

**SGO  
2021** **VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING  
ON WOMEN'S CANCER<sup>®</sup>**



Society of Gynecologic Oncology

# Too much skin in the game? A paradigm shift in our understanding of vulvar and vaginal melanomas as distinct tumor types compared with cutaneous melanomas

Annelise Wilhite, MD PGY5  
Gyn Onc Research Fellow  
University of South Alabama

# Disclosures

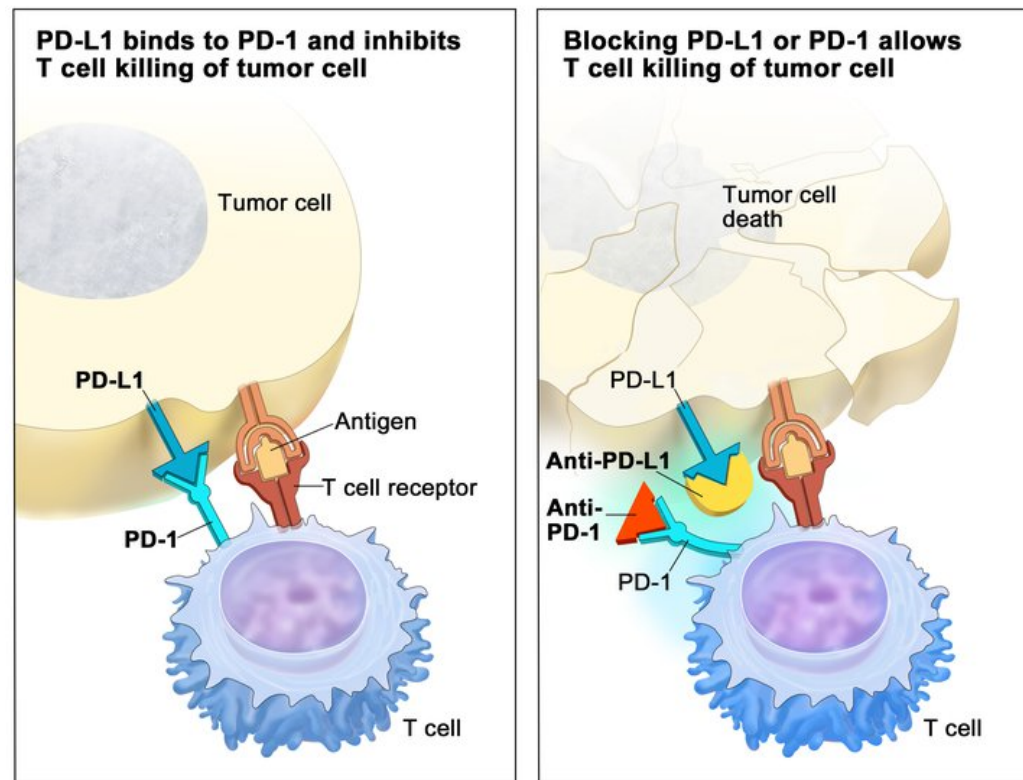
- None

# Background

- 5-year survival for VVM is inferior to CM
  - CM – 92%
  - Vulvar – 58%
  - Vaginal 27%
- Current therapeutic strategies for vulvar and vaginal melanoma (VVM) mimic those of cutaneous melanoma (CM)

