# TeleECHO Series

# **PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT:**

The Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Patient with Locally Advanced/Metastatic BCC

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

**FACULTY** 

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Assistant Professor of Dermatology
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Portland, OR









# TeleECHO Series

# PRINCIPLES OF TREATMENT:

The Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Patient With Locally Advanced/Metastatic BCC

## **AGENDA**

- Basal Cell Carcinoma: Introduction
  - Epidemiology/statistics
  - o Prognostic factors
  - Staging
  - o NCCN guidelines
  - Considerations for aggressive BCC
- BCC Failing or Not Amenable to Surgery or Radiation
  - Sonic hedgehog pathway
    - Vismodegib and sonidegib
  - Hedgehog side effects
  - o Alternate dosing regimens
- When Disease Progresses on Hedgehog Inhibition
  - o Immunotherapy and immune checkpoints
    - Cemiplimab, pembrolizumab, etc.
- Case Study Presentation
- Conclusions

# TeleECHO Series: Principles of Treatment: The Multi-Disciplinary Approach to the Patient With Locally Advanced/Metastatic BCC

#### **FACULTY CHAIR**

Chrysalyne D. Schmults, MD, MSCE
Associate Professor of Dermatology, Harvard Medical School
Vice-Chair of Surgical Oncology, Brigham and Women's Department of Dermatology
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### Anokhi Jambusaria, MD, MSCE

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Assistant Professor of Dermatology
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#### Emily Ruiz, MD, MPH

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Dana -Farber/Brigham and Women's Cancer Center
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Surgery & Dermatologic Oncology
Mohs Micrographic Surgery and Dermatologic Surgery
The Ronald O. Perelman Department of Dermatology
NYU Langone Medical Center
New York, NY

#### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

These live virtual TeleECHO® sessions will be a faculty-led didactic and case-based lecture focusing on treatment and management of patients with patients with advanced/metastatic basal cell skin cancer.

#### **TARGET AUDIENCE**

This activity is designed to meet the educational needs of medical oncologists, oncodermatologists, dermatologists, Mohs surgeons, and other healthcare practitioners who care for patients with advanced/metastatic basal cell skin cancer.

#### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the program, attendees should be able to:

- Discuss the pathogenesis of metastatic BCC and the attendant involvement of both aberrant pathways and immune dysfunction
- Examine the epidemiology of basal cell carcinoma including prevalence, risk factors, and disease burden
- Apply NCCN practice guidelines for a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment of locally advanced and metastatic BCC
- Explore the clinical trial data for emerging immunotherapy agents in the treatment of advanced or metastatic basal cell skin cancer

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**Anna Bar, MD** receives consulting fees from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. She received research funding to her institution from Castle, Pelle Pharm and Mavis.

**Anokhi Jambusaria, MD, MSCE** serves on the advisory board for Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.

Justin Leitenberger, MD has nothing to disclose.

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# TeleECHO Series: Principles of Treatment: The Multidisciplinary Approach to the Patient With Locally Advanced/Metastatic BCC

Justin Leitenberger, MD

Assistant Professor of Dermatology Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) Portland, OR

# **Disclosures**

- Dr. Leitenberger has nothing to disclose.
- During the course of this lecture, Dr. Stevenson may mention the use of medications for both US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved and non-FDA-approved indications.
- Case study graphics are not to be copied, reproduced, or distributed in any way.

This activity is supported by an independent medical education grant from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. and Sanofi Genzyme.

# **Learning Objectives**

- Discuss the pathogenesis of metastatic BCC and the attendant involvement of both aberrant pathways and immune dysfunction
- Examine the epidemiology of BCC including prevalence, risk factors, and disease burden
- Apply practice guidelines for a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of locally advanced and metastatic BCC
- Explore the clinical trial data for emerging immunotherapy agents in the treatment of advanced or metastatic basal cell skin cancer

# **Aggressive BCC**

Is there such a thing?

# Does BCC have a Risk of Metastasis?

- Rates of .0028% to 0.55% reported1-3
- In 1 study of predictive factors: 11,905 BCCs diagnosed between 2000 and 2009 at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General were screened<sup>3</sup>
- 248 cases ≥ 2 cm assessed for risk factors and metastasis/death³
- 248 cases < 2 cm randomly selected for comparison<sup>3</sup>

1. von Domarus H, Stevens PJ. J Am Acad Dermatol. 1984;10(6): 1043-1060. 2. Snow SN, et al. Cancer. 1994;73(2):328-335. 3. Morgan F, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020;83:832-838.

