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Efficacy of ICI-based treatment in advanced NSCLC patients with PD-L1 \geq 50% who developed EGFR-TKI resistance

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Introduction: Platinum-based chemotherapy is still the standard of care for Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutated non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients after developing EGFR-TKI resistance. However, no study focusing on the role of immuno checkpoint inhibitor (ICI) based treatments for EGFR mutated NSCLC patients who carried programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) tumor proportion score (TPS) greater than 50% progressed after EGFR-TKI therapy. In this study, we retrospectively investigated the outcomes of ICI-based treatments for EGFR mutated NSCLC patients carried PD-L1 TPS \geq 50% after developing EGFR-TKI resistance and to explore the population that may benefited from ICI-based treatment.

Methods: We retrospectively collected data of advanced NSCLC patients with EGFR mutations and PD-L1 TPS \geq 50% who have failed prior EGFR-TKI therapies without T790M mutation at Shanghai Chest Hospital between January 2018 and June 2021. Progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) were utilized to evaluate the outcomes of this study.

Results: A total of 146 patients were included. Up to June 20th, 2022, median follow-up was 36.7 months (IQR, 12.5-44.2 months). Among the population, 66 patients (45.2%) received chemotherapy, the remaining (54.8%) received ICI-based treatment, including 56 patients (70.0%) received ICI combined with chemotherapy (IC) and 24 patients (30.0%) received ICI monotherapy (IM). In IC group, 31 patients received ICI combined with chemotherapy, 19 patients received ICI combined with antiangiogenic therapy and remaining received ICI combined with chemotherapy and antiangiogenic therapy. Survival analysis shown that patients who received ICI-based treatment had better progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) compared with those treated with other therapy (median PFS, 10.0 vs. 4.0 months, $P < 0.001$; median OS, 39.5 vs. 24.2 months, $P < 0.001$). What's more, patients who treated with IC treatment had a superior survival time than those received IM treatment (median PFS, 10.3 vs. 7.0 months, $P < 0.001$; median OS, 41.6 vs. 32.4 months, $P < 0.001$). Subgroup analysis found that the PFS and OS benefit of IC was evident in all subgroups.

Conclusions: For advanced NSCLC patients with EGFR mutations and PD-L1 TPS \geq 50% who have failed prior EGFR-TKI therapies without T790M mutation, ICI-based treatment could provide a more favorable survival than classical chemotherapy. What's more, compared with ICI monotherapy, ICI combined with chemotherapy seems to be the preferred treatment.

KEYWORDS

non-small-cell lung cancer, immunotherapy, drug resistance, epidermal growth factor receptor-tyrosine kinase inhibitor (EGFR-TKI), programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1)

Introduction

Lung cancer remains the most prevalent malignancy worldwide, with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) accounting for approximately 85% of all newly diagnosed lung cancers (1, 2). For patients with advanced NSCLC harboring epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations, EGFR-tyrosine kinase inhibitors (EGFR-TKIs) are usually considered the first-line treatment (3–5). However, drug-acquired resistance is inevitable. Platinum-based chemotherapy remains the standard of care for patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations after developing EGFR-TKI resistance without EGFR T790M mutation, while the clinical benefit was limited (6).

In recent years, immune checkpoint inhibitors have dramatically changed the standard of care for patients with advanced NSCLC. Nevertheless, the response to immunotherapy seems to vary depending on the inherent immune microenvironment (7, 8). For example, NSCLC patients with PD-L1 tumor proportion score (TPS) \geq 50% seem to benefit from immunotherapy, but for those carrying EGFR-sensitive mutations and ALK rearrangements (EGFR+/ALK+), the response to immunotherapy appears to be poor.

Few studies have investigated second-line treatment strategies for EGFR-mutant NSCLC patients carrying PD-L1 TPS greater than 50% who progressed after EGFR-TKI therapy. The possible reason for this is that EGFR-mutated NSCLC usually has a lower level of PD-L1 expression (9, 10), and NSCLC patients carrying EGFR mutations with PD-L1 TPS greater than 50% account for approximately 11.8% of all non-small cell lung cancers. In this study, we retrospectively investigated the outcome of NSCLC patients with EGFR mutations carrying PD-L1 TPS \geq 50% after developing EGFR-TKI resistance with ICI therapy and explored the population that may benefit from ICI therapy.

