

無再発生存期間、局所無再発生存期間、有害事象 第 II 相部分：有害事象

この試験デザインにおいて、手術時の腫瘍組織検体のマイクロ RNA 解析さらに、術前、術後及び再発時の血液中のマイクロ RNA の発現変化の解析を以下の手順で実施する。

(1)次世代シーケンサーIon PGM を用いて、エクソソームから調製したマイクロ RNA の種類を同定し、それらの発現量および遺伝子配列を調べる。同年令の健常者のエクソソームに含まれるマイクロ RNA の種類・発現量および遺伝子配列と比較する。

(2)それぞれの解析の比較から、以下のマイクロ RNA を同定する。

(3)患者サンプルにのみ優位に共通して検出される（発現増加マイクロ RNA の同定）

(4)多くの患者サンプルにのみ優位に共通して減少する（発現減少マイクロ RNA の同定）

- 1)腫瘍のステージ依存的に増加あるいは減少するマイクロ RNA の同定
- 2)同定されたマイクロ RNA・mRNA について、術前、術後、再発時のサンプルを用いて比較し、頭頸部癌特異的なマーカーとなりうるかどうかを調べる。

本年度は、まず 25 名について次世代シーケンズによる解析を実施し、原発腫瘍、術前・術後の体液中のエクソソーム中のマイクロ RNA 発現解析を実施する。対象となる健常人についても患者同一年齢の健常人 25 名についてシ

ークエンズ解析を実施する。また、ここから得られるシーケンズデータから、MiRBase (<http://www.mirbase.org>) に登録されているマイクロ RNA のシーケンズとの相同性を解析し、そのリード数から術前および術後で変化するマイクロ RNA の同定を試みる。マイクロ RNA 候補について、附随研究の同意を得られた患者について qRT-PCR を実施し、高精度な頭頸部がんバイオマーカーを創出する。

（倫理面への配慮）

参加患者の安全性確保については、適格条件やプロトコル治療の中止変更規準を厳しく設けており、試験参加による不利益は最小化される。また、「臨床研究に関する倫理指針」およびヘルシンキ宣言などの国際的倫理原則を遵守する。

なお、現在改訂中の「臨床研究に関する倫理指針」に採用される見込みの Emanuel らの研究倫理 7 要件への対応は以下のとおり。

(1)Social/Scientific Value：医療の進歩に貢献し得る研究課題のみを採択し実施する。

(2)Scientific Validity：広く正しいと認められた科学的原則に基づいて研究を実施する。すなわち適切な研究デザイン・データマネジメント・統計解析を行うことにより正しい結論を導く。施設からの提出データの正確性は施設訪問監査で確認される。また、収集された症例報告用紙、解析に用いたデータセットおよび解析プログラムは半永久的に JCOG データセンターに保管される。これらにより研究の質及び透明性

を確保する。

(3) Fair Subject Selection : 被験者選択は公正に行う。適切な患者選択規準を設け、登録時および登録後に適格性の確認を行い不適格例の登録の最小化を図る。適格性は中央モニタリングで検討される。

(4) Favorable Risk-Benefit Ratio : 被験者のリスクを最小化し、被験者や社会のベネフィットを最大化し、リスクとベネフィットのバランスを適正に保つよう研究を計画し、中央モニタリングにより継続的に適正化を図る。

(5) Independent Review : 研究実施計画書の IRB 承認が得られた施設のみから患者登録を行う。

(6) Informed Consent : 被験者に、十分な情報を提示し、適切な理解に基づいて、自発的同意を得る。同意のプロセスの適正性は施設訪問監査で確認される。

(7) Respect for Potential and Enrolled Subjects : 被験者スクリーニングの段階から被験者候補に対して、および登録患者に対して、人権およびプライバシーの保護に最大限努める。

検体のマイクロRNA解析は、腫瘍組織を用いた体細胞変異の検索であることから「ヒトゲノム・遺伝子解析研究に関する倫理指針」の対象とはならないが、個人情報保護の観点から、「臨床研究に関する倫理指針」に準拠した JCOG の「非ゲノム解析研究」ポリシーに従って適切に連結可能匿名化もしくは連結不可能匿名化を行った上で実施する。

E. 結論

次世代シーケンサー Ion PGM を用いて、術前および術後での血清中のマイクロRNAの配列を網羅的にシークエンス解析し、それらの情報を頭頸部がんの治療評価のためのデータベース化した。これらには、miRBase に収録された既知のmiRNAと既知のmiRNAにアノテートされない未知の小分子RNAを検出することができ、その割合は約50%であった。miRBase に登録されている既知のマイクロRNAに関しては、179種類について検討したところ、頭頸部がんのバイオマーカーとなりうる候補マイクロRNAを31種類同定することができた。

F. 健康危険情報

なし

(総括研究報告書にまとめて記入)

G. 研究発表

1. 論文発表

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 - 3) 田原栄俊, Liquid Biopsy による疾患の診断と核酸医薬の開発の現状, (PMDA 職員研修会), 東京都, 2014年6月17日, 独立行政法人医薬品医療機器総合機構
 - 4) 田原栄俊, 小さな巨人「マイクロRNA」によるがん診断およびがん治療戦略, NPO 法人国際医科学研究会第8回フォーラム, 東京都, 2014年6月29日, フクラシア東京ステーション
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- 8) 田原栄俊, 老化誘導型核酸医薬の開発, 新適塾「未来創薬への誘い」第 28 回会合, 大阪府, 2014 年 10 月 6 日, 千里ライフサイエンスセンター

