Advances in Skin Cancer Treatment with Updates in Immunotherapy, photo-allergy, and Radiation Therapy

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# Many Americans Wrong About Sun's Skin Cancer Dangers: Poll By <u>Cancer Nursing Today Featured Reading</u>-May 5, 2021



A new survey reveals that one-third of Americans lack a basic understanding of sun safety and skin cancer. That is the surprising takeaway from an American Academy of Dermatology survey of 1,000 U.S. adults.

Fifty-three percent of respondents did not realize shade offers protection from the sun's

ultraviolet (UV) rays, and 47 percent incorrectly said a base tan would prevent sunburns or were unsure. Thirty-five percent said tanning is safe as long as you do not burn or were unsure, and 31 percent were unaware that tanning causes skin cancer. Nonmelanoma Skin Cancers: Basal Cell and Squamous Cell Carcinomas

# Incidence

- 1 million new cases occur annually including 80% basal cell carcinomas (BCCs) and 20% squamous cell carcinomas (SCCs)
- Incidence is increasing 2% to 3% per year.
- SCC incidence is increased 18- to 36-fold in organ transplant recipients.

# Pathology and Biology

- Several histopathologic subtypes exist.
- The more infiltrative or poorly differentiated variants are more clinically aggressive (e.g., morpheaform BCC and spindle cell SCC).

# Differential Diagnosis and Staging

• Amelanotic melanoma, keratoacanthoma, cutaneous metastasis, cutaneous lymphoma, cutaneous lymphoid hyperplasia, adnexal tumor, Merkel cell carcinoma, and sebaceous gland carcinoma are included in the differential diagnosis.

- BCCs that are large, deep, or infiltrative may be locally aggressive and recurrent but metastasize only rarely (<0.05%).
- SCCs have a greater metaststic rate, especially those that are large, deep, have perineural invasion, or are located on the dorsal hands, lips, ears, penis, or sites of chronic infection, ulceration, or radiation.

# CSCC Is the Second Most Common Form of Skin Cancer<sup>1,\*</sup>

CSCC

Expected to increase incidence 2% to 4% each year<sup>2</sup>

US incidence

Has increased substantially, by 50% to 200%, over the past 3 decades<sup>3</sup>

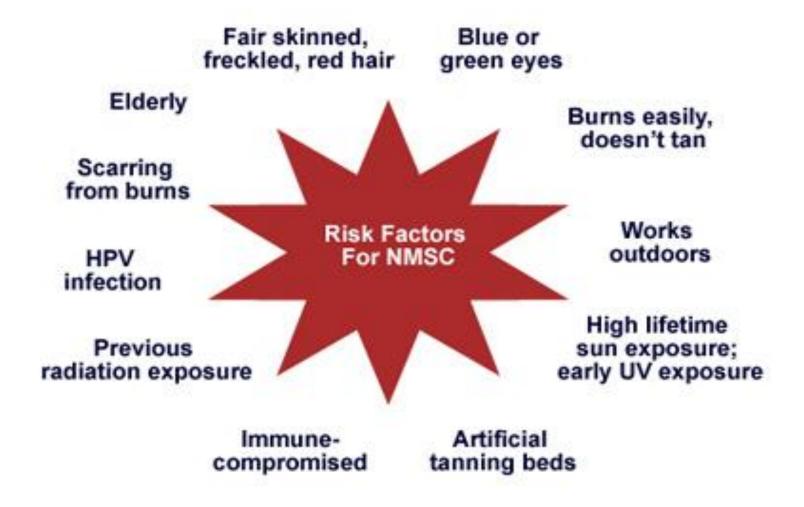
\*In the United States. CSCC, cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma.

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References: 1. Gurudutt VV, et al. J Skin Cancer. 2011;2011:502723. 2. Burton KA, et al. Am J Clin Dermatol. 2016;17(5):491-508. 3. Karia PS. Dermatol. 2013;68(6):957-966



# RISK FACTORS FOR NMSC



# Photosensitizing drugs

•Alpha-hydroxy acids in cosmetics

•Antibiotics (ciprofloxacin, doxycycline, levofloxacin, ofloxacin,

tetracycline, trimethoprim)

•Antifungals (flucytosine, griseofulvin, voricanozole)

•Antihistamines (cetirizine, diphenhydramine, loratadine,

promethazine, cyproheptadine)

•Cholesterol lowering drugs (simvastatin, atorvastatin, lovastatin, pravastatin)

•Diuretics (thiazide diuretics: hydrochlorothiazide, chlorthalidone, chlorothiazide.; other diuretics: furosemide and triamterene)

•Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib, piroxicam, ketoprofen)

•Oral contraceptives and estrogens

•Phenothiazines (tranquilizers, anti-emetics: examples,

chlorpromazine, fluphenazine, promethazine, thioridazine,

prochloroperazine)

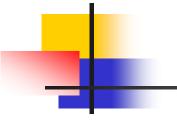
•Psoralens (methoxsalen, trioxsalen)

•Retinoids (acitretin, isotretinoin)

Sulfonamides (acetazolamide, sulfadiazine, sulfamethizole, sulfamethoxazole, sulfapyridine, sulfasalazine, sulfasoxazole)
Sulfonylureas for type 2 diabetes (glipizide, glyburide)







**Phototoxic reactions** occur because of the damaging effects of lightactivated compounds on cell membranes and, in some instances, DNA.

