Genomic Classification and Clinical Outcome in Rhabdomyosarcoma: A Report From an **International Consortium**

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PURPOSE Rhabdomyosarcoma is the most common soft tissue sarcoma of childhood. Despite aggressive therapy, the 5-year survival rate for patients with metastatic or recurrent disease remains poor, and beyond PAX-FOXO1 fusion status, no genomic markers are available for risk stratification. We present an international consortium study designed to determine the incidence of driver mutations and their association with clinical outcome.

PATIENTS AND METHODS Tumor samples collected from patients enrolled on Children's Oncology Group trials (1998-2017) and UK patients enrolled on malignant mesenchymal tumor and RMS2005 (1995-2016) trials were subjected to custom-capture sequencing. Mutations, indels, gene deletions, and amplifications were identified, and survival analysis was performed.

RESULTS DNA from 641 patients was suitable for analyses. A median of one mutation was found per tumor. In FOXO1 fusion-negative cases, mutation of any RAS pathway member was found in > 50% of cases, and 21% had no putative driver mutation identified. BCOR (15%), NF1 (15%), and TP53 (13%) mutations were found at a higher incidence than previously reported and TP53 mutations were associated with worse outcomes in both fusion-negative and FOXO1 fusion-positive cases. Interestingly, mutations in RAS isoforms predominated in infants < 1 year (64% of cases). Mutation of MYOD1 was associated with histologic patterns beyond those previously described, older age, head and neck primary site, and a dismal survival. Finally, we provide a searchable companion database (ClinOmics), containing all genomic variants, and clinical annotation including survival data.

CONCLUSION This is the largest genomic characterization of clinically annotated rhabdomyosarcoma tumors to date and provides prognostic genetic features that refine risk stratification and will be incorporated into prospective trials.

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ASSOCIATED CONTENT

See accompanying editorial on page 2851 Appendix

Data Supplement

Author affiliations and support information (if applicable) appear at the end of this article.

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INTRODUCTION

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common soft tissue sarcoma of childhood.1 With the development of multimodal chemotherapy regimens, relapse-free survival rates have improved to 70%-80% in patients with localized disease, albeit with significant toxicity.² Unfortunately, despite aggressive therapy, the 5-year survival rate for patients with metastatic disease remains poor, but variable.3 Therapy assignment in North American and European trials is currently based on clinicopathologic features and not molecular or genetic markers, with the exception of the recent incorporation of *FOXO1* fusion status by the Children's Oncology Group (COG) and European paediatric Soft

tissue sarcoma Study Group (EpSSG).4-6 Although clinical features reasonably stratify patients into broad treatment cohorts, prognostic imprecision hampers efforts to successfully escalate or de-escalate therapy. Particularly problematic is the COG intermediate risk category, defined as localized FOXO1 fusion-positive (FP) RMS and localized, incompletely resected (clinical group III) FOXO1 fusion-negative (FN) RMS arising from an unfavorable anatomic site; this category comprises approximately 50% of cases and has a heterogeneous clinical outcome. 4,7,8 This suggests that some of these children could be treated with less aggressive therapy or alternatively should be considered to have more aggressive disease.



CONTEXT

Key Objective

Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is a sarcoma of childhood with a poor 5-year survival rate for patients with metastatic or recurrent disease. No genomic markers are currently available for risk stratification except for *PAX-FOXO1* fusion gene status. This study performed sequencing to determine the mutational status of genes implicated in RMS oncogenesis and correlated these results with clinical outcomes.

Knowledge Generated

The genetic and clinical characteristics associated with primary tumors from two international cohorts are presented. Survival analysis demonstrated that *TP53* and *MYOD1* mutations were associated with worse event-free survival.

Relevance

This study nominates mutant genes *MYOD1* and *TP53* as indicators of poor prognosis in fusion-negative RMS, and *TP53* alterations as a biomarker of more aggressive disease in fusion-positive RMS. Mutation of *MYOD1* was not restricted to spindle histology, and the association with adverse outcome highlights the need to accurately diagnose *MYOD1* mutations and develop novel treatment strategies for these patients.

Previous comprehensive genomic sequencing studies of RMS have been completed, but outcome analysis was limited by sample size or incomplete clinical annotation of the included samples.^{9,10} To genetically classify RMS and refine risk stratification, we formed an international collaborative group and performed standardized sequencing of a large cohort of clinically annotated cases. Herein, we report the summary findings and detail the importance of incorporation of genomic data into prospectively enrolling RMS clinical trials. Adopting molecular features to RMS risk stratification should improve clinical outcomes for patients with RMS by allowing further tailoring of therapies to match an individual patient's risk and mutational profile. To ensure that this critical data set is available to the broader research community, the generated sequencing data are available within dbGAP (accession phs000720.v4.p1) and the clinical and mutational data are publicly accessible. 11

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Study Population and Clinical Annotation

Samples from the two cohorts included in this work were collected on institutional review board–approved clinical trials or tissue banking studies. COG samples included samples collected on ARST0331, ARST0431, D9602, D9803, and D9902. UK samples from patients treated on protocols through the malignant mesenchymal tumor and RMS2005 protocols¹²⁻¹⁴ were collected and approved for study through local and national ethical approvals (CCR2015 and 06/MRE04/71, respectively) (Appendix Table A1, online only). Because there are subtle differences in risk stratification between the COG and EpSSG (reviewed in Chen et al¹⁵), an overarching simplified risk stratification definition was used to enable merging data. Additional population and annotation details are provided in the Data Supplement (online only).

Gene Panel Sequencing

A custom-capture sequencing assay targeting 39 genes previously implicated in RMS (Appendix Table A2, online only) was performed, and variants were called using previously published sequencing algorithms. 9,16-19 Detailed sequencing and variant calling methods are provided in the Data Supplement.

Statistical Methods

Patient characteristics were summarized using medians and ranges or frequencies and percentages. Associations between pairs of gene markers were tested using the exact conditional test of proportions (Fisher's exact test). Event-free survival (EFS) was defined as time from diagnosis (United Kingdom) or enrollment on a study (COG) until event (relapse, second malignant neoplasm, or death) or last contact. Each gene predictor variable was tested for univariate association with EFS and overall survival using the log-rank test and for association within a multivariate Cox proportional hazard regression. The survival analysis was done separately for each cohort of patients: COG and United Kingdom and within each cohort, separately for FP and FN patients. Detailed statistical methods are provided in the Data Supplement.

RESULTS

Patient Population

Clinically annotated cases from patient samples were assembled on COG biology study ARST14B1Q and a parallel cohort assembled from UK malignant mesenchymal tumor and RMS2005 studies, to generate two large cohorts of samples. The clinical details are summarized in Table 1. In total, 641 cases had adequate DNA to generate sequencing libraries of minimum quality to be included in the study. The median age of the combined cohort was 5.9

