

26 Corresponding author:
27 Janet Shipley, Sarcoma Molecular Pathology Team, Divisions of Molecular
28 Pathology and Cancer Therapeutics, Male Urological Cancer Research Centre,
29 The Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5NG,
30 UK.
31 E-mail: janet.shipley@icr.ac.uk
32 Tel no: +44 20 8722 4273

33

34 **Abbreviations**

35	MMT	Malignant Mesenchymal Tumour
36	PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
37	EpSSG	European Paediatric Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study
38		Group
39	RMS	Rhabdomyosarcoma
40	ACCIS	Automated Childhood Cancer Information System
41	ERMS	Embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma
42	ARMS	Alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma
43	FFPE	Formalin fixed paraffin embedded
44	SIOP	Society of Paediatric Oncology
45	TMA	Tissue microarray
46	FISH	Fluorescence <i>in situ</i> hybridisation
47	BAC	Bacterial artificial chromosome
48	DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid
49	DIG	Digoxygenin
50	FITC	Fluorescein isothiocyanate

51	RT-PCR	Reverse transcription coupled polymerase chain
52		reaction
53	RNA	Ribonucleic acid
54	cDNA	complementary DNA
55	OS	Overall survival
56	EFS	Event free survival
57	HR	Hazard ratio
58	MG5	Metagene-5
59	RMS-NOS	Rhabdomyosarcoma (not otherwise specified)

60 **Abstract**

61

62 **Background**

63 Long-term toxicities from current treatments are a major issue in pediatric cancer.
64 Previous studies, including our own, have shown prognostic value for the
65 presence of *PAX3/7-FOXO1* fusion genes in rhabdomyosarcoma. It is proposed
66 to introduce *PAX3/7-FOXO1* positivity as a component of risk stratification, rather
67 than alveolar histology, in future clinical trials.

68 **Procedure**

69 To assess the potential impact of this reclassification, we have determined the
70 changes to risk category assignment of 210 histologically reviewed patients
71 treated in the UK from previous MMT (Malignant Mesenchymal Tumor) clinical
72 trials for non-metastatic rhabdomyosarcoma based on identification of *PAX3/7-*
73 *FOXO1* by fluorescence *in situ* hybridization and/or reverse transcription PCR.

74 **Results**

75 Using fusion gene positivity in the current risk stratification would re-assign 7% of
76 patients to different EpSSG (European Paediatric Soft Tissue Sarcoma Study
77 Group) risk subgroups. The next European trial would have 80% power to detect
78 differences in event free survival of 15% over 10 years and 20% over 5 years in
79 reassigned patients. This would decrease treatment for over a quarter of patients
80 with alveolar histology tumors that lack *PAX3/7-FOXO1*.

81 **Conclusions**

82 Fusion gene status used in stratification may result in significant numbers of
83 patients benefitting from lower treatment associated toxicity. Prospective testing
84 to show this reassignment maintains current survival rates is now required and is

85 shown to be feasible based on estimated recruitment to a future EpSSG trial.
86 Together with developing novel therapeutic strategies for patients identified as
87 higher risk, this may ultimately improve the outcome and quality of life for patients
88 with rhabdomyosarcoma.

89 **Introduction**

90 Rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) is the most common soft tissue sarcoma in children,
91 with ~450 children and adolescents newly diagnosed each year in Europe
92 (countries which report data to the Automated Childhood Cancer Information
93 System, ACCIS^{1,2}). The substantial improvement in survival rate for RMS patients
94 that occurred from 1960 to 1996 with the advent of chemotherapeutic agents has
95 largely stagnated with an estimated 5 year survival rate of 72%^{3,4}. The reality
96 remains that while the majority of children suffering from cancer will survive to
97 adulthood, more than 80% of these will develop a serious or life threatening
98 chronic health condition by the age of 45 as a result of their curative treatment⁵.
99 Accurate risk determination in RMS patients is a priority to enable safe reduction
100 of treatment intensity for those at lower risk and identify those at highest risk of
101 succumbing to their disease who could benefit from treatment intensification
102 and/or novel therapeutic strategies.

103

104 Current clinical trials for RMS in Europe and the US use histological subtype
105 alongside other clinical parameters including age at diagnosis, site and size of
106 primary tumour, extent of residual disease after surgery, node involvement, and
107 metastases to allocate patients to a risk group which will determine treatment
108 intensity⁶. Two main histological subtypes are recognised, embryonal (ERMS)
109 which typically has a better prognosis than the alveolar (ARMS) “unfavourable
110 histology” subtype. The majority (70-80%) of ARMS cases have translocations
111 resulting in fusion of the *PAX3* or *PAX7* gene with *FOXO1*^{7,8}. The resultant fusion
112 proteins are novel transcription factors and considered key drivers of
113 tumorigenesis⁹.

