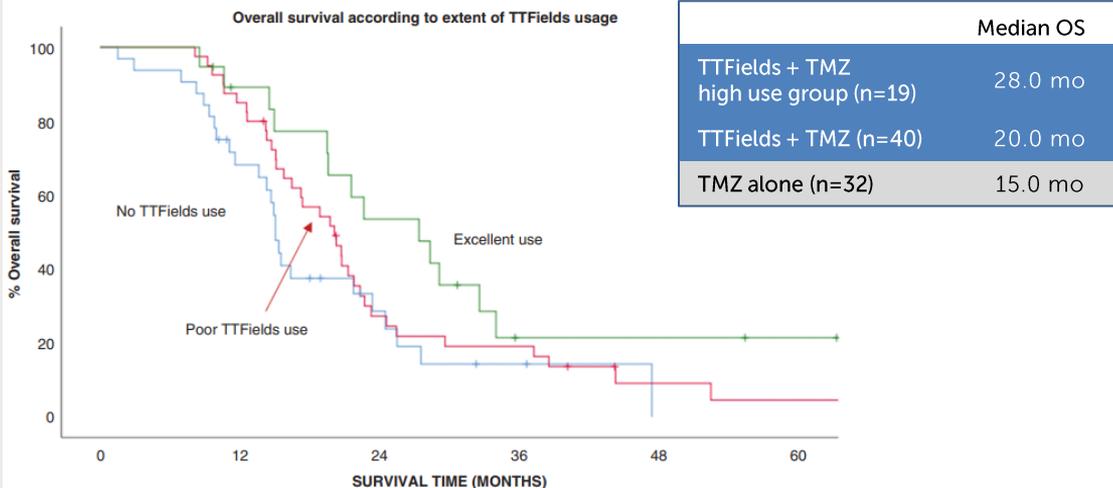




real-world and
routine clinical care
study evidence

real-world evidence showed ndGBM median overall survival extension by over 12 months in the high use TTFields group

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Neuro-Oncology Advances

415.1-8.1021 | https://doi.org/10.1093/advances/nwac001 | Advance Access date 19 September 2022

Determinants of tumor treating field usage in patients with primary glioblastoma: A single institutional experience

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Abstract

Background. Determinants of tumor treating fields (TTFields) usage in patients receiving combined modality therapy for primary IDH wild-type glioblastoma are currently unknown.

Methods. Ninety-one patients underwent maximal debulking surgical resection, completed external beam radiotherapy with concurrent temozolomide (TMZ), and initiated adjuvant TMZ with or without TTFields. We performed a retrospective analysis of patient, tumor, and treatment-related factors that affected TTFields usage.

Results. We identified three TTFields usage subgroups: 32 patients that declined TTFields, 40 patients that started, but had monthly compliance of less than 70% or used it for less than 2 months, and 19 patients who used TTFields for 2 or more months and maintained average monthly compliance greater than 75%. With 26.5 months median follow-up for surviving patients, the 1- and 3-year actuarial overall survival for all patients was 80% and 58%, respectively. On multivariate analysis TTFields use (P = .03), extent of surgical resection (P = 0.02), and MGMT methylation status (P = .01) were significantly associated with overall survival. TTFields usage was explored as a continuous variable and higher average usage was associated with longer overall survival (P = .03). There was no relationship between patient, tumor, or treatment-related factors and a patient's decision to use TTFields.

Conclusions. No subgroup of patients was more or less likely to initiate TTFields therapy and no subgroup was more or less likely to use TTFields as prescribed. The degree of TTFields compliance may be associated with improved survival independent of other factors.

Key Point

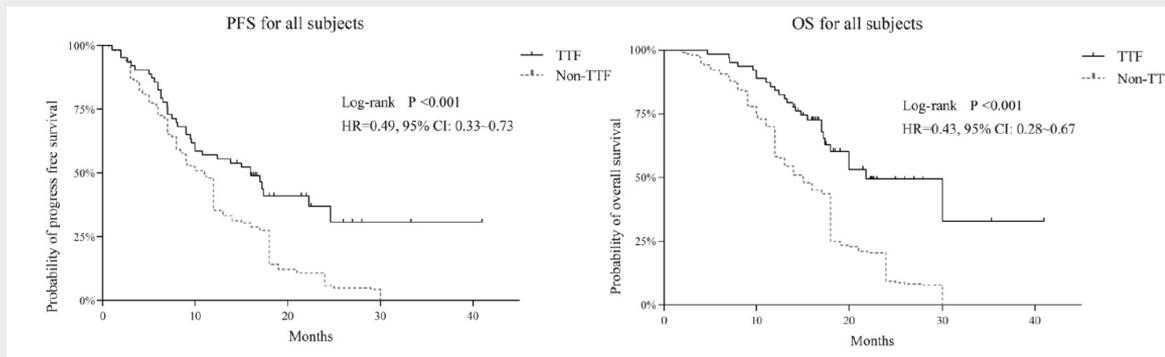
It is reasonable to offer all patients with primary glioblastoma TTFields therapy as we could not identify a group that was more or less likely to discontinue therapy or unable to tolerate therapy. Patients benefit from TTFields regardless of tumor or patient characteristics.

Glioblastoma is the most common and aggressive primary malignant brain tumor diagnosed in adults and has a poor prognosis, with only 15–20% of patients being alive 5 years following diagnosis. Even with the best standard of care, consisting of maximal safe surgical resection, radiation therapy, and temozolomide (TMZ) chemotherapy, median overall survival has historically been only 14.6 months.^{1,2} Tumor treating fields (TTFields) represent a novel therapy in the treatment of glioblastoma. TTFields deliver low-intensity, intermediate-frequency (200 kHz) alternating electric fields

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real-world evidence validates EF-14 with statistically significant improvement in PFS and OS in Chinese patients with ndGBM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



	Median OS	Median PFS
TTFields + TMZ (n=63)	21.8 mo	16.0 mo
TMZ alone (n=204)	15.0 mo	11.0 mo

Journal of Clinical Medicine MDPI

Article
Tumor Treating Fields Combine with Temozolomide for Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma: A Retrospective Analysis of Chinese Patients in a Single Center

Chunlai Chen ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Han Yu ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Kun Song ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Yu Zhang ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Jianyan Zhang ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Yang Wang ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Xiaofang Sheng ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}, Lingling Chen ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100} and Zhiyong Qiu ^{1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23,24,25,26,27,28,29,30,31,32,33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,41,42,43,44,45,46,47,48,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,59,60,61,62,63,64,65,66,67,68,69,70,71,72,73,74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87,88,89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100}

Abstract: Introduction: TTFields plus temozolomide (TTFields/TMZ) extended survival versus TMZ alone in newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM) patients in the EF-14 trial. We have reported a retrospective analysis of newly diagnosed Chinese GBM patients who received TTFields/TMZ treatment and TMZ treatment from August 2019 to May 2023 in Fudan Hospital in Shanghai. Methods: Overall survival (OS) and progression-free survival (PFS) were coarsely constructed using the Kaplan-Meier method. A Cox proportional hazards regression model, propensity score matched data, and inverse probability of treatment weighting (IPTW) based on propensity score were used to assess the effect of TTFields and account for confounding factors. Results: In the preliminary analysis, the median PFS in TTFields/TMZ group was 16 months (95% CI: 14.34–17.66) versus 11 months (95% CI: 9–12) in TMZ group ($p < 0.05$). Median overall survival was 21.8 months (95% CI: 17.4–NA) with TTFields/TMZ versus 15 months (95% CI: 11.83–19.15) with TMZ alone. The multivariate analysis identified surgery type, SEEP scheme, EBH status, and TTFields use as notable prognostic factors. After PSM adjustment, the results among the groups were similar, except that the median time to MGMT promoter methylation high in the TMZ group (22.12 months, $p < 0.001$). Upon IPTW survival analysis, TTFields was associated with a significantly lower risk of death (HR = 0.39 in OS, 95% CI: 0.28–0.51) and progression (HR = 0.30, 95% CI: 0.14–0.67) compared with TMZ group. Conclusion: In the final analysis of our single-center Chinese patients with glioblastoma, adding TTFields to temozolomide chemotherapy resulted in statistically significant improvement in PFS and OS.

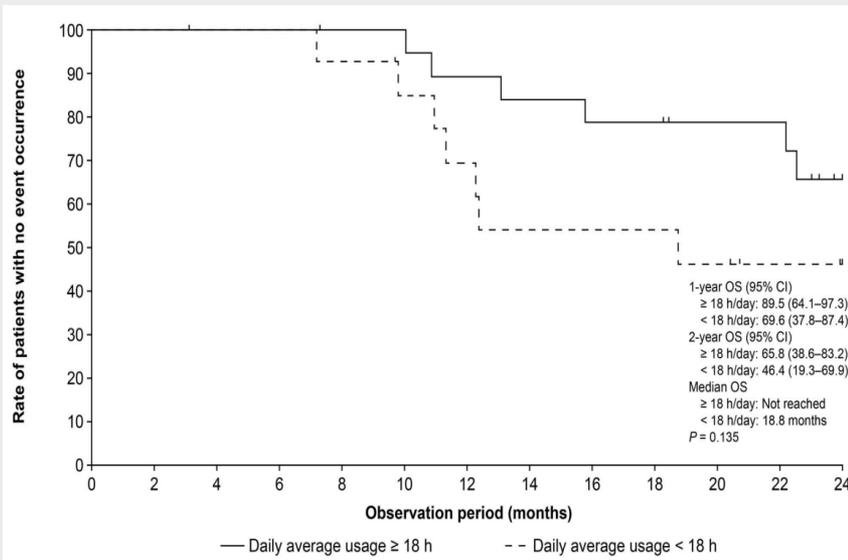
Keywords: glioblastoma; tumor treating fields; chemotherapy; retrospective cohort

1. Introduction
 Adult glioblastoma is one of the most fatal and challenging diseases and is associated with repeated recurrence and inferior prognosis [1–3]. Multimodal therapy of glioblastoma includes surgery, radiotherapy, systemic chemotherapy, and target therapy, which have been proven to result in limited improvement [4]. Most clinical trials revealed that the overall survival was around 15 months [5–7], and 5-year survival rate was only 5.8% [8–10].

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post-approval study supports safety and efficacy profile of TTFields therapy in ndGBM Japanese patients, validating EF-14 improved survival rates

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



	1-year survival	2-year survival
TMZ alone ¹	65%	31%
TTFields + TMZ (n=14)	77.9%	53.6%
TTFields + TMZ high use group (n=21)	89.5%	65.8%

JJCO *Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology* 2023, 14
 https://doi.org/10.1093/jjco/tyad001
 Original Article

Original Article

Safety and efficacy of tumour-treating fields (TTFields) therapy for newly diagnosed glioblastoma in Japanese patients using the Novo-TTF System: a prospective post-approval study

Ryo Nishikawa^{1,2}, Fumiyuki Yamasaki^{3,4}, Yoshiki Arakawa^{5,6}, Yoshihiro Muraguchi⁷, Yoshitaka Naito^{8,9}, Shota Tanaka¹⁰, Shigeru Yamaguchi⁷, Akitsuke Mukasa¹¹ and Masayuki Kanomori¹²

¹Department of Neuro-Oncology/Neurosurgery, Satama Medical University International Medical Center, Satama, Japan; ²Department of Neurosurgery, Hiroshima University Hospital, Hiroshima, Japan; ³Department of Neurosurgery, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto, Japan; ⁴Department of Neurosurgery, Tokyo Women's Medical University Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ⁵Department of Neurosurgery and Neuro-Oncology, National Cancer Center Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ⁶Department of Neurosurgery, The University of Tokyo Hospital, Tokyo, Japan; ⁷Department of Neurosurgery, Hokkaido University Hospital, Sapporo, Japan; ⁸Department of Neurosurgery, Kanamori University Hospital, Kanamori, Japan and ⁹Department of Neurosurgery, Shinshu University Hospital, Saito, Japan

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Received 16 July 2022; Revised 17 November 2022; Editorial Decision 20 December 2022; Accepted 2 January 2023

Abstract
Background: Tumour-treating fields therapy is a locoregional, anti-cancer treatment. Efficacy and safety of tumour-treating fields therapy in adults with newly diagnosed glioblastoma were demonstrated in the pivotal phase 2 EF-14 study (NCT00910001). Here, we report post-approval data of tumour-treating fields therapy in Japanese patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma. **Methods:** Unselected post-marketing surveillance data from Japanese patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma treated with tumour-treating fields therapy (December 2016–June 2020) were retrospectively analysed. The primary endpoints were skin, neurological and psychiatric adverse events. The secondary endpoints were 1- and 2-year overall survival rates, and the 6-month progression-free survival. Adverse events were analysed using MedDRA v24.0. The overall survival and progression-free survival were assessed using the Kaplan–Meier survival analysis (log-rank testing). The Cox proportional hazard regression analyses were also performed. **Results:** Forty patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma were enrolled (82.5% male, median age 59 years; median baseline Karnofsky Performance Scale score 90). The most common tumour-treating fields-therapy-related adverse event was lamellar erythema (local reaction: 100% of patients). The adverse events were mostly mild to moderate in severity. Neurological disorders were observed in 2.5% patients (one patient reported dysesthesia). No psychiatric disorders were reported. The 1- and 2-year overall survival rates were 77.9% (95% CI: 65.1–88.3) and 53.6% (65.9–68.7%), respectively. The 6-month progression-free survival was 77.5% (95.1–87.6%). These survival rates are similar to those reported in the EF-14 study.

