

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Single-Agent Divarasib (GDC-6036) in Solid Tumors with a *KRAS* G12C Mutation

Adrian Sacher, M.D., Patricia LoRusso, D.O., Manish R. Patel, M.D., Wilson H. Miller, Jr., M.D., Ph.D., Elena Garralda, M.D., Martin D. Forster, M.D., Ph.D., Armando Santoro, M.D., Alejandro Falcon, M.D., Tae Won Kim, M.D., Ph.D., Luis Paz-Ares, M.D., Samantha Bowyer, M.B., B.Ch., M.P.H., Maria de Miguel, M.D., Sae-Won Han, M.D., Ph.D., Matthew G. Krebs, M.B., Ch.B., Ph.D., Jong-Seok Lee, M.D., Michael L. Cheng, M.D., Kathryn Arbour, M.D., Erminia Massarelli, M.D., Ph.D., Yoonha Choi, Ph.D., Zhen Shi, Ph.D., Sandhya Mandlekar, Ph.D., Mark T. Lin, M.D., Ph.D., Stephanie Royer-Joo, Engr., Julie Chang, Ph.D., Neekesh V. Dharia, M.D., Ph.D., Jennifer L. Schutzman, M.D., Ph.D., and Jayesh Desai, M.B., B.S., for the GO42144 Investigator and Study Group*

ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Divarasib (GDC-6036) is a covalent *KRAS* G12C inhibitor that was designed to have high potency and selectivity.

METHODS

In a phase 1 study, we evaluated divarasib administered orally once daily (at doses ranging from 50 to 400 mg) in patients who had advanced or metastatic solid tumors that harbor a *KRAS* G12C mutation. The primary objective was an assessment of safety; pharmacokinetics, investigator-evaluated antitumor activity, and biomarkers of response and resistance were also assessed.

RESULTS

A total of 137 patients (60 with non–small-cell lung cancer [NSCLC], 55 with colorectal cancer, and 22 with other solid tumors) received divarasib. No dose-limiting toxic effects or treatment-related deaths were reported. Treatment-related adverse events occurred in 127 patients (93%); grade 3 events occurred in 15 patients (11%) and a grade 4 event in 1 patient (1%). Treatment-related adverse events resulted in a dose reduction in 19 patients (14%) and discontinuation of treatment in 4 patients (3%). Among patients with NSCLC, a confirmed response was observed in 53.4% of patients (95% confidence interval [CI], 39.9 to 66.7), and the median progression-free survival was 13.1 months (95% CI, 8.8 to could not be estimated). Among patients with colorectal cancer, a confirmed response was observed in 29.1% of patients (95% CI, 17.6 to 42.9), and the median progression-free survival was 5.6 months (95% CI, 4.1 to 8.2). Responses were also observed in patients with other solid tumors. Serial assessment of circulating tumor DNA showed declines in *KRAS* G12C variant allele frequency associated with response and identified genomic alterations that may confer resistance to divarasib.

CONCLUSIONS

Treatment with divarasib resulted in durable clinical responses across *KRAS* G12C–positive tumors, with mostly low-grade adverse events. (Funded by Genentech; ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT04449874.)

The authors' affiliations are listed in the Appendix. Dr. Sacher can be contacted at adrian.sacher@uhn.ca or at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, 610 University Ave., Toronto, ON M5G 2M9, Canada. Dr. Desai can be contacted at jayesh.desai@petermac.org or at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, 305 Grattan St., Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia.

*A list of the GO42144 Study Investigators and Study Group is provided in the Supplementary Appendix, available at NEJM.org.

Drs. Sacher, LoRusso, and Patel contributed equally to this article.

N Engl J Med 2023;389:710-21.
DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2303810

Copyright © 2023 Massachusetts Medical Society.

MUTATIONS IN THE KIRSTEN RAT SARCOMA viral oncogene homologue (KRAS) gene are the most common oncogenic driver mutations found in human cancer.^{1,2} The glycine-to-cysteine mutation at position 12 (G12C) of the KRAS protein interferes with guanosine triphosphate (GTP) hydrolysis, thus keeping KRAS primarily in the active, GTP-bound state. The increased activity of the KRAS G12C protein drives oncogenic signaling through multiple downstream pathways that directly promote tumor-cell survival, proliferation, and metastasis.^{3,4} The KRAS G12C mutation is present in approximately 12 to 14% of patients with non–small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC), 4% of patients with colorectal cancer, and up to 4% of patients with other solid tumor types (excluding NSCLC and colorectal cancer), with the frequency varying according to race and sex.⁵⁻⁷ Standard therapeutic approaches for KRAS G12C–mutant solid tumors vary but generally consist of nonselective chemotherapy, immunotherapy, or both, with therapy resulting in modest benefits in previously treated patients.^{8,9} Although recently developed KRAS G12C inhibitors,¹⁰ including sotorasib and adagrasib, have shown antitumor activity in patients with previously treated KRAS G12C–mutated cancer, the extent of the clinical benefit remains limited, and better therapies to target KRAS G12C remain a high priority.¹¹⁻¹⁸

Divarasib (GDC-6036) is a covalent KRAS G12C inhibitor designed to exhibit high potency and selectivity. It binds to the cysteine residue and irreversibly locks the protein into its inactive state, turning off its oncogenic signaling. Divarasib has been shown to be 5 to 20 times as potent and up to 50 times as selective in vitro as sotorasib and adagrasib.¹⁹ This ongoing phase 1 study is evaluating divarasib as a single agent and in combination with other anticancer therapies in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumors with a KRAS G12C mutation.

METHODS

STUDY DESIGN

The data we report here are from an ongoing phase 1, open-label, multicenter, dose-escalation, and dose-expansion study of divarasib as a single agent in patients with advanced or metastatic solid tumors that harbor a KRAS G12C mutation. The primary objective of this study is to evaluate

the safety of divarasib; other objectives include characterization of the pharmacokinetic profile, preliminary antitumor activity, and biomarkers of response and resistance.

