CLAIMS

1. Use of an antibody that binds a human NKG2A polypeptide and neutralizes the inhibitory activity of NKG2A, in which the NKG2A antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 and a light chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 7, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) in an individual.

2. Use according to Claim 1, in which the HNSCC is an oral cavity squamous cell carcinoma (OCSCC).

3. Use according to Claim 1, in which the HNSCC is an oropharyngeal tumor.

4. Use according to Claim 1, in which the HNSCC is a larynx tumor.

5. Use according to Claim 1, in which the HNSCC is a tumor of the hypopharynx.

6. Use according to Claim 1, in which the individual is human papilloma virus (HPV) positive.

7. Use according to Claim 1, in which:

(a) a determination is made as to whether HLA-E polypeptide is expressed by malignant cells from the individual having a HNSCC, and

(b) upon a determination that malignant cells express HLA-E polypeptide at or above a reference level, the antibody is to be administered to the individual.

8. Use according to Claim 7, in which determining whether HLA-E polypeptide is expressed by malignant cells comprises bringing HNSCC cells obtained from an individual into contact with an antibody that binds a HLA-E polypeptide and detecting cells that express HLA-E.

9. Use according to Claim 1, in which the antibody comprises an Fc-engineered constant region comprising an amino acid modification that reduces binding to a human Fcγ receptor.

10. Use according to Claim 1, in which the anti-NKG2A antibody is to be administered several times at a dosing frequency from once about every week to once about per month.

11. Use of an antibody that neutralizes the inhibitory activity of a human NKG2A polypeptide, in which the antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 and a light chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 7, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a cancer in an individual, in which:

(a) a determination is made as to the HLA-E polypeptide status of malignant cells from the individual having a cancer,

(b) a determination is made as to the EGFR polypeptide status of malignant cells from the individual having a cancer; and

(c) upon a determination that HLA-E and EGFR polypeptides are expressed by malignant cells from the individual at levels that are at or above a reference level, a therapeutic regimen that comprises the antibody and cetuximab is to be administered to the individual.

12. Use of an antibody that neutralizes the inhibitory activity of a human NKG2A polypeptide, in which the antibody comprises a heavy chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 and a light chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 7, in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) in an individual, in which:

(a) a determination is made as to whether the individual has a HNSCC characterized by the presence of lymphocytes in the tumor environment; and

(b) upon a determination that the individual has a HNSCC characterized by the presence of lymphocytes in the tumor environment, the antibody is to be administered to the individual.

13. Use of an antibody that neutralizes the inhibitory activity of human NKG2A which comprises a heavy chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 2 and a light chain comprising SEQ ID NO: 7 in the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of a head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (HNSCC) in a human patient, in which an effective amount of each of (a) the antibody and (b) cetuximab are to be administered to the patient.

14. Use according to Claim 13, which comprises at least one administration cycle, in which the cycle is a period of two weeks, in which for each of the at least one cycles, one dose of the antibody that neutralizes the inhibitory activity of human NKG2A is to be administered and two doses of cetuximab are to be administered.

15. Use according to Claim 13, in which the method comprises at least one administration cycle, in which the cycle is a period of two weeks, in which for each of the at least one cycles, one dose of the antibody that neutralizes the inhibitory activity of human NKG2A is to be administered at a dose of 1-10 mg/kg and two doses of cetuximab are to be administered at a dose of 1-10 mg/kg.