

# Preventive Strategies for Neurocognitive Deficits in the Management of Brain Metastases

Minesh P Mehta, MD, FASTRO  
University of Maryland

# Disclosures

- **Consultant:** Bristol Meyers Squibb, Cavion, Celldex, Elekta, Novocure, Novartis,
- **Stock Options:** Pharmacyclics
- **Board of Directors:** Pharmacyclics
- **Research Funding:** Novocure, Cellestar
- **Employment:** U Maryland (MPTC)

# N0574: Neuro-cognitive injury from WBRT

Early deterioration: N0574 confirms this result

	SRS	SRS+ WBRT	p
Neuro-cognitive progression	64%	92%	.0007
HVLT Total Recall Deterioration	8%	30%	.0043

**WBRT clearly and negatively affects neuro-cognition  
N0574 among largest trials to date with detailed results**

# N0574 Neuro-cognitive injury from WBRT

12 month persistent worsening: N0574 new finding

	SRS	SRS+ WBRT	p
Neuro-cognitive progression	64%	92%	.0007
HVLT Total Recall Deterioration	8%	30%	.0043

Cognitive Test	SRS (n = 15)	SRS +WBRT (n = 19)	p
HVLT Recognition	0.35	-1.43	0.044
COWA	0.34	-0.25	0.071

Yn et al, ASCO 2015 (N0574/Alliance)

# Impact of WBRT on MMSE

	SRS	+ WBRT	p
Median time to 3 point drop	7.6 mo	16.5 mo	.05
1Y freedom from 3 point drop	59 %	76 %	
2Y freedom from 3 point drop	52 %	69 %	

- **Progressive disease is worse than WBRT**

# However, Brain Failure after SRS/S Alone Remains Unacceptably High

Failure	No WBRT	WBRT	Absolute increase
Any brain	70-78%	24-47%	31-46%
Local brain	27-69%	0-27%	27-42%
Distant brain	42-64%	18-42%	22-24%

*Composite data from multiple randomized trials*

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma



# Predictors of Distant Brain Recurrence

- 100 brain met patients treated with GK SRS only, 2003-2005
- **1Y actuarial risk of DBF = 61%**
- Predictors for DBF:
  - **>3 mets (HR = 3.3, p = 0.004)**
  - Extracranial disease (stable or poorly controlled) ( HR = 2.16, p = .04)
  - Melanoma ( HR = 2.14, p = .02)

# Is it Disease Progression or Reseeding?

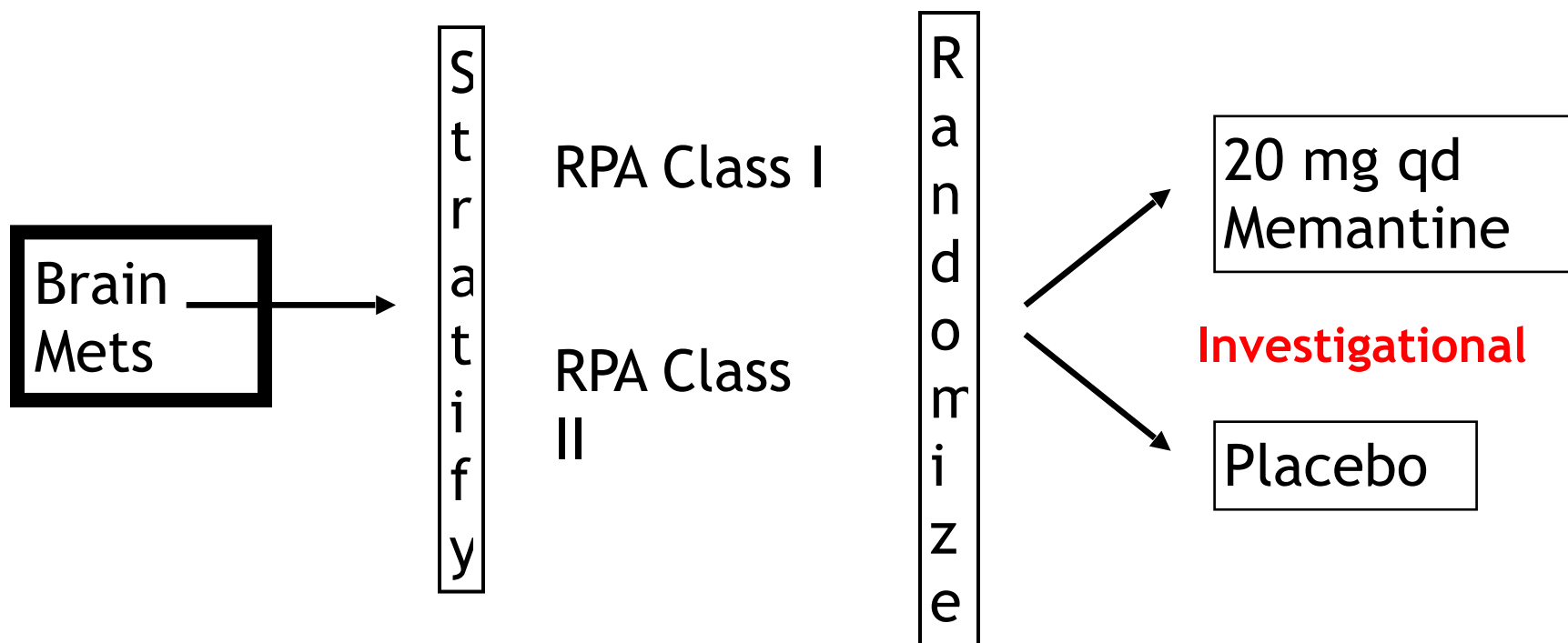
- Low risk: 18/100 patients were non-melanoma, with 3 or fewer mets and controlled systemic disease
- High risk: 82/100, all others

	Low Risk	High Risk
n	18	82
1Y % DBF	17 %	74 %
Median time to DBF	89 weeks	33 weeks

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- **Modulate WBRT negative effects**
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

