

Genomic classification and clinical outcome in rhabdomyosarcoma

Shern, Jack F; Selfe, Joana; Izquierdo, Elisa; Patidar, Rajesh; Chou, Hsien-Chao; Song, Young K.; Yohe, Marielle E; Sindiri, Sivasish; Wei, Jun; Wen, Xinyu; Rudzinski, Erin R.; Barkauskas, Donald A; Lo, Tammy; Hall, David; Linardic, Corinne M; Hughes, Debbie; Jamal, Sabri; Jenney, Meriel ; Chisholm, Julia; Brown, Rebecca

DOI:
[10.1200/JCO.20.03060](https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.20.03060)

License:
Creative Commons: Attribution (CC BY)

Document Version
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Citation for published version (Harvard):
Shern, JF, Selfe, J, Izquierdo, E, Patidar, R, Chou, H-C, Song, YK, Yohe, ME, Sindiri, S, Wei, J, Wen, X, Rudzinski, ER, Barkauskas, DA, Lo, T, Hall, D, Linardic, CM, Hughes, D, Jamal, S, Jenney, M, Chisholm, J, Brown, R, Jones, K, Hicks, B, Angelini, P, George, SL, Chesler, L, Hubank, M, Kelsey, A, Gatz, SA, Skapek, SX, Hawkins, DS, Shipley, JM & Khan, J 2021, 'Genomic classification and clinical outcome in rhabdomyosarcoma: a report from an international consortium', *Journal of Clinical Oncology*, vol. 39, no. 26, pp. 2859-2871. <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.20.03060>

[Link to publication on Research at Birmingham portal](#)

General rights

Unless a licence is specified above, all rights (including copyright and moral rights) in this document are retained by the authors and/or the copyright holders. The express permission of the copyright holder must be obtained for any use of this material other than for purposes permitted by law.

- Users may freely distribute the URL that is used to identify this publication.
- Users may download and/or print one copy of the publication from the University of Birmingham research portal for the purpose of private study or non-commercial research.
- User may use extracts from the document in line with the concept of 'fair dealing' under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (?)
- Users may not further distribute the material nor use it for the purposes of commercial gain.

Where a licence is displayed above, please note the terms and conditions of the licence govern your use of this document.

When citing, please reference the published version.

Take down policy

While the University of Birmingham exercises care and attention in making items available there are rare occasions when an item has been uploaded in error or has been deemed to be commercially or otherwise sensitive.

If you believe that this is the case for this document, please contact UBIRA@lists.bham.ac.uk providing details and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate.



original reports

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

Jack F. Shern, MD^{1,2}; Joanna Selfe, PhD³; Elisa Izquierdo, MD⁴; Rajesh Patidar, MS¹; Hsien-Chao Chou, PhD¹; Young K. Song, PhD¹; Marielle E. Yohe, MD, PhD²; Sivasish Sindiri, MS¹; Jun Wei, PhD¹; Xinyu Wen, MS¹; Erin R. Rudzinski, MD⁵; Donald A. Barkauskas, PhD^{6,7}; Tammy Lo, MPH⁷; David Hall, MS⁷; Corinne M. Linardic, MD, PhD⁸; Debbie Hughes, PhD⁹; Sabri Jamal, MSc⁴; Meriel Jenney, MD¹⁰; Julia Chisholm, MD¹¹; Rebecca Brown, MD^{3,12}; Kristine Jones, PhD¹³; Belynda Hicks, PhD¹³; Paola Angelini, MD¹¹; Sally George, MD^{9,11}; Louis Chesler, MD⁹; Michael Hubank, MD⁴; Anna Kelsey, MD¹⁴; Susanne A. Gatz, MD^{3,15}; Stephen X. Skapek, MD¹⁶; Douglas S. Hawkins, MD¹⁷; Janet M. Shipley, PhD³; and Javed Khan, MD¹

abstract

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.

J Clin Oncol 39:2859-2871. © 2021 by American Society of Clinical Oncology

Licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 License

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.

Accepted on May 7, 2021 and published at ascopubs.org/journal/jco on June 24, 2021; DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.20.03060>

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	All (N = 641)	COG (n = 344)	UK (n = 297)
Sex, No. (%)			
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%), *CTNBN1* (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). *MYOD1*-mutant 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

Gene	Total Cases	Total FN Cohort (N = 515)		COG FN Cohort (n = 275)		UK FN Cohort (n = 240)		Total FP Cohort (N = 126)			
		Total Mutant FN Cohort	Total FN (% of all FN cases)	COG Mutant FN Cohort	COG (% of FN cases)	UK Mutant FN Cohort	UK (% of FN cases)	Mutant ALV or FOXO1+	Mutant ALV Fusion Unknown	Mutant FOXO1+	ALV or FOXO1+ (% of FP cases)
<i>NRAS</i>	88	87	17	44	16	43	18	1	1	0	1
<i>BCOR</i>	85	78	15	48	17	30	13	7	5	2	6
<i>NF1</i>	80	75	15	40	15	35	15	5	1	4	4
<i>TP53</i>	74	69	13	34	12	35	15	5	3	2	4
<i>FGFR4</i>	65	65	13	28	10	37	15	0	0	0	0
<i>KRAS</i>	45	44	9	32	12	12	5	1	1	0	1
<i>HRAS</i>	44	41	8	21	8	20	8	3	2	1	2
<i>CTNNB1</i>	32	32	6	17	6	15	6	0	0	0	0
<i>PIK3CA</i>	28	26	5	19	7	7	3	2	1	1	2
<i>MDM2</i>	27	26	5	17	6	9	4	1	1	0	1
<i>CDKN2A</i>	23	23	4	17	6	6	3	0	0	0	0
<i>FBXW7</i>	18	18	3	13	5	5	2	0	0	0	0
<i>MYOD1</i>	17	17	3	11	4	6	3	0	0	0	0
<i>CDK4</i>	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	16	11	5	13
<i>MYCN</i>	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	7	6	10
<i>DICER1</i>	12	12	2	4	1	8	3	0	0	0	0
<i>ARID1A</i>	11	11	2	7	3	4	2	0	0	0	0
<i>IGF1R</i>	9	8	2	4	1	4	2	1	1	0	1
<i>PTEN</i>	5	5	1	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>MET</i>	5	4	1	4	1	0	0	1	1	0	1
<i>FGFR1</i>	4	4	1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>PTPN11</i>	3	3	1	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
<i>PTCH1</i>	3	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>ERBB2</i>	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-FOXO1* 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

