

PETITIONER'S DEMONSTRATIVES

March 16, 2017
Oral Argument

**Neptune Generics, LLC,
Apotex Inc., Apotex Corp., Teva Pharmaceuticals,
Fresenius Kabi USA, LLC, and
Wockhardt Bio AG,**

Petitioners,

v.

**Eli Lilly & Company,
Patent Owner.**

IPR2016-00237¹ -00240²

Unless otherwise indicated, all exhibit and paper numbers refer to the -00237 proceeding.

¹Cases IPR2016-01190, IPR2016-01335 and IPR2016-01341 have been joined with the instant proceeding.

²Cases IPR2016-01191, IPR2016-01337 and IPR2016-01343 have been joined with the instant proceeding.

U.S. PATENT No. 7,772,209 INSTITUTION OF IPRS

Grounds for Institution of IPR

Institution Decision -00237

Trials@uspto.gov
571.272.7822

Paper No. 13
Entered: June 3, 2016

UNITED STATES PATENT

BEFORE THE PATENT TRI

NEPTUNE GE
Petit

ELI LILLY &
Patent

Case IPR2016-00237
Patent 7,772,209 B2

Before MICHAEL P. TIERNEY, JAC
TINA E. HULSE, *Administrative Pate*
TIERNEY, *Administrative Patent Jud*

DI
Institution of
37 C.F.R.

V. ORDER

Accordingly, it is

ORDERED that pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314, an *inter partes* review is hereby instituted as to claims 1–22 of the '209 patent on the following ground:

References	Basis	Claims challenged
Niyikiza in view of the '974 Patent and further in view of EP 005	§ 103	1–22

Grounds for Institution of IPR

Institution Decision -00237

A limitation on the use of antifolate drugs is “that the cytotoxic activity and subsequent effectiveness of the antifolates may be associated with substantial toxicity for some patients.” Ex. 1001, 1:62–64.

Homocysteine levels have been shown to be a predictor of cytotoxic events related to the use of certain antifolate enzyme inhibitors. *Id.* at 2:16–26.

The '209 patent states that folic acid has been shown to lower homocysteine levels. *Id.* Additionally, the patent states that it was known in the art to treat and prevent cardiovascular disease with a combination of folic acid and vitamin B12. *Id.* at 2:50–54.

Grounds for Institution of IPR

Institution Decision -00240

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Paper No. 14
Entered: June 3, 2016

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

NEPTUNE GENERICS LLC

Petitioner

ELI LILLY &
Patent

Case IPR2016-00240
Patent 7,772,209 B2

Before MICHAEL P. TIERNEY, JACQUELINE WRIGHT BONILLA, and
TINA E. HULSE, *Administrative Patent Judges*.

TIERNEY, *Administrative Patent Judge*

Decision
Institution of IPR
37 C.F.R. § 42.101

ORDERED that pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 314, an *inter partes* review is hereby instituted as to claims 1–22 of the '209 patent on the following ground:

References	Basis	Claims challenged
Rusthoven in view of EP 005	§ 103	1–22

'209 PATENT

'209 Patent Claims

'209 Patent

1. A method for administering pemetrexed disodium to a patient in need thereof comprising administering an effective amount of folic acid and an effective amount of a methylmalonic acid lowering agent followed by administering an effective amount of pemetrexed disodium, wherein

the methylmalonic acid lowering agent is selected from the group consisting of vitamin B12, hydroxycobalamin, cyano-10-chlorocobalamin, aquocobalamin perchlorate, aquo-10-cobalamin perchlorate, azidocobalamin, cobalamin, cyanocobalamin, or chlorocobalamin.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the methylmalonic acid lowering agent is vitamin B12.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the vitamin B12 is administered as an intramuscular injection of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg.

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the vitamin B12 is administered as an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg.

5. The method of claim 2, 3 or 4, wherein the vitamin B12 administration is repeated about every 6 to about every 12 weeks following the administration of vitamin B12 until the administration of the pemetrexed disodium is discontinued.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the folic acid is administered 1 to 3 weeks prior to the first administration of the pemetrexed disodium.

7. The method of claim 5 wherein the folic acid is administered from about 1 to about 24 hours prior to administration of the pemetrexed disodium.

8. The method according to any one of claims 1-4, wherein between 0.3 mg to about 5 mg of folic acid is administered orally.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein about 350 µg to about 1000 µg of folic acid is administered.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein 350 µg to 600 µg of folic acid is administered.

11. The method of claim 1 further comprising the administration of cisplatin to the patient.

12. An improved method for administering pemetrexed disodium to a patient in need of chemotherapeutic treatment, wherein the improvement comprises:

a) administration of between about 350 µg and about 1000 µg of folic acid prior to the first administration of pemetrexed disodium;

'209 Patent Claims

'209 Patent

b) administration of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg of vitamin B12, prior to the first administration of pemetrexed disodium; and

c) administration of pemetrexed disodium.

13. The method of claim **12** further comprising the administration of cisplatin to the patient.

14. The method of claim **12**, wherein vitamin B12 is administered as an intramuscular injection of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg.

15. The method of claim **14**, wherein vitamin B12 is administered as an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg.

16. The method of claim **15**, wherein between 0.3 mg to about 5 mg of folic acid is administered orally.

17. The method of claim **16** wherein about 350 µg to about 1000 µg of folic acid is administered.

18. The method of claim **17** wherein 350 µg to 600 µg of folic acid is administered.

19. The method of claim **18** wherein folic acid is administered 1 to 3 weeks prior to the first administration of the pemetrexed disodium.

20. The method of claim **18** wherein the folic acid is administered from about 1 to about 24 hours prior to administration of the pemetrexed disodium.

21. The method of claim **12**, **18**, or **19**, wherein the vitamin B12 administration is repeated about every 6 to about every 12 weeks following the administration of vitamin B12 until administration of pemetrexed disodium is discontinued.

22. The method of claim **21** further comprising the administration of cisplatin to the patient.

'209 Patent

'209 Patent Specification

US 7,772,209 B2

1

ANTIFOLATE COMBINATION THERAPIES

This application is a divisional of application Ser. No. 11/288,807, filed 29 Nov., 2005 now abandoned, which is a divisional of application Ser. No. 10/297,821 filed 12 May, 2002, now U.S. Pat. No. 7,053,965, which claims priority under 35 USC 371, for PCT/US01/14860, filed 15 Jun., 2001, which claims the priority of U.S. provisional applications No. 60/215,310, filed 30 Jun., 2000, No. 60/235,859, filed 27 Sep., 2000, and No. 60/284,448, filed 18 Apr., 2001.

Potentially, life-threatening toxicity remains a major limitation to the optimal administration of antifolates. (see, generally, *Antifolate Drugs in Cancer Therapy*, edited by Jackson, Ann T., Humana Press, Totowa, N.J., 1999.) In some cases, a supportive intervention is routinely used to permit safe, optimal dosing. For example, steroids, such as dexamethasone, can be used to prevent the formation of skin rashes caused by the antifolate. (*Antifolate*, pg. 197.)

Antifolates represent one of the most thoroughly studied classes of antineoplastic agents, with antineoplastic initially demonstrating clinical activity approximately 50 years ago. Methotrexate was developed shortly thereafter, and today is a standard component of effective chemotherapeutic regimens for malignancies such as lymphoma, breast cancer, and head and neck cancer. (Boonadonna G, Zambetti M, Valagussa P. Sequential or alternating docetaxin and CMF regimens in breast cancer with more than three positive nodes: 1st year results. *JAMA* 1995;273(7):542-547; Boonadonna G, Valagussa P, Moliterni A, Zambetti M, Brambilla C. Adjuvant cyclophosphamide, methotrexate, and fluorouracil in node-positive breast cancer: The results of 20 years of follow-up. *N Engl J Med* 1995; 332(14):901-906; and Hong W, K. Seavier S, Isell B, et al. A prospective randomized trial of methotrexate versus cisplatin in the treatment of recurrent squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck. *Cancer* 1983; 52:206-210.) Antifolate inhibits one or several key folate-requiring enzymes of the thymidine and purine biosynthetic pathways, in particular, thymidylate synthase (TS), dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), and glycylamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase (GARFT), by competing with reduced folates for binding sites of these enzymes. (Shih C, Babcock L L, Mendelsohn L G, Chen V J, Schultz R M. Multiple folate enzyme inhibition: Mechanism of a novel pyrrolopyrimidine-based antifolate: LY231514 (MTA). *Advan Enzyme Regul*, 1998; 38:135-152 and Shih C, Chen V J, Gossart L S, et al. LY231514, a pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-based antifolate that inhibits multiple folate-requiring enzymes. *Cancer Res* 1997; 57:1116-1123.) Several antifolate drugs are currently in development. Examples of antifolates that have thymidylate synthase inhibiting ("TSI") characteristics include 5-fluorouracil and Tomudex®. An example of an antifolate that has dihydrofolate reductase inhibiting ("DHFR") characteristics is Methotrexate®. An example of an antifolate that has glycylamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase inhibiting ("GARFT") characteristics is Lometrexol. Many of these antifolate drugs inhibit more than one biosynthetic pathway. For example Lometrexol is also an inhibitor of dihydrofolate reductase and pemetrexed disodium (Alimta®, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, Ind.) has demonstrated thymidylate synthase, dihydrofolate reductase, and glycylamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase inhibition.

A limitation to the development of these drugs is that the cytotoxic activity and subsequent effectiveness of antifolates may be associated with substantial toxicity for some patients. Additionally, antifolates as a class are associated with sporadic severe myelosuppression with gastrointestinal toxicity which, though infrequent, carries a high risk of mortality. The

2

inability to control these toxicities led to the abandonment of clinical development of some antifolates and has complicated the clinical development of others, such as Lometrexol and raltitrexed. (Jackson A L, Calvert A H. Folate-Based Thymidylate Synthase Inhibitors as Anticancer Drugs. *Ann Oncol* 1995; 6(9):871-881; Lachavinij S, Wedge SR, Lind M J, et al. A phase I clinical study of the antipurine antifolate Lometrexol (DDATH) given with oral folic acid. *Invest New Drugs* 1996; 14:325-335; and Moughan T S, Jones R D, Kerr D, et al., on behalf of the British MRC Colorectal Cancer Working Party. Preliminary results of a multicenter randomized trial comparing 3 chemotherapy regimens (deGramont,

ASCO 1999; 18:Abst 1007.) Initially, folic acid was used as a treatment for toxicities associated with GARFTI see, e.g. U.S. Pat. No. 5,217,974. Folic acid has been shown to lower homocysteine levels (see e.g. Homocysteine Lowering Trialist's Collaboration. Lowering blood homocysteine with folic acid based supplements: meta-analysis of randomized trials. *BMJ* 1998; 316:894-898 and Naurath H J, Joosten E, Riezler R, Stabler S P, Allen R H, Lindenbaum J. Effects of vitamin B 12, folate and vitamin B6 supplements in elderly people with normal serum vitamin concentrations. *Lancet* 1995; 346:85-89), and homocysteine levels have been shown to be a predictor of cytotoxic events related to the use of GARFT inhibitors, see e.g. U.S. Pat. No. 5,217,974. However, even with this

with a methylmalonic acid lowering agent.

Furthermore, the present invention relates to a method of reducing the toxicity associated with the administration of an antifolate to a mammal comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of said antifolate in combination with a methylmalonic acid lowering agent.

Furthermore, the present invention relates to a method of inhibiting tumor growth in mammals comprising administering to said mammals an effective amount of an antifolate in combination with a methylmalonic acid lowering agent.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1001 - 00003

POSA

POSA Definition

20. I understand that a person of ordinary skill in the art (“POSA”) is a hypothetical person presumed to be aware of all pertinent art, understands conventional wisdom in the art, and is a person of ordinary creativity. In this case, a medical doctor with an M.D. degree who has significant experience in treating cancer patients, and a significant understanding of antineoplastic agents, including antifolates and their efficacies, safety, adverse effects, toxicities, etc., is a POSA.

21. A POSA may work as part of a multi-disciplinary team and draw upon not only his or her own skills, but also take advantage of certain specialized skills of others on the team, to solve a given problem. For example, an expert in nutrition, an expert in hematology, a basic scientist with expertise in biochemistry, and a clinician may be part of the team.

PRIOR ART: NIYIKIZA

PRIOR ART: '974 PATENT

Prior Art: '974 Patent

'974 Patent

1 5,217,974 2

**METHOD FOR TREATING
GAR-TRANSFORMYLASE TUMORS IN
MAMMALS AND REDUCING MAMMALIAN
TOXICITY**

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 07/911,429 filed Jul. 10, 1992, now abandoned, which is a continuation application Ser. No. 07/750,841, filed Aug. 26, 1991, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of application Ser. No. 07/677,031 filed Mar. 29, 1991 and now abandoned.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Lometrexol is the generic name given to 5,10-dideazetetrahydrofolic acid, also referred to as DDATHF. Lometrexol is a member of a new class of antitumor agents which have been found to specifically inhibit glycinamide ribonucleotide (GAR) transformylase, an enzyme required in the initial stages of purine biosynthesis, see *J. Med. Chem.*, 28, 914 (1985). Several of these GAR-transformylase inhibitors are described,

available salt or ester thereof. The invention more particularly provides a method for reducing the mammalian toxicity of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate which binds to a FBP which comprises administering a toxicity-reducing amount of a FBP binding agent or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof to the mammal receiving treatment. In particular, there is provided a method for reducing the toxicity of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate which binds to a FBP in a mammal which comprises pretreating the mammal with an amount of a compound selected from folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, and (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof, sufficient to have substantially blocked the FBP before administration of the antifolate. In the most preferred embodiment of the invention, Lometrexol is administered to a subject suffering from a solid tumor or other type of cancer and in need of treatment after pretreatment with folic acid, thereby reducing toxic effects of Lometrexol while maintaining good antitumor activity.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE

We have now discovered that the toxic effects of lometrexol and related GAR-transformylase inhibitors and other antifolate agents which bind to folate binding protein (FBP) (see, e.g., Kane, et al., *Laboratory Investigation*, 60, 737 (1989)) can be significantly reduced by the presence of a FBP binding agent, without adversely affecting therapeutic efficacy. The present invention

In one aspect of this invention, we provide a method of inhibiting the growth of GAR-transformylase-dependent tumors in mammals comprising administering to said mammals an effective amount of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate which binds to a FBP in combination with a toxicity-reducing amount of a FBP binding agent, or a physiologically-

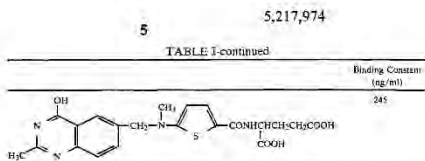
included within the scope of this invention, and such compounds can be determined by routine evaluation of either their ability to interact with and inhibit the subject enzyme or to bind to the FBP.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, folic acid is administered to a subject subsequently receiving an agent defined by the formula

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1009 - 00002

Prior Art: '974 Patent

'974 Patent



As used in this invention, the term "FBP binding agent" refers to folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid. This latter compound is the (6R)-isomer of leucovorin as disclosed in *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 74, 4215 (1952). Both of the tetrahydrofolic acid compounds are in the unnatural configuration at the 6-position—they are 10–20 fold more efficient in binding the folate binding protein compared with their respective (6S)-isomer—see Ratnam, et al., *Folate and Antifolate Transport in Mammalian Cells Symposium*, Mar. 21–22, 1991, Bethesda, Md. These compounds are usually prepared as a mixture with their natural form (6S) of diastereomers by non-stereoselective reduction from the corresponding dehydro precursors followed by separation through chromatographic or enzymatic techniques. See e.g., PCT Patent Application Publication WO 880844 (also Derwent Abstract 89-36844/51) and Canadian Patent 1093554.

Folic acid is a vitamin which is required by mammals for proper regeneration of the blood-forming elements and their functioning, and as a coenzyme is involved in intermediary metabolic processes in which one-carbon units are transferred. These reactions are important in interconversions of various amino acids and in purine and pyrimidine synthesis. Folic acid is commonly supplied to diets of humans via consumption of food sources such as liver, kidney, dry beans, asparagus, mushrooms, broccoli, lettuce, milk and spinach, as well as by vitamin supplements. The minimum amount of folic acid commonly required by normal adults is about 0.05 mg/day. According to this invention, folic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof, is administered to a human subject at a dose of about 0.5 mg/day to about 30 mg/day to diminish the toxic effects of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate also being administered to such subject. In a preferred embodiment, folic acid will be administered at about 1 to about 5 mg/day together with the normal dosing of GAR-transformylase inhibitor such as lomectrexol.

Based upon the relative binding constants for the respective compounds, it will be expected that approximately 1 mg/day to 30 mg/day (preferably approximately 2–15 mg/day) of (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid or about 5–300 mg/day (preferably about 10–50 mg/day) of (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or their respective physiologically-available salt or ester thereof, will be employed with the GAR-transformylase inhibitor.

"Physiologically-available salt" refers to potassium, sodium, lithium, magnesium, or preferably a calcium salt of the FBP binding agent. "Physiologically-available ester" refers to esters which are easily hydrolyzed upon administration to a mammal to provide the corresponding FBP binding agent free acid, such as C₁–C₄ alkyl esters, mixed anhydrides, and the like.

The FBP binding agent is utilized according to this invention can be in its free acid form, or can be in the form of a physiologically-available salt or ester which is converted to the parent acid in a biological system. The dosage generally will be provided in the form of a vitamin supplement, namely as a tablet administered orally, preferably as a sustained release formulation, as an aqueous solution added to drinking water, an aqueous parenteral formulation, e.g., an intravenous formulation, or the like.

The FBP binding agent is administered to the subject mammal prior to treatment with the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Pretreatment with the suitable amount of FBP binding agent from about 1 to about 24 hours is usually sufficient to substantially bind to and block the folate binding protein prior to administration of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Although one single dose of the FBP binding agent, preferably an oral administration of folic acid, should be sufficient to load the folate binding protein, multiple dosing of the FBP binding agent can be employed for periods up to weeks before treatment with the active agent to ensure that the folate binding protein is sufficiently bound in order to maximize the benefit derived from such pretreatment.

In the especially preferred embodiment of this invention, about 1 mg to about 5 mg of folic acid is administered orally to a mammal about 1 to about 24 hours prior to the parenteral administration of the amount of lomectrexol which is normally required to attain the desired therapeutic benefit. Although greater or additional doses of folic acid or another FBP binding agent are also operable, the above parameters will usually bind the folate binding protein in an amount sufficient to reduce the toxicity effects normally seen upon lomectrexol administration above.

It should be noted that the FBP binding agent is not an antitumor agent and that the pretreatment of a mammal with a FBP binding agent is not a synergistic or potentiating effect. Rather, by having substantially bound the folate binding protein with a FBP binding agent prior to administration of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate, the toxic effects of such subsequent treatment are greatly reduced without affecting the therapeutic efficacy.

The effect of folic acid on GAR-transformylase inhibitors has been demonstrated in standard tests commonly utilized to determine the antitumor activity and toxic effects of the GAR-transformylase inhibitors themselves. In one such test, mice are inoculated with the C3H strain of mammary adenocarcinoma by inserting a 2 mm by 2 mm section of tumor into the axillary region of the mice by trocar. In all experiments, lomectrexol was administered intraperitoneally once a day for five consecutive days, starting on the day following tumor implantation. Ten animals were used at each dosage level. Antitumor activity was assessed on day

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1009 - 00004

The FBP binding agent is administered to the subject mammal prior to treatment with the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Pretreatment with the suitable amount of FBP binding agent from about 1 to about 24 hours is usually sufficient to substantially bind to and block the folate binding protein prior to administration of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Although one single dose of the FBP binding agent, preferably an oral administration of folic acid, should be sufficient to load the folate binding protein, multiple dosing of the FBP binding agent can be employed for periods up to weeks before treatment with the active agent to ensure that the folate binding protein is sufficiently bound in order to maximize the benefit derived from such pretreatment.

In the especially preferred embodiment of this invention, about 1 mg to about 5 mg of folic acid is administered orally to a mammal about 1 to about 24 hours prior to the parenteral administration of the amount of lomectrexol which is normally required to attain the desired therapeutic benefit. Although greater or additional doses of folic acid or another FBP binding agent are also operable, the above parameters will usually bind the folate binding protein in an amount sufficient to reduce the toxicity effects normally seen upon lomectrexol administration above.

Prior Art: '974 Patent

'974 Patent

5,217,974

7

ten by measuring the length and width of the tumor growth using vernier calipers, and the activity was expressed as a percent inhibition of tumor growth.

When lometrexol was administered to infected mice which are maintained on a diet totally free of folic acid for two weeks prior to and during treatment, it exhibited moderate antitumor activity at very low doses, but also caused severe toxicity at a very low dose (measured as death of mice). These data are presented in Table II below.

TABLE II

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet		
Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.125	0%	0/10
0.125	0%	0/10
0.25	21%	0/10
0.5	88%	0/10
1.0	100%	8/10

A test group of mice were maintained on a folic acid free diet for two weeks before treatment. Folic acid was then administered during the treatment by providing the animals drinking water containing 0.003% folic acid (weight/volume). This concentration translates to about 1.75 mg of folic acid per square meter of body surface per day, since the animals consume about 4 ml of water each day.

$$\frac{0.003 \text{ grams}}{100 \text{ ml}} \times \frac{4 \text{ ml}}{\text{day}} = \frac{0.012 \text{ grams}}{\text{day}} = \frac{0.012 \text{ milligrams}}{\text{day}}$$

The average size of a mouse is 0.00687 m²

$$\frac{0.012 \text{ grams}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{1}{0.00687 \text{ m}^2} = 1.75 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{day}$$

For a human subject of about 1.73 m² size, this translates to an adult human dosage of about 3.0 mg/day. The effect of the foregoing folic dosage on the activity and toxicity of lometrexol is shown in Table III below:

TABLE III

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet Plus Addition of 0.003% Folic to Drinking Water		
Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.125	15%	0/10
0.25	26%	0/10
0.5	48%	0/10
1.0	97%	0/10
2.0	98%	0/10
4.0	95%	6/10

As the foregoing results indicate, addition of the indicated level of folic acid to the diet of a subject receiving lometrexol results in excellent antitumor activity at low doses, with little or no toxic effects.

Larger doses of folic acid appear to have an even more dramatic effect on the antitumor activity and toxicity of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor. For example, when mice were maintained on a folate acid-free diet for two weeks before treatment with lometrexol, and then given water containing 0.003% (weight/volume) of folic acid (which translates to an adult

8

human dose of about 30 mg/day), good antitumor activity of lometrexol is observed at higher dose levels. These results are shown in Table IV below:

TABLE IV

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet Plus Addition of 0.003% Folic to Drinking Water		
Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.25	91%	0/10
12.5	89%	0/10
25	97%	0/10
50	96%	0/10

The foregoing data establish that for tumor bearing mice maintained on a folic acid free diet prior to and during treatment with lometrexol, the toxicity of lometrexol is very large, with 1 mg/kg/day being lethal to the majority of the mice, and lower antitumor activity is observed at non-toxic drug doses. Very low doses of folic acid (about 1 to 2 mg/day for an adult human) partially reversed drug toxicity and improved antitumor activity. Larger doses of folic acid (up to about 30 mg/day for an adult human) dramatically reduced

In preparation for the foregoing clinical study, pilot studies in humans have established that folic acid given to patients receiving lometrexol has effected reduced side effects due to the lometrexol. Specifically, in one subject who had a nasalpharyngeal carcinoma, who was supplemented with folic acid at 0.5 to 1.0 mg/day, lometrexol was well tolerated for up to 12 months of therapy. Moreover, this patient has no clinical evidence

We claim:

1. A method of inhibiting the growth of GAR-transformylase-dependent tumors in mammals, comprising administering to said mammals an effective amount of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor which binds to a folate binding protein in combination with a toxicity-reducing amount of a folate binding protein binding agent selected from folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, and (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1009 - 00005

PRIOR ART: EP 005

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

The present invention relates to pharmaceutical preparations for lowering levels of homocysteine or for the prophylaxis or treatment of elevated levels of homocysteine in patients and for counteracting the harmful effects associated with homocysteine.

hand of macro nutrients such as proteins, fats and refined carbohydrates, which are normally underconsumed in the Third World countries. Due to food refinement and all the other facets of food processing necessitated by increased urbanisation in the West, much of the micro-nutrients (vitamins, minerals) are lost. This results in a metabolic imbalance between macro-nutrients (especially proteins and fats) on the one hand and the essential micro-nutrients on the other hand which are necessary for the normal metabolism of the former. Under these conditions, abnormal metabolic pathways may be activated leading to the production of toxic and harmful intermediary products which in many cases are the cause of disease and which normally are not produced at all or only in very small quantities. The metabolism of the amino acid methionine is a good example, in which case excessive quantities of the toxic and unnatural amino acid homocysteine are produced.

Elevated homocysteine levels also occur in certain patients due to genetic causes and may also be

Three pathways exist by means of which blood and tissue levels of homocysteine are controlled to ensure homocysteine homeostasis:

1. Conversion into cysteine by means of the vitamin B6 dependent enzyme cystathionine β -synthase (CBS)
2. Remethylation to methionine which requires folate (as substrate) and vitamin B12 as co-factor.

2. Inhibition of the processes of polymerisation and cross linking in the formation of elastin and collagen.
 3. Hyperplasia of arterial smooth muscle cells and synthesis of extracellular connective tissue.
 4. Degradation of vascular glycocalyx and synthesis of extracellular connective tissue.
 5. Pro-thrombotic effects (activation of Hagemann factor and stimulation of thromboxano 2 production by platelets).
 6. Progressive premature atherosclerosis.
 7. Accelerated osteoporosis (Metabolism 1985, 34 : 1073).
 8. Precocious occlusive vascular disease frequently manifested clinically as myocardial infarction, stroke, pulmonary embolism (Am.J.Med.Sc. 1977, 273: 120) and peripheral vascular occlusion.
 9. Abnormalities in eyes, skeletal system, central nervous and vascular systems.
 10. Occlusive disease of cerebral, carotid and aorto-iliac vessels.
 11. Occlusion or stenosis of renal arteries which often results in renovascular hypertension. (See for example: Metabolism 1985, 34 : 1073; Am. J. Med. Sc. 1977, 273 : 120; Stroke 1984, 15 : 1014; Atherosclerosis 1986, 71 : 227.
 12. The sex and age related variations in plasma homocysteine parallel well-established age and sex-related risk factors in atherosclerotic disease.
- It has also been shown in many studies, that whereas lipid levels are not markedly different in coronary patients and controls, homocysteine levels are significantly different. (See for example J. Am. Coll. Cardiol. 1990, 16:1114)

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

It is therefore now widely accepted that elevated plasma homocysteine is a risk factor independent of established risk factors such as cigarette smoking, hypertension and diabetes for generalised atherosclerotic disease (Circulation 1989, 79 : 1180).

On the other hand, evidence exists which suggests that B6 deficiency independently of homocysteine may be associated with vascular disease stressing the prime importance of an adequate intracellular B6 status to prevent these diseases.

It is therefore now accepted in the art that elevated blood levels of homocysteine are highly undesirable. Normalisation of such elevated levels of homocysteine therefore constitutes a therapeutic goal as such without reference to any specific disease entity, possibly causally related to such elevated levels.

Evidence is mounting that high cholesterol levels alone are not the risk factor in atherosclerotic diseases as was previously believed. Before cholesterol contributes to vascular occlusion another form of damage occurs which is correlated with high homocysteine levels. Once that damage has occurred the beneficial effects of cholesterol-lowering drugs, in particular so-called statins become highly questionable, particularly when viewed in the light of side effects of such drugs (raising Lp(a), decreasing Q10, weakening the immune system, cataracts, GI disturbances, myositis, myocarditis). Nevertheless, the prejudice in favour of cholesterol depressants has been so strong that these adverse findings have, until now, been given inadequate coverage in the review literature.

The present invention is aimed at counteracting root causes of atherosclerotic disease which damage the blood vessels before cholesterol becomes a problem.

The clinical condition of homocysteinuria, is an inborn error of metabolism which is either caused by an enzyme defect in the transsulfuration pathway or a similar defect in the 5-methyl tetrahydrofolate dependent remethylation of homocysteine to methionine. Patients with this disease usually have very high fasting blood levels of homocysteine (in excess of 200 micromolar in homozygotes) and have a limited life expectancy due to early vascular complications. This rare condition must be clearly distinguished from other milder (but chronic) forms of homocysteinemia which may arise from other causes - both external and internal - but which are clinically of much greater importance due to the vastly higher prevalence thereof. Accordingly, a need exists for reducing or preventing not only the extreme elevated homocysteine levels in cases of homocysteinuria, but also the much more moderately elevated homocysteine levels pertaining to homocysteinemia.

Inadequate metabolic status individually of vitamin B6, folate and vitamin B12 have been recognised as determinants of heart and peripheral occlusive disease. At the same time, deficiencies (individually) of each of these vitamins have also been known to be associated with increased homocysteine levels. Thus vitamin B6 deficient humans have a 43 % reduction in cystathionine β -synthase (CBS) activity and they excrete increased quantities of homocysteine in the urine, reflecting the effect of an inadequate B6 status on homocysteine blood levels. A negative correlation exists between dietary B6 intake and blood levels of protein bound homocysteine.

Similar relationships have been described between B12 and folate levels individually on the one hand and blood levels of homocysteine on the other hand. Those relationships have been described by several authors and have been summarised in the following publications:-

1. Stroke, 1984, 15 : 1012
2. Metabolism 1984, 34 : 1073
3. Metabolism 1988, 37 : 175
4. Scan J Clin Lab Invest 1988, 48 : 215
5. Atherosclerosis 1988, 71 : 227
6. Circulation 1990, 81 : 2004

Regarding the treatment and prophylaxis of hyperhomocysteinaemia, it is known that vitamin B6, vitamin B12 and folate play a role in regulating the methionine - homocysteine pathway and controlling levels of homocysteine (David E L Wilken, Nicholas P P Dudman, Haemostasis 1989; 19 (supplement 1) : 14 - 23; Per Magne Ueland and Helga Refsum, J.Lab.Clin.Med. November 1989, 473 - 501. However, it was

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

lack of the relevant vitamins, but often because of absorption problems, especially in the case of vitamin B12.

Accordingly there is a need for improvement in pharmaceutical compositions for lowering elevated homocysteine levels in plasma and counteracting adverse clinical conditions associated therewith, especially with respect to those patients in whom elevated plasma homocysteine levels are primarily related to absorption problems such as occur in many elderly patients. It is precisely in such patients that the problem of hyperhomocysteinaemia with accompanying vascular pathology is often a serious one.

In particular, there is a need to provide pharmaceutical compositions and dosage regimens which achieve adequate lowering of plasma homocysteine levels and counteracting adverse clinical conditions associated therewith in the greatest number of patients suffering from elevated plasma homocysteine levels covering substantially all age groups and preferably with relatively low dosages of active ingredients.

More particularly, there is a need for pharmaceutical compositions and dosage regimens which attain the foregoing with surprisingly low dosage rates of folate as compared with the prior art.

In the present invention, special provision is made to overcome such problems. These preferably include the following galactical and biochemical variations:-

- a) the use of pyridoxal instead of pyridoxine as a source of B6 activity;
- b) the galactical presentation of the vitamins concerned in such a form that the rate of release of each vitamin is compatible with maximum absorption and utilisation;
- c) the use of transdermal vitamin formulations which allow direct absorption through the skin of small quantities over prolonged periods. This is accomplished either through the use of appropriately formulated vitamin plasters or through the use of sub-lingual tablets.

Reference is made to applicant's copending patent application entitled "Compositions for the Treatment and Prophylaxis of Metabolic Disturbances in Infants", claiming priority of ZA-PA 92/6999.

Here pharmaceutical and dietary preparations are disclosed for the treatment or prophylaxis of elevated homocysteine and/or methionine levels in the blood of human infants and pathological disturbances connected therewith, said preparation comprising in combination:-

- a) vitamin B 6 as such or in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid salt, at least in part in the form of pyridoxal (PL) or a compound which in vivo readily releases PL without the intervention of oxidase enzyme or oxygen;
- b) folate or a precursor of folate which releases folate in vivo, and
- c) vitamin B12, with or without intrinsic factor, in the following ratios:-
 - a) b) from 1:25 to 10 000 : 1
 - b) : c) from 1:1 to 50 000 : 1

The preparations are to be incorporated in infant bone feed mixes. That disclosure, by cross-reference, forms part of the present disclosure. The same applies to the contents of a study performed on behalf of

In accordance with the invention there is provided the use in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical preparation for lowering levels of homocysteine or for the prophylaxis or treatment of elevated levels of homocysteine in a patient of a combination which comprises

- a) vitamin B6;
- b) folate or a suitable active metabolite of folate or a substance which releases folate in vivo;
- c) vitamin B12, with or without intrinsic factor.

a) b) from 20:1 to 2.5:1
b) c) from 4:1 to 1:1

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1010 - 00004

Prior Art: EP 005

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

cysteine levels (perhaps due to genetic abnormalities, or for other reasons) in whom, during treatment, homocysteine levels decline slowly to normality over a long period (e.g. weeks). Homocysteine-induced oxidation of cholesterol can be suppressed by means of antioxidants (e.g. β -carotene, vitamin E, vitamin Coenzyme Q, etc.). In this respect, it has surprisingly been found that pyridoxal (PL) itself has anti-oxidant (anti-free radical) activity. Thus when used as provided for in the invention, PL serves a variety of purposes as outlined above, including that of an anti-oxidant.

However, particularly in severe cases of homocysteinuria (e.g. due to genetic disorder) it is advantageous to include one or more powerful anti-oxidants drawn from the list of compounds mentioned above.

In such cases it may also be necessary to administer choline or betaine as herein provided for. Thus,

according to yet another aspect of the invention, a pharmaceutical formulation comprising vitamin B6 (preferably at least in part in the form of pyridoxal) folic acid and vitamin B12 in combination with one or more anti-oxidants is provided for as illustrated in the following table:-

Compound	Range (mg)	Preferred (mg)	For Example (mg)
B6, preferably as			
Pyridoxal	2-50	5-15	5,0
Folate	0,2-15	0,5-3	1,0
Vitamin B12	0,2-5	0,5-1,5	0,5
Anti-oxidants			
β -carotene	1-12	5-15	7,0
d- α -tocopherol acetate	10-1000	50-700	500
Ascorbic acid	30-1000	100-700	500
Coenzyme Q10	10-100	15-50	20

In different formulations, one or more of the anti-oxidants are preferably included

according to yet another aspect of the invention, a pharmaceutical formulation comprising vitamin B6 (preferably at least in part in the form of pyridoxal) folic acid and vitamin B12 in combination with one or more anti-oxidants is provided for as illustrated in the following table:-

Compound	Range (mg)	Preferred (mg)	For Example (mg)
B6, preferably as			
Pyridoxal	2-50	5-15	5,0
Folate	0,2-15	0,5-3	1,0
Vitamin B12	0,2-5	0,5-1,5	0,5
Anti-oxidants			
β -carotene	1-12	5-15	7,0
d- α -tocopherol acetate	10-1000	50-700	500
Ascorbic acid	30-1000	100-700	500
Coenzyme Q10	10-100	15-50	20

The pharmaceutical compositions are not only to be used in the treatment of raised homocysteine levels induced nutritionally, genetically or as a result of a variety of diseases, but also in those cases where the elevated homocysteine levels are drug induced or in combination with a B6 or folate antagonistic drug, which has a tendency to raise homocysteine levels. Examples of other situations in which blood homocysteine levels may be elevated are the following: post-menopausal women, liver failure, leukemia, other cancers, chronic renal failure. Slow-release formulation of PL prevents excessive liver oxidation to the biologically inactive pyridoxic acid.

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

Even better effects on lipid metabolism are obtained when PL is used in a slow release or timed release pharmaceutical formulation and/or when used in parenteral formulations. Applicant has surprisingly found that after bolus oral doses of PL, much of the administered dose is oxidised to inactive pyridoxic acid in the liver but this is not the case when PL is given in a timed release formulation or when PL is given in parenteral or transdermal formulations as herein described. Thus, the efficacy of PL as a drug and for the purposes of the present invention is greatly increased by administering it as indicated above. In addition, small quantities of PL are absorbed twice as fast as pyridoxine by both gastro-intestinal tissues as well as other tissues. The problem of liver oxidation of PL can be further circumvented by selecting a route of administration which minimises this problem. Applicant has surprisingly found that PL is readily absorbed transdermally as well as sub-lingually if the vitamin is formulated in the right vehicle. Such formulations also have considerable advantages in the case of both vitamin B12 and folate. In the case of vitamin B12, it is well known that the requirement of intrinsic factor for adequate absorption after oral administration, frequently causes absorption problems, especially in elderly patients. Applicant has surprisingly found that small quantities of vitamin B12 are readily absorbed transdermally as well as sublingually. In the latter case, a rapidly dissolving tablet was found to form a suitable and rapidly absorbed depot under the tongue. Small quantities of vitamin B12 are also readily absorbed transdermally from a variety of vehicles: It was also found possible to produce both sub-lingual and transdermal formulations from which adequate absorption of folate takes place. In all these parenteral formulations, the vitamins are slowly absorbed. For this reason, the advantages of such parenteral formulations are only realised when they are used over long periods of time.

Furthermore, applicant has surprisingly found that for purposes of controlling blood homocysteine levels, the combination in accordance with the invention of PL, folate and vitamin B12 produces advantageous effects which go substantially beyond what might be expected from a simple additive effect of the action of these drugs. Thus, an unexpected synergism exists when vitamin B12, folate and PL are given concurrently and this effect can be even greater when the vitamins are given in conjunction with a biological methyl donor such as choline or betaine. This synergism is evidenced by:

1. Better control of blood homocysteine levels at lower dosage levels of each.
2. A tendency to restore to normality distorted blood amino acid patterns which are sometimes seen when betaine is given alone.
3. In the presence of both folate and PL, methionine levels do not rise as much after betaine due to activation of alternative metabolic pathways.
4. The presence of PL limits damage to structural proteins, especially in the vascular bed.
5. Clinical tests. (See examples)

This synergism may further be appreciated from the fact that PL stimulates a process which ultimately leads to the reduction of the methionine pool (through conversion of homocysteine into cysteine) whereas both vitamin B12 and folate stimulate processes which do not lead to a reduction of the body's methionine pool but mere recycling. The resultant methionine remains available for reconversion into homocysteine. PL in its own right and distinct from PLP has co-enzyme activity for the enzyme cystathionine synthase. Cystathionine synthase activity can be stimulated in a dose dependent manner by intracellular PLP and PL, both of which increase after administration of PL.

Folate increases the demand for intracellular PLP and therefore for extracellular PL which is the immediate source and precursor of intracellular PLP. This further indicates the necessity of administering

According to one aspect of the invention, a sub-lingual tablet (preferably suitably buffered) is produced in such a manner that the PL, vitamin B12 and folate components are liberated and absorbed mainly under the tongue. Such a tablet can also be formulated to contain all or any one of the three vitamins for use where patient problems are related to only one of these vitamins. A typical example would be the treatment

one of these vitamins and it would have the same indications for the treatment of vitamin B12-deficient elderly patients as in the example above. However, since the conditions for absorption are different for the three vitamins, this form of application is preferred when only one vitamin at a time is to be administered.

11.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1010 - 00011

Prior Art: EP 005

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

RESULTS

The composition according to the invention is nearly twice as effective as folate alone. This indicates a significantly more than a purely additive effect of the three component combination (synergism).

The trial groups represented an average population age. Separate tests have already indicated that, had the average age been higher, the effect of vitamin B12 would probably have been greater. Thus one inventive aspect of this disclosure resides in the clear recognition that different age groups have different requirements for the three individual vitamins in relation to their effects on plasma homocysteine, thus again demonstrating the advantage of the combined use of the three vitamins.

significantly more than a purely additive effect of the three component combination (synergism).
The trial groups represented an average population age. Separate tests have already indicated that, had the average age been higher, the effect of vitamin B12 would probably have been greater. Thus one

The tests show that (in contrast to prior art reports teaching the use of folate alone at levels 5 to 20 times higher than in the present trials), nearly 50% of patients do not respond sufficiently to folate alone and 10-20% do not respond to folate alone at all, (not even if the folate dosage rate is greatly increased).

average results.
40 The tests show that (in contrast to prior art reports teaching the use of folate alone at levels 5 to 20 times higher than in the present trials), nearly 50% of patients do not respond sufficiently to folate alone

A comparison of the results of the present trial with those of the trial according to Example 1 shows that, in the combination of vitamin B6, vitamin B12 and folate it was possible to reduce the folate dosage rate significantly without loss of efficacy.

the prophylaxis or treatment of elevated levels of homocysteine or of clinical conditions associated therewith in a patient of a combination comprising
a) vitamin B6;
b) folate or a suitable active metabolite of folate or a substance which releases folate in vivo;
c) vitamin B12, with or without intrinsic factor.

18

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1010 -00018

PRIOR ART: RUSTHOVEN

Rusthoven

Multitargeted Antifolate LY231514 as First-Line Chemotherapy for Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: A Phase II Study

Multitargeted Antifolate LY231514 as First-Line Chemotherapy for Patients With Advanced Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer: A Phase II Study

By James J. Rusthoven, MD, Eli Lilly and Company, Scarborough, Ontario, and Nova Scotia Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

Purpose: To evaluate the efficacy and safety of the multitargeted antifolate LY231514 (MTA) in patients receiving initial chemotherapy for unresectable, advanced non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

Patients and Methods: Patients with measurable, advanced NSCLC were enrolled in a phase II study. Eligible patients received initial intravenous (IV) for 10 minutes every 3 weeks. The median duration of response was 3.3 months (range, 2.3 to 12.5 months).

Results: All patients were assessable for response. The overall response rate was 23.3% (95% confidence interval, 9.9% to 42.2%). The median duration of response was 3.3 months (range, 2.3 to 12.5 months).

Conclusion: MTA is a promising agent for the treatment of advanced NSCLC. Further study of this agent in combination with cisplatin and other active drugs is warranted in this disease.

Key Words: lung cancer; chemotherapy; antifolate; phase II study

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trial entry. Seven patients experienced a confirmed partial response and no complete responses were seen; thus, the overall response rate was 23.3% (95% confidence interval, 9.9% to 42.2%). The median duration of response was 3.3 months (range, 2.3 to 12.5 months).

study. Eligible patients who gave written informed consent initially received MTA 600 mg/m² intravenously (IV) for 10 minutes every 3 weeks. After three patients

Toxicity is generally mild and tolerable. Further study of this agent in combination with cisplatin and other active drugs is warranted in this disease. *J Clin Oncol 17:1194-1199. 1999 by American Society of Clinical Oncology.*

grade 4 thrombocytopenia. Nonhematologic toxicity was generally mild or moderate, but 39% of patients developed a grade 3 skin rash. Most other toxicities

monophosphate would enhance rather than competitively reverse their binding to TS. Multitargeted antifolate LY231514 (MTA) was designed as a folate-based TS inhibitor with a glutamate side chain in this new class of folate antimetabolites.^{12,13} Although MTA itself only moderately inhibits TS, polyglutamation of the parent drug, and its metabolites readily occurs, and the polyglutamated form of MTA is 100-fold more potent than MTA itself. In addition, other folate-requiring enzymes may act as targets for this drug, including dihydrofolate reductase, glycylamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase, aminomethylase, carboxamide

1194

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NEPTUNE GENERICS 1011 - 00001

Rusthoven

1198

RUSTHOVEN ET AL

and physician discretion was permitted for prophylaxis based on the low emetogenic potential projected from phase I studies. Skin rashes were frequent, 30% of patients had treatment delayed with no subsequent dose reduction, whereas patients with generalized, symptomatic rash (39%) were given a 25% dose reduction. Both groups were treated prophylactically with dexamethasone for 3 days starting the day before each subsequent dose. With this intervention, skin toxicity decreased in subsequent cycles. Later in the study, it was noted that prophylactic dexamethasone given in cycle 1 seemed to have a beneficial effect in reducing the expected frequency and severity of skin rash. Future trials should likely incorporate this premedication at the first dose. Thirty percent of patients came off protocol therapy because of toxicity, most often gastrointestinal. This highlights the

considerable interpatient variance. Nonhematologic biochemical hepatic function was relatively unimpaired as a consequence. In three patients, bilirubin or AST levels resulted

The decision to reduce the dose to 500 mg/m² early in this study was based on the toxicity seen in a larger phase II study of colorectal cancer and schedule. The toxicity trials of lung, breast, and gynecologic cancer at 600 mg/m² dose and schedule in our study. Factors that may be associated with the more severe toxicity seen in the Canadian colorectal trial cohort have not yet been identified. T

is similar to that seen in the study of Clarke et al,²¹ in which all patients started at a dose of 600 mg/m². Furthermore, it is interesting that all responding patients were treated at an initial dose of 500 mg/m².

MTA clearly has relevant clinical activity in patients with advanced NSCLC and toxicity that is tolerable with conventional dose and schedule adjustments. In addition to its effect on multiple enzymes in the folate-dependent pathways, MTA can synchronize treated cells at the G₂/S interface initially, followed by synchronous entry of treated cells into S phase 11-14 hours after initial drug exposure in vitro.²¹ A recent study suggests that MTA may enhance the cytotoxic effect of other drugs, such as gemcitabine, when target cancer cells are exposed to MTA 12 to 24 hours earlier.²⁴ A phase I combination trial of these two agents is in progress.

pounds. Our group is presently conducting a phase II combination study of MTA and cisplatin in advanced NSCLC. Ultimately, it is hoped that MTA may contribute to

We thank the following investigators who, in addition to the authors, contributed patients to this study: Y. Cormier, Hôpital Laval, Québec City; A. Neville, Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre, Hamilton; and E.

Thirty percent of patients came off protocol therapy because of toxicity, most often gastrointestinal. This highlights the

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FA, MTA, AND THE THERAPEUTIC INDEX

FA, MTA and the Therapeutic Index

Rusthoven

hours.¹⁸ Early studies have suggested that dietary supplementation with folic acid may improve the therapeutic index by reducing toxicity in mice.

Hammond I

mg/m². As preclinical evaluations indicate that FA supplementation increases the therapeutic index of MTA, this study was initiated to determine if FA supplementation permits significant dose-escalation above the recommended phase II dose of MTA alone. Vitamin metabolites were measured to determine their

Conclusions: FA supplementation appears to permit MTA dose escalation by ameliorating toxicity. Heavily- and minimally-pretreated pts tolerate MTA at

Hammond II

500-600 mg/m². Since preclinical studies indicated that folic acid supplementation increases the therapeutic index of MTA, the feasibility of administering folic acid 5 mg daily for 5 days starting 2 days before MTA in minimally- and heavily-pretreated pts was evaluated to determine if folic acid supplementation ameliorates the toxic effects of MTA, permitting significant dose-escalation above the recommended phase II dose of MTA alone. Thus far, 21 pts with solid cancers have received 55 courses at the respectively. These results indicate that folic acid supplementation appears to permit MTA dose escalation.

