

Unsymmetric Mono- and Dinuclear Platinum(IV) Complexes Featuring an Ethylene Glycol Moiety: Synthesis, Characterization, and Biological Activity

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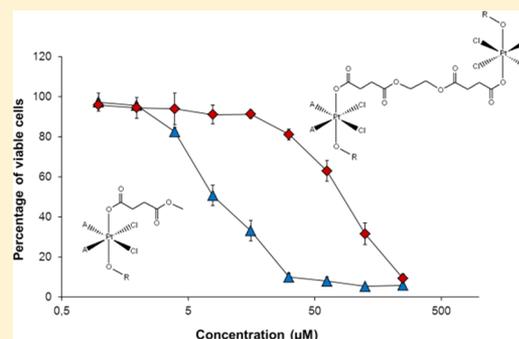
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Supporting Information

ABSTRACT: Eight novel mononuclear and two dinuclear platinum(IV) complexes were synthesized and characterized by elemental analysis, one- and two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, and reversed-phase HPLC ($\log k_w$) and in one case by X-ray diffraction. Cytotoxicity of the compounds was studied in three human cancer cell lines (CH1, SW480, and A549) by means of the MTT assay, featuring IC_{50} values to the low micromolar range. Furthermore a selected set of compounds was investigated in additional cancer cell lines (P31 and P31/cis, A2780 and A2780/cis, SW1573, 2R120, and 2R160) with regard to their resistance patterns, offering a distinctly different scheme compared to cisplatin. To gain further insights into the mode of action, drug uptake, DNA synthesis inhibition, cell cycle effects, and induction of apoptosis were determined for two characteristic substances.



INTRODUCTION

Platinum(II) complexes, namely, cis-, carbo-, and oxaliplatin (Figure S1, Supporting Information), are highly successful anticancer drugs in worldwide clinical application against a variety of tumor types.^{1–3} However, major limitations of these drugs are (i) dose-limiting severe toxicities, (ii) poor bioavailability, and (iii) intrinsic or acquired resistance.^{4–8} As a consequence, different approaches have emerged to improve the cytotoxic profile of anticancer platinum compounds, including sterically hindered platinum agents, trans configured platinum compounds, multinuclear platinum(II), and platinum(IV) complexes.^{9–13}

The platinum(IV) complexes seem to have the ability to overcome the drawbacks of platinum(II) drugs because of their (i) reduced systemic toxicity, as they act as prodrugs, (ii) possible oral application, and (iii) high kinetic inertness. However, only four platinum(IV) complexes (Figure 1) entered clinical trials so far and none of them have been currently approved as an anticancer drug.^{10,14}

Iproplatin ((OC-6-33)-dichloridodihydroxidobis(isopropylamine)platinum(IV), chip, JM9¹⁵) was the first platinum(IV) compound that entered clinical trials, but because of insufficient activity compared to cisplatin and carboplatin, the clinical phase III studies were abandoned.^{16,17} High neurotoxicity led to discontinuation of the investigation of tetraplatin ((OC-6-

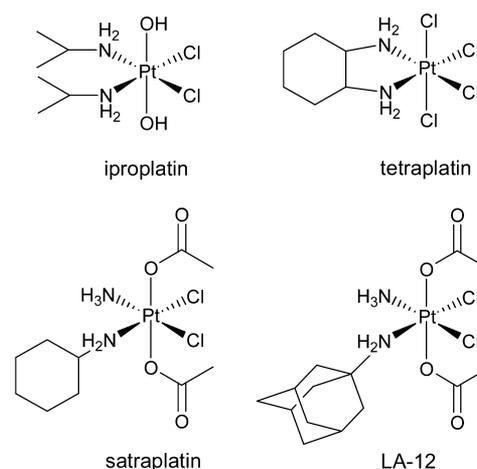


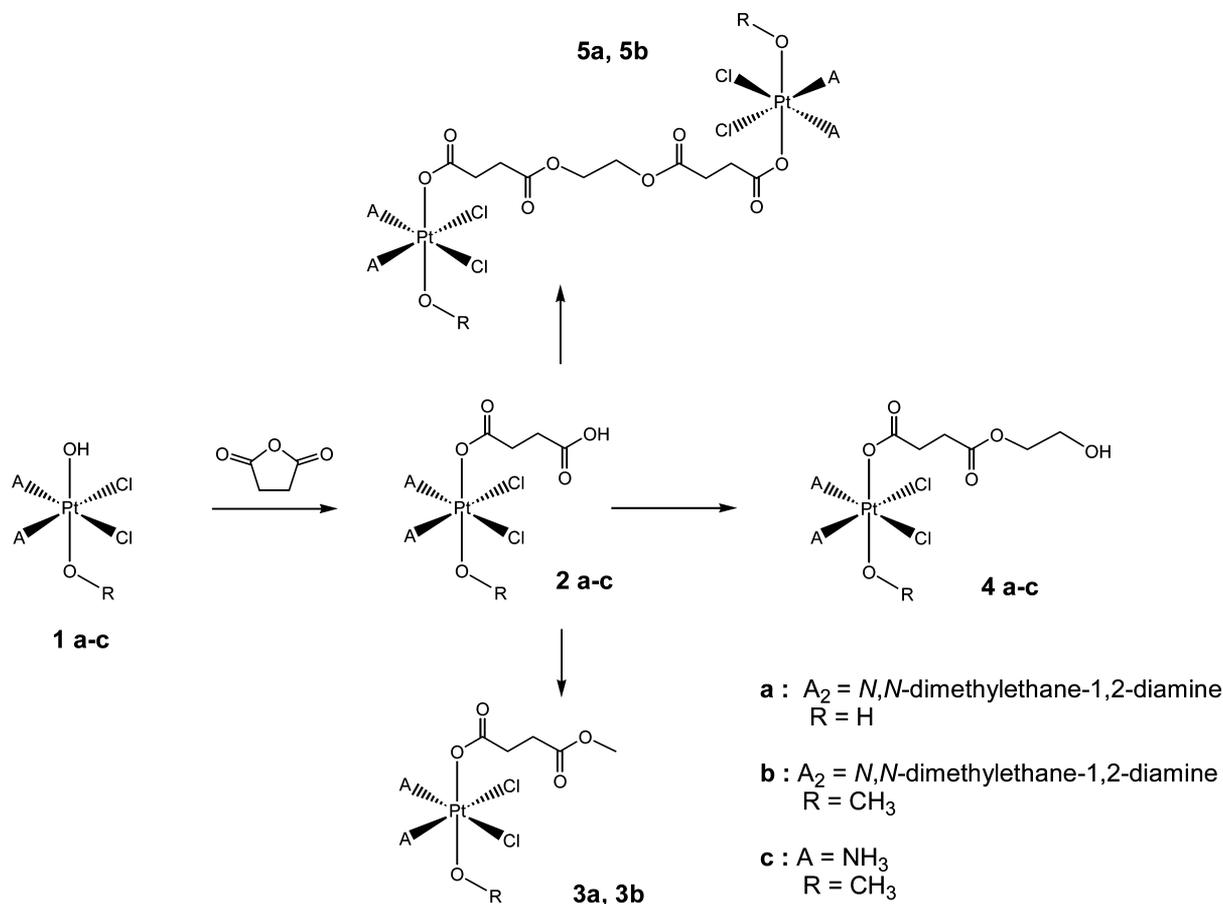
Figure 1. Clinically investigated platinum(IV) drugs.

