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Corrigendum: Real-world treatment patterns and outcomes among individuals receiving first-line pembrolizumab therapy for recurrent/metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma

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A corrigendum on

[Real-world treatment patterns and outcomes among individuals receiving first-line pembrolizumab therapy for recurrent/metastatic head and neck squamous cell carcinoma](#)

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Error in Figure/Table

In the published article, there was an error in [Table 1](#) as published. The mean (SD) for the 1L pembrolizumab + chemotherapy column for CPS<1 should be 18 (16.7), not 18 (6.7) as originally shown. Further, we used the terminology, CPS<1% in the first column and the correct terminology is CPS<1. The corrected [Table 1](#) and its caption appear below.

In the published article, there was an error in [Table 2](#) as published. We used the terminology CPS (referent: <1%) in column one and the correct terminology is CPS (referent: <1). The corrected [Table 2](#) and its caption appear below.

TABLE 1 Baseline demographic and clinical characteristics of individuals receiving 1L pembrolizumab monotherapy or pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy.

| Characteristic | 1L pembrolizumab (all) (N = 646) | 1L pembrolizumab monotherapy (N = 431) | 1L pembrolizumab + chemotherapy (N = 215) |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| Age (years) | | | |
| Median (95% CI) | 68.0 (66.8–68.3) | 69.0 (68.4–70.2) | 64.0 (62.8–65.3) |
| Median (IQR) | 68.0 (61.0–65.0) | 69.0 (63.0–78.0) | 64.0 (59.0–70.0) |
| Sex | | | |
| Male | 500 (77.4) | 330 (76.6) | 170 (79.1) |
| Race | | | |
| White | 386 (59.8) | 261 (60.6) | 125 (58.1) |
| Black | 34 (5.3) | 21 (4.9) | 13 (6.0) |
| Asian | 6 (0.9) | 4 (0.9) | 2 (0.9) |
| Other | 220 (34.1) | 145 (33.6) | 75 (34.9) |
| Smoking status ^A | | | |
| History of smoking | 507 (78.5) | 343 (79.6) | 164 (76.3) |
| No history of smoking | 138 (21.4) | 88 (20.4) | 50 (23.3) |
| Census region | | | |
| South | 375 (58.0) | 251 (58.2) | 124 (57.7) |
| Midwest | 78 (12.1) | 54 (12.5) | 24 (11.2) |
| West | 67 (10.4) | 37 (8.6) | 30 (14.0) |
| Northeast | 60 (9.3) | 40 (9.3) | 20 (9.3) |
| Unknown/not documented | 66 (10.2) | 49 (11.4) | 17 (7.9) |
| Practice type | | | |
| Community | 583 (90.2) | 384 (89.1) | 199 (92.6) |
| Academic | 57 (8.8) | 43 (10.0) | 14 (6.5) |
| Both | 6 (0.9) | 4 (0.9) | 2 (0.9) |
| Primary tumor site(s) | | | |
| Oropharynx | 297 (46.0) | 193 (44.8) | 104 (48.4) |
| Larynx | 166 (25.7) | 120 (27.8) | 46 (21.4) |
| Oral cavity | 138 (21.4) | 89 (20.6) | 49 (22.8) |
| Hypopharynx | 35 (5.4) | 23 (5.3) | 12 (5.6) |
| Other ^B | 10 (1.5) | 6 (1.4) | 4 (1.9) |
| Disease status | | | |
| Distant metastatic disease (HNSCC with distant recurrence OR Stage IVc at initial diagnosis) | 367 (56.8) | 238 (55.2) | 129 (60.0) |
| HNSCC with locoregional recurrence ^C | 149 (23.1) | 106 (24.6) | 43 (20.0) |
| HNSCC not cured at initial diagnosis | 106 (16.4) | 77 (17.9) | 29 (13.5) |
| HPV-positive Stage IV oropharyngeal tumor at initial diagnosis | 24 (3.7) | 10 (2.3) | 14 (6.5) |
| Stage at initial diagnosis | | | |

(Continued)

TABLE 1 Continued

| Characteristic | 1L pembrolizumab (all) (N = 646) | 1L pembrolizumab monotherapy (N = 431) | 1L pembrolizumab + chemotherapy (N = 215) |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| I–II | 115 (17.8) | 88 (20.4) | 27 (12.6) |
| III–IVB | 326 (50.5) | 232 (53.8) | 94 (43.7) |
| IV | 24 (3.7) | 10 (2.3) | 14 (6.5) |
| IVc | 92 (14.2) | 41 (9.5) | 51 (23.7) |
| Unknown/not documented | 89 (13.8) | 60 (13.9) | 29 (13.5) |
| ECOG PS on index date | | | |
| 0–1 | 427 (66.1) | 265 (61.5) | 162 (75.3) |
| 2–4 | 135 (20.9) | 103 (23.9) | 32 (14.9) |
| Unknown/not documented | 84 (13.0) | 63 (14.6) | 21 (9.8) |
| HPV status (all subtypes) | | | |
| Positive | 233 (36.1) | 163 (37.8) | 70 (32.6) |
| Negative | 258 (39.9) | 165 (38.3) | 93 (43.3) |
| Equivocal or unknown | 155 (24.0) | 103 (24.9) | 52 (24.2) |
| HPV status (oropharynx subtype only) | | | |
| | N = 297 | N = 193 | N = 104 |
| Positive | 192 (64.6) | 137 (71.0) | 55 (52.9) |
| Negative | 87 (29.3) | 47 (24.4) | 40 (38.5) |
| Equivocal or unknown | 18 (6.1) | 9 (4.7) | 9 (8.7) |
| Evidence of PD-L1 testing ^D | | | |
| Yes | 463 (71.7) | 318 (73.8) | 145 (67.4) |
| CPS ^E | | | |
| <1 | 36 (10.2) | 18 (7.4) | 18 (16.7) |
| ≥1 | 295 (83.8) | 211 (86.5) | 84 (77.8) |
| ≥20 | 149 (42.3) | 109 (44.7) | 40 (37.0) |
| Unknown/not documented | 21 (6.0) | 15 (6.1) | 6 (5.7) |

