Purine and Pyrimidine Society 16th International Symposium on Purine and Pyrimidine Metabolism in Man

ETBRAILY OF COLUMBIA

June 6-9, 2015

Columbia University Faculty House 64 Morningside Drive New York City



Inhibitors of lactate dehydrogenase overcome the resistance towards gemcitabine in hypoxic mesothelioma cells, and modulate the expression of the human equilibrative transporter-1 (hENT1)

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Outline

- **1. Introduction**
 - Mesothelioma
 - LDH inhibitors
 - Gemcitabine
- 2. Effect of gemcitabine and LDH inhibitor NHI-1
- 3. Role of hypoxia
- 4. Effect of hypoxia on gemcitabine metabolizing enzymes
- 5. Effect of LDH inhibition



Pleural Mesothelioma; asbestos related



Pleural Mesothelioma

- 5 years survival of advanced stages between 5 and 15%
- Relatively insensitive to any therapy (usually platinum based with pemetrexed or 2nd line with gemcitabine)

Role of glycolysis in nucleotide supply



Jason R. Cantor, and David M. Sabatini Cancer Discovery 2012;2:881-898 CANCER DISCOVERY

The glycolytic switch







Aim: evaluate drugs inhibiting LDH in pancreatic cancer cells



LDH features

LDH is a tetrameric enzyme with 5 or LDH-M, Muscle Α isoforms, mostly located in the cytosol or LDH-H, Heart R **Only two types of subunits** BÅB BAB **A** B AAA AAA R A B AAA LDH5 LDH1 LDH2 LDH3 LDH4 **Prevalent** in **Prevalent in liver** heart and skeletal muscle LDH5 overexpressed in highly invasive and hypoxic carcinomas •LDH5 associated with Hypoxia Inducible Factor HIF-1 α

Optimization of LDH inhibitors







Hypoxia decreases gemcitabine sensitivity



LDH inhibition synergizes with gemcitabine under hypoxia



NHI-1 enhances gemcitabine induced cell death in H28 cells under hypoxia



LDH inhibition restores hENT1 expression



Conclusions

\checkmark The new LDH inhibitor NHI-1

- 1) Blocked cell proliferation under hypoxic conditions
- 2) Interacted synergistically with gemcitabine
- 3) Induced apoptosis
- 4) Rescued hENT1 mRNA expression in hypoxic conditions

LDH-A inhibition synergism with gemcitabine forms a novel strategy targeting hypoxic alterations of glucose metabolism for mesothelioma



Acknowledgements

This work was partially supported by grants from "The Law Offices of Peter G. Angelos Grant" from the Mesothelioma **Applied Research Foundation** (E.G, L.G.L, F.M., G.J.P), EORTC-PAMM (G.J.P, E.G., F.M.), "Clinical Research and Innovation – scouting" from the University of Pisa (E.G., F.M.), Fondazione Humanitas (E.G, P.A.Z), AIRC/Start-Up (E.G.), European Union Seventh Framework Program [FP7/2007-2013] under grant agreement n° PIIF-GA-2011-299026 (F.M.), and FP7-REGPOT-2012-CT2012-31637-IMBRAIN (L.G.L., E.G., G.J.P.)