H. 知的財産権の出願・登録状況

1. 特許取得：なし
2. 実用新案登録：なし
3. その他：なし

III. 学会等発表実績

学 会 等 発 表 実 績

委託業務題目「進行頭頸部がんに対する術後補助療法の標準治療確立のための多施設共同研究」
 機関名 独立行政法人国立がん研究センター

1. 学会等における口頭・ポスター発表

発表した成果 (発表題目、口頭・ポスター発表の別)	発表者氏名	発表した場所 (学会等名)	発表した時期	国内 外の別
Comprehensive analysis of serum biomarker and tumor gene mutation associated with clinical outcomes in the phase 3 study of (E7080) lenvatinib in differentiated cancer of the thyroid (SELECT) (口頭発表)	田原 信	ESMO	2014年9月	国外
Lenvatinib in Radioactive Iodine-refractory Differentiated Thyroid Cancer : Results of the Phase 3 trial (SELECT trial) (口頭発表)	田原 信	第12回JSMO	2014年7月	国内
Sorafenib in Japanese patients with locally advanced or metastatic, radioactive iodine-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer: A Subgroup analysis of the Phase 3 DECISION trial (口頭発表)	田原 信	第26回 日本内分泌 外科学会	2014年5月	国内
頭頸部がん治療医の養成の現状と今後の方向について腫瘍内科医の立場から (口頭発表)	清田尚臣	第38回 日本頭頸部 癌学会	2014年6月12日	国内
甲状腺がんに対する分子標的薬の適正使用と副作用管理について (口頭発表)	清田尚臣	第47回 日本甲状腺 外科学会	2014年10月30日	国内
進行性甲状腺癌 (放射性ヨウ素治療抵抗性の分化癌、髄様癌、未分化癌) に対するレンバチニブの第2相試験 (口頭発表)	清田尚臣	第47回 日本甲状腺 外科学会	2014年10月30日	国内

2. 学会誌・雑誌等における論文掲載

掲載した論文 (発表題目)	発表者氏名	発表した場所 (学会誌・雑誌等名)	発表した時期	国内 外の別
Lenvatinib versus placebo in radioiodine-refractory thyroid cancer.	Schlumberger M, Tahara M, Wirth LJ, Robinson B, Brose MS, Elisei R, Habra MA, Newbold K, Shah MH, Hoff AO, Gianoukakis AG, Kiyota N, et.al	N Engl J Med.	2015年2月12日	国外

Gastrostomy Dependence in Head and Neck Carcinoma Patient Receiving Post-operative Therapy	Shinozaki T, Hayashi R, Miyazaki M, <u>Tahara M.</u> et al.	Jpn J Clin Oncol	2014年8月21日	国内
Feasibility of cisplatin/5-fluorouracil and panitumumab in Japanese patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck.	<u>Tahara M.</u> , Onozawa Y, Fujii H, et al.	Jpn J Clin Oncol	2014年5月16日	国内
Randomized phase II/III trial of post-operative chemoradiotherapy comparing 3-weekly cisplatin with weekly cisplatin in high-risk patients with squamous cell carcinoma of head and neckneck: Japan Clinical Oncology Group Study (JCOG1008)	Kunieda F, <u>Kiyota N.</u> , <u>Tahara M.</u> , <u>Kodaira T.</u> , Hayashi R, Ishikura S, Mizusawa J, Nakamura K, Fukuda F, <u>Fujii M.</u> et al.	Jpn J Clin Oncol	2014年5月19日	国内
頭頸部がん患者に対する放射線併用シスプラチン分割レジメンにおける予防的制吐薬アプレピタントに関する考察	吉田 幹宜 鈴木真也, 榎田智弘, 田原 信	癌と化学療法	2014年9月	国内
Definitive radiotherapy for head and neck squamous cell carcinoma; update and perspectives on the basis of EBM	<u>Kodaira T.</u> et al.	Jpn J Clin Oncol	2014年12月9日	国内
Adjuvant treatment for post-operative head and neck squamous cell carcinoma	<u>Kiyota N.</u> , <u>Tahara M.</u> , <u>Fujii M.</u>	Jpn J Clin Oncol	2014年11月19日	国内
Effects of aprepitant on the pharmacokinetics of controlled-release oral oxycodone in cancer patients	Fujiwara Y, Toyoda M, Chayahara N, <u>Kiyota N.</u> et al.	PLoS One	2014年8月14日	国外

<p>Measuring quality of life in patients with head and neck cancer: Update of the EORTC QLQ-H&N Module, Phase III</p>	<p>Singer S, Araújo C, Arraras JI, Baumann I, Boehm A, Brokstad H B, Castro Silva J, Chie WC, Fisher S, Guntinas- Lichius O, Hammerlid E, Irrarázaval ME, Jensen Hjermstad M, Jensen K, <u>Kiyota N</u>, et al.</p>	<p>Wiley Online Library</p>	<p>2014年5月15日</p>	<p>国外</p>
<p>Prognostic Value of FDG PET Imaging in Patients with Laryngeal Cancer</p>	<p>Kitajima K, Suenaga Y, Kanda T, Miyawaki D, Yoshida K, Ejima Y, Sasaki R, Komatsu H, Saito M, Otsuki N, Nibu K, <u>Kiyota N</u>, et al.</p>	<p>PLoS One</p>	<p>2014年5月12日</p>	<p>国外</p>
<p>当院における再発・転移頭頸部がんに対するドセタキセル・シスプラチン併用療法の遡及的解析</p>	<p>島田貴信、 <u>清田尚臣</u>、他</p>	<p>頭頸部癌</p>	<p>2015年1月8日</p>	<p>国内</p>

IV. 研究成果の刊行物・別刷

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Lenvatinib versus Placebo in Radioiodine-Refractory Thyroid Cancer

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ABSTRACT

BACKGROUND

Lenvatinib, an oral inhibitor of vascular endothelial growth factor receptors 1, 2, and 3, fibroblast growth factor receptors 1 through 4, platelet-derived growth factor receptor α , RET, and KIT, showed clinical activity in a phase 2 study involving patients with differentiated thyroid cancer that was refractory to radioiodine (iodine-131).

