

# Infigratinib in Patients with Recurrent Gliomas and *FGFR* Alterations: A Multicenter Phase II Study



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## ABSTRACT

**Purpose:** *FGFR* genomic alterations (amplification, mutations, and/or fusions) occur in ~8% of gliomas, particularly *FGFR1* and *FGFR3*. We conducted a multicenter open-label, single-arm, phase II study of a selective *FGFR1-3* inhibitor, infigratinib (BGJ398), in patients with *FGFR*-altered recurrent gliomas.

**Patients and Methods:** Adults with recurrent/progressive gliomas harboring *FGFR* alterations received oral infigratinib 125 mg on days 1 to 21 of 28-day cycles. The primary endpoint was investigator-assessed 6-month progression-free survival (PFS) rate by Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology criteria. Comprehensive genomic profiling was performed on available pretreatment archival tissue to explore additional molecular correlations with efficacy.

**Results:** Among 26 patients, the 6-month PFS rate was 16.0% [95% confidence interval (CI), 5.0–32.5], median PFS was 1.7 months (95% CI, 1.1–2.8), and objective response rate was

3.8%. However, 4 patients had durable disease control lasting longer than 1 year. Among these, 3 had tumors harboring activating point mutations at analogous positions of *FGFR1* (K656E;  $n = 2$ ) or *FGFR3* (K650E;  $n = 1$ ) in pretreatment tissue; an *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion was detected in the other. Hyperphosphatemia was the most frequently reported treatment-related adverse event (all-grade, 76.9%; grade 3, 3.8%) and is a known on-target toxicity of *FGFR* inhibitors.

**Conclusions:** *FGFR* inhibitor monotherapy with infigratinib had limited efficacy in a population of patients with recurrent gliomas and different *FGFR* genetic alterations, but durable disease control lasting more than 1 year was observed in patients with tumors harboring *FGFR1* or *FGFR3* point mutations or *FGFR3-TACC3* fusions. A follow-up study with refined biomarker inclusion criteria and centralized *FGFR* testing is warranted.

## Introduction

Gliomas are a clinically diverse group of primary brain tumors, diagnosed in ~100,000 people/year worldwide (1, 2). Glioblastomas, the most common type of primary brain tumor, are particularly aggressive with a median overall survival (OS) of ~15 to 18 months after standard care (3). Historically, the classification of gliomas was based on histologic findings and pathologic grading. However, comprehensive molecular characterization over the past decade has identified complex genetic, epigenetic, and chromosomal changes that segregate gliomas into distinct molecular subtypes, with some genetic differences impacting response to therapy (4–6). For example, methylation of the

*MGMT* promoter is both prognostic and predictive of benefit from temozolomide (7).

*FGFR* genomic alterations (amplification, mutations, and fusions) occur in ~8% of gliomas, with most aberrations occurring in *FGFR1* and *FGFR3* (8). Chromosomal translocations that fuse the tyrosine kinase domains of *FGFR1* or *FGFR3* and *TACC1* or *TACC3* have been identified in 2% to 4% of gliomas (9–11). These *FGFR* fusion genes, such as *FGFR3-TACC3*, are capable of ligand-independent dimerization by virtue of the newly fused coiled-coil domain and have demonstrated oncogenic potential *in vitro* and *in vivo* (9). Further, *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion has been reported as predictive of response to *FGFR* tyrosine kinase inhibitors both preclinically (9, 10) and clinically

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### Translational Relevance

This study highlights that *FGFR* inhibitor monotherapy has limited efficacy in patients with recurrent gliomas harboring any *FGFR* alteration. However, durable disease control was apparent in 4 patients with tumors with activating *FGFR1* or *FGFR3* mutations or *FGFR3-TACC3* fusions. Further studies of *FGFR* inhibitors with refined biomarker inclusion criteria are warranted.

in various solid tumors including gliomas (10). Less is known about the underlying role of *FGFR* point mutations or amplification in gliomas (12). The oncogenic effects of *FGFR* mutations in human cancers, including gliomas, are variable (13, 14), with *FGFR* amplification typically failing to drive tumor addiction to *FGFR* signaling (9).

Infigratinib (BGJ398) is a potent ATP-competitive *FGFR1-3*-selective oral tyrosine kinase inhibitor (15) in development for the treatment of patients with *FGFR*-driven conditions, including cholangiocarcinoma, urothelial carcinoma, and achondroplasia. In clinical studies, infigratinib 125 mg on days 1 to 21 of 28 achieved disease control in 84% of patients with advanced cholangiocarcinoma harboring *FGFR2* fusions/translocations (16), and in 64% of patients with advanced urothelial carcinoma harboring *FGFR3* alterations (17).