# Traditional markers....

- Anti-PD1 monotherapy
- Anti-PD1/ipilimumab combo
- BRAF/MEK inhibitor combo

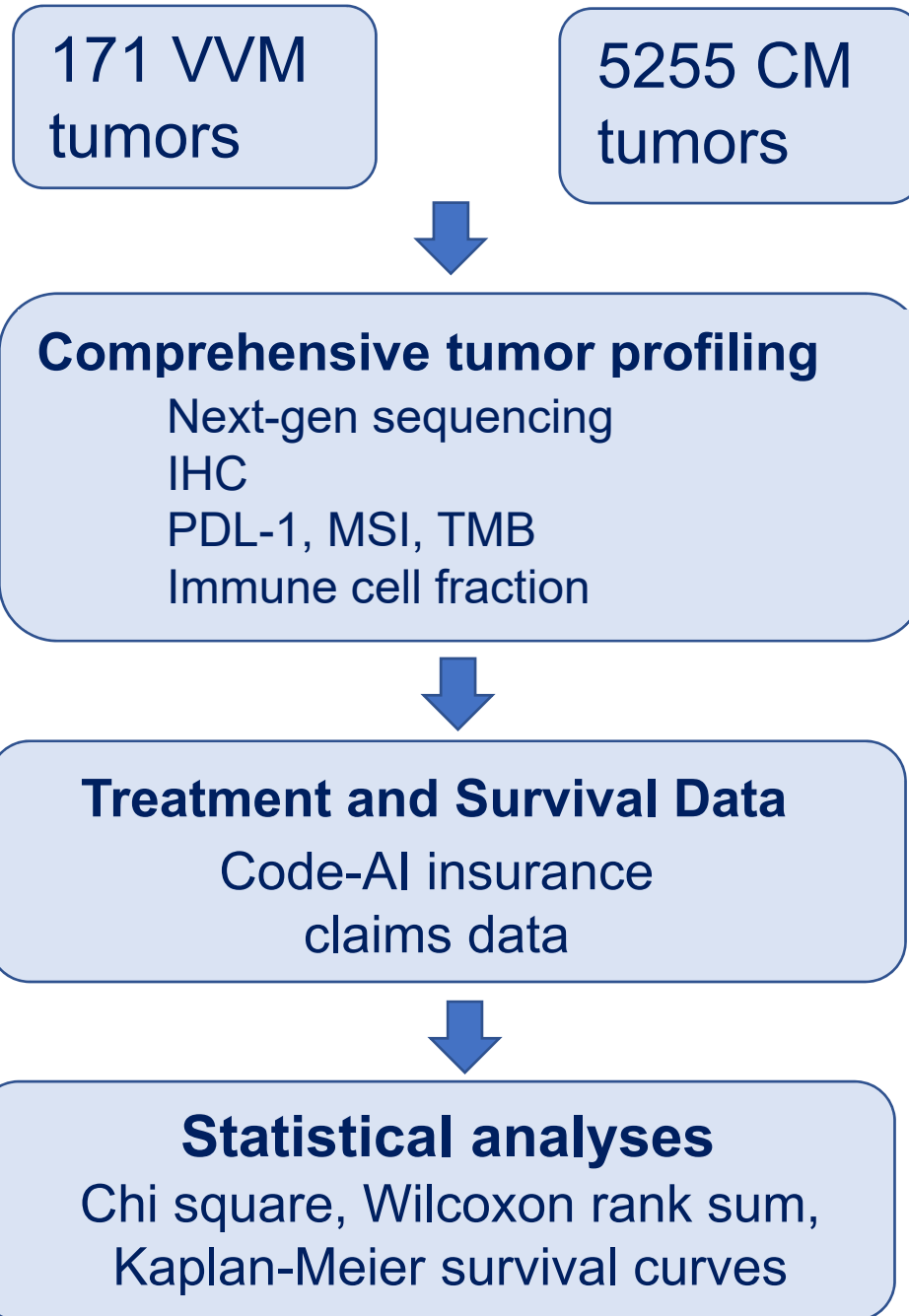


© 2015 Terese Winslow LLC  
U.S. Govt. has certain rights