22)-tetrachlorido(*D,L*-cyclohexane-1,2-diamine)platinum(IV), ormaplatin) in phase I clinical trials.^{18,10,17} The orally administered drug satraplatin ((OC-6-43)-

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Scheme 1. Overview of the synthesis of mono- and dinuclear platinum(IV) complexes 1–5



diacetatoamminedichlorido(cyclohexylamine)platinum(IV), JM216¹⁹) was the most promising platinum(IV) complex in clinical trials. Nonetheless, the phase III SPARC trial (satraplatin and prednisone against refractory cancer) showed no significant increase of survival rates compared to standard treatment.^{20,21}

The satraplatin-related complex (OC-6-43)-diacetato-(adamantylamine)amminedichloridoplatinum(IV) (LA-12, cyclohexylamine was exchanged by adamantylamine) was under clinical investigation, but results have not been published yet.^{22,23}

It is well recognized that octahedral platinum(IV) complexes are not the active species in the human body. Therefore, these compounds are prodrugs that have to undergo extracellular or preferably intracellular reduction by agents like ascorbic acid, glutathione, or high molecular weight biomolecules, thereby resulting in the antitumor active square-planar platinum(II) metabolites.^{24–28}

Thus, the activity of these complexes depends on a range of bioinorganic and pharmacological attributes like the reduction potential, lipophilicity and solubility, binding behavior to biomolecules, and inertness with regard to ligand exchange reactions.^{29–31} Several studies show that the type of axial ligands has an exceptionally high influence on the reduction potential and consequently on the cytotoxicity (chlorido ligands, high reduction potential and high cytotoxicity; hydroxido ligands, low reduction potential and low cytotoxicity).³² As platinum(IV) drugs should ideally be reduced intracellularly, drug uptake into the cancer cell must occur before the reduction process takes place. Cellular accumulation is possible via passive diffusion across the cell membrane or active transport into the cell.³³ On the one hand, an increase of the lipophilic character of

platinum(IV) complexes facilitates drug accumulation via the lipid bilayer of the cell membrane.³⁴ On the other hand, a decrease of aqueous solubility impedes drug application. Oral administration can only be ensured when the platinum(IV) compound is stable enough to reach the target, especially under the broad pH range in the human gastrointestinal tract.³⁵ The additional axial ligands in platinum(IV) complexes compared to platinum(II) enable the adjustment of all these important properties on the way to novel and more selective anticancer agents. Particularly challenging in this context is the synthesis of platinum(IV) compounds with two different axial ligands. At present, the only possibilities of receiving an unsymmetrically substituted complex is (i) oxidation in an alcohol^{36,37} or carboxylic acid solution³⁸ or (ii) maintaining a free hydroxido group during the subsequent derivatization reaction.^{39,40}

In the present work, we report on the synthesis of unsymmetrically substituted mono- and dinuclear platinum(IV) compounds including an ethylene glycol moiety leading to good water solubility that aids drug formulation. Furthermore, the complexes were investigated with regard to their cytotoxicity, drug accumulation, and lipophilic profile. Additionally, structure–activity relationships are discussed including compounds synthesized previously.⁴⁰

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Synthesis and Characterization. Synthesis of the starting platinum(II) complexes cisplatin and (SP-4-3)-dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethyl-ethane-1,2-diamine)platinum(II) was performed according to standard literature procedures starting from K_2PtCl_4 .

Subsequent oxidation with 30% H₂O₂ in H₂O led to the symmetric complex **1a** with two hydroxido groups in axial position, whereas oxidation with 50% H₂O₂ in absolute MeOH produced the asymmetric complex **1b** or **1c** possessing one hydroxido and one methoxido ligand in axial position (Scheme 1). Reaction of **1a–c** with succinic anhydride (2 equiv in DMF) produced monocarboxylated products **2a–c** in good yields (42–73%). Further derivatization was performed using CDI (1,1-carbonyldiimidazol) and an excess of methanol/methanolate or ethylene glycol/ethylene glycolate solution yielding the corresponding esters **3a**, **3b**, and **4a–c** in moderate yields (28–38%) after column chromatography. Dinuclear species **5a** and **5b** were obtained by addition of only 0.5 equiv of the ethylene glycol/ethylene glycolate solution (yields, 26–32%). All novel platinum(IV) compounds were characterized by elemental analysis, multinuclear (¹H, ¹³C, ¹⁵N, and ¹⁹⁵Pt) one- and two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy, reversed-phase HPLC, and ESI mass spectrometry; furthermore, **1b** was analyzed by X-ray diffraction.

NMR Spectroscopy. ¹⁹⁵Pt NMR chemical shifts were found at around 2500 ppm indicating a PtN₂Cl₂O₂ coordination sphere in accordance with literature data (see Table 1).⁴¹

Table 1. ¹⁹⁵Pt NMR Shifts and log *k_w* Values of Synthesized Compounds

compd	¹⁹⁵ Pt NMR signal	log <i>k_w</i>
1a	2412 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	
2a	2497 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.46 ± 0.03
3a	2497 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.94 ± 0.01
4a	2497 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.30 ± 0.06
5a	2496 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	1.98 ± 0.07
1b	2368 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.09 ± 0.01
2b	2379 (DMF- <i>d</i> ₇)	1.00 ± 0.01
3b	2497 (DMF- <i>d</i> ₇)	1.58 ± 0.02
4b	2410 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	1.37 ± 0.06
5b	2410 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	2.95 ± 0.01
1c	2559 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	
2c	2606 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.39 ± 0.01
4c	2602 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	0.22 ± 0.01
satraplatin	2900 (DMSO- <i>d</i> ₆)	1.79 ± 0.01

Expectedly, the platinum shift is only altered when deviations in the structure are close to the platinum center. The value of the platinum chemical shift increases when a methoxido group (complex **1b**, 2368 ppm) is exchanged by a hydroxido group (complex **1a**, 2412 ppm), and this increase can also be observed for the respective monocarboxylated complex (complex **2a**, 2497 ppm). Additionally, the platinum resonance of cisplatin analogues is shifted to lower field compared to complexes with a *N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine chelate ligand.

In ¹H NMR spectra, derivatization of the axial ligands can best be judged. All chemical shifts of the synthesized compounds were found in the expected range. NH₃ signals of diammine complexes **1c**, **2c**, and **4c** were detected at 5.5–5.9 ppm, whereas the NH₂ resonances of complexes **2a–5a** and **1b–5b** were shifted to lower field and split into two signals which were detected between 6.7–7.3 ppm and 9.1–9.6 ppm, respectively. The appearance of these two separated NH signals indicates a monocarboxylation and as a result the formation of a chiral platinum(IV) center. The same holds true for the N(CH₃)₂ proton signals (complexes **2a–5a**) resonating as two singlets at

2.69–2.66 and 2.66–2.59 ppm, additionally featuring ¹⁹⁵Pt satellites with a coupling of ³J(¹H, ¹⁹⁵Pt) = 24 Hz.⁴²

The methyl ester complexes **3a** and **3b** as well as dimers **5a** and **5b** exhibit the same number of signals in proton NMR spectra because of the symmetry plane in the dinuclear species. Nevertheless, differentiation is easy, since the methyl group resonates at around 3.6 ppm, whereas the singlet of the linking ethylene group of the dimers was detected at 4.2 ppm with an intensity of four protons.

