

# Invited Discussant Abstract 260

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# Molecular Epidemiology Study of PD-L1 Expression in Patients With *EGFR*-Mutant NSCLC - Abstract 260

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# Disclosures: Keith Kerr

- I have acted as consultant/advisor for Roche Genentech, Astra Zeneca, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Clovis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck Sharp Dohme
- I have received honoraria for speaker bureau from Roche Genentech, Astra Zeneca, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Boehringer Ingelheim, Bristol Myers Squibb

# PD-L1 expression.....

- Ligand for PD1, in combination, an immune inhibitory checkpoint
- Adopted by tumours to inhibit an effective immune response
- PD1 or PD-L1 as a therapeutic target
- PD-L1 as a biomarker
- EGFR mutation: a biomarker for EGFR TKI therapy
- Role for immunotherapy in this tumour subset?

# PD-L1 IHC in resected EGFR-mutant lung cancer

- Retrospective analysis (2006-2014)
- PD-L1 assay 22C3 PharmDx kit (Dako)
  - High expression  $\geq 50\%$  cells
  - Low expression 1-49% cells
- Correlate expression with RFS, OS, EGFR mutation type, Stage, smoking status

# Patient Characteristics

EGFR mutant, resected  
adenocarcinomas

N = 319*	
Age, median (range), y	62.0 (35-84)
Sex, n (%)	
Male	125 (39%)
Female	194 (61%)
Never Smokers	64%
Stage IA Disease	48%
Median Follow-up, y	7
Resection with Curative Intent	94%
Post-surgery Chemotherapy	43%
EGFR-TKI	30%
Radiation	18%



\* 97% of patients had adenocarcinoma.

6



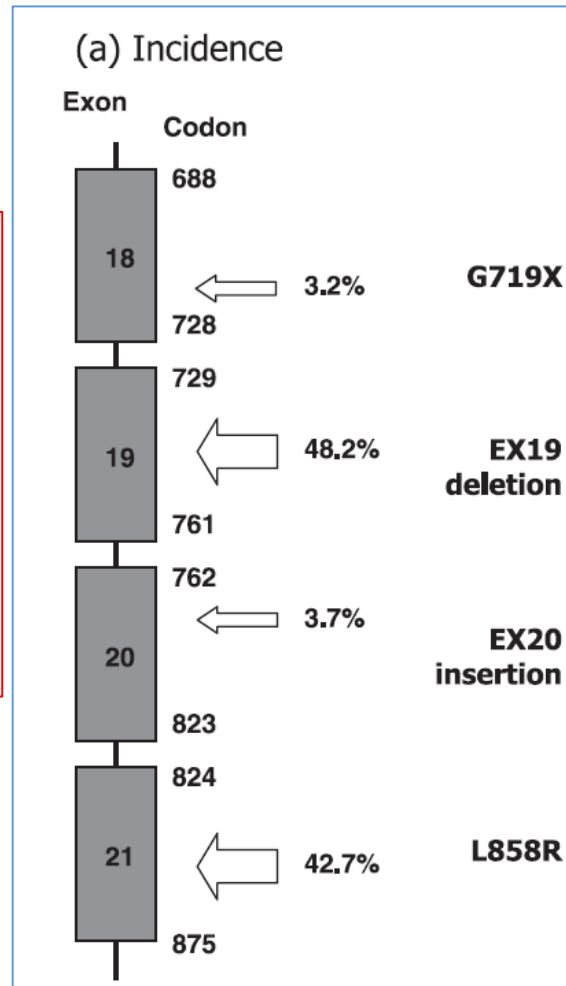
# Mutation findings in an EGFR-mutated cohort

- N=319
- 54% exon 19 (most exon19del)
- 39% exon 21 (most L858R)
- 4% exon 18
- 3% exon 20
- Screening all 4 exons