114

115 Previous studies including large-scale expression profiling have revealed that
116 ARMS tumours lacking characteristic fusion genes are molecularly and clinically
117 indistinguishable from ERMS tumors^{10,11}. This is consistent with several studies,
118 including a recent prospective assessment, that show a prognostic value for the
119 fusion genes¹²⁻¹⁵ although some issues with the representativeness of sample
120 cohorts are also reported^{16,17}. Based on the consensus view from these studies,
121 that fusion gene presence rather than alveolar histology *per se* contributes to
122 poorer outcome, it is proposed to incorporate fusion-gene status, rather than
123 histology, into risk stratification of RMS. In order to address the impact of such a
124 change in non-metastatic patients, we used the current EpSSG RMS2005 trial
125 framework for risk stratification and applied this to a large cohort of well-
126 annotated RMS cases enrolled in the series of Malignant Mesenchymal Tumour
127 (MMT) trials, which we subjected to histopathological re-review. The treatment
128 and outcome for patients in these trials were similar^{18,19} and therefore were
129 considered suitable for analysis as a single cohort.

130

131 Here we report the impact of adopting fusion gene status in place of histology as
132 part of RMS risk stratification. This has allowed us to estimate the proportion of
133 patients that would change risk group and the power of future clinical trials to
134 assess any adverse changes in patient outcome.

135

136 **Materials and Methods**

137 **Pathology and tissue microarray construction**

138 Formalin fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) samples from UK patients enrolled on
139 the MMT89, MMT95 and MMT98 trials from the International Society of Paediatric
140 Oncology (SIOP) were collected from multiple UK centres (Local Research Ethics
141 Committee protocol 1836 and Multi-Regional Research Ethics
142 Committee/98/4/023). Our cohort was subjected to histological re-review (A.K.) to
143 apply current histological classification criteria²⁰. Cases with mixed histologies but
144 containing true alveolar histology (classical and solid variant patterns) were
145 considered to be ARMS. Clinical parameters were accessed from trial
146 databases²¹. These and updated histological subtypes of samples from cases
147 non-metastatic at diagnoses (stage I-III) are summarised in Table 1, and were
148 representative of other RMS cohorts¹². A smaller cohort of metastatic cases
149 (summarised in Supplemental Table S1) was used separately for additional
150 analyses. Moreover, outcomes from MMT89 and MMT95 cases used in this study
151 were representative of their respective trials (MMT89; Overall survival (OS)
152 74.4%, Event Free survival (EFS) 62.6%, MMT95; OS 74.3%, EFS 64% at 5
153 years)^{18,19} (Outcome data shown refers to the cohort used in this study). The
154 histopathologic diagnoses of the cases studied are also considered largely
155 representative of the cases on the MMT89, MMT95 and MMT98 trials.

156

157 Haematoxylin and eosin stained slides were marked for regions of tumour and a
158 tissue microarray (TMA) constructed containing 1,863 cores representing RMS
159 tumour from 329 patients. This involved taking 0.6mm cores from tumour-
160 containing regions of donor blocks and insertion into a recipient array block.

161 There was an average of 6 cores per sample (range 1-24). RMS cell lines
162 negative and positive for each fusion gene (RD (negative)²², RH30 (PAX3-
163 FOXO1)²³, RMZ-RC2 (PAX7-FOXO1)²⁴) were formalin fixed, paraffin embedded
164 and cores inserted into each array block to act as controls. Sources and culturing
165 conditions for cell lines have been previously described ²⁵.

166

167 **Fusion gene status assessment by fluorescence *in situ* hybridisation**

168 Fluorescence *in situ* hybridisation (FISH) was performed on the TMA slides to
169 determine whether samples carried a *PAX3-FOXO1* or *PAX7-FOXO1* fusion gene
170 or neither. Bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC) DNA probes were identified that
171 hybridize to the 5' end of *PAX3* and *PAX7* and to the 3' end of *FOXO1*. BAC DNA
172 was amplified and subsequently purified using the Genomiphi Kit (GE Healthcare,
173 Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, UK) according to manufacturers instructions.
174 BACs used for *PAX3* were RP11-81I8, RP11-16P6 and RP11-612G6 (labelled
175 with Digoxigenin (DIG) (Roche, Basel, Switzerland) by random priming and
176 indirectly detected using fluorescein isothiocyanate (FITC)-conjugated anti-DIG
177 antibodies (Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA)). BACs used for *PAX7*
178 were RP11-468NG, CTD-2009F7 and RP11-121A23 (directly labelled using
179 FISHBright® Aqua and the FISHBright® Nucleic Acid Labelling Kit (Leica
180 Microsystems, Wetzlar, Germany)) and BACs used for *FOXO1* were RP11-
181 452K11, RP11-805F18 and RP11-350A18 (labelled with biotin by random priming
182 and indirectly detected using Cy3-conjugated Streptavidin (Thermo Fisher
183 Scientific)). All labelled BACs were individually hybridized to normal metaphase
184 chromosomes to ensure their correct chromosomal location. FISH was carried out
185 on TMA sections as previously described²⁶. Slides were scanned using an Ariol