By contrast, photoallergic reactions are cell-mediated immune responses to a light-activated compound. Phototoxic reactions develop in most individuals if they are exposed to sufficient amounts of light and drug. Typically, they appear as an exaggerated sunburn response, as shown in the image below.



# Background

- Drug-induced photosensitivity refers to the development of cutaneous disease as a result of the combined effects of a chemical and light.
- Exposure to either the chemical or the light alone is not sufficient to induce the disease;
- however, when photoactivation of the chemical occurs, one or more cutaneous manifestations may arise.
- These include phototoxic and photoallergic reactions, a planus lichenoides reaction, <u>pseudoporphyria</u>, and <u>subacute cutaneous</u> <u>lupus erythematosus</u>.
- Photosensitivity reactions may result from systemic medications and topically applied compounds

**BCCs and increased disposition** to other internal cancers was explored, individuals with 6 or more BCCs had a greater risk of other malignancies, with a 3.5-fold increase in the frequent BCC cohort. High frequency BCC patients were also more likely to have a:

- 5-fold increase in leukemia and lymphoma (P=.004)
- 5-fold increase in colon cancer (P=.030)
- 6-fold increase in breast cancer (P=.009)
- 7-fold increase in prostate cancer (P < .001)
- Bogdony, J, 2020

# **Genomics of Basal Cell Ca**

The average number of BCCs in high-frequency patients (n=61) was 11, the average age at first skin cancer diagnosis was 44 years, and 10 (16.4%) of these patients developed their first skin cancer before age 30. Among these 61 patients, 12 (19.7%) had pathogenic mutations in DNA repair genes. More specifically, they harbored 13 pathogenic mutations in 12 different genes: *APC, BARD1, BRCA1, BRCA2, CDH1, CHEK2, MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, MUTYH, NBN*, and *PALB2*.

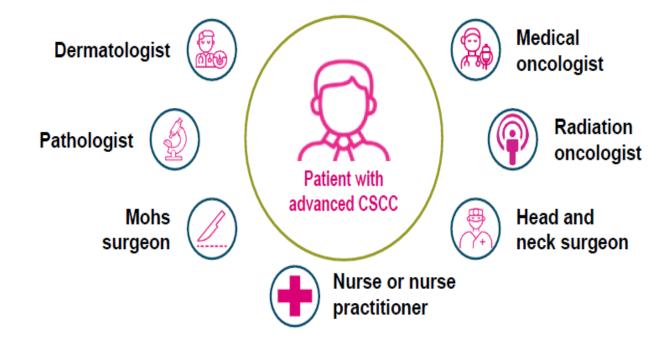
#### **Genomics of Squamous Cell Skin Cancer**

Comparison of miR-181a levels in human CSCCs to normal skin shows that miR-181a has a significantly higher expression (~8.4 folds) in CSCCs. Their results show that miR-181a overexpression (OE) and TGFBR3 knockdown (KD) significantly suppresses UV-induced apoptosis in HaCaT keratinocytes and in primary normal human epidermal keratinocytes (NHEKs). In addition, OE of miR-181a or direct KD of TGFBR3 by shRNA is sufficient for enhanced anchorage-independent survival of HaCaTs. Moreover, miR-181a OE or TGFBR3 KD enhances cellular motility through increase of migration and invasion and upregulation of EMT markers, such as *snail*, *slug*, and *vimentin*. Luciferase assay results demonstrate that miR-181a directly and specifically targets the 3'UTR of TGFBR3. Rescue experiments show that miR-181a phenotype can be partially rescued by TGFBR3 overexpression. In summary, they show that miR-181a regulates susceptibility to apoptosis as well as cellular adhesion and motility at least in part through TGFBR3. Han, J, 2020



# **Research Program**

A Comprehensive Retrospective Electronic Medical Record Review of Cutaneous Squamous Cell Cancer (CSCC) in a High-Risk Sunbelt Population. Epidemiological Evaluation of Patient Risk Factors, Co-morbidities, Phototoxic Drug Utilization and Gross and Pathological Tumor Characteristics to Facilitate Targeted Diagnostics and Patient Care. A Multidisciplinary Approach Is Key to Assessing Treatment Options for Advanced CSCC\*



NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup>) for Squamous Cell Skin Cancer recommend multidisciplinary tumor board consultation in the management of patients with complicated high-risk tumors, regional recurrence, or development of distant metastases<sup>1</sup>

\*The NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) do not specify a specific list of disciplines that must be included in a multidisciplinary tumor board.