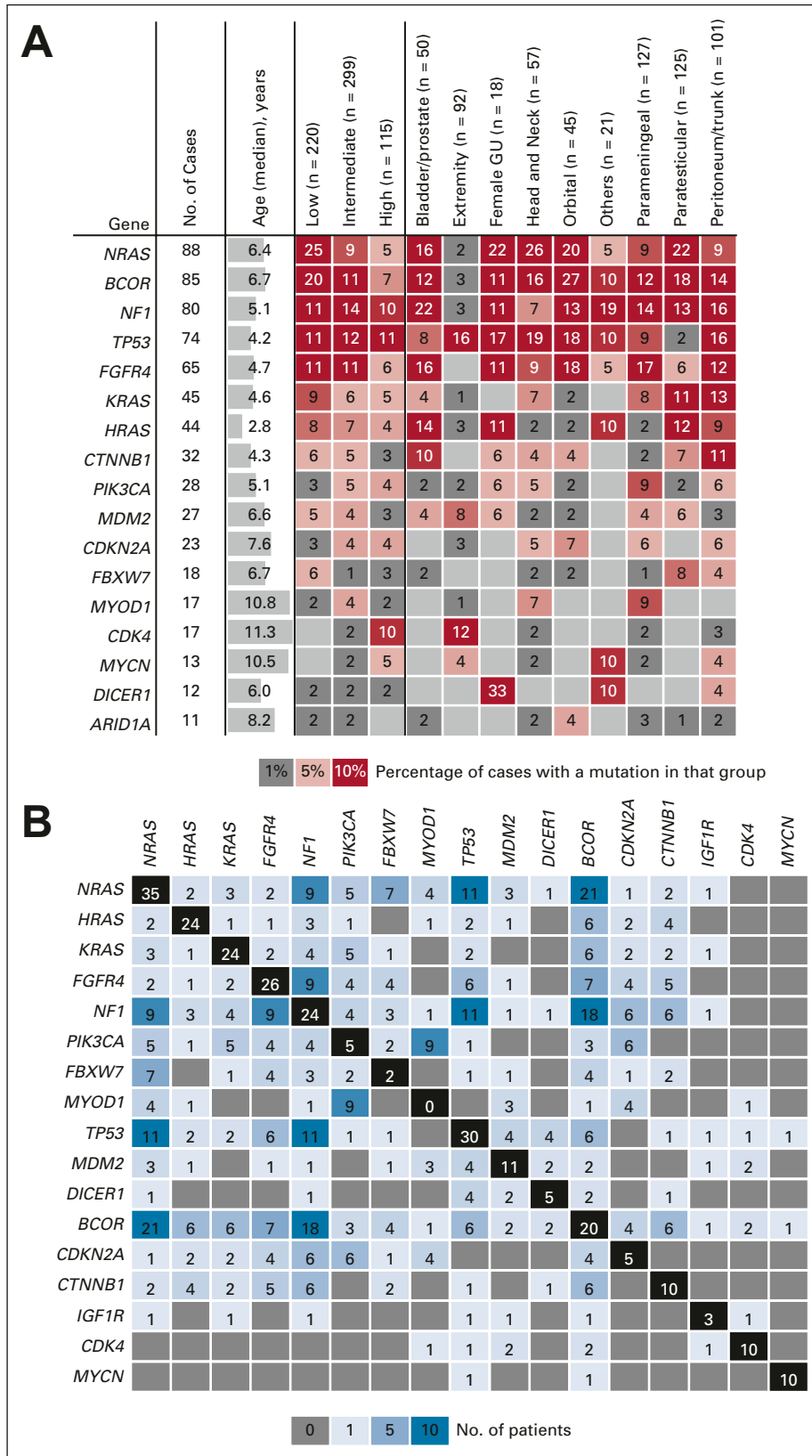


FIG 1. Mutations summarized by anatomic location and co-occurrence. (A) Summary of mutations by occurrence within defined risk groups (low, intermediate, or high) or by anatomic location. The reported value is a percentage of the number of cases with a mutation in that gene within each group. (B) Co-occurrence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

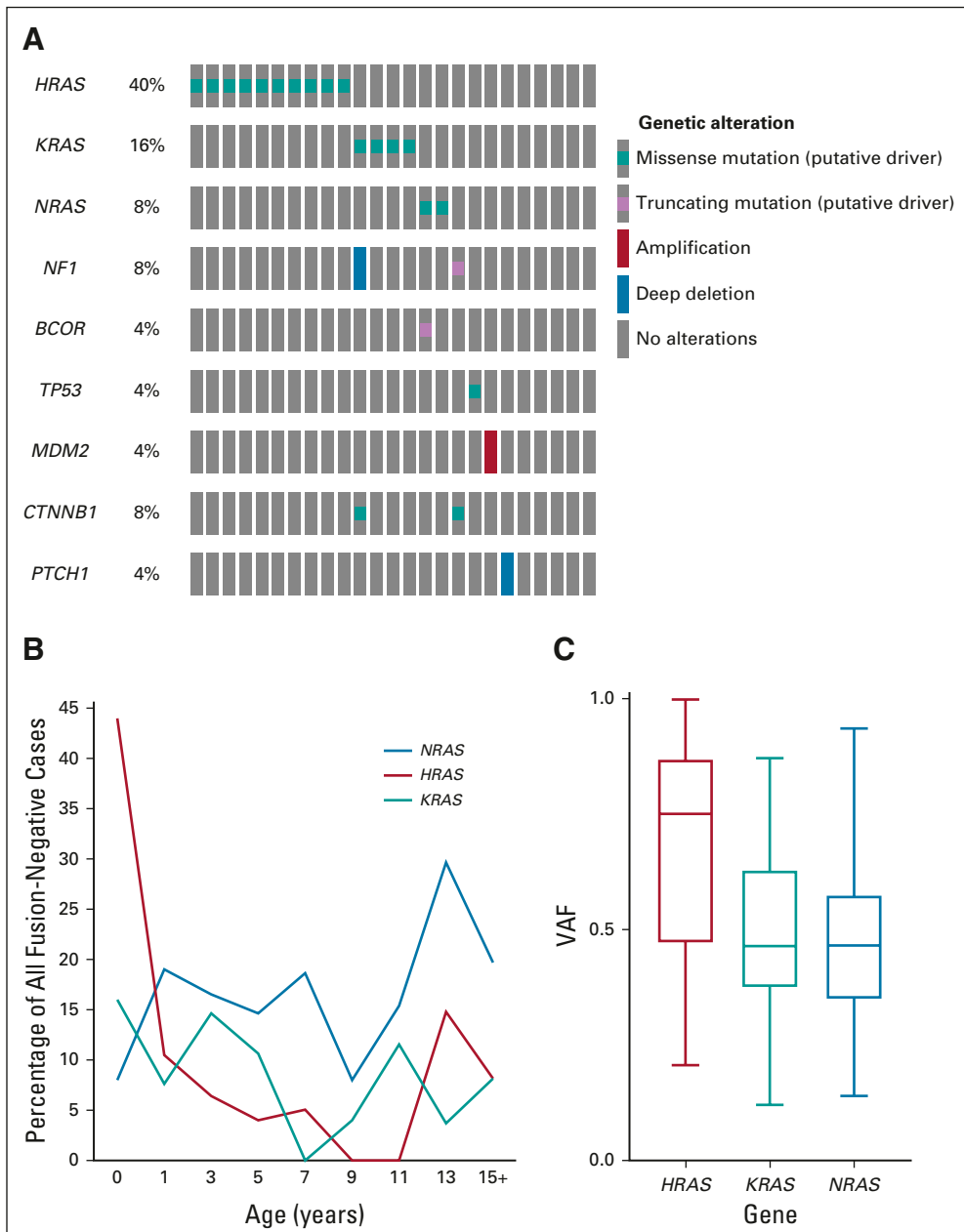


FIG 2. RAS isoform mutations. (A) OncoPrint of mutations observed in infants < 1 year old ($n = 25$) showed an enrichment for RAS mutations. (B) Distribution of RAS isoform mutations by age with a distinct peak of HRAS mutant cases discovered in the infant population. (C) HRAS mutations were frequently 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 DNA-binding 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 non-risk-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

