

# ONCOTHERMIA JOURNAL

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**Dear Readers, Dear Fellow Researchers, Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,**

The recent volume of the Oncothermia Journal is the 27<sup>th</sup> now. We had started this open-access publication in 2011 intending to give information for Oncothermia users and interested specialists about the actual professional news and results in clinical and experimental topics. I am pleased to recognize the wide interest of the actual publications and see how the OJ started to be a reference source for many experts.

The present volume shows a representing material from the 37<sup>th</sup> annual conference of International Clinical Hyperthermia Society held in Thessaloniki, Greece. The two-days event was a great success having intensive discussions about the actual research challenges and possible solutions. Most of the presentations were centred on clinical results that showed excellent statistical pieces of evidence on relapsed glioblastoma multiform cases as well as the possibility of induced immunogenic effects by modulated electro-hyperthermia (mEHT) to cure this serious disease. The immunotherapy combination with mEHT was presented not only in gliomas, but in ovarian cancer too. The advanced pancreatic cancer, which has poor survival in conventional treatments, was discussed and significant improvements were revealed in the survival of this aggressive disease.

These presentations are completed with some theoretical considerations on methodology and clinical practice. I do hope that the present volume offers numerous new information, proving the strong developments of the complex hyperthermia technologies. I recommend this volume for everyone who are eager to know more about the present status of this emerging therapy option.

I hope this information offers you additional opportunities to help your suffering patients.

Sincerely yours,

**Prof. Dr. Andras Szasz**

**Liebe Leserinnen und Leser, liebe Kolleginnen und Kollegen aus Forschung und Praxis,**

Sie halten die mittlerweile 27. Ausgabe des Oncothermia Journals in Ihren Händen. Wir haben 2011 mit der Publikation dieses Open-Access-Journals begonnen um Informationen zur Oncothermie für Anwender und Spezialisten bereitzustellen und einen Einblick in Neuigkeiten und aktuelle Ergebnisse von klinischen und experimentellen Themen zu geben. Es freut mich sehr zu sehen, dass die gegenwärtige Publikation so großen Zuspruch erfährt und das Oncothermia Journal sich zu einer Referenzquelle für zahlreiche Experten entwickelt. Der aktuelle Band stellt einige Inhalte der jährlich abgehaltenen 37. International Clinical Hyperthermia Society Konferenz in Thessaloniki, Griechenland, dar. Das zweitägige Event war ein voller Erfolg, mit intensiven Diskussionen über die derzeitigen Herausforderungen der Forschung sowie deren Bewältigung. Die meisten Vorträge legten den Fokus auf klinische Ergebnisse die statistisch belegte Beweise für Fälle von rezidierten Glioblastoma Multiforme enthielten, sowie die Möglichkeit von immunogen induzierter Wirkung durch modulierte Elektro-Hyperthermie (mEHT), um diese schwerwiegende Krankheit zu heilen. Die Kombination von Immuntherapie mit mEHT wurde nicht nur im Zusammenhang mit Gliomen, sondern ebenfalls bezogen auf Ovarialkrebs dargelegt. Auch über fortgeschrittenen Bauchspeicheldrüsenkrebs, bei dem Betroffene nur geringe Überlebenschancen haben, wenn sie mit konventionellen Methoden behandelt werden, wurde diskutiert und es wurden signifikante Fortschritte für das Überleben dieser aggressiven Krankheit aufgezeigt.

Die vorliegenden Präsentationen wurden durch einige theoretische Betrachtungen im Bezug auf Methodik und klinische Praxis ergänzt. Ich hoffe inständig, dass die derzeitige Ausgabe zahlreiche neue Informationen enthält, welche die überzeugenden Entwicklungen der vielschichtigen Hyperthermie-Methode belegen. Empfehlen möchte ich dieses Journal allen, die mehr über den derzeitigen Stand dieser aufkommenden Therapiemöglichkeit wissen wollen.

Ich hoffe, die Inhalte dieses Journals bieten Ihnen zusätzliche Möglichkeiten, um Ihren leidenden Patienten zu helfen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

**Prof. Dr. Andras Szasz**

# Imprint

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# Rules for submission

As the editorial team we are committed to a firm and coherent editorial line and the highest possible printing standards. But it is mainly you, the author, who makes sure that the MEHT Journal is an interesting and diversified magazine. We want to thank every one of you who supports us in exchanging professional views and experiences. To help you and to make it easier for both of us, we prepared the following rules and guidelines for abstract submission.

Als redaktionelles Team vertreten wir eine stringente Linie und versuchen, unserer Publikation den höchst möglichen Standard zu verleihen. Es sind aber hauptsächlich Sie als Autor, der dafür Sorge trägt, dass das MEHT Journal zu einem interessanten und abwechslungsreichen Magazin wird. Wir möchten allen danken, die uns im Austausch professioneller Betrachtungen und Erfahrungen unterstützen. Um beiden Seiten die Arbeit zu erleichtern, haben wir die folgenden Richtlinien für die Texterstellung entworfen.

## 1. Aims and Scope

The MEHT Journal is an official journal of the Oncotherm Group, devoted to supporting those, who would like to publish their results for general use. Additionally, it provides a collection of different publications and results. The MEHT Journal has an open-minded character, but it should particularly contain complete study-papers, case-reports, reviews, hypotheses, opinions, and all the informative materials which could be helpful for the international Oncotherm community. Advertisement connected to the topic is also welcome.

- Clinical Studies: Regional or local or multilocal mEHT or electro cancer therapy (ECT) treatments, case-reports, practical considerations in complex therapies, clinical trials, physiological effects, MEHT in combination with other modalities, and treatment optimization.
- Biological Studies: Mechanisms of mEHT, thermal-or non-temperature dependent effects, response to electric fields, bioelectromagnetic applications for tumors, MEHT treatment combination with other modalities, effects on normal and malignant cells and tissues, immunological effects, physiological effects, etc.
- Techniques of mEHT: Technical development, new technical solutions, proposals.
- Hypotheses, suggestions, opinions to improve mEHT and electro-cancer-therapy methods, intending the development of the treatments.

Further information about the Journal, including links to the online sample copies and content pages can be found on the website of the journal: [www.MEHT-Journal.com](http://www.MEHT-Journal.com).

## 1. Selbstverständnis und Ziele

Das MEHT Journal ist das offizielle Magazin der Oncotherm Gruppe und soll diejenigen unterstützen, die ihre Ergebnisse der Allgemeinheit zur Verfügung stellen möchten. Das MEHT Journal ist neuen Inhalten gegenüber offen, sollte aber vor allem Studienarbeiten, Fallstudien, Hypothesen, Meinungen und alle weiteren informativen Materialien, die für die internationale Oncotherm-Gemeinschaft hilfreich sein könnten, enthalten. Werbung mit Bezug zum Thema ist ebenfalls willkommen.

- Klinische Studien, regionale, lokale oder multilokale Oncothermie oder Electro Cancer Therapy (ECT) Behandlungen, Fallstudien, praktische Erfahrungen in komplexen Behandlungen, klinische Versuche, physiologische Effekte, Oncothermie in Kombination mit anderen Modalitäten und Behandlungsoptimierungen.
- Biologische Studien. Mechanismen der Oncothermie, thermale oder temperaturunabhängige Effekte, Ansprechen auf elektrisches Feld, bioelektromagnetische Anwendungen bei Tumoren, Kombination von Oncothermie und anderen Modalitäten, Effekte auf normale und maligne Zellen und Gewebe, immunologische Effekte, physiologische Effekte etc.
- Oncothermie-Techniken. Technische Entwicklungen, neue technische Lösungen.
- Hypothesen, Meinungen, wie die Oncothermie- und ECT-Methoden verbessert werden können, um die Behandlung zu unterstützen.

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All submissions should be made online via email: [MEHT-Journal@oncotherm.org](mailto:MEHT-Journal@oncotherm.org).

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Texte sollten in einem mit Microsoft Word für Windows (PC) kompatiblen Format eingereicht werden. Tabellen sollten in einem Word-kompatiblen Format eingefügt werden. Alle Graphiken (Illustrationen, Diagramme, Photographien) sollten im jpg Format vorliegen.

Manuskripte können jede Längen haben, müssen aber die folgenden Punkte enthalten:

- Titelseite. Titel der Arbeit, Autor, Klinikzugehörigkeit, 1-5 Schlüsselworte. Es muss mindestens ein Autor ausgewiesen sein, dessen Email-Adresse und Kontaktdaten angegeben werden.
- Abstracts. Abstracts müssen enthalten: Zielsetzung, Material und Methoden, Ergebnisse, Fazit.
- Text. Beliebige Länge.
- Abbildungen und Tabellen. Abbildungen und Tabellen sollten im Text erläutert werden (nummeriert). Jede Abbildung / Tabelle muss eine erklärende Bildunterschrift haben. Bilder sollten als jpg verwendet werden (300 dpi).
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# Computational study of simplified numerical phantoms inside capacitive hyperthermia devices

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## Introduction

Capacitive hyperthermia is often used in conjunction with radiotherapy and chemotherapy for the treatment of cancer. It is applied by the use of electrodes, which can be either changeable or fixed. The main frequencies used for this electromagnetic heating modality are 8 and 13.56 MHz. In order to achieve better coupling of the electromagnetic energy to the body and, at the same time, cool the surface tissues, all devices use a water bolus between the application electrode and the body, commonly with a cooled circulating liquid. However, not much work has been performed until now on the treatment planning with such devices [1, 2].

## Objectives

The objective of the current study was to investigate the distributions of the electric field, the specific absorption rate (SAR) and the temperature inside a simplified numerical phantom of the human torso with an embedded spherical tumor, when the number, shape and positioning of electrodes were changed to achieve an optimized treatment. Finally, we also aimed at examining the effect of optimal positioning derived with the simplified model on a numerical phantom of realistic anatomy.

## Material/Methods

The software platform we used for performing the numerical simulations was Sim4Life Version 4.4.2 (Zurich Med Tech, Zurich, Switzerland), which implements the Finite Element Method (FEM). A homogenous numerical phantom of the torso (cylindrical with elliptical cross-section) was created. The phantom comprised two tissues: an internal cylinder with small and large diameters of 40 cm and 72 cm, respectively, which was assigned to the electric conductivity of muscle, and a cylindrical shell of 2 cm thickness on top, which was assigned to the properties of fat. The realistic model of 'Ella' from the Virtual Population (IT'IS Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland) was also used and studied; this model represents a 26-year-old female with the height of 1.63 m and 57 kg. The circular electrodes simulated were of 25 cm in diameter.

## Results

It was confirmed that the number and size of the electrodes induce differences in electric field (SAR) distribution. At first, we used two electrodes with different dimensions (circular and rectangular). A different geometry was applied with two electrodes with different dimensions (circular and square) with which we achieved the maximum local SAR per 100W of absorbed power in the tumor region and lower total deposited power in healthy muscle and fat tissue. Using the most efficient model we performed the thermal simulation. Through the thermal simulations we confirmed that temperature distribution changes in proportion with the applied power and boundary settings. After studying the homogenous models, we confirmed the results with the realistic model of 'Ella'.

## Conclusion

We have shown that starting with a simplified numerical model of the torso, it is possible to achieve an electrode configuration, which can be used with realistic patient models to improve power deposition inside the tumor while sparing healthy tissues.

## References

- [1] V. D'Ambrosio, F. Dughiero. Numerical model for RF capacitive regional deep hyperthermia in pelvic tumors. *Medical & Biological Engineering & Computing* 45:459, 2007
- [2] H. P. Kok, A. N. T. J. Kotte, J. Crezee. Planning, optimisation and evaluation of hyperthermia treatments. *International Journal of Hyperthermia* 33(6):593-607, 2017

# ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI PHYSICS DEPARTMENT



## COMPUTATIONAL STUDY OF SIMPLIFIED NUMERICAL PHANTOMS INSIDE CAPACITIVE HYPERTHERMIA DEVICES

Georgios Alexiou, Theodoros Samaras

Thessaloniki 2019

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  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Model
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- ▶ Computational Study - Thermal Analysis
- ▶ Application in a realistic model
- ▶ Conclusions

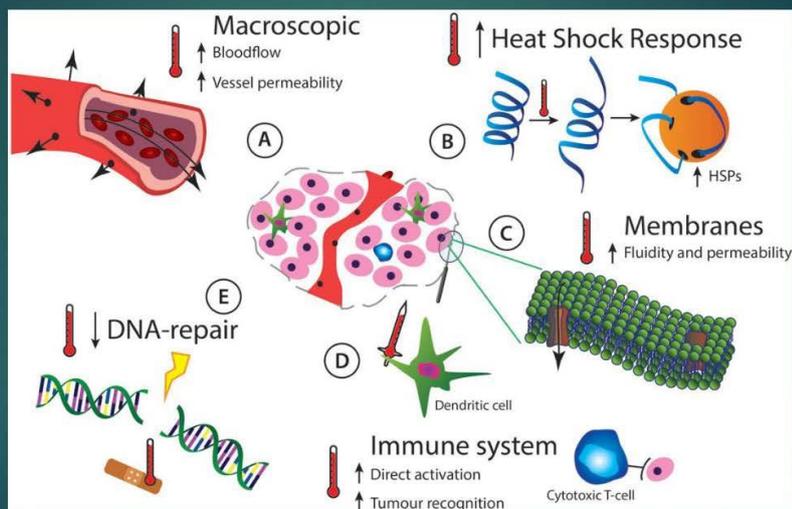
# Hyperthermia

3

- ▶ Hyperthermia is a condition in which the heat generated in the body cannot be dissipated by the natural thermoregulatory mechanisms. It can be induced both naturally and artificially.
- ▶ We increase the temperature in tissues from 41 to 44 °C for 30-60 minutes. It is applied once a week for several weeks. The heat is often induced by alternating electromagnetic fields.
- ▶ Hyperthermia is used in combination with chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

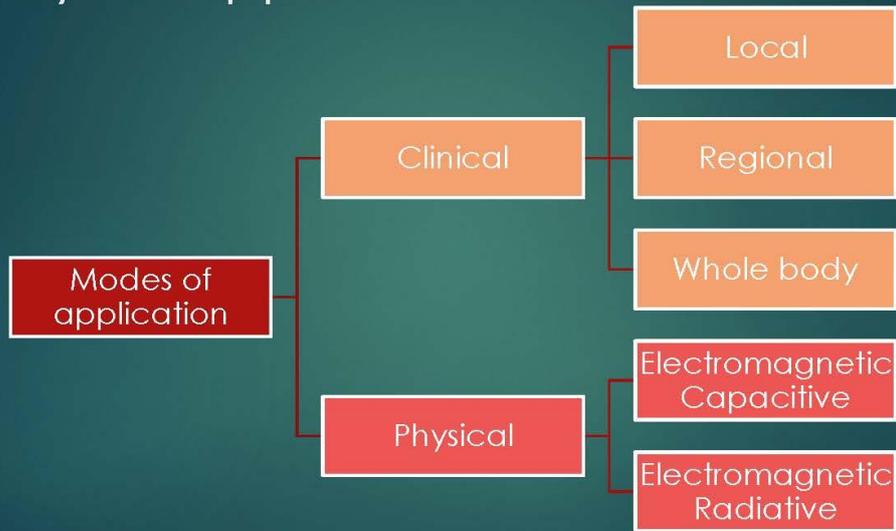
# Biological background of hyperthermia

4



# Ways of application

5



# Ways of application

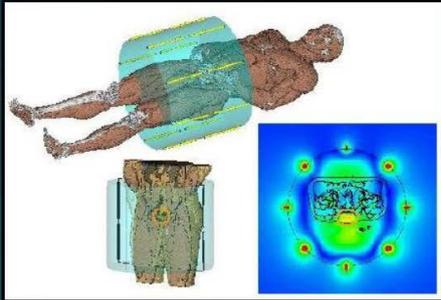
6



The device EHY-2030 which is used in local capacitive hyperthermia (<http://www.hot-oncotherm.com/about/>)

## Ways of application

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The application of regional hyperthermia (electromagnetic radiative) with the assist of ring dipole array.



The device WBH2000 for the application of whole body hyperthermia (infrared).

## Treatment planning

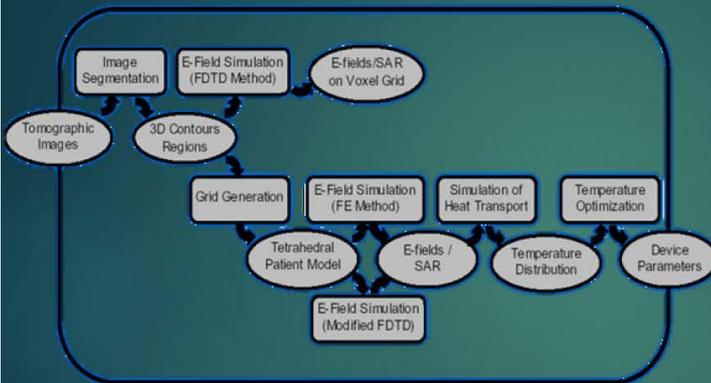
8

- ▶ **The main purpose:** To locate the exact place of **hot spots** and **cold spots**.  
This is crucial as the power is limited in great values because it causes pain in the patient.
  - Treatment planning involves the solution of systems of differential equations of some derivatives with numerical techniques because the propagation of electromagnetic radiation in human tissues is a complex phenomenon.
  - The propagation of electromagnetic radiation in human tissues is can be solved by solving Maxwell's equations numerically.
- ▶ **Result:** Finding the distribution of the electric field in tissues from which we calculate the distribution of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR).

SAR is the deposited electromagnetic power per unit mass of tissue [W / Kg].

# Treatment Planning

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## Maxwell's equations (radiative hyperthermia)

$$\begin{aligned} \nabla \times \vec{E} &= -\frac{\partial \vec{B}}{\partial t} - \vec{J}_m = -\mu_o \mu_r \frac{\partial \vec{H}}{\partial t} - \vec{J}_m \\ \nabla \times \vec{H} &= \vec{J} + \epsilon_o \epsilon_r \frac{\partial \vec{E}}{\partial t} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{H} &= \frac{\rho_m}{\mu_o \mu_r} \\ \nabla \cdot \vec{E} &= \frac{\rho}{\epsilon_o \epsilon_r} \end{aligned}$$

## Bioheat Transfer Equation (BHTE)

$$\rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = k \nabla^2 (T) - W_b c_b (T - T_b) + \sigma E^2 + Q_m$$

## Laplace's equation (capacitive hyperthermia)

$$\nabla[\sigma(\nabla V)] = 0$$

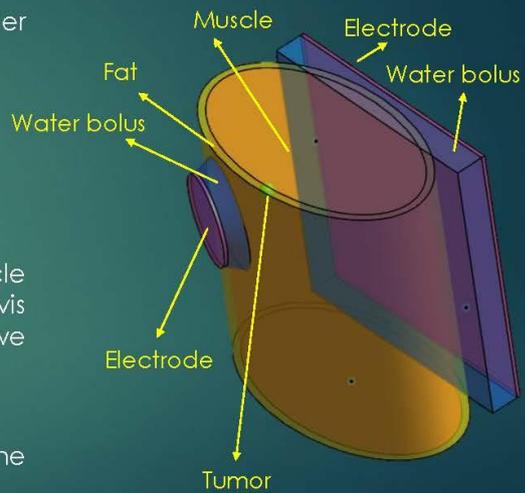
# Computational Study

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- ▶ A specific simulation platform was used in order to solve the problem:

**Sim4Life**

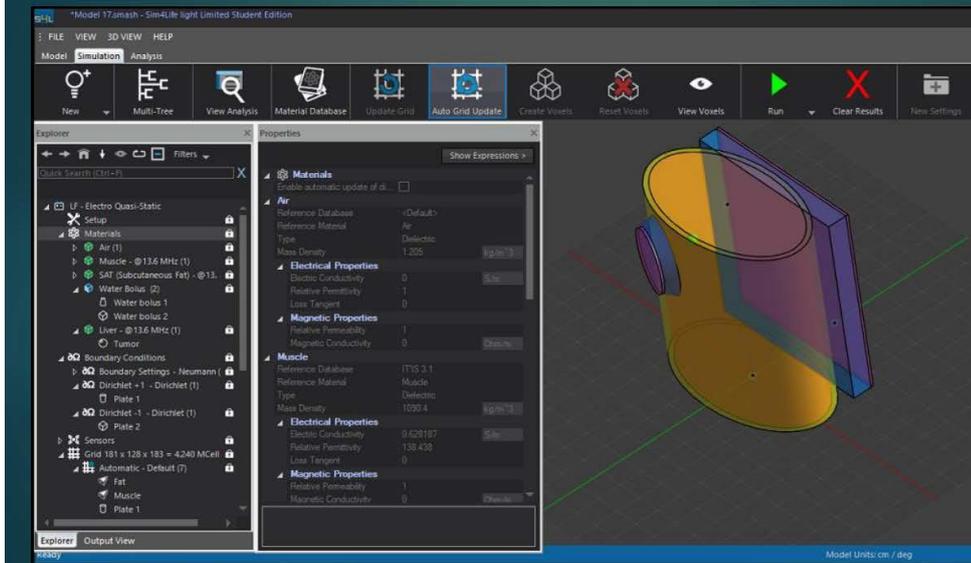
- ▶ We used the Finite Element Method (FEM)
- ▶ We created a homogenous model with muscle characteristics (from the chest area to the pelvis area) which externally consists of fat. Also we placed a tumor inside.
- ▶ In addition we installed two electrodes with the corresponding water boluses.



Model 1

# Computational Study

11



Sim4Life light  
4.4.2.3851

# Computational Study – Electrical Analysis

12

□ **Table 1.** Dielectric properties of the different parts of the model.

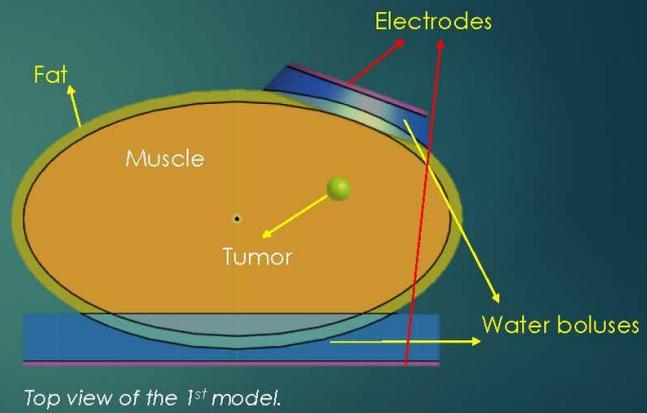
Body part	Density $\rho$ (kg/ m <sup>3</sup> )	Electric Conductivity $\sigma_e$ (S/m)	Relative permittivity $\epsilon'$
Muscle	1090.4	0.63	138.4
Fat	911	0.05	25.4
Tumor	1078.8	0.34	181.2
Water Bolus	1000	2	76.5

Hasgall PA, Di Gennaro F, Baumgartner C, Neufeld E, Lloyd B, Gosselin MC, Payne D, Klingenböck A, Kuster N, "IT'IS Database for thermal and electromagnetic parameters of biological tissues," Version 4.0, May 15, 2018, DOI: 10.13099/VIP21000-04-0. <https://www.itis.swiss/database>

# 1<sup>st</sup> Model

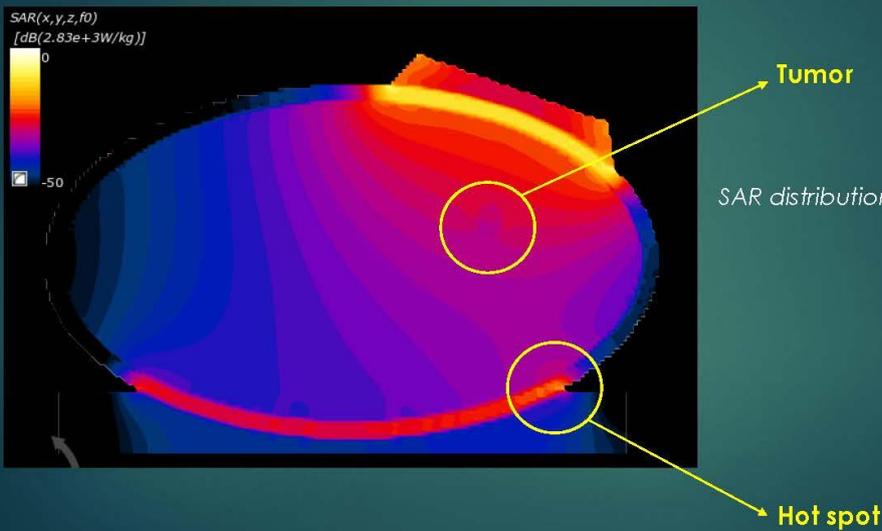
13

- **Voltage regulation:**  
Small circular electrode: **100 Volts**  
Large rectangular electrode: **0 Volts**
- Diameter of the small electrode: **25 cm**
- Tumor has the dielectric properties of liver and a radius of **2 cm**.



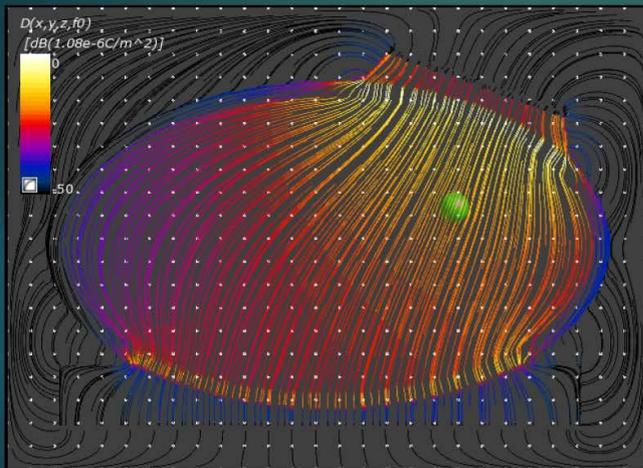
# 1<sup>st</sup> Model

14



## 1<sup>st</sup> Model

15



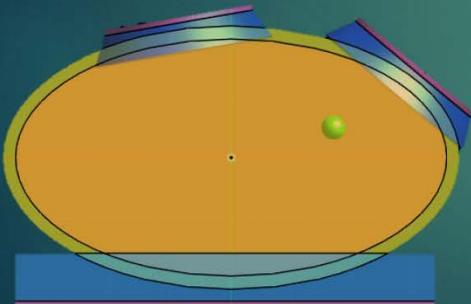
Electric field lines of the 1<sup>st</sup> model.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Model

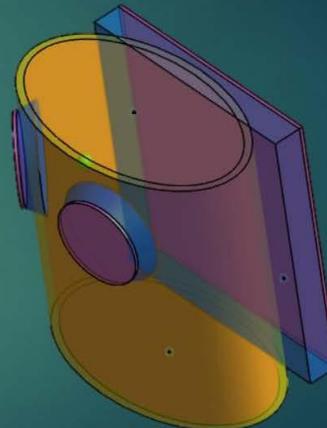
16

► Afterwards we did the same procedure by using 3 electrodes:

- 1<sup>st</sup> circular electrode: +100 Volts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> circular electrode: -100 Volts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> electrode (rectangular): 0 Volts

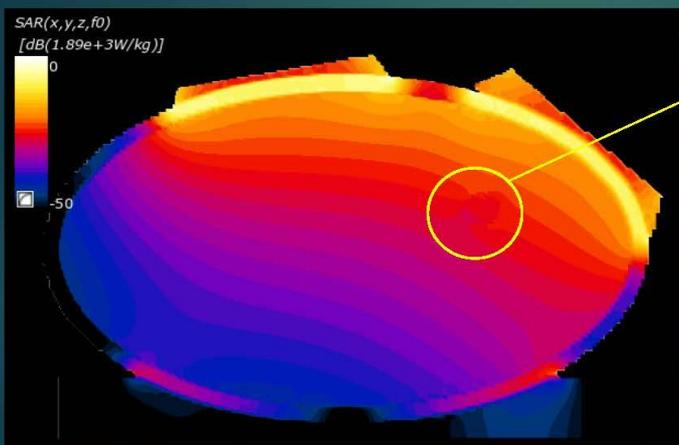


Top view of the 2<sup>nd</sup> model.



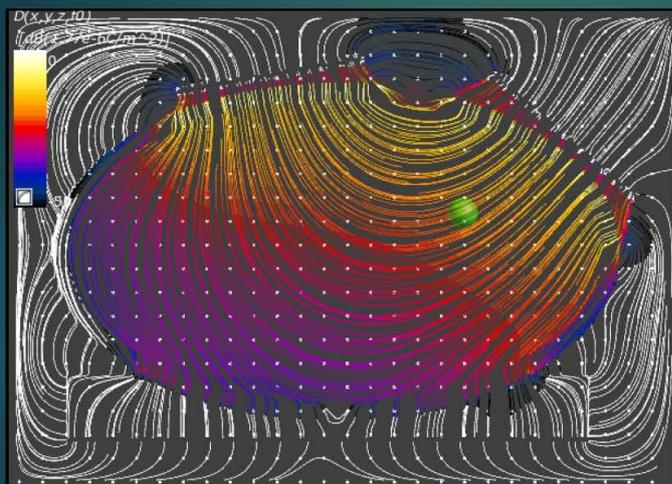
Model 2

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Model



Tumor  
SAR distribution in the 2<sup>nd</sup> model.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Model

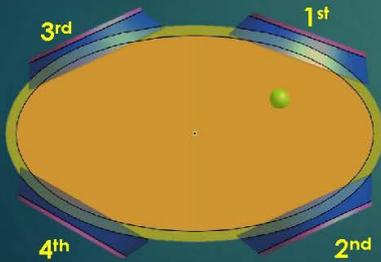


Electric field lines in the 2<sup>nd</sup> model.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Model

► Subsequently we replaced the large ground electrode with two small circular electrodes with the same dimensions ( $d = 25\text{ cm}$ ).

- 1<sup>st</sup> electrode: +100 Volts
- 2<sup>nd</sup> electrode: +100 Volts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> electrode: 0 Volts
- 4<sup>th</sup> electrode: 0 Volts

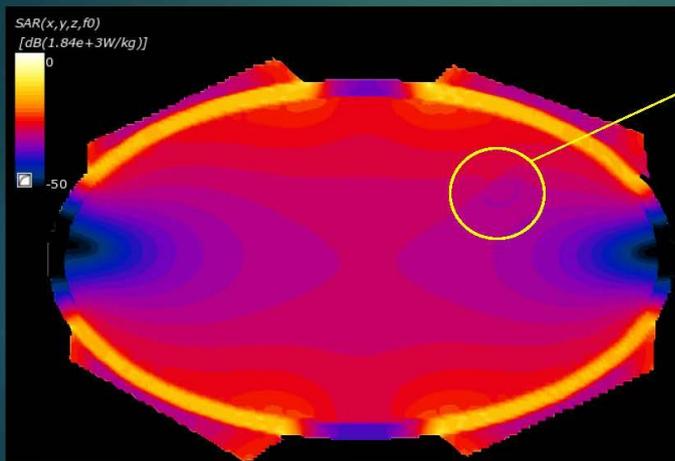


Top view of the 3<sup>rd</sup> model.



