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Mutant *IDH1* Promotes Glioma Formation *In Vivo*

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SUMMARY

Isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 (IDH1) is the most commonly mutated gene in grade II–III glioma and secondary glioblastoma (GBM). A causal role for IDH1^{R132H} in gliomagenesis has been proposed,

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DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

The accession number for RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) and methylation array data reported in this paper is GEO: GSE107616.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, five figures, and two tables and can be found with this article online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2018.03.133>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

B.P., D.X.Y., M.R.S., C.H.S., J.P.R., H.C., G.L.R., M.W.V., and S.L.H. contributed to the experimental design. B.P. performed the majority of the experiments. S.N.A. was responsible for breeding and genotyping. A.E.W. and S.R.T. performed immunohistochemistry. J.A.S. provided pathological analysis. R.J.G. created the *Atrx-floxed* mice. R.E.L. prepared the TFMB-(R)-2HG. B.P., D.X.Y., M.R.S., and S.L.H. prepared the manuscript.

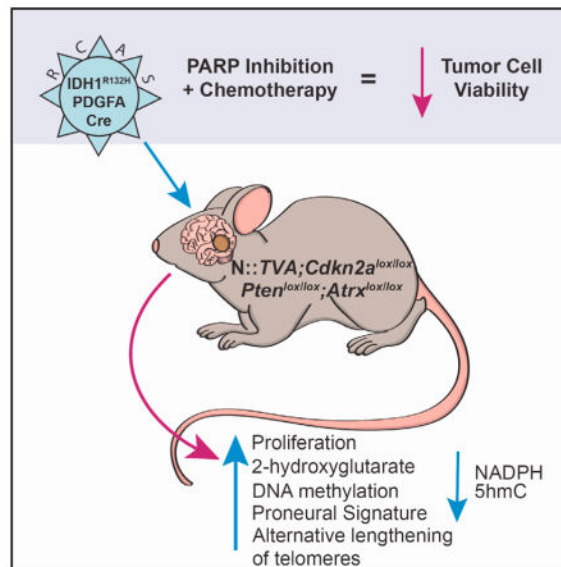
DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

but functional validation *in vivo* has not been demonstrated. In this study, we assessed the role of IDH1^{R132H} in glioma development in the context of clinically relevant cooperating genetic alterations *in vitro* and *in vivo*. Immortal astrocytes expressing IDH1^{R132H} exhibited elevated (R)-2-hydroxyglutarate levels, reduced NADPH, increased proliferation, and anchorage-independent growth. Although not sufficient on its own, IDH1^{R132H} cooperated with PDGFA and loss of *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* to promote glioma development *in vivo*. These tumors resembled pro-neural human mutant IDH1 GBM genetically, histologically, and functionally. Our findings support the hypothesis that IDH1^{R132H} promotes glioma development. This model enhances our understanding of the biology of IDH1^{R132H}-driven gliomas and facilitates testing of therapeutic strategies designed to combat this deadly disease.

In Brief

Philip et al. show that mutant IDH1 cooperates with PDGFA and loss of *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* to promote gliomagenesis *in vivo* in a mouse model of glioma. These tumors resemble proneural human mutant IDH1 glioblastoma and exhibit enhanced sensitivity to PARP inhibition in combination with chemotherapy.



INTRODUCTION

Gliomas are the most common primary CNS malignancy, but the molecular mechanisms responsible for their development and progression are not fully understood. In 2008, high-throughput sequencing of World Health Organization (WHO) grade IV glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) tumors identified a novel mutation at codon 132 (R132) in *isocitrate dehydrogenase 1* (*IDH1*) in 12% of the samples analyzed (Parsons et al., 2008). Further studies have found this mutation, or an analogous mutation at codon 172 (R172) in *isocitrate dehydrogenase 2* (*IDH2*), to be present in ~80% of WHO grade II–III gliomas and secondary GBM (Yan et al., 2009b). This mutation had never before been linked to cancer and the mechanism(s) by which it promotes tumor development is under intense

investigation. Subsequent studies have identified *IDH* mutations in acute myelogenous leukemia (AML), cholangiocarcinoma, cartilaginous tumors, prostate cancer, papillary breast carcinoma, melanoma, acute lymphoblastic leukemia, angioimmunoblastic T cell lymphoma, and primary myelofibrosis indicating that these genes may be important players in multiple tumor types (reviewed in Cohen et al., 2013).

IDH1 and IDH2 form homodimers in the cytosol and mitochondria, respectively. Dimeric IDH contains two active sites, each composed of amino acid residues from both subunits. Thus, dimerization is essential for its enzymatic activity (Xu et al., 2004). IDH proteins catalyze the oxidative decarboxylation of isocitrate to α -ketoglutarate (α -KG) in a two-step reaction that generates reduced nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate (NADPH) from NADP⁺. The IDH1 R132 and IDH2 R172 residues are located in the active sites of the enzyme and are critical for isocitrate binding (Parsons et al., 2008). Mutated IDH proteins utilize NADPH to reduce α -KG to R(-)-2-hydroxyglutarate (2-HG), which is supported by findings that 2-HG levels are elevated in mutant IDH1 gliomas (Dang et al., 2009). Thus, mutant IDH lowers the bioavailability of α -KG, while increased 2-HG competitively inhibits α -KG-dependent dioxygenases, including histone demethylases and the TET family of 5-methylcytosine (5mC) hydroxylases, which mediate DNA demethylation (Xu et al., 2011). As a result, gliomas harboring mutant IDH manifest a glioma-CpG island methylator phenotype (G-CIMP), which epigenetically alters the expression of numerous genes through DNA hypermethylation (Noushmehr et al., 2010).

Recent genomic analysis of diffuse, low-grade gliomas (LGGs) (WHO grades II or III) identified three subclasses consisting of wild-type *IDH* and mutant *IDH* with, or without, 1p/19q co-deletion (Brat et al., 2015). *IDH* mutation appears to be an early event in glioma development due to its presence in lower grade tumors. Nearly 90% of LGGs with an *IDH* mutation but no 1p/19q co-deletion also contained *TP53* mutations and inactivating alterations of *Alpha Thalassemia/Mental Retardation Syndrome X-Linked (ATRX)*. Amplification of loci encoding *Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Receptor A (PDGFRA)*, *Cyclin Dependent Kinase 4 (CDK4)*, and *MYC* was also reported (Brat et al., 2015). These alterations are similar to those observed in the proneural GBM subclass (Verhaak et al., 2010). We and others have further defined these subclasses based on copy number alterations. The *IDH* mutation subclass without 1p/19q co-deletion includes loss of 9p and 10q as well as gain of chromosomes 7 and 12q. Genes at these loci include *Cyclin Dependent Kinase Inhibitor 2A (CDKN2A; 9p21.3)*, *Phosphatase and Tensin Homolog Deleted on Chromosome Ten (PTEN; 10q23)*, *Platelet-Derived Growth Factor Alpha (PDGFA; 7q11.23)*, *CDK4 (12q13)*, and *Mouse Double Minute 2 Homolog (MDM2; 12q15)* (Cimino et al., 2017). Furthermore, we observed that progression of lower grade mutant IDH gliomas to GBM was associated with loss of chromosomal regions surrounding *PTEN* (Cohen et al., 2015).