Materials and methods

Study design and patients

We retrospectively collected 2037 patients carrying EGFR mutations treated at Shanghai Chest Hospital between January

2018 and June 2021 and identified them from the database. Our inclusion criteria including (1): diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer; (2) carry EGFR mutations; (3) receive EGFR-TKI as first line treatment. Some of these patients were excluded according to the following criteria: (1) other driver mutations; (2) any recent surgery; (3) negative PD-L1 expression or PD-L1 TPS < 50%; (4) diagnosis of other tumors; (5) incomplete clinical information; (6) missed follow-up; (7) receiving chemotherapy or immunotherapy in first-line treatment and (8) carry T790M mutation after developing EGFR-TKI resistance. Also, clinicopathological characteristics such as gender, age, TNM stage, smoking history, histology, and treatment details were recorded. This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Shanghai Chest Hospital and was conducted following the Declaration of Helsinki.

Detection of genes and PD-L1 TPS

Tissue samples were obtained at disease diagnosis before first-line treatment or after developing EGFR-TKI resistance, and EGFR mutations were detected by next-generation sequencing (NGS) or single-gene test (LungCureCDx, Burning Rock, Suzhou, China). Assessment of PD-L1 expression before first-line therapy or after developing EGFR-TKI resistance by PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent Technologies China, Beijing, China)

Assessment and treatment

According to the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) 8th edition tumor-node-metastasis (TNM) classification, the clinical stage was determined at the time of disease diagnosis. High-resolution chest computed tomography (HRCT) and abdominal ultrasound scans were performed every 6–8 weeks after treatment initiation to assess tumor response. For patients without brain metastases at baseline or without associated symptoms after that, brain magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was performed every six months. Tumor response was assessed according to the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST version 1.1).

Experienced physicians completed all evaluations, and therapeutic schedules were decided and adjusted according to the patient's condition and disease progression (including

chemotherapy, anti-angiogenesis treatment, immunotherapy and their combinations).

Follow up

Patients' follow-up data were obtained from regular clinical records. Patients receiving chemotherapy or immunotherapy would be admitted monthly, while other outpatients were required to follow up at least every two months. Telephone interviews were also used to verify the information and to contact patients who were not followed up regularly. The primary endpoints of this study were PFS (from initiation of immunotherapy to disease progression or death; if patients do not receive PD-1 inhibitors, then d0 should be the start of second-line therapy) and OS (from initiation of immunotherapy to death or last follow-up). If the patient died, a date was used as the last follow-up.

Statistical analysis

Categorical variables were compared using the Chi-square and Fisher's exact test (percentage calculated). Median PFS and median OS, and between-group survival differences were determined using the Kaplan-Meier (KM) method and the Log-rank test. Univariate and multivariate analyses were performed using Cox proportional hazards models for significant independent risk factors for PFS and OS. Factors with $P < 0.2$ in univariate analysis were further incorporated into the multivariate analysis. All P values were two-sided, and statistically significant differences were considered when $p < 0.05$. All statistical analyses were performed using SPSS version 28.0 (IBM Corporation, Armonk, NY, USA) and R software (version 4.0.2, R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria).

Results

Patient characteristics

After screening, 146 patients met the above criteria and were divided into three groups. Patients received either chemotherapy ($n=32$), anti-angiogenesis($n=11$) or both($n=13$) were included in the immunotherapy negative (IN) group. Similarly, patients in the IM group received ICI monotherapy ($n = 24$, 16.4%), and in the IC group received both immunotherapy and anti-angiogenic therapy or chemotherapy ($n = 56$, 38.35%, **Figure 1**). Complete baseline characteristics of both groups are shown in **Table 1**. 78 (53.4%) patients were male, 68 (46.4%) were female, 81 patients were under 65 years of age (55.5%), and most of them were stage IV (91.1%). In addition, 62 (42.5%) were former or current smokers. All variables were balanced between the two groups and did not differ statistically ($p > 0.05$).

Pathological specimens from all patients were tested for EGFR mutations by single-gene test or NGS. 58 (39.7%) patients had EGFR exon 19 deletions, 75 (51.4%) patients had EGFR exon 21 L858R mutations, 13(8.9%) patients carried EGFR T790M mutation and 20 (13.7%) patients had other rare EGFR mutations, such as S768I missense mutation ($n=2$), C797S cis-mutation ($n=3$), exon 20ins ($n=2$), R776X missense mutation ($n=5$), G719X missense mutation ($n=8$), G724S missense mutation ($n=2$) and L861Q missense mutation ($N=1$). Incidentally, the most common combined mutation was TP53 ($n = 72$, 49.32%), and various missense mutations ($n = 53$, 73.61%) were most common among TP53 mutations (**Figure 1**).

