Intracranial efficacy of selpercatinib in RET fusion-positive non-small cell 1 lung cancers on the LIBRETTO-001 trial 2 Vivek Subbiah¹, Justin F. Gainor², Geoffrey R. Oxnard³, 3 Daniel S.W. Tan⁴, Dwight H. Owen⁵, Byoung Chul Cho⁶, 4 Herbert H.F. Loong⁷, Caroline E. McCoach⁸, Jared Weiss⁹, 5 Yu Jung Kim¹⁰, Lyudmila Bazhenova¹¹, Keunchil Park¹², Haruko Daga¹³, Benjamin Besse¹⁴, 6 Oliver Gautschi¹⁵, Christian Rolfo¹⁶, Edward Y. Zhu¹⁷, Jennifer F. Kherani¹⁷, 7 Xin Huang¹⁷, Suhyun Kang¹⁸, and Alexander Drilon¹⁹ 8 ¹ The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, USA 9 ² Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, MA, USA 10 ³ Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA, USA 11 ⁴ National Cancer Centre Singapore, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore 12 ⁵ The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, USA 13 ⁶ Severance Hospital, Yonsei University Health System, Seoul, Republic of Korea 14 ⁷ The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, PRC 15 ⁸ University of California San Francisco, Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center, 16 San Francisco, CA, USA 17 ⁹ University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA 18 ¹⁰ Seoul National University Bundang Hospital, Seoul National University College of 19 Medicine, Seongnam, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea 20 ¹¹ University of California, San Diego Moores Cancer Center, San Diego, CA, USA 21 ¹² Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, Republic 22 23 of Korea ¹³ Osaka City General Hospital, Osaka, Japan 24 ¹⁴ Institut Gustav Roussy, Villejuif, France; Paris-Saclay University, Orsay, France 25

- ¹⁵ University of Berne and Cantonal Hospital of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland
- ¹⁶ Greenebaum Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Maryland School of Medicine,
- 28 Baltimore, MD, USA and Center for Thoracic Oncology, Tisch Cancer Institute Mount Sinai
- 29 Medical System- Icahn School of Medicine, Mount Sinai, New York, NY, USA
- 30 ¹⁷ Loxo Oncology, a subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN, USA
- 31 ¹⁸ Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN, USA
- 32 ¹⁹ Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY, USA and Weill Cornell Medical
- 33 College, New York, NY, USA
- 35 **Running title**: Intracranial efficacy of selpercatinib in *RET* fusion+ NSCLC
- 36 Corresponding author:
- 37 Vivek Subbiah, MD
- 38 The University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer
- 39 1515 Holcombe Blvd # 455
- 40 Houston, TX 77030
- 41 USA

45

46

- 42 Phone: 713-563-0393, Fax: 713-792-0334
- 43 Email: <u>vsubbiah@mdanderson.org</u>

CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

- 48 VS reports a grant and advisory board/consultant position with Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology
- 49 during the conduct of the study. VS also reports research grants from Roche/Genentech,
- 50 Bayer, GlaxoSmithKline, Nanocarrier, Vegenics, Celgene, Northwest Biotherapeutics,
- 51 Berghealth, Incyte, Fujifilm, D3, Pfizer, Multivir, Amgen, Abbvie, Alfa-sigma, Agensys,
- 52 Boston Biomedical, Idera Pharma, Inhibrx, Exelixis, Blueprint Medicines, Altum, Dragonfly
- 53 Therapeutics, Takeda, National Comprehensive Cancer Network, NCI-CTEP, UT MD
- 54 Anderson Cancer Center, Turning Point Therapeutics, Boston Pharmaceuticals, Novartis,
- Pharmamar, and Medimmune; an advisory board/consultant position with Helsinn, Incyte,
- QED Pharma, Daiichi-Sankyo, Signant Health, Novartis, and Medimmune; travel funds from
- 57 Pharmamar, Incyte, ASCO, and ESMO; other support from Medscape; all outside the
- submitted work. JFG reports personal fees from Bristol-Myers Squibb, Genentech/Roche,
- 59 Takeda, Oncorus, Regeneron, Pfizer, Incyte, Novartis, Merck, Agios, Amgen, Gilead, EMD
- 60 Serono, and AstraZeneca; institutional research support from Bristol-Myers Squibb,
- 61 Blueprint, Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology, Array, and Tesaro; research grants from
- 62 Genentech/Roche, Novartis, Merck, Moderna, Adaptimmune, and Alexo; consulting
- 63 honoraria from Blueprint and Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology, all outside the submitted work. GRO
- reports employment with Foundation Medicine; and equity in Roche; all outside the
- submitted work. DSWT reports research grants from Novartis, Bayer, AstraZeneca, and
- 66 GlaxoSmithKline; personal fees associated with an advisory board/consultant position with
- Novartis, Bayer, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology,
- 68 Pfizer, Takeda, and Merrimack; and honoraria from Merck and Pfizer, all outside the
- 69 submitted work. DHO reports institutional research grants from Merck, Palobiofarma, BMS,
- and Genentech; and is a Paul Calebrasi Scholar supported by the OSU K12 Training Grant
- 71 for Clinical Faculty Investigators (K12 CA133250), all outside the submitted work. BCC
- 72 reports research funding from Novartis, Bayer, AstraZeneca, MOGAM Institute, Dong-A ST,
- 73 Champions Oncology, Janssen, Yuhan, Ono, Dizal Pharma, MSD, Abbvie, Medpacto, GI
- 74 Innovation, Eli Lilly, Blueprint Medicines, and Interpark Bio Convergence Corp; personal
- 75 fees associated with a consulting role with Novartis, AstraZeneca, Boehringer-Ingelheim,
- Roche, BMS, Ono, Yuhan, Pfizer, Eli Lilly, Janssen, Takeda, MSD, Janssen, Medpacto, and
- 77 Blueprint Medicines; scientific advisory board role with Kanaph Therapeutic Inc, Brigebio
- 78 Therapeutics, Cyrus Therapeutics, and Guardant Health; stock ownership of TheraCanVac
- 79 Inc, Gencurix Inc, Bridgebio Therapeutics, Kanaph Therapeutic Inc, Cyrus Therapeutics, and
- 80 Interpark Bio Convergence Corp; board of directors position with Gencurix Inc, and
- 81 Interpark Bio Convergence Corp; royalties from Champions Oncology, and founder of Daan
- 82 Biotherapeutics; all outside the submitted work. HHFL reports personal fees associated with
- an advisory board position with Novartis, Pfizer, MSD, Eisai, Boehringer-Ingelheim, and Eli
- 84 Lilly; and an investigator-initiated study grant from MSD and Mundipharma, all outside the
- 85 submitted work. CEM reports grants from Novartis and Revolution Medicines; and personal
- 86 fees from Novartis, Genentech, and Guardant Health, outside the submitted work. JW reports
- ices from Novarus, Genemeen, and Guardant freatur, Guiside the Submitted Work. 3 W 1ep
- 87 research grant from Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology, during the conduct of the study. JW also
- 88 reports grants from AstraZeneca, Celgene and G1 Therapeutics; and personal fees from
- 89 AstraZeneca, EMD Serono, Genentech, Inivata, Celgene, G1 Therapeutics, Jounce
- 90 Therapeutics, Abbvie, Rakuten, Nanobiotix, Azitra, Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology, Blueprint
- 91 Medicines, Pfizer, and Saatchi, outside the submitted work. LB reports personal fees
- 92 associated with an advisory board position from Astra Zeneca, Johnson and Johnson, BMS,

