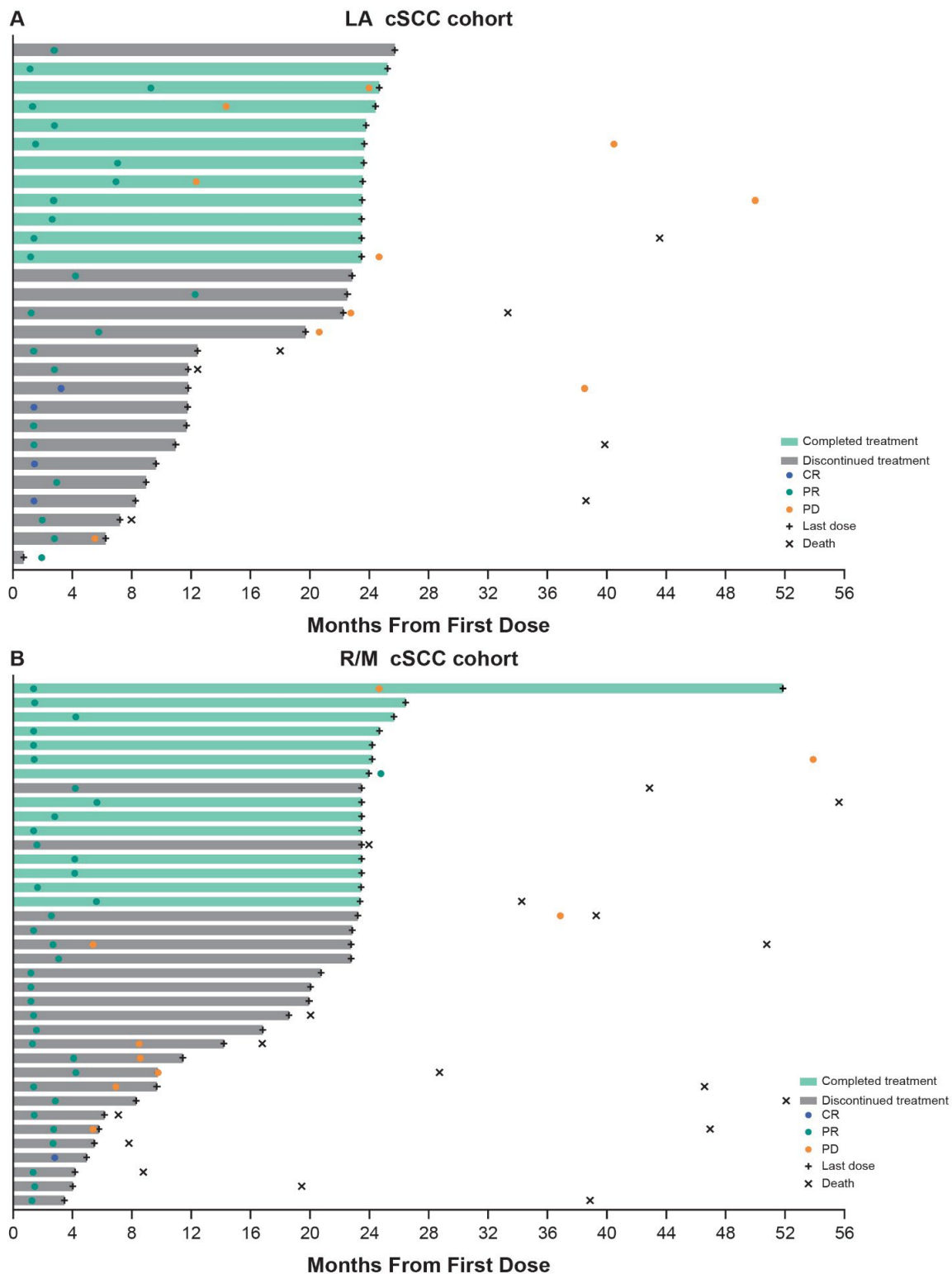


Figure 4: Duration of treatment and time to response in patients with a confirmed response per RECIST v1.1 by BICR in the (A) LAcSCC cohort and the (B) R/M cSCC cohort.

and/or editorial assistance was provided by Maxwell Chang, BSc Hons, and Robert Steger, PhD, of Apothe Com (Yardley, PA, USA). This assistance was funded by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA. Funding for this research was provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme LLC, a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA.

Contact Information

Contact the author at emunoz@vhio.net for questions and comments.

