

Benefit From Procarbazine, Lomustine, and Vincristine in Oligodendroglial Tumors Is Associated With Mutation of *IDH*

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A B S T R A C T

Purpose

Patients with 1p/19q codeleted anaplastic oligodendroglial tumors who participated in RTOG (Radiation Therapy Oncology Group) 9402 lived much longer after chemoradiotherapy (CRT) than radiation therapy (RT) alone. However, some patients with noncodeleted tumors also benefited from CRT; survival curves separated after the median had been reached, and significantly more patients lived ≥ 10 years after CRT than RT. Thus, 1p/19q status may not identify all responders to CRT.

Patients and Methods

Using trial data, we inquired whether an *IDH* mutation or germ-line polymorphism associated with *IDH*-mutant gliomas identified the patients in RTOG 9402 who benefited from CRT.

Results

IDH status was evaluable in 210 of 291 patients; 156 (74%) had mutations. rs55705857 was evaluable in 245 patients; 76 (31%) carried the G risk allele. Both were associated with longer progression-free survival after CRT, and mutant *IDH* was associated with longer overall survival (9.4 v 5.7 years; hazard ratio [HR], 0.59; 95% CI, 0.40 to 0.86; $P = .006$). For those with wild-type tumors, CRT did not prolong median survival (1.3 v 1.8 years; HR, 1.14; 95% CI, 0.63 to 2.04; $P = .67$) or 10-year survival rate (CRT, 6% v RT, 4%). Patients with codeleted mutated tumors (14.7 v 6.8 years; HR, 0.49; 95% CI, 0.28 to 0.85; $P = .01$) and noncodeleted mutated tumors (5.5 v 3.3 years; HR, 0.56; 95% CI, 0.32 to 0.99; $P < .05$) lived longer after CRT than RT.

Conclusion

IDH mutational status identified patients with oligodendroglial tumors who did (and did not) benefit from alkylating-agent chemotherapy with RT. Although patients with codeleted tumors lived longest, patients with noncodeleted *IDH*-mutated tumors also lived longer after CRT.

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INTRODUCTION

Capitalizing on the many molecular alterations that cause cancer to develop more effective therapies and prescribe them individually is a formidable challenge. For gliomas, where initial treatment is often uniform, the first opportunity to consider a personalized approach to therapy, based on genotyping, arose in the context of chemoradiotherapy (CRT) for glioblastoma (GBM). In an analysis of the trial by Stupp et al,¹ in which the addition of temozolomide (TMZ), an alkylating agent, to radiotherapy (RT) prolonged median and 2-year survival compared with RT alone, Hegi et al² found that these benefits were associated with methylation of the O6-

methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (*MGMT*) promoter. Despite this finding, *MGMT* status is not used to guide initial treatment, because in the Stupp et al trial, some patients with unmethylated GBMs also lived longer after CRT. Contributing further to the status quo are tissue requirements for accurate *MGMT* testing, ease of use of TMZ, and absence of other effective chemotherapies for GBM. *MGMT* testing is important, although perhaps not precise enough to support a personalized treatment strategy for GBM.

A second opportunity to customize therapy has emerged for oligodendroglial cancers. Two randomized controlled trials (RCTs) found that CRT with procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine

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(PCV)³ doubled the median survival of patients with 1p/19q codeleted tumors versus RT alone.^{4,5} CRT did not prolong the median survival of those with noncodeleted tumors in either trial, but in both, more patients with noncodeleted tumors had longer survival after CRT than RT. In the Radiation Therapy Oncology Group (RTOG) trial,⁴ 25% of patients with noncodeleted tumors lived \geq 10 years after PCV plus RT versus only 10% after RT alone, a significant difference. Thus, codeletion, although it predicts benefit from CRT, likely falls short of the precision expected of a test for personalizing treatment. Judging by experience with *MGMT* and GBM, oncologists will be reticent to rely solely on 1p/19q codeletion status to decide which patients with oligodendroglial tumors should be treated with CRT versus RT alone.

With the knowledge that molecular alterations that initiate cancers can sometimes be targets for highly effective drug therapies,⁶ we inquired whether the ability to predict survival benefit from neoadjuvant PCV using codeletion status could be enhanced by incorporating or substituting markers of earlier events in the genesis of oligodendrogliomas. We focused on two biomarkers of potential utility: somatic mutations of isocitrate dehydrogenase (*IDH*), the earliest known molecular alteration in oligodendroglial tumors,⁷ and the G (ν A) allele of rs55705857, a germ-line polymorphism associated with a six-fold risk of developing *IDH*-mutated glioma.^{8,9} We reanalyzed the RTOG 9402 trial, paying particular attention to the proportion of long-term survivors after CRT in the noncodeleted anaplastic oligodendroglioma (AO)/oligoastrocytoma (AOA) subset.⁴

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Data Source, Study Eligibility, Protocol Therapy, and Codeletion Status

