

# Chemotherapy & ECI<sup>®</sup> Immunotherapy Combination Results In Extended Survival in Newly-Diagnosed Osteosarcoma — 18-Month Update

ASCENT - Single Arm, Multi-Center Combination Therapy Study

## At a glance

The ASCENT study is evaluating the use of the ELIAS Cancer Immunotherapy (ECI<sup>®</sup>) in combination with a single dose of chemotherapy to treat bone cancer in dogs. ECI<sup>®</sup> is an adoptive cell therapy approved by the USDA for treatment of canine osteosarcoma (OSA).

## Key findings

Dogs (n=13) receiving one dose of carboplatin chemotherapy before initiation of the ECI<sup>®</sup> vaccine-enhanced adoptive cell therapy showed significantly improved outcomes.

### 12-MONTH SURVIVAL

83%

**Combination**

One-dose carbo + ECI<sup>®</sup>

25%

**Chemo only**

4-dose carboplatin

### 18-MONTH SURVIVAL

58%

**Combination**

One-dose carbo + ECI<sup>®</sup>

17%

**Chemo only**

4-dose carboplatin



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<sup>1</sup>Morris Animal Foundation

<sup>2</sup>Withrow and MacEwen's Small Animal Clinical Oncology, 2013 edition

<sup>3</sup>MacEwan EG, et al, 1989; Spodnick G, et al, 1992.

<sup>4</sup>Santamaria, AC, 2019; Bergman P, et al, 1996.

<sup>5</sup>Bryan JN, et al. One-dose carboplatin followed by vaccine-enhanced adoptive cell therapy (ECI<sup>®</sup>) improves outcomes compared to four-dose carboplatin in dogs with osteosarcoma (ASCENT Study). Abstract presented at: Veterinary Cancer Society Annual Conference; September 25-27, 2025; Salt Lake City, UT.

<sup>6</sup>Bryan, JN et al. ASCENT Study 18-Month Update. Abstract presented at: VCS/VSSO Collaborative Conference; March 18-21, 2026; Savannah, GA.

## Introduction

Cancer is the leading cause of death in dogs over 2 years. An estimated 6 million dogs in the US are diagnosed with cancer each year, and more than 30 different types occur in dogs.<sup>1,2</sup>

Osteosarcoma (OSA) is an aggressive form of bone cancer that is more prevalent in medium, large and extra large dogs, but can also occur in tiny and small dogs. OSA is highly metastatic and lung metastasis is the primary cause of treatment failure following amputation. Historically, median survival time after amputation alone is about 2–4 months, and with 4-dose carboplatin is about 6–11 months.<sup>3,4</sup> In a post-amputation randomized study (BASE), ECI<sup>®</sup> achieved survival outcomes comparable to carboplatin with no serious adverse reactions observed, compared with 25% in the carboplatin-treated dogs.

Aggressive therapeutic approaches to treat osteosarcoma and reduce the risk of metastasis are needed. The ASCENT study builds on the results of the BASE study to examine the combination of ECI<sup>®</sup> with traditional chemotherapy and evaluate the safety and effectiveness of this approach. Twelve-month survival analysis was reported at the 2025 Veterinary Cancer Society Annual Conference.<sup>5</sup>

## Methods

Pet dogs with newly diagnosed appendicular OSA were identified before beginning any treatment. These dogs were amputated to remove the primary tumor; tumor cells collected at the time of surgery were used to manufacture the ECI<sup>®</sup> vaccines. Dogs received one dose of carboplatin, then ECI<sup>®</sup> protocol was initiated ~21 days after the carboplatin dose. Survival outcomes were compared to a group of dogs matched on tumor location, breed, weight, and age who received 4-dose carboplatin (historical standard of care).

## Results

Twelve- and 18-month survival rates for dogs (n=13) that received 1-dose carboplatin prior to ECI<sup>®</sup> was 83% and 58%, respectively; compared to 25% and 17%, respectively, in the matched controls that received 4-dose carboplatin only. No serious adverse events were reported in the ECI<sup>®</sup> group.

## Conclusion

In this analysis<sup>6</sup>, **dogs that received one dose of chemotherapy (carboplatin) followed by ECI<sup>®</sup> showed longer survival compared to dogs treated with 4-dose carboplatin alone**, and the protocol was well-tolerated. These findings support the potential benefit of this combination therapy.

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