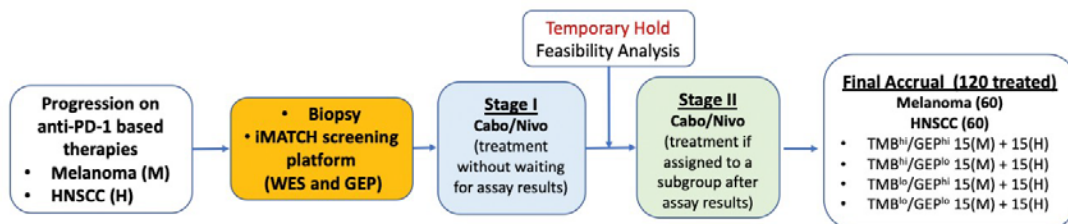
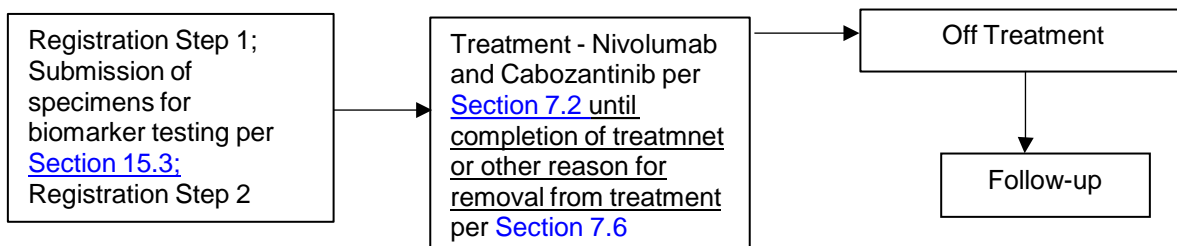


**SCHEMA**

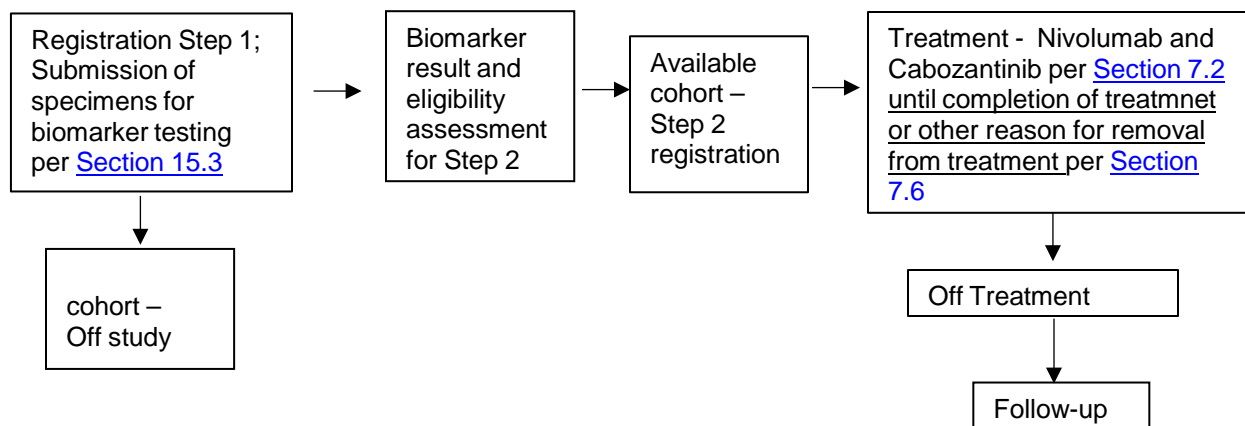


- TMB= tumor mutational burden; GEP = gene expression profiling for tumor inflammation score; WES = whole exome sequencing for tumor mutational burden
- Participants will be stratified into cohorts by disease type and biomarker status (TMB<sup>hi</sup>/GEP<sup>hi</sup>; TMB<sup>hi</sup>/GEP<sup>lo</sup>; TMB<sup>lo</sup>/GEP<sup>hi</sup>; TMB<sup>lo</sup>/GEP<sup>lo</sup>)

