



# Contemporary Pharmacotherapy Management of High-grade Gliomas

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December 1, 2022*





# Rosetta Stone

	Shorthand
$\alpha$ -thalassemia mental retardation syndrome X-linked	ATRX
lomustine	CCNU
copy number alteration	CNA
central nervous system	CNS
glioblastoma	GBM
isocitrate dehydrogenase	IDH
Karnofsky performance scale	KPS
O <sup>6</sup> -methylguanine DNA methyltransferase	MGMT
Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology	RANO
telomerase reverse transcriptase	TERT
temozolomide	TMZ
World Health Organization	WHO



# Objectives

1. Understand the role of molecular markers in the diagnosis and management of high-grade gliomas
2. Develop a treatment/monitoring plan based on the assessment of patient information, available evidence, and current guidelines for the management of primary gliomas
3. Discuss future direction for precision oncology and immunotherapy approaches in the treatment of high-grade gliomas



# Incidence, Survival, and Mortality

Malignant CNS tumors account for ~1% of all invasive cancer cases in the United States

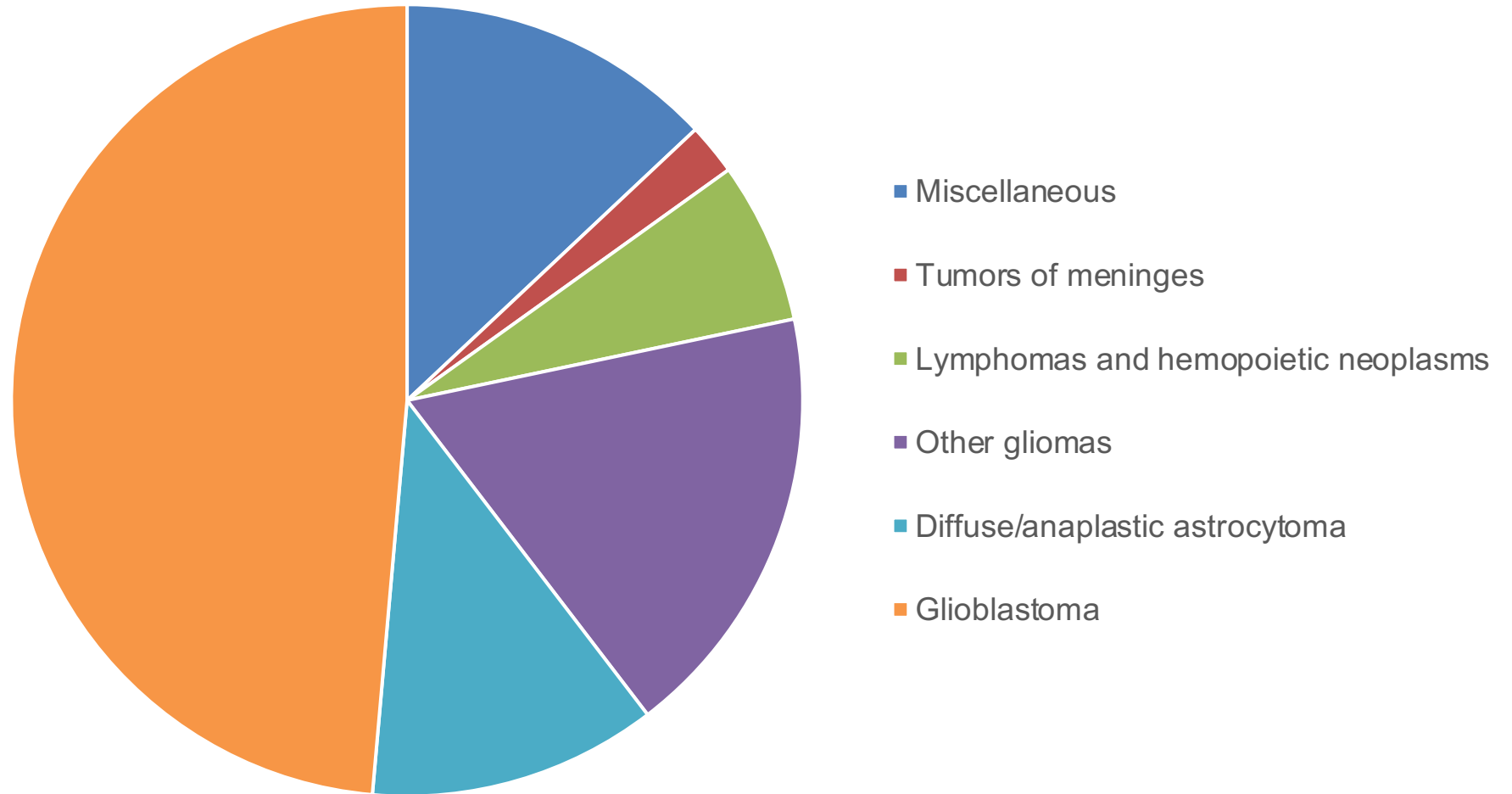
- Most commonly diagnosed solid tumor in children/adolescents
- Leading cause of cancer death
  - Males <40 years
  - Females <20 years

Less than one-third of all CNS tumors are malignant

- Majority of deaths from disease



# Incidence, Survival, and Mortality





# What's In a Name?

Over 120 subtypes of CNS tumors in existence

- Cell type, histology, molecular characterization

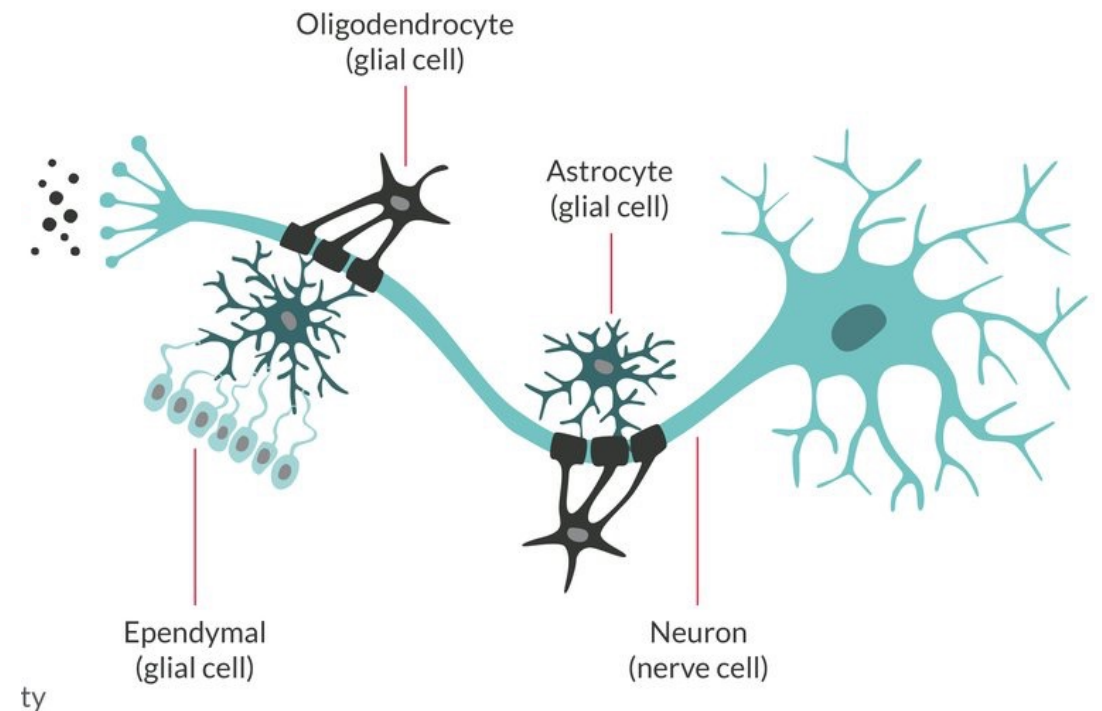
## Nervous tissue cell types

### – Messaging

- Neurons

### – Structural/glia cells

- Ependymal
- Oligodendrocyte
- Astrocyte
- Microglia





# Brain Tumor Pathology

Tumor classification using histopathology and molecular data

- Methods: IHC, sequencing (CNA-seq, pyro-seq, etc.)
- Performed at time of initial resection/biopsy

