



# Examining Stripes on a Herd of Zebras: Impact of Genomic Matching for Ultrarare Sarcomas in Phase 1 Clinical Trials (SAMBA 102)

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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** Recently, the Connective Tissue Oncology Society published consensus guidelines for recognizing ultrarare sarcomas (URS), defined as sarcomas with an incidence  $\leq 1$  per 1,000,000. We assessed the outcomes of 56 patients with soft tissue, and 21 with bone sarcomas, enrolled in Phase 1 trials.

**Experimental Design:** In this Sarcoma-Matched Biomarker Analysis (SAMBA-102 study), we reviewed records from patients on Phase 1 trials at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center between January 2013 and June 2021.

**Results:** Among 587 sarcomas, 106 (18.1%) were classified as URS. Fifty (47%) were male, and the median age was 44.3 years (range, 19–82). The most common subtypes were alveolar soft part sarcoma (ASPS), chordoma, dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma, and sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma. Compared with common sarcomas, median OS was similar 16.1 months

[95% confidence interval (CI), 13.6–17.5] versus 16.1 (95% CI, 8.2–24.0) in URS ( $P = 0.359$ ). Objective response to treatment was higher in URS 13.2% ( $n = 14/106$ ) compared with common sarcomas 6.9% ( $n = 33/481$ ;  $P = 0.029$ ). Median OS for those treated on matched trials was 27.3 months (95% CI, 1.9–52.7) compared with 13.4 months (95% CI, 6.3–20.6) for those not treated on matched trials ( $P = 0.291$ ). Eight of 33 (24%) molecularly matched treatments resulted in an objective response, whereas 6 of 73 unmatched treatments (8.2%) resulted in an objective response ( $P = 0.024$ ). Clinical benefit rate was 36.4% (12/33) in matched trials versus 26.0% (19/73) in unmatched trials ( $P = 0.279$ ).

**Conclusions:** The results demonstrate the benefit of genomic selection in Phase 1 trials to help identify molecular subsets likely to benefit from targeted therapy.

## Introduction

Sarcomas are a rare cancer of the tissue or bones of which an estimated 13,460 soft tissue and 3,610 bone sarcomas will be diagnosed in 2021 in the United States (1). Drug development in sarcoma has been challenging given the rarity and heterogeneity. The recent failure of olaratumab, a PDGFR $\alpha$  antagonist that received accelerated approval for advanced soft tissue sarcoma (STS) but was later with-

drawn from the market due to disappointing Phase 3 findings in the ANNOUNCE trial, has been a setback as well (2).

The olaratumab/doxorubicin combination missed the trial's primary endpoint of overall survival (OS). The treatment could not confirm a clinical benefit compared with standard doxorubicin in patients with advanced or metastatic STS. However, this was a non-biomarker-driven study in all types of STS. The increasing availability of clinical next-generation sequencing (NGS) has altered the landscape of many common and rare tumors. Biomarker-driven drug approvals in rare indications like BRAF and MEK inhibition in anaplastic thyroid cancer or BRAF inhibitor in Erdheim-Chester disease in a dataset of fewer than 30 patients gives us the enthusiasm to design studies in rare indications (3, 4).

Because more than 150 different sarcoma subtypes exist, the Connective Tissue Oncology Society recently published consensus guidelines for recognizing ultrarare sarcomas (URS; ref. 5). Fifty-six STS and 21 bone sarcoma types were defined as URS based on an incidence  $\leq 1$  per 1,000,000. These ultrarare soft tissues and bone sarcoma histologies comprise up to 20% of the total sarcoma population and often lack approved histology-driven treatments. Currently, only three therapies are FDA-approved among URS subtypes. This includes tazemetostat for advanced epithelioid sarcoma with INI/SMARCB1 loss (6) and nab-sirolimus, an mTORC1 inhibitor that has demonstrated activity in metastatic malignant perivascular epithelioid cell tumors that often harbor mTOR-activating TSC1/2 mutations. In this single-arm, multi-center, Phase II trial, 34 patients at 9 centers were treated with nab-sirolimus. The overall response rate (ORR) was 39% (12 of 31), with a clinical benefit of 52% ( $n = 16/31$ ;

