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Endometrial Adenocarcinoma with Discordant Microsatellite Stability Status Treated with First-Line Pembrolizumab: A Case Report and Narrative Review.

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Endometrial Adenocarcinoma with Discordant Microsatellite Stability Status Treated with First-Line Pembrolizumab: A Case Report and Narrative Review

Authors' Contribution:
Study Design A
Data Collection B
Statistical Analysis C
Data Interpretation D
Manuscript Preparation E
Literature Search F
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Patient: Female, 67-year-old
Final Diagnosis: MSI endometrial adenocarcinoma
Symptoms: Abdominal pain • nausea • vomiting
Clinical Procedure: —
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology • Oncology

Objective: Unusual clinical course
Background: Microsatellite instability (MSI) is a hallmark of specific cancers and can be diagnosed using both tissue- and liquid-based approaches. When these tissue- and liquid-based approaches give differing results, they are known as discordant or being at variance. MSI-H tumors are well-researched candidates for treatment with programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) inhibitor-based immunotherapy, but the efficacy of immunotherapy in MSI-H discordant endometrial cancer, especially as first-line therapy, is not yet well documented in the literature.
Case Report: A 67-year-old woman presented with a retroperitoneal mass positive for recurrent adenocarcinoma of endometrial origin. Her stage I endometrial adenocarcinoma 7 years ago demonstrated microsatellite stable (MSS) by immunohistochemical (IHC) stain and indeterminate due to insufficient tissue by Caris Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS). She then presented with a retroperitoneal mass that was MSI-H on IHC stain and Caris NGS, as well as MSI high on liquid biopsy @Guardant360 (@G360). The patient proceeded with pembrolizumab treatment 1 year ago and has sustained a complete clinical response at the time of writing.
Conclusions: Our case provides further evidence for the need to retest the microsatellite stability of metastatic sites, especially after a long disease-free survival. Here, we providing a literature review of case reports and a review of studies outlining discordance of testing modalities. Our case also highlights the importance of considering the use of immunotherapy as a first-line agent in patients who may have a poor ECOG performance status, as it can significantly improve their quality of life and reduce the number of adverse effects compared to chemotherapy.
Keywords: Endometrial Neoplasms • Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors • Immunotherapy • Microsatellite Instability • Pembrolizumab
Full-text PDF: <https://www.amjcaserep.com/abstract/index/idArt/939448>

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Background

Microsatellites are highly abundant repeated sequences of 1-6 nucleotides with a wide distribution pattern in the genome [1,2]. Although most MS tandem repeats are located near chromosome ends within the coding region, they may also be found in introns and other non-coding regions. The literature suggests that microsatellite sequences are generated when DNA slippage or mismatch occurs during the process of replication, resulting in 1 or more repeat or deletion sequences. In tumor cells with a deficient mismatch repair (dMMR) system, an intrinsic cellular machinery that corrects such DNA replication errors, microsatellite mutations can serve as a trigger for subsequent cancer development and tumorigenesis [1-3].

There are 2 main classifications of MSI: high microsatellite instability (MSI-H) and microsatellite stability (MSS). MSI-H associated dMMR has been well-delineated in several types of human cancers and has further been shown to be an indicator for both disease prediction and prognosis [1,2]. Approximately 15% of colorectal adenocarcinomas display MSI-H as a result of MLH-1 gene promoter methylation or germline mutations in the MLH-1 or MLH-2 genes [4-6]. We see this in endometrial carcinoma as well with subclonal MLH1 promoter MLH-1 loss and MSI correlating with MMR deficient status [7]. A 2017 study using an MSI-calling software, MANTIS, explored the landscape of MSI across an expanded number of cancer types and identified MSI in 27 tumor types, including cancers that have not been well-researched in the context of MSI [8].