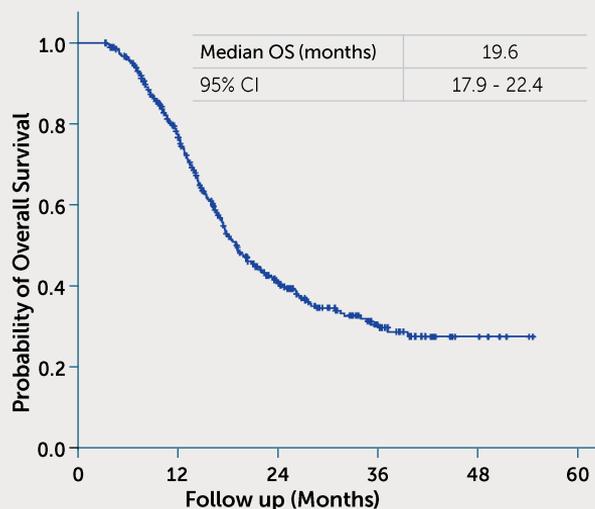
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TIGER study of routine clinical care in German ndGBM patients corroborates overall survival and safety outcomes from EF-14

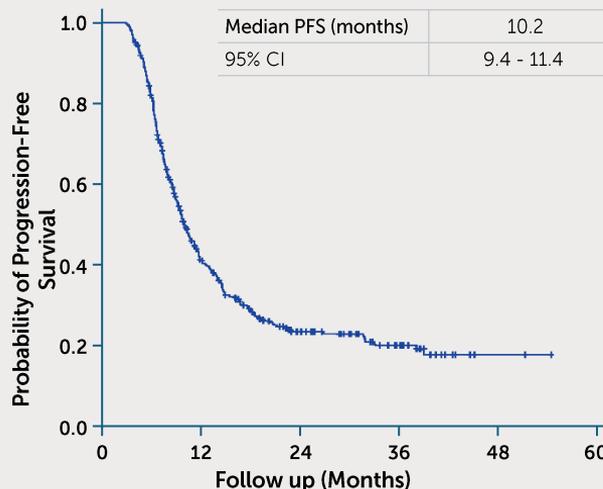
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Overall Survival



Progression-Free Survival



Tumor Treating Fields therapy in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma: Long-term survival results from TTFields in Germany in routine clinical care (TIGER) study
 Oliver Bähr¹, Chasab Talabakh², Bastian Tielke³, Roland Goldmann⁴, Martin Glatz⁵

Background: TIGER is the first long-term study of TTFields in newly diagnosed glioblastoma patients. It compares TTFields with standard of care (SOC) to SOC alone in a randomized, controlled, phase III trial. The primary endpoint is overall survival (OS). Secondary endpoints include progression-free survival (PFS), time to treatment failure (TTF), and quality of life (QoL). The study is ongoing, and long-term results are being reported.

Methods: Patients were randomized to receive SOC plus TTFields (n=100) or SOC alone (n=100). The study was conducted in Germany. The primary endpoint is OS. Secondary endpoints include PFS, TTF, and QoL. The study is ongoing, and long-term results are being reported.

Results: The study shows that patients receiving SOC plus TTFields have significantly better OS compared to SOC alone. The median OS for the SOC plus TTFields group is 19.6 months, compared to 10.2 months for the SOC alone group. The 95% CI for the median OS is 17.9-22.4 months for the SOC plus TTFields group and 9.4-11.4 months for the SOC alone group.

Conclusions: TIGER is the largest prospective study to date on routine clinical practice in ndGBM. TIGER confirms TTFields therapy as a safe and effective treatment for ndGBM. Patients with TTFields therapy demonstrate promising long-term survival outcomes in patients with ndGBM.

review article identifies TTFields therapy as one of few factors driving increased overall survival in GBM patients since the 2005 Stupp-protocol

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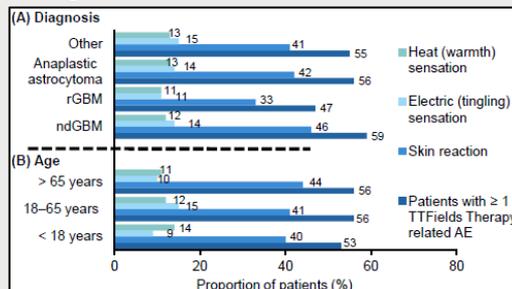
Neff et al.

Characteristic	N	HR ¹	95% CI ¹	p-value
Age (years)	19,414	1.02	1.02, 1.03	<0.001
Sex				
Female	8,046	—	—	reference
Male	11,368	1.10	1.07, 1.14	<0.001
Elkhauser Comorbidity Score	19,414	1.01	1.01, 1.01	<0.001
Tumor-Treating Fields (ever)				
No	16,353	—	—	reference
Yes	3,061	0.77	0.73, 0.80	<0.001
Received radiation or radiosurgery (ever)				
No	7,370	—	—	reference
Yes	12,044	0.88	0.85, 0.91	<0.001
Bevacizumab (ever)				
No	15,741	—	—	reference
Yes	3,673	0.85	0.82, 0.88	<0.001

In this commercially insured dataset, TTFields improved OS to a greater extent (HR=0.77) vs. Bevacizumab (HR=0.85) or Radiation use (HR=0.88)

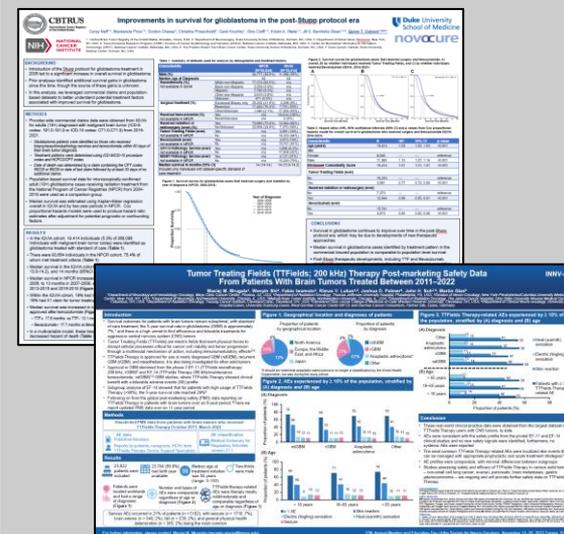
TTFields subset n=3,061 over 6 years

Mrugala et al.



AEs were consistent with the safety profile from the pivotal EF-11 and EF-14 clinical studies

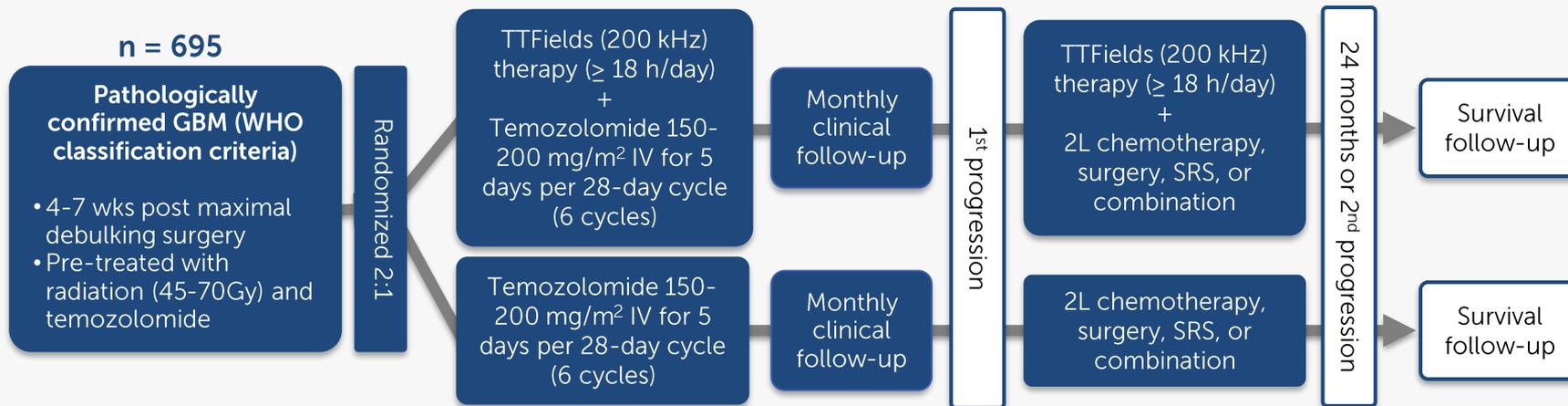
n=23,822 over 11 years





tumor treating fields clinical evidence appendix

EF-14 phase 3 pivotal trial evaluated Optune Gio + TMZ in 695 patients with ndGBM



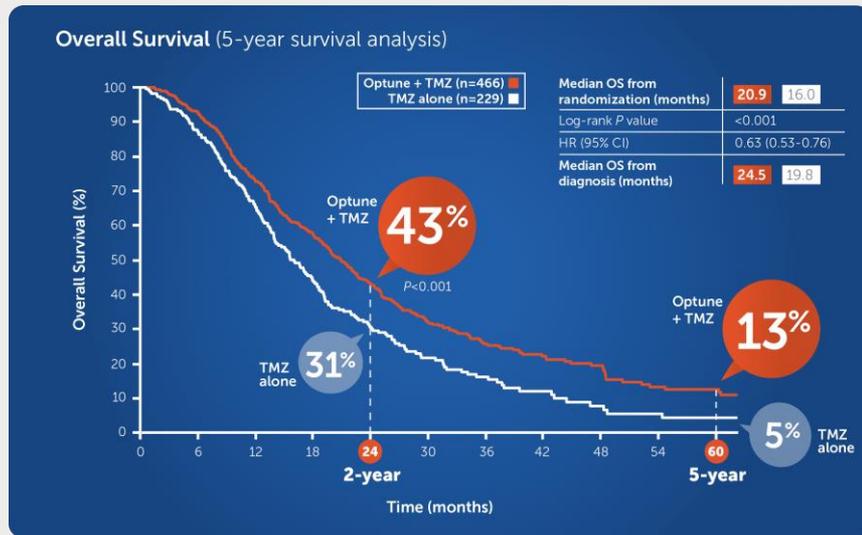
Start date: June 2009
Primary completion: December 2016
Study completion: March 2017
Study sites: 83 (global)

Primary endpoint:
 • Progression-free survival

Secondary endpoints:
 • Overall survival

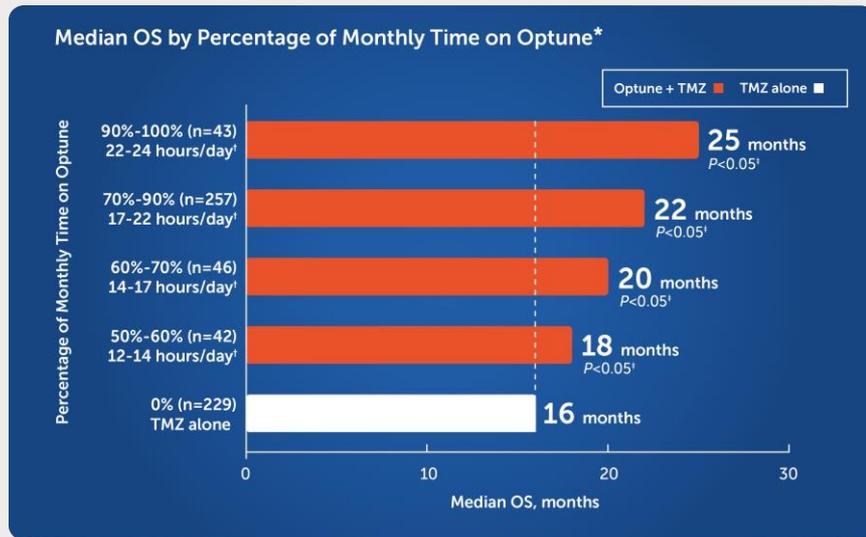
in ndGBM, Optune Gio + TMZ provided an unprecedented long-term survival benefit

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more time on Optune Gio predicted increased significant survival benefit

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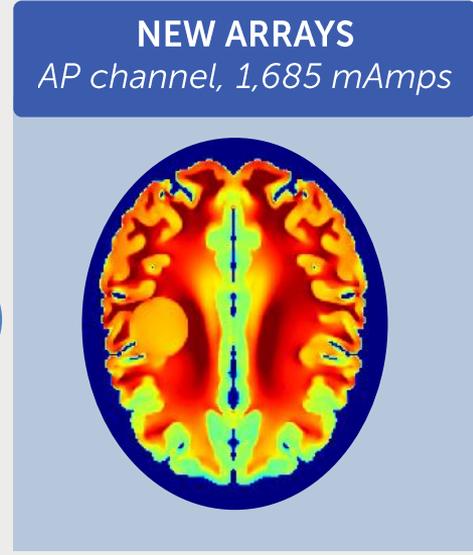
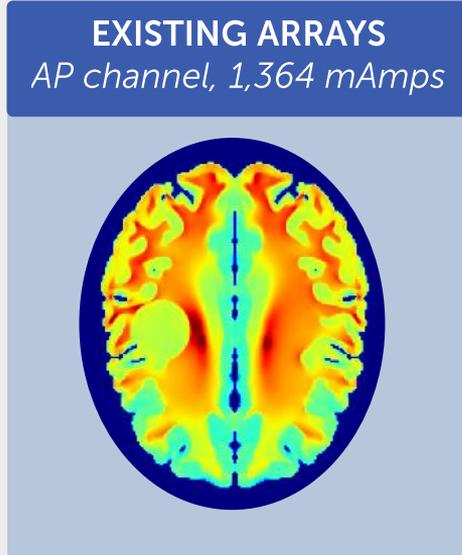
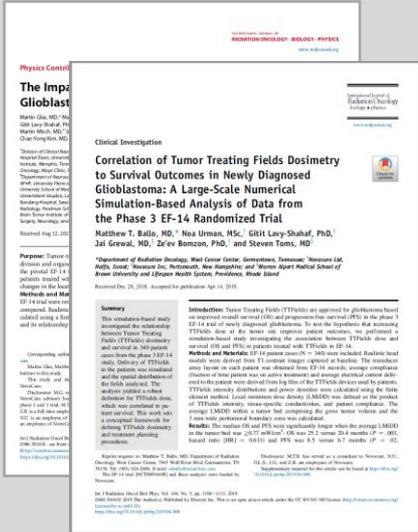
29.3%
vs. 4.5%

