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# Advances in the Treatment of CNS Malignancies

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# Learning Objectives and Disclosures

### **Disclosures**

• None

### **Objectives**

- 1) Review the current standard of care for glioblastoma
- 2) Review results of recent clinical trials for high-grade gliomas
- 3) Identify emerging strategies for treatment of gliomas



# **Primary CNS Malignancies**



Incidence of CNS tumors in US adults = 27 / 100,000 (~ 75,000 annual cases)\*

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\* CBTRUS 2007-2011

# Glioblastoma (GBM)



### Standard of Care:

- Maximal Safe Resection
- Fractionated Radiotherapy









# GBM Survival Over The Last Two Decades

A Overall Survival

100

75-

50-

25-

0-

ò

309

312

P=0.21

6

255

263

Overall Survival (%)

No. at Risk

Bevacizumab

Placebo



Stupp, NEJM 2005

Gilbert, NEJM 2014

24

50

47

Deaths Placebo 198

Placebo

Bevacizumab

30

22

17

Bevacizumab 215

Median Survival: 14.6 months

Median Survival: 16.1 months

18

112

99

Hazard ratio, 1.13 (95% CI, 0.93-1.37)

12

1**9**2

200

Months since Randomization



### Tumor Treatment Fields for GBM



Optune:



Median Survival TMZ + TTF: 20.9 months Median Survival TMZ Alone: 16 months

# The Role of Surgery For GBM

An extent of resection threshold for newly diagnosed glioblastomas

#### Clinical article

NADER SANAI, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> MEI-YIN POLLEY, PH.D.,<sup>2</sup> MICHAEL W. MCDERMOTT, M.D.,<sup>1</sup> ANDREW T. PARSA, M.D., PH.D.,<sup>1</sup> AND MITCHEL S. BERGER, M.D.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Brain Tumor Research Center, and <sup>2</sup>Division of Biostatistics, Department of Neurological Surgery, University of California, San Francisco, California

#### Sanai N, J Neurosurg (2011) 115:3-8



Association of Maximal Extent of Resection of Contrast-Enhanced and Non-Contrast-Enhanced Tumor With Survival Within Molecular Subgroups of Patients With Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma

Molinaro AM, JAMA Oncol (2020) 6(4):496-503





#### A Four risk groups in discovery set



#### B IDH-wild-type and IDH-mutant subgroups



# Surgical Advancements

### Image Guidance





### Intraoperative MRI



**Cortical Stimulation** 

### Tumor Fluorescent Dyes









# Immune Checkpoint Inhibition For GBM



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#### A Probability of OS by intervention



#### **On-Going**

B Probability of progression-free survival

8.9 (5.1-14.1)

24

1

Reardon, JAMA Oncology 2020

2

0 0

NRG BN007: Randomized Phase II/III Study of Ipilimumab and Nivolumab Versus Temozolomide for Newly Diagnosed MGMT Unmethylated GBM

# How Does GBM Differ From Other Tumors?

### Immunotherapy Responsive CA

- Hematogenous/LN metastasis
- Autoimmunization
- DC/Macrophage rich tissues
- High somatic mutation burden
- Driver mutations, homogenous

#### <u>Glioblastoma</u>

- No extracranial metastasis
- No direct LN drainage
- Alternative antigen presentation
- Low somatic mutation burden
- Highly heterogenous tumor

#### **Tumor Induced Immunosuppression**



CD<sub>3</sub> Staining



GBM



# Immunosuppression in Glioblastoma

- Expression of Immune Checkpoints (Berghoff, Neuro Oncol 17(8):1064-75, 2015)
- Expansion of Suppressive Myeloid Cells (Chae, Neuro Oncol 17(7):978-91, 2015)
- Expansion of Regulatory T Cells (Fecci, Cancer Res 66(6):3294-302, 2006; Heimberger Clin Cancer Res 14(16):5166-72, 2008)
- Sequestration of CD4<sup>+</sup> Effectors (Chongsathidkiet, *Nat Med* 24(9):1459-68, 2018)
- Exhaustion of CD8<sup>+</sup> Effectors (Mohme, Clin Cancer Res, 24(17):4187-200, 2018)
- Immune Fingerprint is Correlated To Overall Survival (Alban, JCI Insight 3(21), 2018)







# Some Active GBM Vaccine Trials

#### **Peptide Vaccines**

NCT02864368: Peptide Targets for Glioblastoma Against Novel Cytomegalovirus Antigens (PERFORMANCE).

