A Comparison of Phase II Study Strategies

Sally Hunsberger, Yingdong Zhao, and Richard Simon

From the Biometric Research Branch, Division of Cancer Treatment and Diagnosis, National Cancer Institute Bethesda MD

Address reprint requests to Sally Hunsberger, PhD, Biometric Research Branch 6130 Executive Blvd, EPN-8120, MSC 7434 National Cancer Institute, Bethesda MD, 20892; phone 301-402-0637; fax 301-4020560; e-mail: sallyh@ctep.nci.nih.gov

ABSTRACT

The traditional oncology drug development paradigm of single arm phase II studies followed by a randomized phase III study has limitations for modern oncology drug development. Interpretation of single arm phase II study results is difficult when a new drug is used in combination with other agents or when progression free survival is used as the endpoint rather than tumor shrinkage. Randomized phase II studies are more informative for these objectives but increase both the number of patients and time required to determine the value of a new experimental agent. In this paper, we compare different phase II study strategies to determine the most efficient drug development path in terms of number of patients and length of time to conclusion of drug efficacy on overall survival.
1. Introduction

The clinical development of oncology drugs has traditionally involved three distinct phases, each with its own goal and characteristic design. In phase I the maximum tolerated dose of the drug is determined, the underlying assumption being that higher doses, although more toxic to normal tissue, are more effective for eradicating tumor. Phase II studies attempt to determine whether anti-tumor effect in a particular diagnostic category is sufficient to warrant conducting a phase III clinical trial. Anti-tumor effect has traditionally been evaluated using an endpoint such as tumor shrinkage. Phase II studies are typically single arm studies with 15-40 patients per diagnostic category. Phase III clinical trials are generally large randomized controlled studies with the endpoint being a direct measure of patient benefit, such as survival.

The classic paradigm described above has several limitations for modern oncology drug development that arise in the phase II setting. First, successful development of agents that extend survival in patients with cancer has led to the need to study combinations of agents. This makes the design of phase II studies more complex\(^1\) and means that objective responses in single arm phase II studies of combination regimens containing a new drug do not necessarily represent evidence of anti-tumor activity for the new drug. To interpret the phase II study one needs a comparison of the activity of the combination containing the new drug to the activity of the regimen given at maximum tolerated doses without the new drug. Such a comparison, if based on prospective randomization, would require a much larger sample size than the traditional single arm phase II trial. The limitations of using historical control information for estimating the activity of the control regimen are well documented\(^2\) and even if such information is used, larger sample sizes are required since a comparison is involved\(^3,4\).
The traditional paradigm is also problematic for the development of drugs which may inhibit tumor growth without shrinking tumors. A design based on tumor shrinkage may indicate that a potentially active drug is inactive. As a solution investigators are beginning to use progression free survival (PFS) (defined as time from entry on study to documented progression or death) as an endpoint in phase II studies. It is, however, very difficult to reliably determine whether a new drug extends PFS in a single arm phase II trial. Whereas tumors rarely shrink spontaneously, PFS times often vary widely among patients.

As an example of how traditional drug development has not worked consider advanced pancreatic cancer. From 2004-2006 three negative randomized phase III clinical trials were reported\textsuperscript{5-7}. In the clinical trials the addition of either Oxaliplatin, Cisplatin, or Irinotecan to Gemcitabine was studied. All three studies followed single arm phase II studies with promising evidence of activity for the combinations\textsuperscript{8-10}. From these three negative studies it is clear that single arm phase II studies of combination regimens in this population of patients are unreliable. It appears that the response endpoint can be influenced merely by the selection of the patients. Thus, there is a strong need for randomized phase II studies rather than single arm phase II studies in this disease.

In this paper we consider the role of phase II studies in modern oncology drug development. We consider single arm phase II studies, randomized phase II studies, designs that integrate phase II and III into the same study, and skipping phase II altogether. To understand the impact of phase II studies on drug development we calculate $E[T]$, the expected time from beginning of phase II to a final conclusion on OS and $E[N]$, the expected number of patients needed in both phase II and phase III.

The outline of the paper is as follows. In section 2 we provide a literature review. Section 3 discusses different phase II designs along with details of simulation studies that we
performed to evaluate the impact of phase II strategies on drug development. Section 4 gives the results of the simulation studies. A discussion of the results is presented in section 5.