Survival analysis

Until June 20th, 2022, the median follow-up time was 36.7 months (IQR, 12.5-44.2 months). Among a total of 146 patients,

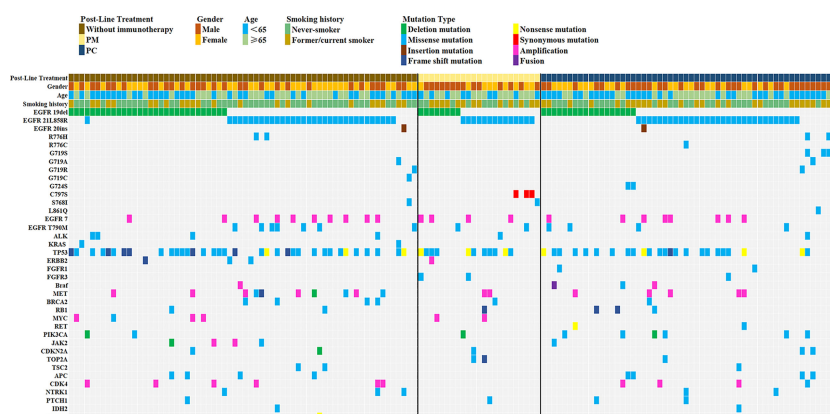


FIGURE 1

Molecular features of the EGFR-mutated NSCLC patients with PD-L1 \geq 50% who developed EGFR-TKI resistance.

TABLE 1 Clinical characteristics for all patients.

Characteristics	Total cohort (n=146) (%)	Immunotherapy		P value
		Without (n=66) (%)	With (n=80) (%)	
Gender				0.080
Male	78 (53.4)	30 (45.5)	48 (60.0)	
Female	68 (46.6)	36 (54.5)	32 (40.0)	
Age(y)				0.898
<65	81 (55.5)	37 (56.1)	44 (55.0)	
≥65	65 (44.5)	29 (43.9)	36 (45.0)	
Smoking History				0.091
Never-smoker	84 (57.5)	43 (65.2)	41 (51.2)	
Former/current smoker	62 (42.5)	23 (34.8)	39 (48.8)	
TNM stage				0.215
III	13 (8.9)	8 (12.1)	5 (6.3)	
IV	133 (91.1)	58 (87.9)	75 (93.7)	
Histology				0.196
Squamous	2 (1.4)	0 (0.0)	2 (2.5)	
Adenocarcinoma	144 (98.6)	66 (100.0)	78 (97.5)	
ECOG-PS				0.472
0-1	136 (93.2)	63 (95.5)	73 (91.2)	
2	10 (6.8)	3 (4.5)	7 (8.8)	
EGFR mutation type				0.298
19del	59 (40.4)	31 (47.0)	28 (35.0)	
21L858R	75 (51.4)	31 (47.0)	44 (55.0)	
Otders	12 (8.2)	4 (6.0)	8 (10.0)	
Primary brain metastasis				0.210
Yes	43 (29.5)	16 (19.4)	27 (23.6)	
No	103 (70.5)	50 (46.6)	53 (56.4)	
Primary liver metastasis				0.517
Yes	11 (7.5)	6 (9.1)	5 (6.3)	
No	135 (92.5)	60 (90.9)	75 (93.7)	
EGFR-TKI				0.358
Gefitinib	51 (34.9)	21 (31.9)	30 (37.5)	
Icotinib	53 (36.3)	22 (33.3)	31 (38.8)	
Erlotinib	7 (4.8)	5 (7.6)	2 (2.5)	
Afatinib	10 (6.8)	4 (6.1)	6 (7.5)	
Osimertinib	23 (15.8)	13 (19.6)	10 (12.5)	
Dacomitinib	2 (1.4)	1 (1.5)	1 (1.2)	

tumor progression occurred in all patients. 43 (29.5%) patients had brain metastasis, and 16 (11.0%) patients had liver metastasis. Most recurrent sites were in the lungs (42.86%), bones (15.07%), and brain (11.64%).

Survival analysis showed that patients treated with ICIs had better progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) compared with those treated with other treatments (median PFS, 10.0 vs. 4.0 months, $P < 0.001$; median OS, 39.5 vs. 24.2 months, $P < 0.001$, **Figure 2**).