NCT02455557: A Phase II Study of the Safety and Efficacy of SVN53-67/M57-KLH (SurVaxM) in Survivin-Positive Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma.

NCT03149003: A Randomized, Multicenter, Phase 2 Study of DSP-7888 Dosing Emulsion in Combination With Bevacizumab Versus Bevacizumab Alone in Patients With Recurrent or Progressive Glioblastoma Following Initial Therapy. (WT1 peptide vaccine)

NCT02718443: Phase I Pilot Study in Patients With Operable Recurrent of Glioblastoma to Examine Safety, Tolerability, Immune, and Biomarker Response to the Investigational VEGFR-2 DNA Vaccine VXM01.

#### DC Vaccines

NCT02366728: Evaluation of Overcoming Limited Migration and Enhancing Cytomegalovirus-specific Dendritic Cell Vaccines With Adjuvant Tetanus Pre-conditioning in Patients With Newly-diagnosed Glioblastoma.

NCT02465268: A Phase II Randomized, Blinded, and Placebo-controlled Trial of CMV RNA-Pulsed Dendritic Cells With Tetanus-Diphtheria Toxoid Vaccine in Patients With Newly-Diagnosed Glioblastoma (ATTAC-II).

NCT02649582: Adjuvant Dendritic-Cell Immunotherapy Plus Temozolomide Following Surgery and Chemoradiation in Patients With Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma (ADDIT-GLIO).

NCT01808820: Dendritic Cell (DC) Vaccine for Malignant Glioma and Glioblastoma.

NCT03400917: Autologous Dendritic Cells Loaded with Autologous Tumor Associated Antigens for Treatment of Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma.



# Phase II Single Arm Studies of HSPPC-96 For GBM





- RTOG 0825 (Gilbert, NEJM 2014): Placebo mOS 16.1 mos
- AVAGlio (Chinot, NEJM 2014): Placebo mOS <u>16.7 mos</u>

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### No grade 3 or 4 adverse events attributable to vaccine identified in any patient

### Phase II/III Vaccine Studies for GBM





# Impact of PD-L1 Expression on Survival After Vaccination

reference



44.7 months

PD-L1 Low

Variable	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	p value
Age (per yr)	1.06 (0.99 – 1.13)	0.08
MGMT		
methylated	reference	
unmethylated	6.3 (2.1 - 22.0)	<0.001
PD-L1		
low	reference	
high	4.0 (1.4 - 12.7)	0.008
KPS		
90-100	reference	
70-80	5.1 (1.5 – 18.0)	0.009
No. vaccinations	0.97 (0.86 – 1.08)	0.61



Bloch, Clin Cancer Res 23(14):3575-84, 2017

# Combination of ICI and Vaccines

- NCT03018288: Radiation Therapy Plus Temozolomide and Pembrolizumab With and Without HSPPC-96 in Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma (Phase II)
- NCT03665545: Pembrolizumab in Association with IMA950/Poly-ICLC for Relapsing Glioblastoma (Phase I/II)
- NCT02287428: Personalized NeoAntigen Cancer Vaccine with RT Plus Pembrolizumab for Patients with MGMT Unmethylated, Newly Diagnosed GBM (Phase I)
- NCT04201873: Pembrolizumab and a Vaccine (ATL-DC) for the Treatment of Surgically Acessible Recurrent Glioblastoma (Phase I)
- NCT03750071: VXM01 Plus Avelumab Combination Study in Progressive Glioblastoma (Phase I/II)



# Oncolytic Viral Therapy





# **Oncolytic Virus Trials**

- PSVRIPO: Poliovirus for Recurrent GBM (Phase I/II)
- Toca 511: Adenovirus + Toca-FU for Recurrent GBM (Phase III)

Tocagen

gene therapy

nti-center clinical trial evaluating Toca 511 & Toca FC

dergoing resection missed the primary endpoint of overall

meatment (11.1 months median compared to 12.2 months, HR=1.06, p=0.6154). In

opoints showed no meaningful difference between the arms of the trial. The safety, tolerability

av at 8:30 a.m. Eastern

-- Tocagen Inc. (Nasdag: TOCA)





### Oncolytic Virus Trials -Combination with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors

### DNX-2401(CAPTIVE): Adenovirus + Pembrolizumab for Recurrent GBM (Phase II)



Ad-RTS-hIL12: Adenovirus + Veledimex + Nivolumab for Recurrent GBM (Phase II)