Molecular characterization to discern histologically similar neoplasms for prognosis and potential response to therapies

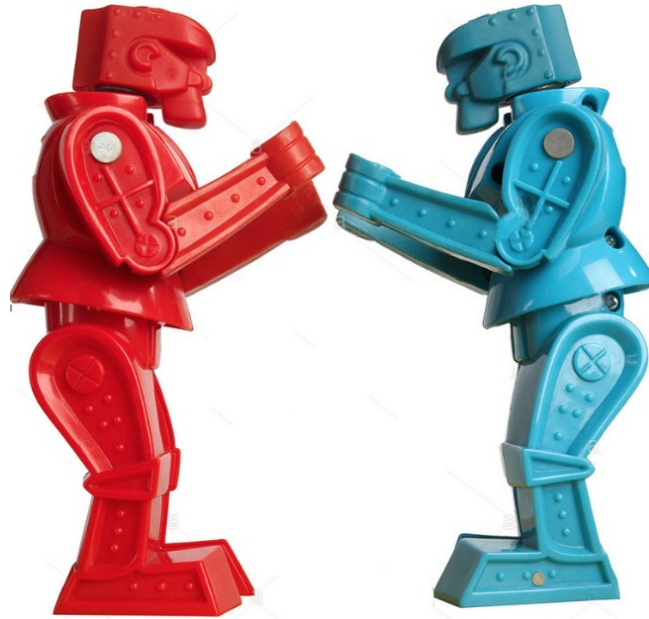
- MGMT promoter methylation
- IDH mutation
- ATRX mutation
- TERT mutation
- Co-deletion of 1p and 19q



# MGMT? IDK

## Temozolomide

Alkylates DNA at the O<sup>6</sup> and N<sup>7</sup> positions of guanine



## MGMT

Removes alkyl groups from the O<sup>6</sup> position of guanine

*Methylation silences gene expression*

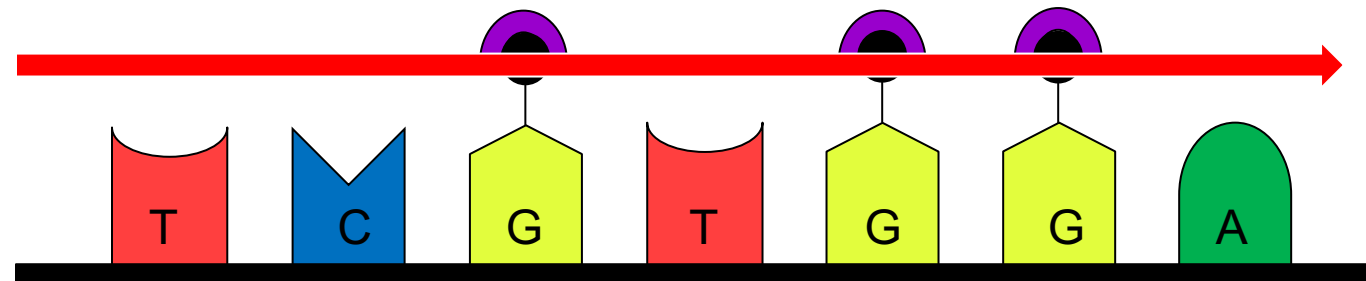




# MGMT MECHANISM



**Undesired effect:** Accurate replication of malignant DNA

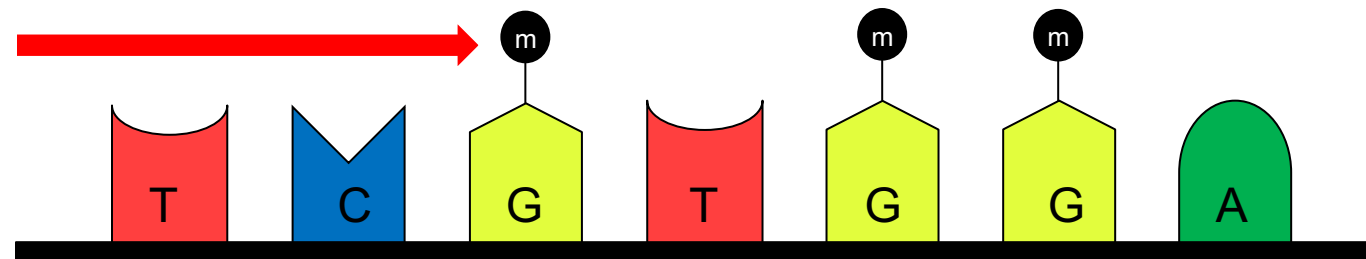




# MGMT METHYLATION



**Desired effect:** Halt of malignant DNA replication





# Molecular Characterization

## MGMT promoter methylation

- Recommendation: *essential* for all high-grade gliomas (Grade 3 and 4)
- Prognostic value:
  - Confers survival advantage in GBM
  - Less benefit from TMZ if not MGMT promoter methylated

## IDH1 and IDH2 mutation

- Recommendation: testing *required* for the workup of all gliomas
- Diagnostic value: distinguishes lower-grade gliomas from GBM (WT)
- Prognostic value: associated with relatively favorable prognosis
  - Survival benefit for patients treated with radiation or alkylating systemic therapy



# Molecular Characterization Continued

## ***ATRX* mutation**

- Recommendation: testing *required* for the workup of glioma
- Diagnostic value:
  - Strongly associated with *IDH* mutations, nearly always mutually exclusive with 1p/19q co-deletion

## ***TERT* (promoter mutation)**

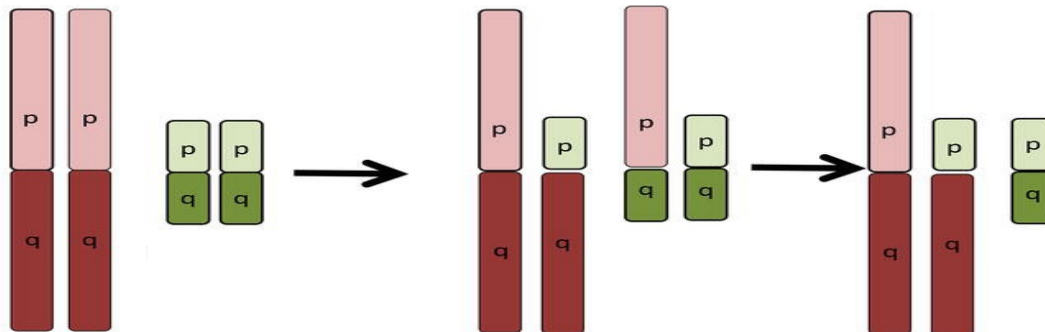
- Recommendation: testing *required* for the workup of glioma
- Diagnostic value: found in most GBM
  - *TERT* absence in the presence of mutant *IDH* designates astrocytoma
- Prognostic value:
  - *TERT* presence in absence of *IDH* mutation in diffusely infiltrative gliomas associated with reduced overall survival



