

Adenosine signature genes associate with tumor regression in renal cell carcinoma (RCC) patients treated with the adenosine A2A receptor (A2AR) antagonist, CPI-444.

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Background

- Adenosine blocks T-cell activation and promotes myeloid suppression
- CPI-444 is an oral small molecule antagonist of the adenosine 2A receptor (A2AR) that has shown efficacy in animal models and is associated with T cell activation.^{a,b}
- Ongoing clinical trial of CPI-444 +/- anti-PD-L1 atezolizumab demonstrates tumor responses to monotherapy and combination in multiple indications including renal cell carcinoma (RCC).^{c,d}
- Future trials in RCC would benefit from a biomarker that predicts patient response.

a) Willingham et al, Cancer Immunology Research, 2018
 b) Leone et al, Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy, 2018
 c) Hotson et al, STIC, 2017 (oral presentation by Luke, J)
 d) Fong et al, STIC, 2018 (oral presentation, Sat @ 4:40pm)

Phase 1/1b Clinical Study with CPI-444

Eligibility

- Heavily pretreated (median 3 prior therapies)
- Prior anti-PD-(L)1 allowed
- Progressive disease on prior therapy
- No selection for PD-L1 expression

Adenosine Signature: *In vitro* Discovery and *In vivo* Application

Signal Identification

PBMCs + Adenosine analog (NECA) 48hr

Adenosine Responsive Genes

- Comprised of myeloid cell recruitment and activation
- Inhibition of T cell activation

+TCR Activation

Identify tumors that express Adenosine Signature (putative adenosine-rich tumor environment)

Applied to Clinical Samples

Adenosine Signature Low
No tumor regression

Adenosine Signature High
Enriched for tumor responders to CPI-444

Adenosine Signature and Co-expressed Genes Identified in Patient Subset by Unsupervised Clustering

A separate patient subset is low for adenosine signature and expresses alternate biological pathways

- Gene expression was collected from pre-treatment biopsies
- Expression was correlated across patients and clustered
- Biology self-organized to reveal modules of gene co-expression

Gene by gene correlation

Individual patients gene expression

Adenosine Signature & Associated Genes

Adenosine Signature Low: CD26 and Growth Factor Signaling

CD26 Negatively Correlates with Adenosine Signature

Adenosine Signature

CD26 (Dpp4)

$p = 0.003$

- CD26 is a binding partner for soluble adenosine deaminase (ADA)
- ADA decreases local adenosine concentration

Adenosine Signature Biomarker and Outcome

ADENOSINE SIGNATURE LOW

ADENOSINE SIGNATURE HIGH

Legend:

- T-effector high
- T-effector low

- Regression of tumors with baseline expression of Adenosine Signature
- Tumor response independent of underlying T cell infiltration

Adenosine Signature and Associated Biology

Model of distinct RCC subclasses

Adenosine Microenvironment

- Myeloid recruitment
- +/- T cell infiltration
- Complement

Responsive to A2AR inhibition

Non-Adenosine Microenvironment

- Growth factor response
- +/- T cell infiltration
- Complement inhibition
- CD26

Adenosine pathway independent tumor

Summary

- Adenosine-response genes define an Adenosine Signature biomarker that enriches for patients with tumors that respond to A2AR antagonism by CPI-444
- Gene clustering analysis identified two distinct populations of RCC
 - Adenosine Signature high / growth factor low
 - Adenosine Signature low and high for growth factor response genes & CD26
- Enables future studies to employ Adenosine Signature for identification of sub-groups that associate with tumor response