**Stage I – Sites will order specimen kits per [Section 15.2](#) one week prior to registration. Sites will register participants to Step 1 registration. Sites must submit specimens for biomarker testing via the SWOG Specimen Tracking System within one day after Step 1 registration. Sites will register participants to Step 2 registration. Participants will begin treatment prior to availability of results. Participants will be assigned to their biomarker cohort retrospectively. Sites will be informed when the trial progresses to Stage II.**



**Stage II – Sites will order specimen kits per [Section 15.2](#) one week prior to registration. Sites will register participants to Step 1 registration. Sites will submit specimens for biomarker testing via the SWOG Specimen Tracking System within one day after Step 1 registration. Sites will receive the biomarker results and will register participants to Step 2 registration only if a slot in an available biomarker cohort is available. Sites will be informed when the trial progresses to Stage II.**



#### 4.0 STAGING CRITERIA

##### 4.1 Staging Criteria

Melanoma participants will be staged using the AJCC 8th edition, 2017. Below are the study specific staging criteria for eligibility purposes.

	<b>T Stage</b>	<b>Nodal Disease</b>	<b>Satellite / In-Transit Metastases</b>	<b>M stage</b>
<b>IIIB</b>	T0,T1,T2,T3a	One clinically detected node	No	M0
	T0,T1,T2,T3a	none	Yes	M0
<b>IIIC</b>	T3b, T4	One clinically detected node	No	M0
	T3b, T4	0-1 clinically detected nodes	Yes	M0
	T0,T1,T2,T3,T4a	2+ clinically detected nodes or	No	M0
	T0,T1,T2,T3,T4a	2+ clinically detected nodes or	Yes	M0
<b>IIID</b>	T4b	2+ clinically detected nodes or	No	M0
	T4b	2+ clinically detected nodes or	Yes	M0
<b>IV</b>	any T	any N	yes/no	M1

#### 5.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Each of the criteria in the following section must be met in order for a participant to be considered eligible for registration in OPEN. Section 5 may be printed and used to by the site, but is not to be uploaded in RAVE (unless specifically stated). For each criterion requiring test results and dates, please record this information on the Onstudy Form and submit via Medidata Rave® (see [Section 14.0](#)). Any potential eligibility issues should be addressed to the SWOG SDMC in Seattle at 206/652-2267 or [S2101question@swog.org](mailto:S2101question@swog.org) prior to registration. **NCI policy does not allow for waiver of any eligibility criterion** ([http://ctep.cancer.gov/protocolDevelopment/policies\\_deviations.htm](http://ctep.cancer.gov/protocolDevelopment/policies_deviations.htm)).

In calculating days of tests and measurements, the day a test or measurement is done is considered Day 0. Therefore, if a test is done on a Monday, the Monday 4 weeks later would be considered Day 28. This allows for efficient participant scheduling without exceeding the guidelines. **If Day 14 or 28 falls on a weekend or holiday, the limit may be extended to the next working day.**

5.1 Step 1 – Specimen Submission

a. Disease Related Criteria

1. Participants must have histologically confirmed melanoma that is Stage III or IV, unresectable, recurrent, or metastatic non-veal melanoma according to criteria in [Section 4.1](#).

OR

Participants must have histologically confirmed squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck (HNSCC) that is either locally recurrent and non-amendable to curative therapy (e.g., radiation, surgery) or metastatic. The primary tumor location must be the oropharynx, oral cavity, hypopharynx, or larynx. Primary tumor site of nasopharynx (any histology) or unknown primary tumor are not eligible.

Note: For participants with primary oropharyngeal cancer, HPV or p16 status must be known prior to Step 1 registration.