Data were obtained from an RCT of PCV plus RT versus RT for AO and AOA.^{4,10} Eligible patients were age \geq 18 years with AO/AOA and Karnofsky performance score (KPS) \geq 60. Diagnoses were confirmed by central review.¹⁰ Patients consented to random assignment and blood and tumor collection, and each center had institutional review board approval. Patients were stratified by age at diagnosis, KPS, and degree of anaplasia and were randomly assigned within 8 weeks to an intensive PCV regimen followed by RT (ie, CRT) or to RT alone.¹⁰ Baseline testing, surveillance assessments, and toxicity criteria have been reported.¹⁰ Chromosomes 1p and 19q were assessed by fluorescence in situ hybridization.¹¹

IDH Mutation and G Allele Analyses

IDH1 and *IDH2* were evaluated by immunohistochemistry (antihuman IDH1R132H H09) and sequencing, respectively.⁹ Presence of the G (ν A) allele of rs55705857 at 8q24.21 was assessed by custom genotyping of DNA from study-patient blood or Epstein-Barr virus-transformed leukocytes. GoldenGate assays were performed at the Mayo Clinic Genotyping Core Facility (Rochester, MN) using the VeraCode platform designed by Illumina (San Diego, CA).⁹ Samples were analyzed in 96-well plates with replicates, as described previously.^{8,9} In patients with noncodeleted tumors harboring an *IDH* mutation, *ATRX* expression was assessed by immunohistochemistry (No. HPA001906; Sigma-Aldrich, St Louis, MO), as described elsewhere.¹²

Statistical Methods

The interactions of an *IDH* mutation or a germ-line risk allele (ie, homozygous or heterozygous for high-risk G allele ν homozygous for standard-risk A allele) with survival after PCV plus RT or RT were examined independently and in association with 1p/19q codeletion status. The strength of association was assessed by odds ratios. Survival was analyzed using the Kaplan-Meier method with two-sided log-rank statistics. Univariable and multivariable Cox hazards models were fitted to assess the independent effects of treatment, demography, and clinical and genetic variables on survival.

Those items with a *P* value less than .1 in the univariable analysis were included in the multivariable analysis with step-wise selection. A global test for the interaction of treatment with covariates was computed using a χ^2 statistic.¹³ The c-index was also used to compare the predictive value of the model with and without *IDH* status.¹⁴ χ^2 tests were used to compare clinical and molecular features by treatment. All *P* values were two tailed and unadjusted for multiple comparisons.

RESULTS

Survival Analysis and Results of RTOG 9402

Overall survival (OS) was the primary end point. Analyses were performed on case-eligible (*n* = 291) and all-case (*n* = 299) bases with similar results.⁴ Arms were balanced for clinical features, AO versus AOA, and steroid use.¹⁰ The status of 1p or 19q was known in 91% of patients.⁴ Median follow-up was 11.3 years. One hundred forty-eight patients were randomly assigned to PCV plus RT, and 143 to RT. Median survivals were similar: 4.6 years for PCV plus RT versus 4.7 years for RT (HR, 0.79; 95% CI, 0.60 to 1.04; *P* = .1); however, the adjusted results favored PCV plus RT (HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.50 to 0.91; *P* = .01).⁴ Those with codeleted tumors had long survival regardless of therapy, which was much longer after PCV plus RT than RT (14.7 ν 7.3 years; HR, 0.59; 95% CI, 0.37 to 0.95; *P* = .03).⁴ Median survivals were similar in those with noncodeleted tumors (2.6 ν 2.7 years; HR, 0.85; 95% CI, 0.58 to 1.23; *P* = .39), but there were significantly more 10-year survivors after PCV plus RT than RT alone (25% ν 10%; *P* < .05).⁴

IDH Status, Survival, and Treatment Effects

IDH status was assessable in 210 of 291 patients (72%; Table 1). In 81 similar patient cases, either testing failed or there was no tissue (Appendix Table A1, online only). Mutations were seen in 156 (74%; *IDH1*, *n* = 154; *IDH2*, *n* = 2) and associated with younger age, good KPS, accessibility to resection, AO pathology, single focus, and moderate anaplasia. Patients with mutated tumors lived longer than those with tumors that did not have a detectable mutation (PCV plus RT: 9.4 ν 1.3 years; HR, 0.28; 95% CI, 0.17 to 0.46; *P* < .001; RT: 5.7 ν 1.8 years; HR, 0.38; 95% CI, 0.23 to 0.64; *P* < .001; survival curves not shown); moreover, their survival differed by treatment.

An *IDH* mutation was identified in 80 (72%) of 111 patients randomly assigned to PCV plus RT and 76 (77%) of 99 randomly assigned to RT alone. For those with *IDH*-mutated tumors, survival was significantly longer after PCV plus RT than RT (9.4 ν 5.7 years; HR, 0.59; 95% CI, 0.40 to 0.86; *P* = .006; Fig 1A). However, among those without a detectable *IDH* mutation, there were no differences in survival associated with treatment assignment (PCV plus RT, 1.3 years ν RT, 1.8 years; HR, 1.14; 95% CI, 0.63 to 2.04; *P* = .67; Fig 1B). Also, there were no differences in 10-year survival rates (PCV plus RT, 6% [two of 31] ν RT, 4% [one of 23]). For those with wild-type *IDH* tumors, the likelihood of long-term survival was low irrespective of initial treatment.