PATIENTS

Patients 18 years of age or older with locally advanced or metastatic solid tumors harboring a KRAS G12C mutation were enrolled at 35 sites in 12 countries. Key inclusion criteria were the following: disease that had progressed after at least one available standard therapy, disease for which standard therapy proved to be ineffective or caused unacceptable side effects, or disease for which a clinical trial of an investigational agent is a recognized standard of care; evaluable or measurable disease according to Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST), version 1.1; an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status of 0 or 1 (on a 6-point scale, on which higher numbers reflect greater disability); and documentation of the KRAS G12C mutation by either central testing of blood samples (with the use of FoundationOne Liquid CDx [F1LCDx]) or local testing of tumor tissue or blood samples (with the use of a validated molecular testing method).

Key exclusion criteria were previous treatment with a KRAS G12C inhibitor; active, untreated central nervous system metastases (although previously treated central nervous system metastases were not an exclusion criterion); treatment with another anticancer therapy within 3 weeks or five half-lives before the initiation of the study treatment, whichever was shorter; and radiation as cancer therapy within 4 weeks before the initiation of divarasib. The full inclusion and exclusion criteria are listed in the protocol, available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

PROCEDURES AND STUDY ASSESSMENTS

Divarasib was administered orally once daily, at doses ranging from 50 to 400 mg, in 21-day cycles, until unacceptable toxic effects developed, disease progression occurred, or the patient withdrew from the study. Patients were enrolled sequentially into single-patient dose-escalation cohorts of divarasib at the 50-mg and 100-mg dose levels. Subsequently, additional patients were enrolled in the 200-mg and 400-mg dose cohorts with the use of a 3+3 dose-escalation design; in this design, cohorts consisting of 3 patients each

were evaluated for toxic effects that resulted in dose reductions, as defined in the protocol; the dose was escalated until an expansion dose was identified. (Fig. S1 in the Supplementary Appendix, available at NEJM.org). Subsequently, patients were enrolled in dose-expansion cohorts of divarasib at 400 mg; the dose-expansion cohorts included a biopsy cohort (at 100 to 400 mg), which consisted of patients who underwent a biopsy before treatment and approximately 1 to 2 weeks after the initiation of treatment.

Safety was evaluated in patients who received at least one dose of the study treatment through assessment of adverse events (graded according to National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 5.0), changes in laboratory test results, and changes in vital signs and electrocardiograms. Attribution of adverse events to study treatment was determined by the investigator. For each adverse event that resulted in a dose modification, only one action taken with regard to the study drug was selected for data analysis, according to the following hierarchy: discontinuation, reduction, or interruption. Preliminary antitumor activity was determined by the investigator according to RECIST, version 1.1, and included the confirmed response and progression-free survival (further defined in the Supplementary Appendix). Confirmed response in patients with measurable disease was defined as complete response or partial response on two consecutive tumor assessments at least 4 weeks apart, whereas best response did not require a confirmatory assessment.

Mutational status of *TP53*, *STK11*, *KEAP1*, and *APC* was assessed with the use of the F1LCDx assay in the blood samples that were collected before divarasib treatment. The programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) tumor proportion score (i.e., the fraction of tumor cells expressing PD-L1), was assessed with the use of the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay (Agilent Technologies) or other assays at a local laboratory. Exploratory profiling of circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) was performed with the use of PredicineWES+ (for baseline and end-of-treatment plasma samples) and Predicine-BEACON (for on-treatment plasma samples). Pharmacokinetic variables were estimated with the use of a noncompartmental analysis of time-concentration data (methods are further described in the Supplementary Appendix).

STUDY OVERSIGHT

The study was sponsored and designed by Genentech. A medical writer (an employee of Genentech) wrote the initial draft of the manuscript and provided editorial assistance with earlier versions of the manuscript. The sponsor collected and analyzed the data. All the authors contributed to data interpretation and manuscript preparation and vouch for the completeness and accuracy of the data and for the fidelity of the study to the protocol. This study was conducted in full conformance with the International Council for Harmonisation E6 guidelines for Good Clinical Practice and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki or the applicable laws and regulations of the country in which the research was conducted, whichever afforded greater protection of the patient. All patients provided written informed consent before enrollment.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

We planned to enroll approximately 48 patients in the single-agent dose-escalation stage (stage I), 20 patients in each of the dose-expansion cohorts (stage II) (NSCLC, colorectal cancer, and other solid tumors), and 10 patients in the biopsy cohort. On the basis of available safety, pharmacokinetic, and activity data, additional patients could be enrolled in the dose-expansion cohorts.

The enrollment cutoff date was October 7, 2022, and the data cutoff date was November 21, 2022. This analysis included all patients who received at least one dose of divarasib. Patients were grouped by tumor type (NSCLC, colorectal cancer, or other solid tumors) when applicable. Confirmed response was reported for patients with measurable disease at baseline and summarized with 95% confidence intervals calculated with the use of the Clopper–Pearson method. The time-to-event end points, including the duration of the response and progression-free survival, were reported descriptively and were summarized with the use of the Kaplan–Meier method; the median estimates were reported with 95% confidence intervals.

RESULTS

PATIENTS

A total of 137 patients (60 with NSCLC, 55 with colorectal cancer, and 22 with other solid tumors)

Table 1. Patient Demographics and Disease Characteristics.*

Characteristic	NSCLC (N=60)	Colorectal Cancer (N=55)	Other Solid Tumors† (N=22)	All Patients (N=137)
Median age (range) — yr	67 (43–82)	62 (34–81)	64 (30–85)	65 (30–85)
Female sex — no. (%)	34 (57)	33 (60)	10 (45.5)	77 (56)
Race — no. (%)‡				
White	52 (87)	40 (73)	17 (77)	109 (80)
Asian	4 (7)	10 (18)	5 (23)	19 (14)
Black	1 (2)	0	0	1 (1)
Unknown	3 (5)	5 (9)	0	8 (6)
ECOG performance-status score — no. (%)§				
0	21 (35)	23 (43)	13 (59)	57 (42)
1	39 (65)	30 (57)	9 (41)	78 (58)
Previous systemic therapies — no. (%)				
0	1 (2)	0	0	1 (1)
1	23 (38)	6 (11)	4 (18)	33 (24)
2	17 (28)	14 (25)	7 (32)	38 (28)
3	11 (18)	15 (27)	2 (9)	28 (20)
≥4	8 (13)	20 (36)	9 (41)	37 (27)

* NSCLC denotes non–small-cell lung cancer.