5-YEAR PROBABILITY OF SURVIVAL WITH 90% COMPLIANCE (n=43) VS SURVIVAL WITH TMZ ALONE



higher TTFields therapy dose can lead to increased efficacy

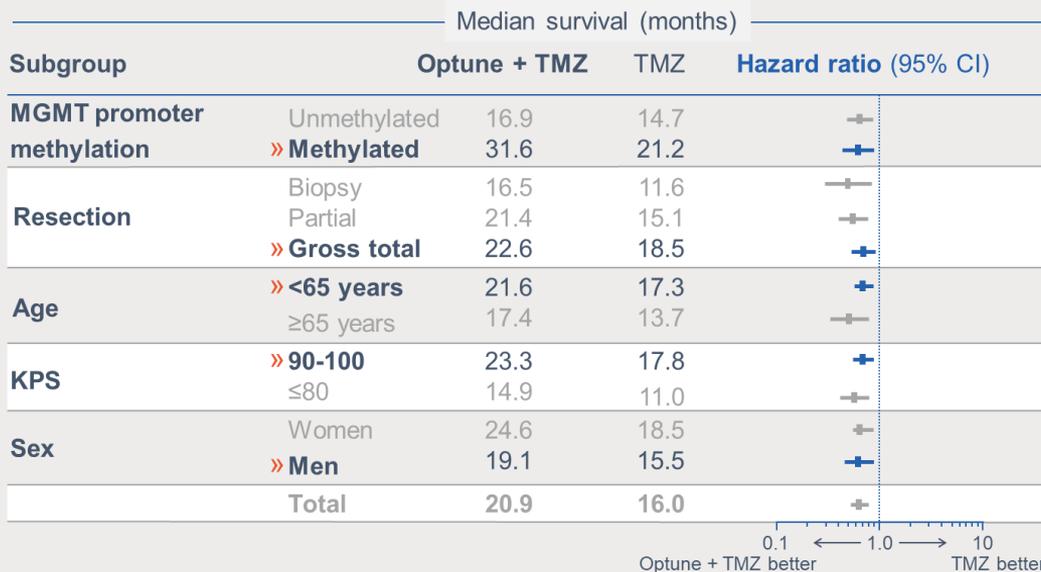
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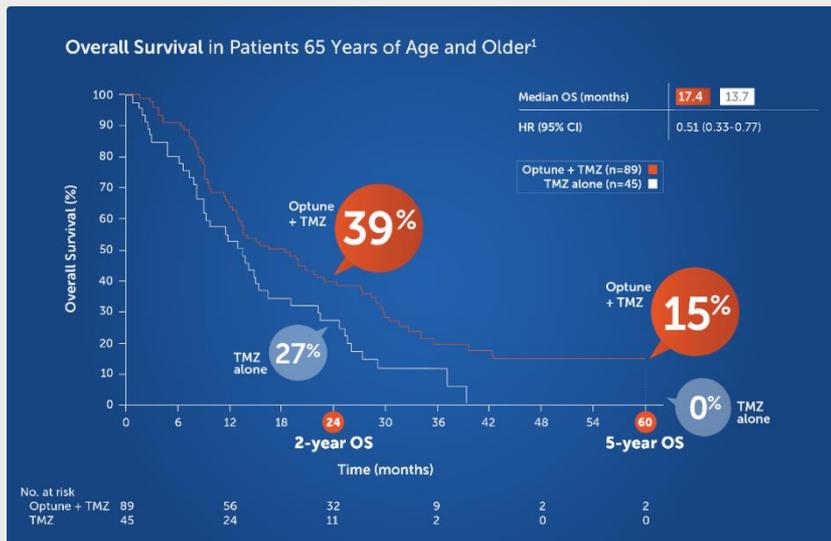
all analyzed subgroups experienced a benefit when adding Optune Gio to TMZ

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Optune Gio was associated with increased survival in patients 65 years and older

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in Oncology

CLINICAL TRIAL
PUBLISHED IN FRONTIERS IN ONCOLOGY
DOI: 10.3389/fonc.2022.902929

Efficacy and Safety of Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) in Elderly Patients with Newly Diagnosed Glioblastoma: Subgroup Analysis of the Phase 3 EF-14 Clinical Trial

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KEYWORDS: glioblastoma, elderly patients, tumor treating fields, safety, efficacy, quality of life

BACKGROUND: Understudied elderly patients comprise a large segment of high-risk patients with glioblastoma (GBM) that are challenging to treat. Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) is a locoregional, non-invasive, antineoplastic therapy delivering low-intensity, intermediate-frequency, alternating electric fields to the tumor. In the phase 3 EF-14 clinical trial, TTFields (200 kHz) improved median progression-free survival (PFS) and median overall survival (OS) in patients with newly diagnosed GBM (nGBM) when added concomitantly to maintenance temozolomide (TMZ). This EF-14 subgroup analysis evaluated the safety and efficacy of TTFields in elderly patients.

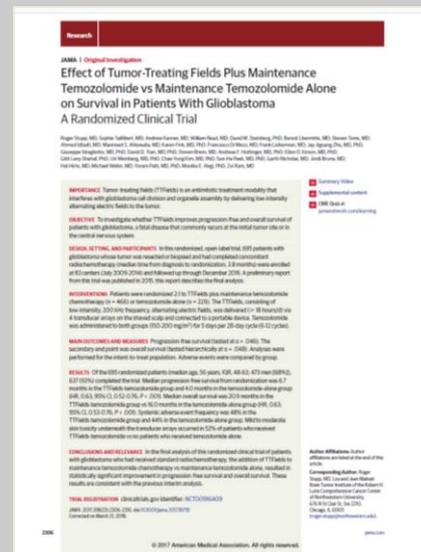
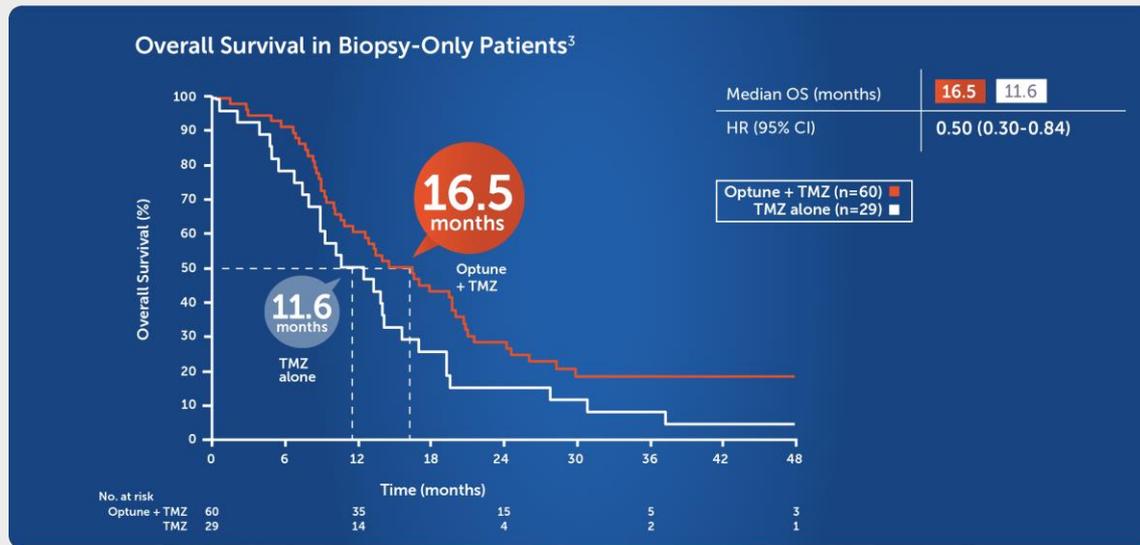
METHODS: All 134 patients who are ≥65 years of age were included (TTFields/TMZ combination, n=68; TMZ monotherapy, n=66). All data of safety and efficacy were analyzed using Kaplan-Meier methodology (α=0.05). Health-related quality-of-life (HRQL) was assessed using the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) quality-of-life questionnaire (QLQ-C30) supplemented with the brain tumor module (QLQ-BR20). Adverse events (AEs) were evaluated using Common Terminology Criteria for AEs (CTCAE) v4.0.

RESULTS: The PFS was 8.5 months in patients randomized to the treatment group with TTFields/TMZ combination versus 3.8 months in patients treated with TMZ monotherapy (HR, 0.47; 95% CI, 0.30-0.74; P=0.0028). The OS was 17.4 months in patients treated with TTFields/TMZ combination versus 13.7 months in patients treated with TMZ monotherapy (HR, 0.51; 95% CI, 0.33-0.77; P=0.0004). Annual survival rates with TTFields/TMZ versus TMZ monotherapy were 59% (95% CI, 39-79%) versus 27% (95% CI, 15-41%; P=0.072) at 2 years, 19% (95% CI, 11-29%) versus 11% (95% CI, 4-23%; P=0.130) at 3 years, and 10% (95% CI, 7-25%) versus 0% at 5 years, respectively. There were no significant differences between groups in the pre-specified

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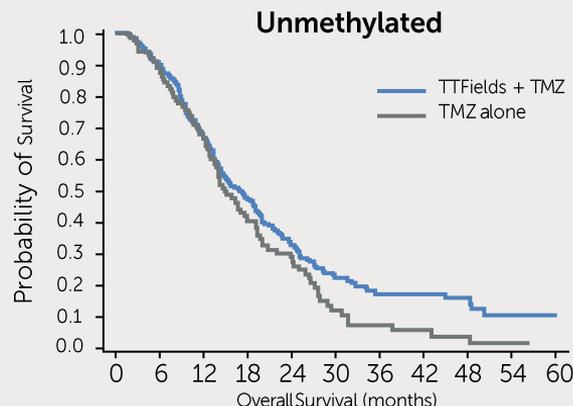
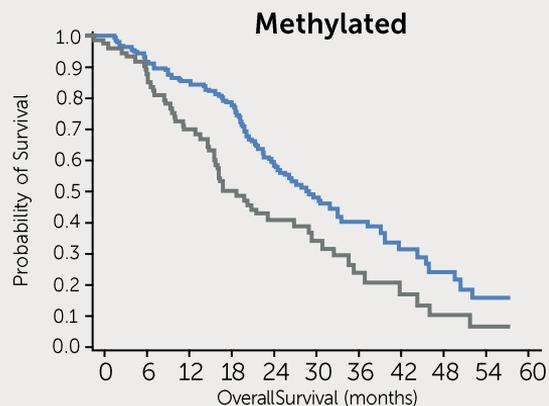
biopsy-only patients using Optune Gio had longer median overall survival

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



survival benefit occurred independently of MGMT methylation status

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



	TTFields + TMZ (n = 137)	TMZ Alone (n = 77)
Median OS, months	31.6	21.2
Range, months	21.1–48.5	12.3–37.9
HR (95% CI) ¹	0.62 (0.43–0.88)	

	TTFields + TMZ (n = 209)	TMZ Alone (n = 95)
Median OS, months	16.9	14.7
Range, months	9.7–28.2	9.8–24.8
HR (95% CI) ¹	0.66 (0.49–0.85)	



Optune Gio has a strong safety profile with no significant increase in serious AEs compared with TMZ alone

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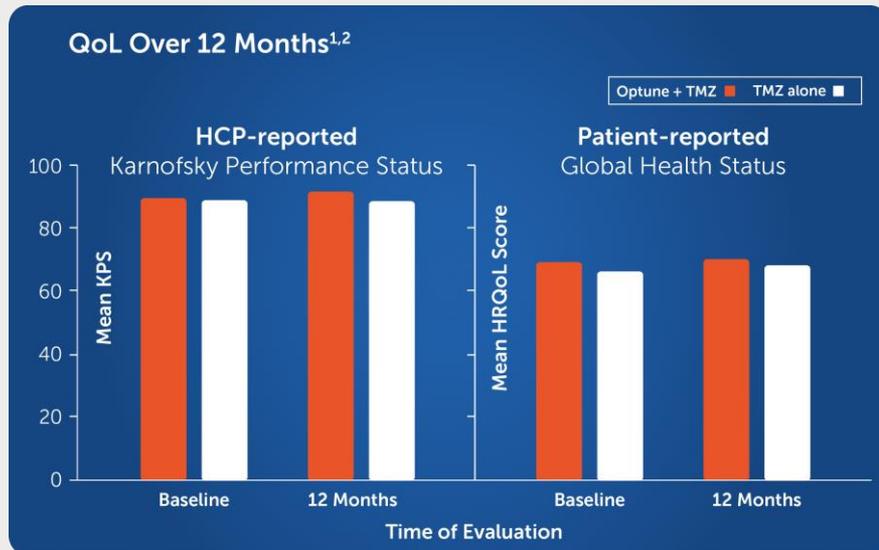


Incidence of grade 3/4 AEs occurring in ≥5% of patients during 5 years of follow-up	Optune + TMZ (n=456) %	TMZ alone (n=216) %
≥1 AE	48	44
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	13	11
Thrombocytopenia	9	5
Gastrointestinal disorders	5	4
Asthenia, fatigue, and gait disturbance	9	6
Infections	7	5
Injury, poisoning, and procedural complications (falls and medical device site reaction)	5	3
Metabolism and nutrition disorders (anorexia, dehydration, and hyperglycemia)	4	5
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	5	4
Nervous system disorders	24	20
Seizures	6	6
Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders (pulmonary embolism, dyspnea, and aspiration pneumonia)	5	5



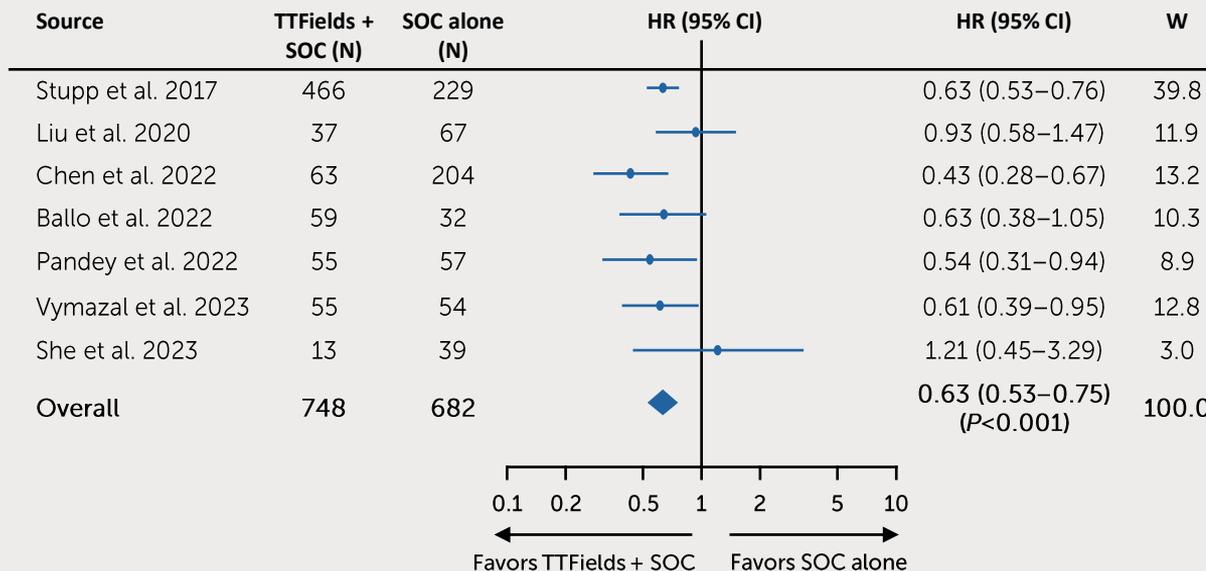
HCPs and patients reported stable quality of life up to 1 year of Optune Gio use