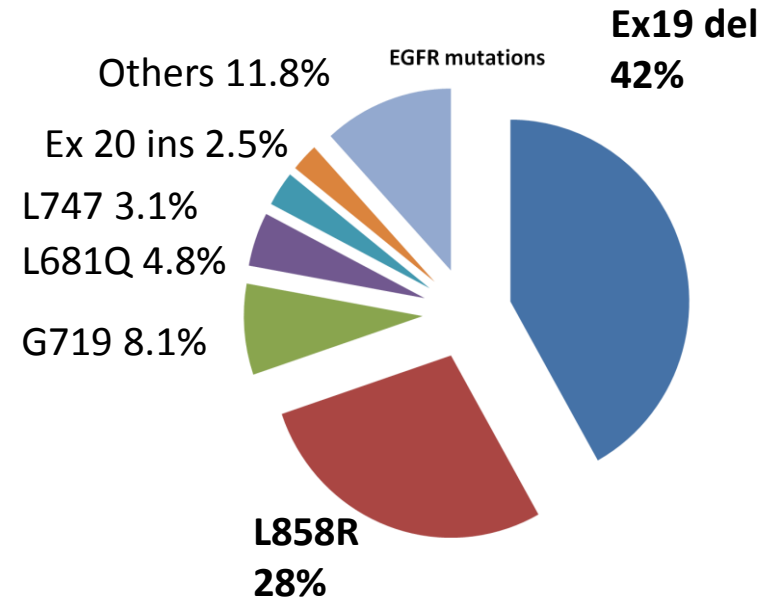
# Comparative EGFR mutation epidemiology

Ex18: nil  
Ex19: 19.4%  
Ex20: 8.3%  
**Ex21 L858R: 72%**

Lee et al. JTO 2010



Mitsudomi and Yatabe. Can Sci 2007



Kret et al.  
Lung Cancer 2015

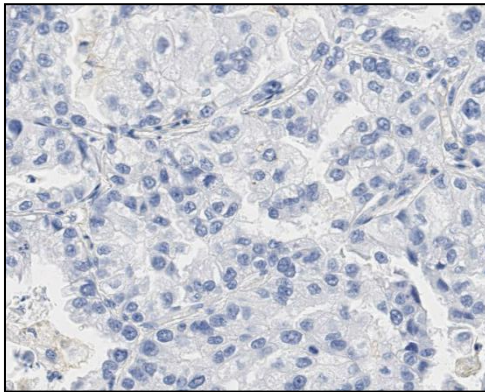
Comparison confounded  
By methodology



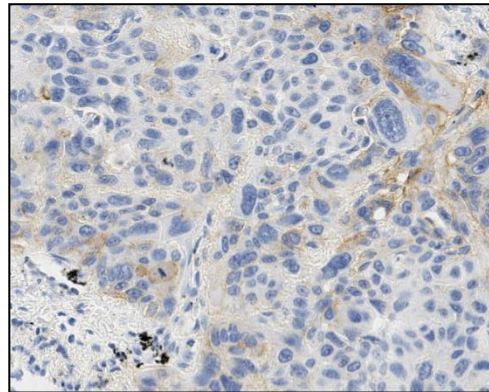
# PD-L1 status: 22C3 PharmDx kit

- 54% 'positive'
  - 8% 'strong': High  $\geq 50\%$
  - 44% 'weak': Low 1-49%
  - 46%: negative

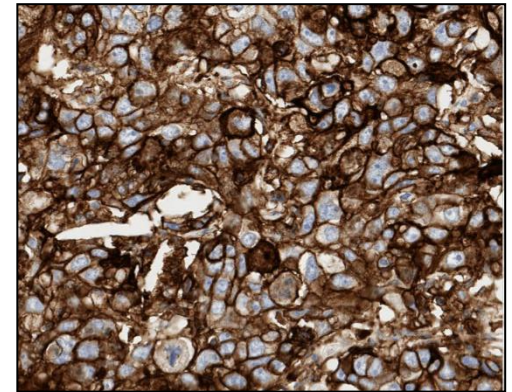
Language is quite important  
when referring to staining