# RTOG 0614 Schema



WBRT 37.5 Gy in 15 fractions

554 patients enrolled from March 2008 to July 2010; 70% NSCLC

*Brown P, et al, Neuro Oncol, 2013, PMID: 23956241*

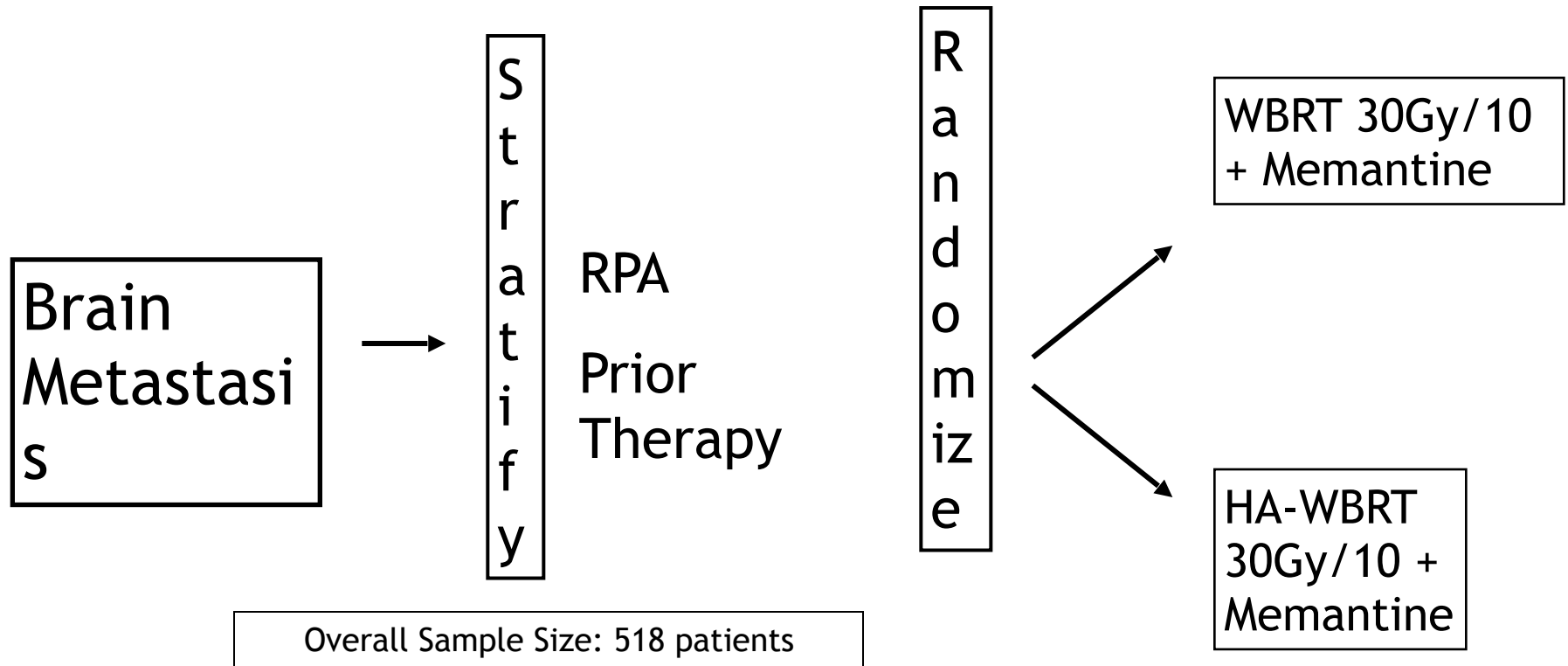
# Time to Cognitive Decline

- Time to cognitive decline
  - Longer for memantine arm (HR 0.78; 95% CI, 0.62 to 0.99; p=0.02)
- Memantine improved probability of cognitive preservation at 24wk
  - 30.6 vs 19.7% for placebo

Investigational

# Phase III Trial Memantine and WBRT with or without Hippocampal Avoidance in Patients with Brain Metastases

Basic Eligibility: Brain Mets outside hippocampus; KPS $\geq$ 70; MRI scan

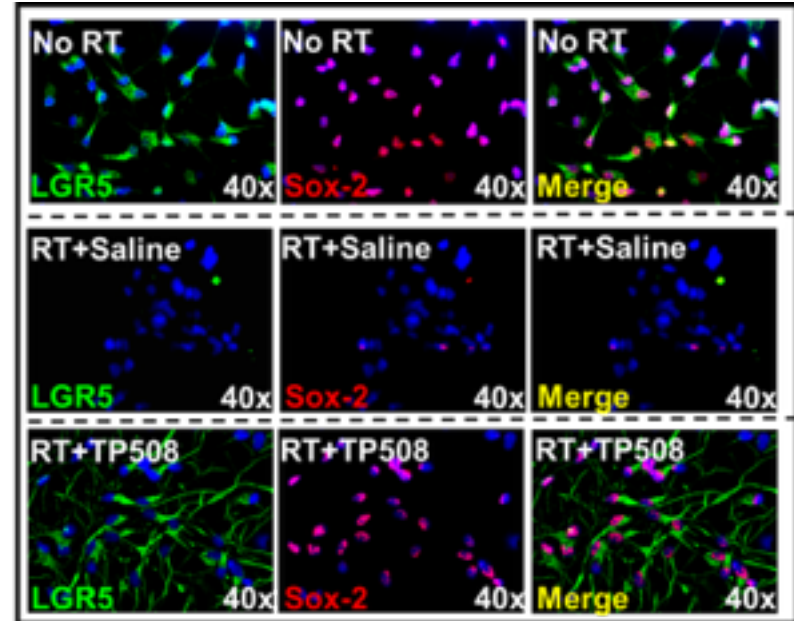
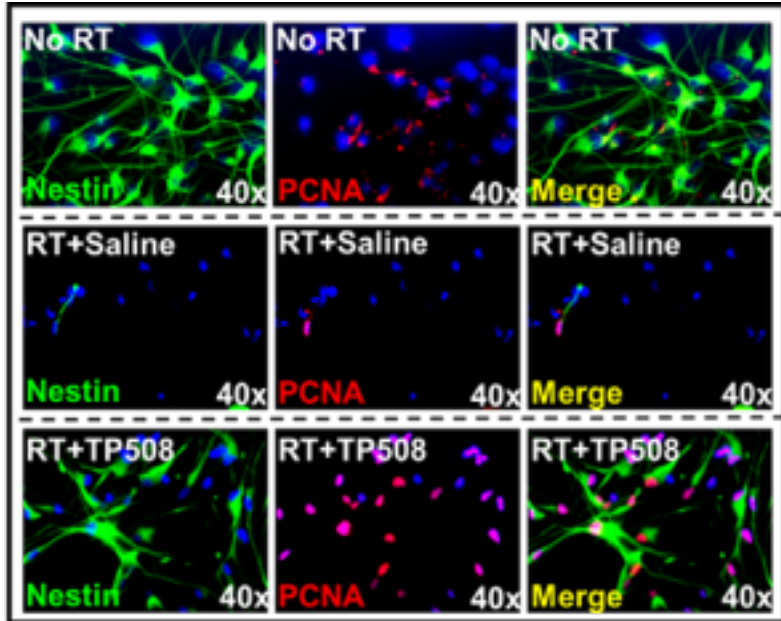


## Basic Statistical Design:

Cognitive function failure 53.8% at 6 months with WBRT vs. 42.8% with HA-WBRT. 388 analyzable pts.