Crystal Structure. Crystals of **1b** suitable for X-ray data collection were obtained by slow evaporation of an aqueous trifluoroacetic acid solution. The result of the X-ray diffraction study of **1b**⁺·TFA[−] is shown in Figure 2. Crystal data, data

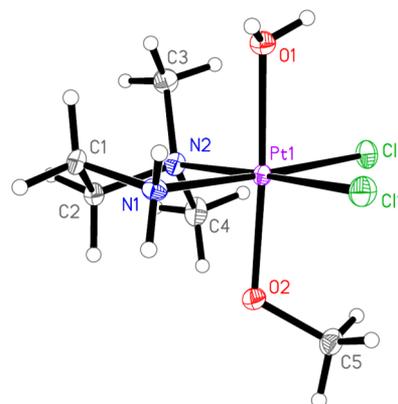


Figure 2. ORTEP view of **1b**⁺ (TFA[−] counterion is omitted) with atom labeling scheme. The thermal ellipsoids have been drawn at the 50% probability level. Selected bond lengths (Å) and bond angles (deg) are as follows: Pt–N1 2.035(3), Pt–N2 2.103(3), Pt–Cl1 2.3134(9), Pt–Cl2 2.3176(8), Pt–O1 2.060(2), Pt–O2 1.983(2); O1–Pt–O2 175.81(10), N1–Pt–N2 85.31(12), Cl1–Pt–Cl2 93.34(3).

collection parameters, and structure refinement details are given in Table S1 (Supporting Information). Complex **1b** crystallized in the triclinic centrosymmetric space group $P\bar{1}$. The platinum(IV) atom has an octahedral coordination geometry with a bidentate *N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine ligand and two chlorido ligands bound in the equatorial plane. In the axial position one methoxido and one aqua ligand are coordinated (because of the acidic conditions, the hydroxido ligand is protonated). The Pt–N, Pt–O, and Pt–Cl bond lengths are in good agreement with those of structurally similar compounds.⁴¹

Reversed-Phase HPLC Measurements. A very important parameter in the pharmacological behavior of drugs, especially with respect to cellular accumulation, is their lipophilicity. As the commonly used shake flask method for determination of the octanol/water partition coefficient is prone to irregularities (dependency on temperature, pH, ionic strength, saturation of water with octanol and vice versa, potential hydrolysis of the compounds in the aqueous phase), we used a chromatographic method, which is known to be highly reproducible.⁴³

The measured log *k_w* values specify the relative lipophilicity of the synthesized compounds, but these values are altered through protonation/deprotonation steps of free polar groups. Therefore, formic acid was added to the solvents in reversed-phase HPLC to ascertain that the carboxylic acids were protonated. As expected, the order of lipophilicity (when the platinum coordination sphere PtN₂Cl₂(OH)(OCOR) is unchanged) is as follows: dimer > methyl ester > ethylene glycol ester > complex with free carboxylic group (Table 1, Figure S2,

Supporting Information). Platinum(IV) complexes with an altered platinum core show $\log k_w$ values in the following descending order: Pt(*N,N*-Me₂en)Cl₂(OCOR)(OMe) > Pt(*N,N*-Me₂en)Cl₂(OCOR)(OH) > Pt(NH₃)₂Cl₂(OMe)-(OCOR) > Pt(*N,N*-Me₂en)Cl₂(OH)(OMe). In comparison to satraplatin, all novel complexes exhibit lower $\log k_w$ values except dinuclear complexes **5a** and **5b**.

Cytotoxicity in Cancer Cell Lines. The colorimetric microplate 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) assay was used to study the cytotoxic potency of the novel complexes in three human tumor cell lines (CH1, A549, and SW480) in comparison to cisplatin (Table 2, Figures

Table 2. Cytotoxicity of Complexes 1–5 Compared to Cisplatin in Three Human Cancer Cell Lines

compd	IC ₅₀ [μ M] ^b		
	CH1	A549	SW480
1a ^a	3.3 ± 1.4	111 ± 15	115 ± 10
2a ^a	8.4 ± 1.0	145 ± 39	75 ± 13
3a ^a	3.1 ± 0.9	48 ± 12	8.4 ± 1.1
4a	3.4 ± 1.2	319 ± 54	77 ± 22
5a	6.2 ± 2.8	356 ± 27	84 ± 10
1b	2.5 ± 0.2	73 ± 3	40 ± 14
2b	12 ± 2	>250	135 ± 28
3b	1.5 ± 0.6	38 ± 4	4.7 ± 0.8
4b	2.5 ± 0.6	120 ± 13	9.4 ± 2.9
5b	2.3 ± 0.3	193 ± 74	19 ± 3
1c	0.61 ± 0.10	33 ± 2	3.9 ± 1.0
2c	3.8 ± 1.5	220 ± 27	129 ± 19
4c	3.2 ± 1.0	132 ± 33	37 ± 4
cisplatin	0.16 ± 0.03	1.3 ± 0.4	3.5 ± 0.3

^aPreviously published compounds. ^b50% inhibitory concentrations in CH1, A549, and SW480 cells in the MTT assay (96 h exposure). Values are the mean ± standard deviations obtained from at least three independent experiments.

S3–S5, Supporting Information). The cisplatin sensitive ovarian carcinoma cell line CH1 showed the strongest response to all synthesized compounds with IC₅₀ values in the low micromolar range. It is noticeable that in this cell line all tested compounds, independent of the ligand sphere, have IC₅₀ values in a similar range (**1a**, **1b**, **3a**, **3b**, **4a–c**, **5a**, **5b**), with the exception of **1c** and the derivatives featuring a free carboxylic group (**2a**, **2b**). The latter have an up to 8-fold lower activity in CH1 cells. A very different picture was observed in A549 (non-small-cell lung carcinoma) and SW480 (colon adenocarcinoma) cells. In general, these two cell lines were less responsive to the tested compounds, with IC₅₀ values mostly 1 or even 2 orders of magnitude higher than those in CH1 cells.

Moreover, the methyl ester derivatives (**3a**, **3b**) are more potent than the analogous complexes with a terminal free polar group such as carboxyl (**2a**, **2b**) or hydroxy (**4a**, **4b**), as reflected by up to 7 times (A549) and 29 times (SW480) lower IC₅₀ values. The ethylene glycol esters (especially **4b** and **4c**) show in turn a higher activity than their carboxylic acid counterparts (**2b**, **2c**), especially in SW480 cells. To sum up, these findings imply that small changes in the structures of the ligands have a strong impact on the activity and presumably the mode of action. Furthermore, the novel dimeric platinum species **5a** and **5b** did not improve the cytotoxicity.

$\log k_w$ vs IC₅₀. In contrast to literature, where frequently a connection between cytotoxicity and lipophilicity was re-

ported,^{31,44} the here presented data show no evidence for a correlation between IC₅₀ and $\log k_w$ in the cells investigated. The platinum(II) core seems to have a notable impact on the cytotoxicity, as all cisplatin derivatives show better or similar cytotoxicity than their *N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine counterparts featuring an increased $\log k_w$ value. Also, in the case of complexes with the same platinum(II) core, the $\log k_w$ values do not correlate with the cytotoxicity. For example, the dinuclear species have the highest $\log k_w$ but there is no increase (in A549 and SW480 cells, a strong decrease) of cytotoxicity compared to the monomers. In contrast, the unsymmetrically oxidized cisplatin **1c** is the most cytotoxic compound, although the substance is too polar for $\log k_w$ measurements, because it is not retarded on the column. A plot IC₅₀ vs $\log k_w$ for cell lines CH1, SW480 and A549 is depicted in Figure S6, Supporting Information.

