

**Target therapy in oncologia: nuovi farmaci biologici,  
meccanismo d'azione, efficacia e gestione per il medico di  
medicina generale**

**FARMACI BIOLOGICI E  
IMMUNOLOGICI NEL MELANOMA**

**Ordine dei Medici Parma 29 Settembre 2015**

**Maria Michiara**

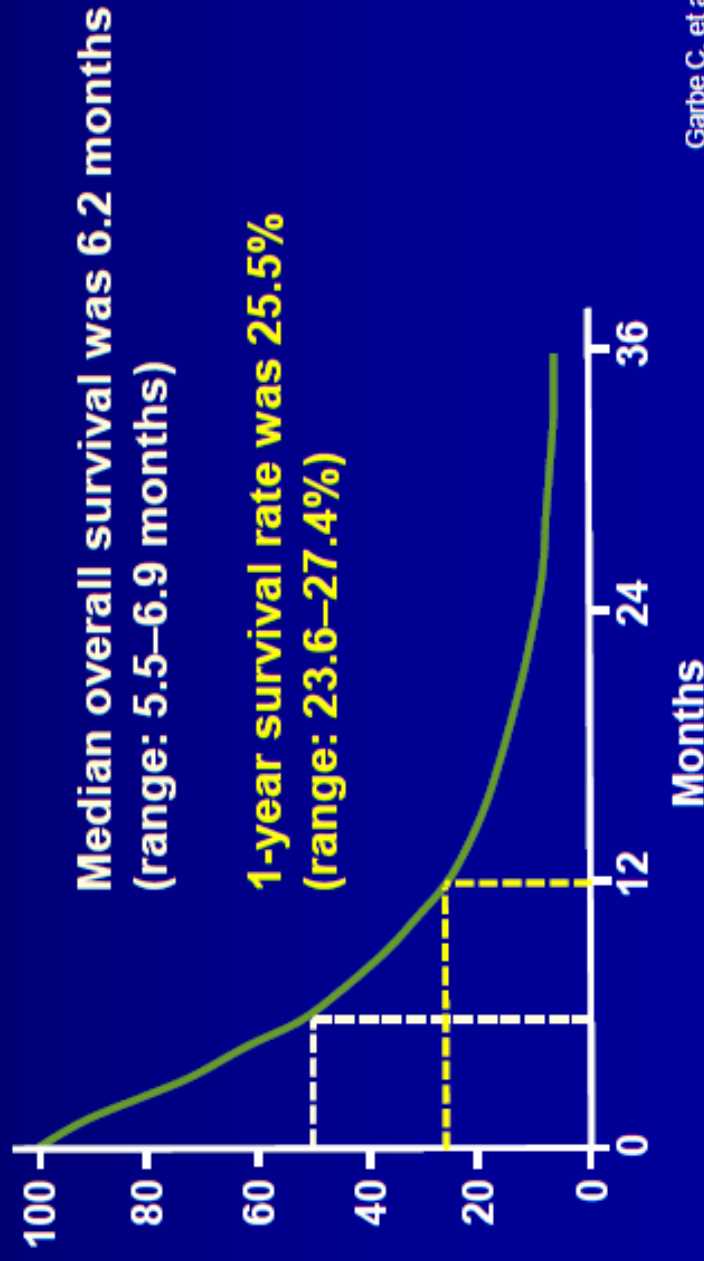
**UOC di Oncologia AOU Parma**

***METASTATIC MELANOMA  
A NEW ERA***

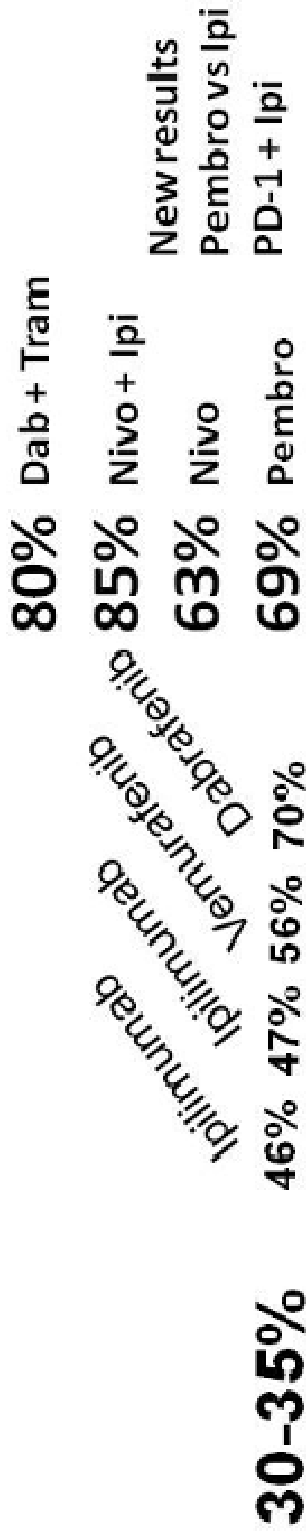


## Limited survival outcomes associated with historical treatment options

- Historical data indicate median overall survival for patients with metastatic melanoma of 6 to 9 months
