# Optimizing the Biomarker Testing for NSCLC

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### **Disclosures**

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## **Biomarker Testing in NSCLC**

Diagnostic / subtyping



TTF-1, p40, etc.



NGS, FISH, PD-L1, etc.

Prognostic



Ki-67, p53, etc.





## Outline

- Available targets (driver gene alterations and PD-L1) in first line treatment for NSCLC, their treatment options and clinical benefits
- A global perspective on predictive biomarker testing guidelines and practices
- Diagnostic and predictive biomarker testing with small biopsy / cytology samples and its practical approach
- . PD-L1 IHC analytical and pre-analytical issues





#### Improved Mortality from Lung Cancer in Hong Kong







### Improved Mortality from Lung Cancer in US



- Disease prevention
  - Tobacco cessation
  - Asbestos mitigation
- Early detection
  - Low-dose CT scan screening
- Improved management
  - Molecular targeted therapy
  - Immunotherapy
  - Neoadjuvant and adjuvant therapy for early-stage tumors



MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL Siegel RL, at al. CA Cancer J Clin 2023;73:17-48 PATHOLOGY

### Treatment of Advanced NSCLC Then and Now



PATHOLOGY

Advancing Diagnosis and Discovery How did we get here?

### Mutation Profiling in Lung Adenocarcinomas

![](_page_7_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_7_Picture_3.jpeg)

- Institutional experience - Courtesy of Lynette Sholl, MD

Advancing Diagnosis and Discovery

#### How did we get here?

Immune checkpoint inhibitors	2006	Chemotherapy with bevacizumab for non-squamous NSCLC (October)
Targeted therapy		
<ul> <li>ICIs histology selection (any PD-L1)</li> <li>ICIs PD-L1 selected (any histology)</li> </ul>	2009	Platinum with pemetrexed for non-squamous NSCLC (July)
	2010	
Crizotinib for ALK-positive NSCLC (August)*	2011	
	2012	
Erlotinib for EGFR-positive NSCLC (May)†	2013	
	2014	
Gefinitib for EGFR-positive NSCLC (March)	2015	
Crizotinib for ROS-positive NSCLC (March)	2016	Pembrolizumab for NSCLC with ≥50% NSCLC (October)
Ceritinib for ALK-positive NSCLC (July)†		Pambrolizumah and chamotheramy for non-course un NCCL Cutth any PD-11 expression
Dabrafenib and trametinib for BRAF-positive NSCLC (August)	2017	(May)‡
Alectinib for ALK-positive NSCLC (November)†		
Osimertinib for EGFR-positive NSCLC (April)	2018	Pembrolizumab and chemotherapy for squamous NSCLC with any PD-L1 expression (October)§
Larotrectinib for NTRK-positive NSCLC (November)¶		Atezolizumab with chemotherapy and bevacizumab for non-squamous NSCLC (December)
Entractinib for NTPK positive NSCLC (August)		
Entrectinib for ROS1-positive NSCLC (August)	2019	Pembrolizumab for NSCLC with ≥1% PD-L1 expression (April)
		Atezolizumab and chemotherapy for non-squamous NSCLC (December)
Capmatinib for MET-positive NSCLC (May)¶		Atezolizumab for NSCLC with ≥50% PD-L1 expression (May)
Selpercatinib for RET-positive NSCL (May)¶	2020	Ipilimumab and nivolumab for NSCLC with ≥1% PD-L1 expression (May)
Brigatinib for ALK-positive NSCLC (May)†		Ipilimumab and nivolumab with chemotherapy (May)

Thai AA, et al. Lancet 2021;398:535-54

Timeline of selected US FDA drug approvals for patients with treatment-naive metastatic NSCLC

## EGFR and Iressa Pan-Asian Study (IPASS)

East Asian patients with previously untreated, stage IIIB-IV lung adenocarcinoma never or former light smokers

![](_page_9_Figure_2.jpeg)

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Mok TS, et al. N Engl J Med 2009;361:947-57

![](_page_9_Picture_5.jpeg)

### 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Generation EGFR Inhibitors vs. Chemotherapy

![](_page_10_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_10_Picture_2.jpeg)

Courtesy of Zosia Piotrowska, MD, MHS

![](_page_10_Picture_4.jpeg)

### EGFR Mutant NSCLC

For patients with EGFR-mutant NSCLC, the FLAURA trial established osimertinib as the preferred first-line EGFR TKI.