Factors affecting PFS and OS were enrolled (**Tables 2, 3**). Cox proportional-hazards models were used to analyze the factors that might impact PFS and OS. $P < 0.2$ was considered significant in the univariable analysis. In the univariate analysis, we found that ECOG PS state, EGFR mutation type, primary liver metastasis, and post-line immunotherapy were significant factors affecting PFS ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.120$, $p = 0.038$, and $p < 0.001$, respectively) to improve sensitivity. These variables were further incorporated into the multivariate analysis, which showed that poor PS state, primary liver metastasis, and absence of immunotherapy were independent predictors of PFS ($p < 0.001$, $p = 0.044$, $p < 0.001$, respectively;

Table 2). In terms of OS, univariate analysis revealed that age, ECOG PS state, primary liver metastasis, and post-line immunotherapy were significant factors for OS ($p = 0.122$, $p = 0.006$, $p = 0.032$, $p = 0.012$, respectively). Further multivariate analysis showed that all these variables were also independent risk factors for OS ($p = 0.008$, $p = 0.037$, $p = 0.005$, respectively; **Table 3**).

Immunotherapy

We further analyzed the differences between the IC and IM groups ($n = 80$). All variants were balanced between IM and IC patients, except for physicians' preference to use combination therapy in second-line treatment rather than further treatment ($p = 0.01$, **Table 4**). The objective response rate to immunotherapy reached 41.3% ($n = 33$), with 39 patients (48.2%) having stable disease and eight patients (11.0%) having progressive disease (**Figure 3A**).

In our study, subgroup analysis revealed that the PFS and OS benefit of IC was significant in most subgroups, except for patients

