

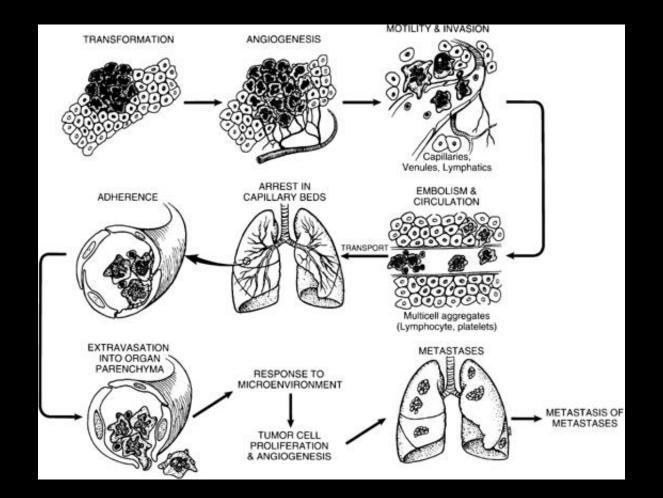




Immunotherapy and vaccines Colon Cancer

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Differentiation antigens: Foetal antigens: Mutated functional structures : Over-expressed functional structures:

PSA, PSMA, MAGE, BAGE, etc CEA, αFP, βHCG, etc

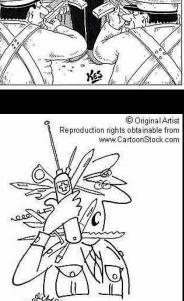
p53, K-ras, etc

Growth factor receptors (ERB-B family), hormones (PTH-rP) adhesion molecules (EP-CAM-17.A), enzymes (proteases, thymidylate synthases) and/or the proteins responsible for drug resistance (PgP, MRPs and LRP),

T cells are indispensable for an efficient immune response against cancer

Tumor rejection is dependent on CD8+ cytolytic T cells (CTLs).

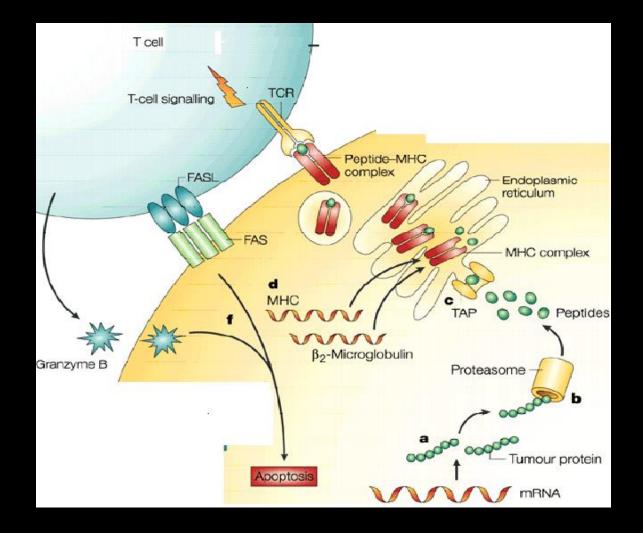
CD4 + T cells are considered as immune-modulators (enhancers and regulators).



Original Artist

"Swiss Army Rescue Service. How can we help?"

TCR recognition of antigen peptides



Tumor Immunology Paradigm: Tumor cells may be recognised and killed by effector lymphocytes but cannot initiate by themselves an efficient immune-response

"...the generation of an efficient immuneresponse mostly depends on the ability of the immunizing agents or constructs to deliver the target antigen(s) to professional antigen presenting cells"

Ongoing clinical trials

NON SPECIFIC IMMUNOSTIMULATION	IMMUNOSTIMULATORY agents : - Recombinant vaccinia virus - IFNγ+celecoxib+combination of chemockines - IL7 - Heat killed whom cell mycobacyerium - PGGbeta-Glucan binding to neutrophilis - GOLFIG chemo-immunoburst
WHOLE CELL CANCER VACCINE	Allogenic cancer cells
DC BASED THERAPY	-Autologous DC intratumor injection loaded with frame shift antigens (MSI) -CEA pulsed DC+IL2 -Autologous DC
CELL THERAPY	Autologous T cell therapy, genetically engineered T cells autologous DC therapy,
PEPTIDE VACCINE	Targeted peptide(s) - TSPP Mutated k-ras -Muc-1 -HER2/neu -CEA (Cap-1)
INHIBITION OF IMMUNOREGULATION	-Treg depletion -anti-CTLA4+ local radiation therapy

Improvement of Active Specific Immunotherapy

Combined strategies of treatment

- Radio-immunotherapy
- Multicytokine combination
- Immunomodulating Antibodies (Anti-CTLA-4; Anti PD1)
 - Immunomodulating Agents (Tri-com, Anti-CD40)

Chemo-immunotherapy

Chemotherapy often determines a fast shrinking of the immune-suppressive tumor mass.

Several drugs including 5-FU as well as radiotherapy are able to change tumor cell phenotype, to induce apoptosis, to activate intracellular danger signals and eat me molecules.

Many drugs induce up-regulation of antigenic molecular structures (such as EGFR, CEA, and thymidylate synthase)

Effects of chemotherapy on human immune-system

Chemotherapy can suppress the granulocyte mediated response to bacterial and mycotic infections.

No clear effect has been demonstrated on antigen specific CTL response or DTH which seems to be augmented by many cytotoxic drugs.

Several drugs have been used in combination with immunological treatments in therapeutic mouse models.