METHODS

In our phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter study involving patients with progressive thyroid cancer that was refractory to iodine-131, we randomly assigned 261 patients to receive lenvatinib (at a daily dose of 24 mg per day in 28-day cycles) and 131 patients to receive placebo. At the time of disease progression, patients in the placebo group could receive open-label lenvatinib. The primary end point was progression-free survival. Secondary end points included the response rate, overall survival, and safety.

RESULTS

The median progression-free survival was 18.3 months in the lenvatinib group and 3.6 months in the placebo group (hazard ratio for progression or death, 0.21; 99% confidence interval, 0.14 to 0.31; $P < 0.001$). A progression-free survival benefit associated with lenvatinib was observed in all prespecified subgroups. The response rate was 64.8% in the lenvatinib group (4 complete responses and 165 partial responses) and 1.5% in the placebo group ($P < 0.001$). The median overall survival was not reached in either group. Treatment-related adverse effects of any grade, which occurred in more than 40% of patients in the lenvatinib group, were hypertension (in 67.8% of the patients), diarrhea (in 59.4%), fatigue or asthenia (in 59.0%), decreased appetite (in 50.2%), decreased weight (in 46.4%), and nausea (in 41.0%). Discontinuations of the study drug because of adverse effects occurred in 37 patients who received lenvatinib (14.2%) and 3 patients who received placebo (2.3%). In the lenvatinib group, 6 of 20 deaths that occurred during the treatment period were considered to be drug-related.

CONCLUSIONS

Lenvatinib, as compared with placebo, was associated with significant improvements in progression-free survival and the response rate among patients with iodine-131-refractory thyroid cancer. Patients who received lenvatinib had more adverse effects. (Funded by Eisai; SELECT ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT01321554.)

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N Engl J Med 2015;372:621-30.

DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa1406470

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THE 10-YEAR SURVIVAL RATE AMONG patients with differentiated thyroid cancer that is refractory to radioiodine (iodine-131) therapy is 10% from the time of detection of metastasis.¹⁻³ Although treatment options have historically been limited, efforts have first targeted vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and its receptor (VEGFR), since this signaling network has been associated with the aggressiveness and metastasis of thyroid cancer.⁴⁻⁶ However, other molecular pathways of tumor growth and maintenance beyond VEGF-driven angiogenesis contribute to the pathogenesis of thyroid cancer, including BRAF, NRAS, HRAS, RET/PTC, fibroblast growth factor receptor (FGFR), and platelet-derived growth factor receptor (PDGFR).⁷⁻¹⁶ Because of the involvement of these multiple pathways, multitargeted tyrosine kinase inhibitors are being investigated for the treatment of thyroid cancer that is refractory to iodine-131.¹⁷⁻²² Recently, sorafenib, a tyrosine kinase inhibitor that inhibits VEGFRs 1, 2, and 3, PDGFR β , Raf-1, RET, and BRAF, was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the treatment of iodine-131–refractory thyroid cancer on the basis of results of a phase 3 trial showing a 5-month improvement in median progression-free survival.¹⁷

Lenvatinib is an oral, multitargeted tyrosine kinase inhibitor of the VEGFRs 1, 2, and 3, FGFRs 1 through 4, PDGFR α , RET, and KIT signaling networks.^{23,24} On the basis of results observed in a phase 2 study involving patients with iodine-131–refractory thyroid cancer,²⁵ we conducted the phase 3 Study of (E7080) Lenvatinib in Differentiated Cancer of the Thyroid (SELECT) to assess progression-free survival among patients with iodine-131–refractory thyroid cancer who received lenvatinib as compared with those who received placebo.

METHODS

PATIENTS

Patients were eligible for enrollment if they were 18 years of age or older and had measurable, pathologically confirmed differentiated thyroid cancer, evidence of iodine-131–refractory disease (according to at least one of the following criteria: at least one measurable lesion without iodine uptake on any iodine-131 scan, at least one measurable lesion that had progressed according to the Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors

[RECIST], version 1.1, criteria within 12 months after iodine-131 therapy despite iodine-131 avidity at the time of treatment, or cumulative activity of iodine-131 that was >600 mCi), and independently reviewed radiologic evidence of progression within the previous 13 months. Eligible patients had received no prior therapy with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor or had received one prior treatment regimen with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor. Additional inclusion and exclusion criteria are described in the Supplementary Appendix, available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

STUDY OVERSIGHT

All patients provided written informed consent, and the study protocol was approved by all relevant institutional review bodies. The study was conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki and local laws. The study was funded by Eisai and designed in collaboration with the principal investigators. Data collection and management were performed by Pharmaceutical Product Development (a contract research organization), and independent radiologic review was performed by VirtualScopics. Eisai statisticians performed the statistical analyses. All parties vouch for the accuracy and completeness of the data and analyses and for adherence to the study protocol. The first author wrote the manuscript with assistance from professional medical writers funded by Eisai. The study protocol, including the statistical analysis plan, is available at NEJM.org.

STUDY DESIGN

In this phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study, we recruited patients across the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Australia from August 5, 2011, through October 4, 2012. Eligible patients were stratified according to age, geographic region, and receipt or nonreceipt of prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor treatment, and they were randomly assigned in a 2:1 ratio to receive oral lenvatinib (at a dose of 24 mg once daily) or placebo in 28-day cycles. Block randomization was performed centrally by means of an interactive voice-response and Web-response system.

