

supernatant were from tumour cells treated with chemotherapy. This was most clearly seen when using A549 cells (Table).

Conclusions: These results provide evidence that tumours exposed to some chemotherapy release cytokines that can mature DCs and ultimately enhance T-cell responses. This supports our overall notion of improving cancer therapy through the use of chemotherapy as immune modulators. This work is funded by the Cancer Vaccine Institute Charity (www.cancervaccine.org.uk).

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POSTER

Immunological response to influenza vaccine in cancer patients undergoing treatment with sunitinib or sorafenib

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Background: It is recommended to annually vaccinate against influenza persons at risk for complications from influenza (i.e. chronic diseases accompanied with immunosuppression and/or age ≥ 60 years). Sunitinib is commonly used in the treatment of advanced renal cell cancer (RCC) and gastro-intestinal stroma cell tumours (GIST), and sorafenib in RCC and hepatocellular cancer. Sunitinib and sorafenib have immunomodulatory effects in both human and murine models, with largely unknown clinical consequences. In this study we investigated the efficacy of influenza vaccination in terms of immune responses in cancer patients on sunitinib or sorafenib treatment.

Materials and Methods: In the autumn of 2008, four different groups were vaccinated with subunit trivalent influenza vaccine. Group 1 (RCC) and group 2 (GIST) were pts on treatment with sunitinib or sorafenib for ≥ 4 weeks. Group 3 were advanced RCC pts without treatment for ≥ 1 year. Group 4 were healthy volunteers age ≥ 60 yrs. Eligibility criteria included an indication for influenza vaccination, no corticosteroid use in the last 2 weeks, and no immunotherapy or targeted therapy in the last year, except for imatinib in pts with GIST. Peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) and serum was collected prior to (day 1) and on day 8 and day 22 after influenza vaccination. Humoral immune responses were measured with antibody titers against all three influenza strains in the vaccine. PBMCs were re-stimulated with the influenza strains in-vitro, to measure vaccine specific, cell-mediated immune responses. As a read-out we measured the PBMC proliferation, activation and cytokine production.

Results: 40 subjects were enrolled (group 1: n=19, median age 61 yrs, group 2: n=3, 53 yrs, group 3: n=7, 60 yrs, group 4: n=11, 66 yrs). No serious side effects of the vaccinations were observed. Preliminary results show a vaccine-specific humoral immune-response in all groups. Updated results on both humoral and cellular responses will be presented.

Conclusions: During treatment with sunitinib or sorafenib cancer patients can mount a humoral response against the influenza vaccine. Our data suggest that these vaccinations can be recommended in this population.

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POSTER

Tumour growth suppression of mouse colon cancer cell line by Boron neutron capture therapy & Dendritic cell derived immunotherapy

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Background: The cytotoxic effect of Boron neutron capture therapy (BNCT) is due to a nuclear reaction between ^{10}B and thermal neutrons. The short range in tissue of the resultant lithium ions and a particles (5–9 nm) restricts radiation damage to those cells in which boron atoms are located on neutron irradiation. Dendritic Cells (DCs) are potent antigen-presenting cells, so it is now being focused on the role of DCs in eliciting antitumour immunity and in potential therapeutic applications. Recently, it has been reported that combined immuno and radiation therapy results in effective tumour growth suppression. In this study, we prepared the cationic liposome (COATSOME-EL) as the effective ^{10}B carrier into the cancer cells, and we evaluated the synergic anti-cancer effects of immune-responses with dendritic cells intratumoural injection after BNCT.

Materials and Methods: Sodium salt of ^{10}B compound ($\text{Na}_2^{10}\text{B}_{12}\text{H}_{11}\text{SH}$; BSH) (10 mg/ml) solution was added to the COATSOME EL-C-01. On

day 10, when the tumours of Colon26 reached an average diameter of 10 mm, BNCT on mice IT injected with ^{10}B entrapped liposome (150 μl) was performed with thermal neutrons (2×10^{12} n/cm²) at JRR4 reactor of Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, and, at that time, syngeneic DCs (1×10^7 cells/mouse) were injected IT with 3 times, or 7 times. After BNCT+DCs injections, the effect of treatment was calculated on the basis of tumour volume and morphological findings of the tumours at 4-day intervals.

Results: Significant tumour growth suppression was achieved on the group treated BNCT + IT-saline, and the combination of BNCT + IT-DC compared to non-treated group, and 30% tumour growth suppression was achieved on 7 times IT-DC group. Splenocytes retrieved on day 40 after tumour inoculation from mice subjected to the BNCT+ 7 times DCs showed significantly more tumour-specific IFN- γ -secreting cells compared with splenocytes from control groups. In tumor challenged mice, that received spleen cells from BNCT+DCs treated mice, Fifty % reduction in tumour growth was observed.

Conclusions: Our data indicate that DC administration combined with BNCT induces tumour antigen-specific cellular-mediated immune responses in tumour bearing mice. DCs combined with BNCT of a solitary tumour confers protection against tumour rechallenge. We hope to apply this direct DC immunotherapy for enhancing the BNCT effects in clinical trials.

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POSTER

Cognitive study of reactivity to IPH1101 of peripheral gamma delta T lymphocytes from solid tumour patients

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Background: IPH 1101 is a chemically-synthesized structural analogue of natural phosphoantigens recognized by a population of non-conventional lymphocytes bearing potent anticancer activity known as gamma-delta ($\gamma\delta$) T lymphocytes. IPH 1101 combined with low doses of IL-2 induces a highly selective proliferation of $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

IPH1101 associated with low doses of IL-2 has been tested in phase I clinical trials in various solid tumours and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma patients, showing a good safety profile and significant target lymphocyte population amplification. IPH 1101 is currently being tested in Phase II clinical trials in haematological indications (alone or in combination).

The objective of this prospective *ex vivo* observational study is to explore potential indications in which IPH1101 may be beneficial. Because cancer patients may have impaired immune function, it appears important to assess the proliferative capacity of the patients' $\gamma\delta$ T cells in response to IPH 1101 + IL-2.

We have set up a quantitative standardized *in vitro* "IPH1101 sensitivity test" that requires only a small sample of patients' peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC).

We report here results from selected solid tumour indications: renal cancer (RCC), colorectal cancer (CRC), prostate cancer (PC), bladder cancer (BC) and lung cancer (LC).

Material and Methods: Patients (pts) with RCC, CRC, PC, BC, and LC were enrolled at 2 French sites. A small sample of blood (20 mL) was sufficient to prepare PBMCs and culture them in the presence of IPH1101 and IL-2. Results on the extent of *in vitro* amplification of cells by IPH1101 were available within 8 days and were expressed as (i) % of $\gamma\delta$ T cells in the culture and (ii) total amplification rate of $\gamma\delta$ T cells.

Results: 59 pts with RCC (of which 20 were under TKI treatment), 30 pts with CRC, 41 pts with PC, 19 pts with BC and 6 pts with LC were evaluable in this study. Patients presented various type of tumour, stage of disease (most of them were metastatic) and various prior treatment types. All pts but one were found sensitive to IPH1101 stimulation *ex vivo* and more than 90% of them presented a high level of response to this test.

Conclusion: Taking into account their preserved $\gamma\delta$ T cells expansion functions, patients suffering from renal, colorectal, prostate, bladder, and lung cancers might be candidate for future studies with $\gamma\delta$ T cells immunomodulators.