5-Fluorouracil–Based Chemotherapy Enhances the Antitumor Activity of a Thymidylate Synthase–Directed Polyepitopic Peptide Vaccine

Pierpaolo Correale, Maria Teresa Del Vecchio, Giuseppa Di Genova, Gianni Gori Savellini, Marco La Placa, Chiara Terrosi, Marzio Vestri, Renato Urso, Francois Lemonnier, Angelo Aquino, Enzo Bonmassar, Giorgio Giorgi, Guido Francini, Maria Grazia Cusi

Journal of the National Cancer Institute, Vol. 97, No. 19, October 5, 2005

TS/PP poly-epitope peptide vaccine

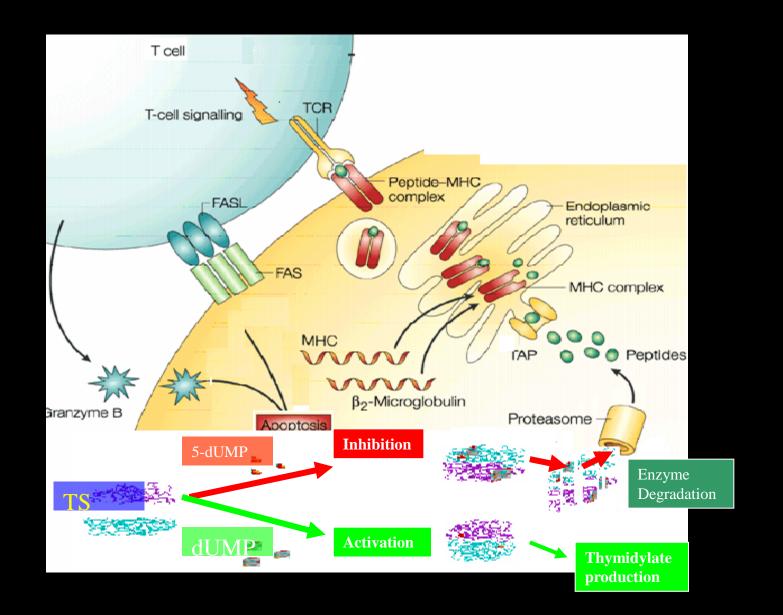
Thymidylate Synthase (TS)

TS is the main source of thymidine for DNA duplication and is the pharmacological target inhibited by 5-FU and other common antimetabolites.

TS expression in normal cells is under the cell cycle control system being expressed only during the S phase.

TS is capable of auto-regulation, thus a rapid and transient upregulation of this enzyme is commonly observed few hours after 5-FU exposure in colon cancer cells *in vitro*

Thymidylate Synthase degradation



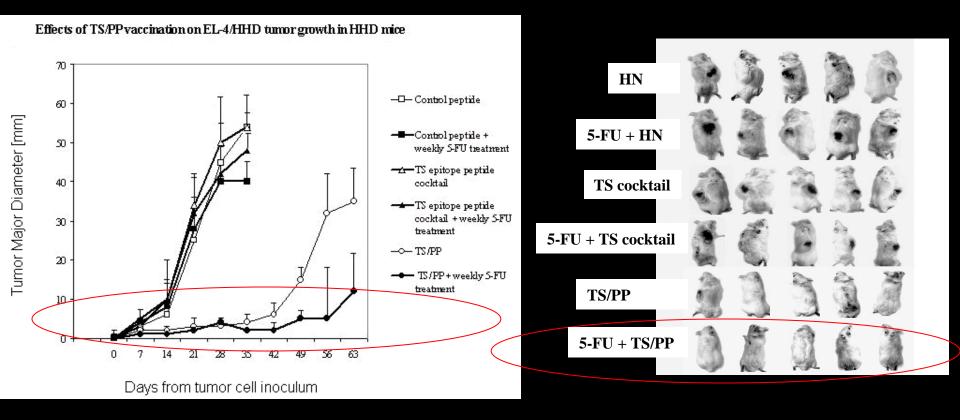
TS/PP poly-epitope peptide vaccine

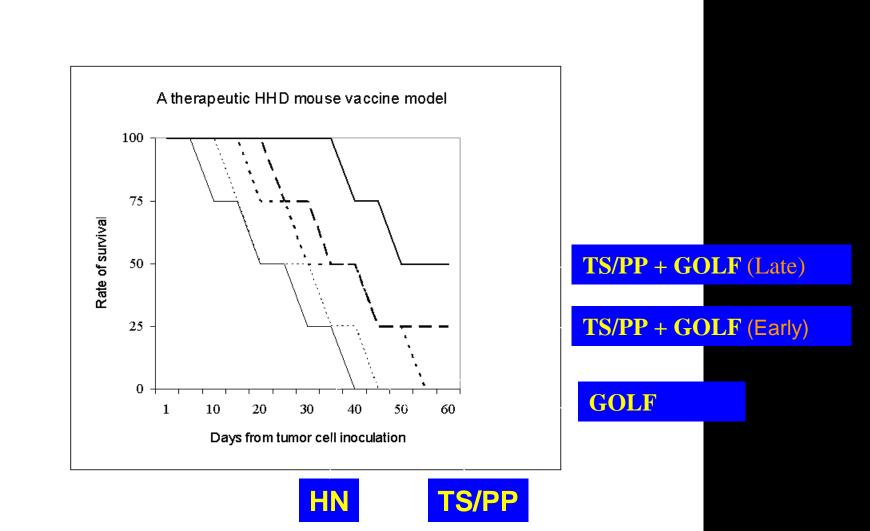
Peptide description

Nome peptide	Sequenza Amino-acidica	Posizione aa. rispetto alla sequenza della TS nativa	Saggio di legame a sHLA- A(*)02.01 (T2 test)	^a Epitopi predetti con capacità potenziali di legame a aplotipi di HLA Classe I
TS-1	TLGDAHIYL	245-253	+++	1,A2
TS-2	YMIAHITGL	229-237	+++	1,A2;1,A1
TS-3	FLDSLGFST	111-119	+++	1,A2
TS/PP	YMIAHITGLFLDSLGFSTTLGDAHIYL		-	5,A2; 1,A3, 1,A1; 5,A24, 1, B44, (and 8, ^b HLA-Dr),
Pos CTR (CEA) peptide CAP-1	YLSGANLNL		+++	1,A2

