

# KEYTRUDA in First-Line HER2-Negative Gastric and Gastroesophageal Junction (GEJ) Cancer

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### What You Will Hear Today



Overview of Pembrolizumab and PD-L1 22C3 PharmDx

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**KEYNOTE-859** Results in **HER2-Negative Gastric Cancer** 

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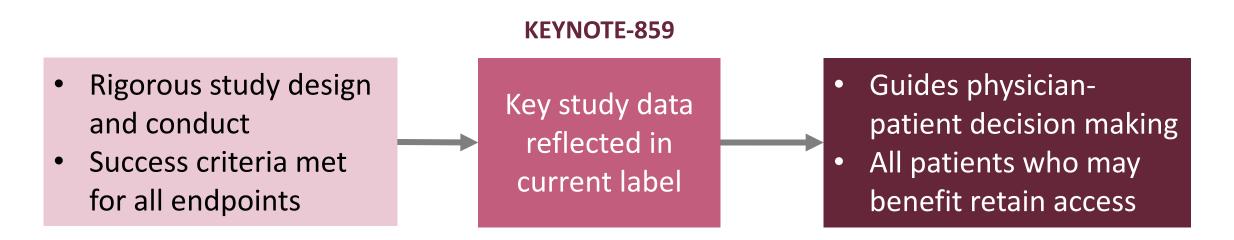
**Clinical Management of Gastric Cancer** 

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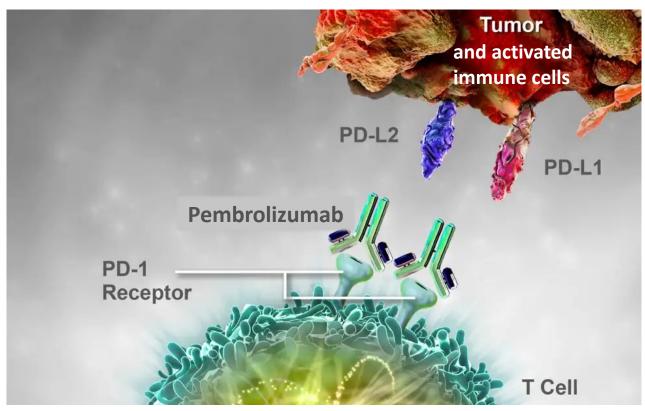
#### KEYTRUDA Helps Address an Unmet Need in Gastric Cancer

- Metastatic gastric cancer is a rare disease, and patients have a poor prognosis
- Current SOC of chemotherapy + IO in 1L HER2-negative gastric cancer addresses significant unmet need



Current indication for pembrolizumab should be retained

### Pembrolizumab Mechanism of Action Centers Around Tumor-Specific Expression of PD-L1



PD-1=programmed death receptor-1; PD-L1=programmed death ligand 1; PD-L2=programmed death ligand 2.

- Pembrolizumab restores immune response by binding PD-1 and blocking its interaction with PD-L1 and PD-L2
- Increased expression of PD-L1 enriches for response with pembrolizumab monotherapy

# Biological Evidence That Combining Pembrolizumab With Chemotherapy Modulates Antitumor Response

**Promotion** 

#### **Chemotherapy Antitumor Immune Response**

**Impairment** 

- Antigen shedding and presentation
- Altered immune regulatory receptors, ligands, and cytokines
- Activation of innate immunity
- Favorable effect on immune regulatory cells

- Post-chemotherapy induction of immune regulatory receptors, ligands, and cytokines
- Unfavorable effect on immune regulatory cells



Potential complementary effects between chemotherapy and pembrolizumab could benefit patients across a broad range of PD-L1 expression

# Robust Sample Processing, Cut-point Determination, Scoring, and Validation Underlie Merck Randomized Trials

Sample processing, PD-L1 staining, and scoring

Assay kit: PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx by Agilent

Quantified using combined positive score (CPS):