We conducted a multicenter phase II study to investigate the antitumor activity and safety of single-agent infigratinib in patients with *FGFR*-altered recurrent gliomas, particularly in tumors with *FGFR-TACC* fusions.

## Patients and Methods

### Study design

This open-label, single-arm, multicenter, phase II study of infigratinib in patients with recurrent high-grade gliomas after failure of initial therapy that harbored *FGFR* alterations was conducted at 14 centers in the US, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Belgium (Clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT01975701). The study was not randomized. The primary goals were to investigate efficacy, safety, and tolerability, and to explore abnormalities of *FGFR* and other genes in pretreatment archival tissue as molecular predictors of efficacy.

The study was implemented and reported in accordance with the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines, with applicable local regulations, and the Declaration of Helsinki. The study protocol was approved by the ethics committee at each participating center. Patients were required to provide written informed consent.

### Patients

Originally, male or female patients aged 18 years or older and Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status  $\leq 2$  with recurrent gliomas harboring any *FGFR* abnormality (i.e., amplification, fusions, or mutations in *FGFR1*, *FGFR2*, *FGFR3*, or *FGFR4*) determined by local or central Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA)-accredited laboratories before study entry were eligible. Preclinical research underpinning the rationale for the study suggested that *FGFR3-TACC3* fusions were predictive of response to *FGFR* tyrosine kinase inhibitors. When the study launched, it was assumed that *FGFR* amplification correlated with presence of fusions (9). The eligibility criteria were amended 17 months after enrollment started (April 2015) to require fusions or *FGFR1-3* activating mutations when further preclinical data showed that amplification was in fact a poor surrogate for the presence of fusion (10).

Prior external beam radiotherapy and/or temozolomide was required. Otherwise, unlimited prior surgeries and anticancer treatments including bevacizumab were permitted, except for prior treatment with an *FGFR* inhibitor which was not allowed. Patients receiving anticonvulsant drugs that were strong inducers of CYP3A4 (e.g., carbamazepine, phenobarbital, phenytoin) were required to discontinue therapy  $\geq 2$  weeks before enrollment. Other key entry criteria reflecting the known safety profile of infigratinib entailed normal calcium/phosphate homeostasis and no history of corneal/keratopathy or retinal disorders. There were no specified criteria regarding body weight.

Supplementary Figure S1 shows the relationship between the different study patient populations.

### Treatment

Patients were intended to receive oral infigratinib 125 mg once daily on days 1 to 21 of each 28-day cycle until disease progression or unacceptable toxicity. No blinding was used in the study. Two protocol-specified dose reductions (to 100 and 75 mg/day) and dose interruptions (14 days maximum) were permitted to manage treatment-emergent toxicities. Adherence to a low-phosphate diet was recommended during therapy to manage hyperphosphatemia, a known class effect of *FGFR* inhibition. Prophylactic use of a phosphate-binding agent, such as sevelamer, was also recommended following a protocol amendment (August 2014).

### Assessments

Molecular screening of tumor samples prior to study entry for *FGFR* alterations was performed by either a local laboratory or sponsor-designated central laboratory as part of eligibility assessments. Separately, archival tissue ( $\geq 10$  unstained formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded slides) was also collected when available and underwent comprehensive genetic profiling using a clinically validated next-generation sequencing (NGS) platform that sequences 324 genes for mutations, indels, copy-number alterations, and select gene fusions (by Foundation Medicine; Cambridge, MA; ref. 18) for *post hoc* molecular correlative analysis. Central pathology review of diagnoses was not performed.

Gadolinium-enhanced MRI was performed at baseline and every 8 weeks while on study. Response (or progression) was reported by the local investigator's interpretation of the Response Assessment in Neuro-Oncology (RANO) criteria (19). Central review was not performed. Adverse events were evaluated according to the Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.03. Ophthalmologic examinations (visual acuity testing, slit-lamp examination of anterior eye segment, intraocular pressure, and fundoscopy) were performed at baseline and then on days 1 and 15 of cycle 1, and day 1 of all subsequent cycles.

### Endpoints

The primary study endpoint was investigator-assessed progression-free survival (PFS) rate at 6 months according to RANO criteria (19). Secondary endpoints were investigator-assessed overall response rate (ORR; complete or partial responses as best outcome), PFS, OS, safety, and tolerability.

### Statistical analysis

Sample size calculations were based on simulations of the operating characteristics of the study, rather than a power consideration. Assuming a true 6-month PFS rate of 50% and a uniform accrual of 1 patient per month, with a sample size of 24 evaluable patients in the per-protocol set ( $\sim 17$  PFS events), there was about 86.1% chance to

achieve success at the end of the study, where a 6-month PFS rate of <16% was defined as unacceptable efficacy, 16% to 25% as demonstrating limited efficacy, 25% to 40% as demonstrating moderate efficacy, and >40% was consistent with clinically relevant efficacy.