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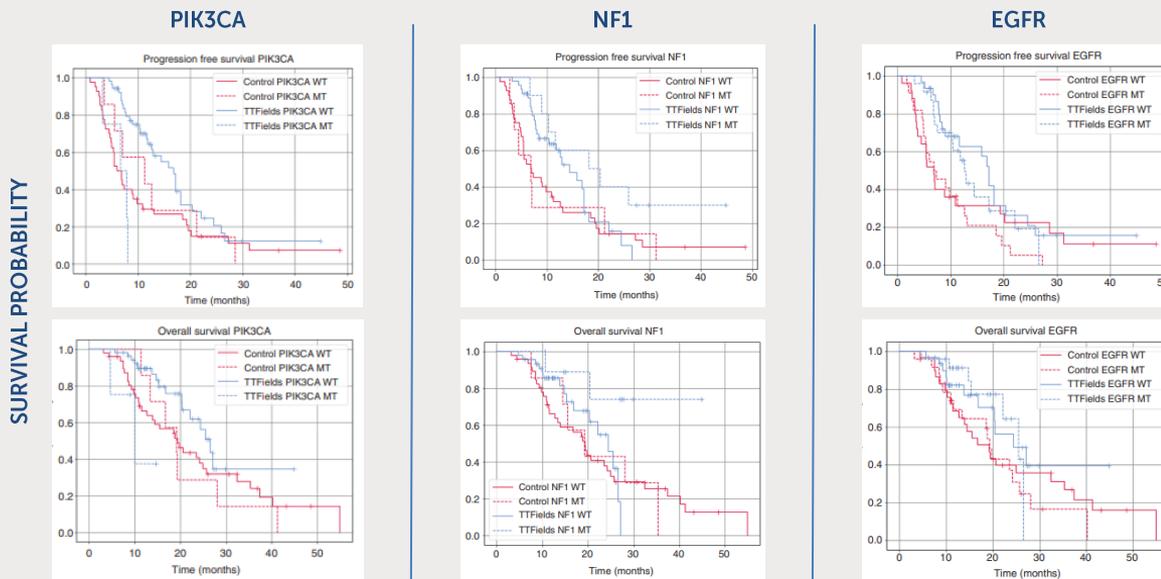
meta-analysis in ndGBM showed significant improvement in OS, and usage $\geq 75\%$ consistently prolonged survival, corroborating pivotal trial data

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



TTFields therapy provide consistent activity for patients with GBM irrespective of molecular alterations

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Neuro-Oncology Advances

4711-1-18, 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1093/advances/nnaa028> | Advance Access first 17 June 2021

Molecular alterations associated with improved outcome in patients with glioblastoma treated with Tumor-Treating Fields

Manoj Pandey, Joanne Xia, Sandeep Mittal, Ji Zeng, Michelle Saul, Santosh Kesari, Amir Azadi, Herbert Newton, Karina Deniz, Katherine Ladner, Ashley Sumral, W. Michael Korn, and Emil Lou*

West Cancer Center and Research Institute, Memphis, Tennessee, USA (M.P.); Dana Life Sciences, Phoenix, Arizona, USA (J.X.); J.Z., M.S., W.M.K.; Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, Virginia, USA (S.M.); Pacific Neuroscience Institute, Siteman Cancer Institute, Santa Monica, California, USA (S.K.); Astoria Oncology, Bismarck, Phoenix, Arizona, USA (K.D.); Neuro-Oncology Center, Alpert Health Center, Orlando, Florida, USA (R.K.); Division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation, Masonic Cancer Center, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA (M.O.); E.L.; E.L.; Cancer Center Institute, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA (A.S.)

*Corresponding Author: Emil Lou, MD, PhD, FAHA, Associate Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology, Oncology and Transplantation, University of Minnesota, West Hall Code 461, 420 Delaware Street SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455, USA (emil.lou@umn.edu).

Abstract

Background. The genomic and overall biology landscape of glioblastoma (GB) has become clearer over the past 2 decades, as predictive and prognostic biomarkers of both de novo and transformed forms of GB have been identified. The oral chemotherapeutic agent temozolomide (TMZ) has been integral to standard-of-care treatment for nearly 2 decades. More recently, the use of non-pharmacologic interventions, such as application of alternating electric fields, called Tumor-Treating Fields (TTFields), has emerged as a complementary treatment option that increases overall survival (OS) in patients with newly diagnosed GB. The genomic factors associated with improved or lack of response to TTFields are unknown.

Methods. We performed comprehensive genomic analysis of GB tumors resected from 58 patients who went on to receive treatment using TTFields, and compared results to 57 patients who received standard treatment without TTFields.

Results. We found that molecular driver alterations in NF1, and wild-type PIK3CA and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), were associated with increased benefit from TTFields as measured by progression-free survival (PFS) and OS. There were no differences between studies stratified by PFS status. Mutations in NF1, PIK3CA, and EGFR status were combined as a Molecular Survival Score, the combination of the 3 factors significantly correlated with improved OS and PFS in TTFields treated patients compared to patients not treated with TTFields.

Conclusions. These results shed light on potential driver and passenger mutations in GB that can be validated as predictive biomarkers of response to TTFields treatment, and provide an objective and testable genomic-based approach to assessing response.

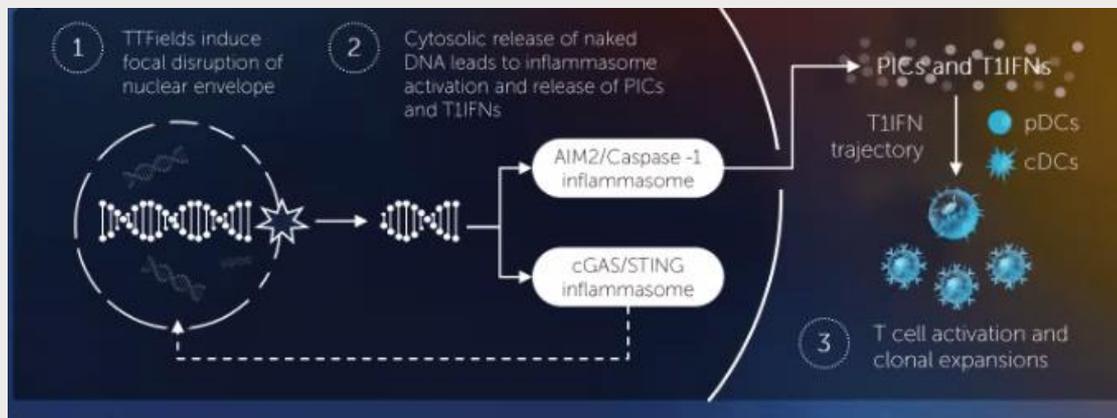
Key Points

- Alterations in NF1 were associated with increased benefit from TTFields.
- Wild type PIK3CA and EGFR also aligned with increased benefit from this approach.
- These results provide insight into molecular differences that can be validated to tailor treatment.

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TTFields therapy activates inflammasomes to induce adjuvant immunity in GBM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



The Journal of Investigation RESEARCH ARTICLE

Tumor Treating Fields dually activate STING and AIM2 inflammasomes to induce adjuvant immunity in glioblastoma

Dongling Chen,¹ Song Li,¹ Teron E. Hutchinson,¹ Anca Alexandra Capeteanu,¹ Matthew Sebastian,¹ Dan Jin,¹ Tianyi Liu,¹ Ashley Ghazizadeh,¹ Marjany Rahmani,¹ and David G. Tann¹

¹Novocure Inc, 20000 University Ave, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92128, USA

Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields), an approved therapy for glioblastoma (GBM) and malignant mesothelioma, employ noninvasive application of low-intensity, intermediate-frequency, alternating electric fields to disrupt the mitotic spindle, leading to chromosome missegregation and apoptosis. Emerging evidence suggests that TTFields may also induce inflammation. However, the mechanism underlying this property and whether it can be harnessed therapeutically are unclear. Here, we report that TTFields induced focal disruption of the nuclear envelope, leading to cytosolic release of long-micronucleated (LMN) DNA. This DNA was internalized and activated 2 major DNA sensors – cyclic GMP-AMP synthase (cGAS) and AIM2 – and induced production of proinflammatory cytokines, type 1 interferons (T1IFNs), and T1IFN response genes. In unpermeabilized murine GBM models, TTFields-treated GBM cells induced antitumor memory immunity and a cure rate of 47% in 60% of a STING- and AIM2-dependent manner. Using single-cell and bulk RNA sequencing of peripheral blood mononuclear cells, we detected robust post-TTFields activation of adaptive immunity in patients with GBM via a T1IFN-based trajectory and identified a gene panel signature of TTFields effects on T cell activation and clonal expansion. Collectively, these studies defined a therapeutic strategy using TTFields as cancer immunotherapy in GBM and potentially other solid tumors.

Introduction

Glioblastoma (GBM) is the most common and lethal brain cancer in adults and one of the most immunogenic tumors (1). Recent work has revealed striking immune dysregulation and functional impairment in patients with GBM, including exhausted T lymphocyte and energy and dysfunctional cytokine profiles among others, GBM tumors also possess a profoundly immunosuppressed or cold tumor microenvironment (TME), characterized by scant tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) and an abundance of inhibitory cells, including myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) and regulatory T cells (Tregs). The cold GBM TME suppresses high levels of immune checkpoint protein (ICP), and is further complicated by tumor cell–derived genetic heterogeneity (2). In addition, the blood brain barrier (BBB) prevents exposure of tumor-associated

antigens to immune cells and vice versa, severely hindering immunotherapeutic efforts (3). Overcoming these barriers presents a long-standing, multifaceted, immune-mediated tumor control. To “heat up” the cold GBM TME, recent efforts have focused on tumor cell–immune pathway inhibition, such as immune checkpoint inhibitor (ICI)-based (4), ICPI-based (5), and adoptive cell transfer (ACT)-based (6) immunotherapies to recruit tumor-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs) (4). However, it remains a challenge to leverage a direct, active role of immunomodulators against the tumor-specific structure during metastasis and the contracting time during metastasis, migration, and cytokinesis of the cell cycle. Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) cause chromosome missegregation and karyotype and mitotic catastrophe, respectively, leading to mitotic catastrophe and p53-dependent and independent apoptosis (7). TTFields have also been demonstrated to target the DNA damage repair and tumor cancer 1-mediated (BRCC1-mediated) homologous recombination pathways by interfering with DNA fork replication (8–10) and induce endoplasmic reticulum stress during mitosis to trigger adaptive immunogenic activated protein kinase-dependent autophagy (11). However, through increased degradation of proteins light chain 1 (p19) (LC3A2, p19) in GBM (12), it is unclear whether the increased ability to immunoprotease the plasma membrane of GBM cells, allowing particles up to 20 kDa to pass

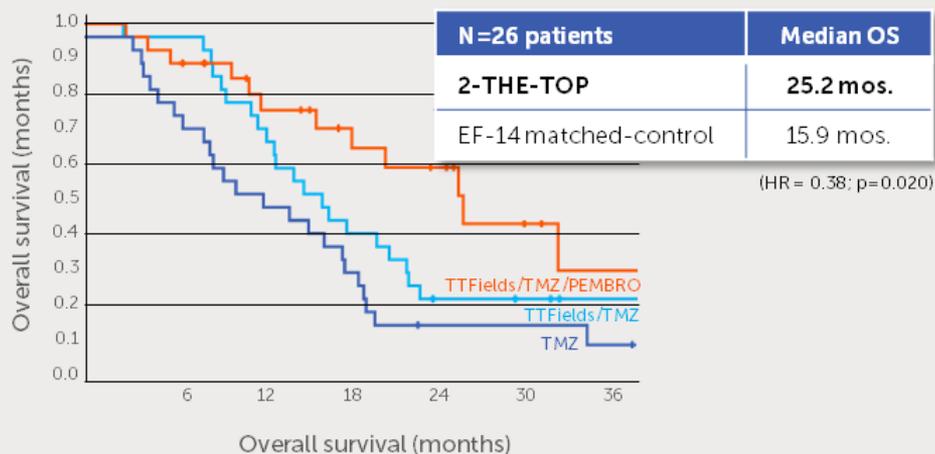
Received March 1, 2022; accepted February 16, 2022. Published April 10, 2022. DOI: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR21-0124

there is early evidence of efficacy in newly diagnosed GBM patients when TTFields therapy is added to immune checkpoint inhibitors

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



Overall Survival 2-THE-TOP single arm study vs. external controls



WFNOS 2022 Top 10 Session 2 / March 26 (Sat), 10:15-11:30

BTRT

Phase 2 study of pembrolizumab plus TTFields plus temozolomide in patients with newly diagnosed glioblastoma (2-THE-TOP)

David Tran, Ashley Ghaseddin, Dongjiang Chen, Maryam Rahman
Department of Neurosurgery, Division of Neuro-Oncology, University of Florida, United States

Background: Emerging data indicate that TTFields, the new anti-mitotic treatment for GBM, stimulate immunity via the type-1 interferon (IFN1) pathway of STING and AIM2 inflammasomes. Thus, we hypothesize that TTFields synergize with immune checkpoint inhibitors to induce anti-tumor immunity in GBM.

Methods: We conducted a phase 2 study combining pembrolizumab, TTFields and maintenance TMZ in 24 patients with newly diagnosed GBM (nGBM). To distinguish immune effects of TTFields from pembrolizumab, TTFields was started at cycle 1 of TMZ and pembrolizumab (200mg Q3 weeks) at cycle 2. The primary endpoint was PFS vs. the historical control of TTFields plus TMZ (JAMA,318,2306-2316) and immune signatures of TTFields and pembrolizumab by single-cell genomics of PBMCs. Secondary endpoints included toxicity and OS.