Study drugs were administered by clinicians who remained unaware of the study-drug assignments until the occurrence of unacceptable toxic effects or disease progression as assessed by independent radiologic review. Dose interrup-

tions and incremental reductions in the dose (to 20 mg, 14 mg, or 10 mg per day) because of toxic effects were permitted (see the Supplementary Appendix). If independent radiologic review confirmed disease progression, the patients who were receiving placebo could elect to enter the open-label lenvatinib phase.

EFFICACY

The primary end point was progression-free survival, which was defined as the time from randomization to the first documentation of disease progression by independent radiologic review or to death, in the intention-to-treat population (all patients who underwent randomization). Secondary end points were the response rate (defined as the best objective response [complete or partial] according to RECIST, version 1.1 (Table S1 in the Supplementary Appendix),²⁶ and overall survival, which was defined as the time from randomization until death from any cause. Exploratory efficacy assessments included the rate of disease control (defined as a complete or partial response or stable disease) and the rate of clinical benefit (defined as a complete or partial response or durable stable disease for ≥ 23 weeks). Progression-free survival and response-rate outcomes in the optional open-label lenvatinib phase were also assessed.

Tumor assessments, consisting of computed tomographic or magnetic resonance imaging of the neck, chest, abdomen, pelvis, and all other known sites of disease, were evaluated in a blinded fashion by a central imaging laboratory, according to RECIST, version 1.1, criteria, every 8 weeks in the randomization phase. Tumor assessments were performed every 12 weeks in the extension phase, but they were not independently reviewed. Data on patients who were lost to follow-up and on patients who were alive at the time of the primary analysis were censored on the latest date on which the patient was known to be alive.

SAFETY AND ADVERSE EFFECTS

Safety assessments were performed throughout the study and included recording of symptoms and vital signs, electrocardiography, echocardiography (including left ventricular ejection fraction), hematologic and biochemical laboratory testing, and urinalysis. Adverse effects were assessed according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events, version 4.0.²⁷ Specific management plans were re-

quired for hypertension and proteinuria (see the Supplementary Appendix).

BIOMARKER ANALYSES

Exploratory biomarker analyses were performed to investigate potential markers of lenvatinib efficacy. Available archival formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissues were obtained and analyzed for *BRAF* and *RAS* mutation hotspots with the use of Ion Torrent Personal Genome Machine amplicon sequencing.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The study was designed to have 90% power to detect a 75% improvement in progression-free survival with lenvatinib versus placebo (hazard ratio for progression or death, 0.57) at a two-sided alpha level of 0.01, assuming a median progression-free survival of 14 months in the lenvatinib group and 8 months in the placebo group. At least 214 progression events or deaths in 392 enrolled patients were required for the primary analysis of progression-free survival. The rates of progression-free and overall survival in the intention-to-treat population for the primary analysis were estimated and plotted with the use of the Kaplan–Meier method and compared with the use of the stratified log-rank test. The hazard ratio and 99% (and 95%) confidence intervals were estimated with the use of stratified Cox proportional-hazards regression. The rates of response, clinical benefit, and disease control were compared with the use of Cochran–Mantel–Haenszel tests at a two-sided alpha level of 0.05.

The analysis of progression-free survival was based on the FDA guidance for progression-free survival,²⁸ and prespecified sensitivity analyses for progression-free survival were performed. These analyses included investigator assessment and the treatment of all cases of progressive disease, deaths, crossovers, and the subsequent use of anticancer therapy as events. Subgroup analyses were performed according to age (≤ 65 years vs. > 65 years), sex, geographic region (Europe, North America, or other), histologic findings (papillary, poorly differentiated, follicular, or Hürthle-cell thyroid cancer), thyrotropin level (≤ 0.5 , > 0.5 to 2.0, or > 2.0 to 5.5 mIU per liter), and receipt or nonreceipt of one prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor treatment. The analysis of overall survival was reported both as unadjusted and as adjusted for a potential crossover bias with the use of the rank-preserving structural failure time (RPSFT) mod-

el (see the Supplementary Appendix).²⁹ Hazard ratios and 95% confidence intervals were estimated with the use of the bootstrap method, with the survival time corrected for crossover in the placebo group.

RESULTS

PATIENTS

Overall, 392 patients from 21 countries were randomly assigned to receive lenvatinib (261 patients)

or placebo (131 patients) (Fig. 1). All the patients received treatment and were included in the efficacy and safety analyses. The baseline characteristics of the patients were similar in the two groups (Table 1). At the time of data cutoff (November 15, 2013), the median duration of follow-up was 17.1 months (95% confidence interval [CI], 16.0 to 17.6; interquartile range, 14.4 to 20.4) in the lenvatinib group and 17.4 months (95% CI, 15.9 to 19.0; interquartile range, 14.8 to 20.4) in the placebo group, and 130 patients were still continuing to receive blinded treatment (122 patients who were randomly assigned to lenvatinib [46.7%] and 8 patients who were randomly assigned to placebo [6.1%]). Among 114 eligible patients who received placebo and had tumor progression confirmed by independent review, 109 (95.6%) elected to receive open-label lenvatinib. Of the patients who were randomly assigned to lenvatinib, 41 (15.7%) subsequently received additional anticancer therapies after disease progression.