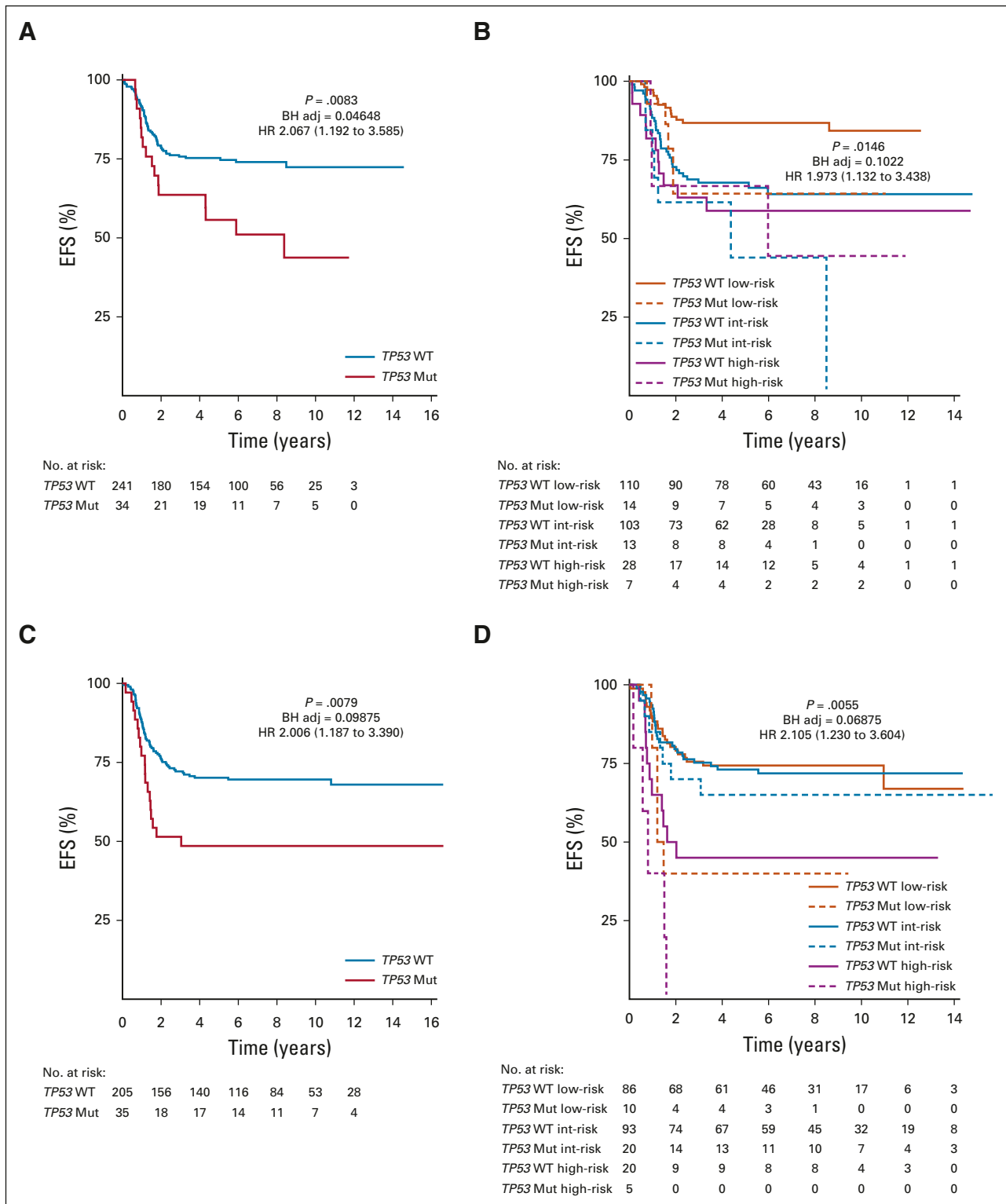


FIG 3. *TP53* mutations and association with survival. (A) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort ($n = 275$) by the presence of a *TP53* Mut or absence of a *TP53* lesion (*TP53* WT). (B) KM analysis of EFS within the COG FN cohort by *TP53* status and RMS risk category. Total case numbers: low, $n = 124$; 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, rhabdomyosarcoma; *TP53* Mut, *TP53* mutation; *TP53* WT, *TP53* wild type.

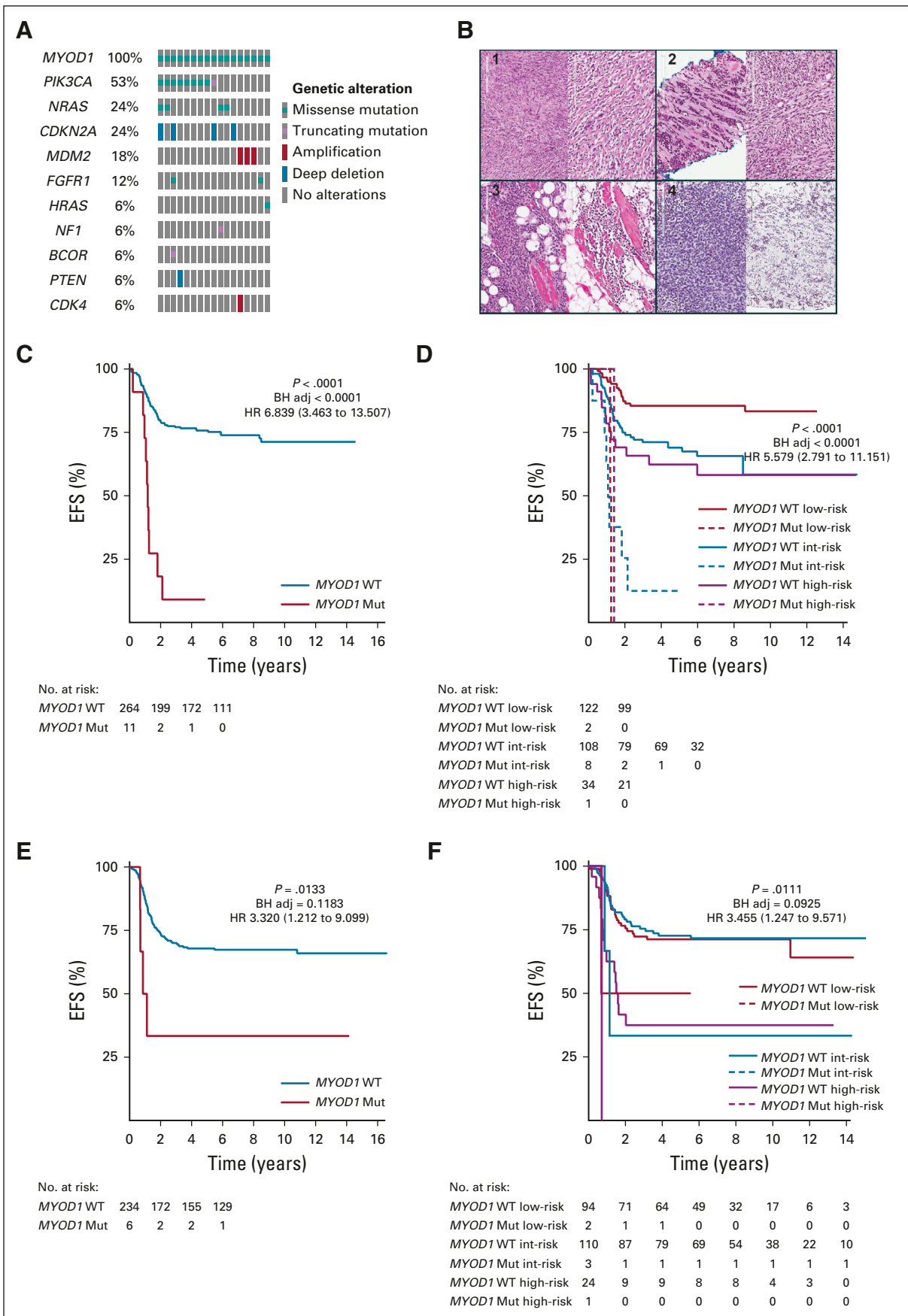


FIG 4. *MYOD1* mutations and survival. (A) All tumors with a mutation in *MYOD1* within the entire sequenced cohort (N = 641) are shown to visualize co-occurrence of *MYOD1* mutations with other genes. All *MYOD1* cases were observed (continued on following page)

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 *MYOD1* 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 *MYOD1* 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.

AFFILIATIONS

¹Genetics Branch, Oncogenomics Section, Center for Cancer Research, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

²Pediatric Oncology Branch, Center for Cancer Research, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD

³Sarcoma Molecular Pathology Team, Divisions of Molecular Pathology and Cancer Therapeutics, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, United Kingdom

⁴Molecular Diagnostics Department, The Institute of Cancer Research and Clinical Genomics, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation, London, United Kingdom

⁵Department of Laboratories, Seattle Children's Hospital, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

⁶Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

⁷Children's Oncology Group, Monrovia, CA

⁸Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, NC

⁹Paediatric Tumour Biology, Division of Clinical Studies, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, United Kingdom

¹⁰Cardiff and Vale UHB, Paeds Oncology, Cardiff, United Kingdom

¹¹Children and Young People's Unit, Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London, United Kingdom

¹²Department of Pathology, Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, Aberdeen, United Kingdom

¹³Cancer Genomics Research Laboratory, Leidos Biomedical Research, Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, Frederick, MD

¹⁴Department of Paediatric Histopathology, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust Royal Manchester Childrens Hospital, Manchester, United Kingdom

¹⁵Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom

¹⁶Division of Hematology/Oncology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX

¹⁷Department of Pediatrics, Seattle Children's Hospital, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

CORRESPONDING AUTHOR

Jack F. Shern, MD, Pediatric Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute, Building 10, Room 1W-3750, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20892; e-mail: john.shern@nih.gov.

STUDY GROUPS

International Consortium: Children's Oncology Group; Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group, Young Onset Sarcoma Subgroup; and the National Cancer Institute.

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.

PRIOR PRESENTATION

Presented at the Pediatric Oncology Session of the ASCO annual meeting, June 3, 2018; the plenary session of the Children's Oncology Group annual meetings on October 3, 2018 and March 19, 2020; and the plenary session of the EpSSG Winter meeting, December 6, 2018.

SUPPORT

Supported by the St Baldrick's Hero Fund in memory of Peyton Arens and by Grants No. U10CA098543, U10CA098413, U10CA180899, and U10CA180886 from the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, to the Children's Oncology Group. United Kingdom funding was provided by the Chris Lucas Trust, the Talan's Trust, Alice's Arc charity, and Cancer Research UK (Grant No. C5066/A10399).