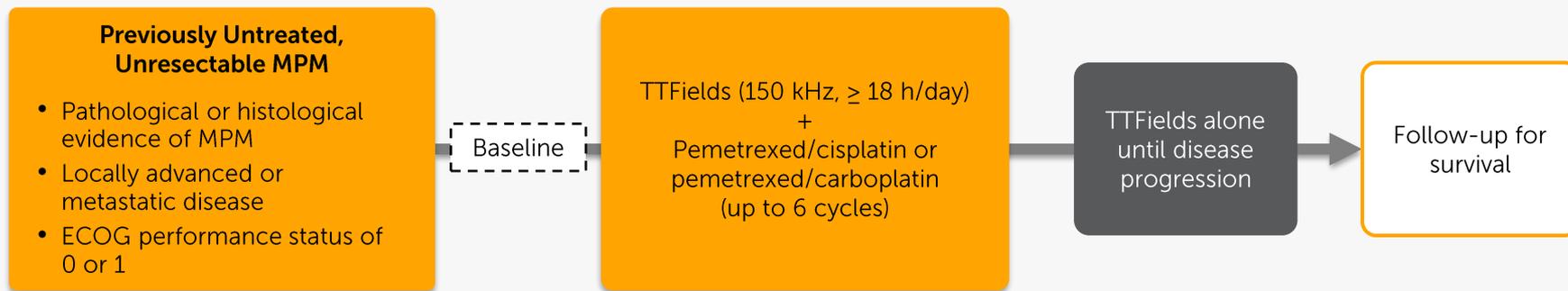
Results: As of 09/24/2022, 24 patients with a median age of 60 years were enrolled. Fourteen (58%) had biopsy only or subtotal resection. Nineteen (79%) had immunohistochemical MGMT and 3 (12%) had an IDH mutation. The median follow-up was 18 and 18.2 months for PFS and OS, respectively. Thirteen (54%) were progression free and 16 (62%) were alive. Of 22 patients with follow-up ≥12 months, the median PFS was 21.1 vs. 6.7 months in the control. Six (27%) patients with measurable tumors have achieved partial to complete objective response. We assessed OS/MSI/PFS/OS at 12 months before and after TTFields and detected robust post-TTFields T cell activation in 11 of 12 patients via the T1BP1 regulatory network which was strongly correlated with TCRab clonal expansion (Spearman coefficient $r=0.8$, $p=0.004$). Importantly, we defined a cell-based gene signature of TTFields effect on TCRab clonal expansion. The most common network adverse events were thrombocytopenia, neutropenia, and metabolic disturbances in 4 (17%), 3 (12%), and 2 (8%) patients, respectively.

Conclusion: The triple combination is well tolerated and shows early evidence of efficacy in nGBM patients. Survival and molecular data will be updated.

Keywords: TTFields immunotherapy; pembrolizumab; STING; single cell analysis

STELLAR phase 2 trial evaluated TTFields therapy + pemetrexed and cisplatin or carboplatin in MPM

N = 80



Start date: February 2015
Primary completion: April 2018
Study completion: April 2018
Study sites: 13 (Europe)

Primary endpoints:

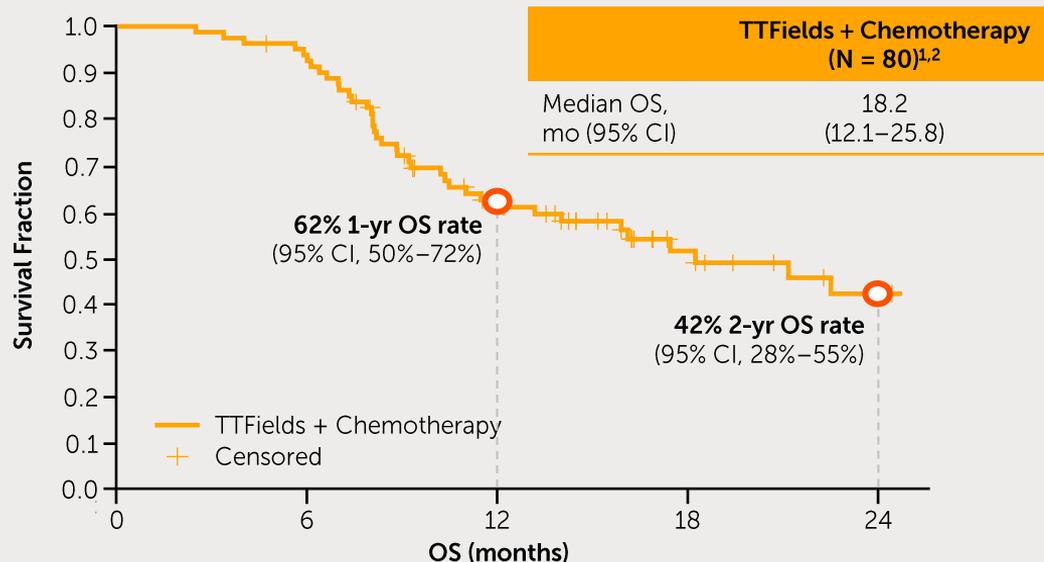
- OS

Secondary endpoints:

- PFS, ORR (modified RECIST criteria for MPM), safety

MPM patients who used Optune Lua first line achieved 18.2 months median OS

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



Adapted from Ceresoli GL et al. 2019

Articles

Tumour Treating Fields in combination with pemetrexed and cisplatin or carboplatin as first-line treatment for unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma (STELLAR): a multicentre, single-arm phase 2 trial

Summary
Background: Tumour Treating Fields (TTFields) are a regional, anticancer treatment for solid tumours, which is based on the delivery of low-intensity alternating electric fields. The aim of the STELLAR study was to test the activity of TTFields adjuvant to the therapy in combination with systemic chemotherapy for the first-line treatment of patients with unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma.

Methods: STELLAR was a prospective, single-arm, phase 2 trial done at 12 European academic and non-academic sites from 16 sites. From 17 February 2016 to 15 October 2018, 80 patients with histologically confirmed unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma, median age 69 years, had an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance score of 0–1, and at least one measurable or evaluable lesion according to modified Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumours for mesothelioma. Patients received intravenous TTFields as a component of cisplatin or carboplatin and pemetrexed chemotherapy with intravenous pemetrexed 500 mg/m² on day 1 plus intravenous platinum (either cisplatin 75 mg/m² or carboplatin area under the curve 5 mg/dL every 21 days for up to six cycles). Patients not progressing after completion of chemotherapy received TTFields as maintenance treatment until progression, patient or physician decision, or unacceptable toxic effects. The primary endpoint of the trial was overall survival. Survival analyses were done by the intention-to-treat population, and safety analyses were done in all patients who received at least 1 day of TTFields treatment. This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT02617616.

Findings: Between Feb 9, 2016 and March 21, 2017, 80 patients were enrolled in the study. Median follow-up was 17.5 months (IQR 7–46.6). Median overall survival was 18.2 months (95% CI 12.1–25.8). The most common grade 1 or worse adverse events were nausea (56/80) patients, vomiting (56/80) patients, and diarrhoea (50/80) patients (50%). Skin irritation was the only adverse event associated with TTFields and was reported as grade 1–2 in 11 (14%) patients, and as grade 3 in two (2%) patients. No treatment-related deaths were observed.

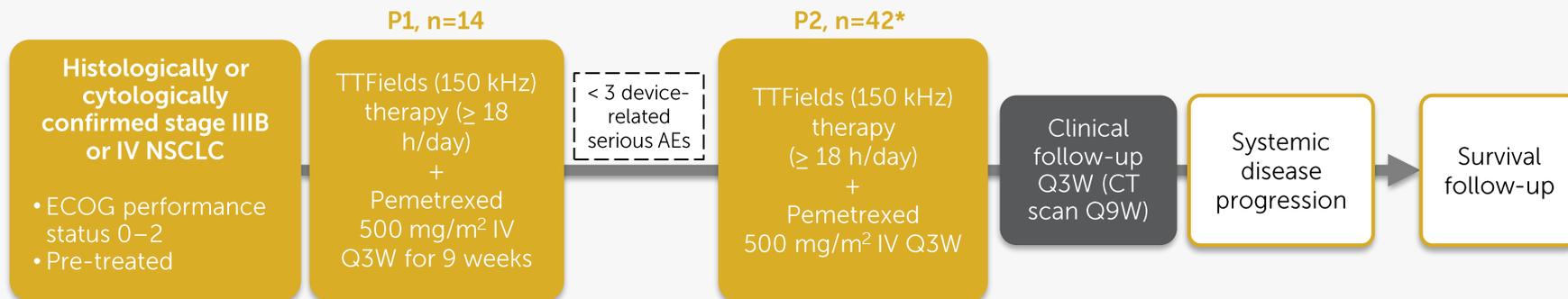
Interpretation: The trial showed encouraging overall survival results, with no increase in systemic toxicity. TTFields did not differ to the therapy in combination with pemetrexed and platinum as an extra and safe combination for the first-line treatment of unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma. Further investigations in a randomised trial is warranted.

Funding: Novacure.

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Introduction
Malignant pleural mesothelioma is a rare cancer, histologically associated with asbestos exposure. In advanced stages, the best option is palliative chemotherapy. The median overall survival is only 12 months. In Europe and other countries, approximately 5000 new cases are diagnosed annually, but it is still increasing in Europe and other countries. Because of the limited prognostic, most patients are diagnosed with a diffuse disease, unresectable in radical resection. The median survival time for patients with unresectable malignant pleural mesothelioma is around 12 months, with platinum and an anti-tubulin being the accepted standard of care since 2007.¹ Carboplatin has had similar efficacy and objective response as cisplatin, but has had a better toxicity profile and more of patients tolerated with adverse response. In addition, it has been shown that in combination with pemetrexed, cisplatin or carboplatin, we may be able to select cisplatin, including older patients.² The addition of tumour treating fields (TTFields) has been reported to increase overall survival time by more than 2 months with no increased higher toxicity of severe adverse events.³ Tumour Treating Fields (TTFields) are a non-invasive, regional, anticancer treatment for solid tumours, that is based on the delivery of low-intensity alternating

EF-15 phase 2 trial evaluated TTFields therapy + pemetrexed in NSCLC



Start date: May 2008

Primary completion: July 2011

Study completion: July 2011

Study sites: 4 (Switzerland)

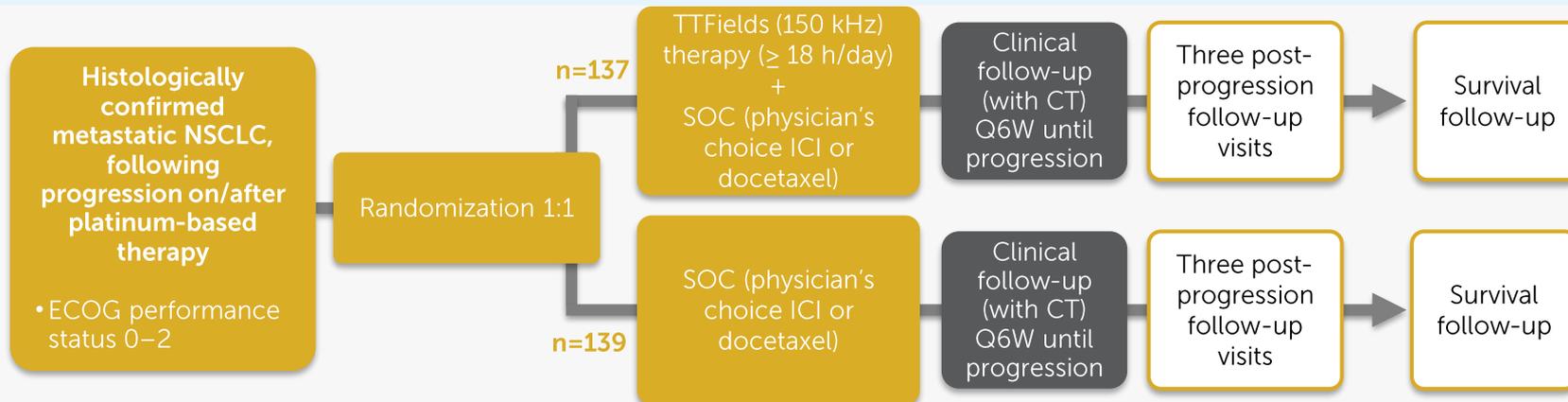
Primary endpoints:

- Device related toxicity (P1), Time to in-field progression (P2)

Secondary endpoints:

- OS, ORR, time to systemic progression, safety

LUNAR phase 3 trial evaluated TTFields therapy + SOC in metastatic NSCLC, post-platinum



Start date: December 2016

Primary completion: December 2022

Study completion: December 2022

Study sites: 124

Primary endpoints:

- OS

Secondary endpoints:

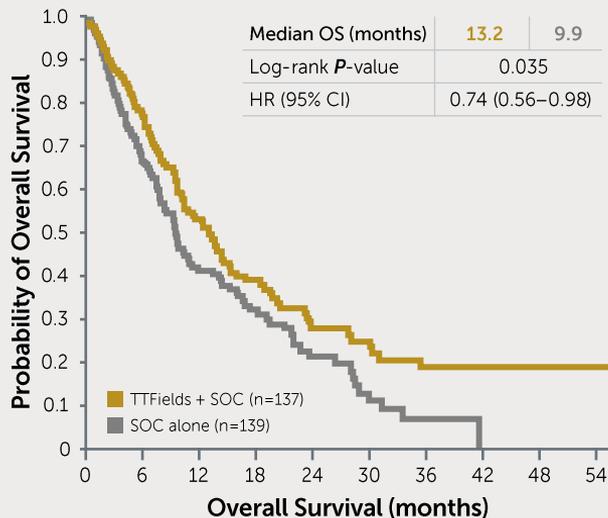
- OS (by cohort), PFS, ORR, QoL, safety

TTFields therapy together with either standard of care therapies or immune checkpoint inhibitor improved overall survival in second-line NSCLC

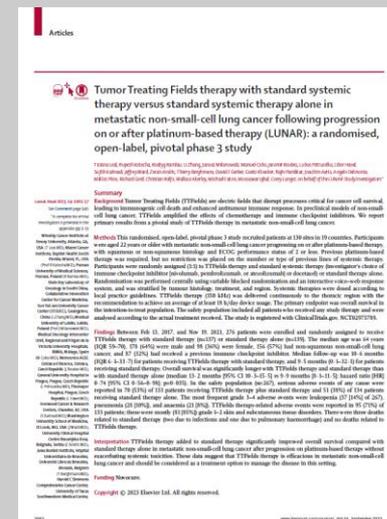
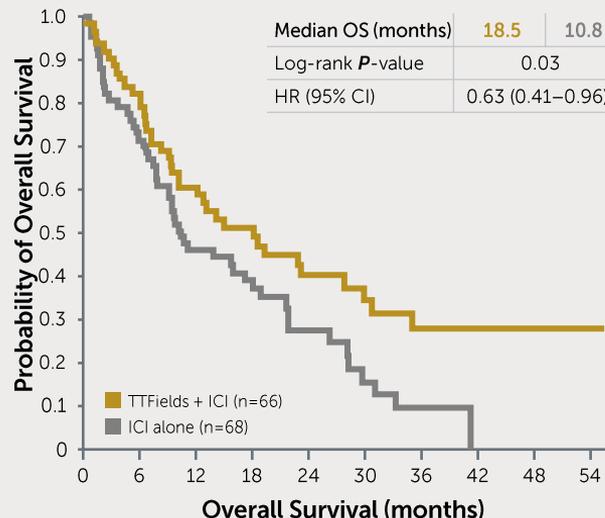
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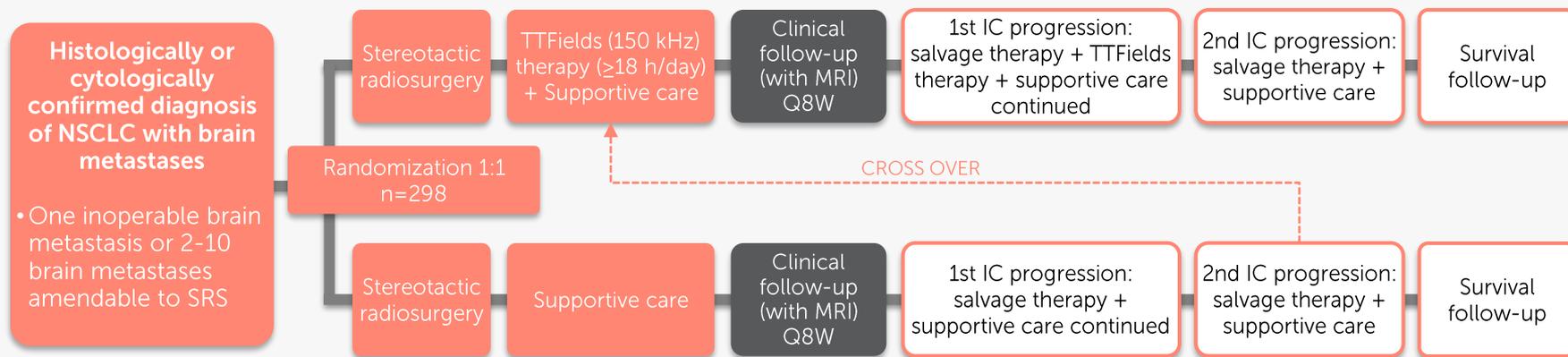
Overall survival (ITT population)