1L, first-line; CI, confidence interval; CPS, combined positive score; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HNSCC, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; HPV, human papillomavirus; IQR, interquartile range; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1.

All values are given as n (%) unless otherwise indicated.

^A Smoking status was not documented for 1 individual receiving 1L pembrolizumab + platinum + 5-FU.

^B Includes pharynx not otherwise specified, tongue not otherwise specified, or other unspecified tumor site.

^C Includes individuals not cured at first locoregional recurrence, or with second locoregional recurrence.

^D PD-L1 testing performed at index date ± 30 days.

^E If multiple CPS values were available, the score recorded closest to the index date was reported.

TABLE 2 Factors associated with use of 1L pembrolizumab monotherapy versus pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy: stepwise logistic regression model.

| Variable | OR | 95% CI | p-value |
|-------------------------------------|------|-----------|---------|
| Age (referent: <65 years) | | | |
| ≥65 years | 2.42 | 1.68–3.52 | <0.001 |
| Sex (referent: male) | | | |
| Female | 1.41 | 0.90–2.22 | 0.140 |

(Continued)

TABLE 2 Continued

| Variable | OR | 95% CI | p-value |
|--|------|-----------|------------------|
| ECOG PS on index date (referent: 0–1) | | | |
| 2–4 | 2.03 | 1.26–3.34 | 0.004 |
| Unknown/not defined | 2.30 | 1.29–4.23 | 0.006 |
| History of smoking (referent: no/unknown) | | | |
| Yes | 1.43 | 0.89–2.26 | 0.132 |
| Primary tumor site (referent: oropharynx) | | | |
| Hypopharynx | 1.46 | 0.61–3.65 | 0.403 |
| Larynx | 1.84 | 1.09–3.12 | 0.023 |
| Oral cavity | 0.91 | 0.52–1.59 | 0.740 |
| Other ^A | 0.99 | 0.24–4.43 | 0.998 |
| HPV status (referent: positive) | | | |
| Negative | 0.59 | 0.36–0.93 | 0.026 |
| Unknown | 0.58 | 0.32–1.03 | 0.065 |
| CPS (referent: <1) | | | |
| 1–19 | 2.62 | 1.12–6.12 | 0.026 |
| ≥20 | 3.21 | 1.37–7.55 | 0.007 |
| Unknown | 1.87 | 0.85–4.09 | 0.117 |
| Census region (referent: Northeast) | | | |
| Midwest | 1.31 | 0.59–2.89 | 0.495 |
| South | 0.88 | 0.46–1.64 | 0.704 |
| West | 0.40 | 0.18–0.89 | 0.027 |
| Missing/not defined | 1.16 | 0.50–2.69 | 0.720 |
| Advanced diagnostic criteria (referent: HPV-positive Stage IV oropharyngeal tumor at initial diagnosis) | | | |
| HNSCC not cured at initial diagnosis | 4.58 | 2.49–8.61 | <0.001 |
| Distant metastatic disease (HNSCC with distant recurrence OR Stage IVc at initial diagnosis) | 4.83 | 2.90–8.17 | <0.001 |
| HNSCC with locoregional recurrence | 4.62 | 2.61–8.35 | <0.001 |

1L, first-line; CI, confidence interval; CPS, combined positive score; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; HNSCC, head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; HPV, human papilloma virus; OR, odds ratio. Statistically significant p-values (<0.05) are presented in bold.

^A Includes pharynx not otherwise specified, tongue not otherwise specified, or other unspecified tumor site.

Text Correction

In the published article, there was an error to the text in **Results, Study population**, where "CPS<1" was referred to as "CPS<1%".

This sentence previously stated: "A CPS of <1% was recorded for 10.2% of this latter group, while 83.8% had a score of ≥1 and 42.3% had a score of ≥20."

The corrected sentence appears below:

"A CPS of <1 was recorded for 10.2% of this latter group, while 83.8% had a score of ≥1 and 42.3% had a score of ≥20."

The authors apologize for these errors and state that these does not change the scientific conclusions of the article in any way. The original article has been updated.

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