- In a meta-analysis of 42 phase 2 trials in 2,100 patients with metastatic melanoma treated in North America:
  - Prior therapy was not a major covariate of overall survival



# Unprecedented Progress in Treatment of Melanoma



1 year survival

Achieved by clinical trials

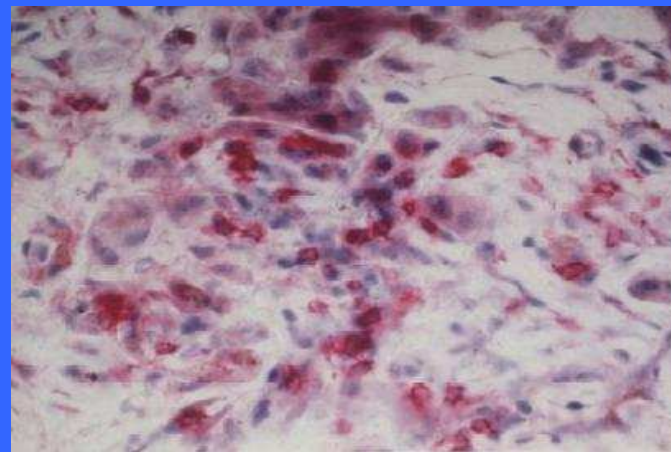
Slide courtesy G V Long

# Spontaneous Tumor Regression of Primary Melanomas

- Evidence of regression in 14–50% of primary melanomas
  - Complete spontaneous regression in ~4–15%
- Regressing lesions contain infiltrates of inflammatory cells, providing indirect evidence for an immunological response