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### Translational Relevance

Ultrarare sarcomas (URS) are a newly defined category of rare sarcomas for which histology-driven treatments are limited. Individually, these cancer types are scarce, but when combined, they comprise 20% of all bone and soft tissue sarcomas. Genomic sequencing of rare tumors may identify actionable alterations amenable for molecularly targeted therapies. A review of all URS from a large Phase 1 clinic treated on molecularly matched treatments found an improved response rate (24% vs. 8.2%  $P = 0.024$ ) when URS were treated on matched to unmatched treatments. This translated to a clinically meaningful but not statistically significant improvement in progression-free survival and overall survival and outcomes non-inferior to more common sarcoma subtypes in Phase 1 trials. Therefore, genomic sequencing is essential to unlocking all potential therapeutic avenues for advanced or metastatic URS.

ref. 7). Histology-specific or biomarker-driven trials in rare sarcoma subtypes should be considered when testing investigational anticancer therapeutics (8). Most recently, crizotinib was approved for ALK-positive inflammatory myofibroblastic tumors (IMFT) following 7 adult patients with responses [7 complete response (CR) and 1 partial response (PR)] in a Phase 1b trial (9).

Enrollment in histology/subtype-driven trials requires a large and arduous effort given the rarity of these malignancies (10). Given the paucity of evidence-driven guidelines and limited treatment options, patients with URS are often referred for consideration of early-phase clinical trials (11, 12). Incorporation of NGS, and earlier matching of patients to biologically targeted therapies or immunomodulatory agents, has provided an expanded menu of novel treatment options to offer patients battling rare cancer types, including sarcoma (13–16).

In this Sarcoma-Matched Biomarker Analysis 102 (SAMBA 102) study, we evaluated the clinical outcomes of URS versus common sarcomas in early-phase clinical trials and among genomic alterations, which yielded clinical benefits in our cohort.

## Materials and Methods

### Data collection and eligibility

All patients treated in Phase 1 trials at the Department of Investigational Cancer Therapeutics at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center between January 2013 and June 2021, were included in analysis. We reviewed clinical and demographic data, including age, sex, cancer type, prior lines of treatment, number of trials treated, and type and target of agent used. In addition, we reviewed the CLIA-certified next NGS data and molecular testing performed on histologic samples during clinical care.

### Endpoints and statistical methods

We reviewed each patient's chart for documentation of response via radiologic review. We reviewed the endpoints: specifically, ORR, disease control rate (DCR), progression-free survival (PFS), and OS. ORR was defined as CR plus PR. DCR was defined as ORR plus stable disease (SD). The best response was determined by individual trial protocol data using the RECIST (version 1.1) or immune-related RECIST (irRECIST). PFS and OS for each patient were calculated on the basis of their individual trial participation. Clinical benefit was

defined as the sum of objective responses and SD that lasted for  $\geq 6$  months on treatment. OS was defined as the time from the first dose of the Phase 1 study drug until death. PFS was defined as the period between the first dose of Phase 1 drug and the date of documented radiologic or clinical progression or death. The Kaplan–Meier method was used to estimate OS and PFS, and a log-rank test was used to compare between groups. Descriptive variables were compared by the  $\chi^2$  method. Statistical analysis was performed using SPSS version 25 and R software.

### AACR GENIE database

For mutational targets associated with clinical benefit, we reviewed the incidence of the mutation in the histologic URS subtype in our Phase 1 cohort and the incidence in the AACR Project GENIE (Genomics Evidence Neoplasia Information Exchange). AACR Project GENIE is an international data-sharing consortium of clinical genomic data (17). Version 11.0, released in January 2022, contains 136,096 samples from 19 cancer institutions. cBioPortal was used to access and analyze data (18, 19).

The MD Anderson Institutional Review Board (IRB) independently reviewed and approved each clinical trial, and the MD Anderson IRB also approved this retrospective review with a waiver of informed consent.

Informed written consent was obtained from patients for each Phase 1 trial they were enrolled to. Each Phase 1 trial was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki and separately approved by the IRB at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

### Data availability

The data generated in this study are available upon reasonable request from the corresponding author.