# New Technologies

Surgical Advancements in Glioblastoma

- Reduce morbidity (improve quality of life)
- Attain more complete cytoreduction
- Enhance the impact of adjuvant therapy
  - BBB penetration
  - Immune activation



# Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT)







# Safety of LITT

#### RESEARCH—HUMAN—CLINICAL STUDIES

#### The Role of Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy in Surgical Neuro-Oncology: Series of 100 Consecutive Patients

Ashish H. Shah, MD Alexa Semonche, BA Daniel G. Eichberg, MD Veronica Borowy, BS Evan Luther, MD Christopher A. Sarkiss, MD Alexis Morell, MD Anii K. Mahavadi, BS Michael E. Ivan, MD, MBS Ricardo J. Komotar, MD

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BACKGROUND: Laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT) is an adjuvant treatment for intracranial lesions that are treatment refractory or in deep or eloquent brain. Initial studies of LITT in surgical neuro-oncology are limited in size and follow-up. OBJECTIVE: To present our series of LITT in surgical neuro-oncology to better evaluate procedural safety and outcomes.

METHODS: An exploratory cohort study of all patients receiving LITT for brain tumors by a single senior neurosurgeon at a single center between 2013 and 2018. Primary outcomes included extent of ablation (EOA), time to recurrence (TTR), local control at 1-yr follow-up, and overall survival (OS). Secondary outcomes included complication rate. Outcomes were compared by tumor subtype. Predictors of outcomes were identified. **RESULTS**: A total of 91 patients underwent 100 LITT procedures; 61% remain alive with

72% local control at median 7.2 mo follow-up. Median TTR and OS were 31.9 and 16.9 mo,

Lesion subtype	Median EOA (%), (IQR)	Median length of follow-up (months), (IQR)	Recurrence, n (%)	Median time-to- recurrence (months)	Percentage local control at 1-yr follow-up	Median OS (months)	Death, n (%)	Complications (n), description
Meningioma*	82.5 (76.0-87.3)	14.8 (9.5-20.1)	1 (25.0%)	N/A	75.0	20.7	1 (25%)	1, transient
Metastasis	100.0 (88.0-100.0)	7.6 (3.4-17.2)	9 (20.0%)	55.9	77.4	16.9	17 (47%	2, post-op seizure, wound infection
nGBM	98.0 (88.5-100.0)	5.6 (1.8-25.4)	3 (27.3%)	31.9	83.3	32.3	5 (46%	-
rGBM	87.5 (77.0-99.5)	7.3 (5.6-13.5)	9 (64.3%)	5.6	24.3	7.3	12 (869	1, wound infection
RN	100.0 (98.8-100.0)	4.4 (1.3-11.6)	5 (25.0%)	N/A	67.2	16.4	4 (30%	
Other	92.5 (79.5-98.8)	5.4 (4.0-19.7)	2 (33.3%)	12.3	80.0	24.4	0 (0%)	-

#### Total Complications: 3/100 (3%)





Shah AH, Neurosurgery, August 2019

# Efficacy of LITT for Recurrent Metastases

#### **RESEARCH—HUMAN—CLINICAL STUDIES**

#### Magnetic Resonance-Guided Laser Ablation Improves Local Control for Postradiosurgery Recurrence and/or Radiation Necrosis

Malay S. Rao, MD, PharmD\* Eric L. Hargreaves, PhD‡ Atif J. Khan, MD\* Bruce G. Haffty, MD\* Shabbar F. Danish, MD‡ **BACKGROUND:** Enhancing lesions that progress after stereotactic radiosurgery are often tumor recurrence or radiation necrosis. Magnetic resonance-guided laser-induced thermal therapy (LITT) is currently being explored for minimally invasive treatment of intracranial neoplasms. **OBJECTIVE:** To report the largest series to date of local control with LITT for the treatment

of recurrent enhancing lesions after stereotactic radiosurgery for brain metastases.