PD-L1 Negative  
(TPS = 0)

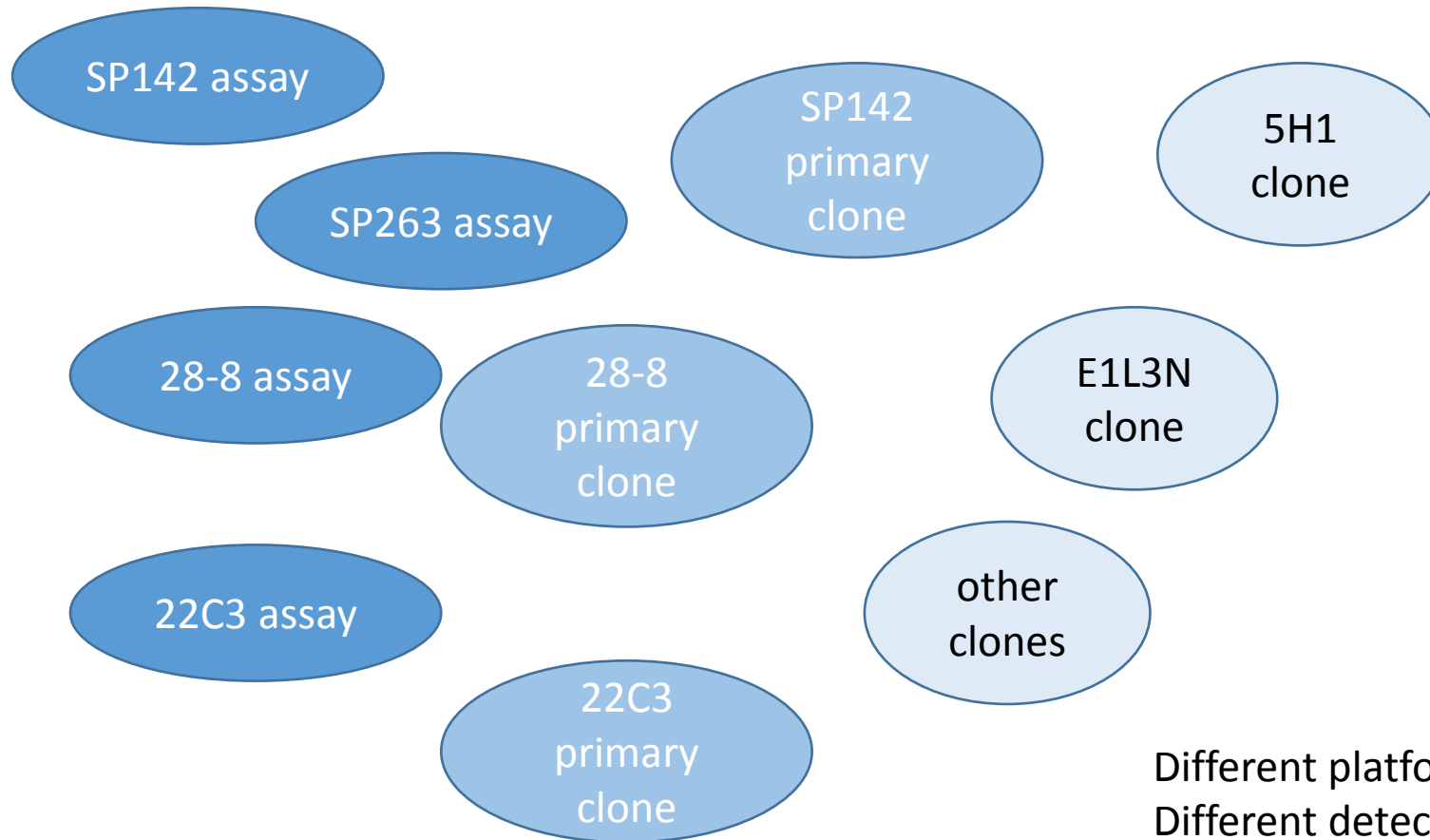


PD-L1 Weak Positive  
(TPS = 15%)



