

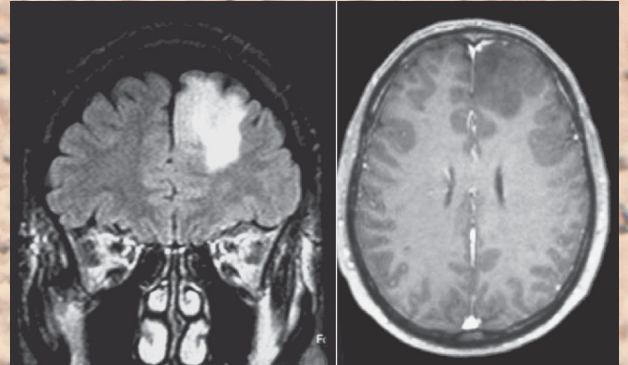
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The Spanish Group of Research in Neuro-Oncology (Grupo Español de Investigación en Neuro-Oncología [GEINO]): History and Activities

Gil-Gil JM

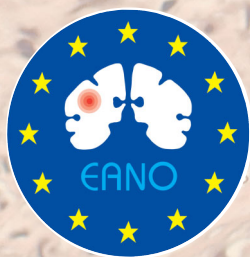
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The Spanish Group of Research in Neuro-Oncology (Grupo Español de Investigación en Neuro-Oncología [GEINO]): History and Activities

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The group was established on November 26, 1998, fruit of the awareness and enthusiasm of a group of 17 professionals interested in the treatment of the central nervous system tumours. Shortly afterwards, the first clinical trial was set up [1]. In February 2002, it was awarded official recognition as a non-profit scientific association [2]. The group was initially developed within the field of medical oncology (GENOM), but later on other specialties, essential part of the management of brain tumour patients such as neurosurgery, neurology, pathology, radiology, and radiotherapy, were subsequently included.

In October 2010, the group changed its name to the present Spanish Group of Research in Neuro-Oncology (GEINO) to become a multidisciplinary group with the aim of establishing valuable research activity and contributing to neuro-oncology development in our country.

GEINO comprises more than 134 members from different specialties related to 72 hospitals in Spain. The association's official head office is at the Spanish Medical Oncology Society, located at C/ Velázquez, 7–3ª planta, 28001 Madrid, but its independent technical secretariat can be found at C/ Secretari Coloma, 64–68, esc. B, entlo. 5ª, 08024 Barcelona (secretaria@geino.es). The association's management structure is formed by a chairman, a deputy chairman, a secretary, and 8 members of the board of directors from different specialties. All management structure members hold unpaid positions and are appointed by the general assembly every 2 years.

Its main purpose consists of promoting clinical and basic research in the area of neuro-oncology. GEINO's leading role includes the design and implementation of clinical trials within the multidisciplinary cooperation work frame, translational research, diffusion of research results at medical conferences and scientific publications, as well as organization of training activities, promoting the exchange of knowledge among its members, and it aims to improve the quality of healthcare for this neuro-oncology patients.

Up to February 2013, GEINO has promoted 11 clinical trials, mainly phase-II trials (phases I–IV are covered), recruiting > 600 patients in total. The group has presented > 30 scientific reports at the ASCO, EANO, ESMO, and SEOM conferences and has published 4 articles in international journals [1, 3–5].

The GEINO statutes also provide for the collaboration with other public or private, national or international organizations, in activities aimed at research and training in the neuro-

oncology field. In this area, GEINO has collaborated in clinical research protocols led by other European research groups such as EORTC as well as pharmaceutical industry-sponsored trials.

GEINO has produced clinical guidelines on the topics glioblastoma, anaplastic glioma, low-grade glioma, and medulloblastoma in adults [6]. It timely collects and publishes information on patients treated within these clinical protocols [5].

Since 2012, GEINO has awarded 2 yearly grants of 15,000 each, designed to finance research projects in neuro-oncology.

To spread scientific knowledge, GEINO organizes an international symposium every year. Its fifth edition will take place in Barcelona on November 29–30, 2013. Since 2006, the group has also carried out a yearly face-to-face training course in neuro-oncology addressed at trainee doctors and young consultants as well as various on-line courses in neuro-oncology, whose fourth edition is currently taking place, and in 2012, GEINO organized a preceptorship programme providing hospital rotations at the ICO L'Hospitalet and ICO Badalona, in which 4 young consultants took part.

Moreover, GEINO collaborates and gives advice to ASATE, the Spanish Brain Tumour Association.

As a channel of information and intercommunication among its members, GEINO publishes the journal *Actualidad en Neuro-oncología* twice a year (www.geino.es). The group has collaborated in the publication of 3 books in Spanish:

- Balañá C, Roussos I (eds). Manual Práctico de Tumores cerebrales. Manual Práctico. (Practical handbook of Brain Tumours. Practical handbook). Publicaciones Permanyer ediciones de 2006, 2008 y 2010.
- Colección de monografías: Tratamiento Farmacológico y de Soporte de los Tumores cerebrales (4 números). (Monograph series: Pharmacological and supportive treatment of Brain Tumours – 4 numbers).
- Benavides M, Arraez MÁ, Herruzo I, et al (eds). Tumores del SNC en el adulto y en la infancia. Enfoque multidisciplinar neuro-oncológico (Central Nervous System tumours in adults and children. Neuro-oncological multidisciplinary approach) in its 2 editions. Grupo aulamédica, 2012.

We hope that together we can enable GEINO to maintain its research activity and that within EANO it will significantly contribute to the development of neuro-oncology in Spain.

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1. Balañá C, López-Pousa A, Berrocal A, et al. Phase II study of temozolomide and cisplatin as primary treatment prior to radiotherapy in newly diagnosed glioblastoma multiforme patients

with measurable disease. A study of the Spanish Medical Neuro-Oncology Group (GENOM). J Neurooncol 2004; 70: 359–69.

2. Balañá Quintero C, Reynes G, Gil-Gil M, et al.; Comité Ejecutivo del Grupo Español de Neuro-oncología Médica. Constitución del Grupo Español de Neuro-Oncología Médica (GENOM). Clin Transl Oncol 2002; 4: 344.

3. Berrocal A, Perez-Segura P, Gil M, et al. Extended-schedule dose-dense temozolomide in refractory gliomas. J Neurooncol 2010; 96: 417–22.

4. Pérez-Segura P, Gil M, Balañá C, et al. Phase II trial of temozolomide for leptomeningeal metastases in patients with solid tumors. J Neurooncol 2012; 109: 137–42.

5. Gil MJ, de las Peñas R, Reynes G, et al. Bevacizumab plus irinotecan in recurrent malignant glioma shows high overall survival in a multicenter retrospective pooled series of the Spanish Neuro-Oncology Research Group (GEINO). Anticancer Drugs 2012; 23: 659–65.

6. Berrocal A, Gil M, Gallego O, et al. SEOM guideline for the treatment of malignant glioma. Clin Transl Oncol 2012; 14: 545–50.

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