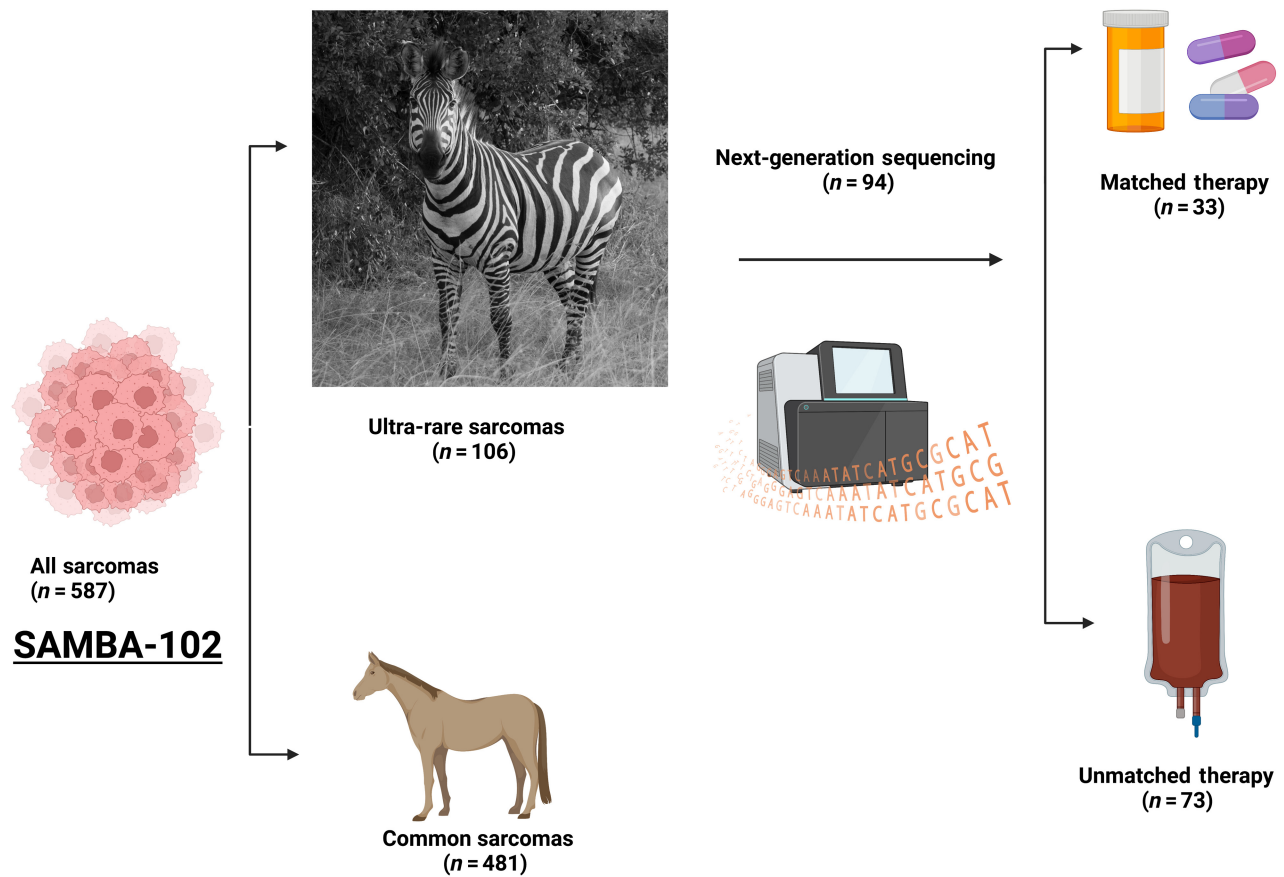
## Results

### Overall characteristics

Between January 2013 and June 2021, 587 patients with sarcomas were enrolled in Phase 1 trials. Among them, 481 (81.9%) were common sarcoma histologies, and 106 (18.1%) were classified as URS (Fig. 1). Table 1 summarizes demographic data for URS patients. Supplementary Table S1 summarizes the histologic make-up of common sarcomas. The median age at the first trial was 44 years (SD, 16y; range, 19–82y), mean prior lines of therapy = 2 (range, 0–8), the mean number of Phase 1 trials = 1.5 (range, 1–6), and 47% were male. The most common URS were alveolar soft part sarcoma (ASPS;  $n = 12$ ), dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma ( $n = 9$ ), chordoma ( $n = 9$ ), and sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma ( $n = 9$ ). Table 2 shows the distribution of URS histologies. Thirty-four different URS types were treated in trials, 7 bone URS and 24 soft tissue URS.