2. Literature Review

Rubinstein et al\textsuperscript{11} discuss the challenges of drug development with molecularly targeted agents. They describe the pitfalls of single arm studies and recommend use of randomized phase II studies where type I error rates are relaxed from the traditional .05 to .20. These issues were also described by Simon et al\textsuperscript{12}, for therapeutic vaccine studies and by Ratain et al\textsuperscript{13}. Ratain et al\textsuperscript{14} used a “randomized discontinuation design” in which patients are initially treated with the same experimental agent, patients with stable disease after a specified time are then randomized to either continue receiving the experimental agent or receive placebo.

Inoue et al\textsuperscript{15}, presented a Bayesian phase II/III design in which patients are randomized to an experimental arm or a standard arm and the decision to stop the study early or continue the study is made repeatedly based on simultaneous hypothesis tests of survival and response rates. They compare the efficiency of the design to two independent studies with the first study being a single arm study based on response rates and the second study being a randomized study with survival as the endpoint. In a simulation patterned after a non-small cell lung cancer study, they found the phase II/III design used fewer patients and took less time to complete.

Buaer et al\textsuperscript{16} and Proschan and Hunsberger\textsuperscript{17} have developed adaptive designs that are very flexible and allow the primary endpoint to be analyzed during the study and used to determine whether the study should continue. In these designs the sample size can also be readjusted. The framework of the adaptive design allows one to maintain the type I error rate by adjusting the critical value at the end of the study.
Parmar et al. advocate integrated phase II/III designs and give an in depth discussion on the motivation for these designs. Goldman et al. consider a phase III study design with an interim analysis that can stop for futility based on a composite endpoint of either progression free survival or overall survival. They show that including a futility analysis can save time and reduce the number of patients accrued to a phase III trial under the null hypothesis. The criteria they use for stopping is more conservative than the one we consider.

3. Methods

In this we paper evaluate the impact of different phase II study strategies on drug development and use E[T] and E[N] to evaluate the impact. We first discuss the single arm phase II study design. In this type of study PFS is the primary endpoint and will be used as an early indicator of activity. PFS data from patients given the experimental treatment is compared to the historical experience. If this single arm study is promising a randomized phase III study based on OS is organized. Although it is possible to plan such studies using specific historical controls and taking into account the number of such controls, this is rarely done. Usually historical data (often from small studies) is used to specify a null comparison level of activity. For PFS data, this comparison level may represent PFS at a landmark time, or median PFS for an exponential distribution.

Because historical controls may not be prognostically comparable to patients accrued to the phase II trial, the specified null level of PFS may not be correct. When a null PFS rate is specified that is larger than the true rate for the population under study, the benefit of the new treatment will be under-estimated, thus reducing the probability of finding activity in the phase II study and continuing on to the phase III study. Ultimately, this reduces the probability of finding a significant benefit on OS. Conversely, a treatment that has no benefit on PFS is more likely to
appear active when the null rate that is specified is smaller than the true rate for the population under study. This will result in continuing to a phase III study with probability greater than the specified type I error, thus increasing $E[T]$ and $E[N]$. We study the effect of over or under specifying the null PFS rates in a single arm phase II study.

The problem of incorrectly specifying the null PFS rate in a single arm phase II study can be alleviated by performing a randomized phase II study comparing the new treatment to the control regimen using PFS as endpoint. If the new treatment appears better than the control based PFS then a phase III trial comparing the new treatment to the control regimen using OS as endpoint is organized.

Although the randomized phase II study alleviates the need to specify a null rate it does require more patients than a single arm study. Therefore, in order to address the increase in sample size we consider integrating a randomized phase II into a phase III study. With this approach, accrual to a randomized phase II study is designed to continue on into a phase III study if a specified criterion is met. The endpoint used for the phase II evaluation will differ from that used for the phase III analysis (as in the single arm study and sequence of studies), but data from patients accrued during the phase II study are used in the phase III study. Goldman et al\textsuperscript{19} have described these designs as a phase III study with an interim futility analysis using an intermediate endpoint. Finally we consider a strategy of skipping the phase II study and performing a single randomized study with survival as the endpoint and including an interim futility analysis based on survival.

In this paper we wish to evaluate the strategies by comparing the total number of patients ($E[N]$), both phase II and phase III, and total time till completion ($E[T]$) under null and alternative hypotheses, using parameters from the pancreatic cancer example for illustration. Appendix A provides equations for the calculation of $E[N]$ and $E[T]$. In the calculation of $E[N]$.  

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and $E[T]$ the sample size and length of accrual for a phase III study are included and the same phase III study design is used for all strategies. The sample size and length of accrual of the phase III study are based on a design that has a primary endpoint of OS and 90% power for a 2-sided .05 level test.