FA, MTA and the Therapeutic Index

Rusthoven

MULTI-TARGETED ANTIFOLATE FOR ADVANCED NSCLC

1195

ribonucleotide formyltransferase, and C1 tetrahydrofolate synthase.^{14,15}

MTA has demonstrated activity in a wide range of tumor types. The drug is highly active against CCRF-CEM human leukemia cells *in vitro*; the activity is partially reversible with the addition of thymidine.^{12,14} The 50% inhibitory concentration in CCRF-CEM cells was 7 ng/mL.¹² It is also cytotoxic in human tumor colony-forming unit assays against human colon, renal, small-cell lung and non-small-cell lung cancers, hepatomas, and carcinoma tumors.¹⁶ MTA can inhibit tumor growth in mice transplanted with human colon

Group performance status of 0 to 2, (3) serum creatinine level within normal limits, (4) good hepatic function (ie, serum bilirubin ≤ 1.5 times the upper normal limit and AST \leq two times the upper normal limit of \leq five times the upper normal limit if liver metastases were present), (5) adequate bone marrow function and reserve (absolute granulocyte count $> 1.5 \times 10^9/L$ and platelet count $\geq 150 \times 10^9/L$), (6) absence of clinically detectable third-space fluid collections, (7) absence of clinical evidence of brain metastases, and (8) no concurrent treatment with other experimental drugs, anticancer therapy, or folic/leucic acid supplements.

Drug Administration

hours.¹⁸ Early studies have suggested that dietary supplementation with folic acid may improve the therapeutic index by reducing toxicity in mice.

escalated to 700 mg/m², at which point three of six patients developed grade 4 neutropenia and grade 3 or 4 thrombocytopenia. In patients who received 500 to 600 mg/m² MTA, serum peak concentrations were 70 to 200 $\mu g/mL$, values well above the 50% inhibitory concentration in CCRF-CEM cells (data for peak concentrations provided by J. Walling, personal communication, October 1998). Twenty patients were treated at the 600-mg/m² dose level, and 25% of them developed grade 4 neutropenia, 10% developed grade 3 or 4 thrombocytopenia, and 50% developed grade 2 pruritic skin rash. Four partial responses (four [11%] of 37 patients) were seen in patients with pancreatic and colorectal cancer.¹⁹

With these data, the recommended starting dose for phase II studies using this schedule was 600 mg/m². Two phase II studies have been conducted through the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group, one in colorectal cancer and one in non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The results of the latter study are reported here.

PATIENTS AND METHODS

Patient Selection

Eligible patients were accrued between September 1999 and February 1997. These patients had histologically or cytologically confirmed inoperable, locally advanced, or metastatic NSCLC with evidence of bidimensionally measurable disease. Prior radiation therapy was permitted if acute side effects had resolved. Previous systemic therapy given for advanced disease was not permitted, but prior adjuvant therapy was allowed if the last dose was given ≥ 12 months earlier. Other eligibility criteria included (1) age ≥ 16 years, (2) Eastern Cooperative Oncology

Group performance status of 0 to 2, (3) serum creatinine level within normal limits, (4) good hepatic function (ie, serum bilirubin ≤ 1.5 times the upper normal limit and AST \leq two times the upper normal limit of \leq five times the upper normal limit if liver metastases were present), (5) adequate bone marrow function and reserve (absolute granulocyte count $> 1.5 \times 10^9/L$ and platelet count $\geq 150 \times 10^9/L$), (6) absence of clinically detectable third-space fluid collections, (7) absence of clinical evidence of brain metastases, and (8) no concurrent treatment with other experimental drugs, anticancer therapy, or folic/leucic acid supplements.

Measurements of Study End Points

All patients were assessable for toxicity from the time of their first treatment. Patients who had received at least one cycle of MTA and had follow-up measurements performed to assess change in tumor size were assessable for response. Response was assessed on day 1 of each cycle by clinical tumor measurements and documentation of the tumor size of measurable and nonmeasurable disease, using positive radiographic tests. If results were initially negative, tests were repeated only if clinically indicated. All sites with measurable lesions were followed for response. Measurements of unidimensional lesions (ie, single largest dimensions) and bidimensional lesions (the products of the largest diameter and its largest perpendicular) were summed at each assessment and the best response on study was recorded.

A complete response required the disappearance of all clinical and radiologic evidence of tumor for at least 4 weeks. A partial response required a $\geq 50\%$ decrease in the sum of the products of the diameters of all measurable lesions, also for at least 4 weeks. Stable disease designated a steady-state of disease, which was a response less than a partial response or progression less than progressive disease, both for at least 6 weeks from the start of therapy. In addition, there could be no new lesions or increases in the size of any nonmeasurable lesions for

FA, MTA and the Therapeutic Index

Hammond II

Proceedings of ASCO Volume 17 1998

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

225a

*865

PHASE I AND PHARMACOKINETIC (PK) STUDY OF THE GLYCIDAMIDE RIBONUCLEOTIDE FORMYLTRANSFERASE (GARFT) INHIBITOR LY309887 AS A BOLUS EVERY 3 WEEKS WITH FOLIC ACID (FA). C. Azzaretti, S. D. Baker, J. Stephenson, P. Monroe, J. Sanchez, J. Milling, R. Johnson, D. Von Hoff and E. Rowinsky. Brooke Army Medical Center and Cancer Therapy and Research Center, San Antonio, TX; Eli Lilly Pharmaceuticals.

LY309887 is a potent inhibitor of GARFT that catalyzes the first two folate-dependent steps of de novo purine biosynthesis. Compared to Lomefeneol, a "first generation" GARFT inhibitor that induced delayed and cumulative clinical toxicity, LY309887 is less extensively polyglutamated and 3-fold more potent at inhibiting GARFT. Also, LY309887 showed greater affinity for folate receptor isoforms in malignant compared to liver tissue. Co-administration of LY309887 and FA resulted in an increased therapeutic index in mice. The objectives of this study were to assess the feasibility of administering LY309887 as an i.v. bolus every 21 days with FA 5 mg/day for 5 days starting 2 days before LY309887 in patients (pts) with advanced solid cancers and to determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and both toxicity and PK profiles. To date, 14 pts have received drug at the following levels (mg/m²): 1 (3 pts/8 courses), 2 (1 pt/2Cs), 4 (1 pt/4Cs), 8 (4 pts/7Cs), 12 (2 pts/2Cs) and 5 (3 pts/6Cs). At 12 mg/m², no toxicity occurred during C1, but C2 was associated with grade 4 neutropenia and grade 3 thrombocytopenia with recovery at day 54. Subsequent experience at 8 mg/m² resulted in grade 4 neutropenia (C1) and grade 4 thrombocytopenia (C2). Modest neurosensory toxicity has also been noted in 4 pts across all dose levels. During C1, both C_{0-2h} and AUC_{0-24h} values increased linearly with dose. Approximately 63% of drug was excreted unchanged in urine. The t_{1/2} and Cl were dose-independent with mean values of 4.3 hours and 92.7 ml/min, respectively. Increasing levels of drug exposure were associated with greater platelet toxicity. Interpatient variability in FA exposure was observed with C_{0-2h} and AUC_{0-24h} values ranging from 200-2300 ng/ml and 77-2200 ng*hr/ml, respectively, which may have contributed to large interpatient variability in toxicity. To date, 3 pts have received 6 Cs at the 5 mg/m² without grade 3/4 hematologic toxicity. This dose level will be further evaluated to determine the MTD that permits repetitive dosing with acceptable toxicity and describe the relationship between PK and toxicity.

*867

A PHASE I AND PHARMACOKINETIC (PK) STUDY OF TRIMETREXATE (TMX) IN CANCER PATIENTS (PTS) WITH RENAL (RI) OR HEPATIC IMPAIRMENT (HI). M. L. Gilligan, S. O'Rielly, R.C. Donohue, D.A. Roe, M. Durr, L.B. Gochoco, Johns Hopkins Oncology Center, Baltimore, MD.

The antifolate TMX is undergoing phase III evaluation with 5-FU in colon cancer pts. In phase I studies significant interpt variability in toxicity was observed and was related to hepatic function. A phase I and PK study was performed in pts without and with RI or HI. Cohorts included: controls (creatinine clearance (CrCl) > 70ml/min total bilirubin (TB) < 1.5mg/dL); pts with mild RI (CrCl 40-60 ml/min); pts with moderate RI (CrCl 20-40ml/min); pts with severe RI (CrCl < 20ml/min); and pts with HI (TB > 2.0 mg/dL, albumin < 3.5mg/dL). TMX was given i.v. over 30 min every 21 days. Doses were escalated from 140 mg/m² in controls and pts with mild RI; from 105 mg/m² in pts with moderate RI; and from 70 mg/m² in pts with severe RI or HI. Dose limiting toxicities (DLT) were grade IV neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, mucositis and rash. Ten DLT occurred in 3/17 controls who received 52 cycles of TMX (range 105-275 mg/m²); 27 DLT occurred in 19/13 RI pts over 61 cycles (range 35-170 mg/m²); and 10 DLT occurred in 4/11 HI pts over 25 cycles (range 35-105mg/m²). Dose was reduced to 35mg/m² in HI pts, after the first 2 pts had severe DLT. Prior pelvic irradiation or nitrosourea therapy increased the risk of DLT (p = 0.06). Single clinical measures of RI or HI did not correlate with TMX PK (r < 0.5). However, mean TMX clearance was lower in HI pts compared to controls (36.5 vs. 64.2 ml/min, p = 0.016). Increasing hematologic toxicity was observed with increasing TMX AUC in controls and RI pts but not in HI pts, suggesting variable metabolism of TMX. TMX PK is altered in HI pts, for whom a starting dose of 35 mg/m² is recommended. A dose of 105mg/m² is recommended for pts with CrCl of 20-60ml/min. Subsequent dose escalations may be considered for pts without DLT. Supported by grants no. N31 CM 07332 and CA 01709-03 (NIH)

500-600 mg/m². Since preclinical studies indicated that folic acid supplementation increases the therapeutic index of MTA, the feasibility of administering folic acid 5 mg daily for 5 days starting 2 days before MTA in minimally- and heavily-pretreated pts was evaluated to determine if folic acid supplementation ameliorates the toxic effects of MTA, permitting significant dose-escalation above the recommended phase II dose of MTA alone. Thus far, 21 pts with solid cancers have received 55 courses at the

been observed. PK and vitamin B12 (folic acid) metabolite profiles were done during cycles 1 and 2 at 600 and 800 mg/m². To date, serum folic acid

respectively. These results indicate that folic acid supplementation appears to permit MTA dose escalation.

*868

INTERIM RESULTS OF A PHASE I TRIAL SUGGEST THAT TOMUDEX® (MALTREXED) MAY ACT SYNERGISTICALLY WITH 5-FLUOROURACIL (5-FU) IN PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED COLORECTAL CANCER (ACC). G.S. Drazos, G.K. Schwartz, J. Bertino, N. Kemeny, L. Saltz, A. Sugarman, D.K. Keenan, W. Tong, C. Lowery, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY and Zeneca Pharmaceuticals, Wilmington, DE.

"Tomudex" is a direct inhibitor of thymidylate synthase with activity in ACC. Synergy has been demonstrated in cell lines when "Tomudex" is followed by 5-FU. 21 patients were given "Tomudex" followed 24 hours later by 5-FU every 21 days. All but two had failed prior modulated 5-FU therapy:

Dose, mg/m ² "Tomudex"	OR (duration months)	SD (duration months)	Mean 5-FU Cmax (µM)	Mean 5-FU AUC (µM/min)
0.5/900	1PRIS.0*	1 (3.7)	1.306 ± 32	10498 ± 1119
1.0/900	0	2 (3.8, 15-1)	1.278 ± 52	9175 ± 611
1.5/900	0	2 (6.0, 9-0)	1.166 ± 86	5362 ± 2693
2.0/900	1PRIS.2*	1 (6.6)	1.216 ± 27	6794 ± 1167
2.5/900	0	3 (5.5, 6.5, 3.0)	0.648 ± 74	19593 ± 6074
3.0/900	1CRIS.5-1)	0	2.928 ± 136	15360 ± 1452
3.0/1050	0	1 (3.0+)	2.667 ± 116	20979 ± 6046
Total	3	10		8

*received prior 5-FU based therapy. **received no prior therapy

Therapy was well tolerated. There was no grade 3 or 4 mucositis, the most common toxicity was neutropenia. Eighteen patients are alive. Clinical activity, including disease stabilization, was seen in patients previously treated with 5-FU. Pharmacokinetic data suggest synergy between "Tomudex" and 5-FU. At "Tomudex" doses above 2.0 mg/m² DLT has not yet been reached. Dose escalation continues. Tomudex is a trademark and property of Zeneca Ltd.

Lilly Ex. 2035
Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

FA, MTA and the Therapeutic Index

Worzalla

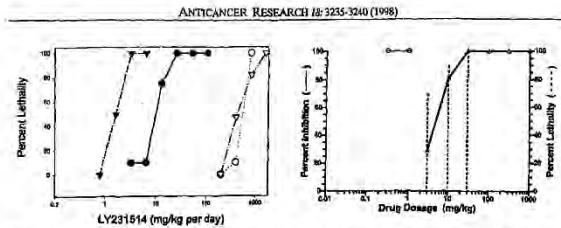


Figure 1. The toxicity of LY231514 in mice is increased by a folate-deficient diet. DRAQ and CD1 mouse mice were fed either a standard laboratory diet (○) and □, respectively) or a folate-deficient diet for 1 week prior to the

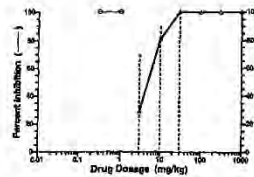


Figure 2. Antitumor activity of LY231514 therapy (1p, qd x10) against L5178Y/TK-1/EX- lymphomas for mice on low folate diet with no folate supplementation (○) and for mice on low folate diet that received 13

(approximately 100-fold) for LY231514. However, LFD animals with high levels of folate supplementation demonstrated decreased lethality to LY231514 compared to conventional diet animals, suggesting that folate intake can be manipulated to achieve greater therapeutic effects. Oral folic acid dramatically decreased the toxicity of LY231514 and preserved antitumor activity (albeit at higher dose levels) in these mice (Figure 2).

currently in progress. The combination of folic acid with LY231514 may provide a mechanism for enhanced clinical antitumor selectivity.

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...predominant role for the RFC in intracellular transport of

...observed in phase I and II clinical trials, including responses in colon, breast, non-small cell lung and pancreatic cancers. More advanced and extensive clinical trials of LY231514 are currently in progress. The combination of folic acid with

B12 + FA

B12 + Folic Acid

EP 005

Furthermore, applicant has surprisingly found that for purposes of controlling blood homocysteine levels, the combination in accordance with the invention of PL, folate and vitamin B12 produces advantageous effects which go substantially beyond what might be expected from a simple additive effect of the action of these drugs. Thus, an unexpected synergism exists when vitamin B12, folate and PL are given concurrently and this effect can be even greater when the vitamins are given in conjunction with a biological

The composition according to the invention is nearly twice as effective as folate alone. This indicates a significantly more than a purely additive effect of the three component combination (synergism).

The tests show that (in contrast to prior art reports teaching the use of folate alone at levels 5 to 20 times higher than in the present trials), nearly 50% of patients do not respond sufficiently to folate alone and 10-20% do not respond to folate alone at all, (not even if the folate dosage rate is greatly increased). By way of contrast, the combination in accordance with the invention, using very low folate concentrations, achieved close on 100% success.

Brattström

Hyperhomocysteinemia due to vitamin B-12 deficiency does not respond to folic acid therapy (Allen et al. 1990). It is likely, that even in subjects with low normal vitamin B-12 concentrations full response to folic acid cannot be achieved unless vitamin B-12 is given concomitantly (Landgren et al. 1995). This view is supported by recent studies by Ubbink et al. (1993a, 1993b, 1994). It was shown that men with moderate

lowering? For several reasons, it seems wise to combine folic acid and cyanocobalamin. First, folic acid seems to reduce almost all but low homocysteine levels. Second, cyanocobalamin will probably secure full folic acid responsiveness. Third, in vitamin B-12 deficiency, erro-

Bronstrup I

In this study, vitamin B-12 supplementation increased the tHcy-lowering potential of folic acid; this was especially obvious

nmol/L. Because folate and vitamin B-12 have a synergistic function as cofactors of methionine synthase, sufficiency of both seems to be important to increase enzyme activity, whereas a higher availability of only one cofactor, especially in subjects with an already good supply of this cofactor, might lead to only a limited increase in enzyme activity.

B12 + Folic Acid

EP 005

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Even better effects on lipid metabolism are obtained when PL is used in a slow release or timed release pharmaceutical formulation and/or when used in parenteral formulations. Applicant has surprisingly found that after bolus oral doses of PL, much of the administered dose is oxidised to inactive pyridoxic acid in the liver but this is not the case when PL is given in a timed release formulation or when PL is given in parenteral or transdermal formulations as herein described. Thus, the efficacy of PL as a drug and for the purposes of the present invention is greatly increased by administering it as indicated above. In addition, small quantities of PL are absorbed twice as fast as pyridoxine by both gastro-intestinal tissues as well as other tissues. The problem of liver oxidation of PL can be further circumvented by selecting a route of administration which minimises this problem. Applicant has surprisingly found that PL is readily absorbed transdermally as well as sub-lingually if the vitamin is formulated in the right vehicle. Such formulations also have considerable advantages in the case of both vitamin B12 and folate. In the case of vitamin B12, it is well known that the requirement of intrinsic factor for adequate absorption after oral administration, frequently causes absorption problems, especially in elderly patients. Applicant has surprisingly found that small quantities of vitamin B12 are readily absorbed transdermally as well as sublingually. In the latter case, a rapidly dissolving tablet was found to form a suitable and rapidly absorbed depot under the tongue. Small quantities of vitamin B12 are also readily absorbed transdermally from a variety of vehicles. It was also found possible to produce both sub-lingual and transdermal formulations from which adequate absorption of folate takes place. In all these parenteral formulations, the vitamins are slowly absorbed. For this reason, the advantages of such parenteral formulations are only realised when they are used over long periods of time.

Furthermore, applicant has surprisingly found that for purposes of controlling blood homocysteine levels, the combination in accordance with the invention of PL, folate and vitamin B12 produces advantageous effects which go substantially beyond what might be expected from a simple additive effect of the action of these drugs. Thus, an unexpected synergism exists when vitamin B12, folate and PL are given concurrently and this effect can be even greater when the vitamins are given in conjunction with a biological

Cystathionine synthase activity can be stimulated in a dose dependent manner by intracellular PLP and PL, both of which increase after administration of PL.

Folate increases the demand for intracellular PLP and therefore for extracellular PL which is the immediate source and precursor of intracellular PLP. This further indicates the necessity of administering PL simultaneously with the folate and preferably at proportionate rates.

According to one aspect of the invention, a sub-lingual tablet (preferably suitably buffered) is produced in such a manner that the PL, vitamin B12 and folate components are liberated and absorbed mainly under the tongue. Such a tablet can also be formulated to contain all or any one of the three vitamins for uses where patient problems are related to only one of these vitamins. A typical example would be the treatment of raised homocysteine blood levels and/or psychiatric problems with or without anaemia in the elderly arising from a chronic B12 deficiency. (New Engl. J. Med. 1986; 318:1720). The use of such a sub-lingual B12 tablet, is particularly effective and useful in the elderly with a deficiency of intrinsic factor since the use of such a tablet obviates the use of repeated vitamin B12 injections. Sublingual tablets of O10 are also an effective vehicle for administering coenzyme Q10 for the purposes of the present invention.

According to another aspect of the invention, a plaster containing PL, vitamin B12 and folate in a suitable carrier for transdermal absorption is produced. The rate of transdermal absorption from such a depot, can be further controlled by the application of suitable permeation enhancers and suitable membranes which control the rate of diffusion of the vitamins. Again such a plaster may contain all or any single one of the three vitamins and it would have the same indications for the treatment of vitamin B12-deficient elderly patients as in the example above. However, since the conditions for absorption are different for the three vitamins, this form of application is preferred when only one vitamin at a time is to be administered.

11.

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B12 + Folic Acid

EP 005

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RESULTS					
	Placebo (n=16)	B12 (n=15)	B6 (n=17)	folate (n=19)	Invention (n=11)
P-HC ^{b)} (before)	25,6	23,5	29,8	26,7	27,6
P-HC (after)	26	21,6	28,7	16,4	12,1
%change	+1,5	-8,1	-3,7	-42,3	-56,2
p	NS	NS	NS	<0,001	<0,001
%patients normalised	1/16	3/15	3/17	11/19	10/11
normalised	6,3%	20%	17,6%	58%	91% ^{c)}

^{b)} 100 hyperhomocysteinemics (P-HC >16,3 µmol/l)

^{c)} reduced 100%

^{d)} Plasma homocysteine

As regards the results obtained in connection with the composition in accordance with the invention, it is important to note that all patients responded very favourably to the treatment and that the single patient who, after 6 weeks had not yet reached a "normal" homocysteine level, had very nearly reached that level and would probably have reached the "normal" level if the trial had been extended over a slightly longer period.

The results are also graphically represented in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

The results lead to the following conclusions:-

Neither vitamin B12 nor vitamin B6 alone achieved significant effects when taken each group as a whole. However, within each group there were about 20% that did respond.

The combination according to the invention is nearly twice as effective as folate alone. This indicates a

The composition according to the invention is nearly twice as effective as folate alone. This indicates a significantly more than a purely additive effect of the three component combination (synergism).

plasma homocysteine levels, the probability of a vitamin B6 deficiency is higher than average. This provides additional support for the inclusion of B6 supplementation. Applicant has established that about 20% of an average population suffer from a genetically reduced ability to convert pyridoxine into pyridoxal and hence into intracellular pyridoxal phosphate (the only active form of vitamin B6). This genetic deficiency is counteracted by supplying part of the vitamin B6 in the form of pyridoxal. Particularly in younger patients with such genetic vitamin B6 defect, the pyridoxal supplementation is more important than appears from the average results.

The tests show that (in contrast to prior art reports teaching the use of folate alone at levels 5 to 20 times higher than in the present trials), **nearly 50% of patients do not respond sufficiently to folate alone and 10-20% do not respond to folate alone at all, (not even if the folate dosage rate is greatly increased). By way of contrast, the combination in accordance with the invention, using very low folate concentrations, achieved close on 100% success.**

^{c)} Vitamin B12; with or without intrinsic factor.

B12 + Folic Acid

Brattström

VITAMINS AS HOMOCYSTEINE-LOWERING AGENTS

1277S

Vitamins for lowering basal homocysteine concentration

Renal insufficiency results both in moderate hyperhomocysteinemia and accelerated atherosclerosis (Wilcken et al. 1988). Several studies have consistently shown that oral treatment with folic acid (5–10 mg/dy) reduces renal hyperhomocysteinemia by a mean of 30–60% (Arnaud-Dotir et al. 1993, Chauveau et al. 1994, Janssen et al. 1994, Wilcken et al. 1981, Wilcken et al. 1988). Oral pyridoxine has no homocysteine-lowering effect (Arnaud-Dotir et al.

acid over 6 wk had similar homocysteine-lowering effect, in both groups plasma homocysteine was reduced by a mean of 27% (Landgren et al. 1995). Reductions were seen in all but two patients, both with low homocysteine values. With a few exceptions the response to folic acid was proportional to the pretreatment homocysteine levels. These exceptional patients were hyperhomocysteinemic and had low or low normal serum vitamin B-12 concentrations. In one with a subnormal vitamin B-12 concentration and a partial response to folic acid, oral treatment with cyanocobalamin (2 mg/

Hyperhomocysteinemia due to vitamin B-12 deficiency does not respond to folic acid therapy (Allen et al. 1990). It is likely, that even in subjects with low normal vitamin B-12 concentrations full response to folic acid cannot be achieved unless vitamin B-12 is given concomitantly (Landgren et al. 1995). This view is supported by recent studies by Ubbink et al. (1993a, 1993b, 1994). It was shown that men with moderate

unless deficiency is present because these vitamins serve as coenzymes and not as cosubstrates as does methyltetrahydrofolate (Brattström et al. 1988b).

Subsequently, we studied the effect of folic acid and pyridoxine in 20 moderately hyperhomocysteinemic patients with cardiovascular disease (Brattström et al. 1993). After pyridoxine (240 mg/d, for 2 wk) plasma homocysteine tended to increase, but after another 2 wk on pyridoxine with the addition of folic acid (10 mg/d) all patients showed reduced homocysteine concentrations, with 57% mean reduction. We also failed to show a homocysteine-lowering effect of high dose pyridoxine (300 mg/d for 12 wk) in 37 stroke patients (Landgren, Brattström and Hultberg unpublished). In two recent studies of patients with vascular disease and hyperhomocysteinemia (Glueck et al. 1995, van den Berg et al. 1994) and in one study of normal normohomocysteinemic subjects (Haglund et al. 1993), the combination of pyridoxine (100–250 mg/d) and folic acid (5–10 mg/d) reduced plasma homocysteine by a mean of 51, 38, and 30%, respectively.

In groups of consecutive patients with acute myocardial infarction of whom most were normohomocysteinemic and all of whom had normal serum folate concentrations, we found that 2.5 and 10 mg of folic

acid over 6 wk had similar homocysteine-lowering effect, in both groups plasma homocysteine was reduced by a mean of 27% (Landgren et al. 1995). Reductions were seen in all but two patients, both with low homocysteine values. With a few exceptions the response to folic acid was proportional to the pretreatment homocysteine levels. These exceptional patients were hyperhomocysteinemic and had low or low normal serum vitamin B-12 concentrations. In one with a subnormal vitamin B-12 concentration and a partial response to folic acid, oral treatment with cyanocobalamin (2 mg/

Vitamins for lowering postmethionine load hyperhomocysteinemia

Several studies have shown that patients with premature cardiovascular disease frequently respond to oral methionine loading tests (100 mg/kg body weight) with abnormally high increases in plasma homocysteine concentrations (Ueland et al. 1992). There is evidence to suggest that an abnormal response to methionine loading indicates impaired pyridoxal 5-phosphate-dependent homocysteine catabolism, whereas an abnormally high basal homocysteine concentration

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SUPPLEMENT

mainly reflects impaired vitamin B-12 and folate-dependent homocysteine remethylation (Brattström et al. 1990, Christensen and Ueland 1993, Miller et al. 1994). In accordance with this and in contrast to the lack of effect of pyridoxine on basal homocysteine concentrations, several studies have shown that pyridoxine (100–250 mg/d) improves abnormal methionine loading tests in many but not all patients (Brattström et al. 1990, Dudman et al. 1993, Franken et al. 1994). However, when the combination of pyridoxine (100–250 mg/d) and folic acid (5–10 mg/d) was administered, all patients responded and the abnormality was mostly normalized (Brattström et al. 1990, Dudman et al. 1993, van den Berg et al. 1994). It has recently been demonstrated that methionine-rich meals normally cause slight increases in plasma homocysteine concentration (Guttormsen et al. 1994). It is quite possible that subjects with abnormal methionine loading tests also respond abnormally to methionine-rich meals leading to

Study cohort. Selhub et al. (1994) found a mean of 5.3 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ lower (–36%) plasma homocysteine concentrations in those with a high dietary intake of vitamins B-6, B-12 and folate than in those with a low intake of these vitamins.

For intervention studies in cardiovascular disease patients, a combination of 1 mg folic acid and 0.4 mg cyanocobalamin is probably sufficient for effective homocysteine lowering. This combination will be an innocuous means that not only normalizes hyperhomocysteinemia in most patients but also will reduce normal homocysteine values, leading to a shift of the entire homocysteine distribution toward lower values. The latter is important because results of several studies have shown a dose-response relationship between plasma homocysteine concentration over its full range and risk for cardiovascular disease. At present, there are not sufficient data to recommend intervention also against postmethionine load hyperhomocysteinemia

What doses and what combination of vitamins should be recommended for long-term homocysteine lowering? For several reasons, it seems wise to combine folic acid and cyanocobalamin. First, folic acid seems to reduce almost all but low homocysteine levels. Second, cyanocobalamin will probably secure full folic acid responsiveness. Third, in vitamin B-12 deficiency, erroneous treatment with folic acid may correct the hematological abnormalities but elicit and deteriorate vitamin B-12 neuropathy (Chanarin 1994). Therefore, before start of therapy, vitamin B-12 deficiency must be excluded, and the combination must contain a dose

1994). Hitherto, unpublished results from the European Community Concerted Action Project on Homocysteinemia and Vascular Disease are confirmative. Moreover, in survivors of the original Framingham Heart

Brattström, L., Israelsson, B., Lindgärde, F. & Hultberg, B. (1988a) Higher total plasma homocysteine in vitamin B12 deficiency than in heterozygosity for homocysteinuria due to cystathionine β -synthase deficiency. *Metabolism* 37: 175–178.
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B12 + Folic Acid

Bronstrup I

HOMOCYSTEINE LOWERING BY FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B-12

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In this study, vitamin B-12 supplementation increased the tHcy-lowering potential of folic acid; this was especially obvious

We thank P. van Boven, G. Pazzola, M. Schille, and D. Hozard for excellent technical assistance as well as valuable discussions. We are also grateful to the research ethics committees in the study.

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the study.

The result
B-12 to sup-
foods maxim-
potential of
400 μg.

suggested that, in addition to an effect on tHcy, combined supplementation with 400 μg folic acid + 400 μg vitamin B-12/d could counter the higher prevalences of vitamin B-12 deficiency

riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B₆, folic acid, vitamin B₁₂, pantoic acid, biotin, and choline. Prepublication copy, Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1998.

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200-400 μg
effective in
as low as 25

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In this study, vitamin B-12 supplementation increased the tHcy-lowering potential of folic acid; this was especially obvious

nmol/L. Because folate and vitamin B-12 have a synergistic function as cofactors of methionine synthase, sufficiency of both seems to be important to increase enzyme activity, whereas a higher availability of only one cofactor, especially in subjects with an already good supply of this cofactor, might lead to only a limited increase in enzyme activity.

The results of this study suggest that the addition of vitamin B-12 to supplements containing 400 μg folic acid or to enriched foods maximizes the reduction of tHcy through the synergistic potential of both vitamins. This was most evident with the dose

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1019 - 00006

B12 + Folic Acid

Bronstrup II

190

the reductions in tHcy after B-vitamin supplementation were significant in the first tertile (geometric mean tHcy at baseline 15.5 μmol/L), whereas the reductions in the second tertile (11.5 μmol/L) were small and not significant. The extent of tHcy reduction in the supplemented group was also similar to that in the control group at baseline. Subjects with initially high tHcy (median, 19.5 μmol/L) showed a considerably higher decrease in tHcy concentration than subjects with low tHcy. A concentration of MMA above 0.19 μmol/L, the median of the vitamin supplement group at baseline, resulted in a less pronounced reduction in tHcy, but this was only apparent at week 4 (Table III).

In contrast, the change in tHcy after B-vitamin treatment was similar among the 3 genotypes for the C677T polymorphism and similar in men and women. The tHcy reduction was also not different in younger and older subjects or individuals with low or high plasma vitamin B₁₂ and PLP concentrations using the median of the vitamin supplemented group at baseline as cutoff (data not shown).

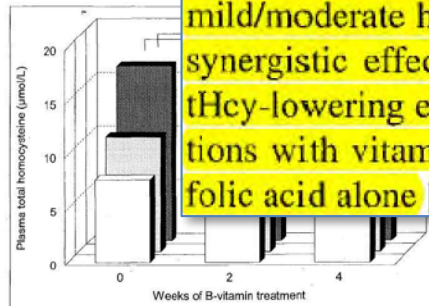
terminant of the tHcy concentration in the absence of treatment but also upon B-vitamin supplementation. Despite this strong influence, combined administration of B-vitamins to normo-homocysteinemic subjects or to those with mild/moderate hyper-homocysteinemia may still exhibit synergistic effects. In women of childbearing age, the tHcy-lowering effects of folic acid in different combinations with vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ were stronger than with folic acid alone [21, 22].

In the present study, smaller reductions in tHcy were observed in those individuals with MMA concentrations above the median of the vitamin supplemented group at baseline. It is likely that some of these subjects had subnormal intracellular vitamin B₁₂ levels or even tissue de-

no apparent chronic or acute illness. Upon B-vitamin supplementation, a significant reduction in tHcy concentration was observed during the first 2 weeks of treatment. Thereafter, tHcy decreased further only slightly and non-significantly. Parallel but opposite changes were seen for

Discussion

We determined plasma tHcy concentration after B-vitamin supplementation in



Int. J. Vitam. Nutr. Res., 69 (3), 1999, © Hogrefe & Huber Publishers

this strong influence, combined administration of B-vitamins to normo-homocysteinemic subjects or to those with mild/moderate hyper-homocysteinemia may still exhibit synergistic effects. In women of childbearing age, the tHcy-lowering effects of folic acid in different combinations with vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ were stronger than with folic acid alone [21, 22].

combined low-dose B-vitamin supplementation in elderly men and women. Bars represent geometric mean values of tertiles (for details refer to text). P-values denote differences to baseline concentration for the respective tertiles (paired t-test).

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1099 - 00004

B12 + Folic Acid

Ubbink II

Vitamins and homocysteine

321

folate per day was insufficient to normalize hyperhomocyst(e)inemia observed in dialysis patients (Arnadottir et al 1993). Low daily doses of folic acid have not yet been tested in patients with premature vascular disease and it may be possible that this patient group will

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Vitamin B₁₂: Although folic acid is the most powerful tHcy-lowering agent, this does not imply that vitamin B₁₂ and vitamin B₆ may be omitted in the treatment of moderate hyperhomocyst(e)inemia. Vitamin B₁₂ supplementation has a small, but significant effect on circulating tHcy concentrations (Ubbink et al 1994; Rasmussen et al 1996). Moreover, it has been shown that folic acid supplementation is ineffective in reducing tHcy concentrations in patients with a vitamin B₁₂ deficiency (Allen et al 1990). In my opinion, the optimum vitamin supplement to treat hyperhomocyst(e)naemia will contain at least 400µg of vitamin B₁₂ per day. At this high daily dose, even patients with intrinsic factor deficiency will absorb a sufficient amount of vitamin B₁₂ by passive diffusion (Doscherholmen and Hagen 1957). Vitamin B₁₂ supplementation at high doses is innocuous (Ellenbogen and Cooper 1991) and will eliminate the risk that folic acid supplementation may mask an underlying vitamin B₁₂ deficiency.

J. Intern. Med. 20 (1997)

Lilly Ex. 2067
Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

DOSE AND SCHEDULE

B12 Dose and Schedule

'209 Patent Specification

US 7,772,209 B2

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in humans; Savage D G, Lindenbaum J, Stabler S P, Allen R. H. Sensitivity of methylmalonic acid and total homocysteine determination for diagnosing cobalamin and folate deficiency. *Am J Med* 1994; 96: 239-246.

The term "vitamin B12" refers to vitamin B12 and its pharmaceutical derivatives, such as hydroxocobalamin, cyanocobalamin, chlorocobalamin, aquocobalamin, perchlorate, aquo-10-chlorocobalamin, perchlorate, azido-cobalamin, chlorocobalamin, and cobalamin. Preferably the term refers to vitamin B12, cobalamin, and chlorocobalamin.

The dosage generally will be provided in the form of a vitamin supplement, namely as a tablet administered orally, such as a sustained release formulation, as an aqueous solution added to drinking water, or as an aqueous parenteral formulation. Preferably the methylmalonic acid lowering agent is administered as an intramuscular injection formulation. Such formulations are known in the art and are commercially available.

The skilled artisan will appreciate that the methylmalonic lowering agents are effective over a wide dosage range. For example, when cobalamin is used as the methylmalonic lowering agent, the dosage of cobalamin may fall within the range of about 0.2 µg to about 3000 µg of cobalamin from once daily for a month to once every nine weeks for a year. Preferably, cobalamin will be dosed as an intramuscular injection of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg administered from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours. Preferably, it is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to administration of the antifolate and repeated from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours, regardless of when treatment with the antifolate is started and continued until the administration of the antifolate is discontinued. Most preferred is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to the first administration of the antifolate and repeated every 6 to 12 weeks, preferably about every 9 weeks, and continued until the discontinuation of the antifolate administrations. However, it will be understood that the amount of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent actually administered will be determined by a physician, in the light of the relevant circumstances, including the condition to be treated, the chosen route of administration, the actual agent administered, the age, weight, and response of the individual patient, and the severity of the patient's symptoms, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. In some instances dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect.

Folate binding protein binding agent which includes folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, and (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof. This latter compound is the (6S)-isomer of leucovorin as disclosed in *J Am Chem Soc*, 74, 4215 (1952). Both of the tetrahydrofolic acid compounds are in the unnatural configuration at the 6-position. They are 10-20 fold more efficient in binding the folate binding protein compared with their respective (6S)-isomer, see Rotman, et al., *Folate and Antifolate Transport to Mammalian Cells*, Symposium, Mar. 21-22, 1991, Bethesda, Md. These compounds are usually prepared as a mixture with their natural form (6S) of diastereoisomers by non-stereoselective reduction from the corresponding dehydro precursors followed by separation through chromatographic or enzymatic techniques. See e.g. PCT Patent Application Publication WO

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880644 (also Derwent Abstract 88-368464/51) and Canadian Patent 1093554. See, e.g. Dietary Reference Intakes for Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Vitamin B12, Pantothenic Acid, Biotin, and Choline (2000), 8 Folate, pp. 196-305.

"Physiologically-available salt" refers to potassium, sodium, lithium, magnesium, or preferably a calcium salt of the FRP binding agent. "Physiologically-available... ester" refers to esters which are easily hydrolyzed upon administration to a mammal to provide the corresponding FRP binding agent free acid, such as C₁-C₄ alkyl esters, mixed anhydrides, and the like.

The FRP binding agent to be utilized according to this invention can be a free acid form, or can be in the form of a physiologically-acceptable salt or ester which is converted to the parent acid in a biological system. The dosage generally will be provided in the form of a vitamin supplement, namely as a tablet administered orally, preferably as a sustained release formulation, as an aqueous solution added to drinking water, an aqueous parenteral formulation, e.g., an intravenous formulation, or the like.

The FRP binding agent is usually administered to the subject mammal prior to treatment with the antifolate. Pretreatment with the suitable amount of FRP binding agent from about 1 to about 24 hours is usually sufficient to substantially bind to and block the folate binding protein prior to administration of the antifolate. Although one single dose of the FRP binding agent, preferably one and administration of folic acid, should be sufficient to load the folate binding protein, the FRP binding agent may be administered in multiple periods up to weeks before treatment with the active agent to ensure that the folate binding protein is sufficiently bound in order to maximize the benefit derived from such pretreatment.

In the especially preferred embodiment of this invention, about 0.1 mg to about 30 mg, most preferably about 0.3 mg to about 5 mg, of folic acid is administered orally to a mammal about 1 to 3 weeks most administration of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent and about 1 to about 24 hours prior to the parenteral administration of the amount of an antifolate. However, it will be understood that the amount of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent actually administered will be determined by a physician, in the light of the relevant circumstances, including the condition to be treated, the chosen route of administration, the actual agent administered, the age, weight, and response of the individual patient, and the severity of the patient's symptoms, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. In some instances dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect.

In general, the term "pharmaceutical" when used as an adjective means substantially non-toxic to living organisms.

Methods

To assess the effect of a methylmalonic acid lowering agent, alone or in combination with folic acid on the antimetabolite efficacy of an antifolate in a human tumor xenograft model, female nude mice bearing human MX-1 breast carcinoma were treated with ALIMTA alone or along with superphysiologic doses of folic acid or vitamin B12 (cobalamin).

The animals were maintained on sterilized standard laboratory ad libitum and sterilized water ad libitum. The human MX-1 tumor cells (5x10⁶) obtained from donor tumors were implanted subcutaneously in a thigh of female nude mice 8- to 10-weeks old. Beginning on day 7 post tumor cell implanta-

The skilled artisan will appreciate that the methylmalonic lowering agents are effective over a wide dosage range. For example, when cobalamin is used as the methylmalonic lowering agent, the dosage of cobalamin may fall within the range of about 0.2 µg to about 3000 µg of cobalamin from once daily for a month to once every nine weeks for a year. Preferably, cobalamin will be dosed as an intramuscular injection of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg administered from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours. Preferably, it is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to administration of the antifolate and repeated from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours, regardless of when treatment with the antifolate is started and continued until the administration of the antifolate is discontinued. Most preferred is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to the first administration of the antifolate and repeated every 6 to 12 weeks, preferably about every 9 weeks, and continued until the discontinuation of the antifolate administrations. However, it will be understood that the amount of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent actually administered will be determined by a physician, in the light of the relevant circumstances, including the condition to be treated, the chosen route of administration, the actual agent administered, the age, weight, and response of the individual patient, and the severity of the patient's symptoms, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. In some instances dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1001 - 00005

FA Dose and Schedule

'209 Patent Specification

US 7,772,209 B2

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in humans; Savage D G, Lindenbaum J, Stabler S P, Allen R H. Sensitivity of methylmalonic acid and total homocysteine determination for diagnosing cobalamin and folate deficiency. *Am J Med* 1994; 96: 239-246.

The term "vitamin B12" refers to vitamin B12 and its pharmaceutical derivatives, such as hydroxocobalamin, cyanocobalamin, chlorocobalamin, aquocobalamin, perchlorate, aquo-10-chlorocobalamin, perchlorate, azlacobalamin, chlorocobalamin, and cobalamin. Preferably the term refers to vitamin B12, cobalamin, and chlorocobalamin.

The dosage generally will be provided in the form of a vitamin supplement, namely as a tablet administered orally; such as a sustained release formulation, as an aqueous solution added to drinking water, or as an aqueous parenteral formulation. Preferably the methylmalonic acid lowering agent is administered as an intramuscular injection formulation. Such formulations are known in the art and are commercially available.

The skilled artisan will appreciate that the methylmalonic lowering agents are effective over a wide dosage range. For example, when cobalamin is used as the methylmalonic lowering agent, the dosage of cobalamin may fall within the range of about 0.2 µg to about 3000 µg of cobalamin from once daily for a month to once every nine weeks for a year. Preferably, cobalamin will be dosed as an intramuscular injection of about 500 µg to about 1500 µg administered from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours. Preferably, it is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to administration of the antifolate and repeated from about every 24 hours to about every 1680 hours, regardless of when treatment with the antifolate is started and continued until the administration of the antifolate is discontinued. Most preferred is an intramuscular injection of about 1000 µg administered initially from about 1 to about 3 weeks prior to the first administration of the antifolate and repeated every 6 to 12 weeks, preferably about every 9 weeks, and continued until the discontinuation of the antifolate administrations. However, it will be understood that the amount of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent actually administered will be determined by a physician, in the light of the relevant circumstances, including the condition to be treated, the chosen route of administration, the actual agent administered, the age, weight, and response of the individual patient, and the severity of the patient's symptoms, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. In some instances dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect.

The term "folic binding agent" as used herein refers to a folic binding protein binding agent which includes folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, and (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof. This latter compound is the (6S)-isomer of leucovorin as disclosed in *J Am Chem Soc.*, 74, 4215 (1952). Both of the tetrahydrofolic acid compounds are in the unnatural configuration at the 6-position. They are 10-20 fold more efficient in binding the folic binding protein compared with their respective (6S)-isomer, see Rotman, et al., Folate and Antifolate Transport to Mammalian Cells, Symposium, Mar. 21-22, 1991, Bethesda, Md. These compounds are usually prepared as a mixture with their natural form (6S) of diastereoisomers by non-stereoselective reduction from the corresponding dehydro precursors followed by separation through chromatographic or enzymatic techniques. See e.g. PCT Patent Application Publication WO

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880644 (also Derwent Abstract 88-368464/51) and Canadian Patent 1093554. See, e.g. Dietary Reference Intakes for Thiamin, Riboflavin, Niacin, Vitamin B6, Folate, Vitamin B12.

In the especially preferred embodiment of this invention, about 0.1 mg to about 30 mg, most preferably about 0.3 mg to about 5 mg, of folic acid is administered orally to a mammal about 1 to 3 weeks post administration of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent and about 1 to about 24 hours prior to the parenteral administration of the amount of an antifolate. However, it will be understood that the amount of the methylmalonic acid lowering agent actually administered will be determined by a physician, in the light of the relevant circumstances, including the condition to be treated, the chosen route of administration, the actual agent administered, the age, weight, and response of the individual patient, and the severity of the patient's symptoms, and therefore the above dosage ranges are not intended to limit the scope of the invention in any way. In some instances dosage levels below the lower limit of the aforesaid range may be more than adequate, while in other cases still larger doses may be employed without causing any harmful side effect.

MX-1 tumor cells (5x210) obtained from donor tumors were implanted subcutaneously in a thigh of female nude mice 8- to 10-weeks old. Beginning on day 7 post tumor cell implanta-

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1001 - 00005

B12 and FA Dosing

EP 005

The preparations in accordance with the invention are formulated to provide approximate daily dosages as follows ($\mu\text{g}/\text{d}/\text{kg}$ body weight).

	a) Vitamin B6	b) Folic Acid	c) Vitamin B12
Broadest range	15-750	1,5-150	1,5-75
preferred range	30-400	7,5-50	3-15
more preferred range	75-250	10-30	7-10
typical example	150	15	7,5

These dosages may be exceeded somewhat for short durations, e.g. at the beginning of the treatment.

as follows ($\mu\text{g}/\text{d}/\text{kg}$ body weight).

Preferably the preparation is formulated to make available to the patient the vitamin B6 and preferably also the folate over a period of more than 1 hour and to make available an effective dosage of the vitamin B12 in less than 1 hour after administration. This feature is considered to contribute materially to the efficacy of the invention and is considered to be novel and inventive per se.

The preparation may be galenically formulated for parenteral administration, preferably by infusion or by intramuscular injection. The latter form inherently provides for a retarded availability of the ingredients, which effect may be further enhanced by depot forms of formulation.

Preferably the preparation combines all three essential ingredients in a single dosage form, which except for very drastic cases of elevated homocysteine levels is preferably designed for oral administration.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1010-00005

B12 and FA Dosing

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

(especially in the aged), this form of parenteral administration is frequently resorted to only in the case of B12 and coenzyme G10.

According to yet another aspect of the invention, absorption problems (especially with respect to B12 absorption, e.g. in the elderly) are overcome by using the three vitamins in substantially differing concentration ratios in such a manner that the folate and B12 components are presented in higher quantities relative to the B6 component (e.g. pyridoxal). The principle is illustrated in the following table. The dosage forms in accordance with the invention are to be formulated accordingly:-

Table

Concentration ranges of pyridoxal, folate and vitamin B12 in pharmaceutical formulations

The following quantities refer to one daily dose for an adult patient of approximately 70kg body weight. (PL=pyridoxal; Fol=folate; B12=Vitamin B12) Quantities are given in milligrams per day.