The criterion standard for identifying MSI-related cancers is polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and immunohistochemistry (IHC), while liquid biopsy approaches have emerged in recent years as potent alternatives or confirmatory screening tools [3,6]. A molecular approach with PCR presents the advantage of studying the molecular system based upon the dysfunction and is not limited to protein expression to allow point mutations to be identified. This means that some point mutations can allow MMR protein expression without having an MSI status [9]. However, IHC has many benefits, such as easier preparation and less expense [9]. IHC demonstrates the protein expression, so it may not always detect an MMR system deficiency. This can cause a discordance, or a discrepancy, between IHC and PCR analysis, as demonstrated in many studies. For instance, studies on the rate of discordance between MMR IHC and MSI-PCR testing in colorectal cancer has shown a range from 1% to 10% of samples [9]. This range is significant and makes it difficult for oncologists to select an ideal method to evaluate tumors MSS status, as many oncologists choose to pursue both options of testing, which provides a burden on selecting the ideal approach to treating patients with discordant results. With this, there is a gap in knowledge, necessitating an essential review to further compare completed studies on discordance and

provide insight on whether to utilize IHC or PCR analysis when assessing MSS status. The aim of this review is to provide a synthesized overview highlighting landmark studies to guide oncologists in selecting a treatment plan when discordant diagnostic results arise to assist in the development of conceptual frameworks to reconcile past, current, and future research.

Conventional chemotherapy has historically been used for dMMR/MSI-H solid tumors; however, recent clinical trials have demonstrated that immunotherapy elicits a stronger and more clinically favorable response in these patients. In the KEYNOTE-177 trial, patients treated with the PD-1 inhibitor pembrolizumab as a first-line treatment experienced fewer adverse effects and significantly longer progression-free survival than patients treated with chemotherapy for MSI-H or dMMR metastatic colorectal cancer [5]. We have seen the blockade of the immune checkpoints in solid malignancies such as lung and renal cancers and melanoma and studies have demonstrated up-regulation of the pathway in endometrial cancer, leading us to believe that there is a rationale for testing PD-1/PD-L1 status in endometrial carcinoma [10]. Even in patients with MSS, we have seen clinical benefit in longer progression-free survival and overall survival when compared to chemotherapy among patients with advanced endometrial cancer when using lenvatinib with pembrolizumab [11]. In this paper, we report the post-treatment outcomes involving a case of endometrial adenocarcinoma with discordant MSI status in a patient who achieved clinical complete response with front-line pembrolizumab.

Case Report

Initial Presentation

A 67-year-old woman with a history of endometrial adenocarcinoma initial stage 1B diagnosed 7 years ago, status post total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy presented to the emergency department with intractable nausea and vomiting that had started 2 days prior. She was previously able to tolerate a diet, had been having normal brown-colored stools, denied any itching of the palms, significant weight loss, fevers or chills, abdominal pain, or yellowing of the skin or eyes. She denied any alcohol use, smoking, or drug use. She lived at home and was previously independent and able to cook for herself, do laundry, and walk up a flight of stairs. Her family history was not notable for any pancreatic cancer, endometrial cancers, or ovarian cancers. Her physical exam was notable for some mild tenderness in the epigastric region with deep palpation, positive bowel sounds, and no findings of scleral icterus or jaundice. She had computed tomography (CT) scans of the abdomen and pelvis, which demonstrated a 25×17 mm retroperitoneal mass posterior to the third portion of the duodenum, partial duodenal obstruction,