NCI Status: Study Approved by Research Strategy, Concept submitted

# TP508 Protects Neural Stem Cells Post Radiation



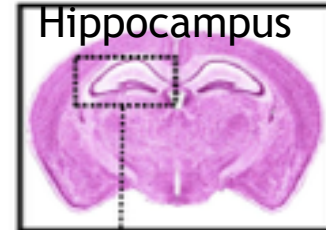
- Human Neural Stem Cells (K048) treated with TP508 1h prior to RT (2Gy)
- IF staining of cells 48h post RT demonstrate that TP508 stimulates proliferation and increases expression of stem cell markers Nestin/LGR5 and pluripotent factor Sox-2

## ... Proof of concept - Neural Stem Cells

*TP508 protects/restores proliferation of neural stem cells in vitro and hippocampal region of mice post RT to promote neurogenesis*

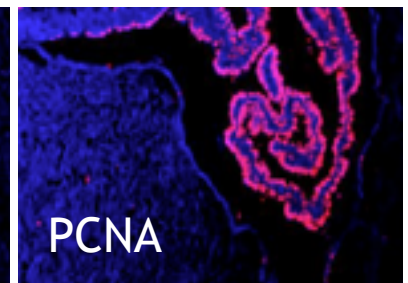
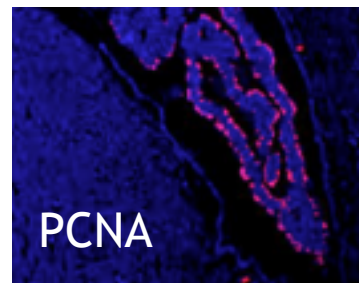
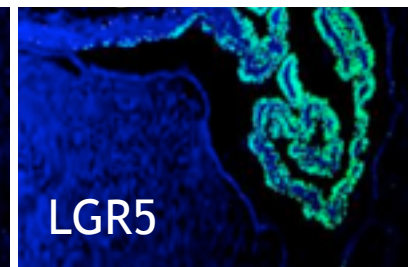
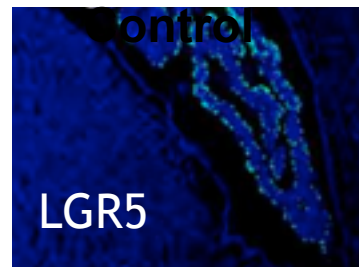
- RT (7Gy) destroys neural stem cells identified by LGR5 (and other stem cell markers)
- TP508 treatment 1h prior to RT stimulates neural stem cell proliferation to promote neurogenesis
- Single injection mitigates RT effects on neurogenesis

Dentate Gyrus  
Region of  
Hippocampus



**RT+ Saline**

**RT+ TP508**



**3 months post RT**



## ... TP508 increases cognitive recovery

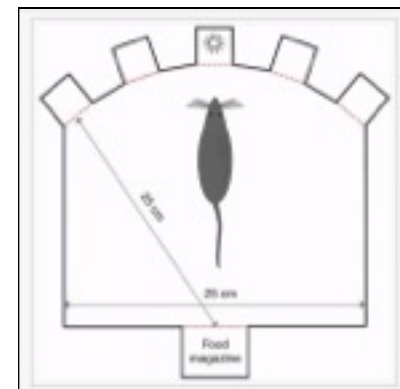
*Animal behavioral studies show that TP508 injection on day 1 and 3 of radiation partially mitigates effects of radiotherapy (RT) on hippocampal and frontal lobe activity in juvenile rats measured by 5-choice serial reaction time task (5-CSRTT) 3 months post RT.*



**Note: TP508 increases number of mice achieving Stage 6 from 18% to 46%**

**Number of Mice Achieving A Given 5-CSRTT Stage (80% Accuracy)**

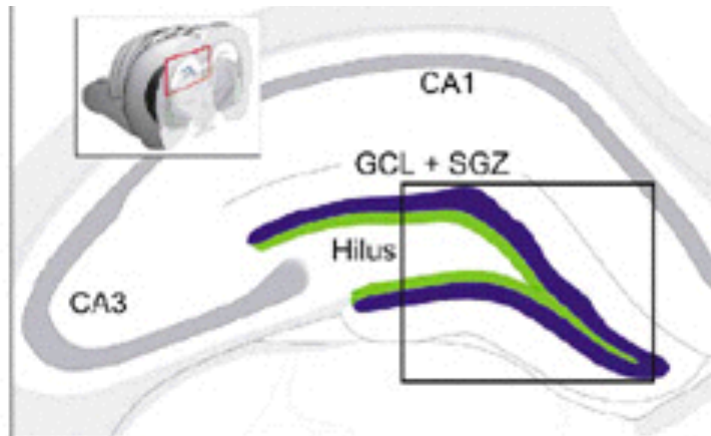
5-CSRTT Stage		No RT	RT-Saline	RT-TP508
Stage 4 and 5	> 2.5 seconds	1 (9%)	9(82%)	7(54%)
Stage 6	< 1.25 seconds	4(36%)	2(18%)	4(31%)
Stage 7 and 8	< 1.0 seconds	3(27%)	0	2(15%)
Stage 9	< 0.8 seconds	3(27%)	0	0



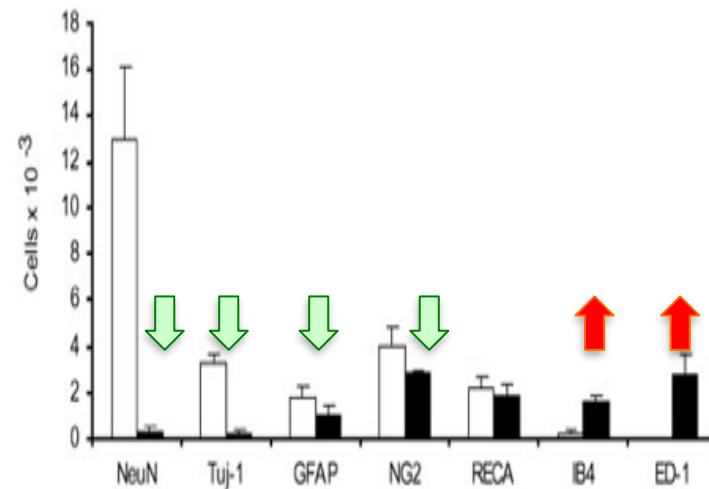
# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- **Modulate WBRT negative effects**
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

