

# New Approaches and Advances in the Therapy of Gliomas

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# Neuro-Oncology Advances

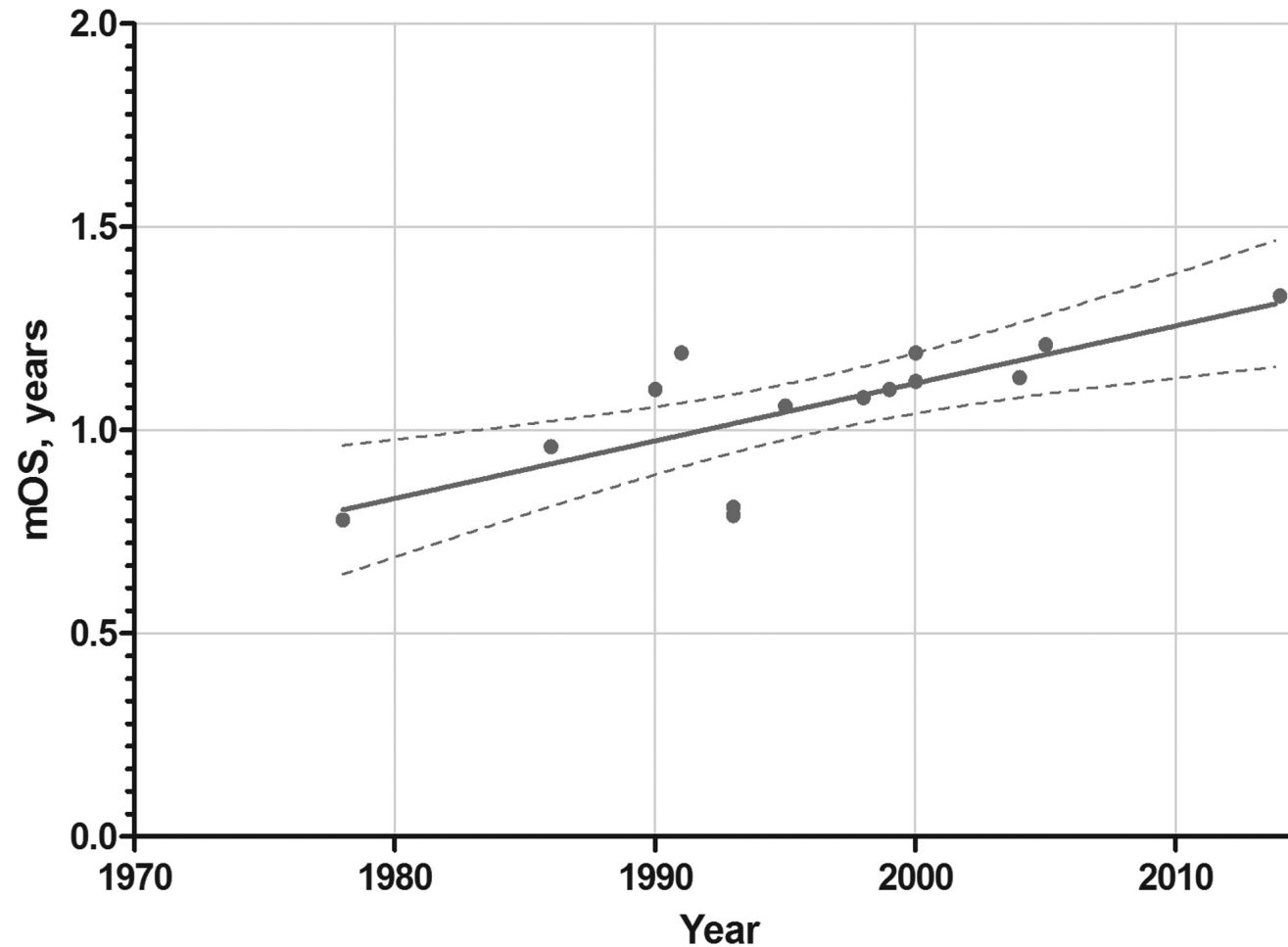


# Selected Recent Negative Large Phase II/III GBM Clinical Trials

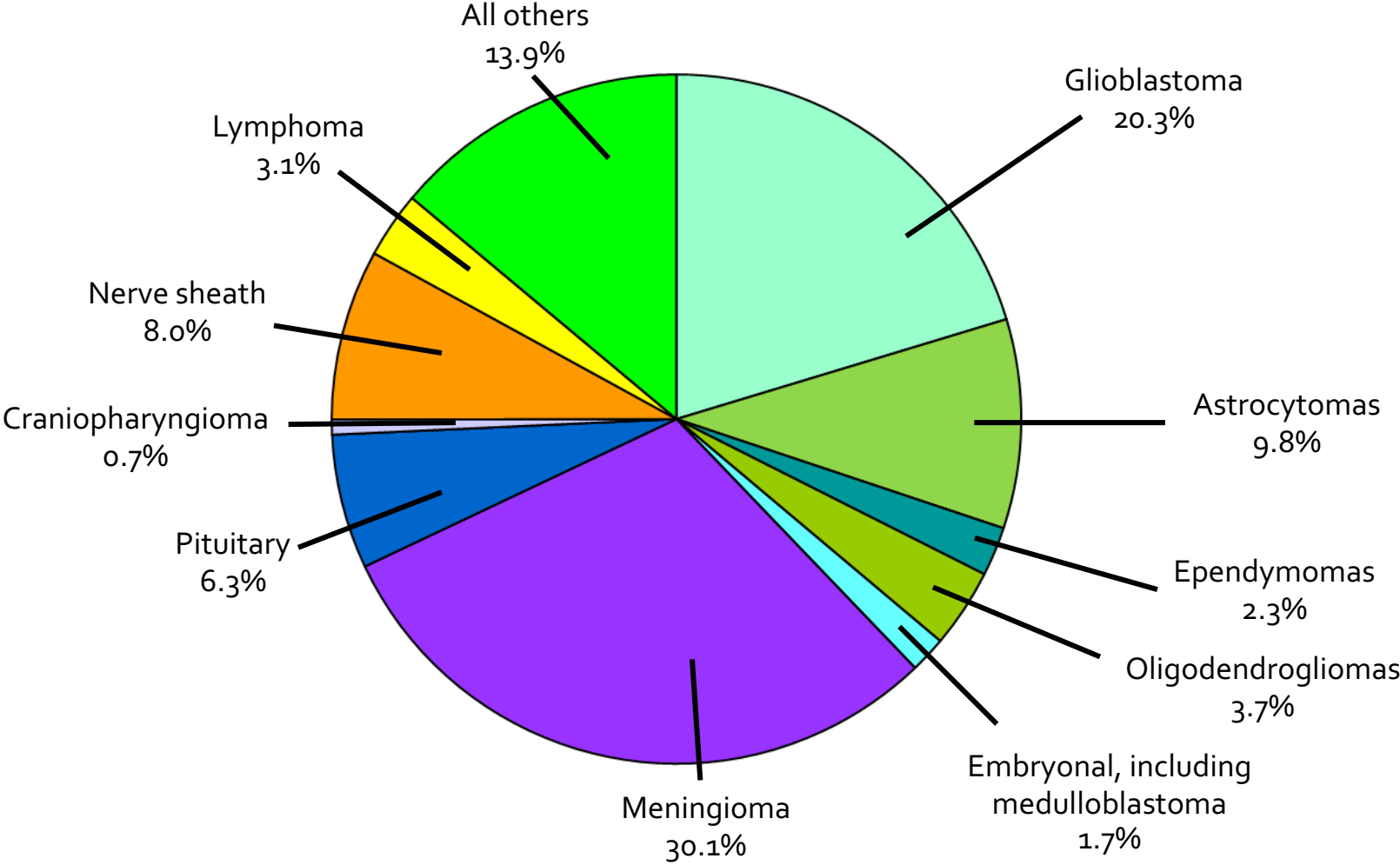
| Timing    | Phase | New Agent                  | N    | mOS exp. | mOS control | MOA  |
|-----------|-------|----------------------------|------|----------|-------------|--|
| New       | III   | Cilengitide (Centric)      | 545  | 26.3 mos | 26.3 mos    | $\alpha\beta 3$ and $\alpha\beta 5$ integrin inhibitor |
| New       | III   | Dose Dense TMZ (RTOG 0525) | 1173 | 14.9     | 16.6        | Metronomic dosing                                      |
| New       | III   | Bevacizumab RTOG 0825      | 978  | 15.7     | 16.1        | Monoclonal antibody against VEGF-A ligand              |
| New       | III   | Bevacizumab AVAglio        | 921  | 16.8     | 16.7        | Monoclonal antibody against VEGF-A ligand              |
| New       | III   | Rindopepimut (ACT IV)      | 745  | 20.1     | 20.0        | EGFRvIII vaccine                                       |
| New       | II    | ICT-107                    | 124  | 17.0     | 15.0        | Autologous dendritic cell vaccine                      |
| Recurrent | III   | Toca 511/5FC (Toca 5)      | 403  | 11.1     | 12.2        | Retroviral vector with gene for cytosine deaminase     |
| Recurrent | III   | VB-111+Bev                 | 256  | 6.8      | 7.9         | Gene therapy - vascular disruption/anti-angiogenesis   |

(Also, Nivolumab: Checkmate 143 (rec), Checkmate 498 (n,un), Checkmate 548 (n,me))

# Plot of Median Overall Survival (mOS) for Patients Treated with Adjuvant Chemotherapy in Phase III Clinical Trials



# Distribution of All Primary Brain and CNS Tumors by Histology



# CNS Tumor Speed Dating

## “The Good, The Bad and The Ugly”

Only 15 minutes therefore focus on new data with therapeutic implications. No time for a review

- IDH Mutations
  - ❖ WHO Molecular Classification
  - ❖ INDIGO – ASCO Plenary Abstract #1, 2023
- Immunotherapy for Malignant Glioma
- Nibbling Around the Edges
  - ❖ Selected targetable mutations
  - ❖ Craniopharyngioma
  - ❖ Hemangioblastoma



# Unique Concerns/Features That Differentiate Brain Tumors and Impact Treatment

- The skull has a fixed volume
- Can be hard to measure success
  - ❖ Brain imaging studies are “estimates”
  - ❖ Steroid effects
  - ❖ Clinical deficits may be permanent
- Tumors deeply infiltrate into surrounding tissue
  - ❖ No opportunity for a “complete” resection
- The blood-brain barrier!
  - ❖ Keeps drugs out of the brain and the tumor
- Great intratumoral heterogeneity
- Immunosuppressive microenvironment
  - ❖ Few tumor specific antigens; ? Driver mutations

A photograph of a large, modern multi-story building with a grid of windows. The words "WAKE FOREST" are illuminated in white letters along the top edge of the building. In the foreground, there are several trees, including a prominent one with purple leaves, and some greenery. The sky is a clear, deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The building's lights are on, and some windows are glowing from within.

WAKE FOREST

# IDH Mutations

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CLASSIFICATION AND  
TREATMENT IMPLICATIONS

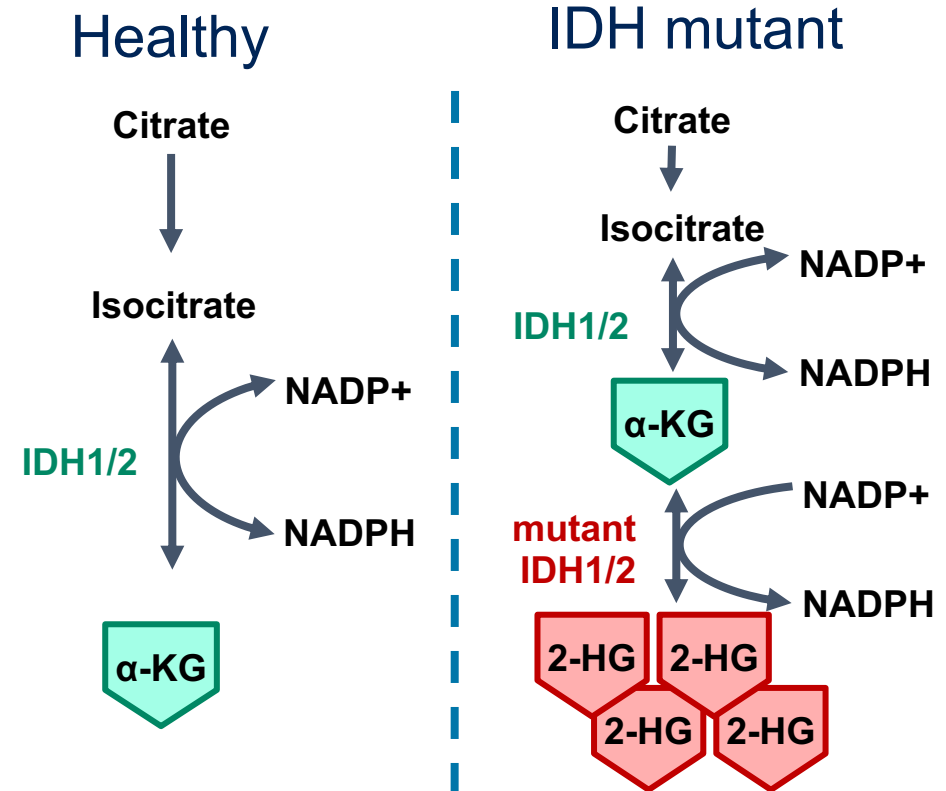
A photograph of an outdoor area, likely a park or plaza, at dusk. The sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, there is a paved area with a railing. In the background, there is a building with a large, illuminated sign that says "BAILEY PARK". The building has a modern design with a grid of windows. The overall scene is dimly lit, with some lights from the building and the sky providing illumination.