Formulation type	PL		Folate		B12	
	Range mg	Preferred mg	Range mg	Preferred mg	Range mg	Preferred mg
Normal (no absorption problem)	2-5	5	0,2-1,5	1,0	0,1-2	0,5
Special (to overcome absorption problems)	2-50	5	2-15	5	0,2-5	1,0

One of the mechanisms by which homocysteine causes vascular and other organ pathology is by means of oxidative modification of lipoproteins. It is known that homocysteine potentiates the oxidation of lipoprotein cholesterol with the formation of oxysterols (Biochim. Biophys. Acta 1987, 917:337) and it is also known that oxysterols is much more atherogenic than cholesterol itself.

According to yet another aspect of the invention, provision is made to suppress the homocysteine-catalyzed oxidation of lipoprotein cholesterol. This may be of benefit to patients with very high hemi-

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NEPTUNE GENERICS 1010 - 00008

Table

Concentration ranges of pyridoxal, folate and vitamin B12 in pharmaceutical formulations

The following quantities refer to one daily dose for an adult patient of approximately 70kg body weight. (PL=pyridoxal; Fol=folate; B12=Vitamin B12) Quantities are given in milligrams per day.

Formulation type	PL		Folate		B12	
	Range mg	Preferred mg	Range mg	Preferred mg	Range mg	Preferred mg
Normal (no absorption problem)	2-5	5	0,2-1,5	1,0	0,1-2	0,5
Special (to overcome absorption problems)	2-50	5	2-15	5	0,2-5	1,0

B12 and FA Dosing

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

cysteine levels (perhaps due to genetic abnormalities, or for other reasons) in whom, during treatment, homocysteine levels decline slowly to normality over a long period (e.g. weeks). Homocysteine-induced oxidation of cholesterol can be suppressed by means of antioxidants (e.g. β -carotene, vitamin E, vitamin Coenzyme Q, etc.). In this respect, it has surprisingly been found that pyridoxal (PL) itself has anti-oxidant (anti-free radical) activity. Thus when used as provided for in the invention, PL serves a variety of purposes as outlined above, including that of an anti-oxidant.

However, particularly in severe cases of homocysteinuria (e.g. due to genetic disorder) it is advantageous to include one or more powerful anti-oxidants drawn from the list of compounds mentioned above.

In such cases it may also be necessary to administer choline or betaine as herein provided for. Thus, according to yet another aspect of the invention, a pharmaceutical formulation comprising vitamin B6 (preferably at least in part in the form of pyridoxal) folic acid and vitamin B12 in combination with one or more anti-oxidants is provided for as illustrated in the following table:-

Compound	Range (mg)	Preferred (mg)	For Example (mg)
B6, preferably as			
Pyridoxal	2-50	5-15	5,0
Folate	0,2-15	0,5-3	1,0
Vitamin B12	0,2-5	0,5-1,5	0,5
Anti-oxidants			
β -carotene	1-12	5-15	7,0
d- α -tocopherol acetate	10-1000	50-700	500
Ascorbic acid	30-1000	100-700	500
Coenzyme Q10	10-100	15-50	20

In different formulations, one or more of the anti-oxidants are preferably included

according to yet another aspect of the invention, a pharmaceutical formulation comprising vitamin B6 (preferably at least in part in the form of pyridoxal) folic acid and vitamin B12 in combination with one or more anti-oxidants is provided for as illustrated in the following table:-

Compound	Range (mg)	Preferred (mg)	For Example (mg)
B6, preferably as			
Pyridoxal	2-50	5-15	5,0
Folate	0,2-15	0,5-3	1,0
Vitamin B12	0,2-5	0,5-1,5	0,5
Anti-oxidants			
β -carotene	1-12	5-15	7,0
d- α -tocopherol acetate	10-1000	50-700	500
Ascorbic acid	30-1000	100-700	500
Coenzyme Q10	10-100	15-50	20

The pharmaceutical compositions are not only to be used in the treatment of raised homocysteine levels induced nutritionally, genetically or as a result of a variety of diseases, but also in those cases where the elevated homocysteine levels are drug induced or in combination with a B6 or folate antagonistic drug, which has a tendency to raise homocysteine levels. Examples of other situations in which blood homocysteine levels may be elevated are the following: post-menopausal women, liver failure, leukemia, other cancers, chronic renal failure. Slow-release formulation of PL prevents excessive liver oxidation to the biologically inactive pyridoxic acid.

B12 and FA Dosing

EP 005

A pharmaceutical preparation which comprises in combination, each in a concentration and form effective to suppress homocysteine levels in plasma

a) vitamin B6;

b) folate or a suitable active metabolite of folate or a substance which releases folate in vivo;

c) vitamin B12, with or without intrinsic factor,

The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the preparation is formulated to provide approximate daily dosages as follows ($\mu\text{g}/\text{d}/\text{kg}$ body weight):

	a) Vitamin B6	b) Folic Acid	c) Vitamin B12
Broadest range	15-750	1,5-150	1,5-75
preferred range	30 - 400	7,5 - 50	3 - 15
more preferred range	75 - 250	10 - 30	7 - 10
typical example	150	15	7,5

B12 and FA Dosing

'126 Patent

5,563,126

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with the following examples, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

8

The invention uses new oral vitamin formulations combining vitamin B₁₂ (B₁₂, cobalamin) and folic acid (folate), and vitamin B₁₂, folate and pyridoxine (B₆). The formulations of the present invention are for use in the treatment of elevated serum levels of one or more the metabolites homocysteine (HC), cystathionine (CT), methylmalonic acid (MMA), or 2-methylcitric acid (2-MCA). The use of the formulations of the present invention further include as a method of lowering serum metabolites levels of one or more of HC, CT, MMA, or 2-MCA, where these metabolite levels are not elevated but the patients are at risk for or have neuropsychiatric, vascular, renal, or hematologic diseases.

One embodiment of the present invention uses a non-prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg CN-cobalamin (B₁₂) and 0.1–0.4 mg folate. Another embodiment of the present invention uses a non-prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂, 0.1–0.4 mg folate, and 5–75 mg B₆. Preferred embodiments of the non-prescription formulation are comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂ and 0.4 mg folate, and 2.0 mg B₁₂, 0.4 mg folate, and 25 mg B₆, respectively.

Another embodiment of the present invention is comprised of a prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂ and 0.4–10.0 mg folate, with the preferred embodiment comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂ and 1.0 mg folate. Another embodiment of the prescription strength formulation is comprised of about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂, 0.4–10.0 mg folate, and 5–75 mg B₆, with a preferred embodiment comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂, 1.0 mg folate, and 25 mg B₆.

The formulations of the present invention are for the treatment and prevention of elevated metabolite levels in at risk populations, such as the elderly, and people that have or are at risk for neuropsychiatric, vascular, renal and hematologic diseases. The present invention eliminates the costly and time consuming need to differentiate between B₁₂, folate, and B₆ deficiencies.

The administration of a daily dose of the vitamin formulations of the present invention provides better long-term normalization of serum HC and other metabolites than prior art formulations, and eliminates the difficulty in differentiating between deficiencies of two or three of the vitamins, the difficulty in diagnosing multiple deficiencies of two or three of the vitamins, and the expense of doing so. Further, the administration of an oral preparation of B₁₂ and folate, with or without B₆, is preferred over intramuscular injections for patient convenience and ease of administration.

For example, the inclusion of B₁₂ will be useful as a safeguard for patients misdiagnosed as folate deficient, even though they are actually B₁₂ deficient, since treatment with folate alone in such patients is extremely dangerous. The danger arises from the fact that treating a B₁₂ deficient patient with folate alone may reverse or prevent the hematologic abnormalities seen in B₁₂ deficiency, but will not correct the neuropsychiatric abnormalities of a B₁₂ deficiency and may actually precipitate them. Even in the absence of intrinsic factor, approximately 1% of a 2.0 mg oral dose of B₁₂ is absorbed by diffusion. Thus, approximately 20 µg of B₁₂ would be absorbed from the formulations of the present invention which would be more than adequate even in patients with pernicious anemia who have lost their intrinsic factor-facilitated absorption mechanism for B₁₂. The inclusion of folate will be of benefit since B₁₂ deficiency causes a secondary intracellular deficiency of

EXEMPLARY I

Methods for Measurement of Serum Vitamin and Metabolite Levels

Serum vitamin assays

Serum vitamins B₁₂ and folate were measured by a quantitative radioassay method using purified intrinsic factor and purified folate binding protein. Vitamin B₁₂ was measured by a radioenzyme assay method wherein serum is incubated with apoenzyme tyrosine-decarboxylase, C₁₄ labelled tyrosine is added to start the enzymatic reaction which is stopped with HCl. Subsequently the free C₁₄ labelled CO₂ is adsorbed by a KOH impregnated filtering paper. The measured C₁₄ activity is directly proportional to the B₆ (pyridoxal phosphate) concentration (Laboratory Biocientia, Germany).

Serum metabolite assays

Serum metabolite assays for homocysteine and methylmalonic acid were conducted by the capillary gas chromatography and mass spectrometry methods of Marcell et al. (1983) Anal. Biochem. 150:58; Stabler et al. (1987) supra, and Allen et al. (1990) Am. J. Hematol. 34:90–98. Serum cystathionine levels were assayed by the method of Stabler et al. (1992) Blood (submitted). Serum 2-methylcitric acid was assayed by the method of Allen et al. (1993) Metabolism supra.

Statistical methods

Statistical analysis was done with the SAS statistical package (version 6.06). Nonparametric data for two or more groups were tested with the two sample Wilcoxon rank sum test (with Bonferroni's correction for the significance level α) and the Kruskal Wallis test. From the result of the healthy young subjects reference intervals were calculated. Since the frequency distribution of the values of each parameter were markedly abnormal they were transformed to normal distributions using log transformation. The sample prevalence p with 95% confidence intervals of low serum vitamins B₁₂, folate, and B₆ concentrations was calculated as $(n \pm 2) p (1-p)/n \times 100$ wherein n is the total sample size, p is the number of low serum vitamin concentrations/m, low serum concentrations are defined as $< \text{mean} - 2 \text{ S.D.}$

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1104 - 00016

This invention uses new oral vitamin formulations combining vitamin B₁₂ (B₁₂, cobalamin) and folic acid (folate), and vitamin B₁₂, folate and pyridoxine (B₆). The formulations of the present invention are for use in the treatment of elevated serum levels of one or more the metabolites homocysteine (HC), cystathionine (CT), methylmalonic acid (MMA), or 2-methylcitric acid (2-MCA). The use of the formulations of the present invention further include as a method of lowering serum metabolites levels of one or more of HC, CT, MMA, or 2-MCA, where these metabolite levels are not elevated but the patients are at risk for or have neuropsychiatric, vascular, renal, or hematologic diseases.

One embodiment of the present invention uses a non-prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg CN-cobalamin (B₁₂) and 0.1–0.4 mg folate. Another embodiment of the present invention uses a non-prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂, 0.1–0.4 mg folate, and 5–75 mg B₆. Preferred embodiments of the non-prescription formulation are comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂ and 0.4 mg folate, and 2.0 mg B₁₂, 0.4 mg folate, and 25 mg B₆, respectively.

Another embodiment of the present invention is comprised of a prescription formulation comprised of between about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂ and 0.4–10.0 mg folate, with the preferred embodiment comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂ and 1.0 mg folate. Another embodiment of the prescription strength formulation is comprised of about 0.3–10 mg B₁₂, 0.4–10.0 mg folate, and 5–75 mg B₆, with a preferred embodiment comprised of about 2.0 mg B₁₂, 1.0 mg folate, and 25 mg B₆.

B12 Dosing

EP 005

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2. A pharmaceutical preparation which comprises in combination, each in a concentration and form effective to suppress homocysteine levels in plasma
- a) vitamin B6;
 - b) folate or a suitable active metabolite of folate or a substance which releases folate in vivo;
 - c) vitamin B12, with or without intrinsic factor
- and wherein, if the preparation is for oral use and any of the vitamin B6 is represented by pyridoxine (PN), such PN is formulated in slow-release form, and wherein the ingredients a) - c) are present in the following ratios by weight
- a)/b) from 100:1 to 1:10 and
 - b)/c) from 100:1 to 1:50.
3. A use as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that, in the preparation the ingredients a) - c) are present in the following ratios by weight calculated on the basis of pure unphosphorylated pyridoxal (PL), pure vitamin B12 and pure folic acid:
- a)/b) from 100:1 to 1:10 and
 - b)/c) from 100:1 to 1:50
4. The invention as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the ratios are:
- a)/b) from 60:1 to 1:1.5
 - b)/c) from 15:1 to 1:2
5. The invention as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the ratios are:
- a)/b) from 20:1 to 2.5:1
 - b)/c) from 4:1 to 1:1
- and in particular:
- a)/b) from 20:1 to 5:1
 - b)/c) from 2:1 to 1:2

6. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the preparation is formulated to make available to the patient the vitamin B6 and preferably also the folate over a period of more than 1 hour and to make available an effective dosage of the vitamin B12 in less than 1 hour after administration.

7. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the preparation is galenically formulated for parenteral administration, preferably by infusion or by intramuscular injection.

8. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the preparation combines all three essential ingredients in a single dosage form, preferably designed for oral administration.

FA Dosing

Morgan

and high-dose folic acid groups, respectively, had erythrocyte folate levels less than 320 nmol/L (that is, <140 ng/mL) at one or more of the follow-up visits ($P = 0.02$).

Figure 3 shows the toxicity score in the placebo group plotted as a function of mean daily dietary folate intake. Negligible toxic effects occurred as the dietary folate intake was increased to more than 900 nmol/d (400 $\mu\text{g/d}$). We used a multivariate general linear model to evaluate

the effects of the following factors: sex, race, disease duration, prednisone use, rheumatoid factor, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug use, previous disease-modifying antirheumatic drug use, dietary folate intake, and supplement use; 5 mg/wk; and 27.5 mg/wk score and dietary folate intake were normally distributed, we used a multivariate general linear model. The analysis indicated that dietary folate intake were related to toxicity score ($P = 0.016$). Dietary folate was negatively related to toxicity score, indicating that higher dietary folate intake reduced toxicity. With regard to both the 5 mg and 27.5 mg groups compared with placebo, suggesting no interaction occurred between dietary folate intakes ($P = 0.3$).

Discussion

This controlled trial shows that 11.327 nmol (5 mg) or 62.302 nmol (27.5 mg) per week decreases methotrexate toxicity without compromising efficacy. The toxicity of methotrexate in both folic acid groups was low and nearly identical. The data suggest that dietary folate also helps protect against methotrexate toxicity. This finding suggests that a vitamin pill containing 900 nmol may also modulate methotrexate toxicity in patients with other micronutrient deficiencies.

We designed this trial using a year into the study, we considered intention-to-treat analysis. We have obtained complete data on all patients who were not already withdrawn in the first year. We compared our study with other methotrexate studies using intent-to-treat analysis. The results were not greatly influenced by intent-to-treat analysis, we might have observed a lesser degree of difference for efficacy, but we would have observed the same toxic effects and resulting discontinuation of drug therapy.

We also re-examined the data on the basis of the most recent recommendations from the American College of Rheumatology for monitoring hepatic conditions in patients with rheumatoid arthritis who are receiving methotrexate, but this did not change the toxicity scores (58).

We previously showed that low baseline plasma and erythrocyte folate levels can predict future toxicity (29). Because large doses of folic acid can mask and exacerbate vitamin B₁₂ deficiency, adequate vitamin B₁₂ status should be assured before folic acid supplementation (59). Based

on the data presented, baseline mean corpuscular volume, hemoglobin, and vitamin B₁₂ values should be determined in patients in whom methotrexate will be initiated. Because anemia is a late finding in nutritional deficiencies, and patients may have dimorphic anemia (iron plus B₁₂ or folate deficiency), yielding a normal mean corpuscular volume, we think vitamin levels are useful. There is no contraindication to starting folic acid at a dose of 5 to

This controlled trial shows that folic acid supplementation of 11.327 nmol (5 mg) or 62.302 nmol (27.5 mg) per week decreases methotrexate toxicity without compromising efficacy. The toxicity of methotrexate in both folic acid groups was low and nearly identical. The data suggest that dietary folate also helps protect against methotrexate toxicity. This finding suggests that the intake of one multiple-vitamin pill containing 900 nmol of folic acid (400 $\mu\text{g/d}$) may also modulate methotrexate toxicity in patients with other micronutrient deficiencies (57).

margin of safety for folic acid. Although folic acid can lessen methotrexate toxicity, the dose level is more critical than that for folic acid.

The optimal dosing schedule of folate supplements in relation to methotrexate is not known. The half-life for oral, intramuscular, and intravenous low-dose methotrexate is about 4.5 to 13 hours (62-65). Table 4 shows the timing of the folate to methotrexate in previously published reports. In the studies by Joyce and associates (31), Tishler and coworkers (32), and Buckley and colleagues (34), folic acid was given within the first half-life of the methotrexate dose. The ratio of folate to methotrexate used by these three investigators was 2.3, 0.95, and 0.5, respectively, with the lowest ratio causing no flare in

FA Dosing

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ten by measuring the length and width of the tumor growth using vernier calipers, and the activity was expressed as a percent inhibition of tumor growth.

When lometrexol was administered to infected mice which are maintained on a diet totally free of folic acid for two weeks prior to and during treatment, it exhibited moderate antitumor activity at very low doses, but also caused severe toxicity at a very low dose (measured as death of mice). These data are presented in Table II below.

TABLE II

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet

Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.0625	0%	0/10
0.125	0%	0/10
0.25	21%	0/10
0.5	88%	0/10
1.0	100%	8/10

A test group of mice were maintained on a folic acid free diet for two weeks before treatment. Folic acid was then administered during the treatment by providing the animals drinking water containing 0.003% folic acid (weight/volume). This concentration translates to about 1.75 mg of folic acid per square meter of body surface per day, since the animals consume about 4 ml of water each day.

$$\frac{0.003 \text{ grams}}{100 \text{ ml}} \times \frac{4 \text{ ml}}{\text{day}} = \frac{0.012 \text{ grams}}{\text{day}} = \frac{0.012 \text{ milligrams}}{\text{day}}$$

The average size of a mouse is 0.00687 m²

$$\frac{0.012 \text{ grams}}{\text{day}} \times \frac{1}{0.00687 \text{ m}^2} = 1.75 \text{ mg/m}^2/\text{day}$$

For a human subject of about 1.73 m² size, this translates to an adult human dosage of about 3.0 mg/day. The effect of the foregoing folic dosage on the activity and toxicity of lometrexol is shown in Table III below:

TABLE III

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet Plus Addition of 0.003% Folic to Drinking Water

Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.125	15%	0/10
0.25	26%	0/10
0.5	48%	0/10
1.0	97%	0/10
2.0	98%	0/10
4.0	95%	6/10

As the foregoing results indicate, addition of the indicated level of folic acid to the diet of a subject receiving lometrexol results in excellent antitumor activity at low doses, with little or no toxic effects.

Larger doses of folic acid appear to have an even more dramatic effect on the antitumor activity and toxicity of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor. For example, when mice were maintained on a folic acid-free diet for two weeks before treatment with lometrexol, and then given water containing 0.003% (weight/volume) of folic acid (which translates to an adult

human dose of about 30 mg/day), good antitumor activity of lometrexol is observed at higher dose levels. These results are shown in Table IV below:

TABLE IV

Antitumor Activity and Toxicity of Lometrexol in C3H Mice after Two Weeks on Folate-Free Diet Plus Addition of 0.003% Folic to Drinking Water

Lometrexol Dose (mg/kg)	Antitumor Activity (% Inhibition)	Toxicity (Mice Dead/Total Mice)
0.25	91%	0/10
12.5	89%	0/10
25	97%	0/10
50	96%	0/10

The foregoing data establish that for tumor bearing mice maintained on a folic acid free diet prior to and during treatment with lometrexol, the toxicity of lometrexol is very large, with 1 mg/kg/day being lethal to the majority of the mice, and lower antitumor activity is observed at non-toxic drug doses. Very low doses of folic acid (about 1 to 2 mg/day for an adult human) partially reversed drug toxicity and improved antitumor activity. Larger doses of folic acid (up to about 30 mg/day for an adult human) dramatically reduced

In preparation for the foregoing clinical study, pilot studies in humans have established that folic acid given to patients receiving lometrexol has effected reduced side effects due to the lometrexol. Specifically, in one subject who had a nasalpharyngeal carcinoma, who was supplemented with folic acid at 0.5 to 1.0 mg/day, lometrexol was well tolerated for up to 12 months of therapy. Moreover, this patient has no clinical evidence

We claim:

1. A method of inhibiting the growth of GAR-transformylase-dependent tumors in mammals, comprising administering to said mammals an effective amount of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor which binds to a folate binding protein in combination with a toxicity-reducing amount of a folate binding protein binding agent selected from folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, and (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof.

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mainly reflects impaired vitamin B-12 and folate dependent homocysteine remethylation [Brattström 1990, Christensen and Ueland 1993, Miller et al.]. In accordance with this and in contrast to the effect of pyridoxine on basal homocysteine concentrations, several studies have shown that pyridoxine 250 mg/d improves abnormal methionine loading tests in many but not all patients [Brattström 1990, Dudman et al. 1993, Franken et al. 1994]. However, when the combination of pyridoxine (100 mg/d) and folic acid (5–10 mg/d) was administered patients responded and the abnormality was normalized [Brattström et al. 1990, Dudman et al., van den Berg et al. 1994]. It has recently been demonstrated that methionine-rich meals normally elicit slight increases in plasma homocysteine concentration [Gottormsen et al. 1994]. It is quite possible that subjects with abnormal methionine loading tests also respond abnormally to methionine-rich meals leading to transient periods of hyperhomocysteinemia. This could be normalized with combined pyridoxine and folic acid therapy. This, however, warrants further

Discussion and recommendations

What doses and what combination of vitamins should be recommended for long-term homocysteine lowering? For several reasons, it seems wise to combine folic acid and cyanocobalamin. First, folic acid seems to reduce almost all but low homocysteine levels. Second, cyanocobalamin will probably secure full folate responsiveness. Third, in vitamin B-12 deficiency, neurologic abnormalities may correct the neurological abnormalities but elicit and deteriorate vitamin B-12 neuropathy [Chanarin 1994]. Therefore, before start of therapy, vitamin B-12 deficiency should be excluded, and the combination must contain cyanocobalamin high enough to prevent the recurrence of vitamin B-12 deficiency, even if complete intrinsic factor deficiency develops during the course of therapy. Of oral administered cyanocobalamin about 1% is passively absorbed to the blood [Berl et al. 1968]. The normal daily intrinsic factor mediated uptake of vitamin B-12 is $<2 \mu\text{g}$, which means that at least 0.2 mg of cyanocobalamin has to be administered [Adams et al. 1971].

There are recent data that suggest that modest doses of folic acid ($<1 \text{ mg/d}$) are sufficient for homocysteine lowering [Ubbink et al. 1994]. We found that subjects regularly taking multivitamins containing, among other vitamins, only 0.2–0.4 mg folic acid had significantly lower plasma homocysteine levels (-22%) than subjects not taking multivitamins [Brattström et al. 1994]. Hitherto, unpublished results from the European Community Concerted Action Project on Homocysteinemia and Vascular Disease are confirmative. Moreover, in survivors of the original Framingham Heart

There are recent data that suggest that modest doses of folic acid ($<1 \text{ mg/d}$) are sufficient for homocysteine lowering [Ubbink et al. 1994]. We found that subjects regularly taking multivitamins containing, among other vitamins, only 0.2–0.4 mg folic acid had significantly lower plasma homocysteine levels (-22%) than subjects not taking multivitamins [Brattström et al. 1994]. Hitherto, unpublished results from the European Community Concerted Action Project on Homocysteinemia and Vascular Disease are confirmative. More-

patients, a combination of 1 mg folic acid and 0.4 mg cyanocobalamin is probably sufficient for effective homocysteine lowering. This combination will be an innocuous means that not only normalizes hyperhomocysteinemia in most patients but also will reduce normal homocysteine values, leading to a shift of the entire homocysteine distribution toward lower values.

Higher total plasma homocysteine in vitamin B12 deficiency than in heterozygosity for homocysteinuria due to cystathionine β -synthase deficiency. *Metabolism* 37:175–178.
Brattström, L., Israelsson, B., Jansson, J. O., & Hultberg, B. (1985)

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NEPTUNE GENERICS 1063 - 00003

Clarke

VITAMINS AND

Author of Primary Reports

Landgren et al²

den Heijer et al, I³

den Heijer et al, II³

Author	n	mean	SD	95% CI	95% CI	
den Heijer et al, III ³	SE, 0.4B12, 50B6	35	12.1	8.5	-5.8 (3.9)	0.7 (0.2)
	P	46	14.0	14.5	0.5 (5.6)	1.0 (0.4)
Ubbink et al ⁹	SE, 0.4B12, 50B6	46	15.9	10.3	-5.7 (9.7)	0.7 (0.2)
	P	17	30.0	30.7	-0.7 (9.1)	1.0 (0.3)

Ubbink et al⁹

Naurath et al¹⁰

Pietrzak, I¹¹

Pietrzak, II¹¹

Woodsides et al¹²

Cuskelly et al¹³

Salzman et al¹⁴

*F, folic acid; B12, vitamin B₁₂.

Hence, the western population would be expected by about one quarter to one third of about 3 to about 8 to 9 μmol/L.

THE EFFECTS OF FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B₁₂ SUPPLEMENTATION ON HOMO-CYSTEINE LEVELS IN THE ELDERLY

Among the dominant homocysteine-lowering effect. However, vitamin B₁₂ may be added primarily to avoid the theoretical risk of neuropathy because of unopposed folic acid therapy in vitamin B₁₂-deficient patients, even those with intrinsic factor deficiency or malabsorption states.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ The addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid would simplify treatment regimens because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is common in the elderly and the standard screening tests for vitamin B₁₂ deficiency may not always detect it. By contrast in the

materials to address these questions. The meta-analysis of the published epidemiological studies of homocysteine

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Hence, the meta-analysis suggested that in typical western populations, daily supplementation with both 0.5 to 5 mg folic acid and about 0.5 mg vitamin B₁₂ would be expected to reduce blood homocysteine levels by about one quarter to one third. Studies of middle-

Among the vitamins studied, folic acid had the dominant homocysteine-lowering effect. Addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid had a small additional homocysteine-lowering effect. However, vitamin B₁₂ may be added primarily to avoid the theoretical risk of neuropathy because of unopposed folic acid therapy in vitamin B₁₂-deficient patients, even those with intrinsic factor deficiency or malabsorption states.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ The addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid would simplify treatment regimens because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is common in the elderly and the standard screening tests for vitamin B₁₂ deficiency may not always detect it. By contrast in the

FA Dosing

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274

Mendelsohn, Worzala, and Walling

icity of lometrexol (47,48). Hence subsequent patients in the study were treated with 1 mg folic acid/d given continuously. This level of supplementation permitted

A key question that remained was how much folic acid was required to achieve optimal amelioration of toxicity, accepting that any effects on efficacy could only be evaluated in a phase II setting. Accordingly, a study of a weekly $\times 3$ schedule was conducted

six and four patients treated at the first two dose levels. Again, anemia was the most prevalent toxicity, and neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and stomatitis were also common. These observations led to a further look at the single dose every 4 wk schedule, using a higher dose of folic acid, 5 mg/d for 14 d, given for 7 d before and for 7 d after the dose of lometrexol. This dose of folic acid was chosen from extrapolation from the pre-clinical studies. Additional objectives for this study were to study the effect of lometrexol on pharmacodynamics, in order to determine whether folic acid improves tolerance of lometrexol, to determine the toxicity of lometrexol in patients receiving multiple courses of the drug with folic acid supplementation, and to describe the pharmacokinetics. This study recruited 43 patients from 1991 to December, 1995. Dose levels between 12 and 45 mg/m² were studied using a once every 4 wk schedule. This interval was then reduced to 3 wk since recovery of the platelet count after dosing was achieved by day 21. Dose escalation proceeded with patients being studied at the 45, 60, 78, 100, 130, and 170 mg/m² dose levels. The MTD was not formally defined in this study, and the investigators felt that there was capacity for further dose escalation. Thirty-five patients received two courses of therapy and a total of 99 courses were given to the 43 patients. The major toxicity observed was thrombocytopenia; WHO grade III or IV toxicity was observed in 9/99 courses, but a downward trend in platelet counts was observed across successive courses in all patients even if the criteria for grading toxicity was not reached (i.e., a platelet count of less than 100). Similarly anemia became more marked in those patients receiving more than two courses, although there was only a 4% incidence of WHO grade III and IV toxicity. Four patients developed WHO grade III/IV neutropenia, and in one case this was associated with fever requiring iv antibiotics. Two patients developed WHO grade III mucositis, and three patients had decreases in GFR, but this was not in the setting of raised serum creatinine. These toxicities were observed at various dose levels during dose escalation. The investigators treated two of the patients who developed grade IV thrombocytopenia with leucovorin at 30 mg every 6 h for 12 and 14 d, respectively, and although platelet recovery was achieved it was not clear that leucovorin had played a role in this, hence no further patients were treated with leucovorin. Given the previous experience with this schedule in the absence of folic acid, discussed in Subheading 11 (39), this study clearly demonstrated that folic acid supplementation at 5 mg/d for 14 d reduced clinical toxicity permitting a dose of greater than 10 times that in the absence of supplementation, and in particular the cumulative nature of the toxicity was reduced. More recently, two other studies have addressed the question of how much folic acid is required

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VITAMIN REQUIREMENTS AND HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA 1931

observed increase in plasma homocysteine concentrations was associated with a decline in plasma folate plasma homocysteine concentration (Table 2). This reduction in basal plasma homocysteine concen-

Intracellular homocysteine is either remethylated to methionine in a reaction that requires methyltetrahydrofolate and vitamin B-12 or is condensed with serine in a reaction catalyzed by the PLP-dependent cystathionine- β -synthase (EC 4.2.1.22). Deficiencies in the cofactors required for homocysteine metabolism may result in hyperhomocysteinemia, which can be successfully treated with a modest daily vitamin supplement (Ubbink et al. 1993). The results from the current study confirm that a combined vitamin preparation may be used to lower elevated circulating homocysteine concentrations. The aim of

between 5 and 10 mg; in contrast, our results were obtained by an appreciably lower daily supplement [0.65 mg, or 3.25 \times the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for folate].

between 5 and 10 mg, in contrast, our results were obtained by an appreciably lower daily supplement [0.65 mg, or 3.25 \times the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for folate].

In view of the high success rate obtained with folate therapy, the obvious question is whether the other two vitamins are required at all to control plasma homocysteine concentrations. Compared with placebo treatment, the homocysteine-lowering effect of vitamin B-12 was not statistically significant ($P = 0.31$, ANOVA). However, a within-group comparison showed that vitamin B-12 supplementation resulted in a modest but significant decline in the mean

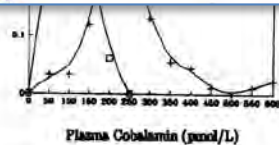


FIGURE 3 The frequency distribution of plasma vitamin B-12 concentrations in this study compared with the study reported by Lindenbaum et al. (1988).

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

showed that vitamin B-12 supplementation resulted in a modest but significant decline in the mean plasma homocysteine concentration (Table 2). This

min, whereas in our study the hyperhomocysteinemic men were randomized into the different treatment groups without prior knowledge of vitamin nutritional status or any possible genetic aberrations. The

Folic acid supplementation in patients with a chronic vitamin B-12 deficiency may eventually result in neuropathy due to failure to recognize the vitamin B-12 deficiency (Beck 1991). Moreover, Allen et al. (1990) have recently shown that folate supplementation will not correct hyperhomocysteinemia that is primarily the result of a vitamin B-12 deficiency. It is therefore essential that vitamin B-12 and folate be combined to treat hyperhomocysteinemia.

B12 and FA Dose and Schedule

EP 005

The preparation according to the invention was formulated as follows (per oral dosage unit):-

a)	(i)	pyridoxal	2 mg
	(ii)	pyridoxine	8 mg; (i) + (ii) = 10 mg
b)		folate	0,65 mg
c)		cyanocobalamin	0,4 mg.

The following is a summary of results at the beginning of the trial and after 3 weeks. (Results shown only of 78 patients who completed the trial.)

EP 0 595 005 A1

	RESULTS				
	Placebo (n=16)	B12 (n=15)	B6 (n=17)	folate (n=19)	Invention (n=11)
P-HC (before)	25,6	23,5	29,8	28,7	27,6
P-HC (after)	26	21,6	28,7	16,4	12,1
%change	+1,5	-8,1	-3,7	-42,3	-56,2
p	NS	NS	NS	<0,001	<0,001
%patients normalised	1/16	3/15	3/17	11/19	10/11
	6,3%	20%	17,6%	58%	91% *)

hyperhomocysteinemics (P-HC >16,3 μmol/l)

reduced 100% plasma homocysteine

regards the results obtained in connection with the composition in accordance with the invention, it is important to note that all patients responded very favourably to the treatment and that the single patient after 3 weeks had not yet reached a "normal" homocysteine level, had very nearly reached that level and would probably have reached the "normal" level if the trial had been extended over a slightly longer period.

The results are also graphically represented in Fig. 1 of the drawings.

The results lead to the following conclusions:-

Neither vitamin B12 nor vitamin B6 alone achieved significant effects when taking each group as a whole. However, within each group there were about 20% that did respond.

The composition according to the invention is nearly twice as effective as folate alone. This indicates a significantly more than a purely additive effect of the three component combination (synergism).

The trial groups represented an average population age. Separate tests have already indicated that had the average age been higher, the effect of vitamin B12 would probably have been greater. Thus one

Example 8

A further clinical trial was conducted to compare the effect of a composition according to the invention with that of the individual vitamins (B6, B12 and folate) on plasma homocysteine levels in randomised groups of patients with hyperhomocysteinemia.

100 patients with elevated plasma homocysteine (>16,3 μmol/l) were divided into 5 groups:

GROUP	SUPPLEMENT	
A	Placebo	
B	B12(0,4mg)	
C	Pyridoxine 8mg Pyridoxal 2mg	Total B6 10mg
D	Folate 0,65mg	
E	Invention (the combination B+C+D)	

The preparation according to the invention was formulated as follows (per oral dosage unit):-

a)	(i)	pyridoxal	2 mg
	(ii)	pyridoxine	8 mg; (i) + (ii) = 10 mg
b)		folate	0,65 mg
c)		cyanocobalamin	0,4 mg.

The preparation according to the invention was formulated as a multi-phase, controlled (with a) and b) contained in a slow-release matrix (90% in 4-6 hrs) and c) in immediate release form. Likewise, the formulations for groups B, C and D were formulated with the content of vitamins and with release characteristics as in the formulation for group E.

The following is a summary of results at the beginning of the trial and after 3 weeks only of 78 patients who completed the trial.)

RESULTS

	Placebo (n = 16)	B12 (n = 15)	B6 (n = 17)	folate (n = 19)	Invention (n = 11)
P-HC ^{**} (before)	25,6	23,5	29,8	28,7	27,6
P-HC (after)	26	21,6	28,7	16,4	12,1
%change	+1,5	-8,1	-3,7	-42,3	-56,2
p	NS	NS	NS	<0,001	<0,001
%patients normalised	1/16	3/15	3/17	11/19	10/11
	6,3%	20%	17,6%	58%	91% *)

100 hyperhomocysteinemics (P-HC >16,3 μmol/l)

*) reduced 100%

***) Plasma homocysteine

B12 and FA Schedule

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

combined in a single package e.g. a blister pack or similarly ordered package, designed to facilitate or prescribe to the user the combined administration of the dosage units according to a specific dosage

regimen. Such dosage regimen may optionally be time programmed, providing for different dosage rates during different periods of a course of treatment. Packages designed for that purpose are known per se and

10 (with or without intrinsic factor) to the patient, more particularly the stomach) in less than 1 hour after administration.

The vitamin B6 as such or in the form of pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt may be in the form of pyridoxine (PN) or its phosphate (PNP). However, for the reasons already stated above, it is preferred for the vitamin B6 to be represented at least in part by pyridoxal (PL) or a compound which readily releases PL in vivo without the intervention of oxidase or oxygen, because this avoids situations where the normal PN - PL metabolic pathway may be compromised, as may happen e.g. due to genetic or pathological or drug-induced conditions.

15 Nevertheless, because most patients, in particular non-infants have a reasonable capacity for utilising PN it can be advantageous to employ a mixture of PN and PL in the following ratio:-

20 PL:PN = from 1:10 to 10:1
preferably from 1:6 to 4:1
more preferably from 1:6 to 1:1

e.g. 1:4

25 Likewise it is preferred for PL or its precursor to be provided in a non-phosphorylated form, to avoid situations where the dephosphorylation step may be compromised. It is pointed out that only PL is capable of passing from the plasma through the cellular membranes into most cells where it is subsequently converted into pyridoxal phosphate (PLP), the active intracellular form of PLP. Also as will be explained elsewhere herein, PL itself plays a very active role in certain physiologically important reactions relevant to the present invention. For these reasons PL itself is a preferred form of vitamin B6 in the context of the present invention.

30 Vitamin B12 may be used in the form of cyanocobalamin or hydroxycobalamin or both.

"Intrinsic factor" in this art, in the context of vitamin B12 denotes substances (which are for example in nature released by the gastric mucosa of the stomach when functioning normally) with which vitamin B12 forms complexes to facilitate absorption.

35 Advantageously the vitamin B6 is galenically formulated to be released over a period of 2 to 8 hours, whereas the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) is formulated to be released in less than 1 hour. More particularly the vitamin B6 is galenically formulated to be released over a period of 2 to 8 hours, preferably 3 to 6 hours, more preferably 4 to 6 hours and the B12 over a period of 5 - 30 minutes.

40 Preferably, the folate as well is galenically formulated to be released by the composition in not less than 2 hours, preferably 2 to 8 hours, more preferably 3 to 6 hours, e.g. 4 to 6 hours.

The preferred compositions contain vitamin B6 and, preferably folate in a part of the composition adapted as a slow, timed release composition and containing the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) in another part adapted for fast release. Examples of such compositions include the following:

- 45 a) a bi-layered tablet,
- b) a coated tablet, containing the vitamin B12 in a rapidly dissolving coating; or
- c) a pharmaceutical composition in granular form, loose or in a capsule.

Novelty and inventiveness is claimed to reside in the feature as such of combining folate and vitamin B12 in a combination, wherein the former is galenically formulated or adapted to be administered in a slow, timed release manner and the latter is formulated or adapted for fast release. This feature is considered as a further aspect of the present invention, to be applied as such or in combination with the remaining features of the invention herein disclosed.

50 The manner of putting that aspect of the invention into effect is as disclosed herein in conjunction with the preceding aspects of the invention.

Furthermore, apart from the proven toxicity of homocysteine, it has in addition now been found that elevated homocysteine levels in plasma are also indicative of free radical activity and of a general vitamin deficiency, and notably a deficiency of those vitamins which control free radicals in plasma. Free radicals in plasma as such, are a risk factor, which can be associated with serious diseases, notably vascular diseases. Accordingly, the invention preferably provides for the co-administration with the aforesaid

B12 and FA Schedule

EP 005

EP 0 595 005 A1

The invention as claimed in claim 10, characterised in that the dosage regimen is time programmed, providing for different dosage rates during different periods of a course of treatment.

14. The invention as claimed in claim 12 or 13, characterised in that the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) is galenically formulated for the preparation to release the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) to the patient, more particularly the stomach in less than 1 hour after administration.

15. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 14, characterised in that the vitamin B6 is represented at least in part by pyridoxal (PL) or a compound which readily releases PL in vivo without the intervention of coenzyme or oxygen, and wherein preferably PL or its precursor is provided in a non-phosphorylated form.

The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 15, characterised in that vitamin B12 is used in the form of cyanocobalamin or hydroxycobalamin or both the the vitamin B6 being preferably represented

17. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein the vitamin B6 is galenically formulated for at least 90% to be released over a period of 2 to 8 hours, preferably 3 to 6 hours, more preferably 3 to 4 hours and the B12 over a period of 5 - 30 minutes, whereas the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) is formulated to be released in less than 1/2 hour.

18. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 16 or 17, characterised in that the folate as well is galenically formulated to be released by the composition in not less than 2 hours, preferably 2 to 8 hours, more preferably 3 to 6 hours, e.g. 4 to 6 hours.

19. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 16 to 18, characterised in that the composition contains vitamin B6 and preferably also folate in a part of the composition adapted as a slow, timed release composition and containing the vitamin B12 (with or without intrinsic factor) in another part adapted for fast release and wherein preferably the composition is provided as:

- a) a bi-layered tablet,
- b) a coated tablet, containing the vitamin B12 in a rapidly dissolving coating; or
- c) a pharmaceutical composition in granular form, loose or in a capsule.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising folate and vitamin B12 in a combination, wherein the former is galenically formulated or adapted to be administered in a slow, timed release manner and the latter is formulated or adapted for fast release.

21. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 20, characterised in that the composition or preparation in addition comprises choline or betaine or both, and those are preferably formulated in slow release form, the choline and/or betaine being preferably incorporated to provide a daily dosage rate of 0.01 - 0.1 g/kg body weight.

22. The invention as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 21, characterised in that one or more of the active ingredients is formulated for the direct absorption of one or more of these vitamins through various tissues and membranes including the skin, nasal membranes, sub-lingual membranes, rectal membranes, e.g. formulated as

- 1) sub-lingual tablets,
- 2) plasters designed for skin absorption.

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B12 Dose and Schedule

Lindenbaum 1990

100 Lindenbaum et al.

maintenance treatment with cyanocobalamin at relatively infrequent intervals. Although clinically well, these patients were often in borderline Cbl balance and offered the opportunity to compare the sensitivities of careful

examining and serologic depletion of patients (determined) have been normal. Alterations in

MATERIALS AND METHODS
Patient
Cobalamin

Over a 13-year period, we have prospectively studied a group of 44 patients receiving maintenance therapy with cyanocobalamin, 1,000 μg given intramuscularly, on a less than monthly basis. All patients had been treated previously for megaloblastic anemia due to Cbl deficiency and were in hematologic remission at the beginning of the study. Each patient had pernicious anemia as established by serial Schilling tests and/or the presence of serum antibodies to intrinsic factor with the exception of three who had undergone partial gastrectomy for ulcer disease who also had abnormal Cbl absorption. The patients were begun on a variety of protocols: 35 received 1 mg of vitamin B₁₂ every 5-6 months, as recommended in a preliminary report by Collins and Jackson [12]; 6 were treated every 3-4 months; and 3 were treated every 2 months. Each patient was seen by one of the authors at each follow-up visit, questioned for symptoms of Cbl deficiency, and examined for evidence of atrophy of the tongue and alterations of vibration and position sense. None of the patients showed any of these clinical signs of relapse during the study. At each visit a complete blood count, MCV measured by an electronic counter, a blood smear, and serum specimen for measurement of Cbl, folate, and metabolic concentrations was obtained.

After receiving Cbl every 3-6 months for 2 years, three patients in the study refused further injections for periods of 15, 18, and 66 months but agreed to return to the clinic for periodic evaluation. Two of these patients developed neutrophil hypersegmentation and increases in MCV within the normal range without a fall in hematocrit after 14 and 36 months without Cbl treatment.

The other patients to be reported (12 with more severe deficiency states and two with tropical sprue undergoing antibiotic therapy) will be described under Results.

Methods

Serum Cbl was measured by radioassay with purified intrinsic factor (Quantaphase, Bio-Rad Laboratories,

indefinitely at -20°C [10,11].

RESULTS

Patients Treated With Infrequent Maintenance Cobalamin

From the entire group of 44 patients, there were 243 clinic visits in which serum, blood counts, MCVs and smears were available. On each of the 243 occasions the patients were asymptomatic, the serum folate was normal, and the hematocrit was unchanged from baseline. However, on 42 occasions in 14 of the patients, peripheral blood smears showed neutrophil hypersegmentation. On 22 of the smears macroovalocytes were noted as well, and on 11 of the 42 visits the MCV was elevated more than 5 fl above the baseline value for the patient, although still within the normal range (80-100 fl). On these 42 occasions, the patients were considered to be in mild hematologic relapse (Table I). The serum Cbl was below 200 pg/ml on most occasions but not infrequently was between 200 and 400 pg/ml (Table I). The serum methylmalonic acid was elevated in more than 90% and was the most frequently abnormal test in the patients in mild relapse. It was the only abnormal serum test (i.e., the serum Cbl and total homocysteine were normal) on 5 of the 42 occasions, whereas the Cbl and the total homocysteine were the sole abnormal tests on only one occasion each. In 6 relapses when the serum Cbl was normal, both metabolites were increased.

On the remaining 201 clinic visits, the peripheral blood smear was normal and the MCV remained at baseline levels. On 55 of these 201 occasions (30 patients), the serum Cbl, methylmalonic acid, and total homocysteine were all normal. On the remaining 146 clinic visits

a group of 44 patients receiving maintenance therapy with cyanocobalamin, 1,000 μg given intramuscularly, on a less than monthly basis. All patients had been

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1070 - 00002

B12 Dose and Schedule

Tamura

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J. Tamura et al.

Table 1. Change of immune parameters before and after 2 weeks of methyl-B12 administration in patients and control subjects

	Patients (n=11)		Control subjects (n=8)	
	Before	After	Before	After
No. of leucocytes (cell)	4100 ± 1000	5530 ± 1000*	5200 ± 1188	5242 ± 865
No. of lymphocytes (cell)	1444 ± 695††	1444 ± 695††	1802 ± 772*	2703 ± 792*
Percent CD4 ⁺ cells	48.1 ± 19.5††	41.8 ± 10.0**	38.9 ± 8.8	39.4 ± 10.1
No. of CD4 ⁺ cells (cell)	711 ± 435	797 ± 378	670 ± 305	1108 ± 444**
Percent CD8 ⁺ cells	19.1 ± 7.0	23.1 ± 6.5*	23.8 ± 6.4	24.1 ± 7.1
No. of CD8 ⁺ cells (cell)	276 ± 149††	411 ± 198**†	489 ± 129	396 ± 191*
CD4/CD8 ratio	3.0 ± 1.7††	2.1 ± 1.1*	1.7 ± 0.8	1.7 ± 0.8
NK cell activity (%)	12.9 ± 7.4††	28.9 ± 15.3**†	5.0 ± 15.0	5.0 ± 13.0

The mean value ± s.d. of 11 (patients) and eight (control subjects) is given.

*Significant change of parameters after methyl-B12 injection within each group of patients or control subjects ($P < 0.05$ and $P < 0.01$, respectively).

†Significant difference of parameters of patients before and after methyl-B12 treatment compared with those of control subjects ($P < 0.05$, $P < 0.01$, respectively).

†† $P < 0.05$ was obtained with *t*-test but not with non-*t*-test.

Increases in the absolute number of CD8⁺ cells were seen in patients and control subjects ($P < 0.01$, $P < 0.05$, respectively), however, the absolute number of CD8⁺ cells in treatment was still lower than that in control subject.

The CD4/CD8 ratio was significantly decreased by treatment in patients ($P < 0.05$), but not in control subject. There was no difference between patients and control subjects after methyl-B12 administration.