Functional validation of these alterations in gliomagenesis has been hampered by difficulties establishing glioma mouse models (reviewed in Lenting et al., 2017). Expression of a conditional knockin allele of mutant *IDH1* using *Nestin-Cre* was perinatal lethal in all mice, while expression of mutant *IDH1* using *GFAP-Cre* was perinatal lethal in 92% of mice; no gliomas were observed in surviving mice (Sasaki et al., 2012). Restricted expression of

IDH1^{R132H} to the subventricular zone (SVZ) in adult mice using tamoxifen-inducible Nestin-Cre^{ER(T2)} resulted in reduced α -KG, increased 2-HG and DNA methylation, enhanced proliferation of SVZ cells, and infiltration of neuronal and glial progenitor cells into neighboring regions. However, no gliomas were observed in these mice, which suggests that expression of mutant IDH1 alone is insufficient for glioma development (Bardella et al., 2016).

In this study, we delivered mutant *IDH1* postnatally to nestin-expressing cells using the established RCAS/TVA glioma model. IDH1^{R132H} cooperated with PDGFA and loss of *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* to transform immortal astrocytes *in vitro* and promote glioma development *in vivo*. Our findings functionally validate the role of IDH1^{R132H} in driving glioma formation.

RESULTS

IDH1^{R132H} Promotes Astrocyte Growth

To evaluate the role(s) of specific genes in glioma development, we and others have used an established mouse model system based on the RCAS/TVA retroviral vector system to induce malignant gliomas *in vivo* (Holland, 2000). Using this somatic-cell gene delivery method, we initially assessed the effect of IDH1^{R132H} expression on the growth of primary astrocytes derived from Nestin::*TVA* (N::*TVA*);*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox} mice. No differences in astrocyte proliferation were observed between cells infected with RCAS-Cre alone or in combination with either RCAS-IDH1 or RCAS-IDH1^{R132H}, despite Cre-mediated loss of *Cdkn2a* and expression of wild-type (WT) or mutant IDH1 (data not shown). Genomic analysis of LGG subgroups shows that 86% of mutant *IDH1* without 1p/19q loss have inactivation of *ATR*X. *ATR*X is a core component of the chromatin remodeling complex active in the maintenance of telomeres. Loss of *ATR*X function appears to promote alternative lengthening of telomeres (ALT), which occurs in the absence of telomerase activity and is a potential precursor to genomic instability (Hu et al., 2016). Therefore, we crossed conditional *Atrx* (*Atrx*^{lox}) mice (Garrick et al., 2006) with N::*TVA*; *Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox} mice to generate N::*TVA*; *Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox} mice. Primary astrocytes isolated from these mice were infected with RCAS-Cre alone or in combination with either RCAS-IDH1 or RCAS-IDH1^{R132H}, which are both hemagglutinin (HA) tagged to distinguish virally delivered IDH1 expression from endogenous IDH1 (Figure S1A, left panel). While no significant difference in proliferation was observed between uninfected N::*TVA*; *Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox} astrocytes compared to astrocytes infected with RCAS-Cre alone, a 1.5-fold increase in proliferation was observed when these astrocytes were infected with both RCAS-Cre and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} relative to RCAS-Cre alone (p = 0.004; Figure S1B).

Flavahan et al. previously demonstrated aberrant *PDGFRA* gene activation in cells harboring mutant IDH as a result of hyper-methylation at cohesin and CCCTC-binding factor (CTCF)-binding sites, which disrupted binding of CTCF, a methylation-sensitive insulator protein (Flavahan et al., 2016). In addition, *IDH* mutation clusters from human gliomas frequently include gain of chromosome 7 (Cimino et al., 2017), which contains *platelet-derived growth factor alpha* (*PDGFA*;7q11.23), and we have observed specific upregulation of *Pdgfra*

mRNA in the presence of PDGFA expression *in vivo* (Shin et al., 2017). Therefore, we also evaluated the effect of PDGFRA signaling, via PDGFA expression, on the proliferation rate of N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox} astrocytes following infection with RCAS-PDGFA and RCAS-Cre alone or in combination with either RCAS-IDH1 or RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} (Figures S1A and S1B). Significant, but modest, differences in proliferation were observed between uninfected N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox} astrocytes, cells infected with each virus alone, or cells infected with the combination of RCAS-PDGFA, RCAS-Cre, and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} ($p < 0.05$; Figure S1B). Because expression of PDGFA only modestly increased cellular proliferation in this context, we crossed N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox} mice with conditional *Pten* (*Pten*^{lox}) mice (Zheng et al., 2008) to generate N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox}; *Pten*^{lox/lox} mice and model loss of chromosome 10q, which we observed associated with progression of lower grade mutant IDH1 gliomas to GBM (Cohen et al., 2015). Primary astrocytes from these mice were infected with RCAS-PDGFA and RCAS-Cre alone or in combination with either RCAS-IDH1 or RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} and expression was confirmed by western blot (Figure S1A, right panel). Significant differences in proliferation were observed between uninfected N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox}; *Pten*^{lox/lox} astrocytes and astrocytes infected with each virus individually ($p < 0.04$), but a nearly 10-fold increase in proliferation was observed when these cells were infected with the combination of RCAS-PDGFA, RCAS-Cre, and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} as compared with uninfected astrocytes or astrocytes infected with RCAS-PDGFA, RCAS-Cre, and RCAS-IDH1 ($p < 0.0001$; Figure 1A). These data demonstrate that IDH1^{R132H} promotes the growth of immortal *Cdkn2a*-deficient mouse astrocytes *in vitro*, and this effect is enhanced by expression of PDGFA in combination with loss of *Atrx* and *Pten*.

IDH1^{R132H} Promotes Growth in Soft Agar

To evaluate the ability of IDH1^{R132H} to promote anchorage-independent growth, colony formation of N::TVA;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox}; *Atrx*^{lox/lox}; *Pten*^{lox/lox} astrocytes was measured in soft agar. We demonstrated previously that astrocytes lacking *Cdkn2a* are immortal in culture but are not transformed as evidenced by their inability to form colonies in the semi-solid soft agar matrix (Robinson et al., 2010). Similarly, very few colonies were detected in astrocytes lacking *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* (Figure 1B); however, IDH1^{R132H} expression significantly increased anchorage-independent growth in this context ($p = 0.008$; Figure 1B). Furthermore, PDGFA combined with IDH1^{R132H} expression significantly increased colony number and size, compared with PDGFA expression alone ($p < 0.01$; Figures 1B and S1C). Interestingly, anchorage-independent growth was significantly reduced when WT IDH1 was co-expressed with PDGFA in this context ($p = 0.01$; Figure 1B). Expression of WT IDH1 in immortal astrocytes likely increases cellular levels of α -KG, which has been shown to have anti-tumor activity both *in vitro* and *in vivo* (reviewed in Zdzisi ska et al., 2017). These findings demonstrate that mutant IDH1 promotes anchorage-independent growth of immortal *Cdkn2a*-deficient mouse astrocytes *in vitro* in PDGFA-activated cells with loss of *Atrx* and *Pten*.