# Molecular Characterization Continued

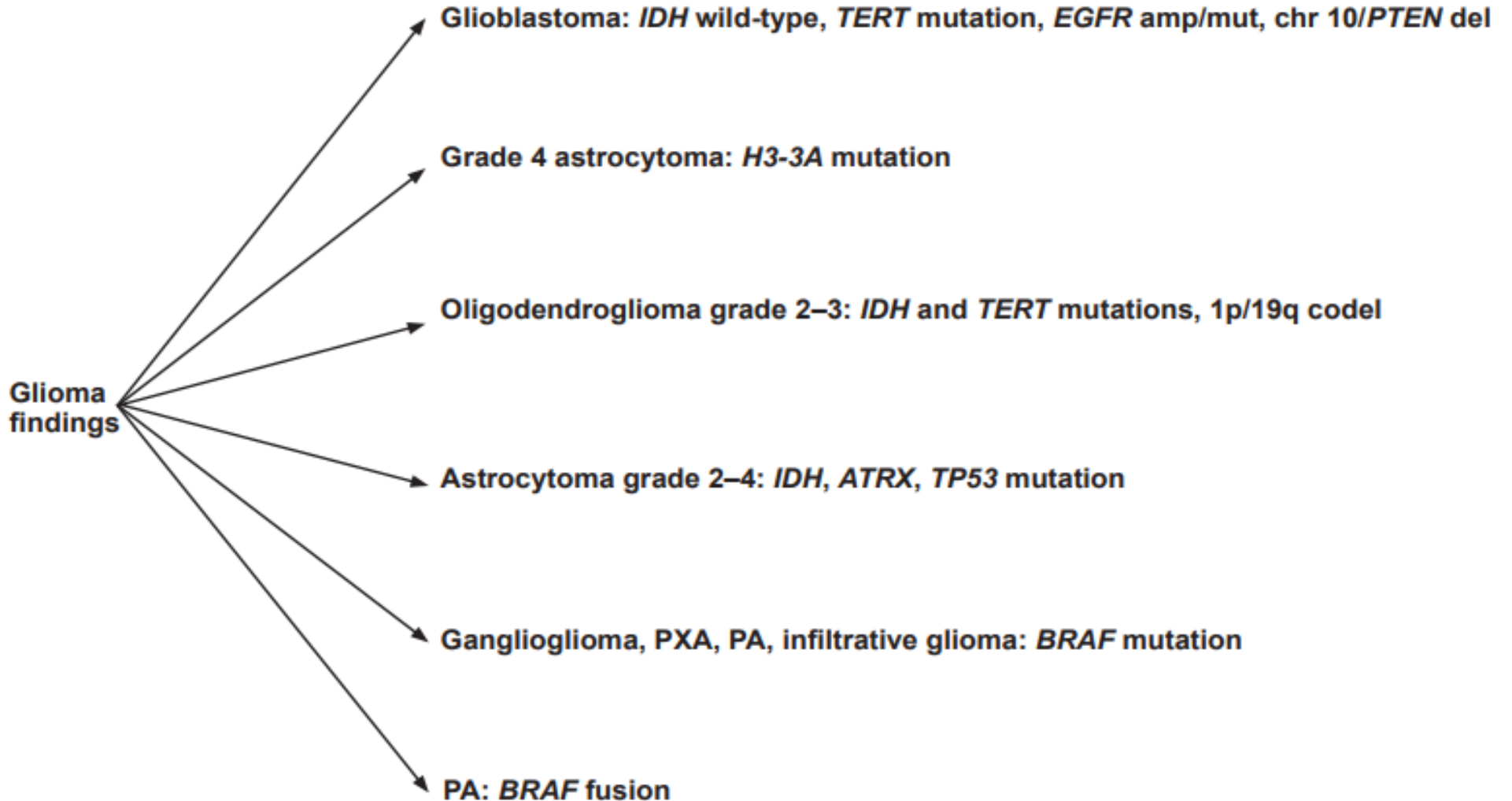
## Co-deletion of 1p and 19q

- Recommendation: testing *essential* part of diagnostics for oligodendroglioma
- Diagnostic value:
  - must contain both *IDH* mutation and 1p/19q co-deletion for diagnosis of oligodendroglioma
- Prognostic value: confers favorable prognosis
  - Predictive of response to alkylating systemic therapy +/- radiation





# WHO CNS5 Classification (2021)







# Treatment Strategies

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# Pharmacologic Challenges

## Blood brain barrier (BBB)

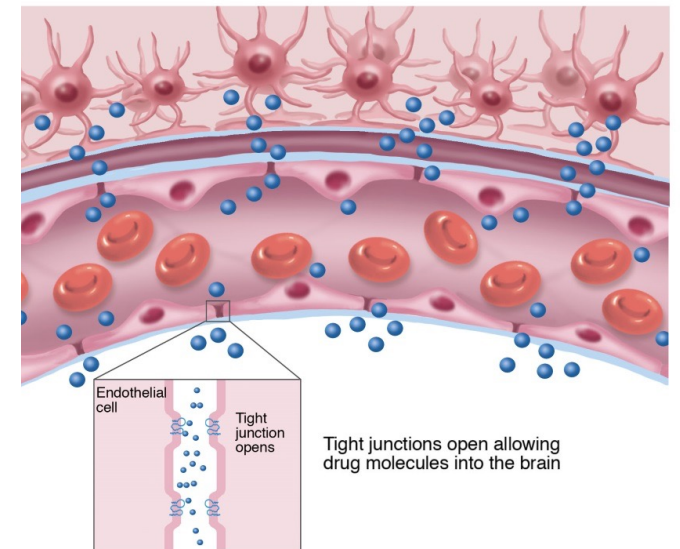
- Selectively restricts blood to brain paracellular diffusion

## Favorable characteristics for BBB penetrance

- Molecular weight <500 daltons
- Lipophilic: high Log P values

## Dose modification

- Ex: methotrexate
  - Non-Hodgkin lymphoma: 1,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>
  - CNS lymphoma: 8,000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>





# General Treatment Approach

## Surgery

- Stereotactic biopsy or open biopsy
- Gross total resection\*
- Subtotal resection

*\* Overall survival benefit*

## Radiation therapy (RT)

- Standard: 60 Gy/30 fx, *6 week duration*
- Hypofractionated: 34 Gy/10 fx or 40.05 Gy/15 fx, *2-3 week duration*

## Systemic treatment

- Age, performance status, MGMT methylation



# High-grade Glioma: Initial Treatment

## Age >70 years

*\* Category 1 Recommendation*

### – KPS ≥60

#### • MGMT Methylated

- Clinical trial
- Hypofractionated RT ± concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide\*
- RT + concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide ± alternating electric field therapy\*
- Temozolomide