186 slide scanner (SL-50) (Leica Microsystems) and each core was independently
187 scored for fused red/green and red/aqua signals in a minimum of 50 non-
188 overlapping tumour nuclei by 2 independent observers. Fused signals, less than
189 a signal width apart, were required to be present in at least 10% of scorable
190 nuclei for a core to be considered fusion gene positive.

191

192 **Fusion gene status assessment by reverse transcription-PCR**

193 In addition to preparing TMAs, we also cut 10-micron FFPE sections for a subset
194 of samples where sufficient material was available. These were assessed for
195 fusion gene status by reverse transcription (RT)-PCR. RT-PCR results were used
196 to confirm FISH results or provide a result in the event that FISH hybridisation for
197 a patient was not successful. RNA was extracted from the FFPE rolls using the
198 RecoverAll Total Nucleic Acid Isolation Kit for FFPE (Thermo Fisher Scientific)
199 according to manufacturers' instructions. Reverse transcription was subsequently
200 carried out on up to 1 mg of total RNA using the High Capacity Reverse
201 Transcription Kit (Thermo Fisher Scientific). cDNA was then amplified in triplicate
202 by real-time quantitative RT-PCR using Taqman (Thermo Fisher Scientific)
203 reagents for *PAX3-FOXO1*, *PAX7-FOXO1* and *Beta-2-microglobulin (B2M)*
204 expression, the latter acting as a reference gene. The primer sequences used in
205 these assays have been previously described²⁷. Each assay was performed
206 separately and cDNA from control cell lines (as indicated above) (no fusion gene,
207 *PAX3-FOXO*- and *PAX7-FOXO1*-positive) was included in each run. Samples
208 were designated fusion gene positive if amplification occurred for the relevant
209 assay whereas samples were only designated fusion gene negative if no

210 amplification was seen for either fusion gene assay and the signal from the *B2M*
211 assay was not reached in less than or equal to 30 cycles.

212
213 Survival analysis was evaluated using the Mantel-Cox log rank test, Mantel-
214 Haenszel Hazard Ratio and Kaplan-Meier plots.

215

216 **Results**

217 **Ascertainment of fusion gene status in TMA cohort**

218 Using FISH and/or RT-PCR analysis, fusion gene status was successfully
219 determined in 210 patients with non-metastatic disease and a smaller cohort of
220 50 patients with metastasis that were treated on MMT clinical trials and had full
221 clinical follow up data. 155 samples were assigned using FISH results only, 17
222 using PCR results only and 88 were assigned using both methods with complete
223 concordance. The results are included in Table 2. We identified one patient
224 described as having embryonal histology yet was found to harbour a *PAX3-*
225 *FOXO1* fusion gene (0.64% of all ERMS patients). 20 patients with ARMS
226 histology were found to be fusion gene negative (37.7% of all ARMS patients), 5
227 of which had mixed histology with only areas of true alveolar histology²⁰.

228

229 **Comparison between risk determined using histology or molecular fusion** 230 **gene status**

231 Within the non-metastatic setting, Kaplan-Meier analysis demonstrated that there
232 was no significant difference in overall (OS) or event free survival (EFS) between
233 patients with ERMS and fusion negative ARMS in contrast to the fusion positive
234 cases that showed a significantly poorer overall survival outcome than fusion

235 negative (log rank test, chi square value 21.9, $p < 0.0001$, HR 6.047 (95% CI
236 2.845-2.85)) (Fig 1). This is consistent with previous studies, including our
237 own^{11,12}. The Kaplan-Meier plots for fusion positive cases divided into *PAX3-*
238 *FOXO1* and *PAX7-FOXO1* (Supplemental Fig S1) shows no significant difference
239 in survival between *PAX7-FOXO1* cases and any other subgroup, although the
240 numbers are low. In the metastatic cohort, the outcome of patients with fusion
241 negative alveolar disease appeared to be as poor as fusion positive cases
242 (Supplemental Fig S2a) although there is no statistical significance between
243 ERMS and fusion negative ARMS groups, but the numbers of these metastatic
244 cases are very low. We also assessed outcome of our non-metastatic cohort
245 according to the current non-metastatic EpSSG risk groups (Supplemental Table
246 S2, treatment protocol associated with risk groups is outlined in Supplemental
247 Table S3) and showed that the survival rates for each risk group were as
248 expected (Supplemental Fig S2b).

