

Multi-institutional randomized phase 3 trial comparing cancer stem cell-targeted versus physician-choice treatments in patients with recurrent high-grade gliomas (NCT03632135).

Tulika Ranjan, Soma Sengupta, Michael J. Glantz, Christine Lu-Emerson, Richard M. Green, Candace M. Howard, Alexander Yu, Ricky Chen, Rekha T. Chaudhary, Dawit Aregawi, Jon Glass, Aaron Gerald Mammoser, Hugh Moulding, Steven Jubelirer, Jason Schroeder, Mark Daniel Anderson, Seth T. Lirette, Anthony Alberico, Jagan Valluri, Pier Paolo Claudio; Department of Neuro-Oncology, Cancer Center Southern Florida, & Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, FL; University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH; Penn State Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA; Maine Medical Partners Neurology & Tufts University School of Medicine, Scarborough, ME; Kaiser Foundation Hospital, Los Angeles, CA; University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS; Allegheny Health Network, Pittsburgh, PA; Department of Neurosurgery, Providence Brain & Spine Institute, Providence, WA; University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH; Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA; Department of Neurosurgery, LSU Health Sciences Center, New Orleans, LA; Department of Neuro-Oncology, St. Luke's University Health Network, Bethlehem, PA; West Virginia Univ- Charleston Div/ Charleston Area Medical Center, Charleston, WV; University of Toledo, Department of Neurosurgery, Toledo, OH; Univ of Mississippi Medcl Ctr, Jackson, MS; University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson, MS; Department of Neurosurgery, Marshall University, Huntington, WV; Marshall University, Department of Biology, Huntington, WV; Mississippi University, National Center for Natural Products Research, Jackson, MS

Background: Clinical outcomes in patients with recurrent high-grade glioma (HGG) remain poor. Cancer stem cells (CSCs) have been implicated in metastasis, treatment resistance and recurrence of HGGs. We have shown in several clinical studies that anti-CSC-directed therapy selected by ChemOD assay provides benefits in many cancer types; however, this is the first report of a randomized clinical trial evaluating whether CSC-targeted cytotoxic agents selected by ChemOD assay-guided therapy improves survival in patients with recurrent HGG. **Methods:** In this parallel-group, randomized, phase-3 clinical trial, patients at 13 clinical sites in the USA with grade-III/IV recurrent glioma (2016 WHO guidelines) were randomized 1:1 to either ChemOD assay-guided therapy or physician-choice therapy, and then treated and followed until unacceptable toxic effects, hospice, or death. The primary endpoint was overall survival (OS). **Results:** Combined median follow-up was 9 months. Median OS (mOS) was 12.5 months (95% CI, 10.2-14.7) in the ChemOD assay-guided group vs 9 months (95% CI, 4.2-13.8) in the physician-choice group (log-rank $P = .010$). Risk of death was significantly lower in the ChemOD assay group (HR = 0.44; 95% CI, 0.24-0.81; $P = .008$). Median progression free survival (PFS) was 10.1 vs 3.5 months (95% CI, 4.8-15.4 vs 1.9-5.1) (HR, 0.25; 95% CI, 0.14-0.44; $P < .001$). **Conclusions:** Primary endpoint was met in this randomized clinical trial. The mOS was 3.5 months longer in the ChemOD assay-guided group vs the physician-choice group. Clinical trial information: NCT03632135. Research Sponsor: Cordgenics, LLC.