IDH1^{R132H} Consumes NADPH and Produces 2-HG

The physiological role of IDH1 is to convert isocitrate to α -KG and produce NADPH (Xu et al., 2004). R132H substitution in IDH1 alters the structure of the enzyme's active site and its enzymatic activity (Parsons et al., 2008). Thus, rather than generating NADPH, IDH1^{R132H} consumes NADPH to generate 2-HG (Dang et al., 2009). To determine the ability of WT IDH1 and IDH1^{R132H} to generate NADPH in *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes, we compared the levels of NADPH produced by these cells following infection with RCAS-Cre and RCAS-IDH1 or RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} in the presence or absence of RCAS-PDGFA. In the presence of isocitrate, cells expressing WT IDH1 generated significantly higher levels of NADPH compared with cells expressing IDH1^{R132H} ($p < 0.001$; Figure 1C). To assess the neomorphic enzymatic activity of IDH1^{R132H}, the level of 2-HG produced in each astrocyte culture expressing IDH1^{R132H} alone, PDGFA alone, PDGFA and IDH1^{R132H}, or PDGFA and WT IDH1 was quantitated using liquid chromatography/mass spectrophotometry (LC/MS). As expected, significantly higher levels of 2-HG were detected in cells expressing IDH1^{R132H} compared with the parental cells regardless of the presence or absence of PDGFA ($p < 0.03$). Astrocytes with IDH1^{R132H} expression produced more than 100-fold greater levels of 2-HG than the parental cells (Figure 1D). In contrast, there was no significant difference in 2-HG levels between cells expressing PDGFA alone or cells expressing PDGFA in combination with WT IDH1 when compared with the parental cells (Figure 1D). These data demonstrate that mouse astrocytes expressing IDH1^{R132H} behave similarly to human glioma cells harboring IDH1^{R132H} with respect to decreased NADPH production and increased levels of 2-HG.

Effects of IDH1^{R132H} Are Mediated by 2-HG

To investigate whether the effects of IDH1^{R132H} in this context are mediated by 2-HG, *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes expressing Cre alone or Cre and PDGFA were suspended in soft agar and treated with vehicle (DMSO) or a cell membrane-permeable [trifluoromethyl benzyl (TFMB)-esterified] version of (*R*)-2HG (Losman et al., 2013). Treatment of these cells with TFMB-(*R*)-2HG significantly enhanced anchorage-independent growth in all cells analyzed relative to their vehicle-treated controls. In cells expressing PDGFA and Cre, addition of TFMB-(*R*)-2HG mimicked the anchorage-independent growth observed in cells expressing IDH1^{R132H}. Interestingly, TFMB-(*R*)-2HG further enhanced colony formation in cells expressing IDH1^{R132H} (Figure 1E). These data suggest that the effects of IDH1^{R132H} on anchorage-independent growth are mediated by 2-HG.

IDH1^{R132H} Promotes Glioma Formation *In Vivo*

Previous studies have demonstrated that IDH1^{R132H} expression alone is insufficient to initiate glioma development in mice (Amankulor et al., 2017; Bardella et al., 2016), and our data support these findings. Informed by our *in vitro* studies, we evaluated the effect of IDH1^{R132H} expression in cooperation with additional genetic alterations *in vivo*. While intracranial delivery of RCAS-Cre and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} in combination did not result in glioma development or a decrease in survival within the experimental time frame of 150 days in *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* mice (Table S1), the addition of RCAS-

PDGFA led to glioma development in 88% (14/16) of injected mice in this context (Figure 2; Tables S1 and S2). Median survival was 43.5 ± 11 days in this cohort. In contrast, intracranial delivery of RCAS-Cre and RCAS-PDGFA with or without RCAS-IDH1 into $N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$ mice resulted in tumor development in only 20% (3/15) of injected mice for both conditions. The difference between either of these cohorts and the mutant IDH1 cohort is highly significant ($p = 3.8 \times 10^{-5}$; and 4.0×10^{-4} , respectively; Figure 2A). A significant difference in tumor incidence and median survival was also observed between $N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$ mice and all other strains of mice evaluated ($N::TVA;Atrx^{lox/lox}$, $N::TVA;Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$, $N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox}$, $N::TVACdkn2a^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$ and $N::TVA;Pten^{ox/lox}$) injected with RCAS-PDGFA, RCAS-Cre, and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} ($p < 0.0001$) (Figures 2B and S2; Tables S1 and S2). This demonstrates the significant cooperativity and necessity of these combined genetic alterations in promoting tumor development and demonstrates that IDH1^{R132H} promotes glioma formation in this context.

Brain sections from all mice were examined following necropsy and were scored by a board-certified neuropathologist (J.A.S.) as “no tumor,” “low-grade tumor,” or “high-grade tumor” based on histological features apparent in H&E-stained sections. Low-grade tumors demonstrated single cell infiltration with nuclear atypia including hyperchromasia and pleomorphism, while high-grade tumors also exhibited mitotic figures, vascular proliferation, and/or areas of pseudopalisading necrosis (Figures 3A and S3). All of the tumors that developed in the $N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$ mice were high grade except one tumor in the RCAS-PDGFA and RCAS-Cre cohort. Cre-mediated recombination of *Atrx*, *Cdkn2a*, and *Pten* was assessed by immunohistochemistry (IHC) for ATRX, p19ARF, and PTEN, respectively (Figure S4). The majority of cells in the low-grade tumor in the RCAS-PDGFA and RCAS-Cre cohort continued to express ATRX (data not shown). High-grade tumors were positive for endomucin, an endothelial cell marker, indicating aberrant proliferative vasculature (Figure S4). Virally delivered RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} was detected by IHC with an antibody that specifically detects IDH1^{R132H} and both wild-type and mutant IDH1 were also detected using an antibody that recognizes the HA epitope tag (Figure 3A). All tumors highly expressed PDGFA (Figures 3A and S4) and the oligodendrocyte marker, Olig2, but IHC for the astrocyte marker, glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP), appeared to be limited to non-tumorigenic reactive astrocytes (Figure 3A). The high-grade tumors in each cohort were assessed for proliferation by IHC for Ki67 (Figure 3B). The mean percentage of Ki67 positive cells was quantified from three high-powered fields using ImageJ (Almeida et al., 2012). The average percentage of Ki67 positive cells was $21.2\% \pm 1.5\%$ in the PDGFA and Cre tumors, $27.1\% \pm 2.3\%$ in the PDGFA, Cre and IDH1 tumors, and $26.2\% \pm 4.6\%$ in the PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H} tumors. No significant difference was observed between any of the pairwise comparisons.