The pancreatic cancer literature suggests the median OS rate is 6 months. For the sample size calculations of the phase III study an improvement in OS to 7.8 months is used (hazard ratio of 1.3). Although this improvement appears small it is likely this improvement would be of interest since this study is for an advanced disease population and even small OS improvements would be interesting since the drug could then be studied in earlier stages of disease. Assuming an accrual rate of 15 patients per month with a minimum follow up of 6 months would require 46.1 months of accrual or 692 patients.

For the two strategies that have independent phase II and phase III studies (i.e. the single arm study and randomized phase II) the phase II primary endpoint will be PFS and the study will be designed to have 90% power using a 1-sided .1 level test. We continue with the pancreatic example to design the phase II studies based on PFS. The literature suggests that the median PFS for pancreatic cancer is between 2 and 4 months, so for the single arm study we specify 3 months as the null PFS rate and for the randomized study we based the sample size calculation on a control arm median PFS rate of 3 months. We power both studies to detect an improvement in the median PFS to 4.5 months (hazard ratio of 1.5).

For the integrated phase II/III study design, patients will be accrued until time $t_1$. At $t_1$ accrual will be suspended and patients will be followed for a minimum time $f_1$. After $t_1+f_1$ a comparison of the treated versus control groups based on progression-free survival (PFS) will be performed. If the p-value for PFS in this interim analysis is not less than a specified threshold, $\alpha_1$, accrual will terminate and no claims for the new treatment will be made. Otherwise, accrual will
resume until a total of M patients are accrued. After accruing M patients, follow-up will continue for an additional minimum time f_0. At the end of the study OS will be evaluated on all M patients. The total sample size M is that of the phase III study.

The strategy of skipping the phase II study and performing an interim futility analysis on OS requires a specification of t_1 (the time of the interim analysis) and α_1 the criteria for continuing. That is, if the p-value for the comparison of OS is less than α_1 the study will continue.

For the integrated phase II/III and for the phase III with a futility analysis we determined t_1 and α_1 so that the overall study power (probability of concluding a benefit on OS when starting from phase II) will be maintained at 81%. Note, this 81% is the power for the strategy of a randomized phase II study with 90% power for PFS followed by a randomized phase III study with 90% power for OS. For the integrated phase II/III and the futility design we evaluate E[N] and E[T] for different α_1 values but always adjusted t_1 to maintain 81% power.

We evaluated the designs under: (i) No treatment effect on either PFS or OS (global null); (ii) treatment effect on PFS and OS (global alternative). When we evaluate the single arm study we use the equations in appendix A and assume PFS and OS follow exponential distributions. Since the two studies are independent E[T] and E[N] can be calculated analytically. In the integrated II/III design data from the same person is used for the PFS and OS analysis. Therefore the data will be correlated and the correlation needs to be accounted for when evaluating E[T] and E[N]. The correlation structure we assume make analytic results difficult to calculate, since the PFS data no longer follow an exponential distribution, hence, computer simulations were conducted to evaluate E[N] and E[T]. Since the integrated II/III design is compared to the separate randomized phase II strategy, and the futility analysis on OS strategy,
simulated data was used to evaluate $E[N]$ and $E[T]$ for these designs as well. (equations for the calculations of $E[N]$ and $E[T]$ are found in Appendix A).

In the simulations we generate correlated PFS and OS data as follows. The distribution of OS for the control group was taken as exponential with median $m_0$ months. The treatment effect for OS is specified by a parameter $\Delta_o$ resulting in an exponential distribution of OS for the treatment group with $m_0\Delta_o$. Provisional PFS times were generated for control and treatment group patients using exponential distributions with median values $m_p$ months and $\Delta_1 m_p$ months respectively. For a patient with overall survival value $Y_o$, and provisional PFS value $Y_1$, the actual PFS time was set as $Y_p = \min(Y_1, Y_o)$. This introduction of correlation between PFS and OS means that PFS times do not have an exponential distribution. If the medians of OS and PFS are very different then the correlation is very small and PFS will have an approximate exponential distribution. In the simulations $\Delta_1$ and $\Delta_o$ were varied. All simulations are performed with 10,000 replications.