BAILEY PARK



# Isocitrate dehydrogenase

- IDH1/2 hotspot mutations occur in various cancers, including diffuse gliomas<sup>1</sup>
- IDH1/2 mutations result in:
  - Overproduction of R-2-hydroxyglutarate
  - Epigenetic dysregulation
  - Impaired cellular differentiation
  - Immunosuppressive tumor microenvironment

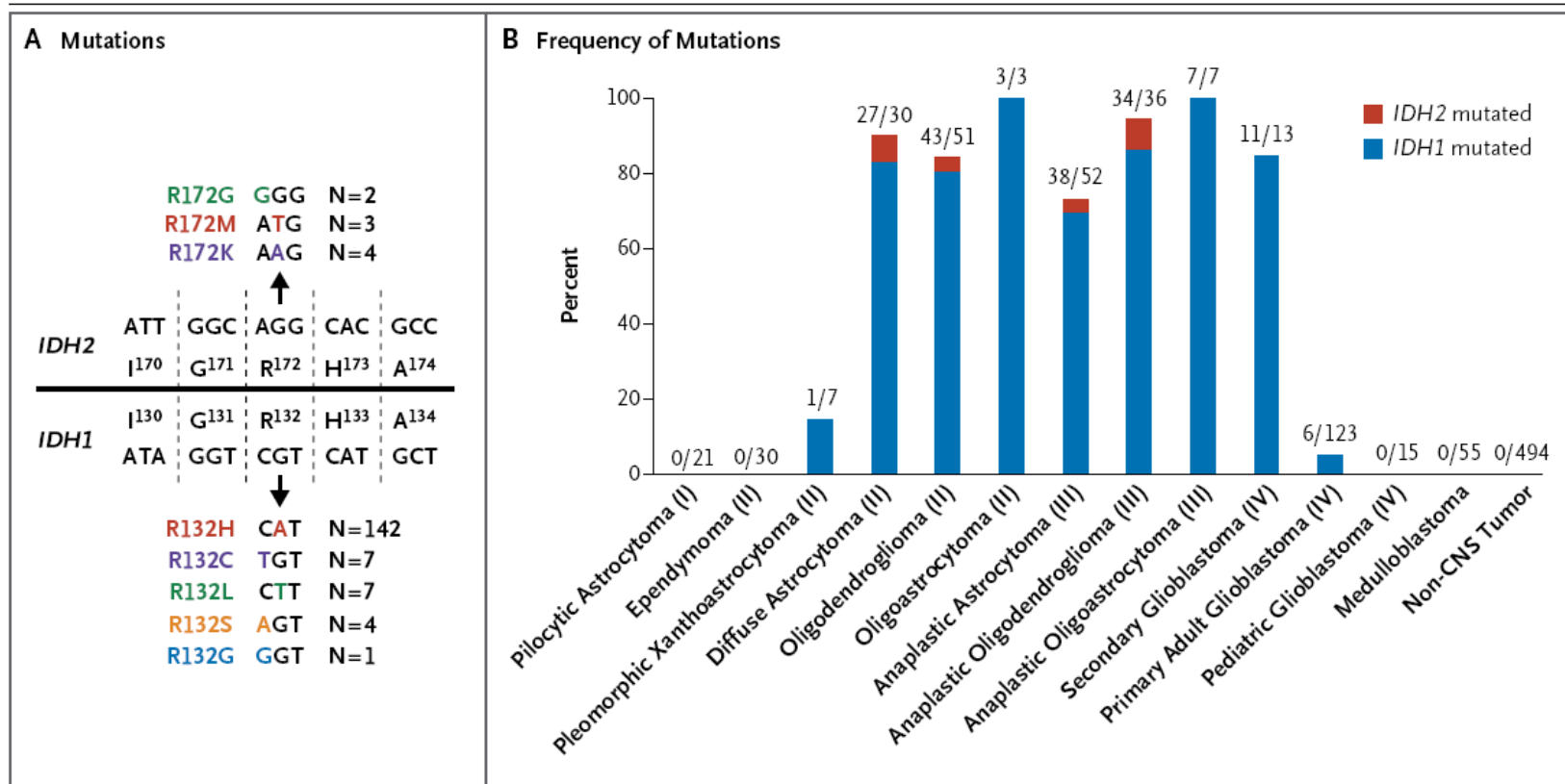


**Competitive inhibition of  $\alpha$ -KG-dependent enzymes**

1. Dang L et al. Nature 2009;462:739–44; 2. Clark O et al. Clin Cancer Res 2016;22:1837–42.

IDH, isocitrate dehydrogenase; NADP(H), nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate; 2-HG, R-2-hydroxyglutarate;  $\alpha$ -KG, alpha-ketoglutarate.

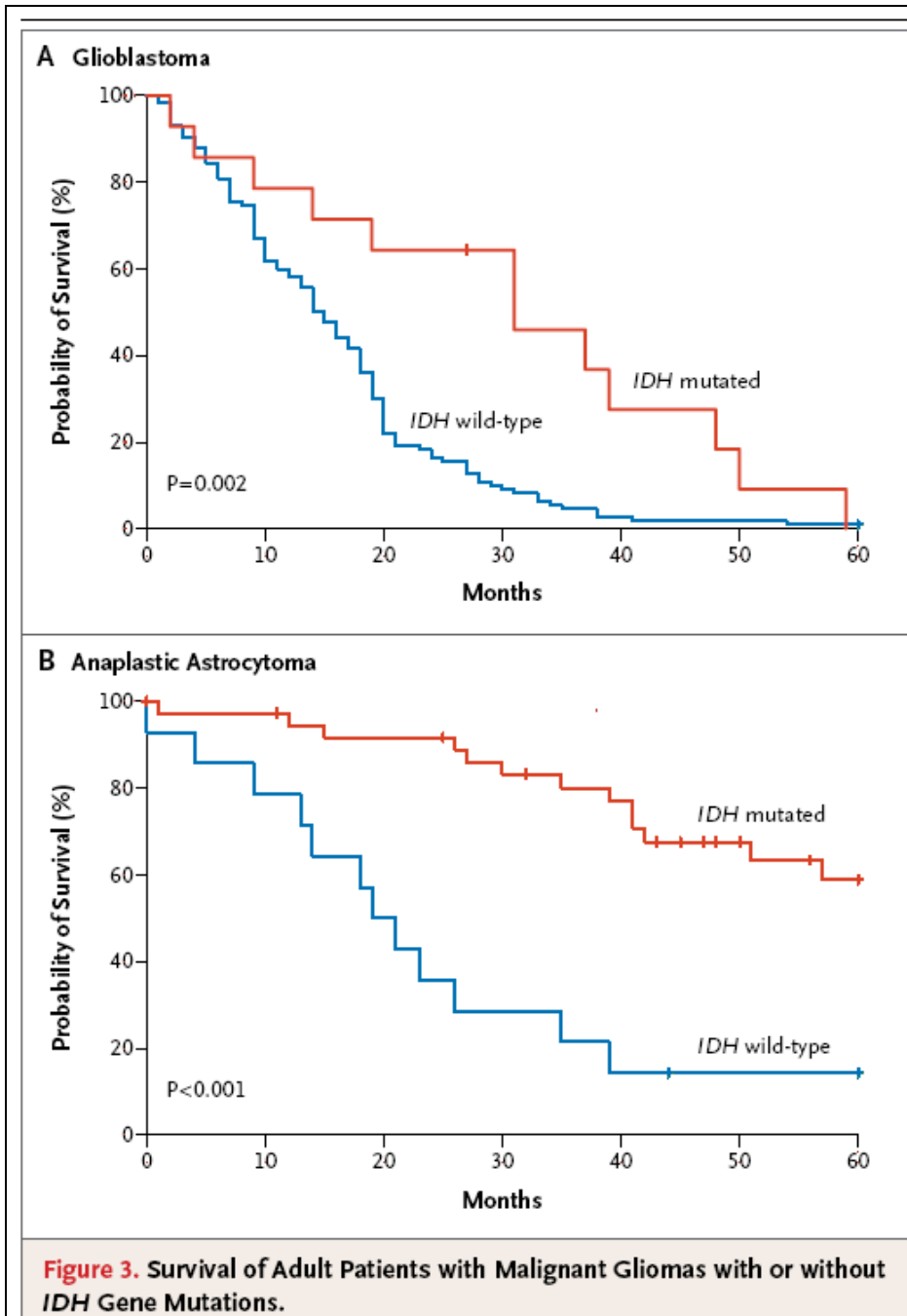
# Frequency of IDH1 and IDH2 Mutations in Gliomas



**Figure 1. IDH1 and IDH2 Mutations in Human Gliomas.**

Panel A shows mutations at codon R132 in *IDH1* and R172 in *IDH2* that were identified in human gliomas, along with the number of patients who carried each mutation. Codons 130 to 134 of *IDH1* and 170 to 174 of *IDH2* are shown. Panel B shows the number and frequency of *IDH1* and *IDH2* mutations in gliomas and other types of tumors. The roman numerals in parentheses are the tumor grades, according to histopathological and clinical criteria established by the World Health Organization. CNS denotes central nervous system.

# Survival and IDH Mutation



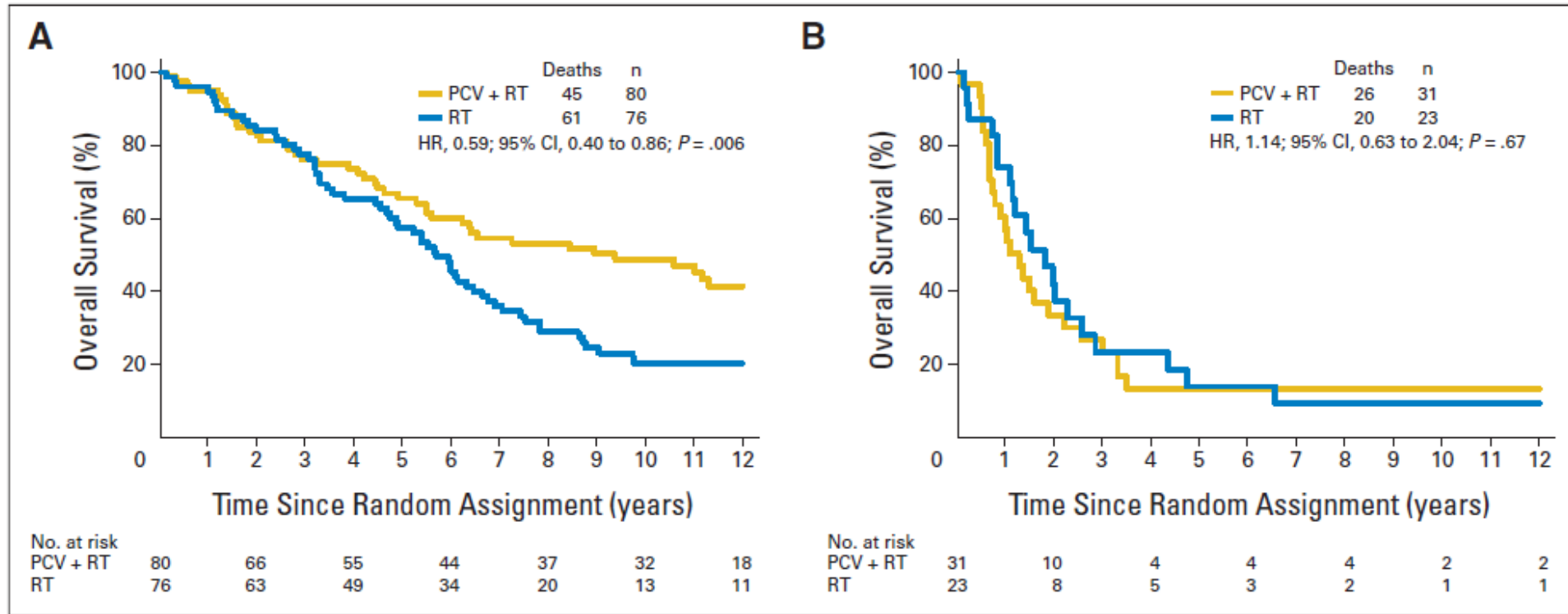
**Figure 3. Survival of Adult Patients with Malignant Gliomas with or without IDH Gene Mutations.**

For patients with glioblastomas, the median survival was 31 months for the 14 patients with mutated *IDH1* or *IDH2*, as compared with 15 months for the 115 patients with wild-type *IDH1* or *IDH2* (Panel A). For patients with anaplastic astrocytomas, the median survival was 65 months for the 38 patients with mutated *IDH1* or *IDH2*, as compared with 20 months for the 14 patients with wild-type *IDH1* or *IDH2* (Panel B). Patients with both primary and secondary tumors were included in the analysis. For patients with secondary glioblastomas, survival was calculated from the date of the secondary diagnosis. Survival distributions were compared with the use of the log-rank test.

N Engl J Med 2009;360:765-73.

# RTOG 9402: Impact of IDH on Survival After PCV/RT vs. RT Alone in Patients with Anaplastic Oligodendroglioma

IDH Mutant →



← IDH Wild-Type

**Fig 1.** Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival (OS) by treatment (procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine [PCV] plus radiotherapy [RT] or RT) for patients with (A) IDH-mutated and (B) nonmutated tumors. Hazard ratio (HR) ratio for OS for those with mutated tumors was 0.59 (95% CI, 0.40 to 0.86;  $P = .006$ ); HR for those with nonmutated tumors was 1.14 (95% CI, 0.63 to 2.04;  $P = .67$ ).