Efficacy analyses were performed in the full analysis set (FAS), which included all patients who received  $\geq 1$  dose of infigratinib ( $n = 26$ ). ORR was evaluated in patients from the FAS who had measurable disease per RANO criteria at their baseline scan and who were also reassessed during treatment ( $n = 21$ ). Safety analyses were based on the safety set, which included all patients who received  $\geq 1$  dose of infigratinib and had  $\geq 1$  valid post-baseline safety assessment ( $n = 26$ ).

The Kaplan–Meier method was used to analyze time-to-event endpoints and provide estimates of survival rates and median values with 95% confidence intervals (CI). For PFS, patients who discontinued the study and were lost to follow-up on or before the cut-off date were censored at the date of their last available tumor assessment. For OS, patients who were alive at the time of completion of the study were censored at the last contact date or end of treatment visit date if the patient elected not to be followed post-study treatment. If the patient was still being followed, the patient was censored at the data cut-off date. Statistical analyses were generated using Statistical Analysis System (SAS) software, version 9.4 or later (RRID:SCR\_008567; SAS Institute Inc.). No formal statistical comparative tests were performed.

#### Data availability

The data generated in this study are available within the article and its supplementary data files.

## Results

Between December 2013 and May 2016, 731 patients were screened of whom 26 patients (3.6%) were enrolled into the study and included in the FAS; 11 (1.5%) and 15 (2.1%) patients, respectively, were enrolled before and after the protocol amendment that excluded patients with *FGFR* amplifications only. At the cut-off date (December 4, 2018), all patients had completed study treatment (progressive disease,  $n = 22$ ; withdrawal by subject/guardian,  $n = 2$ ; physician decision,  $n = 1$ ; adverse event,  $n = 1$ ).

Patients had a median age of 55 years (range, 20–76), 16 (61.5%) were male, and 18 (69.2%) had an ECOG performance status of  $\leq 1$  (Table 1). *FGFR1* amplifications, mutations, or fusions were identified in 1 (3.8%), 3 (11.5%), and 1 (3.8%) patients, respectively, and *FGFR3* amplifications, mutations, or fusions were identified in 11 (42.3%), 2 (7.7%), and 10 (38.5%) patients, respectively (Supplementary Figs. S2 and S3). Three patients (11.5%) had evidence of both *FGFR3* amplifications and *FGFR3-TACC3* fusions. No *FGFR2* or *FGFR4* alterations were identified.

#### Treatment exposure

The median duration of infigratinib therapy was 1.4 months (range, 0.5–31.1). Nineteen patients (73.1%) received infigratinib for  $\leq 2$  months, and 4 patients (15.4%) for >12 months. Mean relative dose intensity, defined as actual cumulative dose divided by planned cumulative dose for actual treatment duration, was 89.4% (SD  $\pm 17.9$ ).

#### Efficacy

Efficacy findings are presented in Table 2. In the FAS, the 6-month PFS rate, the primary endpoint, was 16.0% (95% CI, 5.0–32.5) and median PFS was 1.7 months (95% CI, 1.1–2.8; Supplementary Fig. S4; Supplementary Table S1).

**Table 1.** Baseline characteristics (FAS).

| Variable                                  | Infigratinib (N = 26) |
|---|-----------------------|
| Age, years                                |                       |
| Median (range)                            | 55 (20–76)            |
| Sex, n (%)                                |                       |
| Male                                      | 16 (61.5)             |
| Female                                    | 10 (38.5)             |
| Race, n (%)                               |                       |
| Caucasian                                 | 26 (100)              |
| ECOG performance status, n (%)            |                       |
| 0   | 6 (23.1)              |
| 1   | 12 (46.2)             |
| 2   | 8 (30.8)              |
| Histology, n (%) <sup>a</sup>             |                       |
| Glioblastoma                              | 19 (73.1)             |
| Anaplastic astrocytoma                    | 5 (19.2)              |
| Other glioma                              | 2 (7.7)               |
| Measurable disease at baseline, n (%)     | 22 (84.6)             |
| <i>IDH1/IDH2</i> status, n (%)            |                       |
| <i>IDH1</i> mutation (R132H)              | 2 (7.7)               |
| <i>FGFR1</i> status, n (%) <sup>b</sup>   |                       |
| Amplification                             | 1 (3.8)               |
| Fusion (ARHGGEF18)                        | 1 (3.8)               |
| Mutation                                  | 3 (11.5)              |
| K656E                                     | 2 (7.7)               |
| N546K                                     | 1 (3.8)               |
| <i>FGFR3</i> status, n (%) <sup>b,c</sup> |                       |
| Amplification                             | 11 (42.3)             |
| Fusion (TACC3)                            | 10 (38.5)             |
| Mutation                                  | 2 (7.7)               |
| K650E                                     | 1 (3.8)               |
| S249C                                     | 1 (3.8)               |
| Prior treatment, n (%)                    |                       |
| Radiotherapy                              | 26 (100.0)            |
| Antineoplastic therapy                    | 25 (96.2)             |
| Temozolomide                              | 23 (88.5)             |
| Bevacizumab                               | 10 (38.5)             |
| Other                                     | 1 (3.8)               |
| Prior antineoplastic regimens, n (%)      |                       |
| 0   | 1 (3.8)               |
| 1   | 11 (42.3)             |
| 2   | 9 (34.6)              |
| $\geq 3$                                  | 5 (19.2)              |

Abbreviation: IDH, isocitrate dehydrogenase.

