



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
MEDICINE

# **Treatment Update: Metastatic Triple-Negative Breast Cancer**

Rita Nanda, M.D.

Assistant Professor of Medicine

Associate Director, Breast Medical Oncology Program

University of Chicago Medicine

Living Beyond Breast Cancer Conference for  
Women Living with Metastatic Disease

April 11, 2015

# Overview

- Triple-Negative Breast Cancer
  - Current Treatment Options
  - Importance of Clinical Trials
  - Recent Advances
  - Ongoing Research
-

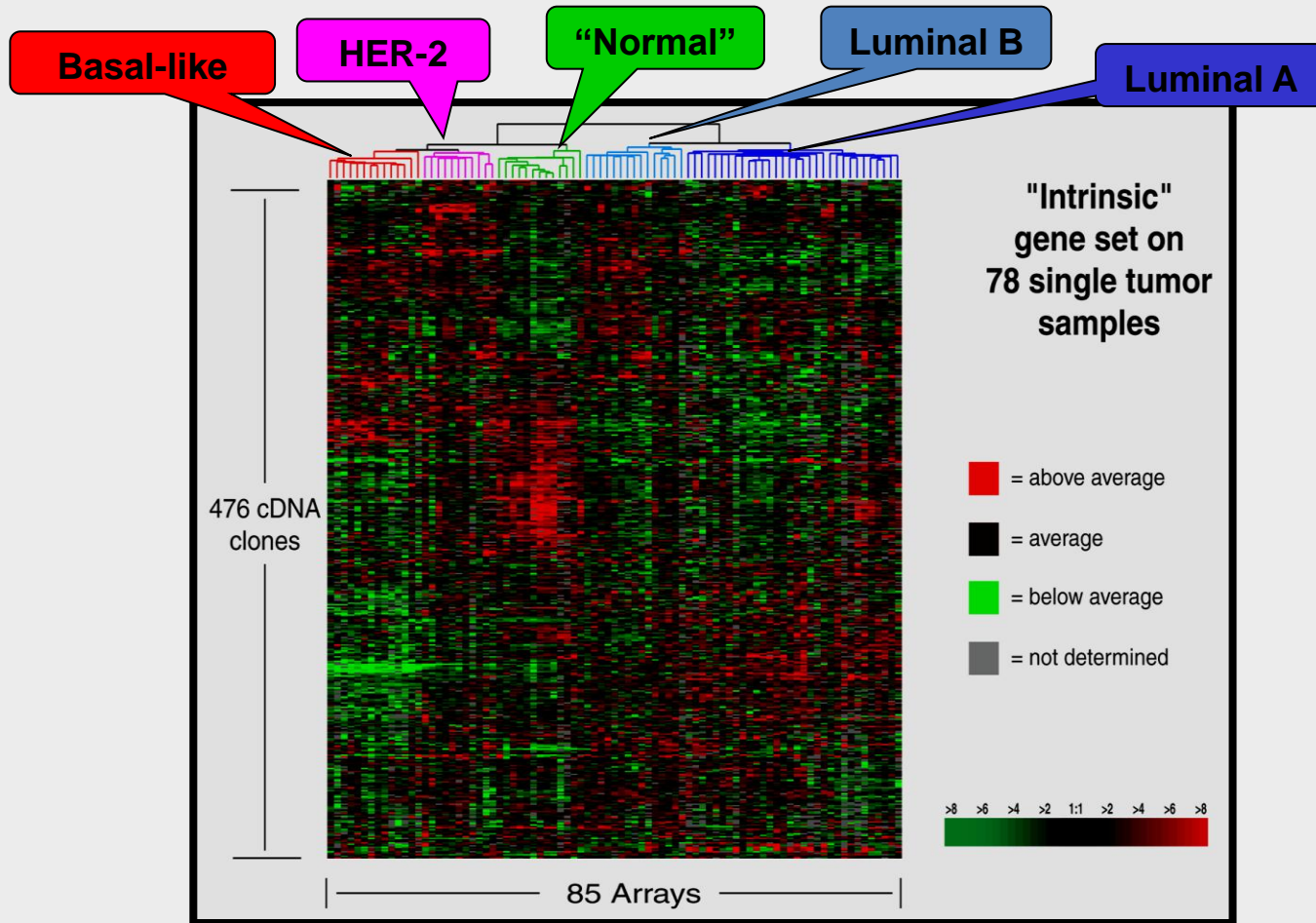
# Defining Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