4. Simulation Results

For the single arm phase II study, specifying the null PFS comparison rate too low becomes a problem when there is no treatment benefit. Table 1a shows the increase in the expected sample size and expected length of study when the null rate is under specified by 2 weeks and 1 month. Since the probabilities of continuing to the phase III study increases from the desired level of .1 to .4 and .72, the expected sample size can almost triple (when compared to the correct specification) if the specification is off by two weeks or be 4 times larger if the specification is off by a month. Table 1b shows that specifying the null rate too high cuts into the probability of concluding a benefit on OS when a benefit exists. The overall probability is expected to be .81 but it is reduced to .51 or .09 for a 2 week or 1 month over specification. It is
clear that incorrectly specifying the null for single arm studies can increase $E[N]$ and $E[T]$ where there is no treatment benefit and can reduce the probability of finding a benefit on OS when there is a treatment benefit. Therefore we consider the integrated II/III study which aims to take advantage of randomization as in a randomized phase II study yet potentially shorten the phase III study under a null treatment effect. We also consider the effect on $E[N]$ and $E[T]$ of skipping phase II and moving to a phase III study with OS as the only endpoint.

Table 2 gives the $E[T]$ and $E[N]$ for the designs under the global null and global alternative. All designs have 81% power and type I error rate of less than .05 (2-sided). As can be seen in Table 2 the integrated phase II/III design is effective in substantially reducing the development time and number of required patients under the global null when compared to the study with a futility analysis based on OS. The sample size is comparable to that of the sequence of studies under the global null when $\alpha_1=.1$ or .2. Futility monitoring on PFS is more effective than futility monitoring on OS in this setting because progression events can be observed sooner. The dramatic savings in time and patients (when comparing the sequence of studies to the integrated design) comes under the global alternative.

In appendix B table B1 we show $E[T]$ and $E[N]$ under the global null and alternative hypothesis for different patient accrual rates, different hazard ratios and median times for PFS and OS. In table B1 for the integrated design we only show results for $\alpha_1=.1$ and .2 since the other values led to larger $E[N]$ and $E[T]$. We also only show designs with $f_1=0$ since setting $f_1$ larger than 0 only changed the results minimally. Therefore, since practically it is much easier to continue accrual we feel this is the design of most interest. The results are qualitatively very similar to those shown in Table 2.

5. Discussion
Traditional oncology drug development strategies are problematic when using PFS for assessing drug activity or when adding a new agent to an active regimen. We explored the impact of different phase II study strategies on drug development by evaluating the expected number of patients and the expected length of time for phase II and III.

We showed that although the single arm phase II study may appear to speed up drug development, even minimal prognostic bias in comparison to historical controls can have major impact on producing misleading results which either lead to futile phase III trials or, more importantly, result in missing active agents. Our investigation showed that the integrated phase II/III design worked well under the global null. That is, $E[N]$ and $E[T]$ were no larger than that of a randomized phase II study and were considerably smaller than skipping the phase II study. The integrated II/III study performed better than the separate randomized phase II study under the global alternative and did not increase $E[T]$ and $E[N]$ when compared to skipping the phase II component.

There are several practical issues that must be addressed when using an integrated phase II/III design. When an integrated II/III design is proposed institutions must have sufficient accrual for a phase III study and there must be enough funding to support a phase III study. This could have implications for studies that are funded by grants or for small companies that typically only develop agents through phase II.

In some situations it may be difficult for physicians to enter patients into a randomized phase III study after a positive randomized phase II study with an endpoint of PFS. The difficulty may also exist for the integrated phase II/III study since continuation of the study would imply that PFS results were promising for the new treatment. The randomized phase II of PFS or the integrated phase II/III would only be appropriate in situations where PFS was not an accepted measure of patient benefit or a validated surrogate of OS. In such settings a positive randomized
phase II study with PFS as the endpoint will often not be sufficient to change clinical practice and a sequence of randomized studies or the integrated phase II/III would both be appropriate in an ethical sense.

The combined phase II/III designs and the separate trial designs are reasonable only if it is expected that improvement of PFS is a necessary condition, although not a sufficient condition, for improvement in OS. If improvement in PFS is not a necessary condition for improvement in OS than clearly the study with a futility analysis based on OS would be preferable. A future area of research for the integrated approach would be to include a futility analysis on OS along with the PFS analysis. This would improve performance for the trials where improvement in PFS is not accompanied by an improvement in OS. This approach can also be used with endpoints other than PFS such as molecular biomarkers or new imaging diagnostics. However, one needs to critically examine the relationship of any proposed intermediate endpoint and OS.