## Factors predictive of recurrence, metastasis, and death from primary basal cell carcinoma 2 cm or larger in diameter

Frederick C. Morgan, BSPH, <sup>a</sup> Emily Stamell Ruiz, MD, MPH, <sup>a</sup> Pritesh S. Karia, MPH, <sup>a,b</sup> Robert J. Besaw, MPH, <sup>a</sup> Victor A. Neel, MD, PhD, <sup>c</sup> and Chrysalyne D. Schmults, MD, MSCE *Boston, Massachusetts; Baltimore, Maryland; and Providence, Rhode Island* 

#### Multivariable logistic regression of ≥ 2 cm BCC tumors

	Local Recurrence		Metastasis and/or Death	
Variable	OR (95% CI)	P	OR (95% CI)	P
Location Other Head and neck	1 (reference) 9.7 (3.0-31.3)		1 (reference) 5.3 (1.2-23.2)	.026
Diameter Other ≥ 4cm	Ξ	_	1 (reference) 11.9 (2.4-59.4)	.003
Tumor depth Other Beyond fat	1 (reference) 3.1 (1.0-9.6)	.049	1 (reference) 28.6 (6.7-121.0)	<.001
Treatment modality Other Mohs micrographic surgery	1 (reference) 0.14 (.04-0.5)	.002		Ξ

BCC > 4 cm on the head and neck, and invading beyond subcutaneous fat, may warrant more aggressive follow-up and radiologic imaging.

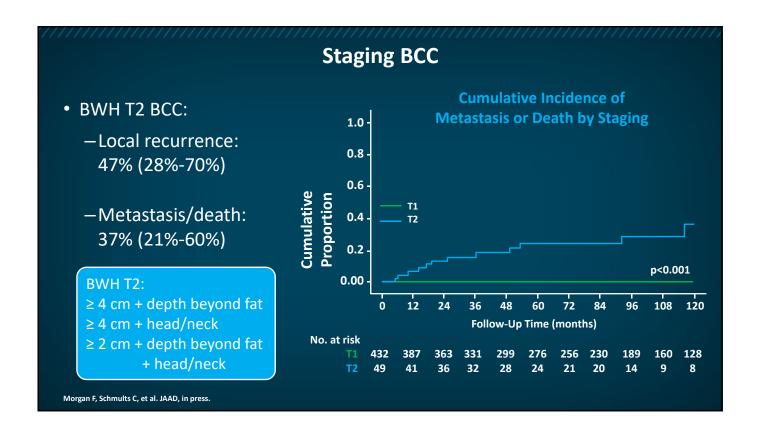
Morgan F, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020;83:832-838.

# **BCC Prognostic Factors**

- < 2 cm group had no metastasis/death
- In ≥ 2 cm group, 3 significant predictors of metastasis/death:
  - Diameter ≥ 4 cm or larger
  - Depth beyond subcutaneous fat
  - Head/neck location

Morgan F, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2019;83:832-838.

Staging BCC		
Tumor Staging System	Definition	
AJCC 8 <sup>th</sup> Edition T Staging for Cutaneous Carcinoma of the Head and Neck		
Т1	< 2 cm in greatest diameter	
T2	≥ 2 cm but < 4 cm in greatest diameter	
Т3	≥ 4 cm in greatest diameter or minor bone invasion or perineural invasion or deep invasion	
T4a	Tumor with gross cortical bone and/or marrow invasion	
T4b	Tumor with skull bone invasion and/or skull base foramen involvement	
BWH T Staging for BCC		
T1	Tumor diameter < 2 cm or tumor diameter ≥ 2 cm with 0-1 risk factors	
T2	Tumor diameter ≥ 2 cm with 2-3 risk factors	

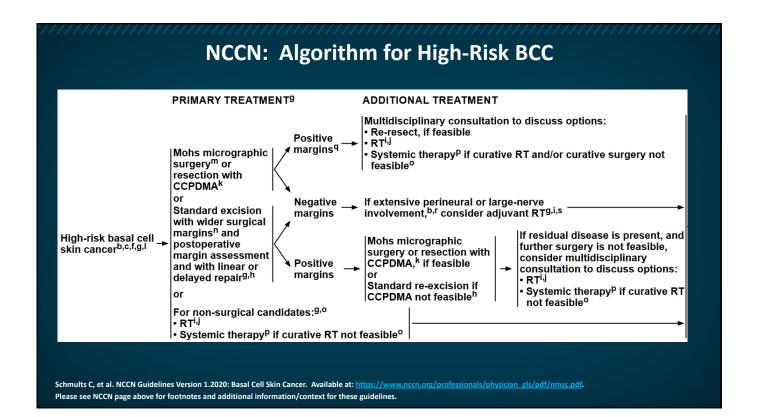


# **CCPDMA Cuts Recurrence Risk in Half for High-Risk BCC**

	Recurrence Risk: Recurrent BCC, n (%)	Recurrence Risk: Aggressive Subtype BCC, n (%)
CCPDMA	132/2911 (4.5%)	97/3149 (3%)
SA	32/263 (12%)	17/234 (7%)
p value	p < .001	P < .001
Risk Ratio	.37 [.2654]	.42 [.2670]

CCPDMA = complete circumferential peripheral and deep margin assessment; SA = Standard Margin Assessment (vertical sections)

Fraga S, Waldman A. Complete marginal assessment in surgically excised keratinocyte carcinoma: A systematic review. Under review.



