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# Clinical and molecular characteristics and prognostic factors of diffuse astrocytoma, IDH-wildtype, not elsewhere classified

Research Published: 01 December 2025

Volume 176, article number 103, (2026) Cite this article

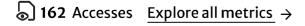


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Aims and scope

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## **Abstract**

## **Purpose**

The clinical nature of IDH-wildtype astrocytoma, not elsewhere classified (NEC), is poorly understood. To this end, we aimed to investigate the clinical, molecular, imaging, and prognosis of histological grade 2 and 3 IDH-wildtype diffuse astrocytoma, NEC.

## **Methods**

Retrospective chart and imaging reviews were performed for 46 patients with IDH-wildtype diffuse astrocytoma, NEC. Data regarding clinical, histopathological, molecular markers, MRI findings, and the extent of resection were collected. Univariable and multivariable Cox analyses were performed for overall survival (OS).

#### Results

The median OS was 45.0 months (95% CI 27.7–62.4). Multivariable analysis identified older age at diagnosis (hazard ratio [HR] = 1.10, P = 0.007), higher Ki-67 index (HR = 1.09, P = 0.002), and nongross total resection (HR = 3.57, P = 0.042) as independent predictors of unfavorable OS. Tumors with genetic alterations such as amplification of KIT (P = 0.024) and PDGFRA (P = 0.034), and mutations in ATM (P = 0.050) showed an increased Ki-67 index. Tumors with higher histological grade (P < 0.001) and infiltrative appearance on MRI (P = 0.029) also showed an increased Ki-67 index. For patients with Ki-67 index  $\geq$  5, addition of adjuvant temozolomide therapy resulted in a survival benefit (P = 0.014).

#### **Conclusion**

Our findings support the importance of maximal safe resection and prognostic value of the Ki-67 index in this tumor. *KIT*, *PDGFRA* amplification and *ATM* mutations were associated with the increased Ki-67 indices, and targeted therapies against these alterations warrant further investigation.

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# **Data availability**

No datasets were generated or analysed during the current study.

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# **Funding**

This study was financially supported by a Faculty Research Grant of Yonsei University College of Medicine (6-2023-0072, Yae Won Park; 6-2023-0109, Chan Woo Wee).

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## **Contributions**

Chan Woo Wee and Yae Won Park conceived the study and supervised the manuscript preparation. Woo Jong Cho analyzed and interpreted data and wrote the manuscript text. Kaeum Choi and

Kyunghwa Han provided statistical support. Sung Soo Ahn and Yae Won Park performed the radiological analysis. Seo Hee Choi, Hong In Yoon, Seok-Gu Kang, Jong Hee Chang, Se Hoon Kim, and Seung-Koo Lee contributed to data acquisition. All authors discussed the results and approved of the final manuscript.

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## **Ethics declarations**

## Ethics approval and consent to participate

Patient consent was waived owing to the retrospective study design from the institutional review board of Yonsei university (Approval number: 2024–3288–001).

## **Competing interests**

The authors declare no competing interests.

## **Additional information**

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# **Supplementary Information**

Below is the link to the electronic supplementary material.

## **Supplementary Material 1**

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Cho, W.J., Choi, K., Han, K. *et al.* Clinical and molecular characteristics and prognostic factors of diffuse astrocytoma, IDH-wildtype, not elsewhere classified. *J Neurooncol* **176**, 103 (2026). https://doi.org/10.1007/s11060-025-05358-6

Received Accepted Published

19 October 2025 26 November 2025 01 December 2025

Version of record

01 December 2025

DOI

https://doi.org/10.1007/s11060-025-05358-6

## **Keywords**

Glioma Magnetic resonance imaging Not elsewhere classified World Health Organization

Survival