PBTC-022 - A SUMMARY FOR PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

TITLE: Phase II study of Bevacizumab plus Irinotecan (Camptosar™) in Children with Recurrent, Progressive, or Refractory Malignant Gliomas, Diffuse/Intrinsic Brain Stem Gliomas, Medulloblastomas, Ependymomas, and Low Grade Gliomas

This is a brief summary of a clinical trial, a type of therapeutic research study. Clinical trials include only patients who choose, or whose parents permit them, to take part in the research study. Participation is entirely voluntary.

WHO MIGHT BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PBTC-022?

Children less than 21 years of age, who have been diagnosed and treated previously for any type of high grade malignant glioma or a diffuse brain stem glioma or Medulloblastoma or Ependymoma or low grade glioma may be eligible. Eligible patients will have brain tumors which have been unresponsive to prior treatment or have re-grown once or twice after prior treatment. Patients who are pregnant or breast-feeding cannot participate in this clinical trial.

Patients will need medical tests to assess whether they can participate in PBTC-022. These tests may include a medical history, physical examination, blood and urine tests, and scans (MRI) of the brain and spine. Other tests may be required if doctors believe they are necessary. About 140 children from all over the U.S. will take part in PBTC-022.

WHY IS PBTC-022 BEING DONE?

PBTC-022 tests how well very malignant brain or spinal cord tumors will respond to treatment with bevacizumab plus irinotecan (CPT-11). Tumor growth depends on support from blood vessels that grow rapidly in and around the tumor. Bevacizumab is a drug (a monoclonal antibody) that can inhibit one of the substances that promotes tumor blood vessel growth. Research studies have shown that bevacizumab is safe when used in children with recurrent solid tumors. Research studies with adults with malignant gliomas show that bevacizumab and irinotecan are safe, useful in controlling tumor growth and in extending patients' survival. Specifically, PBTC-022 will find out

- How well bevacizumab and irinotecan work together to stop tumor growth and promote survival;
- What effects (good or bad) may occur when bevacizumab and irinotecan are given together;
- How tumors respond to this combination of drugs by studying the characteristics of these tumors in laboratory and special imaging studies.

Doctors and researchers are testing the combination of bevacizumab with irinotecan in children in the hopes that it will be a more effective treatment for pediatric malignant gliomas than currently available therapies.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY?

Study participants will receive both bevacizumab and irinotecan by vein (intravenously). Study participants will receive the first dose of bevacizumab on Day 1 and Day 15 of treatment. It will take 90 minutes to give the drug. If there are no problems, study participants will receive the second dose over 60 minutes. The third and all subsequent doses of bevacizumab will take only 30 minutes. 24-48 hours after the second dose of bevacizumab, participants have an MRI scan. After the scan, they will receive the first dose of irinotecan over a 90-minute period.

Before each bevacizumab dose, doctors will carefully monitor a child's blood pressure and obtain a urine test. Participants will receive the doses of bevacizumab and irinotecan according to a schedule of every 2 weeks for up to 2 years. Study participants will have routine and scheduled medical tests and MR and PET scans during the 2-year treatment period.

Doctors will request permission from parents and patients to study very small amounts of blood and brain tumor tissue, only if it is already available, for laboratory research to determine how a child's body handles bevacizumab, how bevacizumab affects malignant glioma cells and the growth of blood vessels that sustains them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS OF PARTICIPATING IN PBTC-022?

Doctors watch study participants very carefully for any side effects or other problems. However, doctors do not know all the side effects that may occur. Side effects may be mild or very serious. When bevacizumab is given with other chemotherapy drugs, bevacizumab may worsen the side effects of the other drug, or the combination may cause some new side effects.

Some of the likely side effects of bevacizumab may include nose bleeds, high blood pressure, fatigue, rash sore throat and headache. Less likely and rare side effects may include bleeding in the tumor or the body, bowel, lung or heart problems, poor wound healing, allergic reactions and blood clots.

Some of the likely side effects of irinotecan may include anemia, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, fever, fatigue, hair loss and other side effects.

There may be unknown risks and discomforts involved in participating in this or any clinical trial. The health care team may give participants medicines to help lessen side effects. Doctors will notify parents and patients immediately of any important information or treatment findings discovered during the study that may affect their willingness to continue to participate.

QUESTIONS ABOUT PBTC-022?

If you would like more information, please contact the PBTC member institution closest to you. You can also contact the doctors in charge of this study:

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OTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE THROUGH

The National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service at 1-800-422-6237 or TTY: 1-800-332-8615 or through the National Cancer Institute's websites:

- cancer.gov
- CancerTrials: comprehensive clinical trial information
- CancerNet: accurate cancer information