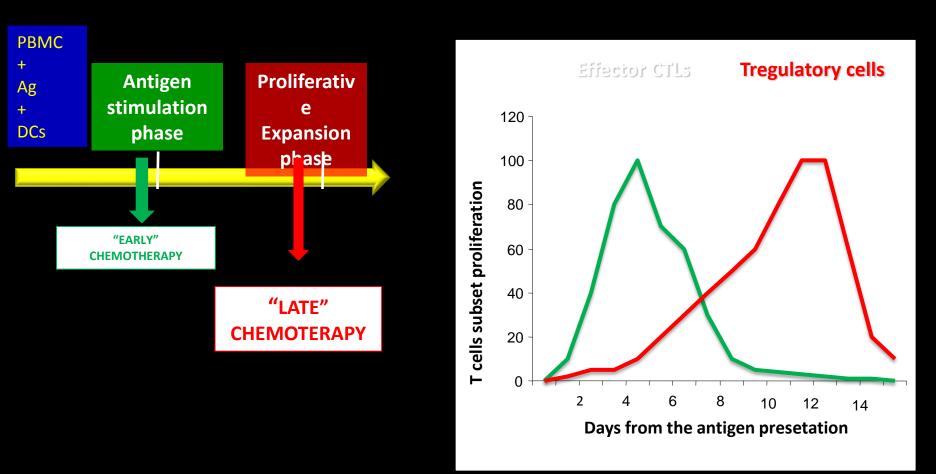
^aPredicted according to the Ken Parker's Algorythm ^bPredicted according to the H.G. Rammensee's algorithm (H.G. Rammensee, J. Bachmann, and S.Stevanovic on the book "MHC Ligands and peptide Motifs".

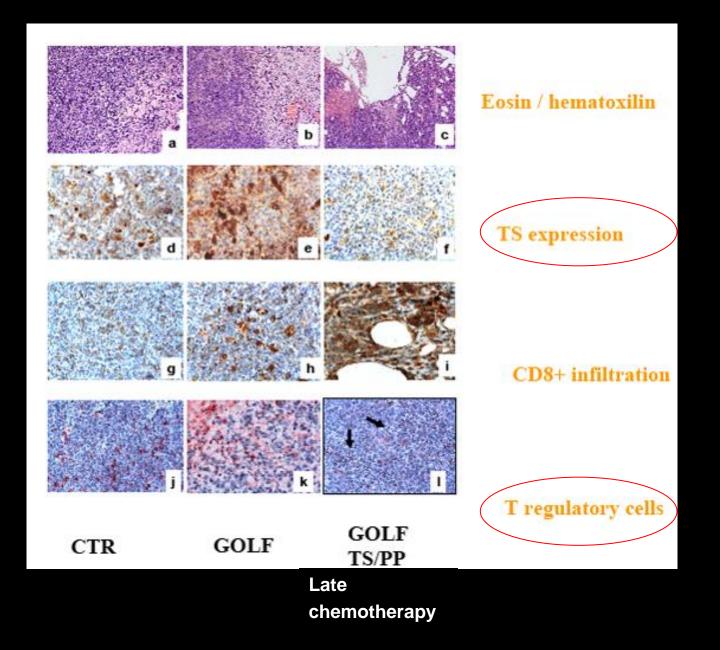
TS/PP Vaccination, a preventive HHD mouse model





Proliferation of CTL and T reg subsets in T cell cultures





In conclusion...

TS/PP vaccination exerts therapeutic efficacy when used in sequential combination with 5-FU based poly-chemotherapy in HHD mice inoculated with autologous lymphoma cells.



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ORIGINAL REPORT

Chemo-Immunotherapy of Metastatic Colorectal Carcinoma With Gemcitabine Plus FOLFOX 4 Followed by Subcutaneous Granulocyte Macrophage Colony-Stimulating Factor and Interleukin-2 Induces Strong Immunologic and Antitumor Activity in Metastatic Colon Cancer Patients

Pierpaolo Correale, Maria Grazia Cusi, Kwong Yok Tsang, Maria Teresa Del Vecchio, Stefania Marsili, Marco La Placa, Chiara Intrivici, Angelo Aquino, Lucia Micheli, Cristina Nencini, Francesco Ferrari, Giorgio Giorgi, Enzo Bonmassar, and Guido Francini

Clinical Rationale for the GOLFIG I Trial

➢ GOLF

- gemcitabine
- oxaliplatin
- folinic acid
- 5-FU

The GOLF regimen is a safe treatment with significant anti-tumor activity in patients with advanced colo-rectal, pancreatic, and gasric cancer

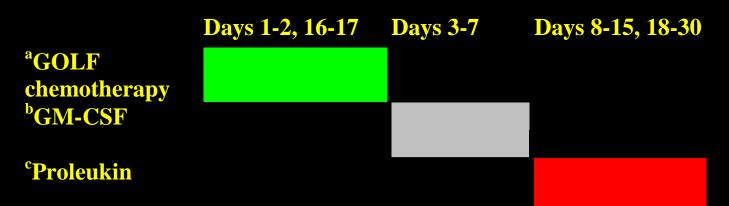
P.Correale, S.Messinese, M.Caraglia, S.Marsili, R. Petrioli, F. Ceciarini, L.Micheli, C.Nencini, A.Neri, G.Vuolo, A.Guarnieri, A Abruzzese, S.D Prete, G.Giorgi, and G.Francini. A novel biweekly multi-drug regimen of gemcitabine, oxaliplatin, 5-fluorouracil (5-FU), and folinic acid (FA) in pre-treated patients with advanced colorectal carcinoma. Br J Cancer. 2004, May 4;90(9):1710-4.