References: 1. Referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup>) for Squamous Cell Skin Cancer V.2.2019. © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2019. All rights reserved. Accessed June 3, 2019. To view the most recent and complete version of the NCCN Guidelines, go online to NCCN.org.

# **Etiology and Epidemiology**

- Ultraviolet radiation from sun exposure is a major risk factor and causes mutations in key genes.
- Hedgehog signaling pathway mutations are involved in BCC pathogenesis.

• p53 mutations are involved in both SCC and BCC pathogenesis, as well as in the development of actinic keratoses, which are the precursors of SCCs.

# **STOPPING** CSCC: Risk Factors for CSCC Recurrence or Metastasis<sup>1,2\*</sup>



Size ≥10 mm on cheeks, forehead, scalp, neck, and pretibial; ≥20 mm on trunk and extremities<sup>†</sup>



Perineural, lymphatic, or vascular involvement



Thickness >6 mm or invasion beyond subcutaneous fat



**Origin** of lesion on "mask areas" of the face<sup>‡</sup>, scars<sup>§</sup>, hands, and feet



Immunosuppression



Neurological symptoms



Poorly differentiated



Growth in desmoplastic or infiltrative pattern<sup>¶</sup>



Patients with even a single risk factor are deemed high risk and should be managed more aggressively than those at low risk for recurrence or metastasis<sup>1,3,4</sup>

\*Additional risk factors are included in the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup>) for Squamous Cell Skin Cancer.<sup>1</sup> †Excluding pretibial, hands, feet, nail units, and ankles. <sup>‡</sup>Central face, eyelids, eyebrows, periorbital, nose, lips, chin, mandible, preauricular and postauricular skin/sulci, temple, ear <sup>§</sup>Described as "site of prior RT or chronic inflammatory process" in NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup>.<sup>1</sup> <sup>¶</sup>The NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup> include acantholytic (adenoid), adenosquamous (showing mucin production), or metaplastic (carcinosarcomatous) subtypes as risk factors. The NCCNGuidelines<sup>®</sup> do not list "infiltrative pattern" as a risk factor.<sup>1</sup>

References: 1. Referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines<sup>®</sup>) for Squamous Cell Skin Cancer V.2.2019. <sup>®</sup> National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2019. All rights reserved. Accessed June 3, 2019. To view the most recent and complete version of the NCCN Guidelines, go online to NCCN.org. 2. Califano JA, et al. In: Amin MB, et al, eds. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed. New York, NY: Springer, 2017:171-181. 3. Stratigos A, et al. Eur J Cancer. 2015;51(14):1989-2007. 4. Baum CL, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2018;78(1):141-147.

# Most Early-Stage CSCC May Be Curable with Complete Surgical Excision and/or Radiation<sup>1-4</sup>

## Common Treatment Options for Early-Stage CSCC<sup>1-3</sup>

### Surgery

- · Surgical excision with clear margins
- Curettage and electrodessication
- Cryosurgery
- Mohs micrographic surgery (usually for more complicated cases, such as a difficult location)

### Radiation Therapy

However, certain risk factors increase the likelihood of recurrence and metastasis<sup>5-8</sup>

The presence of any single risk factor increases the metastatic potential by up to<sup>5-7</sup>

and increasing numbers of coincident risk factors correlate with worse prognosis<sup>8</sup>

37%

References: 1. Skin cancer treatment (PDQ<sup>®</sup>). National Cancer Institute website. https://www.cancer.gov/types/skin/hp/skin-treatment-pdq. Updated April 26, 2018. Accessed March 19, 2019. 2. Jennings L, et al. J Clin Aesthet Dermatol. 2010;3(4):39-48. 3. Stratigos A, et al. Eur J Cancer. 2015;51(14):1989-2007. 4. Califano JA, et al. In: Amin MB, et al. eds. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual. 8th ed. New York, NY: Springer; 2017:171-181. 5. Burton KA, et al. Am J Clin Dermatol. 2016;17:491-508. 6. Karia PS, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 2013;68(6):957-966. 7. Rowe DE, et al. J Am Acad Dermatol. 1992;26(6):976-990. 8. Karia PS, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2014;32(4):327-334.