† Other solid tumor types include pancreatic adenocarcinoma (7 patients), cholangiocarcinoma (7 patients), duodenal adenocarcinoma (2 patients), and anal adenocarcinoma, appendiceal adenocarcinoma, breast carcinoma, endometrial squamous-cell carcinoma, large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the lung, and stomach adenocarcinoma (1 patient each).

‡ Race was reported by the patients.

§ Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance-status scores range from 0 to 5, with higher scores reflecting greater disability. Two patients with colorectal cancer had missing ECOG performance-status scores at baseline.

were assigned to receive divarasib as a single agent and received at least one dose between July 29, 2020, and October 7, 2022 (Fig. S1). The 400-mg dose of divarasib was the maximum administered dose and was subsequently the dose selected for the dose-expansion cohorts. The median duration of treatment was 6.9 months (range, 0 to 24.1) for all patients, 8.3 months (range, 0 to 24.1) for patients with NSCLC, and 5.5 months (range, 0.2 to 15.6) for patients with colorectal cancer. The study treatment was discontinued in 94 patients (69%), with the most common reasons being progressive disease according to RECIST (69 patients, 50%), clinical progression (9 patients, 7%), and adverse events regardless of attribution (7 patients, 5%).

Baseline demographics and disease characteristics are summarized according to tumor type in

Table 1. Across all tumor types, the median age of the patients was 65 (range, 30 to 85), and patients had previously received a median of 2 (range, 0 to 8) systemic therapies. Black patients were underrepresented in the study. Of the patients with NSCLC, 56 patients (93%) were current or former smokers, 60% (27 of 45 patients for whom information on PD-L1 status was available) had a PD-L1 tumor proportion score of at least 1%, 53 patients (88%) had received previous platinum therapy, and 52 patients (87%) had received previous anti-PD-1 or anti-PD-L1 therapy (22 of whom had received the therapy within 90 days before study enrollment). Of the patients with colorectal cancer, 55 patients (100%) had been previously treated with fluorouracil or capecitabine, 54 patients (98%) with oxaliplatin, 46 patients (84%) with irinotecan, and 34 patients (62%) with bevacizumab.

Table 2. Treatment-Related Adverse Events in 10% or More of Patients.

Treatment-Related Adverse Event	NSCLC (N=60)		Colorectal Cancer (N=55)		All Patients (N=137)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3–5*	Any Grade	Grade 3–5*	Any Grade	Grade 3–5*
	<i>number of patients (percent)</i>					
At least one event	56 (93)	11 (18)	53 (96)	4 (7)	127 (93)	16 (12)
Nausea	47 (78)	1 (2)	43 (78)	0	101 (74)	1 (1)
Diarrhea	36 (60)	2 (3)	38 (69)	3 (5.5)	84 (61)	5 (4)
Vomiting	38 (63)	0	32 (58)	0	80 (58)	1 (1)
Fatigue	16 (27)	1 (2)	11 (20)	0	30 (22)	1 (1)
Decreased appetite	11 (18)	0	6 (11)	0	18 (13)	0
Aspartate aminotransferase level increased	9 (15)	4 (7)	3 (5.5)	0	14 (10)	4 (3)

* No grade 5 treatment-related adverse events (death) were reported.

SAFETY

No dose-limiting toxic effects were reported at any investigated dose (50 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, or 400 mg once daily). Across all tumor types, 136 patients (99%) had an adverse event that occurred during the treatment period (Table S1), and 127 patients (93%) had a treatment-related adverse event (Table 2). The most common treatment-related adverse events were nausea (74%), diarrhea (61%), and vomiting (58%). The majority of treatment-related adverse events (94%) were grade 1 or 2. Grade 3 treatment-related adverse events occurred in 15 patients (11%) and included diarrhea (5 patients), an increase in the alanine aminotransferase (ALT) level (4 patients), an increase in the aspartate aminotransferase (AST) level (4 patients), and nausea, vomiting, fatigue, an increase in the lipase level, hypokalemia, an increase in the blood alkaline phosphatase level, hypophosphatemia, and neutropenia (1 patient each). One grade 4 treatment-related event (anaphylactic reaction) was reported in 1 patient (1%). All grade 3 treatment-related increases in AST and ALT levels occurred in patients with NSCLC, and the levels normalized after the interruption of divarasisib with or without glucocorticoid therapy.