Early Somatic Alterations, Survival, and Treatment Effects

AO and AOA are often screened for 1p/19q codeletion and *IDH* mutations to obtain prognostic information. Hence, we examined the interaction of 1p/19q codeletion and *IDH* mutation with survival and treatment in patients in whom both codeletion and mutation status were known. Data on both markers were available in 208 (71%) of 291

Table 1. Pretreatment Characteristics by *IDH* Mutation Status

Characteristic	Not Mutated (n = 54)		Mutated (n = 156)		P
	No.	%	No.	%	
Age, years					.003
< 50	27	50.0	113	72.4	
≥ 50	27	50.0	43	27.6	
Sex					.07
Male	38	70.4	88	56.4	
Female	16	29.6	68	43.6	
KPS					.03
60-70	10	18.5	12	7.7	
80-100	44	81.5	144	92.3	
Surgery					.02*
Biopsy	11	20.4	13	8.3	
Partial resection	31	57.4	89	57.1	
Total resection	12	22.2	52	33.3	
Unknown	0	0.0	2	1.3	
Neurologic function					.92†
No symptoms	17	31.5	48	30.8	
Minor symptoms	26	48.1	82	52.6	
Moderate symptoms	11	20.4	26	16.7	
Histology					< .001‡
AO	16	29.6	95	60.9	
AOA	38	70.4	61	39.1	
Grade					.01
Moderately anaplastic	21	38.9	92	59.0	
Highly anaplastic	33	61.1	64	41.0	
Multifocal disease					< .001§
No (or unknown)	44	81.5	150	96.2	
Yes	10	18.5	6	3.8	
Steroid use at baseline					.40
No	19	35.2	65	41.7	
Yes	35	64.8	91	58.3	
Assigned treatment					.44
Chemotherapy and RT	31	57.4	80	51.3	
RT alone	23	42.6	76	48.7	

Abbreviations: AO, anaplastic oligodendroglioma; AOA, anaplastic oligoastrocytoma; KPS, Karnofsky performance score; RT, radiotherapy.
 *Biopsy versus partial plus total.
 †No symptoms versus other.
 ‡AO versus AOA.
 §No versus yes.

patients: 88 (42%) had a codeleted mutated tumor, 66 (32%) had a noncodeleted mutated tumor, and 44 (21%) had a noncodeleted nonmutated tumor. There were 10 codeleted nonmutated patient cases (5%). Ninety percent of codeleted tumors had a detectable mutation, but only 57% of mutated AO/AOA had a visible codeletion. Among the informative patient cases, 111 received PCV plus RT (53%) and 97 received RT (47%). ATRX was undetectable in 41 (72%) of 57 patients with noncodeleted, mutated tumors and present in 16 (28%); it was also present in all codeleted patient cases tested.

Patients with codeleted mutated tumors (AO, 78%) had the longest survival, those with noncodeleted mutated tumors (AOA, 64%) had an intermediate survival, and those with neither had the shortest survival (PCV plus RT: 14.7 years; 95% CI, 6.4 to not reached v 5.5 years; 95% CI, 2.6 to 11.0 v 1.0 years; 95% CI, 0.6 to 1.9; *P* < .001; Fig 2A; RT alone: 6.8 years; 95% CI, 5.4 to 8.6 v 3.3 years; 95% CI, 2.5 to 4.9 v 1.3 years; 95% CI, 0.8 to 1.9; *P* < .001; Fig 2B; not described

here are ten patients with codeleted tumors with intact *IDH* whose survival was intermediate). Patients with codeleted mutated tumors lived longer after CRT than RT (14.7 v 6.8 years; HR, 0.49; 95% CI, 0.28 to 0.85; *P* = .01; Fig 3A), and remarkably, those with noncodeleted mutated tumors also lived longer after CRT (5.5 v 3.3 years; HR, 0.56; 95% CI, 0.32 to 0.99; *P* = .045; Fig 3B). In exploratory analyses of small subsets of patients with noncodeleted mutated tumors with ATRX results, survival was longer in patients who were ATRX negative (4.4 v 3.5 years; AOA, 75%) and longer still in those who were ATRX positive (11.0 v 2.7 years; AO, 75%). Patients with noncodeleted nonmutated AO/AOA experienced no discernible benefit from the addition of PCV to RT (1.0 v 1.3 years; HR, 0.99; 95% CI, 0.53 to 1.86; *P* = .97).