Merk, Novartis, Genentech, Takeda, Blueprint, Byondsping, G1 therapeutics, Bayer, Abbvie, 93 94 and Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology, all outside the submitted work. KP reports research grants from 95 AstraZeneca; and personal fees associated with an advisory role from AstraZeneca and Eli 96 Lilly, outside the submitted work. HD reports a research grant from AstraZeneca, Chugai, and Pfizer; and personal fees from Chugai, ONO, and MSD, all outside the submitted work. 97 BB reports research grants from 4D Pharma, Abbvie, Amgen, Aptitude Health, AstraZeneca, 98 BeiGene, Blueprint Medicines, BMS, Boehringer Ingelheim, Celgene, Cergentis, Cristal 99 Therapeutics, Daiichi-Sankyo, Eli Lilly, GSK, Inivata, Janssen, Onxeo, OSE 100 immunotherapeutics, Pfizer, Roche-Genentech, Sanofi, Takeda, Tolero Pharmaceuticals 101 outside the submitted work. OG reports a consultant role with Eli Lilly, during the course of 102 the study; and a consultant role with Amgen and an advisory board role with Bayer, outside 103 the submitted work. CR reports personal fees associated with a speaker role from 104 AstraZeneca, MSD and Roche; personal fees associated with an advisory board role from 105 Inivata, MD Serone, and Archer; a research grant from Lung Cancer Research Foundation-106 Pfizer; and research collaboration with GuardantHealth, all outside the submitted work. EYZ, 107 JFK, XH, SK report employment and stock ownership with Eli Lilly /LoxoOncology. AD 108 reports personal fees from Eli Lilly/Loxo Oncology during the course of the study. AD also 109 reports personal fees from Ignyta/Genentech/Roche, Bayer, Takeda/Ariad/Millenium, TP 110 Therapeutics, AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Blueprint Medicines, Helsinn, Beigene, BergenBio, 111 Hengrui Therapeutics, Exelixis, Tyra Biosciences, Verastem, MORE Health, Abbvie, 112 14ner/Elevation Oncology, Axis, Peerview Institute, OncLive, Paradigm Medical 113 Communications, LLC, Remedica Ltd., ArcherDX, Foundation Medicine, PeerVoice, 114 Research to Practice, Medscape, WebMD, Monopteros, Roche, Novartis, EMD Serono, 115 MJH, Faculty RTP, and Medendi; institutional research support from Pfizer, Exelixis, 116 GlaxoSmithKlein, Teva, Taiho, and PharmaMar; royalties from Wolters Kluwer; research 117 support from Foundation Medicine; and CME honoraria from Medscape, OncLive, 118 PeerVoice, Physicians Education Resources, Targeted Oncology, Research to Practice, Axis, 119 Peerview Institute, Paradigm Medical Communications, WebMD, MJH Life Sciences, all 120 outside the submitted work. YJK has nothing to disclose. 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130

TRANSLATIONAL RELEVANCE

Brain metastases frequently occur in RET fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancers (NSCLCs), with an approximate 50% lifetime prevalence reported. Intracranial metastases are a major cause of morbidity and mortality in this patient population. Thus, there is a need for novel RET-directed, targeted therapy strategies with high efficacy. Selpercatinib, a selective and potent RET inhibitor, shows compelling preliminary evidence of activity in patients with brain metastases. This phase 1/2 trial (LIBRETTO-001) evaluated the efficacy and safety of selpercatinib in patients with RET fusion-positive NSCLCs with intracranial metastases. In this study, selpercatinib was well tolerated, achieving high intracranial response rate, and prolonged intracranial duration of response and intracranial progressionfree survival. Combined, these results support selpercatinib as a new standard of care therapy for the primary treatment of brain metastases for patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC.

ABSTRACT 156 **Purpose**: We report the intracranial efficacy of selpercatinib, a highly potent and selective 157 RET inhibitor, approved in the US for *RET* fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancers 158 (NSCLCs). 159 Methods: In the global phase 1/2 LIBRETTO-001 trial (NCT03157128) in advanced RET-160 altered solid tumors, selpercatinib was dosed orally (160mg twice/day) in 28-day cycles. 161 162 Patients with baseline intracranial metastases had MRI/CT scans every 8-weeks for 1 year (12-weeks thereafter). In this pre-planned analysis of *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC patients 163 164 with baseline intracranial metastases, the primary endpoint was independently-assessed intracranial objective response rate (ORR) per RECIST 1.1. Secondary endpoints included 165 intracranial disease control rate, intracranial duration of response, and intracranial 166 progression-free survival (PFS) independently reviewed. 167 **Results**: Eighty NSCLC patients had brain metastases at baseline. Patients were heavily 168 pretreated (median=2 systemic therapies, range=0–10); 56% of patients received ≥1 course of 169 intracranial radiation (14% whole brain radiotherapy, 45% stereotactic radiosurgery). Among 170 22 patients with measurable intracranial disease at baseline, intracranial ORR was 82% 171 (95%CI=60–95), including 23% with complete responses. Among all intracranial responders 172 (measurable and non-measurable, n=38), median duration of intracranial response was not 173 reached (95% CI=9.3–NE) at a median duration of follow-up of 9.5 months (IQR=5.7,12.0). 174 175 At 12 months, 55% of intracranial responses were ongoing. In all 80 patients, median intracranial PFS was 13.7 months (95% CI=10.9-NE) at a median duration of follow-up of 176 11.0 months (IQR=7.4,16.5). No new safety signals were revealed in patients with brain 177 178 metastases compared to the full NSCLC trial population. Conclusion: Selpercatinib has robust and durable intracranial efficacy in RET fusion-positive 179 NSCLC patients. 180