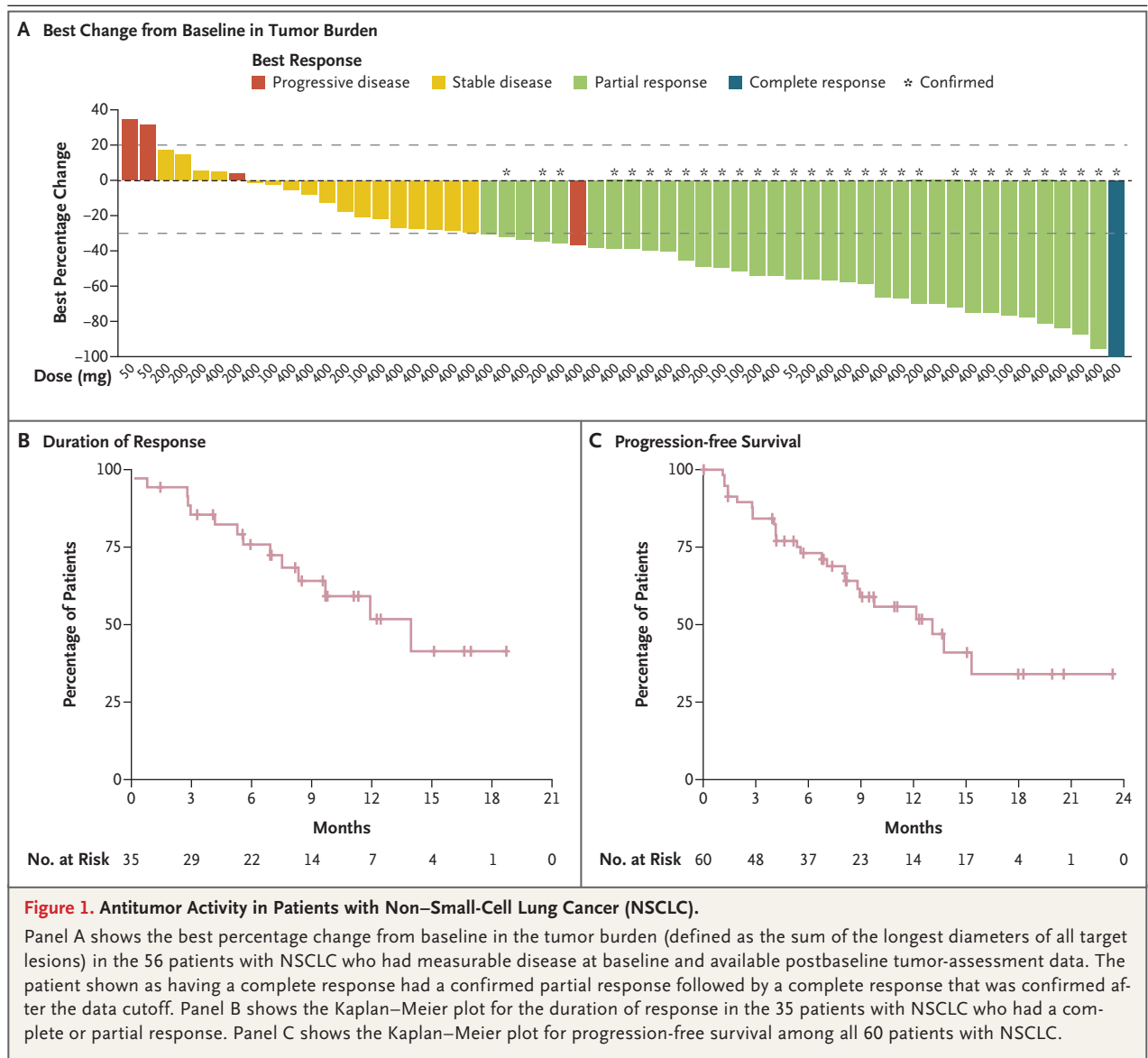
Treatment-related adverse events resulted in divarasisib dose modifications in 41 patients (30%): dose interruptions in 28 patients (20%) and dose reductions in 19 patients (14%). Treatment-related adverse events that resulted in dose reductions in 3 or more patients included nausea, vomiting,

diarrhea, and increases in the ALT or AST level. A total of 4 patients (3%) withdrew from the study treatment because of divarasisib-related adverse events, which included vomiting, diarrhea, upper abdominal pain, and anaphylactic reaction (1 patient each). Serious adverse events occurred in 42 patients (31%), resulting in dose modifications in 23 patients (17%) and discontinuation of the study treatment in 4 patients (3%); only 2 patients had treatment-related serious adverse events. Seven grade 5 events (death) occurred that were attributed to the disease under study (NSCLC, colorectal cancer, or other solid-tumor cancer), and no deaths were considered to be related to treatment with divarasisib.

EFFICACY

NSCLC

Across all dose levels, of the 58 patients with NSCLC who had measurable disease at baseline, 1 patient (2%) had a complete response, 34 (59%) had a partial response, 17 (29%) had stable disease, and 4 (7%) had progressive disease as their best response; 2 patients (3%) discontinued treatment before the first tumor assessment during the study. A confirmed response was observed in 53.4% of patients (95% confidence interval [CI], 39.9 to 66.7) (Fig. 1 and Fig. S2). The median time to response was 1.3 months (range, 1.2 to 8.3), and the median duration of response was 14.0 months (95% CI, 8.3 to could not be estimated). The median progression-free survival was 13.1



months (95% CI, 8.8 to could not be estimated). Of the 39 patients receiving divarasiab at a dose of 400 mg, 56.4% had a confirmed response (95% CI, 39.6 to 72.2), and the median duration of response was 11.9 months (95% CI, 6.9 to could not be estimated). In these patients, the median progression-free survival was 13.7 months (95% CI, 8.1 to could not be estimated). Responses to divarasiab were observed across subgroups defined according to PD-L1 status or according to the presence of co-occurring mutations (*TP53*, *STK11* and *KEAP1*), although the number of patients in each subgroup was small (Table S2).

Colorectal Cancer

Across all dose levels, of the 55 patients with colorectal cancer and measurable disease at baseline, 1 patient (2%) had a complete response, 19 (35%) had partial responses, 27 (49%) had stable disease, and 6 (11%) had progressive disease as their best response; 2 patients (4%) discontinued treatment before the first tumor assessment during the study. A confirmed response was observed in 29.1% of patients (95% CI, 17.6 to 42.9) (Fig. 2 and Fig. S3). The median time to response was 2.2 months (range, 1.2 to 6.8), and the median duration of response was 7.1 months (95% CI,