In patients, the decreased level of NK cell activity by methyl-B12 administration ($P < 0.01$), however, NK cell activity was still lower than that of the control subjects ($P < 0.05$). In control subjects, NK cell activity was not affected by methyl-B12 treatment. After 12 weeks of 500 µg methyl-B12 administration (1000 µg injection 3 months), further restoration of NK cell activity was observed in patients compared with that observed after 2 weeks of treatment ($40.3 \pm 11.9\%$ versus $28.9 \pm 15.3\%$; $P < 0.01$, respectively) and the restored NK cell activity was that of control subjects ($40.3 \pm 11.9\%$ versus 53.0 ± 7.8 , respectively).

Effects of methyl-B12 treatment on NK cell subsets and other immunological parameters

The percentage and absolute number of CD56⁺ cells were estimated in nine patients before and after methyl-B12 treatment, and compared with those in 10 control subjects. Both proportion and absolute number of CD56⁺ cells in patients before methyl-B12 administration were lower than those in control subjects ($13.9 \pm 6.1\%$ versus $23.7 \pm 9.8\%$; $P < 0.05$, $n = 9, 10$, respectively; $191.5 \pm 64.9/\mu\text{l}$ versus $461.8 \pm 237.2/\mu\text{l}$; $P < 0.01$, $n = 9, 10$, respectively). After methyl-B12 administration, the proportion of CD56⁺ cells was not changed ($14.3 \pm 5.8\%$ versus $15.9 \pm 6.3\%$; NS; $n = 9$). Although the slight increase in absolute number of CD56⁺ cells after methyl-B12 treatment in patients was not significant ($191.5 \pm 64.9/\mu\text{l}$ versus $333.2 \pm 209.1/\mu\text{l}$; NS ($P = 0.09$), $n = 9$), the difference between patients and control subjects disappeared after methyl-B12 administration.

On the other hand, a slight increase in absolute number of CD3⁺CD16⁺ cells was noted ($146.7 \pm 70.4/\mu\text{l}$ versus $237.0 \pm$

by methyl-B12 treatment. After 1–2 years of follow up, with methyl-B12 administration (1000 µg injection for every 3 months), further restoration of NK cell activity was observed in patients compared with that observed after 2 weeks of methyl-B12 treatment ($40.3 \pm 11.9\%$ versus $28.9 \pm 15.3\%$; $P < 0.01$; $n = 7, 11$,

not shown). Serum levels of immunoglobulins in patients and control subjects were in the normal range and no change was observed after methyl-B12 treatment (data not shown).

Follow up of patients

In all patients, anaemia was improved within 2–4 weeks and the patients remained well thereafter. No adverse effects were seen in patients or control subjects treated with methyl-B12.

DISCUSSION

In the present study we have demonstrated various immunomodulatory effects of vit.B12. Serum levels of immunoglobulins were not affected by vit.B12 deficiency or supplementation. A decrease in the absolute numbers of lymphocytes, especially CD8⁺ cells, and an increase in the CD4/CD8 ratio in vit.B12-deficient patients were found. Vit.B12 treatment led to an increase in the number of lymphocytes, including CD8⁺ cells, not only in patients but also in control subjects, and to a significant increase of NK cell activity in patients.

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

B12 Dose and Schedule

Tamura

Vit.B12 augments CD8⁺ cells and NK cell activity

29

and June 1993 (age 36–83 years, median 65 years; six males and five females). Seven of 11 patients had pernicious anaemia (PA) and four had post-gastrectomy megaloblastic anaemia (PGMA). All patients showed low serum levels of vit.B12 (<85 pg/ml; normal range 230–820 pg/ml). Diagnosis was made based on medical history, macrocytic anaemia in peripheral blood, cythroblastosis with megaloblastic changes in bone marrow, low serum levels of vit.B12, the presence of anti-intrinsic factor antibody, antiparietal antibody and clinical responsiveness to vit.B12 therapy.

Thirteen haematologically and immunologically normal volunteers were included as a control group (age 26–92 years, median 72 years; five males, eight females). None showed low serum levels of vit.B12 or anaemia. All tests, including any sampling of blood, were performed with informed consent and with our hospital ethical committee's approval.

Study design

Leucocyte and lymphocyte numbers, percentage and absolute numbers of CD4⁺ cells and CD8⁺ cells, CD4/CD8 ratio and NK cell activity were evaluated in all patients at diagnosis and compared with the values in control subjects.

In order to examine the immunomodulatory effect of vit.B12, methylcobalamin was administered to all patients and to eight of 13 volunteers as follows. Methyl-vit.B12 (500 µg/day; methyl-B12; mecobalamin; Eisai, Tokyo, Japan) was injected intramuscularly every other day for 2 weeks and immunophenotyping of peripheral lymphocytes and NK cell activity were evaluated as before.

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before
using CD3 (Leu-4-PE) × CD57 (Leu-7-FITC), CD4 (Leu-4-PE) × CD16 (Leu-11a-FITC), CD57 (Leu-7-FITC) × CD16 (Leu-11c-PE) (Becton Dickinson, Mountain View, CA), were done in eight of 11 patients and 10 of 13 control subjects for evaluation of NK cell subsets. All phenotyping was performed using a FACScan (Becton Dickinson).

NK cell activity and other tests for immune response

NK cell activity was estimated in all cases and all control subjects before and after 2 weeks of methyl-B12 treatment by the standard ⁵¹Cr-release assay using K562 cells as target cells (effector:target ratio was 20:1) and results were expressed as percentage cell lysis.

In five patients, phytohemagglutinin (PHA), Con A and PWM-stimulated lymphocyte blast formation were measured, and antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) was

also evaluated in four patients. In all patients and control subjects serum levels of IgG, IgA and IgM were evaluated before and after methyl-B12 administration.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was conducted with paired *t*-test for the comparison within each group of patients and control subjects and with unpaired *t*-test for the comparison between the two groups as indicated in the legend for Table 1. Obtained *P* values were re-estimated with Wilcoxon signed rank test and Mann-Whitney rank-sum test. Significance was defined as follows: both *t*-test and non-parametric method showed *P*<0.05. *P* values <0.05 obtained with *t*-test but not with non-parametric analysis were regarded as not significant but showing a tendency. Analyzed values were represented as mean ± s.d.

RESULTS

Immunophenotyping and NK cell activity in patients and control subjects before methyl-B12 administration

Although no significant difference in leucocyte counts was noted between patients (*n*=11) and control subjects (*n*=13) (4100 ± 1600/µl versus 5302 ± 1307/µl; NS), the lymphocyte counts were significantly decreased in patients compared with control subjects (1414 ± 695/µl versus 2110 ± 669/µl; *P*<0.01).

The proportion of CD4⁺ cells was also significantly elevated in

showed high serum levels of vit.B12 (> 3000 pg/ml). After 2 weeks treatment, patients were treated with vit.B12 1000 µg every 3 months as out-patients; all of them were quite well and anaemia had improved. After 1–2 years of follow up, NK cell activity was

and after methyl-B12 administration in both patients and control subjects are summarized in Table 1. The leucocyte counts and lymphocyte counts of patients were increased significantly after methyl-B12 treatment (*P*<0.05). After treatment, the lymphocyte counts were still significantly lower in patients than in control subjects (*P*<0.05). Interestingly, an increase in the lymphocyte counts was observed even in control subjects (*P*<0.05).

As shown in Table 1, a significant decrease of percentage CD4⁺ cells was observed in patients after treatment (*P*<0.01), while no significant change was noted in control subjects. No significant change of the absolute number of CD4⁺ cells was observed in patients after methyl-B12 treatment, but a slight increase was observed in control subjects (NS but tendency).

An increase in percentage CD8⁺ cells after methyl-B12 treatment was noted in patients (*P*<0.05), but not in control subjects.

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

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B12 Dose and Schedule

Wray

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL 31 MAY 1975

491

from that of Waters and Mellin.¹ Folic acid deficiency was diagnosed when the serum folate was less than 25 µg/l or the whole blood folate was less than 80 µg/l. Serum vitamin B₁₂ was assayed using Enigma growth, values consistently below 120 ng/l being regarded as abnormal. Routine haematological measurements and blood film examinations were performed using standard methods.²

Patients found to have iron, folic acid, or vitamin B₁₂ deficiency were investigated further by A.W.H. and J.H.D. to determine the cause of the deficiency and initiate treatment. Malabsorption was diagnosed when the faecal fat exceeded 5 g daily, when the serum xylitol two hours after a standard oral dose related to body weight was less than 2.0 mmol/l (36 mg/100 ml), and when intestinal clumping of barium was seen on follow-through examination. In two patients with malabsorption intestinal biopsy (label for technical reasons) in another five cases, diagnosed as adult coeliac disease, intestinal biopsy confirmed the presence of subtotal villous atrophy. A clinical response followed the introduction of a gluten-free diet in these patients. Pernicious anaemia was diagnosed on the basis of blood and bone marrow findings, histamine-fast achlorhydria, the presence of gastric parietal cell antibodies, a characteristic Schilling test result,³ and a therapeutic response to vitamin B₁₂.

TREATMENT

Patients with vitamin B₁₂ deficiency were given 1000 µg hydroxocobalamin intramuscularly followed by a further 1000 µg every two months. Folic acid was taken by mouth in doses of 5 mg thrice daily

the iron-deficient patients had co-existing folic acid deficiency, however, and one had ascorbic acid deficiency; they had received folic acid and ascorbic acid respectively with remission of symptoms before iron therapy was instituted. In addition, one iron-deficient patient underwent resection of a caecal adenocarcinoma. Of the remaining 10 patients with uncomplicated iron deficiency, five were cured and five definitely improved with iron replacement alone (table III).

TABLE II—Deficiencies Found in 23 Patients with Recurrent Aplastic

Case No.	Age	Sex	Iron Deficiency	Folic Acid Deficiency	Vitamin B ₁₂ Deficiency
1	22	F	(-)	(-)	
2	22	F	(-)	(-)	
3	18	M	(+)	(+)	(+)
4	35	F	(-)	(-)	
5	37	F	(-)	(-)	
6	46	F	(-)	(-)	
7	48	F	(+)	(+)	
8	53	F	(-)	(-)	
9	55	F	(-)	(-)	
10	55	F	(-)	(-)	
11	68	F	(-)	(-)	(+)
12	68	F	(-)	(-)	(+)
13	13	M	(+)	(+)	
14	13	M	(+)	(+)	
15	16	M	(+)	(+)	
16	17	M	(+)	(+)	
17	19	M	(+)	(+)	
18	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)
19	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)
20	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)
21	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)
22	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)
23	22	F	(+)	(+)	(+)

Patients with vitamin B₁₂ deficiency were given 1000 µg hydroxocobalamin intramuscularly followed by a further 1000 µg every two months. Folic acid was taken by mouth in doses of 5 mg thrice daily

inemia and 11 iron deficiency without anaemia, seven in folic acid (four showing the characteristic morphological changes in blood and bone marrow and three showing no such changes), and five in vitamin B₁₂ (all with evidence of megaloblastic change in the bone marrow but two having apparently normal peripheral blood). Four patients had more than one deficiency (table II).

Of the 11 deficient controls, seven were deficient in iron, only one showing overt anaemia. Three had reduced blood folate levels and one had latent Addisonian pernicious anaemia. No control had more than one deficiency. Thus iron and folic acid deficiencies were over twice as frequent in the patients as in the controls, and vitamin B₁₂ deficiency was five times more common in the patients than in the controls.

RESPONSE TO TREATMENT

Fifteen of the 23 patients (65%) showed complete remission and eight (35%) definite improvement. Of the remaining 107 non-deficient patients, who received only local treatment, 12 (11%) had a complete remission and 20 (19%) were improved. Only 30% of the non-deficient patients, therefore, showed a response comparable to that of the 23 deficient patients (P < 0.001).

Four of the five patients with vitamin B₁₂ deficiency were promptly relieved of symptoms and remained free of ulcers during follow-up; the fifth was definitely improved (table III). Of the seven patients with folic acid deficiency, six were completely relieved of ulcers and remained symptom-free during follow-up and one was much improved. Of the 15 patients with iron deficiency, eight showed remission and seven were definitely improved after iron therapy. Three of

13	(+)			(+)	
14	(+)			(+)	
15	(+)			(+)	
16	(+)			(+)	
17	(+)			(+)	
18	(+)		(+)	(+)	
19	(+)			(+)	
20	(+)			(+)	
21	(+)			(+)	
22	(+)			(+)	

ETIOLOGY OF DEFICIENCIES

We attempted to define with greater accuracy the cause of the deficiencies in the 23 patients (table IV). Seven (30%) were shown to have a malabsorption syndrome, which in five proved to be adult coeliac disease (gluten enteropathy). In addition, four patients were found to have Addisonian pernicious anaemia, one was found to have idiopathic proctocolitis, one had diverticular disease of the colon, one had Crohn's disease (regional enterocolitis), and one had an adenocarcinoma of the caecum.

ROLE OF LOCAL TREATMENT

All 130 patients were given local symptomatic treatment. Most received a zinc chlorohydrate sulphate mouthwash (Z.P.C.) and were given topical steroids if this proved ineffective. Though steroids are beneficial,⁴ a clinical improvement coincides only if treatment is maintained,¹ and in no case have the ulcers been eradicated.⁵ In

Bronstrup II

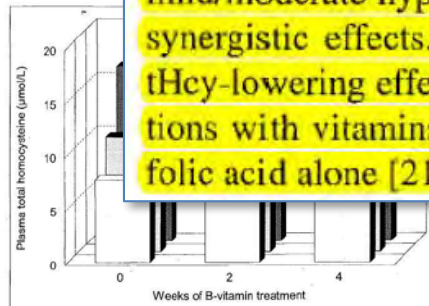
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the reductions in tHcy after B-vitamin supplementation were significant in the first tertile (geometric mean tHcy at baseline 14.5 μmol/L). ANOVA with Scheffé's test showed that the reduction in tHcy was significant in initial or base-line tertiles in the second tertile (10.5 μmol/L), whereas the reduction in the first tertile was small and not significant. The extent of tHcy reduction in the supplemented group was also similar to that in the control group at baseline. Subjects with initially high tHcy (median, 20.5 μmol/L) showed a considerably higher decrease in tHcy concentration than subjects with low tHcy. A concentration of MMA above 0.19 μmol/L, the median of the vitamin supplement group at baseline, resulted in a less pronounced reduction in tHcy, but this was only apparent at week 4 (Table III).

In contrast, the change in tHcy after B-vitamin treatment was similar among the 3 genotypes for the C677T polymorphism and similar in men and women. The tHcy reduction was also not different in younger and older subjects or individuals with low or high plasma vitamin B₁₂ and PLP concentrations using the median of the vitamin supplemented group at baseline.

Discussion

We determined plasma tHcy after B-vitamin supplementation.



(n = 13 for each tertile) to combined low-dose B-vitamin supplementation in elderly men and women. Bars represent geometric mean values of tertiles (for details refer to text). P-values denote differences to baseline concentration for the respective tertiles (paired t-test).

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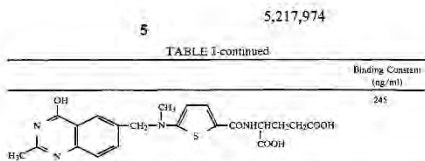
no apparent chronic or acute illness. Upon B-vitamin supplementation, a significant reduction in tHcy concentration was observed during the first 2 weeks of treatment. Thereafter, tHcy decreased further only slightly and non-significantly. Parallel but opposite changes were seen for

this strong influence, combined administration of B-vitamins to normo-homocysteinemic subjects or to those with mild/moderate hyper-homocysteinemia may still exhibit synergistic effects. In women of childbearing age, the tHcy-lowering effects of folic acid in different combinations with vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ were stronger than with folic acid alone [21, 22].

terminant of the tHcy concentration in the absence of treatment but also upon B-vitamin supplementation. Despite this strong influence, combined administration of B-vitamins to normo-homocysteinemic subjects or to those with mild/moderate hyper-homocysteinemia may still exhibit synergistic effects. In women of childbearing age, the tHcy-lowering effects of folic acid in different combinations with vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ were stronger than with folic acid alone [21, 22]. In the present study, smaller reductions in tHcy were observed in those individuals with MMA concentrations above the median of the vitamin supplemented group at

FA Dose and Schedule

'974 Patent



As used in this invention, the term "FBP binding agent" refers to folic acid, (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid. This latter compound is the (6R)-isomer of leucovorin as disclosed in *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 74, 4215 (1952). Both of the tetrahydrofolic acid compounds are in the unnatural configuration at the 6-position—they are 10–20 fold more efficient in binding the folate binding protein compared with their respective (6S)-isomer—see Ratnam, et al., *Folate and Antifolate Transport in Mammalian Cells Symposium*, Mar. 21–22, 1991, Bethesda, Md. These compounds are usually prepared as a mixture with their natural form (6S) of diastereomers by non-stereoselective reduction from the corresponding dehydro precursors followed by separation through chromatographic or enzymatic techniques. See e.g., PCT Patent Application Publication WO 880844 (also Derwent Abstract 89-36844/51) and Canadian Patent 1093554.

Folic acid is a vitamin which is required by mammals for proper regeneration of the blood-forming elements and their functioning, and as a coenzyme is involved in intermediary metabolic processes in which one-carbon units are transferred. These reactions are important in interconversions of various amino acids and in purine and pyrimidine synthesis. Folic acid is commonly supplied to diets of humans via consumption of food sources such as liver, kidney, dry beans, asparagus, mushrooms, broccoli, lettuce, milk and spinach, as well as by vitamin supplements. The minimum amount of folic acid commonly required by normal adults is about 0.05 mg/day. According to this invention, folic acid, or a physiologically-available salt or ester thereof, is administered to a human subject at a dose of about 0.5 mg/day to about 30 mg/day to diminish the toxic effects of a GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate also being administered to such subject. In a preferred embodiment, folic acid will be administered at about 1 to about 5 mg/day together with the normal dosing of GAR-transformylase inhibitor such as lomectrexol.

Based upon the relative binding constants for the respective compounds, it will be expected that approximately 1 mg/day to 30 mg/day (preferably approximately 2–15 mg/day) of (6R)-5-methyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid or about 5–300 mg/day (preferably about 10–50 mg/day) of (6R)-5-formyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydrofolic acid, or their respective physiologically-available salt or ester thereof, will be employed with the GAR-transformylase inhibitor.

"Physiologically-available salt" refers to potassium, sodium, lithium, magnesium, or preferably a calcium salt of the FBP binding agent. "Physiologically-available ester" refers to esters which are easily hydrolyzed upon administration to a mammal to provide the corresponding FBP binding agent free acid, such as C₁–C₄ alkyl esters, mixed anhydrides, and the like.

The FBP binding agent is administered according to this invention can be in its free acid form, or can be in the form of a physiologically-available salt or ester which is converted to the parent acid in a biological system. The dosage generally will be provided in the form of a vitamin supplement, namely a tablet administered orally, preferably as a sustained release formulation, as an aqueous solution added to drinking water, an aqueous parenteral formulation, e.g., an intravenous formulation, or the like.

The FBP binding agent is administered to the subject mammal prior to treatment with the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Pretreatment with the suitable amount of FBP binding agent from about 1 to about 24 hours is usually sufficient to substantially bind to and block the folate binding protein prior to administration of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate. Although one single dose of the FBP binding agent, preferably an oral administration of folic acid, should be sufficient to load the folate binding protein, multiple dosing of the FBP binding agent can be employed for periods up to weeks before treatment with the active agent to ensure that the folate binding protein is sufficiently bound in order to maximize the benefit derived from such pretreatment.

In the especially preferred embodiment of this invention, about 1 mg to about 5 mg of folic acid is administered orally to a mammal about 1 to about 24 hours prior to the parenteral administration of the amount of lomectrexol which is normally required to attain the desired therapeutic benefit. Although greater or additional doses of folic acid or another FBP binding agent are also operable, the above parameters will usually bind the folate binding protein in an amount sufficient to reduce the toxicity effects normally seen upon lomectrexol administration above.

It should be noted that the FBP binding agent is not an antitumor agent and that the pretreatment of a mammal with a FBP binding agent is not a synergistic or potentiating effect. Rather, by having substantially bound the folate binding protein with a FBP binding agent prior to administration of the GAR-transformylase inhibitor or other antifolate, the toxic effects of such subsequent treatment are greatly reduced without affecting the therapeutic efficacy.

The effect of folic acid on GAR-transformylase inhibitors has been demonstrated in standard tests commonly utilized to determine the antitumor activity and toxic effects of the GAR-transformylase inhibitors themselves. In one such test, mice are inoculated with the C3H strain of mammary adenocarcinoma by inserting a 2 mm by 2 mm section of tumor into the axillary region of the mice by trocar. In all experiments, lomectrexol was administered intraperitoneally once a day for five consecutive days, starting on the day following tumor implantation. Ten animals were used at each dosage level. Antitumor activity was assessed on day

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FA and B12 Dose and Schedule

Brattström

VITAMINS AS HOMOCYSTEINE-LOWERING AGENTS

1277S

Vitamins for lowering basal homocysteine concentration

Renal insufficiency results both in moderate hyperhomocysteinemia and accelerated atherosclerosis (Wilcken et al. 1988). Several studies have consistently shown that oral treatment with folic acid (5–10 mg/dy) reduces renal hyperhomocysteinemia by a mean of 30–60% (Aradottir et al. 1993, Chauveau et al. 1994, Janssen et al. 1994, Wilcken et al. 1981, Wilcken et al. 1988). Oral pyridoxine has no homocysteine-lowering effect (Aradottir et al. 1993, Wilcken et al. 1981).

In two studies, including a total of 28 nonvitamin-deficient healthy subjects with mostly normal plasma homocysteine concentrations, we tested the homocysteine-lowering effect of folic acid (5 mg/d for 2–4 wk) (Brattström et al. 1985, Brattström et al. 1988b). All but two with low homocysteine concentrations responded to folic acid, with reductions on average >30% and were most marked in those with high homocysteine concentrations. Oral treatment over 2 wk with pyridoxine (40 mg/d) or cyanocobalamin (1 mg/d) had no homocysteine-lowering effect (Brattström et al. 1988b). In another study, pyridoxine (120 mg/d for 6 wk) had no effect on plasma homocysteine concentration in 16 healthy subjects (Brattström and Hultberg unpublished). On the basis of these observations, we proposed that the homocysteine-lowering effect of folic acid in nonfolate-deficient subjects is that excess folic acid after conversion to methyltetrahydrofolate increases the rate by which homocysteine is remethylated to methionine. In contrast, excess vitamin B-12 and pyridoxine will not decrease plasma homocysteine unless deficiency is present because these vitamins serve as coenzymes and not as cosubstrates as does methyltetrahydrofolate (Brattström et al. 1988b).

Subsequently, we studied the effect of folic acid and pyridoxine in 20 moderately hyperhomocysteinemic patients with cardiovascular disease (Brattström et al. 1990). After pyridoxine (240 mg/d, for 2 wk) plasma homocysteine tended to increase, but after another 2 wk on pyridoxine with the addition of folic acid (10 mg/d) all patients showed reduced homocysteine concentrations, with 57% mean reduction. We also failed to show a homocysteine-lowering effect of high dose pyridoxine (300 mg/d for 12 wk) in 37 stroke patients (Landgren, Brattström and Hultberg unpublished). In two recent studies of patients with vascular disease and hyperhomocysteinemia (Glueck et al. 1995, van den Berg et al. 1994) and in one study of normal normohomocysteinemic subjects (Haglund et al. 1993), the combination of pyridoxine (100–250 mg/d) and folic acid (5–10 mg/d) reduced plasma homocysteine by a mean of 51, 38, and 30%, respectively.

In groups of consecutive patients with acute myocardial infarction of whom most were normohomocysteinemic and all of whom had normal serum folate concentrations, we found that 2.5 and 10 mg of folic

acid over 6 wk had similar homocysteine-lowering effect, in both groups plasma homocysteine was reduced by a mean of 27% (Landgren et al. 1995). Reductions were seen in all but two patients, both with low homocysteine values. With a few exceptions the response to folic acid was proportional to the pretreatment homocysteine levels. These exceptional patients were hyperhomocysteinemic and had low or low normal serum

vitamin B-12 concentrations, in one with a subnormal vitamin B-12 concentration and a partial response to folic acid, oral treatment with cyanocobalamin (2 mg/d for 2 wk) normalized plasma homocysteine.

Hyperhomocysteinemia due to vitamin B-12 deficiency does not respond to folic acid therapy (Allen et al. 1990). It is likely, that even in subjects with low normal vitamin B-12 concentrations full response to folic acid cannot be achieved unless vitamin B-12 is given concomitantly (Landgren et al. 1995). This view is supported by recent studies by Ubbink et al. (1993a, 1993b, 1994). It was shown that men with moderate hyperhomocysteinemia (>16.3 $\mu\text{mol/l}$) in most cases had suboptimal plasma vitamin B-12 (<200 pmol/l) and folate (<5 nmol/l) concentrations (Ubbink et al. 1993a). Such men were in a 6-wk trial given either folic acid (0.65 mg/d), pyridoxine (10 mg/d), cyanocobalamin (0.4 mg/d) or the combination of these vitamins (Ubbink et al. 1994). Most but not all responded to folic acid, with the mean homocysteine concentration decreased from 28.8 to 16.8 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ (–42%), a posttreatment value, however, still above normal. Pyridoxine had no homocysteine-lowering effect, whereas cyanocobalamin decreased plasma homocysteine by a mean of 15%. In contrast, all responded to the combination by a mean homocysteine reduction of 50% although homocysteine values were not normalized in all subjects during this short trial. Because the majority of these men probably had suboptimal vitamin B-12 status, homocysteine lowering could have been better if a higher cyanocobalamin dose had been used or if the treatment period had been extended for several weeks. There are recent results showing that high dose parenteral administration of cobalamin decreases plasma homocysteine in subjects with normal vitamin B-12 levels (Araki et al. 1993, Nilsson et al. 1994).

Vitamins for lowering postmethionine load hyperhomocysteinemia

Several studies have shown that patients with premature cardiovascular disease frequently respond to oral methionine loading tests [100 mg/kg body weight] with abnormally high increases in plasma homocysteine concentrations (Ueland et al. 1992). There is evidence to suggest that an abnormal response to methionine loading indicates impaired pyridoxal 5-phosphate-dependent homocysteine catabolism, whereas an abnormally high basal homocysteine concentration

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FA and B12 Dose and Schedule

Beutler

302

V-BLOOD AND NEOPLASTIC DISORDERS

system complications. When used, transfusions should be given in small amounts and slowly over several hours. The patient should be monitored for signs of congestive heart failure and should usually be given a diuretic.

VITAMIN B₁₂

Because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is almost always due to malabsorption of the vitamin and not to reduced dietary intake, it is said treatment should be parenteral administration of vitamin B₁₂. Although I believe it is prudent to use injections of vitamin B₁₂, massive doses of vitamin B₁₂ taken orally can be effective. Vitamin B₁₂, 300 µg a day taken orally, can produce both a good

ample enough to be dogmatic about how much vitamin B₁₂ to give, it is reasonable for the clinician to be generous because vitamin B₁₂ is nontoxic, and the neurologic damage from vitamin B₁₂ deficiency can be crippling.

Patients should be advised that treatment with vitamin B₁₂ is to continue for life and that treatment must continue even when they feel better. Although satisfactory maintenance therapy can be achieved with 100 µg of vitamin B₁₂ once a month, I tend to recommend 1000 µg each month. Two successful alternative maintenance programs are 1000 µg of hydroxocobalamin every two or three months and eight injections of 1000 µg of hydroxocobalamin over two to three weeks once

Stores of vitamin B₁₂ can be replenished with 1000 µg of vitamin B₁₂ injected daily or perhaps every other day for two weeks. Alternatively, 1000 µg can be given once a week for six weeks. The physician has some flexibility in adjusting the program to the patient's circumstances, since these regimens probably provide an excessive amount of vitamin B₁₂.

It is probably wise to continue to give a large dose of vitamin B₁₂ if a patient has appreciable neurologic damage. A reasonable recommendation is 500 to 1000 µg of vitamin B₁₂ weekly or every other week for six to 12 months. Although scientific documentation is not

day for two weeks. Alternatively, 1000 µg can be given once a week for six weeks. The physician has some flexibility in adjusting the program to the patient's circumstances, since these regimens probably provide an excessive amount of vitamin B₁₂.

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Hemolytic anemia exists when there is pathologic shortening of the red cell life span of such a degree that bone marrow response is unable to maintain a normal red cell mass. Compensated hemolysis is said to exist when red cell life span is shortened, but the increased activity of the bone marrow is able to maintain a normal hemoglobin concentration in the blood.

The most direct and definitive means of demonstrating the shortening of red cell life span is to perform a ⁵¹Cr red cell survival and excluding, by appropriate

Lilly Ex. 2088
Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

ample enough to be dogmatic about how much vitamin B₁₂ to give, it is reasonable for the clinician to be generous because vitamin B₁₂ is nontoxic, and the neurologic damage from vitamin B₁₂ deficiency can be crippling.

Patients should be advised that treatment with vitamin B₁₂ is to continue for life and that treatment must continue even when they feel better. Although satisfactory maintenance therapy can be achieved with 100 µg of vitamin B₁₂ once a month, I tend to recommend 1000 µg each month. Two successful alternative maintenance programs are 1000 µg of hydroxocobalamin every two or three months and eight injections of 1000 µg of hydroxocobalamin over two to three weeks once a year. I suspect a monthly injection is less likely to be forgotten and may be a more reliable form of treatment. I would, therefore, advise as maintenance treatment 1000 µg of vitamin B₁₂ once a month for life.

Most patients will respond to treatment of folic acid deficiency with 1 mg of folic acid a day taken orally.

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Clinical studies with MTA

AH Calvert¹ and JM Welling²

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Summary MTA (LY231514), a multi-targeted antifolate, is a classical antifolate undergoing intracellular polyglutamation. Polyglutamated MTA is a potent thymidylate synthase (TS) inhibitor and inhibits other folate-dependent enzymes, including dihydrofolate reductase and glycylamide ribonucleotide formyl transferase. Multitargeted antifolates may overcome antifolate resistance, but it is not known whether the antitumour activity of MTA depends on its TS inhibition, its primary focus of action, or whether other loci contribute. MTA was examined in three phase I trials using different schedules: a 10-min i.v. infusion given once every 3 weeks, once weekly for 4 weeks every 6 weeks or daily for 5 days every 3 weeks. Dose-limiting toxicities were neutropenia and thrombocytopenia. Other consistently seen side-effects, which were manageable, included mucositis, skin rashes and transient elevations of transaminases. Toxicity was highly schedule dependent: the recommended dose for the 3-weekly schedule (500 mg m⁻²) was 30 times that for the daily × 5 schedule (4 mg m⁻² day⁻¹). The 3-weekly dosing schedule was chosen for phase II evaluation. Phase II trials are underway to investigate the activity and toxicity of MTA in several tumour types, including colorectal, pancreas, breast, bladder and non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Further phase I trials will investigate MTA in combination with other agents, including gemcitabine, cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil and folate. Preliminary phase II trials results are encouraging; responses were seen in colorectal, pancreas, NSCLC and breast cancer.

Keywords: LY231514; MTA; multi-targeted antifolate; antimetabolite; clinical trial

The use of antimetabolites in the treatment of cancer was first explored in 1948 by Farber, who discovered that administration of aminopterin caused remission in patients suffering from leukaemia (Farber et al., 1948). Antimetabolites are compounds that either inhibit the synthesis of the precursors of DNA or, because of their structural similarity to the natural precursors, are incorporated into DNA and/or RNA, causing cell death or stasis. Antifolates can

MTA

MTA (LY231514) is a folate analogue in which the 6,8-fused pteridine ring system of folic acid is replaced by a pyrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine ring (Figure 2) (Taylor et al., 1992a). This compound emerged from Lilly's programme of synthesis of potential GARFT inhibitors. It was discovered that one of the enantiomers

the synthesis of these are folate dependent. As cancer cells are actively proliferating, they require large quantities of DNA and RNA. This makes them susceptible targets for antimetabolites, as interference in cell metabolism has a greater effect when rapid cell division is taking place. The toxic effect is directed at all prolifer-

potential solution to the problem of resistance. A drug with a variety of mechanisms of action may continue to have anti-tumour activity whereas a single-activity agent might not (Calvert et al., 1980). Although MTA has been shown to inhibit DHFR, TS and GARFT in vitro, it has yet to be established whether its in vivo activity depends only on inhibition of TS, or whether other loci are involved. It does appear, however, that TS inhibition will play a major role in the clinical activity of MTA.

synthesis. For example, mitomycin acts directly on thymidylate synthase (TS) (Ward et al., 1992), while lomustine (Beardsley et al., 1989) affects only purine synthesis by inhibiting glycylamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase (GARFT).

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State of the Art

Calvert 1998

38 AH Calvert and JM Walling

Table 4 Phase II trials of MTA: patient characteristics and responses by tumour type

Study	Pancreas USA	Breast UK	NSCLC Canada	NSCLC S.Africa/Australia	Colorectal USA	Colorectal Canada
Patients entered	44	22	19	19	41	33
Evaluable for response/toxicity	18/39	18/19	12/15	10/12	17/41	30/33
Male/female			12/7		25/16	17/16
Age range (median) (years)	37-77 (60)	45-81 (54)	(65)		(59)	(66)
Stage III/IV	7/37		1/18	0/2	28/11	13/18
Performance status (Scale)	0-1 (ECOG)		0 (ECOG 0/1)	0 WHO	0 (ECOG 0/1/2)	0 (ECOG 0/1/2)
Prior chemotherapy	0	14	0	0	26	9
Prior radiotherapy	0	17	0	0	11	3
Responses						
Complete	1	0	0	0	1	1
Partial	1	6	3	3	3	5

infusion every 21 days and was generally well tolerated. Dose reductions were required in 17% of patients. Cutaneous toxicity, often seen in antifolate therapy, was the most common toxicity, occurring in over half of the patients, but was not life-threatening and was reported to be alleviated by dexamethasone. Other significant toxicities were haematological in nature. Grade 3/4 granulocytopenia was seen in 42% of patients, while elevation of transaminase levels was seen in less than 20%. One complete response and one partial

this study, 19 are evaluable for toxicity and 18 for response. Grade 3/4 thrombocytopenia and neutropenia were the major toxicities seen, the former in 41% of patients and the latter in 18% of patients. Other toxicities observed included grade 3/4 skin reactions in 16% of patients and grade 2/3 elevations in ALT values, seen in 84% of patients. Partial responses were seen in six patients,

one patient was to a reduction in seen seen in 32% this was shown such as CB 3717 (1, 1994). Partial response rate of 600 mg m⁻² once patients eligible for been seen and the principal grade 3/4 patients. Other 3 nausea (8%) ritin to accrue

five of whom had previously received chemotherapy, including docetaxel, 5-FU and gemcitabine.

MTA is also being studied in the treatment of NSCLC. Two trials are ongoing, one in Canada and the other a joint South African and Australian study. The first of these, an MCTC study, has enrolled 19 patients to date, 12 of whom are evaluable for response and 15 for toxicity (Rusthoven et al, 1997). Patients included had histologically proven, stage III/IV disease and were chemo-naive. As determined in

patients with metastatic colorectal cancer have also been treated with MTA in two phase II studies carried out in the USA (John et al, 1997) and Canada (Cripps et al, 1997). Prior adjuvant chemotherapy was allowed in the USA study, as long as patients had been untreated for one year before inclusion in the trial. Of the 41 patients entered into the trial, 32 had colon cancer and nine had rectal cancer. All patients were evaluable for toxicity and 17 for

12% of patients. Grade 3 rash was seen in 40% of patients. The activity of MTA in colorectal cancer demonstrated in these studies is to be further investigated in larger phase III studies.

In conclusion, although these phase II results are preliminary, MTA appears to show promising activity in the treatment of several solid tumours, including breast, colorectal, pancreas and NSCLC cancers. Further data are required before conclusions can be drawn regarding the absolute efficacy, but first indications are favourable.

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the phase I trials, the starting dose for the first three patients was 600 mg m⁻², but toxicities observed at this dose led to a reduction in the dose to 500 mg m⁻². Grade 3/4 neutropenia has been seen in 32% of patients, along with elevated transaminase levels; this was shown to be transient, as seen in trials of other antifolates, such as CB 3717 (Calvert et al, 1986) and raltitrexed (Burriss et al, 1994). Partial

remaining seven patients had stable disease. The principal grade 3/4 toxicity was neutropenia, which occurred in 42% of patients. Other toxicities seen included grade 3/4 rash (17%), grade 3 nausea (8%) and grade 4 vomiting (8%). Both these trials continue to accrue

response. The major grade 3/4 toxicity observed was neutropenia, seen in 56% of patients, while 16% and 12% of patients experienced grade 3/4 thrombocytopenia and anaemia, respectively. Skin reactions were common, occurring in 69% of patients, but were rarely significant. A complete response was seen in one patient and

chemonaive. The recommended phase II dose of 600 mg m⁻² was given to nine patients, but this was subsequently reduced to 500 mg m⁻² in the remaining 24 patients, when several early patients experienced toxicities requiring dose reduction. One complete response

State of the Art

Calvert 1998

Clinical studies with MTA 39

THE FUTURE FOR MTA

MTA is a new antifolate with a novel pharmacological profile. Preclinical studies have shown that it has several potential modes of action, including inhibition of TS, GARFT and DHFR.

Results of single-agent phase I and II trials with MTA have shown that the most common toxicities, i.e. myelosuppression and

Oakley. Data management support was provided by I. Robson and K. Fishwick. We also thank Dr D Thornton, J Chick, S McCarthy and J Stickland of Eli Lilly and Co for their assistance and Deirdre Conlon (Aulphix Communications Ltd) for assistance in the preparation of this manuscript.

skin reactions, were generally tolerable and manageable. The dose-limiting toxicities were usually haematological. Preliminary

1996). Three phase II trials of edatrexate showed response rates of 32% (Shum et al, 1988), 13% (Soulhami et al, 1992) and 10% (Lee et al, 1990). A subsequent phase III trial in 673 patients, which compared edatrexate, mitomycin and vinblastine (EMV) with mitomycin and vinblastine (MV), failed to show improved

Calvert et al (1997) reported that the most common toxicities seen with MTA were myelosuppression and skin reactions. The authors also noted that the most common dose-limiting toxicities were usually haematological. Preliminary results of phase II trials of MTA in patients with advanced colorectal cancer, advanced gastric cancer, and advanced non-small cell lung cancer, showed that MTA was well tolerated and that the most common dose-limiting toxicities were usually haematological. Preliminary results of phase II trials of MTA in patients with advanced colorectal cancer, advanced gastric cancer, and advanced non-small cell lung cancer, showed that MTA was well tolerated and that the most common dose-limiting toxicities were usually haematological. Preliminary results of phase II trials of MTA in patients with advanced colorectal cancer, advanced gastric cancer, and advanced non-small cell lung cancer, showed that MTA was well tolerated and that the most common dose-limiting toxicities were usually haematological.

tumours (Thoedtman et al, 1997). Trials are also planned to investigate the effect of folates on the toxicities seen with MTA, based on the observation that animals given folate supplements were better able to tolerate treatment with MTA, with fewer side-effects (Worzalla et al, 1997). Trials are also planned for combinations

with other anticancer drugs, and the results of these, and other trials nearing completion, are awaited with interest. Initial indications suggest that MTA will find a place in the anti-cancer armamentarium.

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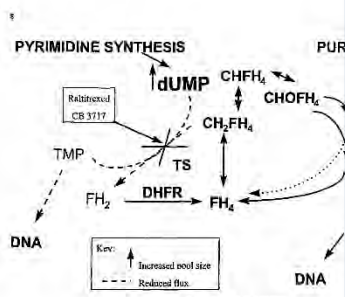
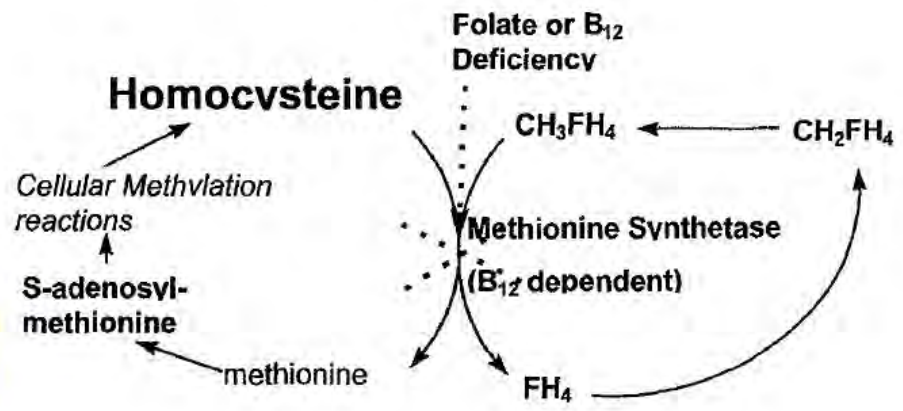


Fig 6. Effects of TS inhibition.

Clinical Measurement of Functional Folate Status
Although the effect of folic acid supplementation on reducing the toxicity of antifolate drugs (particularly the GARFT inhibitors) is clear, it

thymine synthesis. CH₂-methyltetrahydrofolate for the enzyme methionine synthase, which uses the methyl group to convert homocysteine to

Fig 8. Role of 5-methyl tetrahydrofolic acid: a reduction in functional folate increases plasma homocysteine levels.



Although the effect of folic acid supplementation on reducing the toxicity of antifolate drugs (particularly the GARFT inhibitors) is clear, it

strate. Thus, any functional deficiency either in B₁₂ or folate will result in reduction in the flux through methionine synthase and a consequent increase in the plasma level of homocysteine¹⁶

spectrum of phenotypic activity, displays different patterns of cross-resistance to other antifolates, and has an encouraging level of activity documented in early phase II clinical trials.¹⁶ It is possible that its capability of inhibiting more than one locus contributes to these results by increasing the spectrum of biochemical profiles of tumors potentially sensitive to the drug and discouraging the development of drug resistance. Reports that follow in this supplement address these issues in detail.

CONCLUSIONS

Naturally occurring folates have complex metabolic pathways and are involved in a number of biochemical processes essential to life, including cell proliferation. In addition to their direct role in various metabolic pathways, a number of other phenomena will significantly affect the actions both of natural folates and their analogues acting as antifolates. These include cell membrane transport, the formation of polyglutamates, and the pretreatment folate status of the patient concerned. The very complexity of the processes involved suggests ways in which the action of anti-

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Thodtmann

Novel therapeutics and pharmacology

618P Phase study of different sequences of MTA (LY231514) in combination with cisplatin in patients with solid tumours

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Introduction: The novel multi-targeted anti-folate (MTA) is a potent inhibitor of thymidylate synthase, dihydropyrimidine reductase and glycinamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase. MTA has shown encouraging antitumour activity in vivo and in vivo and in single-agent phase I and phase II trials. The purpose of this study was to determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and dose-limiting toxicity (DLT), pharmacokinetics and antitumour activity of MTA in combination with cisplatin (C).

620P A phase I and pharmacokinetic (PK) study of the multitargeted antifolate (MTA, LY231514) with folic acid (FA)

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Introduction: MTA, a new antifolate that inhibits thymidylate synthase, dihydropyrimidine reductase, and glycinamide ribonucleotide formyltransferase, demonstrated notable broad antitumour activity when infused 10 min i.v. every 21 days. Myelosuppression precluded dose escalation above 500-600 mg/m². As practical evaluations indicate that FA supplementation increases the therapeutic index of MTA, this study was initiated to determine if FA supple-

mg/m², and grade 4 mucositis in 1 pt at MTA 600 mg/m² and C 75 mg/m². At both dose levels 1 pt died due to therapy-related toxicities. Pharmacokinetic

infusion was observed in 1 pt at each dose level, rash grade 3 in 1 pt at each dose level. Grade 4 diarrhoea occurred in 1 pt at MTA 500 mg/m² and C 75 mg/m², and grade 4 mucositis in 1 pt at MTA 600 mg/m² and C 75 mg/m². At both dose levels 1 pt died due to therapy-related toxicities. Pharmacokinetic parameters of MTA were not influenced by C administration and hydration. Several responses were observed: in cohort 1, 11 pts, including 4 of pts with metastasizing, in cohort 2, 3 pts had minimal responses, and remain on study.

619P Reduction of micrometastatic tumor load by monoclonal antibody therapy: Influence of tumor antigen heterogeneity

S. Strauß, F. Hepp, W. Jarry, H.L. Sorensen, K. Pahlitz, I. Fraueckel and Institute for Immunology, Univ. of Munich, Germany

Introduction: Disseminated cancer cells in bone marrow (BM), are regarded as suitable targets for adjuvant immunotherapy, because they are easily accessible for both immunocytotoxic and immune effector cells. This pilot study was designed to examine the influence of the individual antigen profile of such target cells on the potential treatment efficacy.

Methods: Individual breast cancer cells in BM were identified by the anti-cytokeratin (CK) monoclonal antibody (mAb) 4E5/8G5. To evaluate the antigen profile of these cells, we applied a quantitative double-marker assay and typed for four potential therapeutic targets (17-1A, MUC-1, Lewis^x, c-erbB-2). In a pilot study, five breast cancer patients with a CK⁺ BM finding were treated with a single dose of 500 mg Panorex[®], and were monitored for the elimination of 17-1A co-expressing CK⁺ cancer cells after 5-7 days.

Results: CK⁺ cells from 20 breast cancer patients typed in this study for the expression of the four antigens targets were found to represent a heterogeneous cellular population. The mean percentage of double-positive cells per total no. of CK⁺ cells was 44% (0-75%) for 17-1A, 41% (0-67%) for MUC-1, 34% (0-60%) for Lewis^x, and 42% (0-92%) for c-erbB-2. This was contrasted by a mean total of 70% (34-100%) total CK⁺ cells if all four antigens were targeted simultaneously by the antibody-cocktail consisting of all four antigens. Thus, we considered tumor antigen heterogeneity a potential cause for incomplete tumor cell elimination by monoclonal therapeutic approaches. This assumption was supported by our pilot study. Prior to treatment patients presented with 17, 67, 97, 115, 326 CK⁺ cells per 10⁶ BM cells, and a mean percentage of 61% (range 41-100%) CD117⁺/CD133⁺ double-positive cells per total no. of CK⁺ cells. In all five patients we assessed a remarkable reduction in both the no. of CK⁺ cells (17-5, 67-11, 97-2, 115-20, 326-95) per 10⁶ BM cells, and the percentage of 17-1A/CD133⁺ cells (41%-0%, 48%-0%, 54%-10%, 60%-15%, 100%-17%) per total no. of CK⁺ cells after the administration of Panorex[®].

