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> *J Neurol*. 2023 Feb 22. doi: 10.1007/s00415-023-11600-w. Online ahead of print.

# Bevacizumab in real-life patients with recurrent glioblastoma: benefit or futility?

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PMID: 36813928 DOI: [10.1007/s00415-023-11600-w](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-023-11600-w)

## Abstract

**Purpose:** Angiogenesis plays a key role in glioblastoma, but most anti-angiogenic therapy trials have failed to change the poor outcome of this disease. Despite this, and because bevacizumab is known to alleviate symptoms, it is used in daily practice. We aimed to assess the real-life benefit in terms of overall survival, time to treatment failure, objective response, and clinical benefit in patients with recurrent glioblastoma treated with bevacizumab.

**Methods:** This was a monocentric, retrospective study including patients treated between 2006 and 2016 in our institution.

**Results:** 202 patients were included. The median duration of bevacizumab treatment was 6 months. Median time to treatment failure was 6.8 months (95%CI 5.3-8.2) and median overall survival was 23.7 months (95%CI 20.6-26.8). Fifty percent of patients had a radiological response at first MRI evaluation, and 56% experienced symptom amelioration. Grade 1/2 hypertension (n = 34, 17%) and grade one proteinuria (n = 20, 10%) were the most common side effects.

**Conclusions:** This study reports a clinical benefit and an acceptable toxicity profile in patients with

recurrent glioblastoma treated with bevacizumab. As the panel of therapies is still very limited for these tumors, this work supports the use of bevacizumab as a therapeutic option.

**Keywords:** Bevacizumab; Glioblastoma; Overall survival; Patients; Quality of life.

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