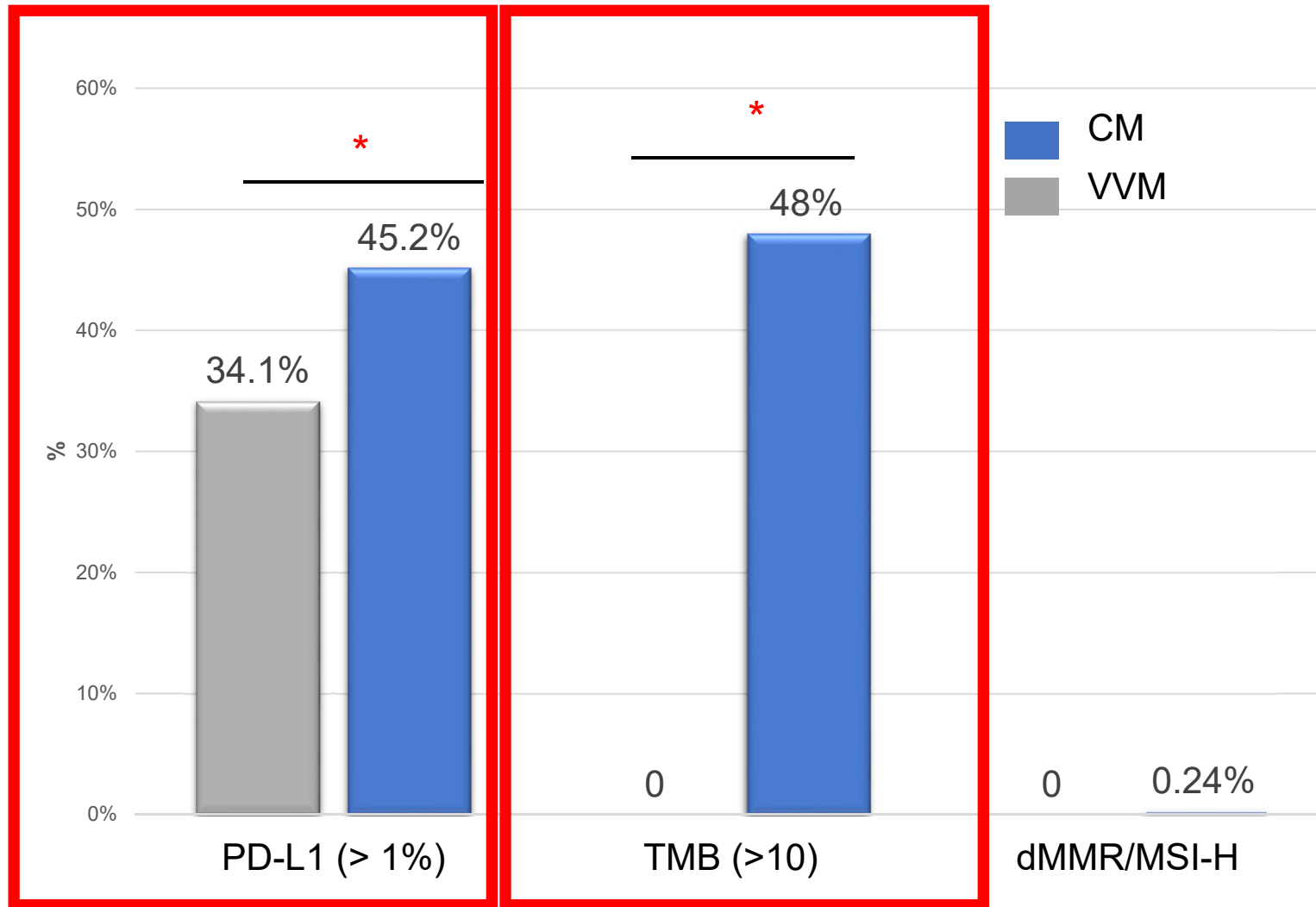
# Objectives

- Compare molecular profiles of VVM with CM
- Explore the significance of Immune-Oncology (IO) agents on survival for VVM