Conclusion: Genetic instability of carcinoma cells resulting in the reported polyclonal phenotype of the disseminated tumor cell population may limit the efficacy of monoclonal immunogenetic treatment strategies. Individual immunocytochemical monitoring of therapeutic tumor cell elimination is feasible, and suggest that Panorex[®] might be able to eliminate 17-1A⁺ breast cancer cells.

who had taken a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent and 1 with severe hypotension, resolved after administration of succinyl and thymidine. Primary sternal metastases in 26 pts, renal 2 and of 11 pts with normocytosis, 10 had G4 thrombocytopenia and neutropenia, respectively, and 2 of 15 pts with hemocytopenia. 10 had G4 thrombocytopenia and neutropenia, respectively, 1 and 2 of 4 pts with elevated creatinine levels (creatinine upper limit of normal 342 µM/L) had G2 somnolence and G1-2 fatigue, respectively, 1 and 10 of 16 pts with normal creatinine levels had G2 somnolence and G1-2 fatigue, respectively, 1 of 4 pts with elevated methylmalonic acid (methylmalonic acid upper limit of normal 271 nM/L) had G2 fatigue while 12 of 22 pts with normal levels had G1-2 fatigue, 7 of 15 pts with elevated homocysteine, cystathionine, or methylmalonic acid levels had a significant decrease in CrCl. Based on information from these 16 pts, addition of FA may reduce the usefulness of sternal metastases as predictors of toxicity.

Conclusions: FA supplementation appears to permit MTA dose escalation by ameliorating toxicity. Heavily and minimally-treated pts tolerate MTA at 700 and 925 mg/m² and several continue at 900 and 925 mg/m², respectively.

621P Pharmacokinetic (PK) and pharmacodynamic (PD) analysis of a phase I study of Taxo(T), Carboplatin (C) with F-glycoprotein (F-gp) modulator PSC-833 (PSC)

M. Mitchell, A. Oza, M.J. Egozi, A. Palczak, P. Fritzy, L.L. Su, M. Litchner, M.J. Moore, Phoenix Medical Hospital, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, K5G 2M6, Canada; University of Maryland, MD, Novartis Pharmaceuticals, NJ, USA

Introduction: Cyclosporine analogues such as PSC reduce the clearance of P-gp substrates (e.g. T) and their maximum tolerated dose (MTD). This trial was designed to assess the MTD, PK and PD of T and C with oral PSC in patients (pts) with refractory solid tumors.

Methods: All patients were planned to receive a fixed dose of PSC (5 mg/kg, p.o. b.i.d. x 12, days 0-3) and T (baseline dose 54 mg/m², 13.5mg/m² increments, 3 hr infusion, day 1) and C (target AUC 0-9 mg/ml·min, day 1), 3-weekly. C AUCs derived from an interim sampling model, and T PK parameters fitted to a 2-compartment model.

Results: 58 pts entered into 7 dose levels (DL). 41 had previous chemotherapy (24, 1 prior regimen). PK for DL 1-7 summarized below.

DL	T Dose mg/m ²	Target C AUC ₀₋₉ mg/ml·min	T AUC ₀₋₉ mg·hr	C AUC ₀₋₉ mg·hr	T AUC ₀₋₉ mg·hr	T _{1/2} (hr)	T _{1/2} (hr)	T _{1/2} (hr)
1	54	9	3	5.4	4.8	13.16	26.46	
2, 5, 7	67.5	6, 7.5, 9	2.9	6.3, 7.55	5.94	12.91	26.92	T = 0.95 M
3	81	6	2.3	5.2	7.46	13.47	28.0	
4	94.5	6	4	6.7	12.1	8.14	37.92	

No PK interaction was noted between C & T or PSC & C. The T and C doses showed a mean correlation with % change early AUC₀₋₉ (R² = 0.88 respectively), their AUCs correlated well with % change radi AND or platelets. PSC prolonged the time T > 0.025 µM at T 94.5 mg/m² > than T 175 mg/m² alone. DL 2 and DL 5 were the MTDs of prior (2/20) & alternative (3) respectively.

Conclusions: PSC by reducing T_{1/2} clearance, prolongs the time T > 0.025 µM, without influence on C PK. PSC reduced the MTD of the T & C combination.

State of the Art

Brattström

Colloquium: Homocyst(e)ine, Vitamins and Arterial Occlusive Diseases

Vitamins as Homocysteine-Lowering Agents¹

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ABSTRACT
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basal hyperhomocysteinemia and hyperhomocysteinemia unmasked by a methionine load are markers for increased cardiovascular risk (Ueland et al. 1992). Moreover, the findings of a dose-response relationship between plasma homocysteine concentration, over its full range, and the relative risk for (Arnesen et al. 1995, Malinow et al. 1993, Pancharutit et al. 1994, Robinson et al. 1995, Perry et al. 1995) the prevalence of (Selhub et al. 1995) or the severity of cardiovascular disease (Ubbink et al. 1991) strongly supports causality. Now, we must focus on intervention studies to establish whether homocysteine lowering with vitamins reduces cardiovascular risk (Stampfer and Malinow 1995).

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homocysteinemia (Miller et al. 1992). In contrast, folate and vitamin B-12 deficiency may result in considerable hyperhomocysteinemia, which is rapidly normalized after replenishment with the deficient vitamin (Allen et al. 1990, Brattström et al. 1988a, Kang et al. 1987, Stabler et al. 1988). Even within their normal ranges,

effective homocysteine-lowering therapy with betaine, folic acid and/or vitamin B-12 suggests that homocysteine lowering also in these cases reduces cardiovascular risk.

¹ Presented as part of the colloquium "Homocyst(e)ine, Vitamins and Arterial Occlusive Diseases" given at the Experimental Biology '95 meeting, Atlanta, GA, on April 13, 1995. This symposium was sponsored by the American Institute of Nutrition. Guest editors for the symposium were M. R. Malinow, Oregon Regional Primate Research Center, Beaverton, OR, and M. J. Stampfer, Harvard School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA.

Brattström

VITAMINS AS HOMOCYSTEINE-LOWERING AGENTS

12775

Vitamins for lowering basal homocysteine concentration

Renal insufficiency results both in moderate hyperhomocysteinemia and accelerated atherosclerosis (Wilcken et al. 1988). Several studies have consistently shown that oral treatment with folic acid (5–10 mg/dy) reduces renal hyperhomocysteinemia by a mean of 30–60% (Arnaudotir et al. 1993, Chauveau et al. 1994, Janssen et al. 1994, Wilcken et al. 1981, Wilcken et al. 1988). Oral pyridoxine has no homocysteine-lowering effect (Arnaudotir et al. 1993, Wilcken et al. 1981).

In two studies, including a total of 38 nonvitamin-deficient healthy subjects with mostly normal plasma homocysteine concentrations, we tested the homocysteine-lowering effect of folic acid (5 mg/d for 2–4 wk) (Brattström et al. 1985, Brattström et al. 1988b). All but two with low homocysteine concentrations responded to folic acid, with reductions on average >30% and were most marked in those with high homocysteine concentrations. Oral treatment over 2 wk with pyridoxine (40 mg/d) or cyanocobalamin (1 mg/d) had no homocysteine-lowering effect (Brattström et al. 1988b). In another study, pyridoxine (120 mg/d for 6 wk) had no effect on plasma homocysteine concentration in 16 healthy subjects (Brattström and Hultberg unpublished). On the basis of these observations, we proposed that the homocysteine-lowering effect of folic acid in nonfolate-deficient subjects is that excess folic acid after conversion to methyltetrahydrofolate increases the rate by which homocysteine is remethylated to methionine. In contrast, excess vitamin B-12 and pyridoxine will not decrease plasma homocysteine unless deficiency is present because these vitamins serve as coenzymes and not as cosubstrates as does methyltetrahydrofolate (Brattström et al. 1988b).

Subsequently, we studied the effect of folic acid and pyridoxine in 20 moderately hyperhomocysteinemic patients with cardiovascular disease (Brattström et al. 1990). After pyridoxine (240 mg/d, for 2 wk) plasma homocysteine tended to increase, but after another 2 wk on pyridoxine with the addition of folic acid (10 mg/d) all patients showed reduced homocysteine concentrations, with 57% mean reduction. We also failed to show a homocysteine-lowering effect of high dose pyridoxine (300 mg/d for 12 wk) in 37 stroke patients (Lindgren, Brattström and Hultberg unpublished). In two recent studies of patients with vascular disease and hyperhomocysteinemia (Clueck et al. 1995, van den Berg et al. 1994) and in one study of normal normohomocysteinemic subjects (Haglund et al. 1993), the combination of pyridoxine (100–250 mg/d) and folic acid (5–10 mg/d) reduced plasma homocysteine by a mean of 51, 38, and 30%, respectively.

In groups of consecutive patients with acute myocardial infarction of whom most were normohomocysteinemic and all of whom had normal serum folate concentrations, we found that 2.5 and 10 mg of folic

acid over 6 wk had similar homocysteine-lowering effect; in both groups plasma homocysteine was reduced by a mean of 27% (Lindgren et al. 1995). Reductions were seen in all but two patients, both with low homocysteine values. With a few exceptions the response to folic acid was proportional to the pretreatment homocysteine levels. These exceptional patients were hyperhomocysteinemic and had low or low normal serum vitamin B-12 concentrations. In one with a subnormal vitamin B-12 concentration and a partial response to folic acid, oral treatment with cyanocobalamin (2 mg/d for 2 wk) normalized plasma homocysteine.

Hyperhomocysteinemia due to vitamin B-12 deficiency does not respond to folic acid therapy (Allen et al. 1990). It is likely, that even in subjects with low normal vitamin B-12 concentrations full response to folic acid cannot be achieved unless vitamin B-12 is given concomitantly (Lindgren et al. 1995). This view is supported by recent studies by Ubbink et al. (1993a, 1993b, 1994). It was shown that men with moderate hyperhomocysteinemia (>16.3 μmol/l) in most cases had suboptimal plasma vitamin B-12 (<200 pmol/l) and folate (<5 nmol/l) concentrations (Ubbink et al. 1993a). Such men were in a 6-wk trial given either folic acid (0.65 mg/d), pyridoxine (10 mg/d), cyanocobalamin (0.4 mg/d) or the combination of these vitamins (Ubbink et al. 1994). Most but not all responded to folic acid, with the mean homocysteine concentration decreased from 28.8 to 16.3 μmol/l (–42%), a posttreatment value, however, still above normal. Pyridoxine had no homocysteine-lowering effect, whereas cyanocobalamin decreased plasma homocysteine by a mean of 15%. In contrast, all responded to the combination by a mean homocysteine reduction of 50% although homocysteine values were not normalized in all subjects during this short trial. Because the majority of these men probably had suboptimal vitamin B-12 status, homocysteine lowering could have been better if a higher cyanocobalamin dose had been used or if the treatment period had been extended for several weeks. There are recent results showing that high dose parenteral administration of cobalamin decreases plasma homocysteine in subjects with normal vitamin B-12 levels (Arai et al.

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lowering? For several reasons, it seems wise to combine folic acid and cyanocobalamin. First, folic acid seems to reduce almost all but low homocysteine levels. Second, cyanocobalamin will probably secure full folic acid responsiveness. Third, in vitamin B-12 deficiency, erroneous treatment with folic acid may correct the hematological abnormalities but elicit and deteriorate vitamin B-12 neuropathy (Chanarin 1994). Therefore, before start of therapy, vitamin B-12 deficiency must be excluded, and the combination must contain a dose of cyanocobalamin high enough to prevent the occurrence of vitamin B-12 deficiency, even if complete intrinsic factor deficiency develops during the course of therapy. Of oral administered cyanocobalamin only

LOGICAL HYPERHOMOCYSTEINEMIA DUE TO VITAMIN B-12 DEFICIENCY (Chanarin 1994). Therefore, before start of therapy, vitamin B-12 deficiency must be excluded, and the combination must contain a dose of cyanocobalamin high enough to prevent the occurrence of vitamin B-12 deficiency, even if complete intrinsic factor deficiency develops during the course of therapy. Of oral administered cyanocobalamin only about 1% is passively absorbed to the blood (Berlin et

factor receptor <2 μg, which bala have to at modest doses y homocysteine nd that subjects taining, among acid had signifi- els (–22%) than rattström et al. in the European s on Homocys- rnative. More- ingham Heart

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Brattström, L., Israelsson, B., Jørgensen, J. O. & Hultberg, B. (1988b)

an abnormally high basal homocysteine concentration mainly reflects impaired vitamin B-12 and folate-dependent homocysteine remethylation (Brattström et al. 1990, Christensen and Ueland 1993, Miller et al. 1994).

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former compound contains two additional moles of glutamic acid (7). Consequently, pteroyl- γ -glutamyl- γ -glutamylglutamic acid (pteroyltriglutamic acid) was synthesized and found to have an activity similar to that with those of the naturally occurring factor (2). During the course of the synthesis of the compound pteroyl- α -glutamylglutamic acid or *dioplerin* was also prepared and found to be slightly active when assayed in mice.

The synthesis of these two new substances of the pteridine structure. Our decision to employ pteroyltriglutamic acid with malignant disease was based on the data in the cited reports of the Lewisohn and his co-workers on the *L. casei* factor (now known as *L. casei* factor).

It is the purpose of this note to report the results of the variations made in conjunction with and closely related substances. Only those patients for whom the procedure offered no hope of cure with these compounds. This is a series of patients with advanced neoplastic diseases and many of them treated with these compounds. This makes difficult the interpretation of the large numbers of observations.

evaluation of the action of the neoplastic disease in man. This is chiefly a consideration of the administration, and certain general pathological studies will be reported. This series includes patients with: Ewing's tumor; carcinoma of the stomach, cervix, prostate, pharynx, gall bladder, kidney, 4 lymphosarcoma; osteogenic sarcoma; glioblastoma multiforme; seminoma of the testis; myosarcoma of the stomach; carcinoma of the pharynx and of the kidney.

The patients varied considerably in age; 29 from 4 to 10; 30; 10 from 31 to 50; 28 from 51 to 70.

The duration of treatment varied from 1 to 6 months; the average length of treatment was 3 months.

After cautious initial trials of 10 to 150 mg. intramuscularly to 500 mg. intravenously, the dose was given in amounts from 50 to 300 mg./day orally.

12,740 mg. of pteroyltriglutamic acid were given intravenously in both instances without evidence of toxicity.

On the basis of experience alone our present initial treatment calls for the administration of 20 mg. daily of either substance intramuscularly for one week, after which the dose is raised to 50 mg./day for two to three weeks longer. Decision concerning further experimental study is then made.

is raised to 50 mg./day for two to three weeks longer. Decision concerning further experimental study is then made.

After cautious initial trials were made, pteroyltriglutamic acid (*teroplerin*) was administered in daily doses varying from 10 to 150 mg. intramuscularly and in other patients from 20 to 500 mg. intravenously. Pteroyldiglutamic acid (*dioplerin*) was given in amounts from 50 to 250 mg. intramuscularly and from 20 to 300 mg./day orally. One patient received 19,000 mg. of pteroyltriglutamic acid over a period of 5 months, and 12,740 mg. were given intravenously to another in the space of 6 weeks, in both instances without evidence of toxicity.

On the basis of experience alone our present *initial* treatment calls for the administration of 20 mg. daily of either substance intramuscularly for one week, after which the dose is raised to 50 mg./day for two to three weeks longer. De-

more than one therapeutic agent (such as radiation therapy). In addition to the glutamic compound employed, changes were observed under conditions which suggested that it was the addition of the glutamic compound which played an

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TEMPORARY REMISSIONS IN ACUTE LEUKEMIA IN CHILDREN PRODUCED BY FOLIC ACID ANTAGONIST, 4-AMINOPTEROYL-GLUTAMIC ACID (AMINOPTERIN)*

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ROBERT F. SYLVESTER, JR., M.D.,¶ AND JAMES A. WOLFF, M.D.||

BOSTON

IT IS the purpose of this paper to record the results of clinical and hematologic studies on 5 children with acute leukemia treated by the intramuscular injection of a synthetic compound, 4-aminopteroylglutamic acid (aminopterin). This substance is an antagonist to folic acid regarding the growth of *Streptococcus faecalis* R.

The occurrence of what he interpreted as an "acceleration phenomenon" in the leukemic process as seen in the marrow and viscera of children with acute leukemia treated by the injection of folic acid conjugates¹—pteroyltriglutamic acid (teropterin) and pteroyldiglutamic acid (dioplerin)—and an experience gained from studies on folic acid deficiency suggested to Farber that folic acid antagonists might be of value in the treatment of patients with acute leukemia.² Post-mortem studies of leukemic infiltrates of the bone marrow and viscera in patients treated with folic acid conjugates were regarded by Farber as evidence of an acceleration of the leukemic processes to a degree not encountered in his experience with some 200 post-mortem examinations on children with acute leukemia not so treated. It appeared worth while, therefore, to ascertain if this acceleration phenomenon could be employed to advantage either by radiation or nitrogen mustard therapy after pre-treatment with folic acid conjugates or by the administration of antagonists to folic acid.³⁻⁵

The objective data sufficient to justify research in the direction of antagonists to folic acid in the treat-

*Presented at a meeting of the Division of Laboratories and Research, The Children's Medical Center, Boston, April 15, 1948. This study was supported in part under Grant No. 250 of the National Cancer Institute, United States Public Health Service, and in part under a grant from the Charles H. Hood Endry Foundation.

†Assistant professor of pathology, Harvard Medical School; pathologist-in-charge and chairman, Division of Laboratories and Research, The Children's Medical Center, Boston.

‡Assistant professor of pediatrics, Harvard Medical School; hematologist and physician in The Children's Medical Center, Boston.

§Research fellow in pathology and tumor research, The Children's Medical Center, Boston.

¶Research fellow in pathology and tumor research, The Children's Medical Center, Boston.

||Research fellow in pediatrics, The Children's Medical Center, Boston.

ment of leukemia were obtained from studies on a four-year-old girl with a rapidly progressing acute myelogenous leukemia.² Treatment from February 17 to March 24, 1947, with pteroyldiglutamic acid (dioplerin), in a dosage of 100 to 300 mg. intramuscularly daily, had no effect upon the hematologic picture. The patient appeared to be moribund. A second bone-marrow biopsy on March 15 verified the diagnosis of myelogenous leukemia. Pteroylaspatic acid, the first antagonist to folic acid to be employed in our studies, was given intramuscularly from March 28 to April 4 in amounts of 40 mg. daily without altering the clinical course. Post-mortem examination on April 4 revealed a markedly hypoplastic bone marrow, with a few immature cells. A change of this magnitude in such a short time has not been encountered in the marrow of leukemic children in our experience.

This observation was followed by clinical, laboratory, and post-mortem studies** on a group of 14 children with acute leukemia treated with pteroylaspatic acid and on 7 treated with methylpterotic acid. The details of these observations will be reported separately.

Sufficient encouragement was obtained from these observations to justify further studies on the effect of various pteroylglutamic acid derivatives on the course of acute leukemia in children. Since November, 1947, when a sufficiently pure substance became available, to the time of this writing (April 15, 1948) we have made studies on 16 children with acute leukemia to whom the most powerful folic acid antagonist we have yet encountered, 4-aminopteroylglutamic acid (aminopterin†) was administered by intramuscular injection. Many of these children were moribund at the onset of therapy. Of 16 infants and children with acute leukemia treated with aminopterin 10 showed clinical, hematologic and pathological evidences of improvement of important

**These studies were carried out by a group consisting of Sidney Farber, Gilbert S. Leach, James W. Hawkins, Ernst Eckhardt, Robert E. Matson and E. Coverten Peires, II.

†This compound was synthesized by the Celanese Chemical Division of the American Cyanamid Company.

leukemia not so treated. It appeared worth while, therefore, to ascertain if this acceleration phenomenon could be employed to advantage either by radiation or nitrogen mustard therapy after pre-treatment with folic acid conjugates or by the administration of antagonists to folic acid.² A series

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Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA 72 (1975)

this combined therapy. Furthermore, by the combination of MTX and N^5mH_4F , we might derive greater benefit in those neoplasms which have already shown striking or slight response to MTX administration; namely, choriocarcinoma, acute leukemia of childhood, lymphosarcoma, osteogenic sarcoma (20, 48); primary carcinomas of the lung (49); epidermoid carcinomas of the head and neck (50, 51); cerebral

carcinoma (solid tumors)

Finally, it Farber treated with as well crude liver extracts not on mined dose

This work - search Found

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Finally, it is only fitting to recall that in 1948 Dr. Sidney Farber treated children with acute leukemia with aminopterin as well as with injections of crude liver extract. The crude liver extract may well have supplied these very ill patients not only with vitamin B₁₂, but also with an undetermined dose of N^5mH_4F .

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1064 - 00005
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Carrasco

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Acute megaloblastic anemia levels are useful for diagnosis

Sr.

Vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin) and folic acid deficiencies lead to megaloblastic anemia. Accumulation of methylmalonic acid (MMA) and homocysteine (Hcy) are characteristic of MMA. The presentation of MMA is classical macrocytosis. Acute megaloblastic anemia is a common presentation of acute megaloblastic anemia. In a case of AM diagnosed and followed up by evaluation of Hcy levels.

A 45-year old male was diagnosed as having Philadelphia-positive chronic myelogenous leukemia. Three years after diagnosis the patient developed a lymphoid blast crisis and was started on a chemotherapy protocol. The first consolidation treatment consisted of 6-mercaptopurine, methotrexate (MTX),

Haematology

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1020 - 00001

Vitamin B₁₂ (cobalamin) and folic acid deficiencies lead to megaloblastic anemia (MA), and induce accumulation of methylmalonic acid (MMA) and homocysteine (Hcy).¹ The most common presentation of MA is classical macrocytic anemia. Other presentations are acute megaloblastosis (AM) and masked megaloblastosis.^{2,3} In this report, we present a case of AM diagnosed and followed up by evaluation of Hcy levels.

A 45-year old male was diagnosed as having Philadelphia-positive chronic myelogenous leukemia. Three years after diagnosis the patient developed a lymphoid blast crisis and was started on a chemotherapy protocol. The first consolidation treatment consisted of 6-mercaptopurine, methotrexate (MTX),

Figure 1. Light scatter properties of analyzed cells (top). The flow cytometric dot plots clearly show that virtually all CD19+ cells are positive for CD5 antigen and there are two cell populations with different HLA-DR antigen expression pattern. CD5 antigen is found to be the only antigen that expressed more than 50% of the cells and most of them are negative for HLA-DR antigen.

nosis but we do not have any doubts about the diagnosis because more than 10% CD19+ cells expressed CD5, CD19, CD20 and CD22 (Figure 1).

The concomitant presentation of AML and CLL is extremely rare and the use of two-color flow cytometry to differentiate the cell populations demonstrates the utility of this technology in the diagnosis of unusual hematologic malignancies.

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Key words

CLL, AML, flow cytometry.

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Carrasco

768

Scientific correspondence

Table 1. Evolution of analytical parameters and vitamin B₁₂ treatment.

	Pre treatment	Day 10	Day 30
Platelets (10 ⁹ /l)	134	89	89
Leukocytes (10 ⁹ /l)	6.46	7.1	7.1
Hemoglobin (g/l)	91	89	89
MCV (fl)	83	89	89
Reticulocytes (10 ⁹ /l)	0.037	0.03	0.03
Homocysteine (µmol/l)	-	-	3

MA, acute megaloblastic; MCV, mean corpuscular volume.

patient was diagnosed as having AM and began treatment with folic acid 12 mg iv in one single dose and folic acid 5 mg/day po for 14 days and parenteral vitamin B₁₂ 2 mg/day for 4 consecutive days. After 10 days of treatment the platelet count increased to 112 × 10⁹/L and reticulocyte count to 0.163 × 10⁹/l (5.41%). Vitamin B₁₂ level was 716 pmol/L, red cell folate level 1,506 nmol/L and serum HCY level decreased to normal value (9 µmol/L) (Table 1).

Four different clinical forms of megaloblastosis have been described.^{1,4} The classical form has an insidious onset with frequent neurologic symptoms and macrocytic anemia. Vitamin B₁₂ and/or red cell folate levels are decreased. The second form is the subtle MA anemia with ill-defined clinical symptoms and decreased or borderline vitamin B₁₂ and folic acid levels with other abnormalities (dAST, HCY, MMA).² Masked megaloblastosis consists with other deficiencies; MCV is normal or decreased.^{4,6,8} MA of acute onset is the rarest form.³ There are two clinical presentations: the masked undiagnosed classical MA with cytopenias of abrupt onset and the so called AM.^{1,3} In AM severe thrombocytopenia develops in 1 to 3 weeks, MCV is normal or only moderately increased. This presentation is more frequent in patients with risk factors: parenteral nutrition, infection, dialysis or treatment with some antifolate drugs. Mortality is high.⁷ The reticulocyte count is low. Vitamin B₁₂ and red cell folate levels are normal. BM aspirate shows megaloblastic changes. Classically, dAST is used as a diagnostic test. Nevertheless, HCY serum assays provide a sensitive test for the diagnosis of AM, especially in its early stages.⁹ In vitamin B₁₂ deficiencies both HCY and MMA levels are high. In

increased.^{9,10} HCY levels are also useful for AM follow-up of AM; levels return to normal after starting treatment with vitamin B₁₂ or folic acid. The evaluation of

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State of the Art

O' Dwyer

186

RTA PHASE II OVERVIEW

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NEPTUNE GENERICS 1015 - 00006

noncumulative and reversible. Work by Zervos et al¹⁶ supports the position that toxicity may be increased in patients with poor nutritional status. Additional studies are under way to explore the relationship between folate status and toxicity.

State of the Art

Clarke

VITAMINS AND

Author of Primary Reports

Landgren et al²

den Heijer et al, I⁷

den Heijer et al, II⁷

Author	n	mean	SD	95% CI	95% CI	
den Heijer et al, III ⁷	SE, 0.4B12, 50B6	35	12.1	8.5	-5.8 (3.9)	0.7 (0.2)
	P	46	14.0	14.5	0.5 (5.6)	1.0 (0.4)
Ubbink et al ⁸	SE, 0.4B12, 50B6	46	15.9	10.3	-5.7 (9.7)	0.7 (0.2)
	P	17	30.0	30.7	-0.7 (9.1)	1.0 (0.3)

Ubbink et al⁸

Naurath et al⁹

Pietrzak, I¹¹

Pietrzak, II¹¹

Woodsides et al¹²

Cuskelly et al¹³

Salzman et al¹⁴

*F, folic acid; B12, vitamin B12.

Hence, the western population would be expected by about one quarter to one third of about 3 to about 8 to 9 μmol/L.

THE EFFECTS

Among the dominant homocysteine-lowering effect. However, vitamin B₁₂ may be added primarily to avoid the theoretical risk of neuropathy because of unopposed folic acid therapy in vitamin B₁₂-deficient patients, even those with intrinsic factor deficiency or malabsorption states.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ The addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid would simplify treatment regimens because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is common in the elderly and the standard screening tests for vitamin B₁₂ deficiency may not always detect it. By contrast in the

rials to address these questions. The meta-analysis of the published epidemiological studies of homocysteine

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1098 - 00003

Hence, the meta-analysis suggested that in typical western populations, daily supplementation with both 0.5 to 5 mg folic acid and about 0.5 mg vitamin B₁₂ would be expected to reduce blood homocysteine levels by about one quarter to one third. Studies of middle-

Among the vitamins studied, folic acid had the dominant homocysteine-lowering effect. Addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid had a small additional homocysteine-lowering effect. However, vitamin B₁₂ may be added primarily to avoid the theoretical risk of neuropathy because of unopposed folic acid therapy in vitamin B₁₂-deficient patients, even those with intrinsic factor deficiency or malabsorption states.¹⁵⁻¹⁸ The addition of vitamin B₁₂ to folic acid would simplify treatment regimens because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is common in the elderly and the standard screening tests for vitamin B₁₂ deficiency may not always detect it. By contrast in the

Bronstrup II

190

the reductions in tHcy supplementation were significant in tertile (geometric mean) ANOVA with Scheffé *P* in initial or base-line tertiles in the second tertile ($\mu\text{mol/L}$), whereas the tertile was small and not significant.

The extent of tHcy reduction in the supplemented group was also similar to that at baseline, subjects with initially high tHcy concentration, showed a considerably higher decrease in tHcy concentration than subjects with high folate. A concentration of MMA above $0.19 \mu\text{mol/L}$, the median of the vitamin supplement group at baseline, resulted in a less pronounced reduction in tHcy, but this was only apparent at week 4 (Table III).

In contrast, the change in tHcy after B-vitamin treatment was similar among the 3 genotypes for the C677T polymorphism and similar in men and women. The tHcy reduction was also not different in younger and older subjects or individuals with low or high plasma vitamin B₁₂ and PLP concentrations using the median of the vitamin supplemented group at baseline.

Discussion

We determined plasma tHcy after B-vitamin supplementation in elderly men and women. Bars represent geometric mean values of tertiles (for details refer to text). *P*-values denote differences to baseline concentration for the respective tertiles (paired *t*-test).

Weeks of B-vitamin treatment	Tertile 1 (Lowest)	Tertile 2 (Middle)	Tertile 3 (Highest)
0	~10	~15	~20
2	~8	~12	~16
4	~7	~10	~14

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NEPTUNE GENERICS 1099 - 00004

no apparent chronic or acute illness. Upon B-vitamin supplementation, a significant reduction in tHcy concentration was observed during the first 2 weeks of treatment. Thereafter, tHcy decreased further only slightly and non-significantly. Parallel but opposite changes were seen for

this strong influence, combined administration of B-vitamins to normo-homocysteinemic subjects or to those with mild/moderate hyper-homocysteinemia may still exhibit synergistic effects. In women of childbearing age, the tHcy-lowering effects of folic acid in different combinations with vitamins B₆ and B₁₂ were stronger than with folic acid alone [21, 22].

(n = 13 for each tertile) to combined low-dose B-vitamin supplementation in elderly men and women. Bars represent geometric mean values of tertiles (for details refer to text). *P*-values denote differences to baseline concentration for the respective tertiles (paired *t*-test).

Bronstrup I

Effects of folic acid and combinations of folic acid and vitamin B-12 on plasma homocysteine concentrations in healthy, young women^{1,2}

Anja Bronstrup, Monika Hages, Reinhold Prinz-Langenohl, and Klaus Pierzek

ABSTRACT

Background: Elevated plasma homocysteine concentrations are considered to be a risk factor for vascular disease and fetal malformations such as neural tube defects. Preliminary evidence indicates that plasma homocysteine concentrations are elevated in women when included in supplements together with folic acid.

Objective: We aimed to evaluate the potential of a folic acid supplement containing different doses of vitamin B-12.

Design: Female volunteers received a placebo for 4 weeks or either 400 µg folic acid, 400 µg folic acid + 100 µg vitamin B-12, or 400 µg folic acid + 100 µg vitamin B-12.

Results: Significant reductions in plasma homocysteine concentrations were observed in all groups.

The effect observed with the combination of folic acid + 400 µg vitamin B-12 (total homocysteine, -18%) was significantly larger than that with a supplement containing folic acid alone (total homocysteine, -11%) ($P < 0.05$). Folic acid in combination with a low vitamin B-12 dose (6 µg) affected homocysteine as well (-15%).

Conclusions: These results suggest that the addition of vitamin B-12 to folic acid supplements or enriched foods maximizes the reduction of homocysteine and may thus increase the benefits of the proposed measures in the prevention of vascular disease and neural tube defects. *Am J Clin Nutr* 1998;68:1104-10.

KEY WORDS

folic acid, vitamin B-12, supplementation, homocysteine, neural tube defect, cardiovascular disease, women

INTRODUCTION

Homocysteine is being recognized as independent risk factor for coronary, cerebral, and peripheral vascular disease. Most case-control studies and several, though not all, prospective studies have confirmed such an association over a wide range of plasma total homocysteine (tHcy) concentrations (1-6).

In the absence of vitamin B-6 or vitamin B-12 deficiency or genetic defects in non-folate-dependent enzymes, folic acid intervention lowers plasma tHcy concentrations. This has been

observed even when pre-supplementation plasma folate concentrations were well within the range of values currently accepted as reflecting adequate status (5, 6). In several studies, daily folic

acid was mandatory to increase folic acid intakes and contribute to the prevention of NTDs (15). However, it has been suggested that vitamin B-12 be added to foods as well or that supplements be offered containing both folic acid and vitamin B-12 (12, 16, 17). The rationale for this proposition is that the sole addition of folic acid may mask pernicious anemia resulting from vitamin B-12 deficiency, which may slowly lead to irreversible nerve damage. Further support for this proposition is that both folic acid and vitamin B-12 are cofactors of methionine synthase, the enzyme catalyzing the formation of methionine from homocysteine. A defect in this enzyme, also resulting in elevated tHcy concentrations, was proposed to be the cause for some (although not all) NTDs.

The present study aimed to determine whether the addition of vitamin B-12 to a folic acid supplementation regimen recommended for women capable of becoming pregnant (9) potentiated the tHcy-lowering capacity of this regimen. Two different

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17). The rationale for this proposition is that the sole addition of folic acid may mask pernicious anemia resulting from vitamin B-12 deficiency, which may slowly lead to irreversible nerve damage. Further support for this proposition is that both folic acid

State of the Art

Bronstrup I

HOMOCYSTEINE LOWERING BY FOLIC ACID AND VITAMIN B-12

1109

tion studies of the protective effect of vitamin supplements in lowering plasma tHcy and concurrently risk for vascular disease. Evidence for this association is increasing. A recent retrospective study in 806

plasma tHcy concentration as low as 5 μ mol/L. Each subject responded to vitamin supplementation with a reduction in tHcy. Beyond the presumed protection of nerve damage in persons

quintile of risk for coronary risk. For women in 4 Calculations relative risk = 0.91; lower risk

In this study, vitamin B-12 supplementation increased the tHcy-lowering potential of folic acid; this was especially obvious

In this study, the tHcy-lowering potential of folic acid was especially obvious when vitamin B-12 was given in pharmacologic amounts (400 μ g). In subgroup analyses, the extent of the tHcy reduction was significantly

both technical assistance as well as vascular diseases. We are also grateful to the women who participated in the study.

amin B-12 (nmol/L). B-12 functions at a seems to be higher available with an already a limited increase

nmol/L. Because folate and vitamin B-12 have a synergistic function as cofactors of methionine synthase, sufficiency of both seems to be important to increase enzyme activity, whereas a higher availability of only one cofactor, especially in subjects with an already good supply of this cofactor, might lead to only a limited increase in enzyme activity.

After 4 weeks plasma tHcy was observed (thus, on average, vitamin B-12 administration with B-12. For tHcy increase observed after dose for 6 weeks vitamin B-12 or multivitamin is included in

The result B-12 to supplement foods major potential of

of 400 μ g suggested that, in addition to an effect on tHcy, combined supplementation with 400 μ g folic acid + 400 μ g vitamin B-12/d could counter the higher prevalence of vitamin B-12 deficiency

riboflavin, niacin, vitamin B₆, folate, vitamin B₁₂, pantoic acid, biotin, and choline. Prepublication copy, Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 1998.

in the elderly with supplement 200-400 μ g is effective in cases as low as 25 μ g.

A combined may also be in NID child. The tHcy reduction of vitamin efficient at me this probably

In summary acid intake, as in significant tHcy reduction

could counter the higher prevalence of vitamin B-12 deficiency in the elderly and the possibility of masked pernicious anemia with supplementation of folic acid alone (16, 28, 30). Doses of

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1019 - 00006

State of the Art

Rinaldi II

86

DAVID A. RINALDI

Table 1. MTA Every 21 Days: Cumulative Toxicity

Patient	Dose (mg/m ²)	Course 1			Course 4			
		Serum Creatinine (mg/dL)	Neutrophils (per mm ³)	Platelets (per mm ³)	Serum Creatinine (mg/dL)	Neutrophils (per mm ³)	Platelets (per mm ³)	
173	600	1.0	912	42	350	1.3	2	5
175	600	0.9	569	45	350	1.0	140	14
176	600	1.0	2067	189	350	0.8	1514	56
177	600	1.1	3456	111	600	1.1	1856	50
182*	600	0.6	1722	316	600	0.4	777	243
183*	600	0.7	2812	224	600	0.8	1980	143
184*	600	0.8	1539	127	450	1.0	1058	168
184*	600	1.0	2427	195	600	1.0	1450	183

* Had pharmacokinetic studies after courses 1 and 4, which showed that MTA disposition was not significantly different in those retreated at 600 mg/m².

after the fourth course even though the pretreatment serum creatinine levels had not changed significantly. No changes in MTA disposition were demonstrated by repeat pharmacokinetic analyses after a fourth course of treatment in four patients. While these eight patients had decreasing blood counts after multiple cycles of

Four patients, all with liver metastases, and all treated at the 600 mg/m² dose level, achieved partial responses with MTA. Two of these had metastatic pancreatic cancer (of three pancreatic cancer patients) and two had colorectal cancer (of 25 colorectal cancer patients). The first pancreatic cancer patient, who had previ-

progression at the time of discontinuation. Three patients died during the study related to drug toxicity, two from neutropenic sepsis, and one from acute respiratory distress syndrome. These deaths

State of the Art

Shih 1998

142

C. SHIH *et al.*

length of time (1, 8 and 24 hr), the resulting polyglutamates were separated by reversed-phase HPLC and the extent of polyglutamation estimated (Fig. 2). The data clearly indicated that LY231514 can be rapidly and efficiently converted into the higher chain length polyglutamates (tri-, tetra- and pentaglutamates) either under low (1 μ M) or high (20 μ M) substrate concentrations. In comparison, methotrexate, which had the lowest relative first order rate constant (0.07 vs 6-40 for LY231514) was not converted beyond the diglutamate and yielded the least amount of total polyglutamated product at all time points and with both substrate concentrations. The difference between the GARFT inhibitor Lometrexol and LY231514 was most apparent at 1 μ M and 1 hr. While Lometrexol produced almost exclusively the triglutamate, LY231514 was converted mostly to the triglutamate (50%) and tetraglutamate (48%), with some small amount (2%) of pentaglutamate. After 8 hr (1 μ M), the distribution of both compounds tended to shift to higher polyglutamates, and after 24 hr the pentaglutamate became the predominate (76%) form of polyglutamates for LY231514. At higher substrate concentrations, different distributions of polyglutamates were observed. Under 20 μ M substrate concentrations, it was found that the polyglutamate products of both Lometrexol and LY231514 were shifted to shorter chain length relative to the 1 μ M reactions. This observation was consistent with reports in the literature which indicate that substrate inhibition of FPGS activity may have occurred at higher concentrations. These data suggested that this pyrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine-based antifolate is an extremely efficient substrate for the enzyme FPGS. The polyglutamation reaction occurred rapidly and efficiently, and LY231514 was converted to long chain length polyglutamates (tri-, tetra- and pentaglutamates) by FPGS and did not stop at the diglutamate stage.

($K_i = 1.3$ nM). LY231514 was also found to be a very potent inhibitor for human DHFR ($K_i = 7.0$ nM). In contrast to rhTS, attachment of ad-

dition of the K_i value ($K_i = 1.3$ nM). Further extension of the glutamate tail (LY231514-glu5) only slightly increased the affinity toward rhTS ($K_i = 1.3$ nM). LY231514 was also found to be a very potent inhibitor for human DHFR ($K_i = 7.0$ nM). In contrast to rhTS, attachment of additional γ -glutamyl residues to LY231514 had little effect on the inhibition

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State of the Art

Mendelsohn

274

Mendelsohn, Worzalla, and Walling

icity of lometrexol (47,48). Hence subsequent patients in the study were treated with 1 mg folic acid/d given continuously. This level of supplementation permitted

A key question that remained was how much folic acid was required to achieve optimal amelioration of toxicity, accepting that any effects on efficacy could only be evaluated in a phase II setting. Accordingly, a study of a weekly $\times 3$ schedule was conducted

six and four patients treated at the first two dose levels. Again, anemia was the most prevalent toxicity, and neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, and stomatitis were also common. These observations led to a further look at the single dose every 4 wk schedule, using a higher dose of folic acid, 5 mg/d for 14 d, given for 7 d before and for 7 d after the dose of lometrexol. This dose of folic acid was chosen from extrapolation from the preclinical studies. Additional objectives for this study were to study the effect of lometrexol on pharmacodynamics, in order to determine whether folic acid improves tolerance of lometrexol, to determine the toxicity of lometrexol in patients receiving multiple courses of the drug with folic acid supplementation, and to describe the pharmacokinetics. This study recruited 43 patients from 1991 to December, 1995. Dose levels between 12 and 45 mg/m² were studied using a once every 4 wk schedule. This interval was then reduced to 3 wk since recovery of the platelet count after dosing was achieved by day 21. Dose escalation proceeded with patients being studied at the 45, 60, 78, 100, 130, and 170 mg/m² dose levels. The MTD was not formally defined in this study, and the investigators felt that there was capacity for further dose escalation. Thirty-five patients received two courses of therapy and a total of 99 courses were given to the 43 patients. The major toxicity observed was thrombocytopenia; WHO grade III or IV toxicity was observed in 9/99 courses, but a downward trend in platelet counts was observed across successive courses in all patients even if the criteria for grading toxicity was not reached (i.e., a platelet count of less than 100). Similarly anemia became more marked in those patients receiving more than two courses, although there was only a 4% incidence of WHO grade III and IV toxicity. Four patients developed WHO grade III/IV neutropenia, and in one case this was associated with fever requiring iv antibiotics. Two patients developed WHO grade III mucositis, and three patients had decreases in GFR, but this was not in the setting of raised serum creatinine. These toxicities were observed at various dose levels during dose escalation. The investigators treated two of the patients who developed grade IV thrombocytopenia with leucovorin at 30 mg every 6 h for 12 and 14 d, respectively, and although platelet recovery was achieved it was not clear that leucovorin had played a role in this, hence no further patients were treated with leucovorin. Given the previous experience with this schedule in the absence of folic acid, discussed in Subheading 11 (39), this study clearly demonstrated that folic acid supplementation at 5 mg/d for 14 d reduced clinical toxicity permitting a dose of greater than 10 times that in the absence of supplementation, and in particular the cumulative nature of the toxicity was reduced. More recently, two other studies have addressed the question of how much folic acid is required

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Laohavinij

326

malignant fibrous histiocytoma [9], non-small cell lung

Following the initial clinical evaluation of lometrexol, further studies were performed in mice in an attempt to ameliorate the cumulative toxicity of lometrexol and hence enable repeated courses of the drug to be given. These studies revealed that the therapeutic efficacy and toxicity of lometrexol were highly dependent upon dietary folic acid intake [10, 11] and these preclinical data prompted the Phase I study of lometrexol given with folic acid supplementation described here. The objectives of this clinical Phase I study were:

- To evaluate the effect of folic acid on lometrexol pharmacodynamics, in order to determine whether folic acid improves tolerance of lometrexol.
- To determine the toxicity of lometrexol in patients receiving multiple courses of the drug with folic acid supplementation.
- To describe the pharmacokinetics of lometrexol in patients receiving folic acid supplementation.

Patients and methods

Patient eligibility

From September 1991 to December 1995, 43 patients with a histologically confirmed diagnosis of malignant solid tumour, which was refractory to established therapies or for which no standard therapy existed, were entered into this study. All patients had a predicted life expectancy of at least 12 weeks, and had recovered from the toxicity of previous treatment before entering onto the study. Specifically, patients were required to not have received previous anticancer therapy or other investigational drugs within at least 4 weeks (6 weeks if prior therapy included a nitrosourea, mitomycin C or extensive radiotherapy). Exclusion criteria included factors which could have interfered with lometrexol disposition/toxicity or folic acid absorption, and comprised: (a) concomitant medication with allopurinol, probenecid, nephrotoxic agents, isoniazid, anti-epileptics, co-trimoxazole or pyrimethamine, (b) extensive radiotherapy and (c) inflammatory ulcerative bowel disease, or malabsorption syndrome. Concurrent treatment with other experimental drugs or other anticancer therapies was not allowed. Patients with clinical evidence or symptoms suggestive of coronary artery disease or central nervous system disease were excluded. Patients with effusions and/or ascites were also not recruited.

All patients were required to have adequate organ function prior to treatment, with marrow function characterised by a white blood cell count of at least $4 \times 10^9/l$, neutrophil count at least $2 \times 10^9/l$, haemoglobin level of at least 10 g/dl, and platelet count of at least $100 \times 10^9/l$. Adequate hepatic function was also required, as characterised by bilirubin levels of $< 25 \mu\text{mol/l}$, alkaline phosphatase ≤ 2.5 times upper limit of normal, prothrombin and partial thromboplastin time within normal range. The creatinine level was required to be less than $120 \mu\text{mol/l}$ and the glomerular filtration rate (GFR) to be above 50 ml/min as measured by ^{51}Cr EDTA clearance.

Study design

Folic acid (Approved Prescription Services Ltd., Leeds, U.K.) was given daily as a single 5 mg tablet for 7 days prior to and 7 days following lometrexol administration at 4 week intervals. Lometrexol (Lilly Research Centre, Erl Wood Manor, Surrey, U.K.) was reconstituted in 0.9% (w/v) saline and administered as a rapid i.v. bolus over 30 seconds to one minute at a concentration of 1–10 mg/ml. Patients were admitted to the Department of Medical Oncology, Newcastle General Hospital, to receive lometrexol and were observed for a further 24 hours following drug administration, to ensure that acute toxicity was not apparent. The following studies were performed weekly: physical examination, toxicity and performance status assessment, and biochemical analysis. Full blood counts were measured twice a week. As part of the Phase I trial of lometrexol with folic acid it was important to demonstrate that plasma folate concentrations of patients were increased by folate supplementation and folate levels were measured on course 1 prior to supplementation (day 7) and after 7 days of folate administration but prior to lometrexol (day 0). Plasma folate concentrations were determined using a commercial folate binding assay (Simultrac-SNB, Becton Dickinson, Oxford, UK). The starting dose was 12 mg/m^2 as this dose of lometrexol given alone had been well tolerated on the first course of therapy in previous Phase I studies, regardless of schedule [5–8]. Lometrexol was given as a single bolus injection every 4 weeks, with 5 mg/day oral folic acid administration 7 days prior to treatment with lometrexol and 7 days afterwards on each course. Toxicities were evaluated according to World Health Organisation (WHO) criteria. If repeated courses at a given dose level were tolerated without toxicity greater

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- To evaluate the effect of folic acid on lometrexol pharmacodynamics, in order to determine whether folic acid improves tolerance of lometrexol.
- To determine the toxicity of lometrexol in patients receiving multiple courses of the drug with folic acid supplementation.
- To describe the pharmacokinetics of lometrexol in patients receiving folic acid supplementation.

Laohavinij

330

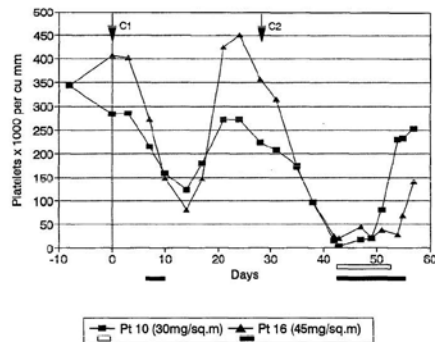


Figure 2. Lometrexol-induced thrombocytopenia in two patients treated with leucovorin. Patients 10 and 16 received 2 courses of lometrexol at 30 and 45 mg/m² every 4 weeks, respectively. The timing of lometrexol administration is represented by arrows. Patient 10 received leucovorin after the second course at the platelet count nadir, represented by the open bar (days 44–55). Patient 16 received leucovorin after the first course (days 7–10), because of grade III diarrhoea, and after the second course at the platelet count nadir (days 45–56), represented by the solid bars.

change in lung lesions on chest x-ray). Four patients (1 metastatic malignant melanoma, 1 ovarian cancer and 2 unknown primary carcinoma) had disease stabilization for 4, 3, 3 and 5 months, as assessed by physical examination and computed tomography scan.