EFFICACY

At the time of the primary analysis of progression-free survival, there were 220 primary events: 202 patients had disease progression (93 [35.6%] in the lenvatinib group and 109 [83.2%] in the placebo group), and 18 patients had died before disease progression (14 in the lenvatinib group and 4 in the placebo group). The median progression-free survival was 18.3 months (95% CI, 15.1 to not estimable) with lenvatinib as compared with 3.6 months (95% CI, 2.2 to 3.7) with placebo (hazard ratio for progression or death, 0.21; 99% CI, 0.14 to 0.31; $P < 0.001$) (Fig. 2). The 6-month progression-free survival rates were 77.5% in the lenvatinib group and 25.4% in the placebo group. Sensitivity analyses showed that a progression-free survival benefit associated with lenvatinib was maintained in all prespecified subgroups (i.e., subgroups defined according to age, sex, race or ethnic group, prior treatment or no prior treatment with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor, geographic region, histologic findings, and baseline thyrotropin levels) (Table 2, and Fig. S1 in the Supplementary Appendix). The median progression-free survival with lenvatinib was 18.7 months among patients who had not received previous treatment with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor and 15.1 months among those who had received one prior treatment regimen with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor (Fig. S1 and S2 in the Supplementary Appendix). A progression-free survival benefit

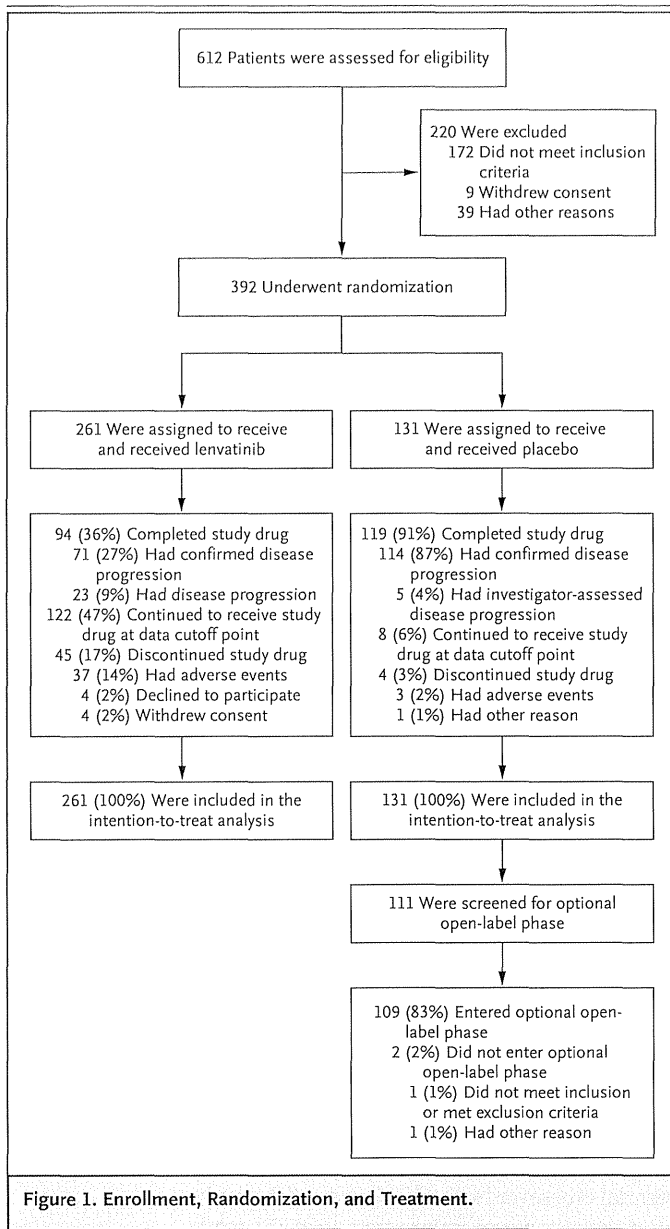


Figure 1. Enrollment, Randomization, and Treatment.

was observed in patients with thyroid cancer of all histologic types examined (papillary, poorly differentiated, follicular, and Hürthle-cell). Overall, 77 of 152 of patients (38 in the lenvatinib group and 39 in the placebo group) with baseline bone lesions (50.7%) had progressive disease at the time of data-collection cutoff. Progression of existing bone disease occurred in 9 of 38 patients in the lenvatinib group (23.7%) and in 23 of 39 patients in the placebo group (59.0%). Finally, the progression-free survival benefit associated with lenvatinib, as compared with placebo, was maintained regardless of the patient's BRAF or RAS mutation status (Fig. S1 in the Supplementary Appendix).

Lenvatinib was associated with significant improvement in the response rate (64.8% in the lenvatinib group vs. 1.5% in the placebo group; odds ratio, 28.87; 95% CI, 12.46 to 66.86; $P < 0.001$) (Table 2, and Fig. S3 in the Supplementary Appendix). Complete responses occurred in 4 patients (1.5%) in the lenvatinib group as compared with no patients in the placebo group; partial responses occurred in 165 patients (63.2%) and 2 patients (1.5%), respectively; and durable stable disease for 23 weeks or longer occurred in 40 patients (15.3%) and 39 patients (29.8%), respectively. Progressive disease occurred in 18 patients (6.9%) in the lenvatinib group as compared with 52 patients (39.7%) in the placebo group. In all 4 patients who had a complete response, the response was maintained through the last time point assessed (range, 84 to 124 weeks). Lenvatinib was associated with a median time to objective response of 2 months (95% CI, 1.9 to 3.5). The difference in overall survival between the groups was not significant (hazard ratio for death, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.50 to 1.07; $P = 0.10$ by a stratified log-rank test); this difference became larger when a potential crossover bias was considered (RPSFT model; hazard ratio, 0.62; 95% CI, 0.40 to 1.00; $P = 0.05$ when calculated with the bootstrap method) (Fig. S4 in the Supplementary Appendix). The median progression-free survival among patients entering the open-label phase for whom data could be evaluated was 10.1 months (95% CI, 8.3 to not estimable), and the overall response rate was 52.3% (1 complete response and 56 partial responses).