PD-L1 Strong Positive  
(TPS = 100%)

# Widely different PD-L1 IHC assays are used in trials or as RUO agents



Different platforms  
Different detection chemistry  
Primary clones have different  
Epitope specificity

# Programmed Death Receptor 1 and Its Ligand Immunohistochemistry in Lung Cancer

*In what state is this art?*

**TABLE 1.** Summary of Published Findings for PD-L1 Immunohistochemistry in Therapeutic Trials

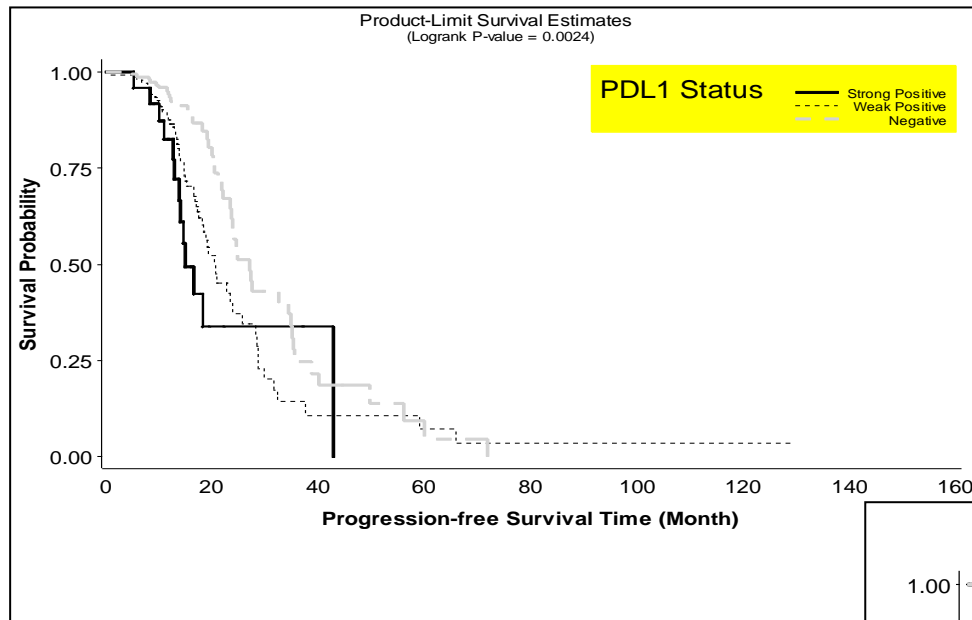
Drug	Biomarker Antibody	Rx Line	Definition of "Positive" <sup>a</sup> (%)	N Positive (%)	Positive Predictive Outcome	ORR % IHC pos. Cases	ORR % IHC neg. Cases
Nivolumab	Dako 28-8	1st	≥5 in >100 cells	59	Yes	31 <sup>b</sup>	10
Nivolumab	Dako 28-8	≥2nd	≥5, ≥1	49, 56	No	15, 13	14, 17
Nivolumab + Ipilimumab	Dako 28-8	1st	≥5 in >100 cells	42	No	19	14
Nivolumab	Dako 28-8	≥2nd	≥5	33 <sup>c</sup>	Yes	24	14
Nivolumab	5H1 <sup>d</sup>	≥2nd	≥5, also studied THICs	67	Yes	No data for lung	No data for lung
Pembrolizumab	Dako 22C3	Any	"Strong" ≥50, "Weak" 1–49	25, 70	Yes, Yes	37, 17	9
Pembrolizumab	Dako 22C3	1st	≥50, ≥1	?	Yes	47, 26	?
MPDL3280A	Roche Ventana, SP142	≥2nd	≥10, <sup>e</sup> ≥5, ≥1 THICs	13, 28, 56	Yes	83, 46, 31	18, 18, 20
MEDI-4736	Roche Ventana, SP263	≥2nd	Data not available	41	Yes	25	3