Plasma folate status following oral folic acid supplementation

Plasma folate concentrations were measured in 23 patients prior to folate supplementation (day -7) and after 7 days of 5 mg/day oral folic acid, i.e. prior to lometrexol administration (day 0). Plasma folate concentrations were significantly increased from 9 (3–63) to 20 (6–180) ng/ml [median (range)] after 7 days of folate supplementation (paired *t*-test *p* = 0.009). Pre and post folate supplementation plasma folate concentrations were variable, increasing in most but not all cases following the first week of folate supplementation by 10 (–6 to 134) ng/ml [median (range)], amounting to a 100% (–20% to 1400%) change [median (range)].

Pharmacokinetics

For the dose range 12–45 mg/m², as previously described [12], there was a linear relationship between lometrexol dose and area under the plasma concentration versus time curve. In the present study, this relationship was maintained at doses up to and including 130 mg/m² (*r*² = 0.89).

Discussion

The objective of the present clinical study was to identify a safe dose of lometrexol when given with folate supplementation so as to allow Phase II trials, in an attempt to reproduce the efficacy of lometrexol seen in folate-deficient mice receiving folate supplementation. The most common and severe toxicities in this study were thrombocytopenia and mucositis. Leucopenia, neutropenia, anaemia and diarrhoea were mild and infrequent. Reductions of GFR of 21–50% and > 50% after treatment with lometrexol were also observed in 3

The objective of the present clinical study was to identify a safe dose of lometrexol when given with folate supplementation so as to allow Phase II trials, in an attempt to reproduce the efficacy of lometrexol seen in folate-deficient mice receiving folate supplementation. The most common and severe toxicities in this

Laohavinij

333

the salvage of preformed purines following lometrexol-induced inhibition of *de novo* purine synthesis. However, equally, a rise in plasma hypoxanthine concentrations could occur due either to DNA degradation following lometrexol cytotoxicity, or an overproduction of hypoxanthine in response to GARFT inhibition. In fact, the levels detected in the 12 patients studied were within previously reported ranges [30–32], extremely variable and not temporally related to either clinical toxicity or lometrexol administration.

The most important finding of this study is that 7 days of folic acid at 5 mg/day increased the plasma folate concentrations significantly and that lometrexol given with folic acid was well tolerated in most patients up to doses of at least 170 mg/m² every 3 weeks. This is in marked contrast to the doses tolerated in previous studies, ca. 12 mg/m² per course, when lometrexol was given alone [5–7]. Various possible mechanisms underlying the modulation of lometrexol toxicity by folate supplementation have been proposed, and attempts were made in this study to prove or disprove certain of these. Considering firstly increased lometrexol plasma clearance following folic acid supplementation as the mechanism, clinical pharmacokinetic studies [12] appear to exclude this possibility, i.e. there were no major differences in the pharmacokinetics of lometrexol in patients receiving or not receiving folate supplementation. In contrast to these clinical findings, in mice on a folate-deficient diet plasma lometrexol concentrations were sustained in comparison to levels in mice on a normal high-folate diet [33].

Secondly, modulation of lometrexol transport by folate supplementation might underlie the decreased toxicity. Further *in vitro* and *in vivo* studies are needed to resolve this possibility and, in particular, investigations need to be extended to cover the effect of folate supplementation on reduced folate carrier and membrane folate binding protein-mediated transport and the normal tissue uptake of lometrexol. Studies using ¹⁴C-lometrexol and autoradiography in mice suggest that hepatic drug retention is increased in animals on a folate deficient diet, although the mechanism responsible for this retention has not been identified [33].

Thirdly, folate supplementation could influence lometrexol polyglutamate formation and, although this was not investigated as part of the current study, it has been shown *in vitro* that lometrexol cytotoxicity can be reversed by folic acid, and that under such conditions the accumulation of lometrexol polyglutamates is inhibited [14]. Thus modulation of lometrexol toxicity by folic acid as a result of decreased lometrexol

polyglutamate formation, probably by competition for metabolism by folylpolyglutamate synthetase (FPGS), remains a possibility.

A last and crucial possible mechanism by which folate supplementation may alter lometrexol toxicity involves increases in intracellular folate pools in sensitive normal tissues. Higher intracellular folate cofactor concentrations could compete with lometrexol for the target enzyme GARFT as well as for the activating enzyme FPGS. Preclinical studies have shown that in folate depleted mice 10-formyltetrahydrofolate concentrations in the intestinal mucosa are 4-fold lower than in mice on a regular diet and that folate supplementation can restore folate cofactor pools [34].

To date, the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of lometrexol has not been reached in this Phase I clinical trial. Indeed, significant toxicity has not been observed in most patients up to the present dose level of 170 mg/m². Extrapolating from murine experiments (G.B. Grindey, personal communication; Wedge et al., unpublished results), where the MTD in mice on a folate-supplemented diet was found to be greater than 750 mg/m², the MTD in patients may be much higher than the current dose level. Clinical responses, which were observed in early Phase I studies of lometrexol given alone, have not been common in the current study, i.e. only one objective partial response has been observed; however, as the MTD has not been achieved it could be argued that optimal therapeutic conditions have not been defined. One cause for concern is that the administration of folic acid prior to lometrexol and during treatment could potentially supplement the folate requirements of the tumour, and thereby circumvent the activity of lometrexol or, worse still, aid tumour progression [35]. Such a phenomenon would be difficult to examine unequivocally: but the relationship between a patient's plasma folate status and the rate of disease progression might allow this question to be addressed.

In summary, the work described in this report has demonstrated that lometrexol toxicity can be modulated by folic acid supplementation in patients. The information obtained from both preclinical murine, and the clinical Phase I study of lometrexol with folate supplementation reported here, indicates that the MTD of lometrexol given with folate supplementation may be higher than the current dose level. The mechanism responsible for the reduction in lometrexol toxicity has not been defined, although associated pharmacokinetic studies suggest that folic acid is not acting by enhancing lometrexol plasma clearance [12]. This work has

In summary, the work described in this report has demonstrated that lometrexol toxicity can be modulated by folic acid supplementation in patients. The information obtained from both preclinical murine, and the clinical Phase I study of lometrexol with folate supplementation reported here, indicates that the MTD of lometrexol given with folate supplementation may be higher than the current dose level. The mechanism

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Laohavinij

334

identified for the first time a safe and acceptable clinical schedule for the administration of a GARFT inhibitor, and the information obtained from this study will facilitate the future development and evaluation of this class of compounds in the treatment of human cancer.

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Proceedings of ASCO Volume 17 1998

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PROPHYLACTIC MASTECTOMY (PM) AND OOPHORECTOMY (PO) IN WOMEN UNDERGOING BRCA1/2 TESTING. *D. Schrag, K.J. Kalkbrenner, T.L. Light, K.A. Schwider, J.E. Garber, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston, MA.*
Women tested for BRCA1/2 mutations may consider PM and/or PO based on the results of genetic testing for predisposing mutations. A cohort of women with at least 10% risk of inherited breast/ovarian cancer (information about attitudes towards PM and PO before testing and mean 5.5 months following results disclosure), 46 women had breast/ovarian cancer (CA); 42 women had not had cancer (NC) genetic testing, 8 women had had PM, 12 PO and 5 the oophorectomy. At baseline, 37/60 had discussed PM with a physician, 33/71 had discussed PO. 5/80 were considering PM and 24/60 following BRCA disclosure, 6 women underwent PM (3 CA, 3 NC) had PO (2 CA, 3 NC), one woman (NC) had both procedures. 4 were identified in all women having prophylactic surgery following disclosure except for 2 who had PM with indeterminate results abnormal breast biopsies. In addition, 13 were still considering (4) and 19 were considering PO (12+, 5-, 1-). For the entire cohort cancers have been detected at PM; one borderline ovarian cancer found at PO, PM and PO are often considered by women who have a mutation testing even with indeterminate test results.

*2139

LY231514 (MTA): RELATIONSHIP OF VITAMIN METABOLITE PROFILE TO TOXICITY. *C. Niyikiza, J. Walling, D. Thornton, D. Setz, and R. Allen, Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, IN, and Univ of Colorado Health Science Center, Denver, CO.*

measured. Because earlier studies with other antifolates had suggested that nutritional status may play a role in the likelihood that a patient will experience severe toxicity, levels of the vitamin metabolites homocysteine, cystathionine and methylmalonic acid were measured at baseline and once each cycle thereafter. A multivariate statistical analysis of the data was conducted in order to determine which among a set of pre-specified predictors (creatinine clearance, albumin levels, liver enzyme levels, and vitamin metabolites) might correlate with toxicity. There was a strong correlation between baseline homocysteine levels and the development of the following toxicities at any time during the study: CTC Grade 4 neutropenia (57 pts, $p < 0.0001$), Grade 4 thrombocytopenia (13 pts, $p < 0.0001$), Grade 3 or 4 mucositis (8 pts, $p < 0.0003$), and Grade 3 or 4 diarrhea (8 pts, $p < 0.004$). Cystathionine levels did not correlate with hematologic toxicity or mucositis but were moderately correlated with fatigue ($p < 0.04$). Maximum cystathionine levels doubled from baseline during treatment with MTA. No correlation between toxicity (CTC Grades as defined above) and the remaining pre-specified predictors was seen. Toxicity was seen in all patients with homocysteine levels above a threshold concentration of $10 \mu\text{M}$. A correlation over time between homocysteine

*2140

PHASE I CHEMOPREVENTION CLINICAL TRIAL OF CURCUMIN. *S.L. Chen, M.M. Hsu, T.S. Shen, J.Y. Ko, J.T. Lin, S.L. Lin, M.S. Wu, H.S. Jee, G.S. Chen, T.M. Chen, C.A. Chen, M.K. Lai, Y.S. Fu, M.H. F. Wang, C.C. Tsai, C.Y. Hsieh, National Taiwan University College of Medicine, Taipei, Taiwan; and Kaohsiung Medical College, Kaohsiung, Taiwan.*
Curcumin (diferuloylmethane), a yellow substance from the root plant *Curcuma longa* Linn., has been demonstrated to inhibit carcinogenesis of skin, stomach, intestine and oral cavity. A phase I trial was conducted to examine the toxicology, the pharmacokinetics, the biologically effective dose of curcumin in humans. Five high-risk individuals were eligible: 1, recently-resected urinary cancer (BC), 2, arsenic Bowen's disease (BD), 3, uterine cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), 4, oral leukoplakia (OL), and 5, intestinal inflammation of gastric mucosa (IM). The starting dose was 500 mg/day, twice for 3 months. If no \geq Grade II toxicity was noted in at least 3 patients, dose was escalated successively to 1000 (level II), 2000 (level III), 4000 (level IV), and 8000 mg/day (level V). Lesion sites were biopsied before 3 months after taking curcumin. Serum curcumin was quantitated by method. In a total of 25 patients enrolled, no treatment-related toxicity noted up to 8000 mg/day (level V). Serum concentration usually peaked 1 to 2 hours after oral intake, and gradually declined within 12 hours. Average peak serum concentrations after taking 4000 mg, 6000 mg, and 8000 mg of curcumin were $0.41 \pm 0.07 \mu\text{M}$, $0.57 \pm 0.35 \mu\text{M}$, and $1.75 \pm 0.80 \mu\text{M}$, respectively. Although 3 of 25 patients proceeded to develop frank malignancies, histological improvement of the precancerous lesions was seen in 1 (level III) of the 2 patients with BC, 2 (both level IV) of 7 patients with OL, 1 (level II) of 5 patients with IM, 1 (level II) of 4 patients with CIN, and 2 (level I and II) of 6 patients with BD. Although curcumin is probably non-toxic even up to more than 8000 mg/day, the bulky volume of drug tablets became a limiting factor itself. Therefore, for future phase II studies, doses close to 8000 mg/day may be recommended.

"making" were: desire to contribute to research (90%), curiosity (77%), potential benefit to other family members (64%), potential for personal cancer prevention (59%), and impact on ovarian cancer screening practice (41%). 53% and 38% of women respectively, identified a potential change in their perspective on prophylactic oophorectomy and mastectomy as at least "somewhat important." Main concerns related to insurance discrimination (35%), confidentiality (30%), accuracy and interpretability of results (33%), potential impact on marriage prospects for family members (29%), and focus on the Jewish community (15%). Potential employer discrimination and impact on life planning were "not a factor" for most (90%, 82%). The focus on factors unrelated to personal physical health is notable. The generalisability of these results to women not affected by BC requires further study. Final results for the 134 patients will be presented.

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observed increase in plasma homocysteine concentrations was associated with a decline in plasma folate plasma homocysteine concentration (Table 2). This reduction in basal plasma homocysteine concentration

Intracellular homocysteine is either remethylated to methionine in a reaction that requires methyltetrahydrofolate and vitamin B-12 or is condensed with serine in a reaction catalyzed by the PLP-dependent cystathionine- β -synthase (EC 4.2.1.22). Deficiencies in the cofactors required for homocysteine metabolism may result in hyperhomocysteinemia, which can be successfully treated with a modest daily vitamin supplement (Ubbink et al. 1993). The results from the current study confirm that a combined vitamin preparation may be used to lower elevated circulating homocysteine concentrations. The aim of vitamin preparation may be used to lower elevated circulating homocysteine concentrations. The aim of this study was to assess the ability of each individual vitamin component to lower the plasma homocysteine concentration.

between 5 and 10 mg; in contrast, our results were obtained by an appreciably lower daily supplement [0.65 mg, or 3.25 \times the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for folate].

between 5 and 10 mg, in contrast, our results were obtained by an appreciably lower daily supplement [0.65 mg, or 3.25 \times the Recommended Daily Allowance (RDA) for folate].

In view of the high success rate obtained with folate therapy, the obvious question is whether the other two vitamins are required at all to control plasma homocysteine concentrations. Compared with placebo treatment, the homocysteine-lowering effect of vitamin B-12 was not statistically significant ($P = 0.31$, ANOVA). However, a within-group comparison showed that vitamin B-12 supplementation resulted in a modest but significant decline in the mean

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

showed that vitamin B-12 supplementation resulted in a modest but significant decline in the mean plasma homocysteine concentration (Table 2). This

min, whereas in our study the hyperhomocysteinemic men were randomized into the different treatment groups without prior knowledge of vitamin nutritional status or any possible genetic aberrations. The

Folic acid supplementation in patients with a chronic vitamin B-12 deficiency may eventually result in neuropathy due to failure to recognize the vitamin B-12 deficiency (Beck 1991). Moreover, Allen et al. (1990) have recently shown that folate supplementation will not correct hyperhomocysteinemia that is primarily the result of a vitamin B-12 deficiency. It is therefore essential that vitamin B-12 and folate be combined to treat hyperhomocysteinemia.

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Allen

Diagnosis of Cobalamin Deficiency I 97

TABLE II. Folate-deficient Patients Treated With CN-Cbl Alone

Patient	Age (years)	Sex	Cause of folate deficiency	Hematocrit (%)	MCV (fl)	Serum		CN-Cbl treatment	Serum total homocysteine (μmol/L)*		
						Cbl (ppm)	Folate (ng/dl)		Untreated	After Cbl†	After folate
A	77	F	Alcoholic	40	114	223	2.3	1 mg × 3 over 1 mo.	39	36	18
B	69	F	Triamterene	41	124	140	1.8	1 mg × 4 over 3 wks	73	39	21
C	36	F	Dietary	37	108	140	1.6	1 mg	29	52	6

*Normal range (based on mean ± 3 S.D.) = 4.1–21.3 μmol/L.

†Serum obtained one week after last injection of CN-Cbl.

Patients are low an...
pose a diagnostic problem. Although in more than 75% of patients with Cbl deficiency in our experience, serum levels of both methylmalonic acid and total homocysteine will be elevated, in about 10% only the homocysteine value...
normal range for serum Cbl.

pose a diagnostic problem. Although in more than 75% of patients with Cbl deficiency in our experience, serum levels of both methylmalonic acid and total homocysteine will be elevated, in about 10% only the homocysteine value is high. In addition, as shown in the accom-

CONCLUSIONS

Dr. Schilling has stated [7], "Because vitamin B₁₂ deficiency may cause serious but eminently treatable hematologic and neurologic disease, its detection is of fundamental importance." Based on our studies [11,13,20–23,26,27] and those of others [30–35], we believe that measurement of serum methylmalonic acid and total homocysteine concentrations will improve the ability and efficiency with which both Cbl and folate deficiency can be diagnosed and distinguished. Their precise role as diagnostic tests has not been established at the present time. In some patients, they can be used as follow-up tests after a low or low-normal serum Cbl or folate level has been obtained. In other patients, they can be used as primary diagnostic tests that are performed as part of a panel with the serum Cbl and folate assays. The latter course may be particularly indicated in patients with unexplained neuropsychiatric abnormalities of the kind caused by Cbl deficiency, since the accompanying paper [26] in this series demonstrates that at least 5% of clinically confirmed Cbl-deficient patients have normal serum Cbl levels that reach as high as the mid-portion of the normal range for serum Cbl.

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Nilsson-Ehle

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Age-Related Changes in Cobalamin (Vitamin B₁₂) Handling Implications for Therapy

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Gothenburg, Sweden

Contents

Summary	277
1. Cobalamin (Vitamin B ₁₂) Metabolism	278
1.1. Absorption and Utilisation	278
1.2. Historical Aspects	278
2. Supply of Cobalamin	279
2.1. Dietary Cobalamin Requirements	279
2.2. Malabsorption of Cobalamin	279
3. Cobalamin Deficiency	281
3.1. Serum Cobalamin Levels	281
3.2. Clinical Signs of Cobalamin Deficiency	282

Cobalamin (vitamin B₁₂) deficiency is more common in the elderly than in younger patients. This is because of the increased prevalence of cobalamin mal-

prevent irreversible neurological damage if started early. Elderly patients with cobalamin deficiency may present with neuropsychiatric or metabolic deficiencies, without frank macrocytic anaemia. An investigation of symptoms and/or signs includes the diagnosis of deficiency as well as any underlying cause. Deficiency states can still exist even when serum cobalamin levels are higher than the traditional lower reference limit. Cobalamin-responsive elevations of serum methylmalonic acid (MMA) and homocysteine are helpful laboratory tools for the diagnosis. The health-related reference ranges for homocysteine and MMA appear to vary with age and gender.

Atrophic body gastritis is indirectly diagnosed by measuring serum levels of gastrin and pepsinogens, and it may cause dietary cobalamin malabsorption despite a normal traditional Schilling's test. The use of gastroscopy may also be considered to diagnose dysplasia, bacterial overgrowth and intestinal villous atrophy in healthy patients with atrophic body gastritis or concomitant iron or folic acid deficiency. Elderly patients respond to cobalamin treatment as fully as

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State of the Art

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208 Vu et al.

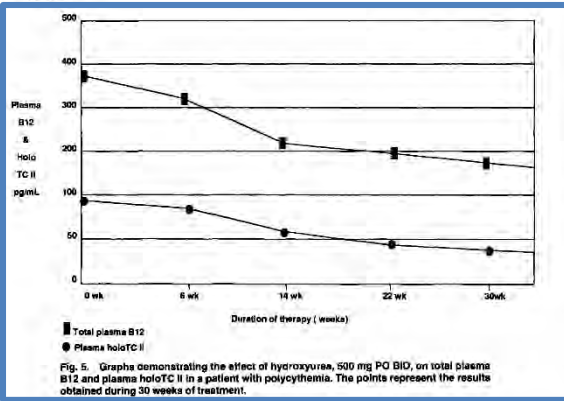


Fig. 5. Graphs demonstrating the effect of hydroxyurea, 500 mg PO BID, on total plasma B12 and plasma holoTC II in a patient with polycythemia. The points represent the results obtained during 30 weeks of treatment.

ing at a concentration of 200 mg/ml plasma. We routinely use 200 mg microfine glass to separate plasma total B12 binding capacity (TBBC) into two fractions: UBBC of TC I + III and UBBC of TC II. In this assay, 200 mg microfine glass is capable of adsorbing up to 1,856 pg ⁵⁷CoB12-bound TC II (data not shown). In our laboratory, the highest level of plasma holoTC II measured in 300 plasma samples was 659 pg/ml. The concentration of 200 mg microfine glass per milliliter plasma was subsequently used in the holoTC II assay procedure.

Table III shows total plasma B12, plasma holoTC II, and serum homocysteine results obtained in 41 controls and 152 cancer with serial deter ing cancer chem two populations selected from a illness, hematologic metabolic problem or metabolic levels, and serum contantly. In plasma B12 was 517 ± 193 pg/ml (clinical population) (normal laboratory range 200-900 pg/ml), the average plasma holoTC II was 112 ± 14 pg/ml (normal volunteers) and 152 ± 39 pg/ml (clinical population), and the average serum homo-

cysteine was 10.5 ± 2.5 μmol/liter in both groups. The normal values of plasma holoTC II and serum homocysteine reported previously by other authors were 90 ± 16 pg/ml and 9.1 ± 1.5 μmol/liter, respectively [10,32,33]. Herbert and colleagues [11,35] defined a negative B12 balance as plasma holoTC II levels <40 pg/ml. Among 152 cancer patients included in our study, 24 patients (16%) were found to have an average total plasma B12 <200 pg/ml, with average plasma holoTCII levels of 44.5 ± 22.4 pg/ml. Their average serum homocysteine levels were elevated to 18.1 ± 11.1 μmol/liter. In another group of 34 patients (22%), although their plasma

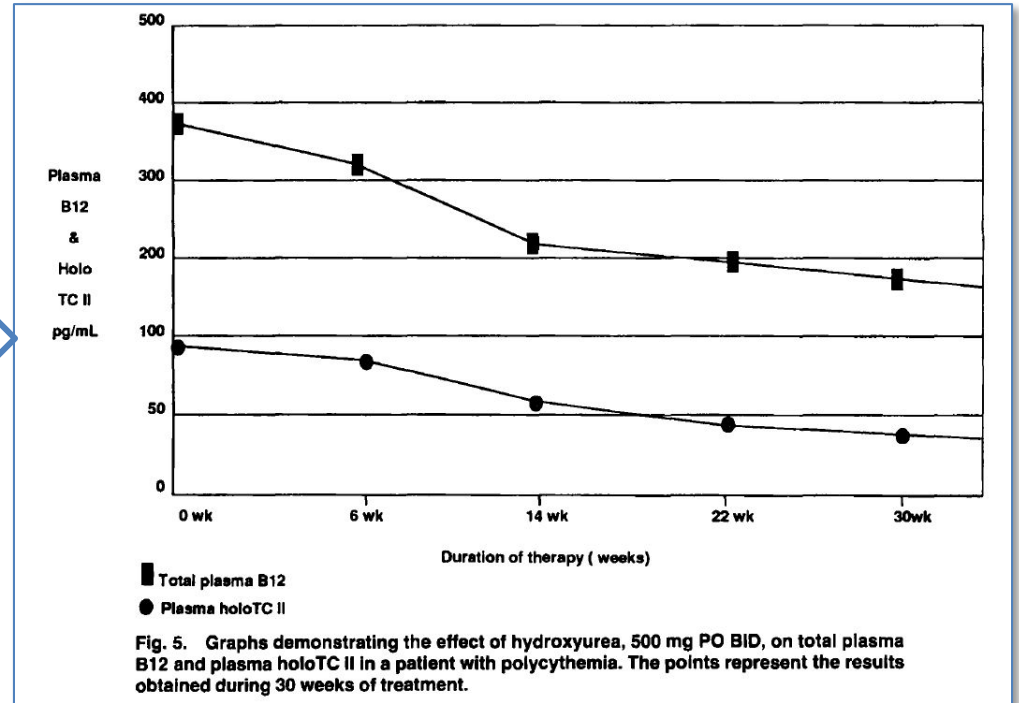


Fig. 5. Graphs demonstrating the effect of hydroxyurea, 500 mg PO BID, on total plasma B12 and plasma holoTC II in a patient with polycythemia. The points represent the results obtained during 30 weeks of treatment.

Figures 4–6 display the effects of some chemotherapy drugs and radiation therapy on plasma holoTC II levels in cancer patients. In Figure 4, a patient received three

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EFFICACY OF ONDANSETRON (GR 38032F) AND THE ROLE OF SEROTONIN IN CISPLATIN-INDUCED NAUSEA AND VOMITING

LUIGI X. CUBEDDU, M.D., PH.D., IRENE S. HOFFMANN, PH.D.,
NERY T. FLESMAYOR, M.D., AND ANDREW L. FINN, PHARM.D.

Abstract We compared the efficacy and safety of ondansetron (GR 38032F), a selective antagonist of serotonin 5₃ receptors, with that of placebo in controlling the nausea and vomiting induced by cisplatin treatment in 28 patients with cancer. The patients received either three intravenous doses of ondansetron (0.15 mg per kilogram of body weight) or normal saline (placebo) at four-hour intervals, beginning 30 minutes before the administration of cisplatin.

Nausea and vomiting were markedly reduced in the group given ondansetron. The median episode of emesis was 2.8 hours in the placebo group and 11.6 hours in the ondansetron group ($P < 0.001$). The number of episodes in 24 hours was 5 in the placebo group and 1.5 in the ondansetron group (mean \pm SEM) number of regurgitations of

emesis was 3.2 ± 0.5 in the placebo group and 1.17 ± 0.1 in the ondansetron group ($P < 0.001$). None of the 14 patients given ondansetron, but 12 of 14 given placebo, required treatment with antiemetic-rescue agents for the control of nausea and vomiting. There were no adverse effects attributable to ondansetron.

The urinary excretion of 5-hydroxyindoleacetic acid, the main metabolite of serotonin, was increased in all patients two to six hours after they received cisplatin chemotherapy.

NAUSEA and vomiting are common side effects of antimetabolites and cytotoxic drugs. Cisplatin (*cis*-dichloro-diammineplatinum II), an agent highly effective against a variety of cancers (including testicular, ovarian, urinary-bladder and neck cancers), produces the most severe nausea and vomiting of any chemotherapeutic agent. Recently, the mechanisms by which chemotherapeutic agents induce nausea and vomiting have been unknown.¹⁻⁴ Consequently, therapy has been empirical, leading to the use of agents whose mechanisms of action are not understood. Antidopaminergic, anti-histaminic agents, glucocorticoids, cannabinoids, marijuana, and others have been employed either alone or in combination to prevent the nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy.⁵⁻¹²

Recent investigations performed in animals have revealed that selective antagonists of serotonin 5₃ receptors prevent the vomiting induced by cisplatin.¹³⁻¹⁷ The efficacy and safety of preventing chemotherapy-induced nausea and vomiting in patients with cancer are currently under investigation. Promising results have been obtained in open-label (uncontrolled) clinical trials in human subjects.¹⁸⁻²⁰ These observations, as well as others, have led to the proposal that serotonin may be the mediator of the nausea and vomiting induced by chemotherapy.²¹⁻²³

From the Division of Clinical Pharmacology, Department of Pharmacology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.A.; the Department of Pharmacology, Central University of Venezuela (U.S.A.), and Petros Caracas Hospital of Caracas (Venezuela), Caracas, Venezuela; and Glaxo Inc., Research Triangle Park, N.C. (A.L.F.). Address reprint requests to Dr. Cubeddu at the Department of Pharmacology, Central University of Venezuela, Apartado Nueva Granada, Caracas, Venezuela.

Supported by a grant from Glaxo Inc. to Grupo de Investigaciones Cáncer-Terapéuticas, Caracas.

upper limit of normal, or uncontrolled nausea and vomiting due to other organic causes. No at any patient received rescue antiemetic therapy or antiemetic medication within the 48 hours before the study or during the 24-hour study period. Written informed consent was obtained from all patients before any study drug was administered, and the protocol was evaluated and accepted by the institutional review boards of all study centers.

Pre-treatment and Follow-up Examinations

The pre-treatment evaluation consisted of a complete history and physical examination, a 12-lead electrocardiographic assessment, a complete blood count with differential, and a serum top-chemistry profile. Laboratory tests were repeated 24 hours after administration of the study drug. Urine samples for the measurement of 5-HIAA and creatinine were collected at 2-hour intervals.

NAUSEA and vomiting are common side effects of antimetabolites and cytotoxic drugs.¹ Cisplatin (*cis*-dichloro-diammineplatinum II), an agent highly effective against a variety of cancers (including testicular, ovarian, urinary-bladder, and head and neck cancers), produces the most severe nausea and emesis of any chemotherapeutic agent.²⁻⁴ Until

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Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

In a crossover study in 24 patients gastric intrinsic factor (IF) was given intramuscularly (IM) and intranasally (IN). After intranasal administration of B_{12} after intramuscular administration was 1.111 ± 1.095 (mean). The bioavailability of the nasal gel relative to an intramuscular injection was found to be 4.5% (95% confidence interval: 1.3–15.2%).

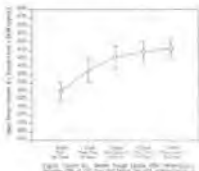
In previous studies patients (over 60 years) increased their weight 5.8% (range 1.2–10.4%) in a 6-month period in patients who had been taking the nasal gel for 6 months. In patients who had been taking the nasal gel for 6 months, the weight gain was 1.0% (range 0.2–1.8%) (range 0.2–1.8%) (range 0.2–1.8%).

Distribution

In the blood, B_{12} is bound to transcobalamin I, a specific B₁₂ binding protein, and is distributed and stored primarily in the liver and bone marrow.

Elimination

About 3–8 mg of B_{12} is excreted into the GI tract daily into the lumen in normal subjects with sufficient intrinsic factor. If not about 1 mg is excreted. What B_{12} is administered in those who receive the binding protein of intrinsic factor and the dose of the nasal gel is readily absorbed in the gut. Absorption of B_{12} in the gut is dose-dependent. About 80–90% of the administered dose can be absorbed in the gut. The percentage drops to 50% for a 100 mg dose, and decreases to 15% when a 1000 mg dose is given.



INDICATIONS AND USAGE

NASCOBAL™ (Cyanocobalamin, USP) Gel for Intranasal Administration is indicated for the maintenance of the hematologic status of patients who are in remission following intramuscular vitamin B₁₂ therapy for the following conditions:

1. Pernicious anemia, indicated only in patients who are in hematologic remission with an intrinsic factor deficiency.
2. Dietary deficiency of vitamin B₁₂ occurring in strict vegetarians. Isolated vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is very rare.
3. Malabsorption of vitamin B₁₂, resulting from structural or functional damage to the stomach, where intrinsic factor facilitates vitamin B₁₂ absorption. These conditions include tropical sprue, and nontropical sprue (idiopathic steatorrhea, gluten-induced enteropathy). Folate deficiency in these patients is usually more severe than vitamin B₁₂ deficiency.
4. Inadequate secretion of intrinsic factor, resulting from lesions that destroy the gastric mucosa (ingestion of corrosives, extensive neoplasia), and a number of conditions associated with a variable degree of gastric atrophy (such as multiple sclerosis, certain endocrine disorders, iron deficiency, and subtotal gastrectomy). Total gastrectomy always produces vitamin B₁₂ deficiency (isolated regional ileitis, ileal resections, malignancies, etc.).
5. Competition for vitamin B₁₂ by intestinal parasites or bacteria. The fish tapeworm (*Diphyllobothrium latum*), hookworms, large quantities of vitamin B₁₂ and vitamin antagonists often have associated gastric atrophy. The blind loop syndrome may produce deficiency of vitamin B₁₂ or folic acid.
6. Inadequate utilization of vitamin B₁₂. This may occur if antimetabolites for the treatment of neoplasia.
7. It may be possible to treat the underlying disease by direct correction of abnormal factors leading to small bowel malabsorption or by suppression of organisms and reduction of activity.

intrinsic factor, a specific B₁₂ binding protein, and is distributed and stored primarily in the liver and bone marrow.

Warnings

Patients with acute latent disease (chronic) may not respond to the oral form of vitamin B₁₂ and may require intramuscular therapy. Patients with acute latent disease (chronic) may not respond to the oral form of vitamin B₁₂ and may require intramuscular therapy. Patients with acute latent disease (chronic) may not respond to the oral form of vitamin B₁₂ and may require intramuscular therapy.

Precautions

1. GENERAL

An informed use of the product is essential. Patients should be advised that the product is not a substitute for a balanced diet. Patients should be advised that the product is not a substitute for a balanced diet. Patients should be advised that the product is not a substitute for a balanced diet.

2. INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

Patients with pernicious anemia should be advised that they will require a lifelong therapy with intramuscular or intranasal administration of vitamin B₁₂. Patients with pernicious anemia should be advised that they will require a lifelong therapy with intramuscular or intranasal administration of vitamin B₁₂.

NASCOBAL™ (Cyanocobalamin, USP) Gel for Intranasal Administration is indicated for the maintenance of the hematologic status of patients who are in remission following intramuscular vitamin B₁₂ therapy for the following conditions:

- I. Pernicious anemia. Indicated only in patients who are in hematologic remission with no nervous system involvement.
- II. Dietary deficiency of vitamin B₁₂ occurring in strict vegetarians. (Isolated vitamin B₁₂ deficiency is very rare).
- III. Malabsorption of vitamin B₁₂, resulting from structural or functional damage to the stomach, where intrinsic factor facilitates vitamin B₁₂ absorption. These conditions include tropical sprue, and nontropical sprue (idiopathic steatorrhea, gluten-induced enteropathy). Folate deficiency in these patients is usually more severe than vitamin B₁₂ deficiency.
- IV. Inadequate secretion of intrinsic factor, resulting from lesions that destroy the gastric mucosa (ingestion of corrosives, extensive neoplasia), and a number of conditions associated with a variable degree of gastric atrophy (such as multiple sclerosis, certain endocrine disorders, iron deficiency, and subtotal gastrectomy). Total gastrectomy always produces vitamin B₁₂ deficiency. Structural lesions leading to vitamin B₁₂ deficiency include regional ileitis, ileal resections, malignancies, etc.
- V. Competition for vitamin B₁₂ by intestinal parasites or bacteria. The fish tapeworm (*Diphyllobothrium latum*) absorbs huge quantities of vitamin B₁₂ and infested patients often have associated gastric atrophy. The blind-loop syndrome may produce deficiency of vitamin B₁₂ or folic acid.
- VI. Inadequate utilization of vitamin B₁₂. This may occur if antimetabolites for the treatment of neoplasia.

NEPT

Cobalamin Analogues Modulate the Growth of Leukemia Cells *in Vitro*¹

The Biomedical Research Centre (J. E. M., J. W. S., M. J. Z.) and Department of Medicine (J. W. S.) and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (H. J. C.), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6T 1Z3; Department of Radiation Oncology, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195 (P. M. P., D. S. W.); and Recceptex Corp., Edmonds, WA 98020 (A. C. M., C. S. W.)

ABSTRACT

Analogues of cyanocobalamin (CN-Cbl), with functional groups attached to either the various propionamide groups of the corrin ring or to the ribose-nucleotide linker arms, have been evaluated in a cobalamin (Cbl)-dependent *in vitro* cell growth assay. In this bioassay, CN-Cbl supported, in a dose-dependent manner, the growth of the murine lymphoma BW5147 and the Cbl carrier protein, human apo-transcobalamin II, reduced the required concentration of Cbl by 100-1000-fold. Any chemical modification of Cbl decreased its ability to support cellular viability and proliferation, with several of the modifications abrogating activity completely. All of the Cbl analogues that promoted growth required the presence of apo-transcobalamin II for the optimal support of cell growth. Generally, Cbl analogues modified at the β -position of the corrin ring and, to a lesser degree, analogues modified at the δ -position supported cell growth, whereas analogues with modifications at the ϵ -position did not support cell growth. Mixing experiments demonstrated an inverse order of potency of Cbl analogues to inhibit cell growth. Thus, Cbl analogues with modifications at the ϵ -position were potent inhibitors, whereas δ -analogues exhibited only partial inhibitory activity at high molar excess, and β -analogues had no inhibitory activity at all. These results indicate that modifications at the ϵ -position of Cbl abolish the ability of Cbl to support cell growth and generate potent inhibitors of Cbl-dependent cell growth.

INTRODUCTION

CN-Cbl¹ is a water-soluble vitamin (vitamin B₁₂) that is essential for cell growth. Naturally occurring Cbl analogues are required as cocoenzymes by two mammalian enzymes that catalyze metabolically critical monooxygenase transfer reactions (1). The reaction involves the methylation of homocysteine in the *de novo* synthesis of methionine and is catalyzed by methionine synthase. The other reaction rearranges L-methylmalonyl-CoA to succinyl-CoA and is catalyzed by L-methylmalonyl-CoA mutase. Cbl-binding proteins (R-binders and intrinsic factor) aid in its absorption from food and in its transport (2). The cellular uptake of Cbl is facilitated by the plasma protein TCII (3), which, when complexed to Cbl, binds to specific high affinity receptors on the surface of cells (4). The Cbl-TCII complex is internalized by receptor-mediated endocytosis, and Cbl is thought to be released from TCII via lysosomal action, followed by enzymatic modification to the forms that are active as cocoenzymes (1).

In humans, deficiencies of the vitamin or perturbations of its intracellular metabolism can result in a variety of cell growth-related disorders, including megaloblastic anemia, methylmalonic aciduria, and central nervous system abnormalities due to the improper func-

tioning of the Cbl-dependent enzymes (5, 6). Cbl deficiency may be brought on by a lack of dietary Cbl, dysfunction of Cbl uptake via abnormalities in the binding proteins, including TCII (7), or errors of intracellular Cbl metabolism (8). Because Cbl deficiency can result in decreased cell proliferation, as evidenced in megaloblastic anemia, we have been investigating new methods to interfere with Cbl metabolism as part of a program to develop antiproliferative agents.

There are many naturally occurring analogues of Cbl (9), as well as a variety of Cbl analogues that have been synthesized by different laboratories (10, 11). Analysis of Cbl analogues *in vitro* and *in vivo* have shown that some interfere with Cbl metabolism, as evidenced by increased levels of homocysteine and methylmalonic acid, the substrates of the two mammalian enzymes dependent on Cbl (10, 12). More recently, it has been shown that relatively high doses of the ϵ -lactam of CN-Cbl can inhibit the *in vitro* growth of HL60 cells (13), further promoting Cbl metabolism as a potential antineoplastic target.

In vitro cultures in which growth is dependent on Cbl have been reported (14, 15). Recently, we have described *in vitro* growth conditions in which the proliferation of human and murine leukemia cells were dependent on Cbl and recombinant human TCII (16). We have used this CN/TCII-dependent proliferation assay to evaluate the changes in growth characteristics of leukemic cells brought about by modifications in the chemical structure of Cbl. Here, we show that the modification of Cbl generally resulted in reduced ability to support cell growth. In particular, modifications of the propionamide side chains of the Cbl corrin ring resulted in reduced or complete loss of activity. In many cases, the loss of bioactivity of Cbl analogues correlated with a capacity to inhibit Cbl-dependent cell proliferation in a dose-dependent manner.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Materials. BW5147 mouse lymphoma cells were obtained from American Type Culture Collection (Rockville, MD). RPMI 1640 culture medium and RPMI 1640 culture medium deficient in Cbl and folate were obtained from Stem Cell Technologies (Vancouver, Canada). RCS was from LITE Technologies, Inc. (Grand Island, NY). QUSO was a gift from Dequasa Corp. (Ridgefield, NJ). CN-Cbl, 5-methyl tetrahydrofolate, MTT, and *in vivo* homocysteine were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. (St. Louis, MO).

Recombinant Human TCII. Recombinant protein (apo form), kindly provided by E. V. Quattrin (Venezia Affairs Medical Center and State University of New York Health Science Center, Brooklyn, NY), had been produced by infection of SP9 cells with baculovirus containing human TCII cDNA and purified as described (17).

Cell Culture. BW5147 cells were maintained in complete RPMI 1640 medium supplemented with 10% RCS. Cells were grown in 60 × 15 mm culture dishes (Falcon Scientific Co., Naperville, Canada) in a humidified atmosphere (5% CO₂, 95% air) at 37°C. Cells used in the Cbl/TCII bioassay were grown to late logarithmic phase, then washed three times in PBS before resuspension in Cbl deficient bioassay medium.

Cbl/TCII Bioassay. To measure Cbl/TCII-dependent cell growth, we used RPMI 1640 deficient in Cbl and in which the folic acid was replaced with 1 μ M 5-methyltetrahydrofolate and 1 μ M homocysteine. RCS was pretreated with QUSO to reduce interference of endogenous bovine TCII/Cbl in the bioassay (18). In brief, 30 μ g of QUSO were added per ml of RCS, mixed well, and removed by centrifugation as described previously (18). Washed cells were

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The abbreviations used are: CN-Cbl, cyanocobalamin; Cbl, cobalamin; TCII, transcobalamin II; QUSO, azoxobenzene propionamide salt; MTT, 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide; Hsp, actinoproteinase.

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

State of the Art

Sofyina v. Arsenyan

UDC 615.277.3:577.134.181

POSSIBLE AMPLIFICATION OF THE ANTINEOPLASTIC ACTION OF A FOLIC ACID ANTAGONIST BY METHYLCOBALAMINE ANALOGS

Z. P. SOFYINA, N. V. MYASISHCHEVA, F. G. ARSENYAN, A. M. YURKEVICH

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animal species (Rous sarcoma of chickens, PW-2 fibrosarcoma, sarcoma 45, and SSR [spontaneous sarcoma of rats] of rats, and Guerin's carcinoma, sarcoma 180, and lymphosarcoma of mice) and the attenuation of the curative effect of certain antineoplastic drugs in combined application with vitamin B₁₂, noted in early studies, are caused by the active biosynthesis of its coenzymes in the animals' bodies. Assessment of the functional role of methylcobalamine, one of the cobalamine coenzymes in the growth processes of normal and tumor cells, has drawn the greatest attention.

Methylcobalamine is a coenzyme of the methionine synthetase reaction, a key link defining the synergy of the action of cobalamines and folic acid compounds in cell proliferation processes. The special importance of methylcobalamine for activation of this enzyme system has been noted by a study of the disrupted metabolism of cobalamines in human leukoses. The poor effectiveness of combined cytostatic therapy in certain forms of acute leukosis involving high methylcobalamine concentrations in the blood has confirmed the specificity of its action in the body (Myasishcheva *et al.*, 1969). The active role of methylcobalamine in cell proliferation processes of hematopoietic tissue in healthy animals has now been established. Methylcobalamine increases the number of cells synthesizing DNA, their mitotic activity, and the size of the proliferative pool in the spleen of mice (Golenko *et al.*). A significant increase in the frequency of hemoblastosis development in mice has been found upon combined administration of methylcobalamine with endogenous blastomagens. An important point in the mechanism of the stimulant action of cobalamines is their inductive effect on methionine synthetase activity. In cultures of normal mammalian cells and human tumor cells, methionine synthetase activity rises noticeably with an increase in cobalamine concentration in the culture medium (Mangum *et al.*; Kamely *et al.*). However, various types of tumor cells differ from normal cells in their ability, on exposure to cobalamines, to increase the biosynthesis of methionine needed for rapid growth (Talpem *et al.*; Chello and Bertino). The salvage pathway with the aid of cobalamine-dependent methionine synthetase, which increases the intracellular pool of tetrahydrofolic acid independently of the folate reductase system, is evidently the principal mechanism of development of methotrexate (MTX) resistance in leukosis cells (Myasishcheva; Sauer and Jaenicke).

In this connection, there is a real possibility of amplifying the antineoplastic effect of this metabolite by combined application

F. G. Arsenyan, N. V. Myasishcheva,
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I. P. Rudakova, E. G. Chauser,
and A. M. Yurkevich

tumor cells is the combined use of preparations, taking the peculiarities of the mechanism of their action into account. A new trend in this field is the use of cobalamine derivatives in combination with definite antineoplastic preparations.

The special significance of methylcobalamine was first noted in the case of impaired cobalamine metabolism in leukemia patients. An analysis of the functional activity of cobalamine coenzymes in the organism, in comparison with the effectiveness of combined cytostatic therapy, has shown that the clinical course of the process in acute leukemia with an increased content of hydroxy- and methylcobalamines in the blood is less favorable [1]. The results obtained were evidence of the important role of methylcobalamine in metabolic processes as a coenzyme of methionine synthetase (EC 2.1.1.13)—a key link in the control of the synchronized action of cobalamines in compounds of folic acid in processes of cell proliferation [1-3].

A study of the morphofunctional state of the hemopoietic systems of animals under conditions of intensive cobalamine metabolism in the organism confirmed the fact that at a high concentration of cobalamine coenzymes, the rate of proliferation of cells in the hemopoietic tissue increases. In the spleens of healthy mice, in the case of prolonged administration of methylcobalamine, hyperplasia of the lymphoid elements, an increase in the number of DNA-synthesizing cells, and an increase in their mitotic index were noted. The stability of the periods of the mitotic cycle of spleen lymphocytes in the presence of an increase in the size of the proliferative

TABLE 1. Stimulating Effects of Methylcobalamine on the Growth of Transplantable Tumors of Mice

Tumor	Line of mice	Dose of methylcobalamine, mg/kg	Increase in tumor volume after administration of methylcobalamine, % of control		
			7-8th day*	11th day*	21st day*
Co-755	BDF ₁	10	-2	10	10*
	C ₅₇ BL	10	-23	+10	17
	F ₁	100	-45	+17	16
AKATOK	BALB/c	10	+100	+37	-33
	CBA	10	+47	0	0
	SHK	100	-57	0	0

*Period after transplantation of tumor.
†P > 0.05, in all remaining cases P < 0.05.
Note. Here and in Table 2: the preparation was administered on the second and sixth days after transplantation of the tumor.

Oncological Scientific Center of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR, Scientific-Industrial Vitamin Combine, Moscow. Translated from *Khimiko-Farmatseticheski Zhurnal*, Vol. 12, No. 10, pp. 49-54,

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00257

Lilly Ex. 2055
Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00257

State of the Art

Sofyina v. Arsenyan

with cobalamin coenzyme antagonists. An understanding of the action of cobalamines in the body: molecular action formed the basis for directed synthesis of potent antineoplastic compounds.

In chemotherapeutic experiments, we studied the action of cobalamin chloropalladate, which had exhibited growth and inhibiting DNA synthesis in human cells (Burke *et al.*; Tisman and Herbert; Flood *et al.*, 1977).

In developing a scheme of their combined action, we studied the physiological action of cobalamines in the body: molecular action and the formation of folate coenzymes, as well as the action of cobalamines on tumor cells (Burke *et al.*; Tisman and Herbert; Flood *et al.* on the selective action of the studied compounds as independent enzyme activity in the body. However, it was their isolated application. Therefore, we thought it was necessary to study the antineoplastic action of these compounds in the context of inhibition of dihydrofolate reductase activity using MTX.