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Disclosures provided by the authors are available with this article at DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.20.03060>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conception and design: Jack F. Shern, Susanne A. Gatz, Douglas S. Hawkins, Janet M. Shipley, Javed Khan

Financial support: Jack F. Shern, Janet M. Shipley, Javed Khan

Administrative support: Jack F. Shern, Javed Khan

Provision of study materials or patients: Xinyu Wen, Paola Angelini, Louis Chesler, Anna Kelsey

Collection and assembly of data: Jack F. Shern, Joanna Selfe, Young K. Song, Sivasish Sindiri, Jun Wei, Xinyu Wen, Erin R. Rudzinski, Tammy Lo, David Hall, Corinne M. Linardic, Debbie Hughes, Julia Chisholm, Rebecca Brown, Kristine Jones, Belynda Hicks, Paola Angelini, Sally George, Louis Chesler, Michael Hubank, Anna Kelsey, Douglas S. Hawkins, Janet M. Shipley, Javed Khan

Data analysis and interpretation: Jack F. Shern, Joanna Selfe, Elisa Izquierdo, Rajesh Patidar, Hsien-Chao Chou, Marielle E. Yohe, Sivasish Sindiri, Jun Wei, Xinyu Wen, Erin R. Rudzinski, Donald A. Barkauskas,

David Hall, Corinne M. Linardic, Sabri Jamal, Meriel Jenney, Stephen X. Skapek, Douglas S. Hawkins, Janet M. Shipley, Javed Khan

Manuscript writing: All authors

Final approval of manuscript: All authors

Accountable for all aspects of the work: All authors

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors thank the core sequencing facility of the NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics. Processing of the data was made possible by the NIH Helix computer cluster. The authors also thank the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group for facilitating sample collection, the National Cancer Research Institute Young Onset Sarcoma Subgroup and EpSSG for endorsing this study, and the Clinical Trials Unit in Birmingham, UK, for providing clinical trial data.

REFERENCES

- Skapek SX, Ferrari A, Gupta AA, et al: Rhabdomyosarcoma. *Nat Rev Dis Primers* 5:1, 2019
- Malempati S, Hawkins DS: Rhabdomyosarcoma: Review of the Children's Oncology Group (COG) Soft-Tissue Sarcoma Committee experience and rationale for current COG studies. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 59:5-10, 2012
- Oberlin O, Rey A, Lyden E, et al: Prognostic factors in metastatic rhabdomyosarcomas: Results of a pooled analysis from United States and European cooperative groups. *J Clin Oncol* 26:2384-2389, 2008
- Hibbitts E, Chi YY, Hawkins DS, et al: Refinement of risk stratification for childhood rhabdomyosarcoma using FOXO1 fusion status in addition to established clinical outcome predictors: A report from the Children's Oncology Group. *Cancer Med* 8:6437-6448, 2019
- Missiaglia E, Williamson D, Chisholm J, et al: PAX3/FOXO1 fusion gene status is the key prognostic molecular marker in rhabdomyosarcoma and significantly improves current risk stratification. *J Clin Oncol* 30:1670-1677, 2012
- Selje J, Olmos D, Al-Saadi R, et al: Impact of fusion gene status versus histology on risk-stratification for rhabdomyosarcoma: Retrospective analyses of patients on UK trials. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 64, 2017
- Skapek SX, Anderson J, Barr FG, et al: PAX-FOXO1 fusion status drives unfavorable outcome for children with rhabdomyosarcoma: A Children's Oncology Group report. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 60:1411-1417, 2013
- Meza JL, Anderson J, Pappo AS, et al: Analysis of prognostic factors in patients with nonmetastatic rhabdomyosarcoma treated on intergroup rhabdomyosarcoma studies III and IV: The Children's Oncology Group. *J Clin Oncol* 24:3844-3851, 2006
- Shern JF, Chen L, Chmielecki J, et al: Comprehensive genomic analysis of rhabdomyosarcoma reveals a landscape of alterations affecting a common genetic axis in fusion-positive and fusion-negative tumors. *Cancer Discov* 4:216-231, 2014
- Chen X, Stewart E, Shelat AA, et al: Targeting oxidative stress in embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. *Cancer Cell* 24:710-724, 2013
- ClinOmics Genomics Portal. <https://clinomics.ccr.cancer.gov/clinomics/public/>
- Stevens MC, Rey A, Bouvet N, et al: Treatment of nonmetastatic rhabdomyosarcoma in childhood and adolescence: Third study of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology—SIOP Malignant Mesenchymal Tumor 89. *J Clin Oncol* 23:2618-2628, 2005
- Oberlin O, Rey A, Sanchez de Toledo J, et al: Randomized comparison of intensified six-drug versus standard three-drug chemotherapy for high-risk nonmetastatic rhabdomyosarcoma and other chemotherapy-sensitive childhood soft tissue sarcomas: Long-term results from the International Society of Pediatric Oncology MMT95 study. *J Clin Oncol* 30:2457-2465, 2012
- Bisogno G, De Salvo GL, Bergeron C, et al: Vinorelbine and continuous low-dose cyclophosphamide as maintenance chemotherapy in patients with high-risk rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS 2005): A multicentre, open-label, randomised, phase 3 trial. *Lancet Oncol* 20:1566-1575, 2019
- Chen C, Dorado Garcia H, Scheer M, et al: Current and future treatment strategies for rhabdomyosarcoma. *Front Oncol* 9:1458, 2019
- Izquierdo E, Yuan L, George S, et al: Development of a targeted sequencing approach to identify prognostic, predictive and diagnostic markers in paediatric solid tumours. *Oncotarget* 8:112036-112050, 2017
- George SL, Izquierdo E, Campbell J, et al: A tailored molecular profiling programme for children with cancer to identify clinically actionable genetic alterations. *Eur J Cancer* 121:224-235, 2019
- Chang W, Brohl AS, Patidar R, et al: MultiDimensional ClinOmics for precision therapy of children and adolescent young adults with relapsed and refractory cancer: A report from the center for cancer research. *Clin Cancer Res* 22:3810-3820, 2016
- Talevich E, Shain AH, Botton T, et al: CNVkit: Genome-wide copy number detection and visualization from targeted DNA sequencing. *PLoS Comput Biol* 12: e1004873, 2016
- Ognjanovic S, Linabery AM, Charbonneau B, et al: Trends in childhood rhabdomyosarcoma incidence and survival in the United States, 1975-2005. *Cancer* 115:4218-4226, 2009
- Crist W, Gehan EA, Ragab AH, et al: The third intergroup rhabdomyosarcoma study. *J Clin Oncol* 13:610-630, 1995
- Dehner LP, Jarzembowski JA, Hill DA: Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma of the uterine cervix: A report of 14 cases and a discussion of its unusual clinicopathological associations. *Mod Pathol* 25:602-614, 2012
- Chen L, Shern JF, Wei JS, et al: Clonality and evolutionary history of rhabdomyosarcoma. *PLoS Genet* 11:e1005075, 2015
- Robbins KM, Stabley DL, Holbrook J, et al: Paternal uniparental disomy with segmental loss of heterozygosity of chromosome 11 are hallmark characteristics of syndromic and sporadic embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma. *Am J Med Genet A* 170:3197-3206, 2016
- Kohsaka S, Shukla N, Ameur N, et al: A recurrent neomorphic mutation in MYOD1 defines a clinically aggressive subset of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma associated with PI3K-AKT pathway mutations. *Nat Genet* 46:595-600, 2014
- Agaram NP, LaQuaglia MP, Alaggio R, et al: MYOD1-mutant spindle cell and sclerosing rhabdomyosarcoma: An aggressive subtype irrespective of age. A reappraisal for molecular classification and risk stratification. *Mod Pathol* 32:27-36, 2019
- Seki M, Nishimura R, Yoshida K, et al: Integrated genetic and epigenetic analysis defines novel molecular subgroups in rhabdomyosarcoma. *Nat Commun* 6: 7557, 2015
- Casey DL, Wexler LH, Pitter KL, et al: Genomic determinants of clinical outcomes in rhabdomyosarcoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 26:1135-1140, 2020
- Stratton MR, Fisher C, Gusterson BA, et al: Detection of point mutations in N-ras and K-ras genes of human embryonal rhabdomyosarcomas using oligonucleotide probes and the polymerase chain reaction. *Cancer Res* 49:6324-6327, 1989
- Malempati S, Rodeberg DA, Donaldson SS, et al: Rhabdomyosarcoma in infants younger than 1 year: A report from the Children's Oncology Group. *Cancer* 117: 3493-3501, 2011