- CPS captures PD-L1
   expression on tumor cells,
   lymphocytes, and
   macrophages
- CPS scores: 0 to 100

**2** Training sets

Merck clinical studies

#### CPS≥1:

- KN-012 (n=38)
- KN-059 (n=256)

#### CPS≥10:

KN-061 (n=590)

3 Cut-point determination

Trial-specific CPS cut-points

4 Validation set

**KEYNOTE-859** 

Cut-points were

- Pre-specified in trials
- Scored by pathologists
- Analytically validated by Dx partner and testing lab

# Multifactorial, Rigorous Approach to Inform Study Design and Labeling

Biologic Rationale

Biomarkers and Assays

Results From Merck Trials

**External Sources** 

Design of Registrational Studies

Positive Outcomes and Pre-specified Analyses Inform Labeling

# Rigorous Statistical Approaches in Phase 3 Trials and Limitations of Post hoc Subgroup and Pooled Analyses

- Statistically rigorous and accepted methodology for Phase 3 studies:
  - Strong type 1 error control and adequate sample size required to prospectively test a hypothesis
  - Subgroup analysis is considered exploratory to assess directional consistency of treatment effect
- Post hoc subgroup analysis at various cut-points not rigorously assessed or pre-specified may lead to spurious finding of randomly high or low treatment effect estimates
- Pooled analysis to inform product labeling has inherent limitations and does not replace well controlled individual studies
  - Assumes identical:
    - Efficacy for all ICIs
    - Patient population within the selected subgroup, despite trial, assay and cut-point differences

## Key Considerations When Evaluating Benefit-Risk of Pembrolizumab in Gastric Cancer Based on PD-L1 Status

- KN-859 is a large Phase 3 study conducted with rigorous statistical design
  - No new data with pembrolizumab that changes benefit-risk
- The PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay is specifically studied for pembrolizumab in the approved indication
- There are key differences in considering a restriction of this indication by PD-L1 cut-point compared to those for cetuximab/panitumumab and olaparib

The practice of medicine is informed by clinical guidelines and individual benefit-risk assessment



# KEYNOTE-859 Results in HER2-Negative Gastric Cancer

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# 1L HER2-Negative Gastric and GEJ Adenocarcinoma (KEYNOTE-859)

KEYTRUDA, in combination with fluoropyrimidine- and platinum-containing chemotherapy, is indicated for the first-line treatment of adults with locally advanced unresectable or metastatic HER2-negative gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma.

## Phase 3, 1L HER2-Negative Gastric and GEJ Adenocarcinoma Study KN-859

#### **Key Eligibility Criteria**

- Adenocarcinoma of the stomach or GEJ
- Locally advanced unresectable or metastatic disease
- Known PD-L1 status

## Pembrolizumab +

Chemotherapy

Placebo

+ Chemotherapy

#### **Primary Endpoint**

OS

#### **Key Secondary Endpoints**

- PFS
- ORR

#### **Alpha Controlled**

• Overall, PD-L1 CPS≥1, PD-L1 CPS≥10

#### **Additional Secondary Endpoints:**

1:1

- DOR
- Safety

#### **Stratification Factors**

- Choice of chemotherapy (FP vs CAPOX)
- Geographic region
- PD-L1 CPS (<1 vs ≥1)

## Key Study Design Elements Based on PD-L1 Expression KN-859

#### **Central PD-L1 Testing**

- Early monotherapy studies indicated potential for increased efficacy in CPS≥1 population
- Agilent PD-L1 IHC 22C3
   pharmDx assay validated
   at CPS≥1

