Reviewer’s report

Title: High incidence and early onset of nivolumab-induced pneumonitis: four case reports and literature review

Version: 1 Date: 03 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Michael A. Jantz

Reviewer's report:

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1. Abstract, line 24: change "Twenty percent of patients..." to "In our series, 20% of patients who were treated with nivolumab developed pneumonitis, all of which arised approximately 2 weeks after the initiation of nivolumab treatment. Prompt recognition of the nivolumab-induced pneumonitis allowed for successful resolution.

2. Abstract line 31: change "presented predominant" to "demonstrated predominantly"

3. Background, line 46: Change this to Furthermore, this report showed that pneumonitis related to nivolumab monotherapy occurred in 4.1% (1.4-8.5%) of patients with NSCLC with all grades and 1.7% (0-3.4%) with ≥ grade 3 toxicity while pneumonitis occurred in 1.5% (0-1.9%) of patients with MM at all grades and 0.1% (0-0.3%) with ≥ grade 3 toxicity.

4. Background, line 58: Delete "On the other hand"

5. Patient 1, line 49: change "MM metastasized..." to "The patient developed metastasis...

6. Patient 2, line 36: remove PLE

7. Patient 2, line 58: can remove "for lung cancer (rT2aN2M1b; PLE, OSS)"

8. Patient 2: Please add information about the patient's respiratory failure

9. Patient 3, line 46: can delete PLE, PUL

10. Patient 3, line 9: can delete PLE, PUL, BRA, OSS, ADR
11. Patient 4, line 56: Change "The biopsy of tumor lesions..." After biopsy of lesions in the pyriform sinus of the hypopharynx, the patient was diagnosed with a hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (cT3N2cM0).

12. Patient 4: please add information about the patients respiratory insufficiency

13. Discussion, line 14: Change "On the other hand, four..." to "In contrast, four..."

14. Discussion, line 5: The authors state that the severity of pneumonitis was mild in all patients but 3 patients were described as having grade 3 pneumonitis which is severe. Please clarify.

15. Discussion, line 24: change "including predominant COP patterns" to "with COP pattern being the most common"

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.
Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.
Yes

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