IG-1 GM-CSF Low dose IL-2

The IG-1 regimen is a safe multicytokine treatment with anti-tumor activity and ability of inducing DC and antigen specific lymphocyte amplification and activation in cancer patients

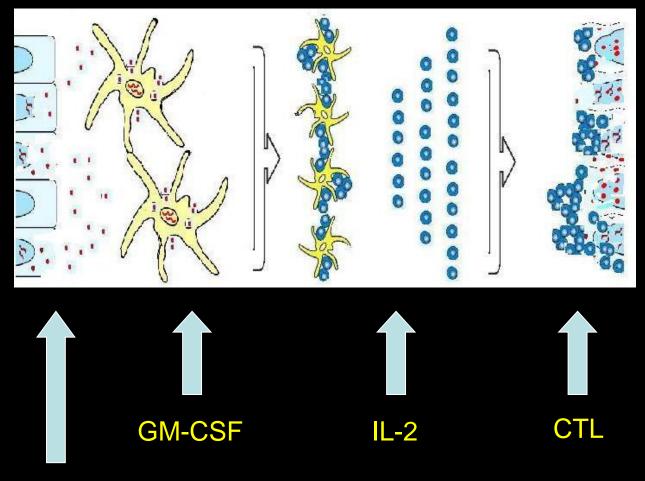
P. Correale, G. Campoccia, K. Y. Tsang, L. Micheli, G. Cusi, M. Sabatino, G. Bruni, S. Sestini, R. Petrioli, D. Pozzessere, S. Marsili, G. Fanetti, G. Giorgi, and G. Francini. Recruitment of dendritic cells and enhanced antigen specific immune-reactivity in cancer patients treated with hrGM-CSF (molgramostim) and hr IL-2: results from a Phase Ib Clinical Trial. **Eur J Cancer 37 (7):892-902, 2001.**

Schedule treatment



^aGOLF = gemcitabine, 1g /m²; oxaliplatin, 85 mg/m²; levofolinic acid, 100mg/m²; bolus 5-fluorouracil, 400 mg/m²; 24 h infusion 5-fluorouracil 800 mg/m² ^bGM-CSF = Molgramostim, 150 μ g/day /Salgramostim 100 μ g/day ^cProleukin = Aldesleukin, 500,000 IU x 2 day





Chemotherapy

Aim of the study: to investigate the anti-tumor and immunological activity and toxicity of the novel chemo-immunotherapy GOLFIG regimen in advanced colo-rectal cancer patients.

(GOLFIG= GOLF poly-chemotherapy + sc Interleukin -2, and GM-CSF)

Patient Characteristics (N= 46)			
Characteristic		No. of Pts	%
Age, years Median Range	62 28-83		
Sex Male Female		27 19	58.6 41.3
ECOG performance status 0 1 2 3		23 13 6 4	50 28.2 13 8.6
Tumor type Colon cancer Rectal cancer		39 7	84.7 15.2
Metastatic site Hepatic Non hepatic (bone, lung, peritoneum, pelvis, ovary, nodes)	32 36		
First line chemotherapy		12	26

Occurrence of adverse events (46 patients*)

Type of toxicity	% of events	Grade 1 (%)	Grade 2 (%)	Grade 3 (%)	Grade 4 (%)
Hematological	44.8%				
Anemia	17.2%	6.9 %	6.9%	3.45%	
Neutropenia	10.3%	10.3%			
Thrombocytopenia	20.7%		10.3%	10.3%	
Gastroenteric toxicity	27.6%				
Nausea/vomiting	6.9%	3.45%	3.45%		
Diarrhea	17.2%	6.98%		6.9%	3.45%
Mucositis	20.7%	10.3%		6.9%	3.44%
Transaminase elevation	None				
Fever	69%	27.6%	27.6%	3.45%	3.45%
Asthenia	6.9%			3.45%	3.45%
Anorexia	None				
Neurological toxicity	24.1%		24.1%		
Arrhythmia	3.45 %	3.45%			
Hypersensitivity	13.8%	3.45%	3.4%	3.45%	3.45%
Bleeding	2.2% (1 case)				2.2 % (1 case)
Bone pain	25.3%				
Brain transitory ischemia				2.2% (1 case)	

*A median of 10 cycles of chemo-immunotherapy per patients could be administered

Clinical response (N=46)

Best response	Number of patients	%
CR	10	21.7
PR	16	34.7
SD	16	34.7
PD	4	8.6
Overall response (CR + PR) (95% CI)	26	56.5 (42.1 - 69.8)
Disease control (CR + PR + SD) (95% CI)	42	91.3 (79.6 - 96.4)
CR complete response, PR pa	rtial response, <i>SD</i> stable disea	ase, PD progressive disease.