![](_page_11_Figure_2.jpeg)

Ramalingam, ESMO 2017 and Ramalingam, NEJM 2019.

![](_page_11_Picture_4.jpeg)

Courtesy of Zosia Piotrowska, MD, MHS

![](_page_11_Picture_6.jpeg)

### ALK positive Advanced NSCLC

## For patients with ALK+ NSCLC, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation ALK inhibitors are the preferred first-line therapy.

A Progression-free Survival

![](_page_12_Figure_3.jpeg)

Alectinib (ALEX)

Brigatinib (ALTA-1L)

Lorlatinib (CROWN)

![](_page_12_Picture_7.jpeg)

Peters S, NEJM 2017; Camidge DR, NEJM 2018; Shaw AT, NEJM 2019

![](_page_12_Picture_9.jpeg)

### Molecularly Targeted Therapies 2023 in the US

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

Chemotherapy, Clinical Trials, Etc

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### Approved targeted therapy for 1L treatment of Advanced NSCLC in Hong Kong

Approved 1L Tx in HK	Detection of driver alterations	Safety Net Coverage
EGFR Inhibitor		
Osimertinib, Gefitinib, Erlotinib, Afatinib, Dacomitinib	CDx/LDT	Osimertinib, Gefitinib, Afatinib
ALK Inhibitor		
Crizotinib, Ceritinib, Alectinib, Lorlatinib, Brigatinib	CDx/LDT	Crizotinib, Ceritinib, Alectinib, Lorlatinib, Brigatinib
ROS1 inhibitor		
Crizotinib	CDx/LDT	Crizotinib
BRAF/MEK inhibitor		
Dabrafenib/trametinib	CDx/LDT	No
MET inhibitor		
Capmatinib, Tepotinib	CDx/LDT	No
RET inhibitor		
Pralsetinib	CDx/LDT	No
NTRK inhibitor		
Entrectinib, Larotrectinib	CDx/LDT	No
CDx: companion of CDx: compa	diagnostic, LDT: laboratory deve	eloped test Advancing and Disco

### Clinical benefit of Pembrolizumab in advanced (Stage IV) NSCLC

- IO has improved OS in advanced NSCLC
- Durable and long-term survival benefit is observed in 5-year follow-up
  - 5-yr OS rate: ~20-30%
  - ~30-40% ↓ in risk of death

#### KEYNOTE-024 5-year follow up Pembro in 1L NSCLC (PD-L1 ≥50%)

#### **Overall Survival**<sup>a</sup>

![](_page_15_Figure_7.jpeg)

5-yr OS rate: 31.9%

HR 0.62

\*ctreative crossover rate from chemomerapy to anti-+U-(L) If therapy, os//% (v9 patients in total crossed over to anti-+U-(L) in therapy, capital scrossed over to anti-+U-(L) in therapy, capital scrossed over to anti-+U-(L) in the study, and 16 patients crocked subscrossed over to a school scrossed over to anti-+U-(L) in the study and to a school sch

#### Courtesy of Dr. Jason Jen

![](_page_15_Figure_10.jpeg)

First-line immunotherapy for metastatic and/or locally advanced NSCLC w/ no *EGFR* or *ALK* genomic tumor aberrations in the US

Agent	Mechanism	Indication
Pembrolizumab	anti PD-1 Ab	Metastatic (TPS $\geq$ 50%) or advanced (TPS $\geq$ 1%) NSCLC with PD-L1 expression
+ chemotherapy		Metastatic NSCLC irrespective of PD-L1 expression
Nivolumab + Ipilimumab		Metastatic NSCLC with PD-L1 expression (TPS $\geq$ 1%)
Cemiplimab-rwlc		Advanced NSCLC with PD-L1 expression (TPS <a>50%)</a>
Atezolizumab	anti PD-L1 Ab	Metastatic NSCLC with PD-L1 expression (TC $\geq$ 50% or IC $\geq$ 10%)
+ chemotherapy & bevacizumab		Metastatic non-squamous NSCLC irrespective of PD-L1 expression

TPS: tumor proportion score, TC: tumor cells, IC: immune cell

![](_page_16_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_16_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Approved immunotherapy for 1L treatment of Advanced NSCLC in Hong Kong