### Initial Study Design

- Stratify by CPS≥1 versus <1</li>
- Hypothesis testing in CPS≥1 and ITT

78% of ITT was CPS≥1

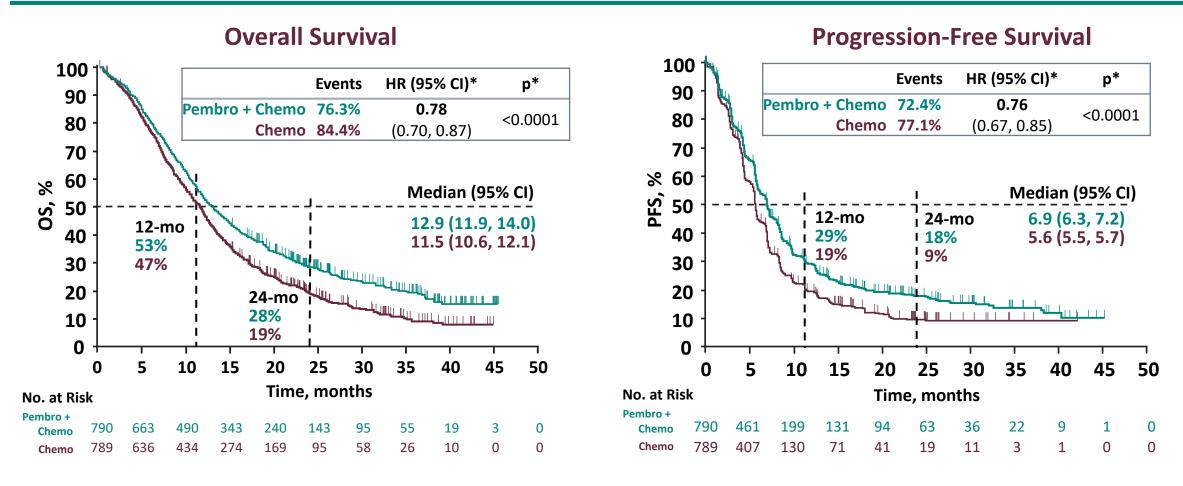
# KN-062 Readout After KN-859 Initiation

 Added hypothesis testing in CPS≥10

35% of ITT was CPS≥10

### Statistically Significant Overall Survival and Progression-Free Survival

KN-859: ITT

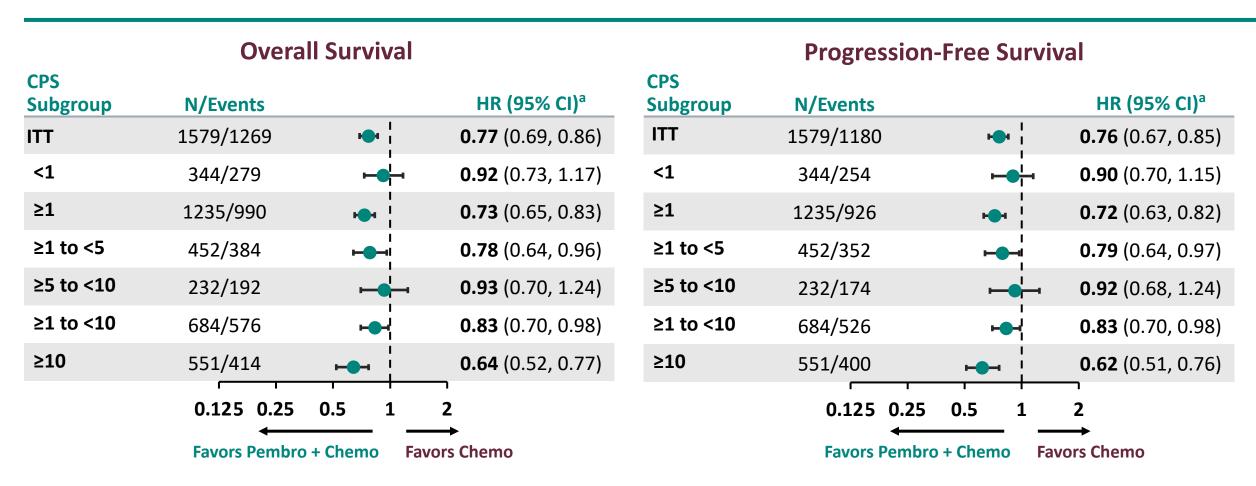


Safety profile of pembrolizumab with chemotherapy is consistent with that of the individual agents

<sup>\*</sup>Based on stratified analyses pre-specified in sSAP.