TABLE 1. Clinical Characteristics of Included Patients

Characteristic		COG (n = 344)	UK (n = 297)
Sex, No. (%)	<u> </u>		
Male	421 (66)	232 (66)	189 (66)
Female	220 (34)	112 (34)	108 (34)
Age at presentation, years			
Median	5.9	6.4	5.3
Range	0.02-37.8	0.02-37.8	0.1-23.1
Tumor histology, No. (%)			
Alveolar	151 (24)	68 (20)	83 (28)
Embryonal	447 (70)	254 (74)	187 (63)
Mixed alveolar and embryonal	3 (< 1)	2 (1)	1 (< 1)
Spindle cell RMS	18 (3)	18 (5)	7 (2)
NOS	20 (3)	2 (1)	18 (6)
Pleomorphic	2 (< 1)	0 (< 1)	1 (< 1)
Anatomic location, No. (%)			
Bladder/prostate	50 (8)	25 (7)	25 (7)
Extremity	92 (14)	52 (15)	40 (13)
Female GU	18 (3)	7 (2)	11 (4)
Head and neck	57 (9)	31 (9)	26 (9)
Orbital	45 (7)	25 (7)	20 (7)
Others	21 (3)	3 (1)	18 (6)
Parameningeal	127 (20)	63 (18)	64 (22)
Paratesticular	125 (20)	66 (19)	59 (20)
Peritoneum/trunk	101 (16)	72 (21)	29 (10)
Unknown	5 (< 1)	0 (0)	5 (2)
Risk group, No. (%)			
Low	220 (34)	124 (36)	96 (32)
Intermediate	299 (47)	147 (43)	152 (51)
High	115 (18)	73 (21)	42 (14)
Unknown	7 (1)	0 (0)	7 (2)
Variant calls, No. (%)			
Median	1	1	1
Range	0-5	0-5	0-4

Abbreviations: COG, Children's Oncology Group; GU, genitourinary; NOS, not otherwise specified; RMS, rhabdomyosarcoma.

years (range 0.02-37.8) (Appendix Fig A1, online only). The male:female ratio was 1.9:1, slightly higher than the generally accepted ratio of 1.5:1,²⁰ reflecting an enrichment of paratesticular tumors within this cohort. The most common anatomic locations were the parameningeal (20%) and paratesticular tumors (20%) followed by tumors of the retroperitoneum, peritoneum, or trunk (16%) and the extremity (14%). A simplified risk stratification algorithm was used to harmonize COG and UK cohorts (Data Supplement) and using this method, the population had representation

of cases of the low-risk (34%), intermediate-risk (47%), and high-risk populations (18%).

Mutation Frequency Observations

Overall, the sequenced tumors had a median of one mutation call per tumor (range 0-5). The most frequently observed gene mutations are presented in Table 2. Consistent with prior reports, the genomic profiles of the FP and FN populations were distinct. The most frequently observed lesions in FP tumors were the focal amplification of CDK4 (13%) or MYCN (10%). The genes BCOR (6%), NF1 (4%), TP53 (4%), and PIK3CA (2%) were found in a small number of FP RMS cases, verifying previous observations.9 In contrast, the most frequently observed genetic alteration in FN tumors were RAS isoform mutations NRAS (17%), KRAS (9%), and HRAS (8%), with any RAS isoform mutation noted in 32% (n = 167 of 515) of FN tumors. Mutation of an RAS pathway gene (defined as NRAS, KRAS, HRAS, FGFR4, NF1, and PIK3CA) could be found in 56% (n = 288 of 515) of all FN samples. Recurrence of mutations in tumor suppressor genes in FN RMS, TP53 (13%), NF1 (15%), and BCOR (15%), was higher than reports in previous studies.9 Hotspot mutations in FGFR4 (13%), CTNNB1 (6%), PIK3CA (5%), and MYOD1 (3%) were observed at similar frequencies as previously reported and seen at similar percentages within the two independent international patient cohorts. 9,10 No mutations were found in 14 genes previously associated with RMS (MTOR, PKN1, ALK, SOS1, SOS2, ROBO1, PDGFRA, GAB1, BRAF, CCND1, CCND2, ATM, AKT, and SMARCA4), although variants of unknown significance were observed in each of these genes. The median age of presentation of the patients correlated with alteration of individual genes, with a notable increase in MYOD1 mutations, CDK4 amplification, and MYCN amplification in patients older than 10 years and HRAS mutations in infants < 1 year (Fig 1A).

Mutations Summarized by Anatomic Distribution

RMS tumors arise in diverse anatomic locations throughout the body, and the site of disease is known to correlate with clinical outcome.21 Current clinical risk stratification assigns tumors arising in the orbit, nonparameningeal head and neck, and the male or female genital tracts as favorable. The distribution of mutations by anatomic location is presented in Figure 1A. As previously described, 22 DICER1 mutations had a predilection for tumors arising within the female genitourinary tract. Within the sequenced tumors, 33% (6 of 18) of all female genitourinary cases harbored a mutation in DICER1. Interestingly, FN cases of the extremity had an enrichment for TP53 mutations or MDM2 amplifications, whereby 42% (15 of 35) of FN cases with a primary tumor of the extremity had an alteration of one of these two genes (Appendix Table A3, online only). MYOD1mutant tumors also showed a distinct anatomic enrichment with 88% (15 of 17) of MYOD1-mutant tumors observed in either the head and neck or parameningeal region.

TABLE 2. Mutation Frequency Observations by Cohort

Total FN Cohort (N = 515)				COG FN (n =		UK FN (n =		Total FP Cohort (N = 126)						
Gene	Total Cases	Total Mutant FN Cohort	Total FN (% of all FN cases)	COG Mutant FN Cohort				Mutant <i>ALV</i> or <i>F0X01</i> +	Mutant <i>ALV</i> Fusion Unknown	Mutant FOXO1+	ALV or FOXO1+ (% of FP cases)			
NRAS	88	87	17	44	16	43	18	1	1	0	1			
BCOR	85	78	15	48	17	30	13	7	5	2	6			
NF1	80	75	15	40	15	35	15	5	1	4	4			
TP53	74	69	13	34	12	35	15	5	3	2	4			
FGFR4	65	65	13	28	10	37	15	0	0	0	0			
KRAS	45	44	9	32	12	12	5	1	1	0	1			
HRAS	44	41	8	21	8	20	8	3	2	1	2			
CTNNB1	32	32	6	17	6	15	6	0	0	0	0			
PIK3CA	28	26	5	19	7	7	3	2	1	1	2			
MDM2	27	26	5	17	6	9	4	1	1	0	1			
CDKN2A	23	23	4	17	6	6	3	0	0	0	0			
FBXW7	18	18	3	13	5	5	2	0	0	0	0			
MYOD1	17	17	3	11	4	6	3	0	0	0	0			
CDK4	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	16	11	5	13			
MYCN	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7	6	10			
DICER1	12	12	2	4	1	8	3	0	0	0	0			
ARID1A	11	11	2	7	3	4	2	0	0	0	0			
IGF1R	9	8	2	4	1	4	2	1	1	0	1			
PTEN	5	5	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0			
MET	5	4	1	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	1			
FGFR1	4	4	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			
PTPN11	3	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0			
PTCH1	3	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			
ERBB2	2	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Abbreviations: COG, Children's Oncology Group; FN, fusion-negative; FP, fusion-positive.

FN Tumors Frequently Harbor More Than One Genetic Driver Alteration

Mutational heterogeneity has previously been described in FN RMS.²³ In this study, the presence of multiple driver mutations within individual tumors was evident within FN samples with 41% (213 of 515) of tumors having one mutation, 37% (193 of 515) of tumors having two or more mutations, and 21% (109 of 515) containing no alteration of a candidate gene (Appendix Fig A2A, online only). Greater than two mutations within a tumor was a significant marker in terms of worse EFS (P = .01, hazard ratio [HR] 2.014 [1.010-4.015]) within the COG cohort; however, this observation was not replicated in the UK cohort for EFS (P = .39, HR 1.098 [0.633-1.904]) (Appendix Fig A2B). To establish the most common pairings of gene interactions that drive RMS, we analyzed mutational data across the cohort and observed that mutations of tumor suppressor genes such as NF1, TP53, and BCOR frequently co-occurred with other mutations. Significant interactions included BCOR with NRAS(P=.01) or NF1(P=.03), and MYOD1 with PIK3CA(P<.0001) or CDKN2A(P=.0049) (Fig 2B, Appendix Fig A2C). MYOD1 mutations were exceptional in that they always occurred with an additional gene being mutated. Although NRAS, KRAS, HRAS, and FGFR4 were mutually exclusive in most cases, surprisingly, there were individual tumors with co-occurrence of multiple hotspot mutations in these genes.

