The emerging role of immunotherapy for the treatment of early and advanced breast cancer

Brief Synopsis:

Immune checkpoint inhibitors are been studied in both advanced and early-stage breast cancer. While response rates to checkpoint inhibitor monotherapy in advanced cancer are modest, the durability of response is impressive. A variety of combination strategies are being explored, with the goal of increasing response rates and improving outcomes for patients with breast cancer. The combination of nab-paclitaxel and atezolizumab gained regulatory approval earlier this year for the treatment of advanced, PD-L1 positive, triple-negative breast cancer. A number of studies in the early-stage setting have demonstrated an improvement in response when checkpoint inhibitors are combined with standard neoadjuvant chemotherapy, and registrational studies are ongoing.