<sup>a</sup>Both diagnoses of “other glioma” were subsequently clarified *post hoc* as glioblastoma and one of “anaplastic astrocytoma” would likely be currently defined as a molecular glioblastoma (*IDH*-wild-type, *TERT*-mutant diffuse astrocytoma; Supplementary Fig. S6 with references therein).

<sup>b</sup>*FGFR* alterations for enrollment by local CLIA-accredited or central laboratory during screening, as reported by the investigator.

<sup>c</sup>Three patients had more than one *FGFR3* alteration.

A swimmer plot showing outcomes for individual patients at each assessment is presented in Fig. 1. Four patients had durable disease control with infigratinib lasting >1 year; 1 patient had a partial response (*FGFR1* K656E mutation) with a PFS of 21.9 months, and 3 patients had stable disease (*FGFR1* K656E mutation, PFS, 13.2 months; *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion, PFS, 30.2 months; *FGFR3* K650E mutation, PFS, 12.9 months). Two of the patients with stable disease (*FGFR1* K656E and *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion) had received two prior lines of systemic treatment including bevacizumab. In both cases treated with bevacizumab before infigratinib, the timing of progression

**Table 2.** Efficacy.

| Variable   | Outcome            |
|--|--------------------|
| Primary endpoint   |                    |
| PFS ( <i>n</i> = 26)                                     |                    |
| 6-month PFS rate (95% CI), %                             | 16.0 (5.0–32.5)    |
| Median (95% CI), months                                  | 1.7 (1.1–2.8)      |
| Secondary endpoints                                      |                    |
| Best response  |                    |
| <i>Efficacy analysis set (n = 21), n (%)<sup>a</sup></i> |                    |
| Objective response rate (95% CI)                         | 1 (4.8) (0.1–23.8) |
| Partial response   | 1 (4.8)            |
| Stable disease   | 6 (28.6)           |
| Progressive disease                                      | 13 (61.9)          |
| <i>FAS (n = 26), n (%)</i>                               |                    |
| Objective response rate (95% CI)                         | 1 (3.8) (0.1–19.6) |
| Partial response   | 1 (3.8)            |
| Stable disease   | 6 (23.1)           |
| Progressive disease                                      | 15 (57.7)          |
| Unknown/missing  | 4 (15.4)           |
| OS ( <i>n</i> = 26)                                      |                    |
| Median (95% CI), months                                  | 6.7 (4.2–11.7)     |