INTRODUCTION

181 182

183

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

191

192

193

194

195

196

197

198

199

200

201

202

203

204

205

206

The *RET* (rearranged during transfection) proto-oncogene encodes the RET receptor tyrosine kinase, a transmembrane glycoprotein that is involved in the development and maintenance of several tissue types. Activating *RET* alterations, such as recurrent gene fusions, lead to ligand-independent, constitutively active RET tyrosine kinase signaling that drives oncogenesis and tumor progression.²⁻⁴ Oncogenic RET fusions are found in 1-2% of nonsmall cell lung cancers (NSCLCs).^{5,6} A global multi-institutional registry of patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC found that approximately half of these patients develop brain metastases during their lifetime; ⁷ leptomeningeal disease has also been observed. ⁸ Intracranial sanctuary site metastasis is a liability shared by many other oncogene-addicted cancers, including EGFR-mutant or ALK fusion-positive NSCLCs. A major advance in the management of these tumors has been the development of brain-penetrant tyrosine-kinase inhibitors. 9,10 These agents not only prevent or delay intracranial treatment failure, but are also increasingly utilized as primary therapy for patients with brain metastases instead of localized interventions such as radiotherapy, an intervention potentially associated with longterm quality of life impairment. 11 Selpercatinib (LOXO-292), a highly potent and selective RET inhibitor, has marked and durable efficacy in patients with treatment-naïve or platinum chemotherapy-treated RET fusion-positive NSCLCs. 12 Based on these data, selpercatinib has received approval in the US for any line of therapy of RET fusion-positive metastatic NSCLCs, and is the first RETselective inhibitor granted EU approval. ^{13,14} Given that several *RET* fusion-positive cancers harbor a proclivity for intracranial metastasis, selpercatinib was specifically designed to achieve levels in the central nervous system (CNS) necessary to inhibit RET. Consistently,

selpercatinib demonstrated robust intracranial efficacy in orthotopically implanted *RET* fusion-positive tumors in mice.¹⁵

Preclinical observations, anecdotal case reports ^{8,15} and preliminary experience from a prospective clinical trial ⁷ suggest that selpercatinib is active in patients with brain metastases. To date, however, the true intracranial efficacy of selpercatinib in a large prospective series of *RET* fusion-positive NSCLCs remains unknown. To address this key evidence gap, we conducted a pre-planned analysis of selpercatinib in patents with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC and brain metastases enrolled to the global phase 1/2 LIBRETTO-001 trial (NCT03157128).

METHODS

Study design and treatment

LIBRETTO-001 is an ongoing, global, first-in-human, open label, phase 1/2 clinical trial (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT03157128) open at 89 investigative sites in 16 countries. A total of 31 sites from 11 countries enrolled at least one patient with a *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC and investigator-assessed brain metastases at baseline in the analysis dataset used here. Full details of the trial design have been published. Briefly, patients eligible for this pre-planned analysis were required to meet the following inclusion criteria: age \geq 12 years; presence of a prospectively-identified *RET* fusion as determined by locally-obtained testing performed in a certified laboratory; ECOG performance status 0–2; adequate organ function; and a QTc interval of \leq 470 msec. Any number of prior therapies were permitted. Brain imaging was a requirement at baseline for all *RET* fusion-positive solid tumor NSCLC patients. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) was preferred; computerized tomography (CT) with contrast was acceptable if MRI was contraindicated. Patients with known brain metastases were eligible

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

253

254

255

256

for the trial if neurological symptoms and CNS imaging were stable and their steroid dose was stable for 14 days prior to the first dose of selpercatinib, and no CNS surgery or radiation had been performed for 28 days (14 days for stereotactic radiosurgery/SRS) prior to dosing. All prior local treatments for CNS disease (e.g., surgery, whole brain radiation, SRS), the start and stop dates for each prior local therapy, and the specific lesions treated (if SRS and/or surgery) were recorded. For patients who had received CNS radiation prior to the trial, intracranial lesions needed to show post-radiation progression to be selected as a target lesion at baseline. This protocol adhered to the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and the Good Clinical Practice Guidelines of the International Conference on Harmonization. The institutional review board of each investigative site approved the trial, and all patients provided written informed consent. Selpercatinib doses ranged from 20 mg once daily to 240 mg twice daily for patients enrolled in the phase 1 dose escalation portion of the study. Dose escalation to dose levels determined to be safe was allowed for phase 1 patients after a minimum of 1 cycle of treatment. In the phase 2 portion of the study, selpercatinib was dosed orally at 160 mg twice daily (BID) in 28-day continuous cycles. Treatment continued until death, progressive disease, unacceptable toxicity, or withdrawal of consent. Patients could continue selpercatinib treatment after documented progression if they were continuing to derive clinical benefit in the opinion of the investigator. The main efficacy endpoint for the current analysis was intracranial objective response rate (ORR) by RECIST 1.1 ¹⁶ determined by an independent review committee (IRC), a preplanned secondary endpoint for the overall LIBRETTO-001 program. The IRC was composed of expert radiologists who were blinded to investigator-determined systemic response. IRC radiologists were provided with prior or on-study radiation information and a history of all prior treatments for CNS disease. Intracranial ORR (%) was defined as the proportion of patients with a best overall intracranial response of complete response (CR) or partial response (PR) relative to the total number of patients with baseline intracranial disease. All responses were required to be confirmed by a repeat assessment performed no sooner than 28 days later. Intracranial disease control rate (DCR) was defined as the percentage of patients who had a best overall intracranial response of CR, PR, or stable disease (SD) lasting 16 weeks or more after selpercatinib initiation. Consistent with RECIST 1.1, patients with exclusively non-measurable intracranial disease at baseline could be classified for best overall response as CR (in the case where all non-measurable lesions resolved), progressive disease (PD), or non-CR/non-PD. Another pre-specified secondary endpoint was intracranial duration of response (DoR) as determined by IRC, defined as the time from start of an intracranial response until intracranial progression or death, regardless of cause. Intracranial progression-free survival (PFS) was an exploratory endpoint defined as the time from treatment start to intracranial disease progression as assessed by IRC or death from any cause. Extracranial progression was not included in the intracranial PFS assessment. Safety was another exploratory endpoint for the population with NSCLC and intracranial metastases.