# Lack of Adherence to NCCN for High-Risk BCC/SCC

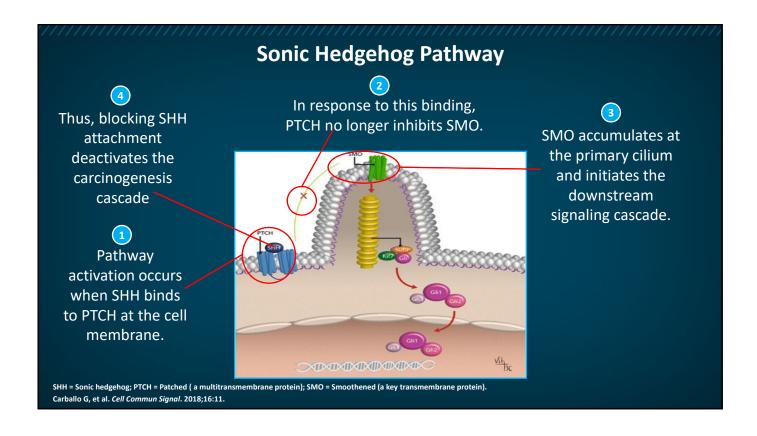
- Survey study of physicians from the 23 NCCN institutions
- ~50% response, N = 57
- Use of CCPDMA in a majority of NCCN high-risk cases
  - 14/15 Mohs surgeons
  - 10/16 other surgeons, dermatologists, radiation oncologists
  - 2/6 pathologists
- Reasons for not using CCPDMA
  - Surgeons defer to pathologists to determine appropriate margin assessment methods
  - Logistical difficulties (time-consuming, overnight stays, open wounds)

NCCN = National Comprehensive Cancer Network; SCC = squamous cell carcinoma. Danesh M, et al. *Dermatologic Surgery*. 2020;46:1473-1480.

# **Conclusions: Aggressive BCC**

- BWH T2 BCC may have a risk of local recurrence and metastasis in excess of 20%
  - $\ge 4 \text{ cm} + \text{depth beyond fat}$
  - $\ge 4 \text{ cm} + \text{head/neck}$
  - $\ge 2 \text{ cm} + \text{depth beyond fat} + \text{head/neck}$
- Do Mohs surgery (or CCPDMA if needed, OR resection)
- Beware of multiply recurrent BCC
- Radiologic surveillance for recurrence
- Consider off-label adjuvant systemic therapy in extreme or multiply recurrent cases

# BCC Failing or Not Amenable to Surgery and Radiation



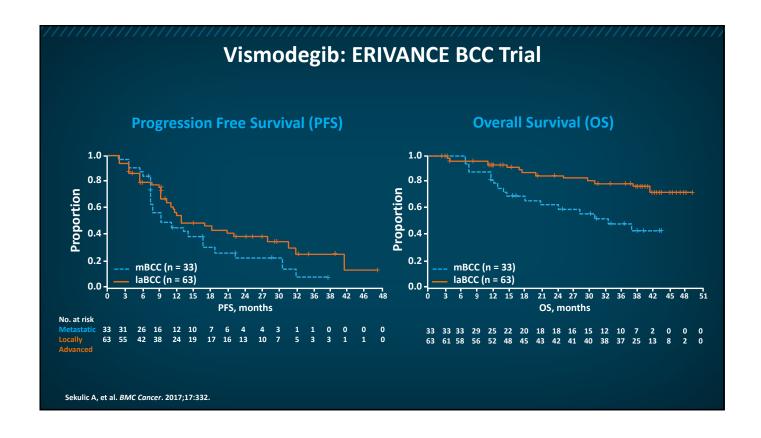
# Vismodegib

- Indications
  - Metastatic BCC
  - Locally advanced BCC that has recurred following surgery, or in those who are not candidates for surgery/radiation
- · Dosage: oral; 150 mg once daily
- Contraindications: none
- Boxed warning: embryo-fetal toxicity

	mBCC (n = 33)	laBCC (n = 63)
ORR	30.3%	42.9%
Complete Response	0%	20.6%
Partial Response	30.3%	22.2%
Median Response Duration	7.6 months	7.6 months

mBCC = metastic BCC; laBCC = locally advanced BCC; ORR = objective response rate.

Sekulic A, et al. N Eng J Med. 2012;366:2171-2179. Vismodegib (Erivedge\*) PI 2020 (https://www.gene.com/download/pdf/erivedge\_prescribing.pdf). Accessed December 10, 2020.