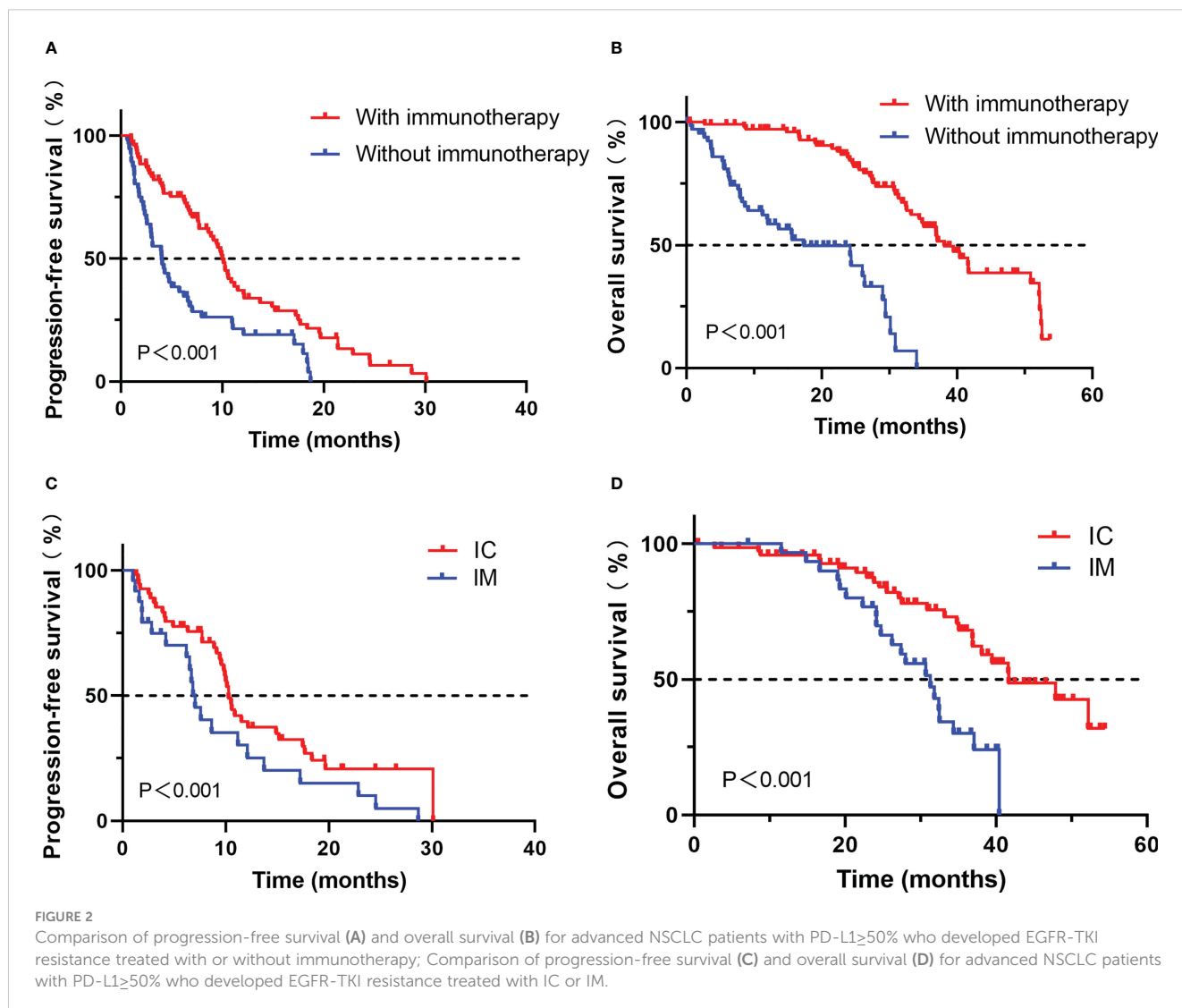


TABLE 2 Univariable and multivariable analysis for progression-free survival (PFS) in all patients.

Characteristics	Univariable analysis			Multivariable analysis		
	HR	95%CI	P	HR	95%CI	P
Gender			0.416			
Male	reference					
Female	0.852	0.579-1.254				
Age(y)			0.740			
<65	reference					
≥65	0.937	0.640-1.373				
Smoking History			0.315			
Yes	reference					
No	0.892	0.830-1.782				
TNM stage			0.948			
III	reference					
IV	1.021	0.544-1.917				
Histology			0.676			
Squamous	reference					
Adenocarcinoma	0.741	0.182-3.019				
ECOG-PS			<0.001			<0.001
0-1	reference			reference		
2	5.675	2.544-7.658		5.363	2.376-12.106	
EGFR mutation type			0.120			0.363
19del	reference			reference		
21L858R	0.764	0.509-1.145	0.192	0.329	0.547-1.257	0.377
Others	0.908	0.453-1.821	0.074	1.312	0.638-2.699	0.461
Primary brain metastasis			0.901			
Yes	reference					
No	1.027	0.673-1.569				
Primary liver metastasis			0.038			0.044
Yes	reference			reference		
No	0.481	0.241-0.959		0.572	0.278-0.902	
Post-line immunotherapy			<0.001			<0.001
Yes	reference			reference		
No	2.183	1.465-3.253		2.201	1.460-3.318	

ECOG-PS, Eastern cooperative oncology group-performance status; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor. The bold values mean these characters are both significant in univariable and multivariable analysis.

with primary liver metastases and other mutations of EGFR, because the sample was too small to calculate HR and 95% CI (Figures 3B, C).

Change in PD-L1 expression

Among 38 patients who underwent PD-L1 immunohistochemical testing after developing EGFR-TKI resistance, we also explored

changes in PD-L1 expression in tumor cells between before receiving EGFR-TKI treatment and the development of drug resistance. PD-L1 expression was remarkably increased after receiving EGFR-TKI treatment ($p=0.044$, Figure 4A). Then, association of PD-L1 expression postprogression with efficacy of post-line ICI treatment was investigated. among those patients whose PD-L1 expression improved after developing EGFR-TKI resistance, survival analysis showed that treated with ICIs had better progression-free survival

TABLE 3 Univariable and multivariable cox regression analysis for overall survival (OS) in all patients.

Characteristics	Univariable analysis			Multivariable analysis		
	HR	95%CI	P	HR	95%CI	P
Gender			0.322			
Male	reference					
Female	0.767	0.454-1.297				
Age(y)			0.122			0.130
<65	reference			reference		
≥65	1.524	0.894-2.600		1.519	0.885-2.610	
Smoking History			0.734			
Yes	reference					
No	0.915	0.548-1.528				
TNM stage			0.400			
III	reference					
IV	1.441	0.616-3.372				
Histology			0.368			
Squamous	reference					
Adenocarcinoma	0.377	0.195-1.665				
ECOG-PS			0.006			0.008
0-1	reference			reference		
2	2.210	1.191-3.841		2.270	1.112-3.877	
EGFR mutation type			0.531			
19del	reference					
21L858R	0.789	0.452-1.379	0.406			
Otders	1.231	0.502-3.015	0.650			
Primary brain metastasis			0.745			
Yes	reference					
No	0.912	0.522-1.592				
Primary liver metastasis			0.032			0.037
Yes	reference			reference		
No	0.457	0.194-0.772		0.550	0.230-0.793	
Post-line immunotherapy			0.012			0.005
Yes	reference			reference		
No	1.963	1.163-3.314		2.184	1.273-3.746	

ECOG-PS, Eastern cooperative oncology group-performance status; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor. The bold values mean these characters are both significant in univariable and multivariable analysis.