Trial Assessments

257

258

259

260

261

262

263

264

265

266

267

268

269

270

271

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

Radiological tumor assessments (MRI, preferentially; computerized tomography CT, with and without intravenous contrast when MRI was clinically contraindicated) were conducted at baseline for all phase 2 *RET* fusion-positive solid tumor NSCLC patients. Repeat brain

imaging using the same modality as at baseline was conducted for all patients with brain metastases identified by baseline imaging every 8 weeks for 1 year, and every 12 weeks thereafter. Safety was assessed according to the National Cancer Institute Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (version 4.03). ¹⁷

Statistical Analysis

All analyses were pre-specified in the Statistical Analysis Plan. The Clopper-Pearson method was used to construct 95% CIs for response rates. Kaplan-Meier method was used to estimate median for intracranial DoR and PFS. Median follow up was calculated using the reverse Kaplan Meier method, i.e. median follow up is calculated like the Kaplan-Meier estimate of the survival function, but with the meaning of the status indicator reversed so that the event of interest becomes the censor. SAS statistical software, version 9.2 (SAS Institute, Cary, NC) was used to perform all analyses.

Data Sharing

Eli Lilly and Company provides access to all individual participant data collected during the trial, after anonymization, with the exception of pharmacokinetic or genetic data. Data are available to request 6 months after the indication studied has been approved in the USA and EU and after primary publication acceptance, whichever is later. No expiration date of data requests is currently set once they are made available. Access is provided after a proposal has been approved by an independent review committee identified for this purpose and after receipt of a signed data sharing agreement. Data and documents, including the study protocol, statistical analysis plan, clinical study report, and blank or annotated case report forms will be provided in a secure data sharing environment for up to 2 years per proposal. For details on submitting a request, see the Vivli website: www.vivli.org.

RESULTS

307

308

309

310

311

312

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

Baseline patient characteristics and treatment A total of 531 patients with *RET* fusion-positive cancers were enrolled to phase 1 or phase 2 of the trial between May 2017 and June 17, 2019, including 80 patients with RET fusionpositive NSCLC and investigator-determined baseline brain metastases (92.5% by MRI, 5% by CT, 2.5% missing) that met criteria for inclusion in the current analysis (online appendix, Figure S1). Among these 80 patients, 22 patients had at least one baseline measurable intracranial lesion and 58 had exclusively non-measurable baseline intracranial lesions. The demographic and disease characteristics of patients with baseline brain metastases are summarized in Table 1. The median age was 62 years (range 36–86 years), and most patients had an ECOG performance status of zero or one. Consistent with previous analyses, the most common RET fusion partner was KIF5B (70% of patients). Most patients had received prior systemic therapy (91%), with a median of two prior treatments (range 0–10), including 79% of patients who were treated with platinum-based chemotherapy and 41% of patients who were treated with one or more multi-kinase inhibitors. Prior therapy for brain metastases included surgery in 9%, stereotactic radiosurgery in 45%, and whole brain radiotherapy (WBRT) in 14% of patients. Of the 45 patients who received prior cranial radiotherapy, 73% had completed this therapy at least 2 months prior to beginning selpercatinib treatment. At the time of data cut-off, 46 of the 80 NSCLC patients with brain metastases (58%) remained on therapy with selpercatinib; 23 of the 80 patients (29%) had discontinued treatment due to progressive disease (any progressive disease, not limited to intracranial metastases progression) (online appendix, Table S1). After accounting for intra-patient dose

332

333

334

335

336

337

338

339

340

341

342

343

344

345

346

347

348

349

350

351

352

353

354

355

escalation permitted during the phase 1 portion of the trial, 95% of patients received at least one dose of selpercatinib at the recommended phase 2 dose of 160 mg twice daily. Selpercatinib intracranial efficacy At the time of the data cutoff, the median duration of follow-up was 9.5 months (interquartile range, IQR 5.7, 12.0 months). Among the 22 patients with measurable intracranial disease at baseline, the intracranial ORR was 82% (95% CI = 60–95), including 23% with a complete response and 59% with a partial response (Table 2, Figure 1). In addition, 18% of patients exhibited stable disease as the best response to selpercatinib. Because all the patients achieved a tumor response or disease stabilization, the intracranial disease control rate was 100%. Among the subset of eight patients with measurable disease and prior cranial radiotherapy, the intracranial ORR was 75% (six of eight patients responding, 95% CI = 35– 97) (online appendix, Table S2). The intracranial ORR for patients without prior cranial radiotherapy was 86% (12 of 14 patients responding, 95% CI = 57–98). Among the remaining 58 patients with exclusively non-measurable intracranial disease at baseline, 34% (20 of 58 patients) achieved a complete intracranial response on the basis of complete resolution of all non-measurable lesions and 29 patients had non-CR/non-PD (CR and non-CR/non-PD corresponds to the clinical benefit rate for non-measurable intracranial disease). Only five patients (9%) had progressive disease as best intracranial response (online appendix, Table S3). Thirty-eight patients from the 80-patient population (48%) with baseline brain metastases had an intracranial response to selpercatinib. Among this group of responders, the median intracranial DoR was not reached (95% CI = 9.3, NE) (Table 3, Figure 2A) at a median