---

# Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

- Breast cancer is not one disease, and is categorized based on the expression of ER, PR, and HER2
  - TNBC refers to a form of breast cancer which lacks expression of ER, PR and HER2/*neu*
  - Approximately 15-20% of breast cancers
  - No targeted therapies for TNBC
    - anti-estrogen therapy
    - anti-HER2 therapy
-

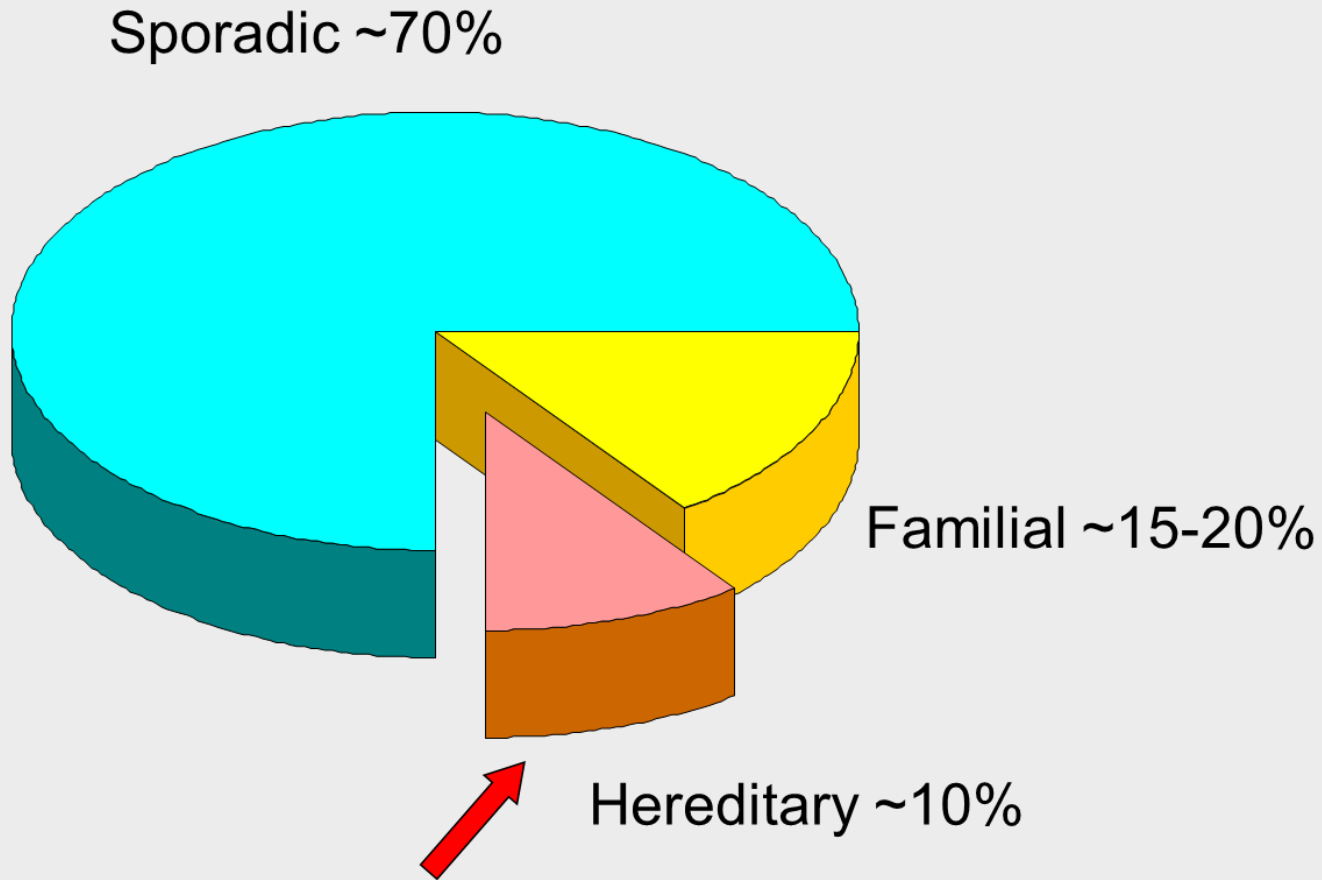
# Breast Cancer Subtypes



# Risk Factors for TNBC

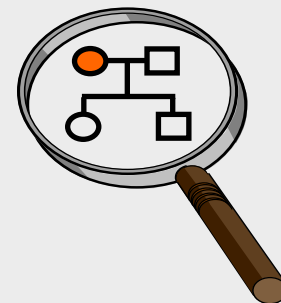
- More common in young women and women of African ancestry and Hispanic women
  - More common in women with a *BRCA1* mutation
    - 75% with TNBC
  - 15-20% of women with a *BRCA2* mutation develop TNBC
  - Patients with TNBC should consider genetic testing if they have family history of breast/ovarian cancer or are diagnosed at a young age
-