Frequency of PD-L1 'positivity' is variable,  
as are definitions of positivity and assays used

# PD-L1 Expression In Patients With EGFR Mutations

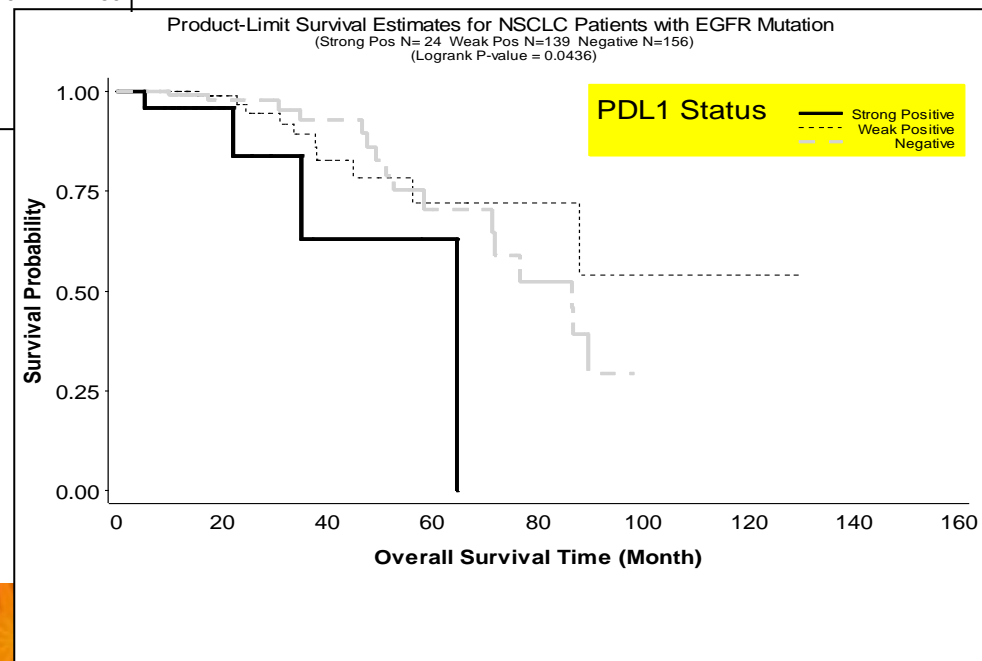
	Subgroup	Sample Size	PD-L1 Expression Status			Chi-square
			Strongly Positive	Weakly Positive	Negative	
		N	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	P-value
Higher In	Overall	319	24 ( 7.5)	139 ( 43.6)	156 ( 48.9)	
	Gender					
Males	Male	125	13 ( 10.4)	64 ( 51.2)	48 ( 38.4)	0.008
	Female	194	11 ( 5.7)	75 ( 38.7)	108 ( 55.7)	
Smokers	Smoking Status					
	Never	205	11 ( 5.4)	82 ( 40.0)	112 ( 54.6)	0.011
	Smokers	114	13 ( 11.4)	57 ( 50.0)	44 ( 38.6)	
	ECOG					
	0	202	12 ( 5.9)	88 ( 43.6)	102 ( 50.5)	0.345
	1/2/3/4	116	12 ( 10.3)	50 ( 43.1)	54 ( 46.6)	
	Stage					
	IA	154	6 ( 3.9)	61 ( 39.6)	87 ( 56.5)	0.004
	IB	47	1 ( 2.1)	20 ( 42.6)	26 ( 55.3)	
Higher	II	40	7 ( 17.5)	20 ( 50.0)	13 ( 32.5)	
	III	59	9 ( 15.3)	28 ( 47.5)	22 ( 37.3)	
Stage	IV	16	1 ( 6.3)	9 ( 56.3)	6 ( 37.5)	
disease						