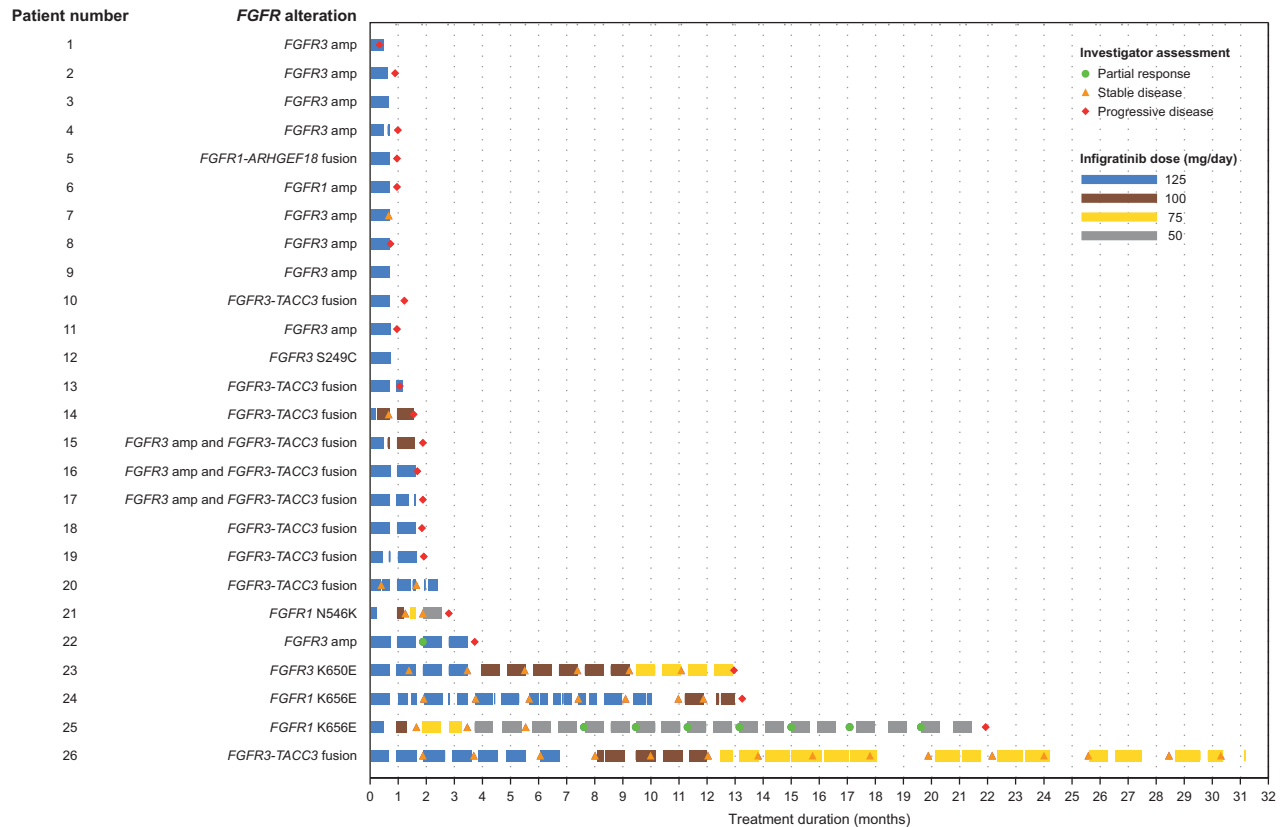
Note: Full Analysis Set (FAS; *n* = 26) unless otherwise stated.

<sup>a</sup>Patients with measurable lesions at baseline and who were reassessed during treatment.

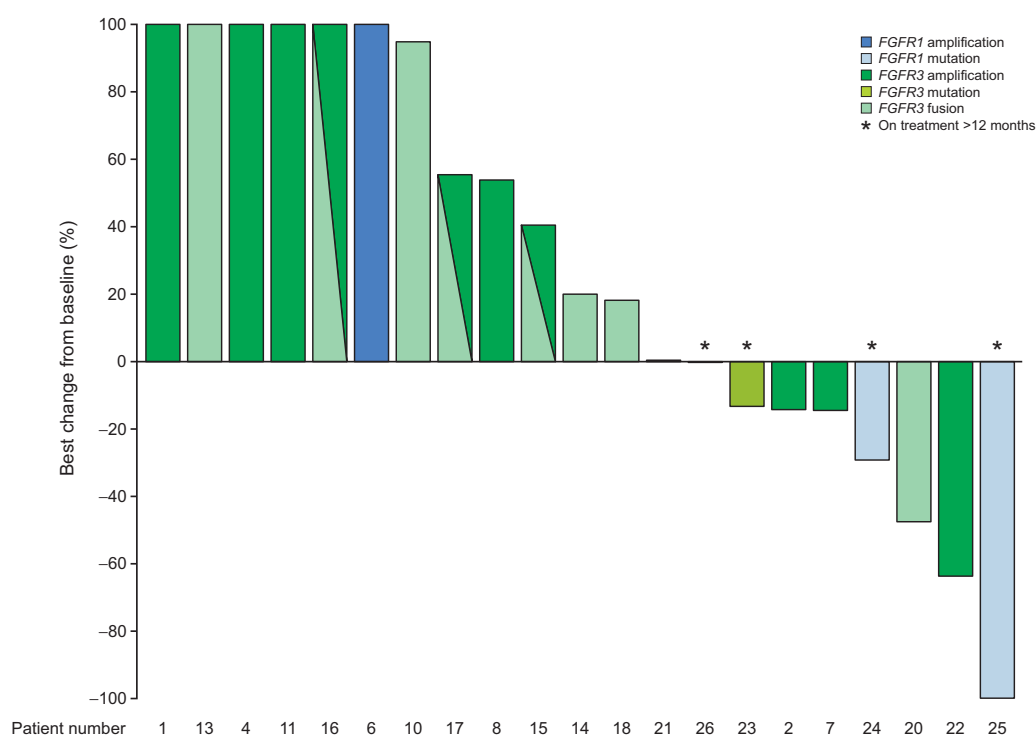
for which infigratinib was started (approximately 8 years after radiotherapy and 10 months after radiotherapy in one case each) makes enrollment for pseudoprogression extremely unlikely; moreover, in one of these cases, there was histologically proven recurrence before starting infigratinib. In 1 patient with partial response, the pattern of progression after chemoradiotherapy (newly enhancing, leptomeningeal, outside the high-dose radiotherapy field) and biomarker pattern (*H3 K27M* mutation which is nearly always mutually exclusive with *MGMT* promoter; refs. 20, 21) also makes it unlikely the patient was treated with infigratinib for pseudoprogression (22) rather than disease refractory to standard treatment. Magnetic resonance images of all 4 patients with durable stable disease or partial response are shown in Supplementary Figs. S5–S8.