Model 3

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Model

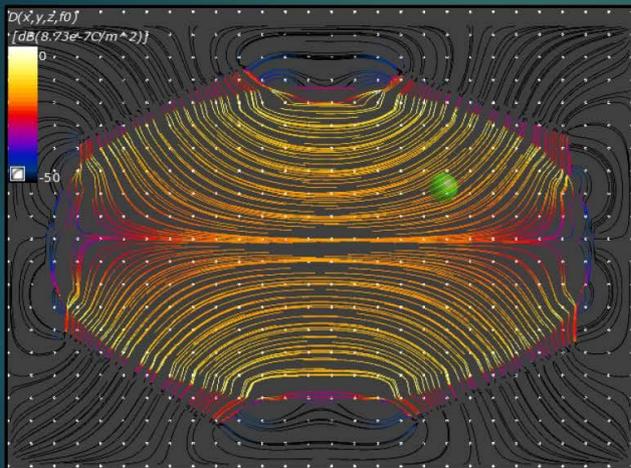


Tumor

SAR distribution in the 3<sup>rd</sup> model.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Model

21



Electric field lines in the 3<sup>rd</sup> model.

## Computational Study – Electrical Analysis

22

- ▶ The quantity we intended to compare in the three models is the maximum local SAR in the tumor per 100 Watts of total absorbed power.

$$\text{SAR}^{\text{max}} (\text{local}) \times 100 \text{ [(W/Kg)/100Wabs]}$$

- **Table 2.** The results of the three previous models

Model	Number of electrodes	SAR <sup>max</sup> (local) in tumor [W/kg]	SAR <sup>max</sup> (local)x100 [(W/kg)/100Wabs]
1 <sup>st</sup>	2	3.71	0.69
2 <sup>nd</sup>	3	6.33	0.52
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	2.04	0.37

# Could we improve these results ?

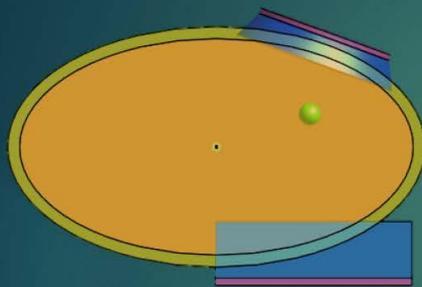
23

- While it may seem easy at first, raising the temperature inside the body by external means is quite a difficult task. Hot spots greatly limit the deposited power to tumors deep in the body.
- To improve the effect of hyperthermia we can reduce the size of the electrode (and water bolus) on the back of the patient, thereby forcing the field to pass through the tumor as much as possible.
- In the last model we used 2 electrodes. One is the same circular as before and the other is square with a side of 35 cm.



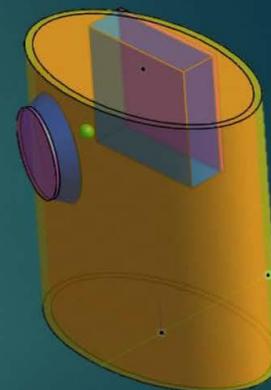
# The Final Model

24



- Circular electrode: +100 Volts
- Square electrode: 0 Volts

Top view of the 4<sup>th</sup> model.



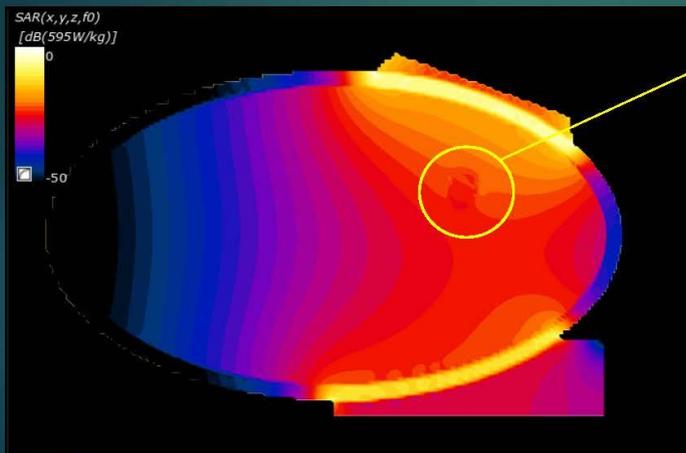
Model 4

**Table 3.** The results of the final (4<sup>th</sup>) model.

Model	Number of electrodes	SAR <sup>max</sup> (local) in tumor [W/kg]	SAR <sup>max</sup> (local) x 100 [(W/kg)/100Wabs]
4 <sup>th</sup>	2	2.98	0.78

# The Final Model

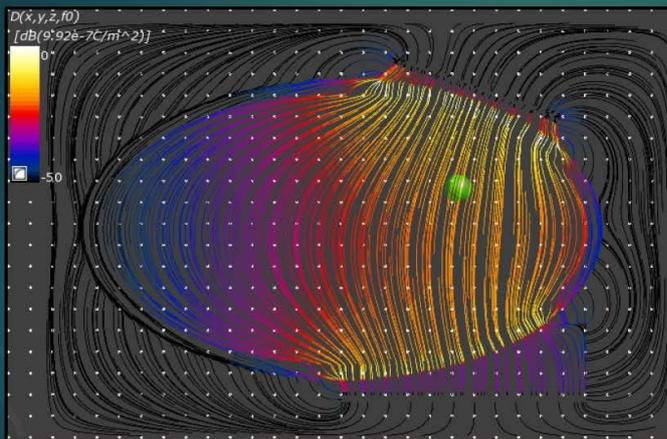
25



SAR distribution in the 4<sup>th</sup> model.

# The Final Model

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Electric field lines in the 4<sup>th</sup> model.

# Computational Study - Thermal Analysis

27

- ▶ Having analyzed all those models, the most efficient was the last one. This particular structure and placement of the electrodes results in better distribution of the electric field and maximizes SAR in the tumor region. Thus, the thermal analysis was made for the final (4<sup>th</sup>) model.

□ **Table 3.** Thermal properties of the different parts of the model.

Body Part	Specific heat capacity (J/kg/K)	Thermal Conductivity (w/m/K)	Heat generation rate (W/kg)	Blood perfusion rate (ml/min/kg)
Muscle	3421.2	0.49	0.90	36.73
Fat	2348.3	0.21	0.50	32.70
Tumor	4181.3	0.56	0	0

Hasgall PA, Di Gennaro F, Baumgartner C, Neufeld E, Lloyd B, Gosselin MC, Payne D, Klingenböck A, Kuster N, "IT'IS Database for thermal and electromagnetic parameters of biological tissues," Version 4.0, May 15, 2018, DOI: 10.13099/VIP21000-04-0. [it.is.swiss/database](http://it.is.swiss/database)

# Computational Study – Thermal Analysis

28

- ▶ For the thermal analysis 4 different simulations were created. The simulation ran for two different power settings. The first one was for **400W** total absorbed power and the second one was for **1000W** total absorbed power. The simulation ran for different settings in boundary conditions on the surface of the body. At first we used **Dirichlet** boundary type and afterwards we used **Mixed** boundary type.

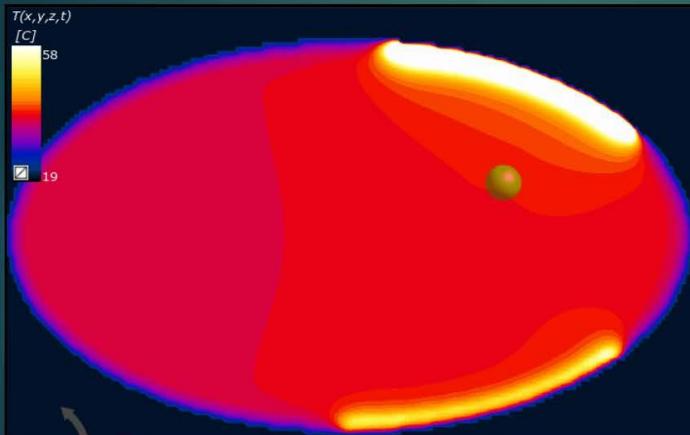
□ **Table 4.** Temperature in the tumor for different power (W) and boundary settings

Thermal Simulation	Absorbed power (W)	Boundary condition	Tumor temperature (°C)
1	1000	Dirichlet	37-39
2	1000	Mixed	40-41
3	400	Dirichlet	37.7-39
4	400	Mixed	37-38.8



## Computational Study – Thermal Analysis

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Temperature distribution in the 4<sup>th</sup> model with mixed boundary type and power of 1000W.

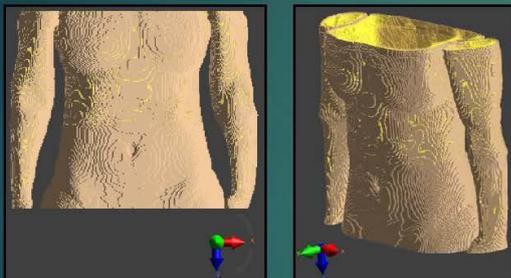
Limiting hot spots: Fat temperature 58 °C

Tumor temperature : 40 – 41 °C

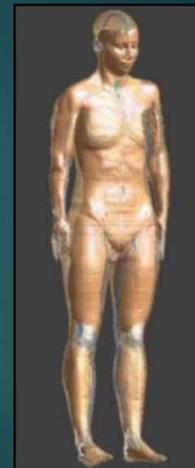
## Application in a realistic model

30

- In order to understand better the effects of regional RF capacitive hyperthermia in human tissues, a computable high resolution human model was necessary to be studied.



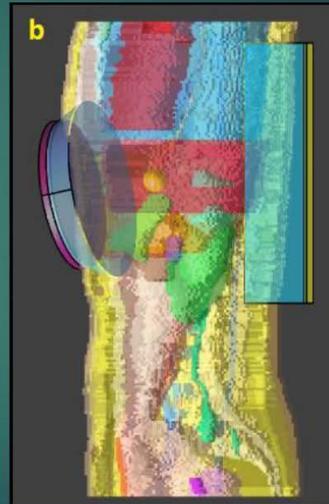
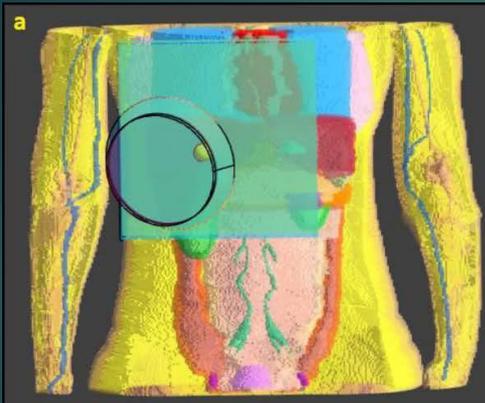
The new processed model of Ella from the upper breast area to the area of the pelvis. Skin, subcutaneous fat and fat can be observed.



The high resolution human model of Ella from Virtual Family by the ITIS Foundation.

# Application in a realistic model

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The whole structure of the model with the electrodes and water boluses. a) A front view of the model b) A side view of the model

# Application in a realistic model

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□ **Table 5.** Dielectric properties of the realistic model Ella

Body part	Density $\rho$ (kg/ m <sup>3</sup> )	Electric Conductivity $\sigma_e$ (S/m)	Relative permittivity $\epsilon'$
Muscle	1090.4	0.62	138.4
Liver	1078.7	0.33	181.2
Subcutaneous fat	911	0.05	25.3
Tumor	1078.7	0.76	181.2
Skin	1109	0.23	285.2

Hasgall PA, Di Gennaro F, Baumgartner C, Neufeld E, Lloyd B, Gosselin MC, Payne D, Klingenböck A, Kuster N, "IT'IS Database for thermal and electromagnetic parameters of biological tissues," Version 4.0, May 15, 2018, DOI: 10.13099/VIP21000-04-0. [itis.swiss/database](https://www.itis.swiss/database)

## Application in a realistic model

33

□ **Table 6.** Thermal properties of the realistic model Ella.

Body Part of Ella	Specific heat capacity (J/kg/K)	Thermal Conductivity (w/m/K)	Heat generation rate (W/kg)	Blood perfusion rate (ml/min/kg)
Muscle	3421.2	0.49	0.90	36.7
Liver	3540.2	0.51	9.93	860.4
Subcutaneous fat	2348.3	0.21	0.50	32.7
Tumor [1],[2]	3437	0.56	12	0
Skin	3390.5	0.37	1.64	106.3

Hasgall PA, Di Gennaro F, Baumgartner C, Neufeld E, Lloyd B, Gosselin MC, Payne D, Klingeböck A, Kuster N, "IT'IS Database for thermal and electromagnetic parameters of biological tissues," Version 4.0, May 15, 2018, DOI: 10.13099/VIP21000-04-0. [itis.swiss/databse](https://www.itis.swiss/databse)

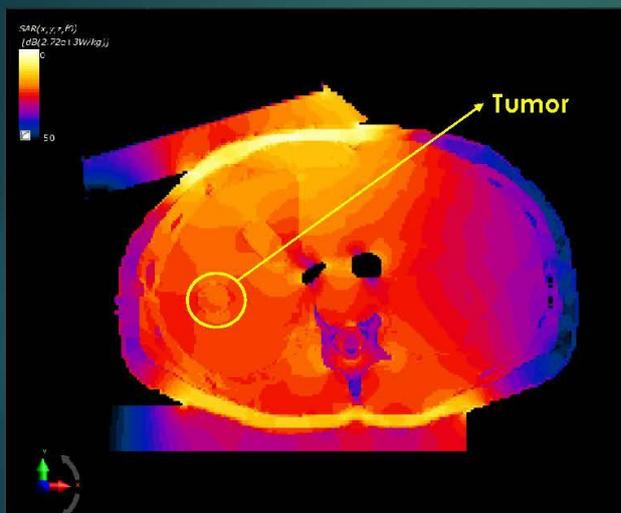
We wanted a primary tumor (not metastasis) in the liver, we left all of its properties (dielectric and thermal) unaffected and changed only the electrical conductivity to 0.76 S/m (liver cancer).

[1] Dielectric properties of VX-2 versus normal liver tissue. S.R. Smith, K.R. Foster, and G.L. Wolf,., 1986, Vols. BME-33.

[2] Zoi, Sivva. Computational study of capacitive hyperthermia with realistic models . Thessaloniki : s.n., 2019.

## Application in a realistic model

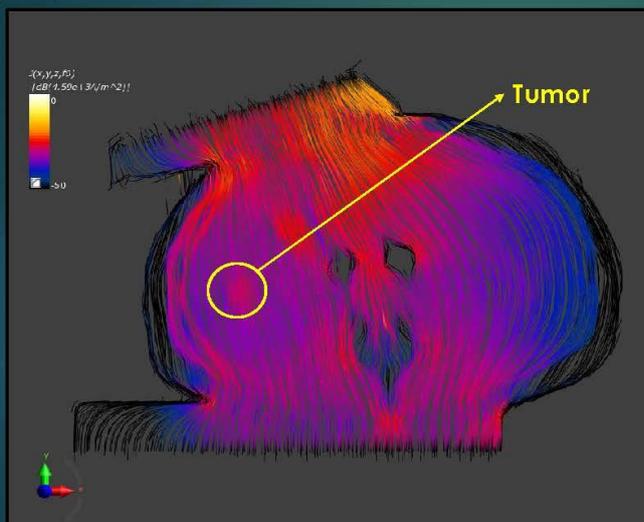
34



Specific Absorption Rate in Ella with the tumor marked (energy absorption in the tumor region) top view.

## Application in a realistic model

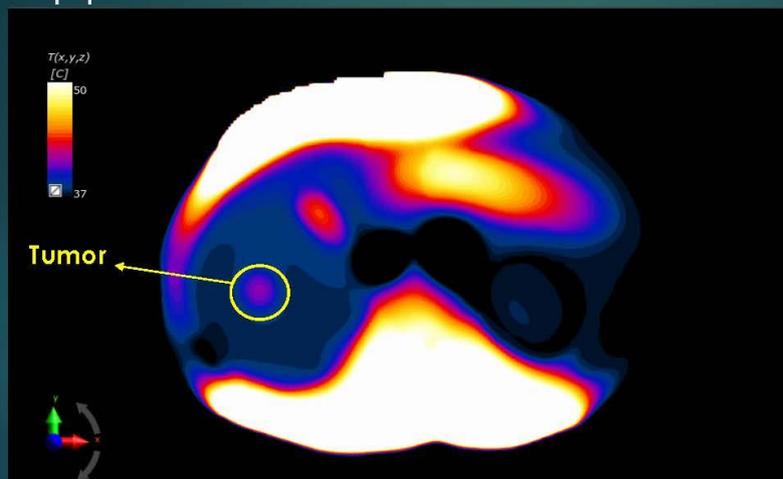
35



The electric field lines in Ella (top view).

## Application in a realistic model

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Temperature in the tumor region ranges between 41.5 and 42  $^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Temperature distribution in the realistic model of Ella (top view).

## Conclusions

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- ▶ Treatment planning is necessary in order to :
  - Increase power distribution inside the tumor region
  - Predict hot and cold spots
  
- ▶ Results obtained, concern only these particular homogenous models. They may change depending on the location, size and shape of the tumor.
  
- ▶ The optimum result occurred in the last homogenous model in which we had the maximum local SAR per 100 Watts of absorbed power.
  
- ▶ Through the electrical simulations it was confirmed that the number and size of the electrodes induce differences in electric field distribution thus in SAR and power distribution in the models.
  
- ▶ The structure and placement of the electrodes can be used in Ella but further investigation is necessary to be made in order to achieve the optimum result.

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Thank you for your attention

# **Efficacy and dose of local hyperthermia**

**Oliver Szasz**

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

**Cite this article as:**

Szasz O. (2019): Efficacy and dose of local hyperthermia, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 29- 41  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Efficacy\\_and\\_dose\\_of\\_local\\_hyperthermia.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Efficacy_and_dose_of_local_hyperthermia.pdf)

Hyperthermia in oncology is based on energy-absorption from electromagnetic or mechanical sources. The specific absorption rate (SAR) measures the absorbed power (W/kg), and its multiplication by the duration of application in seconds gives the absorbed energy (J/kg). The dose is directly the absorbed energy, but in most of the applications, it is not a measurable parameter, due to the low efficacy of the absorption. The efficacy depends on the technical solution of the coupling of energy-source to the target, the surface cooling, and energy losses by the transmission, including the reflected power. The temperature is a consequence of the energy-absorption, and it depends on the thermal homeostatic activity of the targeted tissue.

Consequently, the inaccuracy of the SAR is mostly a technical problem, while the inaccuracy of the temperature is mainly physiological. The SAR is the source of the desired changes in the target, so it must be measured or at least estimated for dosing the local hyperthermia. The measured temperature is only an orienting parameter about the absorbed energy, and from that, we may calculate the SAR when otherwise it is not measurable. The planning is more straightforward; the SAR calculation with planning is a direct task, it is not necessary to transform it to the temperature of the target. This way the clue of dosing of local hyperthermia is the efficacy of the energy-targeting, making it possible to measure the applied dose with eligible accuracy. This approach needs well designed and controlled coupling for energy transfer to the tissue. My objective is to discuss the conditions of this request



## Efficacy and dose of local hyperthermia

**Oliver Szasz, Ph.D.**  
Associate Professor, St. Istvan University  
CEO of Oncotherm Group



### Outline

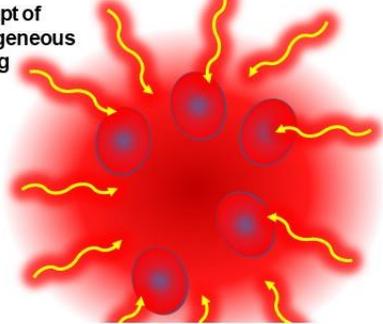
#### Our goal:

**show a connection between the efficacy of the treating device  
and the  
measured dose vs measured temperature**

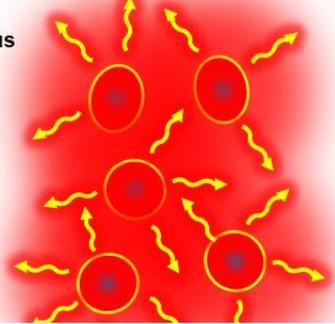
- The heating problem of heterogenic tumors
- The heating efficacy of hyperthermia
- The dose of hyperthermia
- Take-home message

## Electromagnetic focus

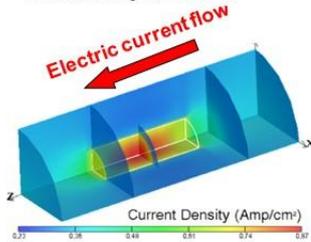
Concept of homogeneous heating



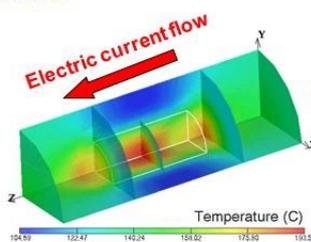
Concept of heterogeneous heating



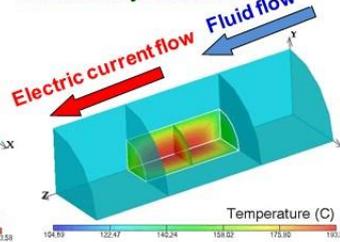
Electric current flows around the two times higher conductivity insertion



Static (not flowing) fluid around the two times higher conductivity insertion



Dynamic (flowing) fluid around the two times higher conductivity insertion



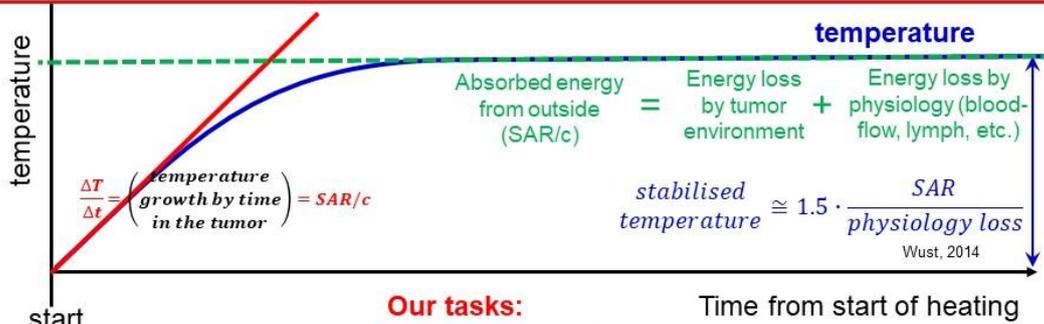
S. Salengke, S.K. Sastry: FDA approved research

## Challenge of the dose of oncological hyperthermia

**Pennes' equation** We use its simplified description:

**SAR = Specific Absorption Rate**  
**c = specific heat = constant**

$$\frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t} = \text{Temperature growth by time in the tumor} = \text{Absorbed energy from outside (SAR/c)} - \text{Energy loss by tumor environment} - \text{Energy loss by physiology (blood-flow, lymph, etc.)}$$

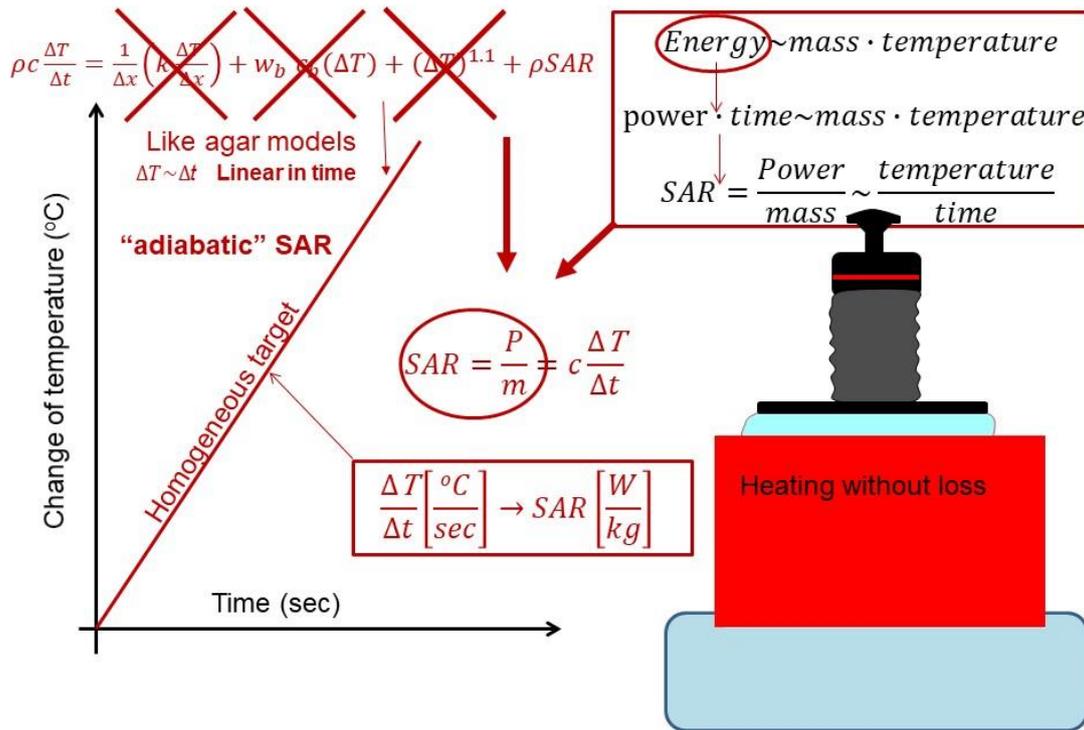


### Our tasks:

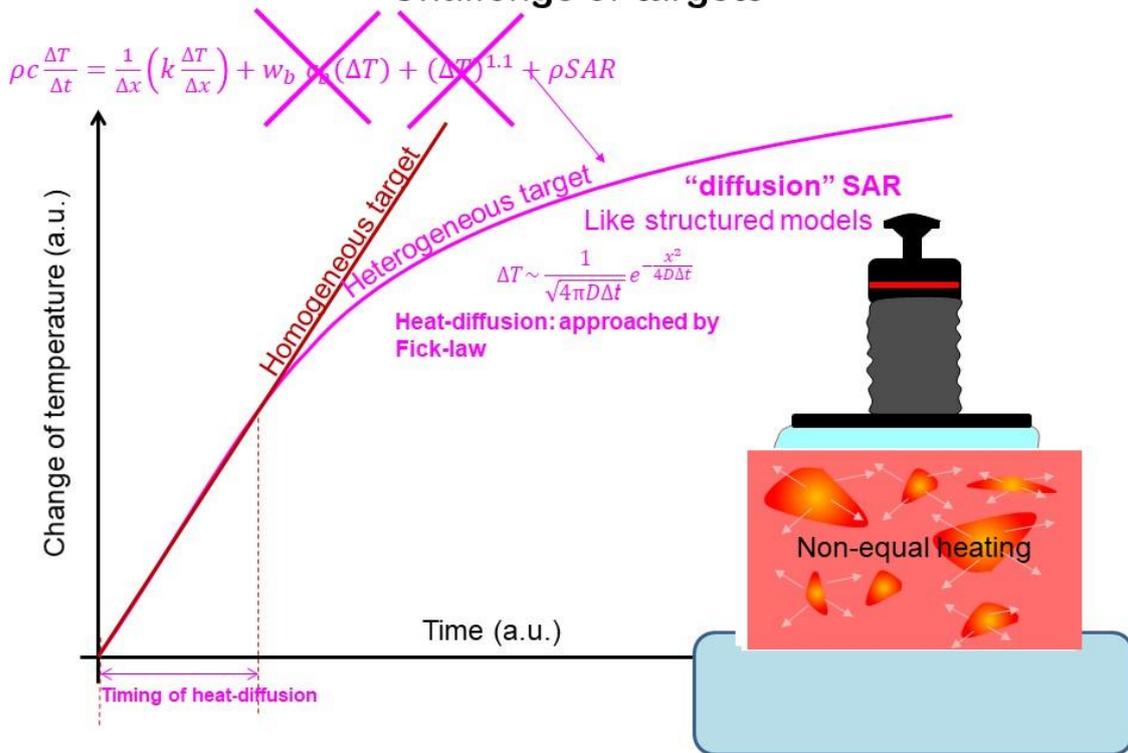
1. Keep the time-dependent part (SAR/c) large
2. Keep the environmental and physiology part small
3. Measure the dose is absorbed energy:

measured in Gy (J/kg) (like in ionizing radiation)  $\nearrow$   $AE = \sum_{\text{steady-state}} c \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t}$

## Challenge of targets

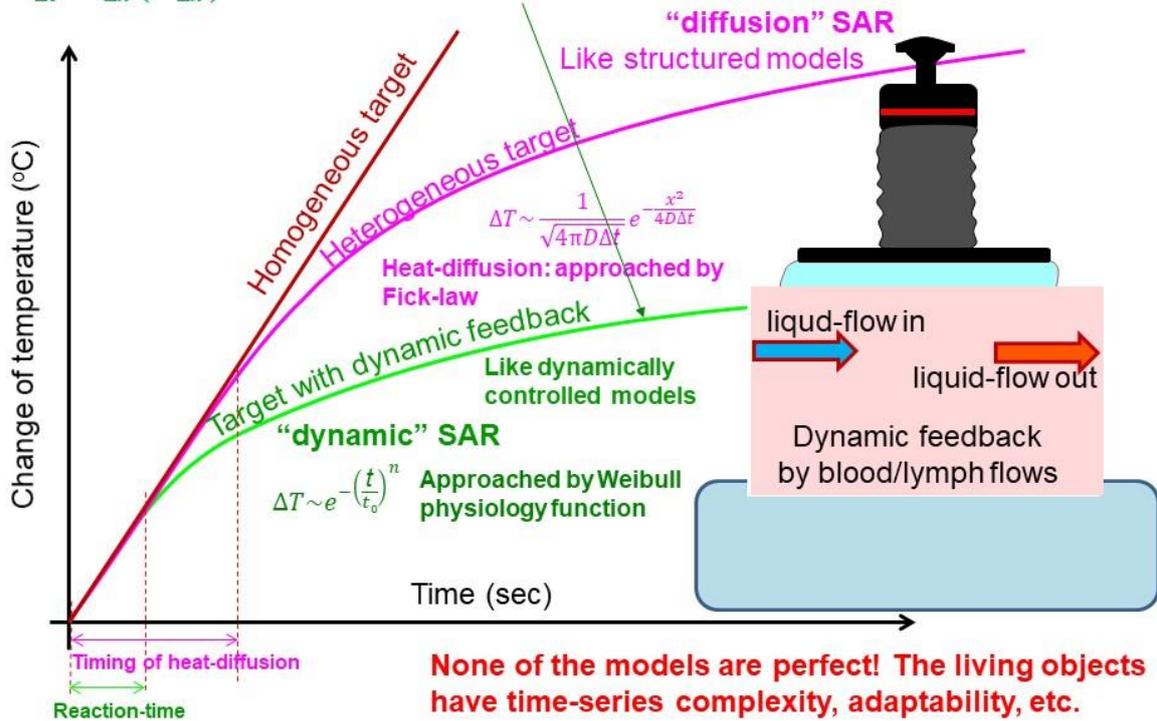


## Challenge of targets



## Challenge of targets

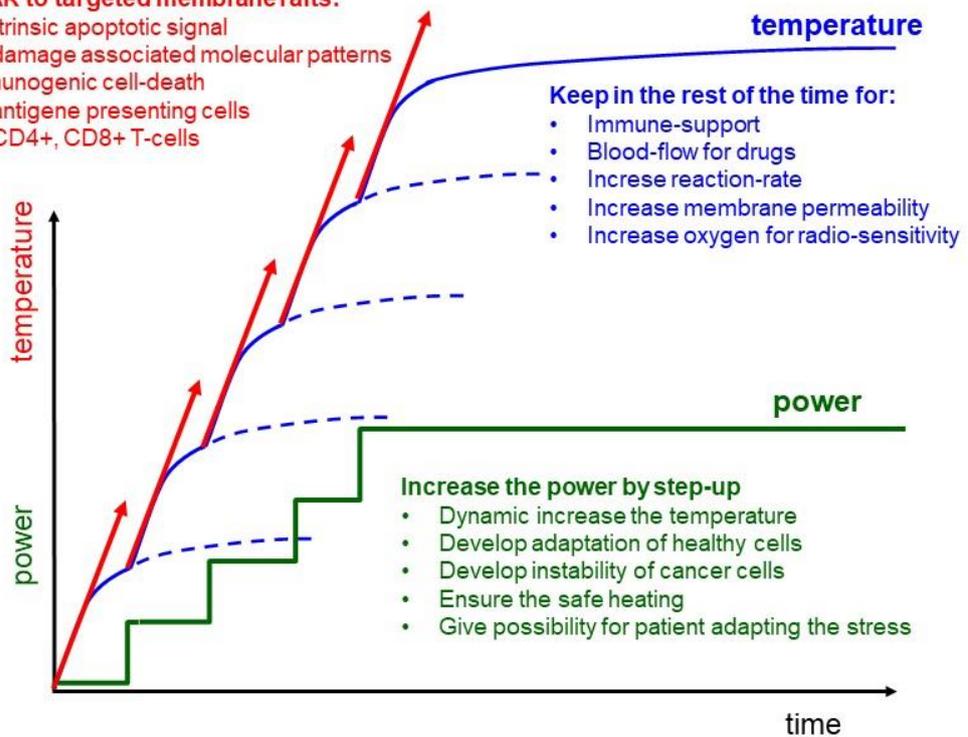
$$\rho c \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta t} = \frac{1}{\Delta x} \left( k \frac{\Delta T}{\Delta x} \right) + w_b c_b (\Delta T) + (\Delta T)^{1.1} + \rho SAR$$