Tumor regression



CD8+ infiltrate

# Immune Checkpoints

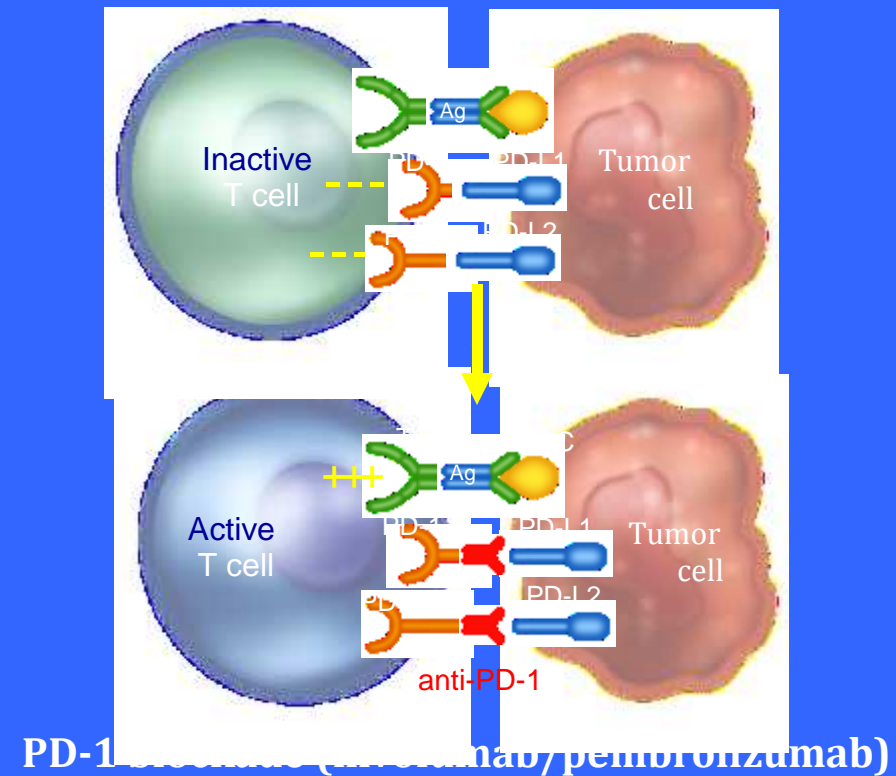
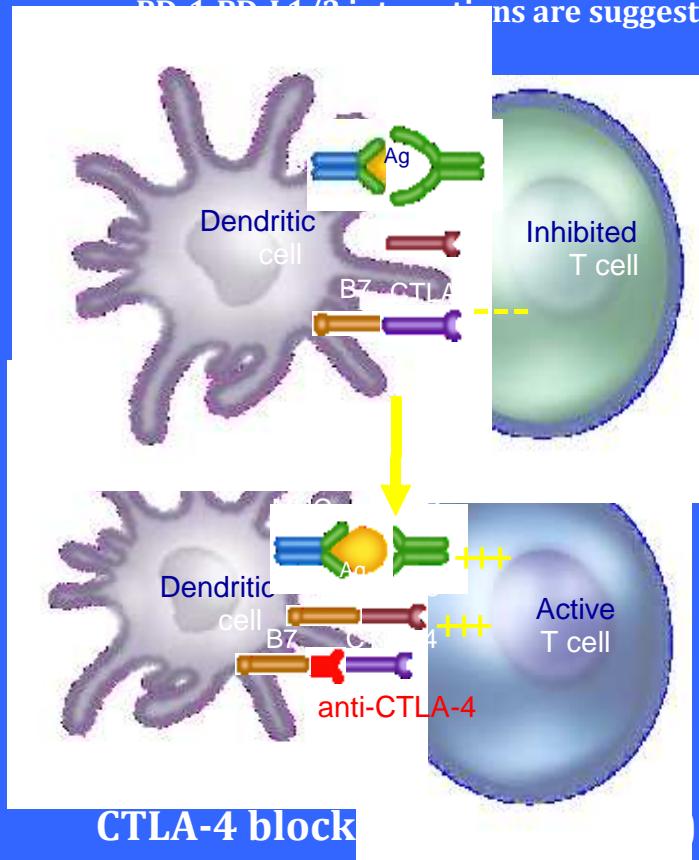
- **The amplitude and quality of a T-cell response against cancer is regulated by a balance between costimulatory and inhibitory signals (immune checkpoints).**
- **PD-1 and CTLA-4 are examples of inhibitory checkpoint receptors expressed on T-cell that can act to inhibit T-cell activity.**
- **Expression of immune-checkpoint proteins can be disrupted by tumors as an important mechanism of immune resistance and immune surveillance escape.**

# CTLA-4 and PD-1 Interactions Occur at Different Anatomic Sites in the Body

- Reports suggest that expression of the ligands for CTLA-4 and PD-1 differ resulting in spatial differences in where these interactions are occurring in the body<sup>1,2</sup>

CTLA-4:B7 interactions between T cells and APCs are postulated to occur primarily in the lymph nodes

PD-1:PD-L1/2 interactions are suggested to occur specifically within peripheral sites



Topalian SL, et al. 2012.