# Cemiplimab study results

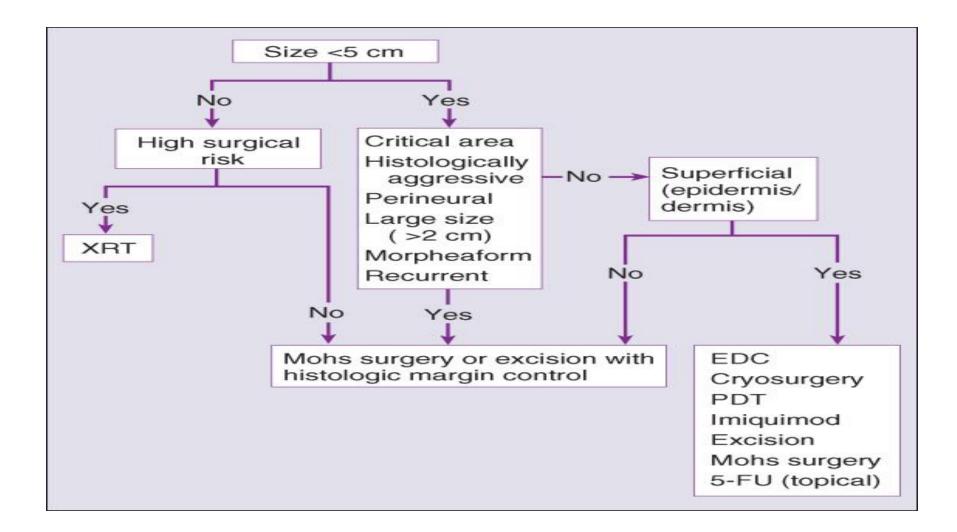
Cemiplimab helped shrink tumors in some clinical trial patients.

In 1 clinical trial of 137 patients with CSCC that had spread or could not be cured by surgery or radiation treated with Cemiplimab\*:

63 out of 137 patients (46%)

saw an improvement in their advanced CSCC with Cemiplimab

# Treatment for basal cell carcinoma.



#### Non Melanoma Skin Cancer in the Elderly: A **Changing Paradigm?**



Gerald Sokol,<sup>1,2</sup> Loretta Loftus ,<sup>3</sup> Jorge Ayub,<sup>2</sup> Thomas Oliver<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD, <sup>2</sup>Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute, Hudson, FL, 3Moffitt Cancer Center & Research



Institute, Tampa, FL.

The worldwide surge in the incidence of skin cancer during the last two
<ul> <li>decades has reached "epidemic" proportions, resulting from long, lifetime exposure in an increasingly aging population.<sup>7</sup></li> <li>Skin cancer significantly contributes to the overall burden of other comorbic conditions in the elderly population that impacts morbidity, mortality and health-related costs.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>NMSC accounts for at least 80% of all skin cancers, with a prevalence of ff (70%) over SCC (20%) in the general U.S. population.<sup>9</sup> However, we determined that SCC was significantly more common in the elderly population for ur study.</li> <li>In addition to intermittent exposure to UV-radiation, other risk factors for development of NMSC include male sex, old age, ionizing radiation, immunosuppression, fair skin phototype (Fitzpatrick I or II), chronic arsenia ingestion, old burn, scar, and family history.<sup>8,10</sup> Our investigation also four that NMSC was more common in males. The majority, 53%, of the patient also had significant co-existing conditions that affect immunity such as car patients who receive chemotherapy, radiation and immune therapy, renal transplant patients on immunosuppressive therapy, HIV infection, and autoimmune disorders.</li> <li>BCC arises from hair follicle stem cells or from progenitor cells in the inter-</li> </ul>
follicular epidermis. BCC carcinogenesis is characterized by aberrant activation of the Hedgehog(Hh) signaling pathway involved in cell
<ul> <li>Cutaneous SCC results from the malignant transformation of keratinoc; the epidermis and its appendages.<sup>8</sup> Unlike BCC, SCC can spread to lo regional lymph nodes and to distant metastatic disease sites.<sup>9</sup></li> <li>Immunosuppression as a result of a particular disease or secondary to treatment is the greatest host risk factor for poor outcomes in patients v cutaneous SCC. Immunosuppressed organ transplant recipients are especially high risk for development of frequent and aggressive tumors The majority of our patients had at least one other significant disease the was associated with an effect on the immune system either by the dise itself or the treatment. This may partially explain the increased incident SCC in both M and F patients in our investigation.</li> </ul>
Conclusions
<ul> <li>Skin cancer in the elderly in our population was most frequently squam cell carcinoma, not basal cell carcinoma.</li> <li>M patients tended to have both SCC and BCC more often than F patient.</li> <li>Alternately, the use of skin care products by F may have provided a proeffect.</li> </ul>
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- Rogers HW, Weinstock MA, Feldman, SK, Coldron BM. Incidence estimate of normalianoma skin cancer (karatinocyte carcinomas) in the U.S. population. JAMA Dormatol 2012;151:1081-1086.
  De Vries E, Trakatelli M, Kalabelikis D, et al. Known and potential new risk factors for skin cancer in European populations: a multicenter case-control study. Br J Dermatol 2012;167:10940;21:1-13.
- 2012;167(Suppl 2):1-13. 1. Bonilla X, Parmenter L, King B, et al. Genomic analysis identifies new drivers and progression pathways in skin basal cell carcinoma. Nat Genet 2016;48:398-406. 2. Zwald FO, Brown M. Skin cancer in solid organ transplant recipients: advances in therapy and management: part 1. Epidemiology of skin cancer in solid organ transplant re J Am Acad Demratol 2011;68:253.