SAFETY AND SIDE-EFFECT PROFILE

The median duration of treatment was 13.8 months among patients who received lenvatinib and 3.9 months among patients who received

Table 1. Baseline Characteristics in the Intention-to-Treat Population.*

Variable	Lenvatinib (N = 261)	Placebo (N = 131)
Median age — yr	64	61
Male sex — no. (%)	125 (47.9)	75 (57.3)
Region — no. (%)		
Europe	131 (50.2)	64 (48.9)
North America	77 (29.5)	39 (29.8)
Other†	53 (20.3)	28 (21.4)
ECOG performance status — no. (%)‡		
0 or 1	248 (95.0)	129 (98.5)
2 or 3	13 (5.0)	2 (1.5)
One prior treatment regimen with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor — no. (%)§	66 (25.3)	27 (20.6)
Histologic subtype of differentiated thyroid cancer — no. (%)¶		
Papillary	132 (50.6)	68 (51.9)
Poorly differentiated	28 (10.7)	19 (14.5)
Follicular, not Hürthle cell	53 (20.3)	22 (16.8)
Hürthle cell	48 (18.4)	22 (16.8)
Metastatic lesions — no. (%)		
With bony metastases	104 (39.8)	48 (36.6)
With pulmonary metastases	226 (86.6)	124 (94.7)

* There were no significant differences between the groups in any of the characteristics listed in this table.

† Other regions include Brazil, Chile, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Thailand.

‡ Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) performance status scores range from 0 to 5, with higher scores indicating increasing disability.

§ Further information is provided in Table S4 in the Supplementary Appendix.

¶ Histologic findings were determined from investigators' reports.

placebo. The incidence of treatment-related adverse effects (of all grades) as assessed by the investigator was 97.3% in the lenvatinib group and 59.5% in the placebo group, and the incidence of treatment-related adverse effects of grade 3 or higher was 75.9% in the lenvatinib group and 9.9% in the placebo group (Table 3, and Table S2 in the Supplementary Appendix). Adverse effects of special interest that developed in the lenvatinib group during treatment were hypertension (any grade, 69.3%; grade ≥3, 42.9%), proteinuria (any grade, 32.2%; grade ≥3, 10.0%), arterial thromboembolic effects (any grade, 5.4%; grade ≥3, 2.7%), venous thromboembolic effects (any grade, 5.4%; grade ≥3, 3.8%), renal failure, including acute renal failure (any grade, 4.2%; grade ≥3, 1.9%), hepatic failure (grade ≥3, 0.4%), gastrointestinal fistula (any grade, 1.5%; grade ≥3,

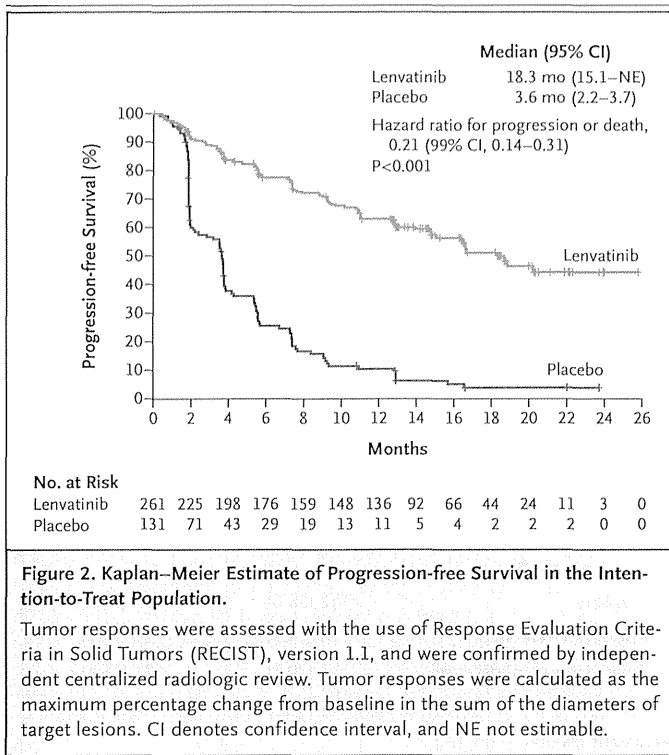


Figure 2. Kaplan–Meier Estimate of Progression-free Survival in the Intention-to-Treat Population.

Tumor responses were assessed with the use of Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST), version 1.1, and were confirmed by independent centralized radiologic review. Tumor responses were calculated as the maximum percentage change from baseline in the sum of the diameters of target lesions. CI denotes confidence interval, and NE not estimable.

otherwise specified). In 6 patients in the placebo group (4.6%), adverse effects that occurred during the treatment period were fatal; none were considered to be treatment-related.

Adverse effects that developed during treatment and led to the discontinuation of treatment were reported in 37 patients who were receiving lenvatinib (14.2%) and in 3 patients who were receiving placebo (2.3%). The most frequent effects leading to dose discontinuation were asthenia and hypertension, each of which occurred in 1.1% of patients in the lenvatinib group. More patients in the lenvatinib group than in the placebo group had a dose interruption (82.4% vs. 18.3%) or reduction (67.8% vs. 4.6%), resulting in a mean lenvatinib dose of 17.2 mg per day. The first dose reduction occurred at a median of 3.0 months (95% CI, 2.7 to 3.7). The most common adverse effects developing during treatment that led to a dose interruption or reduction among patients receiving lenvatinib were diarrhea (22.6%), hypertension (19.9%), proteinuria (18.8%), and decreased appetite (18.0%). Four patients in the lenvatinib group (1.5%) required dose adjustments owing to hypocalcemia.

DISCUSSION

0.8%), corrected QT prolongation (any grade, 8%; grade ≥3, 1.5%), and the posterior reversible encephalopathy syndrome (any grade, 0.4%; grade ≥3, 0). In patients who received lenvatinib, the median serum thyrotropin levels increased from baseline levels in cycle 1 and peaked by cycle 2. The post-baseline levels of serum thyrotropin increased to more than 0.5 mIU per liter in 158 patients in the lenvatinib group (61.5%).