# CATNON: Impact of IDH Mutations on Outcome in Patients with Grade 3 Astrocytomas

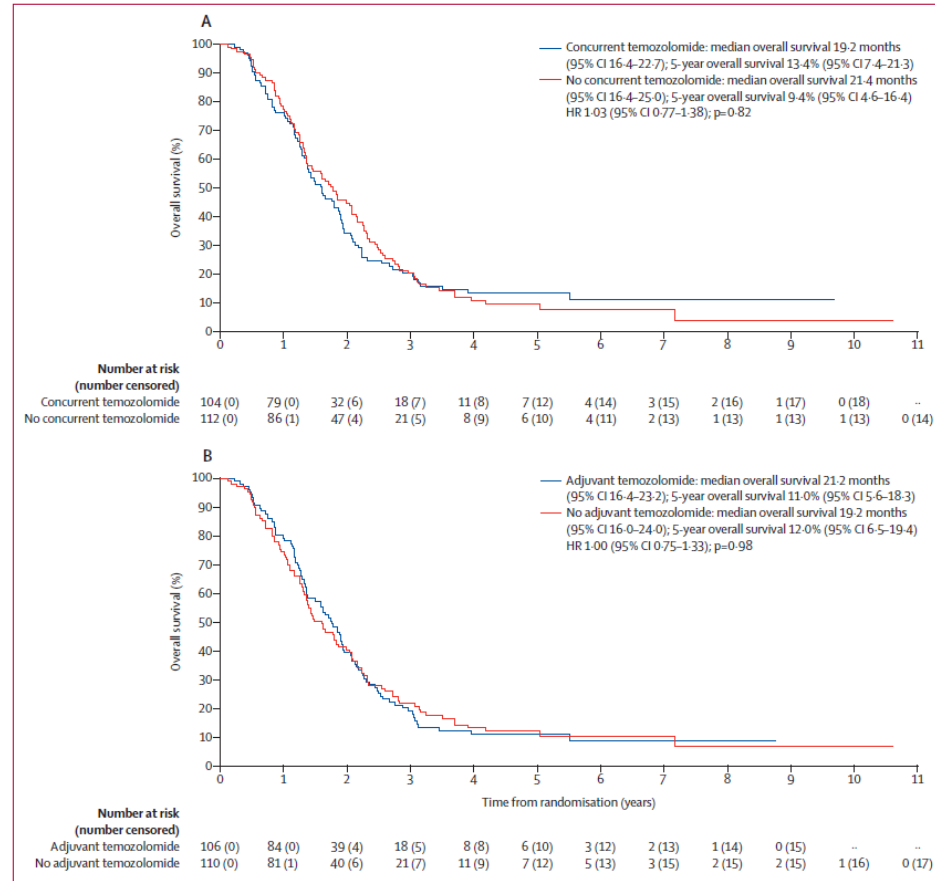


Figure 3: Univariable analysis of overall survival in patients with IDH1 and IDH2 wild-type tumours (A) Patients who received concurrent temozolomide versus those who did not. (B) Patients who received adjuvant temozolomide versus those who did not.

IDH Mutant

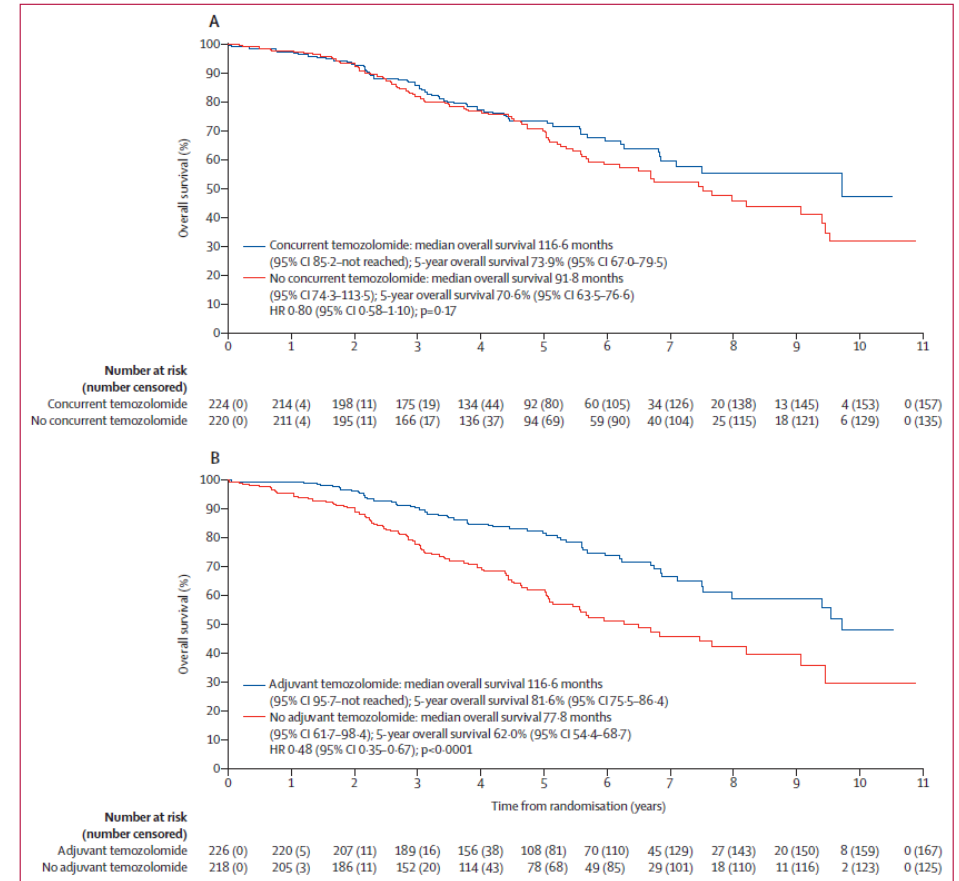


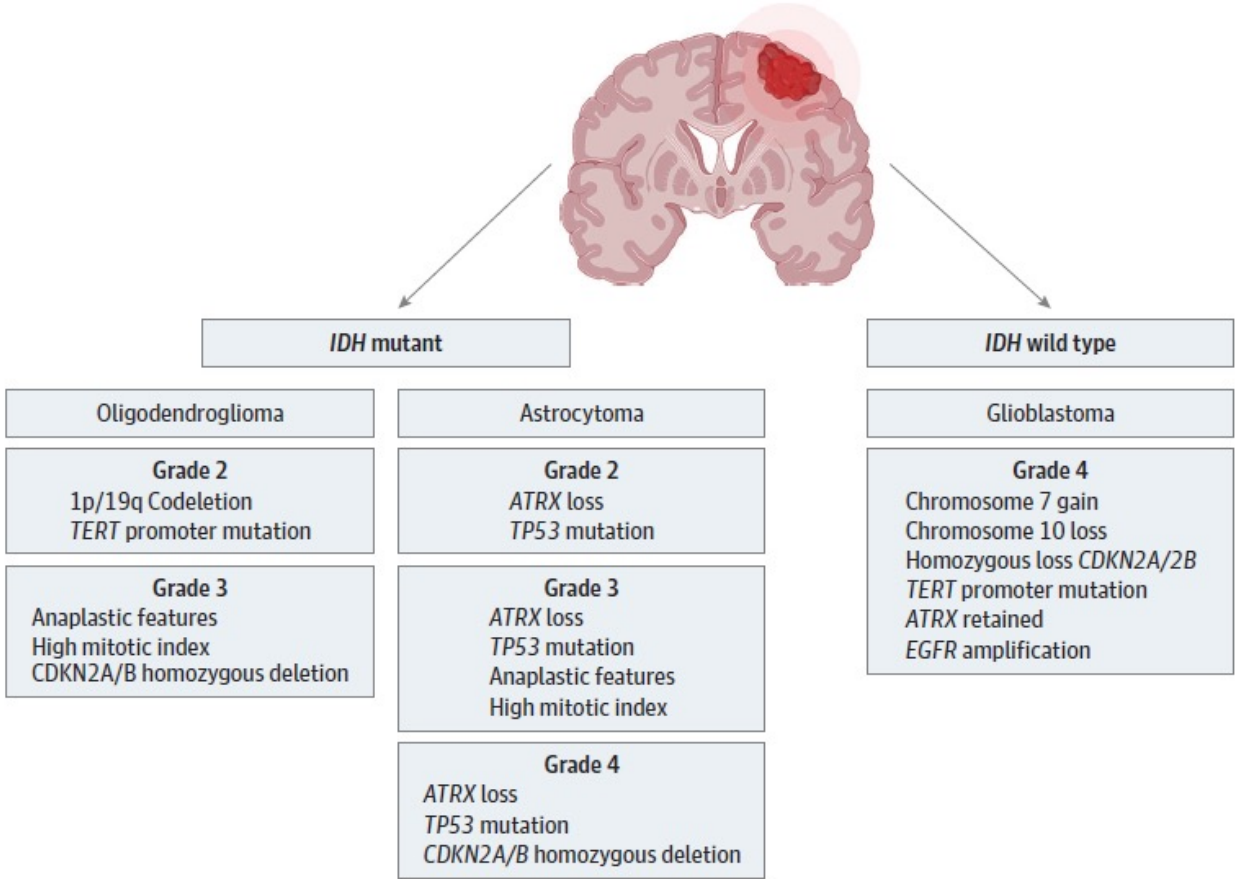
Figure 4: Univariable analysis of overall survival in patients with IDH1 or IDH2 mutant tumours (A) Patients who received concurrent temozolomide versus those who did not. (B) Patients who received adjuvant temozolomide versus those who did not.

IDH Wild Type



# WHO 2021 Classification of Adult Gliomas

Figure 1. The 2021 World Health Organization Classification of Tumors of the Central Nervous System Updated Diagnosis of Adult Gliomas



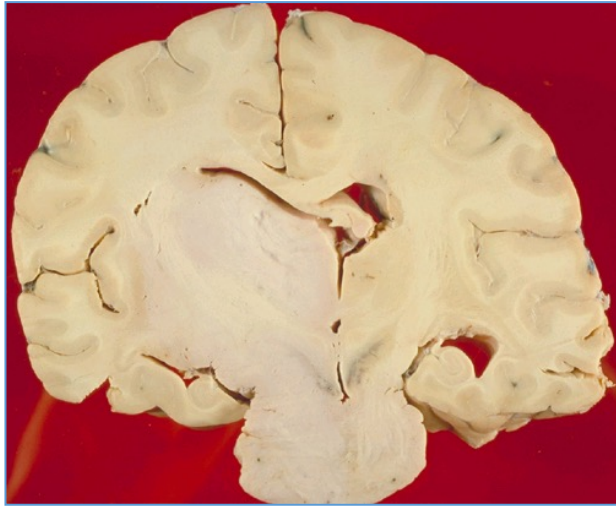
# Low Grade Gliomas

- About 4000 new diagnoses per year in this country
- Current standard of care includes partial brain radiation and chemotherapy, sometimes watch and wait. Lots of concern about long term cognitive effects of radiation
- Median age at diagnosis in 40's
  - Time of lots of life experiences: work, raising a family, caring for others (parents), fun
  - Thus, impairment in function can have huge implications for QOL broadly over a long period of time
- RTOG 9802: Median survival increased from 7 to 14 years with combination modality therapy of radiation and chemotherapy (led by Ed Shaw, Chair Rad Onc at WFSOM)
- Characterized by IDH mutations (mostly IDH1) and better outcomes with median survival of 7 to 15 years in many cases
- IDH mutations are now an essential component of diagnostic criteria (WHO 2021)

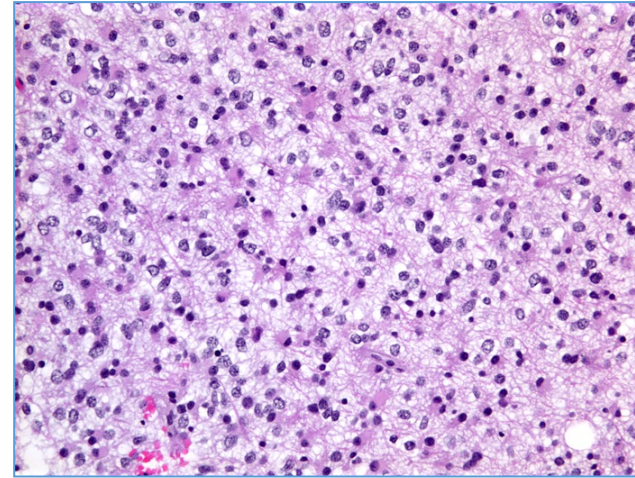
# Astrocytoma = Grade II

Low Mitosis(2), Infiltrative(3), Imaging(4)

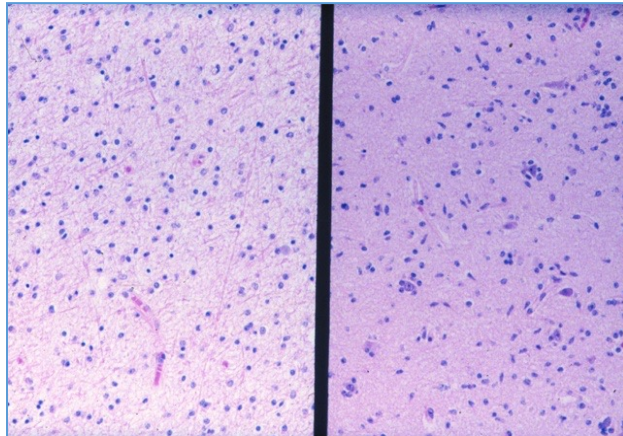
(1)



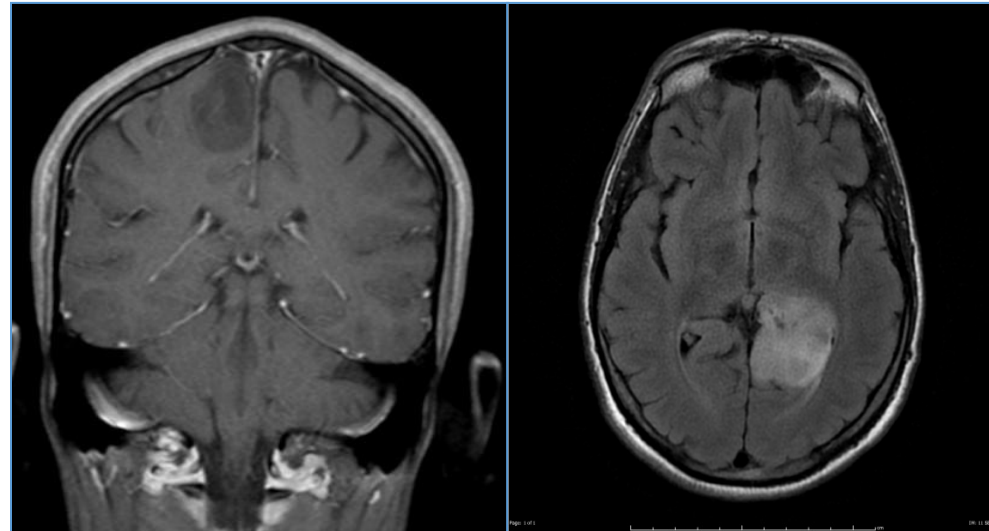
(2)