# Cranial RT Ablates Hippocampal Neurogenesis



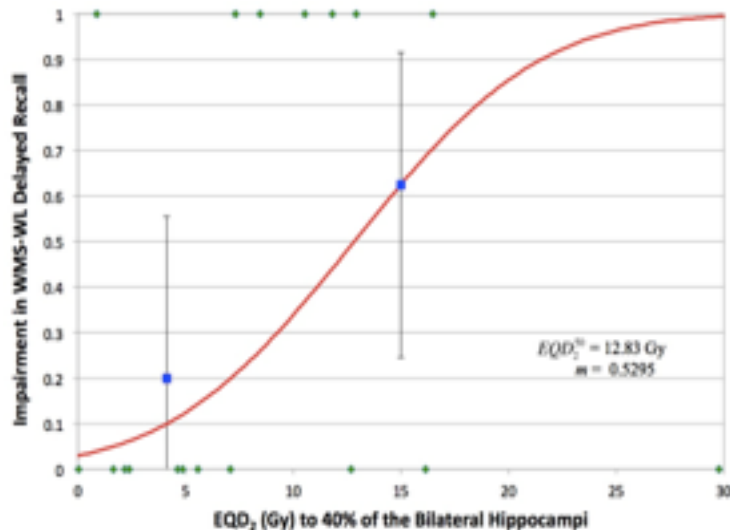
Blue: GCL, Green:  
SGZ



Monje, M et al. Nat Med 2002

- 97% reduction in newborn neurons 2 months after cranial RT
- Increase in microglial differentiation and activation
- NeuN: nuclear antigen for mature neurons; Tuj-1: immature neurons; GFAP: astrocytes; NG2: immature oligodendrocytes; RECA: endothelial cells; IB4: microglial lineage; ED1: activated microglia

# Clinical Evidence of Dose Response Relationship



- Dose (in 2-Gy fractions) to 40% of the bilateral hippocampi
  - > 7.3 Gy a/w impairment in list-learning delayed recall at 18 months
    - (Odds ratio 19.3,  $p=0.043$ )
  - = 12.8 Gy a/w 50% risk of impairment in list-learning delayed recall at 18 mos
    - (95% CI: 11.5-14.1 Gy)

Gondi V, Hermann BP, Mehta MP, and WA Tome. ASTRO 2011

- EQD<sub>2</sub>: Equivalent dose in 2-Gy fractions; m=normalized slope of dose-response curve;
- WMS-WL: Wechsler Memory Scale-Word Lists

# 0933: HVLT Results

HVLT	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo
Total Recall	30.8%	<b>19.0%</b>	13.8%
Recognition	35.8%	11.9%	3.6%
Delayed Recall	30.2%	33.3%	17.2%

- MDACC: Probability of HVLT Total Recall deterioration at 4 mos

Gondi, et al, JCO, 2014, PMID: 25349290

**SRS alone**

**24%**

**SRS+WBRT**

**52%**

# 0933: HVLT Results

HVLT	2 mo	4 mo	6 mo
Total Recall	30.8%	<b>19.0%</b>	13.8%
Recognition	35.8%	11.9%	3.6%
Delayed Recall	30.2%	33.3%	17.2%

- MDACC: Probability of HVLT Total Recall deterioration at 4 mos

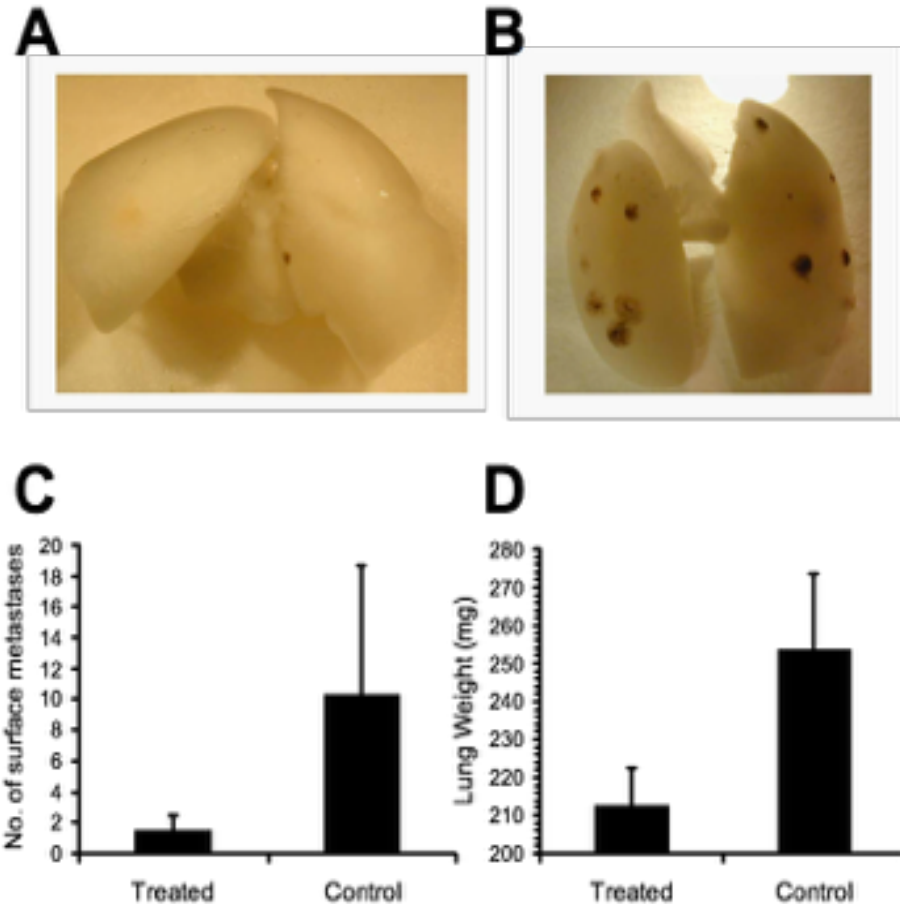
**SRS alone** **24%**      **SRS + WBRT** **52%**  
 Gondi, et al, JCO, 2014, PMID: 25349290