## Our goal is completed by step-up heating

### Force the SAR to targeted membrane rafts:

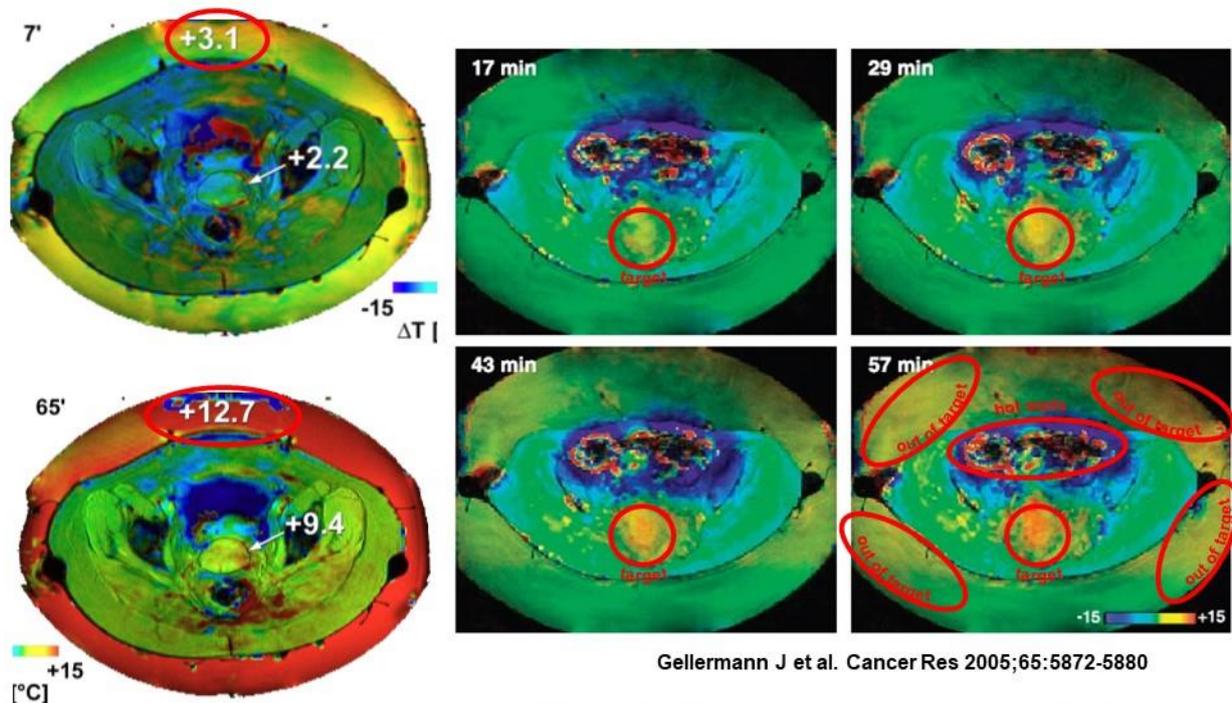
- Induce extrinsic apoptotic signal
- Produce damage associated molecular patterns
- Form immunogenic cell-death
- Produce antigene presenting cells
- Produce CD4+, CD8+ T-cells



## Outline

- The heating problem of heterogenic tumors
- The heating efficacy of hyperthermia
- The dose of hyperthermia
- Take-home message

### Heterogeneity in large scale

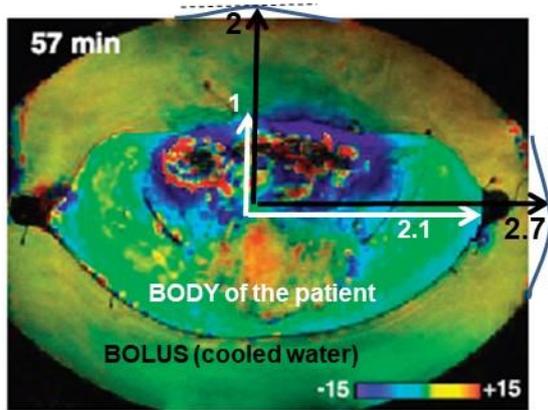


RECENT ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY AND  
TECHNIQUE OF RF HYPERTHERMIA, Włodarczyk W,  
Wust P, Seebass M, Gellermann J, Nadobny J. (Charite  
University Clinic, Berlin)

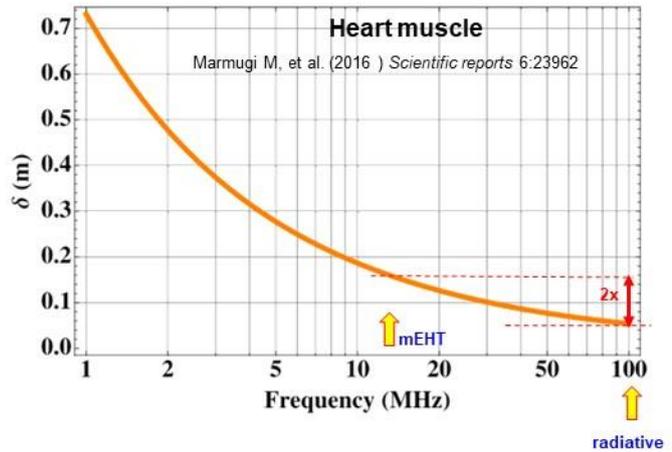
The water-bolus is heated more than the tumor.  
It looks like a hot-bath.

# How much energy is absorbed in the tumor?

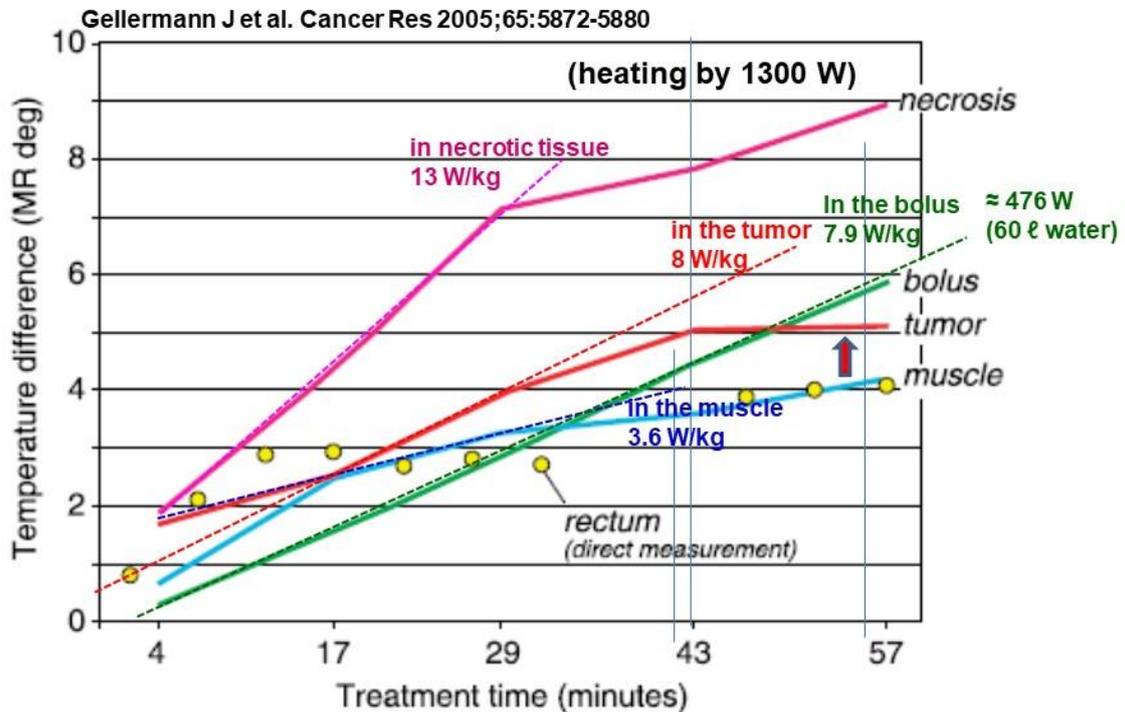
Gellermann, J. et al. (2005) *Cancer Research* 65:5872-5880.



Volume of the bolus is larger than the volume of the body-part by **157%**



# How much energy is absorbed in the tumor?



## Factors of energy losses

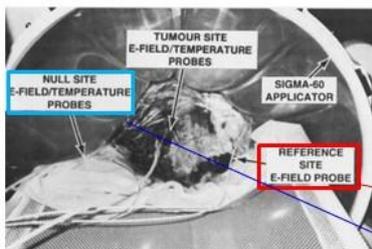
- Radiation into the air (shielding is necessary)
- Cooling of the surface by large amount of water
- The thick bolus absorbs most of the energy
- The impedances for the proper surface match takes out energy

### Consequences

1. The energy can not be used like it is in the case of ionizing radiation
2. The **efficacy** of the energy-absorption (**eliminate the losses**) must be drastically increased to use the absorbed energy as dose

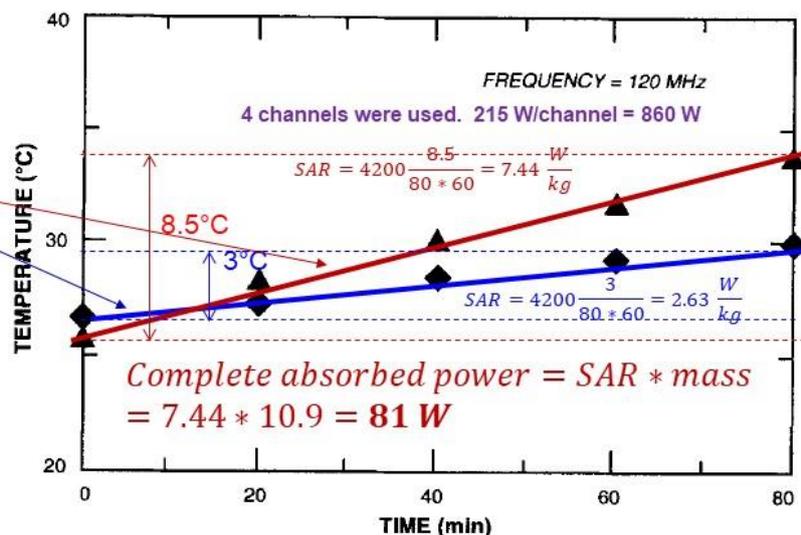
## Energy loss: Serious technical challenge

### Temperature measurement in a phantom



Efficacy of heating < 10%

Fenn AJ, King GA. Adaptive radiofrequency hyperthermia-phased array system for improved cancer therapy: phantom target measurements. *Int. J. Hyperthermia*. 10:189-208 (1994)



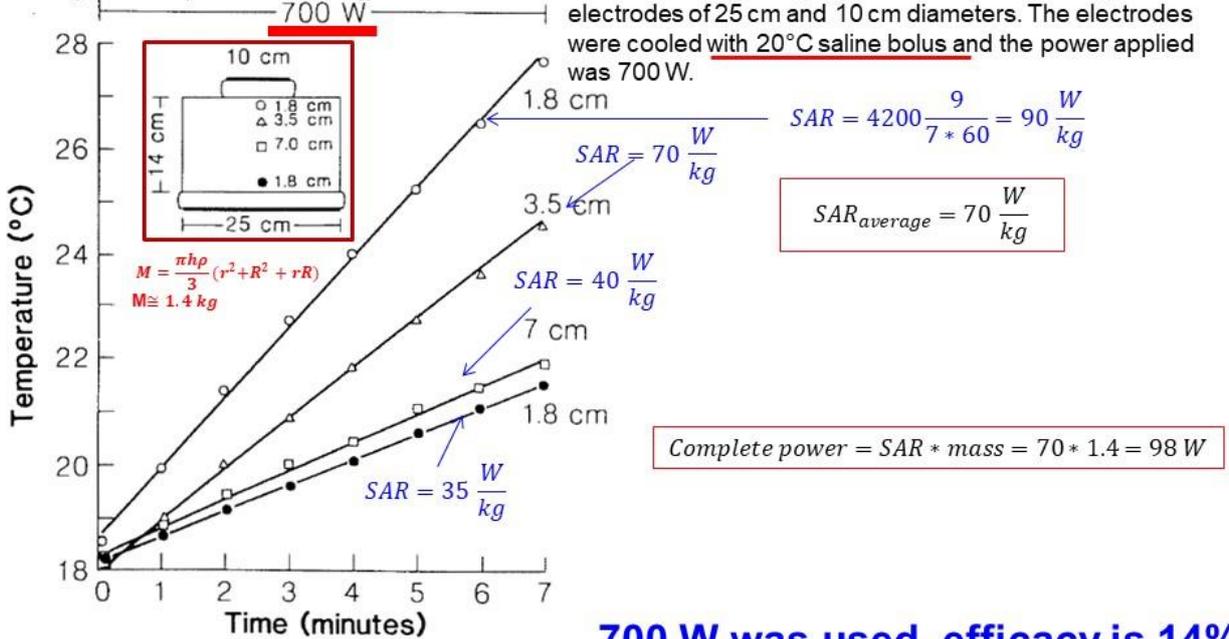
Here the measurement of the **temperature** is the **only way to approximate** the absorbed energy

## Energy loss measurement: Thermotron

Agar gel mass density is  $0.999 \pm 0.004$  kg/liter

Liliana Aranda-Lara, Eugenio Torres-García, Rigoberto Oros-Pantoja. Biological Tissue Modeling with Agar Gel Phantom for Radiation Dosimetry of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ . Open Journal of Radiology. 2014. 4. 44-52

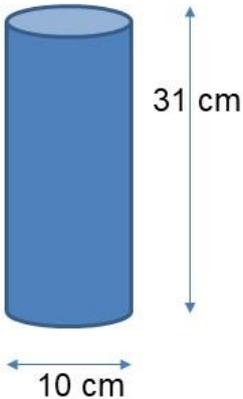
The changes in temperature at varying depths along the central axis of cylindrical agar phantom of 25 cm diameter and 14 cm thick. The phantom was heated with a pair of electrodes of 25 cm and 10 cm diameters. The electrodes were cooled with 20°C saline bolus and the power applied was 700 W.



**700 W was used, efficacy is 14%**

Song CW, Rhee JG, Lee CKK, Levitt SH. Capacitive heating of phantom and human tumors with an 8 MHz radiofrequency applicator (Thermotron rf-8). Int. J. Radiation Oncology Biol. Phys. 12:365-372

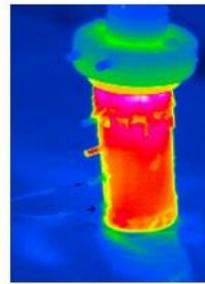
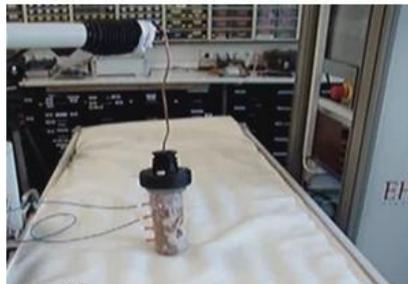
## Energy loss of oncotherm: chopped meat phantom



Mass of meat = 2.3 kg

Mean-energy =  $2.3 \text{ kg} * 40 \frac{W}{kg} = 92 \text{ W}$

**Efficacy = 92%**



Nagy G, Meggyeshazi N, Szasz O (2013) Deep temperature measurements in oncothermia processes. Hindawi ;Conference Papers in Medicine. Volume 2013. Article ID 685264



## Outline

- The heating problem of heterogenic tumors
- The heating efficacy of hyperthermia
- The dose of hyperthermia
- Take-home message

### The energy dose in clinical applications

Clinically we have to destroy the tumor, kill the tumor-cells.

With high, overall homogeneous heating (high CEM43°CT<sub>100</sub>) the goal is necrosis.

This kills the tumor-cells locally and the tumor vanishes when the temperature is high enough.

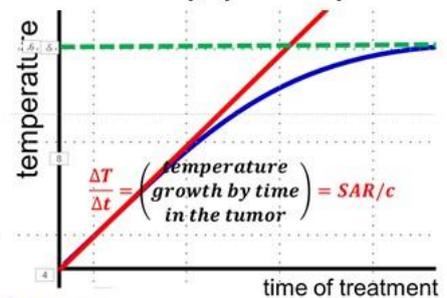
The only local elimination of malignancy gives good local control, however the malignancy is systemic.

Special apoptotic process (immunogenic cell-death, ICD) gives possibility to show the genetic information for immune-cells unhurt and train the system to fight all over the body, systemically.

The overall homogeneous heating is not selective, we need dynamic energy absorption instead of the static keeping of the temperature

To maintain the ICD the highly effective selective excitation of apoptotic signal pathways is necessary.

For control we must reduce the energy loss to available minimum, being sure, that the energy measures the real absorption in the target.



In case when the energy is mostly in the target, the dose is the provided energy.

SA (specific absorption) is defined in the standards, and it is the dose of heating

$$SA = \sum_N SAR(\tau) d\tau$$

**SA is a sum of the SAR  
provided in the sessions  
and summed to all sessions**

**measured in Gy (J/kg)  
(like in ionizing radiation)**

When the energy losses are considerable (the efficacy of the heating device is low) the temperature measurement is mandatory to control the only information about the energy absorption in the target.

## The energy dose by SAR fits to clinical data

Francena M, et al. Eur. J. Cancer, 45:1969-1978 (2009)

Custom made thermal dose parameter based on  $T_{50}$  and duration of heating

$$TRISE = \frac{1}{5 \times 90} \sum_{n=1}^{n=\max.} (T_{50} - 37^{\circ}C) \times dt$$

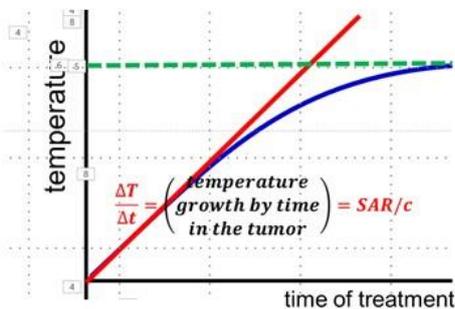
In mathematically correct form:

$$T_{rise} = n \sum_{time} \frac{[T_{50}(t) - 37^{\circ}C]}{t_s} \Delta t$$

↑ number of sessions      ↑ duration of session

The principle is similar to the correct (SAR-based) dose, the temperature rise in time interval.

The value of  $\frac{[T_{50}(t) - 37^{\circ}C]}{t_s}$  in careful step-up heating is a rough average of SAR,



**in fact SAR fits to clinical data**

$$T_{rise} \propto \sum_N SAR(\tau) d\tau$$

### Outline

- The heating problem of heterogenic tumors
- The heating efficacy of hyperthermia
- The dose of hyperthermia
- Take-home message

## Take home messages

My conclusion	My proposal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The heterogeneity of the heated tumor has special requests</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use careful step-up heating to optimize the energy-absorption in the target</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Apply technique with highly efficient energy-absorption facility</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The precise impedance matching allows to use the dose measured in J/kg (Gy)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use proper selection to direct the energy on the target</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use biophysical differences to target the cancer cells</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The deep targeted heating is a complex task, has to be combined with electric field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The effects of electric field on the cellular damage have to be considered</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The temperature is a condition of the optimizing of the effects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The temperature must be below the necrotic level</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ When the heating efficacy is small the temperature must be measured to have idea about the absorbed energy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Increase the heating preciosity for not necessity the temperature measurement</li> </ul>

## Outline

- ✓ The heating problem of heterogenic tumors
- ✓ The heating efficacy of hyperthermia
- ✓ The dose of hyperthermia
- ✓ Take-home message

**Thank you very much for your attention**

Grant support: NVKP\_16-1-2016-0042



# Modulated electro-hyperthermia for the treatment of relapsed brain tumors

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

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**Aim**

To motor the efficacy and safety of modulated electro-hyperthermia (mEHT) for the treatment of relapsed brain tumors.

**Methods**

We collected data retrospectively on 164 patients that were affected by recurrent malignant brain tumors: glioma and astrocytoma. Patients were included in the study if: informed consent signed, >18 years old, histological diagnosis of malignant glioma or astrocytoma, failure of previous temozolamide-based chemotherapy and radiotherapy, indication for treatment with mEHT as palliative setting.

mEHT was performed using a capacitive coupling technique that allowed to keep the skin surface at 26 C° and to reach 40-42.5 C° inside the tumor for > 90% of treatment duration (20-60 minutes) by applying a power of 40-150 Watts.

**Results**

The study sample included 164 patients with brain tumor, 115 of these (70%) had glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) and 50 (30%) had astrocytoma. mEHT was performed to 29 (25%) GBM and 28 (56%) of astrocytoma, whereas the remaining patients received the best supportive care (BSC).

Three months after mEHT, tumor response rate was 24% for GBM and 43% for astrocytoma, whereas it was 4% for GBM and 37% for astrocytoma for the BSC group. The median overall survival (OS) was 12 months (range 5-108) for GBM, and 17 months (6-156) for astrocytoma group. We observed 2 long-term survivors in the AST and 1 in the GBM group that were treated with mEHT.

**Conclusions**

mEHT may have promising efficacy for the treatment of relapsed malignant glioma and astrocytoma and can be a useful integrative therapy



37th Conference of the International Clinical Hyperthermia Society  
September 19-21, 2019



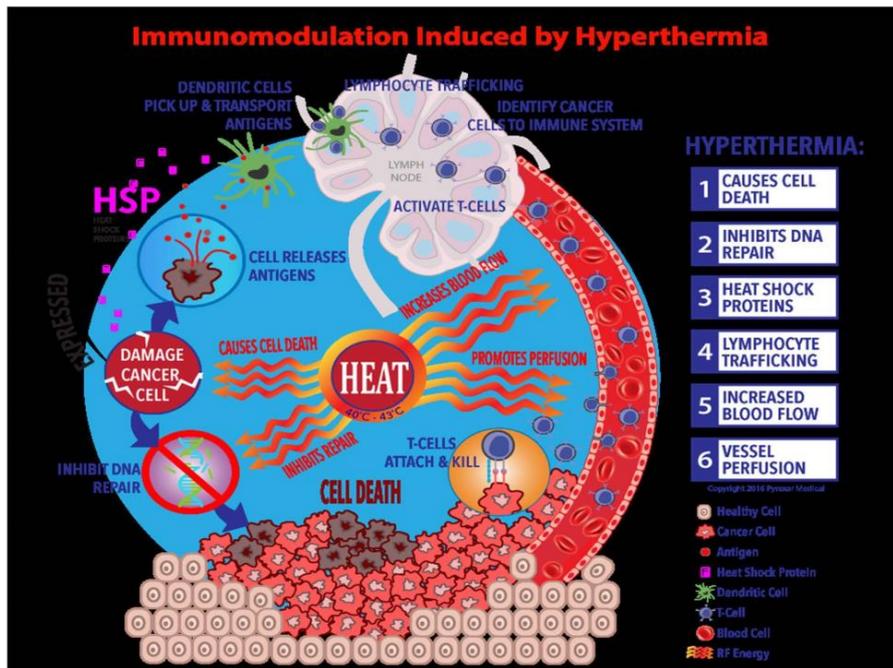
Θεσσαλονίκη  
Salonicco

# Modulated electrohyperthermia (mEHT) for the treatment of Relapsed Brain Tumors

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Italy





## BACKGROUND

- Malignant Gliomas (MG) Therapy with hyperthermia is approved by the Food and Drug Administration .
- Studies on MG with mEHT, which combines the heat-therapy with an electric field, suggest a new way for research.
- Experts had found the mEHT method is feasible for not only palliative but reported also evidence of therapeutic response

### **STUDIES WHERE HT SEEMS EFFECTIVE IN MG (I)**

- Radiofrequency hyperthermia is useful for malignant brain tumors (Tanaka R, 1987)
- Thermotherapy of recurrent malignant brain tumors is useful (Sneed 1992)
- Favourable effects of antineoplastic agents and hyperthermia on cytotoxicity toward chronically hypoxic glioma cells (Watanabe M, 1992)
- Survival benefit of hyperthermia in a prospective randomized trial of brachytherapy boost +/-hyperthermia for HG gliomas improves mOS with  $p = 0.008$ ; hazard ratio 0.51 (Sneed, 1998)

### **STUDIES WHERE HT SEEMS EFFECTIVE IN MG (II)**

- Concurrent hyperthermia and re-irradiation for recurrent high-grade gliomas suggested that is a safe and well-tolerated. (Heo J, Neoplasma, 2017)
- Hyperthermia induces translocation of apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF) and apoptosis in human glioma cell lines (Fukami T, 2004)
- Improving efficiency of adriamycin crossing blood brain barrier by combination of thermosensitive liposomes and hyperthermia (Gong W, 2011)
- Efficacy and safety of intratumoral thermotherapy using magnetic iron-oxide nanoparticles combined with radiotherapy on patients with recurrent HG glioma (Mair-Hauff K, 2011)

### **STUDIES WHERE HT SEEMS EFFECTIVE IN MG (III)**

- Non invasive intracranial hyperthermia with capacitive transference ECT intratumoral and cerebral thermometry gives favourable results (Ley-Valle, 2003) .
- Treatment of malignant glioma using hyperthermia (Sun J, 2013)
- Thermotherapy-induced reduction in glioma invasiveness is mediated by tumor necrosis factor-alpha. (Qin LJ, 2015)
- Enhanced Energy Localization in Hyperthermia Treatment Based on Hybrid Electromagnetic and Ultrasonic System: Proof of Concept with Numerical Simulations. (Nizam-Uddin N, 2017).
- Pulsed-wave low-dose ultrasound hyperthermia selectively enhances nanodrug delivery and improves antitumor efficacy for brain metastasis of breast cancer. (Wu SK, 2017)

### **STUDIES WHERE MEHT SEEMS EFFECTIVE IN MG (I)**

- Regional mEHT in combination with chemotherapy induces a mOS of 44,2 and 23,2 months in relapsed HG gliomas (Sahinbas, 2005) .
- Phase II clinical study on relapsed HG gliomas treated with mEHT reported a RR of 25% (Fiorentini, 2006).
- mEHT combined with alkylating drugs in relapsed HG gliomas reported that is tolerable and feasible ( Wismeth, 2010).
- Clinical and economic evaluation of mEHT concurrent to dose-dense temozolomide regimen in the treatment of recurrent glioblastoma: a retrospective analysis of a two-center German cohort trial with systematic comparison and effect-to-treatment analysis (Roussakov SV, 2017).

## **STUDIES WHERE MEHT SEEMS EFFECTIVE IN MG (III)**

mEHT inhibits glioma tumorigenicity through the induction of E2F1-mediated apoptosis. (Cha J, 2015, Int J Hyperthermia .

Retrospective observational Clinical Study on Relapsed Malignant Gliomas Treated with Electro-Hyperthermia (Fiorentini G, Int J Neurooncol Brain Tumors, Vol I, Issue 1, p11-13, 2017)

Modulated Electrohyperthermia in Integrative Cancer Treatment for Relapsed Malignant Glioblastoma and Astrocytoma: Retrospective Multicenter Controlled Study. (Fiorentini G, Integr Cancer Ther, 2019 Jan-Dec;18:1534735418812691).

# **AIM**

**to monitor the efficacy and safety of modulated electrohyperthermia (mEHT) for the treatment of relapsed brain tumors**

# METHODS

- we collected data retrospectively on 164 patients that were affected by recurrent malignant MG.
- Patients included if informed consent signed, >18 years old, GBM or astrocytoma, failure of previous temozolamide-based chemotherapy and radiotherapy, indication for treatment with mEHT as palliative setting.
- mEHT was performed using a capacitive coupling technique that allowed to keep the skin surface at 26 C

## Treatment parameters

Practical parameters	value
step-up power (from-to [W])	40-150
average energy-dose (kJ)	540
Therapeutic temperature (°C)	40-42.5
treatment time /session	60
treatment frequency (weakly)	3
treatment cycle (weeks)	8
follow-up time (months)	16

## Description of the sample

<b>Basic character (AST)</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Males</b>	24	48
<b>Females</b>	26	52
<b>mEHT treated</b>	29	58
<b>Historical control</b>	21	42
<b>Data AST group</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>MGMT methylated</b>	13	26
<b>MGMT non methylated</b>	13	26
<b>MGMT no data</b>	24	48
<b>IDH1 mutated</b>	15	30
<b>IDH1 wild type</b>	12	24
<b>IDH1 no data</b>	23	46

## Description of the sample

<b>Basic character (GBM)</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Males</b>	71	62.3
<b>Females</b>	43	37.7
<b>mEHT treated</b>	29	25.4
<b>Historical control</b>	85	74.6
<b>Data of GBM group</b>	<b>n</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>MGMT methylated</b>	26	22.8
<b>MGMT non methylated</b>	28	24.6
<b>MGMT no data</b>	60	52.6
<b>IDH1 mutated</b>	14	12.3
<b>IDH1 wild type</b>	20	17.5
<b>IDH1 no data</b>	80	70.2

# The complementary therapies

Complementary therapies	All	AST		GBM	
		mEHT	no mEHT	mEHT	no mEHT
BSC	32	9	3	18	2
RT	8	0	1	0	7
CHT	0	0	0	0	0
TMZ	5	1	1	0	3
RT+TMZ	66	1	10	1	54
CHT+TMZ	1	0	1	0	0
CHT+TMZ+RT	47	14	5	10	18
CHT+TMZ+RT+FOTEMUSTINE	1	1	0	0	0
CHT+TMZ+RT+ DOTATOC	2	1	0	0	1
ND	2	2	0	0	0

The abbreviations as follows: BSC – best supportive care including dexamethasone, 18% glycerol infusion, mannitol, holistic therapy and psychosocial support, RT – radiotherapy, CHT – chemotherapy with platinum derivatives, TMZ – temozolomide therapy, ND – no data.