In patients with measurable disease at baseline and who were reassessed during treatment (*n* = 21), ORR was 4.8% (1 partial response; Table 2). Seven patients experienced tumor shrinkage, with best percent change ranging from –13% to –100%. In addition to 1 RANO-confirmed partial response, 1 patient had a decrease of –64% that was not confirmed on follow-up assessment, and another had a decrease of –48%. The single patient with a RANO-confirmed partial response harbored an *FGFR1* K656E mutation, whereas a further 6 patients (33.3%) had stable disease (*FGFR1*: mutation, *n* = 2; *FGFR3*: mutation, *n* = 1; *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion, *n* = 2; amplification, *n* = 1). A waterfall plot of the percentage change in tumor size in patients with measurable disease is presented in Fig. 2.

OS analysis is mature. In the FAS, 24 patients (88.5%) had died at the time of data cut-off. Median OS was 6.7 months (95% CI, 4.2–11.7;



**Figure 1.** Swimmer plot of time on infigratinib therapy and response (per local investigator) at each assessment (*n* = 26).



**Figure 2.**

Best percentage change from baseline in tumor size in patients with measurable lesions at baseline and who were reassessed post-baseline ( $n = 21$ ). Note: The percentage changes of 6 patients on left of the waterfall plot were greater than 100% but are truncated at 100% for presentation purposes. *FGFR1* mutation: N546 ( $n = 1$ ) and K656E ( $n = 2$ ); *FGFR3* mutation: K650E ( $n = 1$ ); *FGFR3-TACC3* fusion ( $n = 9$ ).

Supplementary Fig. S4). The 6-month and 12-month OS rates were 53.8% (95% CI, 33.3–70.6) and 29.6% (95% CI, 13.5–47.7), respectively (Supplementary Table S2).

### Exploratory biomarker analyses

Sufficient tumor tissue for comprehensive NGS was available for 16 of 26 patients (Supplementary Figs. S1 and S3). The number of deleterious genetic alterations in each tumor ranged from 2 to 25, and there were too few tumors with any single alteration to correlate formally with efficacy. Testing encompassed analysis for other molecular abnormalities common in glioma. For example, *IDH1 R132H*, common in lower-grade gliomas and associated with a favorable prognosis independent of treatment, was identified in 2 patients with *FGFR3* amplification: 1 patient with progressive disease and 1 patient with stable disease as best response; however, *IDH* mutation was mutually exclusive with *FGFR* fusions, consistent with prior publications (9). *IDH* mutation was also mutually exclusive with *FGFR* point mutations. Mutations in the *TERT* promoter, known to activate telomerase expression, were most prevalent (11/16, 69%), followed by alterations in *CDKN2A* (7/16, 44%), amplification of *CDK4* (5/16, 31%), *CDKN2B* deletions (5/16, 31%), alterations in *PTEN* (5/16, 31%), and known mutations in *TP53* (4/16, 25%). Mutations in the H3K27 methyltransferase *KMT2C* genes, which are associated with poor prognosis, were identified in 6 of 16 patients (37%) including 1 patient with a partial response. Known deleterious mutations in *ATRX* (3/16, 19%) and *NFI* (3/16, 19%), that are commonly mutated in gliomas, were also identified (Supplementary Fig. S3). Discordance between NGS and another assay occurred in 6 of 8 cases with detailed response and molecular data (Supplementary Fig. S3; Supplementary Table S3 with additional case-level detail).

### Safety

Hyperphosphatemia was the most frequently reported treatment-related adverse event [all-grade, 20 patients (76.9%); grade 3, 1 patient (3.8%)]. For the management of hyperphosphatemia, 22 patients (84.6%) used a phosphate-lowering agent, primarily sevelamer, and 5 patients (19.2%) required infigratinib dose reductions or interruptions. Other common all-grade treatment-related adverse events were fatigue in 7 patients (26.9%) and diarrhea in 5 patients (19.2%). Other grade 3 treatment-related adverse events were hyperlipasemia in 2 patients (7.7%), hypophosphatemia in 2 patients (7.7%), and diarrhea, fatigue, stomatitis, and nail disorder in 1 patient each (3.8%). The most common treatment-related adverse events are reported in Table 3, and a safety summary is presented in Supplementary Table S4.