CDK4, MYCN, and TP53 in FP Tumors

Although *PAX3-FOX01* fusion is itself of prognostic value, no molecular markers are currently available for risk substratification of FP tumors. In total, 126 FP tumors were evaluated (69 COG and 57 UK) with a dedicated fusion assay performed on 80 of 126 (64%) and centrally reviewed alveolar histology used as a proxy in the remaining cases. Small numbers of *CDK4-* and *MYCN-*mutant cases

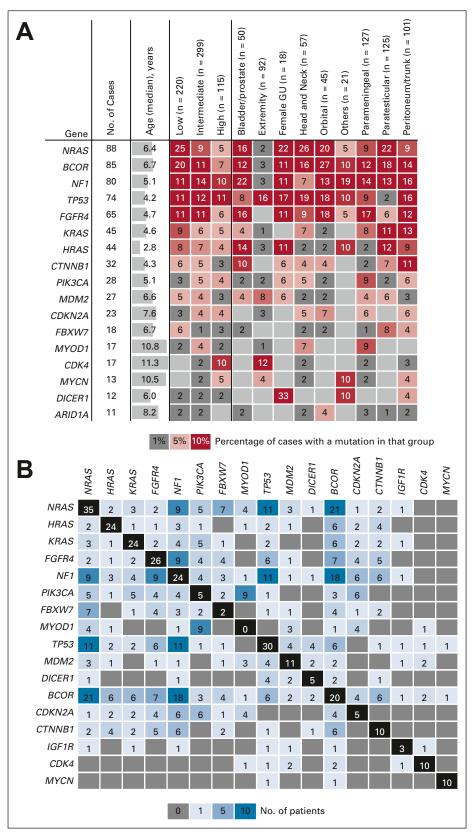


FIG 1. Mutations summarized by anatomic location and co-occurrence. (A) Summary of mutations by occurrence within defined risk groups (low, intermediate, or high) or by anatomic location. The reported value is a percentage of the number of cases with a mutation in that gene within each group. (B) Co-occurrence of mutated genes reported as absolute number of cases. GU, genitourinary.

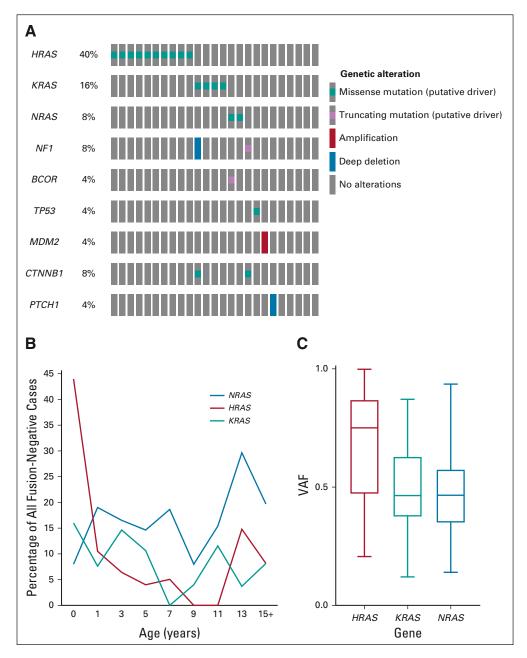


FIG 2. RAS isoform mutations. (A) Oncoprint of mutations observed in infants < 1 year old (n = 25) showed an enrichment for RAS mutations. (B) Distribution of RAS isoform mutations by age with a distinct peak of HRAS mutant cases discovered in the infant population. (C) HRAS mutations were frequently found to have a higher VAF indicating that the mutation occurred before a loss-of-heterozygosity event on chromosome 11p. VAF, variant allele frequency.

(COG: n=14 and n=10; UK: n=2 and n=3, respectively) were observed between the two cohorts, limiting conclusions about the prognostic significance of these genes (Appendix Fig A3A, online only). Interestingly, a small number of FP cases (COG: n=3; UK: n=2) had mutations in TP53 and were universally fatal (Appendix Fig A3B).

Survival Analysis of RAS Isoforms and Enrichment of RAS Mutations in Infants

A driving hypothesis of this study was that the presence of a mutation in a RAS isoform or RAS pathway gene would

correlate with poor outcomes in FN RMS, because of the observation in previous smaller cohorts of enrichment of RAS isoform mutations in high-risk cases. ¹⁰ Therefore, we examined each RAS isoform and individual RAS pathway members for correlation with survival. Neither mutation of any RAS isoform nor a RAS pathway gene was associated with a worse EFS or overall survival across the two cohorts (Appendix Fig A4, online only). One striking observation was the correlation of RAS isoform mutations longitudinally with age. Most notable was the enrichment of RAS isoform mutations in FN cases that occurred under the age of 1 year

(64% of cases, P = .0068) with a clear peak incidence of HRAS mutations (40% of all FN infants, P < .0001) within this age group and no enrichment of secondary mutations (Fig 2A). Although not significant, KRAS-mutant tumors were frequent within the toddler period (15% of cases at 3 years, P = .2368) and a peak of NRAS-mutant tumors was observed in adolescence (30% of all cases at 13 years, P = .4407) (Fig 2B). NRAS, HRAS, and KRAS isoforms had distinct codon and amino acid profiles, consistent with previous studies (Appendix Fig A5, online only). Interrogation of the observed allele frequency of RAS isoform mutations showed that the majority of HRAS mutations occur at variant allele frequency > 0.5, likely reflecting the occurrence of this mutation within the frequently observed uniparental disomy event that occurs on chromosome 11p (Fig 2C).²⁴

Association of *TP53* Alterations With Survival in FN Tumors

TP53 was found to be altered in 13% (n = 69 of 515) of the FN cohort, and the observed lesions included deep deletions, truncating mutations, and point mutations (Appendix Fig A6A, online only). The mutations occurred throughout the gene body with some enrichment seen within the DNAbinding domain of the protein (Appendix Fig A6B). The most recurrent mutations were found at the codons G245S (six cases), R248Q or W (six cases), R175H (four cases), and P72A (four cases). Given the lack of a matched normal sample, no determination was made if these lesions represent somatic or germline events. Univariate (EFS P = .0083; HR 2.067 [1.192-3.585]) and risk-stratified analysis (EFS P = .0146; HR 1.973 [1.132-3.438]) of survival data within the COG cohort demonstrated that the presence of a TP53 mutation imparted a worse EFS (Figs 3A and 3B). Evaluation of the UK cohort verified the significance of this observation in both non-risk-stratified (EFS P = .0079; HR 2.006 [1.187-3.390]) and risk-stratified (EFS P = .0055; HR 2.105 [1.230-3.604]) analysis (Figs 3C and 3D).