Materials and Methods. The studies were conducted on mice of the C₅₇BL, CBA, BALB/c lines and BDF₁/C₅₇BL × DBA(2) hybrids weighing 20–25 g, obtained from the USSR Academy of Medicine nursery. The antineoplastic activity of methylcobalamin analogs was studied on transplanted leukoses L-1210 and La and on solid tu-

The experiments were conducted on mice of the C₅₇BL, CBA, and BALB/c lines, the hybrids BDF₁-(C₅₇BL × DBA/2), F₁(C₅₈BL × CBA) and SHK mice, obtained from the nursery of the Academy of Medical Sciences of the USSR. In the experiments we used 420 mice, weighing 20–25 g.

The action of methylcobalamin was studied on solid tumors: adenocarcinoma of the mammary gland (Ca-755), cancer of the cervix (RShM-5), adenocarcinoma of the intestine (AKATOL), sarcoma 37, as well as on leukemia L-1210, according to the procedure used in the laboratory [16, 14].

II, which we obtained from the National Cancer Institute of the United States according to the program of cooperation between the USSR and the US in the field of chemotherapy of tumors [15], were used as methionine synthetase inhibitors.

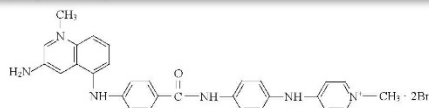
Complex I, synthesized at the All-Union Vitamin Scientific Research Institute [19], was administered perorally in a dose of 250 mg/kg; the quinolium derivative II was administered intraperitoneally in a dose

Materials and Methods. The studies were conducted on mice of the C₅₇BL, CBA, BALB/c lines and BDF₁/C₅₇BL × DBA(2) hybrids weighing 20–25 g, obtained from the USSR Academy of Medicine nursery. The antineoplastic activity of methylcobalamin analogs was studied on transplanted leukoses L-1210 and La and on solid tumors: mammary adenocarcinoma (Ca-755), cervical uterine cancer (CUC-5), and intestinal adenocarcinoma (ACA-TOL). As the principal object of study, we selected solid tumors, on which it is easier to detect the stimulant effect

tumor. The antineoplastic effect was studied during the same periods over the subsequent

th, calculated according to its relative volume, and the results were subjected to statistical treat-

ally stimulates the growth of the tumor. In the case of sarcoma 37 (Table 1),



We obtained the drug from the U.S. National Cancer Institute in accordance with a U.S.–USSR agreement on cooperation in the area of tumor chemotherapy. According to the description provided by the American scientists, the drug is a methionine synthetase inhibitor (Carter *et al.*). The quinoline derivative was administered intraperitoneally at 5 mg/kg daily or at 96-hour intervals, which corresponds to half the maximum tolerable dosage for the conditions. Treatment was begun 48 h after transplantation of the tumor. The results of the exposure were assessed 24 h after the end of the course of treatment and at various times throughout the animals' lives. Efficacy was measured by the percentage retardation of tumor growth, calculated by the conventional volume, and by the increase in the animals' lifespan. In each test, control and experimental groups were created so that their numbers would afford statistically significant minimum calculated percentage retardations

the intensity of tumor growth depends on the time of preparation of the animals, the frequency of administration, and the concentration of methylcobalamin. The greatest stimulant effect on growth of the tumor Ca-755 was noted in the case of two administrations of the preparation in a dose of 10 µg/kg after transplantation of the tumor into the hybrids BDF₁ (+18%), and to a lesser degree for mice of the pure line C₅₇BL (+7%). In F₁ hybrids, a substantial intensification of tumor growth was detected in the case of five administrations of methylcobalamin in a dose of 500 µg/kg. The stimulation of the growth of Ca-755 and AKATOL was followed for a period of two to three weeks, whereas in mice with sarcoma 37 and RShM-5, it was noted only directly after the end of the course of administration of the preparation. In mice of the pure line (C₅₇BL), intensified tumor growth was observed for a longer period (2–3 weeks after transplantation of the tumor) than in hybrids. For precisely this reason, in subsequent investigations of the action of methylcobalamin and its analogs on the cell kinetics of Ca-755, we used mice of the C₅₇BL line.

In the case of simultaneous administration of methotrexate and methylcobalamin, an intensification of their inhibiting effect on tumor growth was observed (L-1210, Ca-755, RShM-5). The lifetime of animals with leukemia L-1210 was increased by 78% in this case, whereas in the case of isolated administration of methotrexate the increase was only 55%. The most rapid results were obtained for adenocarcinoma of the mammary gland (Table 2). In this case the combination of methotrexate with methylcobalamin increased the lifetime of the animals by 60%, which was three times as great as the effect of methotrexate alone. On the 8th to 14th days after the end of the combined course of therapy with methylcobalamin and methotrexate, the addition of tumor growth was 76–46%, respectively, whereas methotrexate alone had practically no activity at the same periods (61–0%).

It is known that as solid tumors grow, the number of cells in the resting phase in them increases substantially, and the sensitivity of the tumors to cyclo-specific preparations decreases appreciably [20]. Evidently the sensitivity of the tumor to methotrexate can be substantially increased by administering methylcobalamin.

State of the Art

Tamura

Clin Exp Immunol 1999; 118:28-32

Immunomodulation by vitamin B12: augmentation of CD8⁺ T lymphocytes and natural killer (NK) cell activity in vitamin B12-deficient patients by methyl-B12 treatment

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(Accepted for publication 7 January 1999)

SUMMARY

It has been suggested that vitamin B12 (vit.B12) plays an important role in immune system regulation, but the details are still obscure. In order to examine the action of vit.B12 on cells of the human immune system, lymphocyte subpopulations and NK cell activity were evaluated in 11 patients with vit.B12 deficiency anaemia and in 13 control subjects. Decreases in the number of lymphocytes and CD8⁺ cells and in the proportion of CD8⁺ cells, an abnormally high CD4/CD8 ratio, and suppressed NK cell activity were noted in patients compared with control subjects. In all 11 patients and eight control subjects, these immune parameters were evaluated before and after methyl-B12 injection. The lymphocyte counts and number of CD8⁺ cells increased both in patients and in control subjects. The high CD4/CD8 ratio and suppressed NK cell activity were improved by methyl-B12 treatment. Augmentation of CD3⁺CD16⁺ cells occurred in patients after methyl-B12 treatment. In contrast, antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) activity, lectin-stimulated lymphocyte blast formation, and serum levels of immunoglobulins were not changed by methyl-B12 treatment. These results indicate that vit.B12 might play an important role in cellular immunity, especially relating to CD8⁺ cells and the NK cell system, which suggests effects on cytotoxic cells. We conclude that vit.B12 acts as an immunomodulator for cellular immunity.

Keywords vitamin B12, NK cell, CD8, immunomodulation

Vitamin B12 deficiency is a common cause of nerve damage. In humans, it is associated with peripheral neuropathy, and in animals with a similar condition. In humans, it is associated with peripheral neuropathy, and in animals with a similar condition.

In human immunity, the action of vit.B12 is still obscure, probably because it is impossible to study the action of vit.B12 using artificially deficient human model systems. However, we

SUBJECTS AND METHODS

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Subjects
Eleven newly diagnosed Japanese patients with vit.B12 deficiency anaemia were admitted to our hospital between December 1990

28

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State of the Art

Tamura

Vit.B12 augments CD8⁺ cells and NK cell activity

31

These results are consistent with others referred to above [3-5] and with clinical observations that we reported previously [6,7]. In contrast, Soler *et al.* [8] and Carmel *et al.* [9] found no significant decrease in CD8⁺ cells nor a significantly increased CD4/CD8 ratio in PA. Although differences of the races of the subjects can not be ignored, as Carmel *et al.* discussed [9], the design of the study is also likely to be an important factor explaining the differences. In our study, only newly diagnosed, untreated patients were included.

using the same protocol as used in our study. In order to be used, because immunomodulation by B12 restored, decreased the number of CD8⁺ cells in peripheral lymphocyte. Although the mechanism of action of vit.B12 on T-cells is not clear, however, it has been reported that immunological abnormalities in the above mentioned patients that CD8⁺ cell counts are low.

In addition, patients and vit.B12 treated 2 years of treatment who showed the incomplete period of treatment patients showed augmented fraction, which anti-tumour risk of malignancy demonstrated.

Increased risk of gastric tumours is one of the precursors of endocrine cells induced by hypergastrinaemia in PA, a deficiency of vit.B12, causing low numbers of CD8⁺ lymphocytes and depressed NK cell activity may be additional risk factors.

On the other hand, the possibility of an anti-tumour effect of methyl-B12 was reported using an experimental model of cancer [10]. In that report, enhancement of PHLA₂, Con A- and PWM-stimulated lymphocyte blast formation by methyl-B12 was suggested to be one of the mechanisms of anti-tumour immunity. In our study, PHLA₂, Con A- and PWM-stimulated lymphocyte blast formation and ADCC were measured in some patients, but no suppression or change after methyl-B12 treatment was noted. Although these negative results might be due to the small sample size in this study, it is possible that lymphocyte blast formation and ADCC do not play an important role in anti-tumour immunity compared with the effects of CD8⁺ and NK cell activity.

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In clinical studies of immunological or neurological disorders such as autoimmune diseases and HIV infections, some effects of vit.B12 have been reported. Samsky *et al.* reported a relationship between vit.B12 and onset of multiple sclerosis (MS) [17]. They discussed the possibility of involvement of vit.B12 as a cause of MS through effects on immune system regulation. A patient with AIDS dementia complex was apparently successfully treated with vit.B12 [18], and a relationship between vit.B12 deficiency

subjects. These observations may contribute to our understanding of the potential anti-tumour effects of vit.B12, and may partly explain the high risk of gastric carcinoma in PA; our data also provide a rationale for considering the use of vit.B12 for treating a variety of other immunological, neurological, and oncological disorders.

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Neptune v. Lilly IPR2016-00237

State of the Art

Bodian 1963

608

ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD

the first year of life in neuroblastoma, this has certainly not manifested itself clinically in the series of untreated children.

A Series of Cases of Neuroblastoma Submitted to Operation and/or Radiotherapy

This series included a total of 25 children treated by operation, radiotherapy, or a combination of both. This group was highly selected in that preference was given to children with no, or limited, evidence of dissemination, to children in the younger age-group, and to children with extra-adrenal origin of the tumour.

Of the 25 children, 17 succumbed within six and a half months of symptomatic onset, and eight patients have been long-term survivors for periods varying from three years to 25 years. It will be seen that four of the eight surviving children had a pelvic primary tumour (the site with the best prognosis), and that secondary spread was found in one solitary instance only. This patient was admitted to hospital in 1933 at the age of 4 years and 10 months with an axillary tumour. The mass was excised and radium applied superficially. The growth had originally been diagnosed as a lymphosarcoma, but re-examination by the author leaves no doubt that it was a metastasis, in a lymph node, of neuroblastoma. At the age of 26 this patient was re-examined with no radiological evidence of any calcification in chest or abdomen, and with no clinical abnormalities whatsoever. Clinically the site of the original primary tumour remains unknown, and it must be assumed that the primary growth has regressed spontaneously. The lymph node metastasis has not recurred.

As stated before, surgical treatment and radiotherapy, both being essentially localized forms of treatment, are not entirely suited to the problem of cure in neuroblastoma. It should be noted that nine of the children in this group of 25 showed a symptomatic onset of the disease within the first year of life, and five of them fell into the group of eight long-term survivors, whereas four succumbed as did 13 others in the older age-group. The majority of cases showed widespread dissemination of tumour, and thus it seems likely that the therapeutic solution must lie in the discovery of a suitable effective chemotherapeutic agent.

Neuroblastoma Cases Treated with Massive Doses of Vitamin B₁₂ with or without Addition of Surgery and/or Radiotherapy

In November 1950, a new form of treatment was introduced into the therapeutic armamentarium of neuroblastoma at this hospital. Massive concen-

trates of vitamin B₁₂ were made available at that time by the generosity of the Squibb Company, and the then Tumour Committee of the hospital (composed of Mr. G. H. Macnab, Professor A. Moncrieff, and the author) decided that it should be used on patients

with neuroblastoma. The reasoning behind this decision was that since vitamin B₁₂ was an essential factor for the normal maturation of haemopoietic cells, it might possibly enhance the maturation of neuroblastic tissue towards ganglioneuroma. A completely unselected series of cases of histologically proved neuroblastoma was given this treatment, either solely or in addition to operation and/or radiotherapy. The dosage was 1 mg. (1,000 µg.) intramuscularly on alternate days for at least two years whenever survival permitted, and this was increased from 1957 onwards to 1 mg.

no longer palpable through abdominal wall, but there was some infiltration in vicinity of prostate on rectal examination. Subsequently urine was voided per urethram and suprapubic tube was removed.

After 15 months' treatment laparotomy was performed in hope of obtaining residual ganglioneuroma. Only remnants of tumour were two minute retroperitoneal nodules on left of sacrum, that were palpable but not visible. Treatment was maintained for two years. Child now in good health and free from recurrence or metastases, 12 years after clinical onset of disease.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1059 - 00003

State of the Art

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458 NEUROBLASTOMA

The child's general condition was poor, and there was persistent urinary infection. Any attempt at surgical excision of the massive tumour seemed out of the question, and expert opinion considered that radiotherapy was unlikely to be successful. Despite the fact that there was no evidence of metastases, the outlook seemed gloomy.

It so happened that at this time massive concentrates of vitamin B₁₂ were made available by the generosity of the Squibb Company, and it was decided by the Tumour Committee (composed of Mr. G. H. Macnab, F.R.C.S., Professor A. A. Moncrieff, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., and the author) that they should be used on this patient. The reasoning behind this decision was that since vitamin B₁₂ was an essential factor for the normal maturation of haemopoietic cells, it might possibly also facilitate the maturation of neuroblastic tissue towards a gangliocytomatous structure. The

The dramatic tumour regression in this child prompted considerable interest, and the possibility was considered that vitamin B₁₂ might have been responsible for it. The only thing to do was to repeat the experi-

ment, and this has been done, with results which tend to show that the response was by no means fortuitous.

A total of 46 cases have so far been included in this therapeutic trial. In all these children the diagnosis has been confirmed histologically. No patient has been denied the possible benefits of surgery and/or radiotherapy. In a considerable number, however, the disease was not con-

The dosage of vitamin B₁₂ used has in general been 1 mg. on alternate days by intramuscular injection. This dose, which is of course

ated, for their follow-up period is as yet too short (less than a year).

The dosage of vitamin B₁₂ used has in general been 1 mg. on alternate days by intramuscular injection. This dose, which is of course enormously in excess of physiological requirements, was adopted on a purely empirical basis, in the absence of any known rationale.

Since early 1957, the dosage has been further modified: 1 mg. on alternate days was the dose given to infants in the first year of life. In older children the dose was calculated on the basis of 1 mg. per stone (7 kg.) of expected body weight.* The same dosage adopted at the beginning of treatment was maintained throughout the course of at

* Since the English stone is 14 pounds in American weight, the dose would be 0.07 mg. per pound of body weight (0.14 mg. per kilogram).—General Editor's note.

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1060 - 00011

State of the Art

Lockwood

Apparent Partial Remission of Breast Cancer in 'High Risk' Patients s233

with gamma-linolenic acid. The clinical application of anti-oxidants has been reviewed by Noto *et al.* (1989) and by Floyd (1990).

Knecht *et al.* (1990) found in an epidemiological study an 11 times higher risk of breast cancer with low selenium and vitamin E in conjunction. Preliminary results from intervention studies seem to yield similar findings (Blot *et al.*, 1993; Adjuvant Nutrition in Cancer Treatment (Symposium, 1992).

These studies on vitamins and nutritional entities and their relationship to the prevention and treatment of cancer were some of more than 200 references forming the basis for our protocol on the treatment of breast cancer with nutritional entities, and particularly vitamin Q₁₀.

Thirty-two women with breast cancer in the so-called high risk group were included in an open and still ongoing trial, for which they gave their informed consent.

This report is based on an 18 months follow-up study. For ethical reasons, and anticipating lack of compliance with the large number of supplements, the trial was open and aimed towards a finding of a possible positive response, which would then be a basis for a blinded trial.

All patients were treated according to the routine procedure in Denmark, i.e. surgery, chemotherapy, X-ray treatment and in some cases Tamoxifen in accordance with the estrogen receptor status of the tumor.

The patients were between 32 and 81 years. Beside the spreading of cancer to the lymph nodes, some of the patients had metastases at different sites such as the skin, the pleura or in the thoracic vertebrae.

All patients underwent clinical check-ups every 3 months in order to detect any recurrence of the disease. Mammography, bone scan and X-ray pictures of the chest or spine were performed whenever there was any suspicion of recurrence. Open biopsies or 'Trucut (R)' biopsies were also performed. Blood pressure, body weight, use of painkillers and quality of life parameters were followed.

At 0, 3 and 12 months, blood tests of Coenzyme Q₁₀ (whole blood) were obtained, in order to follow compliance. For a random subgroup of 1/3, extensive hematological, immunological and nutritional parameters were followed including whole blood Q₁₀, whole blood calcium, magnesium, selenium, manganese, zinc, copper, lithium, red

All patients took the following supplements in a daily pack divided morning and evening (Table 1.)

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1071 - 00003

State of the Art

Lockwood

s234

K. Lockwood et al.

Table 1. Bio-antioxidant contains all the basic antioxidants. The amounts stated below under "total dose" are the combined doses received from 3 Bio-antioxidants plus the relevant "mono" preparations. The tablets/capsules were supplied by Pharma Nord, Denmark

Preparation	No. of tablets	Total dose
Bio-Quinone Q10	3	90 mg Coenzyme Q ₁₀
Bio-Glandin	10	1.2 g GLA (n-6)
Bio-Marine	10	3.5 g n-3 FA
Bio-Vitamin C, 750mg	3	2850 mg Vitamin C 2500 iu Vitamin E 32500 iu β-carotene 387 μg Selenium 2500 iu Vitamin A 15 mg Vitamin B1 15 mg Vitamin B2 75 mg Vitamin B6 13 μg Vitamin B12 45 mg Niacin 22 mg Pantothenic 300 μg Folic Acid 300 μg Biotin 300 iu Vitamin D 150 mg Magnesium 22 mg Zinc 3 mg Copper 6 mg Manganese
Bio-Vitamin E, 350mg	4	
Bio-Carotene, 9mg	4	
Bio-Selenium, 100 μg	2	
Bio-Antioxidant	3	

Data on biochemical markers.

Table 2 shows the levels of CoQ₁₀, vitamins and minerals together with an analysis of statistically significant differences between onset and 12 months (Wilcoxon's test). Only data where all three measurements have been obtained are included. Except for Q₁₀, examined in 27 patients, on average all data are available in 10 patients.

Baseline data for NK-cells and lymphocytes are missing; therefore statistical difference is calculated between the 3 and 12-month data.

Discussion on biochemical markers

The increase in the vitamin and selenium content is a reflection of patients' compliance, and the levels reached are within the expected range from supplementation in dosages

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1071 - 00004

Table 1. Bio-antioxidant contains all the basic antioxidants. The amounts stated below under "total dose" are the combined doses received from 3 Bio-antioxidants plus the relevant "mono" preparations. The tablets/capsules were supplied by Pharma Nord, Denmark

Preparation	No. of tablets	Total dose
Bio-Quinone Q10	3	90 mg Coenzyme Q ₁₀
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Bio-Marine	10	3.5 g n-3 FA
Bio-Vitamin C, 750mg	3	2850 mg Vitamin C 2500 iu Vitamin E 32500 iu β-carotene 387 μg Selenium 2500 iu Vitamin A 15 mg Vitamin B1 15 mg Vitamin B2 75 mg Vitamin B6 13 μg Vitamin B12 45 mg Niacin 22 mg Pantothenic 300 μg Folic Acid 300 μg Biotin 300 iu Vitamin D 150 mg Magnesium 22 mg Zinc 3 mg Copper 6 mg Manganese
Bio-Vitamin E, 350mg	4	
Bio-Carotene, 9mg	4	
Bio-Selenium, 100 μg	2	
Bio-Antioxidant	3	

Barber

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The effect of an oral nutritional supplement enriched with fish oil on weight-loss in patients with pancreatic cancer

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Summary Previous studies have suggested that administration of oral eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) will stabilize weight in patients with

supplement could produce weight gain in these patients. Twenty patients with unresectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma were asked to consume two cans of a fish oil-enriched nutritional supplement per day in addition to their normal food intake. Each can contained 310 kcal,

and 7 weeks (median 2 kg, $P=0.033$). Dietary intake increased significantly by almost 400 kcal day⁻¹ ($P=0.002$). REE per kg body weight and per kg lean body mass fell significantly. Performance status and appetite were significantly improved at 3 weeks. In contrast to previous studies of oral conventional nutritional supplements in weight-losing cancer patients, this study suggests that an EPA-enriched supplement may reverse cachexia in advanced pancreatic cancer.

Keywords: pancreatic cancer; cachexia; eicosapentaenoic acid; docosahexaenoic acid; fish oil; nutritional supplementation

Pancreatic cancer is almost inevitably associated with progressive nutritional decline (Wignore et al, 1997a). Weight loss in patients with gastrointestinal cancer is often refractory to therapeutic intervention and is associated with a shorter survival time and a reduced quality of life (DeWys et al, 1982; Ovesen et al, 1993a). The provision of conventional oral nutritional supplements may increase overall dietary intake but this does not generally lead to any benefit in terms of nutritional status (Evans et al, 1987; Ovesen et al, 1993a). Consequently it has been suggested that the metabolic processes which contribute to weight-loss in patients with cancer may also block the accretion of lean tissue (Moldawer and Copeland, 1997).

Pro-inflammatory cytokines, notably interleukin 6 (IL-6), can induce a cachectic state when injected into animals and monoclonal antibodies to such cytokines may attenuate certain features of cachexia in tumour-bearing animals (McNamara et al, 1992). The acute phase protein response (APPR) has been shown to be associated with increased resting energy expenditure (Falconer et al, 1994a) and to correlate with reduced nutritional intake (Wignore et al, 1997a) in weight-losing patients with pancreatic cancer. In addition, the APPR has been demonstrated to be the strongest independent predictor of poor prognosis in patients with pancreatic cancer (Falconer et al, 1995). The APPR is modulated primarily by pro-inflammatory cytokines, including IL-6 (Hannach et al, 1995). Thus there appears to be a strong link

between pro-inflammatory cytokine activity and the development of cachexia in patients with pancreatic cancer. Attempts to manipulate the inflammatory response in cancer patients with the intention of improving nutritional status have been made previously with promising results (McMillan et al, 1997).

The n-3 polyunsaturated fatty acids, eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), are immunomodulatory and have been shown to suppress endotoxin-induced production of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-1 and tumour necrosis factor (TNF) by peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) from healthy volunteers (Meydani et al, 1993). Studies of weight-losing pancreatic cancer patients receiving high-purity EPA have demonstrated suppression of PBMC IL-6 production (Wignore et al, 1997a). EPA has also been shown to have inhibitory effects on the growth of human pancreatic cancer cell lines *in vitro* (Falconer et al, 1994b) and to have anti-tumour and anti-cachectic effects in the chemocystin amine MAC16 colon adenocarcinoma model (Beck et al, 1991). The cachexia seen in this animal model has been attributed to the production of a procoagulant inhibitor by tumour cells and such a factor is also found in tumour-bearing humans with cachexia (Todorov et al, 1996). It has been suggested that EPA may act by inhibiting the end organ effects of this factor (Tisdale, 1996).

We have previously reported the administration of a mixed fish oil preparation (providing around 2.2 g EPA and 1.4 g DHA daily) and a pure EPA preparation (providing 8 g EPA daily) will stabilize weight in patients with unresectable pancreatic cancer (Wignore et al, 1996; Barber et al, 1997). Clearly, in order to lay down new tissue and thereby increase body weight additional macronutrients need to be consumed.

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80

NEPTUNE GENERICS 1058 - 00001

State of the Art

Barber

86 MD Barber et al

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Appendix 1 Composition of the trial fish oil-enriched nutritional supplement. Between-batch coefficients of variation in the proportion of EPA and DHA in the supplement were <1% and <1.5% respectively.

Nutrient	Amount per can (237 ml)
Energy (kcal)	310
Protein (g)	16.1 (21% of calories)
Carbohydrate (g)	49.7 (61% of calories)
Fat (g)	6.5 (18% of calories)
EPA	1.08
DHA	0.46
Vitamin A (IU)	1320
Vitamin D (IU)	192
Vitamin E (IU)	72
Vitamin K (IU)	32
Vitamin C (mg)	156
Folic acid (µg)	456
Thiamin (mg)	1.6
Riboflavin (mg)	1.2
Vitamin B6 (mg)	1.2
Vitamin B12 (µg)	4.32
Niacin (mg)	9.6
Choline (mg)	126
Biotin (µg)	187
Pantothenic acid (mg)	6
Sodium (mg)	360
Potassium (mg)	480
Chloride (mg)	365
Calcium (mg)	432
Phosphorus (mg)	300
Magnesium (mg)	108
Iodine (µg)	42
Copper (mg)	1.5
Manganese (mg)	0.8
Zinc (mg)	7
Iron (mg)	5.3
Selenium (mg)	22
Chromium (µg)	30
Molybdenum (µg)	49.4

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Kirkemo

Serum vitamin level maintenance in cancer patients on total parenteral nutrition^{1,2}

ABSTRACT The quantity of water and fat soluble vitamins required to maintain serum levels in cancer patients on total parenteral nutrition (TPN) has yet to be determined. A prospective evaluation of our current intravenous vitamin regimen during TPN was performed in order to define these requirements. Seventy-four were studied. Serum levels of vitamins cholecalciferol (25-OH-D) (9) were evaluated. Serum levels were determined weekly. 80 levels were achieved for all but 25-OH depleted patients revealed that serum 16 and six patients (66%) for 25-OH-D. Vitamin quantities: A, 21,600 IU; D, maintain mean serum vitamin levels for restore and maintain vitamins B₁₂, C, at deficiencies in vitamins A and D. Am

KEY WORDS Vitamin A, vitamin

Introduction

At present, there appears to be no entirely satisfactory parenteral vitamin preparation for use in patients on total parenteral nutrition (TPN) (1). Currently, combinations of commercially available vitamin preparations must be used (2-5).

Given a particular patient population, a satisfactory parenteral vitamin preparation must restore deficits as well as provide for maintenance of normal serum levels. This must be accomplished without producing toxicity. We previously reported our experience with a vitamin regimen (NCI-1) in which we analyzed vitamin A, B₁₂, C, 25-OH-cholecalciferol (25-OH-D), and folate levels in 40 TPN patients who received parenteral nutrition for a period of from 5 to 42 days (2). Based on this experience we proposed a regimen (NCI-2) which would provide for maintenance of normal serum levels for vitamins A, D, B₁₂, C, and folate (2). The present study prospectively analyzes the efficacy of this regimen.

Materials and methods

Patient population

All patients receiving TPN with the vitamin regimen from May 1, 1977 to March 17, 1980, were eligible for

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icity. We previously reported our experience with a vitamin regimen (NCI-1) in which we analyzed vitamin A, B₁₂, C, 25-OH-cholecalciferol (25-OH-D), and folate levels in 40 TPN patients who received parenteral nutrition for a period of from 5 to 42 days (2). Based on this experience we proposed a regimen (NCI-2) which would provide for maintenance of normal serum levels for vitamins, A, D, B₁₂, C, and folate (2). The present study prospectively analyzes the efficacy of this regimen.

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Page 20 of 20

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These data show a clear trend of increasing toxicity with increasing baseline homocysteine level.

To more accurately determine which homocysteine cut-off provides the greatest separation between amount of toxicity experienced by those with "high" homocysteine and amount of toxicity experienced by those with "low" homocysteine, a spline analysis was performed. In this analysis, the toxicity designated "any hematological or non-hematological toxicity" (row 2 in Table 2.6) was used. In this parameter, hematological toxicity is defined as any Grade 4 hematological toxicity or Grade 4 neutropenia accompanied by Grade 3 or 4 infection. Non-hematological toxicity is defined as any

3. Folic Acid Supplementation

As previously mentioned, a phase I study of LY231514 and folic acid (Study JMAS) has shown that folic acid supplementation permits dose escalation by ameliorating toxicity since heavily and minimally pretreated patients tolerate LY231514 at doses of 700 and 925 mg/m² respectively [10].

4.1. Homocysteine Levels in Different Tumor Types

Homocysteine levels in different tumor types were analyzed in order to determine if particular types of cancer predispose patients to high homocysteine levels. Results showed that, in general, cancers that are associated with poor nutritional status such as colorectal cancer, esophageal cancer, and gastric cancer are accompanied by elevated (≥ 12 μ M) homocysteine levels in greater than 30% of patients. In addition, 23% of patients in a second-line non-small cell lung cancer trial had elevated homocysteine levels.

Page 14 of 20

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Rationale for Programmatic Intervention

Compound Overview and Link to Folate Metabolism

The antitumor activity of LY231514, a multitargeted antifolate, is derived from simultaneous and multiple inhibition of several key folate-requiring enzymes of the

Preclinical and clinical studies evaluating the impact of dietary folic acid on the toxicity or efficacy of antifolates such as LY231514 and lometrexol have been reported. Because tumor tissue and normal tissue, such as bone marrow, presumably have different folate requirements, it is possible to decrease the toxicity to healthy tissue while maintaining antitumor effect through careful adjustment of folic acid intake. This has been shown in experimental systems for LY231514 and another antifolate, lometrexol (Worzalla et al. 1998; Alati et al. 1996) and in clinical trials with lometrexol (Young et al. 1992; Laohavinij et al. 1996). In addition, it has been clinically observed that the efficacy of low

(folic acid). Because folates are not efficiently stored in the body, depletion and repletion can occur relatively quickly with supplementation. For example, megaloblastic hematopoiesis reverts to normal hematopoiesis within 12 to 48 hours of folic acid supplementation (Antony 1991). Reversal of methotrexate toxicity by folic acid is due

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Page 5

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to replenishment of the tetrahydrofolate pool by folic acid and is therefore non-competitive with respect to methotrexate. In the case of LY231514, reversal may be achieved by (i) competition of folic acid for enzymatic binding sites and (ii)

There are a number of reasons why leucovorin is used as a rescue agent and folic acid is not. Folic acid is not used by the body as is, but must undergo a transformation to its fully reduced form before it can be utilized as a cofactor in the one-carbon transfer reactions critical in the synthesis of thymidine and purines. Folic acid is also a very poor substrate for an enzyme that catalyzes this reduction, dihydrofolate reductase, which is why this reduction is probably the rate-limiting step for folic acid utilization in mammalian systems. Folic acid, on the other hand, is already fully reduced and is available for use as a cofactor in thymidine and purine synthesis as quickly as it can be transported into the cell.

of 90 to 3000 mg/m² without any lethality. Mice on the standard diet (approximately one tenth of the folic acid given to the supplemented mice) saw a virtually identical dose

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Page 8

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Biochemical Relevance of Homocysteine to Folate Metabolism

One of the principal routes of homocysteine metabolism is the folate-dependent mechanism. Through this route, homocysteine is converted to methionine by the enzyme methionine synthase, which is dependent on vitamin B12 and incorporates a methyl group from 5-methyltetrahydrofolate into homocysteine, giving methionine. Therefore, a folate deficiency will result in lowered methionine synthase activity and lead to an elevation of plasma homocysteine levels. Indeed, homocysteine has been found to be a sensitive marker for folic acid as well as B12 deficiency (Mogau et al. 1991; Selhub and Miller 1991).

Recent studies in cardiovascular patients have suggested that folate supplementation with or without supplementation with B12 and B6 can significantly reduce homocysteine levels (Homocysteine Lowering Trials' Collaboration 1998; Malinow et al. 1998). Folic acid supplementation of 400 µg daily in elderly patients with elevated homocysteine has been shown to substantially reduce plasma homocysteine within 2 weeks. The level continues to drop slightly for another 2 weeks, and then plateaus (Bocanary et al. 1999). Brouwer and coworkers showed that low dose folic acid (250 µg -500 µg) intervention significantly decreases homocysteine levels. An 8-week washout period was not sufficient for blood folate and plasma homocysteine levels to return to baseline (Brouwer et al. 1999). Niyikiza et al have shown that in patients who are not supplemented, homocysteine levels do not change over the course of treatment with LY231514 (Niyikiza et al. 1998).

Additionally it has been shown that mice on low folate diet also have high plasma homocysteine levels (Wozniak et al. 1990) and that supplementation with dietary folic acid reduced the plasma homocysteine levels to near normal levels.

On the other hand, TS, DHFR and GARFT are not known to have any binding sites for B12 or B6 and are not known in any way to be affected by these two vitamins. Therefore, increasing the cellular concentrations of B12 and B6 is not expected to have an impact on the growth inhibitory effects of LY231514.

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Page 10

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372

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DR. CHABNER

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

15 Q. My question is: Well, did you -- did
16 you employ any other methodology other than
17 your assumption that they would know the
18 literature?

19 A. You know, I think that's giving me
20 more credit than I'm due. I don't employ
21 methodologies in defining POSA.

22 I -- I was asked the question:
23 What would a person of ordinary skill in the
24 art who was aware of all the relevant
25 material in the public domain, what would

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 they know?

3 Q. What did you do to separate in your
4 own mind what you know as a person of
5 extraordinary skill, who won a lifetime
6 achievement award 14 years before the date
7 of invention?

8 A. Well, I didn't try to invent something
9 that was -- what was less informed than
10 myself, but I'm not sure what you expect me
11 -- I really can't answer that question. I'm
12 sorry.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

11 Q. Does the person of ordinary skill in
12 the art, the hypothetical person of ordinary
13 skill in the art in this case, in your view,
14 is it your opinion that that person would
15 have 30 years of experience as an antifolate
16 investigator?

17 A. You know, a person of ordinary skill
18 is a legal definition of a person that
19 doesn't exist. It's a person that knows
20 everything that's in the public domain
21 related to this topic. And it doesn't say
22 that they have three years. They could
23 learn it all in 10 days if they had to. And
24 they could require it over 30 years.

25 My own personal experience as an

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 expert witness is based on my prior
3 experience.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

25 Q. And what -- how did you employ that

1

BRUCE CHABNER

2

standard in your analysis?

3

A. I looked at what I knew as -- as of

4

1999, and what the literature said and what

5

was available publicly, and I concluded that

6

it was not obvious that -- that using these

7

vitamins would make a difference, would

8

improve therapy.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

20 A. I think, you know, it's like
21 pornography. When it's reasonable, you
22 understand it when you see it.

23 Scientifically, I was skeptical
24 about it. So skepticism would mean not
25 reasonable or obvious.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

20 Q. So the prior art resulted in your
21 skepticism. Is that -- is that your
22 opinion?

23 A. That's right. The prior art that we
24 quote here. I think the bottom line is I
25 was skeptical about this working, based on

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 my 30 years of experience as an antifolate
3 investigator.

4 I wouldn't have tried it
5 personally. I admire them for persisting
6 and doing this and discovering that it
7 actually did work, but I wouldn't have done
8 it. And I think most people in the field

9 wouldn't have done it. They didn't do it,
10 in fact.

11 Q. Does the person of ordinary skill in
12 the art, the hypothetical person of ordinary
13 skill in the art in this case, in your view,
14 is it your opinion that that person would
15 have 30 years of experience as an antifolate
16 investigator?

17 A. You know, a person of ordinary skill
18 is a legal definition of a person that
19 doesn't exist. It's a person that knows
20 everything that's in the public domain
21 related to this topic. And it doesn't say
22 that they have three years. They could
23 learn it all in 10 days if they had to. And
24 they could require it over 30 years.

25 My own personal experience as an

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

19 How reasonably successful did you
20 think that vitamins plus pemetrexed needed
21 to be in order to conclude not obvious?

22 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
23 form of the question.

24 A. I think it would have to be something
25 that I could endorse. That I would say this

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 has a good chance of success.
3 And a lot of the stuff that was
4 going into the clinic I thought had a very
5 poor chance of success. So I wouldn't have
6 endorsed most of that.
7 I know what your point is. Your
8 point is that the success rate was low, but
9 most of the stuff going into the clinic was
10 not very good.
11 Q. What I --
12 A. So I would have been skeptical about
13 most of it -- a lot of it, and I have a very
14 good track record myself in terms of the
15 drugs I put into the clinic, and I would
16 endorse those as being -- having a
17 reasonable chance of success.
18 If you would like to review what
19 I've done personally, I can tell you what my
20 -- my criteria were at the time. Included
21 cisplatin, and carboplatin, and irinotecan,
22 and fludarabine, and taxanes, and all of
23 those were very successful drugs. And I
24 think I have a very good track record of
25 understanding what's -- what's got a good

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 chance of success and reasonable chance and
3 what doesn't.

4 And since that time, I have had a
5 very good track record at Mass. General in
6 putting things into the clinic, and I -- and
7 I trust my own judgment about this.

8 When I'm skeptical about this,
9 most of the time it doesn't work. I hope
10 that answers your question.

11 Q. Is the standard that you just
12 described that you personally apply and the
13 success that you have had, is that what you
14 had in mind for reasonable expectation of
15 success when you conducted your analysis in
16 your declaration --

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
18 form of the question.

19 A. Well, that's -- is that what -- you
20 know.

21 Q. I will withdraw it and ask a better
22 one.

23 A. I don't really get your point, you
24 know. I think maybe you can explain it.

25 Q. I will withdraw it.

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 When I asked you the question
3 about what -- what the reasonable
4 expectation of success needed to be on the
5 realtime, you said, testified, I think it
6 would have to be something that I would
7 endorse. That would say that this has a
8 good chance of success.

9 What did you mean by that?

10 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
11 form of the question.

12 A. I mean I looked at the scientific
13 basis for what they're doing, what I knew
14 about the drug, and I would say, you know,
15 this -- I'm very skeptical or that this will
16 work. And I haven't been wrong very many
17 times.

18 And, on the other hand, with
19 certain other drugs where I've looked at the
20 data and I've -- I've endorsed the
21 development of that drug, when I was at NCI
22 this happened repeatedly, I think I had a
23 track record of it.

24 So my -- my standard for saying
25 what's obvious and reasonable is my personal

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1

BRUCE CHABNER

2

standard. And that's why I have had 50

3

years in the field.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

9 Q. What do you mean when you say there
10 is no clinical result?

11 A. I mean there is no evidence that it
12 worked in the clinical setting.

13 Q. And is evidence of something working
14 in a clinical setting the criteria you
15 employed to determine whether or not
16 something would have a reasonable
17 expectation of success?

18 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
19 form of the question.

20 A. Yes, because my -- my frame of mind
21 was that it wasn't going to work, and this
22 didn't prevent -- present any evidence to
23 change that, and what was really needed was
24 clinical evidence to change that mind -- my
25 mindset about it.

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 I'm an open-minded person, but I
3 look -- I look for data that would convince
4 me.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

18 Q. And if I understand what you
19 testified as to earlier, they would identify
20 the high risk patients but then reduce the
21 dose?

22 A. There are various ways of addressing
23 this. One would be to reduce the dose and
24 determine whether that had any deleterious
25 effect on antitumor activity. Probably

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 wouldn't but might have.
3 They could use post treatment
4 leucovorin if they felt it was folate
5 related.
6 They could use G-CSF because the
7 major toxicity they're concerned about is
8 neutropenia, and we do that as a standard
9 thing.
10 Q. Did they have any other options?
11 A. They had other options that I wouldn't
12 have taken them.
13 Q. And in your declaration, the three
14 options that you disclose are dose
15 reduction, leucovorin and G-CFS, correct?
16 A. G-CSF.
17 Q. G-CFS, correct?
18 A. No. G-CSF.
19 Q. Those are the three, right?
20 A. Yes.
21 Granulocyte stimulating factor,
22 G-CSF. Colony stimulating factor.
23 Yeah. I know it. We have our own
24 lingo.
25 Q. Leucovorin rescue is -- that

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 alternative that you've identified is --
3 A. Yeah.
4 Q. If I -- tell me if this is wrong
5 because I'm not sure I fully appreciate it,
6 but the idea there is you would have a
7 patient that presented with high
8 homocysteine. You would give them the drug
9 anyway. They would -- it would result in
10 toxicity and then you would give them a
11 different drug to alleviate the fact that
12 they have neutropenia, right?
13 A. So what -- my -- you're asking what I
14 would have done.
15 Q. No. I'm asking -- I'm always asking
16 what a person of ordinary skill in the art
17 would have done.
18 A. A person of ordinary skill. I think
19 the person of ordinary skill would have two
20 choices. One to -- or three choices. One
21 would be to try identify that group upfront
22 by looking at homocysteine levels, and
23 saying this is a higher risk group, I'm
24 going to start them lower, and then dose
25 escalate as they tolerate it. And that's

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 standard in oncology, but I would study it
3 to be sure that I was not compromising
4 activity.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

20 Q. Apart from escalating the dose above
21 500 or 600, if vitamins can increase the
22 tolerability of the drug, would the person
23 of ordinary skill in the art in June '99
24 understand that the vitamin supplements may
25 permit -- may permit maintaining a -- a dose

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 rather than reducing the dose?

3 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
4 form of that question.

5 A. I understand your question, but that I
6 think as of June of '99, one would be very
7 concerned that they would also interfere
8 with the antitumor activity of the drug. So
9 you would think of other ways of dealing
10 with this toxicity problem, as we've

11 discussed extensively already today.

12 And so that's, you know, my answer
13 is that ameliorating drug toxicity is fine
14 as long as you're preserving antitumor
15 activity, but if you're going to interfere
16 with that, then you have -- there is no
17 point in it.

18 Q. And if a person of ordinary skill in
19 the art in June of 1999 was presented with a
20 patient that had elevated homocysteine
21 levels and was showing some toxicity at 500,
22 what would be the options?

23 A. Reduce the dose in the next cycle,
24 give them leucovorin after the first cycle
25 and use G-CSF to -- to correct the

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 neutropenia.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

3 Q. What data would have been available
4 to the person of ordinary skill in the art
5 in June 1999 to give them a reasonable
6 expectation of success that reducing the
7 dose to three-quarters for a patient that
8 presented with high homocysteine levels
9 would be either safe or efficacious?

10 A. They have other trials where they've
11 done it. They had reduced the dose to 350
12 in a number of other trials when patients
13 became toxic.

14 Q. And what data are you referring to
15 that showed safety and efficacy at 350?

16 A. Well, they're Phase II trials and
17 there's a whole bunch of them. They had the
18 GI trials. They had the lung trials.

19 Q. And maybe we can go through them all,
20 but can you identify one where the data
21 showed efficacy and safety --

22 A. You know, I don't have the efficacy --
23 I don't think in any of these trials, we
24 know what the efficacy was in patients who
25 were -- were dose reduced, but I would say

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 from my prior experience in the field that
3 if patients are toxic, that the toxicity
4 would probably indicate toxicity for tumors
5 as well.

6 So that dose reduction to a
7 tolerable or well tolerated level would --
8 would still preserve the antitumor activity.
9 And we have plenty of examples of that in
10 cancer that have been worked out in the last
11 40 years.

12 So that would be my approach. You
13 asked me what my approach would be.

14 Q. Actually, I asked you what the person
15 of ordinary skill in the art would do.

16 A. Well, yes.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

8 Q. And my question is: Can you identify
9 a prior art reference where a dose reduction
10 occurs for a high -- a patient that
11 presented with high homocysteine levels?

12 A. No. But I can -- I can answer that

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

7 Q. How would the person of ordinary
8 skill in the art decide to start with
9 two-thirds or three-quarters of the dose?

10 A. Well, drug toxicity is related to --
11 to pharmacokinetic issues, such as duration
12 of drug exposure, peak levels of drug. And
13 the standard way of dealing with this is to
14 just reduce the dose.

15 It depends on -- you know, I think
16 it would have taken a little further study
17 to see how much dose reduction would be
18 necessary in these patients with
19 homocysteine elevation. If, for example, I
20 knew that there was evidence of renal
21 dysfunction, I would probably cut the dose a
22 little more than if I had no evidence of
23 renal dysfunction, maybe to two-thirds of a
24 dose or three-quarters.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

5 My question is: Did the person of
6 ordinary skill in the art in June of 1999
7 know what a tolerable dose would be for a
8 patient that presented with elevated
9 homocysteine levels?

10 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection. Form of
11 the question.

12 A. I -- I don't think that the specific
13 question was known, but this was a path to
14 dealing with the problem and that's the path
15 I would have taken.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

20 A. My answer was -- my answer was that
21 was the path I would have taken to study
22 this issue. So you would get -- do a study
23 in terms of if I dose reduce these patients
24 to 350, would I avoid the toxicity? And I
25 can easily measure homocysteine before I

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 treat and I can do that. I could do the
3 study.

4 I don't think that there -- you
5 know, the information wasn't complete at
6 that time, but that's the path I would have

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

17 Q. What is -- what data are you aware of
18 that would have given the person of ordinary
19 skill in the art confidence in June of 1999
20 that three-quarters of a dose in a high
21 homocysteine patient would not result in
22 toxicity?

23 A. I -- well, there are two things. One
24 is 70 percent of the patients who became
25 toxic had high homocysteine. So you relate

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 that to other trials where they were dose
3 reduced, and they were able to continue to
4 treat those patients at 350 after they
5 became toxic. So I assume at least a
6 portion of those patients had high
7 homocysteine.

8 Q. You don't know that, do you? Is
9 there any data?

10 A. Do I know that?

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. There is a lot of things I don't know,
13 but I think that's a fair assumption.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

2 that I would be very encouraged to undertake
3 further investigation, and I would pay
4 attention to the issue of whether dose
5 reduction was associated with a decrease in
6 tumor response but --

7 Q. Does being encouraged to undertake
8 further investigation satisfy your
9 understanding and application of a
10 reasonable expectation of success?

11 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
12 form of the question.

13 A. Yes.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

13 Q. Were you the first editor-in-chief?

14 A. I was.

15 Q. That was in 1994?

16 A. You know, I can't tell you the exact
17 date. Probably in the early '90s.

18 Q. Are you still the editor-in-chief of
19 The Oncologist?

20 A. I am.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 A. That is a statement of fact that maybe
3 one patient was treated at 925. The
4 conclusion of it was that that was not the
5 dose -- they could bring to the clinic. I
6 think you're aware of that.

7 Since we are talking post facto,
8 what was the dose used clinically? It was
9 500, right? So your argument is full of
10 holes here. You wouldn't -- you wouldn't
11 use 925 in a patient. If you did, you would
12 be sued; am I correct?

13 Q. This seems to be in conflict with
14 your opinion that a person of ordinary skill
15 in the art would have taken from Hammond
16 failure?

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
18 form of the question.

19 Q. Does it not?

20 A. What -- yes. That -- my opinion is
21 that people would look at the abstract and
22 say it failed.

23 Q. Did your reviewers fail here by
24 letting this through?

25 A. Pardon?

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Q. Did your reviewers fail by letting
3 this through?