Immunological effects induced by the GOLFIG Chemoimmunotherapy in colon cancer patients

A) Risk of disease progression

Prognostic variable	Р	Risk Ratio (95% CI)
Autoimmunity	0.0046*	0.1646 (0.0472-0.5738)
Age	0.1059	0.9764 (0.9485-1.0051)
Liver metastases	0.3401	0.7044 (0.3429-1.4470)
Previous chemotherapy	0.7919	0.8986 (0.4060-1.9886)
Performance status	0.0877	1.2872 (0.9634-1.7200)
Sex	0.6697	1.1621 (0.5827-2.3176)

B) Risk of death

Prognostic variable	Р	Risk Ratio (95% CI)
Autoimmunity	0.0256*	0.0884 (0.0105-0.7440)
Age	0.6415	0.9916 (0.9570-1.0274)
Liver metastases	0.8232	0.8970 (0.3457-2.3275)
Previous chemotherapy	0.7046	0.8201 (0.2941-2.2867)
Performance status	0.0042*	1.7248 (1.1881-2.5040)
Sex	0.7519	0.8776 (0.3905-1.9721)

Autoimmunity and performance status resulted as the most predictive variables of prolonged time to progression and survival (*) Statistically significant values.

The results of this study show that the GOLFIG regimen is well tolerated and exerts a high objective response / disease control rate and a *prolonged time to progression* in colorectal carcinoma patients as a second/third line of treatment



A phase III Trial in advanced colorectal carcinoma in first line of therapy: GOLF poly-chemotherapy followed by sc GM-CSF and low dose IL-2 versus the best standard chemotherapy, FOLFOX-4. (GOLFIG-2 Trial)

Prot. 457/05

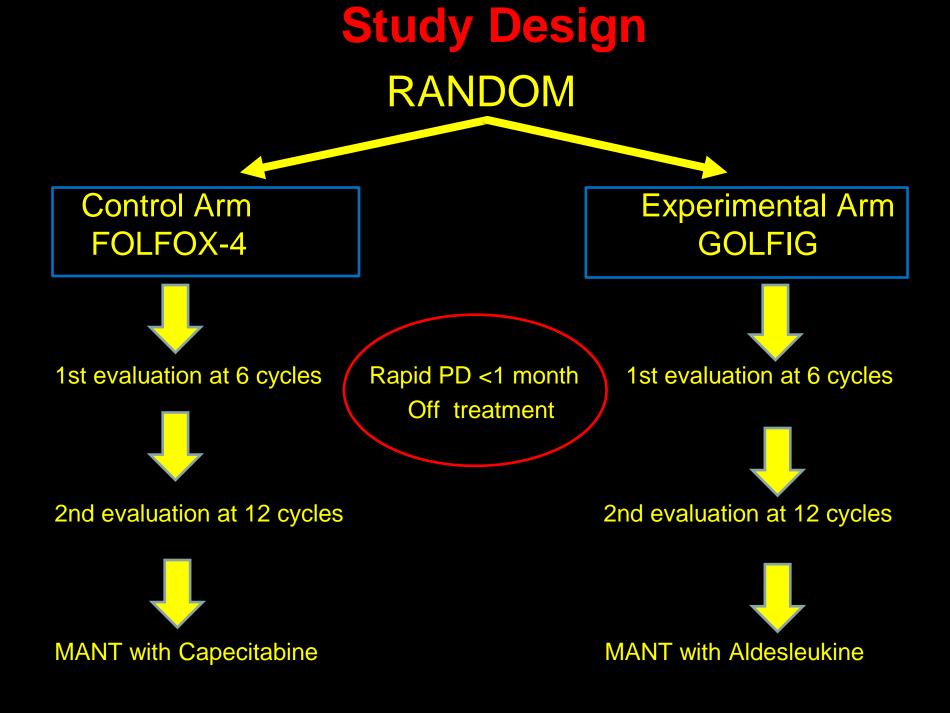
A Randomized phase III (GOLFIG2) Trial GOLFIG vs FOLFOX

Primary endpoints: Progression Free Survival

Secondary endpoints: Objective Response Overall Survival Immune-biological Activity

Statistical Sample = 180 patients; First update = 90 events

Operative Centers = Siena, Catanzaro, Forlì, Firenze, Roma "Tor Vergata", Cagliari



	GOLFIG	FOLFOX-4
Randomized	63	61
Patients		
Age	66	68
Median ECOG	1	1
Males	42	41
Females	21	21
Liver Metastases	65 (%)	64 (%)
Surgery	88 (%)	88 (%)