### OS and PFS Are Directionally Consistent at All PD-L1 Cut-points

KN-859: ITT



Safety profile of pembrolizumab and chemotherapy is generally similar across PD-L1 CPS subgroups

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Based on unstratified Cox regression model.

# Pembrolizumab in Combination With Chemotherapy Addresses a Significant Unmet Need

- Statistically significant and clinically meaningful efficacy was demonstrated in the ITT population
  - Magnitude of benefit increases with higher levels of PD-L1 expression, with clear benefit seen in the CPS ≥1 subgroup
  - Efficacy trends in the CPS <1 subgroup favored the combination</li>
- Health-related QoL remained stable during treatment, was generally similar between arms, and generally consistent across PD-L1 CPS subgroups
- Safety profile of the combination was manageable and similar across PD-L1 CPS subgroups
- The label for this indication delineates efficacy by PD-L1 expression level and supports a benefit-risk discussion between physicians and patients



### Clinical Management of Gastric Cancer

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**Gastrointestinal Oncology** 

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NY



#### **Disclosures**

**Research Funding:** 

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Department of Defense

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Inspirna

Merck

NCI

Stand Up 2 Cancer

Transcenta

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**HMP Education** 

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PeerView Institute

Pfizer

Physician's Education Resource,

LLC

Research to Practice

Sanofi Genzyme

Seagen

Silverback Therapeutics

Talem Health

**TotalCME** 

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Other:

Inspirna (stock options)

#### Optimizing First-Line Treatment in Gastric Cancer

- Assess patient functional status and disease burden
- Therapeutic urgency
  - Small window of time
  - Response in 1L important
- PD-L1 expression guides treatment continuation
- Maximize therapeutic options for patients unable to receive 2L therapy (>50%)
- IO has established safety profile and health-related QoL is generally maintained
- Long-term survival observed in some IO patients

#### Validated Biomarkers in Gastric Cancer

Biomarker	Prevalence in Metastatic Gastric Cancer	
ERBB2/HER2 <sup>1</sup>	20%	
MSI-high <sup>2</sup>	5% in stage IV, 20% in stage I-III	
PD-L1 CPS <sup>3</sup>	78% CPS≥1; 35% CPS≥10	

#### Clinical need for patients with no other biomarker

### Practical Limitations of PD-L1 Testing

## Representative Sampling

- Difficulty obtaining sample sufficient for PD-L1 testing
- Tumor heterogeneity

#### **Assay**

 Variability in PD-L1 testing in clinical practice

# Pathologist Interpretation

- Learning curve for interpretation of CPS
- Challenging to distinguish intermediate values between CPS 1-10