# PD-L1 high expression: poorer prognosis



PFS

OS



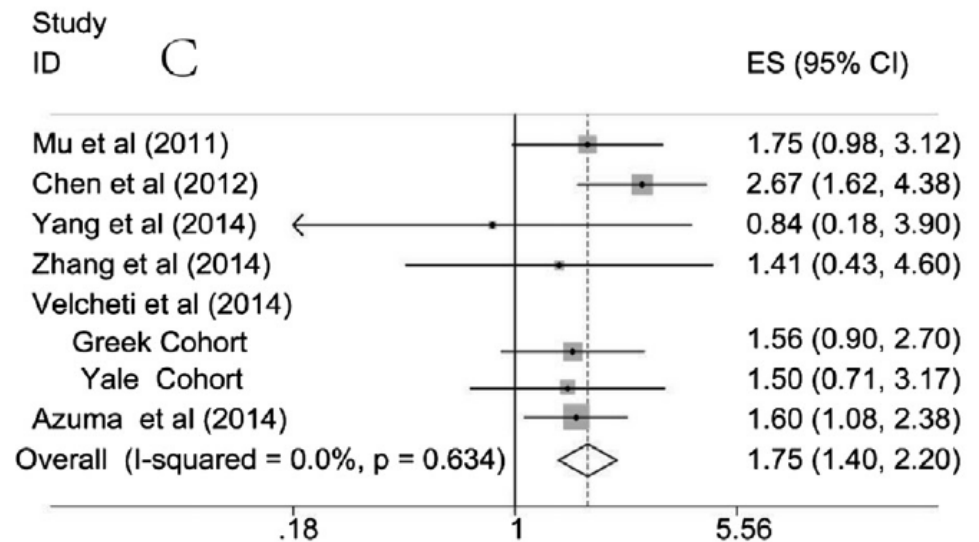
# PD-L1 'over-expression' is associated with poorer post-operative prognosis

Table 1  
Clinical characteristics of qualified records in meta-analysis.

Author	Year	Region	Cancer type	Stage	Method	Cut-off	Number of patients		Outcome
							Positive-PD-L1	Negative-PD-L1	
Mu et al. <sup>22</sup>	2011	China	NSCLC	I–III	IHC	Media H-scores	58	51	OS
Chen et al. <sup>23</sup>	2012	China	NSCLC	I–III	IHC	IRS >3 points	69	51	OS
Yang et al. <sup>6</sup>	2014	Taiwan	AD	I	IHC	≥5%	65	98	OS
Zhang et al. <sup>24</sup>	2014	China	AD	I–III	IHC	NM	70	73	OS
Velcheti et al. <sup>25</sup>	2014	USA (Greek Chorot)	NSCLC	I–IV	AQUA	AQUA scores	75	228	OS
	2014	USA (Yale Chorot)	NSCLC	I–IV	AQUA	AQUA scores	56	99	OS
Azuma et al. <sup>26</sup>	2014	Japan	NSCLC	I–III	IHC	NM	82	82	OS

IHC – variable techniques  
IHC positive – variably defined  
IHC – variably interpreted

Conclusion reasonably consistent



# PD-L1 status using the 22C3 PharmDx assay: are there comparable data?

- 52% 'positive'
  - 8% 'strong': High  $\geq 50\%$
  - 44% 'weak': Low 1-49%
  - 46%: negative

*Keynote 001 trial* (Garon E et al, NEJM 2015)