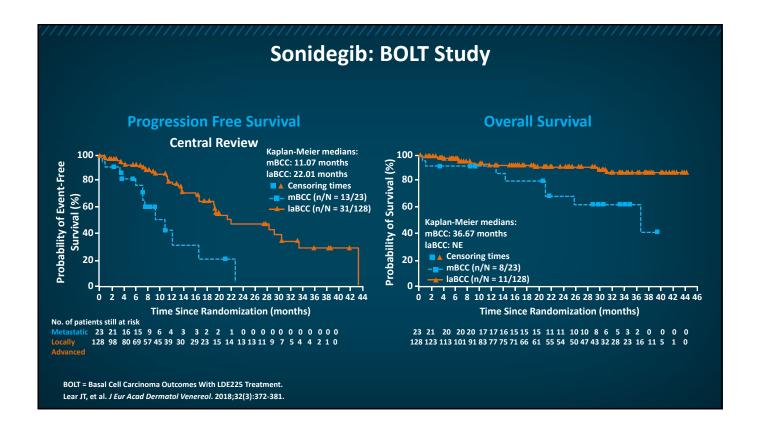


# Sonidegib

- Indications
  - Locally advanced BCC that has recurred following surgery, or in those who are not candidates for surgery/radiation
- Dosage: oral; 200 mg once daily
- Contraindications: none
- Boxed warning: embryo-fetal toxicity

	laBCC (n = 66)
ORR	56.0%
Complete Response	5%
Partial Response	52%
Median Response Duration	26.1 months

Sonidegib (Odomzo®) PI 2019 (https://www.odomzo.com/themes/custom/odomzo/global/pdfs/pi.pdf).



Efficacy, safety, and comparison of sonic hedgehog inhibitors in basal cell carcinomas: A systematic review and meta-analysis

Pingxing Xie, MD, PhD, and Philippe Lefrançois, MD, PhD

Montreal, Canada

- 16 studies: quantitative meta-analysis of safety and efficacy
- Locally advanced BCC
  - Overall Response Rate: comparable for vismodegib and sonidegib (69% vs 57%)
  - Complete Response Rate: superior for vismodegib (31% vs 3%)
- Metastatic BCC
  - Overall Response Rate: superior for vismodegib (39% vs 15%)
- Side effects (combined prevalence)
  - 67%, 54%, and 58% for muscle spasms, dysgeusia, and alopecia, respectively;
     comparable for sonidegib and vismodegib
  - Upper GI distress more common in sonidegib than in vismodegib use
- Vismodegib favored over sonidegib in clinical practice

Xie P, Lefrançois P. J Am Acad Dermatol 2018;79:1089-1100.

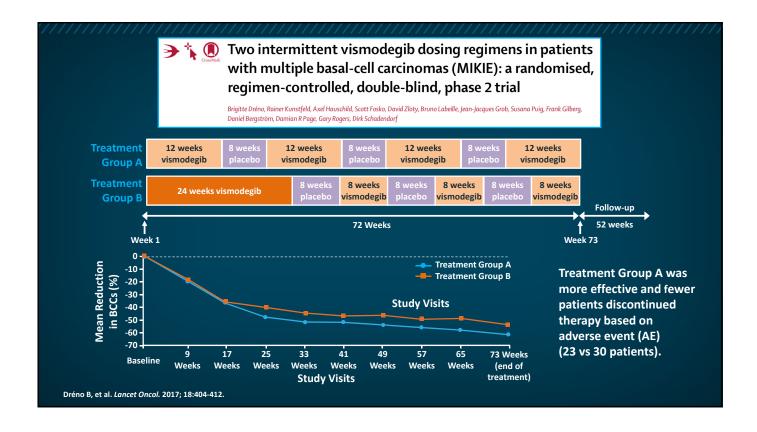
# **Hedgehog Side Effects**

- Hedgehog inhibitor side effects are not life-threatening but are nearly universal and often severe
- High rate of discontinuation in clinical trials (20%-50%)
  - Debilitating muscle pain/cramping
  - Loss of taste leading to major weight loss
  - Hair loss is often severe
- Alternatives to daily dosing are often used (though minimally studied)
  - A dosing regimen of 1 to 2 weeks on, 1 week off, is what we employ
  - Impact on efficacy unknown but such modifications are often needed to remain on treatment

Migden M, et al. Lancet Oncology. 2015;16:716-728. Dummer R, et al. Br J Dermatol. 2020;182(6):1369-1378. Sekulic A, et al. BMC Cancer. 2017;17:332. Sekulic A, et al. N Eng J Med. 2012;366:2171-2179. Villani A, et al. Dermatol Ther. 2020;10:401-412.

# **Alternate Dosing Regimens**

- More tolerable than continuous therapy, with comparable effectiveness
- Impact on secondary resistance undefined
- BCC managed using hedgehog inhibitor (HHI) is comparable to chronic disease management or palliation
- May take months, weeks, or days off without loss of effectiveness



#### **RESEARCH LETTER**

A Novel Alternate Dosing of Vismodegib for Treatment of Patients With Advanced Basal Cell Carcinomas