31. Joshi D, Anderson JR, Paidas C, et al: Age is an independent prognostic factor in rhabdomyosarcoma: A report from the soft tissue sarcoma Committee of the Children's Oncology Group. *Pediatr Blood Cancer* 42:64-73, 2004
32. Barr FG, Duan F, Smith LM, et al: Genomic and clinical analyses of 2p24 and 12q13-q14 amplification in alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma: A report from the Children's Oncology Group. *Genes Chromosomes Cancer* 48:661-672, 2009
33. Williamson D, Lu YJ, Gordon T, et al: Relationship between MYCN copy number and expression in rhabdomyosarcomas and correlation with adverse prognosis in the alveolar subtype. *J Clin Oncol* 23:880-888, 2005
34. Li FP, Fraumeni JF Jr: Rhabdomyosarcoma in children: Epidemiologic study and identification of a familial cancer syndrome. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 43:1365-1373, 1969
35. Petitjean A, Achatz MI, Borresen-Dale AL, et al: TP53 mutations in human cancers: Functional selection and impact on cancer prognosis and outcomes. *Oncogene* 26:2157-2165, 2007
36. Leuschner I, Langhans I, Schmitz R, et al: p53 and mdm-2 expression in rhabdomyosarcoma of childhood and adolescence: Clinicopathologic study by the Kiel Pediatric Tumor Registry and the German Cooperative Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study. *Pediatr Dev Pathol* 6:128-136, 2003
37. Ignatius MS, Hayes MN, Moore FE, et al: tp53 deficiency causes a wide tumor spectrum and increases embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma metastasis in zebrafish. *Elife* 7:e37202, 2018
38. Szuhai K, de Jong D, Leung WY, et al: Transactivating mutation of the MYOD1 gene is a frequent event in adult spindle cell rhabdomyosarcoma. *J Pathol* 232:300-307, 2014
39. Bui NQ, Przybyl J, Trabucco SE, et al: A clinico-genomic analysis of soft tissue sarcoma patients reveals CDKN2A deletion as a biomarker for poor prognosis. *Clin Sarcoma Res* 9:12, 2019



ASCO Journals

Gain Recognition as an ASCO Journal Reviewer

Participate as a journal reviewer and play an integral role in maintaining the quality and integrity of ASCO journals. Benefits and recognition for reviewing ASCO journals content include:

- Staying up to date on the latest oncology research
- Increased exposure to key leaders in oncology
- Career advancement opportunities
- ASCO members who become reviewers can earn FASCO points



Get started today at ascopubs.org/reviewers

AUTHORS' DISCLOSURES OF POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**Genomic Classification and Clinical Outcome in Rhabdomyosarcoma: A Report From an International Consortium**

The following represents disclosure information provided by authors of this manuscript. All relationships are considered compensated unless otherwise noted. Relationships are self-held unless noted. I = Immediate Family Member, Inst = My Institution. Relationships may not relate to the subject matter of this manuscript. For more information about ASCO's conflict of interest policy, please refer to www.asco.org/rwc or ascopubs.org/jco/authors/author-center.

Open Payments is a public database containing information reported by companies about payments made to US-licensed physicians ([Open Payments](#)).

Donald A. Barkauskas

Employment: Genentech

Stock and Other Ownership Interests: Genentech

Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property: US patent on the basis of PhD research in glioblastoma

Corinne M. Linardic

Leadership: Grid Therapeutics

Stock and Other Ownership Interests: Pfizer, LabCorp, Thermo Fisher Scientific

Honoraria: AstraZeneca

Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property: My spouse has a patent for his therapeutic antibody developed in his laboratory at Duke and licensed by Grid

Julia Chisholm

Consulting or Advisory Role: Roche, Bayer, Roche/Genentech

Belynda Hicks

Employment: United Therapeutics

Stock and Other Ownership Interests: United Therapeutics

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: United Therapeutics

Michael Hubank

Honoraria: Boehringer Ingelheim, Incyte, Qiagen

Consulting or Advisory Role: Guardant Health, Illumina, AstraZeneca, Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Bayer, Roche, Lilly, Amgen

Anna Kelsey

Honoraria: Bayer

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Bayer

Susanne A. Gatz

Consulting or Advisory Role: Tesaro, Bayer

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: AstraZeneca

Douglas S. Hawkins

Research Funding: Loxo, Bristol Myers Squibb, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Bayer, Lilly, Eisai, Amgen, Seattle Genetics, Incyte, Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Travel, Accommodations, Expenses: Loxo, Bayer, AstraZeneca

Javed Khan

Research Funding: Lentigen, Taiho Oncology

Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property: Monoclonal antibody-based therapeutics targeting fibroblast growth factor receptor 4 (FGFR4) for potential treatment of human cancers expressing FGFR4

No other potential conflicts of interest were reported.

APPENDIX

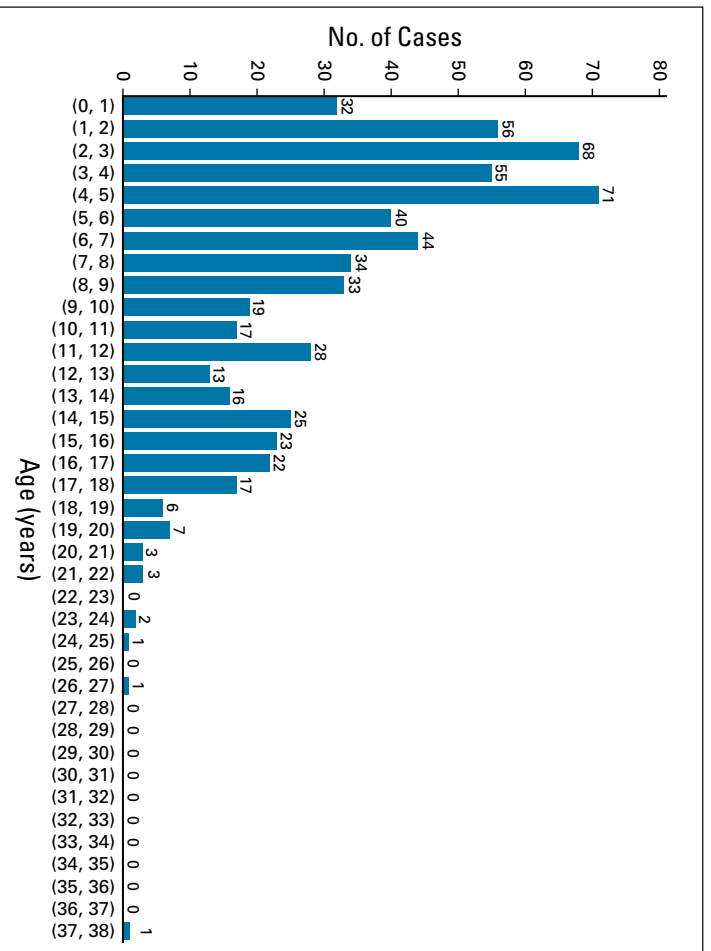


FIG A1. Histogram presentation of the age distribution of cases within the cohort (N = 641).