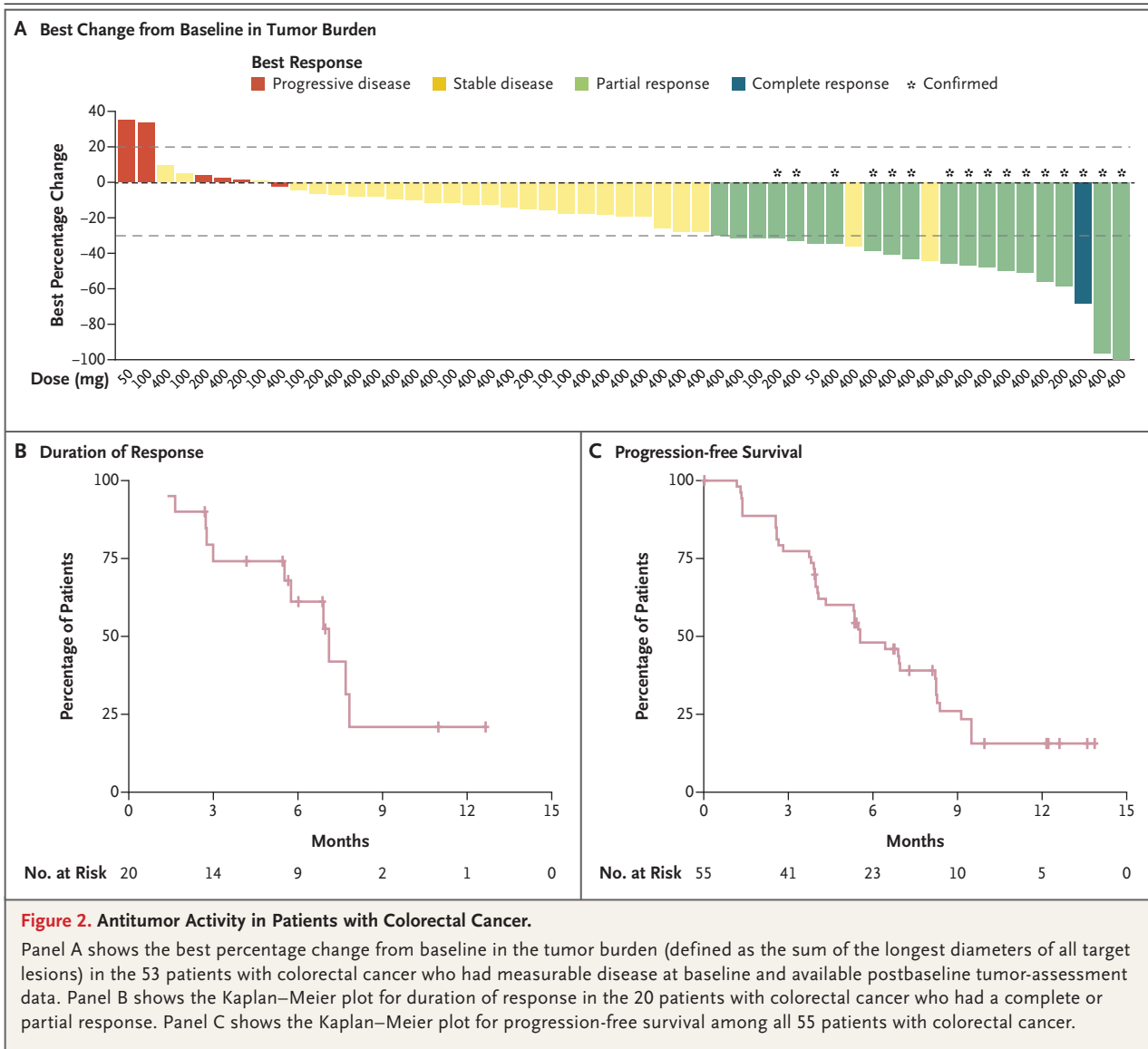


Figure 2. Antitumor Activity in Patients with Colorectal Cancer.

Panel A shows the best percentage change from baseline in the tumor burden (defined as the sum of the longest diameters of all target lesions) in the 53 patients with colorectal cancer who had measurable disease at baseline and available postbaseline tumor-assessment data. Panel B shows the Kaplan–Meier plot for duration of response in the 20 patients with colorectal cancer who had a complete or partial response. Panel C shows the Kaplan–Meier plot for progression-free survival among all 55 patients with colorectal cancer.

5.5 to 7.8). The median progression-free survival was 5.6 months (95% CI, 4.1 to 8.2). Of the 39 patients who received divarasib at a dose of 400 mg, 35.9% had a confirmed response (95% CI, 21.2 to 52.8), and the median duration of response was 7.7 months (95% CI, 5.7 to could not be estimated). In these patients, the median progression-free survival was 6.9 months (95% CI, 5.3 to 9.1). Responses were observed in subgroups defined according to the presence of co-occurring mutations (*APC* and *TP53*), though the numbers of patients in each of these subgroups was small (Table S2).

Other Solid Tumors

A total of 22 patients who had solid tumors other than NSCLC and colorectal cancer and measurable disease at baseline were enrolled, all of whom received divarasib at a dose of 400 mg. Partial responses were observed in 8 patients (36%; 3 patients with pancreatic adenocarcinoma and 1 patient each with anal adenocarcinoma, cholangiocarcinoma, endometrial squamous-cell carcinoma, large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the lung, and stomach adenocarcinoma), stable disease in 11 patients (50%; 4 patients each with pancreatic adenocarcinoma and cholangiocar-

cinoma and 1 each with appendiceal adenocarcinoma, breast cancer, and duodenal adenocarcinoma), and progressive disease in 1 patient (5%; cholangiocarcinoma) as the best response; 2 patients (9%) discontinued treatment before the first tumor assessment during the study (Fig. S4).

PHARMACOKINETICS

Among 4 patients across tumor types with pharmacokinetic data evaluable for determination of half-life, the mean (\pm SD) half-life after a single dose of 400 mg of divarasib was 17.6 ± 2.7 hours. At steady state (day 8 of cycle 1 or day 1 of cycle 2) after once-daily receipt of divarasib at a dose of 400 mg, the median time to maximum concentration among 76 patients across tumor types with evaluable pharmacokinetic data was 2.0 hours (range, 0.5 to 8.0), the mean maximum concentration was 657 ± 185 ng per milliliter, the mean area under the curve (0 to 24 hours) was 9130 ± 3160 ng times hours per milliliter, and the mean accumulation ratio relative to day 1 of cycle 1 was 1.4 ± 0.4 (Fig. S5 and Table S3).

BIOMARKERS OF RESPONSE AND RESISTANCE

Levels of ctDNA on day 1 of cycle 1, day 15 of cycle 1, and day 1 of cycle 3 were evaluable in 70 patients (26 with NSCLC, 35 with colorectal cancer, and 9 with other solid tumors) in whom the KRAS G12C mutation was detectable in ctDNA on day 1 of cycle 1. In the majority of these patients, a reduction in KRAS G12C variant allele frequency was observed as early as day 15 of cycle 1. All patients with a partial response, across all tumor types, had a KRAS G12C variant allele frequency of less than 1% on day 1 of cycle 3 (Fig. 3A).

