




Phase 1 of INCIPIENT Trial Shows Dramatic Improvement of Glioblastoma in Patients after CAR-TEAM Therapy

What is Glioblastoma?

Glioblastoma (GBM) is an aggressive and fast-growing tumor found in the brain. Recurrent GBM is when tumor progression resumes after an initial round of surgery and chemotherapy treatments.



How does CAR-TEAM therapy work?



The CAR-TEAM therapy created at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) uses the foundation of CAR-T therapy, in which a patient's T cells are harvested from the body, programmed to recognize a target on the tumor cells and injected back into the body. In addition to the T cells attacking the tumor, they also release specific antibodies (called TEAM) around the tumor cells to actively recruit more immune cells into the cancer – a two-hit strategy that now has demonstrated success in GBM and may also work in other cancers.

About the Clinical Trial

The team conducted an early phase clinical trial in three patients with recurrent GBM. MRI scans conducted before and after the treatment showed a dramatic initial reduction in tumor size, though tumors eventually recurred within six months in two of the three cases. The team is now working to find new ways to extend the durability of the treatment.

“These results are exciting, but they are also just the beginning—they tell us that we are on the right track in pursuing a therapy that has the potential to change the outlook for this intractable disease. We haven't cured patients yet, but that is our audacious goal.”

Marcela Maus, MD, PhD

Director, Cancer Center Program in Cellular Immunotherapy
Mass General Cancer Center