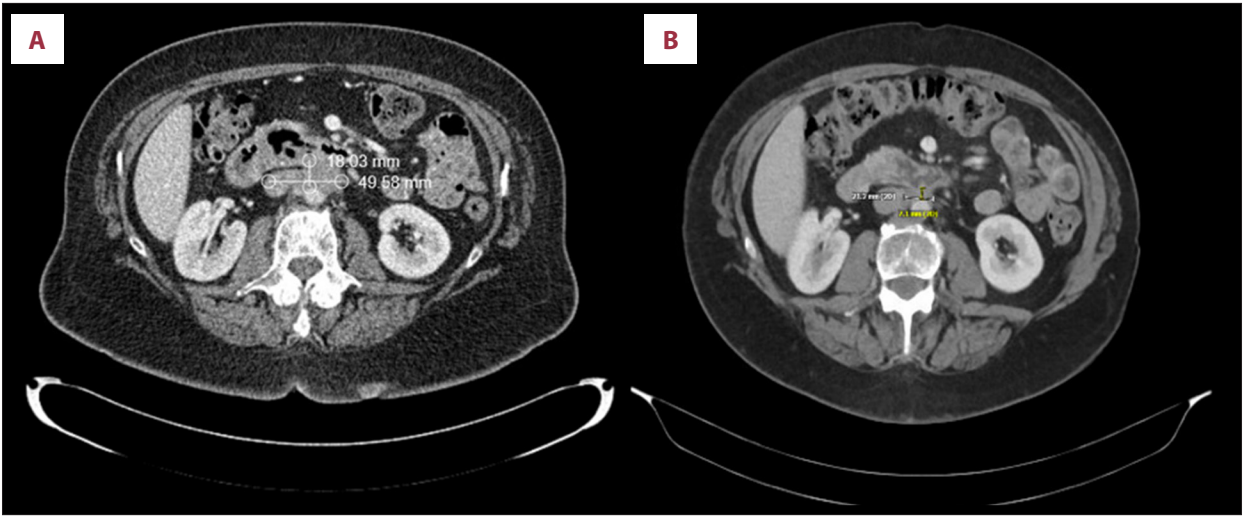


Figure 1. (A) Abdomen demonstrating 18.03×49.58 mm ill-defined retroperitoneal mass with invasion of the posterior third portion of the duodenum before the initiation of Pembrolizumab. (B) CT abdomen shows interval decrease ill-defined retroperitoneal mass size from 18.03×49.58 mm to 7.2×21.2 after 6 months of treatment with pembrolizumab.

Table 1. Immunohistochemical stain and next-generation sequencing for microsatellite instability.

| Specimen | Mismatch repair atatus |
|---|-------------------------|
| Tissue immunohistochemistry – primary endometrial carcinoma from uterus | Proficient |
| Caris next-generation sequencing – primary endometrial carcinoma | Quantity not sufficient |
| Tissue immunohistochemistry – recurrent retroperitoneal mass | Deficient |
| Guardant360 biomarker – serum after reoccurrence | Deficient |
| Caris next-generation sequencing – recurrent retroperitoneal mass | Deficient |

invasion of left renal vein, inferior vena cava, and abdominal aorta (**Figure 1A, 1B**). During this hospitalization, she developed paroxysmal atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure with a reduced ejection fraction of 20%.

Cancer History

Her previous endometrial adenocarcinoma that was diagnosed 7 years ago was moderately differentiated and extended in the outer half of the myometrium without involvement of the cervix. She had a total abdominal hysterectomy performed, without evidence of regional invasion and was found to have a nonspecific reactive 0.9-cm external iliac lymph node that was characterized as nonspecific. Her pathology was given a FIGO grade 2 with MSS by IHC and indeterminant by Caris NGS (**Table 1**). She did not receive any adjuvant therapy and was being actively surveilled with imaging.

Initial Work-up

During the current hospitalization, she had a stent placed in her duodenum. A fine-needle aspiration biopsy obtained from

the mass revealed adenocarcinoma with presence of PAX 8, ER, CK7, and CK17, concerning for primary gynecologic cancer. Her tumor profiling from her retroperitoneal nodes demonstrated MSI-H by IHC and Caris NGS, and circulating DNA was found at the time of recurrence by @G360 and showed MSI-H (**Table 1**). She later had a positron emission tomography (PET)-CT scan demonstrating localization in the retroperitoneum with no suspicious activity in neck, chest, or pelvis, without enlarged pelvic or inguinal lymph nodes. Her residual disease by Signatera was 8.73 MTM/mL (**Figure 2**). Her tumor markers were notable for carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA) level of 75.9, carbohydrate antigen-125 (CA-125) level of 186, and cancer antigen 19-9 (CA19-9) of 360. Her case was discussed at a multidisciplinary tumor board, and it was believed that her tumor was not resectable due to the major vascular and duodenal invasion, but that she was a candidate for immunotherapy. Since she had congestive heart failure and numerous medical comorbidities, first-line chemotherapy with a platinum-based chemotherapy was not an option that we felt she was able to tolerate.