Paired baseline and end-of-treatment ctDNA profiling was performed in a subgroup of patients with progression-free survival of more than 3 months (29 patients; 8 with NSCLC, 16 with colorectal cancer, and 5 with other solid tumors) to evaluate possible mechanisms of acquired resistance to divarasib (further described in Table S4). A total of 16 patients (3 with NSCLC, 9 with colorectal cancer, and 4 with other solid tumors) had at least one possible genomic mechanism of resistance identified, such as KRAS copy number gain or amplification; KRAS non-G12C mutations; alterations in receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK), mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK),

or phosphoinositide 3-kinase (PI3K) pathway components; or RB1 copy number loss (Fig. 3B).

Preexisting mutations in RAS genes as possible primary resistance mechanisms were evaluated in 25 patients who had disease progression or died within 3 months after the initiation of treatment. Oncogenic driver mutations in RAS genes other than KRAS G12C were identified in baseline plasma samples in 6 patients (Fig. 3C). In 3 of these 6 patients with longitudinal ctDNA profiling, dynamic clonal evolution was observed during treatment, with an increase in the variant allele frequency of non-KRAS G12C mutations and a decrease in the KRAS G12C variant allele frequency (Fig. 3D).

DISCUSSION

The discovery of the switch II pocket within the KRAS protein has led to the rapid development of multiple KRAS G12C inhibitors that have different safety, antitumor activity, and clinical benefit profiles. In this study, single-agent divarasib was shown to have a manageable safety profile and highly promising antitumor activity in patients with previously treated NSCLC, colorectal cancer, or other cancers.

Divarasib was associated with mainly low-grade gastrointestinal adverse effects that were reversible and manageable with supportive medications including antidiarrheal and antiemetic agents. Among patients receiving divarasib, dose reductions and discontinuation of treatment resulting from divarasib-related adverse events were infrequent (dose reduction in 14% and discontinuation in 3%), findings that were similar to or better than those reported in patients with NSCLC who received sotorasib (dose reduction in 15% and discontinuation in 7 to 10%)^{17,18} or adagrasib (dose reduction in 52% and discontinuation in 7%).¹³ A mean half-life of 17.6 hours was observed with divarasib, which supports a convenient once-daily dosing regimen.

In this phase 1 study, treatment with divarasib resulted in clinical responses across tumor types with the KRAS G12C mutation. It is encouraging that, among patients with NSCLC, a confirmed response was observed in 56.4% of patients, and a median progression-free survival of 13.7 months was observed at the selected expansion dose of divarasib 400 mg once daily. Cross-trial compari-

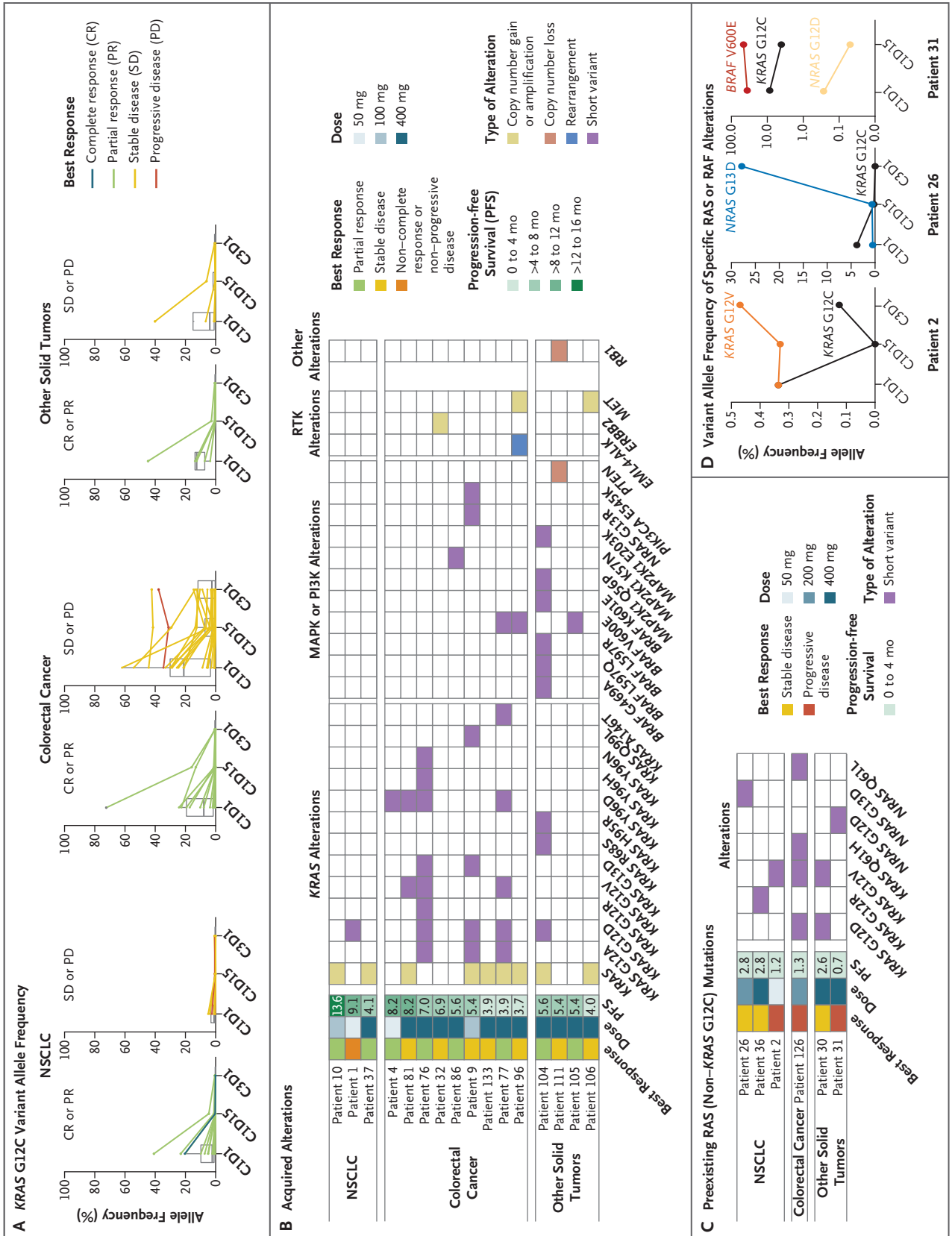


Figure 3 (facing page). Biomarkers of Response and Resistance.