IDH1^{R132H} Gliomas with ATRX Loss Display an ALT Phenotype

ALT is an adaptive mechanism utilized by tumor cells that lack telomerase activity and hence rely on a telomerase-independent mechanism for maintenance of their telomere length (Hu et al., 2016). The ALT phenotype is characterized by the co-localization of the telomeres with ALT-associated promyelocytic leukemia (PML)-like bodies (APBs), which

are a subset of PML bodies that are present only in ALT positive and telomerase negative tumors (Draskovic et al., 2009; Jiang et al., 2009). To detect the presence of APBs and their co-existence with telomeres, we performed immuno-FISH with telomere probes and an anti-PML antibody. As expected, *Atrx*-deficient tumors exhibited co-localization of APBs with telomeres, whereas WT *Atrx* tumors did not (Figure 4).

IDH1^{R132H}-Driven Tumors Most Closely Resemble the Proneural Subtype

Human GBM has been classified into four different subtypes consisting of proneural, classical, mesenchymal, and neural (Verhaak et al., 2010). High-grade IDH1^{R132H}-driven tumors in mice resemble human GBM histologically, but it is unclear which subtype, if any, they model. To determine whether the IDH1^{R132H}-driven mouse gliomas resembled a particular subtype, we performed gene expression analysis on RNA extracted from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded (FFPE) high-grade gliomas generated in *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* mice by delivery of RCAS-PDGFA, RCAS-Cre, and RCAS-IDH1^{R132H} as well as high-grade gliomas generated with RCAS-PDGFA and RCAS-Cre with RCAS-IDH1 in the same mouse strain. Three tumors from each cohort were analyzed by RNA sequencing. We have previously shown that the transcript coverage and exonic mapping rate we observed are typical for FFPE tissue (Shin et al., 2017). We performed gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) to compare the expression pattern of these tumors with the datasets from the four GBM subtypes as described previously (Lu et al., 2016). Based on GSEA, the signature gene sets associated with human proneural GBM subtype were significantly enriched in the gene expression profile of IDH1^{R132H}-driven mouse tumors with a significant normalized enrichment score (NES) of 2.11. None of the signature gene sets from any of the other subtypes were significantly associated with the IDH1^{R132H}-driven tumors (Figure 5).

IDH1^{R132H} Alters the Methylation Landscape in Mouse Gliomas

2-HG is a competitive inhibitor of α -KG-dependent dioxygenases including the TET family of 5mC hydroxylases. In human cells, DNA methylation primarily occurs as a 5mC modification of the cytosine bases in CpG dinucleotides. 5mC is an important epigenetic mark that is involved in the control of gene transcription. However, recent studies have identified 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (5hmC), which is formed by oxidation of 5mC by TET enzymes (Tahiliani et al., 2009). Xu et al. demonstrated that mutant IDH1 and IDH2 inhibit 5hmC production by TET (Xu et al., 2011). To assess this phenotype in the tumors that developed in our mouse model, we performed IHC for 5hmC on all tumors that developed in injected *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* mice. Consistent with decreased activity of TET in cells expressing IDH1^{R132H}, we observed significantly decreased 5hmC staining in IDH1^{R132H} tumors compared with tumors expressing WT IDH1 or PDGFA and Cre alone (Figures 6A and 6B). A modest, but significant, decrease in 5hmC staining was also observed in the WT IDH1 tumors compared to the PDGFA and Cre-only tumors. This may be explained by the finding that wild-type IDH1 can also catalyze the conversion of α -KG to 2-HG, albeit less efficiently than mutant IDH (Pietrak et al., 2011).

Decreased 5hmC levels in IDH1^{R132H} tumors suggested that the mouse tumors exhibit a hypermethylation phenotype similar to what is observed in the human disease. To further

validate this finding, the DNA methylomes in the mouse gliomas were profiled using methyl-seq. As an initial analysis to demonstrate the similarity between samples, a clustered heatmap was generated and the sample to sample distance was measured using Euclidean distance (Figure S5A). Differentially methylated CpG regions in both IDH1^{R132H} and IDH1 expressing cells were identified and clustered using K-means algorithm. Expression of mutant IDH1 caused a marked increase in hypermethylation at a large number of CpG regions compared to WT IDH1 (Figures 6 and S5B). Two robust differential DNA methylation clustering patterns, which correlated with IDH1^{R132H} samples with high methylation levels and WT IDH1 with relatively lower methylation levels, were observed (Figure 6). Further analysis of the methylation targets between IDH1^{R132H} and WT IDH1 tumors revealed 16,179 regions that were differentially methylated, including 3,433 differentially methylated CpG regions that intersect within 3 kb of a promoter. There were 13,570 regions that were hypermethylated and 2,609 that were hypomethylated in IDH1^{R132H} tumors compared with WT IDH1 tumors.

IDH1^{R132H}-Expressing Cells Demonstrate Enhanced Sensitivity to PARP Inhibitors

Previous studies revealed that IDH1 mutant cells are hypersensitive to poly-(adenosine 5'-diphosphateribose) polymerase (PARP) inhibitors (Lu et al., 2017; Sulkowski et al., 2017). This phenotype was further validated by others in glioma cell lines ectopically expressing IDH1^{R132H} (Lu et al., 2017), in primary patient-derived IDH1^{R132H} glioma cells, and in subcutaneous xenograft tumor models (Sulkowski et al., 2017). We assessed the cytotoxicity of the PARP inhibitor, olaparib, alone and in combination with temozolomide (TMZ), a DNA alkylating agent that is currently the standard of care for patients with IDH mutant gliomas, using primary tumor cells derived from IDH1^{R132H} and WT IDH1 gliomas as well as astrocytes from *N::TVA; Cdkn2a^{lox/lox}; Atrx^{lox/lox}; Pten^{lox/lox}* mice infected with viruses containing PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H} or IDH1. We observed enhanced sensitivity to olaparib in cells harboring IDH1^{R132H} compared with WT IDH1. IC₅₀ values from dose-response curves of olaparib were 26.6 and 85.3 μM for IDH1^{R132H} astrocytes and tumor cells, respectively (Figure 7A), while the IC₅₀ values of their WT counterparts were >100 μM (Figure 7B). Furthermore, TMZ significantly enhanced the cytotoxic effects of olaparib in IDH1^{R132H} cells. Addition of TMZ at 10, 25, and 50 μM potentiated the cytotoxicity of olaparib selectively in IDH1^{R132H}-expressing cells, reducing the olaparib IC₅₀ from 26.6 to 23.4 μM, 9.51 μM, and 3.76 μM in astrocytes and from 85.3 to 32.4 μM, and 18.9 to 13.9 μM in tumor cells, respectively (Figure 7A). No significant potentiation was observed in cells expressing WT IDH1 (Figure 7B). In agreement with a previous study that reported enhanced vulnerability of glioma cells ectopically expressing IDH^{R132H} to TMZ (Lu et al., 2017), we also observed sensitivity in astrocytes expressing IDH1^{R132H} (Figure 7C, inset). However, the combination of TMZ and olaparib resulted in a significant reduction in cell viability compared with either agent alone for both astrocytes and tumor cells expressing IDH1^{R132H}, suggesting that this is an effective therapeutic strategy for the treatment of IDH1^{R132H} tumors (Figures 7C and 7D).