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G. Sokol, S. McIntyre, L. Loftus and G. Wright Journal of Geriatric Oncology, 2012-10-01, Volume 3, Pages S94-S94, Copyright © 2012

**Purpose of the Study:** Radiation therapy is a well-recognized modality of treatment for squamous and basal cell cancers of the skin. The purpose of this study was to evaluate the response rate, cosmesis, and safety of electron beam radiation therapy in geriatric patients with non-melanoma skin cancers.

**Methods:** One hundred and two patients with 332 separate epithelial skin cancers were treated definitively with superficial electron beam spray typically utilizing 6 MeV electrons to a depth dose of 90% utilizing topically applied bolus appropriate to the depth and size of the lesion. The ratio of squamous cell carcinomas to basal cell lesions was 1:3 with a small percentage of mixed basal and squamous cell components (~ 4%). The age range extended from ages 60–99 (average age 78, median age 75). Patients were treated with varying fractionation schedules depending on size and depth of invasion from 400 cGy in 12 fractions to 5000 cGy in 25 fractions. Tumor response was evaluated weekly during treatment, monthly after treatment for 2 visits, and every 4 months thereafter indeterminately. Cosmesis was graded on a 1–4 scale with 1 representing excellent cosmesis and 4 representing poor cosmesis. Patients were evaluated for complete or partial response at each visit. 331 of the lesions were stage T1–T3. One lesion was T4.

**Results:** One hundred and one patients and 331 separate cancers sustained a complete response. A total of 3 patients subsequently failed with recurrent cancer in the treatment site. One of those patients had deep bone invasion (T4) and 2 patients sustained a geographical marginal recurrence. Cosmesis was excellent in 85% depending on initial presentation with respect to size, previous treatment or local tissue damage. Fifteen percent of responses were considered good with no unacceptable cosmetic results. There were no RTOG long term Grade 2 or above complications from treatment. Acute side effects consisted of moist desquamation and/or scabbing which consistently healed within 4–6 weeks or sooner.



#### Journal of Geriatric Oncology

Volume 3

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**Conclusions** : Electron beam spray radiation results in efficacy and safety comparable to any other form of treatment without the need for surgical intervention. There is no need for discontinuation of anticoagulants and minimal need for bandaging or other post treatment support. The treatment is generally painless, consumes less than 5 min for a treatment, and requires no significant skin or wound care. The only disadvantage is the number of visits required to complete treatment ranging from 10–25 depending on the size and depth of tumor involvement. This form of treatment for epithelial skin cancer represents an excellent noninvasive treatment for geriatric subjects. Surgery, postoperative wound care, suturing, cessation of anticoagulants and antibiotics are essentially unnecessary. X-ray irradiation is unnecessary, and electron beam treatment exposes only the treated area to irradiation.

# Most Early-Stage CSCC May Be Curable with Complete Surgical Excision and/or Radiation<sup>1-4</sup>

## Common Treatment Options for Early-Stage CSCC<sup>1-3</sup>

### Surgery

- · Surgical excision with clear margins
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However, certain risk factors increase the likelihood of recurrence and metastasis<sup>5-8</sup>

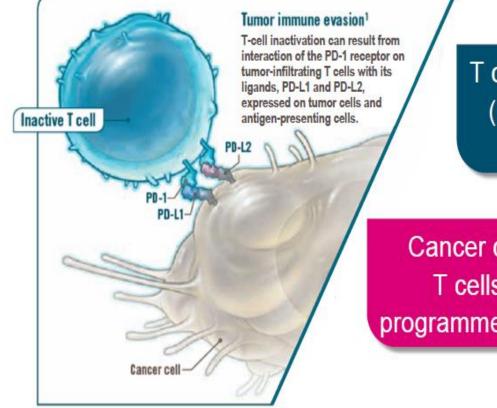
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# LIBTAYO Helps to Restore the Antitumor T-Cell Response