Panel A shows *KRAS* G12C variant allele frequency at baseline (cycle 1, day 1 [C1D1]) and early treatment time points (cycle 1, day 15 [C1D15] and cycle 3, day 1 [C3D1]) according to the best overall response among the 68 patients with measurable disease at baseline (with each line representing one patient). In the box-and-whisker plots, the center line represents the median, the top and bottom of the box the interquartile range, and the I bars 1.5 times the interquartile range. Panel B summarizes putative genetic mechanisms of acquired resistance to divarasib treatment in a subgroup of patients with progression-free survival longer than 3 months. Each row represents one patient, with the first three columns describing the best response, assigned dose, and progression-free survival and subsequent columns indicating acquired genomic alterations at the end of treatment. The tumor types of other solid tumors were anal adenocarcinoma (Patient 104), large-cell neuroendocrine carcinoma of the lung (Patient 105), pancreatic adenocarcinoma (Patient 106), and appendiceal adenocarcinoma (Patient 111). Data for progression-free survival for patients 1, 9, and 10 were censored owing to discontinuation of treatment for reasons other than progressive disease (as assessed according to Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors, version 1.1). Panel C shows RAS gene alterations (*KRAS* or *NRAS* besides *KRAS* G12C) that were detected in baseline circulating tumor DNA among patients with disease progression within 3 months after initiation of treatment. The tumor types of other solid tumors were breast carcinoma (Patient 30) and cholangiocarcinoma (Patient 31). Panel D shows the variant allele frequency of specific RAS or RAF alterations as assessed by serial ctDNA profiling.

sons are often difficult because of differences in demographic features; however, the results with divarasib appear to be numerically higher than those observed with sotorasib in the phase 2 CodeBreaK 100 study (response observed in 37% of patients; median progression-free survival, 6.8 months)¹⁷ and the larger phase 3 CodeBreaK 200 study (response observed in 28% of patients receiving sotorasib vs. 13% receiving docetaxel; median progression-free survival, 5.6 months with sotorasib vs. 4.5 months with docetaxel).¹⁸ In the phase 2 KRYSTAL-1 study, 43% of patients with NSCLC had a response with adagrasib, and the median progression-free survival was 6.5 months.¹³

In our study, a confirmed response with divarasib at a dose of 400 mg daily was observed in 35.9% of patients with colorectal cancer, and the

median progression-free survival was 6.9 months. In previous studies, a response was observed in 10% of patients receiving sotorasib as a single agent and in 19% of patients receiving adagrasib as a single agent, and the median progression-free survival was 4 months and 5.6 months, respectively.^{11,16} Of note, a response in 30% of patients and a median progression-free survival of 5.7 months was observed with the combination of sotorasib plus panitumumab,²⁰ and a response in 46% of patients and a median progression-free survival of 6.9 months was seen with adagrasib plus cetuximab among patients with colorectal cancer.¹⁶

Thus, divarasib appears to show numerically more responses and longer progression-free survival among patients with either NSCLC or colorectal cancer than those observed with existing single-agent *KRAS* G12C inhibitors; however, conclusions drawn from cross-trial comparisons must be interpreted cautiously. In addition, there were limitations of this phase 1 study that should be noted: the responses were assessed by the investigators rather than by blinded independent central review, and racial diversity was limited. Further assessment of divarasib in larger randomized studies is needed.

We observed a diverse spectrum of genomic alterations in the *KRAS* gene and RTK, MAPK, and PI3K pathway components at the end of treatment that may confer acquired resistance in patients receiving single-agent divarasib treatment; these results are similar to those previously reported for sotorasib and adagrasib.²¹⁻²⁴ In addition, we hypothesize that preexisting mutations in RAS genes (other than *KRAS* G12C) in a subgroup of patients with limited clinical benefit represent driver mutation heterogeneity in which non-*KRAS* G12C-mutant tumor cells are unlikely to respond to divarasib.

The safety profile and encouraging single-agent antitumor activity of divarasib make it a promising clinical candidate both as a single agent and in combination with other anticancer therapies. There is a need to identify new effective strategies to delay and prevent resistance to *KRAS* G12C inhibitors. To this end, divarasib is being investigated in combination with other anticancer therapies, including atezolizumab, cetuximab, bevacizumab, erlotinib, GDC-1971 (an inhibitor of Src homology region 2-containing

protein tyrosine phosphatase-2), and inavolisib (a PI3K α inhibitor), in this current, ongoing study.

Supported by Genentech. Dr. Garralda is supported by Caixa-Research Advanced Oncology Research Program, Fundació La Caixa (LCF-PR-CE07-50610001). Dr. Forster is supported by the UCL-UCLH NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and runs early phase studies in the NIHR UCLH Clinical Research Facility supported by the UCL ECMC. Dr. Krebs acknowledges support

by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Manchester Biomedical Research Centre, NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility at the Christie and Manchester Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (Manchester, UK).

Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

A data sharing statement provided by the authors is available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

We thank the patients involved in this study and their families, the clinical study teams, and Andrew Occiano (Genentech) for medical writing assistance.