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- **Novo-TTF**
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

# In Vivo TTFields Prevent Metastasis

- Mice injected with melanoma cells into tail vein
- TTFields to lungs for 7-14 d
- TTField treated mice had significantly lower metastatic burden in the lungs compared to sham controls

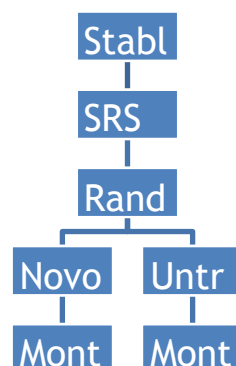


Kirson et al., *Clin Exp Metastasis* 2009

TTField therapy is not approved for melanoma. The safety and effectiveness of the device for melanoma has not been established.



# Brain Mets –Proposed Trial



## Inclusion Criteria:

NSCLC, Stable systemic disease, may continue with systemic therapy

Two cohorts: 1-4 brain mets amenable to SRS; 5-10 brain mets

**Primary endpoint:** Time to recurrence in the brain (superiority)

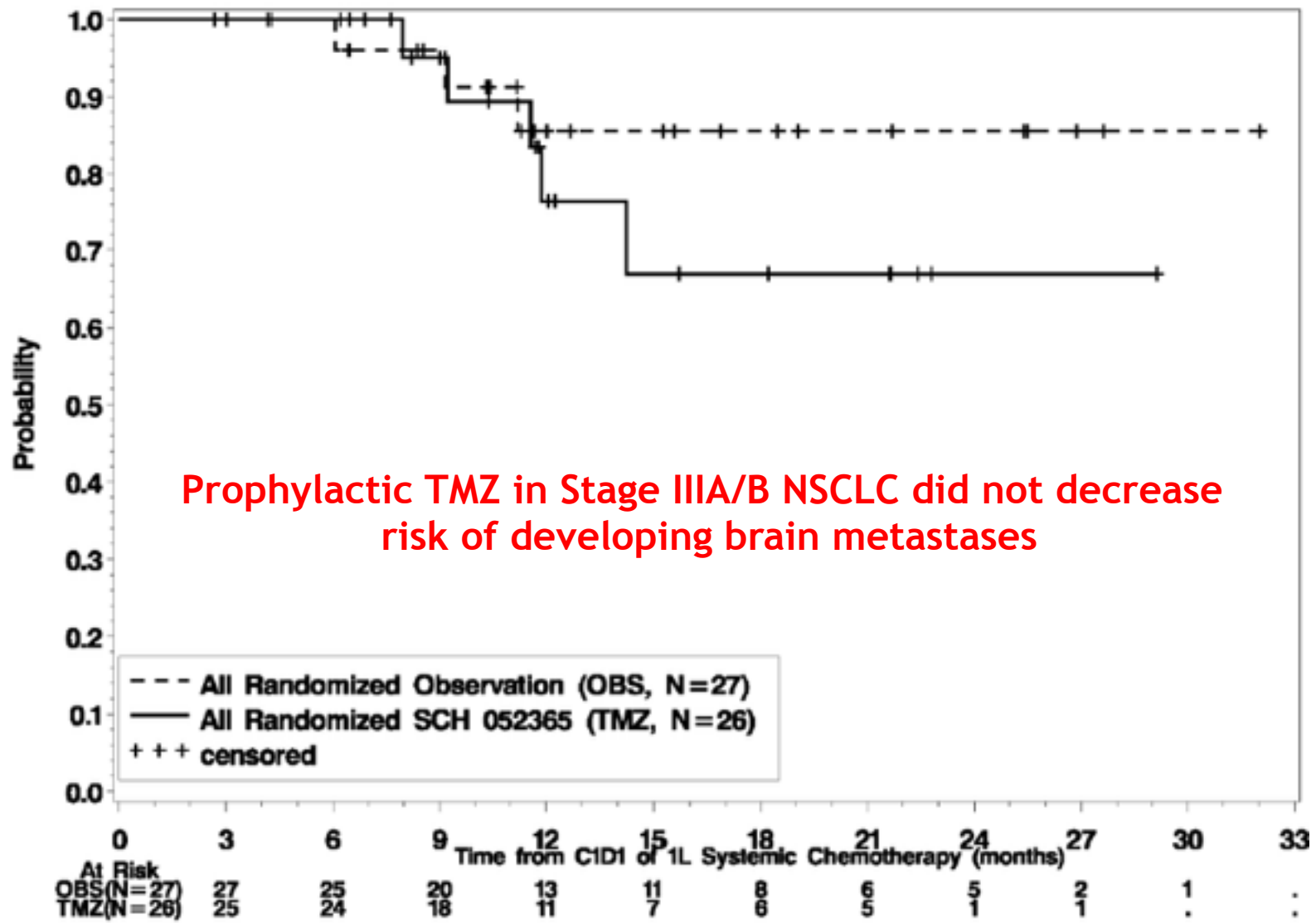
**Secondary endpoint:** Neurocognitive function

N = 240

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- **BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005**
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