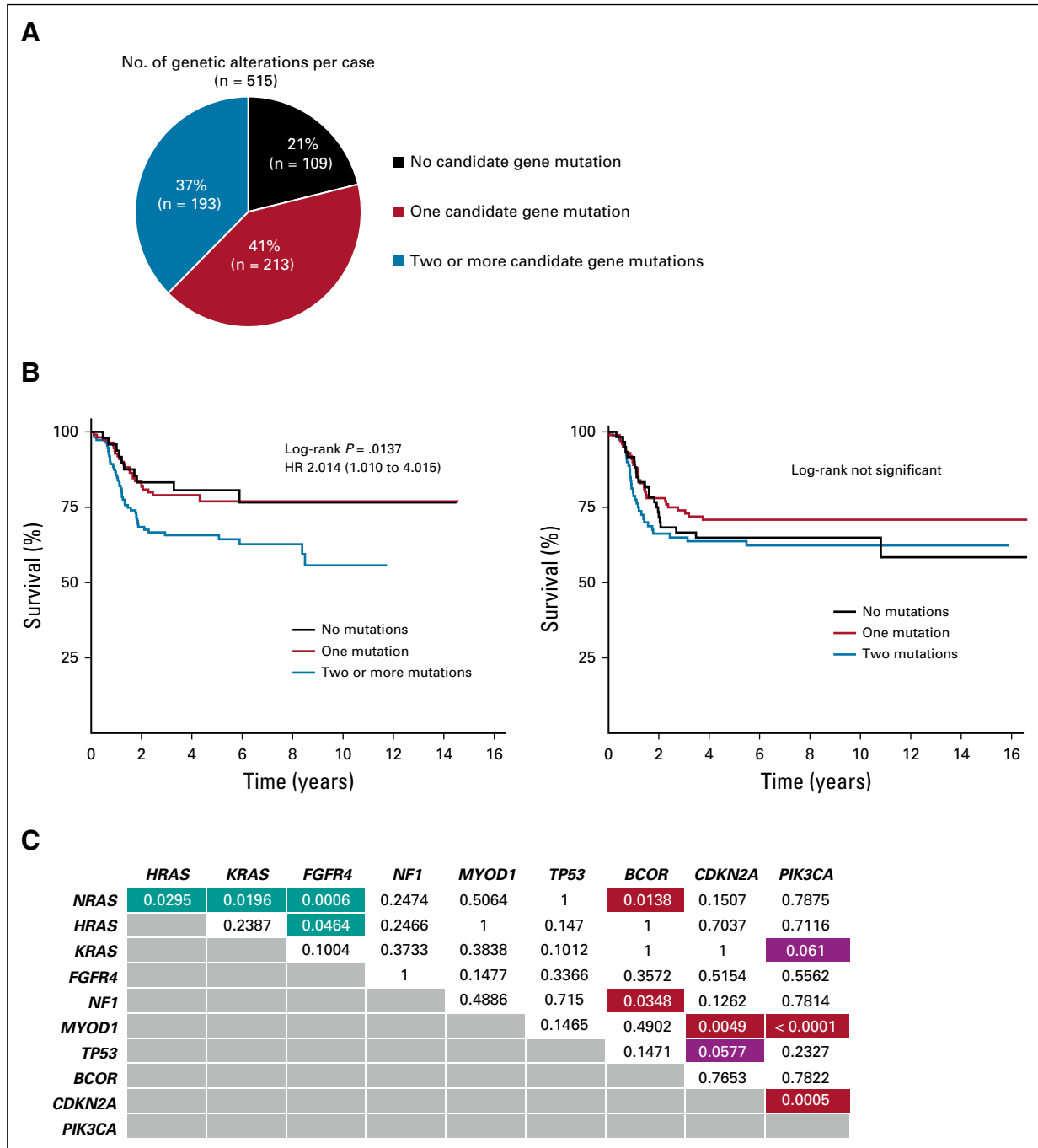


FIG A2. Survival analysis on the basis of number of called mutations. (A) All FN samples (n = 515) were distributed into groups having no observed mutations (black), one mutation (red), or two or more genes mutated (blue). (B) Kaplan-Meier analysis of EFS from the COG and UK FN cohorts on the basis of 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.

A

Biomarker	COG Cohort EFS				UK Cohort EFS			
	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified
<i>CDK4</i>	.0576	0.1872	.3215	0.41795	.6202	0.742581818	.8673	0.9327
<i>MYCN</i>	.0449	0.1872	.0529	0.229233333	.4421	0.669866667	.1639	0.4917
<i>TP53</i>	.0014	0.0091	0	0	.034	0.136	.0597	0.2388

Biomarker	COG Cohort OS				UK Cohort OS			
	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified
<i>CDK4</i>	.0372	0.1612	.384	0.51597	.5738	0.625963636	.8882	0.8882
<i>MYCN</i>	.2901	0.4121	.3456	0.51597	.1524	0.4572	.0248	0.1488
<i>TP53</i>	.0043	0.02795	0	0	.0007	0.0084	.0004	0.0048

B

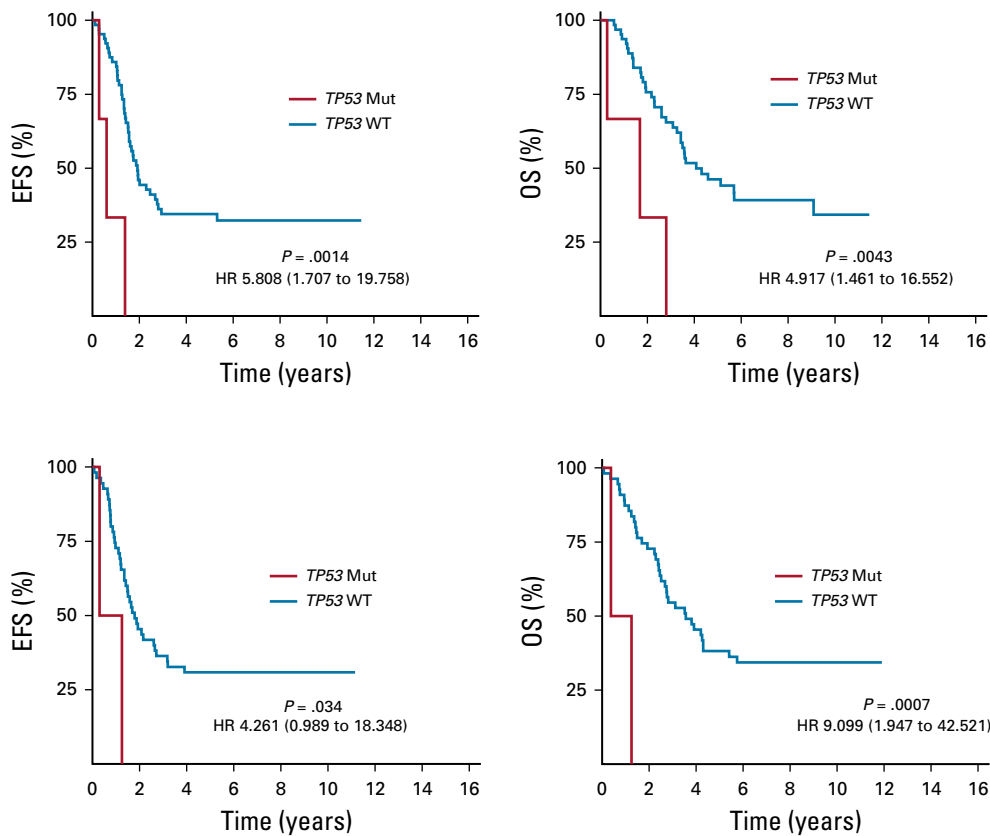


FIG A3. *CDK4*, *MYCN*, and *TP53* mutations in FP RMS. (A) Survival analysis for all three genes within the COG and UK cohorts with and without risk stratification. The log-rank and BH adj *P* value are presented. (B) Kaplan-Meier analysis of EFS and OS in FP cases within the COG cohort (*n* = 69) and 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.

Biomarker	COG Cohort EFS				UK Cohort EFS			
	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified
<i>FGFR4</i>	.4032	0.5700	.6002	0.7804	.9249	0.9432	.9239	0.9239
<i>HRAS</i>	.2072	0.4463	.1562	0.4860	.8993	0.9432	.8337	0.9239
<i>KRAS</i>	.3743	0.5700	.6132	0.7804	.9432	0.9432	.9126	0.9239
<i>NF1</i>	.6759	0.7570	.3211	0.5994	.0275	0.1719	.0432	0.1800
<i>NRAS</i>	.0494	0.1537	.2987	0.5994	.1669	0.5216	.2659	0.6648
<i>PIK3CA</i>	.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

Biomarker	COG Cohort OS				UK Cohort OS			
	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified	P Values No Stratification	BH Adj No Stratification	P Values Risk -Stratified	BH Adj Risk -Stratified
<i>FGFR4</i>	.9455	0.9455	.7423	0.8231	.6701	0.7615	.5605	0.8132
<i>HRAS</i>	.1918	0.4882	.1287	0.4004	.6593	0.7615	.5263	0.8132
<i>KRAS</i>	.6453	0.7827	.8291	0.8598	.8699	0.9220	.8700	0.9168
<i>NF1</i>	.1789	0.4882	.0588	0.2058	.1819	0.7579	.2279	0.8132
<i>NRAS</i>	.2767	0.6456	.6996	0.8231	.1802	0.7579	.2855	0.8132
<i>PIK3CA</i>	.0834	0.2919	.2487	0.5803	.8851	0.9220	.5855	0.8132
RAS isoform mutation	.7303	0.7982	.7612	0.8231	.5831	0.7615	.7725	0.9168
RAS pathway mutation	.7412	0.7982	.8630	0.8630	.6441	0.7615	.8475	0.9168

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.