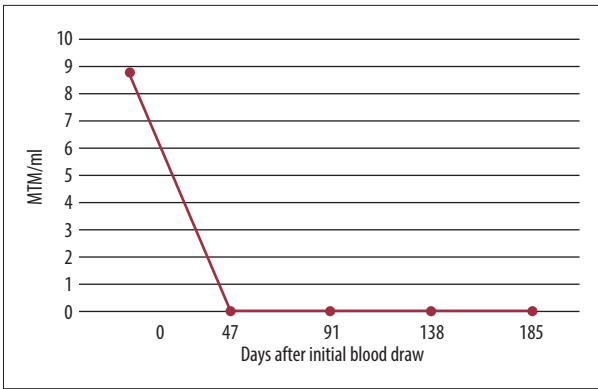


Figure 2. Signatera residual disease testing demonstrating before and after the use of pembrolizumab.

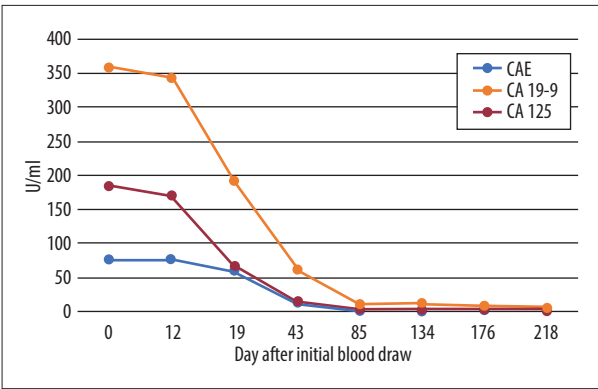


Figure 3. Tumor marker trends during use of pembrolizumab.

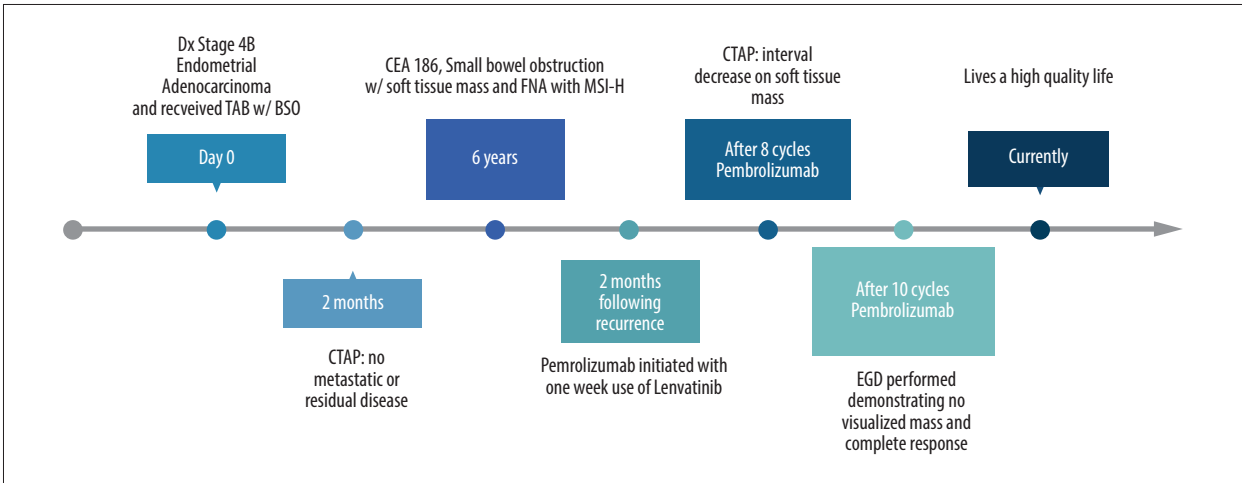


Figure 4. Timeline of case report.