(3)



(4)





# Current treatment approach to newly diagnosed IDH1/2-mutant glioma

*No curative therapy*

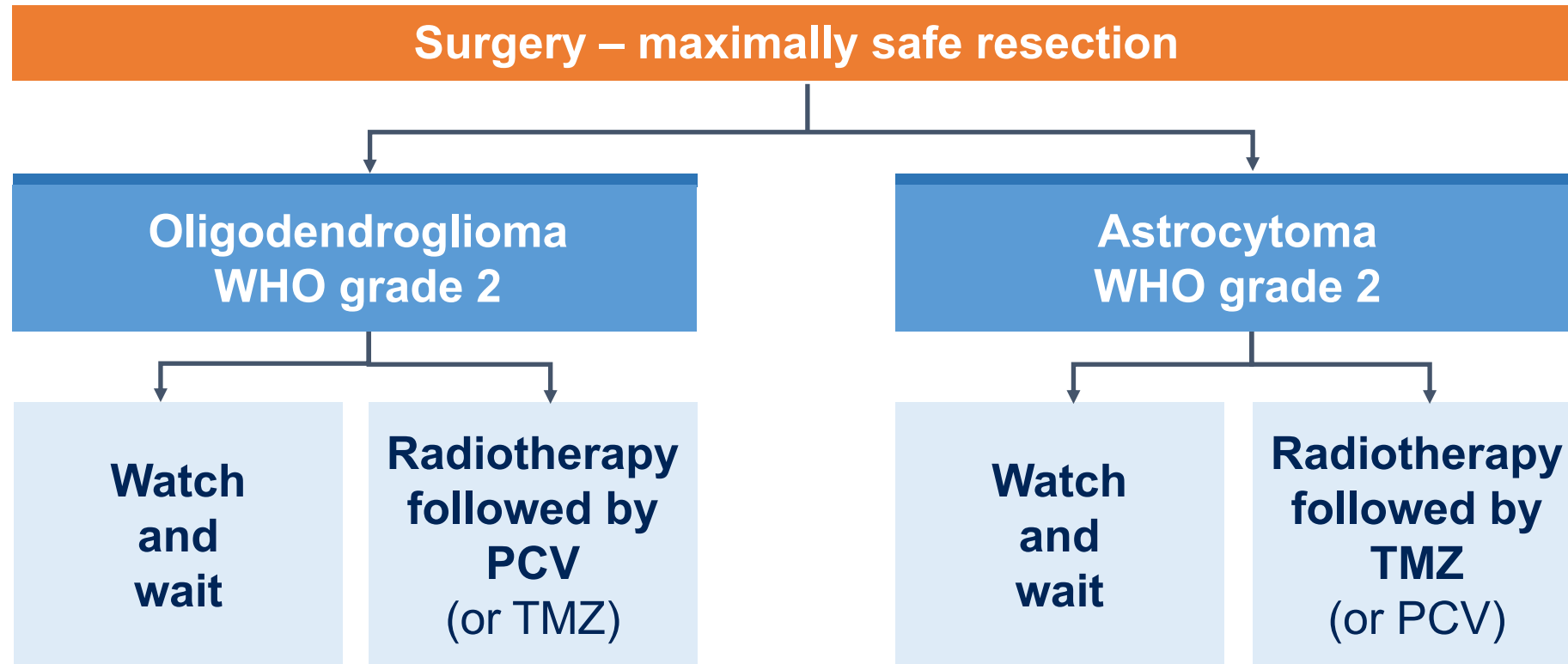
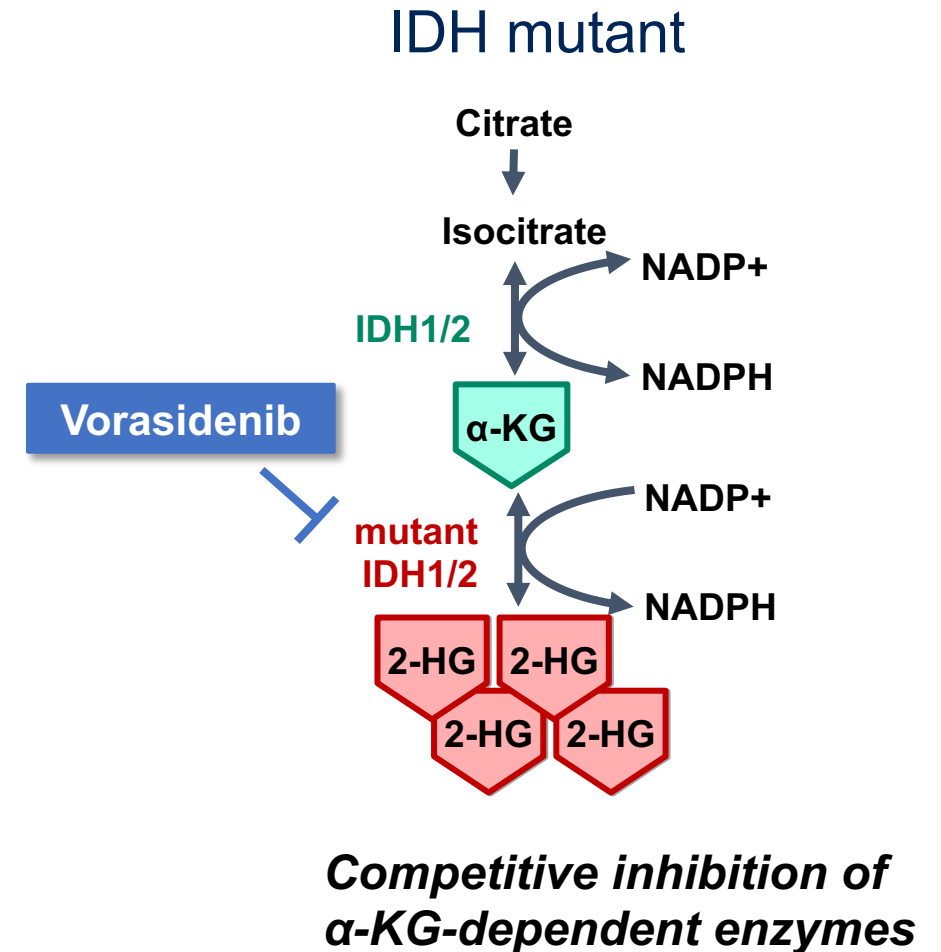


Figure modified from: Weller M *et al. Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2021;18:170–86, with permission.  
PCV, procarbazine, lomustine and vincristine; TMZ, temozolomide.

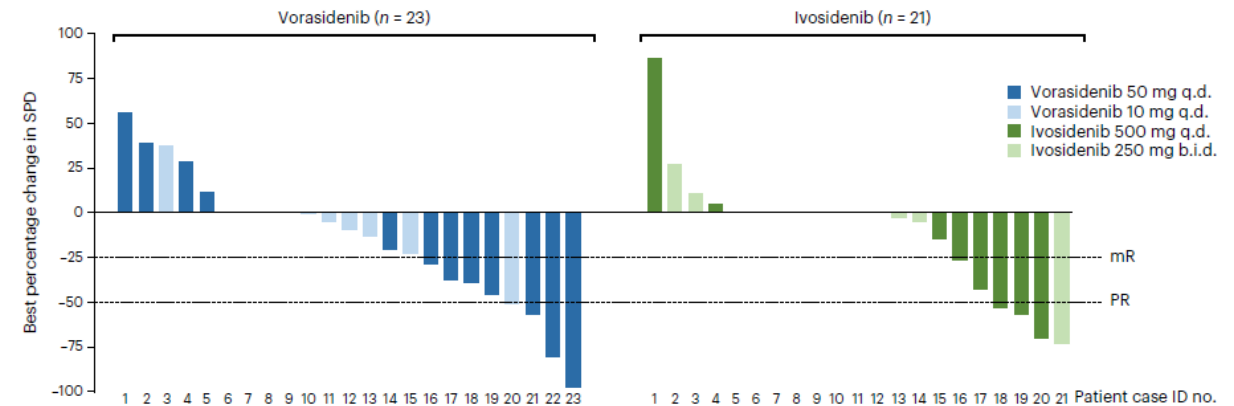
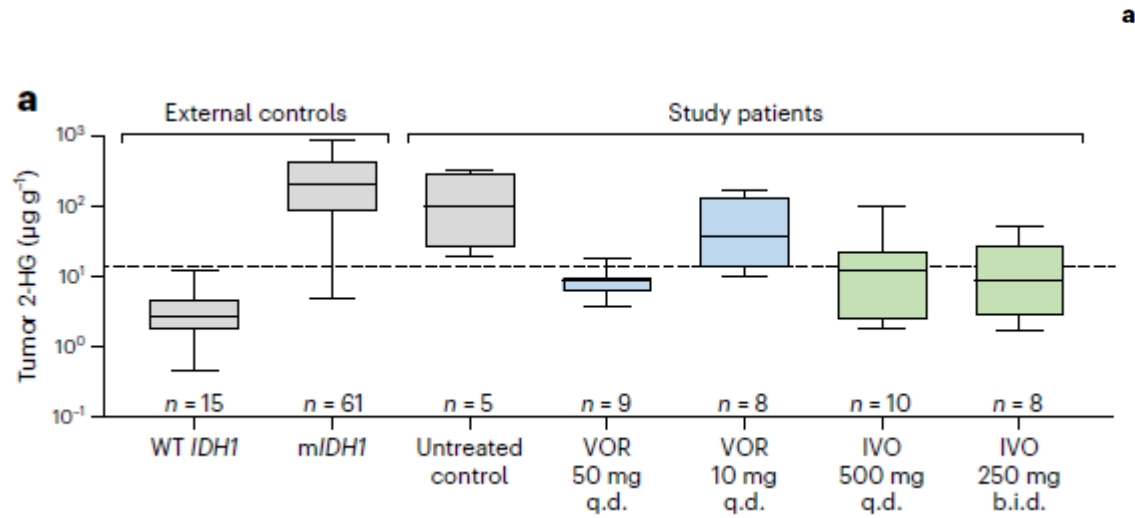
# Vorasidenib

- Oral inhibitor of mutant IDH1 and IDH2<sup>1</sup>
- Specifically designed for brain penetrance<sup>1</sup>
- Reduced tumor 2-HG by >90% in resected grade 2/3 non-enhancing diffuse glioma<sup>1</sup>
- 2-HG reduction associated with:<sup>2</sup>
  - Lower tumor cell proliferation
  - Reversal of IDH1/2 mutation-associated gene expression programs
  - Increased DNA 5-hydroxy-methylcytosine
  - Increased tumor infiltrating lymphocytes

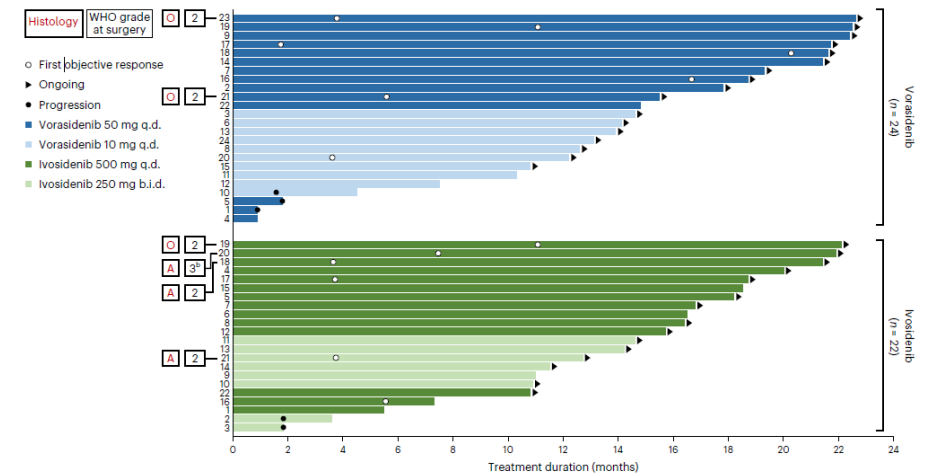


1. Mellingshoff I *et al. Nat Med* 2023;29:615–22; 2. Lu M *et al.* Presented at the American Association for Cancer Research Virtual Annual Meeting II June 22–24, 2020: abstract 2046.