#### • MGMT Unmethylated/Indeterminate

- Clinical trial
- Hypofractionated RT ± concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide
- RT + concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide ± alternating electric field therapy\*
- Hypofractionated RT

### – KPS <60

- Hypofractionated RT
- Temozolomide
- Palliative/best supportive care



# High-grade Glioma: Initial Treatment

## Age $\leq 70$ years

*\* Category 1 Recommendation*

### – KPS $\geq 60$

#### • MGMT Methylated

##### – Clinical trial

– RT + concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide  $\pm$  alternating electric field therapy\*

– RT + concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide + CCNU

#### • MGMT Unmethylated/Indeterminate

##### – Clinical trial

– RT + concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide + alternating electric field therapy\*

– RT  $\pm$  concurrent/adjuvant temozolomide

### – KPS $< 60$

– Hypofractionated RT  $\pm$  concurrent or adjuvant temozolomide

– Temozolomide

– Palliative/best supportive care

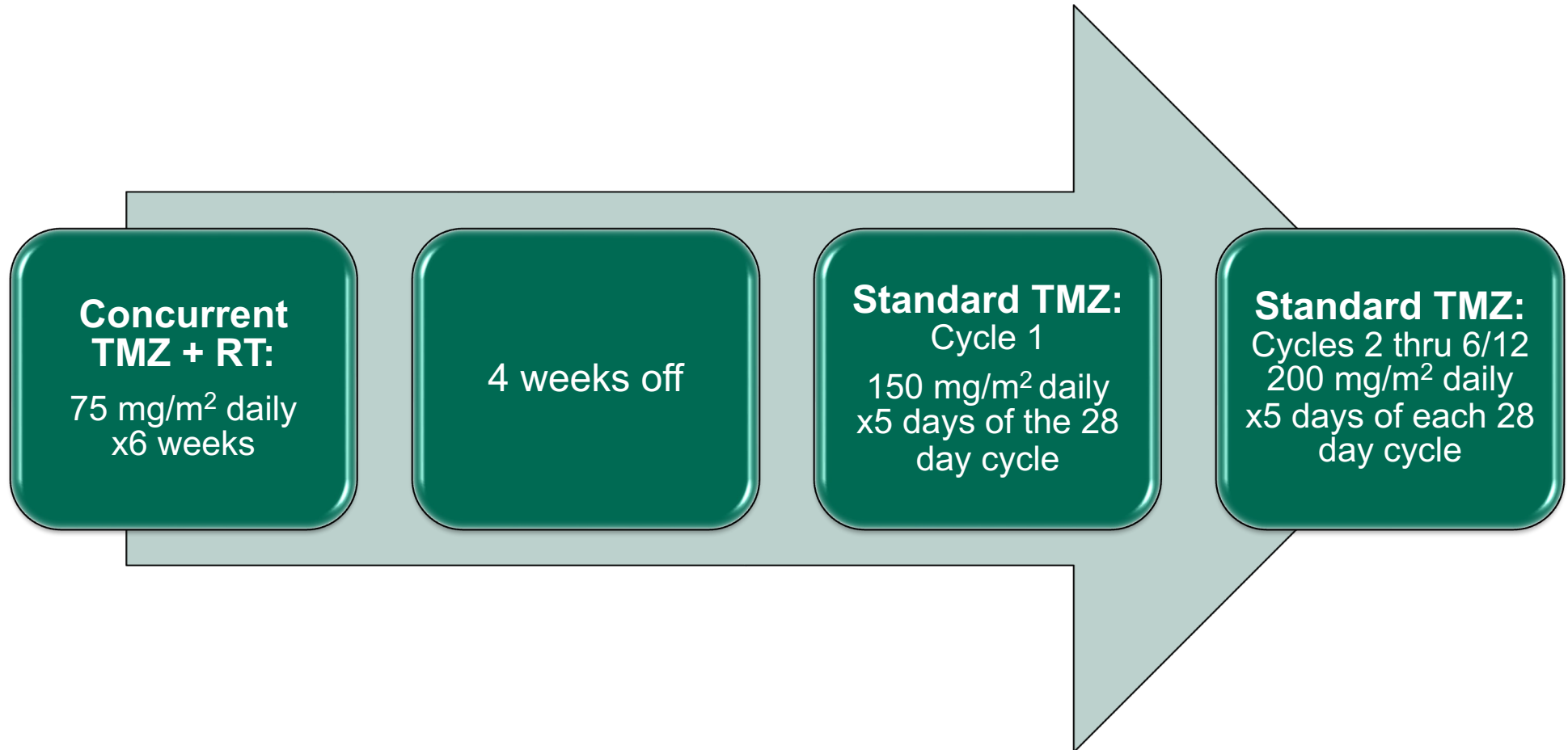


*“You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you’ve been.”*

*-Maya Angelou*



# Standard of Care Timeline





# Stupp, et al. NEJM 2005

Compared the efficacy and safety of RT alone with RT + TMZ given concurrently and after RT in high-grade glioma patients

– Randomized, multicenter, phase 3 trial

	RT (n=286)	RT + TMZ (n=287)
<b>Age – no. (%)</b>		
<50 years	81 (28)	90 (31)
≥50 years	205 (72)	197 (69)
<b>Findings on pathological review – no. (%)</b>		
Glioblastoma	229 (93)	221 (92)
Anaplastic astrocytoma	9 (4)	7 (3)
Inconclusive material/other	8 (3)	11 (5)



# Stupp, et al. NEJM 2005: Outcomes

Median survival 14.6 months vs 12.1 months

- Overall survival benefit of 2.5 months with RT + TMZ

Hazard ratio for death in RT + TMZ group

- 0.63 (95% CI, 0.52 to 0.75;  $P < 0.001$ )

Median PFS: 6.9 (5.8-8.2) vs 5.0 (4.2-5.5) in favor of RT + TMZ

Grade 3/4 hematologic toxicity

- Concurrent RT + TMZ: 19/284 (7%) / Adjuvant TMZ: 32/223 (14%)
- Study duration: 46/284 (16%)





# Stupp, et al. Lancet 2009

Median survival 14.6 months vs 12.1 months

– Overall survival benefit of 2.5 months with RT + TMZ

Hazard ratio for death in RT + TMZ group

– 0.63 (95% CI, 0.52 to 0.75; P<0.001)

Median Overall Survival	RT	RT + TMZ
2 Years	10.9%	27.2%
3 Years	4.4 %	16.0%
4 Years	3.0%	12.1%
5 Years	1.9%	9.8%



# Alternating Electric Field Therapy

Portable medical device that generates low-intensity alternating electric fields to stop mitosis/cell division

- FDA approved in 2015 for newly diagnosed glioblastoma

Open-label, Phase 3 EF-14 Trial (N=695)

