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A phase I/II study of intravenous Rexin-G and Reximmune-C for cancer immunotherapy: The GeneVieve protocol.

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Abstract

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Background: Rexin-G (R-G) and Reximmune-C (R-C) are tumor-targeted retrovectors bearing a cytotoxic cyclin G1 "knockout" construct and a controllable GM-CSF expression construct, respectively. The hypothesis underlying this two-pronged approach is that the personalized vaccination of a patient against his/her own specific cancer can be achieved by combining (1) a targeted vector bearing a tumoricidal payload, i.e., R-G with (2) a targeted vector bearing a potent immunostimulatory gene, i.e., R-C. Purpose: To evaluate the safety and potential antitumor activity of intravenous infusions of R-G followed by Reximmune-C pulses in chemoresistant solid tumors.

Methods: All patients with chemoresistant pancreas cancer (n=2), colon cancer (n=2), breast cancer (n=1), ovarian cancer (n=1), Ewing's sarcoma (n=1), or prostate cancer (n=1) had achieved a partial response (PR) or stable disease (SD) with prior R-G monotherapy. Eight patients received R-G, 2×10^{11} cfu on days 1, 3, and 5, plus R-C, 0.5 or 1.0×10^{10} cfu (dose I or II respectively) on day 3, and valacyclovir at 3 gms/day p.o. on days 6-19, comprising one cycle. Treatment cycles were repeated up to 6 cycles, if there was \leq grade 1 toxicity.

Results: There were no treatment-related adverse events. Table below shows the tumor responses, progression-free survival (PFS), and overall survival (OS) of treated patients. Histopathologic examination of a resected indicator cervical lymph node following treatment showed complete effacement of the lymph node architecture by tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes.

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Conclusions: These findings indicate that the GeneVieve protocol is safe and well-tolerated and that this strategic combination of R-G plus Reximmune-C may help control tumor growth and prolong survival—advancing personalized cancer vaccination as a realistic goal.

Reximmune-C dose level	Tumor response by RECIST	Median PFS by RECIST (months)	Median OS (months from start of R-G treatment)
I (n=5)	1 PR, 3 SD, 1 PD	> 9	> 10
II (n=3)	1 PR, 2 SD	> 6	> 8

Author Disclosure

Employment or Leadership Position	Consultant or Advisory Role	Stock Ownership	Honoraria	Research Funding	Expert Testimony	Other Remuneration
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