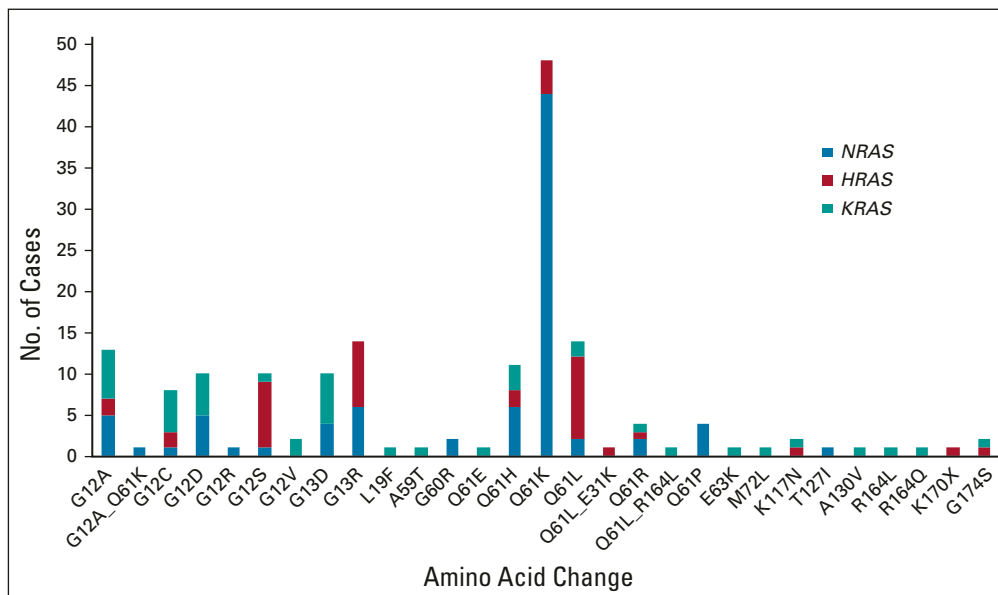


FIG A5. RAS codon and amino acid usage summary. Absolute number of cases with a mutation in the specified codon by amino acid change and isoform (*NRAS*, blue; *HRAS*, red; *KRAS*, green).

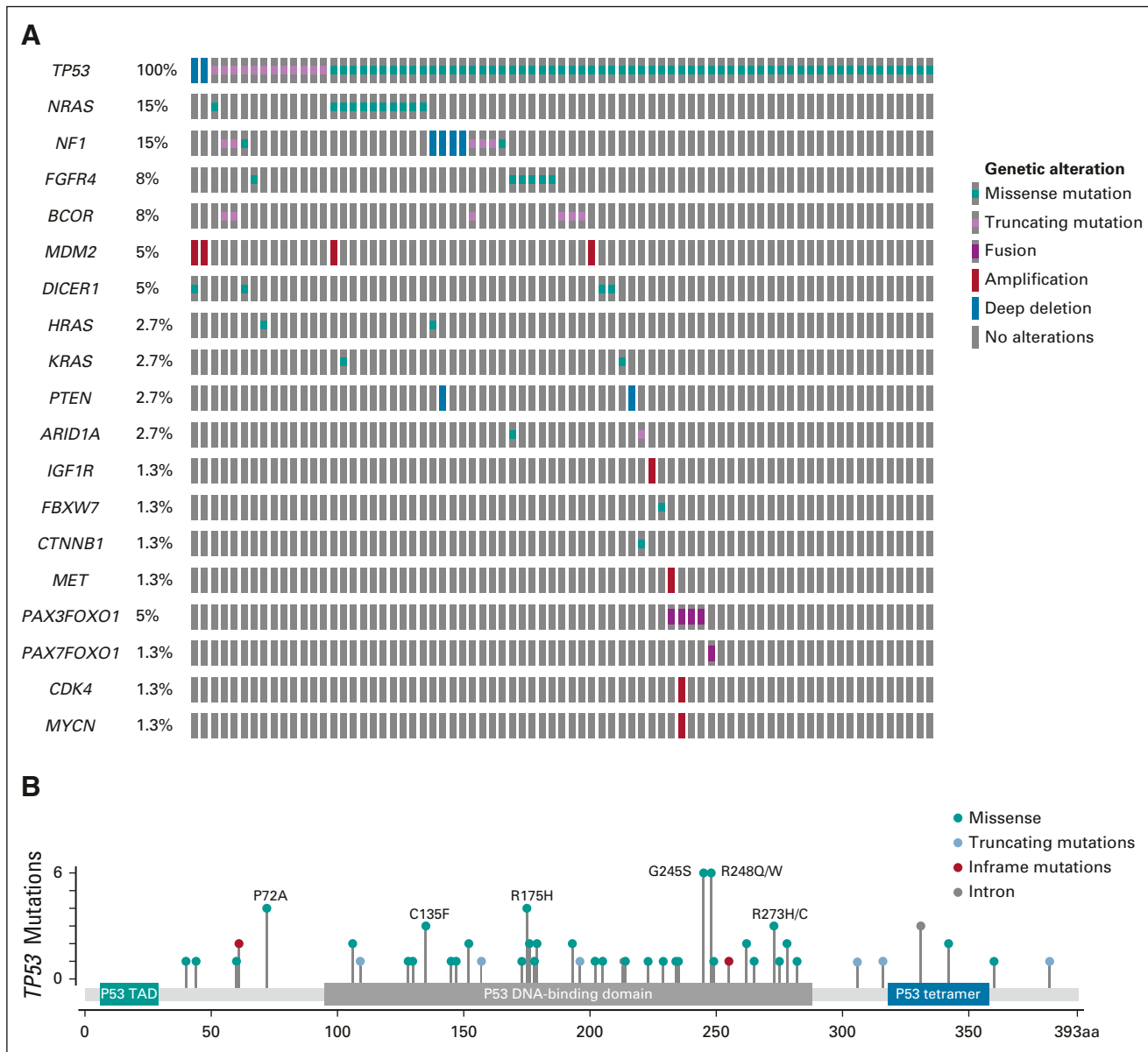


FIG A6. *TP53* mutations. (A) Association of *TP53* mutations with other gene mutations across the entire rhabdomyosarcoma cohort. (B) Location and number of mutations across *TP53* protein.