Impact of Drug Resistance on the Anticancer Activity of the New Complexes.

Differences in the activity of the new compounds against CH1, A549, and SW480 cells indicate that there are molecular mechanisms that might render cells more sensitive or resistant to the novel platinum(IV) drugs. Notably, A549 cells are known for their high expression of ABCC1 (multidrug resistance protein 1, MRP1), ABCC2 (multidrug resistance protein 2, MRP2), and ABCG2 (breast cancer resistance protein, BCRP), while SW480 cells express low levels of ABCB1 (P-glycoprotein, P-gp).⁴⁵ To evaluate whether ABC transporter expression is responsible for the above observed resistance of A549 and SW480 cells to the investigated platinum(IV) compounds, ABCC1-overexpressing 2R120 cells as well as ABCB1- and ABCC1-overexpressing 2R160 cells were investigated in comparison to their chemosensitive parental line SW1573 (Table 3). For these tests, compounds **1a–5a** were chosen exemplarily. In general, the activity pattern of the platinum drugs against all three sublines was comparable to the ones in A549 and SW480 cells, with the methyl ester being the most active (factor of 4 in the cases of SW1573 and 2R160 and a factor 2 in the case of 2R120). With regard to the impact of ABC transporter expression, only a minor or no influence was observed with respect to ABCC1, and ABCB1 expression had basically no effect.

To judge the influence of acquired cisplatin resistance, the A2780 and A2780/cis cells as well as P31 and P31/cis cells were used. Multiple mechanisms are known to underlie cisplatin resistance,⁸ which involve (i) reduced intracellular drug accumulation, (ii) conjugation to intracellular thiols like glutathione (GSH), (iii) enhanced repair of platinum DNA adducts or enhanced tolerance to these adducts, or (iv) resistance to cell death induction. Hence, A2780/cis cells are characterized by reduced drug uptake, enhanced GSH levels, and increased repair potential^{46,47} while P31/cis cells are known for their general apoptosis deficiency.⁴⁸ As shown in Table 3, the apoptosis deficiency of P31 and P31/cis cells had, in contrast to cisplatin (>>5-fold), basically no impact on the platinum(IV) drugs (maximum of 2.2-fold resistance). With regard to A2780/cis cells, a more complex situation was observed. In the cases of the dinuclear complex **5a** and satraplatin, a resistance even stronger than the one against cisplatin was found (8.3-fold and 11.4-fold vs 5.3-fold for cisplatin). The ethylene glycol ester **4a** indicated an equal resistance compared to cisplatin (4.5-fold), whereas all other tested compounds (**1–3a**) were only slightly (1.3- to 2.8-fold) less active in the cisplatin-resistant subline.

Role of Apoptosis Induction and Cell Cycle Arrest in the Anticancer Activity of Compounds **3a** and **4a**.

Table 3. IC₅₀ Values of Complexes 1a–5a Compared to Cisplatin with Regard to Their Resistance Patterns^a

compd	IC ₅₀ [μ M]				
	SW1573	2R120	-fold resistance	2R160	-fold resistance
1a	130 \pm 12	>250.0	>1.9	185 \pm 6	1.4
2a	151 \pm 9	243 \pm 4	1.6	196 \pm 19	1.3
3a	30.4 \pm 0.9	95 \pm 5	3.1	48 \pm 3	1.6
4a	134 \pm 5	217 \pm 6	1.6	171 \pm 5	1.3
5a	144 \pm 7	243 \pm 12	1.7	193 \pm 7	1.3
cisplatin	6.5 \pm 0.1	>20.0	>3.0	12.7 \pm 0.4	2.0

compd	IC ₅₀ [μ M]		
	A2780	A2780/cis	-fold resistance
1a	50 \pm 4	66 \pm 12	1.3
2a	31 \pm 6	86 \pm 7	2.8
3a	19.7 \pm 0.4	37 \pm 3	1.9
4a	22 \pm 2	99 \pm 30	4.5
5a	10 \pm 2	83 \pm 14	8.3
cisplatin	0.70 \pm 0.02	3.7 \pm 0.3	5.3
satraplatin	0.5 \pm 0.3	5.7 \pm 0.2	11.4

compd	IC ₅₀ [μ M]		
	P31	P31/cis	-fold resistance
1a	63 \pm 2	106 \pm 8	1.7
2a	164 \pm 2	176 \pm 4	1.1
3a	34.3 \pm 1.2	76 \pm 3	2.2
4a	124 \pm 4	167 \pm 4	1.3
5a	137 \pm 6	154 \pm 5	1.1
cisplatin	4.0 \pm 0.3	\gg 20.0	\gg 5

^aCell lines used: SW1573, 2R120, 2R160, A2780, A2780/cis, P31, and P31/cis.

structure–activity pattern found via MTT assays strongly indicated that there are distinct differences in the mechanisms underlying the activity of compounds with a terminal ethylene glycol ester (4a–c) in comparison to a terminal methyl ester moiety (3a,b). To gain more insights into the mode of action, compounds 3a and 4a were chosen for further experiments. As shown in Figure 3A, in good correlation to the data of the MTT assay no significant differences in the cellular drug uptake were found. In addition, these experiments revealed that the stronger activity of satraplatin can be explained at least partially by enhanced drug uptake.

Satraplatin has been recently shown to induce G₂/M arrest in colorectal cancer cells via p53 and p21 induction.⁴⁹ In accordance, also for the two novel platinum(IV) compounds a stop of DNA synthesis and distinct cell cycle disturbances were found (Figure 3B and Figure 3C). Hence, both compounds induced an increase of the S- and the G₂/M population in A2780 cells. Interestingly, the activity of 3a in general revealed a dose-dependent pattern while 4a had stable activity over a wide concentration range (10–100 μ M). Consequently, we hypothesize that treatment with compound 3a might lead to apoptosis induction in addition to the cytostatic activity.

To investigate whether 3a and 4a substantially differ in their apoptosis-inducing potential, total protein extracts of treated cells were analyzed by Western blotting for activation of the apoptotic caspase cascade. Indeed, after 24 h of incubation with 100 μ M 3a a distinct induction of apoptotic signaling via the mitochondrial pathway (cleavage of caspase 3 and 7 as well as the caspase substrate PARP) was observed, while for cells treated with 4a or low concentrations of 3a (25 μ M) no apoptosis induction was found (Figure 4). Together with the results above, these data confirm that in the case of compound 3a in addition to the cytostatic a cytotoxic mode of action component also exists.