Vismodegib Dosing Regimen, Response, and Adverse Effects

Patient No./Sex	BCC History	IVT Regimen (with/without medication = no. of cycles)	Length of Follow-Up, mo	BCC Response	Adverse Effects
1/M	>50 BCCs	1 wk/1 wk x 8 cycles; 1 wk/3 wks x 12 cycles	20	Decrease in number and size of lesions	Fatigue, arthralgia, arthritis, and alopecia; resolved after decreasing dose
2/M	Basal cell nevus syndrome	1 wk/2 wks x 10 cycles	12	Decrease in number and size of lesions	Fatigue, dysgeusia, and muscle aches
3/F	Multiple BCCs on the face	1 wk/1 wk x 6 cycles; 1 wk/2 wks x 7 cycles; 1 wk/3 wks x 14 cycles	24	Resolution	Alopecia; resolved with decreased dosage
4/M	Multiple recurrent and aggressive BCCs on face	1 wk/1 wk x 8 cycles; 1 wk/2 wks x 1 cycle; 1 wk/3 wks x 9 cycles	19	Resolution	Fatigue, dysgeusia, muscle spasms, and hand arthritis; improved with lowered dosage
5/F	Large periorbital BCC	1 wk/1 wk x 6 cycles; 1 wk/2 wks x 5 cycles	12	Decrease in BCC size	Fatigue, dysgeusia, muscle aches, and alopecia
6/M	Large BCC on nose	1 wk/1 wk x 6 cycles	7	Decrease in BCC size, followed by MMS	Fatigue, dysgeusia, diarrhea, and constipation
7/M	Incompletely excised periorbital BCC	1 wk/3 wks x 5 cycles	9	Resolution	Fatigue

7 patients: 1 week on/1 to 3 weeks off based on tolerability; 3 BCC clinically resolved, 4 decreased in size No patients discontinued therapy based on adverse effects.

IVT = intermittent vismodegib therapy; MMS = Mohs micrographic surgery. Becker LR, et al. *JAMA Dermatol.* 2017; 153:321-322.

# Outcomes for Basal Cell Carcinoma Treated With Vismodegib Extended Alternate Day Dosing

- 8 patients
- Vismodegib 150 daily x 3 months, then extended alternate day dosing as tolerated
  - Every other day to once weekly dosing
  - Mean reduction in tumor size: ~50%
  - 4 patients experienced no side effects,
     4 experienced mild side effects that
    - improved/resolved with further extended alternate day dosing