Association of *MYOD1* Mutations With Survival in FN Tumors

Mutations in the transcription factor *MYOD1* were found in 3% (n = 17 of 515) of all FN cases and no FP cases (Fig 4A). The observed mutations were confined to the previously reported hotspot codon change L122R.²⁵ As noted, *MYOD1*-mutant tumors within this pediatric cohort occurred at an older mean age of 10.8 years (2.1-21.1 years) when compared with the rest of the cohort. Centrally reviewed pathology from COG and review of UK samples frequently noted spindle or sclerosing features of the tumor (Figs 4B1 and 4B2); however, interestingly, cases with densely packed cells that mimicked the dense pattern of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma (ERMS) or RMS not otherwise specified were also found (Figs 4B3 and 4B4). EFS of those patients with *MYOD1* mutations within the COG

cohort was dismal and associated with rapid progression in non-risk-stratified (EFS P < .0001; HR 6.839 [3.463-13.507]) and risk-stratified (EFS P < .0001; HR 5.579 [2.791-11.151]) analysis (Figs 4C and 4D). Parallel survival analysis of the UK cohort verified this observation in nonrisk-stratified (EFS P = .0133; HR 3.320 [1.212-9.099]) and risk-stratified (EFS P = .0111; HR 3.455 [1.247-9.571]) analysis (Figs 4E and 4F). Importantly, within the MYOD1-mutant group, 23% of patients were identified before treatment as low-risk and 65% were identified as intermediate-risk. Consistent with previous reports. 26 53% of cases had a corresponding alteration of PIK3CA and MYOD1 mutations were not found to be mutually exclusive with RAS mutations, with coexisting lesions seen in NRAS (n = 4), HRAS (n = 1), and NF1 (n = 1). Interestingly, MYOD1-mutant tumors also frequently harbored deep deletions in CDKN2A (n = 4 of 17, 24%). Deep deletions or deleterious mutations of CDKN2A were present in 4% of all FN tumors and associated with a worse EFS (COG: P = .0031, HR 2.737 [1.363 to 5.494]; UK: P = .0031, HR 4.7 [1.896 to 11.648]) (Appendix Fig A7A, online only). This observation was independent of the co-occurrence of MYOD1 mutations (Appendix Fig A7B), however was specific for cases within the intermediate-risk group (Appendix Fig A7C).

DISCUSSION

Integration of molecular features into risk stratification and therapeutic decision making remains a major challenge to improving the care of any patient with a rare tumor. Decades of clinical trials led to the development of a complicated system for risk stratification of patients with RMS, on the basis of information from both the pretreatment tumor staging and surgical grouping.4 The imprecision of these assignments is known, which has important implications for how current therapy is delivered and how clinical trials incorporating novel agents are designed. Our international collaboration generated the largest cohort of clinically annotated and genomically characterized RMS tumors analyzed to date. The effort discovered critical genetic insights into the underpinnings of the disease and significant molecular markers that provide refinement to the current risk stratification of patients with RMS. On the basis of our results, we propose a new framework for the classification and treatment of RMS, using TP53 and MYOD1 mutations in addition to the FOXO1 fusion status, 5-7 which could be tested in prospective clinical trials (Appendix Table A4, online only).

The overall gene mutation frequency that was observed is consistent with previous sequencing studies^{9,27} with the notable exception of an increased frequency of tumor suppressor genes *TP53*, *NF1*, and *BCOR*. The observed increase in frequency of mutation of these genes likely results from improved depth of sequencing using a targeted assay approach. Of interest are the approximately 20% of

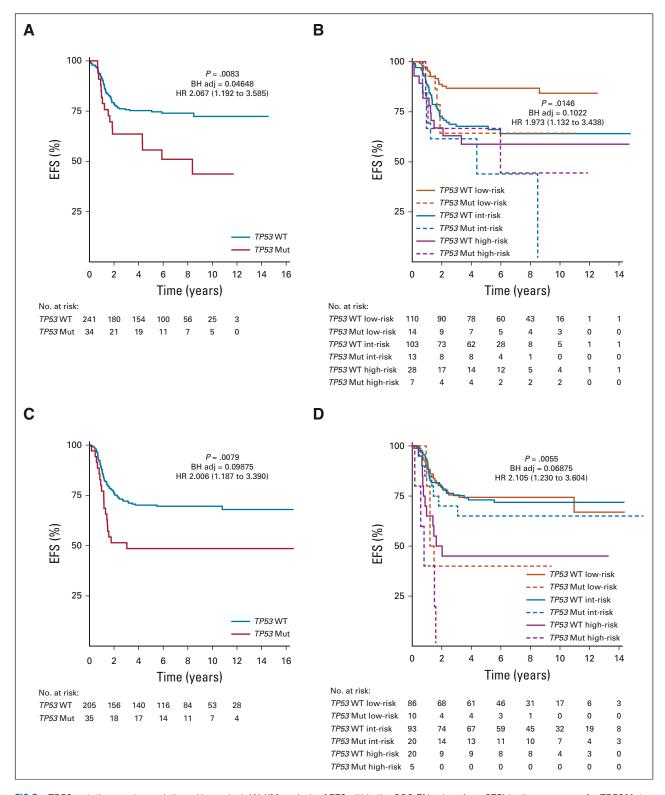


FIG 3. TP53 mutations and association with survival. (A) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort (n = 275) by the presence of a TP53 Mut or absence of a TP53 lesion (TP53 WT). (B) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort by TP53 status and RMS risk category. Total case numbers: low, n = 124; intermediate, n = 126; high, n = 35. (C) KM analysis of EFS within the UK FN cohort (n = 240) by the presence of a TP53 Mut or absence of a TP53 lesion (TP53 WT). (D) KM analysis of EFS within the UK FN cohort by TP53 status and RMS risk category. Total case numbers: low, n = 96; intermediate, n = 113; high, n = 25. Presented P values are log-rank and BH adj. HR with 95% CI. BH adj, Benjamini-Hochberg-adjusted; COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; FN, fusion-negative; HR, hazard ratio; KM, Kaplan-Meier; RMS, rhabdo-myosarcoma; TP53 Mut, TP53 mutation; TP53 WT, TP53 wild type.

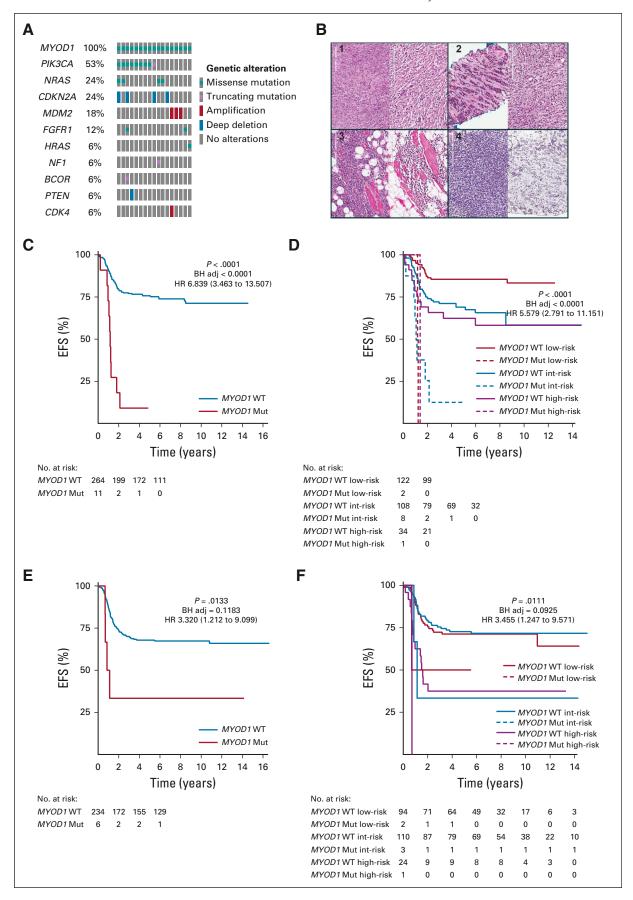


FIG 4. MYOD1 mutations and survival. (A) All tumors with a mutation in MYOD1 within the entire sequenced cohort (N = 641) are shown to visualize co-occurrence of MYDO1 mutations with other genes. All MYOD1 cases were observed (continued on following page)

FIG 4. (Continued). within FN cases. (B) Histology of MYOD1 mutant cases demonstrated the frequent presence of sclerosing or spindle morphology (case 1 and case 2). Cases 3 and 4 show that some cases demonstrated areas more typical of dense embryonal histology. (C) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort (n = 275) by the presence of a MYOD1 Mut or absence of a MYDO1 lesion (MYOD1 WT). (D) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort by MYOD1 status and RMS risk category. Total case numbers: low, n = 124; intermediate, n = 126; high, n = 35. (E) KM analysis of EFS within the UK FN cohort (n = 240) by the presence of a MYOD1 Mut or absence of a MYDO1 lesion (MYOD1 WT). (F) KM analysis of EFS within the UK FN cohort by MYOD1 status and RMS risk category. Total case numbers: low, n = 96; intermediate, n = 113; high, n = 25. Presented P values are log-rank and BH adj. HR with 95% CI. BH adj, Benjamini-Hochberg-adjusted; COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; FN, fusion-negative; HR, hazard ratio; KM, Kaplan-Meier; MYOD1 Mut, MYOD1 mutation; MYOD1 WT, MYOD1 wild type; RMS, rhabdomyosarcoma.