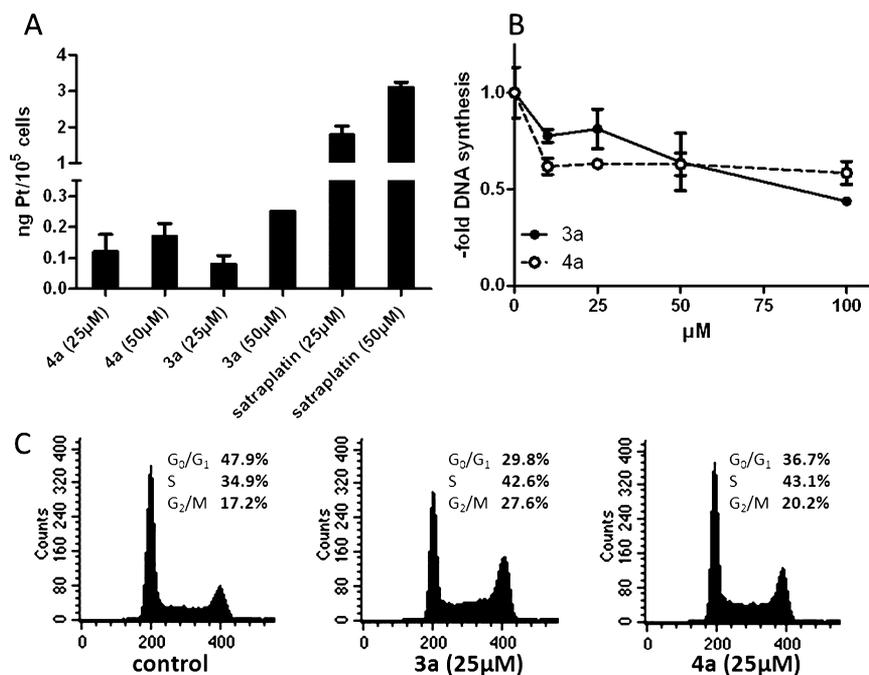


Figure 3. Role of cell cycle arrest in the anticancer activity of compound 3a and 4a. (A) Total Pt levels of treated A2780 cells were determined after 2 h of drug exposure by ICP-MS. Values given are the relative mean and SD from at least two independent experiments. (B) DNA synthesis levels were determined in A2780 cells by [³H]thymidine incorporation after 24 h of drug treatment at the indicated concentrations. (C) Cell cycle analysis was evaluated by flow cytometry determining the DNA content of PI-stained A2780 cells after 24 h of treatment with the indicated drug concentrations. Percentages of 25 000 cells in G₀/G₁, S, and G₂/M phases of cell cycle were calculated by Cell Quest software.

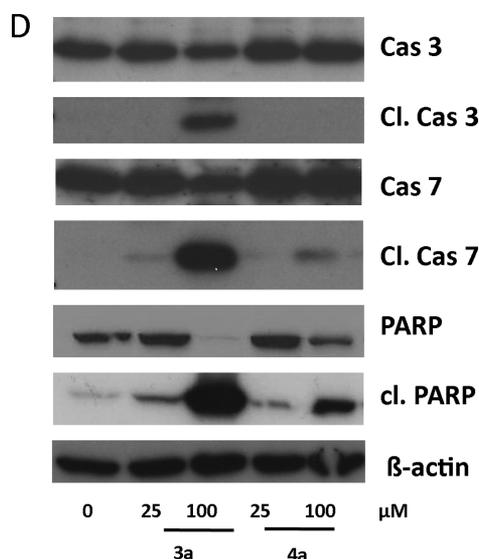


Figure 4. Apoptosis induction of compounds 3a and 4a. Apoptosis-induced cleavage of PARP, caspase 7, and caspase 3 in A2780 cells after 24 h of treatment was determined via Western blot. Antibodies used are described in Experimental Section.

This implies distinct differences in the mechanisms underlying the anticancer activities of compounds 3a and 4a, which might explain the differences observed in the sensitivity patterns in the MTT screening.

CONCLUSION

Ten novel platinum(IV) compounds featuring an unsymmetrical coordination sphere were synthesized and characterized in detail. Cytotoxicity in three cancer cell lines (CH1, A549, and SW480) shows strong differences in the activity pattern dependent on the terminal group of the axial ligands but not on the lipophilicity. This behavior immediately suggests that the polarity of the terminal group might profoundly influence the mode of action. Consequently, a set of compounds were investigated regarding resistance pattern, drug uptake, induction of apoptosis, and cell cycle distribution. The major difference of the monomeric compounds with a terminal methyl ester compared to that with a terminal ethylene glycol ester is the stronger apoptosis induction of the former. In contrast, drug uptake and cell cycle arrest pattern did not differ substantially. However, further investigations are needed to better define the influences of axial ligands on the mode of action of platinum(IV) prodrugs.

EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

Materials and Methods. K_2PtCl_4 was obtained from Johnson Matthey (Switzerland). Reverse osmosis water was distilled twice before use, and absolute methanol was dried using standard procedures. All other solvents and reagents were obtained from commercial sources and were used as received. Silica gel 60 (Fluka) was used for column chromatography. All platinum(II) starting compounds were synthesized according to standard literature procedures.

Physical Measurements. 1H , ^{13}C , ^{15}N , and ^{195}Pt one- and two-dimensional NMR spectra were recorded with a Bruker Avance III 500 MHz instrument at 500.32 (1H), 125.81 (^{13}C), 50.70 (^{15}N), and 107.55 (^{195}Pt) MHz or 500.10 (1H), 125.75 (^{13}C), 50.68 (^{15}N), and 107.51 (^{195}Pt) MHz in $DMSO-d_6$ at 298 K. For NMR numbering scheme, see Figure S7, Supporting Information.

The solvent residual peak for 1H and ^{13}C was used as internal reference, whereas ^{195}Pt chemical shifts were referenced relative to external K_2PtCl_4 and ^{15}N chemical shifts relative to external NH_4Cl .

Electrospray ionization mass spectrometry was carried out with a Bruker Esquire₃₀₀₀ ion trap using MeOH as solvent. Elemental analyses were performed using a Perkin-Elmer 2400 CHN elemental analyzer at the Microanalytical Laboratory of the University of Vienna, Austria, and are within $\pm 0.4\%$ of the calculated values, confirming their $\geq 95\%$ purity (for summary of elemental analysis results, see Table S2). Preparative reversed phase HPLC was performed on a Agilent 1200 series system controlled by Chemstation software.

Synthesis. 1a, 2a, and 3a were synthesized as published recently.⁴⁰

General Procedure A. A mixture of succinic anhydride and 1a, 1b, or 1c in DMF was heated to 50 °C until the solid material dissolved to form a yellow solution. The solvent was removed under reduced pressure, and the yellow residue was suspended in acetone. The solution was concentrated under reduced pressure, and subsequent addition of diethyl ether led to precipitation of a yellow solid.

General Procedure B. 1,1'-Carbonyldiimidazole (CDI) in DMF was added to a solution of 2a, 2b, or 2c in DMF, and the mixture was heated to 50 °C. After 15 min of stirring and simultaneous flushing with argon to remove the formed CO_2 , the solution was cooled to room temperature. Sodium alcoholate in absolute alcohol was added to the solution, and the mixture was stirred at room temperature. The solvents were removed under reduced pressure, and the obtained solids were purified by column chromatography.

(OC-6-54)-Dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)-hydroxidomethoxido-platinum(IV) (1b). (*SP*-4-3)-Dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)platinum(II) (3.550 g, 0.010 mol) was suspended in absolute MeOH (500 mL), and subsequently 50% H_2O_2 (50 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until the solid material was dissolved. The solution was filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure (caution: explosive). The residue was washed with cold ethanol and ether. The crude product was purified by reversed phase HPLC. Yield: 2.74 g (68%). $C_5H_{16}N_2O_2Cl_2Pt$ (402.2): calcd C 14.93, H 4.01, N 6.97; found C 14.73, H 3.73, N 6.69. 1H NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 6.96 (bs, 1H, H5a), 6.76 (bs, 1H, H5b), 3.08 (s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 20.5 Hz), 2.77–2.55 (bm, 4H, H3/H4), 2.69 (s + d, 3H, H2a, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 26.5 Hz), 2.60 (s + d, 3H, H2b, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 26.5 Hz) ppm. ^{13}C NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 66.6 (C4), 58.4 (C1), 48.4 (C2a), 47.9 (C2b), 45.2 (C3) ppm. ^{15}N NMR: δ = 3.4 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 2368 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 375.8 [$(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na^+$]⁺.

