

Persistent Gaps in Management of Special Populations Receiving Immunotherapy for Advanced NSCLC: Results From a CME Quiz

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BACKGROUND

- Immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) have transformed the treatment landscape for advanced non–small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), improving outcomes across multiple disease settings
- As immunotherapy use expands, clinical decision-making becomes increasingly complex in special populations that are often underrepresented in clinical trials, including patients with autoimmune disease, brain metastases, corticosteroid use, and others
- Optimal management of these populations requires clinicians to balance treatment efficacy, safety considerations, and evolving evidence to inform individualized care decisions



OBJECTIVE



This study evaluated clinician competence and practice patterns related to immunotherapy use in complex clinical scenarios in advanced NSCLC, with the goal of identifying priority areas for future targeted education and professional development.

METHODS

- Intervention consisted of an online, text-based CME-certified assessment consisting of 5 multiple-choice, case-based questions.
- Responses from multidisciplinary clinicians, including oncologists, pathologists, and pulmonologists, were analyzed at the question level.
- Performance was assessed by calculating the proportion of correct responses for each question and comparing results across specialties to identify persistent educational gaps.
- Activity launched August 29, 2025; data were collected through July 2026.



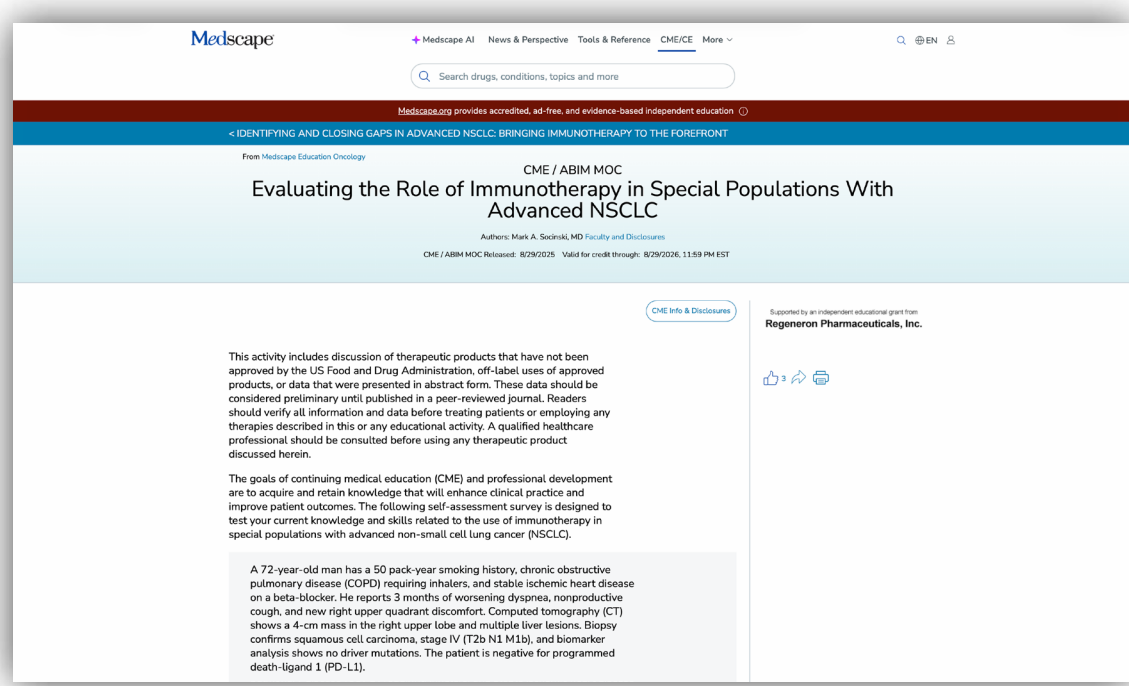
Oncologists
(n = 40-47)



Pathologists
(n = 48-54)