Treatment and Follow-Up

Due to the MSI-H status of the recurrent retroperitoneal node and MSS at the primary site, she was started on pembrolizumab 400 mg every 6 weeks, as well as lenvatinib 12 mg to cover possible heterogeneity of both diseases. Lenvatinib was discontinued after 1 week due to nausea and vomiting, as well as musculoskeletal pains. Subsequent imaging after 3 months of treatment demonstrated an interval decrease in size of the retroperitoneal mass of 23×7 mm and normalization of previously elevated tumor markers with CEA level of 1.6, CA-125 level of 5, and CA19-9 of 11 (**Figure 3**). A repeat Signatera test demonstrated residual disease level of 0 MTM/mL (**Figure 2**). She was continued on pembrolizumab 200 mg every 3 weeks due to rash from high-dose pembrolizumab. The imaging at 6 months continue to show an interval decrease in her retroperitoneal mass, measuring 21×7 mm.

She had a repeat EGD after 8 months of treatment, which demonstrated no visualized mass on examination. Pembrolizumab was discontinued and she was surveilled with tumor markers

and imaging every 3 months. She has since sustained complete clinical response for 10 months at the time of this report. A timeline of her case report is listed in **Figure 4**.

Discussion

MSS Status Ambiguity

The detection of MSI-H status in patients with any solid tumor, including endometrial adenocarcinoma, is a crucial step in intervening with immune checkpoint inhibitors. The present case highlights the clinical ambiguity of MSI-H screening tools and tumor characteristics, given the discordant MSI-H results between the patient's IHC, tissue NGS, and G360 tests, as well as similarly discordant results between her biopsies at baseline and recurrence (**Table 1**). This case is unique in that is the first ever report of a patient able to obtain a complete clinical response in an endometrial cancer with discordant microsatellite stability, especially in an individual who had recurrence after surgical treatment. These discordances can be seen in a

Table 2. Case reports regarding discordance between primary and recurrent/metastatic carcinoma.

| Author [reference], year | Age, years/sex | Diagnosis | MSI status discordance | Previous treatment | Treatment | Response to immunotherapy |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Zeng et al [16], 2021 | 73/M | Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma | Primary lesion (MSS) and metastatic cervical spinal mass lesion (MSI-H) | Platinum-based therapy and radiotherapy | Pembrolizumab 100 mg every 3 weeks | Complete response for over 24 months |
| Chen et al [15], 2016 | 64/M | Gastric adenocarcinoma | Primary gastric cancer (MSS) and recurrent gastric cancer (MSS) | Trastuzumab plus pertuzumab, cisplatin, and capecitabine | Pembrolizumab monotherapy (200 mg every 3 weeks) for 3 months | Partial response |
| Brasó-Maristany et al [14], 2021 | 44/F | Breast carcinoma | Recurrent breast cancer (MSS) and axillary node (MSS) | Trastuzumab, radiation and hormonal therapy (unspecified) | Atezolizumab 1200 mg monotherapy every 3 weeks with weekly 100 mg/m ² nab-paclitaxel | Partial response through 24 months |
| Keithireddy et al [13], 2022 | 56/F | Gastric adenocarcinoma | Gastric adenocarcinoma IHC (MSI-H) and NGS (MSI-H), axillary LN (MSI-H) | FOLFOX | Pembrolizumab | No response |

variety of cases. Most notably, a recent study by Orellana et al demonstrated that 12% of patients with recurrent uterine cancer demonstrated clonal evolution in their MMR-D status, indicating a need for retesting the MMR status in patients with recurrent endometrial adenocarcinoma [12].