Approved 1L Tx	CDx	Safety Net Coverage
Pembrolizumab Monotherapy	22C3 TPS≥1%	Yes, for TPS≥50%
Atezolizumab Monotherapy	SP142 TC≥50% or IC≥10%	Yes, for TC≥50% or IC≥10%
Pembrolizumab + chemotherapy	No	Yes, for squamous TPS≥1% and for non-squamous TPS≥50%
Nivolumab + ipilimumab + chemotherapy	No	No

CDx: companion diagnostic, TPS: tumor proportion score, TC: tumor cells, IC: immune cell

![](_page_17_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_5.jpeg)

### **Treatment Paradigm for Advanced NSCLC**

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

### "Molecularly targeted therapy is dead." - Anonymous

#### PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors

- Applicable across many tumor types
- 20-30% response rate on average
- 18 month response durability on average

#### Mutation- targeted inhibitors

- Applicable to a minor subset of many tumors
- 50-70% response rate
- Response durability 7 months over 2 years

![](_page_19_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_10.jpeg)

How many NSCLC patients are eligible for 1<sup>st</sup> line PD-1/PD-L1 monotherapy (IO) in the US?

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

\* Chemo + IO could be considered in the majority of the remaining advanced NSCLC patients

![](_page_20_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_4.jpeg)

How many NSCLC patients are eligible for 1<sup>st</sup> line PD-1/PD-L1 therapy (IO + Chemo IO) in Hong Kong?

![](_page_21_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Picture_3.jpeg)

## International Standard on Predictive Biomarker Testing Sequences

![](_page_22_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Picture_2.jpeg)

### **NCCN** Guidelines

Population	Target	Method of testing
Newly diagnosed patients	EGFR (category 1)	Broad molecular profiling (NGS)
	ALK (category 1)	
	KRAS, ROS1, BRAF, NTRK1/2/3, MET exon 14 skipping, RET	
	PD-L1 (category 1)	IHC
Relapsed patients on targeted therapy	EGFR T790M and other genomic resistance mutations (cfDNA/tissue DNA)	Broad molecular profiling (NGS)

![](_page_23_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_4.jpeg)

### ESMO 2023

Population	Target	Method of testing
Newly diagnosed patients	EGFR	Any validated method to cover mutations in exon 18-21 (DNA NGS preferred)
	ALK	RNA NGS; IHC ± molecular confirmation (NGS, FISH)
	ROS1	RNA NGS; IHC screening, molecular confirmation essential (NGS, FISH)
	RET, MET, NTRK, ERBB2 (HER2), KRAS, BRAF	DNA/RNA NGS panel testing
	PD-L1	IHC
Relapsed patients on targeted therapy	EGFR T790M and other genomic resistance mutations (cfDNA/tissue DNA)	PCR/NGS/ISH

- European countries have a diverse range of health care systems and health economies impacting the delivery of tumor molecular profiling
- EGFR, ALK and PD-L1 testing is available in all countries; others vary

![](_page_24_Picture_6.jpeg)

#### Predictive Biomarkers Tested in Different Countries on a World Map

![](_page_25_Figure_1.jpeg)

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL PATHOLOGY

Lung cancer worldwide. Editorial series. J Thorac Oncol 2019-2022

Advancing Diagnosis and Discovery

### A Global Perspective on Molecular Testing Guidelines and Practices

By Deepali Jain, Wendy A. Cooper, Lizza E. Hendriks, Fred R. Hirsch, Mehdi Karkouri, Keith M. Kerr, Dongmei Lin, Ming-Sound Tsao, and Yasushi Yatabe

#### Conclusion

Global implementation of standard biomarker testing guidelines in lung cancer depends on country-specific local and regional factors that include availability of resources and infrastructure, affordability, reimbursement policies by government or private parties, access to testing assays, and drug approval mechanisms. Although the recommendations on the specific tests are not consistent across countries, testing for *EGFR*, *ALK*, *ROS1*, and PD-L1 is widely implemented. With increased availability of novel targeted therapies, we anticipate this list to expand, necessitating a shift toward multiplexed testing.

