

# Overall survival

The length of time from either the date of diagnosis or the start of treatment for a disease, such as cancer, that patients diagnosed with the disease are still alive. In a clinical trial, measuring the overall survival is one way to see how well a new treatment works. Also called OS.

Although overall survival (OS) is the standard for determining [Glioblastoma treatment](#) efficacy, using OS as an endpoint when studying new therapeutic strategies can be problematic because of potential influence of therapies prior to or subsequently following the therapy being studied. For example, it is difficult to definitively conclude that [bevacizumab](#) has no efficacy in [Glioblastoma](#) when a large percentage of patients in the placebo arms in both III trials studying efficacy of bevacizumab (i.e. AVAglio and RTOG-0825) eventually crossed over and received bevacizumab (31% in [AVAglio trial](#) <sup>1)</sup> and 48% in [RTOG 0825](#) <sup>2)</sup>.

Preoperatively measured [necrosis](#) volume and necrosis-tumor ratio (NTR) are the most important radiological features of [Glioblastoma](#) with a strong influence on OS. No other measuring techniques are specific enough and comparable with 3D segmentation <sup>3)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

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<sup>2)</sup>

Gilbert MR, Dignam JJ, Armstrong TS, Wefel JS, Blumenthal DT, Vogelbaum MA, Colman H, Chakravarti A, Pugh S, Won M, Jeraj R, Brown PD, Jaeckle KA, Schiff D, Stieber VW, Brachman DG, Werner-Wasik M, Tremont-Lukats IW, Sulman EP, Aldape KD, Curran WJ Jr, Mehta MP. A randomized trial of bevacizumab for newly diagnosed glioblastoma. N Engl J Med. 2014 Feb 20;370(8):699-708. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1308573. PubMed PMID: 24552317; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC4201043.

<sup>3)</sup>

Henker C, Kriesen T, Glass Ä, Schneider B, Piek J. Volumetric quantification of glioblastoma: experiences with different measurement techniques and impact on survival. J Neurooncol. 2017 Jul 28. doi: 10.1007/s11060-017-2587-5. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 28755324.

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Last update: **2024/06/07 02:52**