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

376

377

378

379

380

duration of follow-up of 9.5 months (IQR 5.7,12.0). Overall, 71% were censored at the time of the analysis. At 1-year, 55% (95% CI = 32–73) of intracranial responses were ongoing. Of note, the longest intracranial response was ongoing at 21.2 months. Among all 80 patients, the median intracranial PFS was 13.7 months (Table 3, Figure 2B), although this median estimate is unstable as only 30 patients (38%) had experienced an event at a median duration of follow-up of 11.0 months (IQR 7.4,16.5). Time to response and response duration are displayed in Figure 3 for all responders (n=38). Selpercatinib safety Among patients with NSCLC and baseline brain metastases, selpercatinib treatment was associated with a low rate of treatment discontinuation due to adverse events judged by the investigator as possibly related to selpercatinib treatment (TRAEs) (3%, two of 80 patients). Table S4 summarizes total (all grade) treatment-emergent adverse events (TEAEs) and TRAEs. TEAEs and TRAEs were reported at similar levels in patients with baseline intracranial disease as in all RET fusion-positive NSCLCs with and without intracranial disease (n=253). Among patients with intracranial disease, most TEAEs and TRAEs were low grade (Table S5). The only TEAEs reported as grade 3/4 in >10% of patients with NSCLC and baseline brain metastases were alanine aminotransferase (ALT) increase (18%), aspartate aminotransferase (AST) increase (11%), hypertension (21%, all grade 3), and hyponatraemia (11%). Grade 3/4 elevated ALT and AST and hypertension were reported at similar levels as TRAEs. No Grade 5 TRAEs were reported among the patients with NSCLC and baseline brain metastases.

DISCUSSION

381

382

383

384

385

386

387

388

389

390

391

392

393

394

395

396

397

398

399

400

401

402

403

404

405

Intracranial metastases are a major cause of morbidity and mortality for patients with oncogene-addicted cancers. The results of this global, multicenter study demonstrate that selpercatinib has robust intracranial efficacy by blinded independent review of patients with RET fusion-positive NSCLCs and brain metastases. The drug achieved a high intracranial response rate and the intracranial duration of response and intracranial progression-free survival were prolonged. Moreover, selpercatinib treatment was well tolerated in this patient population, with no new safety signals identified. Taken together, these data support selpercatinib as a new standard of care for primary treatment of brain metastases for patients with RET fusion-positive NSCLC. Comprehensive molecular profiling analysis is warranted in the future to further analyze the biomarkers of intracranial response and resistance to selpercatinib. The intracranial activity of selpercatinib in this phase 1/2 trial is broadly consistent with the intracranial activity observed with other contemporary targeted therapies for genomicallydriven NSCLCs. In ALK fusion-positive lung cancers, alectinib achieved an intracranial ORR of 64%, an intracranial disease control rate of 90%, and durable disease control (median intracranial duration of response of 10.8 months) among patients with measurable disease in a comparable analysis of two single arm phase 2 trials. ¹⁰ At 6 months, 58% of patients were progression/death-free. In EGFR-mutant lung cancers, osimertinib achieved an intracranial ORR of 54% and an intracranial disease control rate of 92% in a pooled analysis of two phase 2 trials. ¹⁸ At 6 months, 72% of patients were intracranial progression/death-free. By comparison, selpercatinib treatment resulted in an intracranial ORR of 82% and an intracranial disease control rate of 100%, and at 6 months, 79% of patients were intracranial

progression/death-free. Median intracranial duration of response was not reached (95% CI =

407

408

409

410

411

412

413

414

415

416

417

418

419

420

421

422

423

424

425

426

427

428

429

430

9.3, NE). Both alectinib and osimertinib are recognized as standards of care for tyrosine kinase inhibitor-naïve patients with ALK fusion-positive and EGFR-mutant lung cancers, respectively, similar to the role of selpercatinib in *RET* fusion-positive lung cancers. Selpercatinib's activity in the CNS has important implications beyond *RET* fusion-positive NSCLCs with brain metastases. A complete response to selpercatinib in leptomeningeal disease has already been described in a patient with RET fusion-positive NSCLC,⁸ demonstrating the activity of the drug beyond parenchymal disease. Selpercatinib has been shown to be active against intracranial metastases in a patient with *RET* fusion-positive thyroid cancer, ¹⁹ a patient with *RET*-mutant medullary thyroid cancer, ²⁰ and a pediatric patient with *RET* fusion-positive congenital mesoblastic nephroma. ²¹ LIBRETTO-001 continues to enroll patients with non-lung/non-thyroid cancers that harbor RET fusions or mutations. Additional confirmation of the drug's activity in this setting will help establish the overall impact of selpercatinib on intracranial disease in patients with RET-dependent cancers of any histology in both adult and pediatric populations. While this prospective, pre-planned, independently-reviewed analysis has many strengths, it does have some important limitations. Patients in this cohort had received a variety of both systemic and local therapies for management of their *RET* fusion-positive NSCLCs. Despite this, intracranial activity was observed across various treatment subgroups. In addition, at the time of analysis, a majority of patients remained progression-free and a majority of responses were ongoing; thus, stable medians could not be estimated. Ongoing follow-up will reveal more precise estimates of intracranial response durability and progression-free survival. Moreover, this study did not specifically address whether selpercatinib can prevent or delay intracranial progression in patients with NSCLC that begin treatment without intracranial

432

433

434

435

436

437

438

439

440

441

442

443

444

445

446

447

448

449

450

451

452

453

454

involvement. As a phase 1/2 trial, LIBRETTO-001 did not require head and neck MRI/CT scans during treatment unless intracranial disease was identified at baseline and the trial could not address this question. Intriguingly, other tyrosine kinase inhibitors with substantial intracranial activity have already been shown to prolong the time to the acquisition of central nervous system metastases in fusion-positive lung cancers compared to earlier-generation kinase inhibitors with less optimal intracranial activity. 22,23 However, there is a lack of prospective data evaluating long-term outcomes of tyrosine kinase inhibitors alone compared to SRS and tyrosine kinase inhibitors in managing brain metastases. Selpercatinib is currently being evaluated in LIBRETTO-431 (NCT04194944), an ongoing randomized, global, phase 3 study of selpercatinib versus platinum-pemetrexed with or without pembrolizumab in treatment-naïve patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLCs. This trial will allow the further characterization of selpercatinib activity in patients with NSCLC and intracranial metastases. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS Research support for the study was provided by Loxo Oncology, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company. Vivek Subbiah was supported by National Institutes of Health grant R01CA242845; MD Anderson is supported by Cancer Center Support Grant (P30 CA016672). The authors thank the patients, their families, and the trial teams at the participating centers. Medical writing assistance was provided by Mary Dugan Wood, funded by Eli Lilly and Company.