DISCUSSION

In this study, we provide *in vivo* evidence that IDH1^{R132H} promotes gliomagenesis. We observed that IDH1^{R132H} cooperates with PDGFA and loss of the tumor suppressors *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* to induce tumor development but was not sufficient to promote tumor development on its own. Our findings are consistent with a previous study in which specific expression of IDH1^{R132H} in nestin-expressing cells within the SVZ in adult mice did not produce tumors but led to increased 2-HG, enhanced proliferation, and infiltration of neuronal and glial progenitor cells into neighboring regions (Bardella et al., 2016). Modrek et al. reported similar findings using a human neural stem cell model in the context of mutant *IDH1* with loss of *TP53* and *ATRAX* (Modrek et al., 2017). Likewise, Amankulor et al. (2017) did not observe glioma development using the RCAS/TVA glioma model when mutant *IDH1* was expressed alone or in combination with *TP53* loss and/or *Cdkn2a* loss. Gliomas were induced when combined with PDGFA, but there was no significant difference in survival between mice harboring tumors expressing either wild-type or mutant *IDH1* in the context of homozygous *Cdkn2a* loss. Similarly, we did not observe a significant difference in survival between mice harboring tumors expressing either PDGFA alone or in combination with wild-type or mutant *IDH1* in the context of homozygous *Cdkn2a* loss or in combination with *Pten* loss. Our data suggest that loss of all three tumor suppressors *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* in combination is necessary for IDH1^{R132H} and PDGFA to significantly enhance tumor penetrance and decrease tumor latency (Figures 2 and S2).

Loss of *Cdkn2a* eliminates expression of INK4A and alternative reading frame (ARF), which function to regulate the retinoblastoma (RB) and TP53 pathways, respectively. In the absence of these cell-cycle checkpoints, cells are able to bypass senescence until their telomeres become critically short and they enter crisis. Loss of *Atrx* enables these cells to use recombination as a mechanism to lengthen their telomeres and escape crisis in the absence of telomerase activation. However, it was recently reported that dysregulation of both the TP53 and RB pathways as well as *ATRAX* loss was not sufficient to drive this process in human astrocytes. Interestingly, combined loss of *ATRAX* and expression of mutant *IDH1* was required in T53/RB-deficient human astrocytes to produce the ALT phenotype, bypass telomere crisis, and escape cell death (Mukherjee et al., 2018). Nonetheless, this combination was still unable to promote tumor development *in vivo* within the experimental time frame of 150 days (Table S1), which suggests that further cooperating events are required. The PI3K/AKT pathway is one of the most commonly altered signaling pathways in cancer. It is activated by a number of mechanisms including but not limited to signaling from receptor tyrosine kinases (RTK) and loss of the tumor suppressor *PTEN*. Activation of the PI3K/AKT signaling pathway not only promotes cell survival, progression through the cell cycle, and cell migration but also has profound effects on cellular metabolism including up-regulation of glutamine transporters (Boehmer et al., 2003). The ability of mutant IDH1 to produce 2-HG is limited by the availability of its substrate α -KG. To generate 2-HG from α -KG, mutant IDH1 relies on wild-type IDH1 to convert isocitrate to α -KG. This may explain why the wild-type allele is retained and mutant IDH1 is almost always heterozygous. 2-HG has also been shown to be derived from glutamine (Dang et al., 2009). Glutamine enters the cell via transporters and is converted to glutamate by

mitochondrial glutaminase. Glutamate can then be converted to α -KG by either glutamate dehydrogenase or by amino-transferases. Activation of PI3K/AKT signaling by PDGFA and loss of PTEN likely leads to increased glutamine uptake, which further cooperates with mutant IDH1 to promote tumorigenesis by providing a source of α -KG for further production of 2-HG. We are currently evaluating this hypothesis.

The mouse tumors resemble high-grade human mutant *IDH1* gliomas genetically, histologically, and functionally. The majority of human *IDH1* mutant gliomas contain inactivating alterations of *ATRX*. Loss of 9p (*CDKN2A*; 9p21.3) and 10q (*PTEN*; 10q23) as well as gain of chromosomes 7 (*PDGFA*; 7q11.23) and 12q (*CDK4*; 12q13 and *MDM2*; 12q15) have also been observed (Cimino et al., 2017). The majority of mutant *IDH1* gliomas also contain *TP53* mutations (94%) (Brat et al., 2015), which was not directly evaluated in this study but is currently under investigation. Deletion of the *Cdkn2a* locus results in loss of the tumor suppressor ARF, which normally regulates TP53 function via MDM2, and loss of the tumor suppressor p16, which normally regulates Rb function via CDK4/6. Therefore, disruption of both the TP53 and Rb pathways was evaluated through deletion of *Cdkn2a*.

Histologically, the mutant *IDH1* mouse tumors were highly proliferative, contained abnormal vasculature, and exhibited areas of pseudopalisading necrosis (Figures 3, S3, and S4). Functionally, mouse astrocytes containing IDH1^{R132H} produced over 100-fold greater levels of 2-HG than the parental cells or cells containing WT IDH1 (Figure 1D). This increase is similar to the fold changes observed in patient tumor samples relative to normal brain tissue (Dang et al., 2009). We also observed the presence of APBs and their co-existence with telomeres in *Atrx*-deficient tumors, which suggests that the mechanism by which these tumor cells bypass crisis as a result of shortened telomeres is through ALT (Figure 4). We and others have previously shown that mouse gliomas driven by PDGFA in the context of *Cdkn2a* and *Pten* loss resemble the proneural subtype of human GBM (Ozawa et al., 2014; Shin et al., 2017). Comparison of the IDH1^{R132H} tumors to the human subtype signatures demonstrated that they positively correlated with the proneural signature (Figure 5), which is characterized by IDH mutation and alterations in PDGFRA signaling in the human disease (Verhaak et al., 2010). Bardella et al. (2016) performed a similar GSEA of conditional knockin mice induced to express IDH1^{R132H} in SVZ cells at 5 weeks of age and also observed a significant association with the proneural subtype.

The TET family of 5mC hydroxylases, which mediate DNA demethylation (Xu et al., 2011), are inhibited by high 2-HG levels. As a result, gliomas harboring mutant *IDH* manifest a G-CIMP, which epigenetically alters the expression of numerous genes through DNA hypermethylation (Noushmehr et al., 2010). We observed significantly decreased 5hmC staining in IDH1^{R132H} tumors compared with tumors expressing WT IDH1, which is consistent with decreased activity of TET in cells expressing IDH1^{R132H} (Figures 6A and 6B). Global assessment of DNA methylation in the mouse tumors revealed a large number of differentially methylated CpG regions between IDH1^{R132H} tumors and WT IDH1 tumors (Figures 6C and S5). These observations suggest that IDH1^{R132H} induces a global hypermethylation phenotype in the mouse gliomas similar to the human disease.