Status of the rs55705857 Allele, Survival, and Treatment Effects

Risk status was assessable in 245 (84%) of 291 patients. Seventy-six patients (31%) were carriers of the G risk allele: 75 were heterozygous carriers (ie, GA), and one patient was a homozygous carrier (ie, GG). The G allele frequency for the entire RTOG 9402 cohort was 0.16. The allele frequency was 0.22 for the subset of patients with 1p/19q codeleted tumors, not significantly different from the frequency in an independent cohort at the Mayo Clinic with codeleted oligodendroglial tumors.⁹ G allele status was associated with good function, steroid-free condition, and AO pathology. Moreover, patients who were carriers of the G allele lived significantly longer than those who were homozygous for the A allele (PCV plus RT: 8.9 v 3.3 years; HR, 0.51; 95% CI, 0.31 to 0.83; *P* = .006; RT: 5.3 v 3.8 years; HR, 0.67; 95% CI, 0.42 to 1.06; *P* = .08; survival curves not shown), and treatment assignment may have had a differential effect on the survival of carriers versus noncarriers.

The G allele was present in the germ-line DNA of 40 (32%) of 124 patients who were randomly assigned to PCV plus RT and 36 (30%) of 121 randomly assigned to RT alone. For G allele carriers, progression-free survival (PFS) was significantly longer after CRT than RT (6.8 v 1.7 years; HR, 0.42; 95% CI, 0.24 to 0.71; *P* = .001; Fig 4A). Also, in G allele carriers, there was a trend toward longer OS after PCV plus RT than RT (8.9 v 5.3 years; HR, 0.65; 95% CI, 0.36 to 1.16; *P* = .14; Fig 4B). In contrast, there were no survival differences related to treatment among patients who did not have the G risk allele in their germ-line (OS: PCV plus RT, 3.3 years v RT, 3.8 years; HR, 0.87; 95% CI, 0.62 to 1.22; *P* = .41; PFS: PCV plus RT, 1.4 years v RT, 1.3 years; HR, 0.80; 95% CI, 0.58 to 1.12; *P* = .19; survival curves not shown).

Genetic Associations and Multivariable Analysis

The odds ratios for *IDH* mutation and 1p/19q codeletion, *IDH* mutation and G allele carrier status, and 1p/19q codeletion and G allele status were 5.87 (95% CI, 2.75 to 12.5; *P* < .001), 2.27 (95% CI, 1.04 to 4.96; *P* = .038), and 2.79 (95% CI, 1.55 to 5.02; *P* < .001), respectively. The features listed in Table 2 were significant, with *P* values less than .1 in the univariable Cox hazards model. In the stepwise multivariable Cox model that incorporated these variables, survival was strongly associated with *IDH* mutation (HR, 0.41; 95% CI, 0.27 to 0.63; *P* < .001) and 1p/19q codeletion (HR, 0.39; 95% CI, 0.27 to 0.58; *P* < .001); it was also associated with CRT at diagnosis (HR, 0.65; 95% CI, 0.46 to 0.92; *P* = .02; Table 2). The global tests for treatment interactions with *IDH* mutation, 1p/19q codeletion, and G allele carrier status were not significant (*P* > .05), nor were any pairwise tests of interaction. The c-index for the model with treatment plus

