Successful Expansion and Characterization of Tumor Infiltrating Lymphocytes (TILs) from Non-melanoma Tumors

Jyothi Sethuraman, Joy Prewitt, Alexis Hutchinson, Laurelis Santiago, Jie Qing Chen, Zhimin Dai, Ian Frank, Seth Wardell, James Bender, Michael T Lotze
Lion Biotechnologies, Inc. 999 Skyway Road, Suite 150, San Carlos, CA 94070

Abstract

Background
Adoptive cell therapy (ACT) has shown promise in comparison to other methods of cancer immunotherapy that rely on the active development of anti-tumor T-cells in vivo to mediate cancer regression1. Administration of autologous TILs in melanoma patients has shown an overall response of 56% at NCI and variable response rates at multiple sites1. The durable responses observed in melanoma and cervical patients using ACT has encouraged us to explore broadening their utility in multiple solid tumor settings. Here, we demonstrate the feasibility of growing TILs and to develop TIL therapies for other solid tumors.

Results
To date, we have been able to successfully culture TILs from tumors obtained from bladder, cervical, head and neck, lung, and Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC). The average yield of TILs from pre-REP is listed in Table 1. Phenotypic characterization of TILs from bladder, cervical, and lung cancer were >60-70% CD8+ T-cells whereas TILs from head and neck demonstrated variable distribution of CD8+ and CD4+ T-cells. TILs propagated from TNBC were >80% CD4+ T-cells. Regardless of the tumors, most cultures had <20% CD56+ NK-cells.

Table 1. Average yield of TILs obtained from pre-REP in non-melanoma tumors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tumor</th>
<th>Number of patient tumors</th>
<th>Average yield (and range) of TILs from pre-REP (10⁶)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bladder</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>290 (97-600)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cervical</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>360 (147-800)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H&amp;N</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>539 (132-738)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>688 (50-915)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TNBC</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>429 (81-665)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methods

- Wash tumor in HBSS
- Dice into 2-3 mm³ fragments
- Place tumor fragments in G-REX 10 cell culture flasks with medium containing serum and IL-2
- Exchange media on D7 and every 4-5 days from D11 until D21
- Assess cell count, viability and phenotyping followed by cryopreservation for future purpose

Figure 1. Successful expansion of TILs from non-melanoma tumors

Figure 2. Non-melanoma TILs expressed CD27 and CD28, consistent with young TILs

Figure 3. Activated TILs skew towards effector memory population

Conclusions
- We have been able to successfully grow TILs from lung, bladder, head and neck, cervical, and TNBC patient tumors.
- Lung, bladder, and cervical tumors showed greater proportion of CD8+ TILs, whereas head and neck and TNBC tumors were mostly CD4+ TILs.
- Further characterization of CD4+ and CD8+ TILs demonstrated effector memory phenotypic cells that were also CD27+ and CD28+.

Reference

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