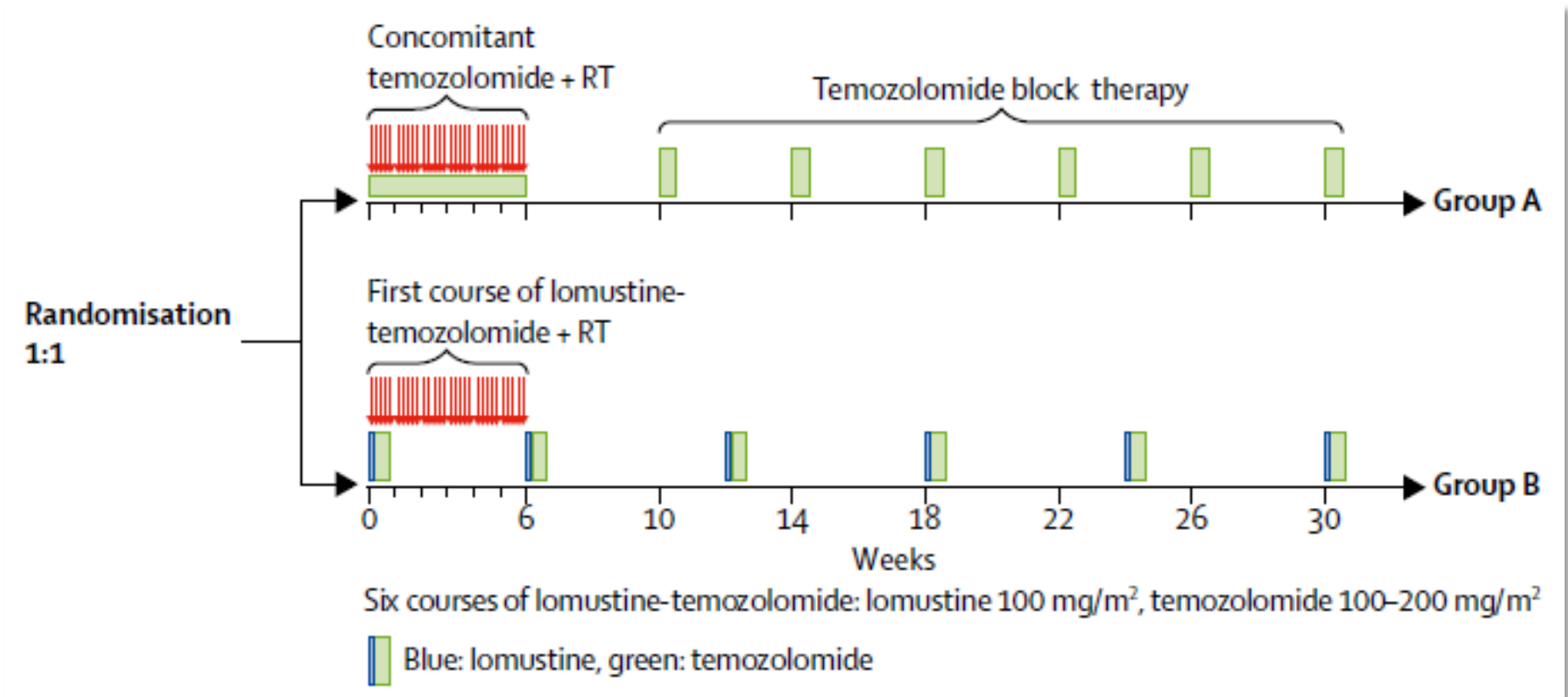
- Treatment Arms
  - Adjuvant temozolomide + alternating electric field therapy
  - Adjuvant temozolomide
- mPFS: (6.7 vs. 4.0 months; HR, 0.63; 95% CI, 0.52–0.76;  $P < .001$ )
- OS (20.9 vs. 16.0 months; HR, 0.63; 95% CI, 0.53–0.76;  $P < .001$ )



# Herrlinger et al. Lancet 2019

Randomized, multicenter, open-label, phase 3 trial

- Combination CCNU + TMZ vs standard of care in nGBM

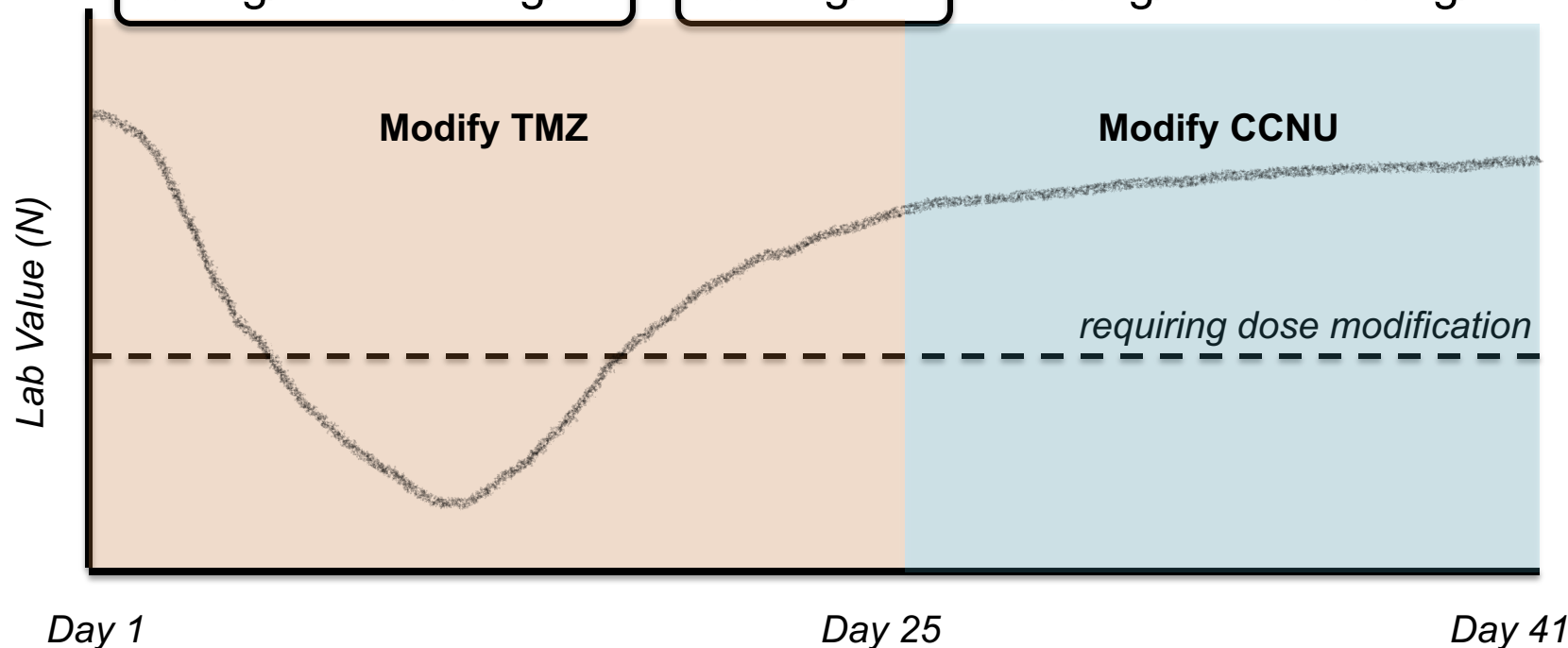




# Herrlinger Protocol Dosing/Modifications

## Treatment Regimen

- **Lomustine 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, Day 1 of 42 each 42 day cycle**
  - 25% reduction → 50% reduction
- **Temozolomide 100-200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>, Days 2 thru 6 of each 42 day cycle**
  - 50 mg/m<sup>2</sup> ← 75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> ← 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> → 120 mg/m<sup>2</sup> → 150 mg/m<sup>2</sup> → 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>