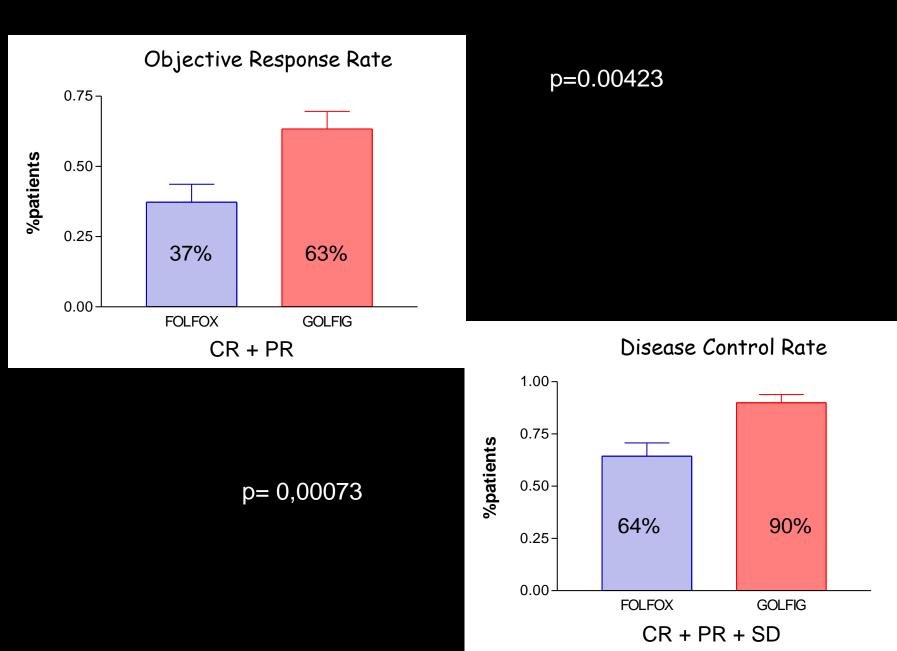
TOXICITY	% of cases FOLFOX (61 Pz)	% of cases GOLFIG (63 Pz)
Hematologic toxicity G2-3	34%	46%
TVP	8%	0%
Diarrea	8%	17,4%
Nausea/Vomit	4.9%	14.2%
Asthenia	4.9%	4.7%
Fever	4.9%	19%
Neurotoxicity	4.9%	11.1%
Oxaliplatin reaction	1.6%	4.7%
Flushing	0%	3.1%
Autoimmunity	0%	12.6%
Sudden Death	4.9%	0%

Clinical response

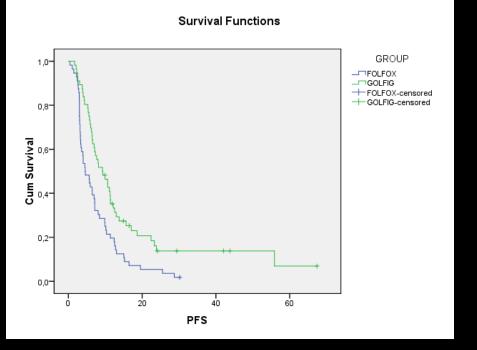
FOLFOX (N= 61)		GOLFIG (N= 63)	
Number of patients	%	Number of patients	%
3	4.9%	5	7.9%
19	31%	33	52.3%
16	26.2%	16	25.3%
21	34.4%	6	9.5%
	37%		63%
	64%		90%
	Number of patients 3 19 16	Number of patients % 3 4.9% 19 31% 16 26.2% 21 34.4% 37%	Number of patients % Number of patients 3 4.9% 5 19 31% 33 16 26.2% 16 21 34.4% 6

Median follow-up 18 months

Anti-tumor activity



First Interim Analysis

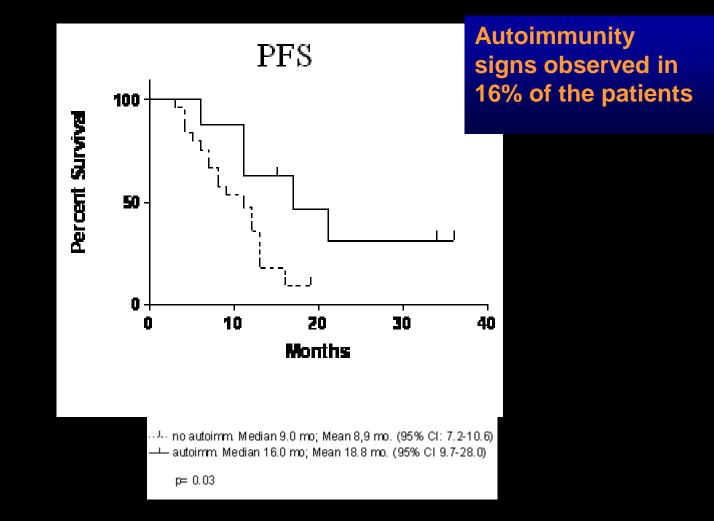


GROUP 1,0 -----FOLFOX - GOLFIG + FOLFOX-censored 0,8 Cum Survival 0,6 0,4 0,2 0.0 20 60 40 80 0 os

Survival Functions

FOLFOX: 7.4 months (IC 95% 5.7-9.1) GOLFIG: 16.5 months (IC 95% 11.2-21.8) (p=0.0015; HR 0.6433- IC 95% 0.4049-0.8870) FOLFOX: 21.5 months (IC 95%: 16.1-26.0) GOLFIG: 30.5 months (IC 95% 22.8-38.2) (p=0.0496; HR 0.9192- IC 95% 0.6028-1.387)

Chemo-immunotherapy and autoimmunity



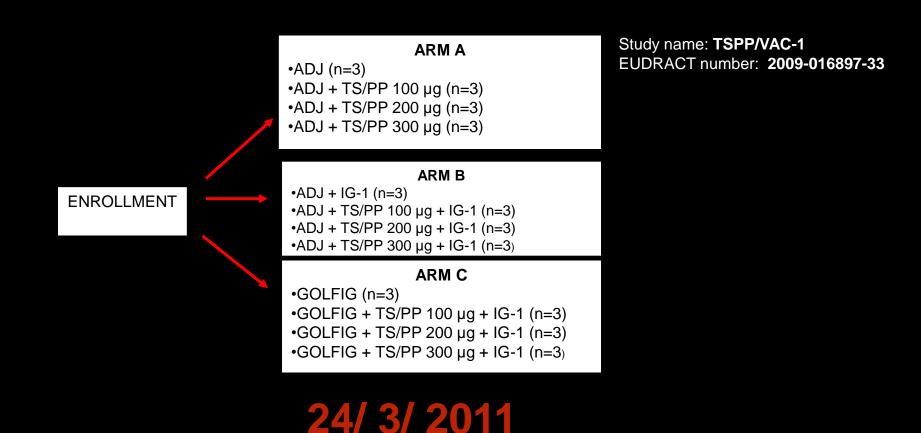
CONCLUSIONS

At the first interim analysis our results demonstrated the efficacy of GOLFIG regimen in the treatment of advanced colon cancer.