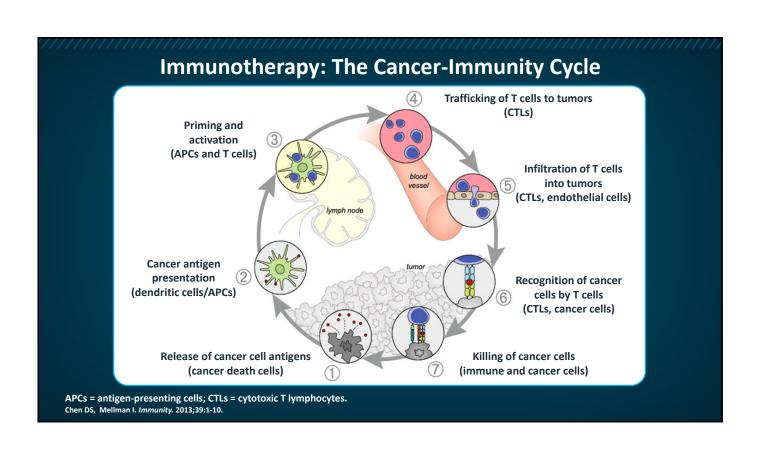


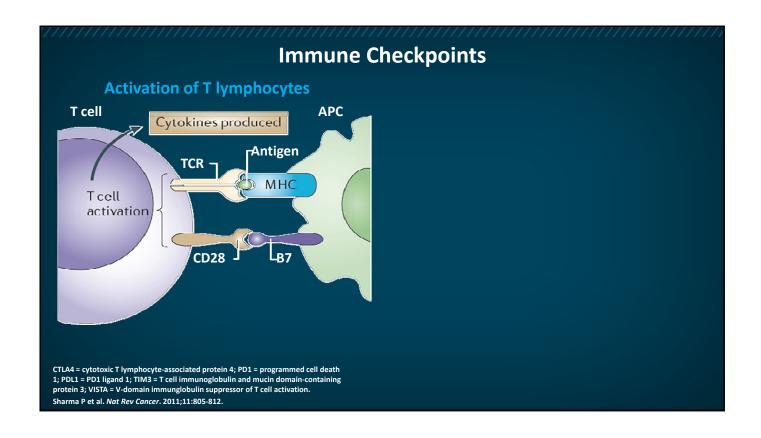
Before

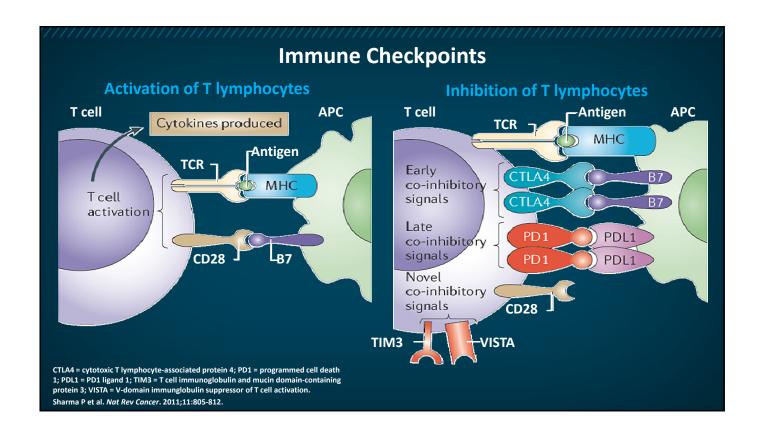
Every 4 days x 10 months

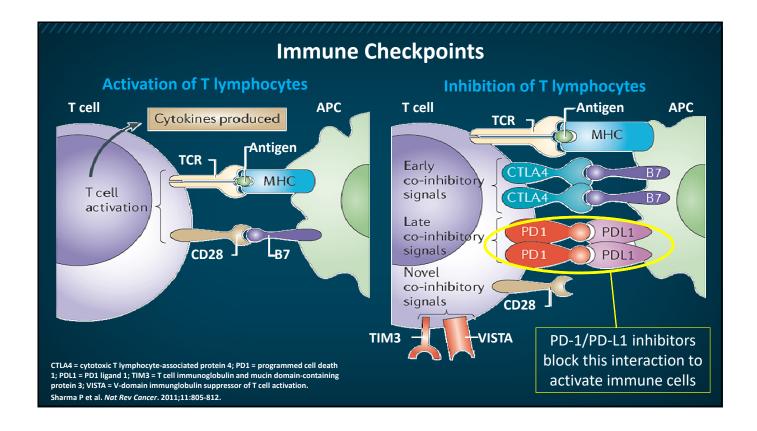
Routt E, Ratner D. Dermatol Surg. 2020;46:1109-1112.

# When Disease Progresses on Hedgehog Inhibition?









## Cemiplimab: ESMO 2020 Trial of cemiplimab for those not tolerating or progressing on vismodegib/ sonidegib has concluded - Submitted to FDA for approval Currently off-label for BCC • Approved for metastatic cutaneous SCC and IaSCC laBCC (n = 84)**ORR** 31.0% 6.0% Complete Response 25.0% Partial Response 85% responses ongoing at 12 months Response 19 months **Estimated PFS (all patients)** ESMO = European Society for Medical Oncology. Not currently FDA approved for BCC Stratigos AJ, et al. Ann Oncology. 2020;31:S1175-S1176.

# Cemiplimab: ESMO 2020

- Median baseline TMB: 58.2 (responding; n = 18) and 23.5 (non-responding; n = 38) mutations/Mb
- Responses occurred at all TMB levels
- Downregulation of MHC-I expression identified as an immune evasion mechanism in non-responding BCCs with high TMB
- Adverse events: fatigue (30%), diarrhea (24%) and pruritus (21%)
- 17% of patients discontinued due to AEs

TMB = tumor mutational burden; MHC = major histocompatibility complex. Stratigos AJ, et al. *Ann Oncology*. 2020;31:S1175-S1176.

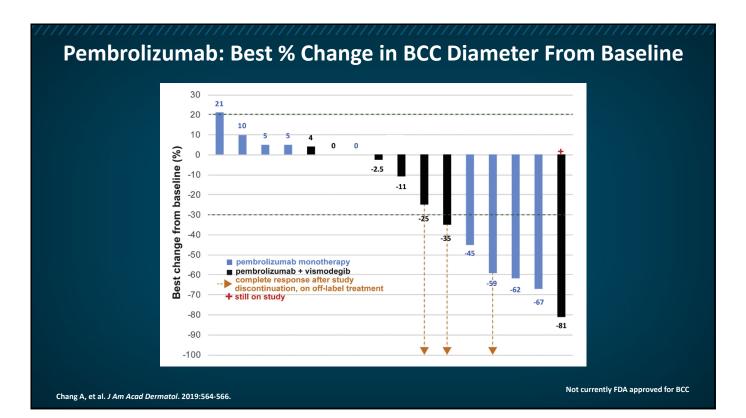
# Pembrolizumab With/Without Vismodegib for Advanced BCC

	All Participants (N = 16)	Pembrolizuamb (n = 9)	Pembrolizumab + Vismodegib (n = 7)
ORR	38%	44%	29%
1-yr PFS	70%	62%	83%
1-yr OS	94%	89%	100%

- No life-threatening AEs or deaths during the study
- 3 grade 3 AEs occurred out of 98 AEs from 16 participants (1 case of hyponatremia attributed to pembrolizumab)
- 23 immune-related AEs (grade 1/2 dermatitis and fatigue most common)