REFERENCES

- 457 1 Mulligan LM. RET revisited: expanding the oncogenic portfolio. *Nat Rev Cancer*
- 458 2014; **14**: 173–86. doi: 10.1038/nrc3680.
- Subbiah V, Cote GJ. Advances in targeting RET-dependent cancers. *Cancer Discov*
- 460 2020; **10**: 498–505. doi:10.1158/2159-8290.CD-19-1116.
- Drilon A, Hu ZI, Lai GGY, Tan DSW. Targeting RET-driven cancers: lessons from
- evolving preclinical and clinical landscapes. *Nat Rev Clin Oncol* 2018; **15**: 151–67. doi:
- 463 10.1038/nrclinonc.2017.188.
- 464 4 Subbiah V, Yang D, Velcheti V, Drilon A, Meric-Bernstam F. State-of-the-art
- strategies for targeting RET-dependent cancers. *J Clin Oncol* 2020; **38**: 1209–21.
- 466 doi:10.1200/JCO.19.02551
- Tsuta K, Kohno T, Yoshida A, Shimada Y, Asamura H, Furuta K, et al. RET-
- rearranged non-small-cell lung carcinoma: a clinicopathological and molecular analysis. *Brit*
- 469 *J Cancer* 2014; **110**: 1571–8. doi 10.1038/bjc.2014.36.
- Wang R, Hu H, Pan Y, Li Y, Ye T, Li C, et al. RET fusions define a unique molecular
- and clinicopathologic subtype of non-small-cell lung cancer. J Clin Oncol 2012; **30**: 4352–9.
- 472 doi 10.1200/JCO.2012.44.1477.
- Drilon A, Lin JJ, Filleron T, Ni A, Milia J, Bergagnini I, et al. Frequency of brain
- 474 metastases and multikinase inhibitor outcomes in patients with RET-rearranged lung cancers.
- 475 *J Thorac Oncol* 2018; **13**: 1595–601. doi 10.1016/j.jtho.2018.07.004.
- Guo R, Schreyer M, Chang JC, Rothenberg SM, Henry D, Cotzia P, et al. Response to
- selective RET inhibition with LOXO-292 in a patient with RET fusion-positive lung cancer

- with leptomeningeal metastases. *JCO Precision Oncol* 2019; published online June 3.
- 479 https://doi.org/10.1200/PO.19.00021.
- Park S, Lee MH, Seong M, Kim ST, Kang JH, Cho BC, et al. A phase II, multicenter,
- two cohort study of 160 mg osimertinib in EGFR T790M-positive non-small cell lung cancer
- patients with brain metastases or leptomeningeal disease who progressed on prior EGFR TKI
- therapy. *Ann Oncol* 2020; published online July 5.
- 484 https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2020.06.017.
- 485 10 Gadgeel SM, Shaw AT, Govindan R, Gandhi L, Socinski MA, Camidge DR, et al.
- Pooled analysis of CNS response to alectinib in two studies of pretreated patients with ALK-
- positive non–small-cell lung cancer. J Clin Oncol 2016; **34**: 4079–85. doi
- 488 10.1200/JCO.2016.68.4639.
- Aoyama H, Tago M, Kato N, Toyoda T, Kenjyo M, Hirota S, et al. Neurocognitive
- 490 function of patients with brain metastasis who received either whole brain radiotherapy plus
- 491 stereotactic radiosurgery or radiosurgery alone. *Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys* 2007; **68**: 1388–
- 492 95. doi 10.1016/j.ijrobp.2007.03.048.
- Drilon A, Oxnard GR, Tan SWD, Loong HHF, Johnson M, Gainor J, et al. Efficacy of
- selpercatinib in *RET* fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2020; **383**:
- 495 813–24. doi 10.1056/NEJMoa2005653.
- 496 13 Markham A. Selpercatinib: First Approval. *Drugs* 2020; **80**: 1119–24. doi
- 497 10.1007/s40265-020-01343-7.
- 498 14 European Medicines Agency Meeting highlights from the Committee for Medicinal
- 499 Products for Human Use (CHMP) 7-10 December
- 500 2020.https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/news/meeting-highlights-committee-medicinal-products-
- human-use-chmp-7-10-december-2020. Date accessed: March 1, 2021.

- 502 15 Subbiah V, Velcheti V, Tuch BB, Ebata K, Busaidy NL, Cabanillas ME, et al.
- Selective RET kinase inhibition for patients with RET-altered cancers. *Ann Oncol* 2018; **29**:
- 504 1869–76. doi 10.1093/annonc/mdy137.
- 505 16 Eisenhauer EA, Therasse P, Bogaerts J, Schwartz LH, Sargent D, Ford R, et al. New
- response evaluation criteria in solid tumours: revised RECIST guideline (version 1.1). Eur J
- 507 *Cancer* 2009; **45**: 228–47. doi 10.1016/j.ejca.2008.10.026.
- 508 17 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Institutes of Health,
- National Cancer Institute. Common Terminology Criteria for Adverse Events (CTCAE), v4.0
- 510 (v4.03). https://www.eortc.be/services/doc/ctc/CTCAE_4.03_2010-06-
- 511 14_QuickReference_5x7.pdf. Updated: 2010. Date accessed: July 9, 2020.
- 512 18 Goss G, Tsai CM, Shepherd FA, Ahn MJ, Bazhenova L, Crino L et al. CNS response
- to osimertinib in patients with T790M-positive advanced NSCLC: pooled data from two
- phase II trials. *Ann Oncol* 2018; **29**: 687–93. doi 10.1093/annonc/mdx820.
- 515 19 Wirth LJ, Sherman E, Robinson B, Solomon B, Kang H, Lorch J, et al. Efficacy of
- selpercatinib in RET-altered thyroid cancers. N Engl J Med 2020; **383**: 825–35. doi
- 517 10.1056/NEJMoa2005651.
- 518 20 Andreev-Drakhlin A, Cabanillas M, Amini B, Subbiah V. Systemic and CNS activity
- of selective RET inhibition with selpercatinib (LOXO-292) in a patient with RET-mutant
- medullary thyroid cancer with extensive CNS metastases. JCO Precis Oncol 2020; **38**(15)
- 521 Suppl): 3594. doi 10.1200/PO.20.00096.
- 522 21 Ortiz MV, Gerdemann U, Raju SG, Henry D, Smith S, Rothenberg SM, et al. Activity
- of the highly specific RET inhibitor selpercatinib (LOXO-292) in pediatric patients with
- tumors harboring RET gene alterations. JCO Precis Oncol 2020; 4: 341–347. doi
- 525 10.1200/PO.19.00401.