(PFS) and overall survival (OS) compared with those treated with other treatments (PFS, $P < 0.005$; OS, $P < 0.040$, Figures 4B, C).

Discussion

The applicability of ICI-based therapies to patients with EGFR-mutated NSCLC who carry PD-L1 TPS > 50% and progress after

EGFR-TKI therapy remains controversial. Our investigations suggest that ICI-based treatment may provide more favorable survival for these patients than classical chemotherapy. ICI combined with chemotherapy seems to be the preferred therapy compared to ICI monotherapy.

Previous studies have shown that patients with advanced NSCLC carrying EGFR mutations have a poor response to immunotherapy, and a possible mechanism for this poor

TABLE 4 Clinical characteristics for patients with immunotherapy.

Characteristics	Total (n=80) (%)	Immunotherapy (n=80)		P value
		IM(n=24)(%)	IC (n=56) (%)	
Gender				0.765
Male	48(60)	15(62.5)	33(58.9)	
Female	32(40)	9(37.5)	23(41.1)	
Age(y)				0.117
<65	44(55)	10(41.7)	34(60.7)	
≥65	36(45)	14(58.3)	22(39.3)	
Smoking History				0.526
Never-smoker	41(51.2)	11(45.8)	30(53.6)	
Former/current smoker	39(48.8)	13(54.2)	26(46.4)	
TNM stage				0.131
III	5(6.2)	0(0)	5(8.9)	
IV	75(93.8)	24(100.0)	51(91.1)	
Histology				/
Squamous	0	0	0	
Adenocarcinoma	80(100)	24(100)	56(100)	
ECOG-PS				0.370
0-1	76(95.0)	22(91.7)	54(96.4)	
2	4(5.0)	2(8.3)	2(3.6)	
EGFR mutation type				0.523
19del	28(35.0)	9(37.5)	19(33.9)	
21L858R	44(55.0)	14(58.3)	30(53.6)	
Otders	8(10.0)	1(4.2)	7(12.5)	
Primary brain metastasis				0.327
Yes	27(33.8)	10(41.7)	17(30.4)	
No	53(66.3)	14(58.3)	39(69.6)	
Primary liver metastasis				0.131
Yes	5(6.2)	3(12.5)	2(3.6)	
No	75(93.8)	21(87.5)	54(96.4)	
Treatment line of immunotherapy				0.010
Second line	34(42.5)	5(20.8)	29(51.8)	
Third or after line	46(57.5)	19(79.2)	27(48.2)	
Immunotherapy				0.389
Pembrolizumab	39(48.8)	12(50.0)	27(48.2)	
Nivolumab	24(30.0)	9(37.5)	15(26.8)	
Otders	17(21.2)	3(12.5)	14(25.0)	

ECOG-PS, Eastern cooperative oncology group-performance status; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor. The bold values mean these characters are both significant in univariable and multivariable analysis.

