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Long-term survival in patients with glioblastoma multiforme: Frequency and prognostic factors

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Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) is a highly aggressive and rapidly fatal primary brain tumor. Median patient survival is 12-14 months. Few treated patients survive beyond 5 years. Variation in characteristics such as age, performance status, and extent of resection (EOR) can extend survival for a few months. However, factors associated with long-term survivals of \geq 5 years are largely unknown, and identifying them may provide insight into GBM and its management. We identified consecutive patients surviving >5 years after initial GBM resection. Their prospectively collected demographics, clinical, imaging, and treatment data were retrospectively reviewed and analyzed (under an IRB-approved protocol) from 6/1/1993 to 5/31/2010 (to allow for 5-years survival). EOR was measured volumetrically using pre- and post-op MRI's. Among 701 newly diagnosed GBM patients, 72 patients (10%) survived \geq 5 years; the cohort's overall median survival was 13.6 months. Four factors correlated significantly with longer survival on both univariate and multivariate analyses: Age, KPS, necrosis on the MRI, and EOR. These factors allowed classification of patients into 4 groups whose >5 years survival varied widely. For patients with 100% resections, >5-years survival is 50% for Group A, 21% for Group B, 13% for Group C, and 2% for Group D. The corresponding numbers for patients with <100% resection are: 8% (Group A), 13% (Group B), 1% (Group C), and 1% (Group D). This is the largest series of long-term GBM survivors (>5 years), emphasizing the importance of patient selection and of maximizing the EOR.

Biography

Dima Suki completed her PhD from The University of Texas Houston Health Science Center. She is Professor at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in the Department of Neurosurgery, as well as Director of Protocol Development and Data Management, and Co-Director of Clinical Research. She also is adjunct Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Neurosurgery. She serves on numerous committees, including the Institutional Review Board, where she is currently Associate Chair. She has over 100 peer-reviewed publications in scientific journals and has authored 7 book chapters and books. She serves on editorial advisory boards for several scientific journals.

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