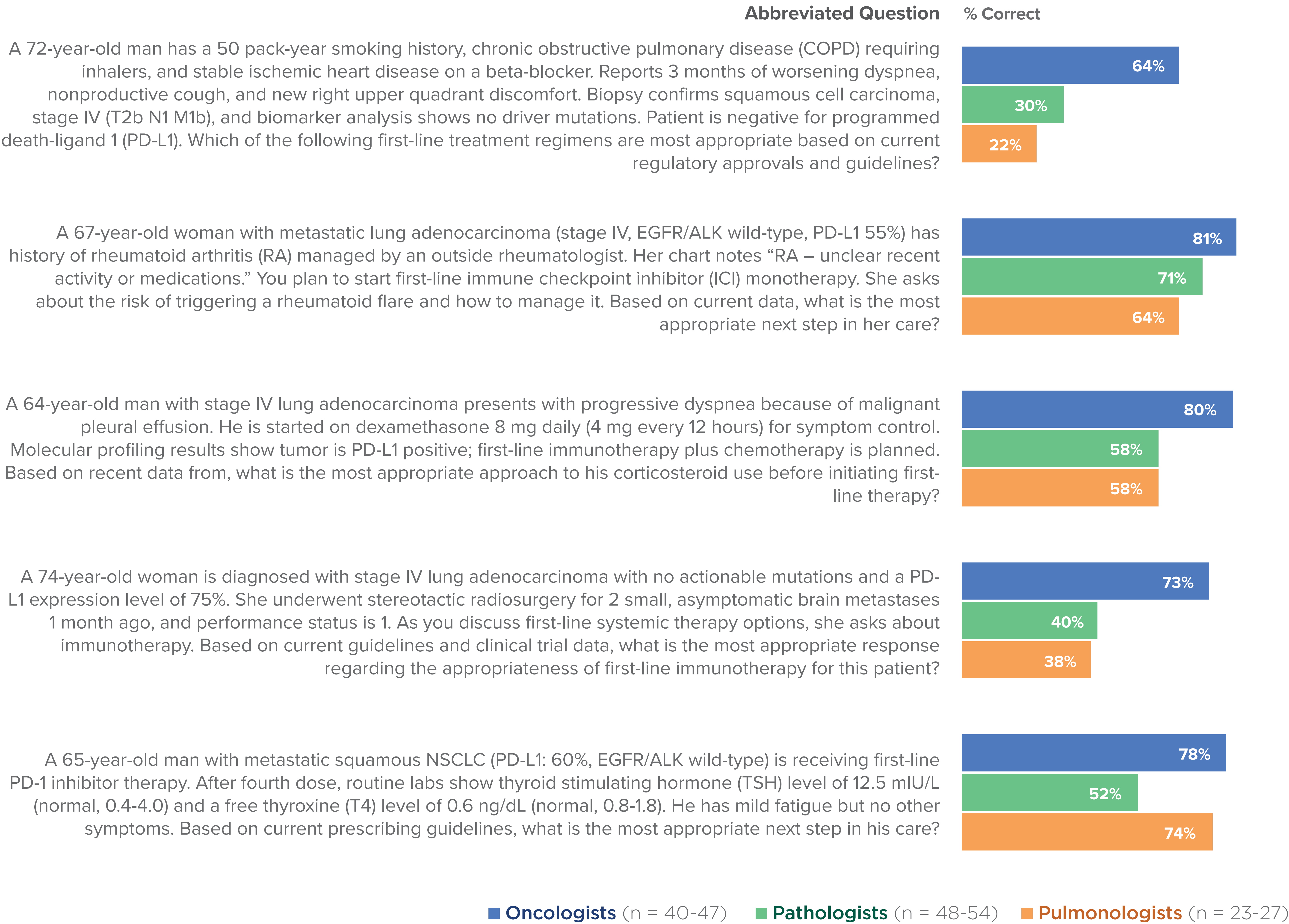


Pulmonologists
(n = 23-27)



RESULTS

EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE BY QUESTION AND SPECIALTY



CONCLUSIONS

- Clinician performance varied substantially by clinical scenario and specialty, highlighting inconsistent competence in managing complex immunotherapy decisions
- Persistent gaps remained in first-line treatment selection and application of clinical evidence, particularly among non-oncology specialists
- Although clinicians demonstrated stronger competence in managing selected special populations, substantial opportunities remain to improve evidence-based treatment selection and application of emerging data
- Future education should prioritize high-impact clinical scenarios where evidence translation and guideline implementation remain challenging
- Tailored, multidisciplinary education may strengthen confidence and consistency in immunotherapy decision-making for patients with advanced NSCLC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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ACTIVITY URL:

<https://www.medscape.org/viewarticle/1002826>

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