# How much of breast cancer is hereditary?



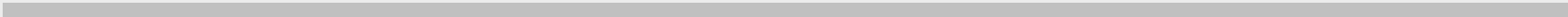
# When to suspect a hereditary cancer syndrome

- Cancer in two or more close relatives (on same side of family)
- Early age at diagnosis
- Multiple primary tumors in the same individual
- Bilateral or multifocal tumors
- Rare tumors/cancer
- Clustering of certain types of tumors consistent with specific cancer syndrome
- Evidence of autosomal dominant transmission
- From a population that has higher risk to carry certain cancer gene mutations (e.g., Ashkenazi Jewish)





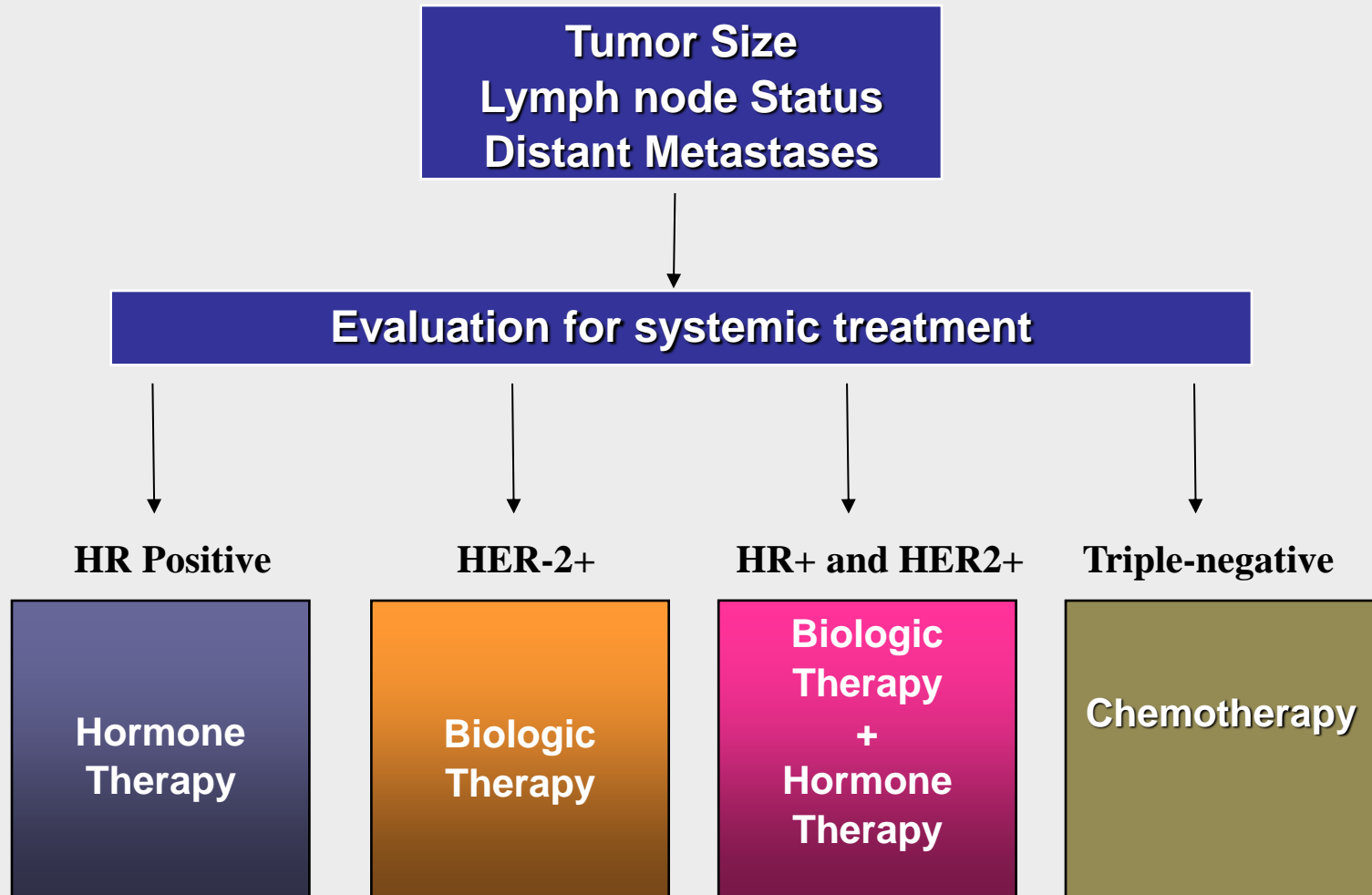
# Current Treatment Options for TNBC



# Treatment Settings

- Neoadjuvant
    - Therapy prior to surgery
    - Treatment aimed at curing the cancer and preventing a recurrence
  - Adjuvant
    - Therapy after surgery
    - Treatment aimed at curing the cancer and preventing a recurrence
  - Metastatic
    - Treatment for advanced breast cancer
    - Treatment aimed at helping patients live longer and better
-