- 60.8% 'positive'
  - 23.2% high expression
  - 37.6% low expression

*But*

*All NSCLC, although 81% adenoca  
15.5% EGFR mutated  
Advanced disease*



# PD-L1 status using the 22C3 PharmDx assay: are there comparable data?

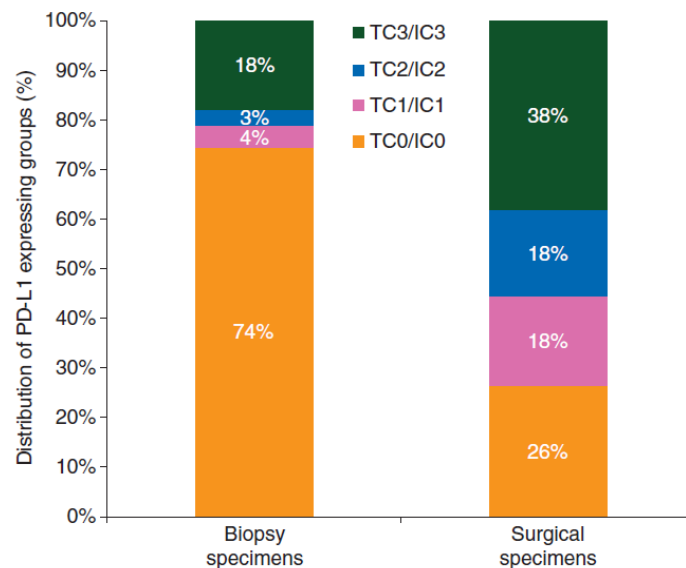
*Keynote 001 trial* (Garon E et al, NEJM 2015)

PD-L1 status	Garon et al Non- Squamous	Cho et al All mutant adenos	Garon et al Never smokers	Cho et al Never smokers	Garon et al Current/ Former smokers	Cho et al Smokers
High ( $\geq 50\%$ )	35.8%	8%	32.5%	5.4%	36.2%	11.4%
Low (1-49%)	51.2%	44%	55.8%	40%	49.7%	50%
Absent	13.0%	46%	11.7%	54.6%	14.1%	14.1%



# Discordant PD-L1 expression between biopsy and surgical resection? Could the sample type influence findings?

- Ventana SP142 IHC
- LDT, not the CDx assay
- Most of discordance due to lack of Immune cell staining in biopsy
- Yet these findings still opposite those for 22C3



Ilie et al, Ann Oncol 2015

PD-L1 expression is a favorable prognostic factor in early stage non-small cell carcinoma

Lung Cancer 89 (2015) 181–188

Wendy A. Cooper<sup>a,b,c,\*</sup>, Thang Tran<sup>a</sup>, Ricardo E. Vilain<sup>a,b,d</sup>, Jason Madore<sup>d</sup>, Christina I. Selinger<sup>a</sup>, Maija Kohonen-Corish<sup>c,f,g</sup>, PoYee Yip<sup>b,e,f,h</sup>, Bing Yu<sup>b,i</sup>, Sandra A. O'Toole<sup>a,b,f</sup>, Brian C. McCaughan<sup>j</sup>, Jennifer H. Yearley<sup>k</sup>, Lisa G. Horvath<sup>b,e</sup>, Steven Kao<sup>b,e</sup>, Michael Boyer<sup>b,e</sup>, Richard A. Scolyer<sup>a,b,d</sup>