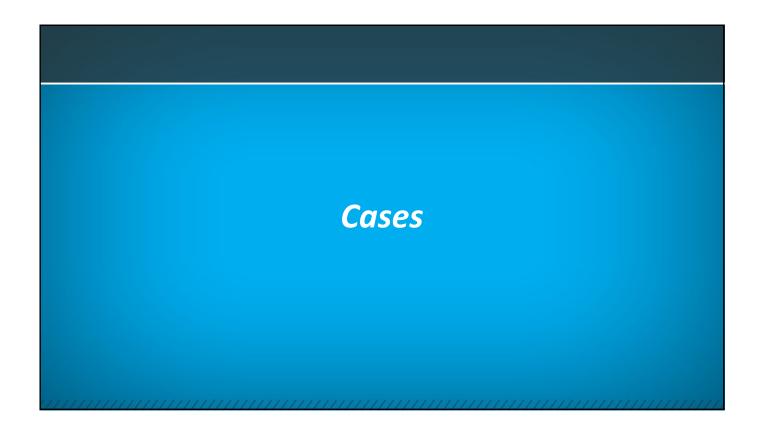
Chang A, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2019:564-566.

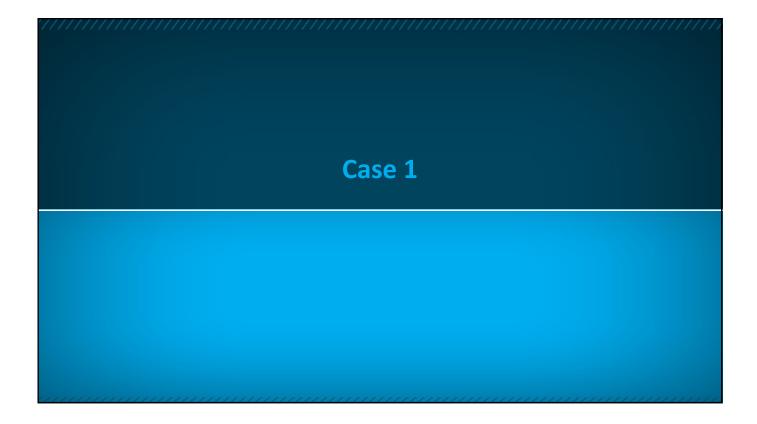
Not currently FDA approved for BCC



# Summary

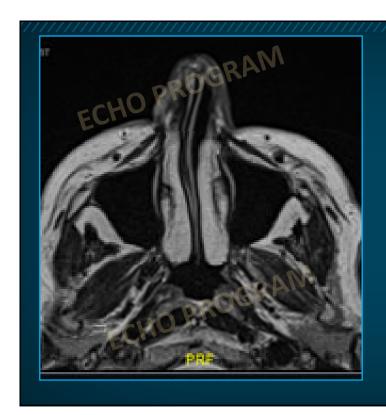
- Advanced BCC is best managed using multidisciplinary consultation
- Diameter > 4 cm, head/neck location, and/or invasion beyond subcutaneous fat significantly increase risk for local recurrence, metastasis, and death
- Vismodegib outperforms sonidegib in a recent meta-analysis on safety and efficacy
- Alternate dosing regimens increase tolerability without compromising efficacy
- Immune checkpoint therapy may be useful in cases of hedgehog inhibitor progression or intolerance



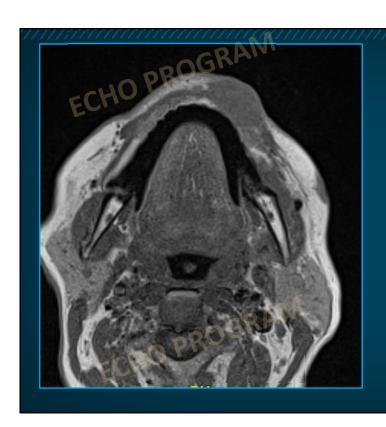








The tumor is inseparable from nasal bones and cartilage.



The tumor involves the mandible and 2 submandibular lymph nodes.

# Locally Aggressive BCC: Polling Question

Which of the following would you choose for these BCCs?

- 1. Radiation
- 2. Systemic agent
- 3. Moh's surgery
- 4. Surgical excision coupled with margin assessment
- 5. Two different methods



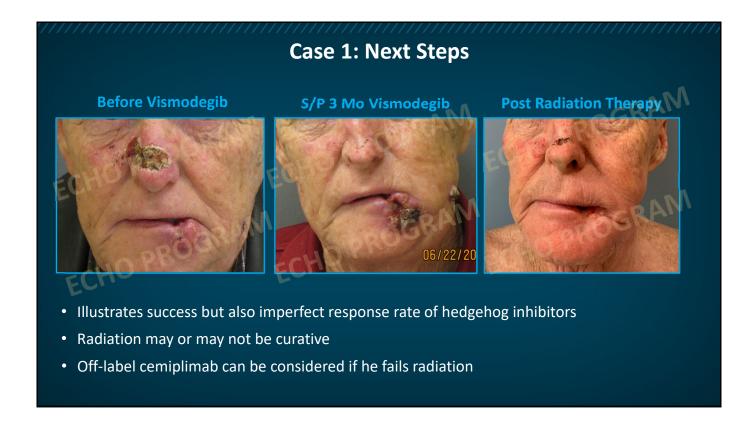
## Nose

- Mohs surgery for peripheral and some deep margin
- Bone resection in OR
- Multistage flap