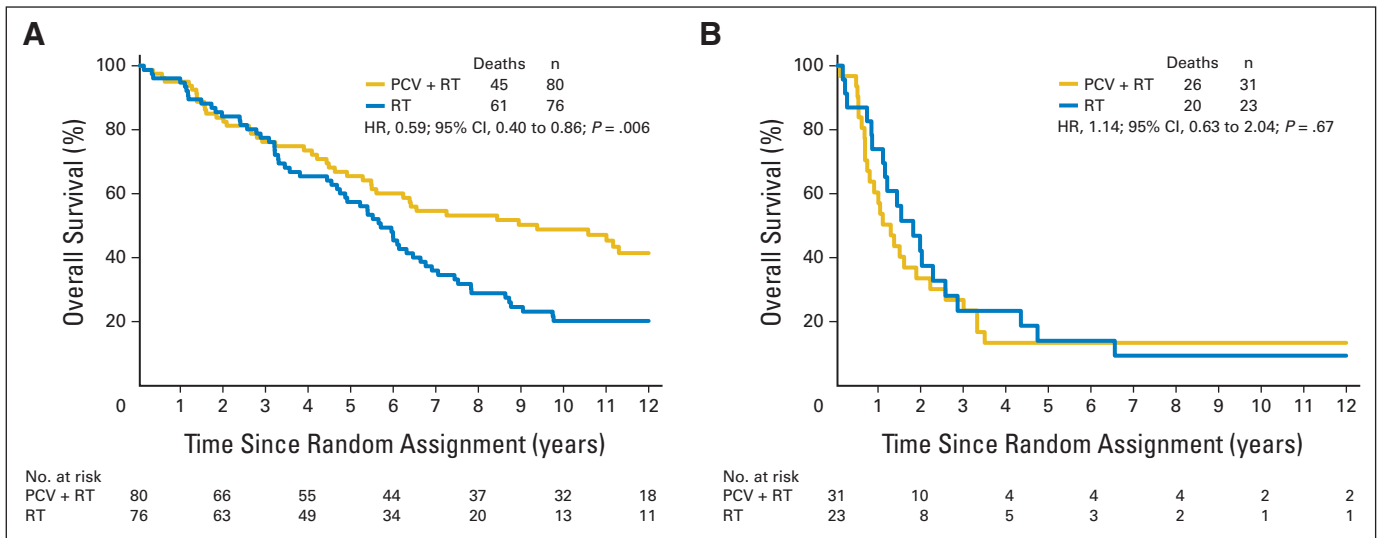


Fig 1. Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival (OS) by treatment (procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine [PCV] plus radiotherapy [RT] or RT) for patients with (A) *IDH*-mutated and (B) nonmutated tumors. Hazard ratio (HR) ratio for OS for those with mutated tumors was 0.59 (95% CI, 0.40 to 0.86;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

the clinical and genetic features listed in Table 2 was 0.68. The indices after inclusion of mutation only, codeletion only, and both were 0.71, 0.72, and 0.73, respectively. G allele carrier status did not contribute additional effect.

DISCUSSION

AO and AOA share histologic similarities and *IDH* mutations.⁷ In most AOs, *IDH* mutations coexist with loss of 1p/19q^{15,16} and seem pathognomonic.¹⁷ Mutations of *CIC* on 19q, *FUBP1* on 1p, and the

TERT promoter complete the mutational spectrum of AO.¹⁸⁻²⁰ In most AOs, *ATRX* and *TP53* mutations accompany those of *IDH*.²¹ AO/AOA also share the methylator (G-CIMP) phenotype and proneural expression profile related to *IDH* mutations and 2-hydroxyglutarate production.²²⁻²⁷ Moreover, the *MGMT* promoter is often hypermethylated in AO/AOA.²⁸ Furthermore, as a consequence of DNA hypermethylation and 1p allelic loss, *NHE-1* is frequently silenced in 1p/19q codeleted AO/AOA, perhaps contributing to the remarkably slow rate of growth.²⁹ As highlighted here, a recent postgenome-wide association fine mapping study has identified a

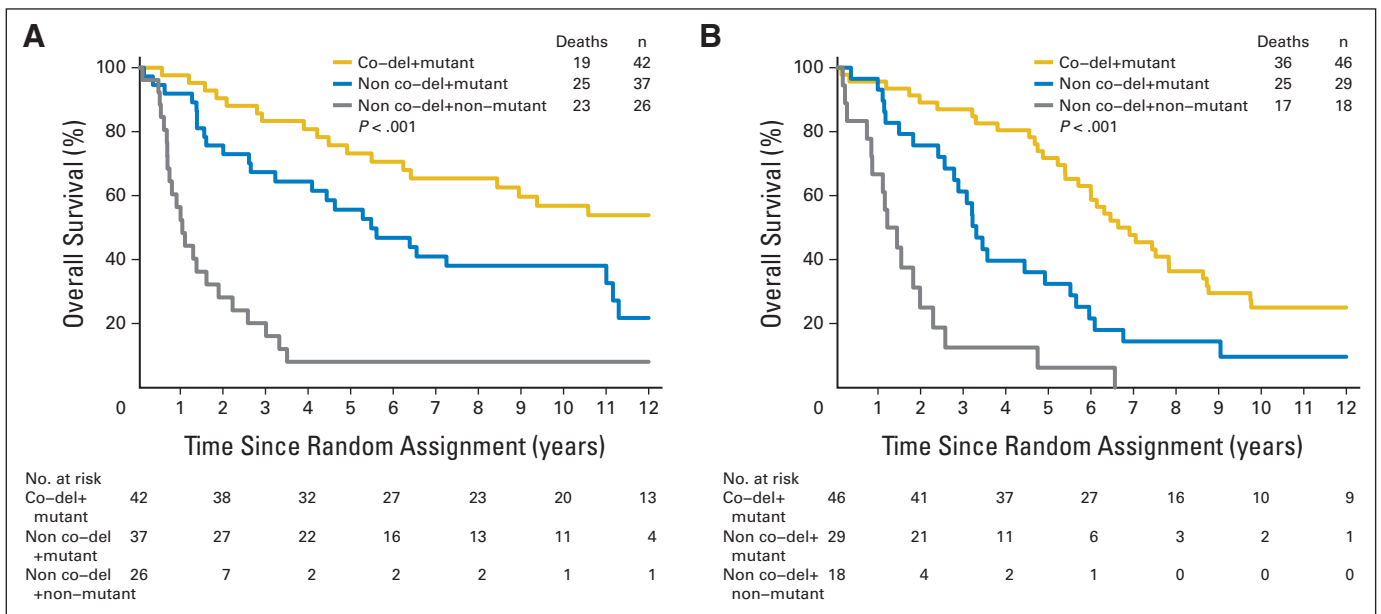


Fig 2. Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival for patients whose tumors were *IDH* mutated and 1p/19q codeleted (co-del; gold), mutated (mut) and noncodeleted (blue), and nonmutated and noncodeleted (gray) after (A) procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine (PCV) plus radiotherapy (RT) and (B) RT alone. Median survivals after (A) PCV plus RT were 14.7 (95% CI, 6.4 to not reached), 5.5 (95% CI, 2.6 to 11.0), and 1.0 years (95% CI, 0.6 to 1.9; $P < .001$), respectively. Median survivals after (B) RT alone were 6.8 (95% CI, 5.4 to 8.6), 3.3 (95% CI, 2.5 to 4.9), and 1.3 years (95% CI, 0.8 to 1.9; $P < .001$), respectively.