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IASLC ATLAS of MOLECULAR TESTING for TARGETED THERAPY in LUNG CANCER

![](_page_26_Picture_7.jpeg)

<sup>6</sup> 

## Molecular Profiling and PD-L1 Testing Should be Done at the Same Time

#### IMMUNOTarget Registry<sup>1</sup>

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![](_page_27_Figure_2.jpeg)

#### First-line Pembrolizumab in PDL1+ EGFR+ NSCLC<sup>2</sup>

![](_page_27_Figure_4.jpeg)

- Sequential use of critozinib following immunotherapy was also associated with a significantly increased risk of grade 3/4 hepatotoxicity<sup>3</sup>
- Data with newer MET, RET TKIs is not yet available, but all TKIs should be used with caution after immunotherapy.

1. Mazieres J, Ann Oncol 2019; 2. Lisberg, JTO 2018; 3. Lin JJ, JTO 2019

![](_page_27_Picture_8.jpeg)

Likelihood of Receiving Second Line Therapy for Advanced NSCLC

- 230 patients with stage IIIB (13%) or IV (87%) NSCLC
- First line therapy with carboplatin and paclitaxel
- Only 44% received second line therapy after progression
- An increased likelihood of receiving second line therapy was associated with:
  - High baseline performance status / female gender / non-squamous histology/ Two or more cycles of first line therapy

The most effective therapy should be used for the first line therapy – Appropriate assessment on available predictive biomarkers at the time of diagnosis is of paramount importance

![](_page_28_Picture_7.jpeg)

Hensing TA, et al. Lung Cancer 2005;47:253-9

![](_page_28_Picture_9.jpeg)

## **Biomarker Testing in NSCLC**

- Diagnostic TTF-1 / p40, etc.
- Predictive Driver gene alterations, PD-L1, etc.
- Prognostic Ki-67, p53, etc.

![](_page_29_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Picture_5.jpeg)

### **Practical Challenges for Pathologists**

- NSCLC: 70% present at an advanced stage (stage III-IV)
- Tissue samples for the initial diagnosis from advanced stage NSCLC patients are typically small biopsies and cytology
- They need to be efficiently utilized for diagnosis, subtyping and molecular profiling, etc.
- Guidelines for good practice of small biopsies and cytological preparations (WHO 2021)

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#### Stage Distribution of Lung Cancer in 2020 2020年肺癌期數分佈

![](_page_30_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_30_Picture_7.jpeg)

## Histologic Subtyping of NSCLC

- Can be done based on HE in 70%
- IHC necessary to subtype poorly-differentiated non-small cell carcinoma (NSCC, NOS on HE) into solid ADC vs. nonkeratinizing SqCC vs. others
- Clinical implications
  - Main targetable genetic alterations (EGFR, ALK, ROS1, etc.) are associated with ADC (non-squamous) histology
  - Histology-based agents: contraindicated for SqCC
    - Bevacizumab (Avastin)
    - Pemetrexed (Alimta)
  - Appropriate subtyping for future investigation?

![](_page_31_Picture_9.jpeg)

Adenocarcinoma (ADC)

![](_page_31_Picture_11.jpeg)

Squamous cell carcinoma (SqCC)

![](_page_31_Picture_13.jpeg)

https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\_gls/pdf/nscl.pdf

![](_page_31_Picture_15.jpeg)

NSCC, NOS morphology on HE

Minimal initial panel: TTF-1 and p40

Additional markers, if the initial panel negative or unusual: Napsin A, CK5/6, etc.

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![](_page_32_Picture_3.jpeg)

### NSCLC subtyping with TTF-1 and p40

#### Presumable lung primary with poorly-differentiated NSCC morphology

![](_page_33_Figure_2.jpeg)

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ADC: adenocarcinoma, SqCC: squamous cell carcinoma, NSCC: non-small cell carcinoma Advancing Diagnosis and Discovery

### Testing Workflows for Patients with Advanced (non-squamous) NSCLC

#### For molecular profiling, NGS is preferred, but if

Upfront NGS is not feasible, such as for the following reasons:

- 1. NGS is not approved/available (eg, reimbursement issues)
- 2. Immediate treatment intervention (eg, oncologic emergency)
- 3. The specimen is not optimal (eg, too small for NGS testing or low tumor cell content in the tissue)
- 4. Higher cost-benefit of an initial single testing for a particular gene alteration due to high prevalence in the region (eg, EGFR in Asian countries)

Multiple single gene testing simultaneous or sequenced

Examples of possible approaches to consider:

- PCR testing of EGFR, BRAF, and KRAS (single gene or rapid multi-gene assays)
- IHC for ALK (possibly ROS1 and NTRK)
- Rapid multiplex fusion gene assays

![](_page_34_Picture_12.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_14.jpeg)

### Testing Workflows for Patients with Advanced (non-squamous) NSCLC

![](_page_35_Figure_1.jpeg)

\* A second larger NGS panel may also be considered, if the first NGS panel does not include additional genes/mutations with therapy available including in clinical trials

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![](_page_35_Picture_4.jpeg)

### Algorithm for Biomarker Testing in Lung Cancer

![](_page_36_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Strategy for Maximizing Tissue for Diagnosis, Subtyping, and predictive Biomarker Testing

(A) Biomarker/molecular testing sections prepared together with H&E section

![](_page_37_Picture_2.jpeg)

If subtyping can be done on HE alone, all the unstained slides will be used for predictive biomarker testing.

- # of unstained sections to be prepared is determined by the institutional/departmental strategy for optimal tissue use to reduce tissue sample loss and turnaround time
- Many laboratories cut sections for DNA/RNA extraction on a dedicated microtome to prevent cross-contamination

PATHO

![](_page_37_Picture_7.jpeg)

### Strategy for Maximizing Tissue for Diagnosis, Subtyping, and predictive Biomarker Testing

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

\* For IHC (diagnosis and histologic subtyping)

#### If subtyping can be done on HE alone, unstained slides only for predictive biomarker testing are cut.

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL IASLC ATLAS of MOLECULAR TESTING for TARGETED THERAPY in LUNG CANCER, modified PATHOLOGY

![](_page_38_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Tissue conservation is key.

- Biopsy protocols:
  - More than one core in the jar submit one core per cassette -> HE
  - Only one core in the jar HE & 6 unstained slides (kept in Histology/IHC lab) cut for routine diagnosis
  - Consider the following process upon ordering IHC for diagnosis in stage IIIB-IV NSCLC to avoid refacing the block at multiple times
    - IHC
    - A few unstained slides for potential additional stains (kept in Histology/IHC lab)
    - 1-2 USS for PD-L1 (+/- CD8)

![](_page_39_Picture_8.jpeg)

 10 or 18 USS to molecular (CID) depending on tumor tissue size (run panel order "MOL" in CoPath)

![](_page_39_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_39_Picture_11.jpeg)

## PD-L1 IHC

### FDA Approved IO for the First Line Treatment for NSCLC Patients with Required PD-L1 testing

Immune checkpoint inhibitor	Companion Diagnostic*	IHC Platform	Scoring criteria
Pembrolizumab (anti PD-1)	22C3 pharmDx assay	Dako Autostainer Link 48	TPS <u>&gt;</u> 1%
Nivolumab (anti PD-1) + Ipilimumab (anti CTLA4)	28-8 pharmDx assay	Dako Autostainer Link 48	TPS <u>&gt;</u> 1%
Atezolizumab (anti PD-L1)	VENTANA PD-L1 (SP142) assay	Ventana BenchMark ULTRA	TC <u>&gt;</u> 50% or IC <u>&gt;</u> 10%
Cemiplimab-rwlc (anti PD-1)	22C3 pharmDx assay	Dako Autostainer Link 48	TPS <u>&gt;</u> 50%

\*Each clinical trial/commercial IHC assay is determined by not only antibody clone, but also IHC platform and reagents

![](_page_41_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_4.jpeg)

### Blueprint phase 2A project

# Compatibility of PD-L1 staining on tumor cells among 5 clinical trial (commercial) assays

![](_page_42_Figure_2.jpeg)

Data broadly similar to those found in previous studies

SP142 stains fewer tumor cells

73-10 stains, to variable degree, more tumor cells

SP263 may stain more tumor cells than 22C3 and 28-8

![](_page_42_Picture_7.jpeg)

Courtesy of Dr. Keith Kerr

![](_page_42_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

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Advancing Diagnosis Tsao MS, et al. J Thorac Oncol 2018 Sep;43(9):1302-1311

### **Pre-analytical Issues**

- Antigenicity may drop significantly in tissue blocks older than 3 years
- PD-L1 IHC assays have not been validated for decalcified tissue
- The use of cytology samples for PD-L1 IHC is currently not recommended, due to the lack of rigorous validation for this purpose