Narrative Review: Case Reports with Discordant MSS Status

To further understand this case, a review of the medical literature was performed to discover case reports (Table 2) pertaining to the discordance of a primary carcinoma and metastasis, primary carcinoma, and recurrence, as well as treatment with immune checkpoint inhibitors in patients with discordant MSI status [13-16]. We performed a thorough search for case reports with discordance using the databases PubMed and Google Scholar. The following search terms were used in the literature search: “endometrial adenocarcinoma,” “discordance,” “microsatellite stability,” “immunotherapy,” and “microsatellite instability.” This brief review only included case reports published in English. Of the cases that were reviewed, all had received chemotherapy treatment before, and all had a population of recurrence that was rebiopsied, similar to our case. After the recurrence, 75% of the patients received treatment with pembrolizumab. Two cases with a metastasis that was microsatellite-stable demonstrated a partial response. One

case with MSI-H status in the primary tumor and metastasis obtained no response; possibly due to a subclonal population of the tumor that may have had IHC staining expression, but in fact was nonfunctional and thus was nonresponsive. Most like our case is the report by Zheng et al, in which a patient with a primary MSS esophageal adenocarcinoma that was MSS had an MSI-H bony metastasis treated with pembrolizumab, resulting in a complete response [16]. We suspect this case had a similar genetic profile as ours, with a subclonal population that had progressive spread, but had a functional protein pathway that was able to be targeted with immune checkpoint inhibitors.

Theories of Discordance

There are many theories on why discordance is observed. First, intratumor heterogeneity plays a significant role and has been shown to demonstrate focal IHC staining [4,17]. In our patient, this could have been the cause of her discordance in testing as she could have had an intratumor subset population of cancer cells that was more predisposed to grow. This can be due to MMR IHC stains being reported in a dichotomous manner as “intact” or “lost.” “Lost” is described as cases where there is a complete absence of staining in the tumor epithelium, with the surrounding stroma as a positive internal control. Despite this, up to 7.2% of endometrial carcinoma samples have subclonal

Table 3. Studies regarding discordance of Immunohistochemistry and PCR/Next-Generation Sequencing in various carcinomas.

| Case study | Type of study | Number of cases | Population | Aim | Discordance rates | Conclusion |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------|--|--|-------------------|---|
| Cohen et al [20], 2018 | Multicenter retrospective analysis | 92 | Colorectal carcinoma, multicenter retrospective analysis | Evaluate accuracy of standard IHC and PCR methods in detection of MSI status in mCRC | 9.1% | Local assessment of MSI/dMMR status resulted in misdiagnosis of 9.1% cases as false positive and dual testing should be heavily considered |
| Zheng et al [21], 2020 | Tumor and paired control samples | 64 | Colorectal carcinoma, one academic center | 9-loci model able to detect MSI status compared to MSI-PCR and IHC staining | 15.7% | Microsatellite loci detects MSI status with 100% sensitivity and specificity in samples with concordant MSI/IHC status |
| Kim et al [22], 2020 | Prospective paired analysis | 30 | Endometrial and ovarian carcinoma | Examine concordance in MMR expression between tumor sites in synchronous endometrial and ovarian cancer | 7% | Incidence of MSI was high in women with synchronous endometrial cancer |
| Guyot D'Asinieres De Salins et al [29], 2021 | Retrospective database analysis | 1085 | Colorectal carcinoma, two academic centers France | Determine rate of discordance between pentaplex NGS panel and IHC | 1.6% | High degree of concordance between MSI and MMR IHC testing and discordant cases can potentially be repeated |
| Amemiya et al [23], 2022 | Paired analysis prospective study | 284 | 14 cancer types | IHC more suitable for evaluating MMR status in a tumor | 1.9% | IHC is the best choice in determining MMR alterations |
| Stello et al [24], 2017 | Retrospective database analysis | 854 | Endometrial carcinoma | Define optimal approach for MMR-Def testing and to clarify discrepancies between MSI analysis and IHC analysis of MMR protein expression | 14.6% | MSI and IHC are highly concordant in endometrial cancer with discordant results explained by POLE-EDM variants |
| Loughrey et al [25], 2020 | Retrospective database analysis | 661 | Colorectal cancer | Compare PCR-based testing and IHC in stage 2 and 3 colon cancer cases in Northern Ireland | 2.9% | MSI-PCR testing and MMR IHC can be considered to be equally proficient tests for establishing MMR/MSI status |
| Park et al [26], 2021 | Retrospective cohort analysis | 8229 | Gastric cancer and colorectal cancer | Determine the clinical utility of IHC and PCR in colorectal cancer and gastric cancer | 1.0% | With the low incidence of discordance, this provides evidence for MSI testing and MMR IHC in routine clinical practice |
| Hechtman et al [27], 2020 | Retrospective database analysis | 443 | 32 various tumors | Determine the underlying cause of discordant microsatellite testing | 7.2% | Retained mismatch repair protein expression occurs in 6% of MSI-H while MSI-H harbor isolated loss of the defective mismatch repair gene's dimerization partner |

