

# Immunotherapy after surgery found to provide significant, durable benefit for high-risk bladder patients

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Immunotherapy after surgery increased bladder cancer patients' chance of staying cancer-free compared to patients who received a placebo,

according to clinical trial results shared in a late-breaking oral presentation at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) 2023 Genitourinary Cancers Symposium in February.

Matthew Galsky, MD, Co-Director of the Center of Excellence for Bladder Cancer at The Tisch Cancer Institute at Mount Sinai, presented three-year follow-up results from the Phase 3 CheckMate 274 trial. Patients on the trial had urothelial [cancer](#) of the bladder or upper urinary tract and had tumor features indicating a high risk for recurrence.

"Adjuvant [nivolumab](#) became a standard of care based on the initial results of CheckMate 274," Dr. Galsky said. "These results, showing patients' continued survival three years out, reinforce adjuvant nivolumab as a standard of care for patients with muscle-invasive urothelial cancer of the bladder or upper urinary tract. Normally, patients with this cancer face a high chance of recurrence, especially within the first three years after surgical removal of the bladder or kidney."

This new data showed that at approximately three years of follow-up, nivolumab increased these patients' chance of staying cancer-free after surgery compared to patients who received a placebo. The average length of time before relapse doubled in patients who received nivolumab, which is a monoclonal antibody immune checkpoint inhibitor that harnesses the [immune system](#) to fight cancer. For a subset of clinical trial patients who received the immunotherapy, disease-free survival was more than six times that of patients on placebo.

Among the 699 patients in the trial, half received nivolumab, and the other half received a placebo every two weeks for one year. Adjuvant nivolumab versus [placebo](#) was not associated with a detriment to quality of life. This trial was conducted with support from Bristol Myers Squibb, the maker of the immunotherapy, in collaboration with ONO

Pharmaceutical Company Ltd.

**More information:** Conference: [conferences.asco.org/gu/attend](https://conferences.asco.org/gu/attend)

Provided by The Mount Sinai Hospital

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