... but, cytology samples may be the only specimen available for PD-L1 testing in many advanced NSCLC patients

![](_page_44_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_44_Picture_6.jpeg)

### PD-L1 IHC in cytology works

Publication (cell blocks)	n	Assay	Platform	Concordance TPS ≥ 50%
Skov BG	86	28-8pharmDx 22C3pharmDx	ASL48 (Dako)	90% 94%
Heymann J	23	22C3pharmDx	BMU (Ventana)	91%
Russel E	41	E1L3N LDT	ASL48 (Dako)	84%
llie M	70	22C3 LDTs	ASL48 (Dako) BM U (Ventana)	96%
Noll B	38	22C3pharmDx	ASL48 (Dako)	89%
Wang G	34	22C3pharmDx	ASL48 (Dako)	91%

TPS <1 Cell blocks **TPS 100** Non-cell blocks

SP263

H&E

Skov & Skov, Appl Immunohistochem Mol Morphol 2017;25:452, Heymann JJ et al, CCP 2017, Russel-Goldman E et al CCP 2018, Ilie M et al CCP 2018, , Noll B et al CCP 2018, Wang G et al, Lung Cancer 2019

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![](_page_45_Picture_4.jpeg)

Courtesy of Dr. Lukas Bubendorf

Only for TCs

(not for ICs)

### PD-L1 IHC in ethanol-fixed cytology smears works

![](_page_46_Picture_1.jpeg)

22C3 PharmDx

SP263

FFPE	Direct Cytological Pap-Stained Specimens					
samples	TPS <1%         TPS ≥1%         TPS ≥4		TPS ≥50%	Total		
TPS <1%	56	1	0	57		
TPS ≥1%	1	31	0	32		
TPS ≥50%	0	1	23	24		
Total	57	33	23	113		

 Noll et al (22C3 Pharm DX: Concordance TPS ≥ 50%:

 PAP vs biopsy: 100% (37/37; 19 with TPS≥50)

 CB vs biopsy: 89% (34/38; 14 with TPS≥50)

The quantification of PD-L1 expression on direct Papanicolaou-stained cytology smears is feasible and reliable for both assays (22C3 PharmDX & SP263 Assay).

Lozano MD et al, Cancer Cytopathol 2019, Noll B et al, Cancer Cytopathol 2018

![](_page_46_Picture_8.jpeg)

Courtesy of Dr. Lukas Bubendorf

![](_page_46_Picture_10.jpeg)

### Evaluation of PD-L1 IHC in NSCLC

### **Tumor Proportion Score**

![](_page_47_Figure_2.jpeg)

0% positive

30% positive

95% positive

- TPS (tumor proportion score) is typically classified into <1%, 1-49% or <a>>50%</a>
- Given that each anti-PD-1/PD-L1 agent is coupled to a specific cut-off(s), it would be ideal to measure % of PD-L1 positive tumor cells with 5-10% increments (<1%, 1-4%, 5-9%, then 5-10% increments)</li>

![](_page_47_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_9.jpeg)

### Tumor Infiltrating Immune Cell (IC) Scoring

![](_page_48_Figure_1.jpeg)

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\* % of tumor area with positive immune: cells

#### Interobserver Agreement of Tumor Cells vs. Immune Cells PD-L1 expression

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

- Very good concordance in TC PD-L1 scoring with all assays (overall ICC 0.86-0.93)
- Poor concordance in IC PD-L1 scoring (overall ICC 0.18-0.19)

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Ming TS, et al. J Thorac Oncol 2018;13:1302-11

![](_page_49_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Sources of discordance

- PD-L1 expression in macrophages
- Low intensity membranous staining
- Heterogeneity of PD-L1 expression in tumor cells
- Cytology specimen

![](_page_50_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_6.jpeg)

### PD-L1 IHC

- A. Alveolar macrophages exhibit membranous staining (circle), while tumor cells are negative
- B. There are several tumor cells with weak, incomplete membranous staining (arrows), while several cells exhibit moderate membranous staining (circle) – both are considered positive for PD-L1 expression
- C. An example of moderate to strong membranous staining of PD-L1

![](_page_51_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Picture_7.jpeg)

### Intratumoral heterogeneity of PD-L1 expression

![](_page_52_Picture_1.jpeg)