2. Participants must have disease presentation consistent with measurable disease. Note: Current disease measurements will not be required until Step 2 registration.
3. Participants must have had documented progression within 12 weeks after the last dose of PD-1 checkpoint inhibition-based therapy. Participants must have been receiving checkpoint inhibition for a minimum of 6 weeks prior to progression. Participants who recur during adjuvant anti-PD1 treatment or within 12 weeks of completion of adjuvant anti-PD1 treatment are eligible if they have measurable disease and considered unresectable.
4. Participants with known human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)-infection must be receiving anti-retroviral therapy and have an undetectable viral load test within 6 months prior to Step 1 registration.
5. Participants with evidence of chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection must have undetectable HBV viral load within 28 days prior to Step 1 registration.
6. Participants with a history of hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection must have no detectable viral load within 28 days prior to Step 1 registration.
7. Participants must not have an active infection requiring systemic therapy (except HBV, HCV or HIV as mentioned above)

b. Prior/Concurrent Therapy Criteria

1. Participants must have recovered to baseline or  $\leq$  Grade 1 CTCAE v5 toxicities related to any prior treatments, unless adverse events are deemed clinically nonsignificant by the treating investigator or stable on supportive therapy.
2. Participants must not have received surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, biologic agents, or steroids within 14 days prior to Step 1 registration.
3. Participants must not have received more than one prior primary radiotherapy regimen, curative or adjuvant, to the head and neck, with the additional following criteria.
  - i. If the primary radiation is combined with chemotherapy, a minimum of 16 weeks will be required to have elapsed between the end of radiotherapy and Step 1 registration. If the radiation is given alone, a minimum of 8 weeks will be required to have elapsed between the end of radiotherapy and Step 1 registration.
  - ii. Additional palliative radiotherapy regimens are permitted but cannot have been administered to previously treated tissue (i.e., overlapping fields are excluded) and must be completed at least 4 weeks prior to Step 1 registration.
  - iii. Treatment areas should be healed with no sequelae from RT that would predispose to fistula formation.
4. Participants must not have received prior treatment with anti-VEGF therapies for any reason.

c. Clinical/Laboratory Criteria

1. Participants must be  $\geq$  18 years of age.
2. Participants must have a Zubrod Performance Status 0 or 1. See [Section 10.4](#).
3. Participants must have adequate cardiac function. Participants with known history or current symptoms of cardiac disease, or history of treatment with cardiotoxic agents, must have a clinical risk assessment of cardiac function using the New York Heart Association Functional Classification (see Appendix 18.3), and must be class 2B or better to be eligible for this trial.
4. Participants must not have any known significant organ dysfunction that, in the opinion of the treating investigator, may impact suitability for receiving combination nivolumab/cabozantinib treatment.
5. Participants must not have active autoimmune disease requiring systemic steroids (equivalent of  $>$  10 mg of prednisone) or other immune suppression. Exceptions:
  - Type 1 diabetes mellitus.
  - Hypothyroidism only requiring hormone replacement.

- Skin disorders (e.g., vitiligo, psoriasis, or alopecia) not requiring systemic treatment.
  - Conditions not expected to recur in the absence of an external trigger.
6. Participants must not have received an organ allograft.
  7. Participants must not have a history of hemoptysis (defined as  $\geq 1/2$  tsp of bright red blood per day) or tumor bleeding within 90 days prior to Step 1 registration.
  8. Participants must not have known central lung lesions involving major blood vessels (arteries or veins) or a tumor encasing major blood vessels (e.g., carotid artery).
  9. Participants must not require concomitant anticoagulation with coumarin agents (e.g., warfarin), direct thrombin inhibitors (e.g., dabigatran), direct factor Xa inhibitor betrixaban, or platelet inhibitors (e.g., clopidogrel). Participants must not require anticoagulants except for the following:
    - Prophylactic use of low-dose aspirin for cardio-protection (per local applicable guidelines) and low-dose low molecular weight heparins (LMWH).
    - Therapeutic doses of LMWH or anticoagulation with direct factor Xa inhibitors, rivaroxaban, edoxaban, or apixaban in participants without known brain metastases who are on a stable dose of the anticoagulant for at least 1 week prior to Step 1 registration without clinically significant hemorrhagic complications from the anticoagulation regimen or the tumor.
  10. Participants must not have evidence of preexisting uncontrolled hypertension prior to Step 1 registration as documented by 2 baseline blood pressure readings taken at least 30 minutes apart within 28 days prior to Step 1 registration. The baseline systolic blood pressure readings must be  $\leq 150$  mmHg and the baseline diastolic blood pressure readings must be  $\leq 90$  mmHg. Participants on antihypertensive therapies with controlled blood pressure are eligible.
  11. Participants must not have a prior or concurrent malignancy whose natural history or treatment (in the opinion of the treating physician) has the potential to interfere with the safety or efficacy assessment of the investigational regimen.
  12. Participants must not be pregnant or nursing due to the known safety profiles of the drugs in this study. Individuals who are of reproductive potential must have agreed to use an effective contraceptive method with details provided as a part of the consent process. A person who has had menses at any time in the preceding 12 consecutive months or who has semen likely to contain sperm is considered to be of "reproductive potential. In addition to routine contraceptive methods, "effective contraception" also includes refraining from sexual activity that might result in pregnancy and surgery intended to prevent pregnancy (or with a side-effect of pregnancy prevention) including hysterectomy, bilateral oophorectomy, bilateral tubal ligation/occlusion and vasectomy with testing showing no sperm in the semen.