Copies of this poster obtained through Quick Response (QR) Code are for personal use only and may not be reproduced without permission from ASCO® and the author of this poster.

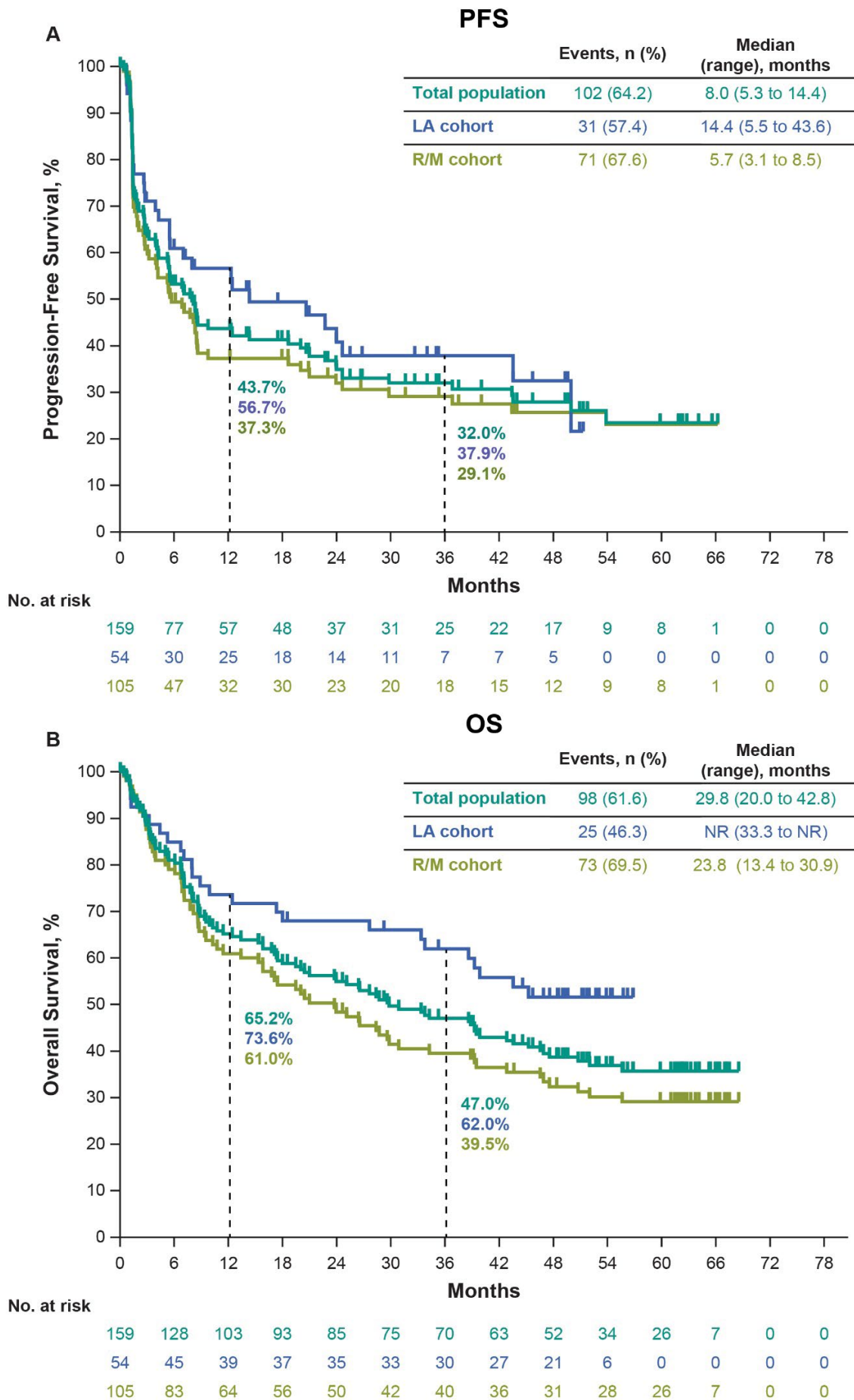


Figure 5: Kaplan-Meier estimates of (A) PFS per RECIST v1.1 by BICR and (B) OS in the LA cSCC cohort, R/M cSCC cohort, and total population.

NR: Not Reached

Table 1: Baseline characteristics.