# Systemic Treatment for Breast Cancer



# Standard Treatments for Early-Stage TNBC

- Neoadjuvant/Adjuvant treatment
  - Goal of therapy is curative
  - Anthracycline and taxane-based chemotherapy
    - Typically administered for 8 cycles (4 of each)
    - Order doesn't matter (T-AC vs AC-T)
    - Anthracycline doesn't matter (A vs E)
  - Surgery
    - Mastectomy vs Lumpectomy
  - Radiation Therapy
    - To breast and/or lymph nodes
-

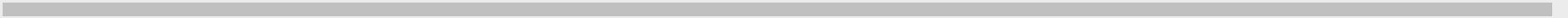
# Recurrence Patterns of TNBC

- Most women with metastatic TNBC are first diagnosed with early stage breast cancer
  - Recurrences are most common within 3 years of initial diagnosis
  - Metastases are more common in
    - Lungs, Liver, Brain
  - Metastases are less common in
    - Bone
-

# Treatment for Metastatic TNBC

- Single-Agent Chemotherapy
    - Taxanes
    - Capecitabine
    - Eribulin
    - Liposomal doxorubicin
    - Other microtubule inhibitors (ixabepilone, vinorelbine)
  - Combination Chemotherapy Regimens
    - Carboplatin+Gemcitabine
    - Ixabepilone+Capecitabine
  - Clinical Trials
  - No targeted agents are currently approved for TNBC
-

# Importance of Clinical Trials



# The Role of Clinical Trials

- Phases of Clinical Trials
    - Phase I, II, III
  - Clinical trials are designed to build on the current standard of care
  - Without clinical trials we cannot develop better treatment for the future
-



# Clinical Trial Phases

- Phases I
    - Safety, dose finding
    - New drugs
    - New combinations of old drugs
  - Phase II
    - Efficacy, specific for tumor type
  - Phase III
    - Testing against standard treatment
    - +/- placebo
-

# Pros and Cons of Clinical Trials

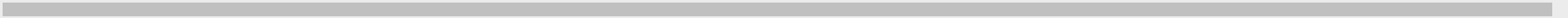
- Pros

- Access to newer promising therapies before they are approved
- Help to move the field forward
- Potentially help future patients who are diagnosed with cancer

- Cons

- No guarantee trial treatment is better
  - No guarantee that you will be assigned to study treatment
  - Treatment has to be at sponsoring institution
  - Additional time/visits/biopsies
-

# Recent Advances



# What we are learning about TNBC

- Research focused on TNBC is relatively recent
  - TNBC is defined by characteristics it does not have
    - ER/PR negative
    - HER2 negative
  - TNBCs are genetically unstable
    - Chromosomes are actively rearranging
    - Gene alterations are ongoing
    - Treatments to target this instability are being developed
  - There are different types of TNBC
-