249

250 In order to assess the impact of using fusion status rather than histology on
251 patient risk stratification, we stratified all patients using i) histopathology,
252 according to the EpSSG 2005 trial regimen using the re-reviewed histology
253 (ERMS as favourable, ARMS as unfavourable) and ii) fusion status in place of
254 histopathology (fusion negative as favourable, fusion positive as unfavourable).
255 The risk group of each patient from each analysis was then compared. Using
256 fusion gene status, 14 patients with fusion gene negative ARMS (26.4% of all
257 patients with ARMS, 70% of fusion negative ARMS patients) changed risk group
258 (5 moved from very high to high, 8 moved from high to standard, 1 moved from
259 high to low). A summary of these changes using fusion gene status is shown in

260 for risk groups in Table 3 and for subgroups in Supplemental Table S4. Note in
261 Supplemental Table S4, that although 6 patients changed risk subgroup from G
262 to E, there was no change in overall risk group (high) and therefore no change in
263 treatment strategy for those particular patients. These changes would result in
264 reducing treatment intensity for 14/20 fusion negative ARMS.

265

266 It is vital to assess the patients receiving less intense treatment as a result of the
267 change in stratification in forthcoming trials to ensure that their clinical outcome is
268 not compromised. Assuming a null hypothesis that patients with fusion negative
269 ARMS with downgraded risk will have an identical EFS rate to patients with
270 ERMS of 70%, we performed power calculations to estimate the total patient
271 number needed to have 80% power to identify decreases in EFS in this group
272 (Table 4). Based on the previous trial, we predict that the next EpSSG trial is
273 expected to recruit ~125 patients with non-metastatic paediatric RMS per year.
274 Using the frequencies found in this study, we estimate that the next trial will have
275 80% power to detect differences in EFS of 15% over 7 years and 20% over 5
276 years.

277

278 **Discussion**

279 Assessment of the molecular features of tumours is increasingly required for
280 accurate diagnoses, risk stratification and precision approaches to treatment
281 decisions for patients. Previous studies, including our own, have shown a
282 prognostic value for the presence of the fusion gene in RMS and it is proposed to
283 introduce this as a molecularly unfavourable category, in place of alveolar
284 histology, into future clinical trials. Here, our assessment of 210 samples from

285 previous clinical trials, that are representative of the trials as a whole, shows that
286 overall this would affect assignment of patients to specific risk subgroups,
287 reducing treatment for over a quarter of patients with alveolar histology and 7% of
288 all non-metastatic RMS (it is noteworthy that the next European trial plans to
289 intensify chemotherapy for the High and Very High risk groups, which is likely to
290 increase treatment associated morbidity). This has potential to reduce long-term
291 toxicities in these patients, which is important as such toxicities are a major issue
292 in the majority of RMS patients that are cured of their disease²⁸.

293

294 Changes in the histopathological criteria used to discriminate between embryonal
295 and alveolar histology have been updated over time, with the introduction in 1995
296 of a prognostically relevant classification system which determined that even focal
297 alveolar histology should confer an ARMS diagnosis²⁹ resulting in an increasing
298 proportion of ARMS cases. More recently, a re-examination of these criteria noted
299 that certain histological patterns may be mimicking ARMS³⁰, leading to an
300 artificially high rate of ARMS diagnosis. Despite our cohort being re-reviewed
301 using current criteria, we observed a relatively high proportion of fusion negative
302 ARMS (37.7%). However, including patients with metastasis in our cohort
303 reduced this proportion to 26.9% similar to other studies and may reflect the more
304 metastatic behaviour of ARMS driven by the fusion protein^{11,31}. The range of
305 proportions of fusion negative ARMS reported is underpinned by diagnostic
306 uncertainty using histopathological criteria in challenging cases, where informal
307 use of the fusion gene status and other clinical parameters is guiding histological
308 diagnoses. Standardizing use of molecular criteria in future trials is therefore
309 highly desirable.

310

311 We identified 1 out of 157 patients with ERMS to be *PAX3-FOXO1* positive by
312 both FISH and RT-PCR. Fusion positive ERMS cases have been reported
313 before²⁷ where PCR detection was used, notably all of these cases demonstrated
314 diffuse myogenin staining, a feature associated with ARMS³². This suggests that
315 there is a rationale to screen for fusion genes in all patients, as these patients
316 may move from low to high-risk groups. Previous studies have reported that
317 patients with tumours harbouring a *PAX7-FOXO1* gene have a superior outcome
318 compared to *PAX3-FOXO1*^{11,12,33} however numbers are limited and this may be
319 stage-dependent¹³. We only had 6 patient samples with a *PAX7-FOXO1* gene in
320 our cohort and therefore could not address this question adequately in this study.
321 Rarer fusion gene variants are reported such as *PAX3-NCOA1* and *PAX3-*
322 *NCOA2*³⁴ in ARMS and ERMS, however the clinical significance of these are
323 unclear.