This is the first randomized study which suggests the efficacy of a bio-chemotherapy regimen designed to generate an active immune-response in colon cancer.

TSPP/VAC 1 - Phase IB trial

Clinical evaluation of TSPP vaccine alone or in combination with immunoadjuvant cytokines (IG-1 regimen / aldesleukine e GM-CSF) or Chemo-immunotherapy (GOLFIG regimen / gemcitabine, oxaliplatin , levofolinic acid and 5-FU + IG-1) in cancer patients.



TSPP/VAC1 Trial

Based on the results of preclinical studies, we designed a Phase Ib trial (TSPP/VAC1), to investigate in a dose-escalation setting, the safety and the biological activity of TSPP vaccination alone (arm A) or in combination with GM-CSF and IL-2 (arm B) in cancer patients.

Patient population

Twenty one pretreated metastatic cancer patients, with a good performance status (ECOG \leq 1) and no severe organ failure or immunological disease, were enrolled in the study (12 in arm A, 9 in arm B) between April 2011 and January 2012 with a median follow-up of 28 months.

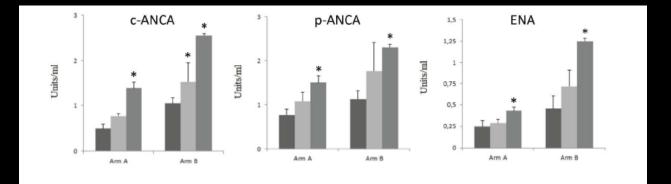
Toxicity

TSPP resulted safe and its maximal tolerated dose (MTD) was not achieved. There was no grade 4 toxicity. The most common adverse events were grade 2 dermatological reactions to the vaccine injection, cough, rhinitis, fever, polyarthralgia, gastro-enteric symptoms and to a lesser extent, moderate hypertension and hypothyroidism.

 Table 1. Patients characteristics, toxicity, adverse events and response.

 he enrolment code was composed by patient's initials/ arm of enrolment (A or B) / dose level (DL).

ID	Age/Sex	HLA	Site of primary tumor	Metastatic sites	Number of previous treatments	Number of vaccinations
Arm A						
MF/A/DL1	/F	A2	Colorectal cancer	Liver, lung	11	3
RA/A/DL1	/F	A2	Colorectal cancer	Abdomen, nodes	7	3
AS/A/DL1	/M	A2	Colorectal cancer	Liver, lung	3	3
LV/A/DL2	/M	A11	Colorectal cancer	Lung, nodes	7	6
OA/A/DL2	/M	A1	NSCLC	Brain, bone, liver,lung	3	6
SG/A/DL2	/M	A25	Colorectal cancer	Abdomen, nodes	4	6
ZS/A/DL3	/F	A2	Colorectal cancer	Nodes, adrenal	3	32
MA/A/DL3	/F	A23	Gallbladder Carcinoma	Peritoneum, nodes	1	28
CM/A/DL3	/F	A2	Breast cancer	Lung, skin, pleura	3	12
AR/A/DL3	/M	A2	NSCLC	Lung, nodes	1	3
PN/A/DL3	/F	A1	Colorectal cancer	Lung, bone	3	3
SN/A/DL3	/М	A2	Colorectal cancer	Liver, lung	3	3
Arm B						
PL/B/DL1	/F	A1	NSCLC			5
	/M	A2	Gastric cancer	Lung, nodes	4	3
RV/B/DL1				Liver, peritoneum	1	
PGB/B/DL1	/M	A26	NSCLC	Brain, lung, nodes	3	3
GL/B/DL2	/F	A24	Colorectal cancer	Liver, abdomen	3	3
PP/B/DL2	/F	A2	Colorectal cancer	Lung, liver, peritoneum	5	3
FG/B/DL2	/М	A24	Colorectal cancer	Peritoneum, nodes	3	3
SF/B/DL3	/F	A24	NSCLC	Liver, abdomen	3	15
M/B/DL3	/M	A1	Colorectal cancer	Lung, liver, peritoneum	4	3
BA/B/DL3	/F	A30	NSCLC	Peritoneum, nodes	2	3

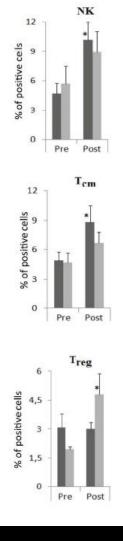


Immunobiological acitivity

We detected a significant rise in auto-antibodies and TS-epitopespecific CTL precursors in both arms.

Patient in arm A showed rise in central memory CTLs and NK subsets

Patients in arm B showed a significant rise in systemic inflammatory markers and TH1 phenotype with appearance of immunosuppressive regulatory T cells



Antitumor activity

In this very advanced and multi-treated patients' set, TSPP showed evidence of antitumor activity;

Arm A (12 Pts) : one partial response and 6 disease stabilizations (SD) with a mean *progression free survival* (PFS) of 6.4 (95% CI= 3.66-9.2) months and a mean overall survival (OS) of 10.98 (95% CI= 7.56-14.4) Six patients (50%) survived more than 12 months and 2 of them [ZS/A/DL3 with colorectal (CC) carcinoma and MA/A/DL3 with gallbladder adenocarcinoma (GBC)], survived free of progression for more than 20 months.

