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[J Transl Med.](#) 2010 Oct 14;8:100.

Cellular and vaccine therapeutic approaches for gliomas.

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Abstract

Despite new additions to the standard of care therapy for high grade primary malignant brain tumors, the prognosis for patients with this disease is still poor. A small contingent of clinical researchers are focusing their efforts on testing the safety, feasibility and efficacy of experimental active and passive immunotherapy approaches for gliomas and are primarily conducting Phase I and II clinical trials. Few trials have advanced to the Phase III arena. Here we provide an overview of the cellular therapies and vaccine trials currently open for patient accrual obtained from a search of <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. The search was refined with terms that would identify the Phase I, II and III immunotherapy trials open for adult glioma patient accrual in the United States. From the list, those that are currently open for patient accrual are discussed in this review. A variety of adoptive immunotherapy trials using ex vivo activated effector cell preparations, cell-based and non-cell-based vaccines, and several combination passive and active immunotherapy approaches are discussed.

PMID: 20946667 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE] PMID: PMC2964608 [Free PMC Article](#)

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