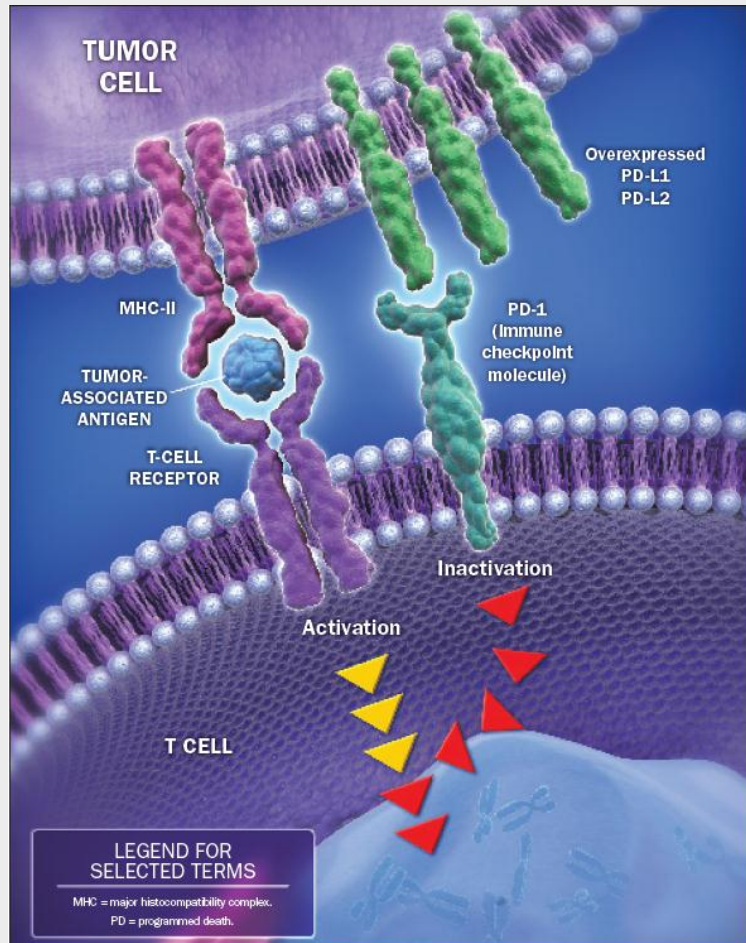
# What does this mean for those with TNBC?

- Being able to subdivide triple-negative breast cancers into subcategories will help us identify new targets for therapy
  - Clinical research is ongoing to target pathways that are implicated in TNBC and newer trials are being developed based on this work
-

# Recent Clinical Trial Results



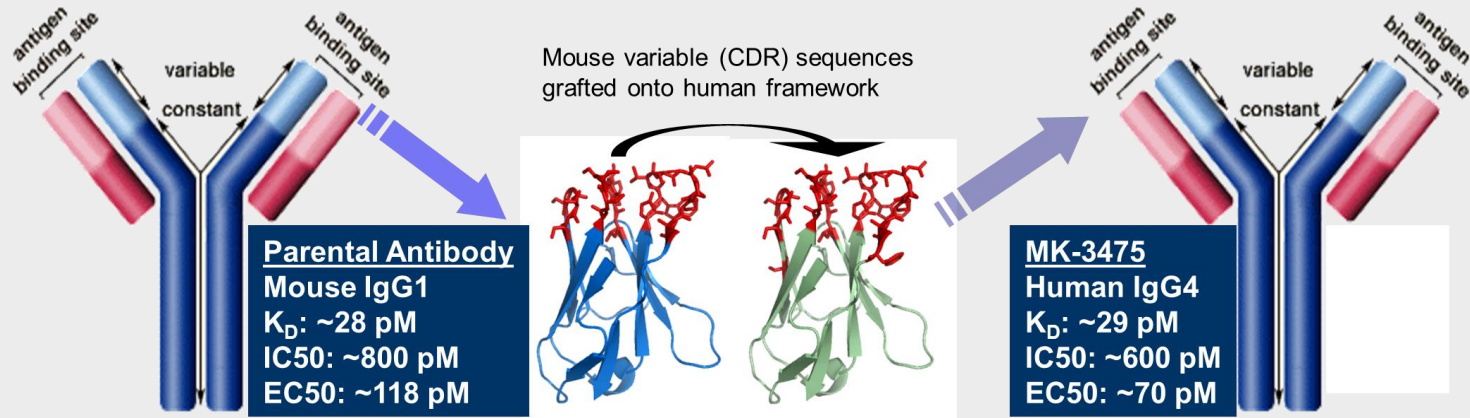
# PD-1 Pathway and Immune Surveillance



- PD-1 is expressed primarily on activated T cells<sup>1</sup>
- Binding of PD-1 to its ligands PD-L1 and PD-L2 impairs T-cell function<sup>1</sup>
- PD-L1 is expressed on tumor cells and macrophages<sup>2</sup>
- Tumors can co-opt the PD-1 pathway to evade immune surveillance<sup>2</sup>



# Pembrolizumab (MK-3475) Is a Humanized IgG4, High-Affinity, Anti-PD-1 Antibody



- High affinity for the PD-1 receptor ( $K_D \approx 29$  pM)
- Dual ligand blockade of PD-L1 and PD-L2
- No cytotoxic (ADCC/CDC) activity
- PK supports dosing every 2 weeks (Q2W) or every 3 weeks (Q3W)
- Demonstrated clinical activity in multiple tumor types<sup>1-6</sup>
- Recently approved in the United States for the treatment of patients with unresectable or metastatic melanoma and disease progression following ipilimumab and, if BRAF V600 mutation positive, a BRAF inhibitor

1. Ribas A et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(suppl 5):abstr LBA9000; 2. Rizvi N et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(suppl 5): abstr 8007; 3. Garon EB et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(suppl 5): abstr 8020; 4. Seiwert TY et al. *J Clin Oncol.* 2014;32(suppl 5):abstr 6011. 5. Plimack E et al. Abstr. LBA23. Presented at 2014 ESMO Congress, September 26-30, Madrid, Spain. 6. Muro K et al. LBA15. Presented at 2014 ESMO Congress, September 26-30, Madrid, Spain.