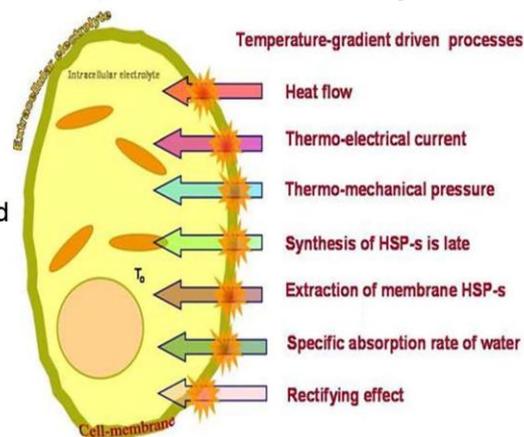
## ELECTRO - HYPERTHERMIA (TRANSLATIONAL)

### Regional non-invasive EHT

Selective killing effect to tumor cells – specific absorption and nano range heating ( Koga 1993, Head 2000, Szasz O. 2017)

Stimulation of natural killer cell-induced apoptosis based on activation of heat-shock-proteins (Young 1990, Multhoff 2005, Baronzio 2006)

Intratumoral reduction of micro-circulation (Yoshimasa 2001).



Regional EHT and ACNU have synergistic effects in a rat model (Schem, 1995)

Regional EHT plus chemotherapy have additive effects on inhibition of proliferation (Mella, 1990)

Regional EHT improves the antitumor effect of metronomic cyclophosphamide in a rat transplantable brain tumor (Borkamo 2008)

# ELECTRO HYPERTHERMIA



Treating area: **REGIONAL (Deep seated tumors)**  
Invasivity: **NON-INVASIVE**

# mEHT



Treating area: **Brain tumor (Pons site)**  
Invasivity: **NON-INVASIVE**

# mEHT



Treating area: **Brain tumor (frontal-parietal site)**

Invasivity: **NON-INVASIVE**

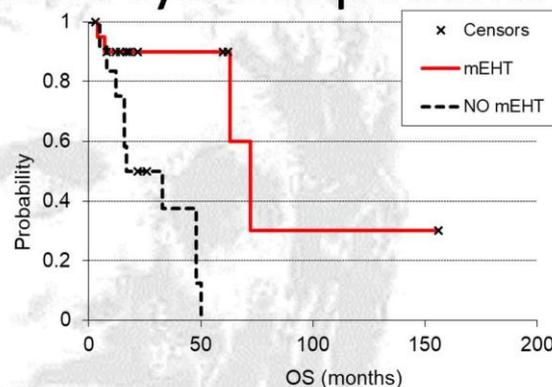
## RESULTS

- 164 consecutive patients with relapsed MG, 115 of these (70%) had GBM and 50 (30%) had astrocytoma.
- mEHT was performed to 29 (25%) GBM and 28 (56%) of astrocytoma, whereas the remaining patients received the best supportive care (BSC).
- Three months after mEHT, tumor response rate was 24% for GBM and 43% for astrocytoma, whereas it was 4% for GBM and 37% for astrocytoma for the BSC group.
- The median overall survival (OS) was 12 months (range 5-108) for GBM, and 17 months (6-156) for astrocytoma group. We observed 2 long-term survivors in the AST and 1 in the GBM group that were treated with mEHT.

## ASTRO response at three months

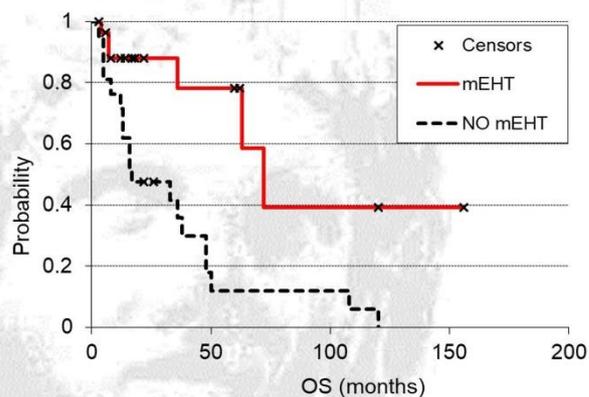
Response (AST)	mEHT		conventional		P-value
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	
CR	2	6.9	1	4.8	0.0004
PR	10	34.5	6	28.6	
SD	9	31	5	23.8	
PD	6	20.7	8	38.1	0.42
NO data	2	6.9	1	4.8	-
OS median (Range)	72	(3-156)	17	(3-120)	0.0006

## Duration of the response for astrocytoma patients



Median/Mean are 72/87.9 and 17/28.5 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results are statistically significant ( $p=0.00036$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 4/9.7 and 10/4.3 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively

## OS of the AST group

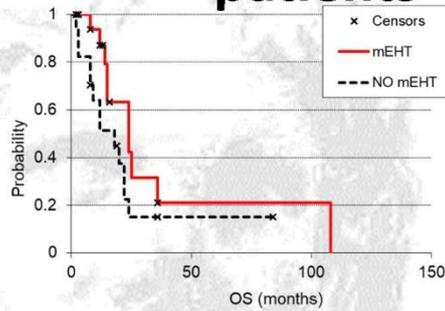


Median/Mean are 72/91.6 and 17/34 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results are statistically significant ( $p=0.0006$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 6/14.3 and 19/10.7 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively.

## GBM response at three months

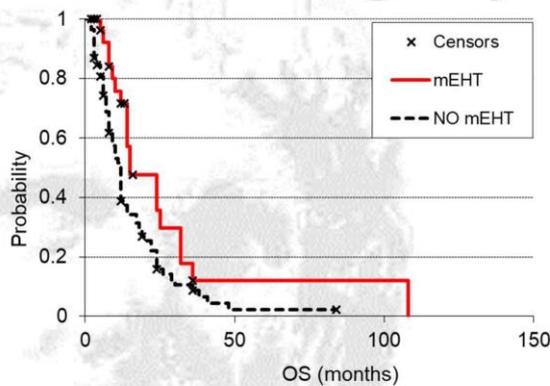
Response (GBM)	mEHT		conventional		P-value
	(n)	(%)	(n)	(%)	
CR	1	3.4	2	2.4	0.123
PR	6	20.7	2	2.4	
SD	11	37.9	13	15.3	
PD	11	37.9	63	74.1	0.858
NO data	0	0.0	5	5.9	-
OS median (Range)	15	(2-108)	12	(2-84)	0.026

## Duration of the response for GBM patients



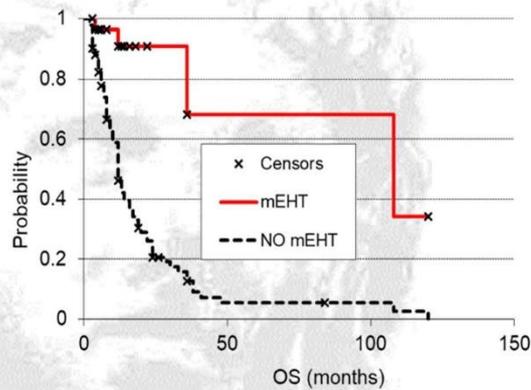
Median/Mean are 24/39.1 and 18/23.9 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results show the difference, but they are statistically not significant ( $p=0.123$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 10/13.4 and 13/9.6 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively.

## OS of GBM group



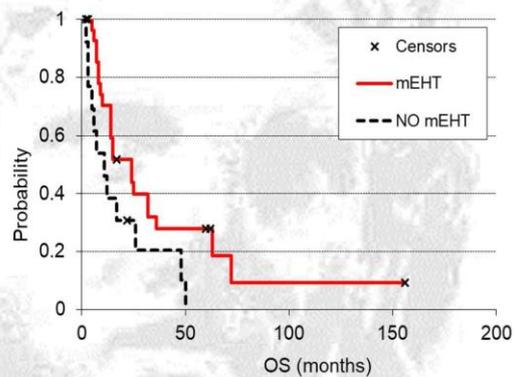
Median/Mean are 15/29 and 12/15.8 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results are statistically significant ( $p=0.026$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 19/28.2 and 68/58.8 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively.

## Effect of temozolomide (TMZ) for glioblastoma patients



Complementary therapy contains TMZ. Median/Mean are 108/86.7 and 12/20.5 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results are statistically significant ( $p=0.00001$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 4/20.4 and 75/58.6 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively

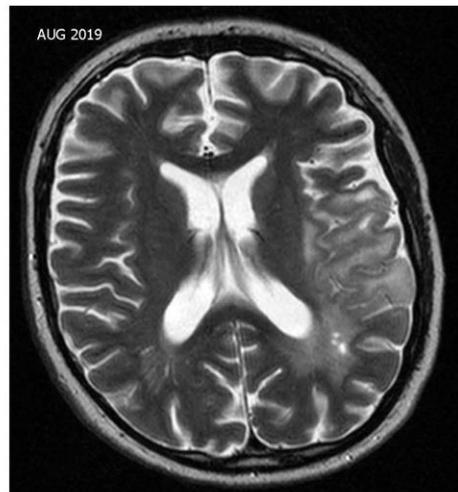
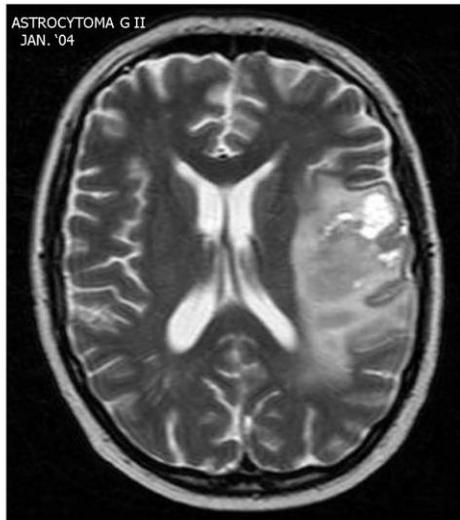
## Complementary therapy without TMZ

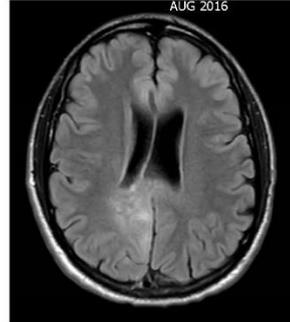
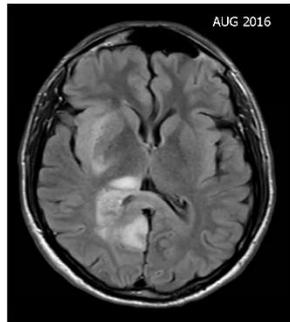
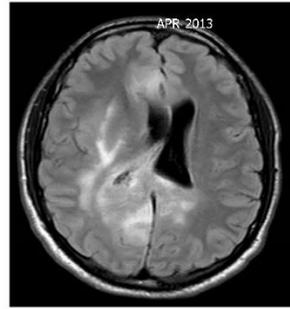
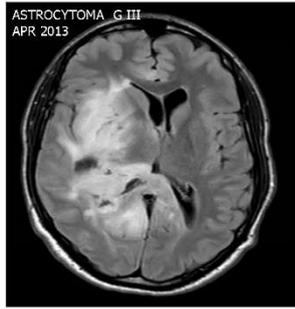


Median/Mean are 24/38.9 and 11/17.85 for with and without mEHT respectively. The results are statistically significant ( $p=0.039$ ). Events real/expected (Cox-mantel log-rank test) were 21/25.8 and 12/7.2 in groups with and without mEHT, respectively.

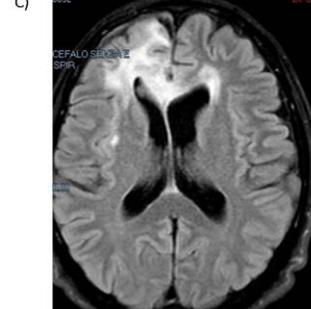
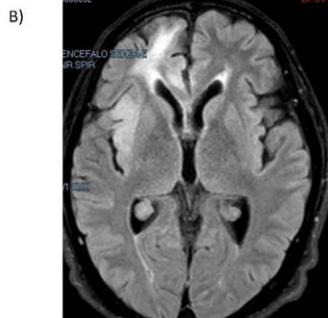
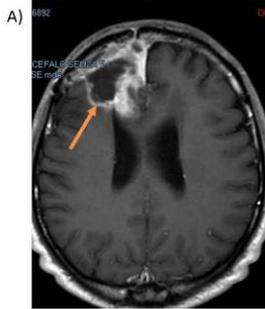
# Safety

- The safety profile was confirmed by the small total number of adverse events (5%).
- mEHT toxicity was mild (G1).
- We observed one (1%) head pain, one (1%) scalp burn, five (3%) epilepsy that was resolved with medication including diazepam 10 mg in 100 ml of saline and levetiracetam in tablets without any further attack

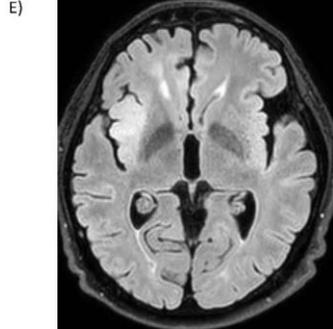
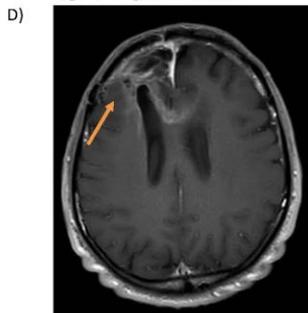




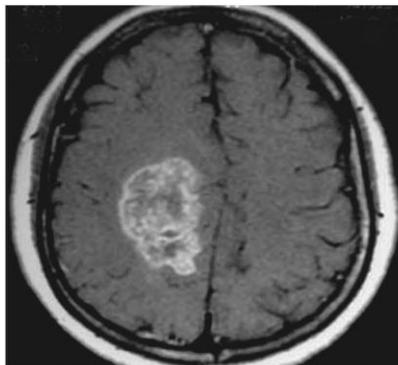
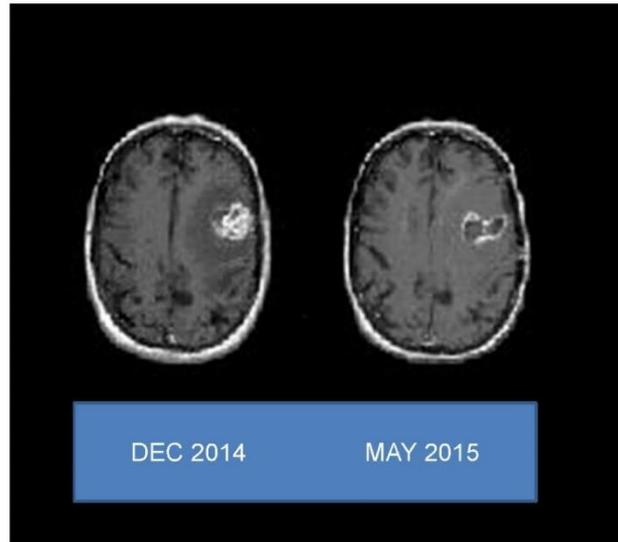
GBM Dec 2017



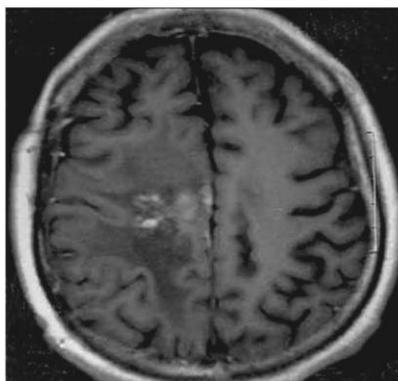
GBM Jan 2018



## RELAPSED GBM G III Partial Remission



**RELAPSED GBM  
OCT 2010**



**RELAPSED GBM  
FEB 2011**

**Partial remission**

## CONCLUSION

- mEHT was a safe and effective treatment of recurrent MG as integrative therapy.
- Both AST and GBM had higher tumor response rates after mEHT than after BSC, reporting few- and mild-intensity adverse events.
- The survival and quality of life were improved as well.
- The main limitation of the study was the retrospective data collection, for this reason, further randomized prospective studies with larger number of patients are also required.



ευχαριστίες

Thank you

# **Potential Application of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Plus Modulated Electro-hyperthermia (mEHT, trade name: Oncothermia) Among Patients With Advanced Cancer: Retrospective Clinical Analysis Of Single Hospital Experiences**

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

## **Cite this article as:**

Kim JH. et al. (2019): Potential Application of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Plus Modulated Electro-hyperthermia (mEHT, trade name: Oncothermia) Among Patients with Advanced Cancer: Retrospective Clinical Analysis of Single Hospital Experiences, Oncothermia Journal 27: 62- 75  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Potential\\_Application\\_of\\_Neoadjuvant.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Potential_Application_of_Neoadjuvant.pdf)

## **Introduction**

Despite aggressive local therapy, patients with locally advanced cancer are at significant risk for local recurrences and systemic metastases. The risk of local recurrence after operation is largely dependent on clinical stage. The predominant cause of metastatic recurrence is occult micrometastases. More effective treatment methods are therefore needed for local and systemic controls. For these purposes, hyperthermia is limitedly applied to locally advanced sarcoma or high risk peritoneal carcinomatosis patients with perioperative chemotherapy. But because of some side effects and low patient compliance neoadjuvant chemotherapy with classic hyperthermia has limitations. In preclinical and clinical data modulated electro-hyperthermia(mEHT) not only suppress local tumor growth but also demonstrate immunologic effects at distant sites with negligible side effects. For this reason, there is interest in combining locoregional mEHT and systemic chemotherapy before definitive surgical treatment.

## **Objectives**

The primary objective is whether the neoadjuvant chemotherapy plus mEHT in patients with various locally advanced cancer is feasible. The secondary objective is evaluation of safety and side effects of this treatment.

## **Material/Methods**

This is a single hospital, observational and retrospective clinical study. We reviewed the medical records of all patients who underwent mEHT at Oasis Cancer Hyperthermia Research Center between January 2017 and July 2019. The feasibility of patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy plus mEHT as well as safety and side effects were investigated. The chemotherapy regimens differed from cancer types and the university hospitals they treated.

## **Results**

Data from 203 eligible patients were collected. The number of patients by cancer types were 101 breast, 26 stomach, 13 thyroid, 12 colon, 10 rectum, 9 lung, 8 ovary, 6 liver, 5 cervix, 5 sarcoma, 5 pancreas and 3 oesophageal cancer patients respectively. Among them 21 patients showed receiving neoadjuvant chemotherapy with mEHT treatment. The majority of these patients had stage III or IV disease at diagnosis. The number of patients by cancer types were 11 breast, 4 rectum, 3 stomach, 2 ovary and 1 colon cancer patients. No patients showed progressive disease during this treatment and all of them could done operation. Two breast cancer patients showed complete response. The side effects were tolerable and compatible with the type of chemotherapy regimen they received. No additional side effects related to the treatment of mEHT was noted.

## **Conclusion**

There is no clinical trial whether neoadjuvant mEHT with chemotherapy treatment of localized advanced cancer feasible. Our retrospective analysis demonstrates that this treatment method can be given safely before operation to patients with locally advanced cancers. Although patient numbers were small all 21 patients could receive operation without disease progression. We believe that this neoadjuvant hyperthermic chemotherapy can be offered to patients with locally advanced cancers. Further studies are needed to evaluate the patient survival.

# Potential Application of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy Plus modulated Electro-hyperthermia(mEHT, trade name:Oncothermia) Among Patients With Advanced Cancer: Retrospective Clinical Analysis Of Single Hospiatal Experiences

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## Advanced Cancers; Problems

- Early systemic micrometastasis in some cancers correlate with poor long-term survival(LTS) and quality of life(QOL)\*
- High locoregional recurrences negatively impact both LTS and QOL

\*N Engl J Med 2009; 361:653-663

## NACT\*; Scientific Background

- Preoperative chemotherapy (“neo-adjuvant chemotherapy,” NACT) more beneficial than postsurgical adjuvant chemotherapy (ACT)
  - better overall survival (OS)
  - improve and/or optimize the surgical approach
  - monitor apparent response to adjust the specific regimen
  - Easy to perform phase II trials or to identify biomarkers
- Enough evidences?

NACT\*; Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy

## Possible benefits of NACT

Potential benefit	Proven with high levels of evidence?
Prolongation of overall survival	No
Optimize surgical approach	Yes
Modify chemotherapeutic regimen	No
Add further chemotherapy	No
Phase II testing of new drugs, new regimens, or compare regimens	Partially
Identify new biomarkers of response or toxicity	No

JNCI Monographs, 2015, 51, 36-30

## mEHT\*; Scientific Background

- Direct local cytotoxic effects and indirect systemic immunologic effects
- Few side effects and good patient compliance
- Expect synergistic effects when doing with NACT

\*modulated Electro-hyperthermia(mEHT, trade name:Oncothermia)

## mEHT; Korean Situations

- Use mEHT at large numbers of small integrative oncology hospitals but small numbers at large academic hospitals including Univ. Hospitals
- Barriers obtaining clinical data, doing clinical trials
- May have great potential in collecting data or performing clinical trials

## NACT + mEHT; Purposes

- Feasibility of NACT + mEHT among patients with advanced cancer by checking efficacy and TEAE\*
- Identification of available cancers for NACT + mEHT research in Korea

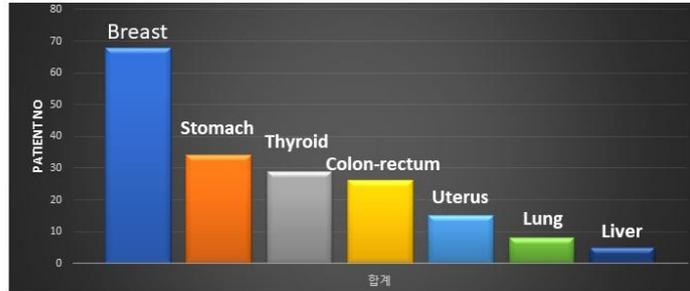
\*TEAE; treatment-emergent adverse event



2016.12.20 established

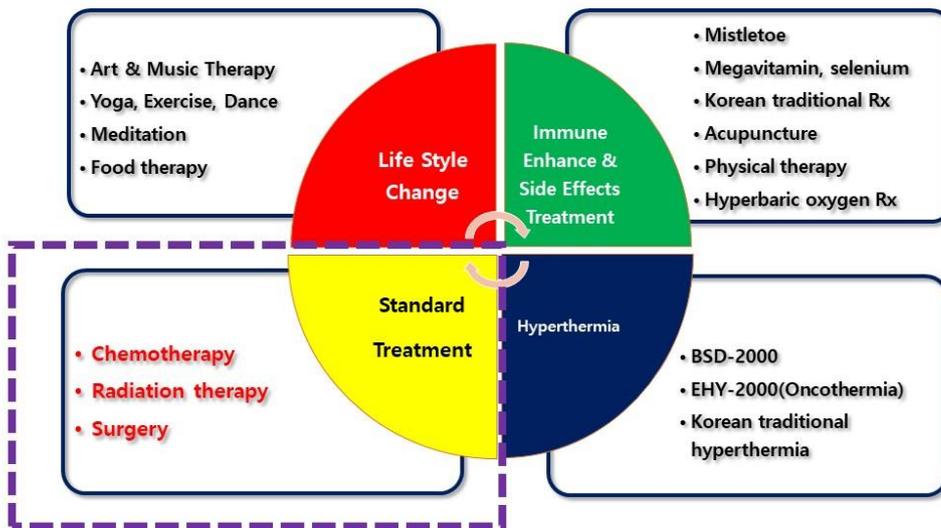
# Types of Cancer

- 70~80 patients admission
- Major cancer types; breast, stomach, thyroid, colon-rectum and uterus



Admission numbers, 2017

# Oasis Cancer Care Program



## Multidisciplinary Integrative Medical Care



## Cancer Hyperthermia Research Center



## Life Style Change



## Study Design

- Retrospective chart review the patients who received mEHT from Jan. 1, 2017, to July 31, 2019
- Reviewed through the hospital's electronic medical record database
- All clinical encounters, basic demographic information, surgery and pathology reports, and treatment history
- Inclusion criteria: age  $\geq 18$  years, mEHT treatment No  $\geq 12$ , who intend surgery when initially admit

# NACT + mEHT; Patient Characteristics

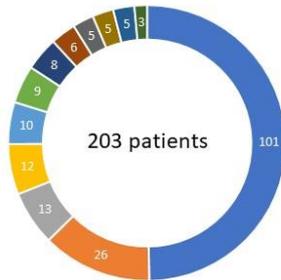
## mEHT Treatment

- 203 patients
- Age;  $51 \pm 9$  yrs
- Sex; male, 148 vs female 53
- 101 breast, 26 stomach, 13 thyroid, 12 colon, 10 rectum, 9 lung, 8 ovary, 6 liver, 5 cervix, 5 sarcoma, 5 pancreas and 3 oesophageal cancer

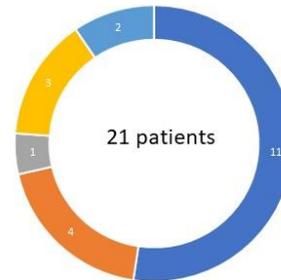
## NACT + mEHT

- 21 patients
- Age;  $48 \pm 6$  yrs
- Sex; male, 16 vs female 5
- 11 breast, 4 rectum, 3 stomach, 2 ovary and 1 colon cancer

Total mEHT Cases



NACT + mEHT Cases



## Concurrent Treatment

Types	Chemotherapy	Radiation Therapy	Condition
Breast	AC <sup>(1)</sup> , DC <sup>(2)</sup> , DCF <sup>(3)</sup>	No	≥5cm, invading into skin/chest wall, axillary lymph nodes(+)
Rectum	CAPEOX <sup>(4)</sup> , FOLFOX <sup>(5)</sup>	Yes	T staging, location
Stomach	XELOX <sup>(6)</sup> , FOLFOX	No	Mesentery, para-aortic lymph node, major vessel involvements, surrounding organs
Ovary	CT <sup>(7)</sup> , CTB <sup>(8)</sup>	No	Peritoneal carcinomatosis, Debulking surgery
Colon	FOLFOX	No	Pericolic adipose tissue(+), surrounding organs

AC<sup>(1)</sup>;doxorubicin+cyclophosphamide, DC<sup>(2)</sup>;docetaxel + cyclophosphamide, DCF<sup>(3)</sup>; docetaxel + cyclophosphamide+ 5-FU, CAPEOX<sup>(4)</sup>;capecitabine+oxaliplatin, FOLFOX<sup>(5)</sup>; 5-FU+oxaliplatin,XELOX<sup>(6)</sup>;capecitabine+oxaliplatin, CT<sup>(7)</sup>;carboplatin+paclitaxel, CTB<sup>(8)</sup>; carboplatin+paclitaxel+bevacizumab

### Example; Breast Cancer Case

## NACT + mEHT; pCR Case

- F/72; Jul, 2017 -, axillary lymph nodes(+) triple-negative left breast cancer, AC + docetaxel sequencing NACT

Stage (cT2cN1M0)

\*MMG/Breast sono(17.6.15): 2.4x2.2x3.0 cm irregular mass in Lt 12h N7cm, Three borderline LNs in Lt Ax level I-II,  
 \*o/s C-CT(17.6.23): Lt. breast cancer and mildly prominent axillary LNs, GB and far distal CBD stone.  
 \*BS(17.6.28): NED  
 \*PET(17.6.28): Lt. breast cancer, Possible metastatic LNs in the Lt. axilla level I  
 -->LA breast ca, cT2N1M0, IIB로 preOP AC#4 (17.7.5-17.9.13)  
 #4후 C-CT(17.9.14): Much decreased size of left breast cancer and ipsilateral axillary LNs  
 -->docetaxel #4 (17.10.11-17.12.15)

Breast, left, "12H", needle biopsy:  
 INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA with  
 1) nuclear grade: 3/3  
 2) histologic grade: III/III  
 3) DCIS component: not identified  
 4) maximum diameter of invasive carcinoma: 11 mm  
 IHC :  
 - Estrogen Receptor : Negative  
 - Progesterone Receptor : Negative  
 - P53 : Positive in >75%  
 - Her-2 : Negative (-/3)  
 - Ki-67 :Positive in 30%

SNUH Pathology Report

## Surgical Pathology Findings

2018.1.12 BCS+ SLNB, lt (post NCT): ypT0, ypN0/4 pCR

2018.1.12 BCS+ SLNB, lt (post NCT)  
 postop 1st visit  
 path : Breast, left, breast conserving surgery:  
 NO RESIDUAL TUMOR (see note2)  
 Post-neoadjuvant chemotherapy status  
 - Previous pathology report: S 17-32578 (INVASIVE DUCTAL CARCINOMA)  
 - Microcalcification: absent  
 - Lymphatic emboli: absent  
 - Vascular emboli: absent  
 - Surgical margins:  
 superior margin: clear  
 inferior margin: clear  
 medial margin: clear  
 lateral margin: clear  
 superficial margin: clear  
 deep margin: clear  
 - Number of metastatic lymph nodes: 0  
 - Number of examined lymph nodes: 4  
 (sentinel LN#1-#2, 0/4 (Fro#1-2); "Lt. axillary tissue", 0/0)

SNUH Pathology Report

## NACT + mEHT; Efficacy\*

Types(No)	complete remission	partial remission	stable disease	progressive disease
Breast(10)	2	5	3	0
Rectum(4)	0	4	0	0
Stomach(3)	0	1	2	0
Ovary(2)	0	2	0	0
Colon(1)	0	1	0	0

by \*RECIST 1.1

## NACT + mEHT; TEAE\*

- Tolerable TEAE
- Different type of toxicities depend on chemotherapy protocols
- No grade 3 or higher non-hematologic toxicities\*\*
- Mild mEHT-related toxicities less than grade 2
  - Blister, pain, erythema, general weakness
  - Chest discomfort due to pressure in breast cancer patients

\*TEAE; treatment-emergent adverse event

\*\* National Cancer Institute Common Toxicity Criteria, 3.0 v

## NACT + mEHT; Conclusions

- Breast, rectal cancer; majority
- High intention to surgery rate
- Tolerable TEAE as similar as when doing conventional NACT
- May reduce local recurrences and early micrometastasis
- Future data collecting with other mEHT using hospitals for further clinical study in academic hospitals

Thank you

감사합니다.