d. Specimen and Data Submission Criteria

1. Participants must:

Have adequate tissue specimen from procedure obtained within 6 months prior to Step 1 registration and after development of resistance to anti-PD-1/L1 therapy. Archival tissue must consist of tumor block or at least 20 freshly cut serially sectioned and numbered 4-5 micron unstained, positively-uncharged slides (see [Section 15.3](#))

OR

Be willing to undergo research biopsy AND have tumor accessible for biopsy based on the following criteria:

- Mediastinal, laparoscopic, gastrointestinal, or bronchial endoscopic biopsies can be obtained incidentally to a clinically necessary procedure and NOT for the sole purpose of the clinical trial.
- Acceptable biopsy procedures are:
  - Percutaneous biopsy with local anesthetic and/or sedation with an expected risk of severe complications < 2%.
  - Direct transoral biopsy (with or without local anesthetic and/or sedation) with an expected risk of severe complications < 2%.
  - Excisional cutaneous biopsy with local anesthetic and/or sedation with an expected risk of severe complications < 2%.
  - Biopsy with removal of additional tumor tissue during a medically necessary mediastinoscopy, laparoscopy, gastrointestinal endoscopy, bronchoscopy or craniotomy. No open surgical, laparoscopic or endoscopic procedure should be performed solely to obtain a biopsy for this protocol.
  - Removal of additional tumor tissue during a medically necessary surgical procedure.

2. Participants must have been offered the opportunity to participate in specimen banking as outlined in [Section 15.4](#).

e. Regulatory Criteria

Note: As a part of the OPEN registration process (see [Section 13.4](#) for OPEN access instructions) the treating institution's identity is provided in order to ensure that the current (within 365 days) date of institutional review board approval for this study has been entered in the system.

1. Participants must be informed of the investigational nature of this study and must sign and give informed consent in accordance with institutional and federal guidelines.
2. Participants with impaired decision-making capacity are eligible as long as their neurological or psychological condition does not preclude their safe participation in the study (e.g., tracking pill consumption and reporting adverse events to the investigator).

## 5.2 Treatment Registration

### a. Disease Related Criteria

1. Participants must have been eligible for Step 1 registration.
2. Participants must have had their tumor tissue submitted via the SWOG Specimen Tracking System prior to Step 2 registration.
3. Participants registered during Stage II of the protocol must have received assignment to an open cohort from the SWOG Statistics and Data Management Center based on their biomarker screening profile (not applicable for patients registered during Stage I of the protocol).
4. Participants must have measurable disease (see [Section 10.1](#)). All measurable disease must be assessed within 28 days prior to Step 2 registration. All non-measurable disease must be assessed within 42 days prior to Step 2 registration. Note: All disease must be assessed and documented on the Baseline Tumor Assessment Form (RECIST 1.1).

For melanoma participants, CT Chest, Abdomen and Pelvis must be obtained. For HNSCC participants, CT Neck and Chest must be obtained. Further imaging (i.e., MR Brain, CT Abdomen/Pelvis or extremities, Bone Scan) will be performed as deemed appropriate by the treating physician.