# KEYNOTE-012: Triple-Negative Breast Cancer Cohort

- Recurrent or metastatic ER<sup>-</sup>/PR<sup>-</sup>/HER2<sup>-</sup> breast cancer
- ECOG PS 0-1
- PD-L1<sup>+</sup> tumor<sup>a</sup>
- No systemic steroid therapy
- No autoimmune disease (active or history of)
- No active brain metastases

Pembro  
10 mg/kg  
Q2W

Complete Response

Discontinuation  
Permitted

Partial Response or  
Stable Disease

Treat for 24 months  
or until progression  
or intolerable  
toxicity

Confirmed  
Progressive Disease<sup>b</sup>

Discontinue

- **PD-L1 positivity:** 58% of all patients screened had PD-L1-positive tumors
- **Treatment:** 10 mg/kg IV Q2W
- **Response assessment:** Performed every 8 weeks per RECIST v1.1

<sup>a</sup>PD-L1 expression was assessed in archival tumor samples using a prototype IHC assay and the 22C3 antibody. Only patients with PD-L1 staining in the stroma or in  $\geq 1\%$  of tumor cells were eligible for enrollment.

<sup>b</sup>If clinically stable, patients are permitted to remain on pembrolizumab until progressive disease is confirmed on a second scan performed  $\geq 4$  weeks later. If progressive disease is confirmed, pembrolizumab is discontinued. An exception may be granted for patients with clinical stability or improvement after consultation with the sponsor.

# Baseline Characteristics

Characteristic	N = 32
Age, mean (range), years	51.9 (29-72)
Female	32 (100.0%)
Race	
Black or African American	7 (21.9%)
White	25 (78.1%)
ECOG PS	
0	15 (46.9%)
1	16 (50.0%)
Unknown	1 (3.1%)
History of brain metastases	4 (12.5%)

Characteristic	N = 32
No. prior therapies for metastatic disease	
0	5 (15.6%)
1	6 (18.8%)
2	6 (18.8%)
3	5 (15.6%)
4	3 (9.4%)
≥5	7 (21.9%)
Previous neoadjuvant or adjuvant therapy	28 (87.5%)
Any previous chemotherapy	
Taxane	30 (93.8%)
Anthracycline	25 (78.1%)
Capecitabine	21 (65.6%)
Platinum	19 (59.3%)
Eribulin	7 (21.9%)

# Treatment-Related Adverse Events With Incidence $\geq 5\%$ <sup>a</sup>

	N = 32	
	Any Grade	Grade 3-5
Arthralgia	6 (18.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Fatigue	6 (18.8%)	0 (0.0%)
Myalgia	5 (15.6%)	0 (0.0%)
Nausea	5 (15.6%)	0 (0.0%)
ALT increased	2 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)
AST increased	2 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Diarrhea	2 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Erythema	2 (6.3%)	0 (0.0%)
Headache	2 (6.3%)	1 (3.1%)

- Adverse events of a potentially immune-mediated nature, regardless of attribution, included pruritus (n = 3; all grade 1-2), hepatitis<sup>b</sup> (n = 1; grade 3), and hypothyroidism (n = 1; grade 2)

<sup>a</sup>Reported during treatment or within 30 days thereafter.

<sup>b</sup>Not considered to be related to treatment by the investigator.

Analysis cut-off date: November 10, 2014.

# Best Overall Response (RECIST v1.1, Central Review)

	Patients Evaluable for Response <sup>a</sup> n = 27
Overall response rate	5 (18.5%)
Best overall response	
Complete response <sup>b</sup>	1 (3.7%)
Partial response <sup>b</sup>	4 (14.8%)
Stable disease	7 (25.9%)
Progressive disease	12 (44.4%)
No assessment <sup>c</sup>	3 (11.1%)

<sup>a</sup>Includes patients with measurable disease at baseline who received  $\geq 1$  pembrolizumab dose and who had  $\geq 1$  post-baseline scan or discontinued therapy before the first scan due to progressive disease or a treatment-related AE. 5 patients were excluded because they did not have any assessments per central review (n = 2) or because they did not have measurable disease per central review at baseline (n = 3).