# Herrlinger et al. Lancet 2019: Outcomes

## Efficacy Outcomes

- Median OS
  - 48.1 months (32.6 – not assessable) vs 31.4 months (95% CI, 27.7-47.1)
  - $p=0.0492$
- Median PFS
  - 16.7 months (95% CI, 12.0-32.0) vs 16.7 months (95% CI, 11.4-24.2)
  - $p=0.4735$

## Safety Outcomes

- Grade 3/4 adverse effects: 59% vs 51%
- High grade hematologic events: 36% vs 29%
- Percent of patients with cycle delays >2 weeks: 40% vs 17%



# Recurrence Treatment Options

Preferred Regimens	Dosing Schedule*
Bevacizumab	10 mg/kg q14d OR 15 mg/kg q21d
Temozolomide	150-200 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , daily, days 1-5 of each 28 day cycle
Lomustine	80-110 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , oral, day 1 of each 42 day cycle
Carmustine	200 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , IV, day 1 of each 42 day cycle
Procarbazine/Lomustine/ Vincristine (PCV)	Procarbazine: 60 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , oral, days 8-21 Lomustine: 110 mg/m <sup>2</sup> , oral, day 1 Vincristine: 1.4 mg/m <sup>2</sup> [max 4 mg], IV, day 8 & 29 of each 42 day cycle
Regorafenib	160 mg, oral, days 1-21 of each 28 day cycle

*\*multiple dosing schemes exist*



# Recurrence Treatment Options

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<b>Regorafenib</b>	<b>160 mg, oral, days 1-21 of each 28 day cycle</b>

*\*multiple dosing schemes exist*



# Lombardi, et al. Lancet 2018 (REGOMA)

Randomized, multicenter, open-label, phase 2 trial

- Regorafenib vs lomustine in treatment of recurrent glioblastoma

Inclusion criteria

- Patients with first progression following surgery and chemoradiation
- Age  $\geq 18$  years, KPS  $\geq 70$ , known MGMT status

Exclusion criteria

- Previous treatment with VEGF targeting kinase inhibitor
- Uncontrolled hypertension, use of strong CYP3A4 inhibitors/inducers

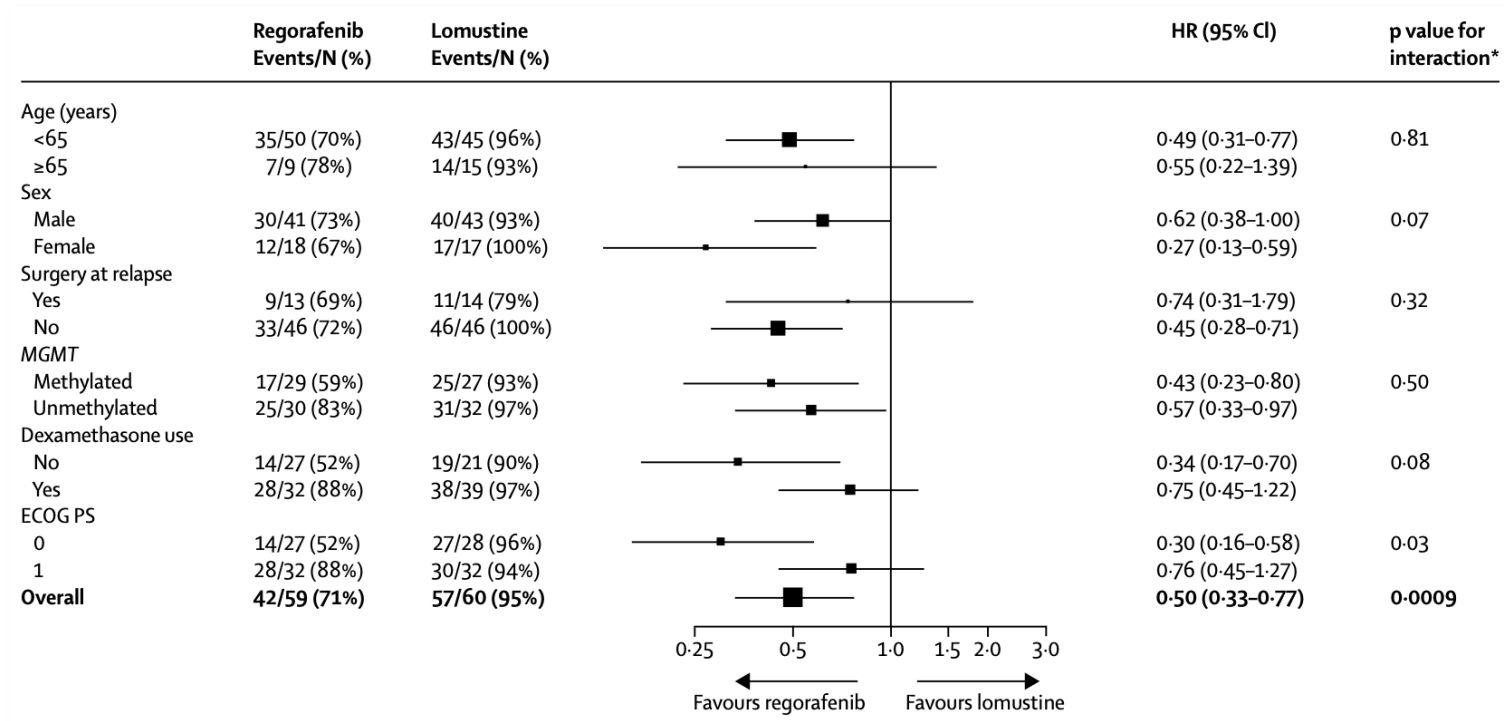




# Lombardi, et al. Lancet 2018: Outcomes

## Median overall survival

- 7.4 months (95% CI, 5.8-12.0) vs 5.6 months (95% CI, 4.7-7.3)
- HR 0.50 (95% CI, 0.33-0.75; log rank p=0.0009)