Overall survival (ICI-treated patients)



METIS phase 3 trial evaluated TTFields therapy + supportive care in NSCLC brain metastases, following SRS



Start date: October 2016
Primary completion: March 2023
Study sites: 125

Primary endpoints:

- Time to intracranial progression

Secondary endpoints:

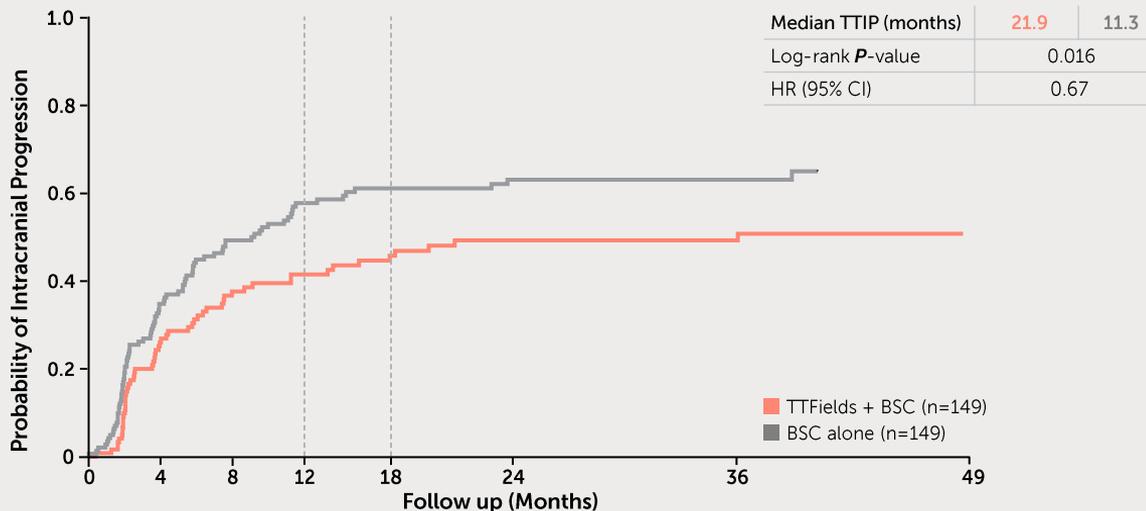
- Time to neurocognitive failure, OS, radiological response rate, time to 2nd intracranial progression, time to 1st and 2nd progression by cohort (1-4 metastases, 5-10 metastases), rate of intracranial progression at two-month intervals, time to distant progression, rate of cognitive decline, neurocognitive failure-free survival, quality of life, adverse events

TTFields therapy with supportive care following SRS improved time to intracranial progression in patients with brain metastases from NSCLC

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



Time to Intracranial Progression



CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM TUMORS

2008

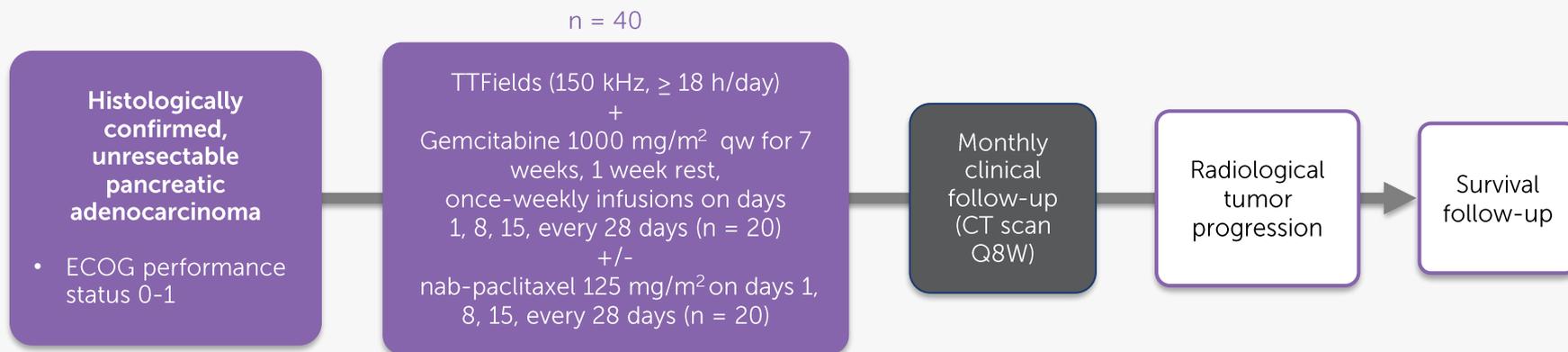
Results from METIS (EF-25), an international, multicenter phase III randomized study evaluating the efficacy and safety of tumor treating fields (TTFields) therapy in NSCLC patients with brain metastases

Mehta P, Mehta N, Smith-Horowitz S, et al. Results from METIS (EF-25), an international, multicenter phase III randomized study evaluating the efficacy and safety of tumor treating fields (TTFields) therapy in NSCLC patients with brain metastases. *JCO* 42:2008-2008(2024). doi:10.1200/JCO.2024.42.16_suppl.2008

Background: For non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) with brain metastases (BM), stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) is the current preferred therapy. Due to frequent intracranial failures, there is a high unmet need for salvage therapies. Whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT) reduces intracranial failure but is often frequently due to cognitive consequences. Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields), an electric field that targets cancer cell division and has shown improved survival and safety in patients with glioblastoma and metastatic NSCLC. Phase 3 METIS trial (NCT03703546) evaluated the efficacy and safety of TTFields therapy in NSCLC patients with BM treated with SRS, specifically on terms of lengthening time to intracranial progression without cognitive decline. **Methods:** Metastatic negative (N-) NSCLC patients with 1-10 BM were randomized 1:1 to receive stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) followed by Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields), 150 kHz therapy with best supportive care (BSC) or SRS followed by BSC. Patients with Karnofsky Performance Status (KPS) \geq 70, newly diagnosed with no operable or \geq 10 mm operable intracranial brain metastases suitable for SRS and receiving optimal intracranial disease therapy were included. Exclusions were prior WBRT and single operable or recurrent brain metastases. Primary endpoint was time to first intracranial progression (BM1-BM2) based on cumulative risk. Patients were followed every two months until second intracranial progression. Cognitive and patient quality of life (QoL) were evaluated. **Results:** Between July 2017 and September 2022, 289 patients were randomized. Baseline characteristics were balanced: median age was 63.3 (range 17-84) years, 17.6% female, majority of patients had a KPS \geq 80, median time from initial NSCLC diagnosis was 1.8 months (range 0.2-15.1), 77% had adenocarcinoma. Median treatment duration of TTFields was 46 weeks with median usage time of 67%. Primary endpoint, time to intracranial progression from SRS, was significantly prolonged with SRS followed by TTFields therapy with BSC vs. TTFields plus BSC arms (median of 21.9 vs. 11.3 months); HR=0.67 (95% CI, 0.46-0.95), *p*=0.016. TTFields-related side effects were mainly dermatological, and Grade \geq 3 TTFields therapy also improved deterioration-free survival of global health status, physical functioning, and fatigue according to QoL, and did not negatively impact cognition. **Conclusions:** METIS study met its primary endpoint, demonstrating that TTFields therapy following SRS in metastatic negative NSCLC patients with BM, significantly prolongs time to intracranial progression and could postpone WBRT, without QoL and cognitive decline. Clinical trial information: NCT03703546. Research sponsor: Novocure GmbH.

BSC, best supportive care; HR, hazard ratio; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; SRS, stereotactic radiosurgery; TTFields, Tumor Treating Fields; TTIP, time to intracranial progression. Mehta et al. Results from METIS (EF-25), an international, multicenter phase III randomized study evaluating the efficacy and safety of tumor treating fields (TTFields) therapy in NSCLC patients with brain metastases. *JCO* 42:2008-2008(2024). doi:10.1200/JCO.2024.42.16_suppl.2008

PANOVA phase 2 trial evaluated TTFields therapy + gemcitabine +/- nab-paclitaxel in pancreatic cancer



Start date: Nov 2013

Primary completion date: Dec 2017

Study completion date: Dec 2017

Study sites: 6 (Europe)

Primary endpoint:

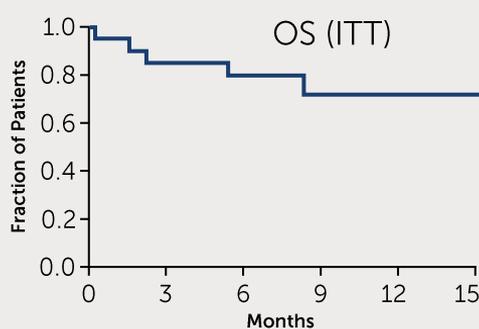
- Safety

Secondary endpoints:

- TTFields monthly usage, PFS, OS

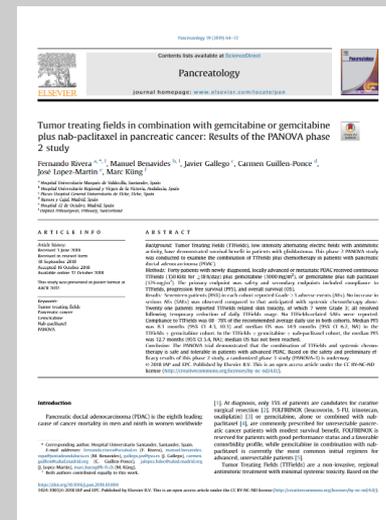
TTFields therapy together with chemotherapy were well tolerated for patients with advanced pancreatic cancer

FOR MORE INFORMATION, USE THE QR CODE:



OS	
Median, mo	NR
95% CI	8.4–NA
1-year survival	72%

	Median PFS	Median OS	One-year Survival	Partial Response Rate	Stable Disease
TTFields + gemcitabine	8.3 mo	14.9 mo	55%	30%	30%
gemcitabine alone	3.7 mo	6.7 mo	22%	7%	28%
TTFields + gemcitabine + nab-paclitaxel	12.7 mo	Not yet reached	72%	40%	47%
gemcitabine + nab-paclitaxel alone	5.5 mo	8.5 mo	35%	23%	27%



encouraging response rate and durability signals in EF-31 phase 2 gastric cancer trial

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EF-31 PHASE 2 PILOT TRIAL DESIGN¹



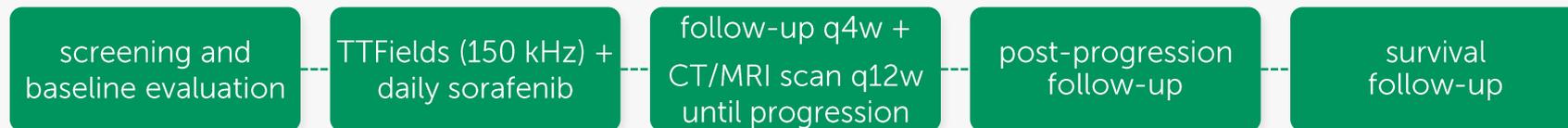
	OBJECTIVE RESPONSE RATE	MEDIAN PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL	DURATION OF RESPONSE	ONE-YEAR SURVIVAL
TTFields + chemotherapy	50%	7.8mo	10.3mo	72%
SOC chemotherapy ²	41-45%	6.9mo	6.9mo	48%

encouraging signals in liver cancer despite poor prognosis and low treatment exposure in HEPANOVA phase 2 trial

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HEPANOVA PHASE 2 PILOT TRIAL DESIGN²



76%

DISEASE CONTROL RATE (n=21)

VS. 43% CONTROL³

9.5%

OBJECTIVE RESPONSE RATE (n=21)