FN tumors that have no driver mutation of a candidate gene. Beyond genome-wide aneuploidy and focal loss of heterozygosity of 11p15, the previous comprehensive analyses, 9,10,23,28 and this focused analysis, have failed to discover recurrent genetic driver genes in this group of tumors. This suggests the need for continued comprehensive genomic and epigenetic evaluations that would allow identification of genes mutated at a low recurrence frequency, as well as alternative mechanisms of oncogenesis. The discovery that FN tumors are frequently driven by alteration of multiple coexisting mutations mirrors previous work that showed FN tumors are composed of multiple subclones that follow an evolutionary selection.²³ This finding suggests that clonal evolution of these tumors may be significant, and elegant genomic work has highlighted how these processes might drive relapsed or refractory disease. 10 Although the trend toward a worse outcome in patients with multiple mutations in the COG cohort is intriguing, this observation was not replicated in the UK cohort and may be confounded by the different therapeutic regimens that the patients received. Comprehensive, prospective assessment is required to address the validity of the survival correlations. In addition, studies designed to assay sequential tumor biopsies will be required to fully interrogate the mechanisms of metastasis and relapse in RMS.

Mutations in RAS isoforms have long been described as a driver of FN RMS.²⁹ Our study clearly determines that the presence at diagnosis of a mutation in an RAS isoform or RAS pathway gene does not portend a poor prognosis, in contrast to previous smaller cohorts finding enrichment for RAS isoform mutations in high-risk cases. 10 Although RAS was not found to be a prognostic predictor, we highlight an interesting observation that RAS isoform mutations appear to have some age-specific correlations, with HRAS occurring in the infants, KRAS occurring in the toddlers, and NRAS mutations with a peak in adolescence. Infants have previously been shown to have an inferior 5-year failure-free survival as compared with older patients (67% v 81%).³⁰ This difference is attributed to the general reluctance to use more aggressive local control, including radiation, in these patients.31 Our results indicate that incorporation of targeted therapeutic agents such as tipifarnib (NCT04284774) or AMG510 (NCT03600883) may be particularly beneficial to this vulnerable and high-risk population. In addition,

further mechanistic surveys of the developmental biology underlying these observations might have important implications for the generation of accurate preclinical models of RMS.

No molecular markers are currently used for risk stratification of FP RMS tumors. Amplification of the chromosomal regions 2p24 and 12q13-q15 and the implicated genes MYCN and CDK4, respectively, are the most recurrent lesions associated with a FOXO1 fusion. Previous work dedicated to assigning the prognostic value of these lesions identified amplification of 12q13-q14, but not 2p24, as a marker of an aggressive subset of FP tumors. 32 Other efforts discovered that in ARMS, overexpression or gain of genomic copies of MYCN was significantly associated with adverse outcome.33 The current study found inconsistent results for MYCN and CDK4 amplification, with nonreproducible correlations noted between the two cohorts. There is evidence of a small subset of FP tumors that harbor a mutation of *TP53* at diagnosis and appear to be particularly aggressive. Ultimately, prospective consortium-level trials should include profiling of each of these genes to define their prognostic value and the biologic role they play in FP RMS.

From the seminal report of Li-Fraumeni syndrome, 34 the role of TP53 in ERMS oncogenesis has long been established; however, the association of TP53 mutations with clinical outcome has previously been unknown. Given the lack of a corresponding germline sample, our study could not determine whether the discovered TP53 mutation was germline or somatic. Despite this, we demonstrated that the presence of a TP53 mutation was predictive of a worse outcome. This finding is consistent with reports from several cancer types that found mutation of TP53 is associated with poor response and survival.35 This is also consistent with higher levels of TP53 protein in metastatic versus localized ERMS³⁶ and also observations in zebra fish models of ERMS, where tp53 mutations are linked to more aggressive and metastatic disease.37 Determination of TP53 status in all cases of RMS therefore is critical, both for prognostic value and the implications that germline mutations have for genetic counseling.

MYOD1 mutation of the L122R codon was reported by independent groups in 2014. ^{25,38} MYOD1-mutant tumors make up only 3% of FN RMS, and this study highlights the importance of MYOD1 mutations within the RMS

population. These tumors have unique demographic, anatomic, and histologic characteristics, but none of these appear to definitively capture all *MYOD1*-mutant tumors. This suggests the need to incorporate sequencing of this gene into the diagnostic workup of FN RMS. Our observation that *MYOD1* mutations invariably co-occur with mutation in a second gene, most notably *PIK3CA* and *CDKN2A*, is consistent with a recent report.²⁶ The co-occurrence with *CDKN2A* is of interest given that a recent large survey of soft tissue sarcomas of multiple histologies, including a small number of RMS

tumors, implicated *CDKN2A* as a biomarker of poor prognosis. ³⁹ Although our study indicates that *CDKN2A* alterations may have prognostic value independent of *MYOD1*, this conclusion is based on low overall numbers. Therefore, we recommend that *CDKN2A* alterations be evaluated in prospective studies. Regardless, *MYOD1*-mutant tumors have an aggressive nature and have limited responses to current therapeutic regimens, which highlights the impetus to identify these cases and develop novel therapeutic trials for this rare subset of patients with RMS.

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DISCLAIMER

The content of this publication does not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of Health and Human Services, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement of the US government.

EQUAL CONTRIBUTION

J.F.S. and J.S. contributed equally to this work. J.M.S. and J.K. are equal senior authors.

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AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Genomic Classification and Clinical Outcome in Rhabdomyosarcoma: A Report From an International Consortium

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APPENDIX

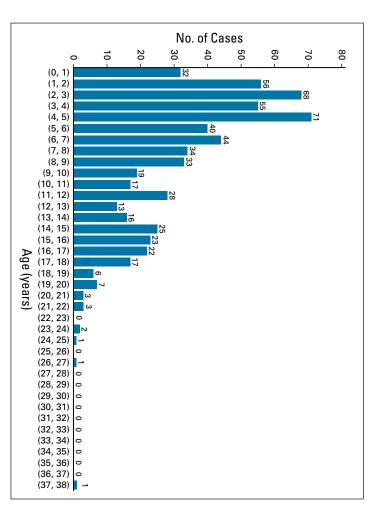


FIG A1. Histogram presentation of the age distribution of cases within the cohort (N = 641).