TABLE 1. Patient Characteristics <sup>e</sup>							
Patient	Age, y	Sex	Cancer Diagnosis <sup>b</sup>	Lesion Location	Prior SRS	Prior WBRT	
1	72	F	NSCLC	Frontal lobe	18 Gy to 80% IDL	No	
2	56	F	NSCLC	Cerebellum	27 Gy in 3 fractions	No	
3	82	M	NSCLC	Frontal lobe	16 Gy to 80%	No	
4	46	F	IDC	Cerebellum	20 Gy to 50% IDL	Yes	
5	55	F	NSCLC	Cerebellar peduncle	20 Gy to 70% IDL	Yes	
6 <sup>c</sup>	70	М	NSCLC	Frontal lobe	20 Gy to 50% IDL	Yes	
			NSCLC	Parietal lobe	18 Gy to 60% IDL	Yes	
7	64	F	NSCLC	Frontal lobe	18 Gy to 50% IDL	No	
8	72	F	IDC	Cerebellum	20 Gy to 80% IDL	Yes	
9	73	F	NSCLC	Cerebellum	20 Gy to 45% IDL	No	
10	74	M	NSCLC	Frontal lobe	18 Gy to 70% IDL	No	
11	65	M	NSCLC	Temporal lobe	20 Gy to 50% IDL	No	
12	64	M	NSCLC	Cerebellum	16 Gy to 50% IDL	No <sup>d</sup>	
13	54	F	NSCLC	Cerebellum	20 Gy to 50% IDL	No	
14	64	М	CA	Frontal lobe	20 Gy to 40% IDL	No	

All patients with prior SRS 5 patients (36%) with prior WBRT

#### 75% Local Control Rate



Rao MS, Neurosurgery, June 2014; 74(6):658-667

# LITT Effect on Blood-Brain-Barrier

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Hyperthermic Laser Ablation of Recurrent Glioblastoma Leads to Temporary Disruption of the Peritumoral Blood Brain Barrier

Eric C. Leuthardt<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>°\*, Chong Duan<sup>6</sup>°, Michael J. Kim<sup>7</sup>, Jian L. Campian<sup>1,7</sup>, Albert H. Kim<sup>1,2</sup>, Michelle M. Miller-Thomas<sup>8</sup>, Joshua S. Shimony<sup>8</sup>\*, David D. Tran<sup>9</sup>\*



Leuthardt EC, PLoS One (2016)

#### Therapeutic enhancement of blood-brain and blood-tumor barriers permeability by laser interstitial thermal therapy

Afshin Salehi<sup>†</sup>, Mounica R. Paturu<sup>†</sup>, Bhuvic Patel<sup>†,e</sup>, Matthew D. Cain, Tatenda Mahlokozera, Alicia B. Yang, Tsen-Hsuan Lin, Eric C. Leuthardt, Hiroko Yano, Sheng-Kwei Song, Robyn S. Klein, Robert Schmidt, and Albert H. Kim<sup>e</sup>



Salehi A, *Neuro-Onc Adv* (2020) 2(1):1-12

# LITT in combination with ICI

- NCT03341806: Avelumab with Laser Interstitial Therapy for Recurrent Glioblastoma (Phase I)
- NCT03277638: Laser Interstitial Thermotherapy Combined with Checkpoint Inhibitor for Recurrent GBM (Phase I/II)
- NCT02311582: MK-3475 in Combination with MRI-guided Laser Ablation in Recurrent Malignant Gliomas (Phase I/II)



# Summary

The standard of care for high-grade gliomas is surgery, radiotherapy, and temozolomide chemotherapy

• Tumor treatment fields (TTF) has been shown to have survival benefit, but compliance is challenging

GBM is a highly immunosuppressive and immunologically cold tumor

• No benefit of immune checkpoint inhibitors alone (in combination with RT and TMZ)

Anti-Tumor vaccination and oncolytic viral therapy can help boost innate immune response

- These therapies have not been individually successful in phase III trials
- Combinations of vaccine/viral therapy with immune checkpoint inhibition has promise studies underway now

Surgical technology to increase extent of resection has reached it's limit of benefit

New surgical approaches (laser interstitial therapy) offers new biologic benefit in addition to decreased morbidity

- BBB permeability
- Immune stimulation



# Acknowledgements

#### UC Davis Brain Tumor Program

#### Neurosurgery

Orin Bloch **Griffith Harsh Kiarash Shahlaie** 

**Neuro-Oncology** Orwa Aboud

#### **Radiation Oncology Ruben Fragoso**

#### Neuropathology Lee-Way Jin Han Lee

#### Neuroradiology Matthew Bobinski Osama Raslan

#### **Research Collaborators**

Laura Marcu (Bioengineering) Yuanpei Li (Biochemistry) Kit Lam (Biochemistry) Cindy Lin (Heme/Onc) Jian Jian Li (Radiation Oncology)

# UCDAVIS **COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER**

#### **Funding Support**

NCI Ro1 CA164714 (Bloch) NCI R21 CA252510 (Marcu/Bloch) NCI Ro1 (Marcu/Bloch) NICHD Ro1 HD086195 (Li)



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# Thank You



Questions