### URS versus common sarcomas

Compared with common sarcomas, median OS from time of Phase 1 enrollment was similar 16.1 months [95% confidence interval (CI), 13.6–17.5] versus 16.1 (95% CI, 8.2–24.0) in URS ( $P = 0.359$ ) as in Fig. 2A. Median PFS were similar at 3.1 months (95% CI, 2.63–3.51) for common sarcomas and 2.97 months (95% CI, 1.87–4.06) for URS ( $P = 0.184$ ). Objective response to Phase 1 treatment was significantly higher in URS at 13.2% ( $n = 14/106$ ) compared with 6.9% ( $n = 33/481$ ) in common sarcomas ( $P = 0.029$ ). Tumor genomics with NGS or multi-gene panel was performed for 87% ( $n = 417/481$ ) of common sarcomas and 89% ( $n = 94/106$ ) of URS. Thirty-three of 106 (31%)



**Figure 1.** Outline of SAMBA-102 study and patient allocation from the Phase 1 clinic at MD Anderson Cancer Center. Zebra photograph by Dr. Justin Moyers, Lake Mburu National Park in Uganda (Created with BioRender.com).

URS were treated on matched trials when compared with 188/481 (39%) of common sarcomas ( $P = 0.126$ ).

**Landscape of genomic alterations in URS**

Among the 94 patients who had molecular profiling completed, 69% ( $n = 73$ ) had mutations present, 16% ( $n = 17$ ) had no mutations identified, 4% ( $n = 4$ ) had limited molecular analysis performed, and 2% ( $n = 2$ ) failed NGS.

The most common alterations were EWSR1 fusions 13.2% ( $n = 14$ ), TP53 11.3% ( $n = 12$ ), CDKN2A loss 9.4% ( $n = 10$ ), KIT 7.5% ( $n = 8$ ), BRCA1/2 3.4% ( $n = 7$ ), AR 6.6% ( $n = 7$ ), CDKN2B loss 5.7% ( $n = 6$ ), IDH1/2 5.7% ( $n = 6$ ), mTOR/RAPTOR 6.0% ( $N = 5$ ), PIK3CA 4% ( $N = 5$ ), met 4% ( $n = 4$ ), and NTRK 1/2/3 fusions 1.9% ( $n = 2$ ). DNA damage repair (DDR) pathway genes (e.g., ATM, ATR, BRCA1/2, RAD51, PALB2) were altered in 13.2% ( $n = 14$ ). Non-EWS fusions

with approved drugs (e.g., ALK, NTRK1/2/3, ROS1) were present in 4% ( $n = 4$ ) of cases. A complete list of alterations in the dataset is listed in Supplementary Table S2.

**Molecularly matching in URS**

NGS was performed on 94 of 106 (89%) patients. Thirty-three (31%) patients were treated on molecularly selected trials. Median OS for those treated on matched trials was 27.3 months (95% CI, 1.9–52.7) compared with 13.4 months (95% CI, 6.3–20.6) for those not treated on matched trials ( $P = 0.29$ ). PFS for those treated on matched trials was 4.6 months (95% CI, 1.0–8.2) versus 3.0 months (95% CI, 2.6–3.3) for unmatched trials ( $P = 0.073$ ). **Figure 2B** and **C** shows Kaplan–Meier curves.

Among 14 responses seen in URS, 13 were PR and one CR, among which targeted biomarker-matched therapies resulted in one CR and seven PR. Eight of 33 (24%) molecularly matched treatments resulted in an objective response, whereas 6 of 73 (8.2%) unmatched treatments resulted in objective responses ( $P = 0.024$ ). Clinical benefit rate was 36.4% (12/33) in matched trials versus 26.0% (19/73) in unmatched trials ( $P = 0.279$ ). **Table 3** summarizes these results.