22C3 primary Ab

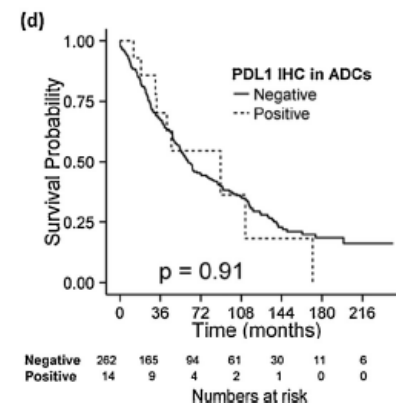
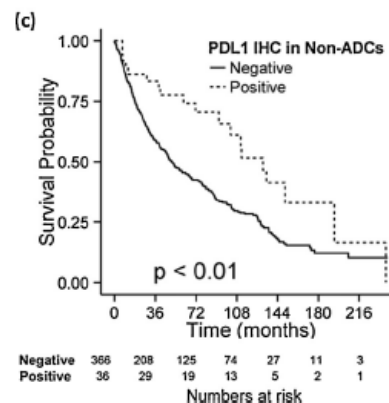
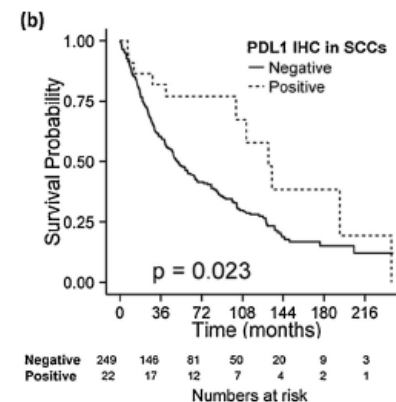
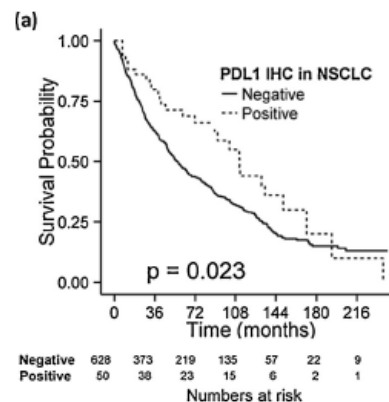
LDT assay

≥50% tumour cells staining= 'positive'

5.1% Adenocarcinomas 'positive'

Stage group, n (%)	PD-L1 negative	positive
I	316 (93.2%)	23 (6.8%)
II–III	312 (92%)	27 (8%)

No association with  
Gender  
EGFR mutation



# PD-L1 Positivity is Lower in Patients With Exon 19 Deletion and Exon 21 L858R Mutation Compared with Other Mutations\*

	PD-L1 Expression Status, n (%)			
EGFR Mutation Types	Strong Positive	Weak Positive	Negative	Total
Exon 19 Deletion	7 (5.4)	60 (46.2)	63 (48.4)	130
Exon 21 L858R	8 (7.0)	37 (32.2)	70 (60.9)	115
Other	9 (12.2)	42 (56.8)	23 (31.1)	74

\* $P = 0.001$  by chi-square test.

# PD-L1 IHC expression by mutation status

Population	No. <sup>a</sup>	PS ≥50% no. (%)	PS 1-49% no. (%)	PS <1% no. (%)
<i>EGFR</i> mutation				
Yes	54	18 (33.3)	21 (38.9)	15 (27.8)
No	288	95 (33.0)	135 (46.9)	58 (20.1)

Garon et al, NEJM 2015

22C3 CDx assay

Parameter	PD-L1 positive				PD-L1 negative				P-value
	total	PR	SD	PD	total	PR	SD	PD	
<b>EGFR status</b>									
wild type	42	5	21	16	29	3	16	10	0.330
exon 19 del	26	6	19	1	14	7	6	1	
exon 21 L858R	35	11	23	1	12	4	7	1	
unknown classical	9	3	5	1	3	1	2	0	
	71.9% PD=L1 positive				57.1% PD=L1 positive				

E1L3N-based  
LDT

Tang et al. Oncotarget 2015

# Can any conclusions be drawn?

- PD-L1 over expression is a poor prognostic factor in surgically resected lung cancer – **probably**

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- PD-L1 expression is less (or different) in EGFR mutated lung cancer – **the jury is still out!**

# Can any conclusions be drawn?

- PD-L1 over expression is a poor prognostic factor in surgically resected lung cancer – **probably**
- Is disease stage relevant when considering PD-L1 expression data - **maybe**
- PD-L1 expression is less (or different) in EGFR mutated lung cancer – **the jury is still out!**
- **Technical variation in studies makes valid comparison difficult**