# mEHT - Results on CA - Esterioneuroblastoma - Brazilian Experience

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[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/mEHT\\_Results\\_on\\_CA.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/mEHT_Results_on_CA.pdf)

Cancer incidence in Brazil is as high as in developed countries. The Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS), which provides health care to the majority of the population, offers conventional oncology treatments such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormonal suppressors and surgery. The possibility to offer modulated electro-hyperthermia (mEHT) is not yet being considered by the Government. There is, nevertheless, a growing number of cancer patients interested in the benefits of mEHT. Some of them, after being treated with traditional methods, see new hope in mEHT. Others see it as a complementary treatment. This report does not intend to provide scientific data, but rather a clinical contribution.

### **Aim**

Our aim is to present a case study, showing a brief patient history, the evolution of malignancy despite conventional treatments (chemotherapy, radiotherapy and immunotherapy) and the results with mEHT as well as support therapies. Conventional treatments were undertaken from 2015 to 2017 but were interrupted at the end of 2017 due to high toxicity. The treatment with mEHT and support therapies were provided from January to April/2018.

### **Development**

The patient is a white skin, 47 years old male, diagnosed in 2014 by biopsy with Esthesioneuroblastoma (CID 10 C30). The clinical assessment at the beginning of the treatment with mEHT was: important edema on the left side of the face, severe convergent strabismus in the left eye, duplicated vision; patient reporting sedentary lifestyle, unrestricted feeding, insomnia, feeling depressive, discouraged, unable to work and drive, suffering sequel from previous and recent treatments, and weight loss of 20 kilos.

### **Protocol**

mEHT -130 W/ 60min 3 times a week, a total of 36 sessions; no chemotherapy or radiotherapy; oxygen therapy by Manfred Von Ardenne, galvanic micro-current, pulsed magnetotherapy field, Rife frequency therapy (36 session - 20 min), endovenous supplementation of minerals, vitamins, amino acids (500 ml X 12 session) and curcumin supplementation (SC 24 X 200 mcg, 2 ml), ozone therapy rectal 2 X week, reduced intake of simple carbohydrates, Joanna Budwig diet, homeopathic support, and "a more healthy lifestyle".  
RESULTS: on Pet scan dated April/2018 and the oncological evaluation confirms the total remission of the Esthesioneuroblastoma and cervical lymph nodes, total remission of the facial edema, and 90% strabismus reduction. The clinical impressions show significant improvement of energy and quality of life, and great improvement of vision. Still remains a slight strabismus, to be analyzed by the ophthalmologist. The patient continues with a low carb diet. He is able to drive safely and returned to normal work activities. Suggested oncological follow-up every six months.



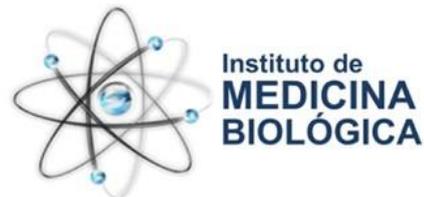
37th Conference of the International Clinical Hyperthermia Society  
September 19-21, 2019

## **mEHT- Clinical Case Report Results on CA – EsterioNeuroblastoma - Brazilian Experience**

MD - Dr. Francisco Humberto F. Azevedo  
MSC Shirley Pontes  
Brasilia , BRASIL  
20/ Sept/ 2019



### **mEHT- in Brazil Cancer Treatment**



### **MD Dr. Francisco Humberto F. Azevedo**

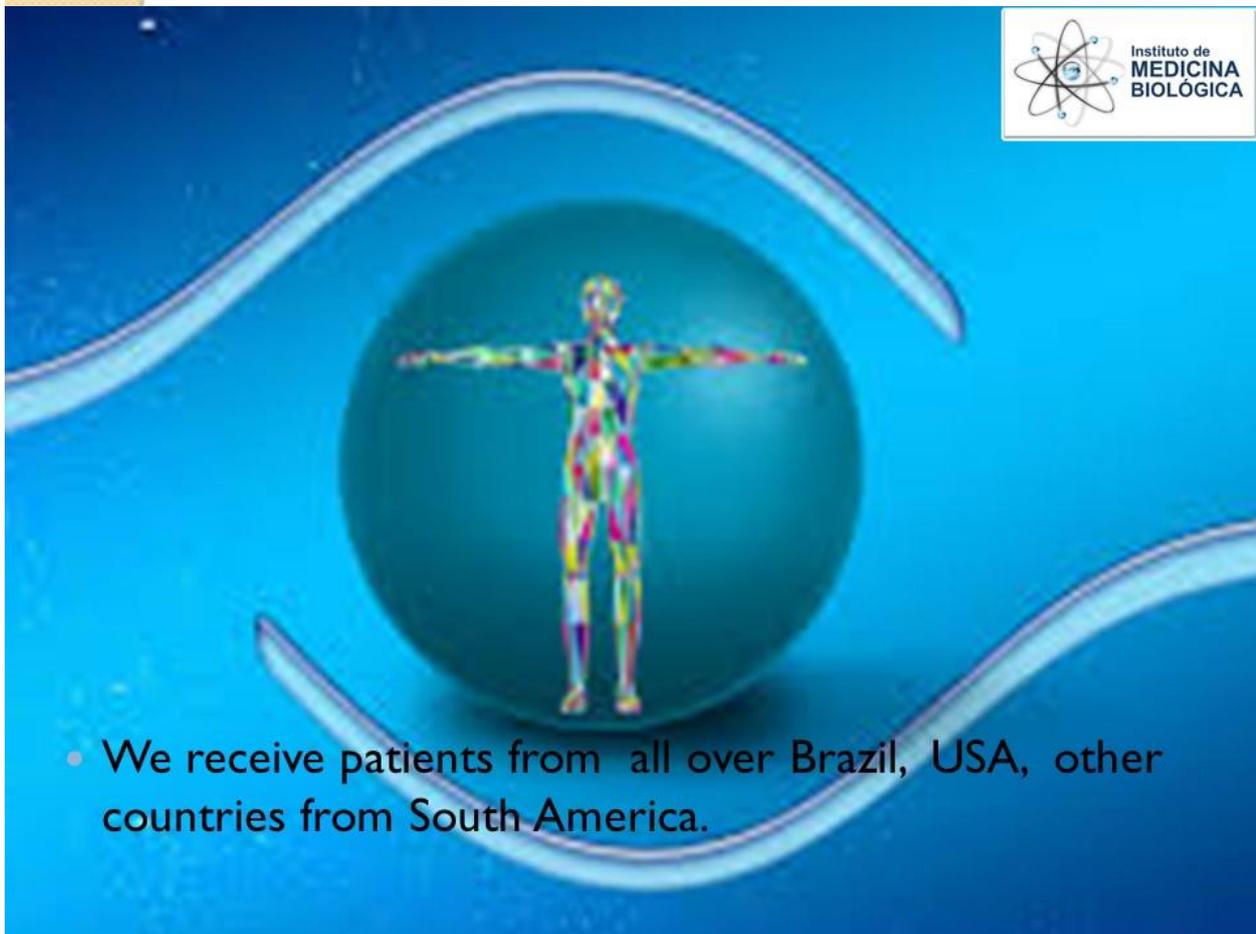
43 year MD (Surgeon + Homeopathic +  
Nutrologist) since the last 20 years he is using  
Integrative therapies on treatments

### **Shirley Pontes – Gerontologist**

Master in Prostate Cancer toxicity of RT, QT,  
Hormone therapy and PR radical  
Fitoterapist + Integrative therapies

# mEHT against Cancer in Brazil

- First EHY2000 imported in Brazil - 2012;
- Treatments since 2013;
- mEHT is considered as a complementary treatment;
- There is no legislation about it.
- Legislation: Still in process of Register
- We are against the “Main Stream power”
- FDA – USA inspires legislation to ANVISA- Brazilian Regulation Agency



# The Cancer in Brazil

Brazilian statistics are equivalents as international leading:

- The statistics increases proportionally to the population.
- The Brazilian Unified Health System/SUS offers free public services treatments based on traditional oncololy:
  - Chemotherapy, Radiotherapy, Surgery and hormonal suppressors.
- **Immunotherapy** is not recognized as a treatment yet, in Brazil
- **mEHT** is not authorized as a Cancer treatment yet, in Brazil

The Brazilian Government did not consider yet the possibility to offer mEHT to population.

For a while, the patients from public health service in Brazil - will be treated by the “main stream”- they hve no other choice.





## The Main Stream is a Great Business



Cultural concept

**“The possible treatment is QT – Main Stream”  
The Medicine Federal Council do not consider the  
effectiveness of mEHT.**

## They believe in statistical significance



It has increased the  
interested on the benefits  
mEHT.

There is a pent up demand  
on complementary  
treatments for cancer.

Another stream is rising up in Brazil  
... and in the world!



## Profile of Brazilian patients on IMBiologica

- 82% between 40 e 70 years
- 68% female
- 87% polithreated patients  
(Chemoterapy, Radiotherapy, Hormonal supression, Surgery, and Immunotherapy)
- 43% terminal patients
- 5% first cancer treatment: They refuses the traditional treatments.

## AIM - Case Report

- Patients with **CA EsterioNeuroblastoma** treated with mEHT and supportive therapies.
- Patient historical evolution of malignancy during treatment with traditional oncology.
- Present images and results with mEHT treatment and other support therapies used.

It does not intended to offer scientific data, but rather a clinical report.

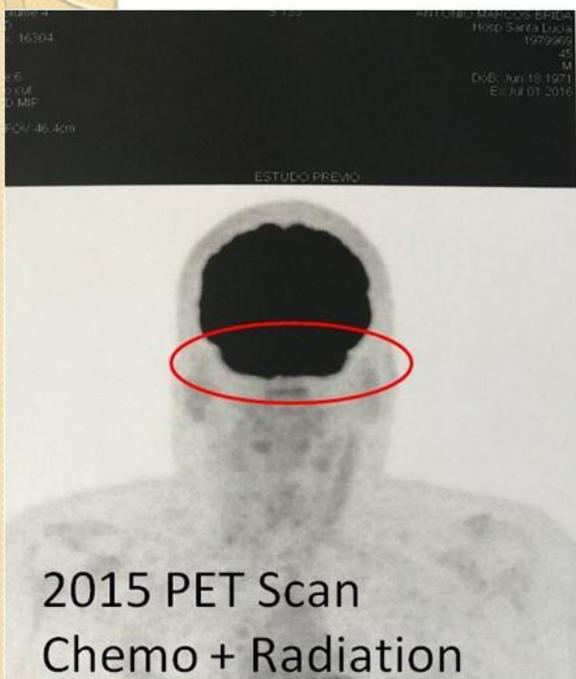
## Patient Profile

M. Brida: Male, White skin, 47 years old

- 2014 diagnosed C30- CA EsterioNeuroblastoma
- 4 years treating by traditional methods.
- Polytreated patient
  - CT, RT, and 3 sections of Immunotherapy
- Hopeless, he begins mEHT as a **last possibility**.

M. Brida:

Male, White skin, 47 years old



2014 diagnosis

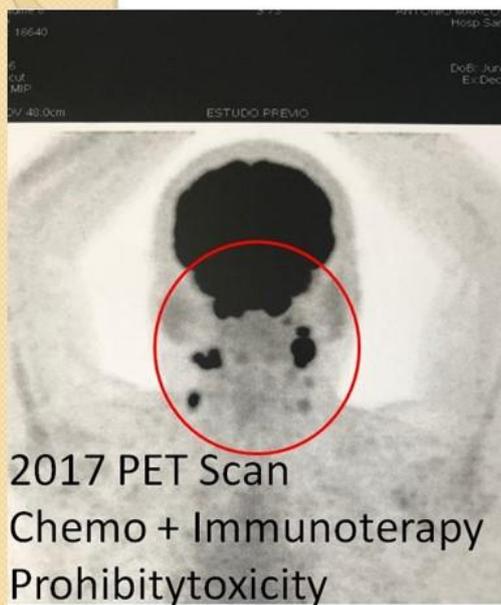
2015 - Patient was treated with Chemo and Radiotherapy.

**M.Brida:**  
**Male, White skin, 47 years old**



- 2016 - Identified the expansion of malignant cells to neck lymphonodes.
- In expansion

**M. Brida:**  
**Male, White skin, 47 years old**



- 2017- Expansion of malignant,
- Treated with stronger QT which has caused rejection.
- The MD decided for Immunotherapy;
- Due hard toxicity, the MD decided to interrupt the treatment, after third section.

# M Brida



- Swollen face on left side.
- Convergent view (Strabic), Double vision.
- Depleted immunity, Depressed, unmotivated, social isolation.
- Unable to work, suffering sequel from previous treatments.
- Weight loss of 20 kilos.
- Denial: Smoking, alcoholism.
- Confirms: insomnia, sedentary, unrestricted feeding.

## 2018 - Phase 3: mEHT + IMB integrative program from January to April 2018.

- Diet: Reduced intake of simple carbohydrates, Dra. Joana Budwig, Gerson therapy; Reduce inflammation, increase functionalities;
- Medium size bolus electrode applied on the face- left side.
- eMHT 3 X week 120W/ 60min. 12 sessions/monthly X 3 months
- Homeopatic support.
- Suggested "Health life stile" ;
- Oxygen therapy by Manfred Von Ardene (36 session - 20 min), Galvanic micro current (36 session - 20 min); Magneto therapy (36 session 20 min), Rife frequency (36 session 20 min)
- Ozonated blood therapy+ Endovenose supplementation (vitamins, minerals, amino acids) + VIT D3+ Curcumin + DCA + CBD.
- O3 Rectal 3 X week + other detox and eletrotheraopies;

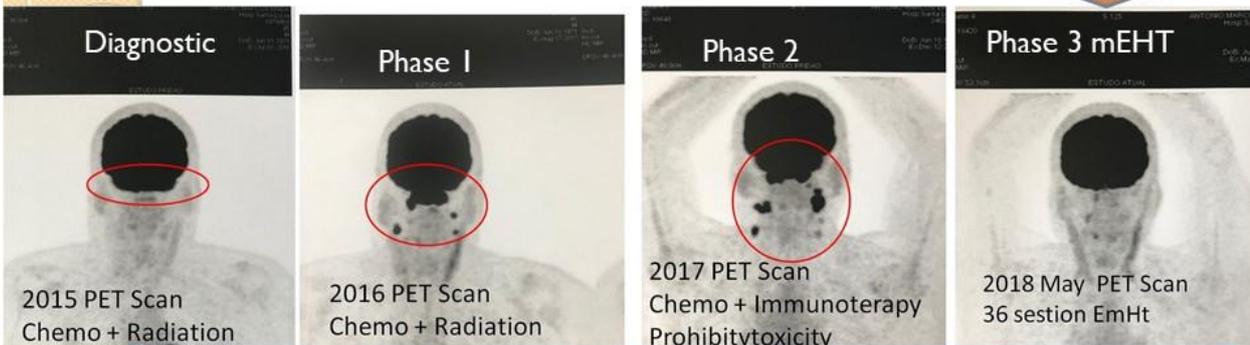
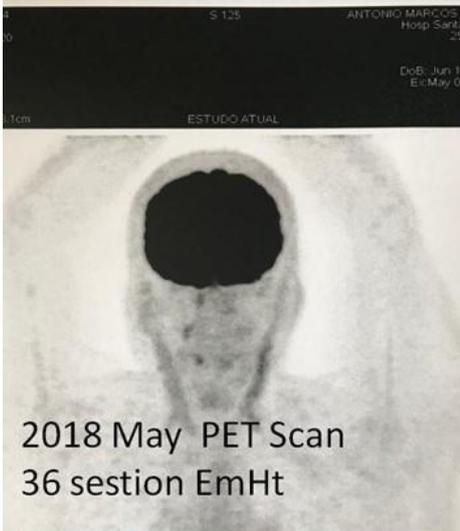
# Phase 3: mEHT + IMB Integrative Program

After 36 session of mEHT, shows the clinical impression:

- 100% reduction of facial edema,
- 80% reduction of strabism.

PETscan Dez/17 X PETscan May /18

**“Resolution of hypermetabolism on nasopharyngeal lesion in the inferior turbinate medial wall of the left maxillary sinus and bilateral cervical lymphonodes.”**



- The patient continues with dietary habits and also with follow-up with traditional oncology.
- The ophthalmologist suggests a surgical intervention to adjust the remaining strabismus.
- Follow-up every six months with IMBiologica.
- Until now .... **he is doing good!**

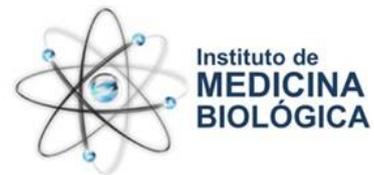
Thanks Professors... You are building great knowledge!  
We are facing the patient , trying to transform the  
research results in

**Reality..**

**Health ...**

**Happiness ...**

for patients and his families!



# Effectiveness of hyperthermia in clinical stage IV pancreatic cancer

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Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki

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[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Effectiveness\\_of\\_hyperthermia.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Effectiveness_of_hyperthermia.pdf)

Although recent progress of chemotherapy for the pancreatic cancer provide improvement of the patients' prognosis, the advanced pancreatic cancer patients in clinical stage IV is still quite difficult to increase the survival rate. Hyperthermia is expected as an effective treatment for such patients in combination with chemotherapy. In order to investigate the effectiveness of hyperthermia using Thermotron RF-8 combined with chemotherapy for clinical stage IV patients we examined the outcome of the patients in the periods until two years from the beginning of this therapy. The results were compared to the registered data of the multi-center of Japan in the patients of stage IV treated with chemotherapy alone. The aim of this study is to investigate whether hyperthermia contribute to improve the outcome of the pancreatic cancer patients in clinical stage IV.

### **Material/Methods**

28 patients with advanced pancreatic cancer in clinical stage IV treated by more than 5 times of hyperthermia were examined. These patients had distant metastasis or peritoneal dissemination and were treated with several types of combination chemotherapy. Among them, 9 patients had the history of surgery for the primary tumour and 21 had no surgery. Hyperthermia using the Thermotron RF-8 heating device was administrated for 50 min each time just after chemotherapy 3 or 4 times in a month. The evaluation of outcome of the patients was expressed as CR, PR, SD, PD and overall survival. This evaluation was done at 3, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months after the beginning of this therapy.

### **Results**

In the response to the treatment at 3 months, CR was 0 %, PR was 18%, SD was 39% and PD was 42%. Survival rate was 97%. At 6 months, CR was 0 %, PR was 16%, SD was 24% and PD was 40%. Survival rate was 80%. At 12 months, CR was 6%, PR was 0%, SD was 6% and PD was 59%. Survival rate was 41%. At 18 months, CR was 6%, PR was 0%, SD was 0% and PD was 19%. Survival rate was 25%. 2 patients survived more than 2 years. Among 12 patients observed for these two years, two patients survived, and one patient is still in the state of CR. The survival rate in 2 years was 17%. According to the Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers, in the registered data in 2010, 1-year survival rate and 2 years survival rate of the stage IV pancreas cancer patients treated with chemotherapy alone, is 20% and 8% respectively. Although the number of the patients in our hospital is small, the outcome of them were superior to that of the registered patients in the Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers, who were treated without hyperthermia.

Conclusion: The results in this study indicate that the treatment of hyperthermia combined with chemotherapy have a possibility to contribute to prolong the survival of the patients even in the clinical stage IV.

### **Introduction**

In spite of the recent progress of the chemotherapy for the pancreatic cancer patients provide improvement of the patients' prognosis, the advanced pancreatic cancer in clinical stage IV with local recurrence, distant metastasis or peritoneal dissemination is still quite difficult to increase the survival rate. Hyperthermia is expected as an effective treatment for such patients in combination with chemotherapy (1,2,3). During 3 years and 5 months since 2016, 41 pancreatic cancer patients in various situations were treated in our hospital with hyperthermia using Thermotron RF-8. In this study, we evaluated the result of 28 patients treated more than 5 times by this therapy. In order to investigate the effectiveness of the hyperthermia using Thermotron RF-8 combined with chemotherapy for the patients in clinical stage IV, including tumour recurrence after surgery. We examined the outcome of the patients in the periods until two years after the beginning of this therapy. The results were compared to the registered data of the multi-center of Japan of the pancreas cancer patients in Stage IV treated with chemotherapy alone. The aim of this study is to investigate whether hyperthermia contribute to improve the prognosis of the pancreatic cancer patients in clinical stage IV.

### **Material and Methods**

28 patients (from 40 to 79 years of age) with advanced pancreatic cancer in clinical stage IV treated by more than 5 times of hyperthermia combined with chemotherapy were examined. 16 cases were male patients, 12 cases were female patients. These patients had distant metastasis or peritoneal dissemination

and were treated with the several types of combination chemotherapy, FOLFIRINOX, Gemcitabin plus nab-Pacritaxel or S-1. Among them, 9 patients had the history of surgery for the primary tumour and 21 had no surgery (Table 1).

### Characteristics of the 28 patients

<b>Gender</b>	
Male	16
Female	12
<b>Age, years</b>	
Median	64.3
Range	40-79
<b>Metastatic state</b>	
Liver	18
Lung	7
Peritoneum	8
<b>Pancreatic resection</b>	
No	20
Yes	8

Heating device of Thermotron RF-8, which is widely used in Japan, was used for the hyperthermia treatment. Patients were administrated for 50 min each time just after chemotherapy 3 or 4 times a month. Most of the patients had the medical history of treatment, including surgery or standard chemotherapy in the other hospital before starting our therapy. Evaluation of outcomes of the patients was expressed as complete remission (CR), partial response (PR), stable disease (SD), progress disease (PD) and survival rate. This evaluation was done at 3, 6, 12, 18 and 24 months after the beginning of this therapy.

### Results

In the response to the treatment at 3 months, CR was 0 %, PR was 18%, SD was 39% and PD was 42%. At 6 months, CR was 0 %, PR was 21%, SD was 24% and PD was 28%. At 12 months, CR was 6%, PR was 0%, SD was 6% and PD was 59%. At 18 months, CR was 6%, PR was 0%, SD was 0% and PD was 19% (fig 1).

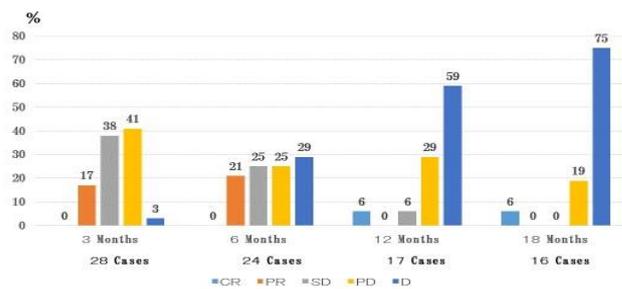


Figure 1: Outcomes were evaluated in 3, 6, 12 and 18 months after the beginning of hyperthermia therapy. Each number indicated the percentage of the patients in the same periods.

The outcome is getting worse, but at 6 months nearly 50% of the patients were keeping PR or SD, and at one year 41 % was still alive. Up to now, we observed 12 patients for more than two years. Among them, two patients were alive, and one of them is still in the state of CR. The survival rate of 1 year and 2 years were 41% and 15% respectively. According to the registered data in 2010 of Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers, 1-year survival rate and 2 years survival rate of the stage IV pancreatic cancer patients treated with chemotherapy alone is 22.7 % and 6.1 % respectively (Fig 2).

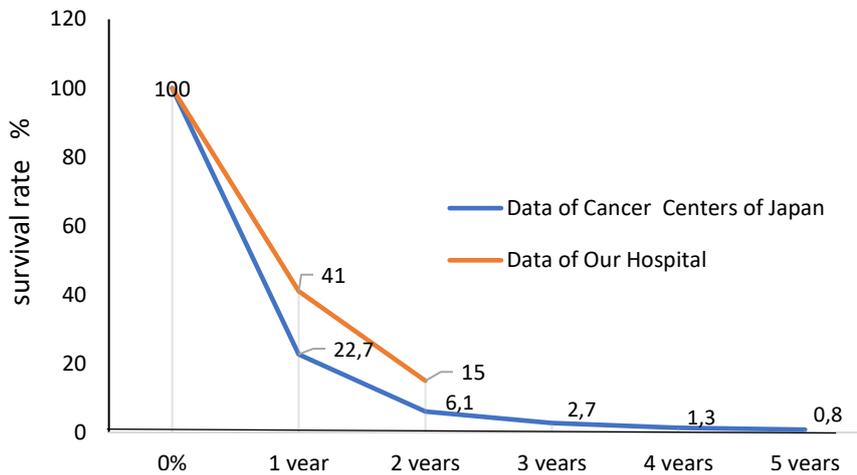


Figure 2: Survival rate until two years in our cases, and that of Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers, (total 70 centers).

Even though the number of the patients in our study is small, the outcome of the patients were superior to that of the registered patients in Japanese Association of Clinical Cancer Centers, who were treated without hyperthermia. In our study, 3 cases showed the quite good response to this therapy.

### First case

58 years old male patient. Diagnosis is invasive pancreas ductal carcinoma in the pancreas head with multiple liver metastasis. Chemotherapy was administered using the regimen of GEM + nabPTX by every 4 weeks for 2 years. Hyperthermia was started two months after the beginning of the chemotherapy. It was done on the same day after the chemotherapy. Before treatment, low density tumour was located close to the duodenum. After 1 year, the primary tumour disappeared, and after 2 years, the head of the pancreas was still tumour free. Liver metastasis was observed before the treatment, but 1 year later, those disappeared, and 2 years later the patient is still tumour free. Before the treatment, the CA19-9a tumour marker level was quite high; it was 26,494 unit/ml. But 3 months after starting hyperthermia, the tumour markers (CEA, CA19-9) decreased within normal level. This situation continued at 2 years after starting this therapy. These results indicated that this patient is in clinical CR (Fig 3).

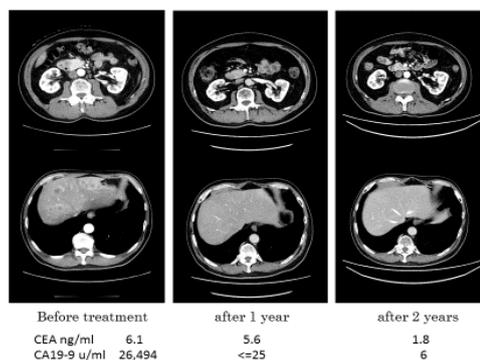


Figure 3: CT findings of the pancreas, liver and the tumour marker for two years in case 1

### Second Case

The second case is a 65 years old male patient. The diagnosis is pancreatic cancer in the body to tail, with multiple liver metastasis. For the first chemotherapy, the regimen of GEM + nabPTX was administrated every 4 weeks and was continued for four months. After that, regimen was changed to GEM + S1. It was administrated every 3 weeks. This regimen is still continued until now. Hyperthermia was started at the same time as chemotherapy. The treatment was performed on the same day just after the chemotherapy. In the CT

findings, multiple liver metastasis and primary tumour is located in the pancreas body to tail as a low-density lesion before the treatment. In contrast, 7 months later, metastatic tumour in the liver is markedly contracted. The primary tumour could not be detected. The level of tumour marker before the treatment, especially the level of CA19-9 was extraordinarily high, 551,790 U/ml, but 7 months after starting the hyperthermia, it decreased to 6,257. Therefore, the situation of this patient is considered to be PR (Fig 4).

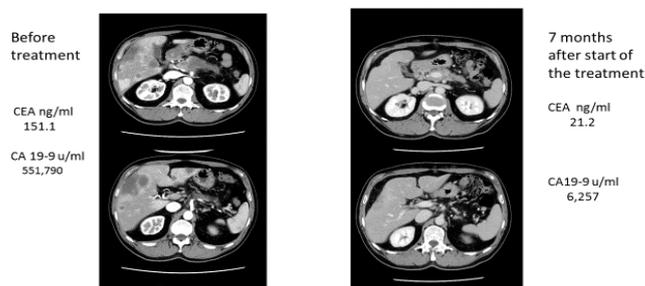


Figure 4: CT findings and the level of tumour marker before treatment and 7 months after the start of the treatment.

We estimated the temperature in the stomach during hyperthermia in this patient, using gastric catheter inserted sensor of temperature. The power of the radiofrequency for this patient was maintained about 1200 W. The maximal temperature was just over 44°C by prone position.

### Third Case:

58 years old male patient. The diagnosis is pancreatic cancer in the tail with invasion to the spleen and kidney with multiple liver metastasis. For the chemotherapy, the regimen of FOLFIRINOX was done during the first 3 months, after that it changed to GEM + nabPTX, and continued until now. FOLFIRINOX was done every 4 weeks for 3 months, GEM + S1 was done every 4 weeks. Hyperthermia was started at 2 months after the beginning of the chemotherapy. Treatment was done on the same day after the chemotherapy. In the CT findings, a big tumour was located in the tail of pancreas invading into the spleen and metastatic liver tumour was observed. 5 months after starting the therapy, the tumour was reduced and also the metastatic liver tumour was contracted. The tumour markers (CEA, CA19-9) were decreasing gradually during 6 months after starting hyperthermia. These findings indicate that this patient is also in the situation of PR (Fig 5).

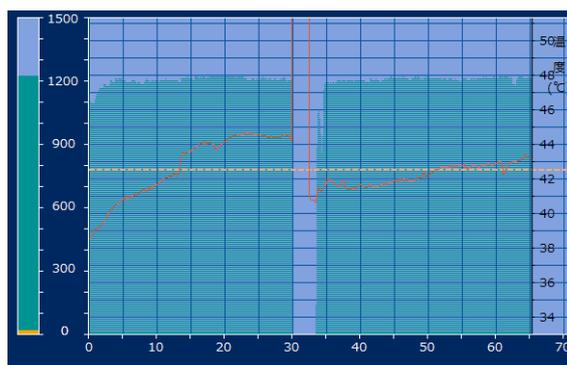


Figure 5: The record of estimation of temperature in the stomach during hyperthermia. Left axis is the power of RF (watt). Light green area indicates the change of the level of RF. Right axis is the temperature (°C). Horizontal shaft is time (min). Red line is the change of the temperature.

### Discussion

It is generally important to decide the diagnosis in the early stage to provide good prognosis for malignant disease. Many cases of pancreatic cancer do not have the subjective symptoms in the early stage; therefore, patients do not always have a chance to receive surgery. According to the data of pancreatic cancer registry in Japan, respectable pancreatic cancer in the early stage account only 10% of all cases (4). The patients with no indication for surgery or recurrent cases after surgery are mainly treated with chemotherapy.

