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.

A Phase I/II Study of the Combination of Temozolomide and Pazopanib in Advanced Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

Principal Investigator: Sheetal Kircher, MD

Conditions: Pancreatic alpha cell carcinoma, pancreatic beta islet cell carcinoma, pancreatic delta cell carcinoma, pancreatic G-cell carcinoma, recurrent islet cell carcinoma

Institution: Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center at Northwestern University

This phase I/II trial is studying the side effects and best dose of temozolomide and pazopanib hydrochloride when given together and to see how well they work in treating patients with advanced pancreatic neuroendocrine tumors (PNETs) that cannot be removed through surgery. Drugs used in chemotherapy, such as temozolomide, work in different ways to stop the growth of tumor cells, either by killing the cells or by stopping them from dividing. Pazopanib hydrochloride may stop the growth of tumor cells by blocking some of the enzymes needed for tumor growth. Administering temozolomide together with pazopanib hydrochloride may be an effective treatment for patients with PNET.

Phase I Primary Objective:

- Determine the maximum tolerated dose of combination temozolomide and pazopanib in patients with advanced PNETs

Phase I Secondary Objectives:

- Determine safety and toxicity profile
- Describe the pharmacokinetics of temozolomide alone and in combination with pazopanib
- Observe the overall response rate (ORR)

Phase II Primary Objective:

- Determine the ORR

Phase II Secondary Objectives:

- Determine progression-free survival (PFS) and overall survival, disease control rate, and duration of response

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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- Determine the safety and toxicity profile of the combination in a larger cohort of patients

Exploratory/Correlative Objectives:

- Examine the relationship between tumor blood flow, as measured by perfusion functional CT, and overall response
- Correlate the expression of tissue methyl-guanine methyl transferase as measured by immunohistochemistry with ORR and PFS

Contacts: Northwestern University Study Coordinator • 312-695-1301 • cancertrials@northwestern.edu

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01465659