VS. 4.5% CONTROL

91%

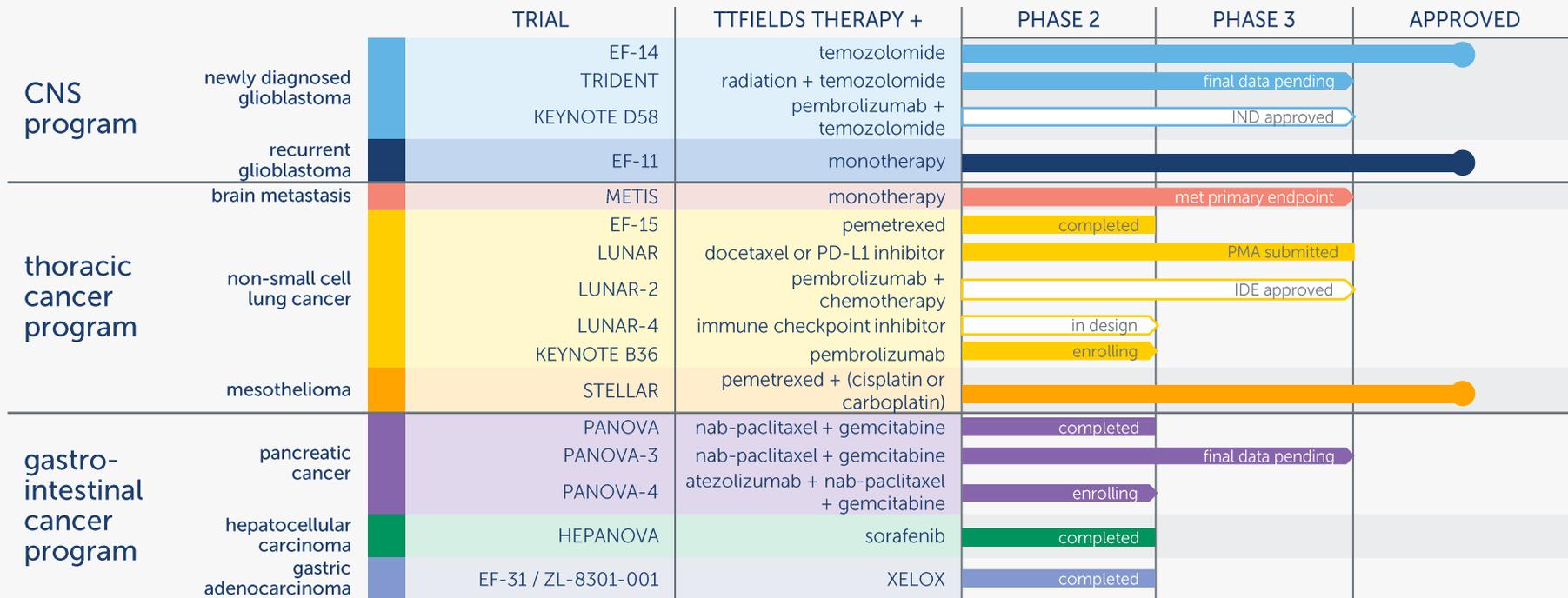
DISEASE CONTROL RATE

18%

OBJECTIVE RESPONSE RATE

patients that received ≥ 12 wks of TTFields (n=11)

platform technology driving robust clinical pipeline





tumor treating fields mechanism of action overview

patients with aggressive solid tumors often face suboptimal survival outcomes, despite advancements in treatment modalities

These outcomes are due to diverse treatment challenges, including:



Therapeutic tumor resistance



Drug-to-drug interactions



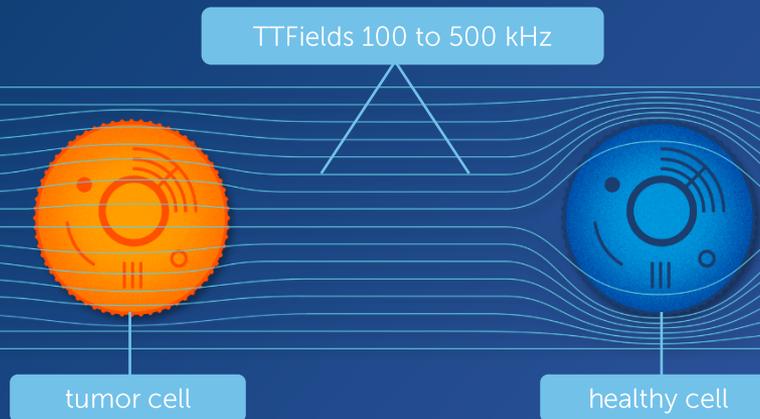
Additive systemic toxicities

With a poor survival outlook, physicians and patients need additional treatment strategies

Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) are electric fields that exert physical forces to kill cancer cells via a variety of mechanisms



TTFields spare healthy cells because they have different properties than cancer cells across a range of tumor types



a growing body of evidence supporting multiple mechanisms of action

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- Preclinical research has shown interference with cancer cell motility and migration, activation of anti-tumor immunity, downregulation of genes important for DNA damage repair, and other potential mechanisms
- May demonstrate enhanced effects across solid tumor types when used with chemotherapy, radiotherapy, immune checkpoint inhibition, or PARP inhibition in preclinical models

JOURNAL ARTICLE ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Anti-cancer mechanisms of action of therapeutic alternating electric fields (tumor treating fields [TTFields])

Shadi Shams, Chirag B Patel

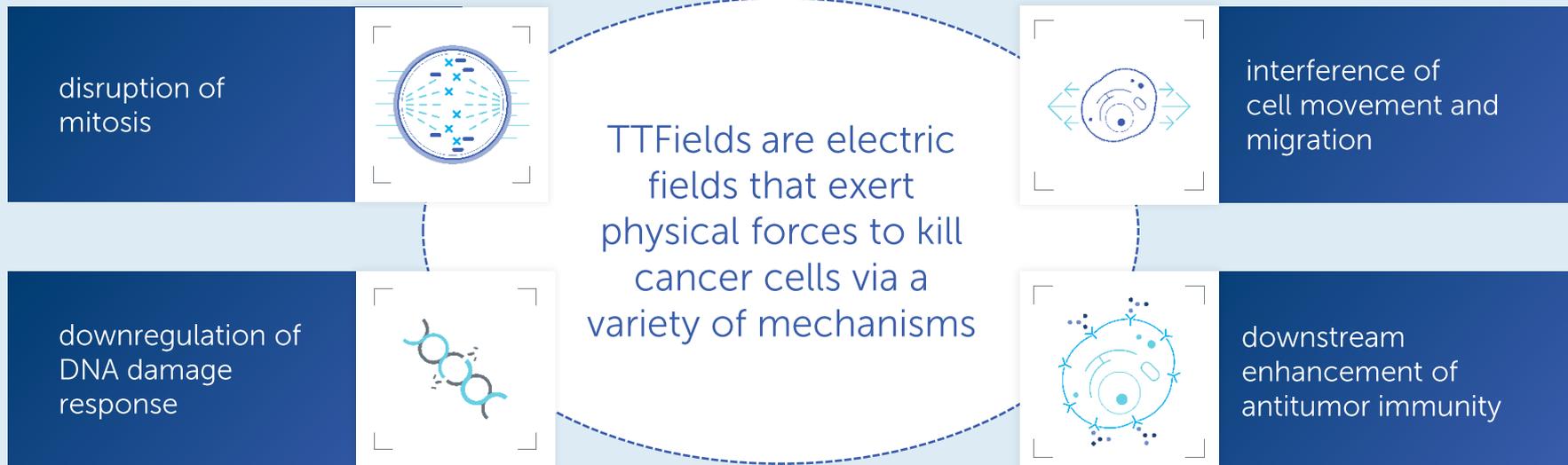
Journal of Molecular Cell Biology, mjac047, <https://doi.org/10.1093/jmcb/mjac047>
Published: 16 August 2022

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Abstract

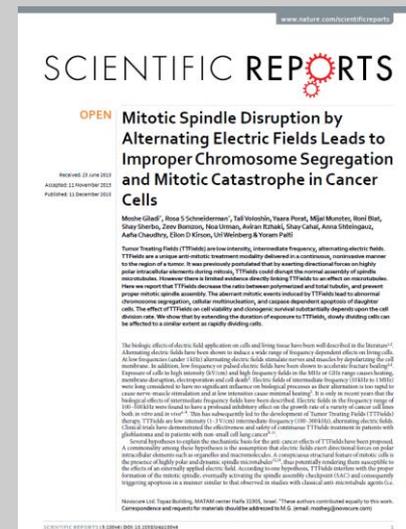
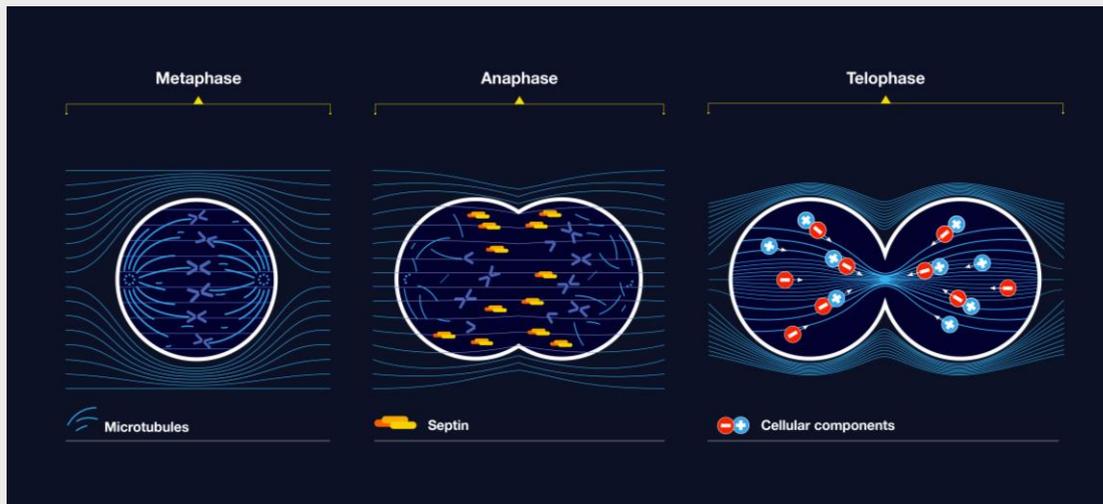
Despite improved survival outcomes across many cancer types, the prognosis remains grim for certain solid organ cancers including glioblastoma and pancreatic cancer. Invariably in these cancers, the control achieved by time-limited interventions such as traditional surgical resection, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy is short-lived. A new form of anti-cancer therapy called therapeutic alternating electric fields (AEFs) or tumor treating fields (TTFields) has been shown, either by itself or in combination with chemotherapy, to have anti-cancer effects that translate to improved survival outcomes in patients. Although the pre-clinical and clinical data are promising, the mechanisms of TTFields are not fully elucidated. Many investigations are underway to better understand how and why TTFields is able to selectively kill cancer cells and impede their proliferation. The purpose of this review is to summarize and discuss the reported mechanisms of action of TTFields from pre-clinical studies (both *in vitro* and *in vivo*). An improved understanding of how TTFields works will guide strategies focused on the timing and combination of TTFields with other therapies, to further improve survival outcomes in patients with solid organ cancers.

Tumor Treating Fields have multiple, distinct mechanisms of action



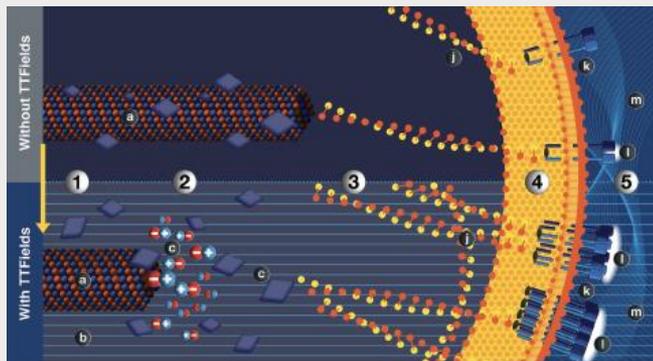
TTFields have been shown to disrupt mitosis in cancer cells by exerting physical forces on their polar components

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TTFields have been shown to alter the organization and dynamics of the cytoskeleton, disrupting cancer cell motility and migration

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a) microtubule; b) TTFields; c) tubulin aligned with field; j) actin fiber; k) integrin; l) focal adhesion; m) extracellular matrix.

A model illustrating the mechanism by which TTFields modulates cancer cell motility.

- (1) Microtubules are required to specify the direction of cell movement. GEF-H1 catalytic activity is downregulated through microtubule binding.
- (2) TTFields exert directional forces on polar tubulins leading to their alignment in the direction of the field. This, in turn, leads to the reorganization of the microtubule network resulting in changes in the abundance of microtubules and initiation of the GEF-H1/RhoA/ROCK signaling pathway
- (3) to increase actin bundling
- (4) and formation of focal adhesions,
- (5) which disrupt cell polarity and migration directionality.

cancers
Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) Hinder Cancer Cell Motility through Regulation of Microtubule and Actin Dynamics

Tali Voloshin¹, Roni Sass Schneiderman¹, Alexandra Volodin, Reuben Eady Shavit, Noa Karzen, Erez Zevi, Ilanah Rosen, Anat Kater-Goldberg, Roni Yan, Meha Gilati¹, Zeev Ronson, Uri Weising and Nissim Kabi¹

November 15th, Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) encompassing alternating electric fields within the intermediate frequency range, as an adjuvant treatment delivered to the tumor region through transducer arrays placed non-invasively on the skin. Although established as an anti-tumor treatment modality, the anti-metastatic potential of TTFields and their effect on rapid cytoskeletal dynamics during cellular motility warrant further investigation. In this study, we report that TTFields application induces changes in microtubule organization leading to interference with the directional and abundance of cancer cell migration. We show that these changes in microtubule organization result in activation of GEF-H1/RhoA/ROCK signaling pathway, and the consequent formation of focal adhesions and changes in actin cytoskeleton architecture. Together, these results propose a novel mechanism by which TTFields induce changes in microtubule and actin organization and dynamics, thereby disrupting processes important for polarity generation and motility in cancer cells.

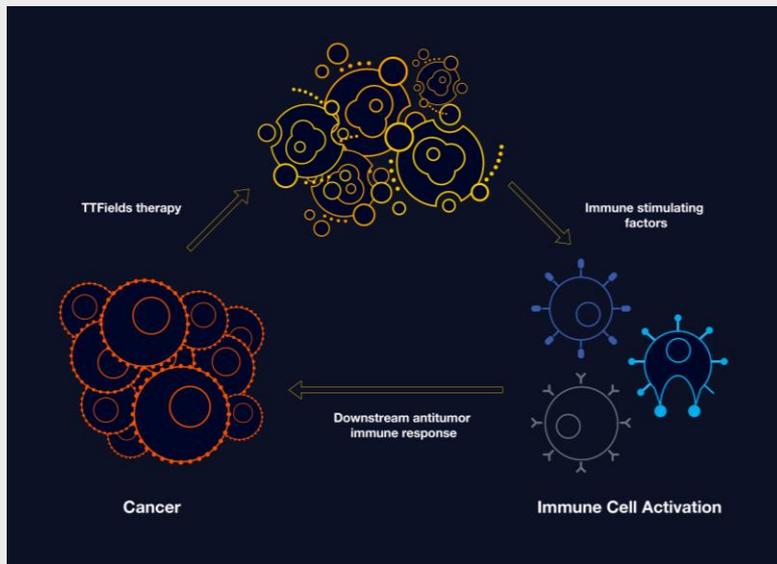
Received: 21 September 2020; Accepted: 14 October 2020; Published: 07 October 2020

Single Summary: Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) encompassing alternating electric fields within the intermediate frequency range, as an adjuvant treatment delivered to the tumor region through transducer arrays placed non-invasively on the skin. Although established as an anti-tumor treatment modality, the anti-metastatic potential of TTFields and their effect on rapid cytoskeletal dynamics during cellular motility warrant further investigation. In this study, we report that TTFields application induces changes in microtubule organization leading to interference with the directional and abundance of cancer cell migration. We show that these changes in microtubule organization result in activation of GEF-H1/RhoA/ROCK signaling pathway, and the consequent formation of focal adhesions and changes in actin cytoskeleton architecture. Together, these results propose a novel mechanism by which TTFields induce changes in microtubule and actin organization and dynamics, thereby disrupting processes important for polarity generation and motility in cancer cells.

