Highlights of the NCCN Oncology Research Program

The NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) strives to improve the quality of life for patients and reduce cancer-related deaths by advancing cancer therapies through research. Since the program's establishment in 1999, the NCCN ORP has brought millions of dollars in research grants to investigators at NCCN Member Institutions. Research grants are provided to NCCN through collaborations with pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies; these grants are in turn used to support scientifically meritorious cancer research efforts.

NCCN ORP studies typically explore new avenues of clinical investigation and seek answers to important cancer-related questions. All studies are approved and funded through a scientific peer-review process and are overseen by the ORP.

An NCCN study funded through the grant mechanism is highlighted below.

Phase II Study Evaluating the Role of Pazopanib in Angiosarcoma

Principal investigator: Margaret von Mehren, MD

Condition: Angiosarcoma

Institutions: Fox Chase Cancer Center, University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, and The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Pazopanib has shown encouraging activity in a previous phase II trial in certain sarcoma subtypes. In the phase II trial of pazopanib conducted by the EORTC, the progression-free survival (PFS) rate at 12 weeks exceeded 40% for patients with leiomyosarcomas, synovial cell sarcomas, and other eligible sarcomas, but not liposarcomas. In the group of other sarcomas, 5 were described as vascular sarcomas.

The investigators hypothesize that pazopanib will have therapeutic activity in angiosarcomas because they are derived from endothelial cells, and pazopanib is an antiangiogenic agent. In addition, agents with antiangiogenic properties have shown single-agent activity in this disease. Sorafenib has been shown to have a 14% response rate in patients with previously treated angiosarcomas in the phase II setting. Bevacizumab has demonstrated a 12% response rate. Given the limited data on the activity of pazopanib in angiosarcomas, this study aims to evaluate its activity in these patients.

Primary Objective:

- Determine the PFS at 3 months and the response rate, defined as complete response and partial response, in patients with angiosarcoma treated with pazopanib

Secondary Objectives:

- Assess overall survival of patients treated with pazopanib
- Gather more safety data for pazopanib in this patient population
- Explore the ability of [F-18] FDG-PET/CT imaging to assess response

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ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01462630

The goal of the Highlights of the NCCN Oncology Research Program (ORP) is to provide readers with more information on the ORP, including studies currently accruing patients.

For more information on specific trials, including patient selection criteria, please use the contact information listed with each study.

For more information on the NCCN ORP, including a complete detailing of the clinical studies currently underway at NCCN Member Institutions, please access the NCCN ORP pages at NCCN.org/clinical_trials/clinicians.asp.

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