There were no grade 4 or 5 treatment-related toxicities. One patient experienced a serious adverse event, which was suspected to be treatment-related (hyperphosphatemia). No patients had treatment-related adverse events requiring discontinuation of infigratinib. There was no apparent cumulative toxicity reported for subjects receiving infigratinib for >1 year.

### Discussion

We tested targeted therapy with an *FGFR1–3* inhibitor, infigratinib, in a multicenter phase II study in patients with recurrent gliomas and *FGFR* alterations. At the outset, the study was designed to include patients with any *FGFR* abnormality (i.e., amplification, fusions, or mutations) in the hope that broad selection criteria would enrich the population of responders. The inclusion criteria were subsequently restricted to *FGFR* mutations and fusions after it became apparent that

**Table 3.** Most common treatment-related adverse events occurring in at least 5% of patients (Safety set).

| Adverse event, n (%)              | Infigratinib (N = 26) |                      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
|                                   | All grades            | Grade 3 <sup>a</sup> |
| Total                             | 22 (84.6)             | 7 (26.9)             |
| Hyperphosphatemia                 | 20 (76.9)             | 1 (3.8)              |
| Fatigue                           | 7 (26.9)              | 1 (3.8)              |
| Diarrhea                          | 5 (19.2)              | 0                    |
| Hyperlipasemia                    | 4 (15.4)              | 2 (7.7)              |
| Stomatitis                        | 4 (15.4)              | 1 (3.8)              |
| Dry skin                          | 4 (15.4)              | 0                    |
| Hypophosphatemia                  | 3 (11.5)              | 2 (7.7)              |
| Alopecia                          | 3 (11.5)              | 0                    |
| Decreased appetite                | 3 (11.5)              | 0                    |
| Dyspepsia                         | 3 (11.5)              | 0                    |
| Onycholysis                       | 3 (11.5)              | 0                    |
| Palmar-plantar erythrodysesthesia | 3 (11.5)              | 0                    |
| Nail disorder                     | 2 (7.7)               | 1 (3.8)              |
| Constipation                      | 2 (7.7)               | 0                    |
| Dermatitis acneiform              | 2 (7.7)               | 0                    |
| Dry eye                           | 2 (7.7)               | 0                    |
| Mucosal inflammation              | 2 (7.7)               | 0                    |

<sup>a</sup>No grade 4 or 5 treatment-related toxicities were reported.

*FGFR* amplification alone did not predict benefit preclinically or serve as a surrogate for fusion (10). Our data further support this observation, as most patients with *FGFR1/3* amplification had progressive disease and the only RANO-confirmed response was observed among the 16 patients with *FGFR* fusions or mutations. One patient with an *FGFR3* amplification that achieved a 64% decrease in tumor size from baseline had a concurrent *IDH1* R132H mutation that may have contributed to the patient’s best response of stable disease. This absence of response for amplification-positive patients is consistent with other cancers where point mutations/deletions rather than amplification alone, predict response to tyrosine kinase inhibitors, for example *EGFR* mutations in non-small cell lung cancer (23). Perhaps impacted by the inclusion of amplification-only patients, our study showed that *FGFR* inhibitor monotherapy had limited efficacy, with a 6-month PFS rate of 16% and ORR <5%. Although this technically met the prespecified threshold for 6-month PFS rate as meriting further study, treatment of patients with broad *FGFR* selection criteria is not warranted in this disease setting.

Our study was also limited by lack of consistent or mandated central confirmation of the *FGFR* alterations used for eligibility, with discordance for *FGFR3* amplification between the screening assays and *post hoc* NGS observed commonly (Supplementary Table S3; Supplementary Fig. S3). We view NGS as a “gold standard” for the detection of *FGFR* alterations absent a suitable and reliable alternative, and we recommend that future studies use a single, central assay for molecular screening to homogenize the biomarker-selected population for *FGFR3* fusions or activating point mutations in determining eligibility.

Regardless of the small ORR, durable disease control lasting >1 year was observed in 4 patients, one of whom continues to receive infigratinib on a compassionate-use basis with stable disease lasting 46.5 months (as of January 17, 2020). It is also notable that 2 of the 4 patients with prolonged benefit had received prior bevacizumab, a patient profile with a particularly poor prognosis. Molecular profiling in these cases with durable response or stabilization revealed the presence of *FGFR3-TACC3* fusions (*n* = 1) or activating mutations in *FGFR1* K656E (*n* = 2) or *FGFR3* K650E (*n* = 1) which occur at