(OC-6-44)-Diamminedichloridohydroxidomethoxido-platinum(IV) (1c). Cisplatin (0.676 g, 0.010 mol) was suspended in absolute MeOH (500 mL), and subsequently 50% H_2O_2 (50 mL) was added. The reaction mixture was stirred at room temperature until the solid material dissolved. The solution was filtered and the solvent removed under reduced pressure (caution: explosive). The residue was washed with cold ethanol and ether. The crude product was purified by reversed phase HPLC. Yield: 0.55 g (70%). $CH_{10}Cl_2N_2O_2Pt \cdot 0.5MeOH$ (364.11): calcd C 4.95, H 3.32, N 7.69; found C 4.94, H 3.12, N 7.37. 1H NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 5.76–5.53 (bm, 6H, H2a/H2b), 2.99 (s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 20.5 Hz) ppm. ^{13}C NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 58.7 ppm. ^{15}N NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = –30.9 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR ($DMSO-d_6$): δ = 2559 ppm.

(OC-6-54)-(3-Carboxypropanoato)dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)methoxido-platinum(IV) (2b). General procedure A was used, with 1b (0.700 g, 1.740 mmol), succinic anhydride (0.435 g, 4.341 mmol), and DMF (15 mL). Yield: 0.58 g (66%). $C_9H_{20}Cl_2N_2O_5Pt$ (502.2): calcd C 21.52, H 4.01, N 5.58; found C 21.95, H 3.93, N 5.36. 1H NMR ($DMF-d_7$): δ = 9.54 (bs, 1H, H5a), 6.96 (bs, 1H, H5b), 3.10–2.80 (m, 4H, H4/H3), 2.81 (s + d, 3H, H2a, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 24.0 Hz), 2.79 (s + d, 3H, H2a, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 24.0 Hz), 2.73 ((s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 30.5 Hz), 2.62–2.41 (m, 4H, H7/H8) ppm. ^{13}C NMR ($DMF-d_7$): δ = 181.3 (C6), 174.3 (C9), 67.0 (C4 or C3), 60.3 (C1), 49.5 (C2a), 49.1 (C7), 48.1 (C2b), 45.1 (C4 or C3), 32.6 (C8) ppm. ^{15}N NMR ($DMF-d_7$): δ = –1.5 ppm. ^{195}Pt -NMR ($DMF-d_7$): δ = 2379 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 375.8 [$(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na^+$]⁺; 524.7 [$M + Na^+$]⁺; 540.7 [$M + K^+$]⁺.

(OC-6-44)-Diammine(3-carboxypropanoato)-dichloridomethoxido-platinum(IV) (2c). General procedure A was used, with 1c (3.400 g, 9.773 mmol), succinic anhydride (3.960 g,

0.0396 mol), and DMF (72 mL). Yield: 1.84 g (42%). $C_5H_{14}Cl_2N_2O_5Pt$ (448.2): calcd C 13.40; H 3.15; N 6.25; found C 13.45, H 2.95, N 6.00. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 11.99 (bs, 1H, H7), 5.86 (bm, 6H, H2), 2.63 (s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 30.5 Hz), 2.43–2.35 (bm, 4H, H4/H5) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.4 (C3), 174.5 (C6), 61.0 (C1), 32.0 (C4 or C5), 30.7 (C4 or C5) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = –33.2 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2606 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 470.9 $[M + Na]^+$.

(OC-6-54)-Dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)-methoxido(4-methoxy-4-oxobutanoato)platinum(IV) (3b). General procedure B was used, with **2b** (0.400 g, 0.796 mmol) in DMF (8 mL), CDI (0.194 g, 1.195 mmol) in DMF (16 mL), and sodium methanolate (5 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/EtOAc, 1:4) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo. Yield: 115 mg (28%). $C_{10}H_{22}Cl_2N_2O_5Pt$ (516.3): calcd C 23.26; H 4.30; N 5.43; found C 23.34, H 4.04, N 5.37. 1H NMR (DMF- d_7): δ = 9.55 (bs, 1H, H5a), 6.95 (bs, 1H, H5b), 3.64 (s, 3H, H10), 3.12–2.84 (bm, 4H, H3/H4), 2.80 (s + d, 3H, H2a, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 24.0 Hz), 2.79 (s + d, 3H, H2b, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 24.0 Hz), 2.3 (s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 30.5 Hz), 2.63–2.47 (bm, 4H, H7/H8) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMF- d_7): δ = 180.9 (C6), 173.4 (C9), 67.1 (C4 or C3), 60.3 (C1), 51.1 (C10), 49.1 (C2a), 48.1 (C2b), 45.1 (C4 or C3), 32.4 (C7), 29.9 (C8) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMF- d_7): δ = –1.0 ppm. ^{195}Pt -NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2497 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR (DMF- d_7): δ = 2377 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 374.8 $[(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na]^+$, 538.8 $[M + Na]^+$, 554.7 $[M + K]^+$.

(OC-6-54)-Dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)-hydroxido(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-4-oxobutanoato)platinum(IV) (4a). General procedure B was used, with **2a** (0.400 g, 0.819 mmol) in DMF (4 mL), CDI (0.146 g, 0.901 mmol) in DMF (4 mL), and ethylene glycolate (0.5 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo. Yield: 167 mg (38%). $C_{10}H_{22}Cl_2N_2O_6Pt$ (532.3): calcd C 22.56; H 4.17; N 5.26; found C 22.69, H 3.96, N 5.04. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 9.30 (bs, 1H, H5a), 7.12 (bs, 1H, H5b), 4.78 (t, 1H, H12, J = 5.5 Hz), 4.00 (t, 2H, H10, J = 5.3 Hz), 3.55 (m, 2H, H11), 2.91–2.76 (bm, 4H, H3/H4), 2.66 (s + d, 3H, H2a, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 25.0 Hz), 2.59 (s + d, 3H, H2b, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 25.0 Hz), 2.52–2.39 (bm, 4H, H7/H8), 1.55 (s + d, 1H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 18.0 Hz) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.9 (C6), 173.2 (C9), 67.8 (C3), 66.2 (C10), 59.4 (C11), 50.1 (C2a), 48.6 (C2b), 45.2 (C4), 32.4 (C7 or C8), 30.3 (C7 or C8) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = –5.2 ppm. ^{195}Pt -NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2497 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 374.8 $[(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na]^+$; 554.7 $[M + Na]^+$; 570.7 $[M + K]^+$.