- Peters S, Camidge DR, Shaw AT, Gadgeel S, Ahn JS, Kim DW, et al. Alectinib
- versus crizotinib in untreated ALK-positive non–small-cell lung cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2017;
- 528 **377**: 829–38. doi 10.1056/NEJMoa1704795.
- 529 23 Camidge DR, Kim HR, Ahn MJ, Yang JC, Han JY, Lee JS, et al. Brigatinib versus
- crizotinib in ALK-positive non–small-cell lung cancer. *N Engl J Med* 2018; **379**: 2027–39.
- 531 doi 10.1056/NEJMoa1810171.

Table 1. Demographic and disease characteristics of patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC and intracranial disease

Characteristics	All patients with <i>RET</i> fusion-positive NSCLC and intracranial metastases (N=80)
Age	
Median (range), years	62 (36–86)
Sex, n (%)	
Female	54 (68)
Male	26 (33)
Race, n (%)	
White	44 (55)
Asian	31 (39)
Black or African American	2(3)
Other	2 (3)
Unknown	1(1)
Smoking history, n (%)	` ,
Never	63 (79)
Former	16 (20)
Current	1(1)
ECOG performance status, n (%)	` '
0	22 (28)
1	54 (68)
2	4 (5)
NSCLC histological subtype, n (%)	` '
Adenocarcinoma	69 (86)
Large cell neuroendocrine carcinoma	2(3)
NSCLC-NOS	8 (10)
Other	1 (1)
RET fusion partner, n (%)	- (-/
KIF5B	56 (70)
CCDC6	11 (14)
NCOA4	2 (3)
Other	4 (5)
Unknown ^a	7 (9)
Prior therapy, n (%)	, (>)
Number of prior systemic regimens	
0	7 (9)
1–2	43 (54)
3 or more	30 (38)
Median prior systemic regimen (range)	2 (0–10)
Type of prior systemic therapy b	2 (0 10)
Platinum chemotherapy	63 (79)
Anti PD-1/PD-L1 antibody	43 (54)
Multi-kinase inhibitor	33 (41)
Taxane chemotherapy	25 (31)
Other systemic therapy	31 (39)
Intracranial radiotherapy	45 (56)
Whole brain radiation therapy	43 (36) 11 (14)
Stereotactic radiosurgery	
- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	36 (45)
Intracranial radiotherapy timing	22 (41)
Completed >2 months prior to selpercatinib treatment	33 (41)
Intracranial surgery	7 (9)

^a RET fusion identified by molecular analysis with an assay unable to identify the fusion partner (e.g. fluorescence in situ hybridization).

535

536

533

^b Patients may be counted in more than one row.

Table 2. Intracranial tumor response by independent review committee assessment in patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC and measurable intracranial disease per RECIST 1.1.

	Patients with measurable intracranial disease (N=22)
Intracranial objective response rate, n (%)	18 (82)
95% confidence interval ^a	60 – 95
Intracranial best overall response, n (%)	
Complete response	5 (23)
Partial response	13 (59)
Stable disease	4 (18)
Progressive disease	0
Intracranial disease control rate, n (%) ^b	22 (100)

^a 95% confidence interval was calculated using Clopper-Pearson method.

b Intracranial disease control rate was defined as the percentage of patients who had a best overall intracranial response of complete response, partial response, or stable disease lasting 16 weeks or more after selpercatinib initiation.

Table 3. Duration of intracranial tumor response and intracranial progression-free survival by independent review committee assessment in patients with *RET* fusion-positive NSCLC and measurable and non-measurable intracranial disease

	Total patients (N=80)
Duration of intracranial response	
Responders ^a	38
Censored, n (%) ^b	27 (71)
Intracranial duration of response, median (months) (95% CI) c,d	NE (9.3–NE)
Intracranial duration of follow-up, median (months) (IQR) ^c	9.5 (5.7, 12.0)
Intracranial duration of response c,e	
% of patients ≥6 months (95% CI)	91 (75– 97)
% of patients ≥12 months (95% CI)	55 (32–73)
Progression-free survival	
Censored, n (%) ^b	50 (62.5)
Median, months (95% CI) c,d	13.7 (10.9–NE)
Median follow-up, (months) (IQR) ^c	11.0 (7.4, 16.5)
% progression/death-free ^{c,e}	
≥6 months (95% CI)	79 (68–87)
≥12 months (95% CI)	55 (41–67)

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; IQR, interquartile range; NE, not estimable

547548

549

^a Patients with intracranial best response of CR or PR based on independent review committee assessments using RECIST (version 1.1).

b Status as of the patient's last disease assessment on or before 16 Dec 2019.

^c Estimate based on Kaplan-Meier method.

^d 95% confidence interval was calculated using Brookmeyer and Crowley method.

^e 95% confidence interval was calculated using Greenwood's formula.

Figure Legend

Figure 1. Intracranial response to selpercatinib. A waterfall plot of the maximum change in intracranial tumor size is shown for the 22 patients with measurable disease at baseline. Vertical bars represent the best percent change from baseline in the sum of diameters for all intracranial target lesions, with the color of the bar representing the corresponding tumor response designation. Symbols represent prior stereotactic radiosurgery (SRS) and prior systemic therapies. Note: because the intracranial best overall response in Table 2 is based on RECIST 1.1 requirements, including the need for a confirmatory scan, the tumor response designation does not exactly correlate with table data.

Abbreviations: MKI, multi-kinase inhibitor

Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier plot of (A) intracranial duration of response and (B) intracranial progression-free survival. (A) The plot depicts the duration of response for all responding patients with measurable or non-measurable intracranial metastases. (B) The plot was constructed with data derived from all patients with measurable or non-measurable intracranial metastases treated with selpercatinib.