Arm B (9 Pts): 2 SD with a PFS of 3.69 (95% CI= 1.55-5.82) months and an OS of 5.9 (95% CI= 4.11-7.69) months. Only one patient (SF/B/DL3 with a NSCLC) survived more than 15 months

Conclusions

Taken together, our findings provide the framework for the evaluation of the TSPP anti-tumor activity in further clinical trials.

Maximal Tolerated dose (MTD) was not achieved

The most effective biological dose of TSPP was 300 ug

The addition of GM-CSF and IL-2 does not give any immunological antitumor advantage to the treatment.

Poly-epitope peptide vaccination to thymidylate synthase (TSPP) and GOLFIG chemo-immunotherapy for treatment of metastatic colorectal cancer patients. TSPPVAC1/Arm C phase Ib trial

Arm-C is the third part of the multi-arm *TSPPVAC1* phase Ib trial

Twenty-seven patients, 14 males and 13 females, with a good performance status and pretreated metastatic colorectal cancer were enrolled.

Patients received biweekly poly-chemo-immunotherapy according to the GOLFIG regimen

TSPP/VAC1 Arm C

<u>Concomitant treatment</u>: Seventeen patients received concomitant TSPP sc. injections (Day 7 and 21) on biweekly bases, at different dosage [3 patients received 100µg (DL-1); 3, 200 µg (DL-2) and 11, 300 µg (DL-3)].

<u>Sequential treatment</u>: Thirteen patients received GOLFIG regimen alone [dose level(DL)-0] and then TSPP vaccination every 3 weeks. TSPP vaccination was only given to patients whose disease did not progress

Toxicity

Either concomitant or sequential GOLFIG / TSPP treatment was very active and relatively safe.

There was one case of grade 4 hematological toxicity and three cases of late oxaliplatin reaction.

Grade (g) 1-2 adverse events, consisting of hematological and gastro-enteric toxicity were very common.

Dermatological reactions to the vaccine injection (12 cases), fever (10 cases), rhinitis, conjunctivitis, and poly-arthralgia (10 cases) were similarly frequent.

Biological activity

Patients undergone the concomitant treatment showed:

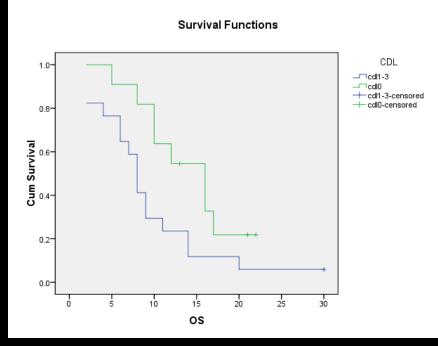
- peripheral blood increase in lymphocyte, monocyte, and eosynophil counts; CPR, ESR, myeloperoxidase.
- induction of a Th2 phenotype and rise of IL-10
- induction of auto-antibodies (ENA, p-ANCA, c-ANCA)
- augmented expression of central-memory-, effector memory-, regulatory-T cells, natural killers, and TSPPspecific CTL precursors.

Antitumor activity

TSPP vaccination does not modify anti-tumor activity of the GOLFIG regimen.

Concomitant treatment (DL1-3) (17 pts): 4 PR (23.5%), 8 SD (47.1%) and 5 progression of disease (PD) (29.4%) with a PFS and OS of 4 (+/- 0.738) and 9.4 (+/- 1,67) months, respectively.

Sequential treatment (DL0) (12 pts) : 6 PR (50%) and 4 SD (30%) with a median PFS and OS of 6.25 (+/- 0.038) and 14.24 (+/- 1,67) months, respectively.



Means and Medians for Survival Time								
	Mean ^a				Median			
			95% Confidence Interval				95% Confidence Interval	
CDL	Estimate	Std. Error	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Estimate	Std. Error	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
cdl1-3	9.412	1.674	6.130	12.693	8.000	.676	6.674	9.326
cdI0	14.236	1.666	10.971	17.501	16.000	2.905	10.306	21.694
Overall	11.956	1.546	8.926	14.987	9.000	1.323	6.407	11.593

a. Estimation is limited to the largest survival time if it is censored.

	Overall Comparisons				
	Chi-Square	df	Sig.		
Log Rank (Mantel-Cox)	4.126	1	.042		

Test of equality of survival distributions for the different levels of CDL.

Conclusions

- TSPP vaccination is safe and well tolerated and does not enhance GOLFIG toxicity.

- We were unable to identify a MTD for TSPP vaccination in combination with GOLFIG poly-chemo-immunotherapy.

- The most significant antitumor activity was recorded when TSPP vaccine was given after 10 course of GOLFIG chemo-immunotherapy

Conclusion

TSPP / GOLFIG treatment resulted active and safe in colon cancer patients and TSPP MTD was not achieved.

The most effective biological and antitumor activity of TSPP vaccination was achieved at the dosage of 300µg.

The anti-tumor activity recorded either in combined and sequential treatment was very promising and grants the rationale for further studies in colon cancer patients

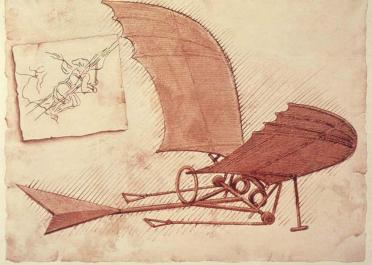


TSPP/VAC1 trial

Many Many thanks to..

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Maria Teresa del Vecchio	Section of Pathology	Siena University School of Medicine, Italy
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Only who dares can fly .. Louis Sepulveda