Objective responses in matched treatments were seen in clear cell sarcomas with c-met inhibitors ( $n = 2$ ), NTRK inhibitors in NTRK-rearranged sarcoma ( $n = 2$ ), EZH2/EED inhibitor in epithelioid sarcomas ( $n = 1$ ), MDM2 inhibitors in chordomas ( $n = 1$ ), combination VEGFR inhibitor + mTOR inhibitor in epithelioid heman-gioendothelioma ( $n = 1$ ), and ALK in IMFT ( $n = 1$ ). In addition,

**Table 1.** Demographic data.

|                               |            |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| Median age (range; y)         | 44 (19–82) |
| Male gender                   | 47% (50)   |
| Soft tissue sarcomas          | 74.5% (79) |
| Bone sarcomas                 | 25.5% (27) |
| Molecular testing             | 89% (94)   |
| Median prior lines of therapy | 2.0 (0–8)  |
| Median # of Phase 1 trials    | 1.0 (1–6)  |

**Table 2.** Histology breakdown among URS in Phase 1 population.

| Multiple cases                               | <i>n</i> | Only one case   |
|--|----------|---|
| ASPS   | 12       | Adamantinoma  |
| Chordoma                                     | 9        | BCOR-rearranged endometrial stromal sarcoma             |
| De-differentiated chondrosarcoma             | 9        | Clear cell chondrosarcoma                               |
| Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma          | 9        | Giant cell tumor of soft tissue                         |
| Clear cell sarcoma                           | 8        | High-grade undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma of bone |
| PEComa                                       | 6        | Histiocytic sarcoma                                     |
| Desmoplastic small round cell tumor          | 5        | Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma                           |
| Epithelioid sarcoma                          | 4        | Metastatic phyllodes tumor                              |
| Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma                    | 4        | Parosteal osteosarcoma                                  |
| Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma                   | 3        | Periosteal osteosarcoma                                 |
| Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma             | 3        | Pleomorphic rhabdomyosarcoma                            |
| Extraskeletal myxoid chondrosarcoma          | 3        | Small round cell sarcoma NOS                            |
| Endometrial stromal sarcoma                  | 2        | Spindle cell rhabdomyosarcoma                           |
| Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor           | 2        |   |
| Mesenchymal chondrosarcoma                   | 2        |   |
| Malignant giant cell tumor of bone           | 2        |   |
| NTRK-rearranged sarcoma                      | 2        |   |
| Ossifying fibromyxoid tumor                  | 2        |   |
| Rhabdomyosarcoma                             | 2        |   |
| Round cell sarcoma with EWSR1-non-ETS fusion | 2        |   |
| Sarcoma with BCOR genetic alterations        | 2        |   |

clinical benefit was seen for matched treatments with Sonic Hedgehog (SHH) pathway inhibitor in sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma ( $n = 1$ ), MET/VEGFR2 inhibitor in clear cell sarcoma ( $n = 1$ ), EGFR inhibitor in clear cell sarcoma ( $n = 1$ ), and CDK4/6 inhibitor in low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma ( $n = 1$ ). **Table 4** summarizes the response and target in the MD Anderson Phase 1 population and the AACR GENIE v11.0 populations. Supplementary Table S3 summarizes non-responders in matched trials.

### Immunotherapy

Forty (37.7%) patients received investigational immunotherapy regimens. Four of 40 (10%) experienced objective responses, all PR. Fourteen of 40 (35%) experienced a clinical benefit. Responses are summarized in Supplementary Table S4. A TLR7/8 agonist resulted in a PR in one embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma, as did checkpoint inhibitors in 3 ASPS. Clinical benefit was seen with checkpoint inhibitors alone and in combination in chordoma ( $n = 2$ ), clear cell sarcoma ( $n = 1$ ), fibromyxoid sarcoma low grade ( $n = 1$ ), ossifying fibromyxoid tumor ( $n = 1$ ), epithelioid hemangioendothelioma ( $n = 1$ ), sarcoma with BCOR genetic alterations ( $n = 1$ ), periosteal osteosarcoma ( $n = 1$ ), and ASPS ( $n = 2$ ); however, it should be noted that several of these tumor types are traditionally slow growing sarcoma subtypes. Eight of 12 (67%) ASPS in our cohort received checkpoint inhibitors alone or in combination. Five of 8 (63%) ASPS experienced a clinical benefit with 3 PR (38%) when given checkpoint inhibitors.

### Discussion

We have reported the largest dataset of patients with URS to specifically characterize the clinical and molecular features and outcomes of patients with URS who are referred to early-phase clinical trials. We found potential benefits to enrolling in an early-phase clinical trial with an ORR of 24.2%, PFS of 4.6 months, and median OS of 27.3 months in this heavily pre-treated patient population with limited options before referral for consideration of Phase 1 trials. Patients clinically benefited from a

matched therapy, whether in a dose-escalation cohort or a dose-expansion cohort.

