

Colocalized delivery of rapamycin and paclitaxel to tumors enhances synergistic targeting of the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway

[Blanco, E.^a](#), [Sangai, T.^b](#), [Wu, S.^a](#), [Hsiao, A.^a](#), [Ruiz-Esparza, G.U.^{a,c}](#), [Gonzalez-Delgado, C.A.^{a,c}](#), [Cara, F.E.^a](#), [Granados-Principal, S.^d](#), [Evans, K.W.^{b,e}](#), [Akcakanat, A.^b](#), [Wang, Y.^f](#), [Do, K.-A.^g](#), [Meric-Bernstam, F.^{b,e}](#), [Ferrari, M.^a](#)

^aDepartment of Nanomedicine, Houston Methodist Research Institute, 6670 Bertner St., Houston, TX 77030, United States

^cEscuela de Biotecnología y Alimentos y Escuela de Medicina, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico

Ongoing clinical trials target the aberrant PI3K/Akt/mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway in breast cancer through administration of rapamycin, an allosteric mTOR inhibitor, in combination with paclitaxel. However, synergy may not be fully exploited clinically because of distinct pharmacokinetic parameters of drugs. This study explores the synergistic potential of site-specific, colocalized delivery of rapamycin and paclitaxel through nanoparticle incorporation. Nanoparticle drug loading was accurately controlled, and synergistic drug ratios established in vitro. Precise drug ratios were maintained in tumors 48 hours after nanoparticle administration to mice, at levels twofold greater than liver and spleen, yielding superior antitumor activity compared to controls. Simultaneous and preferential in vivo delivery of rapamycin and paclitaxel to tumors yielded mechanistic insights into synergy involving suppression of feedback loop Akt phosphorylation and its downstream targets. Findings demonstrate that a same time, same place, and specific amount approach to combination chemotherapy by means of nanoparticle delivery has the potential to successfully translate in vitro synergistic findings in vivo. Predictive in vitro models can be used to determine optimum drug ratios for antitumor efficacy, while nanoparticle delivery of combination chemotherapies in preclinical animal models may lead to enhanced understanding of mechanisms of synergy, ultimately opening several avenues for personalized therapy. © The American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy.

SciVal Topic Prominence

Topic: [Breast Neoplasms](#) | [Mutation](#) | [hormone receptor-positive](#)

Prominence percentile: 98.765

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms:	mammalian target of rapamycin; nanoparticle; paclitaxel; phosphatidylinositol 3 kinase; protein kinase B; rapamycin; paclitaxel; phosphatidylinositol 3 kinase; protein kinase B; rapamycin target of rapamycin kinase
EMTREE medical terms:	animal experiment; animal model; animal tissue; antineoplastic activity; breast cancer; cancer inhibition; conference paper; controlled study; drug delivery system; drug potentiation; drug tumor level; female in vitro study; liver mouse; nanoencapsulation; nanopharmaceutics; nonhuman; particle size; protein phosphorylation; protein targeting; spleen; animal; apoptosis; cell proliferation; drug effects; human; Mammary Neoplasms, Animal; MCF 7 cell line; metabolism; nude mouse; signal transduction; tumor cell line

Species Index:	Animalia; Mus
MeSH:	Animals; Apoptosis; Cell Line, Tumor; Cell Proliferation; Female; Humans; Mammary Neoplasms, Animal; MCF-7 Cells; Mice; Mice, Nude; Paclitaxel; Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinases; Proto-Oncogene Proteins c-akt; Signal Transduction; Sirolimus; TOR Serine-Threonine Kinases

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers:

paclitaxel, 33069-62-4; phosphatidylinositol 3 kinase, 115926-52-8; protein kinase B, 148640-14-6; rapamycin, 53123-88-9; target of rapamycin kinase, 171715-28-9; Paclitaxel; Phosphatidylinositol 3-Kinases; Proto-Oncogene Proteins c-akt; Sirolimus; TOR Serine-Threonine Kinases

Manufacturers:

Drug manufacturer:
LC, United States;
Teva, United States

Funding details

Funding sponsor	Funding number	Acronym
	W81XWH-11-1-0103	
	W81XWH-09-1-0212	
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center	P30 CA016672	MD Anderson Cancer Center
National Center for Research Resources	UL1TR000371	
Susan G. Komen See opportunities	KG101394	

Funding text

We appreciate the assistance of James Barrish (Texas Children's Hospital) in conducting TEM; Dannette K. Doolittle, Edd Felix, and Q. Alan Xu (UT MD Anderson) for drug estimation levels in tissues; Raul A. Gonzalez (TMHRI) for immunohistochemistry; and Matthew G. Landry for manuscript schematics. This work was supported by a CDMRP Department of Defense Breast Cancer Research Program (DOD/BCRP) Innovator Award (grant number W81XWH-09-1-0212) awarded to M.F., a National Center for Research Resources NIH grant (UL1TR000371) to F.M.B. and Y.W., and a support grant from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center (P30 CA016672). Work was also supported by postdoctoral fellowships from DOD/BCRP (grant number W81XWH-11-1-0103) and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation (grant number KG101394) awarded to E.B. The authors declare no financial conflict of interest.

ISSN: 15250016

CODEN: MTOHC

Source Type: Journal

Original language: English

DOI: 10.1038/mt.2014.27

PubMed ID: [24569835](#)

Document Type: Conference Paper

Publisher: Nature Publishing Group