

Tim Synold, PharmD Pharmacokinetics of Anti-Cancer Agents in the CNS

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Pharmacokinetics of Anti-Cancer Agents in the CNS

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Traditional PK Analyses



Drug Distribution: A Neglected Concern

- Must penetrate tissue
- Must reach all tumor cells in sufficient concentration
- Research focused on molecular mechanisms of resistance
- Evidence suggests distribution in tumor often incomplete



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Minchinton et al. Nature Reviews Cancer 2006: 6:583-592



Clinical Significance of the BBB

- ~24,000 primary brain tumors diagnosed per year
- Median survival of unresectable GBM ~14 months
- Number of brain mets are >200,000 (~10x primary brain tumors)
- Untreated, median survival is 2-3 months and 4-12 months with treatment
- A growing problem as systemic therapies improve



[^]Source Maher EA et al. Cancer Res 2009 66:6015-6020

Blood-Brain-Barrier

- Network of specialized endothelial cells, other cell types, and basal lamina
- Tight junctions and transporters exclude drugs from brain ECF
- Distinct from blood–CSF
 barrier
- Few drugs cross BBB, mostly via lipid-mediated diffusion



Pardridge WM. J Cereb Blood Flow Metab. 2012; 32:1959-72



COH Intracranial Microdialysis Program

- First clinical trial initiated in 2006
- Addressed need to measure CNS drug
 penetration
- 6 trials completed to date, one ongoing
- ICMD catheters placed in 56 pts
- Largest single institution experience in U.S.



Interstitial PK Measurement -Microdialysis

- CMA70 20 kDa cut-off FDA approved for markers of tissue damage and repair
- Has also applied to realtime measurement of tissue PK





Intracranial Microdialysis (ICMD)





ICMD Catheter Placement



- Gold filament visible on CT.
- Not visible on postcontrast T1 MRI.
- Fused images show tip is in non-enhancing brain.





Temozolomide Plasma and Brain PK



- Brain ECF/plasma = $17.8 \pm 13.3\%$
- Cmax at 2-3 hr in most patients



Portnow J et al. Clin Cancer Res 2009;15:7092-7098

Eribulin Plasma and Brain PK



- Enhancing brain ECF/plasma = 0.8%
- Non-enhancing brain ECF/plasma = 0.02%



Genetically-Modified Neural Stem Cells Karen Aboody, MD



- Takes advantage of the demonstrated tumor tropism of NSCs
- 1st generation cells transduced to expressed a bacterial cytosine deaminase (CD)
- CD converts non-toxic 5-fluorocytosine to 5-fluorouracil
- Goal is brain tumor localized production of chemotherapy and minimal toxicity to normal tissues

Treatment Schema



Day 4-10: 5-FC administered orally, microdialysis studies Serial dialysate and blood samples drawn for PK



5FC & 5FU in Brain ECF and Plasma



Portnow J et al. Clin Cancer Res 2017;23:2951-2960

Microdialysis Studies in Nude Rat Model





- Guide cannula stereotactically implanted into brain
- Prior to expt, MD probe placed via cannula
- Catheter continuously perfused
- Animals move freely w/catheter

- Drug given iv, ip, or po
- Dialysate and blood collected serially
- Drug and metabolites measured by LC-MS/MS.



Brain and Tumor ECF Concentrations of CPT-11 and SN-38





H&E of rat brain showing a U87 glioma. Space in the center of tumor was occupied by the microdialysis catheter.

- Brain ECF AUC_{SN-38}/AUC_{CPT-11} \cong 2.5%
- Tumor ECF AUC_{SN-38}/AUC_{CPT-11} \cong 5.0%
- AUC_{brain}/AUC_{plasma} of CPT-11 and SN-38 are < 0.1%



iRGD Peptide Enhances Penetration of Irinotecan in CNS Tumor but not Normal Brain

- ICMD nude rat model bearing U87 human glioma
- No effect in normal brain
- 3 to 5-fold increase in irinotecan penetration in tumor
- Optimal dose and schedule of iRGD is TBD



Summary

- Extracellular fluid is key but neglected space
- BBB is a serious impediment to treatment
- As systemic therapies improve, CNS mets have become an increasing clinical concern
- Novel strategies to overcome the BBB are critical
- Clinical and preclinical ICMD will assist development of new approaches



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