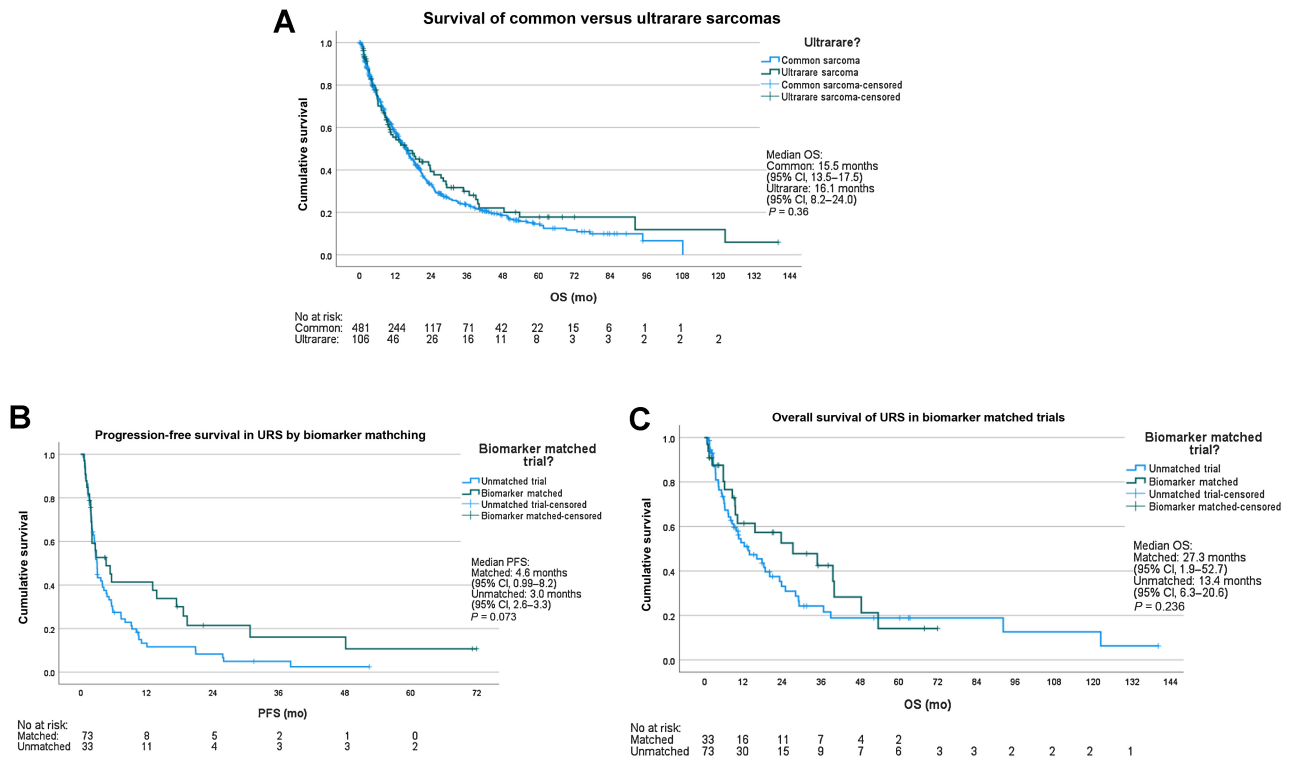
Sarcoma treatments are often developed on the basis of clinical trials for other cancers and often involve diverse sarcoma subtypes (20). However, drugs are making their way into later-phase trials for sarcoma, increasingly using targeted mechanisms of action or with immunotherapy (21). Many genomic alterations have been identified in sarcomas, and the number of clinical trials targeting them has expanded significantly (22, 23).

One of the patients in our cohort with epithelioid sarcoma was treated with tazemetostat, the only approved drug for URS. The *ezh2/eed* inhibitor, approved in advanced epithelioid sarcoma with INI/SMARCB1 loss following an open-label Phase 2 basket study, achieved a response rate of 15% ( $n = 15/62$ ; ref. 6).