324

325 Stratifying RMS patients according to molecular rather than histopathological
326 criteria will result in a proportion of fusion negative alveolar patients (26.4% of
327 patients with ARMS in this study) receiving less intense treatment, being
328 perceived to be at lower risk. It is important to establish that these patients will
329 have a similarly favourable outcome as patients with ERMS when treated on the
330 same protocol. Using data from our patient population, we have estimated that
331 the expected number of patients recruited to the next EpSSG trial will be sufficient
332 to detect changes in event free survival of 15% over 7 years and 20% over 5
333 years with 80% power. Patients with ERMS have an EFS of 70% at 5 years
334 compared to fusion positive ARMS with 36.1% at 5 years. It is anticipated that

335 molecular features of RMS will be increasingly incorporated into risk stratification
336 as there is evidence that *MYOD1* mutations in sclerosing/spindle RMS³⁵⁻³⁷, CDK4
337 amplification³⁸ and the MG5 gene signature in fusion negative RMS^{25,39} can all
338 impact survival.

339

340 Here we have determined the potential impact of using fusion gene status rather
341 than the histopathological definition of alveolar histology as an adverse indicator
342 in the risk-stratification of RMS that is proposed for use in the next clinical trials.
343 We show that a significant proportion of patients with non-metastatic RMS (7%)
344 will be assigned to a different risk group and treatment protocol as a
345 consequence of this change. It is expected that this will result in children being
346 spared some of the considerable toxicities and late effects of intense therapy
347 without compromising their chance of cure, in addition to the possibility of
348 identifying fusion positive patients presenting with ERMS or RMS-NOS that will
349 benefit from being considered as high-risk.

350

351 **Acknowledgements**

352 This work was supported by the Cancer Research UK (Grant No C5066/A1099),
353 the Chris Lucas Trust and NHS funding to the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre
354 at The Royal Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research. We thank the
355 Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group (CCLG) Tissue Bank for access to
356 samples, and contributing CCLG centres, including members of the ECMC
357 paediatric network. The CCLG Tissue Bank is funded by Cancer Research UK
358 and CCLG. We would also like to thank Peter Collins and Adam Hodgkinson in
359 Anna Kelsey's team for all their help with the TMAs and clinical data.

360

361 **Conflict of interest statement**

362 None declared.

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497

498 **Figure Legends**

499 Fig 1. Overall survival (A) and event free survival (B) in non-metastatic RMS
500 patients grouped into ERMS fusion negative (ERMS FN), ARMS fusion negative
501 (ARMS FN) and fusion positive patients (FP).

502

503 **Supplemental Figure Legends**

504

505 Supplemental Figure S1. Overall survival (A) and event free survival (B) in non-
506 metastatic RMS patients grouped into ERMS fusion negative (ERMS FN), ARMS
507 fusion negative (ARMS FN), *PAX3-FOXO1* and *PAX7-FOXO1*.

508

509 Supplemental Figure S2. (A) Overall survival in metastatic (stage IV) RMS
510 grouped into ERMS fusion negative (ERMS FN), ARMS fusion negative (ARMS
511 FN) and fusion positive patients (FP). (B) Overall survival in non-metastatic RMS
512 patients stratified into risk groups according to the current EpSSG RMS2005
513 clinical trial criteria.

514

515 **Supplemental Table Legends**

516

517 Supplemental Table S1. Clinical and molecular characteristics of the metastatic
518 cohort.

519

520 Supplemental Table S2. Risk Stratification for the EpSSG non-metastatic RMS
521 study. Pathology: Favourable indicates embryonal histology including botryoid
522 and spindle cell subtypes; Unfavourable indicates alveolar histology. Post

523 surgical stage (IRS group): I indicates complete primary resection; II indicates
524 microscopic residual or primary complete resection but N1; III indicates
525 macroscopic residual. Site: Favourable indicates Orbit, Genitourinary (non
526 bladder/prostate), Head and neck (non-parameningeal); Unfavourable indicates
527 parameningeal, extremities, Genitourinary bladder/prostate and all other sites.
528 Node Stage: N0 indicates no clinical or pathological node involvement; N1
529 indicates pathological node involvement. Size and Age: Favourable indicates
530 tumour size less than or equal to 5 cm and age less than 10 years; Unfavourable
531 indicates all other options (i.e. Size greater than 5 cm and/or age greater than or
532 equal to 10 years).

533

534 Supplemental Table S3. Treatment protocol for EpSSG RMS risk groups. Tumour
535 assessment carried out between first and second course of frontline therapy. VA
536 = Vincristine/Actinomycin;

537 IVA = Ifosfamide/Vincristine/Actinomycin; RT = radiotherapy; IVADo =

538 Ifosfamide/Vincristine/Actinomycin/Doxorubicin

539 *only given if patient shows complete response (CR) to first course and has
540 favourable age and tumour size.