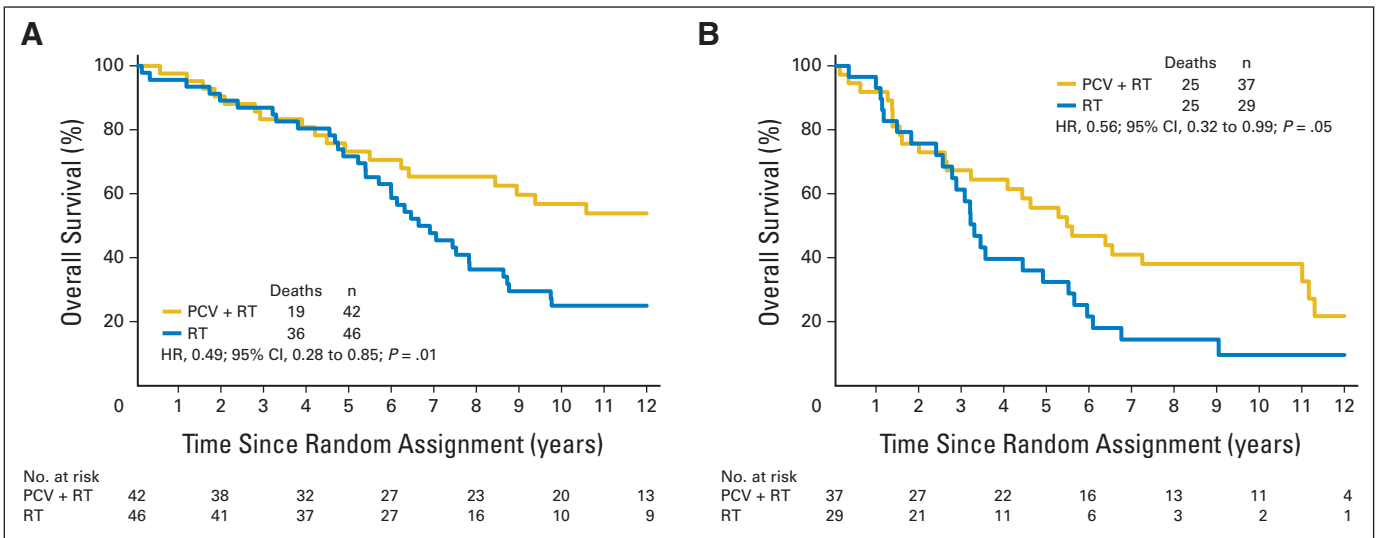


Fig 3. Kaplan-Meier estimates of overall survival (OS) by treatment (procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine [PCV] plus radiotherapy [RT] or RT) for those with (A) *IDH* mutant and 1p/19q codeleted and (B) *IDH* mutant noncodeleted tumors. Hazard ratio (HR) for OS for those with (A) mutant codeleted tumors was 0.49 (95% CI, 0.28 to 0.85; P = .01); HR for those with (B) mutant noncodeleted tumors was 0.56 (95% CI, 0.32 to 0.99; P = .05).

single-nucleotide polymorphism at 8q24.21 that is associated with a six-fold risk of developing an *IDH*-mutant glioma, including both AOs and AOAs. This degree of risk is similar to that for breast cancer associated with *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* variants^{30,31} and greater than the *CHEK2* variant associated with breast cancer.³²

This unique constellation of genetic, epigenetic, germ-line, and somatic events define a cancer family that is sensitive to drugs that alkylate DNA.³³⁻⁴¹ Within this family, AOs, most of which are codeleted, are especially chemosensitive; they often shrink dramatically when treated with chemotherapy alone; furthermore, the survival of patients with codeleted AO/AOA doubled after early treatment with chemotherapy and RT.^{4,5} AOAs, most of which lack codeletion of 1p/19q, are also sensitive to alkylating agents.³⁵ Their radiographic responses are less complete and durable, but the results of RCTs show

that a substantial (but currently unknown) subset of noncodeleted AOs/AOAs benefit from CRT.^{4,5} Here, we inquired whether *IDH* mutation or susceptibility to a mutation might be a key determinant of the behaviors of AO/AOA, including sensitivity to DNA-damaging therapies. This question is important and timely because benefit from CRT is not predicted precisely by codeletion status, and *IDH* mutations alter the expression of genes that may affect growth and treatment effects.⁴²