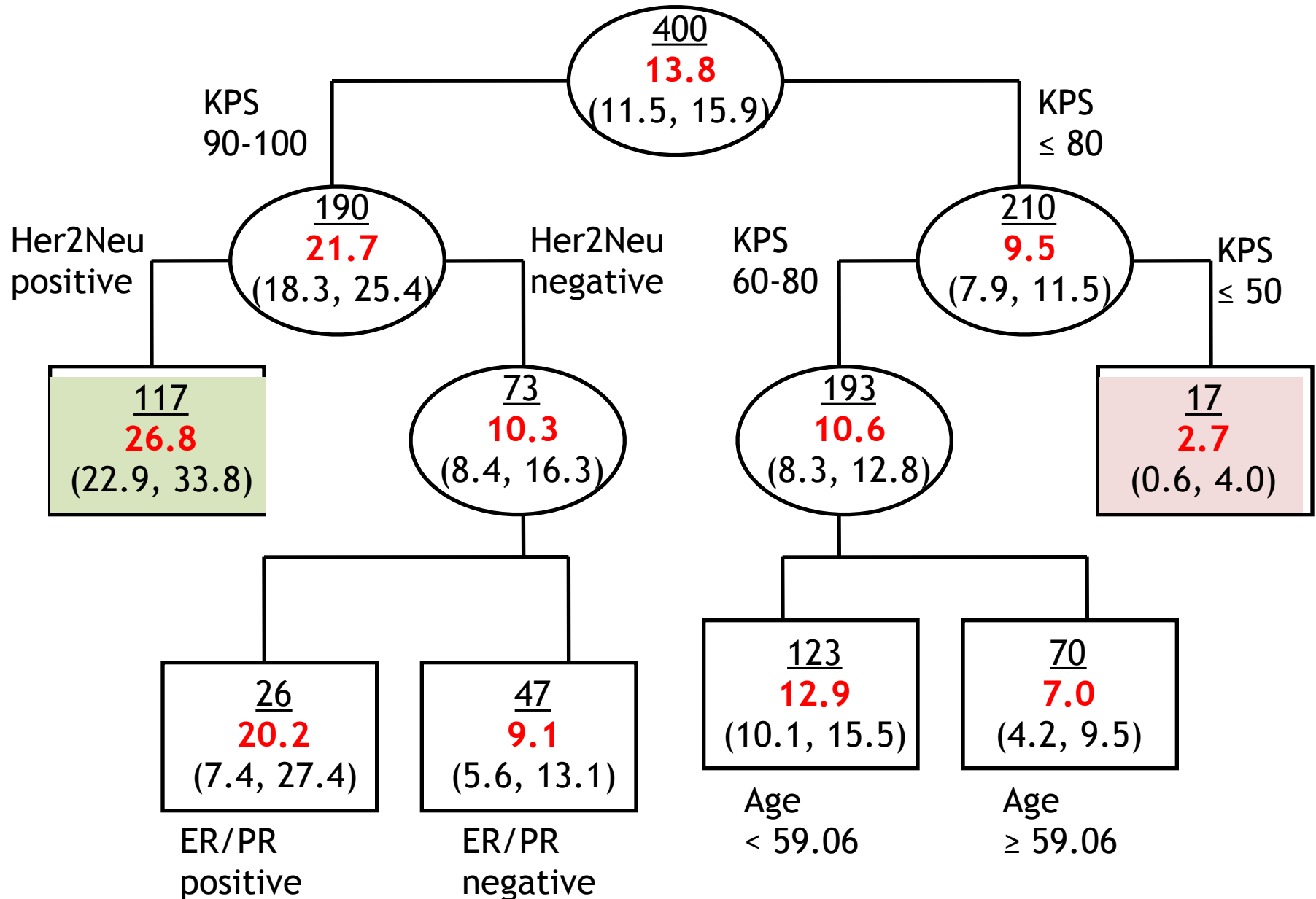
# Brain Mets: Temozolomide



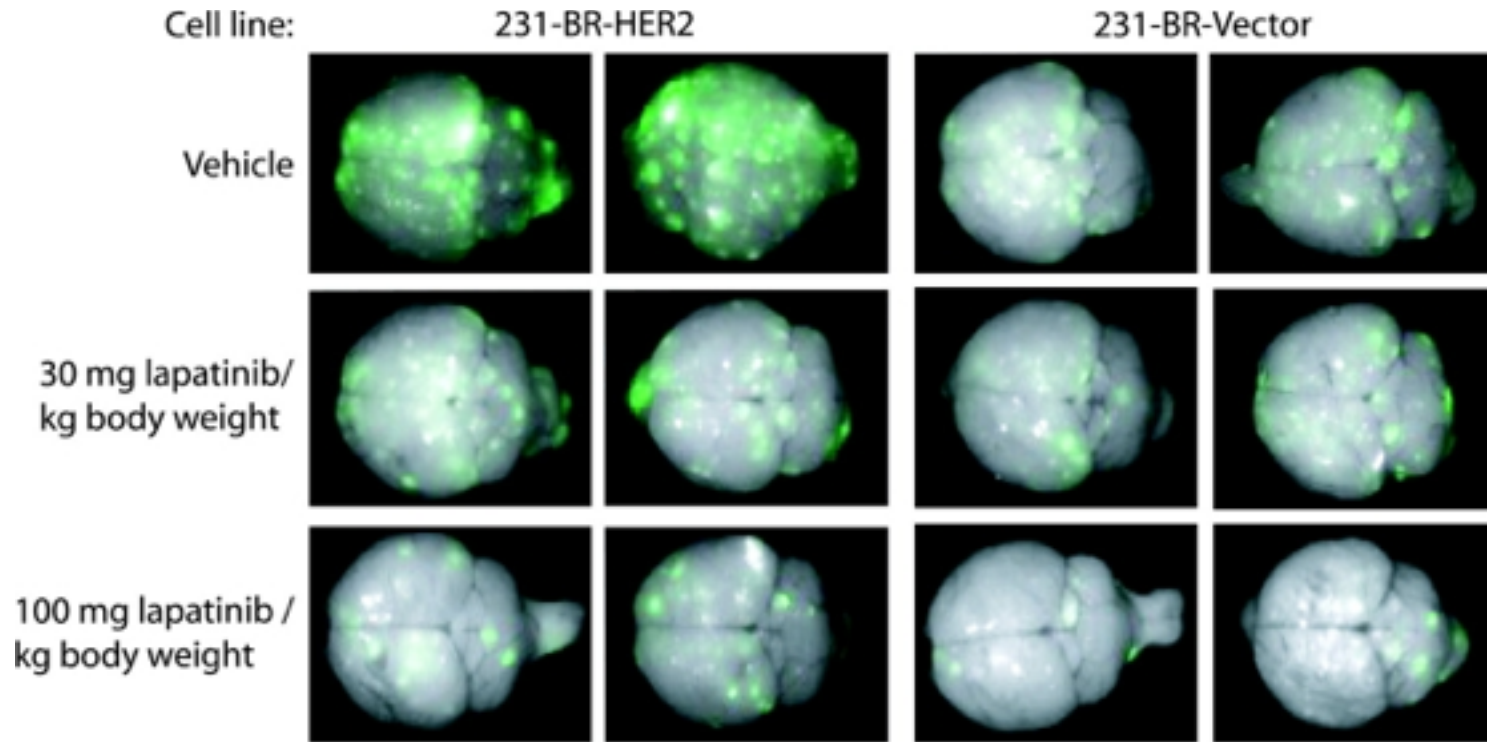
# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- **BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.**
- Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma

# Recursive Partitioning Analysis



# Lapatinib: Her2/Neu-Pos Breast Ca



Lapatinib effective at preventing the emergence of brain metastases

Gril, JNCI, 100:1092-1103, 2008

# LANDSCAPE and UMD 1345

- The LANDSCAPE trial (lapatinib and capecitabine; 45 pts) for HER2+ patients who developed new brain metastasis reported a response rate of **66%** (all PRs), which compares favorably to historical data for WBRT.