541 **If patient shows stable disease (SD) after first course, second line treatment
542 (usually Carboplatin, Cyclophosphamide, Topotecan or Doxorubicin) with
543 radiotherapy will be given.

544 ***Randomised trial arms.

545

546

547 Supplemental Table S4. Summary of changes in subgroup between histological
548 and molecular categorization of pathology. Hist. = Histology; Mol. = Molecular.
549 Note that grey boxes indicate patients that remain in the same risk group using
550 either histological or molecular categorization.
551

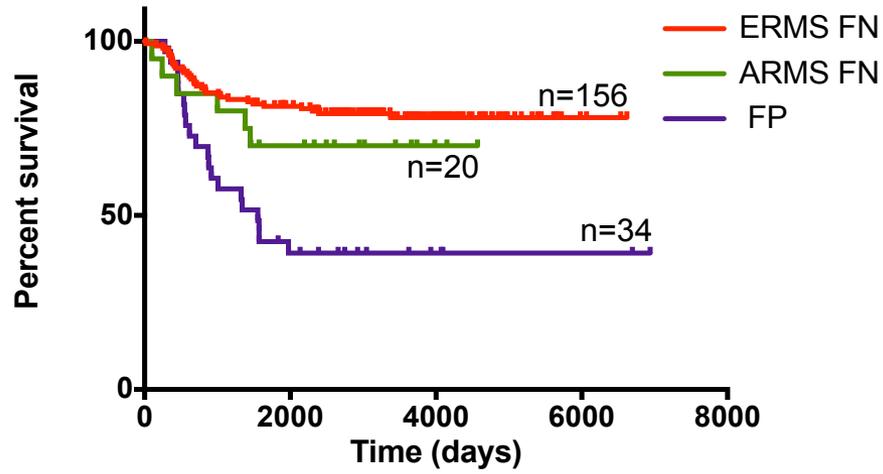
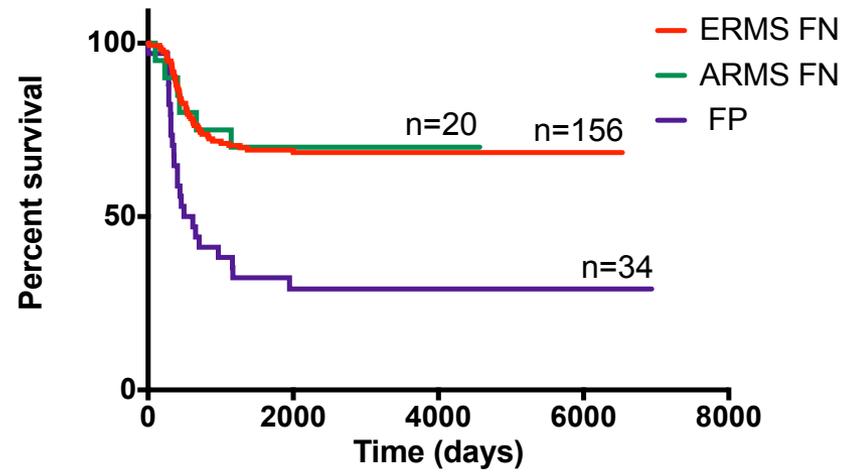
A**B**

TABLE 1 Clinical characteristics of the non-metastatic cohort

Histology	ERMS	157
	ARMS	53
Median age at diagnosis (years)		4.5
Age at dx	<10	173
	>=10	37
IRS group	1	28
	2	40
	3	142
Size of primary tumour	<=5cm	90
	>5cm	115
	unknown	5
Site of primary tumour	Favourable	83
	Unfavourable	127
Median follow up time (years)		8.1
Patient Survival	Alive	151
	Dead	59
Total no of patients		210

TABLE 2 Fusion gene status of the non-metastatic patient cohort, grouped by histology

	ERMS	ARMS	Total
Negative	156	20	176
<i>PAX3-FOXO1</i>	1	27	28
<i>PAX7-FOXO1</i>	0	6	6
Total	157	53	210

