

# UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

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Progress Report for “A Collaborative Study of the Epidemiology and Classification of Oligodendrogliomas”

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Oligodendrogliomas are very rare and, therefore, it is difficult for any single investigator to describe the epidemiology of oligodendrogliomas thoroughly or to investigate risk factors. The overall objective is to combine cases with oligodendrogliomas and controls from five previously conducted or on-going case-control studies of primary brain tumors to more accurately describe these tumors and to begin to assess risk factors. However, these five different studies each used different data collection methods, including identification and recruitment of cases and controls, questionnaires, and biological sample collection. ***Before combined data analyses can be conducted, it is essential that a thorough review of data collection methods from each of the collaborating studies be performed.*** The purpose of this pilot study is to identify the similarities and differences between the studies for data collection methods such as case and control ascertainment, survey variables, medical record information, biological sample collection, and pathology review and tumor classification methods. As glial tumors can often be misclassified, a centralized pathology review will be performed on a subset of these samples to specifically identify oligodendroglial tumors.

Institutional Review Board approvals have been obtained by the principal investigator, as well as three of the five collaborating studies. These three studies are in the process of preparing a data set of all oligodendroglial tumors and appropriate controls. In addition, these three study sites have identified which of the cases have tumor tissue available for a pathology review. The two other study sites are continuing to work on obtaining approvals to share data.

A file comparing the data collection methods of the five studies has been created. This file documents for each study such items as how cases and controls were identified, how the questionnaire data and biological samples were collected, if a pathology review was done and, if so, the procedure.

A thorough comparison of the study questionnaires has been completed. Although there are five study sites, several of the studies used multiple questionnaires. A very detailed file of every question asked on every questionnaire, including the types of questions asked and various answer possibilities for some of these questions, has been constructed. Once this task was completed, a separate list of variables which were identical across most (>3) or all of the studies (such as race, gender, etc.) was created. In addition, to this smaller list were added variables that were similar enough across studies that a new “common” variable could be created. Study sites are using this list of “common” variables to create a data set for preliminary analyses of risk factors (a new goal added to the original objectives of the pilot study).

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