



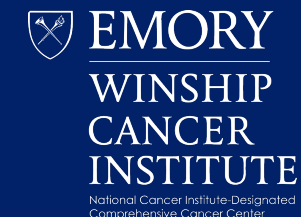
SURGICAL RESECTION WITHOUT PRE-OP IMMUNOTHERAPY IS THE PREFERRED THERAPEUTIC APPROACH FOR LOCALLY ADVANCED SKIN SCC (WITH A TWIST)

Mark W. El-Deiry MD

Associate Professor and Distinguished Physician

Emory Department of Otolaryngology – Head and
Neck Surgery

Winship Cancer Institute

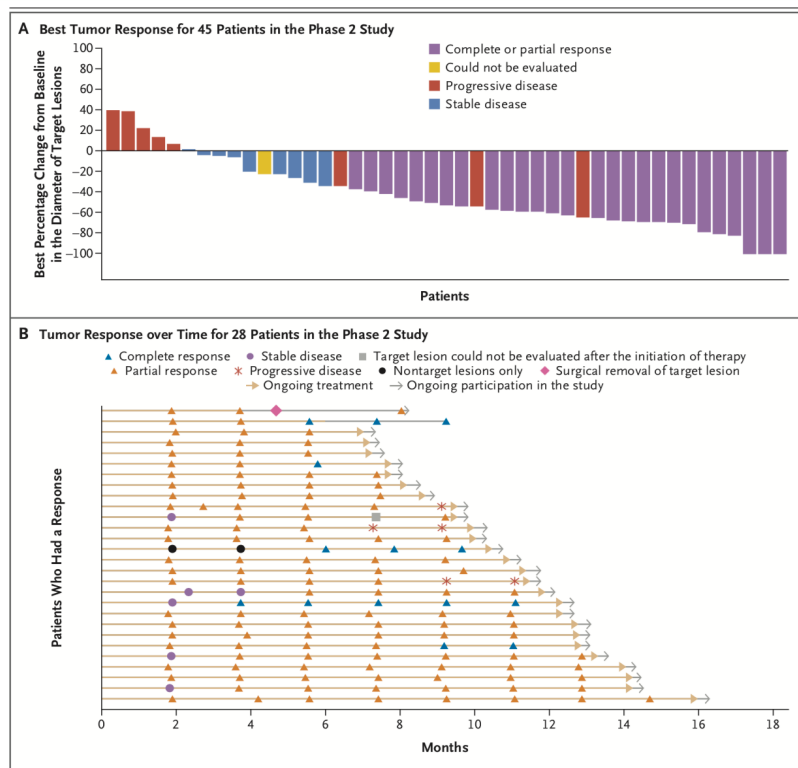


DISCLOSURES

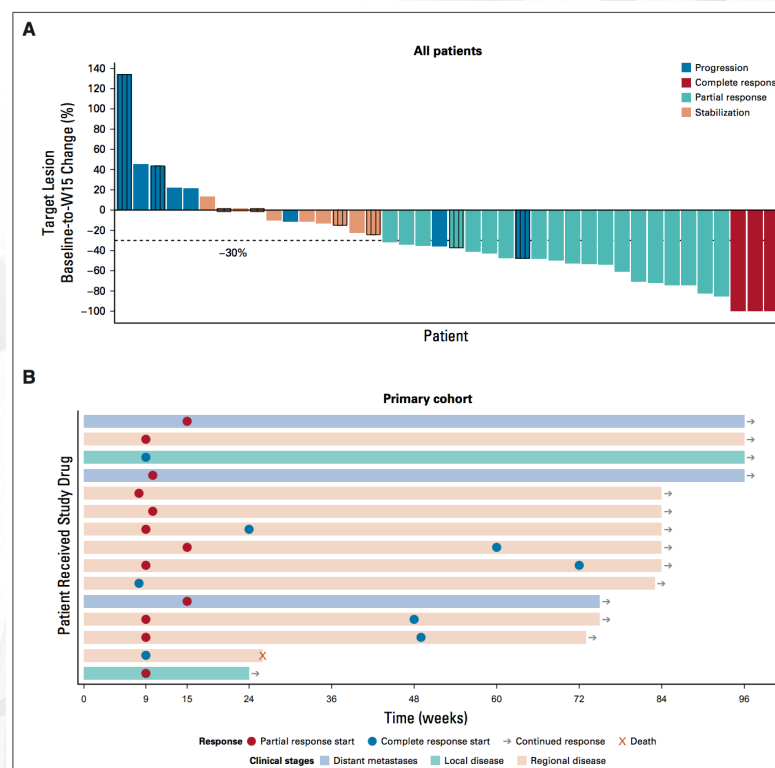
None

The surgeon is going to be arguing AGAINST surgery as a first line therapy

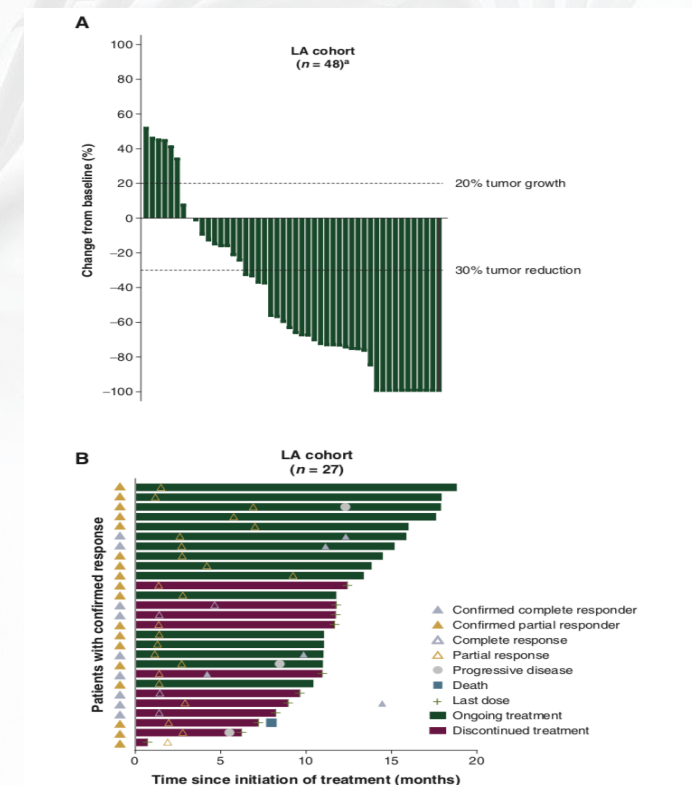
HINTS OF A BETTER WAY – UNRESECTABLE / METASTATIC CSCC TRIALS



CARSKIN - PEMBRO
Migden MR, NEJM, 2018



EMPOWER - CEMIPILIMAB



KEYNOTE 629- PEMBRO




Hughes, BGM, Annals of Oncol, 2021

WE CAN DO BETTER! WE SHOULD DO BETTER!

ORIGINAL ARTICLE



Neoadjuvant Cemiplimab for Stage II to IV Cutaneous Squamous-Cell Carcinoma

Authors: Neil D. Gross, M.D. , David M. Miller, M.D., Ph.D. , Nikhil I. Khushalani, M.D., Vasu Divi, M.D., Emily S. Ruiz, M.D., M.P.H., Evan J. Lipson, M.D., Friedegund Meier, M.D., , and Danny Rischin, M.D. [Author Info & Affiliations](#)

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CHECK THIS OUT!!!

Primary tumor site — no. (%)

Head and neck	72 (91)
Trunk, arms, and legs	7 (9)