In this expanded molecular analysis of RTOG 9402, genetic background, tumor histology, cancer genotype, and survival after treatment were closely related. Like codeletion status, there were significant associations between the presence of the rs55705857 G allele in normal DNA, detection of an *IDH* mutation in tumor DNA, diagnosis of AO, and better prognosis after either CRT or RT alone. These findings reinforce that some individuals are susceptible to gliomas and may be

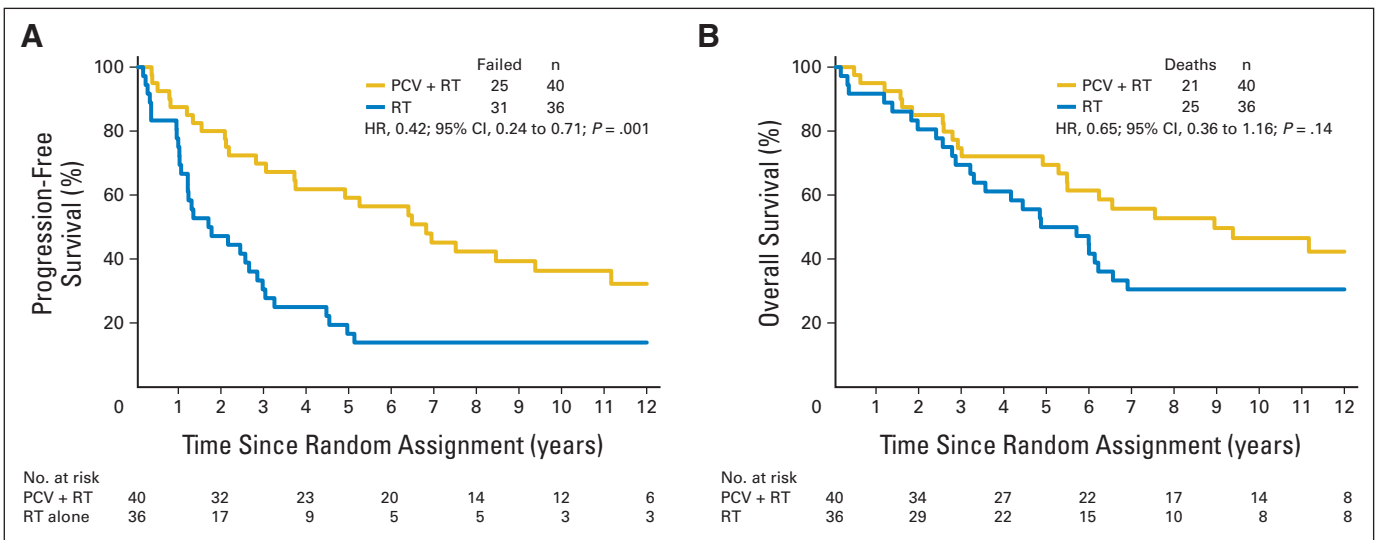


Fig 4. Kaplan-Meier estimates of (A) progression-free survival (PFS) and (B) overall survival (OS) by treatment (procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine [PCV] plus radiotherapy [RT] or RT) for G allele carriers. Hazard ratio (HR) for (A) PFS was 0.42 (95% CI, 0.24 to 0.71; P = .001); HR for (B) OS was 0.65 (95% CI, 0.36 to 1.16; P = .14).

Table 2. Cox Proportional Hazards Model for OS

Variable	HR*	95% CI	Multivariable <i>P</i>	Univariable <i>P</i>
Treatment (PCV plus RT v RT)	0.65	0.46 to 0.92	.0157	.099
Surgery (resection v biopsy)	0.50	0.28 to 0.89	.0195	.008
Disability (none/minor v other)	0.45	0.25 to 0.81	.0073	< .001
Multifocal disease (no v yes)	0.39	0.20 to 0.76	.0056	< .001
1p/19q (codeleted v other)	0.39	0.27 to 0.58	< .001	< .001
<i>IDH</i> mutation (positive v negative)	0.41	0.27 to 0.63	< .001	< .001
Sex (female v male)	—	—	—	.07
Age, years (< 50 v ≥ 50)	—	—	—	< .001
KPS (80-100 v 60-70)	—	—	—	< .001
Anaplastic features (2-3 v 4-5)	—	—	—	.002
Steroid use (no v yes)	—	—	—	< .001
Tumor type (pure v mixed)	—	—	—	< .001
G allele status (with v without)	—	—	—	< .001

NOTE. Variables dropped during stepwise selection are found at the bottom; all were significant at $P < .10$ in univariable models. Those at the top were significant at $P < .05$ in multivariable model. Interaction terms were not statistically significant. Bold font indicates favorable status.

Abbreviations: HR, hazard ratio; KPS, Karnofsky performance score; OS, overall survival; PCV, procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine; RT, radiotherapy.

*HRs expressed as $\lambda_{\text{favorable}}/\lambda_{\text{unfavorable}}$.

susceptible to subtypes that harbor particular genetic alterations.^{8,9} In turn, these alterations are accompanied by a predictable set of behaviors, including prognosis after DNA-damaging therapies.⁴³ Looking forward, one can imagine that presurgical testing for germ-line features might be used to predict tumor type and survival.