# Traditional classification

- **Histopathological classification**
  - *Superficial spreading melanoma (SMM)*  
most common, around 75%
  - *Nodular melanoma*  
15%, direct vertical growth phase
  - *Acral lentiginous melanoma*  
10%, including glabrous and mucosal
  - *Lentigo maligna melanoma*  
5%, in elderly, chronically sun-exposed area



# Prognostic variables

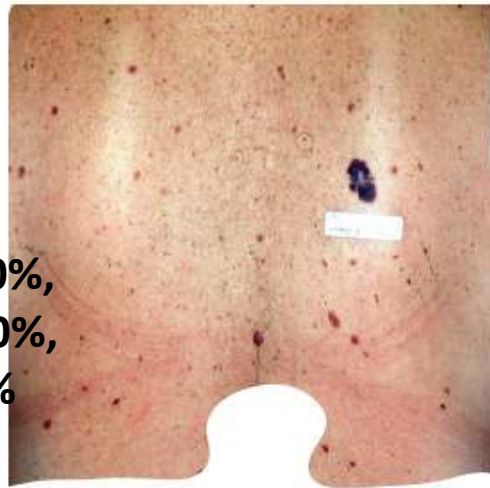
- The only reliable parameters
  - Depth of primary lesion
  - The presence or absence of ulceration
  - Mitoses
  - Lymphocytic infiltration
  - Lymph node metastasis
- The prognostic value of the standard pathological evaluation can be improved by *integration with molecular data*