In a prospective analysis, grade II–IV glioma patients with mutated *IDH1* or *IDH2* had significantly longer overall survival than patients without *IDH* mutation (Sanson et al., 2009). This finding has been confirmed independently by others (Weller et al., 2009; Yan et al., 2009b). Interestingly, the presence of an *IDH* mutation was found to be an independent marker for better prognosis (Sanson et al., 2009). GBM patients with mutated *IDH1* or *IDH2* have an average survival of 31 versus 15 months for patients without the mutation (Sanson et al., 2009; Yan et al., 2009a). Patients with anaplastic astrocytomas containing *IDH* mutations also had a statistically significant increase in average overall survival when compared with patients without *IDH* mutations (Yan et al., 2009b). These clinical findings suggested that tumors harboring mutations in *IDH* are more sensitive to conventional chemotherapy and radio-therapy, and this was confirmed by two independent clinical studies, but the mechanistic basis for these observation was unclear (Cairncross et al., 2014; Tran et al., 2014). Sulkowski et al. (2017) recently shed light on this mechanism by demonstrating that 2-HG produced by mutant *IDH* induces a defect in homologous recombination (HR), via inhibition of histone lysine demethylases, and reduced ability to repair DNA double-strand breaks. Cancers with defects in DNA repair are often highly sensitive to PARP inhibitors. Therapeutics developed based on this approach have been effective in treating hereditary breast and ovarian cancers, which have defects in BRCA1 and BRCA2, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two PARP inhibitors, rucaparib and olaparib, to treat certain BRCA mutant ovarian cancers. Sulkowski et al. further demonstrated that mutant IDH tumor cells are sensitive to olaparib. We confirmed these findings and demonstrated potentiation of olaparib with the alkylating agent TMZ in both astrocytes and tumor-derived cells lines (Figure 7).

The discovery of mutations in *IDH* has cast a new light on the molecular landscape in glioma and is changing the paradigm for how the disease is defined and treated. Several small molecule inhibitors targeting mutant IDH have been generated and are in various stages of development (Dang et al., 2016). A selective inhibitor of mutant IDH1 inhibited the production of 2-HG and the growth of cells expressing IDH1^{R132H}, but this was independent of its epigenetic effects (Rohle et al., 2013). Demonstration of *in vivo* efficacy of these and other therapies in a relevant glioma model would further support translation to the clinic. The model we described in this study will aid in furthering our understanding of the biology of mutant *IDH1* gliomas and is ideally suited for assessing rational therapeutic strategies designed to combat this deadly disease.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Further details and an outline of resources used in this work can be found in Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Statistical Methods

Survival data analysis was performed using a log-rank test of the Kaplan-Meier estimate of survival. Cell proliferation and NADPH assay p values were determined by two-way ANOVA (*p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001). To compare means, two-tailed Student's t

test was used. Ki67-stained cells were quantitated using ImageJ software as described (Almeida et al., 2012). p values below 0.05 were considered significant.

Mice

N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox} mice were produced by crossing pre-existing strains. All experimental procedures were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the University of Utah. Both male and female newborn through adult mice were used in this study.

Supplementary Material

Refer to Web version on PubMed Central for supplementary material.

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Highlights

- IDH1^{R132H} and PDGFA cooperate with loss of *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* in gliomagenesis
- 2-HG mediates the oncogenic effects of IDH1^{R132H}
- IDH1^{R132H}-driven tumors mimic the human disease and resemble the proneural subtype
- IDH1^{R132H} tumor cells have enhanced sensitivity to PARP inhibitors

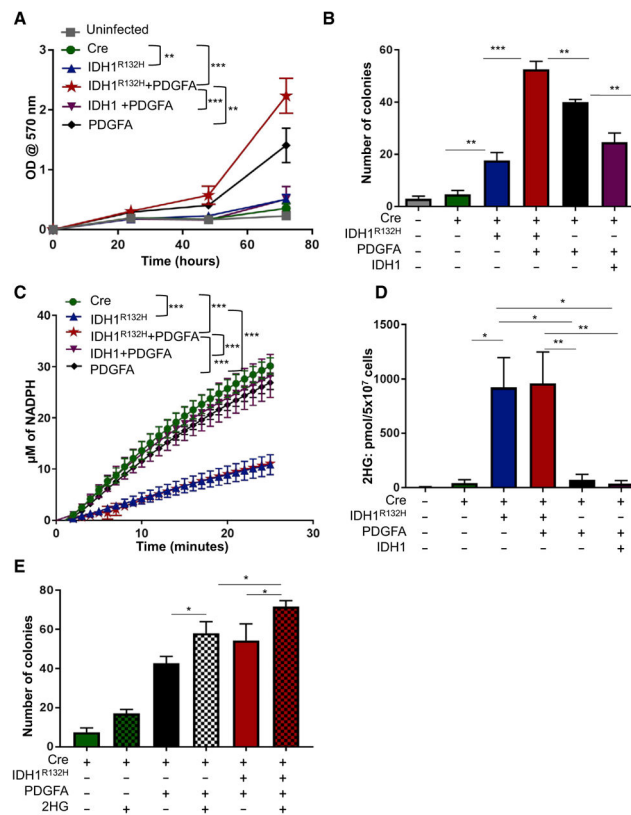


Figure 1. IDH1^{R132H} Promotes Growth of Immortal Astrocytes, Consumes NADPH, and Increases 2-HG Levels

(A) Cell proliferation was determined by MTT assay of astrocytes derived from *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* mice and infected with viruses containing Cre, IDH1^{R132H}, IDH1, and/or PDGFA as indicated.

(B) Anchorage-independent growth of *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes infected with viruses containing the genes indicated was analyzed by soft agar colony formation assay.

(C) NADPH production was measured from *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes infected with viruses containing the genes indicated.

(D) 2-HG production from *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes infected with viruses containing the genes indicated was detected by LC/MS.

(E) Anchorage-independent growth of *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* astrocytes infected with viruses containing the genes indicated and/or treated with 2-HG (checked bars) was analyzed by soft agar colony formation assay.

Data are expressed as the mean \pm SEM with three replicates. Statistical significance is denoted: * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, *** $p < 0.001$. See also Figure S1.

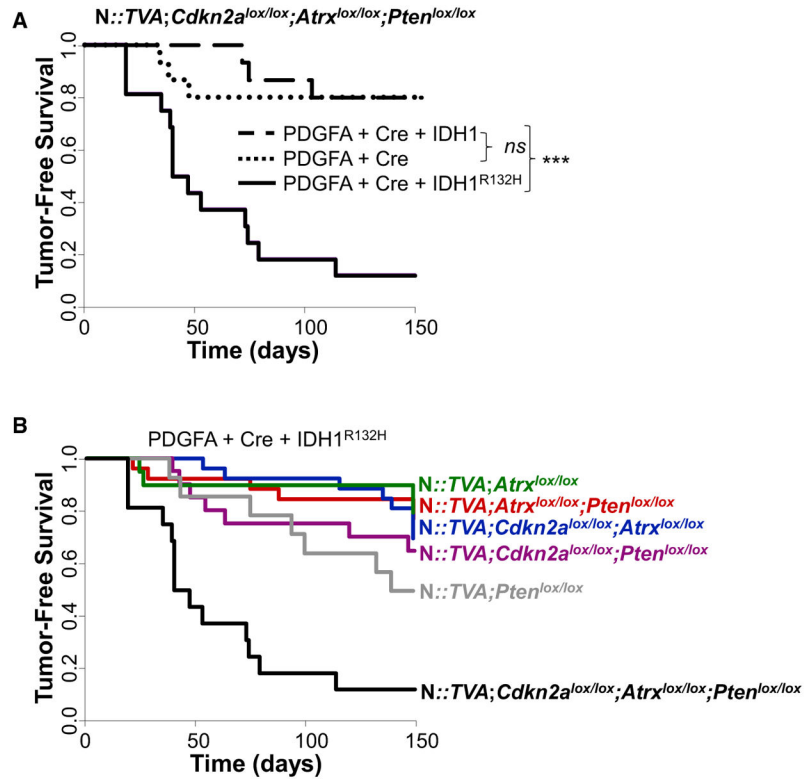


Figure 2. IDH1^{R132H} Cooperates with PDGFA and Loss of *Cdkn2a*, *Atrx*, and *Pten* to Promote Glioma Formation *In Vivo*