5. Participants with treated brain metastases must have no evidence of progression on the follow-up brain imaging after CNS-directed therapy.
6. Participants must not have experienced any significant health changes that, in the opinion of the treating investigator, may impact continued suitability for receiving combination nivolumab/cabozantinib treatment.

### b. Prior/Concurrent Therapy Criteria

1. Participants with treated brain metastases must have discontinued steroid treatment at least 14 days prior to Step 2 registration.
2. Participants must not have received more than one prior primary radiotherapy regimen, curative or adjuvant, to the head and neck, with the additional following conditions:
  - i. If the primary radiation is combined with chemotherapy, a minimum of 16 weeks will be required to have elapsed between the end of radiotherapy and Step 2 registration. If the radiation is given alone, a minimum of 8 weeks will be required to have elapsed between the end of radiotherapy and Step 2 registration.
  - ii. Additional palliative radiotherapy regimens are permitted but cannot have been administered to previously treated tissue (i.e., overlapping fields are excluded) and must be completed at least 4 weeks prior to Step 2 registration.
  - iii. Treatment areas should be healed with no sequelae from RT that would predispose to fistula formation.
3. Participants must not have received investigational agents or monoclonal antibodies (except FDA approved supportive care antibodies, such as denosumab) within 28 days prior to Step 2 registration.

4. Participants must not have received any prior treatment with anti-VEGF based therapies.
5. Participants must not have received administration of a live, attenuated vaccine within 30 days prior to Step 2 registration. Note: Participants may have received an mRNA or viral vector-based COVID-19 vaccine within 30 days prior to Step 2 registration.
6. Participants must not have received administration of any strong CYP3A4 inducers, such as but not limited to rifampin, carbamazepine, enzalutamide, mitotane, phenytoin and St. John's wort, within 14 days prior to Step 2 registration (see also the bulleted items in [Section 7.1](#) and also [appendix 18.4](#)).
7. Participants must not have received administration of any strong CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as but not limited to clarithromycin, itraconazole, ketoconazole, grapefruit juice, indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, nefazodone, saquinavir, and telithromycin, within 5 times the half-life of the CYP3A inhibitor prior to Step 2 registration (see also the bulleted items in [Section 7.1](#) and also [appendix 18.4](#)).

c. Clinical/Laboratory Criteria

1. Participants must have a history and physical examination performed within 28 days prior to Step 2 registration.
2. Participants must be able to take oral medication without breaking, opening, crushing, dissolving or chewing capsules.
3. Participants must have adequate organ and marrow function within 28 days prior to Step 2 registration as defined below:
  - leukocytes  $\geq 3,000/\mu\text{L}$
  - absolute neutrophil count  $\geq 1,500/\mu\text{L}$
  - platelets  $\geq 100,000/\mu\text{L}$
  - total bilirubin  $\leq 1.5 \times$  institutional upper limit of normal (ULN) or  $\leq 3 \times$  ULN for participants with Gilbert's disease
  - AST  $\leq 3 \times$  institutional ULN
  - ALT  $\leq 3 \times$  institutional ULN
  - urinalysis for baseline value (no required value for eligibility)
  - Fridericia corrected QT interval (QTcF)  $\leq 470$  milliseconds on screening ECG

measured (OR calculated) creatinine clearance  $\geq 30$  mL/min using the following Cockcroft-Gault Formula. This specimen must have been drawn and processed within 28 days prior to Step 2 registration:

$$\text{Calculated Creatinine Clearance} = \frac{(140 - \text{age}) \times (\text{weight in kg}) \dagger}{72 \times \text{serum creatinine}^*}$$

Multiply this number by 0.85 if the participant is a female.

† The kilogram weight is the participant weight with an upper limit of 140% of the ideal body weight (IBW).

\* Actual lab serum creatinine value with a minimum of 0.7 mg/dL.



4. Participants must not have malabsorption syndrome.
5. Participants must not have central lung lesions involving major blood vessels (arteries or veins) or a tumor encasing major blood vessels (e.g., carotid artery).