KEYNOTE-042 5-YEAR SURVIVAL UPDATE: PEMBROLIZUMAB VERSUS CHEMOTHERAPY IN PATIENTS WITH PREVIOUSLY UNTREATED, PD-L1-POSITIVE, LOCALLY ADVANCED OR METASTATIC NON-SMALL-CELL LUNG CANCER

¹Gilberto de Castro*, ²Iveta Kudaba, ³Yi-Long Wu, ⁴Gilberto Lopes, ⁵Dariusz M Kowalski, ⁶Hande Z Turna, ⁷Christian Caglevic, ⁸Li Zhang, ⁹Boguslawa Karaszewska, ¹⁰Konstantin K Laktionov, ¹¹Vichien Srimuninnimit, ¹²Igor Bondarenko, ¹³Kaoru Kubota, ¹⁴Rinee Mukherjee, ¹⁴Jianxin Lin, ¹⁴Fabricio Souza, ¹⁵Tony SK Mok, ¹⁶Byoung Chul Cho.

¹Instituto do Câncer do Estado de São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil; ²Latvian Oncology Center, Riga East Clinical University, Riga, Latvia; ³Guangdong Lung Cancer Institute, Guangdong Provincial People's Hospital and Guangdong Academy of Medical Sciences, Guangdong, China; ⁴Department of Medical Oncology, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center at the University of Miami, Miami, FL, USA; ⁵Department of Lung Cancer and Chest Tumours, Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology, Warsaw, Poland; ⁶Department of Internal Medicine, Istanbul University Cerrahpasa Medical Faculty, Istanbul, Turkey; ⁷Cancer Research Department, Instituto Oncologico Fundación Arturo Lopez Perez, Santiago, Chile; ⁸Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Beijing, China; ⁹Przychodnia Lekarska KOMED, Konin, Poland; ¹⁰Federal State Budgetary Institution "N.N. Blokhin National Medical Research Center of Oncology" of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (N.N. Blokhin NMRCO), Moscow, Russian Federation; ¹¹Department of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Bangkok, Thailand; ¹²Oncology and Medical Radiology Department, Dnipro State Medical University, Dnipro, Ukraine; ¹³Department of Pulmonary Medicine and Oncology, Nippon Medical School Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ¹⁴Merck and Co., Inc., Kenilworth, NJ, USA; ¹⁵Clinical Oncology, State Key Laboratory of Translational Oncology, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, Hong Kong, China; ¹⁶Division of Medical Oncology, Yonsei Cancer Center, Seoul, Korea, Republic of

Background Primary analysis of KEYNOTE-042 (NCT02220894), a global, randomized, phase 3 trial, showed that pembrolizumab significantly improved OS versus platinum-based chemotherapy in patients with locally advanced or metastatic non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) without sensitizing *EGFR/ALK* alterations and with PD-L1 tumor proportion score (TPS) $\geq 50\%$, $\geq 20\%$, and $\geq 1\%$ with fewer treatment-related AEs than chemotherapy. We report an updated analysis with ~5 years of follow-up.

Methods Eligible adults were randomized 1:1 to receive pembrolizumab 200 mg Q3W for 35 cycles or investigator's choice of chemotherapy (carboplatin + paclitaxel or pemetrexed) Q3W for 4–6 cycles with optional maintenance pemetrexed (nonsquamous only). Primary endpoints were OS in patients with PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$, $\geq 20\%$, and $\geq 1\%$; secondary endpoints included PFS and ORR per RECIST v1.1 by central review, and safety (secondary). Eligible patients randomized to pembrolizumab who completed 35 cycles with SD or better or stopped treatment after confirmed CR could begin a second course of pembrolizumab at the time of progression.

Results 1274 patients were randomized to pembrolizumab or chemotherapy (n = 637 each). Median (range) time from randomization to data cutoff (Apr 28, 2021) was 61.1 (50.0–76.3) months. OS outcomes favored the pembrolizumab group (vs chemotherapy alone) regardless of PD-L1 TPS (HR [95% CI] for TPS $\geq 50\%$, 0.68 [0.57–0.81]; TPS $\geq 20\%$, 0.75 [0.64–0.87]; TPS $\geq 1\%$, 0.79 [0.70–0.89]), with estimated 5-year OS rates (95% CI) of 21.9% (17.3%–26.9%), 19.4% (15.6%–23.4%) and 16.6% (13.7%–19.6%), respectively, in the pembrolizumab group (table 1). Median duration of response (DOR) was 28.1 vs 10.8 months in PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$ group, 27.7 vs 10.8 months in PD-L1 TPS $\geq 20\%$ group and, 26.5 vs 8.4 months in PD-L1 TPS $\geq 1\%$ for pembrolizumab group vs chemotherapy. Treatment-related grade 3–5 AEs occurred in 120 patients (18.9%) in the pembrolizumab group and 257 (41.8%) in the chemotherapy group. Among 102 patients who completed 35 cycles of pembrolizumab:

ORR was 84.3%; estimated 4-year OS rate after completion of 35 cycles of pembrolizumab (ie, approximately 6 years after randomization) was 61.8%. Among 33 patients who received second-course pembrolizumab, ORR was 15.2%.

Abstract 363 Table 1 Key efficacy outcomes in the KEYNOTE-042 ITT population

ITT Population	PD-L1 TPS $\geq 50\%$		PD-L1 TPS $\geq 20\%$		PD-L1 TPS $\geq 1\%$	
	Pembrolizumab n = 299	Chemo n = 300	Pembrolizumab n = 413	Chemo n = 405	Pembrolizumab n = 637	Chemo n = 637
OS, median (95% CI), mo	20.0 (15.9–24.2)	12.2 (10.4–14.6)	18.0 (15.5–21.5)	13.0 (11.6–15.3)	16.4 (14.0–19.6)	12.1 (11.3–13.3)
OS, HR (95% CI)	0.68 (0.57–0.81)		0.75 (0.64–0.87)		0.79 (0.70–0.89)	
OS, 5 y rate (95% CI), %	21.9 (17.3–26.9)	9.8 (6.6–13.7)	19.4 (15.6–23.4)	10.1 (7.2–13.5)	16.6 (13.7–19.6)	6.5 (6.4–11.0)
PFS, median (95% CI), mo	6.5 (5.9–8.6)	6.5 (6.2–7.6)	6.2 (5.4–7.8)	6.9 (6.3–8.2)	5.6 (4.3–6.2)	6.8 (6.4–7.9)
PFS, HR (95% CI)	0.99 (0.72–1.02)		0.94 (0.81–1.09)		1.03 (0.91–1.16)	
PFS, 5 y rate (95% CI), %	9.2 (5.9–13.4)	2.1 (0.7–5.0)	7.8 (5.2–11.1)	1.6 (0.5–3.9)	6.9 (4.9–9.4)	1.2 (0.5–2.7)
PFS2*, median (95% CI), mo	15.0 (11.6–19.2)	10.1 (8.9–11.2)	12.9 (10.9–15.5)	10.2 (9.1–11.3)	11.3 (10.1–12.9)	9.4 (8.8–10.3)
PFS2*, HR (95% CI)	0.64 (0.54–0.76)		0.67 (0.58–0.78)		0.74 (0.65–0.83)	
ORR (95% CI), %	39.1 (33.6–44.9)	32.3 (27.1–37.9)	33.2 (28.6–37.9)	29.1 (24.8–33.8)	27.3 (23.9–31.0)	26.7 (23.3–30.3)
DOR, median (range), mo	28.1 (2.1+ to 70.0+)	10.8 (1.8+ to 63.5+)	27.7 (2.1+ to 70.0+)	10.8 (1.8+ to 63.5+)	26.5 (2.1+ to 70.0+)	8.4 (1.8+ to 63.5+)

Chemo, chemotherapy; DOR, duration of response.

+, indicates no PD by the time of last assessment.

*PFS2: time from randomization to second/subsequent PD on next-line treatment or death.

Conclusions With 5 years of follow-up, first-line pembrolizumab monotherapy continued to show substantial clinical benefit with higher 5-year OS rates, and durable response over chemotherapy in patients with PD-L1-positive, locally advanced/metastatic NSCLC without *EGFR/ALK* alterations. First-line pembrolizumab remains a standard of care in patients with PD-L1 TPS $\geq 1\%$, as underscored by these long-term results.

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Trial Registration ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT02220894

Ethics Approval The protocol and all amendments were approved by the appropriate ethics committee at each center, the study was conducted in accordance with the standards of Good Clinical Practice and in compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki. Patients provided written informed consent before enrollment.

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