# Molecular classification of melanoma

*noCSD*



**BRAF 60%,  
NRAS 20%,  
KIT 0%**



*CSD*



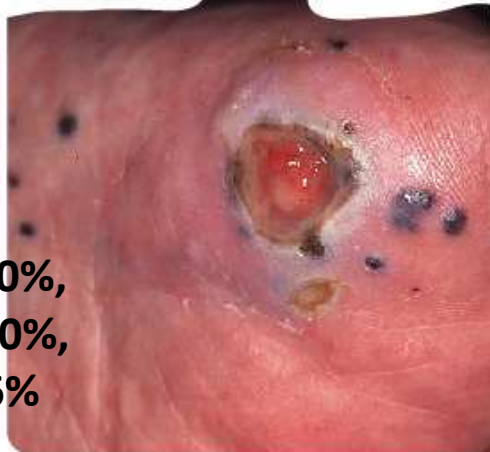
**BRAF 10%,  
NRAS 10%,  
KIT 28%**



*acral*



**BRAF 20%,  
NRAS 10%,  
KIT 36%**



*mucosal*



**BRAF 10%,  
NRAS 5%,  
KIT 39%**



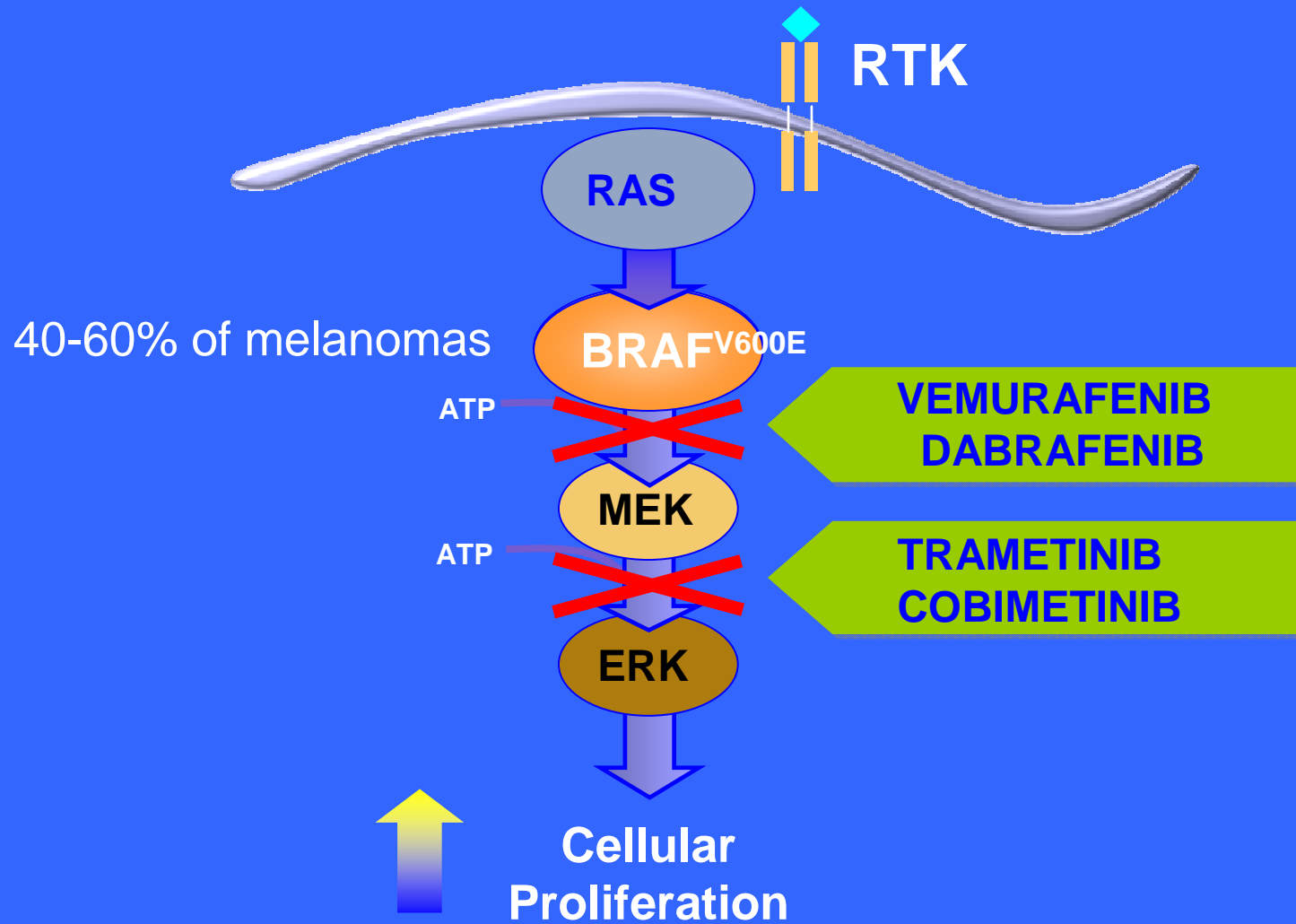
# Advanced melanoma: different approaches according to mutational status