	LA cSCC n = 54	R/M cSCC n = 105	Total N = 159
Age, median (range)	75 (35-95)	72 (29-95)	74 (29-95)
Sex			
Male	39 (72.2)	80 (76.2)	119 (74.8)
Female	15 (27.8)	25 (23.8)	40 (25.2)
ECOG PS			
0	22 (40.7)	36 (34.3)	58 (36.5)
1	32 (59.3)	69 (65.7)	101 (63.5)
PD-L1 status^a			
CPS < 1	5 (9.3)	10 (9.5)	15 (9.4)
CPS ≥ 1	46 (85.2)	69 (65.7)	115 (72.3)
Missing	3 (5.6)	26 (24.8)	29 (18.2)
Overall Cancer Stage			
I	1 (1.9)	0 (0)	1 (0.6)
II	7 (13.0)	4 (3.8)	11 (6.9)
III	25 (46.3)	15 (14.3)	40 (25.2)
IV	21 (38.9)	86 (81.9)	107 (67.3)
Disease Status at Baseline			
LA	54 (100)	0 (0)	54 (34.0)
Locally recurrent only	0 (0)	47 (44.8)	47 (29.6)
Metastatic only	0 (0)	25 (23.8)	25 (15.7)
Both locally recurrent and metastatic	0 (0)	33 (31.4)	33 (20.8)

CPS: Combined Positive Score; PD-L1: Programmed Death Ligand 1

Data are n (%) unless otherwise specified.

^aCPS was calculated as the number of PD-L1-staining cells (tumor cells, lymphocytes, macrophages) divided by the total number of viable tumor cells, multiplied by 100.

Table 2: ORR per RECIST v1.1 by BICR.

	LA Cohort n = 54	R/M Cohort n = 105	Total Population N = 159
ORR, % (95% CI)	51.9 (37.8-65.7)	35.2 (26.2-45.2)	40.9 (33.2-48.9)
DCR, % (95% CI)	64.8 (50.6-77.3)	52.4 (42.4-62.2)	56.6 (48.5-64.4)
Best overall response, n (%)			
CR	12 (22.2)	13 (12.4)	25 (15.7)
PR	16 (29.6)	24 (22.9)	40 (25.2)
SD	12 (22.2)	30 (28.6)	42 (26.4)
SD ≥ 12 weeks	7 (13.0)	18 (17.1)	25 (15.7)
PD	9 (16.7)	28 (26.7)	37 (23.3)
NE/NA ^a	5 (9.3)	10 (9.5)	15 (9.4)

CR: Complete Response; NA: Not Available; NE; Not Evaluable; PD: Progressive Disease; PR: Partial Response; SD: Stable Disease

^aPostbaseline assessment not evaluable or no postbaseline assessment available.

Table 3: AE summary.

	Total Population N = 159
Any AE	153 (96.2)
Grade 3-5	93 (58.5)
Resulted in treatment discontinuation	31 (19.5)
Serious	87 (54.7)
Resulted in death	20 (12.6)
Any treatment-related AE	112 (70.4)
Grade 3-5	18 (11.3)
Resulted in treatment discontinuation	14 (8.8)
Serious	16 (10.1)
Resulted in death	2 (1.3)
Immune-mediated AEs^a	37 (23.3)
Grade 3-5	14 (8.8)
Required systemic corticosteroids	18 (11.3)
High starting dose	11 (6.9)
Low starting dose	7 (4.4)

AE: Adverse Event

^aBased on a list of preferred terms intended to capture known risks of pembrolizumab and were considered regardless of attribution to study treatment by the investigator

Presented at the ASCO Annual Meeting; Chicago, Illinois; May 31-June 4, 2024.

Copyright© 2024Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ, USA and its affiliates. All rights reserved.

References

1. Caudill J, Thomas JE, Burkhart CG (2023) The risk of metastases from squamous cell carcinoma of the skin. *Int J Dermatol* 62: 483-486.
2. Claveau J, Archambault J, Ernst DS, Giacomantonio C, Limacher JJ, et al. (2020) Multidisciplinary management of locally advanced and metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. *Curr Oncol* 27: e399-e407.
3. Stratigos AJ, Garbe C, Dessinoti C, Lebbe C, van Akkooi A, et al. (2023) European consensus-based interdisciplinary guideline for invasive cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma: Part 2. Treatment-Update 2023. *Eur J Cancer* 193: 113252.
4. Hughes BGM, Munoz-Couselo E, Mortier L, Bratland Å, Gutzmer R, et al. (2021) Pembrolizumab for locally advanced and recurrent/metastatic cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (KEYNOTE-629 study): An open-label, nonrandomized, multicenter, phase II trial. *Ann Oncol* 32: 1276-1285.