(A) Kaplan-Meier tumor-free survival analysis of

N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox} mice infected with viruses containing PDGFA and Cre (n = 15, dotted line), PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1 (n = 15, dashed line), or PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H} (n = 16, solid line).

(B) Kaplan-Meier tumor-free survival analysis of the mouse strains indicated infected with viruses containing PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H}.

Statistical significance is denoted by ***p < 0.001. ns, not significant. See also Figure S2 and Tables S1 and S2.

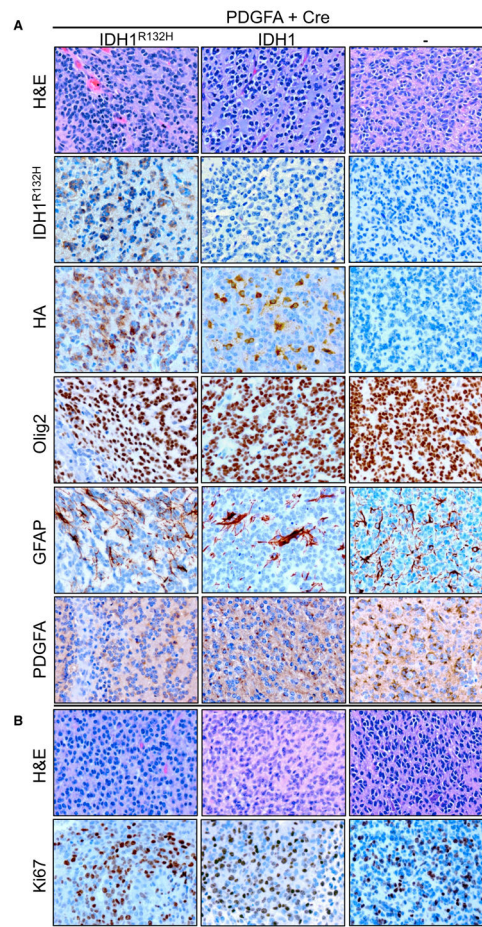


Figure 3. Histological Examination of Gliomas from *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}*-Injected Mice

(A) Representative H&E and IHC images for indicated antibodies IDH1^{R132H}, HA, Oligo2, GFAP, and PDGFA for gliomas from each cohort of mice injected with viruses containing PDGFA and Cre alone (right column) or in combination with IDH1^{R132H} (left column) or WT IDH1 (middle column).

(B) Representative high-power H&E and Ki67 images of tumors generated in mice injected with viruses containing PDGFA and Cre alone (right column) or in combination with IDH1^{R132H} (left column) or WT IDH1 (middle column) as indicated. Scale bar represents 100 μm .

See also Figures S3 and S4.

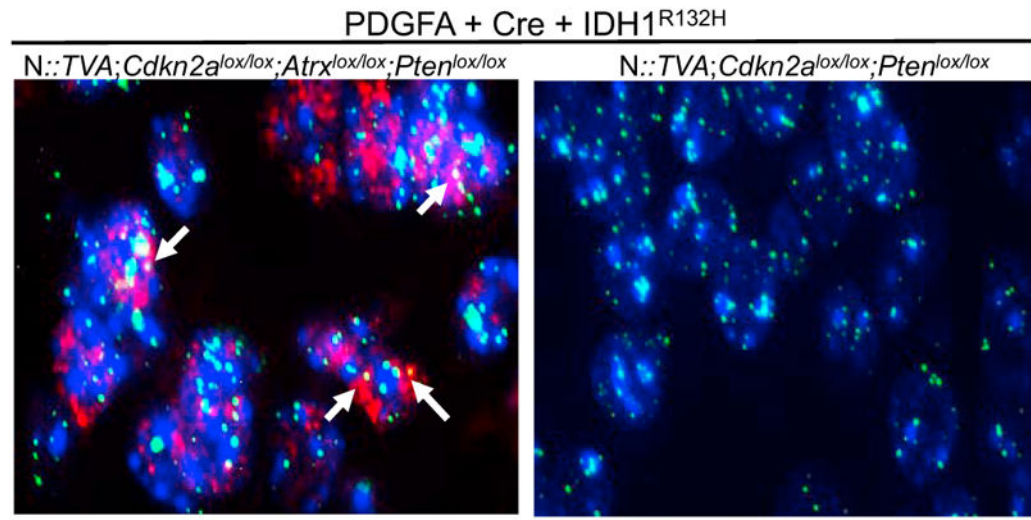


Figure 4. IDH1^{R132H} Gliomas with *Atrx* Loss Display an ALT Phenotype

Representative images of immuno-FISH on brain sections from N::*TVA*;
Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};*Atrx*^{lox/lox};*Pten*^{lox/lox} and N::*TVA*;*Cdkn2a*^{lox/lox};*Pten*^{lox/lox} gliomas from mice
 injected with viruses containing PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H}. White arrows indicate the
 co-localization of ALT-associated promyelocytic leukemia-like bodies (red) with telomeres
 (green). Background nuclear DNA is stained with Hoechst 33342 (blue). Scale bar
 represents 10 μ m.