# Vorasidenib and Ivosidenib in IDH1-Mutant Recurrent Low-Grade Glioma: A Randomized, Perioperative Phase 1 Trial



|  | Vorasidenib            |                         | Ivosidenib             |                         |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
|  | 10 mg q.d. (n = 10)    | 50 mg q.d. (n = 14)     | 250 mg b.i.d. (n = 8)  | 500 mg q.d. (n = 14)    |
| Objective response rate <sup>a</sup><br>— no. (%) (95% CI) | 1 (10.0)<br>(0.3–44.5) | 6 (42.9)<br>(17.7–71.1) | 1 (12.5)<br>(0.3–52.7) | 5 (35.7)<br>(12.8–64.9) |



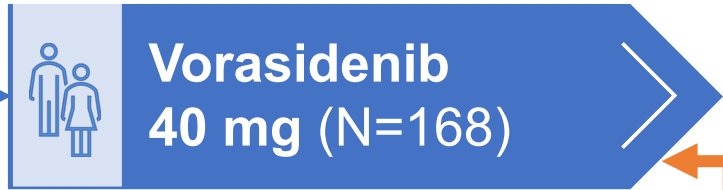
# INDIGO: INvestigating vorasiDenib in GliOma (NCT04164901)

## Key eligibility criteria

- ≥12 years of age
- IDH1/2-mutated\* grade 2 oligodendroglioma or astrocytoma per WHO 2016 guidelines
- Prior surgery only
- Measurable non-enhancing disease (≥1 target lesion measuring ≥1 cm × ≥1 cm), confirmed by blinded review
- Not in need of immediate chemotherapy or radiotherapy per investigator assessment

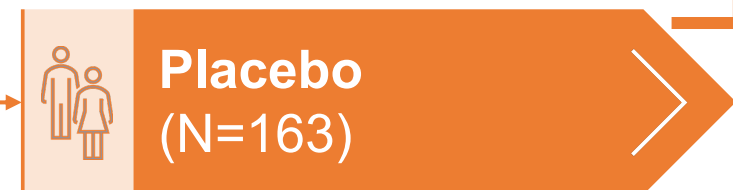
1:1  
double-blind  
randomization  
(N=331)

Stratified by  
1p19q status  
and baseline  
tumor size



Orally,  
once daily,  
28-day  
cycles

Centrally confirmed  
progressive disease  
permitted unblinding  
and crossover†

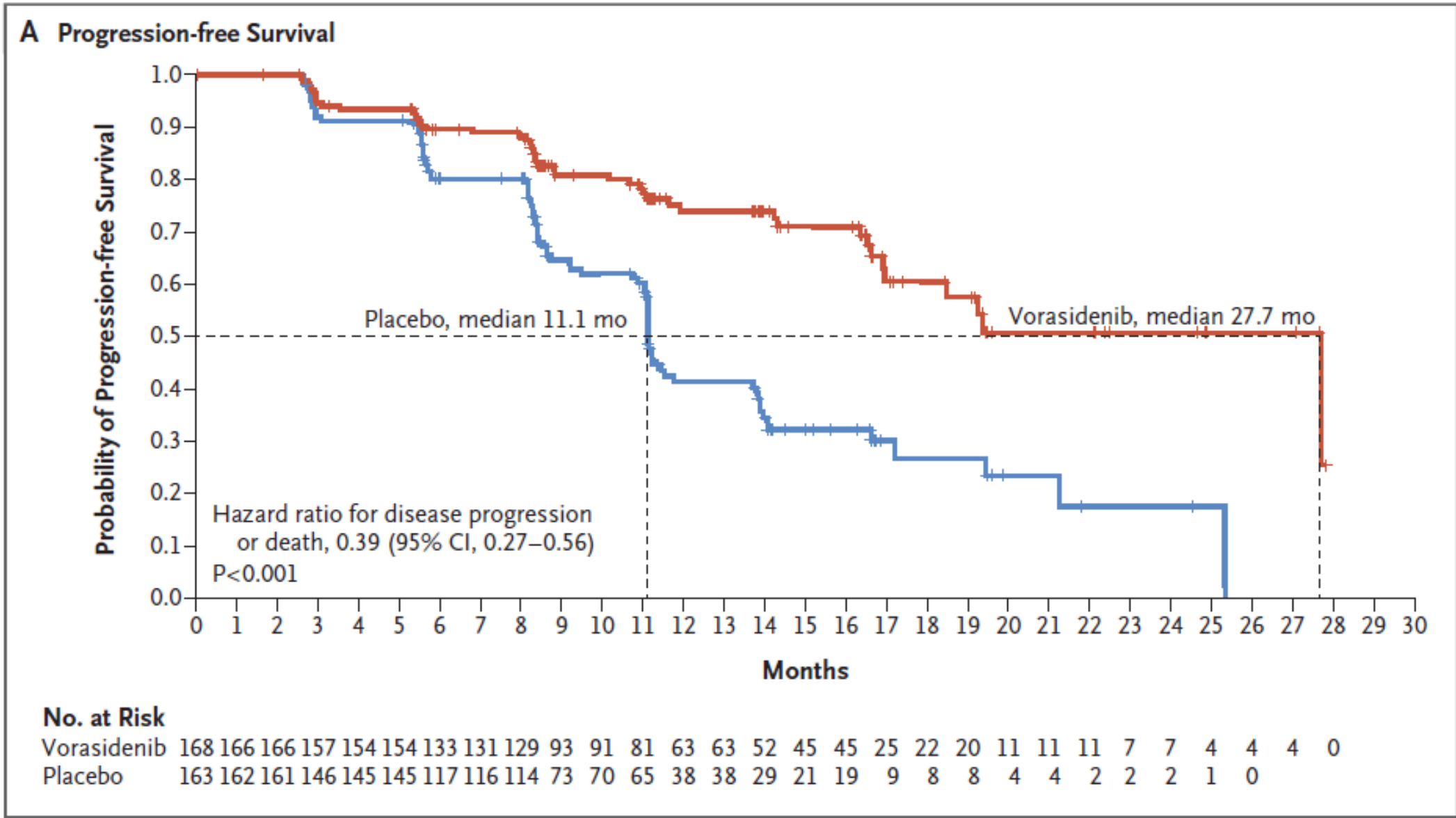


IDMC regularly reviewed safety and other clinical data, as well as the efficacy data following prespecified interim analyses

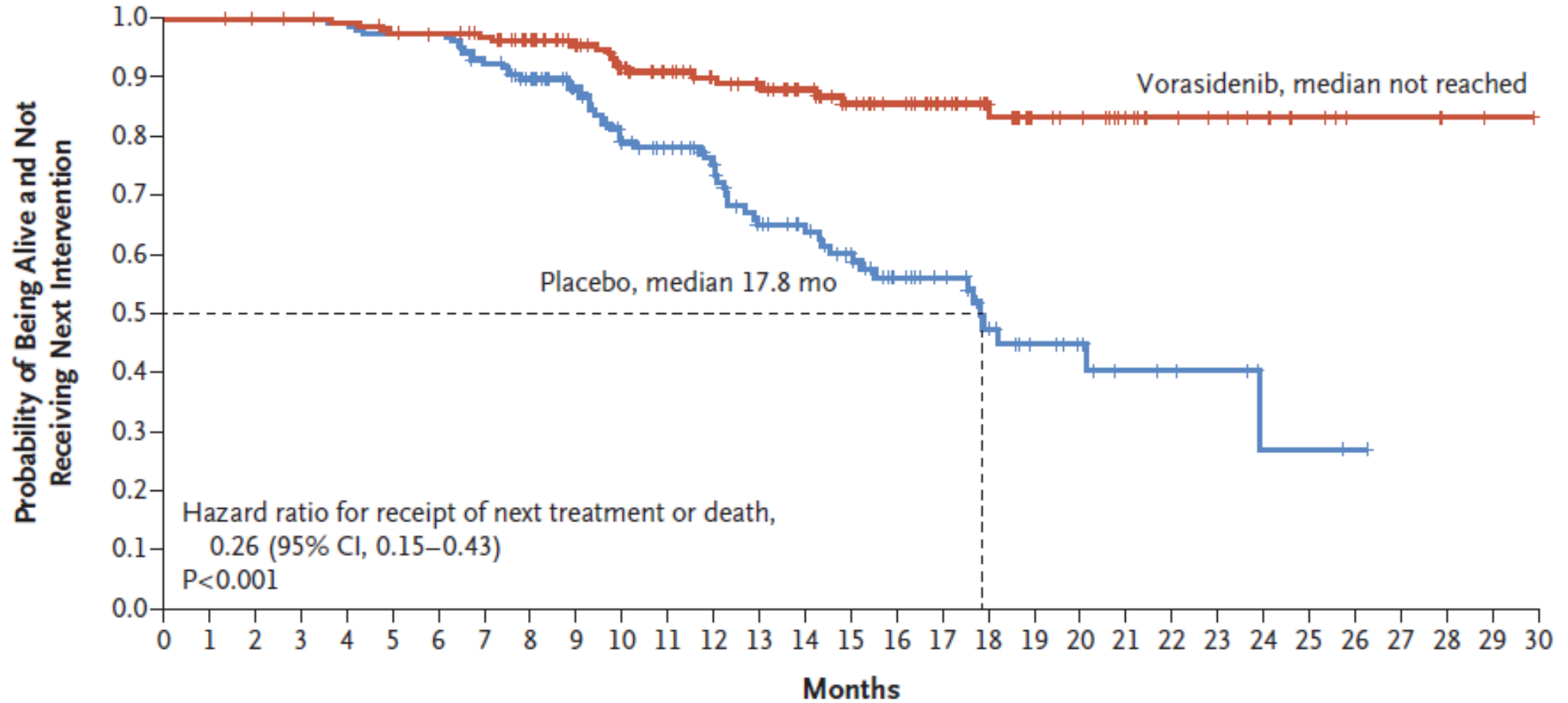
\*Centrally confirmed using an investigational clinical trial assay, based on the Oncomine Dx Target Test and developed in partnership with Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.;

†Real-time single BIRC reader.

IDMC, independent data monitoring committee.



## B Receipt of Next Intervention



### No. at Risk

|             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vorasidenib | 168 | 168 | 167 | 167 | 165 | 161 | 160 | 156 | 146 | 130 | 117 | 105 | 95 | 86 | 75 | 65 | 57 | 48 | 38 | 27 | 25 | 18 | 15 | 13 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Placebo     | 163 | 163 | 162 | 161 | 159 | 156 | 155 | 146 | 134 | 119 | 97  | 88  | 77 | 60 | 54 | 45 | 35 | 30 | 21 | 14 | 11 | 7  | 6  | 5  | 2  | 2 | 1 | 0 |   |   |   |

**Table 2. Most Common Adverse Events (Safety Analysis Set).\***

| Event                                   | Vorasicidenib (N = 167) |                | Placebo (N = 163) |                |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|
|   | Any Grade               | Grade $\geq$ 3 | Any Grade         | Grade $\geq$ 3 |
|   | <i>number (percent)</i> |                |                   |                |
| Any adverse event                       | 158 (94.6)              | 38 (22.8)      | 152 (93.3)        | 22 (13.5)      |
| Increased alanine aminotransferase      | 65 (38.9)               | 16 (9.6)       | 24 (14.7)         | 0              |
| Increased aspartate aminotransferase    | 48 (28.7)               | 7 (4.2)        | 13 (8.0)          | 0              |
| Increased $\gamma$ -glutamyltransferase | 26 (15.6)               | 5 (3.0)        | 8 (4.9)           | 2 (1.2)        |
| Coronavirus disease 2019                | 55 (32.9)               | 0              | 47 (28.8)         | 0              |
| Fatigue                                 | 54 (32.3)               | 1 (0.6)        | 52 (31.9)         | 2 (1.2)        |
| Headache                                | 45 (26.9)               | 0              | 44 (27.0)         | 1 (0.6)        |
| Diarrhea                                | 41 (24.6)               | 1 (0.6)        | 27 (16.6)         | 1 (0.6)        |
| Nausea                                  | 36 (21.6)               | 0              | 37 (22.7)         | 0              |
| Dizziness                               | 25 (15.0)               | 0              | 26 (16.0)         | 0              |
| Seizure                                 | 23 (13.8)               | 7 (4.2)        | 19 (11.7)         | 4 (2.5)        |
| Constipation                            | 21 (12.6)               | 0              | 20 (12.3)         | 0              |

\* The safety analysis set included all the patients who received at least one dose of vorasidenib or placebo. The individual adverse events listed are those of any grade that occurred in at least 10% of the patients in the vorasidenib group.





# Immunotherapy of CNS Tumors

DISAPPOINTMENT THUS FAR



# Late-Stage Failures With Immunotherapies in Glioblastoma

| Therapeutic            | Clinical Trial  | Setting  |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Nivolumab              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Checkmate 143<sup>1</sup></li> <li>▪ Checkmate 498*</li> <li>▪ Checkmate 548*</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relapsed</li> <li>▪ First line, unmethylated</li> <li>▪ First line, methylated</li> </ul> |
| Toca 511 with 5FC      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cloughesy et al<sup>2</sup></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relapsed</li> </ul>   |
| VB-111                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GLOBE<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relapsed</li> </ul>   |
| Rindopepimut           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ACT IV trial<sup>4</sup></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First line</li> </ul>   |
| Dendritic cell vaccine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DCVax<sup>®</sup>-L phase III<sup>5</sup></li> </ul>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ First line</li> </ul>   |
| Ombipepimut-S          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ WIZARD 201G*</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Relapsed</li> </ul>   |

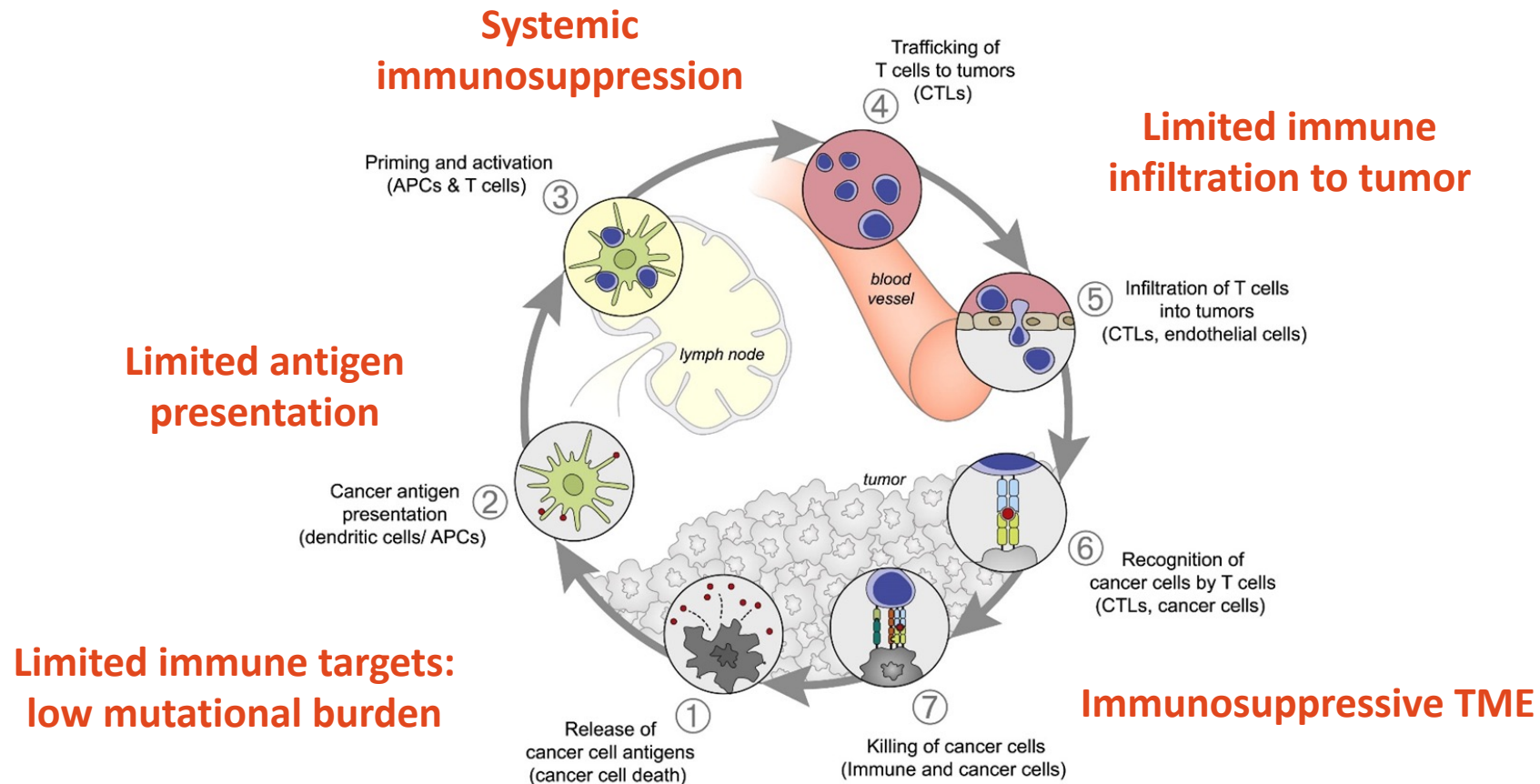
\*As reported in a press release.