<sup>b</sup>Confirmed responses only.

<sup>c</sup>"No assessment" signifies patients who discontinued therapy before the first post-baseline scan due to progressive disease or a treatment-related AE.

Analysis cut-off date: November 10, 2014.

# Best Overall Response By Previous Therapy (RECIST v1.1, Central

	Evaluable Patients N = 27 <sup>a</sup>	CR or PR <sup>b</sup>	SD	PD or No Assessment <sup>c</sup>
Neoadjuvant or adjuvant	24	4 (16.7%)	7 (29.2%)	13 (54.2%)
No. of lines for metastatic disease				
0	4	0 (0.0%)	1 (25.0%)	3 (75.0%)
1	4	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	2 (50.0%)
2	6	0 (0.0%)	2 (33.3%)	4 (66.7%)
3	4	1 (25.0%)	1 (25.0%)	2 (50.0%)
4	3	1 (33.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (66.7%)
≥5	6	2 (33.3%)	2 (33.3%)	2 (33.3%)

- Previous therapy among the 5 patients with CR or PR
  - Capecitabine: 5 (100.0%)
  - Taxane: 5 (100.0%)
  - Anthracycline: 4 (80.0%)
  - Platinum: 3 (60.0%)
  - Eribulin: 1 (20.0%)

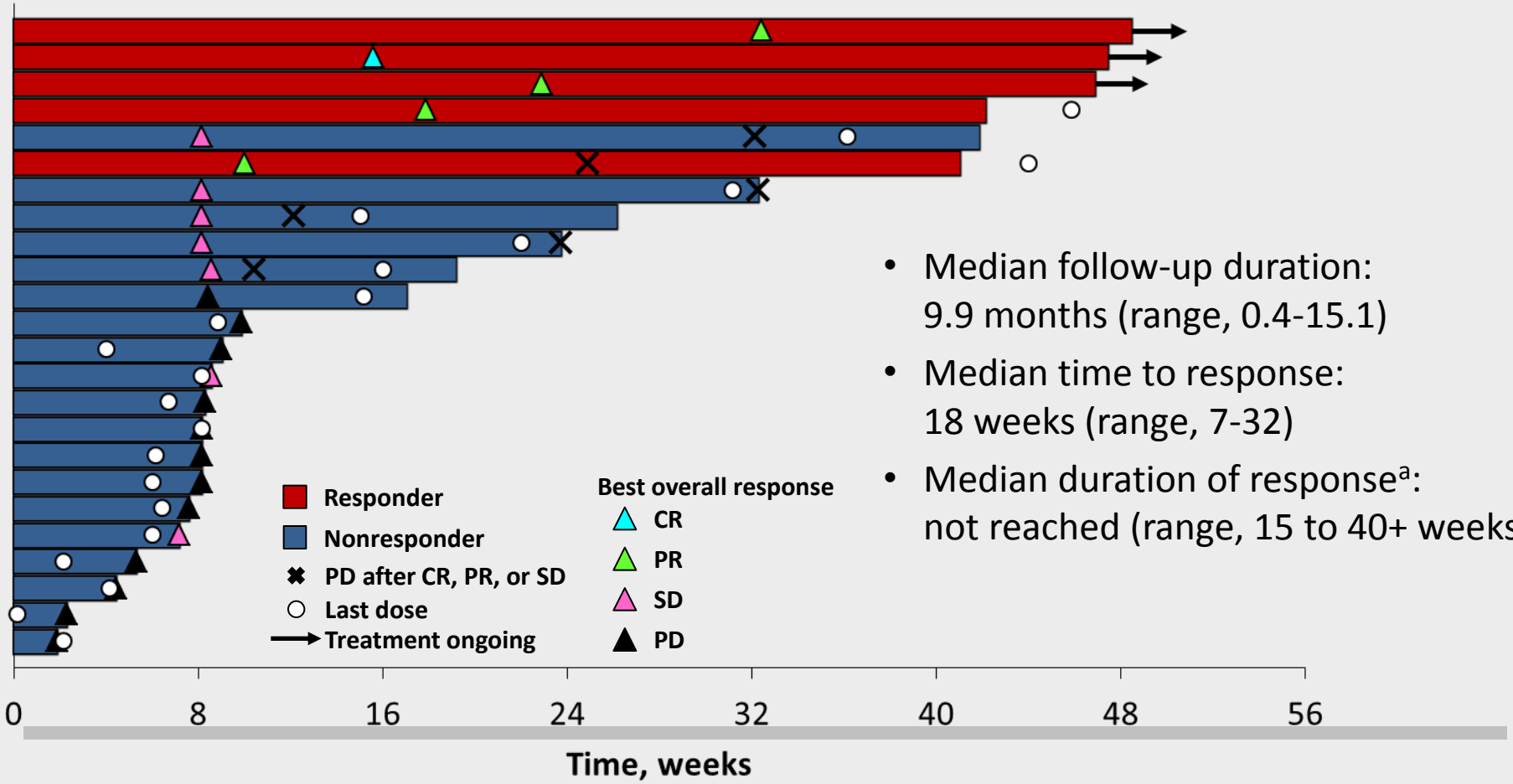
<sup>a</sup>Includes patients with measurable disease at baseline who received ≥1 pembrolizumab dose and who had ≥1 post-baseline scan or discontinued therapy before the first scan due to progressive disease or a treatment-related AE. 5 patients were excluded because they did not have any assessments per central review (n = 2) or because they did not have measurable disease per central review at baseline (n = 3).