Abstract: Tumor Treating Fields (TTFields) encompassing alternating electric fields within the intermediate frequency range (100–300 kHz) that are utilized as an adjuvant cancer treatment. TTFields are homogeneously delivered to the tumor region through 2 pairs of transducer arrays placed on the skin. This novel treatment modality has been FDA-approved for use in patients with glioblastoma and malignant pleural mesothelioma but has not been clinically tested demonstrating efficacy and safety, and is currently under investigation in other types of solid tumors. TTFields were shown to induce an anti-metastatic effect by exerting bidirectional forces on highly polar intracellular cytoskeleton, such as tubulin and actin microtubules, causing abnormal microtubule polymerization during spindle formation as well as aberrant cleavage furrow formation. Previous studies have demonstrated that TTFields inhibit metastatic progression in cancer cells. However, the consequences of TTFields application on cytoskeletal dynamics remain undetermined. In this study, methods utilized in combination to study the effects of TTFields on cancer cell motility through regulation of microtubule and actin dynamics included confocal microscopy, computational tools, and biochemical analyses. Mechanisms by which TTFields treatment disrupted cellular polarity were (1) interference with microtubule assembly and disassembly; (2) altered regulation of G-actin microtubule exchange factor-1 (GEF-H1), RhoA family member A (RhoA), and Rho-associated coiled-coil kinase (ROCK) activity; and (3) induced formation of radial protrusions of peripheral actin filaments and focal adhesions. Overall, these data identified discrete effects of TTFields that disrupt processes crucial for cancer cell motility.

TTFields-mediated cell disruption activates the immune system and triggers a downstream antitumor cell response

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TTFields induces downstream immunogenic cell death, including release of DAMPs (damage-associated molecular patterns)

Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy (2020) 69(7):1191–1204
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00262-020-02034-7>

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Tumor-treating fields (TTFields) induce immunogenic cell death resulting in enhanced antitumor efficacy when combined with anti-PD-1 therapy

Tall Velichko¹, Nava Kaynan¹, Shai Davidi¹, Naara Porel¹, Anna Steingass¹, Ronit S. Schneiderman¹, Elmar Zevni¹, Mital Munster¹, Roni Blat¹, Catherine Tempel Breen¹, Shay Cahal¹, Avner Itzhaki¹, Moshé Glid¹, Eliran G. Krizan¹, Avi Mendelsohn¹, Adirah Khouf¹, Yoram Kafri¹

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Abstract
 Tumor-treating fields (TTFields) are alternating electric fields in a specific frequency range (100–300 kHz) delivered to the human body through transducer arrays. In this study, we evaluated whether TTFields-mediated cell death can elicit antitumoral immunity and hence would be effectively combined with anti-PD-1 therapy. We demonstrate that in TTFields-treated cancer cells, damage-associated molecular patterns including high-mobility group B1 and adenosine triphosphatase are released and cathepsin is exposed on the cell surface. Moreover, we show that TTFields treatment promotes the engagement of cancer cells by dendritic cells (DCs) and DCs maturation in vivo, as well as recruitment of immune cells in vivo. Additionally, our study demonstrates that the combination of TTFields with anti-PD-1 therapy results in a significant decline

This work was presented at a poster at the annual meeting of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI), May 13–17, 2019, Seattle, WA, USA (2019A), the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), May 1–5, 2019, Washington, DC, USA (2019), the annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), November 10–15, 2017, San Francisco, USA (2017), the annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), November 10–15, 2018, New Orleans, LA, USA (2018), the European Association of Neuro-Oncology (EANO) Meeting, October 10–12, 2019, Rochester, New York (2019), the annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), March 29–April 3, 2019, Atlanta, GA, USA (2019), the International Anti-Cancer Immunotherapy Conference (ACI), November 21–26, 2019, Paris, France (2019), the annual meeting of the Society for Neuro-Oncology (SNO), November 10–15, 2019, National Harbor, MD, USA (2019), the annual meeting of the American Society for Radiation Oncology (ASTRO), September 15–19, 2019, Chicago, IL, USA (2019), the Breast Cancer Meeting, May 21–24, 2019, Seattle, Washington, WA (2019), the Lung Cancer Congress (LCC), April 10–13, 2019, Geneva, Switzerland (2019), the Multidisciplinary Thoracic Cancer Symposium, March 14–16, 2019, San Diego, CA, USA (2019).

Tall Velichko and Nava Kaynan have contributed equally to this work.

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00262-020-02034-7>) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

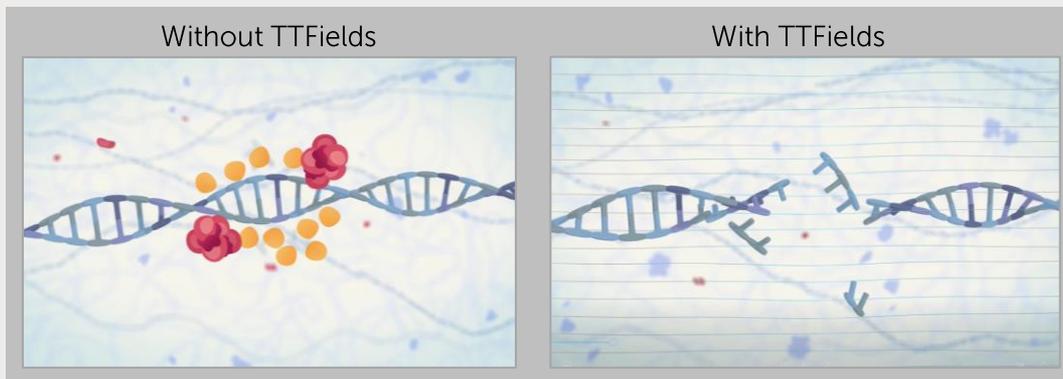
Extended author information available on the last page of the article.

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TTFields downregulate genes important for DNA damage repair

- TTFields disrupt DNA damage repair in cancer cells by downregulating genes that are part of the well-known FA-BRCA pathway^{1,2}

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OPEN

Tumor-treating fields elicit a conditional vulnerability to ionizing radiation via the downregulation of BRCA1 signaling and reduced DNA double-strand break repair capacity in non-small cell lung cancer cell lines

Narasimha Kumar Karanam¹, Kalyanesh Srinivasan¹, Lianhua Ding¹, Brock Blank², Diabetera Saha² and Michael D Story^{1,3*}

Cell Death and Disease 2021, 12(1):1-10. doi:10.1038/s41419-020-2017-2-00000-0

The use of tumor-treating fields (TTFields) has revolutionized the treatment of recurrent and newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM). TTFields are low-intensity, intermediate frequency alternating electric fields that are applied to tumor regions and cells using non-invasive arrays. The predominant mechanism by which TTFields are thought to kill tumor cells is by disruption of mitosis. Using the non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) cell lines we found that there is a variable response in cell proliferation and cell killing between the NSCLC cell lines that was independent of cell cycle. TTFields treatment increased the G2M population with a concomitant reduction in S-phase cells followed by the appearance of a sub-G1 population indicative of apoptosis. Temporal changes in gene expression during TTFields exposure were evaluated to identify molecular signaling changes underlying the differential TTFields response. The most differentially expressed genes were associated with the cell cycle and cell proliferation pathways. However, the expression of genes found within the BRCA1-DNA damage response were significantly downregulated (P < 0.05) during TTFields treatment. DNA double-strand break (DSB) repair foci increased when cells were exposed to TTFields as did the appearance of intermediate size deletions, suggesting an interference mechanism responsible for cell death involving DNA repair. Exposing cells to TTFields immediately following ionizing radiation resulted in increased chromosomal aberrations and a reduced capacity to repair DNA DSBs, which were likely responsible for at least a portion of the enhanced cell killing seen with the combination. These findings suggest that TTFields induce a state of BRCA1 loss leading to a conditional susceptibility resulting in enhanced sensitivity to ionizing radiation and provide a strong rationale for the use of TTFields as a combined modality therapy with radiation or other DNA-damaging agents.

Cell Death and Disease 2021, 12(1):1-10. doi:10.1038/s41419-020-2017-2-00000-0

Lung cancer is the second most prevalent cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States¹. Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most prevalent type, accounting for ~85% of new cases^{2,3}. A plethora of treatment options, including surgical resection, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and immunotherapy⁴⁻⁷ have not improved outcomes for patients with stage I and II NSCLC^{8,9}. In 2015, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first targeted therapy, Sunitinib, for patients with late-stage NSCLC¹⁰. In 2018, the FDA approved the first immunotherapy, pembrolizumab, for patients with late-stage NSCLC¹¹. These findings highlight the need for novel treatment modalities that can be utilized alone or in combination with conventional therapies to increase survival rates.

The advent of Tumor-Treating Fields (TTFields), a novel physical treatment modality, has been effective for the treatment of adult, recurrent glioblastoma and recurrent tumors¹²⁻¹⁴. TTFields are non-invasive and deliver a non-therapeutic (1-3 Hz), intermediate frequency (100-200 kHz) alternating electric field across the tumor bed¹⁵. TTFields create a heterogeneous interstitial electric field that induces a dielectrophoretic movement of polar molecules toward the region of higher field intensity, effectively generating, glycolytic and other critical biochemical functions¹⁶. As such, TTFields perturbate larger cancer cells through the modulation of cell proliferation, effectively slowing non-dividing chromatin¹⁷. In addition, TTFields do not ablate nerves and muscle because of their high frequency, and do not perturbate the function of the brain^{18,19}. The use of TTFields in combination with chemotherapy, immunotherapy, and radiation therapy, for the treatment of recurrent and newly diagnosed glioblastoma (GBM), in combination with immunotherapy²⁰. Clinical trials are ongoing or recruiting for cancer applications including glioblastoma, lung cancer, and ovarian cancer (www.novocure.com).

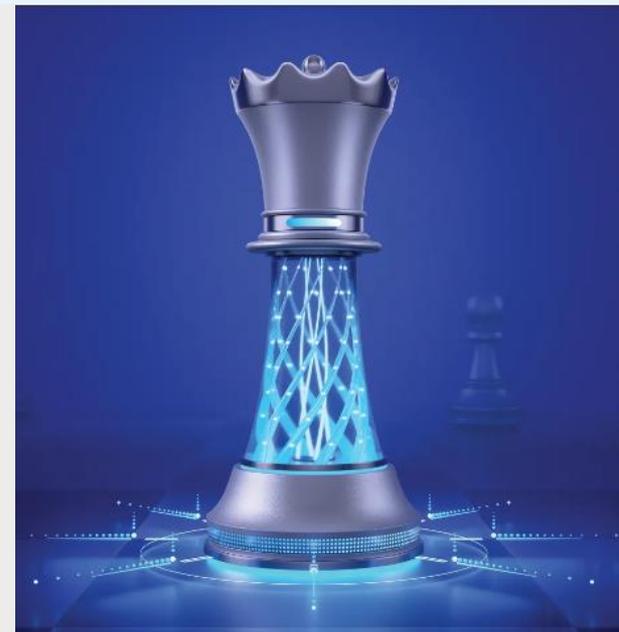
TTFields are known to downregulate proliferation and induce apoptotic pathways in glioblastoma cells across a variety of human and rodent tumor cell lines²¹. Proliferation of larger subtypes of the mitotic specific population and the activation of mitotic specific pathways has been proposed as the mechanism by which TTFields kill dividing cells²²⁻²⁴. Equivalently, TTFields increase levels of microtubule depolymerization and the mislocalization of septin²⁵. This results in

TTFields is a highly versatile first-in-class treatment modality

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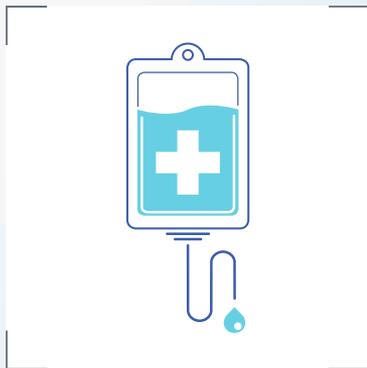


- TTFields therapy has significant potential for broad applicability across solid tumor types and lines of therapy
- Investigation of TTFields therapy is ongoing across clinical trials in multiple tumor types
- In approved indications, TTFields therapy is well tolerated, suggesting a low risk of additive systemic toxicity when used with other cancer treatment modalities

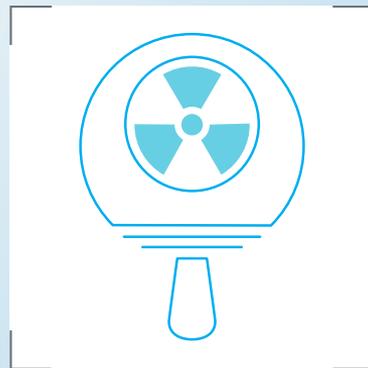


TTFields therapy can be added to cancer treatment modalities in approved indications

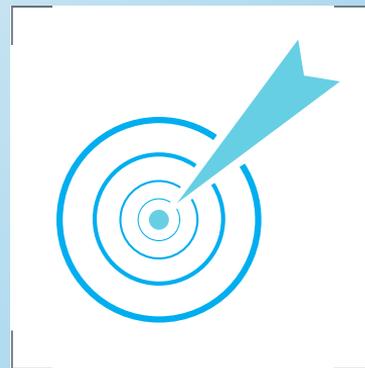
TTFields **demonstrate enhanced effects** across multiple solid tumor types, when used concomitantly with each of the following:



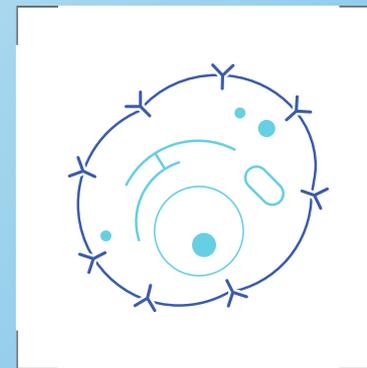
Chemotherapy



Radiation therapy (RT)



Targeted therapies



Immuno-oncologic (IO) agents