1. Reardon. JAMA Oncol. 2020;6:1003. 2. Cloughesy. JAMA Oncol. 2020;6:1939. 3. Cloughesy. Neuro Oncol. 2020;22:705.  
4. Weller. Lancet Oncol. 2017;18:1373. 5. Tan. Clin Neuropharmacol. 2021;44:216.



Slide credit: [clinicaloptions.com](https://clinicaloptions.com)

# Glioblastoma Has Multiple Immune Deficits: Combinations Necessary

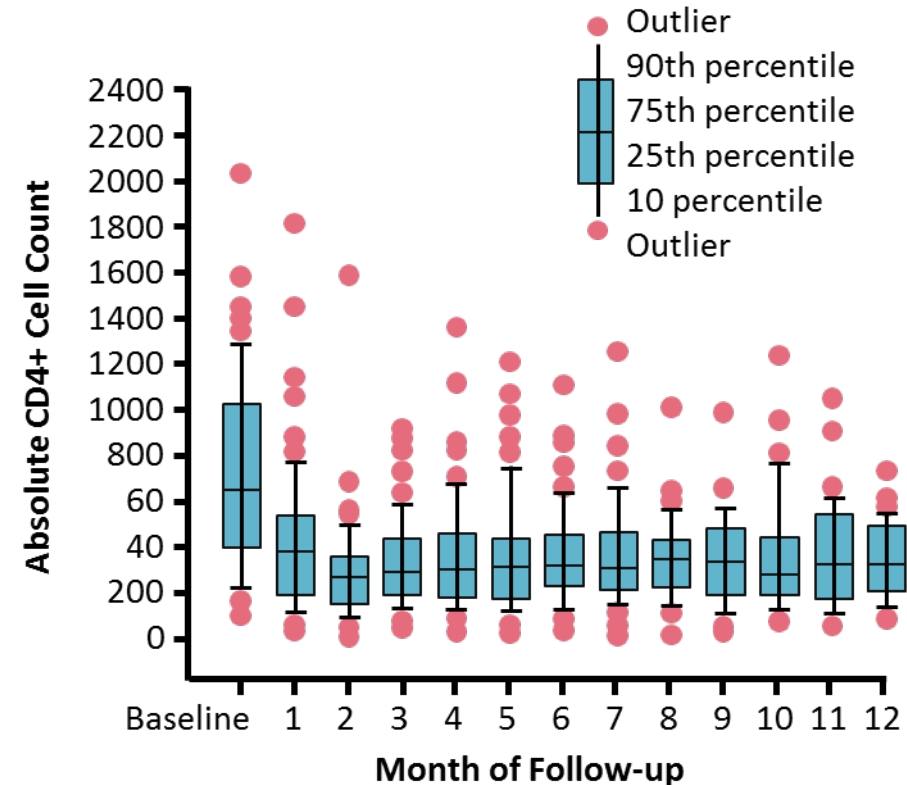


Chen. Immunity. 2013;39:1.

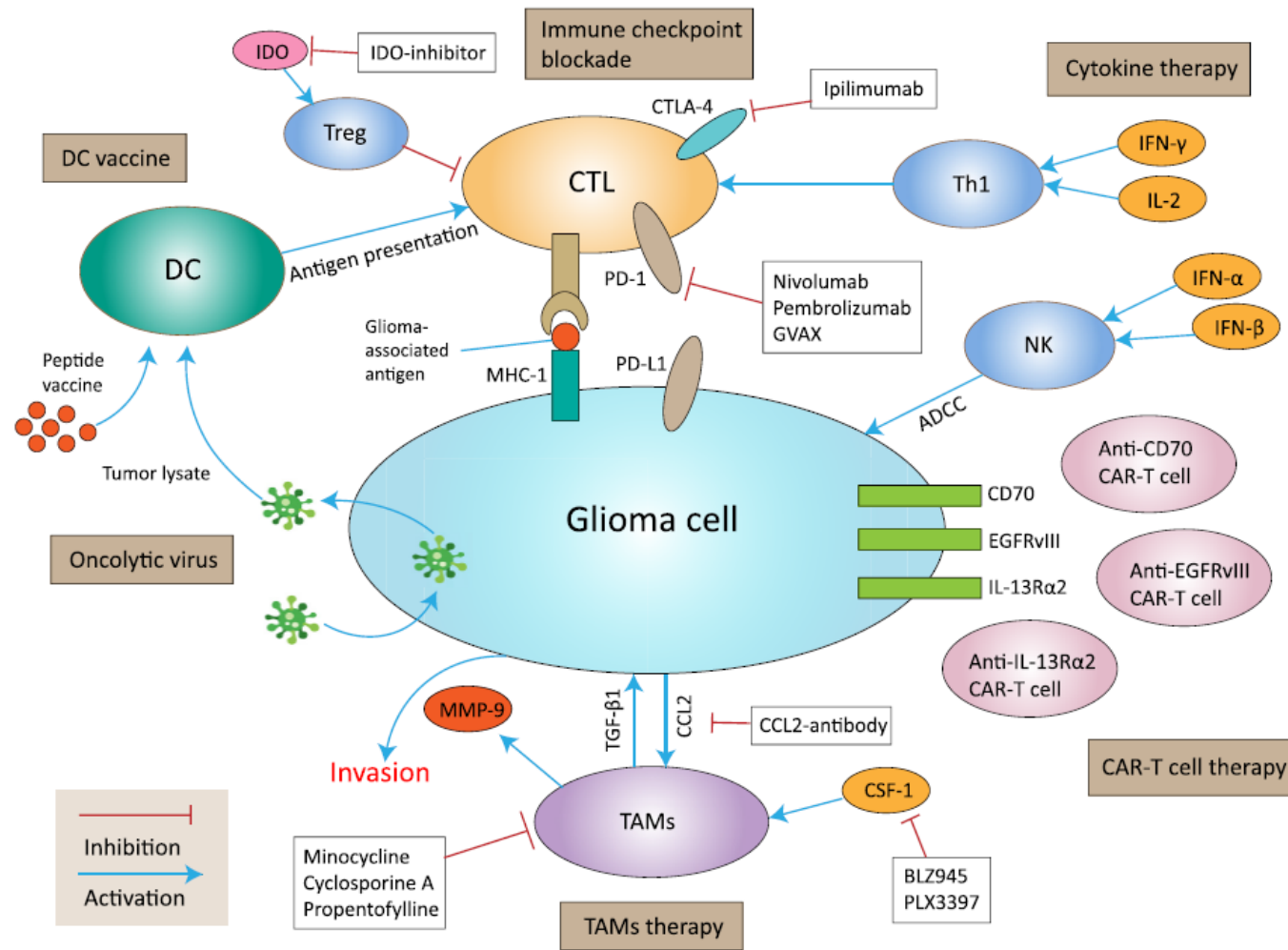
Slide credit: [clinicaloptions.com](http://clinicaloptions.com)

# Immunosuppression In Patients with High-Grade Gliomas Treated with Radiation and TMZ

- N = 96
- Median CD4+ cell count before RT and TMZ: 664 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
- CD4+ cell count nadir occurred 2 mos after initiating therapy; 73% had CD4+ cell counts < 300 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>, 40% had < 200 cells/mm<sup>3</sup>
- CD4+ cell counts remained low throughout the year of follow-up
- Infection risk low (2.5% rate of death from infection)



# Current Immunotherapy Strategies for Glioma



# Final results of 2-THE-TOP: a pilot phase 2 study of TTFields (Optune) plus pembrolizumab plus maintenance temozolomide (TMZ) in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma (ndGBM)



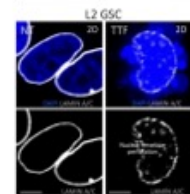
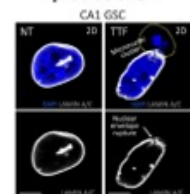
David D. Tran<sup>1</sup>, Ashley Ghiaseddin<sup>2</sup>, Dongjiang Chen<sup>1</sup>, Son Le<sup>1</sup>, Maryam Rahman<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>USC Brain Tumor Center, University of Southern California, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States

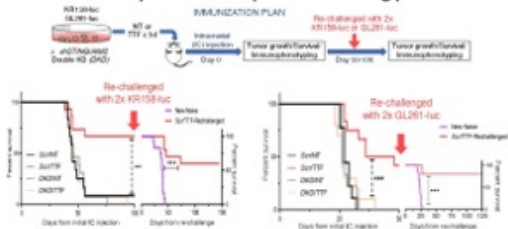
## BACKGROUND

- Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) plus maintenance TMZ is approved therapy for ndGBM<sup>1</sup> and are low-intensity, alternating electric fields that disrupt cellular processes critical for cancer cell viability<sup>2-5</sup>
- Pembrolizumab is an anti-programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) therapy that is approved for use in multiple cancer indications<sup>6</sup>
- TTFields with TMZ had been shown to elicit anti-proliferative effects and promote recruitment of immune effector cells to the tumor microenvironment with anti-PD-1 therapy potentiating the immune response to amplify therapeutic effects<sup>4,7,10</sup>
- TTFields has been shown to induce anti-tumor immunity via type-1 interferon pathways (T1FN) of the STING and AIM2 inflammasomes, TTFields may synergize with immune checkpoint inhibitors to prolong survival in ndGBM patients<sup>11</sup>
- Our objective is to report on the results of the 2-THE-TOP study (NCT03405792)**

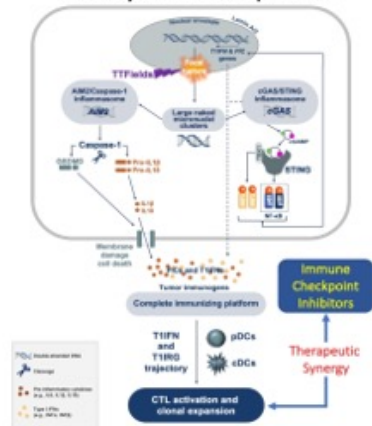
TTFields induce nuclear envelope rupture, producing micronuclei protrusions<sup>11</sup>



## TTFields provide a complete immunizing platform

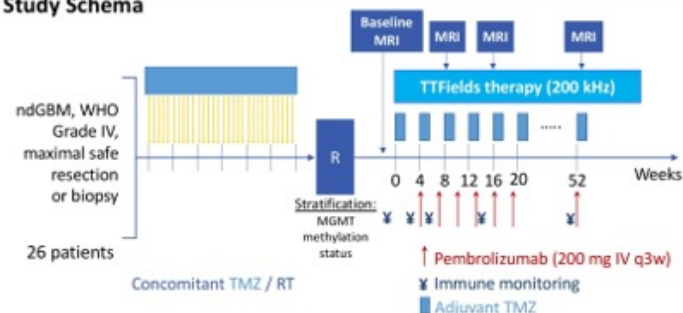


## Summary and Clinical Implications



## METHODS

### Study Schema



### Study Endpoints

| Primary   | Secondary   | Exploratory  |
|---|---|--|
| PFS compared with matched control (Phase 3 EF-14 study) | Toxicity and tolerability of the triple therapy<br>OS and OOR is historical data<br>Augmentation of TTFields-initiated (plasma-specific) immune reaction by pembrolizumab | Metabolic signature of immune activation by TTFields and TTFields + pembrolizumab in serum and urine<br>OS and OOR is historical data<br>Combination of mutation burden in primary tumor samples with response to pembrolizumab + TTFields |

**Inclusion criteria:** (1) Histologically confirmed GBM WHO Grade IV. Resection and biopsy only allowed. (2) KPS  $\geq$  70%.  
**Exclusion criteria:** (1) History of autoimmune disease. (2) Dexamethasone  $>$  4 mg/day at registration.