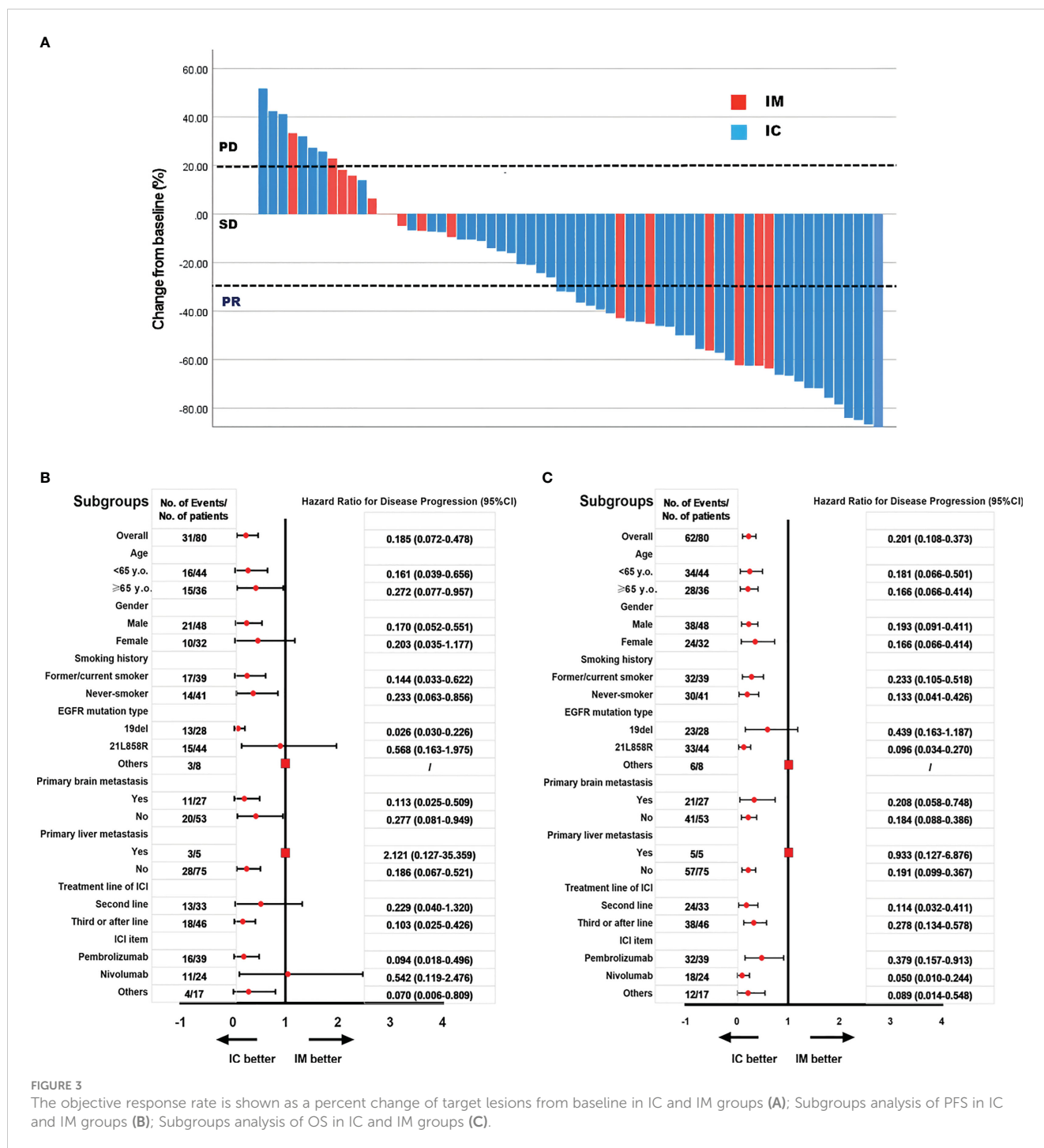


FIGURE 3

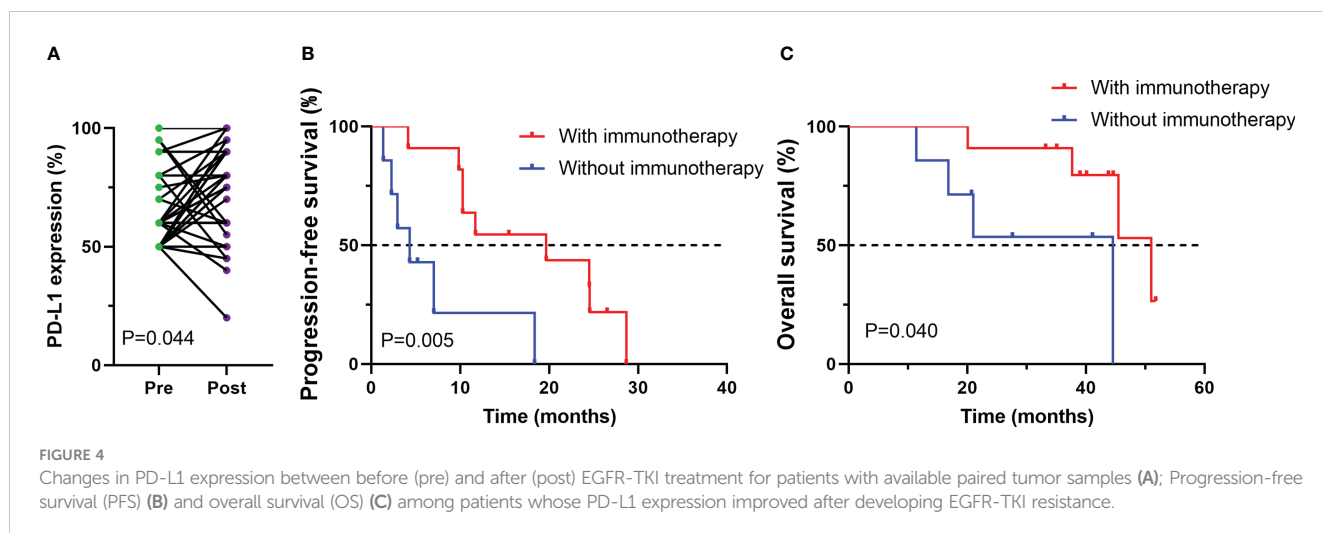
The objective response rate is shown as a percent change of target lesions from baseline in IC and IM groups (A); Subgroups analysis of PFS in IC and IM groups (B); Subgroups analysis of OS in IC and IM groups (C).

