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[212Pb]PSC-PEG2-TOC Therapy for NET Leads to Complete Responses in Mice Bearing SSTR2 Positive Tumors – Comparison to [177Lu]DOTATATE in a Preclinical Model

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BACKGROUND

Peptide-based targeted alpha-particle radiotherapy has emerged as a promising approach to cancer treatment. ²⁰³Pb/²¹²Pb is the only elementally identical isotope pair for this application. Tyr³-Octreotide (TOC) peptide ligands targeting SSTR2 have been widely investigated preclinically and clinically. [¹⁷⁷Lu]DOTATATE was approved by the US FDA to treat patients with gastroenteropancreatic neuroendocrine tumors. However, the objective response rate (18%) reported in the Phase III trial leaves significant room for improvement. In this study, we modified TOC with a Pb specific chelator (PSC) and PEG2 linker and evaluated the *in vivo* biodistribution profiles and efficacy of [^{203/212}Pb]PSC-PEG2-TOC in preclinical mouse model in comparison with [¹⁷⁷Lu]DOTATATE.

METHODS

PSC-PEG2-TOC was radiolabeled with ²⁰³Pb and ²¹²Pb by published methods^{1, 2}. [¹⁷⁷Lu]DOTATATE was synthesized and radiolabeled using published methods³. Biodistributions were conducted in female athymic nu/nu mice bearing AR42J tumor xenografts following intravenous injection of 74 kBq of ²⁰³Pb-labeled PSC-PEG2-TOC at 1, 3, 6 and 24 h post-injection (pi). Single or fractionated doses of [²¹²Pb]PSC-PEG2-TOC (total activity at 4.44 MBq) were administered to mice bearing AR42J tumors for efficacy evaluation. Administered fractionated doses of [¹⁷⁷Lu]DOTATATE were based on previous literature. Tumor volume, body weight, complete blood count, and serum chemistry were monitored.

RESULTS

PSC-PEG2-TOC labeled efficiently with ²⁰³Pb at high specific activity (50-100 MBq/nmol). 24-h radiochemical purity and maintained near quantitative levels in excipients. *In vivo* biodistribution studies demonstrated high tumor uptake and rapid renal clearance for [²⁰³Pb]PSC-PEG2-TOC. The administration of 4 fractionated doses of [²¹²Pb]PSC-PEG2-TOC produced 100% complete tumor responses at 100 days post therapy initiation and was well-tolerated compared to [¹⁷⁷Lu]DOTATATE, which produced improved PFS (28.5 days), but no complete responses.

CONCLUSIONS

These data demonstrate that $^{203/212}\text{Pb}$]PSC-PEG2-TOC has the potential to produce a higher rate of objective tumor responses than beta-particle emitting therapeutics for NETs.

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