## RESULTS

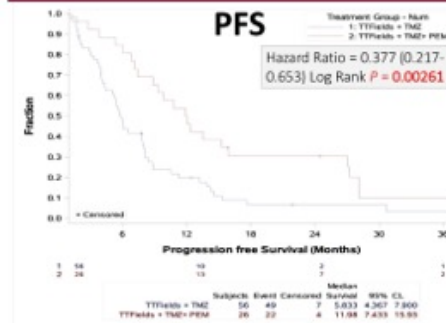
### Patient characteristics of the 2-THE-TOP and control cohorts

| Characteristics                  | EF-14 (TTFields/TMZ) (n=56) | 2THE-TOP (TTFields/TMZ/PEM) (n=26) | p-Value |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Age (years)                      |                             |                                    |         |
| n                                | 56                          | 26                                 | 0.207   |
| Mean (SD)                        | 55.9 (12.11)                | 56.7 (13.28)                       |         |
| Median (range)                   | 56.5 (26-83)                | 60.5 (31-79)                       |         |
| Sex, No. (%)                     |                             |                                    | 0.760   |
| Male                             | 38 (68)                     | 19 (73)                            |         |
| Female                           | 18 (32)                     | 7 (27)                             |         |
| Karnofsky Performance Score      |                             |                                    | 1.000   |
| Median (range)                   | 80 (70-90)                  | 80 (70-90)                         |         |
| Extent of Resection, No. (%)     |                             |                                    | 1.000   |
| Biopsy                           | 15 (27)                     | 7 (27)                             |         |
| Partial Resection                | 14 (25)                     | 7 (27)                             |         |
| Gross Total Resection            | 27 (48)                     | 12 (46)                            |         |
| MGMT Methylation Status, No. (%) |                             |                                    | 1.000   |
| Methylated                       | 14 (25)                     | 7 (27)                             |         |
| Unmethylated                     | 42 (75)                     | 19 (73)                            |         |
| IDH1/2 Status, No. (%)           |                             |                                    | 0.638   |
| Positive                         | 7 (12)                      | 3 (12)                             |         |
| Negative                         | 49 (88)                     | 23 (88)                            |         |
| Compliance in first 6 months (%) |                             |                                    | 0.451   |
| n                                | 56                          | 26                                 |         |
| Mean (SD)                        | 77.1 (10.53)                | 80.3 (10.36)                       |         |
| Median (range)                   | 80.9 (50-94)                | 83.2 (55-95)                       |         |

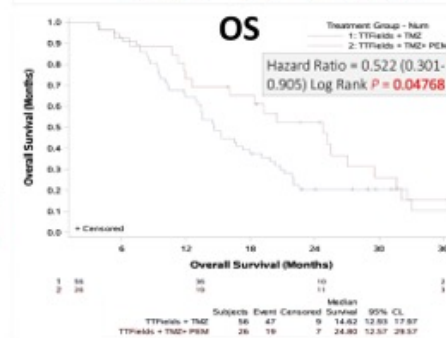
Most common serious adverse events were thromboses n=4 (15%), seizures n=3 (12%), and metabolic disturbances n=2 (8%)

## RESULTS CONT'D

### PFS

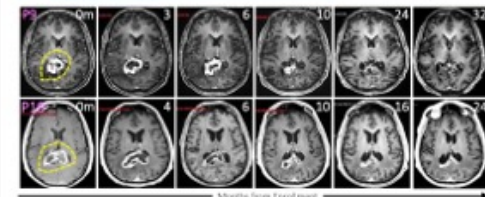


### OS

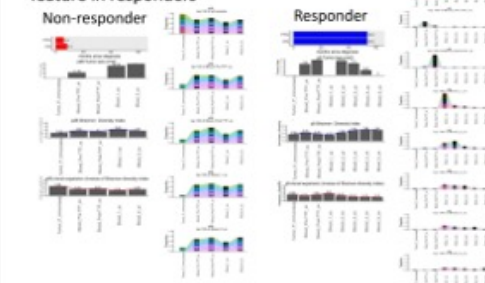


### Best Response: Of the 15 subjects with measurable target lesions

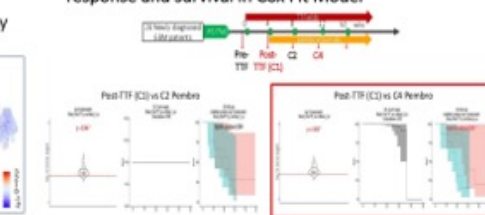
|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Complete response (CR) or Near CR | 4 (27%) |
| Partial response                  | 2 (13%) |
| Stable disease                    | 8 (53%) |
| Progressive disease               | 1 (<7%) |



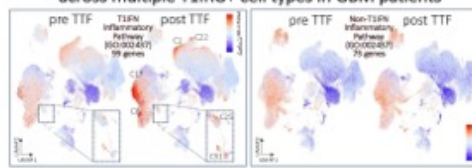
### TCR Clonal Switch/Replacement is a prominent feature in responders



### Effective clonal replacement is strongly predictive of response and survival in Cox Fit Model



### TTFields stimulate innate immunity via a T1FN trajectory across multiple T1IRG+ cell types in GBM patients



## CONCLUSIONS

- Triple regimen of TTFields + maintenance TMZ + pembrolizumab (200 mg IV q3w) showed promising efficacy and was generally well tolerated in patients with ndGBM.
- A phase 3, double-blind, placebo-controlled study of TTFields + pembrolizumab + maintenance TMZ vs TTFields + placebo + maintenance TMZ for adult patients with ndGBM is planned

# Final results of 2-THE-TOP: a pilot phase 2 study of TTFIELDS plus pembrolizumab plus maintenance temozolomide (TMZ) in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma (ndGBM)

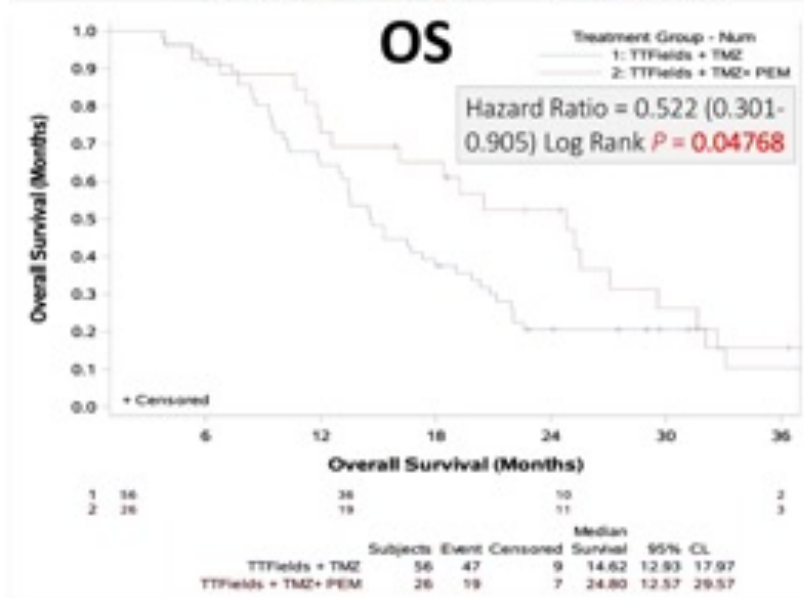
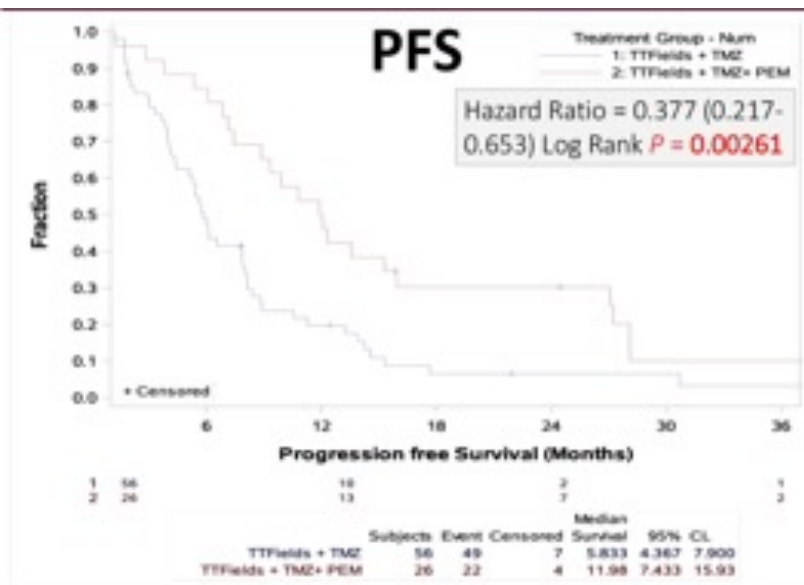
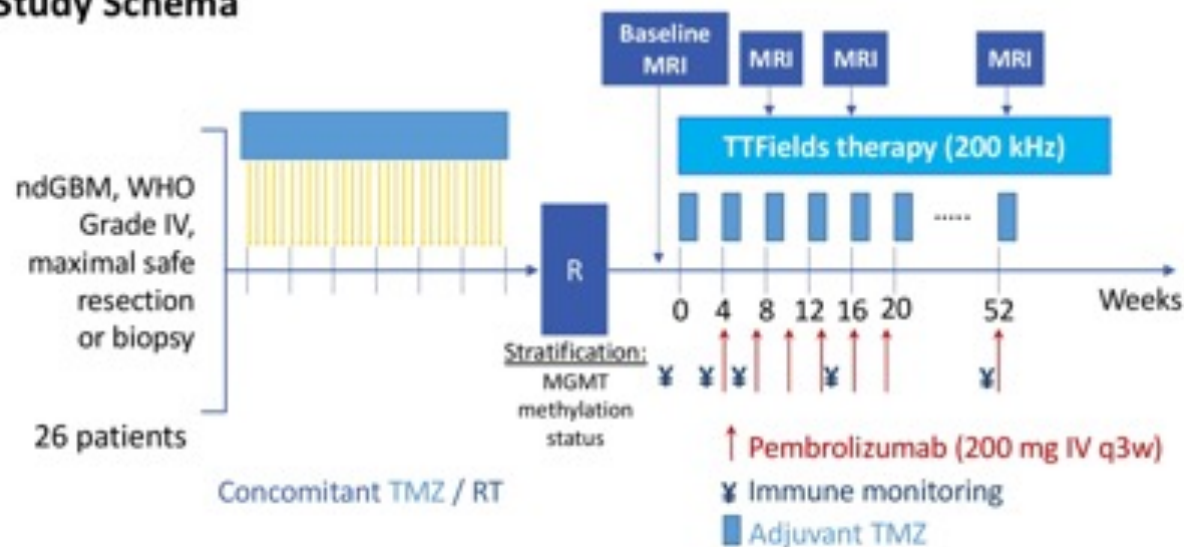
David D. Tran<sup>1</sup>, Ashley Ghaseddin<sup>2</sup>, Dongjiang Chen<sup>1</sup>, Son Le<sup>1</sup>, Maryam Rahman<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>USC Brain Tumor Center, University of Southern California, United States; <sup>2</sup>University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, United States

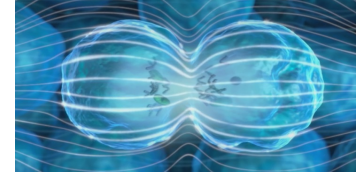
- Pembrolizumab is an anti-programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) therapy that is approved for use in multiple cancer indications<sup>9</sup>
- TTFIELDS with TMZ had been shown to elicit anti-proliferative effects and promote recruitment of immune effector cells to the tumor microenvironment with anti-PD-1 therapy potentiating the immune response to amplify therapeutic effects<sup>4,7,10</sup>
- TTFIELDS has been shown to induce anti-tumor immunity via type-1 interferon pathways (T1IFN) of the STING and AIM2 inflammasomes, TTFIELDS may synergize with immune checkpoint inhibitors to prolong survival in ndGBM patients<sup>11</sup>

## METHODS

### Study Schema



# Tumor Treating Fields (TTF)



- Device consists of insulated transducer arrays, electric field generator, battery pack
- Generates alternating electric fields through tumor at a frequency of 200 kHz
- Antimitotic therapy:
  - ❖ Disrupted alignment of polarized tubulin subunits
  - ❖ Mitotic spindle disruption during mitosis
  - ❖ Leads to metaphase arrest, mitotic catastrophe and induced cell death
- Other mechanisms likely



**Figure 3.** Second-generation ( ) device. The complete system consists of an electric field generator (A), rechargeable battery pack (B), carrying pouch (C), and two pairs of disposable ceramic transducer arrays (D). Figure copyright







# Nibbling Around the Edges

EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS IN UNCOMMON CNS TUMORS

# Dabrafenib plus trametinib in patients with *BRAF*<sup>V600E</sup>-mutant low-grade and high-grade glioma (ROAR): a multicentre, open-label, single-arm, phase 2, basket trial