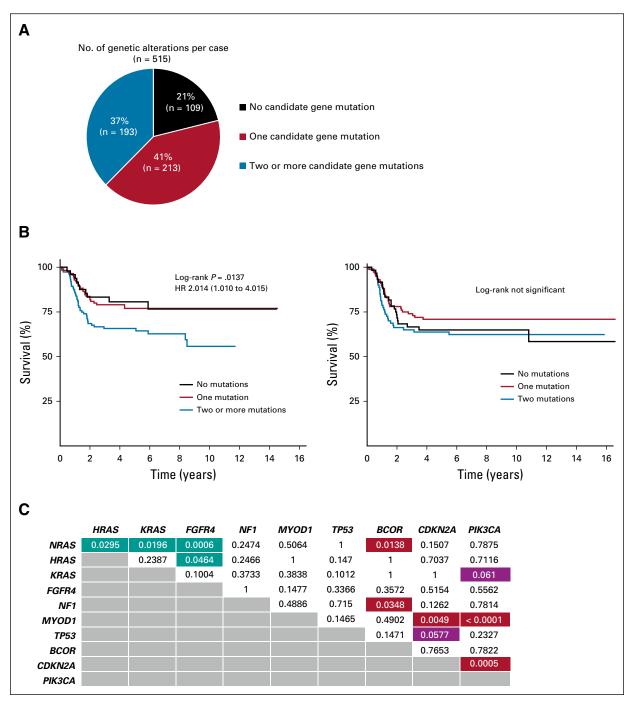


FIG A2. Survival analysis on the basis of number of called mutations. (A) All FN samples (n = 515) were distributed into groups having no observed mutations (black), one mutation (red), or two or more genes mutated (blue). (B) Kaplan-Meier analysis of EFS from the COG and UK FN cohorts on the basis of the number of observed mutations within a tumor. The COG cohort (n = 275) had 49 patients with no observed mutation, 113 patients with one observed mutation, and 113 patients with two or more observed mutations. The UK cohort (n = 240) had 60 patients with no observed mutation, 100 patients with one observed mutation, and 80 patients with two or more observed mutations. (C) Pairwise testing of the significance of gene-gene interactions was performed to identify interactions that occurred at higher (red and purple) or lower (green) frequencies than expected. COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; FN, fusion-negative; HR, hazard ratio.

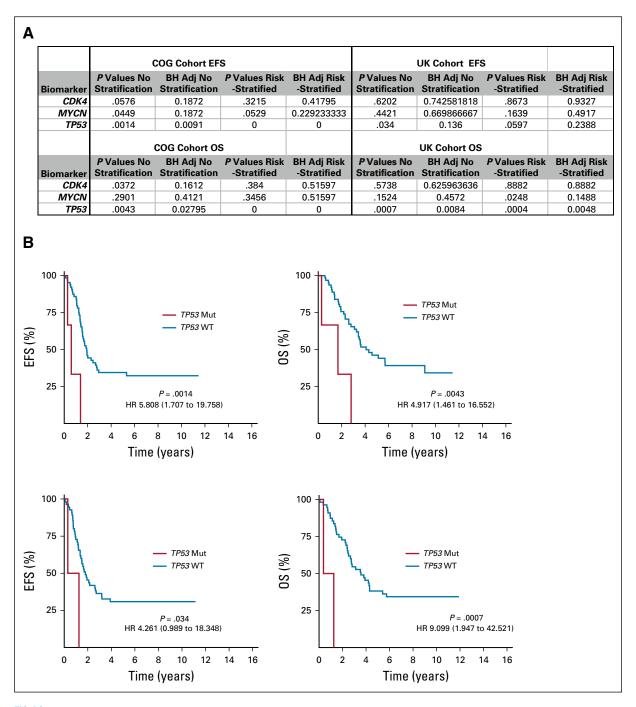


FIG A3. *CDK4*, *MYCN*, and *TP53* mutations in FP RMS. (A) Survival analysis for all three genes within the COG and UK cohorts with and without risk stratification. The log-rank and BH adj *P* value are presented. (B) Kaplan-Meier analysis of EFS and OS in FP cases within the COG cohort (n = 69) and UK cohort (n = 57) for *TP53* Mut or WT. COG cohort has three *TP53* mutant cases and UK cohort has two *TP53* mutant cases. BH adj, Benjamini-Hochberg-adjusted; COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; FP, fusion-positive; HR, hazard ratio; Mut, mutated; OS, overall survival; RMS, rhabdomyosarcoma; WT, wild type.

		COG Coho	rt EFS			UK Coh	ort EFS				
	P Values No	BH Adj No	P Values Risk	BH Adj Risk	P Values No	BH Adj No	P Values Risk	BH Adj Risk			
Biomarker	Stratification	Stratification	-Stratified	-Stratified	Stratification	Stratification	-Stratified	-Stratified			
FGFR4	.4032	0.5700	.6002	0.7804	.9249	0.9432	.9239	0.9239			
HRAS	.2072	0.4463	.1562	0.4860	.8993	0.9432	.8337	0.9239			
KRAS	.3743	0.5700	.6132	0.7804	.9432	0.9432	.9126	0.9239			
NF1	.6759	0.7570	.3211	0.5994	.0275	0.1719	.0432	0.1800			
NRAS	.0494	0.1537	.2987	0.5994	.1669	0.5216	.2659	0.6648			
PIK3CA	.0056	0.0392	.0243	0.1075	.8650	0.9432	.8973	0.9239			
RAS isoform mutation	.1565	0.3652	.3117	0.5994	.4842	0.7261	.6329	0.8328			
RAS pathway mutation	.1004	0.2736	.3244	0.5994	.3937	0.7030	.5965	0.8285			
		COG Coh	ort OS		UK Cohort OS						
	P Values No	BH Adj No	P Values Risk	BH Adj Risk	P Values No BH Adj No P Values Risk BH						
Biomarker	Stratification	Stratification	-Stratified	-Stratified	Stratification	Stratification					
FGFR4	.9455	0.9455	.7423	0.8231	.6701	0.7615	.5605	0.8132			
HRAS	.1918	0.4882	.1287	0.4004	.6593	0.7615	.5263	0.8132			
KRAS	.6453	0.7827	.8291	0.8598	.8699	0.9220	.8700	0.9168			
NF1	.1789	0.4882	.0588	0.2058	.1819	0.7579	.2279	0.8132			
NRAS	.2767	0.6456	.6996	0.8231	.1802	0.7579	.2855	0.8132			
DU/004	.0834	0.2919	.2487	0.5803	.8851	0.9220	.5855	0.8132			
PIK3CA				0.0004	I 5004	0.7615	.7725	0.9168			
PIK3CA RAS isoform mutation	.7303	0.7982	.7612	0.8231	.5831	0.7615	.//25	0.9100			

FIG A4. RAS isoform and RAS pathway analysis. (A) RAS isoforms and pathway member *P* values for both EFS and OS. The log-rank *P* value and the BH adj value are presented. BH adj, Benjamini-Hochberg–adjusted; COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; OS, overall survival.

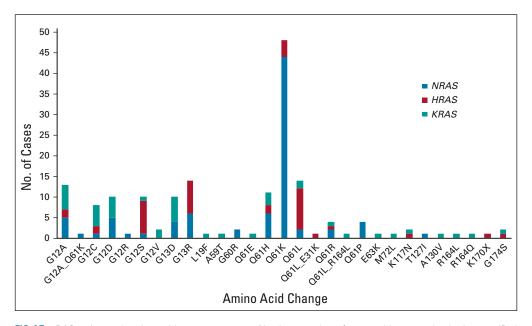


FIG A5. RAS codon and amino acid usage summary. Absolute number of cases with a mutation in the specified codon by amino acid change and isoform (NRAS, blue; HRAS, red; KRAS, green).