MDM2 is one of the most frequently altered genes in sarcomas and is an attractive target for inhibitors (24). However, MDM2 antagonists have been developed to interact through a different mechanism causing interaction with p53 to activate DDR mechanisms of which sarcoma subtypes have been known to harbor alterations in DDR (25, 26). A chordoma with a DDR alteration in our cohort experienced a PR following treatment with an MDM2 antagonist.

Clear cell sarcomas are characterized by the chimeric transcription factor, EWS-ATF1 translocation. The EWS-ATF1 activates melanocyte-inducing transcription factor, thereby promoting *c-MET* transcription (27). The EORTC trial 90101 showed a benefit for crizotinib in MET-amplified clear cell sarcoma, though a low ORR of 3.8% ( $n = 1/28$ ) and DCR of 69.2% (28). STS have also been included in basket trials of *c-Met* inhibitors with varying responses (29–31).

One patient with an IMFT responded to ALK-targeted therapy, specifically crizotinib in combination with pazopanib (32). Approximately half (47%; 9/22) of myofibroblastic tumors have been reported to harbor ALK gene rearrangements, which we also observed in 50% ( $n = 15/30$ ) of the AACR GENIE population (33, 34). Indeed, on the basis of the frequency of this gene rearrangement and report of successful use of crizotinib, a non-randomized Phase 2 trial was undertaken in IMFT with and without ALK gene rearrangements for



**Figure 2.** **A**, Kaplan–Meier curve for overall survival (OS) between common and ultrarare sarcomas. **B** and **C**, Kaplan–Meier curve for OS (**B**) and progression-free survival (**C**) for matched versus unmatched trials in URS.

whom no surgical option existed (35). Crizotinib showed an ORR of 50% ( $n = 6/12$ ) in ALK-rearranged and 14% ( $n = 1/7$ ) in ALK non-rearranged tumors (36). On the basis of these data, crizotinib is now recently FDA approved for IMFT.

Although NTRK fusions are rare in the broader soft-tissue sarcoma patient population (approximately 0.66% of the AACR GENIE population), those harboring NTRK fusions can exhibit extraordinary responses to the two approved NTRK inhibitors, larotrectinib and entrectinib. Among the 11 patients with STS who received larotrectinib, 10 were shown to have objective responses (37). Likewise, objective responses to entrectinib have also occurred in STS (38). Similarly, RET fusions have also emerged as tissue agnostic targets with sensitivity to selective RET inhibitors with reports of sarcoma-harboring RET fusions benefiting from matched therapies. Selpercatinib recently received FDA approval for all RET-positive cancers, including sarcomas (39, 40).

The clinical benefit of checkpoint inhibition in patients with ASPS has already been noted in the MD Anderson Phase 1 population and is

accepted as a potential line of treatment for advanced ASPS (41–43). A single-center, single-arm, Phase 2 study by Wilky and colleagues (44) enrolled 12 patients with ASPS in which they saw a 72.7% 3-month PFS and response rate of 54.5% ( $n = 6/11$ ) with pembrolizumab with axitinib. Preliminary data exhibiting single-agent activity of atezolizumab have additionally been presented from a Phase 1/2 trial with 28% ( $n = 5/7$ ) experiencing a confirmed PR (45). Furthermore, dual checkpoint inhibition with durvalumab plus tremilimumab in a single-center Phase 2 study showed ORR of 40% ( $n = 4/10$ ) for ASPS cohort by irRECIST (46).

In addition, we found that patients with URS responded similarly or better than patients with more common sarcoma diagnoses. This may be in part due to URS subtypes defined by an actionable target (e.g., NTRK-rearranged soft tissue and bone sarcomas). As more agents come to fruition, more URS sarcomas defined by a molecular target, may join the list of current URS diagnoses.

**Limitations**

Our study is a retrospective single-institution study, so broad characterizations cannot be made. In addition, given the limited numbers of patients with URS in our cohort, analysis of specific sarcoma subtypes survival and response characteristics subtypes cannot be performed. In addition, due to the heterogeneous growth rate patterns in sarcomas, clinical benefit in sarcomas with slow growth rate may not represent clinically beneficial treatments.