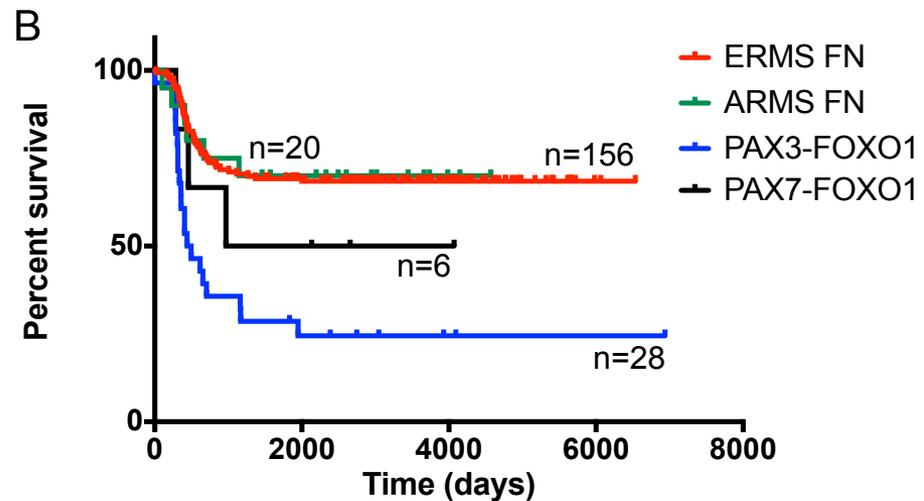
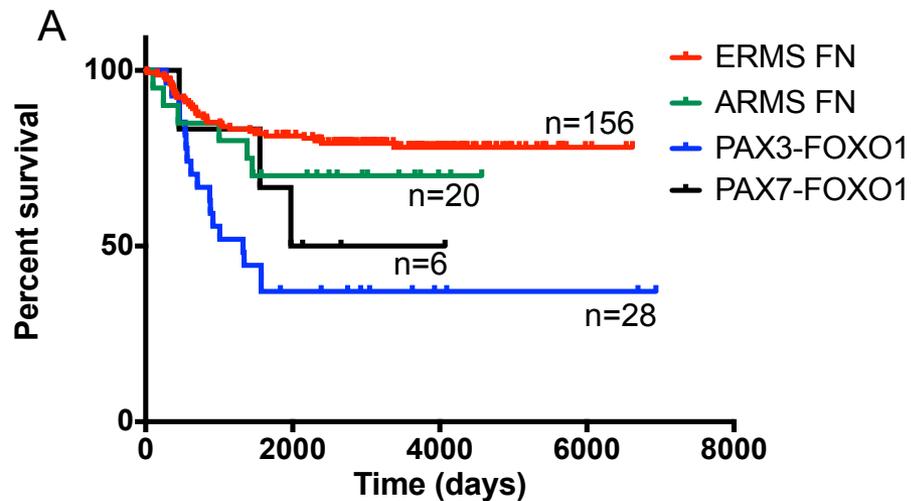
TABLE 3 Summary of changes in EpSSG risk group between histological and molecular categorization of pathology

Risk Group	Subgroup	Histology Risk group	Molecular Risk group	% change
Low	A	9	10	+11.1
Standard	B	70	78	+11.4
	C			
	D			
High	E	117	113	-3.4
	F			
	G			
Very High	H	14	9	-35.7

TABLE 4 Estimation of the number of patients needed for 80% power to detect decreased EFS rate in fusion gene negative alveolar patients with downgraded risk

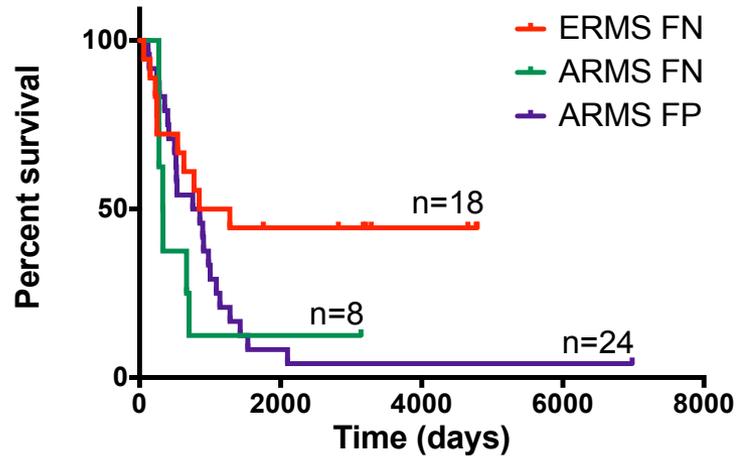
Change in EFS rate	No of downgraded patients with ARMS FN	Total patient number
10%	141	2,015
15%	63	900
20%	36	515
25%	23	329