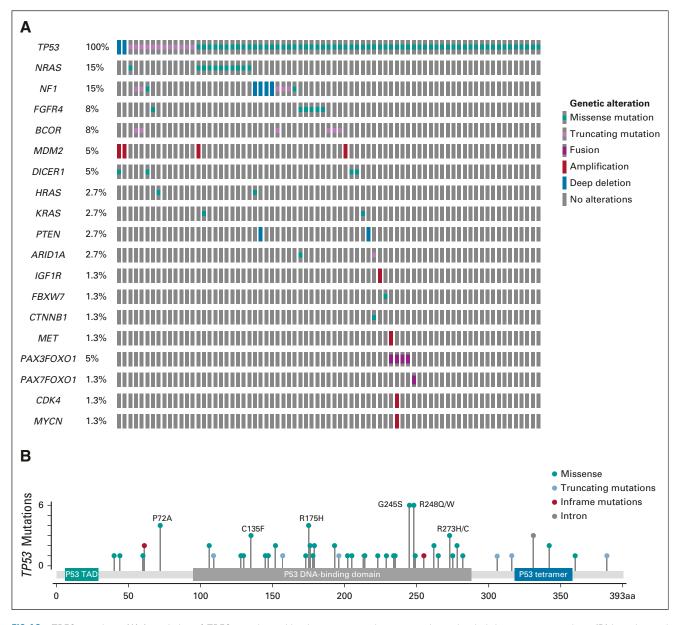


FIG A6. *TP53* mutations. (A) Association of *TP53* mutations with other gene mutations across the entire rhabdomyosarcoms cohort. (B) Location and number of mutations across TP53 protein.

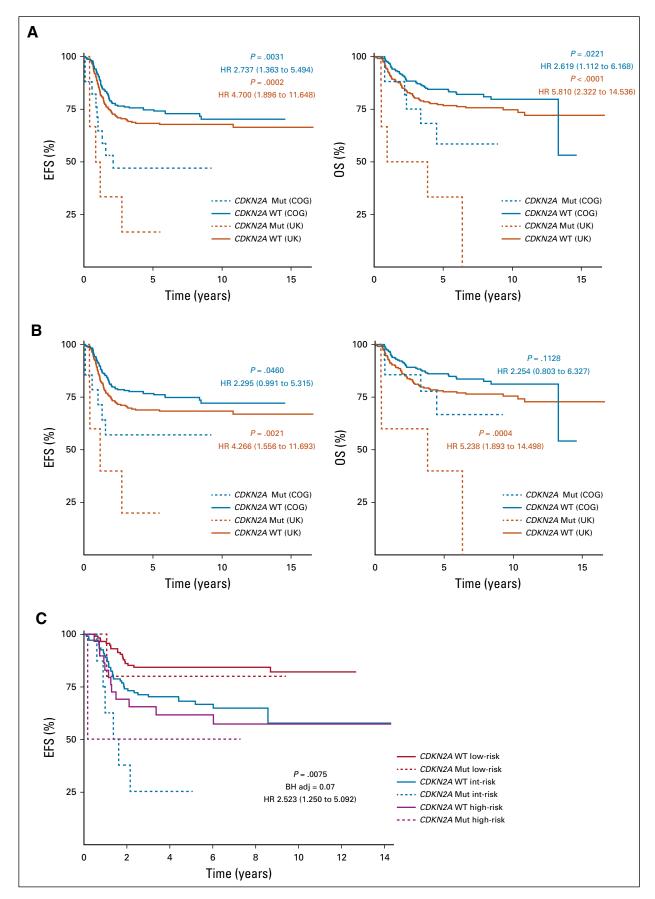


FIG A7. CDKN2A and association with survival. (A) EFS and OS by CDKN2A deletion in the COG cohort (blue) and the UK cohort (orange). (B) EFS and OS by CDKN2A status after removal of any cases with a co-occurring mutation of MYOD1: (continued on following page)

FIG A7. (Continued). COG cohort (blue) and UK cohort (orange). (C) EFS within the COG cohort demonstrated that the observed effect of *CDKN2A* alteration was largely within the intermediate-risk group. BH adj, Benjamini-Hochberg–adjusted; COG, Children's Oncology Group; EFS, event-free survival; HR, hazard ratio; Mut, mutated; OS, overall survival; WT, wild type.

TABLE A1. Number of Patients Profiled From Each Trial

Study	Cohort	No. of Cases	Percentage of Cohort
ARST0331	COG	50	14.5
ARST0431	COG	12	3.5
ARST0531	COG	68	19.8
ARST08P1	COG	9	2.6
D9602	COG	10	2.9
D9802	COG	3	0.9
D9803	COG	21	6.1
D9902	COG	171	49.7
EpSSG RMS2005	UK	48	16
MMT	UK	249	84

Abbreviations: COG, Children's Oncology Group; EpSSG, European paediatric Soft tissue sarcoma Study Group; MMT, malignant mesenchymal tumor; RMS, rhabdomyosarcoma.

TABLE A2. Included Genes in the Capture Assay

Gene	d Genes in the Capture Assay Genomic Alteration	Affected Exon	Published Frequency (%) ^a	References
AKT1				
ALK				10
ARID1A				26
ATM	Deletion and mutation			
BCOR	Multiple	All exons	7	9
BRAF	V600E	15	1	9
CCND1	Amplification			9,26
CCND2				
CDK4	Amplification			
CDKN2A	Deletion			
CTNNB1	Mutation			9,26
DICER1	Mutation			
ERBB2	Amplification			
FBXW7	R387P, R441G, R367	9	7	9
FGFR1	Amplification			
FGFR4	G528C, N535D/K, V550E/L/M	9, 10	9	9,10,26
GAB1				
HRAS	G12C, G13R, Q61K	2, 3	4	9,10,26
IGF1R	Amplification			10
IGF2	LOH			
KRAS	G12A/C/D	2	6	9,10,26
MDM2	Amplification			
MET	Amplification			9
MTOR				
MYCN	Amplification			
MYOD1	Point mutation			
NF1	Mutation, deletion, and LOH	All exons	5	9,10,26
NRAS	Q61H/K/R	3	12	9,10,26
PDGFRA				
PIK3CA	E542K, E545K, Q546	9, 20	7	9
PKN1	Mutation			22
PTCH1				
PTEN	Deletion			22
PTPN11	E69K, A72T, E76A	3	2.5	9
ROBO1				26
SMARCA4				
SOS1	Mutation, duplication			
SOS2				
TP53	Multiple	5, 6, 7, 8	5	9,10,26

NOTE. Total estimated capture area 349,636 base pairs; estimated percentage of target bases covered = 98%.

Abbreviation: LOH, loss of heterozygosity.

^aPublished frequency if available.