PD-L1 expression level helps guide management decisions while on treatment

### Biomarker Testing and IO Use in the Real World

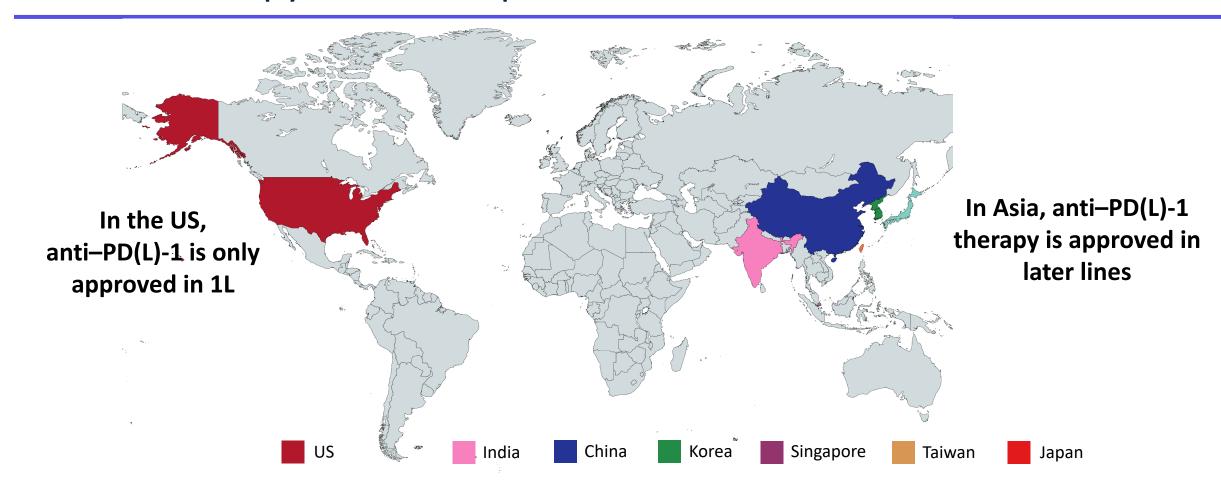
Based on Flatiron Health EHR database on HER2-negative gastric cancer patients treated in 1L after April 16, 2021 (US community setting)

- 77% had evidence of PD-L1 testing prior to 1L therapy start
- About 50% were treated with IO in 1L
- Restriction of label will limit access further

PD-L1 Assay at Index Date*	n (%)
Dako PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx	199 (47%)
Dako PD-L1 IHC 28-8 pharmDx	53 (13%)
Ventana PD-L1 (SP142 or SP263) Assay	5 (1.2%)
Lab-developed test	75 (18%)
Unknown/not documented	88 (21%)

<sup>\*1</sup>L therapy start date.

### Immunotherapy is not an Option in 2L for Patients in the US



A need for broad immunotherapy treatment options in the US

### **Clinical Perspective Conclusion**

- Improved long-term survival and tumor response with IO has changed treatment landscape
- Choice of 1L therapy drives long term outcome; access to 2L therapy varies
- Patients with limited access to testing, sample limitations, and inherent issues with PD-L1 testing
- Clinical guidelines informed by scientific community shapes decision-making
- Physicians need options to personalize therapy decisions



### **Concluding Remarks**

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### Summary

KEYNOTE-859 was rigorously designed, executed, and success criteria for all endpoints were met

- Current approved indication in the US reflects a positive benefit-risk assessment
- OS and PFS hazard ratios for all PD-L1 subgroups are <1</li>

First-line metastatic gastric cancer remains an unmet need with poor prognosis

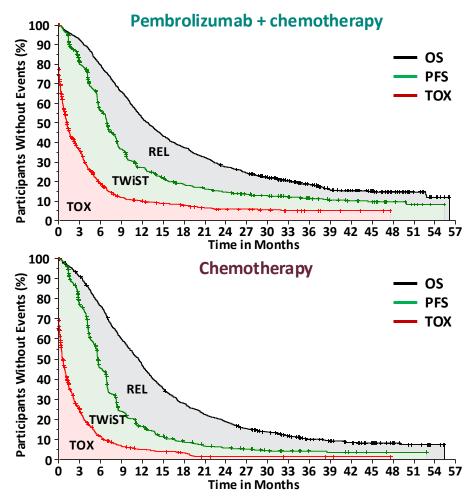
 Pembrolizumab labeling is informative and helps guide the physician/patient decision-making process



### Back Up Slides Shown

## For KEYNOTE-859, There was a Relative Q-TWiST Gain in all CPS Cut Points

Kaplan-Meier survival curves for the Q-TWiST health states in all randomly assigned patients<sup>a</sup>