A total of 118 deaths occurred before data cutoff: 71 in the lenvatinib group (27.2%) and 47 in the placebo group (35.9%) (P=0.08). The majority of these deaths were due to disease progression (53 [74.6%] and 35 [74.5%] in the lenvatinib and placebo groups, respectively); the remaining deaths were either not due to progressive disease or were due to an unknown cause. In 20 patients in the lenvatinib group (7.7%), adverse effects that developed during treatment were fatal (Table S3 in the Supplementary Appendix). Of these, 6 deaths (2.3%) were considered by the investigator to be treatment-related, including 1 case each of pulmonary embolism, hemorrhagic stroke, and general deterioration of physical health; 3 cases were reported as deaths or sudden deaths (not

Among patients with progressive iodine-131-refractory differentiated thyroid cancer who received lenvatinib, the median progression-free survival was 14.7 months longer than it was among those who received placebo (hazard ratio for disease progression or death, 0.21; 99% CI, 0.14 to 0.31; P<0.001). This improvement is longer than that observed in other placebo-controlled clinical trials involving patients with this disease.^{17,18,20-22} One distinguishing feature of lenvatinib that may underlie this observation is the inhibition of unique targets, including FGFRs.¹⁰ The median progression-free survival in the placebo group in this study was shorter than the 8 months expected, indicating that these patients had aggressive thyroid cancer. The 8-month assumption was conservative and was made before results from similar trials were available. This study is unusual in that all patients had independently verified progressive disease at the time of enrollment. In addition, it is unlikely that investigator bias factored into the observed results in the placebo group, since progression also required confirmation by independent review. The

Table 2. Efficacy Measures.*				
Outcome	Lenvatinib (N=261)	Placebo (N=131)	Hazard Ratio†	Odds Ratio (95% CI)
Progression-free survival				
Primary analysis, IRR and ITT populations‡				
Median (95% CI) — mo	18.3 (15.1–NE)	3.6 (2.2–3.7)	0.21 (0.14–0.31)§	
Rate — % (95% CI)				
6 mo	77.5 (71.7–82.3)	25.4 (18.0–33.6)		
12 mo	63.0 (56.5–68.9)	10.5 (5.7–16.9)		
18 mo	51.1 (43.3–58.3)	3.8 (1.1–9.2)		
24 mo	44.3 (35.1–53.1)	NE		
Prespecified sensitivity analyses				
Investigator assessment, ITT population — mo			0.24 (0.16–0.35)§	
Median	16.6	3.7		
95% CI	14.8–NE	3.5–5.4		
IRR population — mo¶			0.22 (0.15–0.32)§	
Median	16.6	3.6		
95% CI	14.8–20.3	2.2–3.7		
Secondary efficacy end points				
Overall survival, RPSFT adjusted, ITT population			0.62 (0.40–1.00)	
Median (95% CI) — mo	NE (22.0–NE)	NE (14.3–NE)		
Rate, RPSFT adjusted — % (95% CI)				
6 mo	90.7 (86.4–93.7)	85.3 (78.0–90.4)		
12 mo	81.6 (76.2–85.8)	70.0 (57.1–79.7)		
18 mo	72.3 (65.7–77.9)	63.0 (44.3–76.9)		
24 mo	58.2 (46.0–68.6)	NE		
Response rate — no. (%)**	169 (64.8)	2 (1.5)		28.87 (12.46–66.86)§§
Complete response	4 (1.5)	0		
Partial response	165 (63.2)	2 (1.5)		
Stable disease	60 (23.0)	71 (54.2)		
Durable stable disease ≥23 wk	40 (15.3)	39 (29.8)		
Progressive disease	18 (6.9)	52 (39.7)		
Could not be evaluated	14 (5.4)	6 (4.6)		
Exploratory efficacy end points				
Disease-control rate — no. (%)††	229 (87.7)	73 (55.7)		5.05 (2.98–8.54)§§
Clinical-benefit rate — no. (%)§§§	209 (80.1)	41 (31.3)		7.63 (4.55–12.79)§§
Time to first objective response — mo				
Median	2.0	5.6		
95% CI	1.9–3.5	1.8–9.4		

* CI denotes confidence interval, IRR independent radiologic review, ITT intention-to-treat, NE not estimable, and RPSFT rank-preserving structural failure time.

† Corresponding confidence intervals were 99%, with the exception of the confidence interval for overall survival, which was 95%.

‡ The analysis involving the per-protocol population yielded identical results.

§ P<0.001 for the comparison between the two groups.

¶ This sensitivity analysis treated all cases of progressive disease, deaths, crossovers, and use of new anticancer therapies (even in patients who were not receiving a study drug) as events.

|| P=0.05 when calculated with the use of the bootstrap method.

** Tumor responses were assessed with the use of Response Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST), version 1.1, and were confirmed by independent centralized radiologic review.

†† The disease-control rate was calculated as complete response plus partial response plus stable disease.

§§ The clinical-benefit rate was calculated as complete response plus partial response plus durable stable disease.

Table 3. Adverse Effects.