**Future directions**

Drug development for rare sarcoma subtypes will likely continue to rely on histology/subtype-driven treatments and histology-agnostic

**Table 3.** Objective response rate (CR + PR) and clinical benefit rate (CR + PR +  $\geq 6$  months of SD) between matched and unmatched patients with URS on Phase 1 clinical trials.

|                                 | Matched treatment | Unmatched treatment | P     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------|
| Total patients                  | 33                | 73                  |       |
| Objective response rate ( $n$ ) | 24% (8)           | 8.2% (6)            | 0.024 |
| Clinical benefit ( $n$ )        | 36.4% (12)        | 26% (19)            | 0.279 |

**Table 4.** Sarcomas experiencing clinical benefit from a molecularly matched agent with characteristics of their agent and matching.

| Tumor                               | Best response | Drug mechanism        | Molecular selection    | MDACC Phase 1 population |               |                          | AACR GENIE v11.0 population |               |                          |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
|                                     |               |                       |                        | Number with mutation     | Total samples | Percentage with mutation | Number with mutation        | Total samples | Percentage with mutation |
| Chordoma                            | PR            | MDM2 antagonist       | ATM C430S              | 1                        | 10            | 10%                      | 2                           | 82            | 2.4%                     |
| Clear cell sarcoma                  | PR            | CMET inhibitor        | EWSR1 fusion           | 6                        | 10            | 60%                      | 26                          | 27            | 96%                      |
| Clear cell sarcoma                  | PR            | CMET inhibitor        | CMET amplification     | 2                        | 10            | 20%                      | 0                           | 32            | 0%                       |
| Epithelioid sarcoma                 | PR            | EZH2/EED inhibitor    | INI/SMARCB1 loss       | 1                        | 4             | 25%                      | 20                          | 43            | 47%                      |
| Epithelioid hemangioidendothelioma  | PR            | VEGF inhibitor + mTOR | TSC1                   | 1                        | 2             | 50%                      | 2                           | 54            | 4%                       |
| Inflammatory myofibroblastic tumor  | PR            | ALK inhibitor         | ALK fusion             | 2                        | 2             | 100%                     | 17                          | 41            | 42%                      |
| NTRK-rearranged sarcoma             | PR, CR        | NTRK inhibitor        | ETV6-NTRK3, NTRK3-EML4 | 2                        | 587           | 0.3%                     | 27                          | 4,036         | 0.66%                    |
| Clear cell sarcoma                  | SD > 6 m      | MET/VEGFR2 inhibitor  | EWSR fusion            | 6                        | 10            | 60%                      | 29                          | 45            | 64%                      |
| Clear cell sarcoma                  | SD > 6 m      | EGFR inhibitor        | ERBB4 M1017T           | 1                        | 10            | 10%                      | 1                           | 45            | 2%                       |
| Low-grade fibromyxoid sarcoma       | SD > 6 m      | CDK4/6 inhibitor      | CDKN2A amplification   | 1                        | 1             | 100%                     | 1                           | 16            | 6%                       |
| Sclerosing epithelioid fibrosarcoma | SD > 6 m      | SHH inhibitor         | PTCHI                  | 1                        | 9             | 11%                      | 2                           | 19            | 11%                      |

methods appropriate for sarcomas as a generic class of mesenchymal tumors. Thus far, the sarcoma subtype-specific FDA approvals (e.g., tazemetostat, nab-sirolimus, and crizotinib) relied upon multicenter early-phase trials conducted at large tertiary referral cancer centers with expertise in the care and treatment of patients with sarcoma (6, 7). However, tumor agnostic trials testing checkpoint inhibitors paved the way for regulatory approval in tumors with high tumor mutational burdens and NTRK-rearrangement (37, 47). Basket trials allow investigators to evaluate novel agents in diverse cancer types and can allow for testing of low-incidence alterations, but must ensure that the targeted alteration is an oncogenic driver across multiple cancers (48, 49). Given the success of each strategy, both approaches are likely to be used, taking into account the prevalence of the targeted alteration and subtype prevalence.

When treated on Phase 1 trials, patients with URS experienced similar survival and response rates compared with those diagnosed with more common sarcoma subtypes. In molecularly matched trials, patients with URS experienced a significantly improved ORR, with a trend toward improved OS and PFS. Given the paucity of approved options or data to guide treatment choice, treating in an “n of 1” fashion with molecularly matched agents or enrollment in Phase 1 trials remains an important treatment option for these newly classified “URS.” Clinical NGS, and early referral for consideration of early-phase clinical trials, may offer an additional line of therapy for patients with URS that urgently need better treatment options.

#### Authors' Disclosures

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