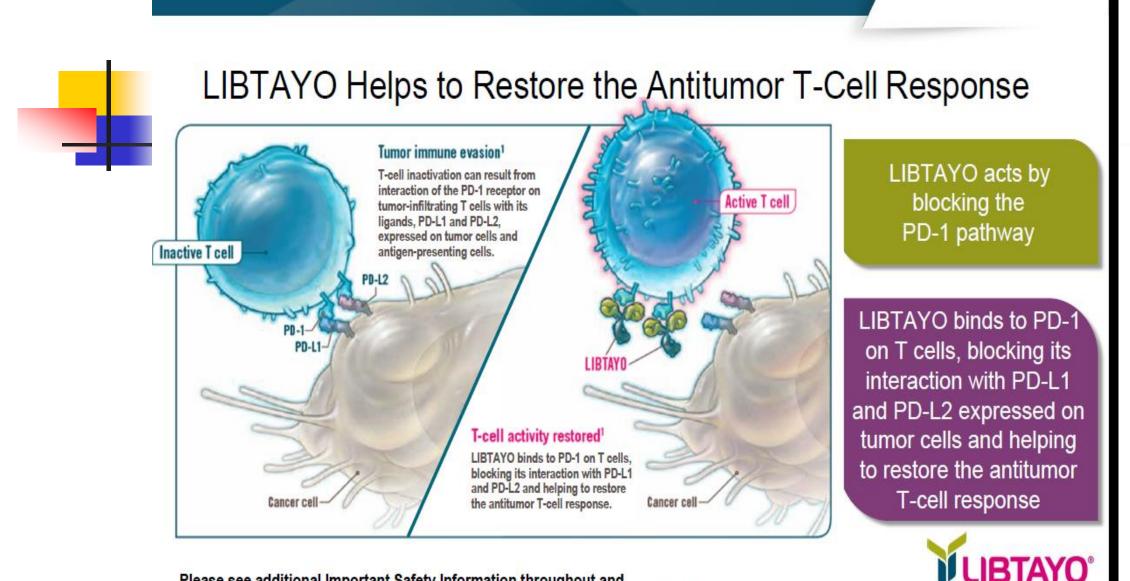
T cells normally target abnormal cells (including cancer cells) in order to attack and kill them

Cancer cells can avoid being attacked by T cells by using a defense called the programmed death receptor-1 (PD-1) pathway

PD-1, programmed death receptor-1; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; PD-L2, programmed death ligand 2. Please see additional Important Safety Information throughout and full Prescribing Information available at this presentation or on the right link for virtual attendees.

14 Reference: LIBTAYO (cemiplimab-rwlc) injection full U.S. prescribing information. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc and sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC.





(cemiplimab-rwlc)

Injection 350 mg

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15 Reference: LIBTAYO (cemiplimak-rwlc) injection full U.S. prescribing information. Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc and sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC.