<sup>b</sup>Confirmed responses only.

<sup>c</sup>“No assessment” signifies patients who discontinued therapy before the first scan due to progressive disease or a treatment-related AE.

Analysis cut-off date: November 10, 2014.

# Time to and Durability of Response (RECIST v1.1, Central Review)



- Median follow-up duration: 9.9 months (range, 0.4-15.1)
- Median time to response: 18 weeks (range, 7-32)
- Median duration of response<sup>a</sup>: not reached (range, 15 to 40+ weeks)

<sup>a</sup>Kaplan-Meier estimate.  
Analysis cut-off date: November 10, 2014.

# Summary and Conclusions

- Pembrolizumab showed an acceptable safety and tolerability profile in patients with heavily pretreated, PD-L1-positive, advanced triple-negative breast cancer
  - Pembrolizumab was associated with an ORR of 18.5%
  - Responses were durable, with 3 of 5 responders on treatment for  $\geq 11$  months
  - The acceptable safety and tolerability profile and promising antitumor activity support the further development of pembrolizumab in patients with advanced triple-negative breast cancer
  - A phase II study of pembrolizumab for patients with advanced triple-negative breast cancer is planned to begin soon
-



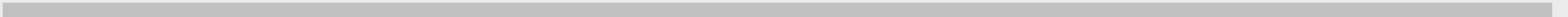
# Targeting the Androgen Receptor in TNBC

- The AR appears to be a driving force for a subset of TNBCs
  - About 10% of TNBCs are AR+
  - Bicalutamide has previously been shown to be effective at keeping AR+ TNBCs stable
  - Enzalutamide binds to the AR with higher affinity than bicalutamide
  - Enzalutamide is being tested in women with AR+ TNBC
-

# Enzalutamide for Metastatic TNBC

- Small study of 118 pts with AR+ TNBC presented at the SABCS in 2014
  - In first phase of study (42 pts), there were 2 responses seen, and 42% of pts had stable disease for at least 16 weeks
  - In the second phase of the study (76 pts), an additional 4 responses were seen
  - Final results are expected to be presented at ASCO in summer of 2015
-

# Ongoing Research



# Targeted Therapies Currently Under Investigation for Advanced TNBC

- Immune therapy (PD-1/PD-L1 inhibitors) +/- chemotherapy
  - Androgen receptor
  - PARP inhibitors
    - Mutation carriers (monotherapy)
    - TNBC (in combination with chemo)
  - gpNMB
  - Glucocorticoid receptor
  - AKT/PI3K/mTOR inhibitors
  - Jak2 inhibitors
  - Macrophages (the tumor microenvironment)
-

# How can I find out about clinical trials in my area?

- Treating oncologist
  - [ClinicalTrials.gov](https://clinicaltrials.gov)
  - Triple-negative breast cancer foundation  
[www.tnbcfoundation.org](http://www.tnbcfoundation.org)
-

# Why has it been so hard to find a treatment?

- TNBC is not one disease
    - It is important to understand which type of TNBC will respond to which type of therapy
  - Tumors are genetically unstable and are constantly undergoing changes
  - Newer technologies and clinical trials hold great promise for the future
-

# Future Promise

- Much research is ongoing in the field of breast cancer
    - Understand mechanisms of resistance
    - Develop more personalized therapy
  - New therapies are being developed and tested in clinical trials specifically for TNBC
  - Hope for the future
    - More effective therapies
    - Fewer side effects
-

# Thank You!

Rita Nanda, M.D.

[RNANDA@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu](mailto:RNANDA@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu)

---