Sunitinib Immunomodulation in Metastatic RCC Patients

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Sunitinib Progression-Free Survival



Motzer et al. *NEJM*



Sunitinib reverses type-1 immune suppression and decreases T-regulatory cells in renal cell carcinoma patients. Finke JH, Rini B, Ireland J, et al. Clin Cancer Res. 2008



Treg Levels in RCC Patients

MDSC Subsets in RCC Patient Tumor and Peripheral Blood



PBIMC from RCC Patients (n=74)









Sunitinib mediates reversal of myeloid-derived suppressor cell accumulation in renal cell carcinoma patients. Ko JS et al. *Clin Cancer Res*, 2009

Changes in MDSC and MDSC Subpopulations Following 1, 2, and 4 Cycles of Sunitinib



PFS according to absolute change in MDSC after 2 cycles of treatment



Time from treatment start in months



RCC Patients treated with <u>Pazopanib</u>

Mouse tumor models to study sunitinib in vivo



Sunitinib consistently decreases <u>splenic</u> MDSCs, but has a less consistent effect on intra<u>tumoral</u> MDSCs. The effect on intratumoral MDSCs is predictive of its impact on tumor progression



Direct and differential suppression of myeloid-derived suppressor cell subsets by sunitinib is compartmentally constrained. Rini B, Finke J et al. Cancer Res. 2010

GM-CSF Renders Splenic MDSC Resistant to Sunitinib

In Vivo Administration of GM-CSF



Recombinant murine GM-CSF was given (10µg/mouse/day) i.p. for 10 days beginning the day prior to sunitinib treatment.

Neoadjuvant sunitinib in RCC



• Primary RCC baseline and after 2 cycles of sunitinib: tumor shrinkage enabled partial nephrectomy as the tumor has pulled away from the renal hilum.

• Viable RCC tumor cells were present in all post-sunitinib surgical specimens. No unexpected surgical morbidity was encountered.

MDSC and T cells ability to produce IFN γ in RCC Tissue Post Sunitinib Treatment







MDSC Persistence in RCC Tissue Post Neoadjuvant Sunitinib Treatment

MDSC in post-treatment nephrectomy samples from neoadjuvant pazopanib clinical trial



Patients

Neoangiogenesis is induced by MDSC in a murine RCC xenograft model



Nude Mouse Xenograft Model of Angiogenesis



Tumor

Tumor + **G-MDSC**



VEGF therapy resistance is mediated by MEK and MDSC



Clinical Application of Sunitinib-induced Immunomodulation



Walter et al. Nature Medicine 2012

Baseline MDSC levels correlate with OS in patients treated with cyclophosphamide plus IMA091 Vaccine



Walter et al. Nature Medicine 2012

IMA901 Renal Cell Cancer Phase 3 trial



* IMA091 is a vaccine comprised of multiple, RCC tumor-associated peptides

Overall Survival in biomarker-defined subgroup (pre-specified)

- Progression-free survival (PFS)
- Safety and tolerability
- Cellular immunomonitoring

Conclusions

- Sunitinib therapy in metastatic RCC patients leads to declines in circulating Treg and MDSC and increases in IFN gamma-producing T cells.
- In vitro and in vivo work also demonstrates effects of sunitinib on immune cells and will provide insight into mechanism(s).
- Sunitinib leads to MDSC and other immune repertoire changes in RCC tumor tissue post treatment.
- Ongoing clinical trials in RCC are attempting to capitalize on the potential for sunitinib to augment anti-tumor immunity to enhance clinical benefit.



Collaborators

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