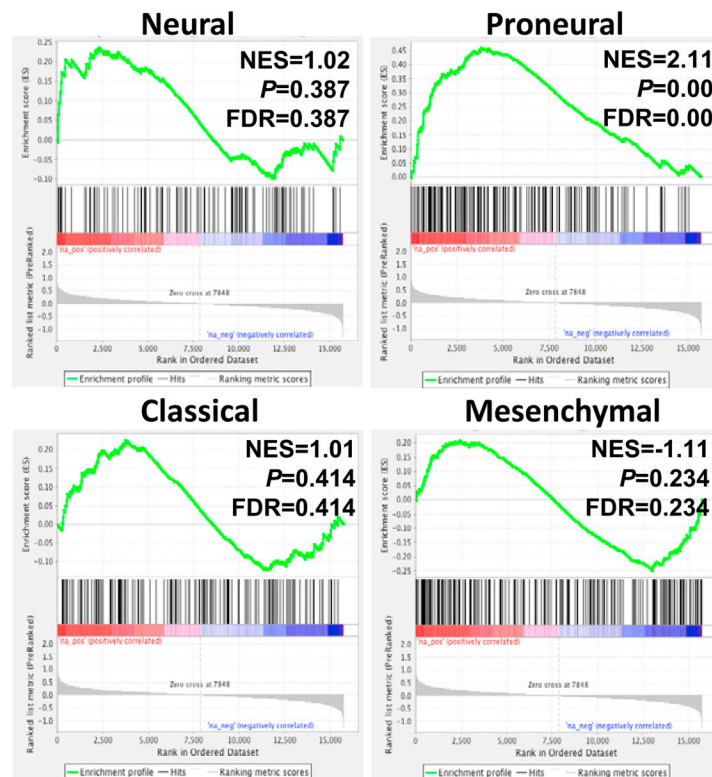


Figure 5. GSEA Comparison between Mouse and Human GBM

GSEA enrichment plots showing the comparison of gene expression profiles in high-grade tumors derived from $N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}$ mice infected with viruses containing PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H} with the TCGA signature gene sets in neural, proneural, classical, and mesenchymal GBM as indicated. NES, normalized enrichment score; p value represents the statistical significance of the enrichment score; FDR, false discovery rate.

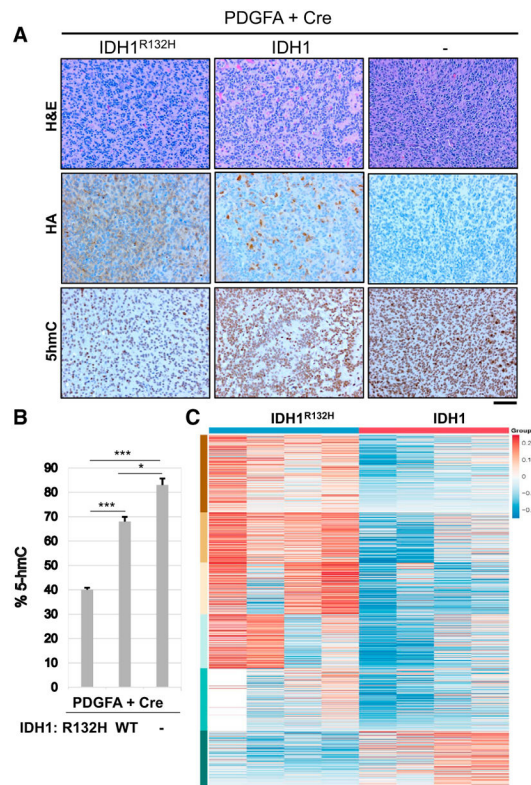


Figure 6. IDH1^{R132H} Reduces 5hmC Levels and Alters the Methylation Landscape in Mouse Gliomas

(A) Representative IHC images of 5hmC expression in gliomas generated in *N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox}* mice injected with viruses containing PDGFA and Cre alone (right column) or in combination with IDH1^{R132H} (left column) or WT IDH1 (middle column) as indicated. Scale bar represents 100 μ m.

(B) Quantification of 5hmC IHC in all three tumor types.

(C) Heatmap comparing the relative difference of the regional fraction methylation of differentially methylated CpG regions between IDH1^{R132H} and IDH1 samples.

Columns correspond to samples and rows correspond to regions organized into 6 groups by k-means algorithm. See also Figure S5.

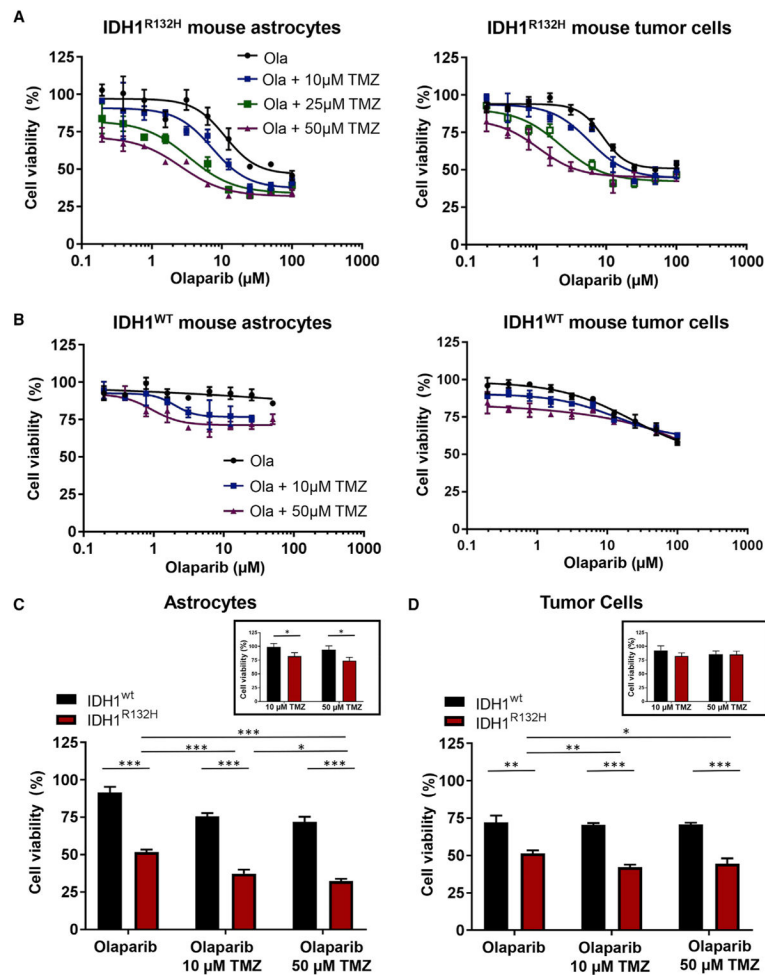


Figure 7. Astrocytes and Glioma Cells Harboring IDH1^{R132H} Demonstrate Enhanced Sensitivity to Inhibition of PARP-Mediated DNA Repair and Potentiation by Alkylating Chemotherapy

(A) Dose-response curves for N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox} mouse astrocytes (left panel) and tumor cells (right panel) expressing PDGFA, Cre, and IDH1^{R132H} treated with olaparib and TMZ.

(B) Dose-response curves for N::TVA;Cdkn2a^{lox/lox};Atrx^{lox/lox};Pten^{lox/lox} mouse astrocytes and tumor cells expressing PDGFA, Cre, and WT IDH1 treated with olaparib and TMZ.

(C) Quantification of cell viability in mouse astrocytes expressing wild-type or mutant IDH1 treated with olaparib alone (25 μM), TMZ alone (10 μM, 50 μM; inset), and olaparib in combination with TMZ.

(D) Quantification of cell viability in wild-type and mutant IDH1 glioma-derived cells treated with olaparib alone (25 μM), TMZ alone (10 μM, 50 μM; inset), and in combination with TMZ.

Data are expressed as the mean ± SEM with three replicates. Significance is denoted: *p < 0.05, **p < 0.01, ***p < 0.001. lengthening of telomeres-associated PML bodies by p53/p21 requires HP1 proteins. J. Cell Biol. 185, 797–810.