The regimen of the chemotherapy is on the way of progression (5,6), however it is still in the poor prognosis of the highly advanced cancer of stage IV, which have distant metastasis or peritoneal dissemination. Vascularity in the lesion of pancreatic cancer is relatively low in comparison with the other malignant tumour. That is one of the reasons why the effect of the treatment is limited, when the patients were treated with chemotherapy alone. Hyperthermia combined with chemotherapy is expected as an effective treatment for such patients to improve the outcome (7). In this treatment, the temperature of the target area is one of the important points to know the working situation of this treatment. It is not easy to estimate the temperature of the organ located in the deep part of the body directly. Pancreas is also quite difficult to do. We tried to estimate the temperature in the stomach during hyperthermia in a patient, using gastric catheter inserted sensor of temperature. Although this is not the temperature in the pancreas itself, it is considered to be nearly reflected the temperature of the deep area. In this case, the maximal temperature of the stomach was 43 to 44 °C during the treatment by RF power of 1200 Watt. These results were one of the evidences, which support the effectiveness of hyperthermia in this patient. The total outcome of our study is not yet satisfactory; however, the survival rate was improved in comparison with that of the registered data of the multi-center of Japan of pancreas cancer patients in stage IV treated with chemotherapy alone. Although the number of our cases were quite small to do the exact statistical analysis, the results indicated that hyperthermia treatment has a possibility to improve the prognosis even if in stage IV pancreatic cancer.

### Conclusion

Hyperthermia treatment combined with chemotherapy have a strong possibility to contribute to prolong the survival of the patients even if in the clinical stage IV.

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## **Modulated electro-hyperthermia as palliative treatment for pancreatic cancer: a retrospective observational study on 106 patients**

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Fiorentini G. et al. (2019): Modulated electro-hyperthermia as palliative treatment for pancreatic cancer: a retrospective observational study on 106 patients, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 94- 108  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Modulated\\_electro-hyperthermia.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Modulated_electro-hyperthermia.pdf)

## **Background**

Pancreatic adenocarcinoma is one of the cancers with the poorest prognosis, resulting in a <10% survival rate at 5-years. Modulated electro- hyperthermia (mEHT) combines the heat-therapy with an electric field and has been increasingly used for cancer therapy alone or in combination with radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Clinical researchers show that hyperthermia is feasible not only for palliative care but has also therapeutic effects in pancreatic cancer.

## **Purpose**

To monitor the efficacy and safety of mEHT for the treatment of pancreatic cancer.

## **Methods**

We collected data retrospectively on 170 patients affected by stage III-IV pancreatic adenocarcinoma, and 106 were considered for this study. The sample was divided in two groups: patients that did not receive mEHT (no-mEHT) and patients that were treated with mEHT.

mEHT was performed using a capacitive coupling technique keeping the skin surface at 26 C° and 40-42.5 C° inside the tumor for > 90% of treatment duration (40-90 minutes). The applied power was 60-150 Watts. mEHT was performed in association with chemotherapy in 32 (82%) of patients whereas 7 (18%) received mEHT alone. The majority (54%) of no-mEHT group received a second line chemotherapy, whereas 31 (46%) did not receive any further treatment.

## **Results**

106 consecutive patients were enrolled in this study, median age of the sample was 65 (range 31-80) years. After three months of therapy, tumor response in mEHT group was: partial response (PR) in 22 (56%) patients, stable disease (SD) in 15 (38%) patients and progression disease (PD) in 2 (5%) patients. Tumor response in no-mEHT group was: partial response (PR) in 4 (11%) patients, stable disease (SD) in 11 (31%) patients and progression disease (PD) in 21 (58%) patients.

The median overall survival (OS) of mEHT group was 17.23 (range 2.6-30.4) and 11,33 months (range 0.4-56.25) for non-mEHT group.

## **Conclusions**

mEHT may improve tumor response and survival of pancreatic cancer patients.



37th Conference of the International Clinical Hyperthermia Society  
September 19-21, 2019



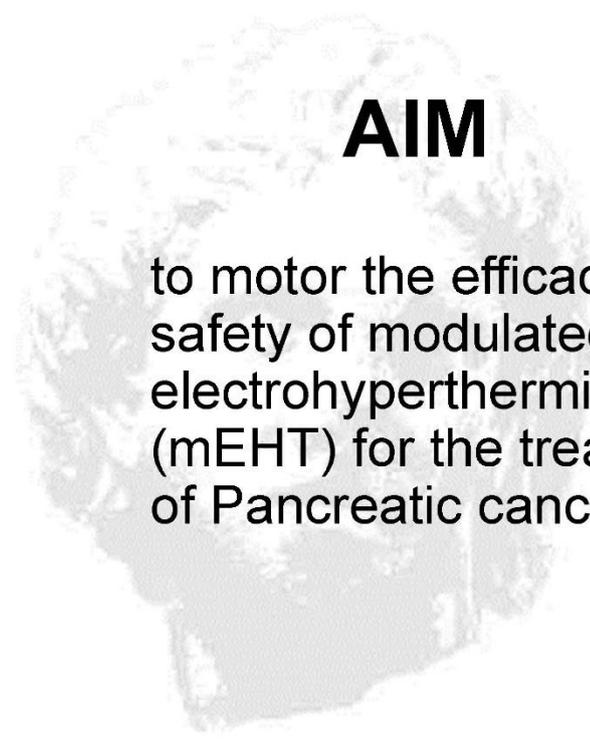
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**Modulated  
electro-hyperthermia as Palliative  
treatment for Pancreatic cancer: a  
retrospective observational study  
on 106 patients.**

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Onco-Hematology  
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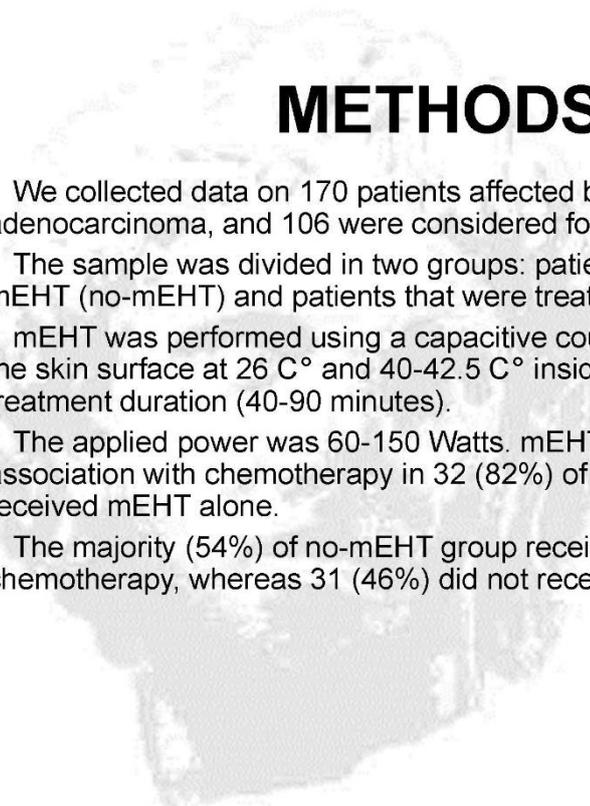






## AIM

to monitor the efficacy and safety of modulated electrohyperthermia (mEHT) for the treatment of Pancreatic cancer.



## METHODS

- We collected data on 170 patients affected by stage III-IV pancreatic adenocarcinoma, and 106 were considered for this study.
- The sample was divided in two groups: patients that did not receive mEHT (no-mEHT) and patients that were treated with mEHT.
- mEHT was performed using a capacitive coupling technique keeping the skin surface at 26 C° and 40-42.5 C° inside the tumor for > 90% of treatment duration (40-90 minutes).
- The applied power was 60-150 Watts. mEHT was performed in association with chemotherapy in 32 (82%) of patients whereas 7 (18%) received mEHT alone.
- The majority (54%) of no-mEHT group received a second line chemotherapy, whereas 31 (46%) did not receive any further treatment.

## Description of the sample

Ages	All patients		with mEHT		without mEHT	
	mean	median	mean	median	mean	median
average age (y)	64.5	65.3	61.8	62.6	66	67.8
Groups	All patients		with mEHT		without mEHT	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
males	59	55.7	24	61.5	38	56.7
females	47	44.3	15	38.5	29	43.3
non-metastatic	44	41.5	14	35.9	30	44.8
metastatic	62	58.5	25	64.1	37	55.2
site of metastases	All patients		with mEHT		without mEHT	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
liver	47	75.8	19	76.0	28	75.7
liver & elsewhere	4	6.5	4	16.0	0	0.0
lung	5	8.1	1	4.0	4	10.8
lymphnodes	2	3.2		0.0	2	5.4
peritoneum	1	1.6		0.0	1	2.7
bones	2	3.2		0.0	2	5.4
pelvis	1	1.6	1	4.0		0.0

## Types of first line chemotherapy

type of first line CHT	All patients		with mEHT		without mEHT	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
gemcitabine oxaliplatin	49	46.2	14	35.9	35	52.2
gemcitabine	30	28.3	6	15.4	24	35.8
gemcitabine abraxane	8	7.5	5	12.8	3	4.5
gemcitabine FU	4	3.8	2	5.1	2	3.0
other	8	7.5	5	12.8	3	4.5
no	7	6.6	7	17.9	0	0.0

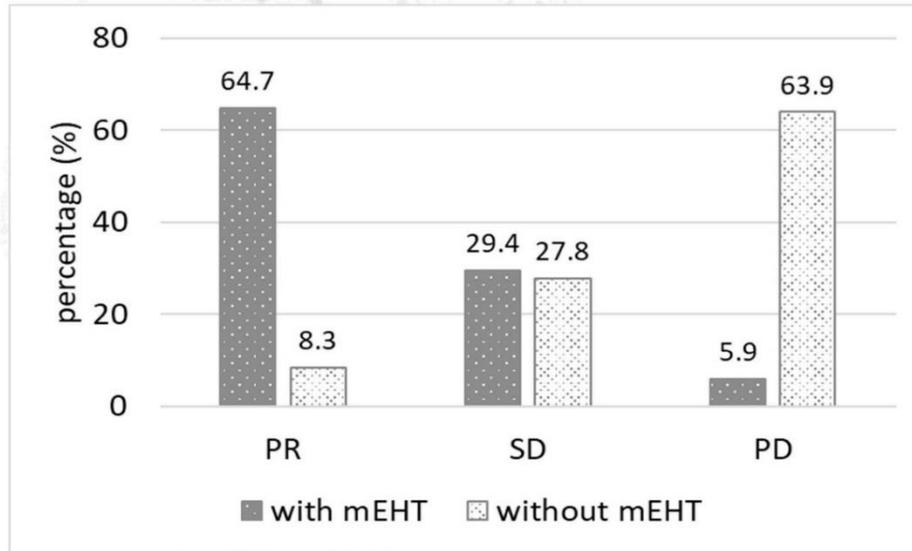
## Types of second line chemotherapy

continuing of chemo	All patients		with mEHT		without mEHT	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
gem citabine oxaliplatin	4	3.8	1	2.6	3	4.5
gem citabine-carboplatin	3	2.8	0	0.0	3	4.5
gem citabine abraxane	7	6.6	5	12.8	2	3.0
gem citabine	31	29.2	23	59.0	8	11.9
folfiri or folfirinox	7	6.6	1	2.6	6	9.0
folfox	8	7.5	0	0.0	8	11.9
other	10	9.4	3	7.7	7	10.4
no	36	34.0	6	15.4	30	44.8

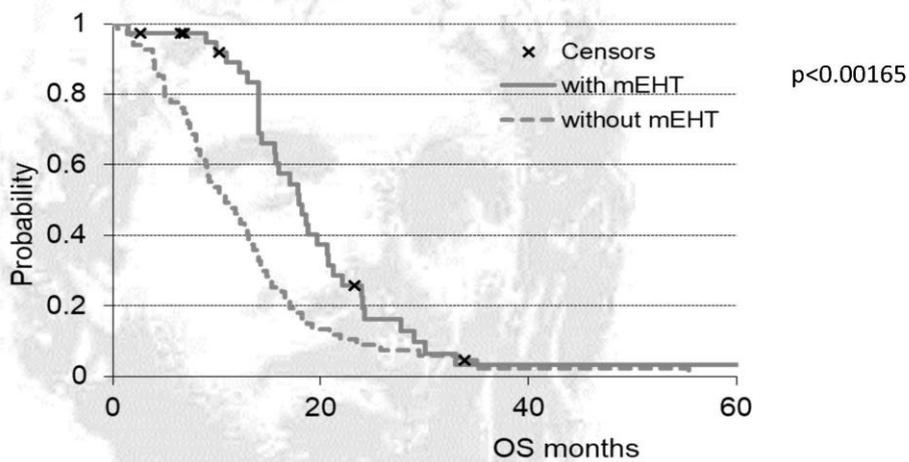
## RESULTS

- 106 consecutive patients were enrolled in this study, median age of the sample was 65 (range 31-80) years.
- After three months of therapy, tumor response in mEHT group was: partial response (PR) in 22 (56%) patients, stable disease (SD) in 15 (38%) patients and progression disease (PD) in 2 (5%) patients.
- Tumor response in no-mEHT group was: partial response (PR) in 4 (11%) patients, stable disease (SD) in 11 (31%) patients and progression disease (PD) in 21 (58%) patients.
- The median overall survival (OS) of mEHT group was 17.23 (range 2.6-30.4) and 11,33 months (range 0.4-56.25) for non-mEHT group.

## Tumor response at three months

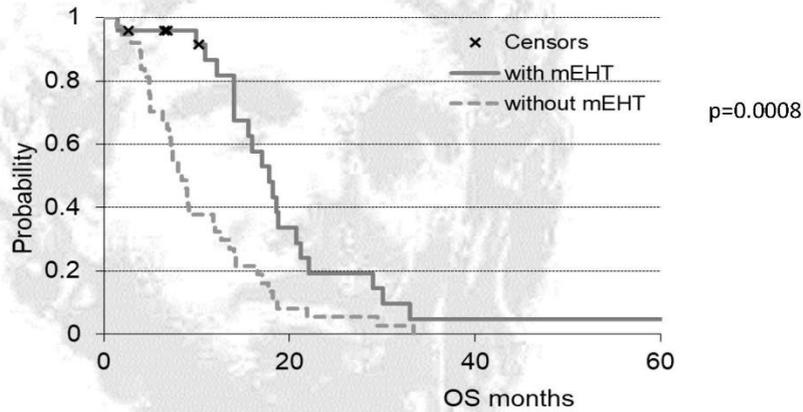


## OS of the two study groups



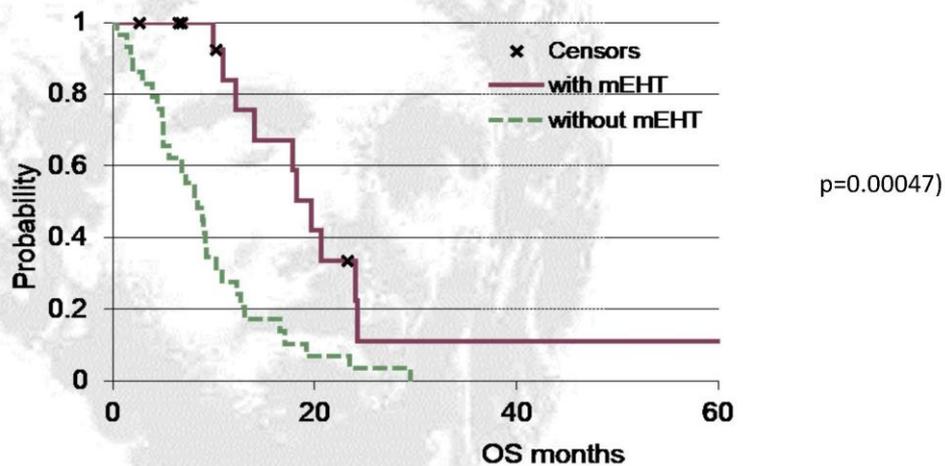
The solid line was the survival of mEHT group and the dashed line the non-mEHT. The x showed the censored patients.

## OS grouped by metastatic patients of the two groups of the study



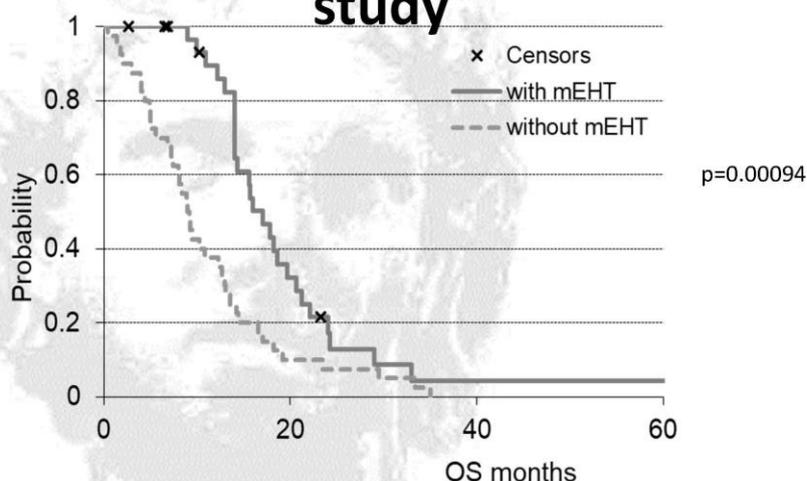
The solid line was the survival of mEHT group and the dashed line the non-mEHT. The x showed the censored patients.

## OS grouped by the first-line treatments of the study two groups



The solid line was the survival of mEHT group and the dashed line the non-mEHT. The x showed the censored patients.

## OS grouped for non-resected patients of the two arm of the study

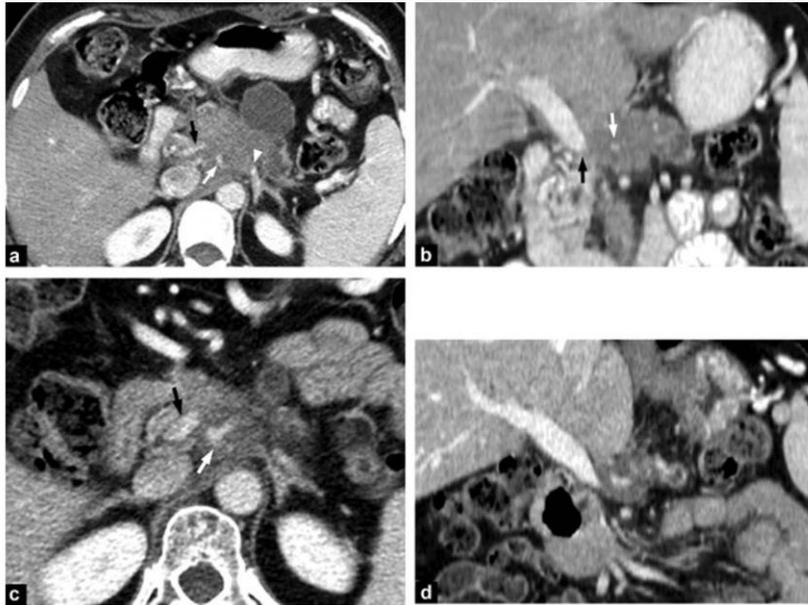


The solid line was the survival of mEHT group and the dashed line the non-mEHT. The x showed the censored patients.

## ADVERSE EFFECTS AND SAFETY

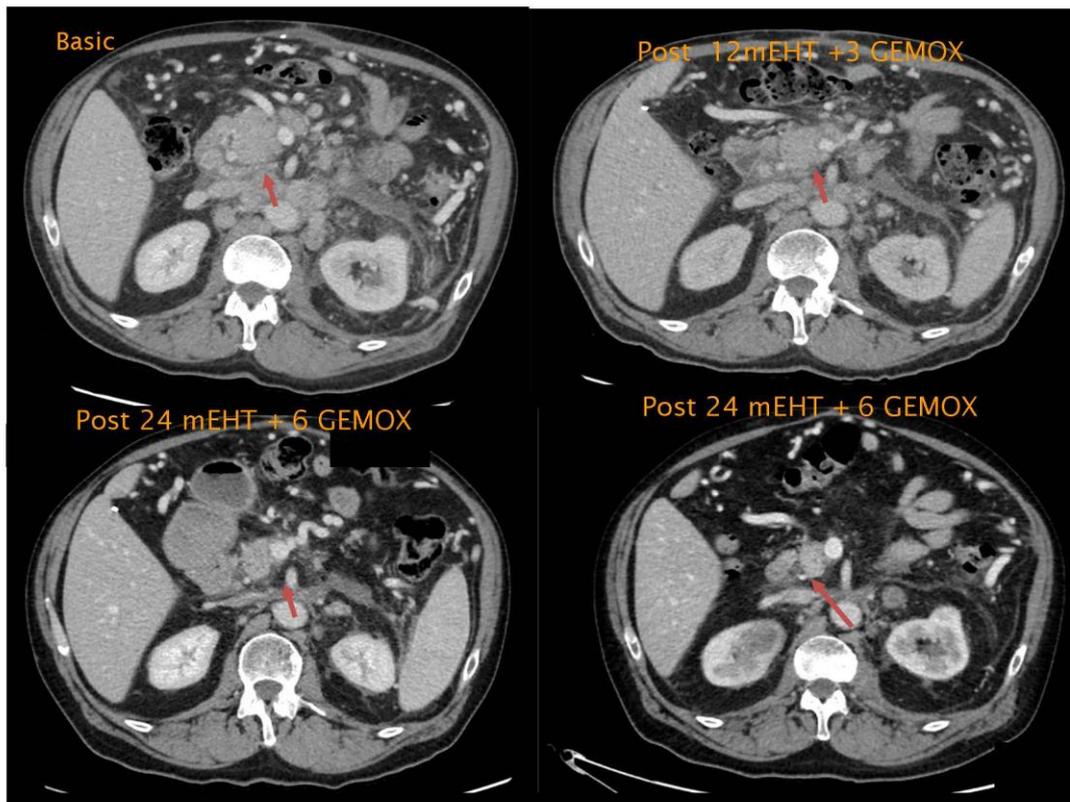
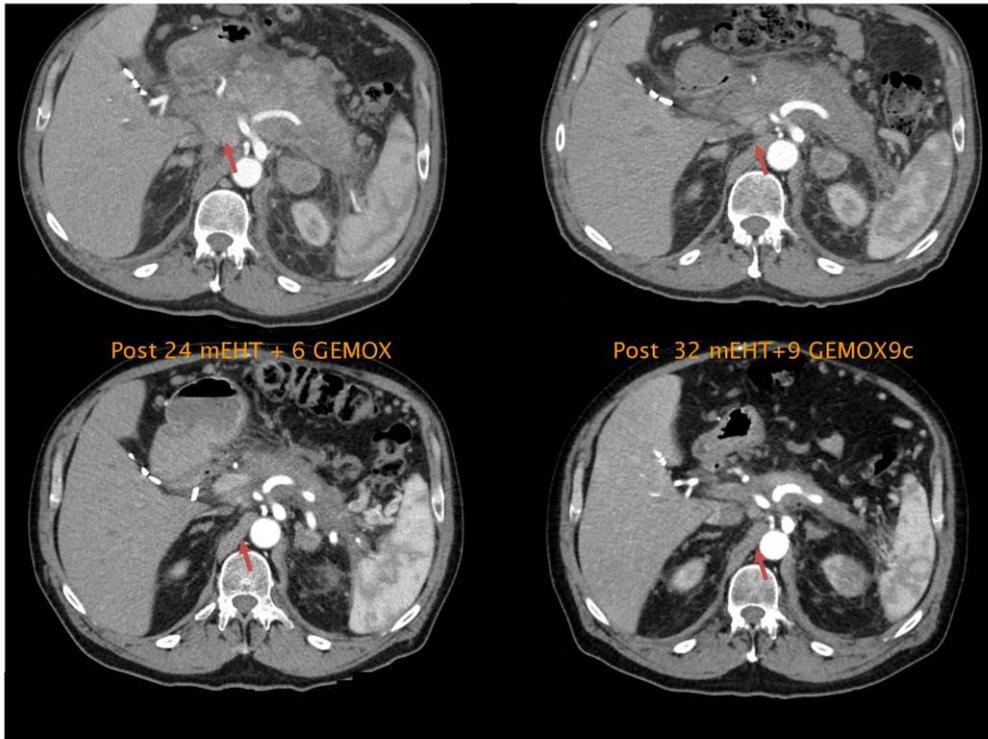
- Out of a total of 499 mEHT delivered sessions, the safety assessment of mEHT showed a limited number of adverse events 20/499 (4%).
- mEHT toxicity consisted of skin pain in 12 (2%) sessions and grade 1 burns in 6 (1%) patients and grade 2 burns in 2 patients.
- All these side effects were G1-G2 intensity and resolved with local medications and discontinuation of treatment for one week.

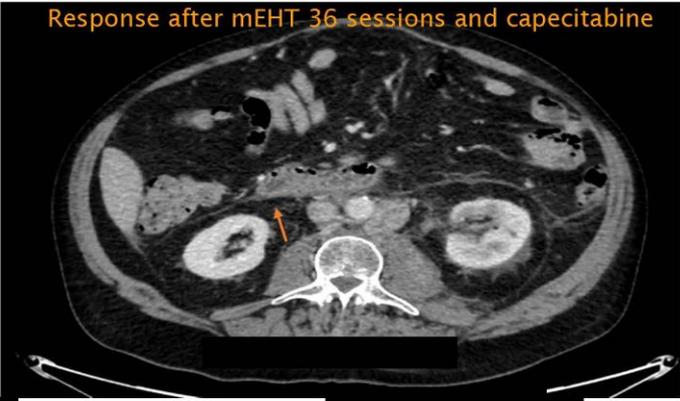
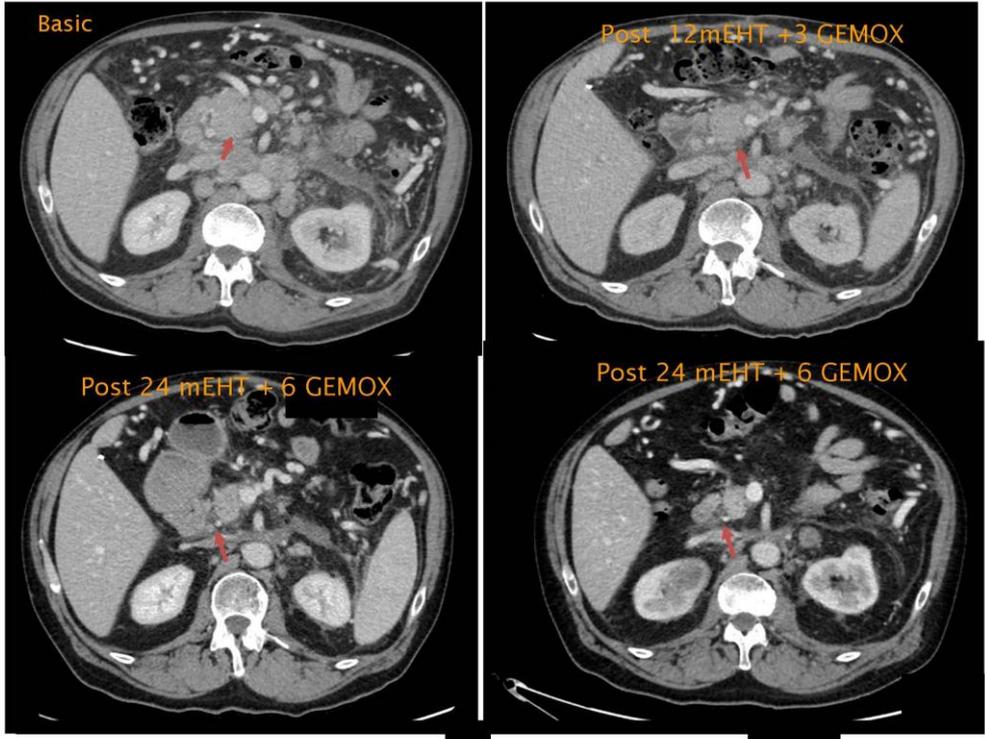
PT 26 - PANCREATIC CANCER (BODY) PROGRESSED AFTER 6 C. OF GEMOX, RESPONSE AFTER MEHT+ GEM ( 32 MEHT SESSIONS AND 8 C. OF GEM)

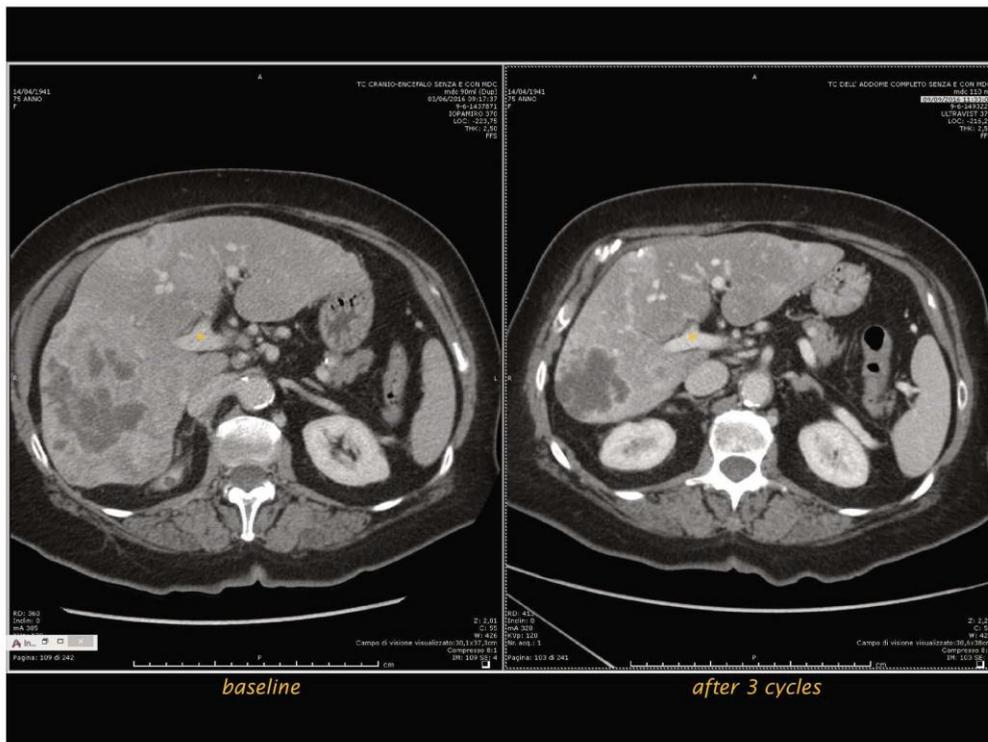


PT 33-PANCREATIC CANCER (HEAD) AFTER DRAINAGE RECEIVED MEHT (28 SESSIONS) PLUS GEM 9 C. SEE EVIDENCE OF RESPONSE









## CONCLUSION

- Longer median OS and better tumor response were observed for mEHT group than for the control group.
- These results may suggest a beneficial effect of mEHT when combined with chemotherapy increasing response and OS for patients with locally advanced and metastatic pancreatic cancer.
- The results of this study suggested also that mEHT could be safe for pancreatic cancer therapy, resulting in very limited side effects.
- Our data suggest to carry out further randomized trials



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Thank you

# Exploiting autoimmunity unleashed by an off-label low-dose immune checkpoint blockade to treat advanced cancer

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To the memory of Melvin Cohn, founding fellow and professor emeritus of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies

**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

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Bakacs T. et al. (2019): Exploiting autoimmunity unleashed by an off-label low-dose immune checkpoint blockade to treat advanced cancer, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 109- 121  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Exploiting\\_autoimmunity.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Exploiting_autoimmunity.pdf)

## Introduction

As a result of the cancer immunotherapy revolution more than 2,000 immuno-oncology agents are currently being tested or in use to improve responses. Not unexpectedly, the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo for their development of cancer therapy by blockade of co-inhibitory signals. While success stories of terminal cancer patients achieving complete remissions are accumulating, not enough research has been done into the risks of the new therapies. Since the use of immunotherapy is becoming more common and is beginning to develop into first- and second-line treatments, autoimmunity is emerging as the nemesis of immunotherapy. Immune-related adverse events (irAEs) could affect any tissue; their incidence may reach up to 96% of patients; and toxicity is dose-dependent. While the combination of two immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) increases efficacy, the incidence of severe adverse events is also increased. Apparently, ICIs cannot be restricted to the targeted anti-tumour T cell population. The long-lasting objective of cancer regression can only be achieved by paying a price: tolerance to healthy self-tissues is compromised.