**1 to 10 her2+  
brain mets  
(size limit)**

**SRS**  
**<10cc: 22Gy**  
**>10 cc: 18Gy**

**Brain  
penetrating  
antiHer2 Rx**  
**LapCap or  
TDM1**

**Brain MRI  
and  
neurocog  
q3 mo**

**1° end pt: 6 month distant brain relapse rate**

# What Other Options Exist?

- Serial surveillance and salvage
- Modulate WBRT negative effects
  - Pharmacologic, e.g. Brown, et al, RTOG 0614, ASTRO 2012 Plenary
  - Dosimetric, e.g. RTOG 0913, HAWBRT (accrual completed Oct 2012)
- Novo-TTF
- BBB-penetrating chemotherapy, e.g. temozolomide, GRN-1005
- BBB-penetrating targeted agents for tumors harboring driver mutations, e.g. lapatinib for her2+ breast cancer, erlotinib for EGFR+ NSCLC, etc.
- **Non-BBB approaches such as Ipilimumab for melanoma**



NRG Developing Concept:  
A Phase II Randomized Trial of Immune Checkpoint  
Inhibitor (ICI) with or without Stereotactic  
Radiosurgery (SRS) in Melanoma Patients with  $\leq 10$   
Brain Metastases & Extracranial Metastases: A Study  
of ICI Activity, Radiation-Induced Immune  
Enhancement and Toxicity

# SCHEMA

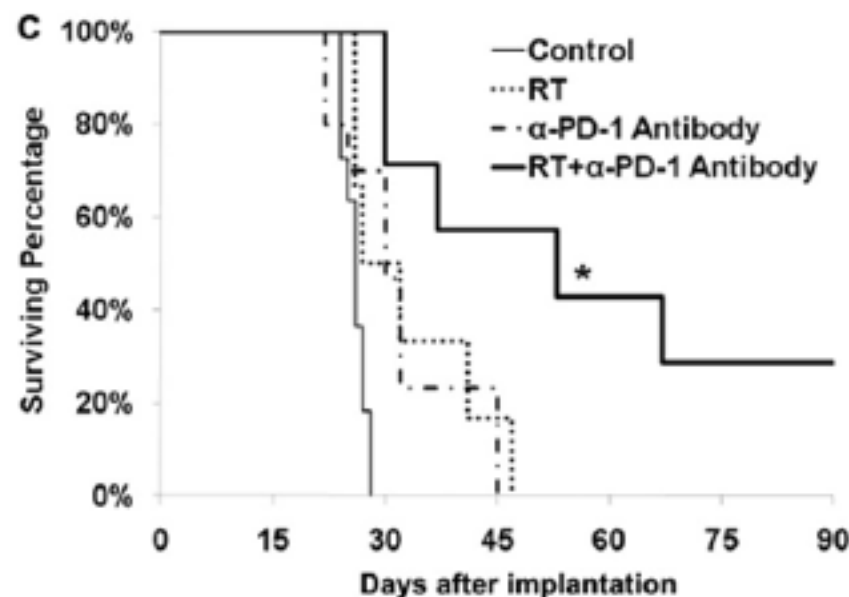
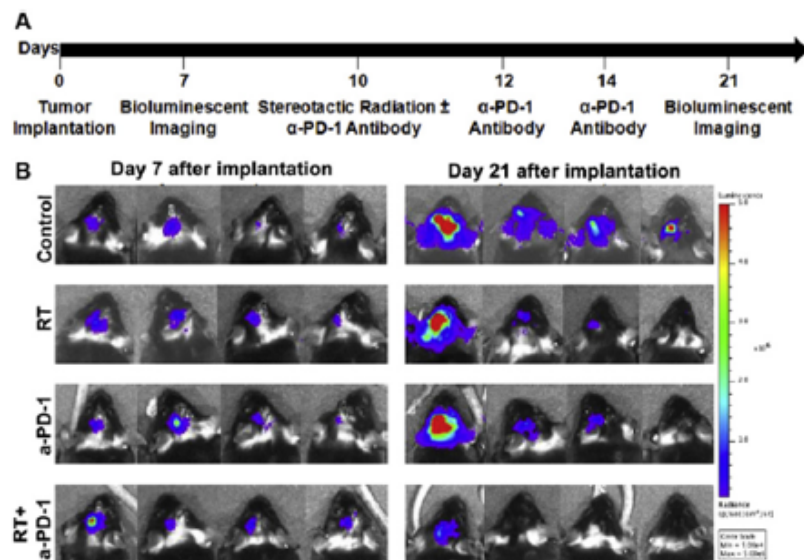
S		R	
T	Sx or Steroids Y/N	A	
R		N	Arm 1: ICI
A	bRAF pos/neg	D	induction then maint. until CNS
T		O	progression, then SRS to all BM
I	GPA0-1.0	M	
F	1.5-2.0	I	Arm 2: ICI + SRS
Y	2.5-3.0	Z	induction then maint. with SRS
	3.5-4.0	E	betwn 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> dose of induction