# **Old Drugs, New Tricks?**

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# Biomarkers

Final Report

Biomarker
IDH1
IDH2
MSI
NTRK1/2/3 🤔
Tumor Mutational Burden
ATRX
BRAF 🤔
CDKN2A

Biomarker
CDKN2B
CIC
EGFR
EGFRvIII
FGFR1
FGFR2
FGFR3

Biomarker
FUBP1
H3F3A
HIST1H3B
NF1
NOTCH1
PDGFRA
PIK3CA
POT1

Biomarker
PTEN
TERT promoter
TP53
TSC1
TSC2



# NTRK 1/2/3 Inhibitors

0.56-1.69% adult GBM patients



**Larotrectinib** 100 mg oral BID

**Entrectinib** 600 mg oral once daily

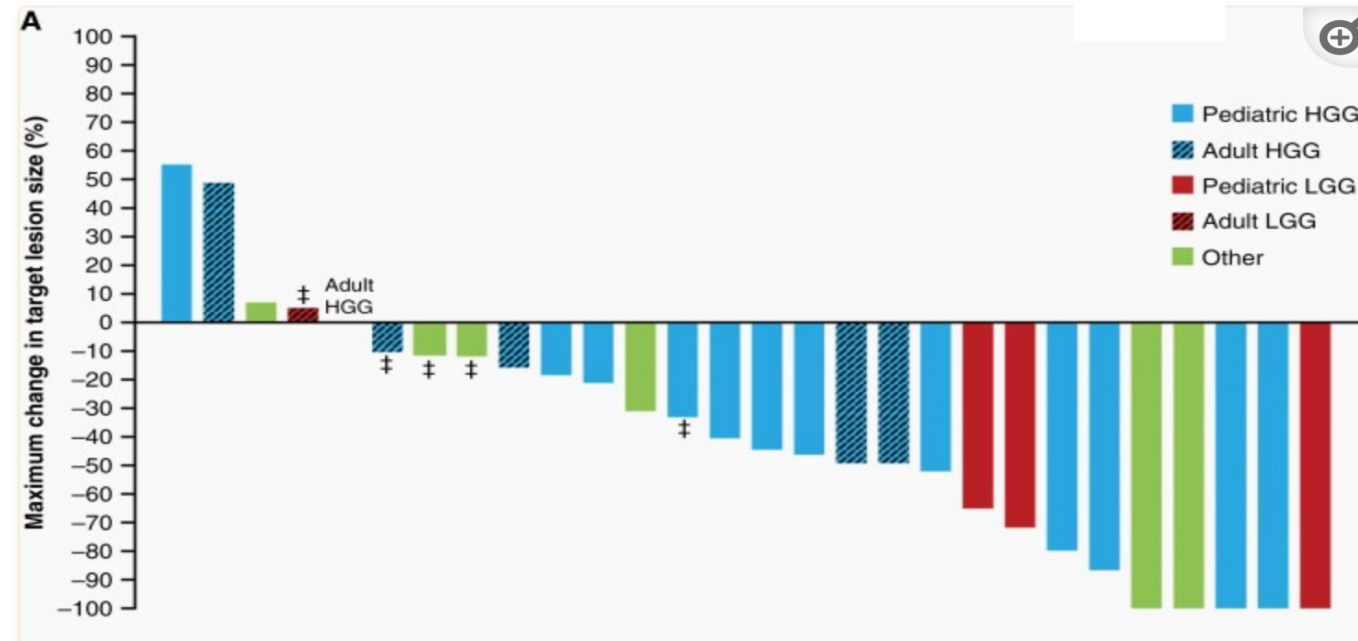
Relative Adverse Event Profiles	
Larotrectinib	Entrectinib
Anemia 42% (grade 3/4: 10%)	Anemia 67% (grade 3/4: 9%)
Neutropenia 36% (grade 3/4: 14%)	Neutropenia 28% (grade 3/4: 7%)
Nausea/vomiting 25%	Nausea/vomiting 34%
Increased ALT 45% / AST 52%	Increased ALT 38% / AST 44%
Cognitive dysfunction 11%	Cognitive dysfunction 27%
Fever 24%	Fever 21%
<u>MISC</u> : musculoskeletal pain 42%, rash 19%, cough 32%, edema 19%	<u>MISC</u> : visual disturbances 21%, ↑ SCr 73%, edema 40%, peripheral neuropathy 18%



# Doz et al. Neuro-Oncology 2022

## Efficacy Outcomes

- ORR: 30% (95% CI, 16-49) for all patients
- PFS & OS: 56% (95% CI, 38-74) 85% (95% CI, 71-99) respectively
- Twenty-three of 28 patients (82%) experienced tumor shrinkage





# ***BRAF/MEK Inhibitors***



<b>Medication</b>	<b>Number of Tablets</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Total Pill Burden</b>
<b>Dabrafenib</b>	2 caps	BID	5
<b>Trametinib</b>	1 tab	Daily	
<b>Encorafenib</b>	4 caps	Daily	10
<b>Binimetinib</b>	3 tabs	BID	
<b>Vemurafenib</b>	4 tabs	BID	11
<b>Cobimetinib</b>	3 tabs	Daily	



# Wen et al. Lancet 2022

Dabrafenib plus trametinib in patients with recurrent/refractory *BRAF*<sup>V600E</sup> mutant low-grade and high-grade glioma

- Multicenter, open-label, single arm, phase 2, basket trial

High-grade cohort inclusion criteria

- ECOG  $\leq 2$ , measure baseline disease, previously treated with SOC

Outcomes

- Objective response rate 33% (95% CI, 20-49)
  - 3 complete responses, 12 partial responses
- Grade 3 or worse adverse events reported in 53% patients
  - Fatigue (9%), decreased neutrophil count (9%), headache (5%), neutropenia (5%)



# BRAF/MEK Inhibitors

## Dabrafenib 150 mg oral BID

- Dosage form: capsules

### Administration:

- At least 1 hour before or 2 hours after meal

### Adverse Effects:

- Hand/foot syndrome, hyponatremia, arthralgias, constipation, cough, VTE

### Warnings/Precautions:

- Cardiomyopathy, febrile reactions, hyperglycemia, ocular toxicity

### Monitoring:

- Confirm BRAF V600 mutation status, CBC w/ diff, CMP, ECHO, derm evaluation

## Trametinib 2 mg oral daily

- Dosage form: tablets

### Administration:

- At least 1 hour before or 2 hours after meal

### Adverse Effects:

- Edema, hypertension, hypoalbuminemia, diarrhea, increased AST/ALT, anemia

### Warnings/Precautions:

- Cardiomyopathy, hemorrhage, hypertension, pulmonary toxicity

### Monitoring:

- CBC w/ diff, CMP, ECHO, BP





# Biomarkers

Final Report

Biomarker
IDH1
IDH2
MSI
NTRK1/2/3
Tumor Mutational Burden
ATRX
BRAF
CDKN2A

Biomarker
CDKN2B
CIC
EGFR
EGFRvIII
FGFR1
FGFR2
FGFR3

Biomarker
FUBP1
H3F3A
HIST1H3B
NF1
NOTCH1
PDGFRA
PIK3CA
POT1

Biomarker
PTEN
TERT promoter
TP53
TSC1
TSC2



# Drug-Target Pairs

## IDH 1

ivosidenib

## IDH 2

enasidenib

## NTRK 1/2/3

larotrectinib

entrectenib

## PIK3CA

alpelisib

## PDGFR\*

avapritinib

## BRAF

dabrafenib/trametinib

encorafenib/binimetinib

vemurafenib/cobimetinib

## CDKN 2A/B

abemaciclib

palbociclib

ribociclib

## FGFR 1/2/3

erdaftinib

pemigatinib

futibatinib

## EGFR

osimertinib

afatinib

erlotinib

gefitinib

lapatinib

vandetanib

## PIK3CA

alpelisib

duvelisib

umbralisib

idelalisib

copanlisib



# **IDH1 Inhibitor**

**NCT02073994**

## **Ivosidenib 500 mg oral daily**

- Do not administer with high fat meal
- Dosage forms: tablets

## **Adverse effects**

- Endocrine/metabolic disturbances, stomatitis, arthralgia, dyspnea, edema

## **Monitoring**

- *IDH1* mutation status, CBC w/ diff, CMP, CPK, EKG

## **Warnings/Precautions**

- QT prolongation (patients with baseline QTc  $\geq$  450 or  $\geq$  470 msec excluded)
- ~~Differentiation syndrome~~



# **IDH2 Inhibitor**

***NCT02273739***

## **Enasidenib 100 mg oral daily**

- Dose adjustments: moderate hepatic impairment (-50%), if severe do not use
- Dosage forms: tablets