Table 3 continued. Studies regarding discordance of Immunohistochemistry and PCR/Next-Generation Sequencing in various carcinomas.

| Case study | Type of study | Number of cases | Population | Aim | Discordance rates | Conclusion |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| Bartley et al [28], 2012 | Retrospective database analysis | 591 | Colorectal and endometrial cancer | Can IHC and MSI analysis both be used to evaluate patients with cancer for lynch syndrome | 3.9% | IHC by itself as a screen is the failure to identify colorectal and endometrial cancer patients who likely have Lynch syndrome |

loss of the MMR protein expression, which does not fit this dichotomous reporting system [18]. Second, IHC staining can depict MSS, in which it is identified that the protein is present, although it does not necessarily mean the protein is functional. NGS can depict whether a protein is functional or not. In our case, we may have seen a protein being expressed in the primary endometrial carcinoma, but the functionality of the protein was ineffective due to methylation. Given that the NGS of the primary endometrial tissue did not have a sufficient quantity, the protein could have been nonfunctional. Third, pre-analytical difficulties with immunostaining could play a potential role, as the fixation of specific samples can vary and using a protocol standardized fixation is key to prevention of discordance [19]. This is less likely in our case, as we would expect to see MSI in the primary endometrial tissue, whereas the primary endometrial issue demonstrated MSS.

Narrative Review: Studies Evaluating Discordant MSS Status

A brief narrative review was used to provide an overview highlighting landmark studies to guide providers in selecting a treatment plan when discordant diagnostic results arise. This review was conducted using the databases PubMed and Google Scholar. The following search terms were used in the literature search: “endometrial adenocarcinoma”, “discordance”, “microsatellite stability”, “immunotherapy”, “checkpoint inhibitors”, and “microsatellite instability.” This brief review only included articles and abstracts that were published in English.

Further analyzation on the various studies evaluating discordances between the methods of IHC and PCR or NGS was more limited (Table 3). It was also difficult to compare studies, as the individuals evaluating the tests, location of population, and type of cancer were vastly different. The rate of discordance between samples varied from 1.0% to 15.7% [17,20-28], and 70% of these studies consisted of retrospective cohort studies with large sample sizes ranging from 92 to 8229. There are several key takeaway points from the narrative review. First, it is important to highlight Amemiya et al in particular because MSI-PCR and IHC staining were obtained from 284 patients across 14 various cancer types and found that 3 cases