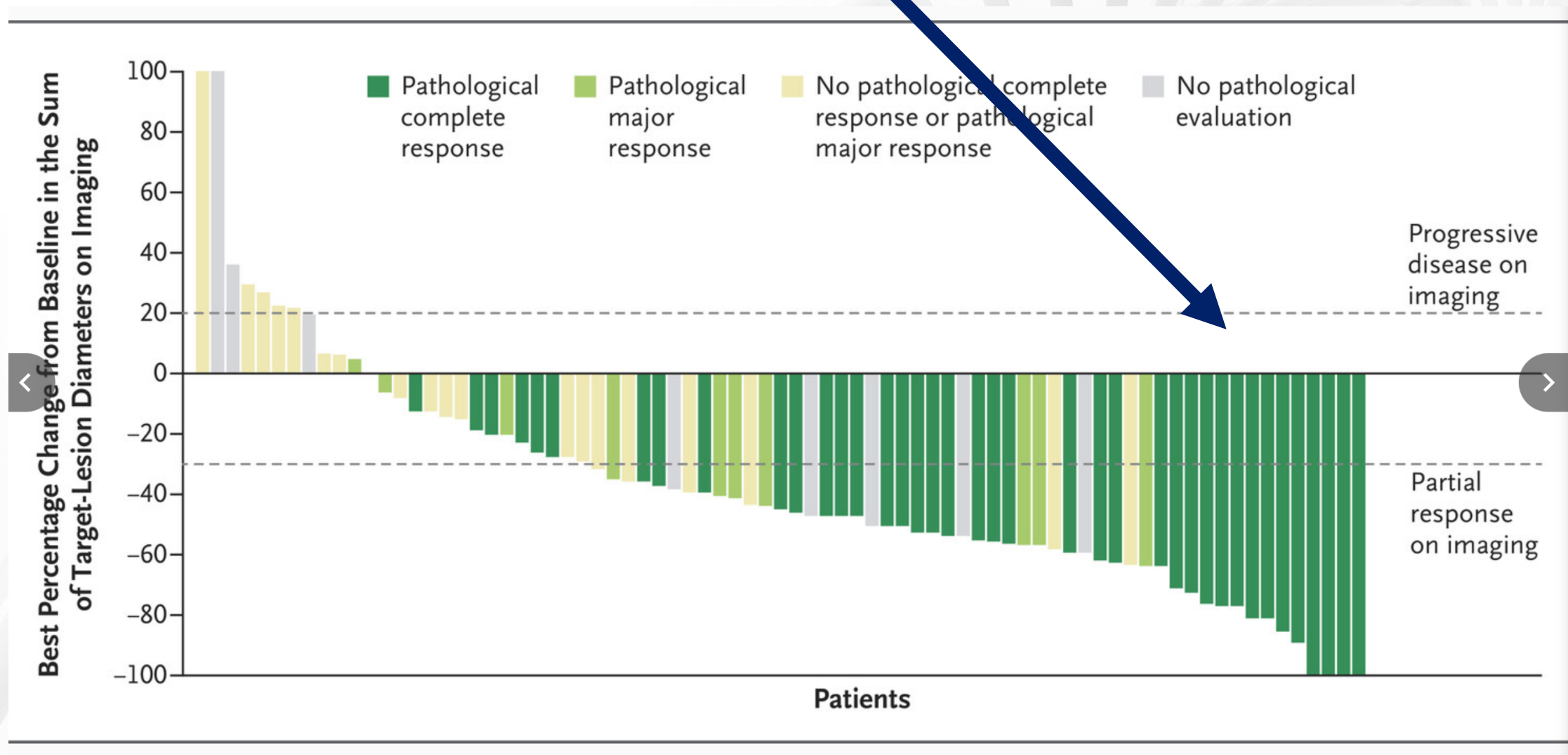
Stage group — no. (%)‡

II	5 (6)
III	38 (48)
IV (M0)	36 (46)

Tumor stage at screening — no. (%)‡

TX	23 (29)
Tis	1 (1)
T1	4 (5)
T2	10 (13)
T3	39 (49)
T4a	2 (3)

BETTER IS OUT THERE!!