## **Adverse effects**

- Endocrine/metabolic disturbances, diarrhea, increased serum bilirubin
- Emetic potential: moderate/high

## **Monitoring**

- *IDH2* mutation status, CBC w/ diff, CMP

## **Warnings/Precautions**

- Electrolyte imbalances, hepatotoxicity
- ~~Differentiation syndrome~~



# CDK4/6 Inhibitor

**BEST CNS PENETRANCE IN CLASS  
LEAST MYELOSUPPRESION**

## Abemaciclib 150 mg oral BID

- Dose adjustments: Child-Pugh C reduce frequency to once daily
- Dosage form: tablets

## Adverse Effects

- Hepatotoxicity, diarrhea, VTE, bone marrow suppression, pulmonary toxicity, nausea/vomiting (mod/high), increased SCr, increased AST/ALT

## Supportive Care

- Scheduled anti-emetic, loperamide

**~~NCT02977780~~**

**NCT02981940**

## Monitoring

- CBC w/ diff, CMP, s/sx of pneumonitis and PE/DVT



# EGFR Inhibitor

**SIGNIFICANT BLOOD BRAIN  
BARRIER PENETRATION**

## Osimertinib 160 mg oral daily

- Dose adjustments: Child-Pugh B/C reduce initial dose 50%
- Dosage form: tablets

**Administration:** can be dispersed in 60 mL water for oral administration, 15 mL water for nasogastric

## Adverse Effects

- Nail disease, stomatitis, myelosuppression, increased AST/ALT, hypermagnesemia, constipation/diarrhea

## Warnings/Precautions

- QTc prolongation (withhold until  $<481$  msec), interstitial lung disease, bone marrow suppression

## Monitoring

- CBC w/ diff, CMP, EKG, ECHO



# **New Drugs, New Tricks**

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# Vorasidenib

Dual inhibitor of mutant *IDH1/2*

- Oral, daily until unacceptable toxicity or progression

Objective response rate per RANO criteria

- Non-enhancing glioma: 18% (1 partial, 3 minor responses)

Median PFS

- Non-enhancing glioma: 36.8 months (95% CI, 11.2-40.8)
- Enhancing glioma: 3.6 months (95% CI, 1.8-6.5)

Preliminary antitumor activity in patient with recurrent or progressive *IDH* mutated low-grade gliomas





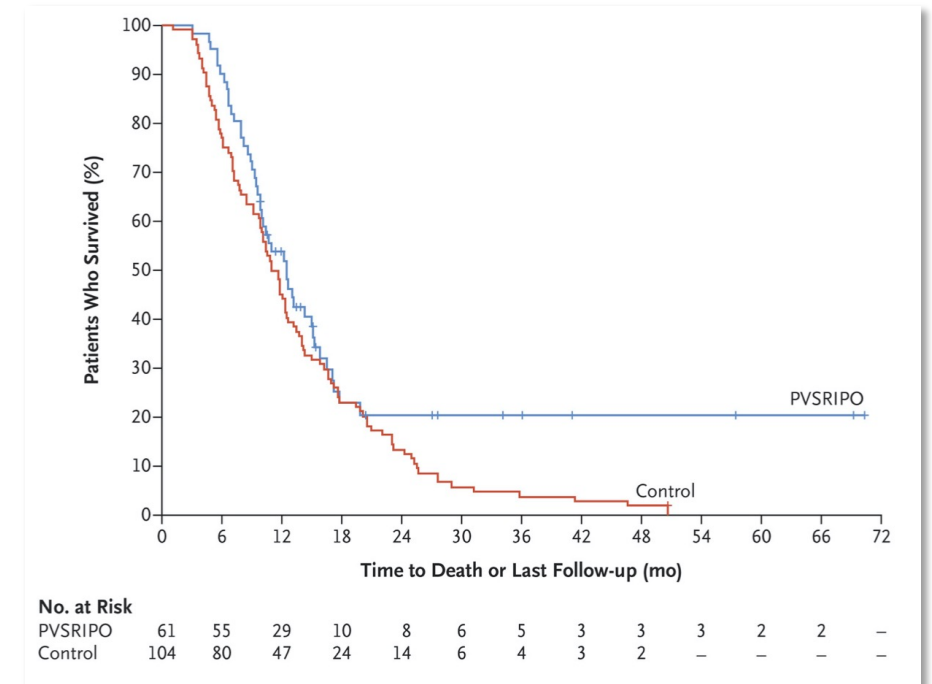
# Recombinant Polio Virus

## Polio-rhinovirus chimera (PVSRIPO)

- Targets poliovirus receptor CD155 expressed on neoplastic cells
- PVSRIPO  $5.0 \times 10^7$  TCID<sub>50</sub> administered over 6.5 hours

## Adult patients with supratentorial recurrent WHO Grade 4 gliomas

- OS reached plateau of 21% (95% CI, 11-33) at 24 months
- 19% of patients experienced a Grade 3 or higher adverse event





# Autologous Tumor Lysate-Loaded Dendritic Cell Vaccination (DCVax-L)

Phase 3, prospective, externally controlled, nonrandomized trial

Compared OS in newly diagnosed and recurrent GBM

- Standard of care adjuvant TMZ + placebo
- Standard of care adjuvant TMZ + DCVax-L



Inclusion criteria

- Age 18-70 years, KPS  $\geq 70$ , life expectancy of  $\geq 8$  weeks

Excluded if radiographic evidence of progression following chemoradiation



# Autologous Tumor Lysate-Loaded Dendritic Cell Vaccination (DCVax-L)

## Newly diagnosed GBM (nGBM) results

– From randomization

- Median OS: 19.3 (95% CI, 17.5-21.3) months vs 16.5 (95% CI, 16.0-17.5) months
- HR=0.80; 98% CI, 0.00-0.94; *P* = .002

Subgroup analyses

Table 2. Landmark Survival Rates in Patients With nGBM and rGBM

Time	Patients, %		Relative rate, DCVax-L vs ECP, %
	ECP	DCVax-L group	
nGBM			
No.	1366	232	NA
Landmark survival rate			
36 mo	15.5	20.2	130
48 mo	9.9	15.7	159
60 mo	5.7	13.0	228

0.4 1 2

Hazard ratio (95% CI)



# Autologous Tumor Lysate-Loaded Dendritic Cell Vaccination (DCVax-L)

## Recurrent GBM results (rGBM)

– From relapse

- Median OS: 13.2 (95% CI, 9.7-16.8) months vs 7.8 (95% CI, 7.2-8.2) months
- HR=0.58; 98% CI, 0.00-0.76;  $P < .001$

Table 2. Landmark Survival Rates in Patients With nGBM and rGBM

rGBM			
No.	640	64	
Landmark survival rate measured from date of progression			
6 mo	64.0	90.6	142
12 mo	30.8	54.1	175
18 mo	15.9	31.8	200
24 mo	9.6	20.7	215
30 mo	5.1	11.1	217



# The Takeaways

Multimodal approach remains essential for best patient outcomes

Advanced role of molecular diagnostics in tumor classification

Despite >400 clinical trials since 2005, minimal meaningful benefit in patient outcomes particularly overall survival

- Distinct pharmacologic challenges
- Substantial efforts in exploring precision medicine and immunotherapy



# Contemporary Pharmacotherapy Management of High-grade Gliomas

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