## Objectives, Material/Methods

In the face of an ipilimumab-induced pan-lymphocytic activation, a therapeutic paradigm shift is required. The task is not to desperately put the genie back in the bottle by immune suppressive treatments, but instead harnessing the autoimmune forces by an off label low-dose combined anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD1 antibody blockade, which is supplemented with conventional interleukin-2 (IL-2) stimulation and hyperthermia.

## Results

The proof-of-principle of the low-dose-combination therapy was demonstrated in a heavily pre-treated triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) patient with far advanced pulmonary metastases and severe shortness of breath, who had exhausted all conventional treatment. Her pulmonary metastases went into complete remission with transient WHO I-II diarrhoea and skin rash. She lived for 27 months after starting the low-dose-combination therapy. Since then, 111 stage IV cancer patients with a variety of cancer types have been treated. A retrospective analysis of these single cases demonstrated that the overall response (OR) rate was 48% with an objective response (ORR) of 33%, while irAEs of WHO grade I, II, III and IV were observed in 21%, 14%, 7% and 2% of patients, respectively.

## Conclusion

Since the low-dose-combination protocol consists only of approved drugs and treatments, these single patient responses can be confirmed or refuted in prospective controlled clinical trials.



Exploiting autoimmunity unleashed by an off-label  
low-dose immune checkpoint blockade to treat  
advanced cancer  
(Scand. J. Immunol. 2019 in press)

Tibor Bakacs, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc, Ralph W. Moss, Ph.D., Ralf Kleef M.D.,  
Marcell Szasz, M.D., Ph.D., Colin C Anderson, Ph.D.

To the memory of Melvin Cohn, founding fellow and  
professor emeritus of the Salk Institute for Biological  
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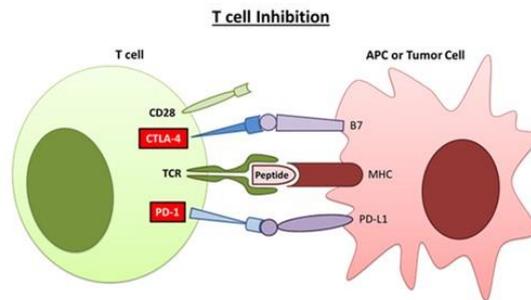
## Highlights

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- Autoimmunity emerging as the nemesis of immunotherapy;
- Immune-related adverse events (irAEs) can affect any tissue; their incidence may reach up to 96% of patients;
- Nobel committee: improve understanding of irAEs
- Therapeutic paradigm shift: autoimmune T cells can be harnessed for a graft-versus-tumour (GVT) reaction by an off-label low-dose combined checkpoint blockade, complemented with interleukin 2 (IL-2) and hyperthermia;
- Overall response rate 48% with irAEs of WHO grade III and IV in 7% and 2% of 111 stage IV cancer patients

For survival T cells require regular stimulation from self-peptides

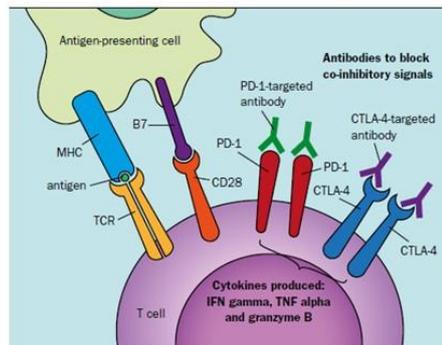
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- Self-antigens activate T cells by “tonic” TCR signals
- Physiologic autoimmunity regulated by checkpoint inhibitors**
- Following short activation T cells express CTLA-4 that terminates activation

Immune checkpoint blockade turns physiologic autoimmunity into a pan-lymphocytic activation

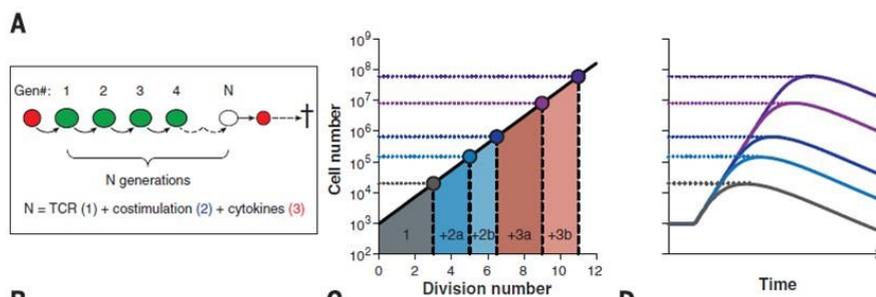
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- CTLA-4 is blocked not only on tumor-specific but on all activated T cells
- This results in immune stimulation, tolerance breakdown and tumor eradication
- Cancer regressions cannot be achieved without breaking the tolerance**

## Rationale for low-dose ICI combination therapy: individual (sub-threshold) effects add up

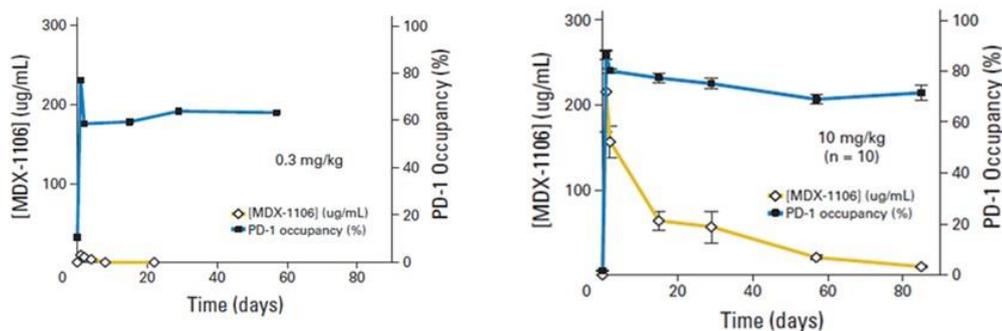
The quantitative paradigm of T cell activation: signals from the TCR, co-stimulatory/co-inhibitory receptors and cytokines are added together



Marchingo et al. Science. 2014 Nov 28;346:1123-7

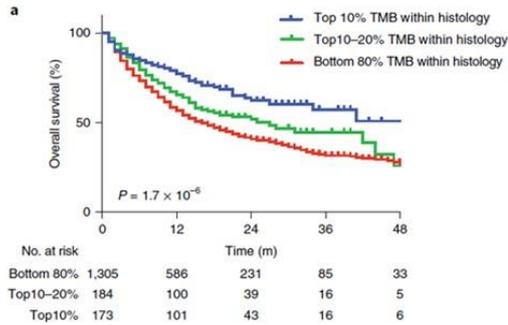
Off-label, low-dose ICI therapy administers the lowest doses (0.3 mg/kg ipilimumab and 0.5 mg/kg nivolumab)

PD-1 occupancy was comparable at **0.3 mg/kg and 10.0 mg/kg**



No patient had an antitumor response but had Gr 2/3 irAEs

## Checkpoint inhibitors were more likely to halt tumor growth with higher number of mutations

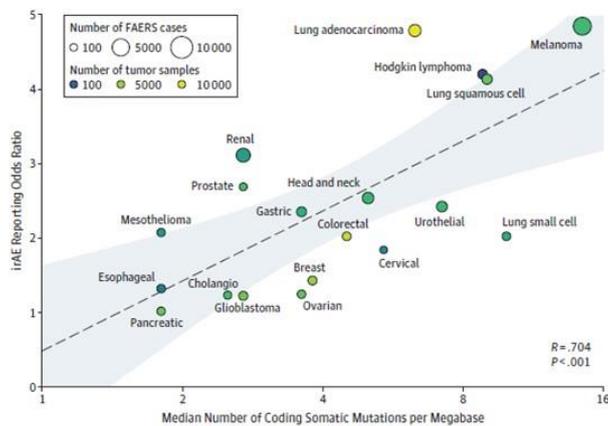


- ❑ Nature: neoantigens generate an immune reaction
- ❑ We suggest: this is a transplantation reaction against new antigens
- ❑ Without ICI blockade too weak to provoke T cell attack
- ❑ **With ICI blockade T cells attack semi-allogeneic tumors resulting in better overall survival**

Samstein, R.M., et al. Nat. Genet. 51:202–6, 2019.

## Significant positive correlation between irAEs during anti-PD-1 therapy and TMB across multiple cancer types

Figure. Association of Tumor Mutational Burden With Immune-Related Adverse Events During Anti-PD-1 Therapy Across Multiple Cancers



Bomze, D., Hasan Ali, O., Bate, A., Flatz, L. 2019. Association Between Immune-Related Adverse Events During Anti-PD-1 Therapy and Tumor Mutational Burden. JAMA Oncology.

## Insisting that ipilimumab is tumor specific is ignoring the obvious

---

Managing toxicities associated with immune checkpoint inhibitors Puzanov et al, Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer, 2017

- irAEs affect any tissue, incidence up to 96%
- Overall incidence <75% with ipilimumab monotherapy; ≤30% anti-PD-1/PD-L1 agents
- IrAEs of ≥ grade 3 up to 43% with ipilimumab and ≤20% with PD-1/PD-L1 agents
- Combination of ipilimumab with nivolumab: 55% of grade 3/4 irAEs; discontinuation rate 30%
- irAEs with ipilimumab and pembrolizumab is dose-dependent
- Death due to irAEs occurred in up to 2% of patients

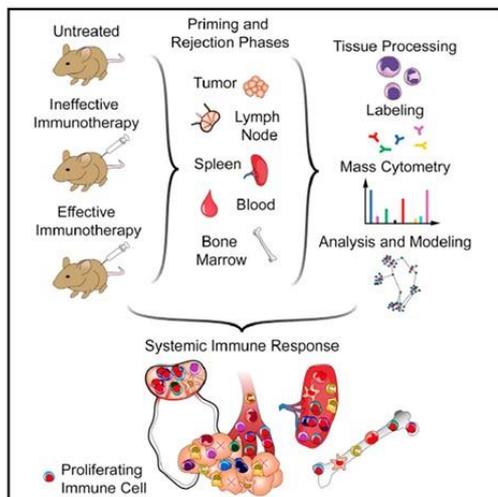
## Autoimmunity is the Achilles' heel of cancer immunotherapy

---

- Incidence of irAEs is underestimated**
  - ✓ most cancer trials follow patients for only a brief time
  - ✓ patients who died from their cancer are not included
- Incidence of irAEs will rise as these therapies become more widely used
- The risks of the ICIs is „a massively understudied area”

## Systemic immunity is critical to tumor rejection following immunotherapy

Spitzer et al. *Cell*; 2017 Jan 26;168:487-502 e15



- ❑ High-throughput and high-dimensional single-cell technologies (mass cytometry, assessing all immune cells simultaneously)
- ❑ Supports therapeutic paradigm shift to exploit systemic autoimmunity for the treatment of advanced cancer

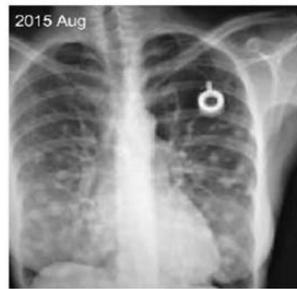
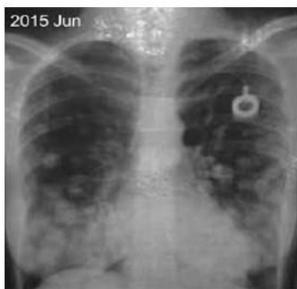
## ICI antibodies generate Graft-Versus-Tumor (GVT) effect without allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation

The same GVT effect could be achieved by ipilimumab as by donor lymphocyte infusion but without severe GVHD

- ❑ While a low-dose adjuvant ipilimumab (0.3 mg/kg) could induce auto-GVHD... (Slavin et al, *Pharmacol Res*, 2013)
- ❑ ...a high-dose (10 mg/kg) adjuvant ipilimumab gained FDA approval (33.3 times higher dose than that of suggested by Slavin) (Eggermont et al, *N Engl J Med*, 2016) with 41.6% of a grade 3 or 4 irAEs in the ipilimumab group, but only in 2.7% in the placebo group; 5 patients (1.1%) died due to irAEs of ipilimumab
- ❑ Since our low-dose ICI protocol consists only of approved drugs and treatments it can be confirmed or refuted in controlled clinical trials

## Complete remission of lung metastases in TNBC

Transient WHO I-II diarrhea and skin rash, patient alive for 27 months



ipilimumab (0.3 mg/kg) nivolumab (0.5 mg/kg)  
interleukin-2 (54 Mio/m2 as decrescendo regimen)  
loco regional- and whole body hyperthermia

[Kleef et al Integrative Cancer Therapies, 2018](#)  
DOI: [10.1177/1534735418794867](https://doi.org/10.1177/1534735418794867)

Since the treatment of the first TNBC patient, 111 stage IV cancer patients were treated with a variety of cancer types

- ❑ Efficacy: **OR was 48%** with an ORR of 33%; the median follow-up 22 months
- ❑ Excellent safety: irAEs of WHO grade I in 21% of patients, grade II in 14%, **grade III in 7%, while grade IV in only 2% of patients.**
- ❑ With registered doses of ipilimumab (3 mg/kg) and nivolumab (3 mg/kg): irAEs in 96%, grade 3 or 4 irAEs in 55%, including events in the central nervous system in 7%; one patient died from immune-related myocarditis

A retrospective analysis of single cases presented at the 8th-annual Oncology Association of Naturopathic Physicians in San Diego, CA, 2019.

Management of irAEs in Patients Treated With ICI  
Therapy: ASCO Clinical Practice Guideline.  
J Clin Oncol. 2018

- Higher doses produce higher rates of irAEs
- Combination anti-CTLA-4 and anti-PD-1 significantly increased the risk of grade 3 and 4 irAEs
- The potential for life-disabling irAEs that are severe and/or irreversible exists
- Dose reductions of immune checkpoint therapy should be avoided**

Patients often deny their symptoms when they fear their treatment will be stopped due to irAEs

**IMMUNOTHERAPY** WALLET CARD

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
CANCER DX: \_\_\_\_\_  
I-O AGENTS RCVD:  CHECKPOINT INHIBITOR(S)  
 CAR-T  VACCINES  ONCOLYTIC VIRAL THERAPY  
 MONOCLONAL ANTIBODIES  
DRUG NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
IMMUNOTHERAPY TX START DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
OTHER CANCER MEDICATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: IMMUNOTHERAPY AGENTS ARE NOT CHEMOTHERAPY AND SIDE EFFECTS MUST BE MANAGED DIFFERENTLY. (SEE BACK)

ONS  
Oncology Nursing Society

**IMMUNOTHERAPY CARD**

IMMUNE-RELATED SIDE EFFECTS\*, COMMON WITH CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS VARY IN SEVERITY AND MAY REQUIRE REFERRAL AND STEROIDS. PATIENTS HAVE A LIFETIME RISK OF IMMUNE-RELATED SIDE EFFECTS.

\*MAY PRESENT AS RASH, DIARRHEA, ABDOMINAL PAIN, COUGH, FATIGUE, HEADACHES, VISION CHANGES, ETC.—CONFER WITH ONCOLOGY TEAM BEFORE CHANGING I-O REGIMEN OR STARTING SIDE EFFECT TREATMENT.

ONCOLOGY PROVIDER NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ONCOLOGY PROVIDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_  
CONTACT PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Copyright © 2017 Oncology Nursing Society. All rights reserved.

Management of Immune-Related Adverse Events in Patients Treated With Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Therapy, Brahmer et al, J Clin Oncol, 2018

## University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Centre confirmed the rationale for our low-dose immune checkpoint blockade protocol



- ❑ Despite dose-dependent increase in irAEs, no improvement in PFS, OS, or DCR with escalating doses of ICIs.
- ❑ Lower doses may reduce toxicity and cost without compromising disease control or survival.

## Financial toxicity of newer oncology drugs is an issue for patients and health systems

Less than 5% of the population has coverage for PD-1 in Peru and less than 10% in Chile

**TABLE 3.** Dose and Cost Estimations for Nivolumab

Nivolumab	0.1 mg/kg Once Every 2 Weeks	0.3 mg/kg Once Every 2 Weeks	1 mg/kg Once Every 2 Weeks	3 mg/kg Once Every 2 Weeks	240 mg Once Every 2 Weeks
Mg per cycle	8	24	80	240	240
Cost per cycle (USD)	205	615	2,051	6,153	6,153
Cost per year (USD)	4,922	14,766	49,221	147,663	147,663
Relative cost versus std (%)	3	10	33	100	100
Patients treated versus std (No.)	30	10	3	1	1

NOTE. Dose estimated for an 80-kg patient. Calculations consider a cost of US \$25.63 per mg, per Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicaid information.<sup>21</sup> These calculations do not reflect total treatment cost because they only consider medication expenditures. Abbreviations: std, standard dosage; USD, US dollars.

Renner, A., Burotto, M., Rojas, C. 2019. Immune Checkpoint Inhibitor Dosing: Can We Go Lower Without Compromising Clinical Efficacy? *Journal of Global Oncology*, 1.(ASCO)

## Financial barrier should be reduced to benefit more patients

---

- Both pembrolizumab and nivolumab have significant efficacy at much lower doses than those approved
- This should be tested in RCT
- It is unlikely the pharmaceutical industry will be interested in such a subject**
- Independent institutions, universities, or collaborative groups would have to take on this challenge

„As I go around the country, I talk about the tragedy of cancer to remind people that the tragedy is not our inability to prevent the inevitable or to do the impossible; tragedy is when a person, a group or a society fails to achieve the possible.”



Remark | [Free Access](#)

**Cancer, minorities & the medically underserved\***

The role of the National Cancer Institute

Richard D. Klausner M.D.

First published: 09 November 2000

## Thank you for your attention

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Dr. Tibor BAKACS, Chief Scientific Officer [tiborbakacs@gmail.com](mailto:tiborbakacs@gmail.com)



# Hyperthermia as part of multimodal immunotherapy for patients with GBM

**Stefaan Van Gool<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Makalowski<sup>1</sup>, Marija Marko<sup>1</sup>, Wilfried Stuecker<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Immun-onkologische Zentrum Köln (Köln, Germany)

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

**Cite this article as:**

Van Gool S. et al. (2019): Hyperthermia as part of multimodal immunotherapy for patients with GBM,  
Oncothermia Journal 27: 122- 137  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Hperthermia\\_as\\_part\\_of\\_multimodal.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Hperthermia_as_part_of_multimodal.pdf)

## **Introduction.**

The prognosis for patients with glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) remains poor in spite of modern neurosurgery, radiotherapy and addition of chemotherapy. Results from the use of checkpoint blockers are disappointing. There is need for active immunization strategies in order to create an anti-tumor immune effector function and an immune memory against GBM for the installation of long-term protection.

## **Objectives**

We integrated 5-day treatments with injections of Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV) and moderate modulated electrohyperthermia (mEHT, 50 min, 40-55 Watt) into the maintenance chemotherapy with 5 days temozolomide (TMZ), after which we continued with full vaccination cycles including NDV injections, mEHT sessions, autologous DC vaccinations with IO-VAC® and immunomodulatory strategies. The objective of this study is to report on the results obtained from patients receiving such complex individualized combination treatment.

## **Material/Methods**

We found in our database (01/05/2019) 71 adults with primary GBM treated with multimodal immunotherapy as part of the first line treatment. For 34 adults, NDV and hyperthermia was administered during TMZ maintenance chemotherapy.

## **Results**

There were 10 females and 24 males with median age of 58 years (range 20-67). Median Karnofsky performance scale was 75 (range 60-100). Six patients are still under treatment. In median, 2 (range 0-13) DC vaccines, 25 (range 0-117) hyperthermia treatments and 28 (range 7-115) NDV injections were administered. Five from 28 patients who finished immunotherapy did not reach DC vaccination due to progressive disease. Median PFS was 10.46 months. Median OS was 23.44 months with 2-year OS of 48% (CI95%: +18, -20). There were no major treatment-related toxicities.

## **Conclusion**

Multimodal immunotherapy including moderate modulated electrohyperthermia is feasible for patients with first diagnosis of primary GBM. The treatment can be integrated in the standard therapy and continues thereafter. Median PFS and OS, and more importantly the % long-term OS seem to be improved. The data can form a basis for a prospective controlled clinical trial.

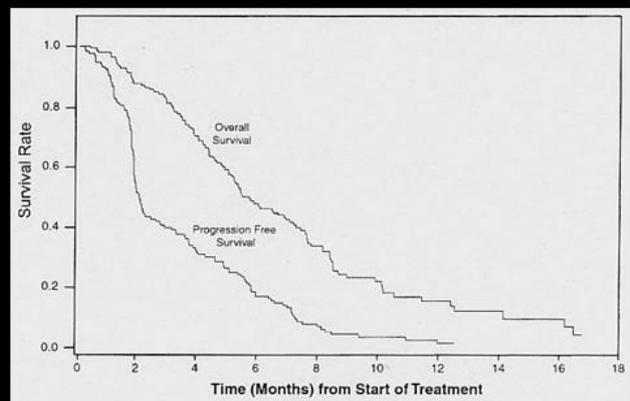
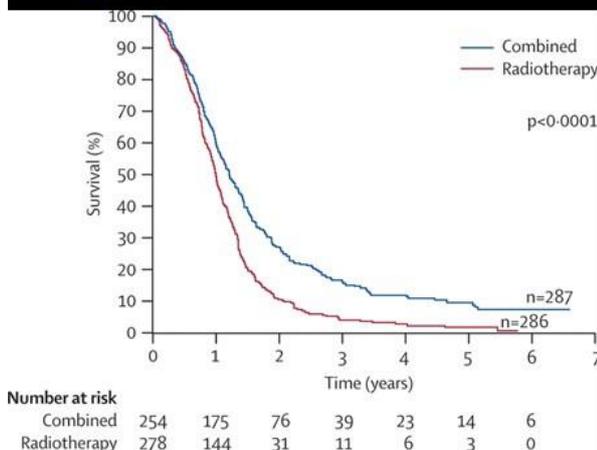
# Hyperthermia as part of multimodal immunotherapy for patients with GBM

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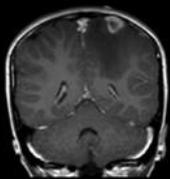
Stupp R et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2009;10:459-466



Brada et al. *Annals of Oncology* 2001;12:259-266

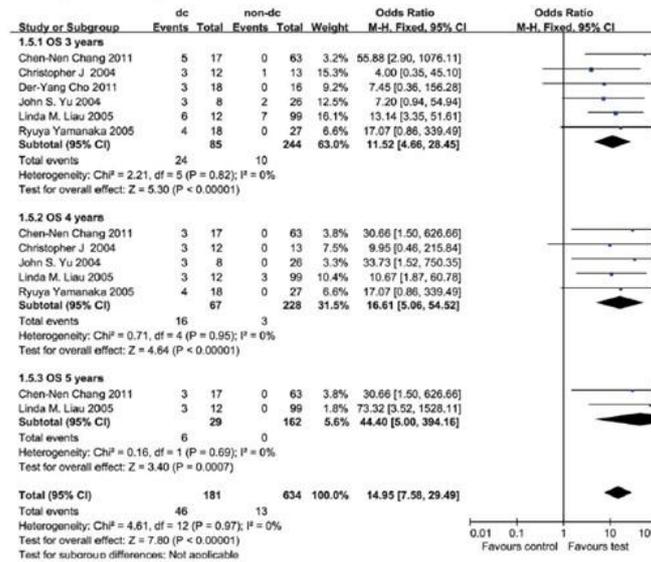
Glioblastoma multiforme: 3 per 100000 adults per year

**! High community burden !**



# Clinical Efficacy of Tumor Antigen-Pulsed DC Treatment for High-Grade Glioma Patients: Evidence from a Meta-Analysis

Jun-Xia Cao<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Xiao-Yan Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Jin-Long Liu<sup>1</sup>, Duo Li<sup>1</sup>, Jun-Li Li<sup>1</sup>, Yi-Shan Liu<sup>1</sup>, Min Wang<sup>1</sup>, Bei-Lei Xu<sup>1</sup>, Hai-Bo Wang<sup>1</sup>, Zheng-Xu Wang<sup>1\*</sup>



## Dendritic Cell-Based Vaccine for the Treatment of Malignant Glioma: A Systematic Review

Xuan Wang, Hong-Yang Zhao, Fang-Cheng Zhang, Yun Sun, Zhi-Yong Xiong & Xiao-Bing Jiang

To cite this article: Xuan Wang, Hong-Yang Zhao, Fang-Cheng Zhang, Yun Sun, Zhi-Yong Xiong & Xiao-Bing Jiang (2014) Dendritic Cell-Based Vaccine for the Treatment of Malignant Glioma: A Systematic Review, *Cancer Investigation*, 32:9, 451-457, DOI: [10.3109/07357907.2014.958234](https://doi.org/10.3109/07357907.2014.958234)

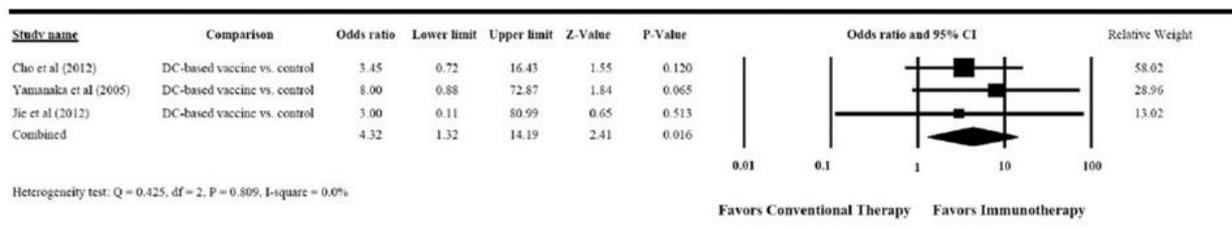


Figure 2. Meta-analysis of 2-year survival.

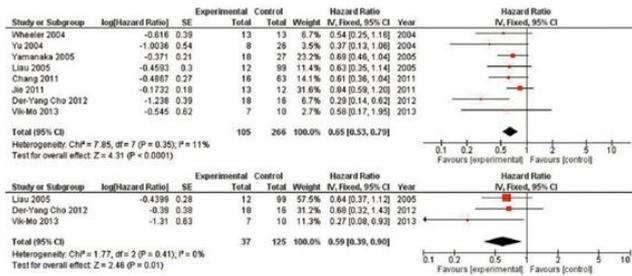


Figure 1. OS (a) and PFS (b) hazard ratios for trials using DC vaccination versus standard of care.

JOURNAL OF IMMUNOASSAY AND IMMUNOCHEMISTRY  
2019, VOL. 40, NO. 1, 70-80  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15322019.2018.1551804>

Taylor & Francis  
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Check for updates

Assessment of efficacy of dendritic cell therapy and viral therapy in high grade glioma clinical trials. A meta-analysis review

Bogdan Ionel Vatu<sup>a</sup>, Stefan-Alexandru Artenel<sup>a</sup>, Adeline-Georgiana Staicu<sup>a</sup>, Adina Turcu-Stolica<sup>b</sup>, Catalin Folcuti<sup>a</sup>, Alexandra Dragoi<sup>c</sup>, Catalina Cioc<sup>a</sup>, Stefania-Carina Baloi<sup>d</sup>, Ligia Gabriela Tataranu<sup>a</sup>, Cristian Silosi<sup>a</sup>, and Anica Dricu<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Department of Biochemistry, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Craiova, Romania; <sup>b</sup>Department of Biostatistics, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Craiova, Romania; <sup>c</sup>Department of Neurosurgery, Carol Davila, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest, Romania; <sup>d</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Medicine and Pharmacy of Craiova, Craiova, Romania

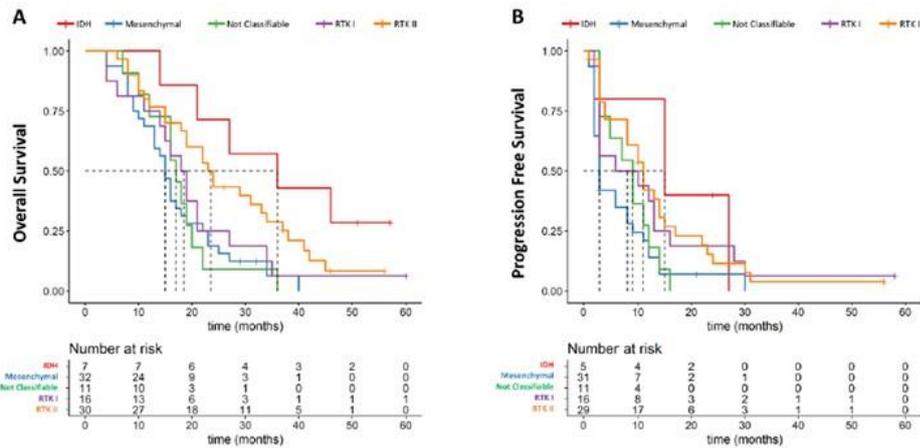


Figure 2: Kaplan-Meier graph showing Overall Survival (A) and Progression-free Survival (B) for the 5 DNA methylation based subgroups of GBM patients. The vertical lines display the median survival time for both groups: Median PFS and OS were 15.0 and 36.0 months in the IDH group respectively, 3.0 and 15.0 in the mesenchymal, 8.0 and 18.5 in the RTK I, 11.0 and 23.5 in RTK II and 9.0 and 17.0 in Not Classifiable tumors.