(OC-6-54)-Dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-4-oxobutanoato)methoxidoplatinum(IV) (4b). General procedure B was used, with **2b** (0.200 g, 0.398 mmol) in DMF (2 mL), CDI (0.071 g, 0.438 mmol) in DMF (2 mL), and ethylene glycolate (0.2 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/EtOAc, 1:5) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo. Yield: 60 mg (28%). $C_{11}H_{24}Cl_2N_2O_6Pt$ (546.3): calcd $C_{11}H_{24}Cl_2N_2O_6Pt \cdot 0.5MeOH$ C 24.56; H 4.66; N 4.98; found C 24.80, H 4.40, N 4.67. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 9.16 (bs, 1H, H5a), 7.06 (bs, 1H, H5b), 4.78 (t, 1H, H12, $^3J_{H,H}$ = 5.6 Hz), 3.99 (t, 2H, H10, $^3J_{H,H}$ = 5.3 Hz), 3.55 (m, 2H, H11), 2.89–2.69 (bm, 4H, H3/H4), 2.64 (bs, 9H, H1/H2a/H2b), 2.52–2.38 (bm, 4H, H7/H8) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.8 (C6), 173.2 (C9), 67.2 (C3 or C4), 66.2 (C10), 60.9 (C1), 59.4 (C11), 49.6 (C2a or C2b), 48.5 (C2a or C2b), 45.2 (C3 or C4), 32.6 (C8), 30.3 (C7) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMF- d_7): δ = –1.2 ppm. ^{195}Pt -NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2410 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 374.7 $[(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na]^+$; 568.7 $[M + Na]^+$; 584.7 $[M + K]^+$.

(OC-6-44)-Diamminedichlorido(4-(2-hydroxyethoxy)-4-oxobutanoato)methoxidoplatinum(IV) (4c). General procedure B was used, with **2c** (0.300 g, 0.669 mmol) in DMF (6 mL), CDI (0.119 g, 0.736 mmol) in DMF (6 mL), and ethylene glycolate (0.5 mL). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/EtOAc, 1:8) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo. Yield: 112 mg (34%). $C_7H_{18}Cl_2N_2O_6Pt$ (492.2): calcd C 17.08, H 3.69, N 5.69; found C 17.08, H 3.45, N 5.91. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 5.85 (bm, 6H, H2), 4.78 (t, 1H, H9, $^3J_{H,H}$ = 5.3 Hz), 4.01 (t, 2H, H7, $^3J_{H,H}$ = 5.2 Hz), 3.56 (m, 2H, H8), 2.63 (s + d, 3H, H1, $^3J_{H,Pt}$ = 30.5 Hz), 2.46 (s, 4H, H4/H5) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.1 (C3), 173.1 (C6), 66.1

(C7), 61.1 (C1), 59.4 (C8), 31.9 (C4 or C5), 30.6 (C4 or C5) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = –33.2 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2602 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z 514.6 $[M + Na]^+$, 490.6 $[M - H]^+$, 526.4 $[M + Cl]^-$.

(OC-6-54)- μ -{4,4'-[Ethane-1,2-diylbis(oxy)]bis(4-oxobutanoato)}bis[dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)hydroxidoplatinum(IV)] (5a). General procedure B was used, with **2a** (0.300 g, 0.614 mmol) in DMF (6 mL), CDI (0.105 g, 0.645 mmol) in DMF (3 mL), and ethylene glycolate (16 μ L). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/CHCl₃, 1:1) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo. Yield: 81 mg (26%). $C_{18}H_{38}Cl_4N_4O_{10}Pt_2$ (1002.49): calcd $C_{18}H_{38}Cl_4N_4O_{10}Pt_2 \cdot MeOH$ C 22.06, H 4.09, N 5.42; found C 21.98, H 3.74, N 5.02. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 9.27 (bs, 2H, H5a), 7.15 (bs, 2H, H5b), 4.18 (s, 4H, H10), 2.92–2.73 (m, 8H, H3/H4), 2.66 (bs, H6, H2a), 2.60 (bs, H6, H2b), 2.47–2.37 (m, H8, H7/H8), 1.55 (s, 2H, H1) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.8 (C6), 173.1 (C9), 67.8 (C3 or C4), 62.4 (C10), 50.1 (C2a), 48.6 (C2b), 45.2 (C3 or C4), 32.3 (C7 or C8), 30.2 (C7 or C8) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = –5.4 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2496 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z (positive) 1023.9 $[M + Na]^+$, 654.8 $[M - C_4H_{13}OCl_2Pt + Na]^+$, 374.9 $[(N,N-Me_2enPtCl_2) + Na]^+$ (negative) 999.0 $[M - H]^+$.

(OC-6-54)- μ -{4,4'-[Ethane-1,2-diylbis(oxy)]bis(4-oxobutanoato)}bis[dichlorido(*N,N*-dimethylethane-1,2-diamine)methoxidoplatinum(IV)] (5b). General procedure B was used, with **2b** (0.300 g, 0.597 mmol) in DMF (6 mL), CDI (0.102 g, 0.627 mmol) in DMF (4 mL), and ethylene glycolate (15 μ L). The crude product was purified by column chromatography (MeOH/EtOAc, 1:1) to yield yellow crystals, which were dried in vacuo.

Yield: 99 mg (32%). $C_{20}H_{42}Cl_4N_4O_{10}Pt_2$ (1030.54): calcd $C_{20}H_{42}Cl_4N_4O_{10}Pt_2 \cdot 0.6EtOAc$ C 24.83, H 4.35, N 5.17; found C 24.70, H 4.48, N 5.09. 1H NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 9.13 (bs, H5a, 2H), 7.06 (bs, H5b, 2H), 4.18 (s, H10, 4H), 2.90–2.258 (bm, H4–H3, 8H), 2.64 (s, H1, 6H), 2.63 (bm, H1 H2b/H2a, 12H), 2.54–2.39 (bm, H7/H8) ppm. ^{13}C NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 180.7 (C6), 173.1 (C9), 67.2 (C3 or C4), 62.4 (C10), 60.9 (C1), 49.6 (C2a), 48.6 (C2a), 45.2 (C3 or C4), 32.5 (C7 or C8), 30.2 (C7 or C8) ppm. ^{15}N NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = –1.3 ppm. ^{195}Pt NMR (DMSO- d_6): δ = 2410 ppm. ESI-MS: m/z (positive) 1052.0 $[M + Na]^+$, 1021.9 $[M - MeOH + Na]^+$, 988.0 $[M - MeO]^-$, 668.9 $[M - C_5H_{15}Cl_2OPt + Na]^+$, 636.9 $[M - C_5H_{15}Cl_2OPt - MeOH + Na]^+$ (negative) 1028.3 $[M - H]^+$.

Crystallographic Structure Measurements. X-ray diffraction measurements of **1b** \cdot TFA $^-$ were performed on a Bruker X8 APEXII CCD diffractometer. Single crystals were positioned at 35 mm from the detector, and 1836 frames were measured each for 20 s, over 1° scan width. The data were processed using SAINT software.⁵⁰ Crystal data, data collection parameters, and structure refinement details are given in Table S1 (Supporting Information). The structure was solved by direct methods and refined by full-matrix least-squares techniques. Non-H atoms were refined with anisotropic displacement parameters. H atoms were inserted in calculated positions and refined with a riding model. The H atoms at O1 were originally located from difference Fourier map and then calculated using DFIX restraint. Structure solution was achieved with SHELXS-97 and refinement with SHELXL-97,⁵¹ and graphics were produced with ORTEP-3.⁵²

Cell Lines and Culture Conditions. Human CH1 (ovarian carcinoma) cells were kindly provided by Lloyd R. Kelland (CRC Centre for Cancer Therapeutics, Institute of Cancer Research, Sutton, U.K.). The mesothelioma cell model P31 and its respective cisplatin-resistant subline P31/cis have been generously donated by K. Grankvist (Umeå University, Sweden).⁴⁸ The non-small-cell lung cancer cell model SW1573 with its MRP1- and LRP-overexpressing subline 2R120 and its P-gp-overexpressing subline 2R160 is from H. Broxterman (Department of Medical Oncology, Free University Hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands).⁵³ The ovarian carcinoma model A2780 with its cisplatin-selected subline A2780/cis was purchased from Sigma-Aldrich. The lung cancer cell line A549 and the colon cancer cell line SW480 were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). P31, CH1, and SW480 cells were grown in minimal essential medium (MEM), SW1573 cell lines in Dulbecco's minimal

essential medium (DMEM), and other cell lines in RPMI 1640, all supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum. Cultures were regularly checked for *Mycoplasma* contamination. Cultures were maintained at 37 °C in a humidified atmosphere containing 95% air and 5% CO₂.