Perhaps more intriguing is the suggestion that benefit from neoadjuvant PCV might be related to *IDH* mutation or risk of an *IDH* mutation, characteristics of AO/AOA that predate overt tumorigenesis. Presence of the risk allele at rs55705857 was associated with longer PFS after CRT, and *IDH* mutation with longer OS after CRT. Moreover, in the absence of an *IDH* mutation, equally low rates of long-term survival were seen after CRT and RT, findings that stand in contrast to the data on survival in relation to codeletion status, where more patients with noncodeleted tumors had long survival after CRT than RT alone.⁴

Our results point to an association between *IDH* mutation and benefit from pre-RT PCV in AO/AOA. In RTOG 9402, benefit from CRT was seen in patients with codeleted tumors, virtually all with *IDH* mutations, but also in patients with noncodeleted tumors with mutations; among the latter, those who were ATRX positive might have benefitted more than those who were negative. Whether these noncodeleted ATRX-positive tumors are biologically identical to codeleted tumors, save for absence of visible losses of 1p/19q, or represent laboratory errors in codeletion testing is unknown. Likewise, whether the association between *IDH* mutation and survival benefit from neoadjuvant PCV is causal through epigenetic silencing of *MGMT*² or other mechanisms,⁴⁴ is unresolved here. However, our findings are consistent with other correlative data. Analyses of EORTC (European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer) 26951 suggest that *IDH* mutations and the hypermethylated phenotype in AO/AOA are associated with survival benefit from adjuvant PCV. Although unequivocal statistical significance was not reached, there was a trend toward benefit from CRT.^{45,46} Readers are cautioned, however, that these important secondary analyses of RTOG 9402 and EORTC 26951 were unplanned and underpowered and had incomplete molecular data.

With these limitations in mind, a diagnostic approach to AO/AOA that includes assessment of *IDH* and codeletion might be helpful clinically.

Patients with mutated codeleted tumors will benefit from CRT; those with mutated noncodeleted tumors may also benefit but have shorter survival, whereas those with AO/AOA with neither alteration are unlikely to benefit from the addition of PCV chemotherapy to RT. Moreover, two simple, reliable, and inexpensive tests, well suited to biopsy samples, provide complementary information and might help oncologists decide when to use CRT versus RT alone for AO/AOA.

Two final issues merit comment. First, it is unclear whether our findings with regard to *IDH* and PCV apply to TMZ or to astrocytomas or GBMs with mutant *IDH*. Second, it is also unclear why patients with codeleted tumors had long survival after CRT. Does codeletion synergize with mutant *IDH* or the G allele to enhance sensitivity to PCV or slow tumor regrowth? The answers to these questions await new clinical trials and a thorough understanding of the biologic consequences 1p/19q codeletion and *IDH* mutation.

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author(s) indicated no potential conflicts of interest.

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Appendix

Table A1. Pretreatment Characteristics by *IDH* Availability

Characteristic	With <i>IDH</i> (n = 210)		Without <i>IDH</i> (n = 81)	
	No.	%	No.	%
1p 19q deletion				
Codeleted	98	46.7	28	34.6
Noncodeleted	110	52.4	27	33.3
Missing	2	1.0	26	32.1
Age, years				
< 50	140	66.7	61	75.3
≥ 50	70	33.3	20	24.7
Sex				
Male	126	60.0	48	59.3
Female	84	40.0	33	40.7
KPS				
60-70	22	10.5	8	9.9
80-100	188	89.5	73	90.1
Prior surgery				
Biopsy	24	11.4	11	13.6
Partial resection	120	57.1	40	49.4
Total resection	64	30.5	29	35.8
Surgery (no details)	2	1.0	1	1.2
Neurologic function				
No symptoms	65	31.0	29	35.8
Minor symptoms	108	51.4	34	42.0
Moderate (fully active)	20	9.5	9	11.1
Moderate (not fully active)	17	8.1	8	9.9
Unknown	0	0.0	1	1.2
Histology				
AO	111	52.9	39	48.1
AOA (oligo dominant)	41	19.5	24	29.6
AOA (oligo equal to astro)	33	15.7	6	7.4
AOA (astro dominant)	25	11.9	12	14.8
Grade				
Moderately anaplastic	113	53.8	48	59.3
Very anaplastic	97	46.2	33	40.7
Multifocal disease				
No	192	91.4	71	87.7
Yes	16	7.6	9	11.1
Unknown	2	1.0	1	1.2
Steroid use at baseline				
No	84	40.0	36	44.4
Yes	126	60.0	45	55.6
Treatment assigned				
PCV plus RT	111	52.9	37	45.7
RT alone	99	47.1	44	54.3

Abbreviations: AO, anaplastic oligodendroglioma; AOA, anaplastic oligoastrocytoma; KPS, Karnofsky performance score; PCV, procarbazine, lomustine, and vincristine; RT, radiotherapy.