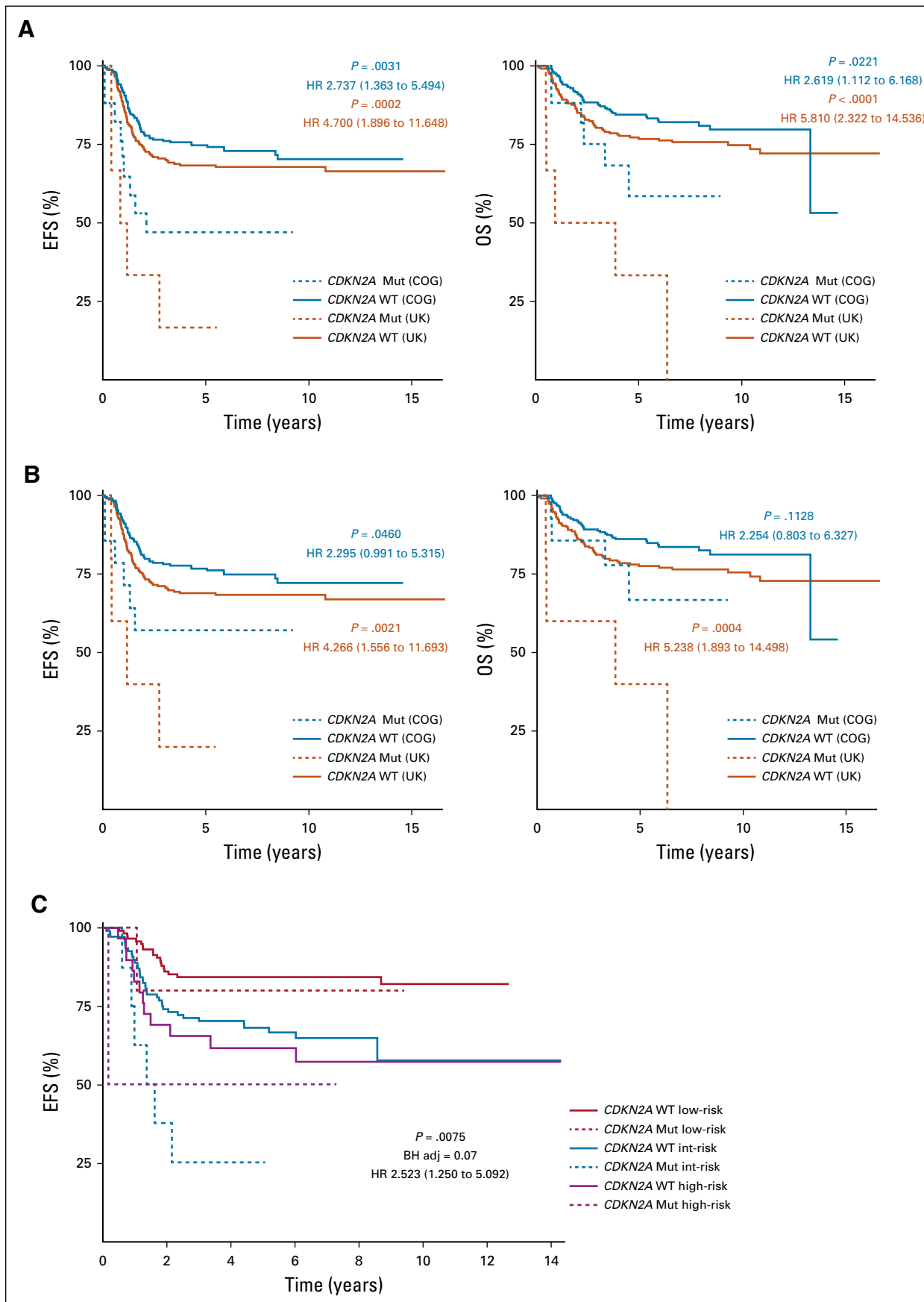


FIG 7. *CDKN2A* and association with survival. (A) EFS and OS by *CDKN2A* deletion in the COG cohort (blue) and the UK cohort (orange). (B) EFS and OS by *CDKN2A* status after removal of any cases with a co-occurring mutation of *MYOD1*: (continued on following page)

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	Genomic Alteration	Affected Exon	Published Frequency (%) ^a	References
<i>AKT1</i>				
<i>ALK</i>				10
<i>ARID1A</i>				26
<i>ATM</i>	Deletion and mutation			
<i>BCOR</i>	Multiple	All exons	7	9
<i>BRAF</i>	V600E	15	1	9
<i>CCND1</i>	Amplification			9,26
<i>CCND2</i>				
<i>CDK4</i>	Amplification			
<i>CDKN2A</i>	Deletion			
<i>CTNNB1</i>	Mutation			9,26
<i>DICER1</i>	Mutation			
<i>ERBB2</i>	Amplification			
<i>FBXW7</i>	R387P, R441G, R367	9	7	9
<i>FGFR1</i>	Amplification			
<i>FGFR4</i>	G528C, N535D/K, V550E/L/M	9, 10	9	9,10,26
<i>GAB1</i>				
<i>HRAS</i>	G12C, G13R, Q61K	2, 3	4	9,10,26
<i>IGF1R</i>	Amplification			10
<i>IGF2</i>	LOH			
<i>KRAS</i>	G12A/C/D	2	6	9,10,26
<i>MDM2</i>	Amplification			
<i>MET</i>	Amplification			9
<i>MTOR</i>				
<i>MYCN</i>	Amplification			
<i>MYOD1</i>	Point mutation			
<i>NF1</i>	Mutation, deletion, and LOH	All exons	5	9,10,26
<i>NRAS</i>	Q61H/K/R	3	12	9,10,26
<i>PDGFRA</i>				
<i>PIK3CA</i>	E542K, E545K, Q546	9, 20	7	9
<i>PKN1</i>	Mutation			22
<i>PTCH1</i>				
<i>PTEN</i>	Deletion			22
<i>PTPN11</i>	E69K, A72T, E76A	3	2.5	9
<i>ROBO1</i>				26
<i>SMARCA4</i>				
<i>SOS1</i>	Mutation, duplication			
<i>SOS2</i>				
<i>TP53</i>	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	Bladder/Prostate Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Bladder/Prostate	Total Cases	Mutant % in Bladder/prostate	Extremity Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Extremity	Total Cases	Mutant % in Extremity	Female GU Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Female GU	Total Cases	Mutant % in Female GU	Head and Neck Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Head and Neck	Total Cases	Mutant % in Head and Neck	Orbital Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Orbital	Total Cases	Mutant % in Other	Other Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Other	Total Cases	Mutant % in Other	Parameningeal Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Parameningeal	Total Cases	Mutant % in Parameningeal	Paranasal Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Paranasal	Total Cases	Mutant % in Paranasal	Reperforation, Pelvic/Perineum, or Trunk Mutant Cases	% of Gene Mutations Are Reperforation, Pelvic/Perineum, or Trunk	Total Cases	Mutant % in Reperforation, Pelvic/Perineum, or Trunk
NRAS	87	8	8/87 (9)	49	8/49 (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	7/17 (41)	11	11/87 (13)	105	11/105 (10)	28	28/87 (32)	120	28/120 (23)	9	9/87 (10)	87	9/87 (10)
BCL6	78	6	6/78 (8)	49	6/49 (12)	0	0/78 (0)	35	0/35 (0)	2	2/78 (3)	18	2/18 (11)	9	9/78 (12)	47	9/47 (19)	12	12/78 (15)	43	12/43 (28)	2	2/78 (3)	7	7/27 (26)	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	7/27 (26)	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	7/27 (26)	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	8/49 (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	7/17 (41)	21	21/65 (32)	105	21/105 (20)	8	8/65 (12)	120	8/120 (7)	12	12/65 (18)	87	12/87 (14)
HRAS	44	2	2/44 (5)	49	2/49 (4)	1	1/44 (2)	35	1/35 (3)	0	0/44 (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	7/27 (26)	9	9/44 (20)	105	9/105 (9)	14	14/44 (32)	120	14/120 (12)	13	13/44 (30)	87	13/87 (15)
NRAS	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	7/17 (41)	2	2/41 (5)	105	2/105 (2)	15	15/41 (37)	120	15/120 (13)	9	9/41 (22)	87	9/87 (10)
CTNNA1	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	7/27 (26)	2	2/32 (6)	105	2/105 (2)	9	9/32 (28)	120	9/120 (8)	11	11/32 (34)	87	11/87 (13)
PRKCA	26	0	0/26 (0)	49	0/49 (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	7/27 (26)	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	2/26 (8)	49	2/49 (4)	6	6/26 (23)	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	7/27 (26)	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	0/49 (0)	2	2/23 (9)	35	2/35 (6)	0	0/23 (0)	18	0/18 (0)	2	2/23 (9)	47	2/47 (4)	3	3/23 (13)	43	3/43 (7)	0	0/23 (0)	7	7/27 (26)	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	7/27 (26)	1	1/18 (6)	105	1/105 (1)	10	10/18 (56)	120	10/120 (8)	4	4/18 (22)	87	4/87 (5)
MPOC	17	0	0/17 (0)	49	0/49 (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	7/27 (26)	11	11/17 (65)	105	11/105 (10)	0	0/17 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/17 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
CDK4	1	0	0/1 (0)	49	0/49 (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	0/1 (0)	43	0/43 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	7	7/27 (26)	0	0/1 (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/1 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
MYO10	0	0	0/0 (0)	49	0/49 (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	7/27 (26)	0	0/0 (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	0	0/0 (0)	87	0/87 (0)
DICER1	12	0	0/12 (0)	49	0/49 (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	7/27 (26)	0	0/12 (0)	105	0/105 (0)	0	0/12 (0)	120	0/120 (0)	4	4/12 (33)	87	4/87 (5)
ARID1A	11	1	1/11 (9)	49	1/49 (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	7/27 (26)	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	I or II	I or II				
		Negative	I	III		Orbit only		
Intermediate	60-75							
		Negative	Any	III		Nonorbit		
		Negative	III	I or II				
		Negative	IV	IV			1	
		Negative	Any low risk					<i>TP53</i> mutant
		Positive	I, II, or III	I, II, or III				<i>TP53</i> WT
High	< 40							
		Negative	IV	IV		> 1		
		Negative	Any intermediate risk					<i>TP53</i> mutant
		Positive	IV	IV				<i>TP53</i> WT
Ultrahigh	< 20							
		Negative	Any	Any		Any	<i>MYOD1</i> mutant	
		Positive	Any	Any		Any	<i>TP53</i> mutant	

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