Abbreviations: DoR, duration of response; NE, non-estimable; PFS, progression-free survival

Figure 3. Duration of selpercatinib therapy.

Treatment duration, time to intracranial response, and intracranial progression events are shown in this swimmer's plot for patients with measurable and non-measurable intracranial disease (n=38). The complete and partial response symbols indicate the time of the first scan showing an intracranial response (that was then confirmed at a subsequent assessment).

Figure 1

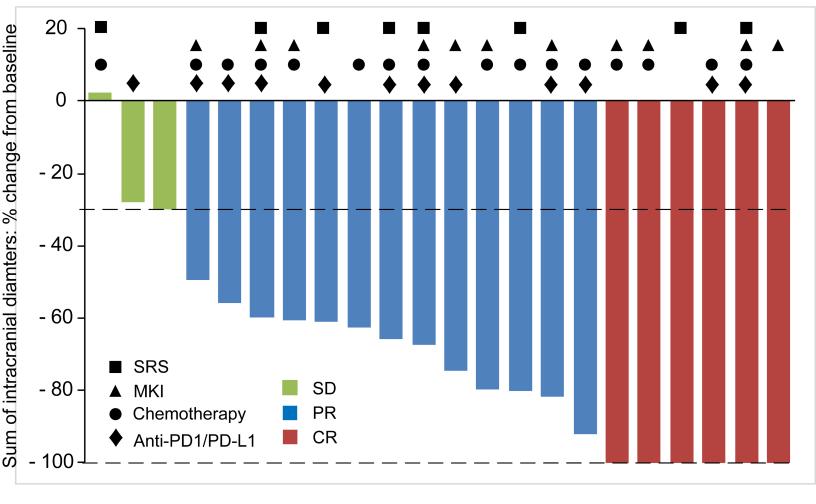
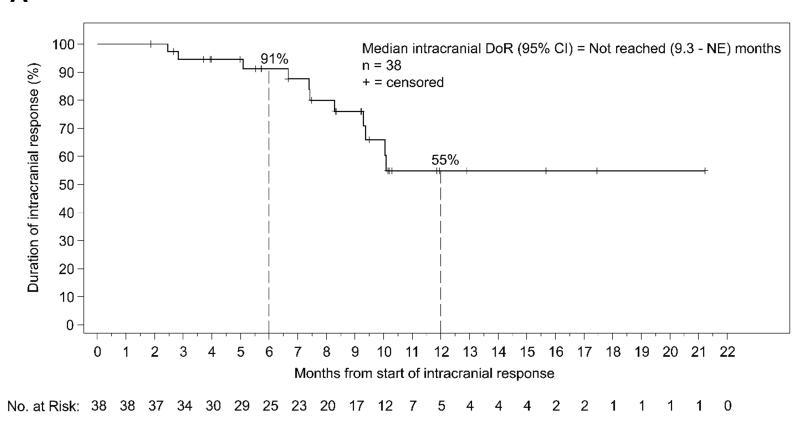
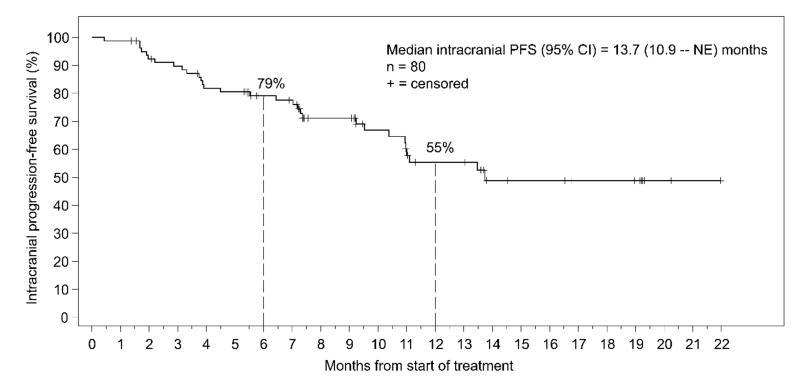


Figure 2

Α

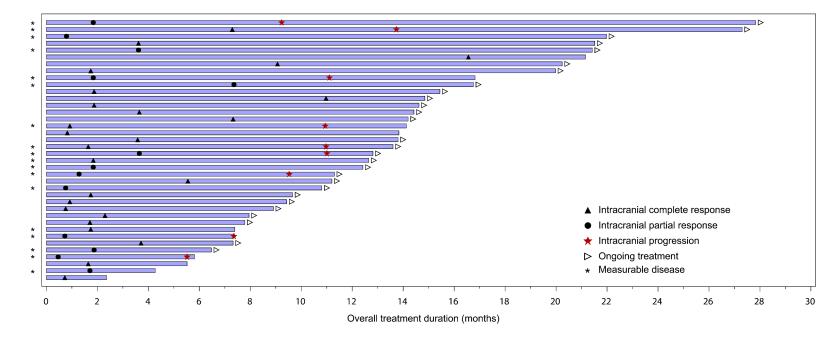


B



No. at Risk: 80 79 72 69 62 61 52 50 38 38 30 26 21 21 11 10 10 8 8 7 2 1 0

Figure 3





Clinical Cancer Research

Intracranial efficacy of selpercatinib in RET fusion-positive non-small cell lung cancers on the LIBRETTO-001 trial

Vivek Subbiah, Justin F. Gainor, Geoffrey R. Oxnard, et al.

Clin Cancer Res Published OnlineFirst June 4, 2021.

Access the most recent version of this article at: **Updated version** doi:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-21-0800 Access the most recent supplemental material at: Supplementary http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/suppl/2021/06/04/1078-0432.CCR-21-0800.DC1 Material Author manuscripts have been peer reviewed and accepted for publication but have not yet Author been edited. Manuscript

E-mail alerts Sign up to receive free email-alerts related to this article or journal.

Reprints and **Subscriptions** To order reprints of this article or to subscribe to the journal, contact the AACR Publications

Department at pubs@aacr.org.

Permissions To request permission to re-use all or part of this article, use this link

http://clincancerres.aacrjournals.org/content/early/2021/06/03/1078-0432.CCR-21-0800.

Click on "Request Permissions" which will take you to the Copyright Clearance Center's (CCC)

Rightslink site.