In a large specimen with heterogenous PD-L1 staining in tumor cells:

- Divide the tumor area into the similar-size squares/rectangles
- Measure TPS in each square/rectangle
- Calculate the mean of all TPSs

Advancing Diagnost Pathology https://www.agilent.com/cs/library/usermanuals/public/29158\_pd-l1-ihc-22C3-pharmdx-nsclc-interp**retation**rman

![](_page_53_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_53_Picture_1.jpeg)

## Points

- Multiple molecularly targeted therapies and immunotherapies have become available as 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment for advanced NSCLC patients
- Predictive biomarker testing during or following the diagnostic workup has become an essential tool for the selection of patients for those therapies
- Optimizing the biomarker testing using often small tissue samples is of paramount importance for management of advanced NSCLC patients

![](_page_54_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_54_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_55_Picture_0.jpeg)

### **ROS1** positive Advanced NSCLC

![](_page_56_Figure_1.jpeg)

MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL PATHOLOGY Shaw A NEJM 2014, Shaw A Ann Oncol 2019, Drilon A Lancet Oncol 2020

Advancing Diagnosis and Discovery

### Clinical benefit of Atezolizumab in advanced (Stage IV) NSCLC

#### Impower110 PD-L1 high (TC3 or IC3) expression

![](_page_57_Figure_2.jpeg)

Months

#### No. at Risk

Atezolizumab Chemotherapy 98 89

Chemotherany

![](_page_57_Figure_6.jpeg)

![](_page_57_Figure_7.jpeg)

#### Impower150 (+ Chemo) for non-squamous NSCLC

A: atezolizumab, B: bevacizumab, C: carboplatin, P: paclitaxel

![](_page_57_Figure_10.jpeg)

#### No. at Risk

ABCP 359 339 328 323 314 310 296 284 273 264 256 250 235 218 188 167 147 133 119 103 84 66 57 41 34 28 337 326 315 308 287 280 268 255 247 233 216 203 196 174 152 129 115 101 87 77 66 56 40 32 29 22 13 6 3 1 1 1

BCP

## China

- Approved therapeutic molecular targets: *EGFR* and *BRAF* mutations, *ALK*, *ROS1*, *RET*, and *NTRK* fusions, and *MET* exon 14 skipping mutations
- Testing methods

Pathology

- Mutations: PCR-based and NGS
- Fusions: FISH, ARMS, PCR, NGS (RNA-based) and IHC (companion or screening)
- Molecular testing is routinely performed on surgical samples of NSCLC with non-squamous histology at stage IB or above
- PD-L1 detection is equally important and should be performed at the same time

IASLC ATLAS of MOLECULAR TESTING for TARGETED THERAPY in LUNG CANCER

![](_page_58_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Picture_2.jpeg)

# Consequences of False Positive and Negative Results

New lung cancer patients in 2018:	TPS	<1%	1-24%	25-49%	50-74%	<u>&gt;</u> 75%
234,000	Proportion	39%	31%	6.7%	8.6%	15%
NSCLC: 198,900 Advanced: 113,000	ORR (1 <sup>st</sup> line)	8.1%	12.9%	19.4%	29.6%	45.4%

- 10-20% of false positive results for the 50% cut-off could lead to treating 800 -1,500 patients with 1<sup>st</sup> line pembrolizumab only, for 80% of which additional chemotherapy might be helpful.
- 10-20% of false negative results for the 50% cut-off could lead to combination therapy in 1,000 - 2,000 patients, 30% of which would have responded to the 1<sup>st</sup> line pembrolizumab only (without having additional side effects due to chemotherapy).

![](_page_60_Picture_4.jpeg)

Garon, et al. N Engl J Med 2015;372:2018-28, Reck M, et al. N Engl J Med 2016;375:1823-33

![](_page_60_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Figure_0.jpeg)

Training: 84% of participants have undergone some training. The rate is lower in the North America (69.0%) and Central & South America (75.0%).

Mino-Kenudson M, et al. J Thorac Oncol 2021;16:686-96

MASSACHUSETTS

PATHOLOGY

GENERAL HOSPITAL

![](_page_61_Picture_3.jpeg)

### Blueprint phase 2A project

Cytology samples are often uninterpretable (in particular, by non-cytopathologists)

![](_page_62_Figure_2.jpeg)

Courtesy of Dr. Keith Kerr