Once the parameters of the integrated phase II/III designs have been chosen, the design and monitoring plan should be clearly described in the protocol. The protocol would specify the number of progression events that would be needed for the PFS analysis and the $\alpha_1$ for stopping the study. The total number of events for the OS analysis would also be specified. After the PFS analysis has been performed typical interim DSMC monitoring based on OS (for efficacy) would be specified in the protocol. The protocol should indicate clearly that early stopping of accrual because of a treatment effect on PFS is not a part of the analysis plan.

The integrated phase II/III designs have some properties which may be of value when accelerated or provisional approval of a new drug is of interest. Although a phase III study is required after accelerated approval has been obtained, it has not always been performed. This design would ensure that a randomized phase III trial based on OS was in place at the time that
accelerated approval was obtained and would provide a well powered, well designed randomized phase II study with PFS as the basis for the provisional claim. If accelerated approval were of interest, $\alpha_1$ would generally be set no greater than .05.

We have provided a web based computer program that calculates the expected sample size, expected study duration, and power for the randomized designs studied in this paper (http://linus.nci.nih.gov/brb). The calculations are exact for the randomized phase II strategy and are approximations for the integrated II/II and single study with a futility analysis strategy. Although some of the calculations are approximations, the approximation of the savings in sample size or time that could be obtained by using the integrated II/III approach would be adequate to decide whether the design should be considered further. When designing an integrated phase II/III study we recommend evaluating various sets of parameters. For example the accrual rate should be varied along with the medians of PFS and OS, and the size of the treatment effect on PFS and OS. If an integrated approach looks promising a simulation study that reflects the best assumptions on the distribution of PFS and OS and accounts for the correlation in the integrated and single study designs should be performed.

With the number and type of new drugs that are being developed today it may be necessary to use new types of designs in the phase II and III setting. We suggest investigators explore the efficiency of integrated phase II/III designs.
References

15. Inoue LY, Thall PF, Berry DA: Seamlessly expanding a randomized phase II trial to phase III. Biometrics 58:823-31, 2002


Table 1a: E[N] and E[T] for drug development using a single arm phase II study when the experimental agent provides no benefit. The phase II study design is based on: a null median PFS rate of 3 months, i.e. an assumption that control patients would have a median PFS of 3 months. If that assumption is correct, the single arm phase II trial will have 90% power to detect a 1.5 month improvement (hazard ratio of 1.5), 1-sided .1 level test, minimum follow up of 3 months. This will require 69 patients. The phase III randomized study will require 692 patients with a minimum follow up of 6 months and will have 90% power to detect a hazard ratio of 1.3 assuming a median OS rate of 6 months in the control arm. A 2-sided .05 level test will be used. (Assumptions are based on the pancreatic cancer example).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True median PFS rate for the population included in the study (months)</th>
<th>Probability of continuing to the phase III study</th>
<th>E[N]</th>
<th>E[T]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>12.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>346</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>.72</td>
<td>567</td>
<td>45.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The truth agrees with assumption.

Table 1b: The probability of correctly concluding a treatment benefit on overall survival when the specified null rate is too large and the experimental agent provides a benefit on PFS that results in a hazard ratio of 1.5 (based on the true control PFS rate). The phase II study design is specified in table 1a. The phase III randomized study is assumed to have 90% power.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>True median PFS rate for the population included in the study (months)</th>
<th>Probability of continuing to the phase III study</th>
<th>Probability of concluding an overall survival benefit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>.9</td>
<td>.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>.59</td>
<td>.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>.09</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The truth agrees with assumption.
Table 2: Simulation results based on the Pancreatic cancer example. Accrual of 15 patients/month; data generated according to two exponentials $Y_1$ with median 3 months and a treatment effect hazard ratio of 1.5 and $Y_2$ with median 6 months and a treat hazard ratio of 1.3. Progression was the min($Y_1,Y_2$) and survival was $Y_2$. All designs have 81% power to conclude there is a positive effect on OS under the global alternative while having probability of less than .05 of concluding a positive effect on OS under the global null. $E[N]$ is the expected sample size and $E[T]$ is the expected study time. All time is in months.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designs</th>
<th>$\alpha_i$</th>
<th>$t_1$</th>
<th>Global Null</th>
<th>Global Alternative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\alpha_1$</td>
<td>$t_1$</td>
<td>$E[N]$</td>
<td>$E[T]$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Futility based on overall survival</td>
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<td>24.0</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>28.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sequence of Phase II and Phase III</td>
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<td>15.1</td>
<td>296</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated II/III with (f1=0)</td>
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<td>20.4</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>21.7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>16.7</td>
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<td>19.6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>287</td>
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<td>.5</td>
<td>6.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated II/III with (f1=3)</td>
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<td>18.3</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>22.7</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.1</td>
<td>14.7</td>
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<td>10.8</td>
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<td>20.9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>.5</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix A.