# Methods



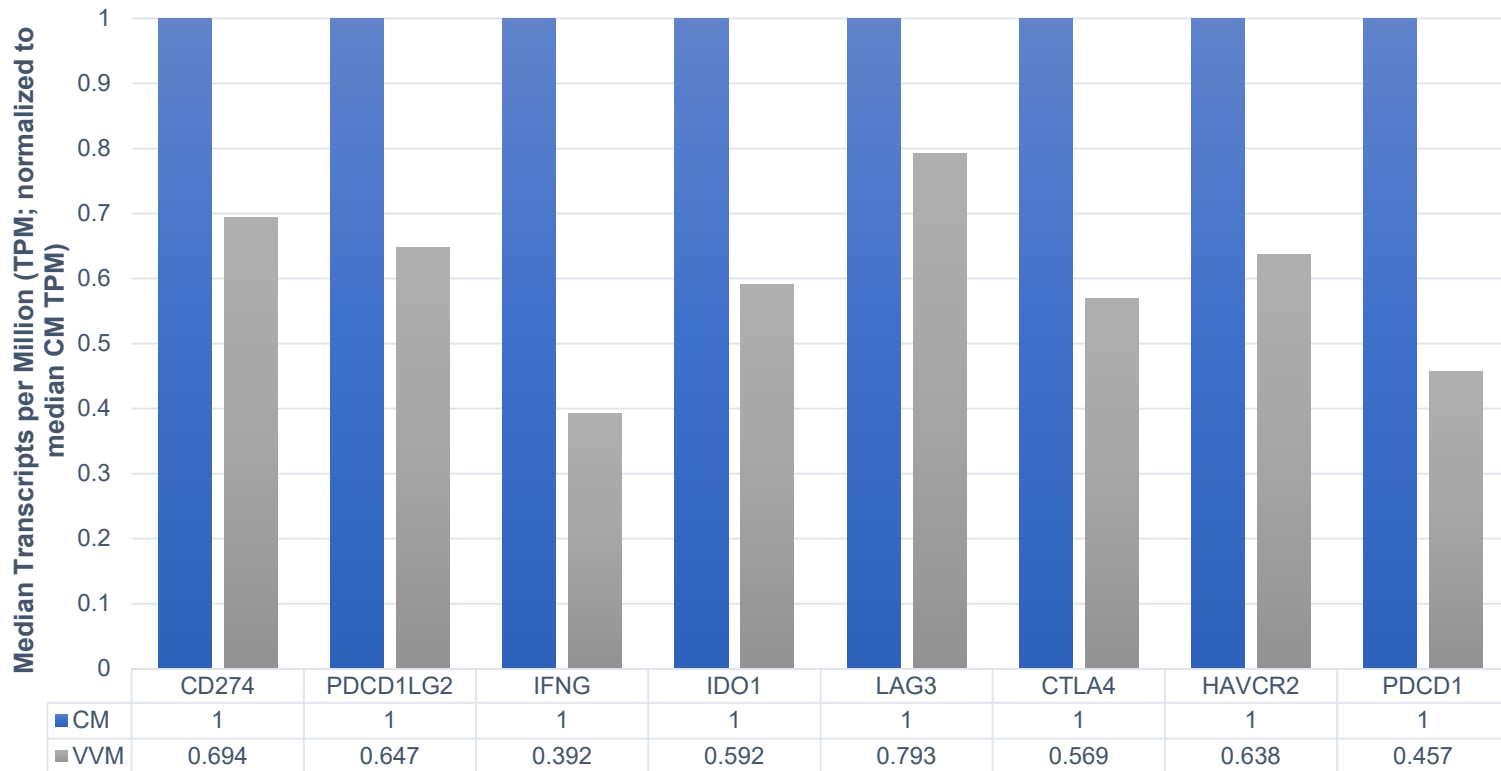
# Markers of IO Therapy Response



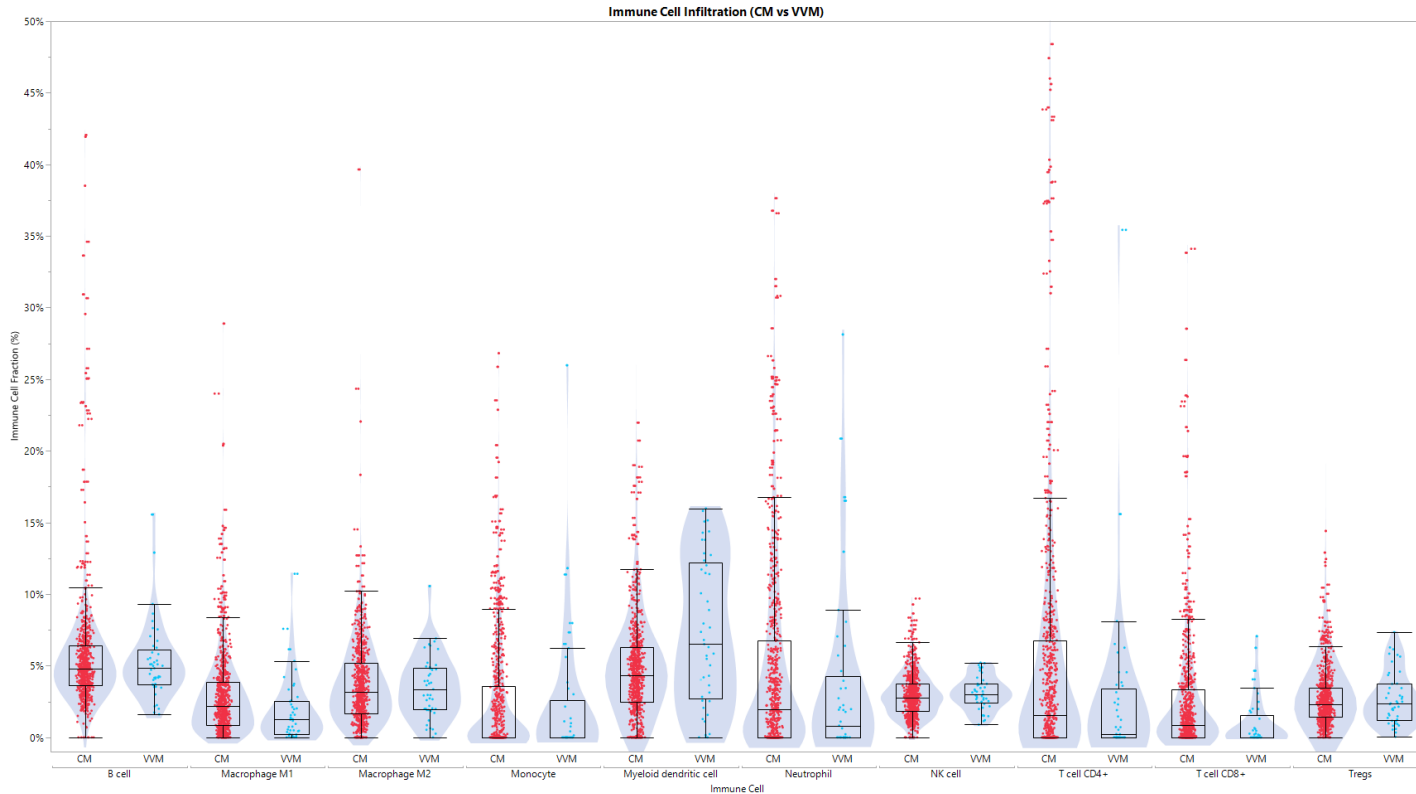


# Immune Checkpoint Gene Expression in VVM vs Cutaneous Melanoma

Immune Checkpoint Gene Expression in VVM vs Cutaneous Melanoma



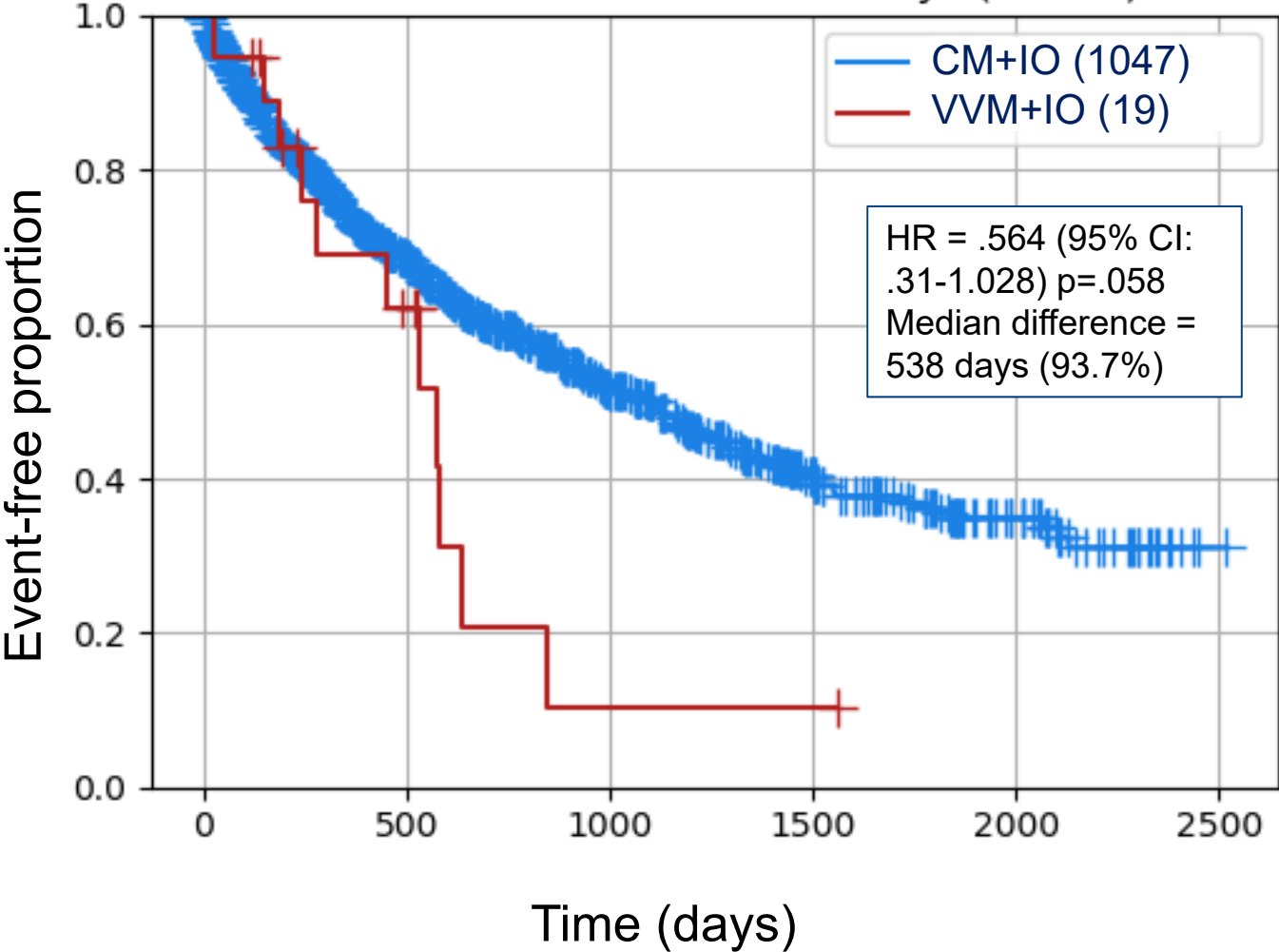
# Tumor Immuno-environment



Immune Cell	Median %		P-value
	CM	VVM	
B Cells	4.80%	4.83%	0.9362
<b>Macrophages M1</b>	<b>2.21%</b>	<b>1.24%</b>	<b>0.0023</b>
Macrophages M2	3.19%	3.36%	0.9096
Monocytes	0.00%	0.00%	0.4611
Neutrophils	1.96%	0.82%	0.1324
NK Cells	2.78%	3.01%	0.1768
<b>CD4+ T Cells</b>	<b>1.54%</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>0.0373</b>
<b>CD8+ T Cells</b>	<b>0.87%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>0.0007</b>
Regulatory T Cells	2.29%	2.37%	0.9706
<b>Myeloid Dendritic Cells</b>	<b>4.33%</b>	<b>6.51%</b>	<b>0.0016</b>