THIS WORKS

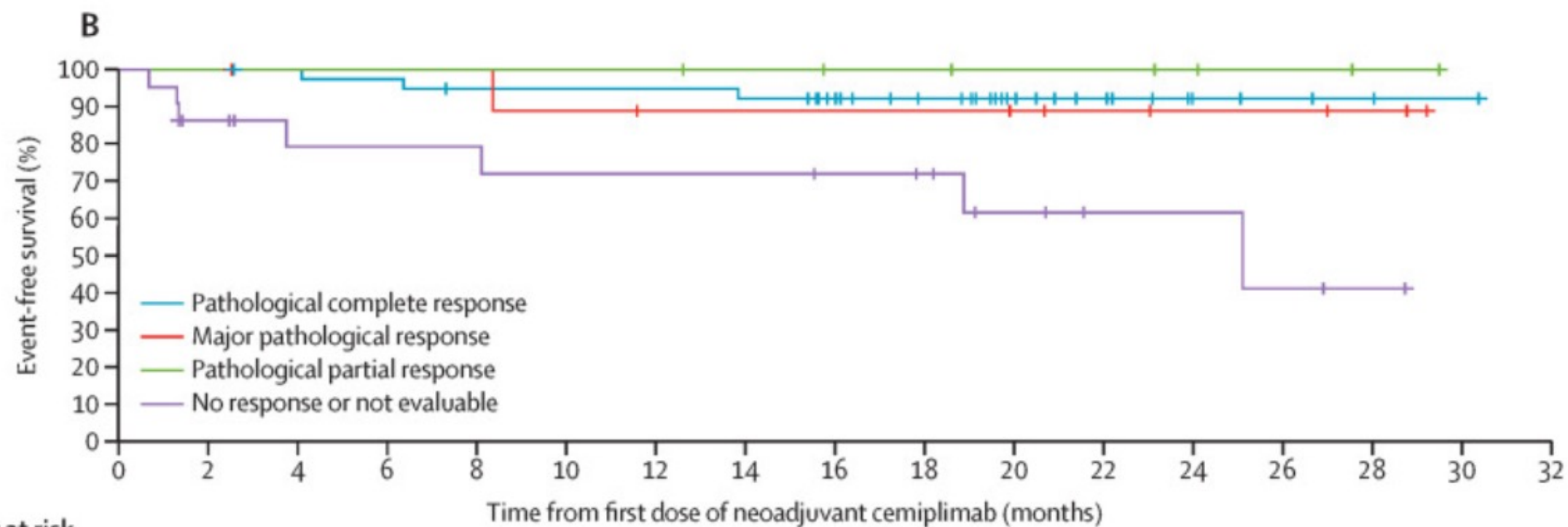
Tumor Response	Value			
	Independent Review		Investigator Assessment	
	no. (%)	95% CI	no. (%)	95% CI
Pathological complete response: absence of viable tumor cells in surgical specimen	40 (51)	39–62	42 (53)	42–65
Pathological major response: presence of viable tumor cells that constitute ≤10% of surgical specimen	10 (13)	6–22	10 (13)	6–22
Pathological minor response: presence of viable tumor cells that constitute >10% of surgical specimen†	9 (11)	—	9 (11)	—
No pathological evaluation‡	9 (11)	—	9 (11)	—
Response on imaging§				
Objective response: complete or partial response	—	—	54 (68)	57–78
Best overall response¶				
Complete response	—	—	5 (6)	—
Partial response	—	—	40 (62)	—
Stable disease	—	—	16 (20)	—
Progressive disease	—	—	8 (10)	—
Disease control	—	—	70 (89)	80–95

Articles

Neoadjuvant cemiplimab and surgery for stage II–IV cutaneous squamous-cell carcinoma: follow-up and survival outcomes of a single-arm, multicentre, phase 2 study

Prof Neil D Gross MD^a  , David M Miller MD PhD^c, Prof Nikhil I Khushalani MD^d,
Vasu Divi MD^e, Emily S Ruiz MD MPH^f, Evan J Lipson MD^g, Prof Friedegund Meier MD^{h i},
Yungpo Bernard Su MD^j, Paul L Swiecicki MD^k, Jennifer Atlas MD^l, Jessica L Geiger MD^m,
Prof Axel Hauschild MDⁿ, Jennifer H Choe MD PhD^o, Brett G M Hughes MD^p,
Prof Dirk Schadendorf MD^q, Vishal A Patel MD^r, Jade Homsí MD^s, Prof Janis M Taube MD^t,
Annette M Lim MD PhD^u, Prof Renata Ferrarotto MD^b...Prof Danny Rischin MD^u

AND ITS DURABLE!!!





IN CONCLUSION

Cemiplimab works and gives a durable result in a meaningful percentage of patients

Waiting for phase III multi-institutional trial data puts these patients at higher risk for major surgical intervention

We can always salvage the patients who fail initial therapy because few patients will progress