We now provide equations to calculate the expected sample size (E[N]) and expected length of study (E[T]). In this section we will use the following notational convention, a subscript of 1 will refer to parameters in the PFS analysis (or for the futility analysis if there is no phase II study) and a subscript of o will refer to parameters in the final phase III OS analysis. E[N] and E[T] for the different phase II strategies:

**Single arm phase II**

**Integrated II/III**

**Randomized phase II**

**Futility based on OS**

\[
E[N] = n_1 + (M)P\{\text{continuing}\}
\]

\[
E[N] = n_1 + (M-n_1)P\{\text{continuing}\}
\]

\[
E[T] = t_1 + f_1 + (M/a+f_o)P\{\text{continuing}\}
\]

\[
E[T] = t_1 + f_1 + (M/a-t_1+f_o)P\{\text{continuing}\}
\]

where \(a\) is the accrual rate, \(M\) is the final sample size for the phase III study of OS, \(n_1\) is the sample size based on PFS or at the futility analysis, \(t_1\) is the length of accrual based on the PFS or futility analysis and \(f_1\) or \(f_o\) is the minimum follow up (\(f_1 = 0\) for the futility analysis).

For all designs (assuming the null rate is correctly specified in the single arm study) the \(P\{\text{continuing}\}\) is \(\alpha_1\) under the global null hypothesis and \((1-\beta_1)\) under the global alternative hypothesis. Here, \((1-\beta_1)\) is the probability of concluding a treatment benefit on PFS or the probability of not stopping the study for futility.

Standard power calculations\(^2\) (or [http://www.swogstat.org/statoolsout.html](http://www.swogstat.org/statoolsout.html)) that assume an exponential distribution for PFS and OS can be used to calculate \(n_1\), \(f_1\), \(M\), \(f_o\), and \(P\{\text{continuing}\}\) for the studies with phase II and III being independent. For the integrated II/III design power calculations that assume independent exponential distributions for PFS and OS can give good approximations but simulations would need to be performed to account for a specified correlation structure (as discussed in the paper). Similarly, for the single study with a futility analysis based on OS assuming an exponential
distribution for OS and treating the two analyses as being independent can give a good approximation but simulations would need to be performed to find the true E[N] and E[T].

The $P\{\text{continuing}\}$ is different for the single arm study when the null rate is incorrectly specified. In this case $P\{\text{continuing}\}=P\{\text{rejecting specified null| true median}\}$, which is the probability of rejecting the specified null rate where this probability is calculated using a distribution with the true median. Specifying the null rate too low gives a $P\{\text{continuing}\}$ higher than the desired level of $\alpha_1$ under the global null. Specifying a null rate too high gives a $P\{\text{continuing}\}$ lower than the desired level of $(1-\beta_1)$ under the global alternative.

For the studies with Phase II and III independent, the probability of concluding a positive treatment effect on OS is $\text{Power}_{II/III}=P\{\text{continuing}\}(1-\beta_o)$. For the integrated II/III and the single study with a futility analysis based on OS this is a lower bound for $\text{Power}_{II/III}$.

A web based computer program that calculates expected sample size, expected study duration, and $\text{Power}_{II/III}$ for the randomized designs studied in this paper and be found at (http://linus.nci.nih.gov/brb). Independent exponential distributions are assumed for PFS and OS in the calculation of $P\{\text{continuing}\}$. Also, the futility analysis based on OS is assumed to be independent of the final OS analysis. Therefore for the integrated design and the single study with a futility analysis based on OS the web based program provides approximations.
### Appendix B

Table B1: Simulation results comparing drug development with different phase II components. The simulations vary accrual, hazard ratios, and control medians. The PFS and OS are correlated and generated according to two exponentials $Y_1$ with median 3 months and a treatment effect hazard ratio of 1.5 and $Y_2$ with median 6 months and a treatment hazard ratio of 1.3. Progression is the $\min(Y_1,Y_2)$ and survival is $Y_2$. All designs have 81% power to conclude there is a positive effect on OS under the global alternative while having probability of less than .05 (when using a 2-sided test) of concluding a positive effect on OS under the global null. $E[N]$ is the expected sample size and $E[T]$ is the expected study time. All time is in months.

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<th>Accrual per month</th>
<th>Hazard Ratios</th>
<th>Medians</th>
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<th>Global Null</th>
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