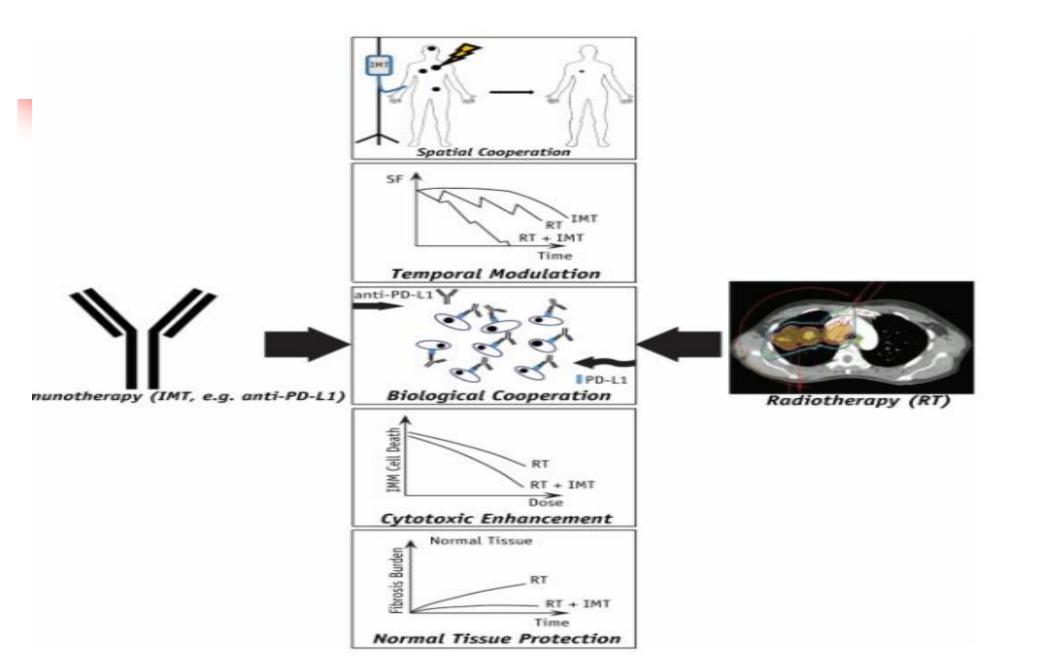
### **Radiation Drug Interactions**

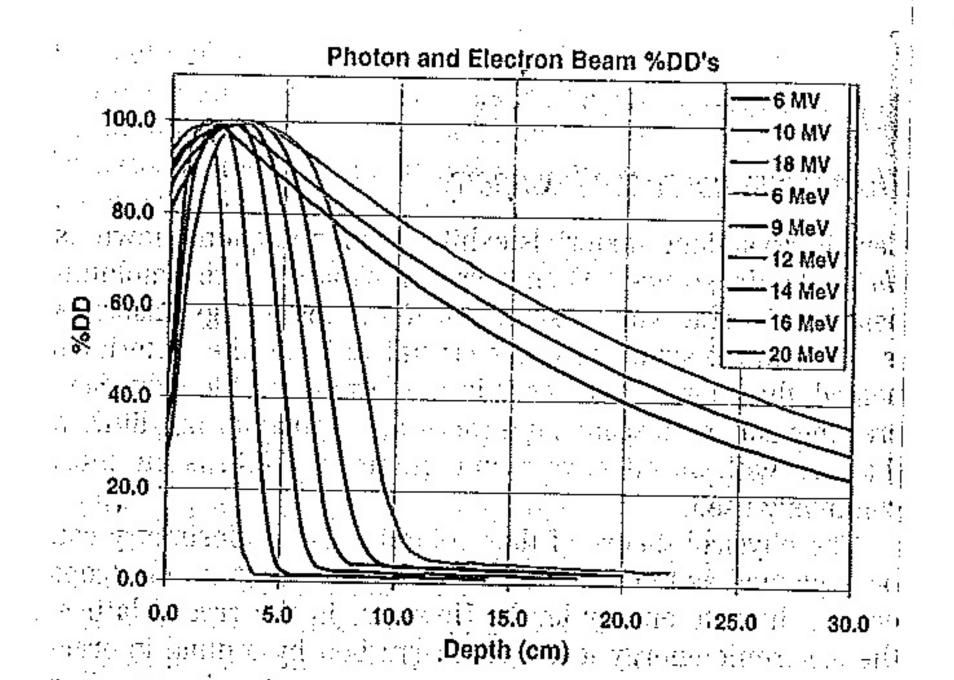
2020 Sep 1;108(1):6-16.
 doi: 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2020.04.023. Epub 2020 Apr 23.

# The Promise of Combining Radiation Therapy With Immunotherapy

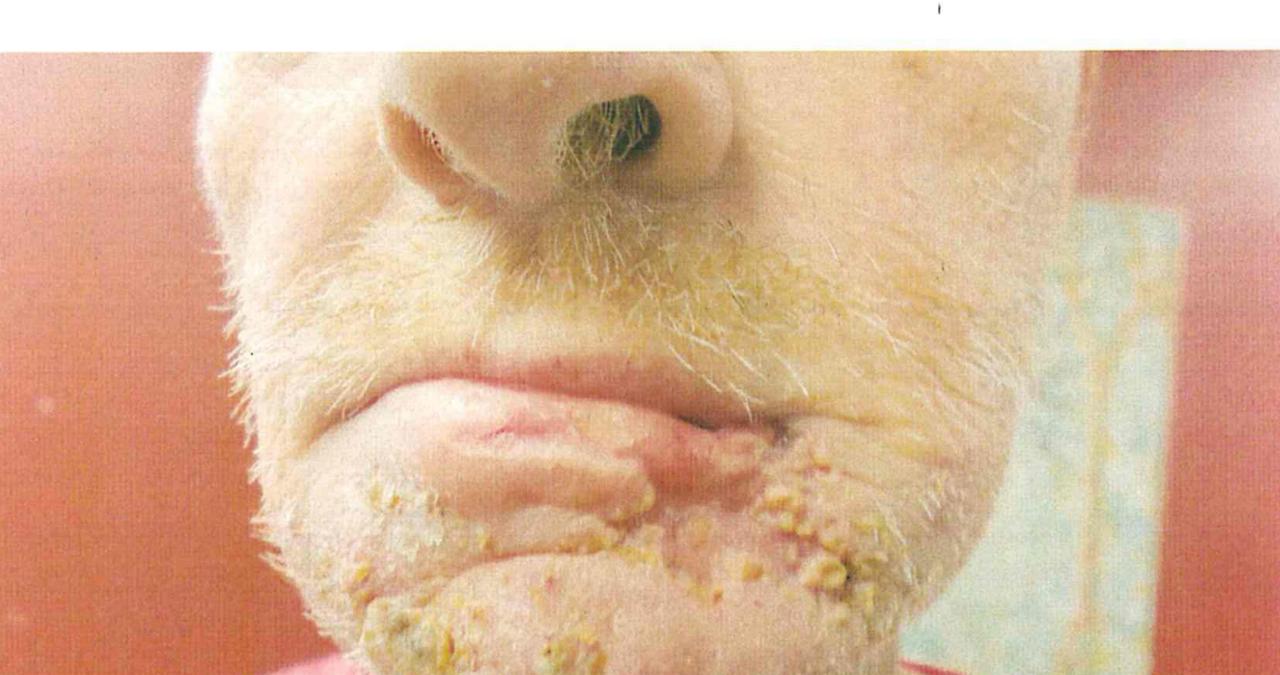
#### Justin C Jagodinsky<sup>1</sup>, Paul M Harari<sup>1</sup>, Zachary S Morris<sup>2</sup>