Cytotoxicity Tests in Cancer Cell Lines. Cytotoxicity in CH1, A549, and SW480 cells was determined by the MTT assay (MTT = 3-(4,5-dimethyl-2-thiazolyl)-2,5-diphenyl-2H-tetrazolium bromide, purchased from Fluka). Cells were seeded in 100 μL of MEM into 96-well plates (Iwaki/Asahi Technoglass) at the appropriate densities: 1.5 × 10³ (CH1), 4.0 × 10³ (A549), and 2.5 × 10³ (SW480) viable cells per well. Cells were allowed for 24 h to resume exponential growth, followed by the addition of serial dilutions of the test compounds in 100 μL/well MEM. After exposure for 96 h, the medium was replaced with a 100 μL/well RPMI 1640 medium plus 20 μL/well phosphate-buffered saline containing MTT (5 mg/mL) (all purchased from Sigma-Aldrich). After 4 h, medium/MTT mixtures were replaced with DMSO (150 μL/well), and optical densities at a wavelength of 550 nm were measured with a microplate reader (Tecan Spectra Classic). For each setting, at least three independent experiments were performed, each comprising three replicates per concentration level.

For tests in resistance models, cells were plated (2 × 10³ cells in 100 μL/well) in 96-well plates and allowed to recover for 24 h. Drugs were added in another 100 μL of growth medium and cells exposed for the indicated time periods (96 h). After drug treatment, the proportion of viable cells was determined with the EZ4U (Biomedica, Vienna, Austria) assay kit following the manufacturer's recommendations.

Total Pt Uptake Levels. A2780 cells (4 × 10⁵/well) were seeded into six-well plates, allowed to settle for 24 h, and drug-exposed for 2 h at 37 °C. After two washes with ice-cold PBS, cells were lysed at room temperature in 400 μL of tetramethylammonium hydroxide. Lysates were diluted in 0.6 N HNO₃ and platinum concentrations determined by ICP-MS. The ICP-MS instrument (Agilent 7500ce, Waldbronn, Germany) was equipped with a CETAC ASX-520 autosampler (Neuss, Germany), a Scott double pass spray chamber, and a MicroMist nebulizer operating at a sample delivery rate of approximately 0.25 mL/min. Platinum and indium standards were obtained from CPI International (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The instrument was tuned with a solution containing 1 ppb each of lithium, yttrium, cerium, thallium, and cobalt in 2% HNO₃ (Agilent Technologies, Vienna, Austria). Standards were matrix matched with regard to nitric acid and tetramethylammonium hydroxide, and indium (1 ppb) was used as internal standard for quantification. As unspecific binding to cell culture plastic may occur especially in the case of lipophilic compounds,⁵⁴ results were corrected for platinum levels of a blank well containing no cells.

Western Blot Analyses. After 24 h of drug exposure, proteins were isolated, resolved by SDS-PAGE, and transferred onto a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane for Western blotting as described.^{55,56} The anti poly(ADP-ribosyl)polymerase (PARP), cleaved PARP, caspase 3, caspase 7, cleaved caspase 3, and cleaved caspase 7 antibodies (all polyclonal rabbit) from the apoptosis sampler kit (Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA) and the anti-β-actin monoclonal mouse AC-15 (Sigma) were used in a 1:1000 dilution. Additionally, horseradish peroxidase labeled antibodies from Santa Cruz Biotechnology were used at working dilutions of 1:10000.

Cell Cycle Analysis. A2780 cells (2 × 10⁵ per well) were seeded into six-well plates and cultured for 24 h and treated for another 24 h with the test substances. Then cells were collected by trypsinization, washed with PBS, fixed in 70% ethanol, and stored at -20 °C. To determine the cell cycle distribution, cells were transferred into PBS, incubated with RNase (10 μg/mL) for 30 min at 37 °C, treated with 5 μg/mL propidium iodide (PI) for 30 min, and then analyzed by flow cytometry using a fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) Calibur (Becton Dickinson, Palo Alto, CA). The resulting DNA histograms were quantified using the ModeFit software (BD).

[³H]Thymidine Incorporation Assay. A2780 cells (5 × 10⁴ cells/ml) were seeded in a 96-well plate, allowed to recover for 24 h, and treated with the test compounds for another 24 h. Medium was replaced by a 2 nM [³H]thymidine solution (diluted in full culture medium; radioactivity, 25 ci/mM). After 1 h of incubation at 37 °C, cells were

washed three times with PBS. Cell lysates were prepared, and the radioactivity was determined as described.⁵⁷

Reversed-Phase HPLC Measurements.⁵⁸ Analytical reversed-phase HPLC analysis was performed on a Dionex Summit system controlled by Dionex Chromeleon 6.60 software. The experimental conditions and parameters were as follows: stationary phase, silica-based C18 gel (Zorbax SB-Aq, 4.6 mm × 250 mm); mobile phase, isocratic (methanol/15 mM aqueous formic acid ranging from 5:95 for the most hydrophilic compounds to 50:50 for the most lipophilic compounds); flow rate, 1.00 mL/min; injection volume, 25 μL; column temperature, 25 °C; UV-vis detection, 210 nm. KI (0.1 mM) was chosen as the internal reference to determine the column dead time (*t*₀). All tested compounds were measured at least twice in at least three mobile phase conditions. The capacity factor *k'* is defined as the partition of a compound between a solvent (polar) mobile phase and a solid (apolar) stationary phase (*t*_r, retention time of the investigated compounds; *t*₀, retention time of KI)

$$k' = (t_r - t_0)/k_0$$

As the capacity factor is dependent on the solvents used in the mobile phase, extrapolating to 0% organic solvent is necessary.

$$\log k' = \log k_w - S_{\text{MeOH}}\phi$$

Here, log *k'* is the capacity factor in the measured mobile phase composition, log *k_w* is the extrapolated capacity factor in 100% H₂O, *S_{MeOH}* is a constant for a given substance and the given HPLC system, and φ is the volume of the organic modifier (in our case MeOH).

Values for **1a** and **1c** could not be verified, as the compounds are not retarded and thus too polar for reversed phase chromatography.

■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

📄 Supporting Information

Table listing crystal data, data collection parameters, and structure refinement details of **1b**⁺·TFA⁻; elemental analysis results of all compounds; figure of platinum(II) drugs in clinical application; figure with RP-HPLC chromatograms of compounds **1b**, **2a-c**, **3a**, **3b**, **4a-c**, and satraplatin; figures with concentration-effect curves of all complexes in CH1, SW480, and A549 cells; figure with IC₅₀ vs log *k_w* plots; figure with the NMR numbering scheme; X-ray crystallographic file in CIF format for **1b**⁺·TFA⁻. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>. Crystallographic data have been deposited with the Cambridge Crystallographic Data Center with No. CCDC 909320. Copies of data can be obtained, free of charge, on application to CCDC, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, U.K. (deposit@ccdc.com.ac.uk).

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Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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