4 A. What do you mean, did my reviewers
5 fail? What a stupid question. Come on.

6 Q. Well how -- I mean you would agree
7 that that --

8 A. I don't read -- I don't read every
9 sentence in every paper that is published in
10 that journal, do I?

11 Q. Do you wish you would have so you
12 could have corrected --

13 A. I wish I would have corrected it, yes,
14 sir.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

25 Q. And when you said that this paper,

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Exhibit 1047, is pretty straightforward,
3 what do you mean by that?

4 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
5 form of the question.

6 A. Well, it was -- it was an established
7 drug at this point. People knew about it.
8 They knew about its clinical activity. They
9 knew about its pathway and it wasn't
10 something that was really, you know -- it
11 wasn't very exotic like gene therapy of a
12 brain tumor with a viral vector. This is --
13 this is bread-and-butter oncology right
14 here.

15 Q. Way less complicated than gene
16 therapy of a brain tumor with a viral
17 vector. Is that what you're saying?

18 A. Well, not -- I wouldn't say less
19 complicated but less -- you know, more
20 established as a way of treating cancer.

21 There are lots of wacky ideas out
22 there, some of which end up working, but --

23 which are controversial and, you know, you
24 have to be, you know, circumspect about
25 publishing things like that.

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Q. And Exhibit 1047 was not one of those
3 kinds of wacky controversial papers? Is
4 that what you're saying?

5 A. Well, it's -- I wouldn't say the paper
6 is not --

7 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection.

8 A. -- I mean controversial, but it's --
9 it's bread-and-butter oncology. This is
10 cancer pharmacology. This is cancer
11 clinical trials.

12 And we had, you know, prior
13 experience with antifolates. This is a new
14 antifolate. We knew how to read the paper
15 and -- and understand it. If somebody asked
16 me to take a paper of viral gene therapy
17 vectors, I would have a hard time
18 understanding the vector and how it actually
19 worked, but this is -- this is
20 bread-and-butter pharmacology.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

25 Q. What did the person of ordinary skill

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 in the art as of June of 1999, what would
3 that person take from Hammond, from the
4 Hammond disclosure?

5 A. A person of ordinary skill would see
6 the very poor response rate. The fact that
7 -- the logic of the trial was that they
8 could dose escalate with the drug and get a
9 better response rate. That proved not to be
10 the case.

11 They began running into renal
12 toxicity, which is a serious problem for a
13 drug that undergoes renal clearance. So
14 they couldn't dose escalate. I mean with
15 methotrexate you can go up tenfold, even
16 more in dose. They couldn't do that. And
17 so they were -- the result was that they had
18 one response in the 30-some patients that
19 they studied.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

11 Q. Read for me, please, Dr. Chabner, the
12 sentence --

13 A. I have read it.

14 Q. -- that is referenced -- that has
15 reference 49 that was published in the
16 journal you are the editor-in-chief of.

17 Will you please read that
18 sentence.

19 A. "While the trial is still currently
20 ongoing, preliminary results indicate the
21 addition of folic acid ameliorates toxicity
22 permitting dose escalation of pemetrexed up
23 to at least 925 milligrams per milliliter in
24 heavily pretreated patients."

25 Q. And where did they get that from?

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 A. That is a statement of fact that maybe
3 one patient was treated at 925. The
4 conclusion of it was that that was not the
5 dose -- they could bring to the clinic. I
6 think you're aware of that.

7 Since we are talking post facto,
8 what was the dose used clinically? It was
9 500, right? So your argument is full of
10 holes here. You wouldn't -- you wouldn't

11 use 925 in a patient. If you did, you would
12 be sued; am I correct?

13 Q. This seems to be in conflict with
14 your opinion that a person of ordinary skill
15 in the art would have taken from Hammond
16 failure?

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18 form of the question.

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20 A. What -- yes. That -- my opinion is
21 that people would look at the abstract and
22 say it failed.

23 Q. Did your reviewers fail here by
24 letting this through?

25 A. Pardon?

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Q. Did your reviewers fail by letting
3 this through?

4 A. What do you mean, did my reviewers
5 fail? What a stupid question. Come on.

6 Q. Well how -- I mean you would agree
7 that that --

8 A. I don't read -- I don't read every
9 sentence in every paper that is published in
10 that journal, do I?

11 Q. Do you wish you would have so you
12 could have corrected --

13 A. I wish I would have corrected it, yes,
14 sir.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

14 Q. The next paragraph starting with
15 "ongoing LY231514 trials." That's where I
16 am next. It says, "Ongoing LY231514 trials
17 include a Phase I study of LY231514 and
18 folic acid. An interim report suggests that
19 folic acid supplementation in this study
20 permits dose escalation by ameliorating
21 toxicity since heavily and minimally
22 pretreated patients tolerate LY231514 at
23 doses of 700 and 925, respectively.
24 Reference 10."

25 Do you see that?

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 A. I see that.

3 Q. What is reference 10 --

4 A. That's --

5 Q. -- that is cited for that
6 proposition?

7 A. That is a Hammond paper. Not the
8 abstract. Where do we have the list of the
9 references?

10 Q. Reference 10, if you go back. It's
11 abstract 620, correct?

12 A. I don't see it. Annals of oncology
13 supplement 4. Yes. I guess that's the
14 same. I -- I'm not sure. I guess it is the
15 same abstract that we've looked at.

16 Q. Yes. That reference 10 if you -- I
17 think you have it in front of you.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. Reference 10 is Exhibit 1022 in this
20 proceeding.

21 A. Okay. All right.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

13 Q. Sure. So we are on Exhibit 2035,
14 which is a Hammond abstract.

15 A. Yes, right.

16 Q. And the last sentence of that
17 abstract concludes, "These results indicate
18 that folic acid supplementation appears to
19 permit MTA dose escalation."

20 Do you see that?

21 A. It does.

22 Q. And would a person of ordinary skill
23 in the art as of June of 1999 have any
24 reason to disagree with the conclusion of
25 Hammond?

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 A. Yes, they would, because we knew that
3 there was a problem with creatinine
4 clearance in these patients.

5 Q. And have you cited or identified
6 anywhere, Dr. Chabner, any publication in
7 the prior art or otherwise that takes issue
8 with the Hammond conclusion?

9 A. Oh, my God. Why would -- I mean why
10 would they argue with it? I don't think
11 they would. I mean that is his conclusion.
12 He is entitled to make his conclusion. He
13 did dose escalate. It doesn't say that that
14 was the dose they chose -- they could choose
15 to study further.

16 They didn't. I mean I think it's
17 obvious that as of June 1999, they weren't
18 studying 900 milligrams per meter squared
19 with folate supplementation, unless I'm
20 mistaken.

21 Q. Does Hammond's abstract state or
22 imply to a person of ordinary skill in the
23 art anything that was disappointing about
24 the results of their study?

25 A. No. Of course, the fact that they had

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 one response was disappointing. If they had
3 seen 10 responses, they would have jumping
4 for joy.

5 I wasn't there at this
6 presentation so I don't know what -- what
7 his feelings were about it.

8 Q. Would a person of ordinary skill in
9 the art as of June 1999 understand from this
10 Hammond abstract that folic acid may permit
11 a patient to take either additional cycles
12 or a greater dose than they might otherwise
13 tolerate?

14 A. I think what a person of ordinary
15 skill would know in June of 1999 is that
16 folate supplementation was not associated
17 with what appeared to be an improvement in
18 response rates, and it may -- the data were
19 unclear as to how much of a dose escalation
20 was permitted because of this -- this
21 problem with impairment of creatinine
22 clearance.

23 And so they -- you know, it didn't
24 work out that they would use dose escalation
25 with folate supplementation.

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 Q. Would --
3 A. It never did.
4 Q. Sorry. You finished?
5 A. They never did.
6 Q. Would a person of ordinary skill in
7 the art as of June 1999 understand from
8 Hammond that folic acid may permit a patient
9 that had to go from a 500 to a 350 dose
10 could remain at the 500 amount if it was
11 accompanied with folic acid pretreatment?

12 A. That really wasn't proven, but, you
13 know, it is still possible. And I think
14 that what we don't know is that if that
15 folate was added, whether that would reverse
16 the antitumor activity. That was still in
17 question.

18 Q. Well, we know it didn't completely
19 reverse the antitumor activity from Hammond,
20 don't we?

21 A. That's one patient.

22 Q. So is that a yes?

23 A. There was one patient that responded.

24 Q. And so we know that the
25 administration of folic acid in Hammond did

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 not eliminate antitumor activity --

3 A. Did not completely eliminate, yes.

4 Q. In fact, not only did it not

5 completely eliminate it, there was a patient

6 who took it and got a partial response,

7 correct?

8 A. Well, that's what I mean by did not

9 completely eliminate it. We may have 90

10 percent eliminated it, but we don't know.

11 But it certainly wasn't an encouraging

12 result, you know.

13 Q. Your opinion is that Hammond was not

14 an encouraging result?

15 A. Not at all.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

5 Q. So you disagree with everyone who
6 thought Hammond showed some encouraging
7 signs towards folic acid pretrial?

8 A. I disagree with everyone. I'm just
9 stating what I think that a person of
10 ordinary skill would conclude from
11 happening. I think a lot -- you know, there
12 was not -- also a prior trial at Lilly with
13 lometrexol which -- which showed the same
14 negative result.

15 So I think it was a discouraging.
16 I mean it was virtually the same result. It
17 was one response in 30-some patients, and
18 they -- they dropped lometrexol. So it
19 didn't seem to me that was a promising
20 avenue of approach.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

22 In preparing your declaration for
23 the two or three years you've been working
24 on this matter --
25 A. Yeah.

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 Q. -- and studying it, have you ever
3 identified anyone, any author in the prior
4 art or after the prior art that
5 characterizes Hammond like you do?
6 A. You know, I haven't asked that
7 question of any people, I'm sorry to say. I
8 would say this, that the company didn't --
9 didn't use that regimen ever again.
10 Q. The company didn't use that regimen.
11 The company pretreated, used folic acid.
12 A. They didn't use that regimen. The

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

5 Q. Turn back to Exhibit 1047, which is
6 The Oncologist reference.

7 A. Okay.

8 Q. If you turn to Page 371.

9 A. 371. Where is that?

10 Q. Table 5 is at the top of 371.

11 A. Wait a minute. Just a second. Got
12 it.

13 Q. The last sentence before the first
14 full paragraph that starts with
15 "concurrent."

16 Are you with me?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Exhibit 1047, that sentence says,
19 "Concurrent with this analysis, preclinical
20 data supported the notion that oral folate
21 supplementation markedly reduced toxicities
22 in mice while maintaining antitumor
23 efficacy, reference 48."

24 Do you see that?

25 A. I see that.

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Q. And what is reference 48?

3 A. It's probably Dr. Worzalla, or
4 Mr. Worzalla I should say.

5 Q. Worzalla is attributed for that
6 statement?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you disagree?

9 A. I think if you take each element of
10 it, you can -- you can say he did show this.
11 He showed that you could reduce toxicity by
12 giving the drug -- folic acid. That's not
13 an issue. The issue is do you get a better
14 therapeutic result.

15 You get the same therapeutic
16 result essentially until you get -- the only
17 data that -- in that abstract that shows any
18 possible advantages is at doses which you
19 could never achieve in people, never.

20 Q. Do you think this is a wrong -- an
21 inaccurate citation to Worzalla?

22 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
23 form of the question.

24 A. Is it inaccurate?

25 MR. GROSSMAN: Dr. Chabner. I'm

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 going to restate my objection, Counsel.
3 This is like the third or fourth time. This
4 document is not prior art. It's improper
5 what you're doing, and I object and reserve
6 the right to move to exclude all the
7 testimony about this document.

8 MR. SKIERMONT: Noted.

9 Q. Do you think this wrong, miscited?

10 A. I don't think it's absolutely correct,
11 that's right. And I was the editor, but I
12 don't read every paper. And I don't endorse
13 every sentence in every paper in my journal.
14 There is certain freedom that people have to
15 make statements, which they're -- it's fine
16 with me if, you know, they interpret it a
17 different way.

18 But that's my interpretation. I
19 think that a person of ordinary skill would
20 have the same interpretation.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

5 Q. And do you understand, Dr. Chabner,
6 that Lilly Exhibit 2103 is a Lilly
7 submission to the FDA where Lilly is telling
8 the FDA or -- or suggesting to the FDA that
9 they want to add vitamins to the
10 pemetrexed --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- regimen, correct?

13 A. I do.

14 Q. Now, you will see at the end of this
15 brief, before the page that says "Dear JCMH
16 Investigator."

17 A. I don't.

18 Q. And I can turn it for you.

19 A. Yeah. Show me what you're talking
20 about.

21 (Document tendered.)

22 Q. At the end of that brief, there is a
23 section called "references."

24 A. Gotcha.

25 Q. And do you see that reference 9 is

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 Worzalla, which is Exhibit 1005 in our
3 proceeding. And reference 10 is Hammond,
4 which is Exhibit 1022 in our proceeding.

5 Do you see that?

6 A. I see them both.

7 Q. Now, if you would turn back to the --
8 to the brief, which is Page 3 of 20. It
9 says that in the bottom left-hand corner.

10 A. Got it.

11 Q. There is a -- first full paragraph on
12 Page 3 is a sentence that starts "as with
13 lometrexol."

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And if you could read that paragraph.

16 A. "In vivo experiments with, I guess,
17 pemetrexed have suggested that supplemental
18 folate modulates its toxicity profile in
19 antitumor activity. The LD 50 of the drug
20 occurred at 60 to 200-fold lower doses of
21 this drug in DBA/2 and CD1 nu/nu mice
22 maintained on a low folate diet compared
23 with those fed standard diets. In these
24 experiments the antitumor activity of the
25 drug was preserved."

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

23 Q. And then it goes on, "Concurrent with
24 this analysis, preclinical data supported
25 the notion that oral folates supplementation

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 markedly reduce toxicities in mice while
3 maintaining antitumor efficacy," and that
4 cites to Worzalla prior art, correct?
5 A. Yes. And as I pointed out previously,
6 you take apart that sentence, it certainly
7 did reduce toxicities. It shifted the
8 curve, the dose-response curve far to the
9 right. And you did get the same efficacy
10 but at a much higher dose, and that begins
11 to be a problem -- not begins to be. It
12 confronts a problem, and that is, you can't
13 escalate the dose of pemetrexed indefinitely
14 in patients.
15 So the relevance of this is
16 questionable.
17 Q. And did you raise any of these issues
18 at the time that this article --
19 A. I didn't -- I don't believe --
20 Q. -- was published in the journal --
21 A. I don't believe I reviewed the paper
22 --
23 Q. -- that you're editor --
24 A. I don't think I reviewed this paper in
25 detail. I thought it was worth publishing,

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

12 Q. "Because tumor issue and normal
13 tissue such as" -- sorry -- "because tumor
14 tissue and normal tissue, such as bone
15 marrow, presumably have different folate
16 requirements, it is possible to decrease the
17 toxicity to healthy tissue while maintaining
18 antitumor effect through careful adjustment
19 of folic acid intake. This has been shown
20 in experimental systems for LY231514 and
21 another antifolate, lometrexol," citing to
22 Worzalla and Alati.

23 Do you see that?

24 A. I do.

25 Q. And is the -- and, Worzalla, is that

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 the same -- is that the same Worzalla that
3 we've been -- we have looked at today?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Worzalla 1998, correct?

6 A. Right.

7 Q. And so Lilly told the FDA that the
8 prior art Worzalla document showed that LY
9 -- has shown for LY231514 that it is
10 possible to decrease the toxicity to healthy
11 tissue while maintaining antitumor effect
12 through careful adjustment of folic acid
13 intake."

14 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection.

15 Q. Do you agree with that?

16 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
17 form of the question.

18 A. I, you know, I wouldn't have said
19 that. No, I don't agree with that. I'm
20 sorry.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

3 Q. All right. So I want to go to Page
4 12, the second page of this discussion. And
5 do you see that the data -- there is a cite
6 Worzalla et al. 1998.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you see that that's the
9 Worzalla --

10 A. Now, wait a minute. What page are you
11 going to?

12 Q. Page 12, the next page right above
13 the table.

14 A. Wait a minute. Page -- yeah. We are
15 switching pages here unfortunately. Okay.

16 Q. Okay. You with me?

17 And you see where it says Worzalla
18 et al. 1998?

19 A. Yeah.

20 Q. And that's the same Worzalla that's
21 at issue in this case, correct?

22 A. Right.

23 Q. And there is a table and the sentence
24 or the paragraph below the table Lilly wrote
25 to the FDA, "These data" -- and this is a

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 reference to prior data --

3 A. Right.

4 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
5 form of the question.

6 Q. "These data show that antitumor
7 activity is virtually identical in mice
8 receiving a standard diet to that in mice
9 receiving a 10-fold increase in daily folic
10 acid. Mice receiving the extra folic acid
11 also showed a decrease lethality at higher
12 doses of LY231514. These data support the
13 hypothesis that folic acid supplementation
14 can protect healthy tissue from the toxic
15 effects of LY231514 with retention of
16 antitumor activity."

17 Do you see where Lilly --

18 A. I do see that.

19 Q. -- said that to FDA?

20 A. Yeah. Right.

21 Q. Do you think Lilly misled the FDA
22 about what the prior art did --

23 A. I don't think they -- I'm not.

24 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
25 form of the question.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 A. I'm not in a position to judge whether
3 they misled it.

4 My interpretation of this is,
5 first of all, the standard diet is a high
6 folic diet. It's not the human diet. So
7 this moves the doses way up.

8 Then they add a much larger
9 increment of folate with a low folate plus
10 15 milligrams per kilogram.

11 Do you realize for a human being
12 that would be like 60 to 100 milligrams of
13 folate a day. We wouldn't take that. It
14 would turn our urine like iridescent yellow.

15 And at doses of maximum
16 activity -- I'm looking at the table. I
17 hope you can see that. 90 to 3,000
18 milligrams per meter squared.

19 I mean there is no way you could
20 give that on a daily basis to an animal -- a
21 human and even come close to those doses.

22 I mean this is irrelevant. You're
23 dealing with a mouse that has a creatinine
24 clearance like 50 times that of a human. He
25 is able to cure -- eliminate the drug fast

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 and has a tolerance for drugs which is much
3 greater than humans.

4 So I don't know how to interpret
5 that data. I don't think it's -- it tells
6 me that I can do this in people because I
7 can't get to those kinds of doses.

8 The 3 -- 3 grams per meter squared
9 in a human would be like 12 grams per meter
10 squared -- 3 grams per meter squared in a
11 mouse would be in the range of 12 grams per
12 meter squared in humans.

13 There is no way you can do that.
14 I mean you're starting to get creatinine
15 changes at 600.

16 So, you know, I think they
17 interpreted the experiment accurately, and
18 what they said in this experiment, with this
19 tumor, a very disabled mutant tumor, which
20 doesn't resemble any human tumor I've ever
21 seen, and with these high doses in mice and
22 with this extremely, extremely high folate
23 supplementation, they can actually get away
24 with these high doses. And they may have
25 seen a broader window for the therapeutic

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 ratio, yes.

3 But, you know, whether this could
4 be done in people, I think it's highly,
5 highly dubious.

6 Q. Would a person of ordinary skill in
7 the art in June of 1999 disagree -- agree or
8 disagree that the Worzalla '98 data support
9 the hypothesis that folic acid
10 supplementation can protect healthy tissue
11 from the toxic effects of LY231514 with
12 retention of antitumor activity?

13 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
14 form of the question. I would renew my
15 objection.

16 A. I would look to the Hammond trial. I
17 wouldn't -- I would say, "Look, this is a
18 really weird regimen in mice with a disabled
19 tumor." I would look to the human trials to
20 see what that says.

21 In the human trials Hammond showed
22 that you couldn't escalate. I mean you
23 couldn't go to -- from 500 to 5,000
24 milligrams per meter squared like they did
25 in the mouse. And, you know, you're using

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 once -- a one-day regimen rather than a
3 constant daily regimen. And you're treating
4 human tumors. You're not treating this
5 disabled poor tumor that they used in mice,
6 which has, you know, a hypersensitivity to
7 TS inhibitors.

8 So I would say, "Show me the human
9 data. What did it do in people?" And I
10 found that, you know, totally unconvincing
11 that I should go forward with it.

12 Now, why they did this with the
13 FDA, I don't know. Things happened between
14 1999 June and when this document went in.
15 They had their reasons for doing it. I'm
16 not privy to that. I suspect it was that
17 their regimen was very toxic, that they were
18 testing a mesothelioma and they were eager
19 to find a way to keep going. They had a big
20 investment in this so they did it.

21 MR. GROSSMAN: Counsel --

22 A. They used a regimen which had never
23 been tried in people, as far as I know. And
24 that was folic acid and B12. I've never
25 seen any paper prior to '99 where that

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 combination was used to ameliorate
3 pemetrexed toxicity.
4 So their reasons for doing this
5 and their rationale for suddenly changing
6 their trial, I think that's their business.
7 Q. Just to be clear --
8 MR. GROSSMAN: Counsel, I'm going
9 to renew my objection about this document.
10 It's not prior art. It's an Eli Lilly
11 document.
12 Q. Just to be clear, so I understand
13 your opinion --
14 A. Yeah.
15 Q. -- your opinion, Dr. Chabner, is that
16 a person of ordinary skill in the art in
17 June of 1999 would conclude that the
18 Worzalla data does not support the
19 hypothesis that folic acid supplementation
20 can protect healthy tissue from the toxic
21 effects of pemetrexed with retention of
22 antitumor activity; is that right?
23 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
24 form of the question.
25 A. I would -- I would say because you

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 have the Hammond trial, you have data in
3 people. You have to specify whether you're
4 talking about a mouse with this tumor or
5 with people. And if you are asking me to
6 support that statement, I would say in
7 Worzalla's mouse it seemed to work, at the
8 very highest dose, in a dose which is not
9 achievable in people.
10 And you can't point out to me any
11 instance where they've gone even close to
12 these doses in people.
13 Q. So your opinion is that a POSA in
14 June 1999 would conclude that the Worzalla
15 data does not support the hypothesis that
16 you can have antitumor activity and reduced
17 toxicity?
18 A. My -- I -- you say it was in 1999. In
19 1999, I know Hammond. And so I have doubts
20 about this data, yes.
21 Q. And when Lilly wrote to the FDA that
22 the data support that hypothesis, they, of
23 course, knew about Hammond too, didn't they?
24 A. You know, I'm not sure exactly what
25 they -- what they told the FDA. This is not
1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 part of my testimony.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

19 Q. And are you aware of any publication
20 that sides with your interpretation of
21 Worzalla and not the one that is disclosed
22 in The Oncologist article --

23 A. No.

24 Q. -- or these FDA reports?

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

3 Q. And so we were -- before the break,
4 we were talking about Worzalla and the
5 reference to Worzalla here.

6 And, in addition, this paragraph
7 also communicates -- is Lilly communicating
8 to the FDA that it is possible to decrease
9 the toxicity to healthy tissue while
10 maintaining antitumor effect through careful
11 adjustment of folic acid -- folic acid
12 intake.

13 Another -- other reference is
14 cited as "Clinical Trials with Lometrexol,"
15 citing Young et al. in 1992 and Laohaviniij.

16 A. "Laohaviniij."

17 Q. Laohaviniij?

18 MR. GROSSMAN: Laohaviniij.

19 Q. Laohaviniij in 1996.

20 Do you see that?

21 A. I do.

22 Q. And do you understand in reading this
23 that Lilly is presenting an argument to the
24 FDA that its experience with folic acid and
25 lometrexol in clinical trials supports

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 Lilly's idea that you can preserve the
3 antitumor effect while reducing toxicity by
4 administering folic acid with an antifolate?
5 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
6 form of the question.

7 A. That was their statement in this --
8 this paragraph. I don't agree with that
9 statement. My reading of those papers is
10 different. I think we've gone into that.

11 Q. And just to be clear, you think that
12 Lilly was mistaken when they told the FDA
13 that the clinical trials with lometrexol
14 supported the proposition they are citing
15 Young and the Laohaviniij article for?

16 A. That -- that they could decrease
17 toxicity while maintaining antitumor
18 activity, I -- I haven't -- I haven't seen
19 data to support that statement in
20 Laohaviniij.

21 And as far as I know, Worzalla and
22 the other guy, Alati, are preclinical
23 studies, and we -- we can go over those in
24 some more detail, but I don't agree that
25 that's my conclusion.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 A. My reading of those articles does not
3 -- I wouldn't have said that based on my
4 reading of those articles.
5 Q. And does your declaration,
6 Dr. Chabner, cite any published literature
7 before or after June of 1999 that agrees
8 with your interpretation of the lometrexol
9 clinical trials as opposed to Lilly's?
10 A. Subsequently?
11 Q. Either -- anytime. Anytime in the
12 history of the world.
13 A. Well, I'm not prepared to testify
14 about anything after 1999. I'm sorry.
15 Q. My question was -- that answers my
16 question. You didn't look for anything
17 after 1999.
18 Are you aware of anything prior to
19 1999 that has been published where a
20 peer-reviewed article concludes that the
21 clinical trial experience with lometrexol
22 doesn't -- do not demonstrate decreased
23 toxicity while maintaining antitumor effect?
24 A. Well, I think it was obvious. I'm not
25 aware of everything that was published

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 A. My reading of those articles does not
3 -- I wouldn't have said that based on my
4 reading of those articles.
5 Q. And does your declaration,
6 Dr. Chabner, cite any published literature
7 before or after June of 1999 that agrees
8 with your interpretation of the lometrexol
9 clinical trials as opposed to Lilly's?
10 A. Subsequently?
11 Q. Either -- anytime. Anytime in the
12 history of the world.
13 A. Well, I'm not prepared to testify
14 about anything after 1999. I'm sorry.
15 Q. My question was -- that answers my
16 question. You didn't look for anything
17 after 1999.
18 Are you aware of anything prior to
19 1999 that has been published where a
20 peer-reviewed article concludes that the
21 clinical trial experience with lometrexol
22 doesn't -- do not demonstrate decreased
23 toxicity while maintaining antitumor effect?
24 A. Well, I think it was obvious. I'm not
25 aware of everything that was published

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

2 Q. That wasn't a better antifolate as of
3 June of 1999 than pemetrexed, was there?

4 A. There was one in development and it
5 turned out to be better for -- for another
6 subset of tumors.

7 Q. Which one was that?

8 A. Pralatrexate.

9 Q. And the -- there was one that was in
10 development that as of June of 1999, the
11 person of ordinary skill in the art would
12 not have known it was superior to
13 pemetrexed, correct?

14 A. Absolutely right.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

17 A. Therapeutic index is a -- is a
18 relationship between activity and toxicity,
19 and what you're looking for is a window in
20 which there is a therapeutic response and
21 tolerable toxicity.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

23 In a Phase I trial, you're just
24 trying to find a safe and effective dose to
25 carry on. So there is a big difference

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

3 Q. You said it wouldn't -- you said
4 different patients. There are different
5 patients in these two -- in Hammond and
6 Rinaldi?

7 A. Well, they are Phase I patients, but
8 they are not -- they are selected from the
9 same patient group. That's right.

10 Q. And they have different diseases,
11 too, don't they?

12 A. They have a variety of diseases.
13 That's right.

14 Q. Do we know whether they received the
15 same doses of the drug?

16 A. I'm not -- no, they didn't receive the
17 same doses of the drug. I made that point
18 earlier.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

10 Q. Was it known to a person of ordinary
11 skill in art as of June of 1999 that
12 homocysteine is a sensitive marker for folic
13 acid as well as B12 deficiency?

14 A. Well, I think what was known is that
15 homocysteine elevations were found in folic
16 acid/B12 deficiency, and that at least a
17 subset of those patient had either folic
18 acid deficiency or B12, but it didn't
19 distinguish between the two until you did
20 methylmalonic acid assessment.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

11 He showed that you could reduce toxicity by
12 giving the drug -- folic acid. That's not
13 an issue. The issue is do you get a better
14 therapeutic result.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

⁹ trap, the issue of methyl trap is very rare.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

8 So I would say, "Show me the human
9 data. What did it do in people?" And I

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

13 You have to look at the data.

3 look -- I look for data that would convince
4 me.

8 So I would say, "Show me the human
9 data. What did it do in people?" And I

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

5 Q. Does the patent anywhere disclose why
6 it is important to select those doses?
7 A. The patent sort of gives some
8 flexibility to the physician, but I can tell
9 you in practice everybody uses 1000.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

16 Q. And do you understand from that
17 disclosure that Dr. Niyikiza was disclosing
18 in his patent that the actual ranges of MMA
19 lowering agent that are claimed are not
20 critical to the invention?

21 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to form
22 of the question.

23 A. I don't -- I think the claims get more
24 specific. So I would like to look at the
25 actual claims.

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 The method is to inject
3 intramuscularly 1000 micrograms, and it says
4 that the range is 500 to 1500 micrograms.

5 Q. Does the patent anywhere disclose why
6 it is important to select those doses?

7 A. The patent sort of gives some
8 flexibility to the physician, but I can tell
9 you in practice everybody uses 1000.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

21 Q. The patent discloses, "However, it
22 will be understood that the amount of the
23 MMA lowering agent actually administered
24 will be determined by a physician in the
25 light of the relevant circumstances,

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 including the condition to be treated, the
3 chosen route of administration, the actual
4 agent administered, the age, weight and
5 response of the individual patient, and the
6 severity of the patient's symptoms; and,
7 therefore, the above dosage ranges are not
8 intended to limit the scope of the invention
9 in any way. In some instances dosage levels
10 below the lower limit of the aforesaid range
11 may be more than adequate, while in other
12 cases, still larger doses may be employed
13 without causing any harmful side-effect."

14 Do you see that?

15 A. I do.

16 Q. And do you understand from that
17 disclosure that Dr. Niyikiza was disclosing
18 in his patent that the actual ranges of MMA
19 lowering agent that are claimed are not
20 critical to the invention?

21 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to form
22 of the question.

23 A. I don't -- I think the claims get more
24 specific. So I would like to look at the
25 actual claims.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

6 Q. Dr. Chabner, when did you work --
7 first hear that Eli Lilly was going to
8 administer B12 and folic acid with
9 pemetrexed?

10 A. B12 and folic acid? Well, I certainly
11 knew, I heard about it when they got drug
12 approval. I wasn't -- I don't think I was
13 very cognizant of that trial that they were
14 doing, the mesothelioma trial.

15 I probably knew about it. I'm not
16 sure I knew that they had changed the
17 regimen to the fully vitamin supplemented
18 regimen during the trial, but I knew about
19 it certainly when it was approved as a
20 regimen by the FDA.

21 Q. And it was approved around February
22 20 -- 2004?

23 A. That's right, yes.

24 Q. And what were the circumstances of --
25 how did you learn about the combination of

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 the regimen?

3 A. I was called by The Wall Street
4 Journal and asked, you know, what do you
5 think of this regimen, and what do you think
6 about the approval of the drug? And I said
7 I was very surprised that this actually
8 worked. I had a very short interview.

9 (Exhibit 2091 introduced.)

10 Q. I'm handing you a document that's
11 been previously marked as Exhibit 2091, a
12 Wall Street Journal article. Is this the
13 article that you just referenced?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And if you turn to Page 3 of 5, the
16 last sentence on that page. Or, not the
17 last sentence.

18 A. Yeah. Last paragraph?

19 Q. The last paragraph. Last sentence of
20 that paragraph.

21 You see where it is quoting you
22 "When I first heard about it, I thought it
23 was crazy, said Bruce H Chabner, clinical
24 director of the Massachusetts General Cancer
25 Center."

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 A. Uh-huh.
3 Q. Do you see that?
4 A. Yes.
5 Q. And what was it that you thought was
6 crazy?
7 A. That the idea that if you pretreated
8 these patients with vitamin B12 and folic
9 acid, that you would actually get -- you
10 wouldn't reverse the antitumor activity.
11 Q. And the article, 2091, is dated April
12 21, 2004, right?
13 A. Right.
14 Q. When -- when did you speak to The
15 Wall Street Journal reporter, shortly before
16 that?
17 A. I think it was right at that time,
18 yeah. It just came out very quickly
19 afterwards.
20 Q. And so when you said that when I
21 first heard about it, your recollection is
22 you probably first heard about it a couple
23 of months before April 20 --
24 A. You know, I -- I'm not really sure
25 when I first heard about it. I mean I -- I

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 was aware of the fact that they had tried
3 folate supplementation. I can't even -- I
4 can't recall when I first heard about B12
5 being added to a regimen and then this was
6 added to the Phase III. I actually don't
7 know.
8 I wasn't involved. I wasn't
9 advising them about this. This was
10 corporate business that wasn't public, as
11 far as I was concerned.

Dr. Chabner

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

2 Q. Prior to drug approval, did you ever
3 have any conversations with anyone at Lilly
4 about what they were doing with pemetrexed?

5 A. I don't recall. It's possible they
6 might have mentioned to me the trial was
7 going on and what they were doing, but I --
8 I certainly involved in it in any way.

9 Q. If someone from Lilly had mentioned
10 it to you, would you have informed them of
11 your skepticism?

12 A. Probably.

13 Q. And do you recall doing that?

14 A. But I, you know, I don't -- I don't
15 know. I mean, you know, they had their own
16 reasons for trying it, and I wasn't privy to
17 the data. It wasn't in the -- the public
18 domain at that time. I wasn't an advisor to
19 Lilly. I never was one of their -- their
20 important advisors on the pemetrexed stuff.

21 Q. When you first heard about the Lilly
22 regimen that was approved --

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. -- was it after 2001?

25 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to form

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 of the question.
3 A. I just don't know exactly when I first
4 heard of it.

5 I know that my opinions about
6 folate pretreatment had been formed and were
7 pretty solid. Up until the time it was
8 approved I was very skeptical.

9 I had extensive experience with
10 folate and reversal of methotrexate, and I
11 just am -- I was aware of the lometrexol
12 studies and I was aware of Hammond, I'm
13 sure, and I was skeptical that it was going
14 to work.

15 Q. You were aware of the lometrexol
16 studies and you were aware of Hammond?

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. How do you know you were aware of
19 Hammond?

20 A. How do I know it? I don't know it.
21 I'm not sure when I -- I think I was --
22 being a person -- I know I was aware of the
23 lometrexol studies, but I -- I think that,
24 you know, people -- we were keeping up with
25 the literature and the abstracts so I'm sure

1 BRUCE CHABNER
2 I did.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

7 Q. And if you would flip to Page 370.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. There's a heading -- there's a
10 heading in that article that is "Safety and
11 addition of folic acid in vitamin B12."

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you see that?

14 Had you reviewed this article
15 prior to the time you spoke to The Wall
16 Street Journal?

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
18 form.

19 A. Had I reviewed it? I probably had
20 read it.

21 Q. Did you have any of the disclosures
22 from Exhibit 1047 in mind when you told The
23 Wall Street Journal that you were very
24 surprised?

25 A. From this -- this paper I don't think

1 BRUCE CHABNER

2 changed my mind at all.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

15 Q. And so if I understand you correctly,
16 your views were formed about folate
17 pretreatment based on your extensive work on
18 methotrexate in the '70s and '80s?

19 A. That was certainly one of the major
20 things. The other reason, I think, was the

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

2 A. I would point out that there is no
3 clinical result in this paper that would
4 change my mind. And I think you would have
5 to agree.

6 You have not pointed out a
7 clinical result with that regimen that was
8 patented that would change your mind.

9 Q. What do you mean when you say there
10 is no clinical result?

11 A. I mean there is no evidence that it
12 worked in the clinical setting.

13 Q. And is evidence of something working
14 in a clinical setting the criteria you
15 employed to determine whether or not
16 something would have a reasonable
17 expectation of success?

18 MR. GROSSMAN: Objection to the
19 form of the question.

20 A. Yes, because my -- my frame of mind
21 was that it wasn't going to work, and this
22 didn't prevent -- present any evidence to
23 change that, and what was really needed was
24 clinical evidence to change that mind -- my
25 mindset about it.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

A. Hammond I

96. As discussed previously, Hammond I would not provide the POSA with a reason to pre-treat with folic acid. To the contrary, Hammond I suggests that the use of folic acid pretreatment reduces the efficacy of pemetrexed, as when viewed in light of the earlier Hammond abstract (Hammond II) and Rinaldi I, the prior art indicated to the POSA that while 10 of 37 patients in the unsupplemented phase I study (Rinaldi I) showed a response, only 1 out of 33 patients in the folic acid pre-treatment phase I study (Hammond) showed a response. That comparison, and the resulting conclusion of a loss in efficacy, is supported by Laohavinij, which similarly observed a substantial reduction in the response rate despite a massive increase in lometrexol dosage between supplemented and unsupplemented phase I studies involving lometrexol. Laohavinij at 333. Hammond I would likewise discourage the POSA from using folic acid pre-treatment because the POSA would understand that the regimen resulted in an increase in kidney toxicity as compared to the Rusthoven study—an observation that the POSA would understand was based on the use of additional amounts of pemetrexed in order to compensate for the use of folic acid pre-treatment.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

157. Nonetheless, the data in Worzalla is consistent with the expectation of the POSA that folic acid pretreatment would be detrimental to the efficacy of pemetrexed, and would reinforce the POSA's understanding that folic acid and vitamin B12 pre-treatment should not be utilized with pemetrexed. Specifically, Worzalla suggested that higher doses of pemetrexed would be required to compensate for the effects of folic acid, which for the reasons discussed previously would not be regarded as a viable clinical strategy by the POSA due to the expectation of kidney toxicity.

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

164. First, although I understand that pemetrexed is technically covered by the generic structural formula in the '974 patent,¹⁷ the POSA would not regard the disclosure of the '974 patent as being particularly relevant to pemetrexed. The '974 patent nowhere mentions pemetrexed or provides any data or example about it. Instead, it focuses on GARFT inhibitors such as lometrexol. While it has some GARFT inhibitory activity, pemetrexed is not a "GARFT inhibitor" as that term is used in the art. The POSA would understand the phrase "a GAR transformylase inhibitor" to refer to an antifolate whose primary locus of action is GARFT, such

as lometrexol, LY309877, and AG2034. Pemetrexed's primary locus of action, however, is TS—not GARFT—and therefore would be regarded as a "TS inhibitor" by the POSA. *See, e.g.*, Jackman at 875-76 (noting that TS is likely the primary locus of action of pemetrexed and referring to pemetrexed as a "TS inhibitor"); Johnston at 11-12 (LY231514 listed as a TS inhibitor); Chu at 110 (same). And while pemetrexed was known as a "multi-targeted antifolate," and thus did have activity against GARFT, the POSA would not regard its GARFT activity to be particularly notable. *See, e.g.*, Shih at 1118 (pemetrexed was a potent inhibitor of rhTS and rhDHFR (although more potent for rhTS), but "only moderately inhibited mGARFT", that is, was less potent against the enzyme); Graul at 502 (comparing K_i values for pemetrexed and its glutamate against TS, DHFR, and GARFT).

Dr. Chabner's Testimony

67. This concern still existed as of June 1999, and was not limited to leukemia. As one publication (Laohavinij) regarding pre-treatment with folic acid prior to administration of lometrexol to phase I patients with a variety of solid tumors observed, "One cause for concern is that the administration of folic acid prior to lometrexol and during treatment could potentially supplement the folate requirements of the tumour, and thereby circumvent the activity of lometrexol or, worse still, aid tumour progression." Laohavinij at 333 (citing Farber); *id.* at Table 1 (identifying the tumor types of the patients in the study).

DR. ZEISEL

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

23. Folic acid is the most common folate used as a dietary supplement, but it does not occur widely in nature. The human body converts it to so-called “reduced folates”—other forms of folate that participate in the folate cycle—using an enzyme called dihydrofolate reductase, or DHFR. Reduced folates also occur naturally in a variety of foods. *See Combs at 379.*

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

20 Q Did you quantify efficacy in this
21 Phase 1 trial with the prostate cancer
22 patients?

23 A So like most Phase 1 trials, we are
24 not powered to determine efficacy. But we did
25 look at PSA levels of protein that is secreted

1 STEVEN H. ZEISEL, M.D., Ph.D.
2 by many prostate tumor cells and rises in
3 people with prostate cancer and asked did we
4 lower it. And we had a number of responders --
5 I don't remember the exact number out of the
6 group -- that lowered their PSA.

7 So that was a preliminary indication
8 that it might be efficacy, and that's good that
9 a Phase 1 trial can provide that. But proof of
10 efficacy requires a study with adequate numbers
11 of subjects to rule out random chance and null
12 hypothesis.

13 So we did not draw conclusions about
14 efficacy. Just said it appears that there may
15 be efficacy.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

18 Q What's the recommended daily intake
19 for folate?
20 A 400 micrograms a day.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

10 Q But a POSA would have known that it
11 was possible that nutritional status was the
12 reason for being sensitive to pemetrexed
13 toxicity; correct?

14 A A POSA would have known that the
15 nutrients important for maintaining
16 homocysteine concentrations at less than 10
17 micromolar would have been important in the
18 nutrition of those people. I don't know about
19 the other elements of nutritional status.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

5 that it is -- a POSA would have known that it's
6 possible that low folate status, low B12
7 status, low betaine/choline status, low B6
8 status could have been contributing to higher
9 homocysteines and that these people had and
10 could have been but might not have been the
11 reason for the high homocysteines they had and
12 their risk for pemetrexed toxicity.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

16 Q What were the combination of
17 nutrients that people with high homocysteine
18 were treated with?

19 A Folate would have been a treatment
20 that they used. Betaine would have been a
21 treatment that they might have tried. B6, B12.

22 Q Anything else?

23 A Not that I recall.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

9 it wasn't, for the EP-005, they're addressing
10 three of the four causes of elevated
11 homocysteine that you mentioned earlier, which
12 are low B6, low B12 and low folate; is that
13 right?
14 A That's correct, yes.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

12 piece, I have said that there are numbers of
13 reasons that homocysteine could be elevated,
14 B12 or low B12 being one of them.

15 However, in the presence of normal
16 MMA, I believe that Niyakiza does not support
17 the conclusion that B12 is -- B12 deficiency is
18 the cause. It just says that, at least in this
19 group of patients, I can't say it is and I
20 can't rule out it isn't.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

5 that it is -- a POSA would have known that it's
6 possible that low folate status, low B12
7 status, low betaine/choline status, low B6
8 status could have been contributing to higher
9 homocysteines and that these people had and
10 could have been but might not have been the
11 reason for the high homocysteines they had and
12 their risk for pemetrexed toxicity.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

4 Q But for patients where it makes
5 sense, you would give -- if you are going to
6 treat the patient with folate, you would also
7 treat the patient with B12 to account for
8 potential masking?

9 MR. KRINSKY: Object to the form;
10 asked and answered.

11 THE WITNESS: Yes, for a -- the
12 clinical judgment, I would give folate and
13 B12, because I would have made a judgment
14 in that specific patient situation that
15 the folate and B12 weren't going to have
16 a -- counteract another intervention that
17 I was going to be giving.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

17 And so, again, people -- I don't
18 recall of a clinical study in which they did a
19 randomized control trial with tumor growth or a
20 clinical study in which they gave B12 and asked
21 whether B12 or no B12, there was a difference
22 in tumor growth rate.

Dr. Zeisel

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

22 Q And when you cited portions of
23 Vidal, which you say is similar to the PDR, did
24 you look at the PDR to see if it contained
25 equivalent disclosures?

1 STEVEN H. ZEISEL, M.D., Ph.D.

2 A I did.

3 Q And what did you find?

4 A The PDR didn't state that B12 was
5 contraindicated because of its effect on
6 rapidly dividing cells.

7 Q I'm sorry. I didn't catch the last
8 part.

9 A What I said is that Vidal says that
10 B12, vitamin B12 is contraindicated in patients
11 because B12 can give rise to exacerbation of
12 cancer progress, and the PDR did not include
13 that line.

14 Q Did the PDR say anything about
15 vitamin B12 being contraindicated in cancer
16 patients?

17 A No.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

18 Q What's the recommended daily intake
19 for folate?
20 A 400 micrograms a day.

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

7 Q What's the reason for using an
8 intramuscular dose?

9 A A patient who can't absorb an oral
10 dose would get an intramuscular dose.

11 Q Is it common for B12 patients not to
12 be able to absorb an oral dose?

13 A For patients with pernicious anemia,
14 this subset of patients we've just been talking
15 about, their problem is is they do not make a
16 protein in the gut needed to intramuscular B12.

17 So they cannot absorb B12. And you
18 treat people with that problem with
19 intramuscular dose.

20 Q Are you aware of what the standard
21 intramuscular B12 dose is?

22 MR. KRINSKY: Object to the form;
23 foundation, scope.

24 THE WITNESS: In this -- I don't
25 know what the standard was in 1999. In

1 STEVEN H. ZEISEL, M.D., Ph.D.

2 this paper, in 1998 -- in 1988, they are
3 using -- let's see if I can find it in
4 here.

5 I'm not sure I can find what dose
6 they used in this amount at this time. So
7 I can't tell you what -- it's somewhere in
8 here but I haven't had time to note it.
9 Perhaps you know where they tell you the
10 dose in this paper.

11 BY MS. SPIRES:

12 Q I'm less concerned with --

13 A Okay.

14 Q -- this particular paper and more
15 concerned with, as a practicing nutritionist,
16 what you believe to be the standard
17 intramuscular dose for vitamin B12.

18 A It varies. And it would have
19 been -- you need about 4 micrograms. But you
20 would have given a dose that is milligrams,
21 probably at that time, as an intramuscular
22 dose.

23 So that would be 10 to -- you know,
24 or more times what the normal oral dose would
25 have been, because it's to serve as a depot

Dr. Zeisel

Dr. Zeisel's Testimony

1 STEVEN H. ZEISEL, M.D., Ph.D.

2 that they can absorb from for a while.

3 And so it doesn't really matter how
4 much you give intramuscularly; it's just how
5 long it lasts before they lose it by not being
6 able to reabsorb the amount that they excrete
7 into their gut.

8 Q What do you mean when you say "it
9 doesn't really matter how much you give
10 intramuscularly"?

11 A So you only need a few micrograms.
12 That's available from the intramuscular dose.

13 The problem is, for people who can't
14 absorb it every day, they are secreting B12
15 into their intestine, and then they can't
16 reabsorb it. So they rapidly run themselves
17 down.

18 And so when you give an IM dose, you
19 don't have to give it to them daily. You give
20 them something more than the few micrograms
21 they need so that they can draw on that dose
22 that's sitting in the muscle that you stuck it
23 in for a period of time.

24 And so a standard dose probably, you
25 know, a milligram would have been enough to

1 STEVEN H. ZEISEL, M.D., Ph.D.

2 last them weeks before they run it down. A
3 microgram being a millionth of a gram, and a
4 milligram being a thousandth of a gram.

5 Q I'm sorry. I didn't catch the last
6 part.

7 A A milligram is a thousandth of a
8 gram; and a microgram is a millionth of a gram.
9 So a milligram is a lot of micrograms.

10 Q And that dosing was true in 1999;
11 correct?