Supplemental Fig S1

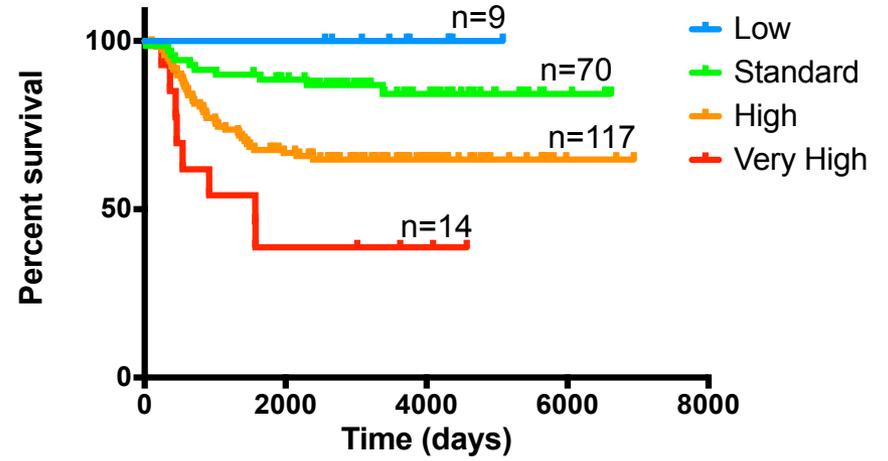


Supplemental Fig S2

A



B



Supplemental Table S1 Clinical and molecular characteristics of the metastatic cohort

Histology	ERMS	18
	ARMS	32
Median age at diagnosis (years)		8.2
Fusion gene status	ERMS Negative	18
	ARMS Negative	8
	<i>PAX3-FOXO1</i>	20
	<i>PAX7-FOXO1</i>	4
Median follow up time (years)		2
Patient Survival	Alive	10
	Dead	40
Total no of patients		50

Supplemental Table S2 Risk Stratification for the EpSSG non-metastatic RMS study.

Risk Group	Subgroup	Pathology	IRS Group	Site	Node Stage	Size & Age
Low	A	Favourable	I	Any	N0	Favourable
Standard	B	Favourable	I	Any	N0	Unfavourable
	C	Favourable	II, III	Favourable	N0	Any
	D	Favourable	II, III	Unfavourable	N0	Favourable
High	E	Favourable	II, III	Unfavourable	N0	Unfavourable
	F	Favourable	I, II, III	Any	N1	Any
	G	Unfavourable	I, II, III	Any	N0	Any
Very High	H	Unfavourable	I, II, III	Any	N1	Any

Pathology: Favourable indicates embryonal histology including botryoid and spindle cell subtypes; Unfavourable indicates alveolar histology. Post surgical stage (IRS group): I indicates complete primary resection; II indicates microscopic residual or primary complete resection but N1; III indicates macroscopic residual. Site: Favourable indicates Orbit, Genitourinary (non bladder/prostate), Head and neck (non-parameningeal); Unfavourable indicates parameningeal, extremities, Genitourinary bladder/prostate and all other sites. Node Stage: N0 indicates no clinical or pathological node involvement; N1 indicates pathological node involvement. Size and Age: Favourable indicates tumour size less than or equal to 5 cm and age less than 10 years; Unfavourable indicates all other options (i.e. Size greater than 5 cm and/or age greater than or equal to 10 years).

Supplemental Table S3 Treatment protocol for EpSSG RMS risk groups

Risk group	1st Course	2nd course	Maintenance
Low	VA (8 cycles, 24 weeks)	-	-
Standard (Subgroup B)	IVA	VA	-
Standard (Subgroup C)	IVA	IVA/No RT*	-
		IVA/VA with RT	-
Standard (Subgroup D)	IVA	IVA with RT**	-
High	IVA or IVADo***	IVA with RT**	None or Vinorelbine/Cyclophosphamide (6 months)***
Very High	IVADo	IVADo/IVA**	Vinorelbine/Cyclophosphamide (6 months)

Tumour assessment carried out between first and second course of frontline therapy. VA = Vincristine/Actinomycin;

IVA = Ifosfamide/Vincristine/Actinomycin; RT = radiotherapy; IVADo = Ifosfamide/Vincristine/Actinomycin/Doxorubicin

*only given if patient shows complete response (CR) to first course and has favourable age and tumour size.

**If patient shows stable disease (SD) after first course, second line treatment (usually Carboplatin, Cyclophosphamide, Topotecan or Doxorubicin) with radiotherapy will be given.

***Randomised trial arms.

Supplemental Table S4 Summary of changes in subgroup between histological and molecular categorization of pathology

			Molecular Risk Group							Total	
			Low	Standard			High		Very High		
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G		H
Histology Risk Group	Low	A	9								9
	Standard	B		11							11
		C			40						40
		D				19					19
	High	E					57				57
		F						23			23
		G	1	2	3	3	6		22		37
	Very High	H						5		9	14
Total			10	13	43	22	63	28	22	9	210
% change (Hist. to Mol.)			+11.1	+18.2	+7.5	+15.8	+10.8	+21.7	-40.5	-35.7	

Hist. = Histology; Mol. = Molecular. Note that grey boxes indicate patients that remain in the same risk group using either histological or molecular categorization.