

PhytoIntelligence 3.2 (PI-BRAIN-2026-001)

Pre-Experimental Protocol: Phytochemical Synergism in Glioblastoma Multiforme

A Clean-Label, Vegan-Compliant Investigational Therapeutic Platform

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Abstract

Background: Glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) remains therapeutically recalcitrant due to the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and metabolic plasticity (Warburg effect). Current standard of care (Stupp protocol) demonstrates median survival of 15 months with significant neurotoxicity.

Hypothesis: A synergistic phytochemical stack (*Curcuma longa* + *Camellia sinensis* + *Piper nigrum*), formulated under the “1=1=1 Axiom” (100% organic, vegan, toxin-free), will inhibit the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway and modulate glucose metabolism while achieving therapeutic CNS concentrations through bio-potential strategies.

Design: Single-arm, open-label Phase I/IIa adaptive basket trial with biomarker-driven cohort expansion ($n = 30$).

Primary Endpoint: Safety (DLT rate) and PK profile (C_{max} , AUC_{0-24h}) of the phytochemical matrix in GBM patients.

Innovation: UGT-inhibition via piperine-mediated glucuronidation blockade to enhance curcumin CNS bioavailability above the K_i threshold for mTOR inhibition ($\approx 5 \mu$).

Nomenclature

AUC Area Under the Curve

BBB Blood-Brain Barrier

PI3K Phosphoinositide 3-kinase

UGT UDP-glucuronosyltransferase

1 Intelligence-Led Research Framework (ILRF)

1.1 Pathophysiological Target Operating Model

The following Intelligence Requirements (IR) have been quantized into measurable biological endpoints using SI-unit normalized metabolic drift calculations (Δ):

IR Code	Pathology Node	Biological Mechanism	Priority
IR-NEURO-001	Glioblastoma (IDH-wildtype)	Proliferation via Akt/mTOR Pathway; Apoptosis resistance	CRITICAL
IR-BBB-002	Blood-Brain Barrier Permeability	P-gp efflux limitation; Paracellular tight junction integrity	HIGH
IR-OXID-003	Neuro-inflammatory Cascade	IL-6, TNF- α , IL-1 β cytokine storms; Microglial activation	MEDIUM

Table 1: Target Operating Model with Priority Weighting for Resource Allocation

2 Phytochemical Rationale & Molecular OSINT

2.1 Ligand Selection Logic

Deterministic search through Global Target Repository (GTR) for plant-derived ligands with lowest K_i constants for GBM-specific receptors.

2.1.1 Primary Ligand: Curcumin (*Curcuma longa*)

- **IUPAC Name:** (1*E*,6*E*)-1,7-bis(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)hepta-1,6-diene-3,5-dione
- **Mechanism:** Allosteric inhibition of PI3K p110 α catalytic subunit; downstream suppression of mTORC1 phosphorylation (pS6); Caspase-3/7 activation inducing apoptosis in glioma stem cells (GSCs).
- **Verification:** Peer-reviewed efficacy data [1] demonstrates IC₅₀ 5.5 μ to 22 μ in U87-MG and T98G cell lines.
- **Purity Specification:** Supercritical CO₂ extraction; $\geq 95\%$ total curcuminoid content (bisdemethoxycurcumin, demethoxycurcumin, curcumin) by HPLC-UV at 420 nm.

2.1.2 Secondary Ligand: Epigallocatechin-3-gallate (EGCG)

- **Source:** Standardized *Camellia sinensis* (organic green tea) ethanolic extract.
- **Mechanism:** Downregulation of HIF-1 α and GLUT1/3 expression, reversing the Warburg effect; inhibition of MMP-2/9 reducing tumor invasiveness; chemosensitization via O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) suppression.

- **Target Engagement:** Plasma EGCG levels $\geq 1\mu$ required for 67-4 cell viability reduction [2].

3 Pharmacokinetic Optimization & Synergistic Stacking

3.1 Bio-Potential Strategy

To overcome the primary limitation of curcumin (extensive first-pass metabolism via hepatic UGT1A1/1A9 and sulfotransferases), the formulation employs metabolic inhibition:

$$\text{AUC}_{\text{enhanced}} = \text{AUC}_{\text{curcumin}} \times \left(1 + \frac{[\text{Piperine}]}{K_i^{\text{UGT}}}\right) \times f_{\text{absorption}} \quad (1)$$

Where:

- Piperine (from *Piper nigrum*) acts as a pan-UGT inhibitor and CYP3A4 modulator
- Predicted fold-increase in bioavailability: 20-fold (based on [3])
- Target C_{max} in CSF: $\geq 100\text{ ng/mL}$ ($\approx 270\text{ n}$)

3.2 Sustained Release Matrix

Organic *Acacia senegal* fiber functions as a viscous polysaccharide hydrogel, modulating gastric emptying and creating a diffusion-controlled release profile:

$$\frac{M_t}{M_\infty} = k \cdot t^n \quad (2)$$

Where $n \approx 0.5$ (Fickian diffusion) to 0.85 (anomalous transport), extending $t_{1/2}$ from 1 h to projected 4 h.

3.3 Drug-Drug Interaction (DDI) Screening

In silico modeling (SIMCYP[®]) predicts:

- **CYP450:** No significant inhibition of CYP1A2, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, or 3A4 at therapeutic concentrations.
- **Transporters:** Weak inhibition of P-gp (MDR1) by curcumin may enhance BBB permeability (beneficial for IR-BBB-002).

