

## "97TiP Identification of therapeutic targets in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck who progress on or after anti-PD-(L)1 therapy: An IMMUCan sub-project"

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### ABSTRACT

Background: Nivolumab and pembrolizumab are approved for the treatment of recurrent/metastatic Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the Head and Neck (SCCHN). However, a significant number of patients are not responding to PD-(L)1 inhibitors and, ultimately, the majority of the patients will finally progress. No standard of care exists for patients who progress after platinum-based chemotherapy or PD-1 inhibitors. Median overall survival of these patients is dismal (5-6 months). Tumor molecular mechanisms and the role of the immune micro-environment implicated in disease progression on or after anti-PD1 therapy need to be better characterized to identify new therapeutic targets. This will guide the rational development of therapeutic combinations. Trial design: IMMUCan is a European translational research study aiming at generating broad molecular and cellular profiling data of the tumor and its microenvironment from up to 3000 patients derived from 5 different cancer types: head and neck, colorectal, lung, renal and breast cancers. Collaborations with clinical trials are also possible, such as EORTC-HNCG-1559 study (UPSTREAM trial). This biomarker-driven umbrella trial enrolls patients with recurrent/metastatic SCCHN, progressing after platinum-based chemotherapy. The majority of the enrolled patients were pre-treated with PD-(L)1 inhibitors (anti-PD-(L)1 exposed patients), while a control population is also available (anti-PD-(L)1 naïve patients). Biological materials of these two distinct populations will be analyzed in IMMUCan: Whole Exome Sequencing, RNA sequencing, multiplex...

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