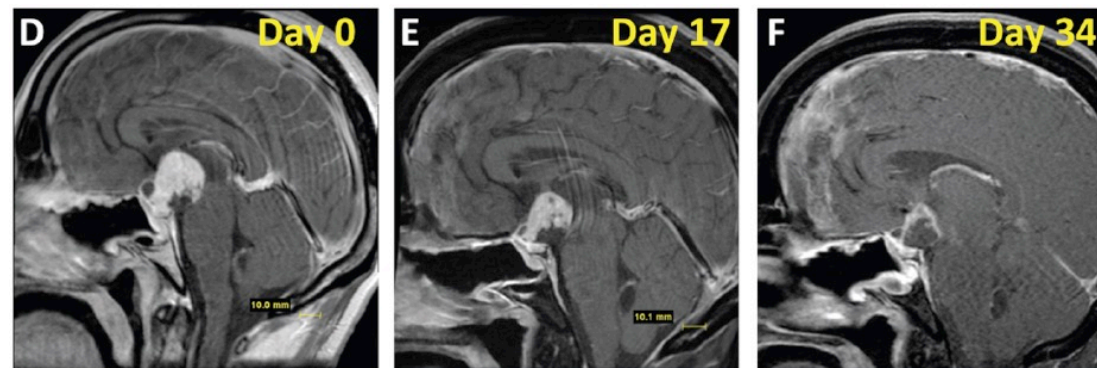
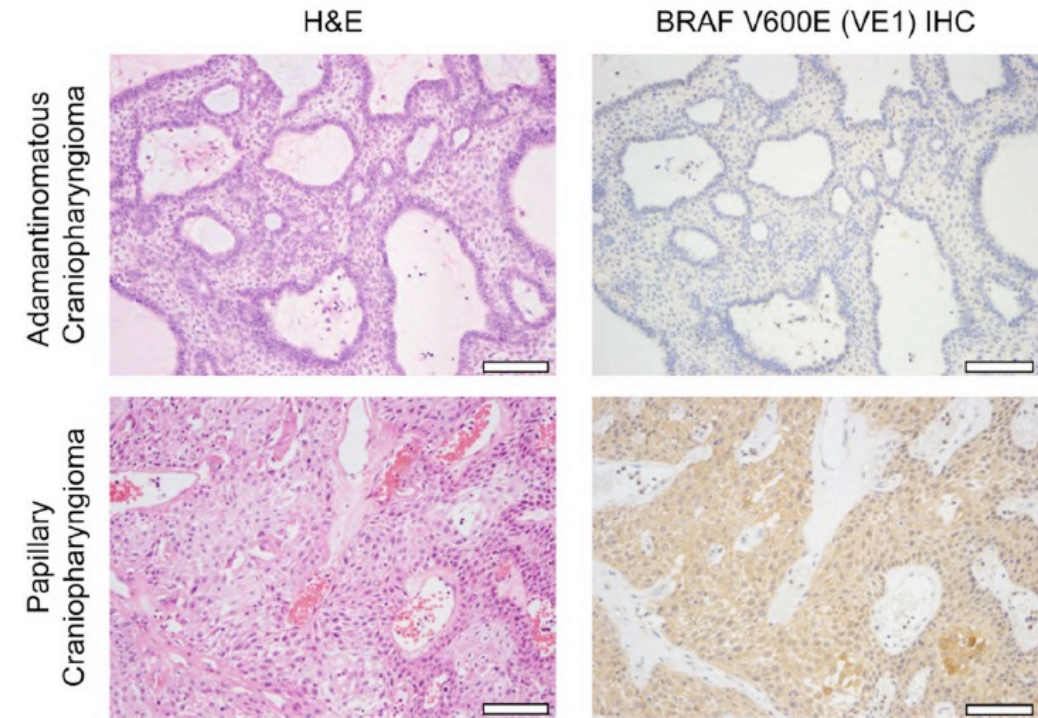
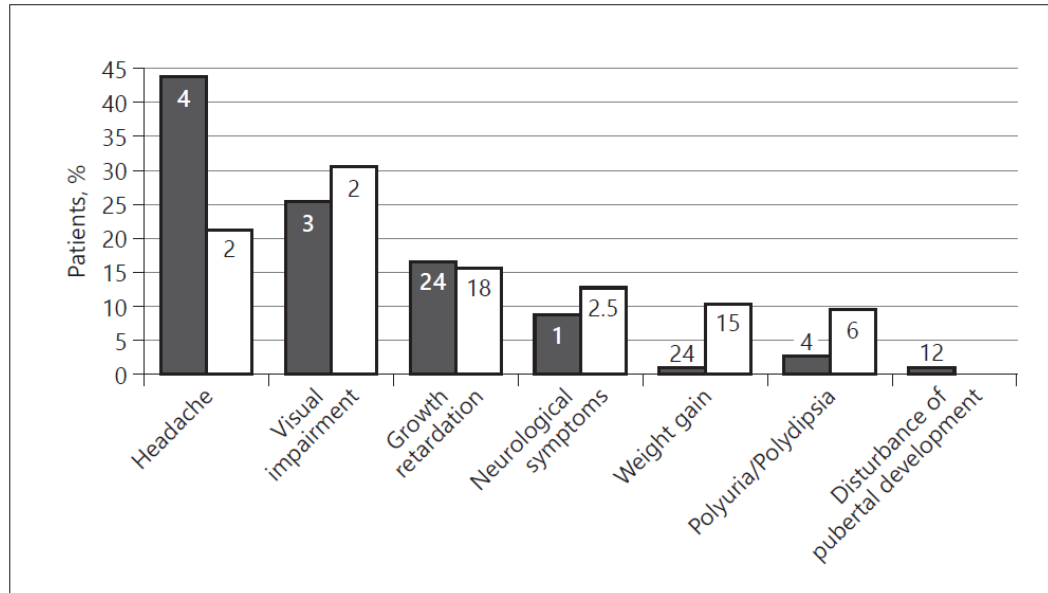
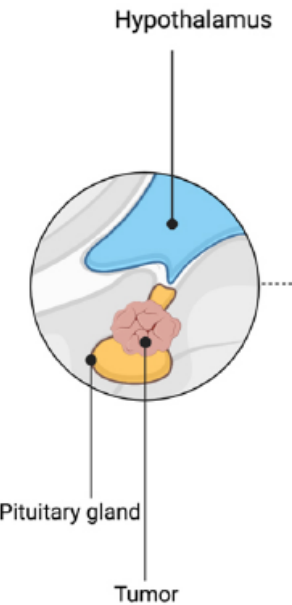
Patrick Y Wen, Alexander Stein, Martin van den Bent, Jacques De Greve, Antje Wick, Filip Y F L de Vos, Nikolas von Bubnoff, Myra E van Linde, Albert Lai, Gerald W Prager, Mario Campono, Angelica Fasolo, Jose A Lopez-Martin, Tae Min Kim, Warren P Mason, Ralf-Dieter Hofheinz, Jean-Yves Blay, Daniel C Cho, Anas Gazzah, Damien Pouessel, Jeffrey Yachnin, Aislyn Boran, Paul Burgess, Palanichamy Ilankumaran, Eduard Gasal, Vivek Subbiah

|   | Grade III<br>(n=13) | Glioblastoma<br>(n=31) | Age 18–39 years<br>(n=22) | Age ≥40 years<br>(n=23) |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Objective response rate by investigator, % (95% CI)                     | 38 (13.9–68.4)      | 32 (16.7–51.4)         | 50 (28.2–71.8)            | 17 (5.0–38.8)           |
| Patients responding at 12 months by investigator assessment, % (95% CI) | 100                 | 67 (28.2–87.8)         | 89 (43.3–98.4)            | 50 (5.8–84.5)           |
| Median progression-free survival by investigator, months (95% CI)       | 3.8 (1.7–NR)        | 2.8 (1.8–13.7)         | 18.5 (5.5–41.4)           | 1.7 (0.9–2.5)           |
| Median overall survival, months (95% CI)                                | 45.2 (6.3–NR)*      | 13.7 (8.4–25.6)        | 45.2 (17.9–NR)†           | 8.7 (3.7–11.7)          |

NR=not reached. \*Six deaths among 13 patients. †Eight deaths among 22 patients.

**Table 3: Post-hoc subgroup analysis of the high-grade glioma cohort**

# Craniopharyngioma: mBRAF



G Dabrafenib  
Trametinib

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

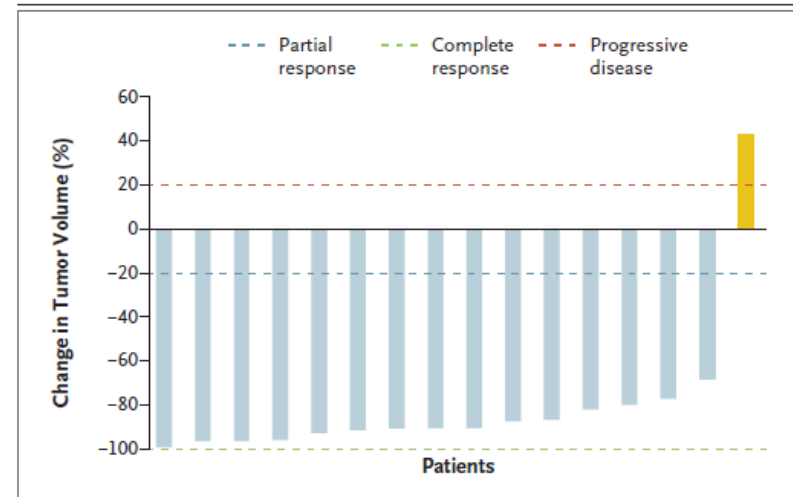
# BRAF–MEK Inhibition in Newly Diagnosed Papillary Craniopharyngiomas

P.K. Brastianos, E. Twohy, S. Geyer, E.R. Gerstner, T.J. Kaufmann, S. Tabrizi, B. Kabat, J. Thierauf, M.W. Ruff, D.A. Bota, D.A. Reardon, A.L. Cohen, M.I. De La Fuente, G.J. Lesser, J. Campian, P.K. Agarwalla, P. Kumthekar, B. Mann, S. Vora, M. Knopp, A.J. Iafrate, W.T. Curry, Jr., D.P. Cahill, H.A. Shih, P.D. Brown, S. Santagata, F.G. Barker II, and E. Galanis

**Table 2. Objective Response at 4 Months.\***

| Assessment   | Value (N = 16) |
|--|----------------|
| <b>Volumetric response according to central radiologic review</b>  |                |
| Complete or partial response — no. (%)                             | 15 (94)        |
| 95% confidence interval  | 70–100         |
| Nonresponse — no. (%)  | 1 (6)          |
| <b>Bidimensional response according to local radiologic review</b> |                |
| Complete or partial response — no. (%)                             | 15 (94)        |
| 95% confidence interval  | 70–100         |
| Nonresponse — no. (%)  | 1 (6)          |

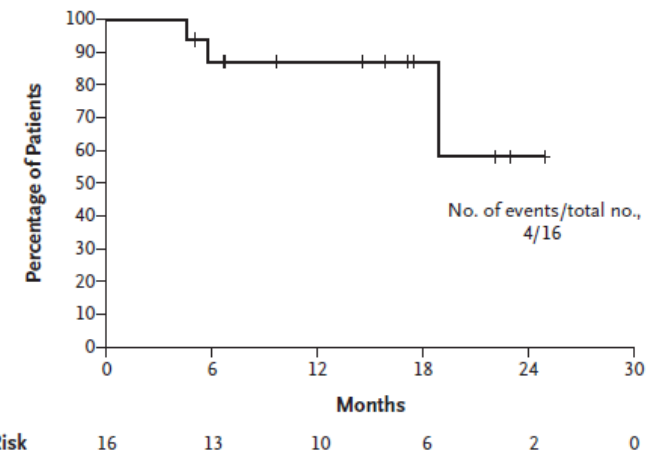
\* The primary end point of volumetric response was determined with the use of volumetric measurement data from the first four cycles of BRAF–MEK inhibitor combination therapy. Bidimensional measurements of lesions were used locally to assess the objective response according to modified Response Assessment in Neuro-oncology (RANO) guidelines.



**Figure 1. Change in Tumor Volume from Baseline.**

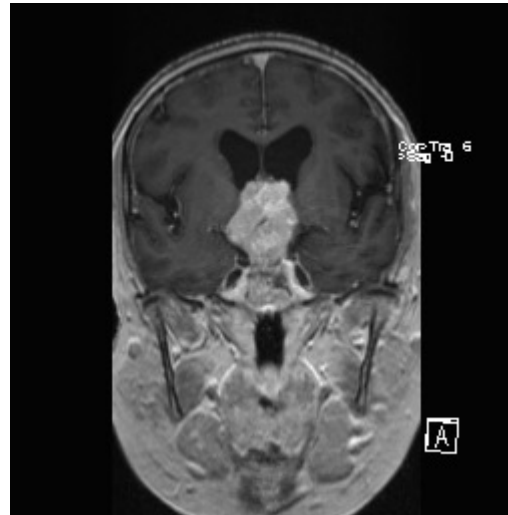
The blue bars indicate the 15 patients with papillary craniopharyngiomas who had a partial response to vemurafenib–cobimetinib therapy. The yellow bar indicates 1 patient who received only 8 days of therapy before withdrawing because of toxic effects. The horizontal dashed lines indicate the corresponding measures for each type of response.

**A Progression-free Survival**

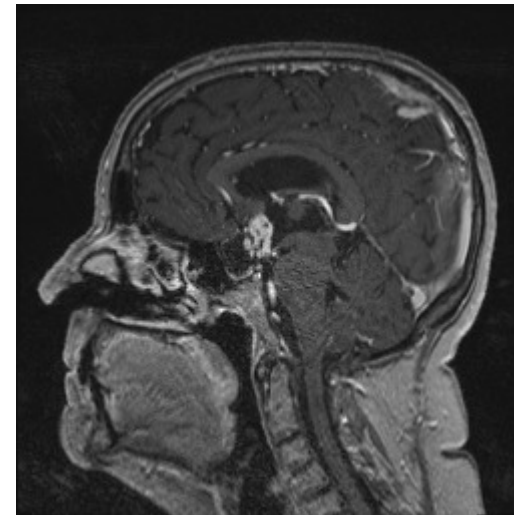
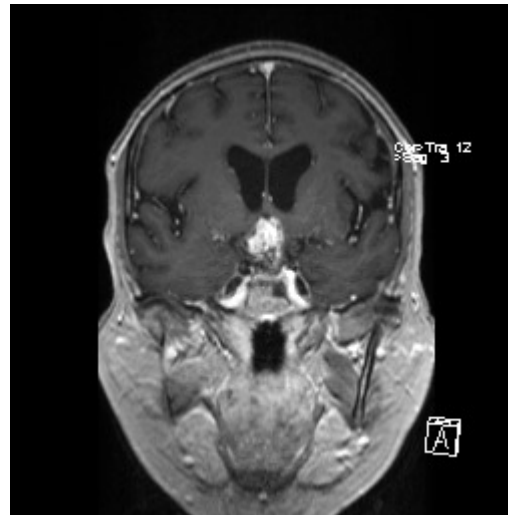


# Response of a Papillary Craniopharyngioma With a BRAF V600E Mutation After 2 Months of Vem/Cobi

Baseline



Following 2 months of Tx



# Larotrectinib in TRK Fusion-Positive CNS Tumors

