

## SERUM ALBUMIN PREDICTS OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH EXTENSIVE STAGE SMALL-CELL LUNG CANCER (ES-SCLC) RECEIVING FIRST-LINE COMBINATION OF PD-(L)1 INHIBITORS AND PLATINUM-ETOPOSIDE CHEMOTHERAPY

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**Background** The combination of platinum-etoposide chemotherapy with PD-L1 inhibitors (chemoimmunotherapy) has become the new standard for first-line treatment of patients with extensive stage small-cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC). Nevertheless, factors associated with outcomes in this setting are lacking. We sought to identify clinicopathological and genomic factors associated with outcome to first-line chemoimmunotherapy in patients with ES-SCLC.

**Methods** Among patients at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute with ES-SCLC who received a combination of platinum (carboplatin or cisplatin), etoposide, and a PD-(L)1 inhibitor (atezolizumab, durvalumab, or pembrolizumab), baseline clinicopathological and genomic features were correlated with objective response rate (ORR), progression-free survival (PFS), and overall survival (OS). For serum biomarkers (hemoglobin, sodium, albumin, lactate dehydrogenase [LDH]), and derived neutrophil-to-lymphocyte ratio [dNLR]) a blood draw performed within 10 days from treatment start was considered. Patients who were on corticosteroids at the time of blood draw were not assessed for dNLR.

**Results** Among 89 patients included in the study, 53% were female, median age was 66 years, 17% had an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status (ECOG PS) of 0, and 28% had baseline brain metastases (table 1). The most common treatment regimen was carboplatin-etoposide-atezolizumab in 82 patients (92%). Overall, ORR was 81% (N=71/88), median PFS was 5.0 months (95%CI: 4.7-5.6), and median OS 10.8 months (95%CI: 9.6-16.1), at a median follow-up time of 25.3 months (95%CI: 14.2-NA). Patients with an ECOG PS of 0 when compared to those with an ECOG PS of  $\geq 1$  had higher ORR (100% vs 77.0%,  $P=0.036$ ), longer median PFS (6.2 vs 4.8 months; HR: 1.99 [95%CI: 1.07-3.70],  $P=0.029$ ) and median OS (20.0 vs 10.3 months; HR: 3.36 [95%CI: 1.21-9.30],  $P=0.020$ ) (figure 1). Patients with serum albumin levels  $\geq 3.5$ g/dL (N=74 [84%]), compared to those with low albumin levels ( $<3.5$ g/dL, N=13 [16%]), had higher ORR (85% vs 54%,  $P=0.018$ ), longer median PFS (5.5 vs 3.7 months; HR: 2.91 [95%CI: 1.53-5.53],  $P=0.001$ ) and median OS (12.3 vs 5.9 months; HR: 4.32 [95%CI: 2.1-8.71],  $P<0.001$ ). Neither dNLR (available in N=75 [84%]) nor tumor mutation burden (available in N=20 [22%]) were associated with outcome. After adjusting for confounding factors, a low albumin, but not ECOG PS, retained its association with ORR (adjusted odds ratio: 0.27 [95%CI: 0.07-0.96],  $P=0.025$ ), PFS (adjusted HR: 2.58 [95%CI: 1.35-4.95],  $P=0.004$ ), and OS (adjusted HR: 3.66 [95%CI: 1.80-7.44],  $P<0.001$ ).

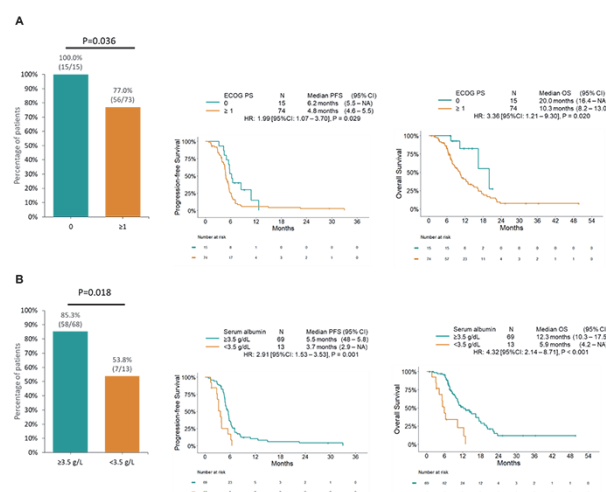
**Conclusions** Albumin levels might help predicting outcomes to first-line chemoimmunotherapy in patients with ES-SCLC. This can have implication in stratification of patients enrolled in prospective clinical trials.

**Ethics Approval** Patients at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute who consented to institutional review board-approved protocols DF/HCC 02-180, 11-104, 13-364, and/or 17-000 which

allowed for conducting translational research and tumor next-generation sequencing, respectively, were included.

Abstract 451 Table 1 Patient characteristics

	Overall (N= 89)
<b>Sex</b>	
Female	47 (52.8%)
Male	42 (47.2%)
<b>Age</b>	
Median [Min, Max]	66 [42 - 84]
<b>Smoking status</b>	
Ever	83 (93.3%)
Never	6 (6.7%)
<b>Packyears</b>	
Median [Min, Max]	43.7 [10 - 180]
<b>Stage at diagnosis</b>	
Extensive	84 (94.4%)
Limited	5 (5.6%)
<b>ECOG PS</b>	
0	15 (16.9%)
$\geq 1$	74 (83.9%)
<b>Metastases sites at dx</b>	
Brain	25 (28.1%)
Liver	43 (48.3%)
Bone	45 (50.6%)
<b>Treatment for ES-SCLC</b>	
Carboplatin + Etoposide + Atezolizumab	82 (92.1%)
Carboplatin + Etoposide + Durvalumab	2 (2.3%)
Carboplatin + Etoposide + Pembrolizumab	3 (3.4%)
Cisplatin + Etoposide + Durvalumab	3 (2.3%)
<b>dNLR</b>	
Median [Min, Max]	4.3 [1.5, 16.4]
<b>Serum prognostic markers</b>	
Hb $<12.0$ g/dL	21 (25.3%)
Na $^+$ $<135$ mEq/L	20 (24.4%)
Albumin $<3.5$ g/dL	13 (15.9%)
LDH $>250$ U/L	11 (57.9%)
<b>IHC positivity</b>	
TTF-1	62 (81.6%)
Synaptophysin	54 (81.8%)
Chromogranin A	46 (71.9%)
CD56/NCAM	23 (92.0%)



Abstract 451 Figure 1 Objective response rate (ORR) and Kaplan-Meier estimates of progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival (OS) by (A) ECOG PS (0 vs=1) and (B) serum albumin level (low  $<3.5$  g/dL vs normal = 3.5 g/dL).

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