APPENDIX

The authors' affiliations are as follows: the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, and the Departments of Medicine and Immunology, University of Toronto, Toronto (A. Sacher), and the Lady Davis Institute and the Segal Cancer Center, Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal (W.H.M.); Yale Cancer Center, Yale University, New Haven, CT (P.L.); Florida Cancer Specialists/Sarah Cannon Research Institute, Sarasota (M.R.P.); Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology (VHIO), Vall d'Hebron University Hospital, Barcelona (E.G.); Hospital Universitario Virgen del Rocío, Seville (A.F.), and Hospital Universitario 12 de Octubre, H120-CNIO Lung Cancer Unit, Universidad Complutense and Ciberonc (L.P.-A.), and START MADRID-CIOCC, Hospital Universitario HM Sanchinarro (M.M.), Madrid — all in Spain; the UCL Cancer Institute, University College London Hospitals NHS Trust, London (M.D.F.), and the Division of Cancer Sciences, Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, University of Manchester and Christie NHS Foundation Trust, Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, Manchester (M.G.K.) — both in the United Kingdom; IRCCS Humanitas Research Center, Humanitas Cancer Center, and the Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University, Milan (A. Santoro); Asan Medical Center (T.W.K.), Seoul National University Hospital and Seoul National University Cancer Research Institute (S.-W.H.), and Seoul National University Bundang Hospital (J.-S.L.) — all in Seoul, South Korea; Linear Clinical Research, Perth, WA (S.B.), and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC (J.D.) — all in Australia; Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School — both in Boston (M.L.C.); Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York (K.A.); and City of Hope, Duarte (E.M.), and Genentech, South San Francisco (Y.C., Z.S., S.M., M.T.L., S.R.-J., J.C., N.V.D., J.L.S.) — both in California.

REFERENCES

- Cox AD, Fesik SW, Kimmelman AC, Luo J, Der CJ. Drugging the undruggable RAS: mission possible? *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2014;13:828-51.
- Simanshu DK, Nissley DV, McCormick F. RAS proteins and their regulators in human disease. *Cell* 2017;170:17-33.
- Moore AR, Rosenberg SC, McCormick F, Malek S. RAS-targeted therapies: is the undruggable drugged? *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2020;19:533-52.
- Ostrem JML, Shokat KM. Direct small-molecule inhibitors of KRAS: from structural insights to mechanism-based design. *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2016;15:771-85.
- Lee JK, Sivakumar S, Schrock AB, et al. Comprehensive pan-cancer genomic landscape of KRAS altered cancers and real-world outcomes in solid tumors. *NPJ Precis Oncol* 2022;6:91.
- Nassar AH, Adib E, Kwiatkowski DJ. Distribution of KRAS^{G12C} somatic mutations across race, sex, and cancer type. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:185-7.
- Scharpf RB, Balan A, Ricciuti B, et al. Genomic landscapes and hallmarks of mutant RAS in human cancers. *Cancer Res* 2022;82:4058-78.
- Román M, Baraibar I, López I, et al. KRAS oncogene in non-small cell lung cancer: clinical perspectives on the treatment of an old target. *Mol Cancer* 2018; 17:33.
- Russo M, Crisafulli G, Sogari A, et al. Adaptive mutability of colorectal cancers in response to targeted therapies. *Science* 2019;366:1473-80.
- Ostrem JM, Peters U, Sos ML, Wells JA, Shokat KM. K-Ras(G12C) inhibitors allosterically control GTP affinity and effector interactions. *Nature* 2013;503: 548-51.
- Fakih MG, Kopetz S, Kuboki Y, et al. Sotorasib for previously treated colorectal cancers with KRAS^{G12C} mutation (CodeBreak100): a prespecified analysis of a single-arm, phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol* 2022;23:115-24.
- Hong DS, Fakih MG, Strickler JH, et al. KRAS^{G12C} inhibition with sotorasib in advanced solid tumors. *N Engl J Med* 2020;383:1207-17.
- Jänne PA, Riely GJ, Gadgeel SM, et al. Adagrasib in non-small-cell lung cancer harboring a KRAS^{G12C} mutation. *N Engl J Med* 2022;387:120-31.
- Ou S-HI, Jänne PA, Leal TA, et al. First-in-human phase I/IB dose-finding study of adagrasib (MRTX849) in patients with advanced KRAS^{G12C} solid tumors (KRYSTAL-1). *J Clin Oncol* 2022;40: 2530-8.
- Strickler JH, Satake H, George TJ, et al. Sotorasib in KRAS p.G12C-mutated advanced pancreatic cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2023;388:33-43.
- Yaeger R, Weiss J, Pelster MS, et al. Adagrasib with or without cetuximab in colorectal cancer with mutated KRAS G12C. *N Engl J Med* 2023;388:44-54.
- Skoulidis F, Li BT, Dy GK, et al. Sotorasib for lung cancers with KRAS p.G12C mutation. *N Engl J Med* 2021; 384:2371-81.
- de Langen AJ, Johnson ML, Mazieres J, et al. Sotorasib versus docetaxel for previously treated non-small-cell lung cancer with KRAS^{G12C} mutation: a randomised, open-label, phase 3 trial. *Lancet* 2023;401:733-46.
- Purkey H. Discovery of GDC-6036, a clinical stage treatment for KRAS G12C-positive cancers. Presented at the AACR Annual Meeting, New Orleans, April 8-13, 2022.
- Kuboki YR, Fakih MG, Strickler JH, et al. Sotorasib in combination with panitumumab in refractory KRAS G12C-mutated colorectal cancer: safety and efficacy for phase Ib full expansion cohort. *Ann Oncol* 2022;33:Suppl 9:S1445-S1446.
- Zhao Y, Murciano-Goroff YR, Xue JY, et al. Diverse alterations associated with resistance to KRAS(G12C) inhibition. *Nature* 2021;599:679-83.
- Awad MM, Liu S, Rybkin II, et al. Ac-

quired resistance to KRAS^{G12C} inhibition in cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:2382-93.

23. Tanaka N, Lin JJ, Li C, et al. Clinical acquired resistance to KRAS^{G12C} inhibition through a novel KRAS switch-II

pocket mutation and polyclonal alterations converging on RAS-MAPK reactivation. *Cancer Discov* 2021;11:1913-22.

24. Li BT, Velcheti V, Price TJ, et al. Largest evaluation of acquired resistance to sotorasib in KRAS p.G12C-mutated non-

small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and colorectal cancer (CRC): Plasma biomarker analysis of CodeBreaK100. *J Clin Onc* 2022;40:Suppl:102.

Copyright © 2023 Massachusetts Medical Society.

JOURNAL ARCHIVE AT NEJM.ORG

Every article published by the *Journal* is now available at NEJM.org, beginning with the first article published in January 1812. The entire archive is fully searchable, and browsing of titles and tables of contents is easy and available to all. Individual subscribers are entitled to free 24-hour access to 50 archive articles per year. Access to content in the archive is also being provided through many institutional subscriptions.