**BRAF<sup>V600E/K</sup>  
C-KIT  
Q61NRAS**

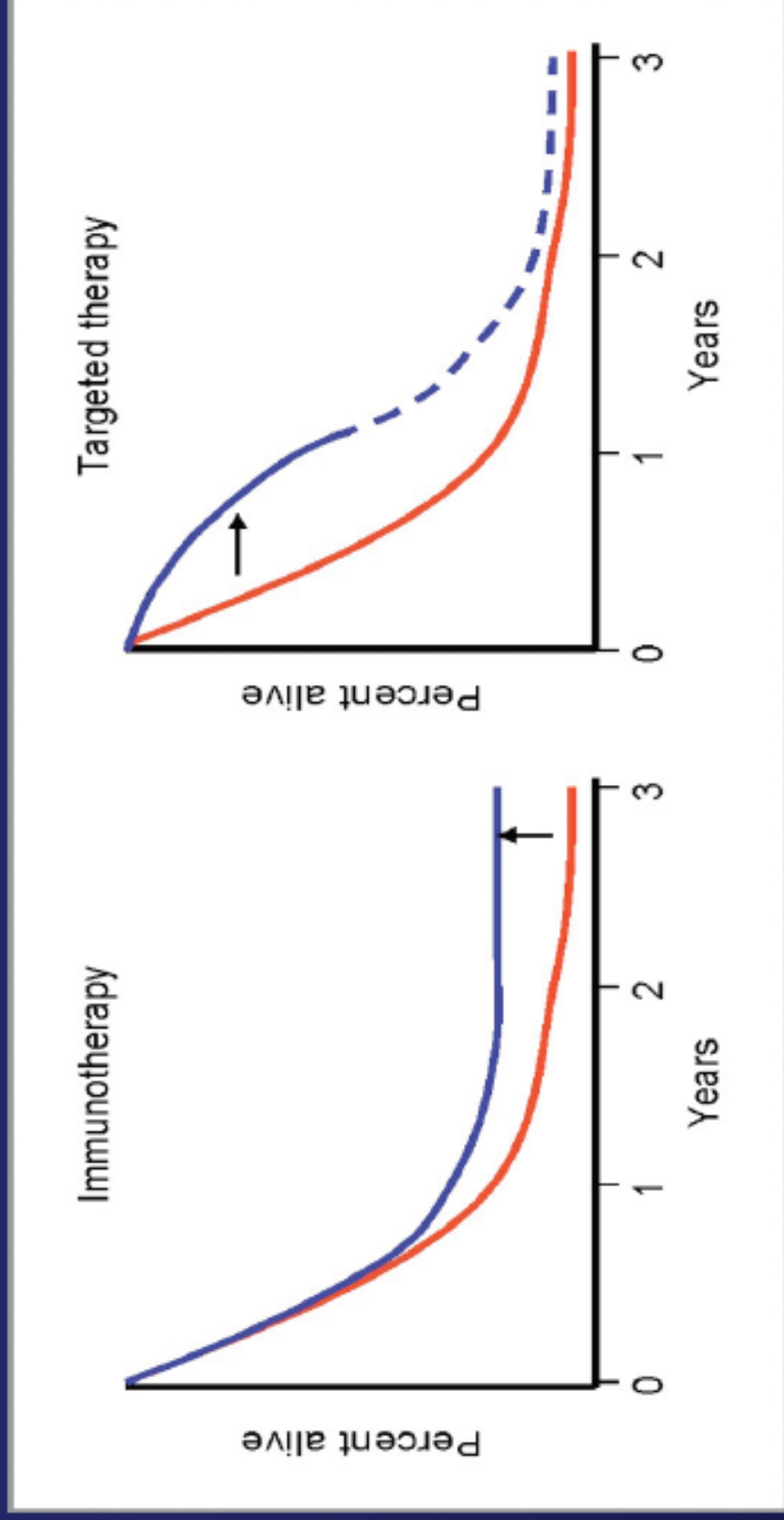
**NRAS<sup>wt</sup>  
BRAF<sup>wt</sup>**