The development of immunotherapy in oncology builds upon many years of scientific investigation into the cellular mechanics underlying interactions between tumor cells and immune cell populations. The past decade has brought an accelerating pace to the clinical investigation of new immunotherapy agents, particularly in the setting of metastatic disease. The integration of immunotherapy into phase 3 clinical trial design has lagged in settings of advanced locoregional disease. where combination with radiation therapy may be critical. Yet, such may be the settings where immunotherapies have their greatest potential to affect patient survival and achieve curative outcomes. In this review, we discuss the interaction of radiation with the immune system and the potential to augment antitumor immunity through combined-modality approaches that integrate radiation and immunotherapies. The dynamics of cellular and tumor response to radiation offer unique opportunities for beneficial interplay with immunotherapy that may go unrecognized with conventional screening and monotherapy clinical testing of novel pharmaceutical agents. Using immune checkpoint blockade as a primary example, we discuss recent preclinical and clinical studies that illustrate the potential synergy of such therapies in combination with radiation, and we highlight the potential clinical value of such interactions. For various immunotherapy agents, their greatest clinical effect may rest in combination with radiation, and efforts to facilitate systematic investigation of this approach are highly warranted.









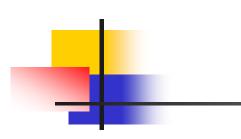


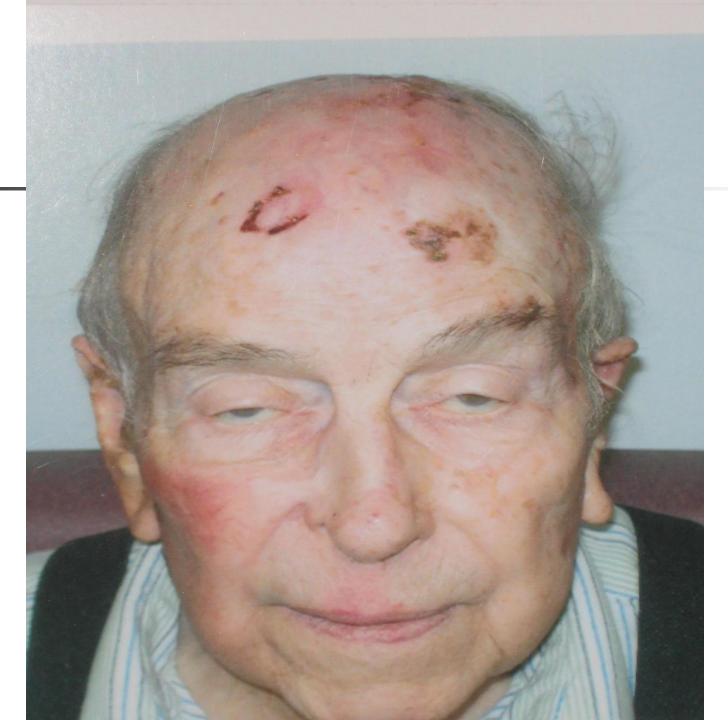












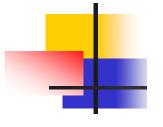
# Conclusions:

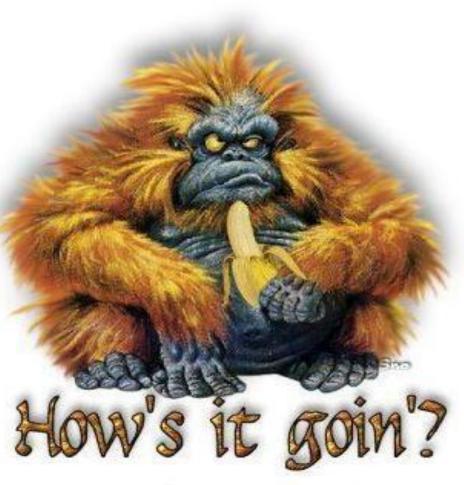
1.UV is a dangerous cause of skin cancer worsened by photosensitizing drugs

2. The skin cancer team must work together

3. Immunotherapy is a potent new treatment for both Basal Cell and Squamous cell cancers

4. Radiotherapy has profound and equal curative potential for skin cancer without surgery, bleeding, significant infection, or prolonged healing times with excellent cosmesis





May the fleas of a thousand camels infest the crotch of the person who screws up your day and may their arms be too short to scratch...