Pembrolizumab-triggered Uveitis: An Additional Surrogate Marker for Responders in Melanoma Immunotherapy?

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Immunotherapy leads to significantly prolonged survival of patients with metastatic melanoma. Autoimmune side effects including colitis, dermatitis, and endocrine abnormalities are common in patients treated with ipilimumab [anti-CTLA4 (cytotoxic T-lymphocyte-associated protein 4)]. Antibodies such as pembrolizumab that interfere with the PD-1 (programmed cell death 1)/PD-L1 pathway show greater efficacy and less toxicity than ipilimumab. Here we report 2 cases of pembrolizumab-induced uveitis associated with complete or partial tumor response. We suggest that uveitis may serve as a surrogate marker for a tumor response to therapy with pembrolizumab.

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