Effect	Lenvatinib (N=261)		Placebo (N=131)	
	All Grades	Grade ≥3	All Grades	Grade ≥3
Any treatment-related adverse effect — no. of patients (%)	254 (97.3)	198 (75.9)	78 (59.5)	13 (9.9)
Adverse effect developing during treatment — no. of patients (%)				
Serious*				
Total	130 (49.8)		30 (22.9)	
Treatment-related	79 (30.3)		8 (6.1)	
Fatal†				
Total†	20 (7.7)		6 (4.6)	
Treatment-related	6 (2.3)		0	
Treatment-related adverse effect of any grade in ≥10% of patients, of grade ≥3 in ≥2%, or both — %				
Hypertension	67.8	41.8	9.2	2.3
Diarrhea	59.4	8.0	8.4	0
Fatigue or asthenia	59.0	9.2	27.5	2.3
Decreased appetite	50.2	5.4	11.5	0
Decreased weight	46.4	9.6	9.2	0
Nausea	41.0	2.3	13.7	0.8
Stomatitis	35.6	4.2	3.8	0
Palmar–plantar erythrodysesthesia syndrome	31.8	3.4	0.8	0
Proteinuria	31.0	10.0	1.5	0
Vomiting	28.4	1.9	6.1	0
Headache	27.6	2.7	6.1	0
Dysphonia	24.1	1.1	3.1	0
Arthralgia	18.0	0	0.8	0
Dysgeusia	16.9	0	1.5	0
Rash	16.1	0.4	1.5	0
Constipation	14.6	0.4	8.4	0
Myalgia	14.6	1.5	2.3	0
Dry mouth	13.8	0.4	3.8	0
Upper abdominal pain	13.0	0	3.8	0
Abdominal pain	11.5	0.4	0.8	0.8
Peripheral edema	11.1	0.4	0	0
Alopecia	11.1	0	3.8	0
Dyspepsia	10.0	0	0	0
Oropharyngeal pain	10.0	0.4	0.8	0
Hypocalcemia	6.9	2.7	0	0
Pulmonary embolism	2.7	2.7	1.5	1.5

* A complete list of serious adverse effects is provided in Table S2 in the Supplementary Appendix.

† A complete list of fatal adverse effects that developed during treatment is provided in Table S3 in the Supplementary Appendix.

8.2-month difference in the median progression-free survival between patients who were initially randomly assigned to lenvatinib and those who crossed over to lenvatinib may be attributed in part to the necessary additional progression event in the latter group. The progression-free survival benefit with lenvatinib was observed across all prespecified sub-

groups, including patients who had received one prior tyrosine kinase inhibitor treatment (Fig. S2 in the Supplementary Appendix). This efficacy after prior treatment with a tyrosine kinase inhibitor is a key clinical consideration given the likely increased use of these therapies in patients with iodine-131–refractory thyroid cancer. The proportion of patients in whom progression of existing bone metastases occurred was lower in the lenvatinib group than in the placebo group (23.7% vs. 59.0%), and this difference indicates that in this small subgroup of patients, lenvatinib is able to curtail these often-intractable metastases. The median overall survival was not reached; the majority of patients who received placebo crossed over to lenvatinib, and a nonsignificant prolongation in overall survival with lenvatinib was observed (adjusted hazard ratio, 0.62).

The proportion of patients who received lenvatinib and who had treatment-related adverse effects was 97.3%, and 75.9% had treatment-related adverse effects that were grade 3 or higher. Previous studies showed an increased risk of hypertension and proteinuria among patients who received lenvatinib; these findings are consistent with those among patients receiving other VEGF and VEGFR inhibitors.^{30,31} Overall, 41.8% of the patients who received lenvatinib, as compared with 2.3% of those who received placebo, had treatment-related hypertension of grade 3 or higher. However, hypertension led to discontinuation of the drug in only 1.1% of the patients in the lenvatinib group and dose reduction or interruption in 19.9% of the patients in that group. Most adverse effects were managed with standard clinical interventions or dose modifications.^{31,32} The rate of discontinuation of lenvatinib because of adverse effects that developed during treatment was 14.2%, the median duration of treatment was 13.8 months, and patients who received lenvatinib received a mean dose of 17.2 mg per day. The median time to the first dose reduction was 3.0 months, or 1 month after the median time to the first objective response (2.0 months),

which was also the time of the first radiologic tumor assessment. There were more fatal adverse effects during treatment in the lenvatinib group than in the placebo group (7.7% vs. 4.6%), and 6 of 20 deaths in the lenvatinib group (2.3%) were considered to be treatment-related, including 1 case each of pulmonary embolism and hemorrhagic stroke. No specific pattern of fatal adverse effects in the lenvatinib group was observed. In patients who receive lenvatinib, serum thyrotropin levels should be measured on a regular basis, and the daily dose of levothyroxine should be increased accordingly if the level rises.

In this placebo-controlled analysis, a progression-free survival benefit associated with lenvatinib was maintained regardless of *BRAF* or *RAS* mutation status; neither mutational status appeared to predict a benefit with lenvatinib. Therefore, further investigation of biomarkers for lenvatinib efficacy is necessary. Limitations of this study include the possibility that crossovers from placebo to lenvatinib could have confounded the survival analysis, a limitation that we attempted to address with adjusted analyses, and a lack of information on the patients' quality of life.

In conclusion, this study showed that lenvatinib, as compared with placebo, was associated with significant prolongation of progression-free survival and an improved response rate (64.8% vs. 1.5%) among patients with iodine-131–refractory differentiated thyroid cancer. Toxic effects of therapy were considerable, and most toxic effects were managed with dose modification and medical therapy.

Presented in part at the 50th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology, Chicago, May 30–June 3, 2014; and in part at the 12th Annual Scientific Meeting of the Japanese Society of Medical Oncology, Fukuoka City, Japan, July 17–19, 2014.

Disclosure forms provided by the authors are available with the full text of this article at NEJM.org.

We thank the patients, their families, the investigators, and the teams who participated in this trial; Crystal Mackenzie, Pavan Kumar, Sergei Agoulnik, Tadashi Kadowaki, and Yasuhiro Funahashi of Eisai for performing biomarker analyses; and Suhaida A. Selamat and Brian Falcone of Oxford PharmaGenesis for providing editorial assistance (funded by Eisai).

APPENDIX

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