analogous positions in these two receptors (Supplementary Fig. S9). While it has been reported previously that the presence of *FGFR-TACC3* fusions in patients with glioma confers sensitivity to *FGFR* tyrosine kinase inhibitors (10), we are unaware of any reports describing clinical activity through *FGFR* inhibition in glioma tumors with *FGFR* point mutations. Therefore, our study provides additional information about genetic lesions that sensitize gliomas to *FGFR* inhibition. Of note, the patient with a durable partial response had a *FGFR1* K565E-positive midline glioma with a *H3K27M* mutation, a condition that is associated with a poor prognosis and is not sensitive to standard treatment options (24). Collectively, our data suggest that a future trial of infigratinib, either alone or in combination with another targeted agent and/or radiotherapy, in patients with gliomas harboring *FGFR* point mutations and/or *FGFR3* fusions or *FGFR*-mutated midline gliomas would be of interest. Coincident alterations in cell-cycle genes (*CDK4*, *CDKN2A*, and *CDKN2B*) or *H3F3A* observed in our study population provide insight into possible combination partners with targeted inhibitors of CDKs and histone deacetylase enzymes.

Unlike the more common activating mutations that occur in the extracellular IgG-like domains in *FGFR2* in cholangiocarcinoma (16) and *FGFR3* in urothelial carcinoma (17), the activating mutations that were detected in this glioma cohort occurred within the intracellular kinase domains in both *FGFR1* (N546K and K656E) and *FGFR3* (K650E). Of the 4 patients with mutations in the intracellular kinase domain, 3 had durable benefit as described above and the fourth patient, with an *FGFR1* N546K mutation, had a decrease of 32%. The stable disease control observed for patients with kinase domain mutations is supported by *in vitro* cell growth inhibition assays, which showed that the growth of Ba/F3 cells transformed by *FGFR1*-N546K, *FGFR1*-K656E, *FGFR3b*-K652E, and *FGFR3c*-K650E could be inhibited efficiently by infigratinib (ref. 25; Supplementary Fig. S10). These observations lend further support to the importance of activating point mutations at *FGFR1/3* as both are transforming and adequately targeted by infigratinib. Infigratinib also showed clinical activity in 2 patients with recurrent glioblastomas and *FGFR3* fusions, the same as we found here, in a separate basket trial (Supplementary Table S5; Clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT02160041; ref. 26).

Our findings are particularly encouraging in a disease setting where there is currently no established therapy beyond radiotherapy and alkylating chemotherapy for patients with recurrent gliomas (27), and outcomes with available treatment options are generally poor. For example, nitrosoureas (lomustine or carmustine), recommended for patients with recurrent disease after standard radiotherapy and temozolomide (27), provide only short-lived disease control (median PFS, 1–4 months; ref. 28–30). Future clinical investigation in glioma should consider further refinements to the *FGFR* biomarker criteria and glioma subtypes that are most likely to benefit from *FGFR* inhibition. Combinatorial trials with an *FGFR* inhibitor and existing treatments may help to identify specific biomarker cohorts that show increased sensitivity to radiotherapy and alkylating chemotherapy. Of note, *FGFR*-mediated phosphorylation of PTEN (pY240-PTEN) has been identified as a mechanism of radiation resistance and actionable target for improving radiotherapy efficacy (31).

Similar to most anticancer drugs, *FGFR* inhibitors were not developed specifically for CNS tumors, and the distribution of *FGFR* inhibitors within intracranial tumors is largely unknown because of a lack of supporting pharmacokinetic studies (13). Preclinical studies in Wistar rats suggest that infigratinib penetrates into the CNS: infigratinib was detectable in the brain for up to 12 hours with a brain-to-plasma under the time-concentration curve ratio of 0.68 after a single oral 10-mg/kg dose (data on file, QED Therapeutics). The protocol design

encompassed a surgical arm to explore tissue pharmacokinetics, but it did not accrue any patients, which is a limitation of our study. Additional preclinical and clinical studies to investigate the CNS penetration of infigratinib are currently in progress and will be reported separately.

The most commonly reported treatment-related adverse events with infigratinib at the oncologic doses used in this study included hyperphosphatemia, fatigue, and diarrhea, a safety profile that is consistent with previous clinical trials (16, 17, 32). Hyperphosphatemia, a class effect thought to be due to FGFR inhibition of FGF-23-mediated renal phosphate homeostasis (33), was the most common toxicity. A proactive strategy, including an intermittent dosing schedule, active monitoring, early intervention with dose interruptions or dose reductions, dietary restrictions, and prophylactic use of a phosphate-lowering agent (32), appeared to be effective for the management of hyperphosphatemia in our study.

In conclusion, single-agent infigratinib had limited efficacy in a population of patients with recurrent gliomas without robust molecular selection other than harboring any *FGFR* alteration. However, durable disease control lasting >1 year was observed in a patient subset with activating *FGFR1* or *FGFR3* point mutations or *FGFR3* fusions. Further trials with refined biomarker inclusion criteria and centrally conducted molecular analyses are under development.

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## Disclaimer

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the NIH/NCI.

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## Note

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