# Preclinical Testing of Anti-PD-1 (with XRT) in Intracranial Glioblastoma

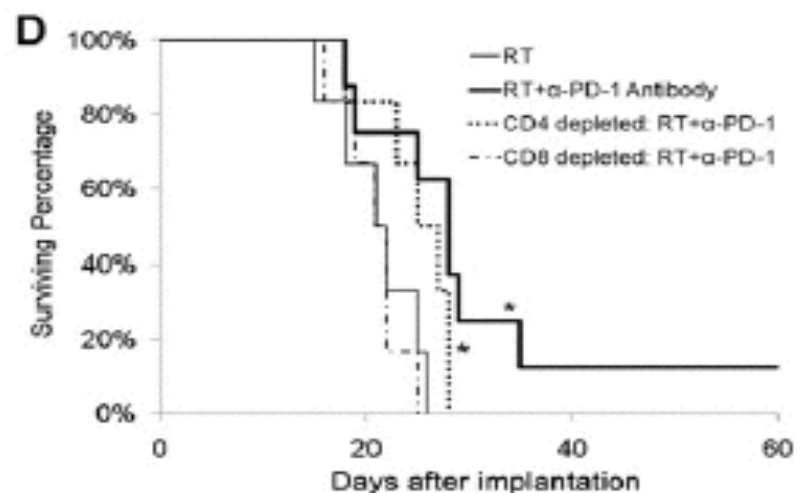
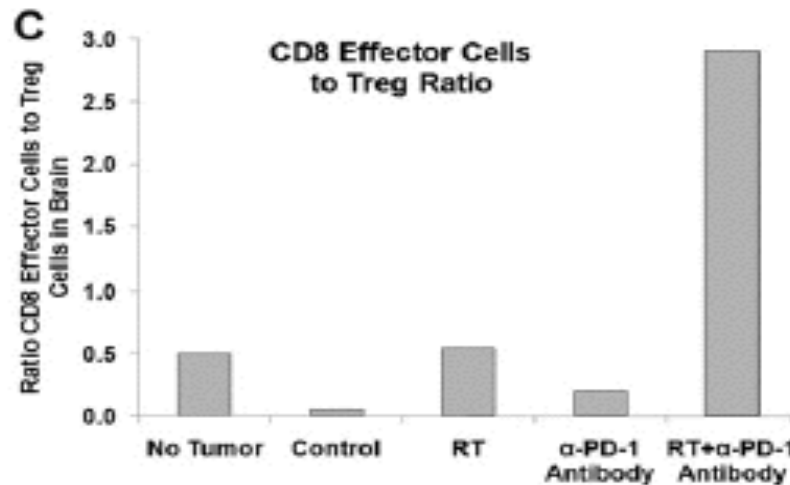
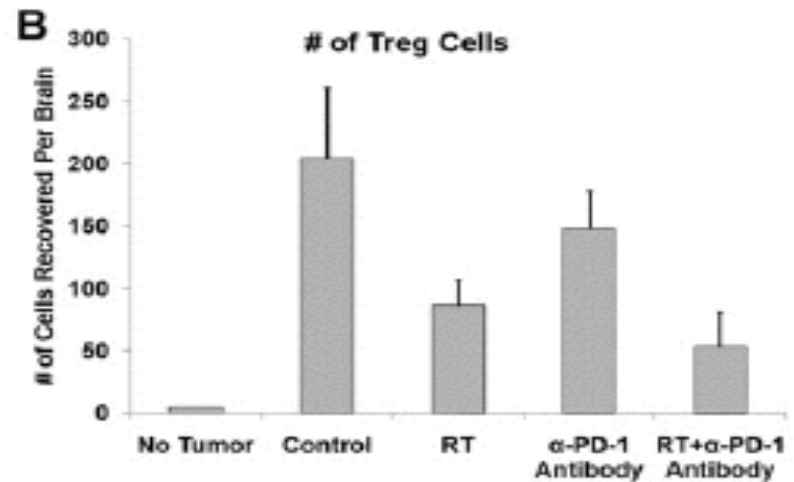
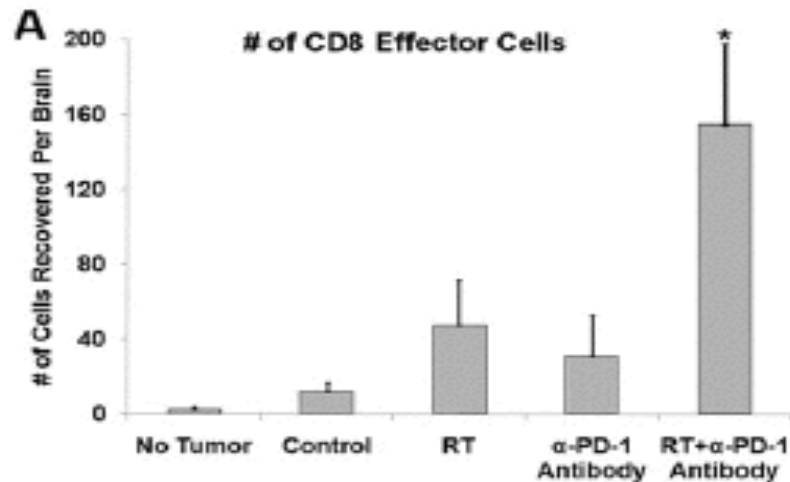
## Biology Contribution

### Anti-PD-1 Blockade and Stereotactic Radiation Produce Long-Term Survival in Mice With Intracranial Gliomas

Jing Zeng, MD,\* Alfred P. See, BS,<sup>†</sup> Jillian Phallen, BS,<sup>‡</sup> Christopher M. Jackson, BA,<sup>†</sup> Zineb Belcaid, MS,<sup>†</sup> Jacob Ruzevick, BS,<sup>†</sup> Nicholas Durham, BS,<sup>‡</sup> Christian Meyer, MD, PhD,<sup>§</sup> Timothy J. Harris, MD, PhD,\* Emilia Albesiano, PhD,<sup>†</sup> Gustavo Pradilla, MD,<sup>†</sup> Eric Ford, PhD,\* John Wong, PhD,\* Hans-Joerg Hammers, MD, PhD,<sup>‡</sup> Dimitris Mathios, MD,<sup>†</sup> Betty Tyler, BS,<sup>†</sup> Henry Brem, MD,<sup>†</sup> Phuoc T. Tran, MD, PhD,\* Drew Pardoll, MD, PhD,<sup>‡</sup> Charles G. Drake, MD, PhD,<sup>‡</sup> and Michael Lim, MD<sup>†</sup>



# Preclinical Testing of Anti-PD-1 (with XRT) in Intracranial Glioblastoma



# **Ipilimumab Prolongs Survival After SRS**

- Chart review to assess 77 (35% received ipilimumab) melanoma brain met patients treated with SRS alone.
- **MS: 21.3 vs.4.9 months in favor of Ipi. 2-year survival 47.2% vs. 19.7% in favor of Ipi.**
- Survival of pts with melanoma brain mets managed with ipilimumab and SRS can exceed the commonly anticipated 4-6 months.

# Conclusions

- Brain mets: a common problem
- Avoidance of WBRT or toxicities associated with it is reasonable for some patients
  - Several new approaches reduce NC decline
    - Dosimetric
    - Pharmacologic
    - Substituting WBRT with
      - Temozolomide
      - Novo-TTF
      - Targeted agents
      - Immune check point inhibitors