## Lip

- Lip resection in OR
- Bilateral neck dissections
- Manibulectomy
- Fibula free flap
- Tracheosteomy
- Skin graft

Surgery





# Case 3: Locally Aggressive and Metastatic BCC

**Courtesy of Dr. Emily Ruiz** 





- A 60-year-old man, healthy except for ethyl alcohol (EtOH), sometimes undomiciled
- Diagnosis in July 2017
- Histology: infiltrating BCC
- Positron emission tomography (PET) CT: avid tumor, avid left axillary, pectoral, and supraclavicular lymph nodes
- MRI: tumor encasing multiple large nerves

# Locally Aggressive BCC: Polling Question

# What Do You Offer as Preferred Therapy?

- A. Observation as progression has been slow over many years
- B. Excision via forequarter amputation
- C. Definitive radiation therapy
- D. Oral hedgehog inhibitor therapy
- E. Anti-PD1 immunotherapy

# Locally Aggressive BCC: Polling Question

# What Do You Offer as Preferred Therapy?

- A. Observation as progression has been slow over many years
  - -No, he's in pain and seeking care
- B. Excision via forequarter amputation
  - -Nodal metastasis makes this unlikely to control disease
- C. Definitive radiation therapy
  - -Field is too large
- D. Oral hedgehog inhibitor therapy
- E. Anti-PD1 immunotherapy





- Clinical response to vismodegib (July 2017-May 2018)
- MRI: progression of lymph node metastasis
- July 2018: patient switched to cemiplimab

# What do you do now?



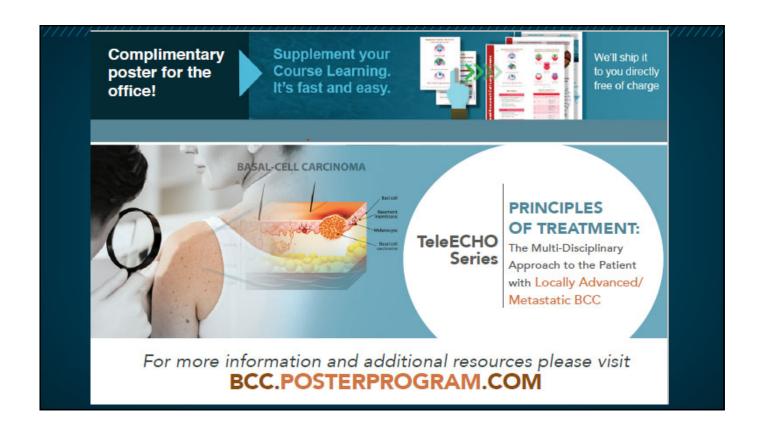
- Restarted on vismodegib in September 2018: no response
- Switched to sonidegib in December 2019: no response
- Switched to ipilimumab/nivolimab in March 2019: no response
- Intratumoral flu vaccine in June 2019 (1 injection): no response
- Expired in July 2019 (tumor-related sepsis)



# **Conclusions**

- BCC is the most common form of skin cancer worldwide
- BCCs are slow-growing and rarely metastasize; however, they are locally invasive and can be destructive
- BCC pathogenesis and the implications of aberrant pathways and immune dysfunction continue to be clarified
- Therapy selection depends on the patient's age and gender, along with site, size, and type
  of lesion
- Current mainstay of BCC treatment involves surgical modalities (excision, electrodesiccation and curettage [EDC], cryosurgery, Mohs surgery)
- Systemics include the HHIs vismodegib and sonidegib; there is no FDA-approved therapeutic option post-HHI use for patients with laBCC; PD1/PDL1 inhibitors are showing promise





# **Basal Cell Carcinoma: Identification and Management**

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Chen DS, et al. Oncology meets immunology: The cancer-immunity cycle. <i>Immunity</i> . 2013;39:1-10.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23890059/
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McDaniel B, et al. Basal Cell Carcinoma. In: StatPearls [Internet]. Treasure Island, FL: StatPearls Publishing. Updated November 20, 2020.	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK48 2439/
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Paulson KG, et al. Immunotherapy for skin cancer. <i>Int Immunol</i> . 2019;31:465-475.	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30753483/
Sekulic A, et al. Long-term safety and efficacy of vismodegib in patients with advanced basal cell carcinoma: final update of the pivotal ERIVANCE BCC study. <i>BMC Cancer</i> . 2017;17:332.	https://bmccancer.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12885-017-3286-5
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Stratigos AJ, et al. LBA47 Primary analysis of phase II results for cemiplimab in patients (pts) with locally advanced basal cell carcinoma (laBCC) who progress on or are intolerant to hedgehog inhibitors (HHIs). <i>Ann Oncology</i> . 2020;31(suppl 4):S1175-S1176.	https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0 923-7534(20)42359-2/abstract
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## **Resources and Societies**

Resource	Address
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