demonstrated a “mosaic” pattern of heterogeneity [23]. They found that IHC was still able to detect the heterogenous status while MSI-PCR had ambiguous results, which is potentially what could have been detected in our sample from the primary Caris NGS from the primary tumor, resulting in an inadequate sample quantity to perform testing. With their results, they believe that IHC demonstrated more favorable utility, as it will demonstrate the expression for mosaic cases [23]. Additionally, most of the studies aimed to assess the validity of using PCR compared to IHC. Several studies favored dual testing, as their rate of discordance was high [20,26,28]. Uniquely, Park et al had the largest sample size and the lowest discordance rate, possibly due to the statistical power in the study and likely means that with dual testing, most cases will remain concordant [26]. Discordance rates may be low, but can have major consequences at the individual level for patients. In the event that there is a discordant case, some studies recommended retesting [24,29]. In Guyot D’Asinieres et al, repeated reading of testing found only 0.4% of cases remained discordant [29]. They believe these cases were due to methylation and lack of protein expression in the IHC staining causing the mismatch, creating inactive mutant proteins that are still detected as positive. After reviewing these studies, we recommend dual testing with IHC and PCR to assess microsatellite stability because the low discordance rates were associated with large sample sizes in the various studies. We also recommend retesting additional metastases, and if there is a discordance between testing, performing repeat testing to ensure appropriate treatment is delivered to each patient to help further reduce the incidence of true discordant results. Lastly, further research is needed to evaluate discordance results that remain after retesting.

Consideration of First-Line Agent with Poor ECOG

Traditionally, metastatic endometrial carcinoma is treated with first-line chemotherapy consisting of carboplatin and paclitaxel [30]. Given our patient’s significant comorbidities, including paroxysmal atrial fibrillation and congestive heart failure with a reduced ejection fraction of 20%, as well as a poor ECOG performance status of 2, the decision was made to treat her with pembrolizumab as a first line. Numerous studies have

demonstrated that treatment of advanced solid-organ malignancies with immunotherapy compared with traditional chemotherapy is associated with a lower risk of adverse effects [31-33]. Pembrolizumab has been shown to improve patient quality of life for many solid-organ malignancies [31,34,35]. Our patient stated that she has had a significant improvement in her quality of life, she is able to eat again without problems, and denies any pain at her routine visits, in addition to her complete response from pembrolizumab. With this in mind, it is important to consider the use of immunotherapy as a first-line treatment in patients with a poor ECOG performance status.

Strengths, Limitations, and Future Directions

Our case report shows the importance of retesting additional metastases and recurrences after treatment if there is concern about microsatellite instability for treatment with immunotherapy. This also highlights the importance of considering use of immunotherapy in individuals with a poor ECOG as a first-line agent, given the success in our patient. Our review article gives insight to oncologists on how to utilize data such as MSS status obtained with IHC and PCR analysis to encourage an evidence-based approach when determining if a patient can benefit from immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy. Despite these strengths of the study, there are limitations in that this is a case report of 1 patient rather, not a cohort or clinical study. Further ambiguity exists in discordant results of MSS status and highlights the need for clinical trials or larger observational studies of individuals with discordant MSS status. In addition, numerous studies have demonstrated additional viable diagnostic markers that could have a role in predicting the stage of endometrial cancer. For instance, in a study of tissue samples and whole blood from 30 patients, Oplawski et al found that miR-144, miR-106a, and miR-30d were potential diagnostic markers [36].

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Conclusions

To the best of our knowledge, this study is the first to report treatment of endometrial adenocarcinoma in a patient with discordant MSI-H status who achieved complete response with first-line pembrolizumab. Our case highlights many key points. First, there are many factors that could cause discrepancies in microsatellite testing. This is highlighted throughout numerous case reports and studies in addition to ours. Our case provides further evidence for the need to retest the microsatellite stability of metastatic sites, especially after a long period of disease-free survival. Our case also highlights the importance of considering the use of immunotherapy as a first-line agent in patients who have a poor ECOG performance status, as it can significantly improve their quality of life and reduce the number of adverse effects compared to chemotherapy.

Declaration of Figures' Authenticity

All figures submitted have been created by the authors who confirm that the images are original with no duplication and have not been previously published in whole or in part.

Abbreviations

CA125 – cancer antigen 125; **CA19-9** – carbohydrate antigen 19-9; **CEA** – carcinoembryonic antigen; **CT** – computed tomography; **dMMR** – deficient mismatch repair; **@G360** – @Guardant 360; **FIGO** – International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics; **IHC** – immunohistochemistry; **MSI-H** – microsatellite instability-high; **PET** – positron emission tomography; **PD-1** – programmed cell death protein 1.

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