# MAPK PATHWAY: RAS/BRAF

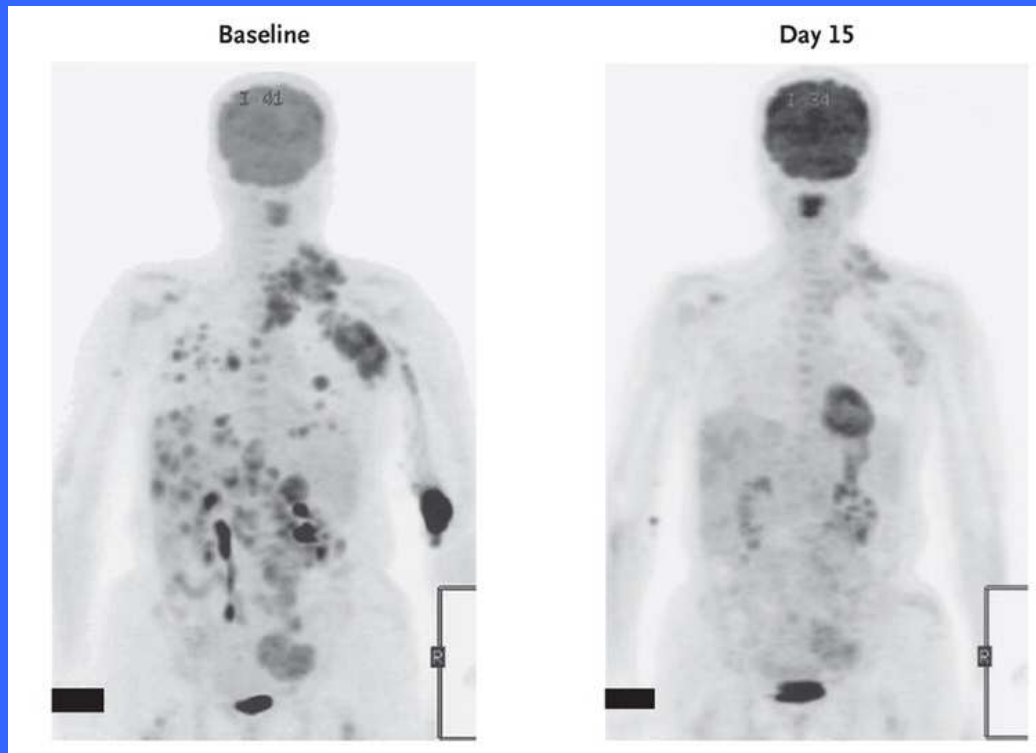


# Effects of Immunotherapy and Targeted Therapy on Melanoma survival curves



# Vemurafenib: Phase I – Early FDG-PET Responses

- Patients underwent FDG-PET at baseline and on Day 15 of the first 4 weeks of therapy
- A marked decrease in tumor uptake of FDG was observed at Day 15 after Vemurafenib treatment



Flaherty KT, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2010;363:809–19.



# Immunotherapy Response: Patient Example



Screening

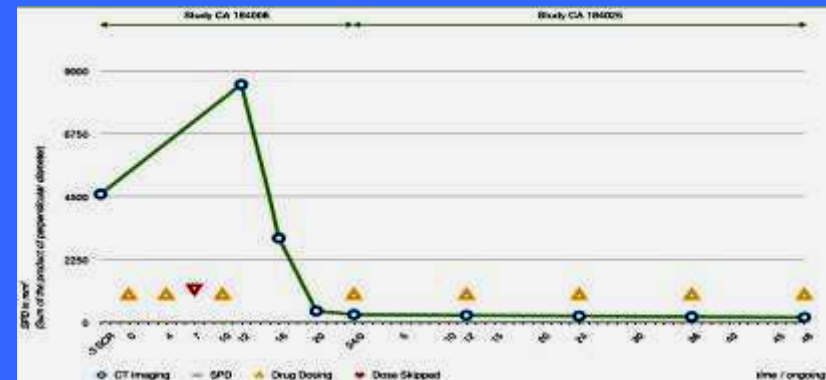
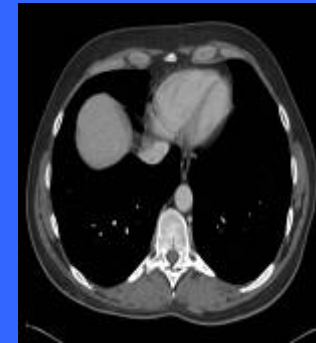


Week 12  
Initial increase in  
total tumour burden  
(mWHO PD)



Week 16  
Responding

Week 96  
Durable & ongoing response  
without signs of IRAEs



Courtesy of K. Harmankaya, Vienna

Harmankaya et al. Presented at EADO 2009, Vienna, Austria

# Le nuove molecole

## Farmaci immunoterapici

Ipilimumab

Nivolumab

Pembrolizumab

## Farmaci target

Vemurafenib

Dabrafenib

Trametinib

Cobimetinib



# Tossicità

## Farmaci immunoterapici

Rash e prurito  
Colite  
Endocrinopatia  
Uveite  
Tossicità epatica  
Polmonite interstiziale

## Farmaci target

Tossicità cutanea  
Carcinoma spinocellulare  
Cheratoacantomi  
Artralgia  
Febbre

# Management della tossicità

## Farmaci immunoterapici

Educazione del paziente  
Trattamento precoce  
Terapia steroidea  
Terapia sostitutiva nelle  
endocrinopatie

## Farmaci target

Educazione del paziente  
Fotoprotezione  
✓ Controlli dermatologici  
✓ Antipiretici

# CONCLUSIONI

- **Diverso meccanismo d'azione → diversa tossicità**  
diversa gestione degli effetti collaterali



- **Sensibilizzazione del paziente, della famiglia e del curante**
- **Presenza in carico multidisciplinare (MMG, oncologo, patologo, dermatologo, radiologo, chirurgo, endocrinologo, gastroenterologo, oculista..)**