# Effect of IO on Overall Survival

## VVM + IO Therapy vs CM + IO Therapy



# Significantly altered biomarkers and pathways – VVM and CM

	Molecular Alteration	VVM	CM	P-value
Gene	CNA-KIT	14.7%	1.5%	< 0.0001
	NGS-KIT	13.2%	2.8%	< 0.0001
	NGS-ATRX	28.4%	3.8%	< 0.0001
	NGS-SF3B1	27.8%	1.6%	< 0.0001
	NGS-BRAF	8.5%	35.8%	< 0.0001
Pathway	mRNA Splicing	28.9%	2.8%	< 0.0001
	DNA Damage Sensors	16.4%	5.2%	< 0.0001
	Cell Cycle	7.2%	18.8%	0.001
	Chromatin Remodeling	6.3%	21.4%	< 0.0001
	Wnt	0.8%	6.8%	0.008

# Significantly altered biomarkers and pathways – KIT mutated sub-analysis

**KIT mutated  
VVM vs KIT  
mutated CM**

Molecular Alteration	KIT mut VVM	KIT mut CM	P-value
RTK RAS	100%	100%	1
mRNA Splicing	69%	9%	<0.0001
DNA Damage Sensors	13%	3%	0.1374
VEGF Signaling Pathway	13%	20%	0.7331
Cell Cycle	6%	23%	0.1877
Chromatin Remodeling	0%	31%	0.0057
TP53 Pathway	0%	27%	0.0118

**KIT mutated  
vs KIT wild  
type VVM**

Molecular Alteration	KIT mut VVM	KIT wt VVM	P-value
CNA-KIT	56.3%	6.3%	<0.0001
RTK RAS	100%	51%	0.0002
mRNA Splicing	69%	21%	0.0003

# Conclusions

- VVM has distinct molecular profile
  - Less favorable immune phenotype
  - Lower rate of BRAF mutations
  - Higher rate KIT mutations/amplifications
- Worse survival when treated to IO therapy

# Acknowledgements

- **University of South Alabama**  
**Dept of Gynecologic Oncology**
  - Nathaniel L. Jones, MD
  - Rodney P. Rocconi, MD
- **Caris Life Sciences**
  - Joanne Xiu, PhD
  - Sharon Wu, PhD
  - Michael Korn, MD
- **Caris Precision Oncology Alliance**
  - Gynecologic Oncology
    - Thomas Herzog, MD - University of Cincinnati
    - Jubilee Brown, MD – Atrium Health/Carolina’s Medical Center
  - Melanoma
    - Geoffrey T. Gibney, MD – Georgetown University/Medstar
    - Gino In MD, MPH – University of Southern California
  - Pathology
    - Thuy Phung MD, PhD – University of South Alabama

# Thank You



[Awilhite@health.southalabama.edu](mailto:Awilhite@health.southalabama.edu)