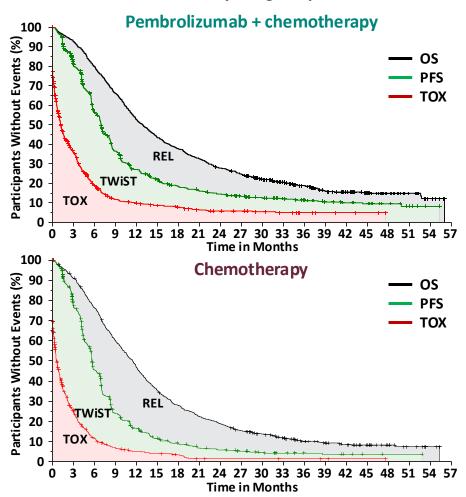


Relative Q-TWiST gain for pembrolizumab + chemotherapy vs chemotherapy with US quality of life weights

	Relative Q-TWiST Gain,	
<b>KEYNOTE-859</b>	% (CI) <sup>b</sup>	
ITT	20.9 (12.49, 30.56)	
CPS ≥ 1	25.34 (16.04, 36.26)	
CPS ≥ 10	38.05 (23.21, 56.59)	

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Kaplan-Meier survival curves for the Q-TWiST health states in all randomly assigned patients<sup>a</sup>

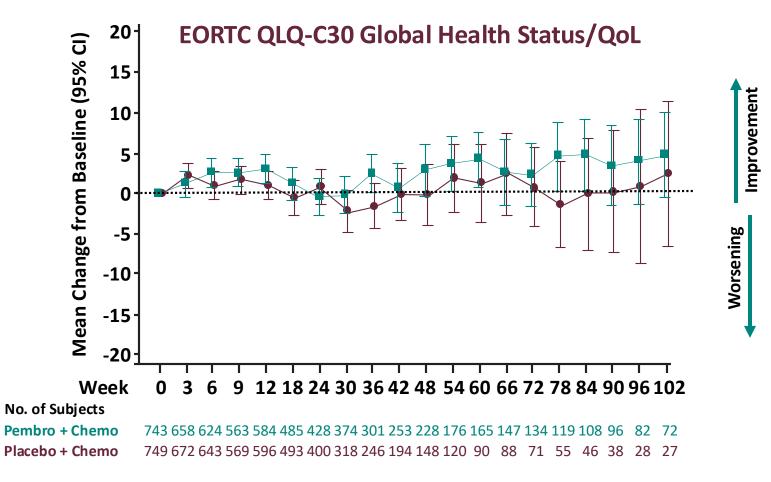


# Relative Q-TWiST gain for pembrolizumab + chemotherapy vs chemotherapy with US quality of life weights

KEYNOTE-859	Relative Q-TWiST Gain, % (CI) <sup>b</sup>	
ITTb	20.9 (12.49, 30.56)	
CPS < 1	4.58 (-6.66, 19.87)	
CPS ≥ 1	25.34 (16.04, 36.26)	
CPS 1-9	14.02 (3.24, 26.91)	
CPS ≥ 10	38.05 (23.21, 56.59)	

### Health-related QoL Was Maintained During Pembrolizumab + Chemotherapy Treatment\*

KN-859: PRO Full Analysis Set



(Database Cutoff: 03Oct2022)

<sup>\*</sup>Including an assessment at the safety follow-up visit 30 days post Last Dose. PRO FAS=Randomized subjects who received at least one dose of study medication and had at least one PRO assessment.

#### OS, PFS, ORR and DOR

KN-859: ITT, CPS <1

#### **Overall Survival**

Subgroup	<b>N/Events</b>	OS HR (95% CI)
ITT	1579/ 1269	<b>0.77</b> (0.69, 0.86)
CPS <1	344/279	<b>0.92</b> (0.73, 1.17)

#### **Progression-Free Survival**

Subgroup	<b>N/Events</b>	OS HR (95% CI)
ITT	1579/1180	<b>0.76</b> (0.67, 0.85)
CPS <1	344/254	<b>0.90</b> (0.70, 1.15)

#### DOR

N/ responses	172/83	172/68
Median DOR	7.0 (1.3+ - 39.8+)	5.7 (1.4+ - 34.7+)
(range), months	7.0 (1.5+ - 55.6+)	