response is the low expression of PD-L1 or the lack of infiltrating T cells in the tumor microenvironment (TME) (11–14). The TME generalization may change with the progression of the tumor, and therefore, resistance to EGFR-TKI may enhance the response to immunotherapy response (7, 15, 16). As reported in the EGFR +/ALK+ cohort in the ATLANTIC study, if PD-L1 expression is greater than 25%, monotherapy with durvalumab led to favorable outcomes with median PFS and OS of 1.9 and 13.3 months, respectively (17).

Previous studies have reported that chemotherapy alone may be the best option when resistance to EGFR-TKI is present (18). In the

present study, we compared the outcomes of ICI-based therapy with chemotherapy alone and found that ICI-based treatment had a significant prognostic advantage.

The combination of chemotherapy and immunotherapy enhances the infiltration of effector T cells and downregulates the expression of immunosuppressive cells (19, 20). Ultimately, the efficacy of immunotherapy may be improved. A critical phase II study showed that in EGFR-TKI-resistant NSCLC, ICI combined with chemotherapy resulted in good objective remission rates (ORR, 50%) and survival time (PFS, 7.0 months; OS, 23.5 months) (21). More importantly, a retrospective study also



showed the value of ICI combination chemotherapy in metastatic NSCLC after EGFR-TKI resistance (22). In our study, ICI combination therapy resulted in PFS of 10.3 months and OS of 41.6 months in NSCLC patients carrying EGFR mutations and PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$ after developing EGFR-TKI resistance without T790M mutations. The survival time in this study was longer than other studies. The possible reason was that the population included in our study had a higher level of PD-L1 expression than other studies, and NSCLC patients with PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$ seemed to benefit from immunotherapy. Subgroup analysis in our study found that the PFS and OS benefit of IC was significant in most subgroups, except for patients with primary liver metastases and other mutations in EGFR, because the sample was too small to calculate HR and 95% CI.

PD-L1 expression is an effective predictor for ICI response in NSCLC (23). Previous study found that targeted therapy was associated with a significant increase in PD-L1 expression in tumor cells in postprogression tumor samples compared with those obtained at baseline, especially in the case of T790M-negative patients (24). Our research also found that PD-L1 expression was remarkably improved after receiving EGFR-TKI treatment. Among those patients whose PD-L1 expression improved after developing EGFR-TKI resistance, survival analysis showed that treated with ICs had better progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) compared with those treated with other treatments, which means improved PD-L1 expression after developing EGFR-TKI resistance may indicate a good response to immunotherapy in poster-line treatment.

Several possible limitations can be seen in our study. First, this study is a retrospective single-center study, which inevitably causes selection bias. Secondly, the lack of sufficient tissue samples for exploratory analysis is a limitation of this study. Therefore, we could only perform PD-L1 status testing on a limited number of specimens before ICI treatment. Multicenter prospective and large

sample studies are expected to provide more comprehensive insights into EGFR-mutated NSCLC patients carrying PD-L1 TPS $> 50\%$.

In conclusion, our study suggests that for patients with advanced NSCLC with EGFR mutations and PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$ who have failed prior EGFR-TKI therapies without T790M mutation, ICI-based treatment could provide more favorable survival than classical chemotherapy. More importantly, ICI combination therapy was superior to ICI monotherapy.

Data availability statement

The sequencing data presented in the study are deposited in the Figshare repository (https://figshare.com/articles/dataset/Patient_genetic_data_xlsx/22664644).

Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by the Institutional Review Board of the Shanghai Chest Hospital. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

Author contributions

WZ, BH, YQL and YJL: study conceptualization and manuscript revision. YJL, HJ and FQ: paper writing. YC, WSZ and YJL: data analysis and figures. YZ and JL: clinical data collection. WZ, BH and YQL: study progress supervision. All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2023.1161718/full#supplementary-material>

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