4 Pre-Clinical Formulation Chemistry

4.1 The 1=1=1 Axiom: Stoichiometric Alignment

Strict adherence to 100% organic, vegan, and toxin-free excipients.

Table 2: Formulation Stoichiometry (Per Unit Dose)

Component	Source	Quantity	Function
Curcuminoids	<i>Curcuma longa</i> (CO ₂ ext.)	500 mg	Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient
EGCG	<i>Camellia sinensis</i> (95% polyphenols)	300 mg	API/Synergist
Piperine	<i>Piper nigrum</i> (95% purity)	20 mg	Bioenhancer/UGT inhibitor
Bamboo Silica	<i>Bambusa arundinacea</i>	10 mg	Flow agent/Anti-caking
Pullulan Capsule	Tapioca (<i>Manihot esculenta</i>) ferment	120 mg	Encapsulation polymer
Acacia Fiber	<i>Acacia senegal</i>	200 mg	Sustained release matrix

4.2 Quality Control Specifications

- **Heavy Metals:** <0.5 ppm lead, <0.1 ppm cadmium, <0.1 ppm mercury (ICP-MS verified).
- **Microbial:** <1000 CFU/g total aerobic count; absence of *Salmonella* spp. and *E. coli*.
- **Residual Solvents:** Ethanol <0.5%; CO₂ (supercritical) - exempt.

5 Clinical Protocol Design

5.1 Study Population

Inclusion Criteria:

1. Histologically confirmed IDH-wildtype glioblastoma (WHO Grade IV) with measurable disease (RANO criteria).
2. Age 18-75 years; ECOG performance status 0-2.
3. Failed standard of care (surgical resection + temozolomide + radiation) or recurrent disease.
4. Life expectancy >3 months.
5. Adequate organ function: ANC >1.5 × 10⁹ L⁻¹, Platelets >100 × 10⁹ L⁻¹, Bilirubin <1.5×ULN.

Exclusion Criteria:

1. Concomitant strong UGT inhibitors (e.g., atazanavir, indinavir) or CYP3A4 inducers (e.g., carbamazepine, St. John’s Wort).
2. Active bleeding disorder (curcumin anti-platelet effects).
3. Pregnancy/lactation (Category C - insufficient data).

5.2 Dosing & Administration

- **Schedule:** Escalating dose design (3+3 cohorts)
- **Level 1:** Curcumin 500 mg bid + EGCG 300 mg bid + Piperine 20 mg bid
- **Level 2:** Curcumin 1000 mg bid + EGCG 600 mg bid + Piperine 20 mg bid
- **Route:** Oral (PRN fasting status to optimize polyphenol absorption)

5.3 Endpoints & Biomarker Strategy

Primary:

1. Safety: Incidence of Dose Limiting Toxicities (DLTs) in Cycle 1 (28 days).
2. PK: $C_{\max}$, $T_{\max}$, AUC_{0-24h} , and CSF/plasma ratio of curcumin and EGCG.

Secondary (IR Alignment):

1. **IR-NEURO-001:** Change in tumor volume (MRI volumetric analysis, RANO criteria) at Week 12.
2. **IR-BBB-002:** CSF penetration coefficient (K_p) calculated as AUC_{CSF}/AUC_{plasma} .
3. **IR-OXID-003:** Serum IL-6, TNF- α , and CRP levels; microglial activation markers (TSPO PET imaging, exploratory).

6 Statistical Analysis Plan

Sample Size: $n = 30$ (3 dose levels $\times$ 6 patients + 6 expansion cohort at MTD/RD).

Analysis Sets:

- **Safety:** All patients receiving ≥ 1 dose.
- **Efficacy:** Per-protocol population (completing ≥ 8 weeks).

Bayesian Adaptive Design: Utilize a modified Continual Reassessment Method (CRM) for dose-finding, with prior probabilities of toxicity based on *in silico* modeling. Stop-go criteria for efficacy will employ a Simon’s two-stage design with 80% power to detect 20% response rate (vs. 5% historical control) at $\alpha = 0.05$.

7 Regulatory & Ethical Framework

- **IND Application:** Submit to FDA CDER under Botanical Drug Development Guidance (June 2016).
- **IRB Approval:** Multi-site ethics review; informed consent emphasizing “investigational botanical drug” status.
- **DSMB:** Independent Data Safety Monitoring Board review at 25%, 50%, and 75% enrollment.
- **cGMP Compliance:** Manufacturing at FDA-registered facility with Botanical Drug Master File (BDMF) submission.

8 Data Archiving & Reproducibility

All primary data (HPLC chromatograms, MRI DICOM files, PK raw data) will be deposited in:

- **ClinicalTrials.gov:** NCT-XXXXXX (upon IND acceptance)
- **Figshare/OSF:** De-identified PK datasets and analysis code (R/Python)
- **GitHub:** Pharmacokinetic modeling scripts (Stan/PK-Sim)

References

- [1] Mehdi A, et al. Curcumin inhibits the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway in glioblastoma. *Biomed Pharmacother.* 2018;108:163. [DOI:10.1016/j.biopha.2018.10.163](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.biopha.2018.10.163)
- [2] Zhang Y, et al. EGCG modulates glucose metabolism in glioblastoma. *Molecules.* 2021;26(11):3110. [DOI:10.3390/molecules26113110](https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules26113110)
- [3] Shoba G, et al. Influence of piperine on the pharmacokinetics of curcumin in animals and human volunteers. *Planta Med.* 1998;64(4):353-356.