 TABLE A3. Fusion-Negative Cases Summarized by Mutation and Anatomic Location

Gene	Total No. of Gene Mutations in Cohort	Bladdes/ Prostate Mutant Cases	% of Cone Mutations Are Bladdet/ Prostate	Total Cases Bladder/ Prostate	Mutant % in Bladder/ prostate	Extremity Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Extremity	Total Cases Extremity	Mutant % in Extremity	Female 60 Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Female GU	Total Cases Female GU	Mutant % in Female OU	Head and Neck Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Head and Neck	Total Cases Head and Neck	Mutant % in Head and Neck	Orbital Mutant Cases	% of Gone Mutations Are Orbital	Total Cases Orbital	Mutant % in Orbital	Other Mutant Cases	% of Some Mutations Are Other	Total Cases Other	Mutant % in Other	Parameningeal Mutant Cases	% of Dene Mutations Are Parameningeal	Total Cases Parameningual	Mutant % in Parameningeal	Paratesticular Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Paratesticular	Total Cases Paratesticular	Mutant % in Paratesticular	Retroperitoneum, Peritoneum, or Trunk Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Retroperitoneum, Peritoneum, or Trunk	Total Cases Retroperitoneum, Peritoneum, or Trunk	Mutast %, in Retroperitoneum, Peritoneum, or Trunk
NRAS	87	8	8/87 (9)	49	849 (16)	2	2/87 (2)	35	2/35 (6)	4	4/87 (5)	18	4/18 (22)	15	15/87 (17)	47	15/47 (32)	9	9/87 (10)	43	9/43 (21)	1	1/87 (1)	7	1/7 (14)	11	11/87 (13)	105	11/105 (10)	28	28/87 (32)	120	28/120 (23)	9	987 (10)	87	9/87 (10)
BCOR	78	6	6/78 (8)	49	649 (12)	0	0/78 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	2	2/78 (3)	18	2/18 (11)	9	9/78 (12)	47	947 (19)	12	12/78 (15)	43	12/43 (28)	2	2/78 (3)	7	2/7 (29)	13	13/78 (17)	105	13/105 (12)	22	22/78 (28)	120	22/120 (18)	12	12/78 (15)	87	12/87 (14)
NF1	75	11	11/75 (15)	49	11/49 (22)	3	3/75 (4)	35	3/35 (9)	2	2/75 (3)	18	2/18 (11)	3	3/75 (4)	47	3/47 (6)	5	5/75 (7)	43	5/43 (12)	2	2/75 (3)	7	2/7 (29)	18	18/75 (24)	105	18/105 (17)	15	15/75 (20)	120	15/120 (13)	16	16/75 (21)	87	16/87 (18)
TP53	69	4	4/69 (6)	49	4/49 (8)	12	12/69 (17)	35	12/35 (34)	3	3/69 (4)	18	3/18 (17)	11	11/69 (16)	47	11/47 (23)	8	8/69 (12)	43	8/43 (19)	2	2/69 (3)	7	2/7 (29)	12	12/69 (17)	105	12/105 (11)	3	3/69 (4)	120	3/120 (3)	14	14/69 (20)	87	14/87 (16)
FGFR4	65	8	8/65 (12)	49	849 (16)	0	0/65 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	2	2/65 (3)	18	2/18 (11)	5	5/65 (8)	47	5/47 (11)	8	8/65 (12)	43	8/43 (19)	1	1/65 (2)	7	1/7 (14)	21	21/65 (32)	105	21/105 (20)	8	8/65 (12)	120	8/120 (7)	12	12/65 (18)	87	12/87 (14)
KRAS	44	2	2/44 (5)	49	2/49 (4)	1	1/44 (2)	35	1/35 (3)	0	044 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	4	4/44 (9)	47	4/47 (9)	1	1/44 (2)	43	1/43 (2)	0	0/44 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	9	9/44 (20)	105	9/105 (9)	14	14/44 (32)	120	14/120 (12)	13	13/44 (30)	87	13/87 (15)
HRAS	41	7	7/41 (17)	49	7/49 (14)	2	2/41 (5)	35	2/35 (6)	2	2/41 (5)	18	2/18 (11)	1	1/41 (2)	47	1/47 (2)	1	1.41 (2)	43	1/43 (2)	1	1/41 (2)	7	1/7 (14)	2	2/41 (5)	105	2/105 (2)	15	15/41 (37)	120	15/120 (13)	9	941 (22)	87	9/87 (10)
CTNNB1	32	5	5/32 (16)	49	5/49 (10)	0	0/32 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	1	1/32 (3)	18	1/18 (6)	2	2/32 (6)	47	2/47 (4)	2	2/32 (6)	43	2/43 (5)	0	0/32 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	2	2/32 (6)	105	2/105 (2)	9	9/32 (28)	120	9/120 (8)	11	11/32 (34)	87	11/87 (13)
PIK3CA	26	0	0/26 (0)	49	049 (0)	1	1/26 (4)	35	1/35 (3)	1	1/26 (4)	18	1/18 (6)	3	3/26 (12)	47	3/47 (6)	1	1/26 (4)	43	1/43 (2)	0	0/26 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	12	12/26 (46)	105	12/105 (11)	2	2/26 (8)	120	2/120 (2)	6	6/26 (23)	87	6/87 (7)
MDM2	26	2	6/26 (8)	49	249 (4)	6	6/26 (8)	35	6/35 (17)	1	1/26 (4)	18	1/18 (6)	1	1/26 (4)	47	1/47 (2)	1	1/26 (4)	43	1/43 (2)	0	0/26 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	5	5/26 (19)	105	5/105 (5)	7	7/26 (27)	120	7/120 (6)	3	3/26 (12)	87	3/87 (3)
CDKN2A	23	0	0/23 (0)	49	049 (0)	3	3/23 (13)	35	3/35 (9)	0	0/23 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	3	3/23 (13)	47	3/47 (6)	3	3/23 (13)	43	3/43 (7)	0	0/23 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	8	8/23 (35)	105	8/105 (8)	0	0/23 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	6	6/23 (26)	87	6/87 (7)
FBXW7	18	1	1/18 (6)	49	1/49 (2)	0	0/18 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	0	0/18 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	1	1/18 (6)	47	1/47 (2)	1	1/18 (6)	43	1/43 (2)	0	0/18 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	1	1/18 (6)	105	1/105 (1)	10	10/18 (56)	120	10/120 (8)	4	4/18 (22)	87	4/87 (5)
MYOD1	17	0	0/17 (0)	49	049 (0)	1	1/17 (6)	35	1/35 (3)	0	0/17 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	4	4/17 (24)	47	4/47 (9)	0	0/17 (0)	43	0/43 (0)	0	0/17 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	11	11/17 (65)	105	11/105 (10)	0	11/17 (65)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/17 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
CDK4	1	0	0/1 (0)	49	049 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	1	1/1 (100)	47	1/47 (2)	0	1/1 (100)	43	0/43 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
MYCN	0	0	00 (0)	49	049 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	47	0/47 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	43	0/43 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	7	0/7 (0)	0	Q/D (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
DICERI	12	0	0/12 (0)	49	049 (0)	0	0/12 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	6	6/12 (50)	18	6/18 (33)	0	0/12 (0)	47	0/47 (0)	0	0/12 (0)	43	0/43 (0)	2	2/12 (17)	7	2/7 (29)	0	0/12 (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/12 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	4	4/12 (33)	87	4/87 (5)
ARIDIA	11	1	1/11 (9)	49	149 (2)	0	0/11 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	0	0/11 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	1	1/11 (9)	47	1/47 (2)	2	2/11 (18)	43	2/43 (5)	0	0/11 (0)	7	2/7 (5)	4	4/11 (36)	105	4/105 (4)	1	1/11 (9)	120	1/120 (1)	2	2/11 (18)	87	2/87 (2)

Abbreviation: GU, genitourinary.

 TABLE A4.
 Proposed Risk Stratification With the Incorporation of Genetic Markers

Risk Stratification	FFS, %	Fusion Status	Stage	Group	Anatomy	Metastatic Sites	Genetic Marker
Low	> 85						
		Negative	l or II	l or II			
		Negative	I	III	Orbit only		
Intermediate	60-75						
		Negative	Any	III	Nonorbit		
		Negative	III	l or II			
		Negative	IV	IV		1	
		Negative	Any low risk				TP53 mutant
		Positive	I, II, or III	I, II, or III			TP53 WT
High	< 40						
		Negative	IV	IV		> 1	
		Negative	Any intermed	liate risk			TP53 mutant
		Positive	IV	IV			TP53 WT
Ultrahigh	< 20						
		Negative	Any	Any		Any	MYOD1 mutant
		Positive	Any	Any		Any	TP53 mutant

Abbreviations: FFS, failure-free survival; WT, wild type.