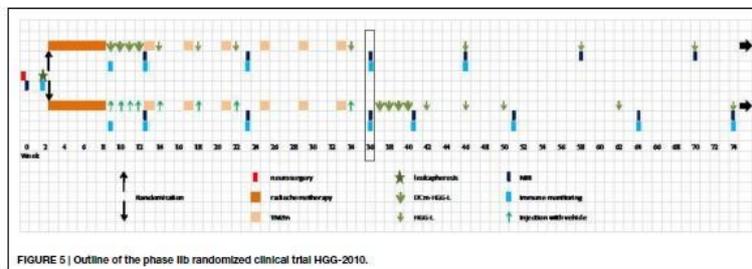
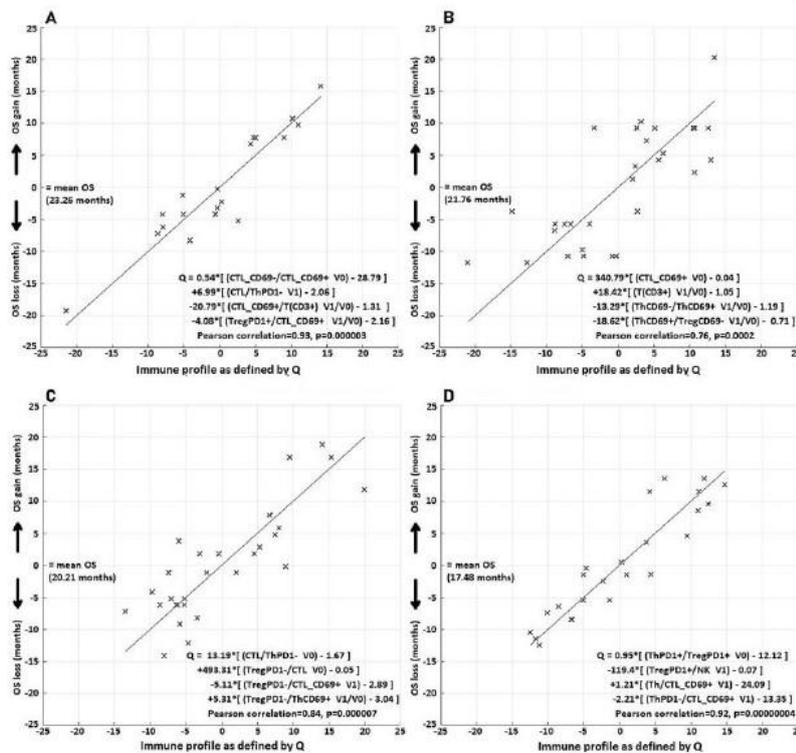


FIGURE 5 | Outline of the phase IIb randomized clinical trial HGG-2010.

methylation subclassification	Multivariate analysis			
	#	#	#	
IDH			0.05	
mesenchymal	3.61	1.25 - 10.46	0.02	
not classifiable	4.10	1.22 - 13.73	0.02	
RTK I	2.70	0.90 - 8.15	0.08	
RTK II	1.92	0.68 - 5.44	0.22	
Age at resection	1	0.97 - 1.03	0.97	
Early vs late vaccination			0.58	
	Early	#	#	
Late	0.87	0.53 - 1.43	0.58	
EOR			0.12	
	Partial	#	#	
	Subtotal	0.64	0.29 - 1.42	0.27
Total	0.47	0.22 - 1.01	0.05	
MGMT promotor methylation			< .001	
	Methylated	#	#	
	Unmethylated	2.95	1.77 - 4.93	< .001
	Not determinable	1.93	0.73 - 5.09	0.19

**Table 2:** Multivariate analysis of Overall Survival of different DNA methylation tumor subgroups, adjusted for age at resection, EOR, early versus late vaccination and MGMT promotor methylation in a Cox proportional hazard model. CI = Confidence Interval.



**Figure 2:** Canonical correlation analysis of immune profiles versus overall survival (OS). The immune profile is composed of the different FACS-derived quantities (features). Diagrams for four sub-groups are shown. A: Vaccination during temozolomide maintenance chemotherapy (TMZm), no residual tumor volume after resection; B: vaccination after TMZm, no residual tumor volume after resection; C: vaccination during TMZm, non-zero residual tumor volume after resection; D: vaccination after TMZm, non-zero residual tumor volume after resection. Each diagram depicts the strong correlation between Q (x-axis), where Q is the sum of quantities of the form: coefficient  $\times$  [feature - mean of feature in the specific subgroup], and OS (y-axis) expressed as the quantity OS being the individual OS in months minus the mean OS, i.e. mean OS for the specific subgroup.

**Table 1:** Overall survival (OS) data of the total study population and subgroups residual tumor volume (RTV).

Patient group	No. of patients	Median OS (months)	2-Year OS rate (%)	95% CI
Total group	101	19	33.66	24.66-42.88
Early vaccination, RTV=0	19	22	40.2	18.4-61.2
Late vaccination, RTV=0	29	23	44.8	26.5-61.5
Early vaccination, RTV>0	28	19	25	11-41.7
Late vaccination, RTV>0	25	16	28	12.4-46

## Challenges

- What if the tumor tissue is not available
- The tumor tissue is a heterogeneous dynamic phenomenon with glioma cancer stem cells and with emerging and disappearing tumor cell clones
- Need for improved combination treatments in and outside immunotherapy adapted to the situation/need of the patient, conflict with statistical designs
- Increasing demand, increasing immuno-oncologic insights <-> conflict with financial and regulatory restrictions

- Oncolytic virus and modulated electrohyperthermia → ICD
- ICD → actual panel of antigenic extracellular microvesicles
  - Shift towards individualized treatment approaches
- From Research & Development towards controlled Implementation

## Strategies forward

Cell Death & Differentiation  
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41418-017-0012-4>

Cell Death & Differentiation

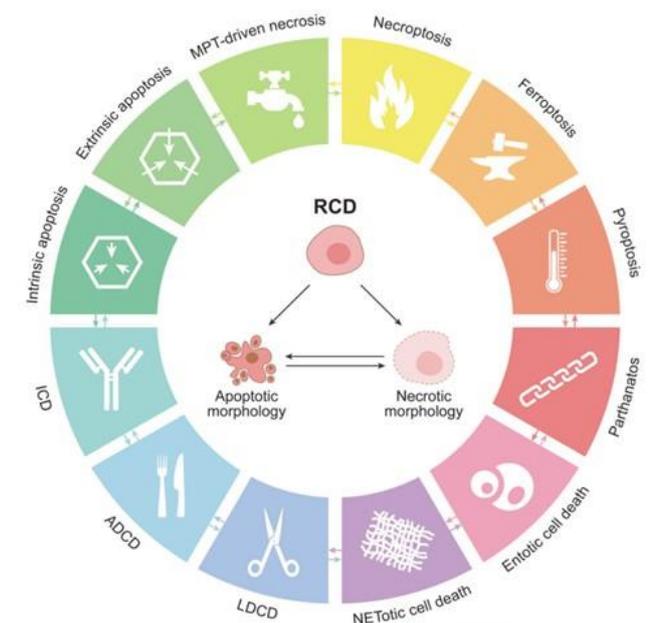
REVIEW



## Molecular mechanisms of cell death: recommendations of the Nomenclature Committee on Cell Death 2018

Lorenzo Galluzzi<sup>1,2,3</sup> · Ilio Vitale<sup>4,5</sup> et al.

Galluzzi et al. Consensus guidelines for the definition, detection and interpretation of immunogenic cell death, in preparation



frontiers  
in Immunology

REVIEW  
 PUBLISHED 14 JANUARY 2018  
 DOI: 10.3389/fimmu.2018.00000



### Exploiting the Immunogenic Potential of Cancer Cells for Improved Dendritic Cell Vaccines

Lien Vandenberk<sup>1\*</sup>, Jochen Bekmans<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Van Woenzele<sup>2,3</sup>, Matteo Riva<sup>4,5</sup> and Stefaan W. Van Gool<sup>1,4,6\*</sup>

*Review*

## Breaking Therapy Resistance: An Update on Oncolytic Newcastle Disease Virus for Improvements of Cancer Therapy

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Immune-Oncological Center Cologne (IOZK), D-50674 Cologne, Germany

\* Correspondence: V.Schirmmacher@web.de

Received: 30 July 2019; Accepted: 23 August 2019; Published: 30 August 2019

**Abstract:** Resistance to therapy is a major obstacle to cancer treatment. It may exist from the beginning, or it may develop during therapy. The review focusses on oncolytic Newcastle disease virus (NDV) as a biological agent with potential to break therapy resistance. This avian virus combines, upon inoculation into non-permissive hosts such as human, 12 described anti-neoplastic effects with 11 described immune stimulatory properties. Fifty years of clinical application of NDV give witness to the high safety profile of this biological agent. In 2015, an important milestone was achieved, namely the successful production of NDV according to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Based on this, IOZK in Cologne, Germany, obtained a GMP certificate for the production of a dendritic cell vaccine loaded with tumor antigens from a lysate of patient-derived tumor cells together with immunological danger signals from NDV for intracutaneous application. This update includes single case reports and retrospective analyses from patients treated at IOZK. The review also presents future perspectives, including the concept of in situ vaccination and the combination of NDV or other oncolytic viruses with checkpoint inhibitors.

### Molecular Therapy

Original Article



## Pre-existing Immunity to Oncolytic Virus Potentiates Its Immunotherapeutic Efficacy

Jacob M. Ricca,<sup>1,2</sup> Anton Oseledchik,<sup>4</sup> Tyler Walther,<sup>1,2</sup> Cailian Liu,<sup>1,2</sup> Levi Mangarin,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Taha Merghoub,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Jedd D. Wolchok,<sup>1,2,3,5</sup> and Dmitriy Zamarin<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Medicine, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA; <sup>2</sup>Swim Across America-Ludwig Collaborative Laboratory, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA; <sup>3</sup>Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA; <sup>4</sup>Department of Radiology, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY 10065, USA; <sup>5</sup>Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY 10065, USA



Research Paper

# Modulated electro-hyperthermia induced loco-regional and systemic tumor destruction in colorectal cancer allografts

Tamas Vancsik<sup>1</sup>, Csaba Kovago<sup>2</sup>, Eva Kiss<sup>1</sup>, Edina Papp<sup>3</sup>, Gertrud Forika<sup>1</sup>, Zoltan Benyo<sup>4</sup>, Nora Meggyeshazi<sup>1\*</sup>, Tibor Krenacs<sup>1\*</sup>✉

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4. Institute of Clinical Experimental Research, Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary.

\* These authors equally contributed to this paper

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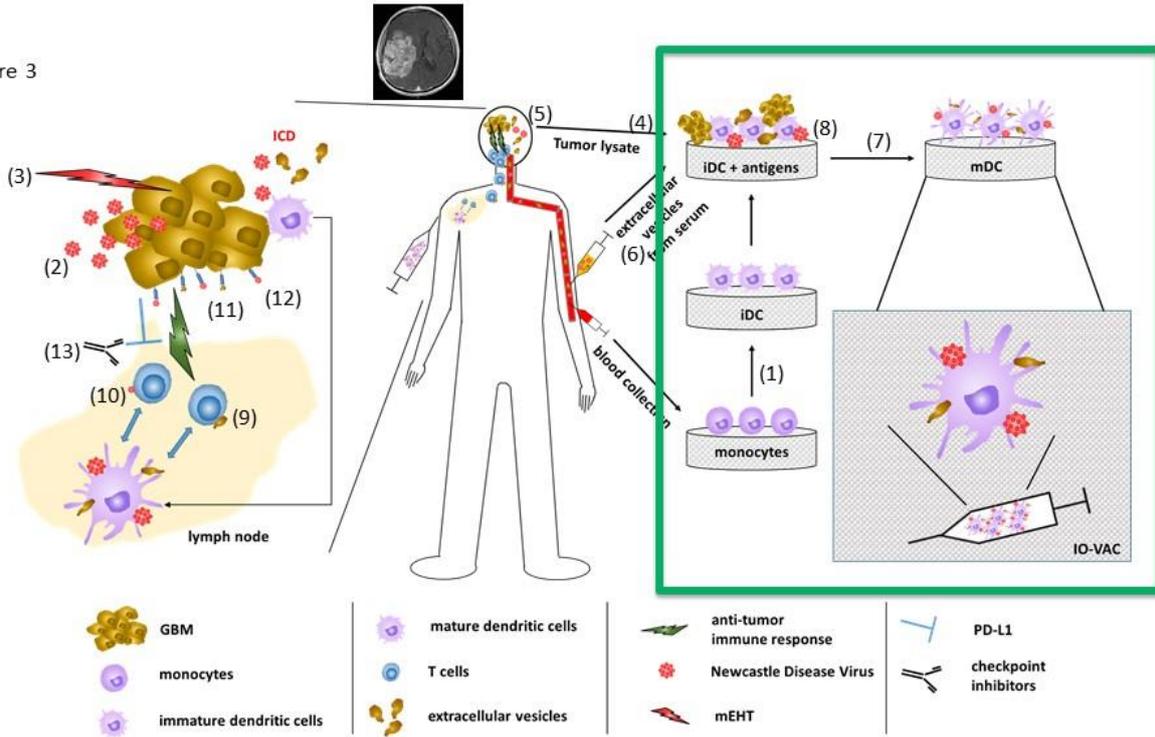
## Dosierung

- Erwachsenen
  1. Bei der mittleren Sonde ist darauf zu achten, dass beim Beginn der Behandlung die Temperatur nur in kleinen Schritten gesteigert werden sollte. Die Leistung sollte mit Modulation in 5 W Schritten (höchstens 10 W) langsam erhöht werden in zeitabständen von ca. 10 Minuten<sup>1</sup>. Diese kontinuierliche Erhöhung sollte sich über den gesamten Behandlungszeitraum von 50 Minuten bei Erwachsenen erstrecken. Erste Tag 30 Minuten.
  2. Die gleiche Vorgehensweise gilt auch für die große Sonde, falls diese zum Einsatz kommen sollte. Bei der großen Sonde wird die Behandlungstemperatur grundsätzlich in 20 W Schritten erhöht. Auch hier sollte die Temperatur bzw. die Leistung der Sonde spätestens nach 10 Minuten erhöht werden. Behandlungszeitraum von 50 Minuten. Erste Tag 30 Minuten.
- Kindern
 

Bei Kindern, die behandelt werden, dauert die Behandlung grundsätzlich nur 40 Minuten bei einer Leistung der Sonde. Erste Tag 20 bis 30 Minuten.

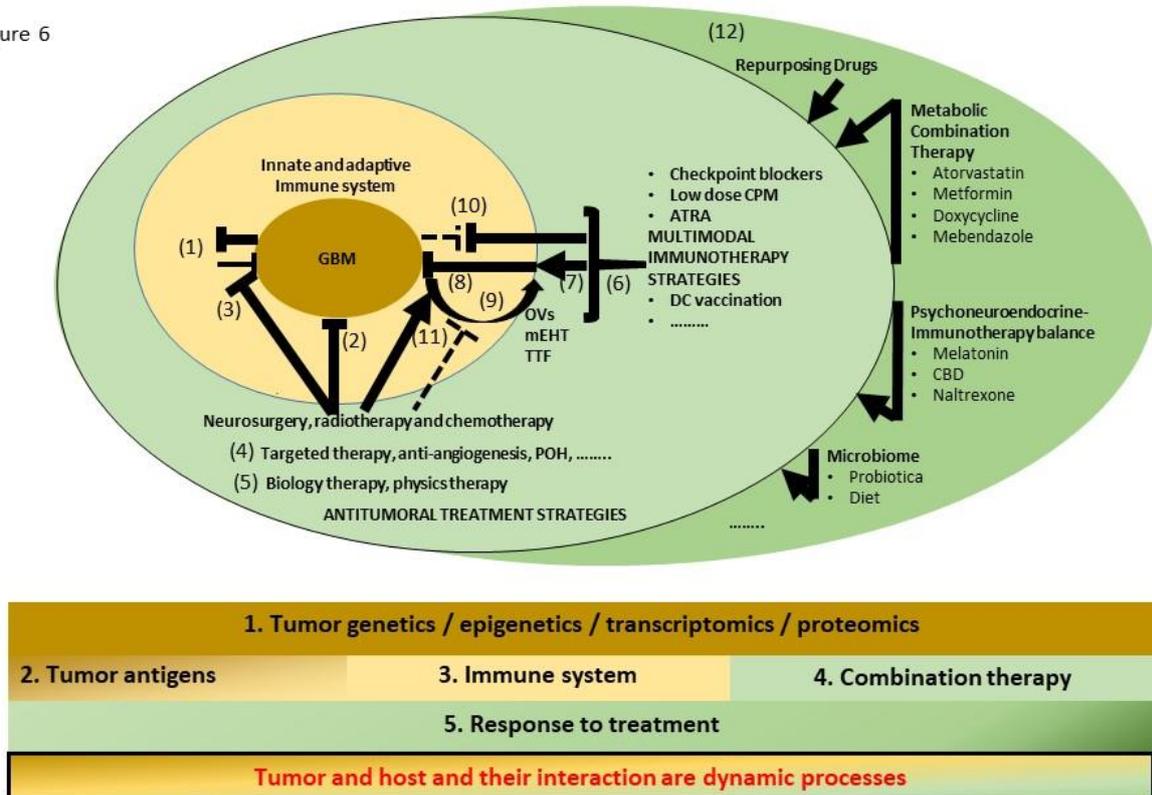
	Tag 1	Nach Tag 1
<b>Kopf. Modulation.</b>		
Kind	40 W 20-30 Min	40 (20 Min) --> 60 W bis 40 Min
Erwachsene	40 W 30 Min	40 (20 Min) --> 60 W bis 50 Min
<b>Körper. Modulation.</b>		
Kind	40 W 20-30 Min	40 (20 Min) --> 60 W bis 40 Min
Mittlere Sonde	40-60 W 30 Min	40-60 --> 80 --> 90 (Prostata) --> 100 (--> 120) W 50 Min
Große Sonde	60-100 W 30 Min	60-100 --> 140 --> 150 W 50 Min

Figure 3



E-Book, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, in press

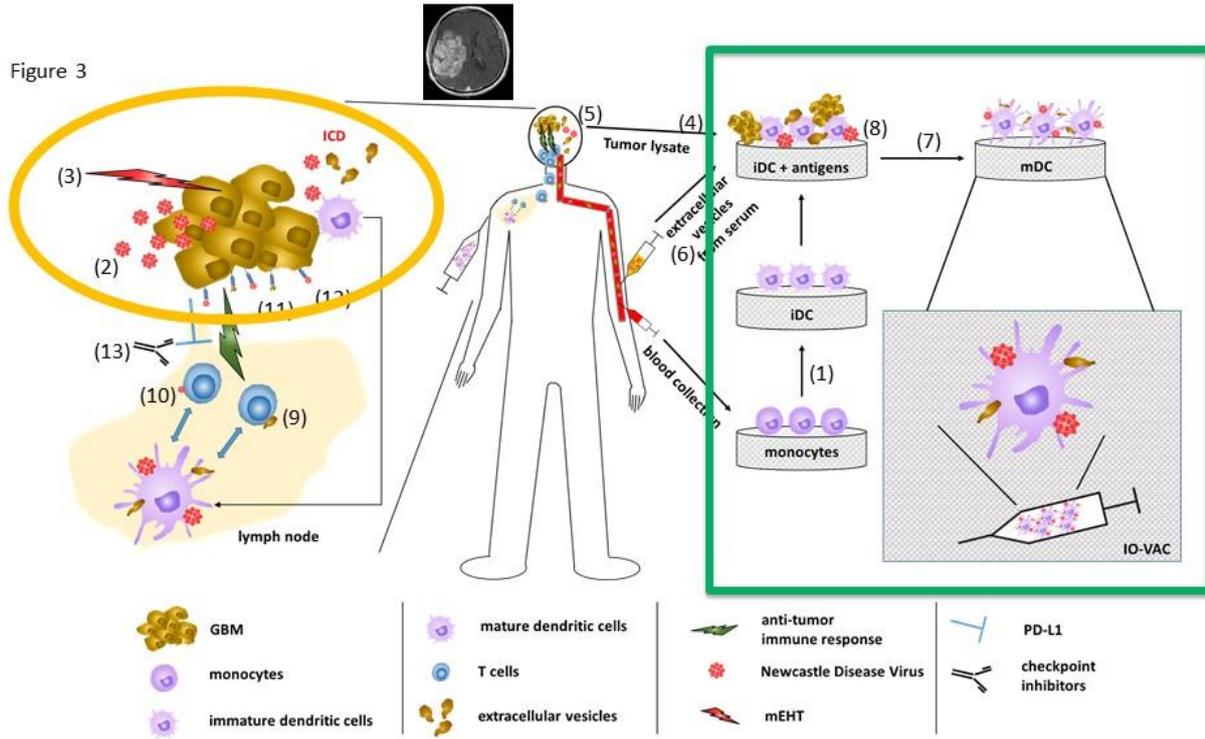
Figure 6



E-Book, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, in press

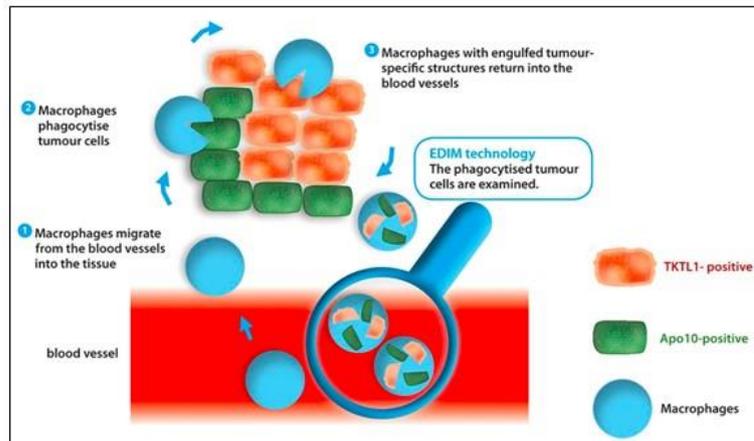
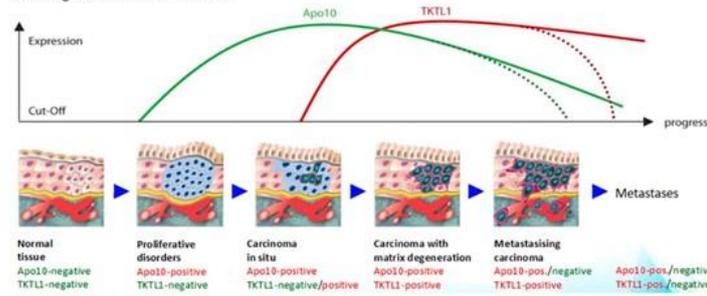


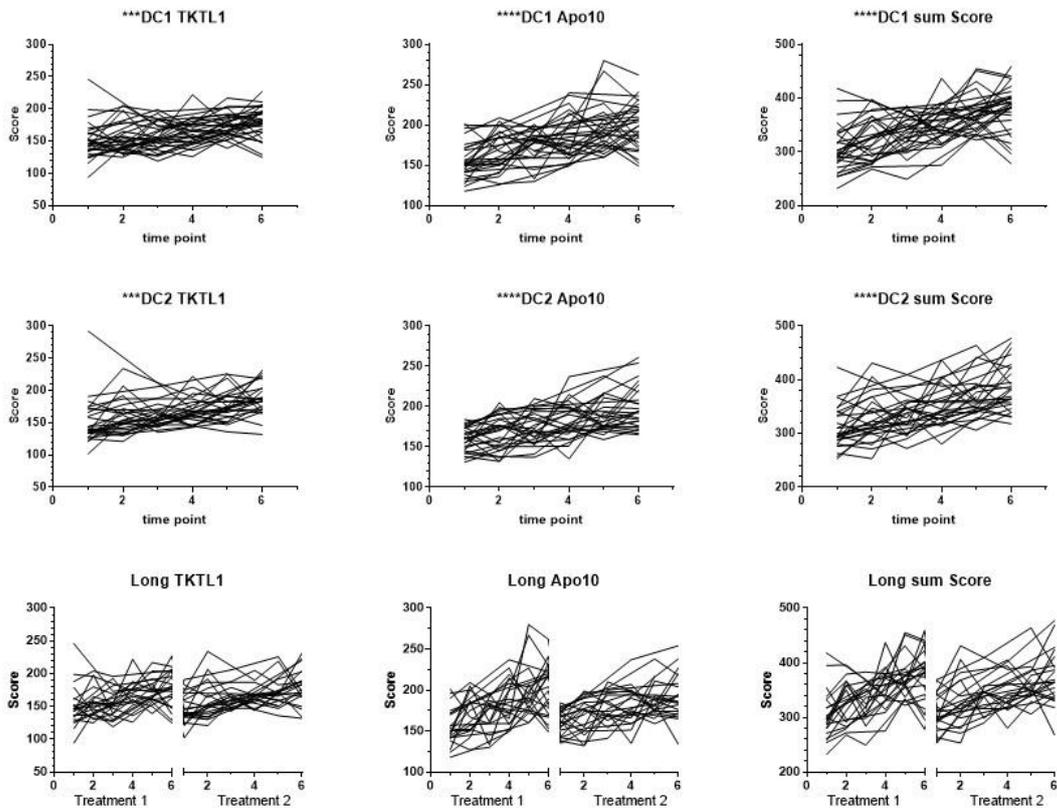
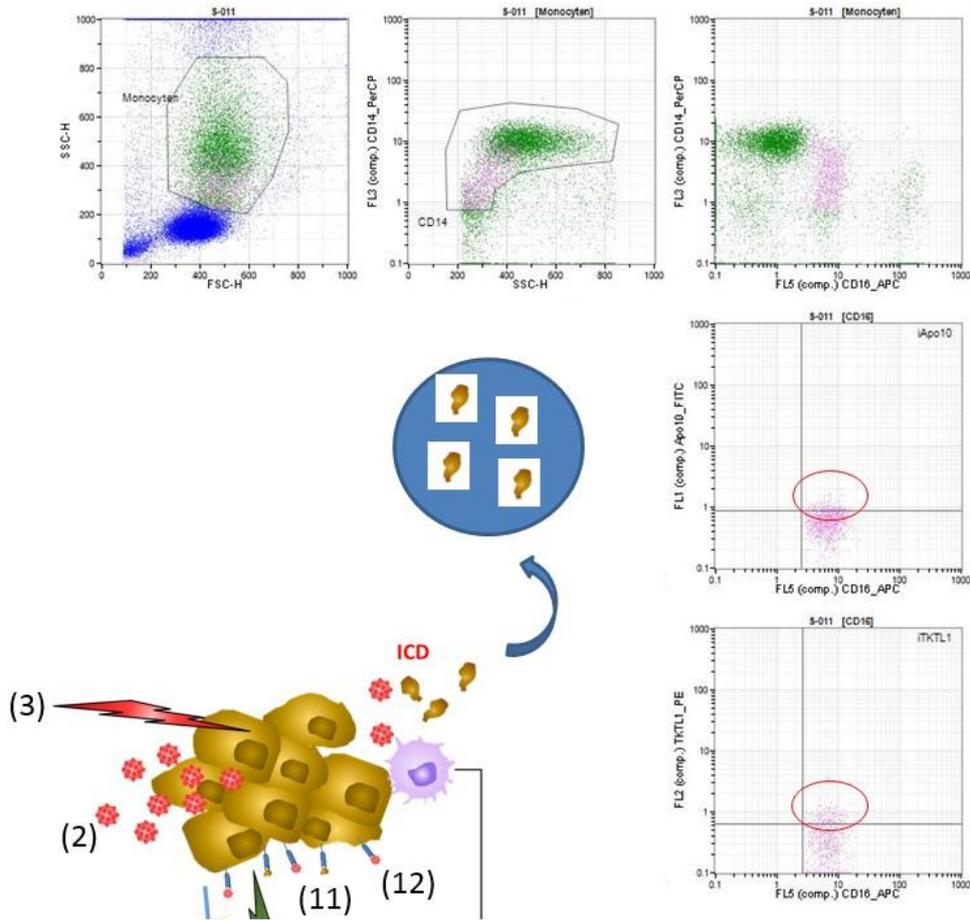
Figure 3

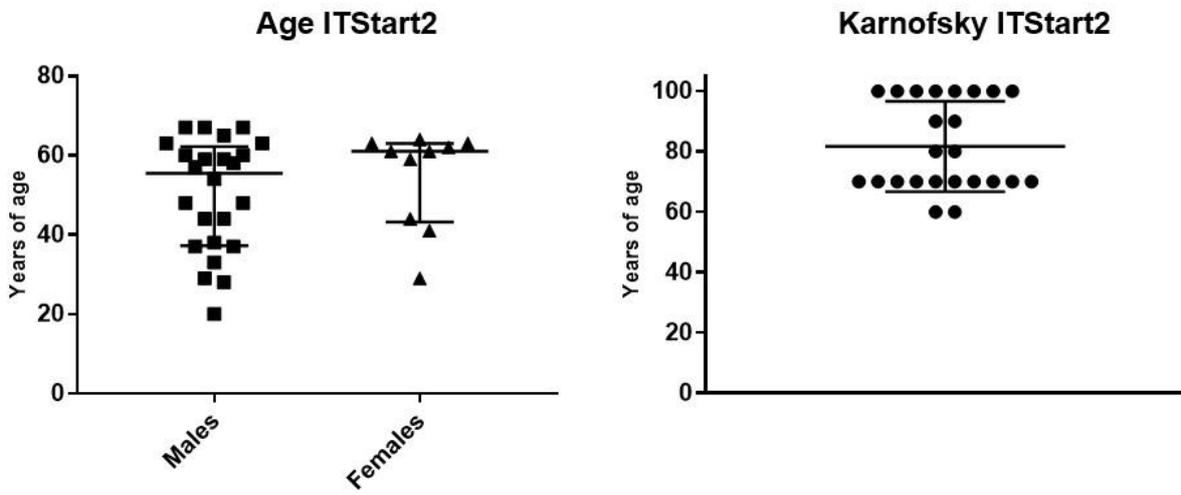


E-Book, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, in press

**TKTL1 and Apo10**  
New diagnostic markers in cancer

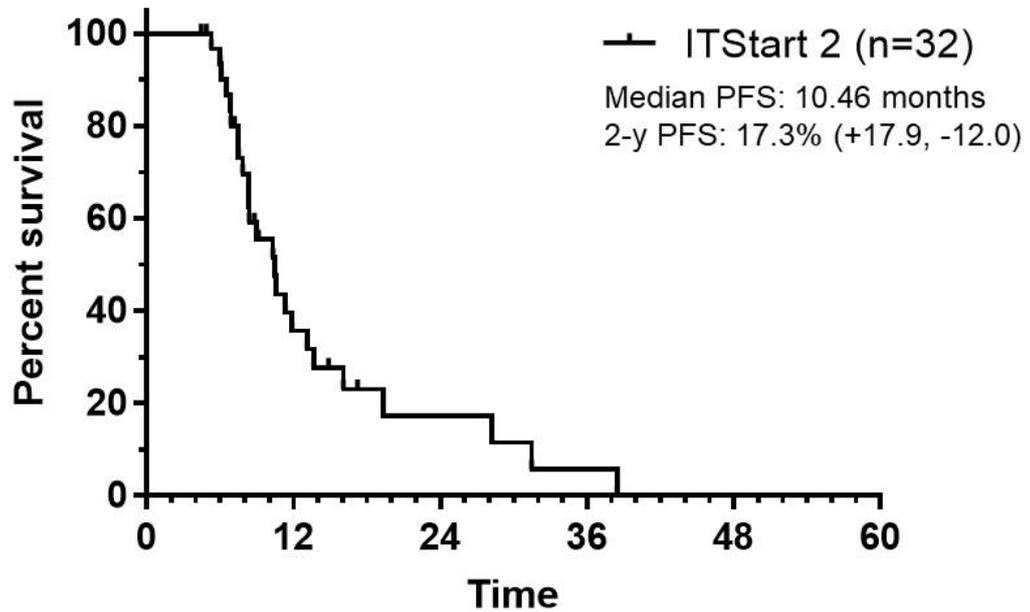




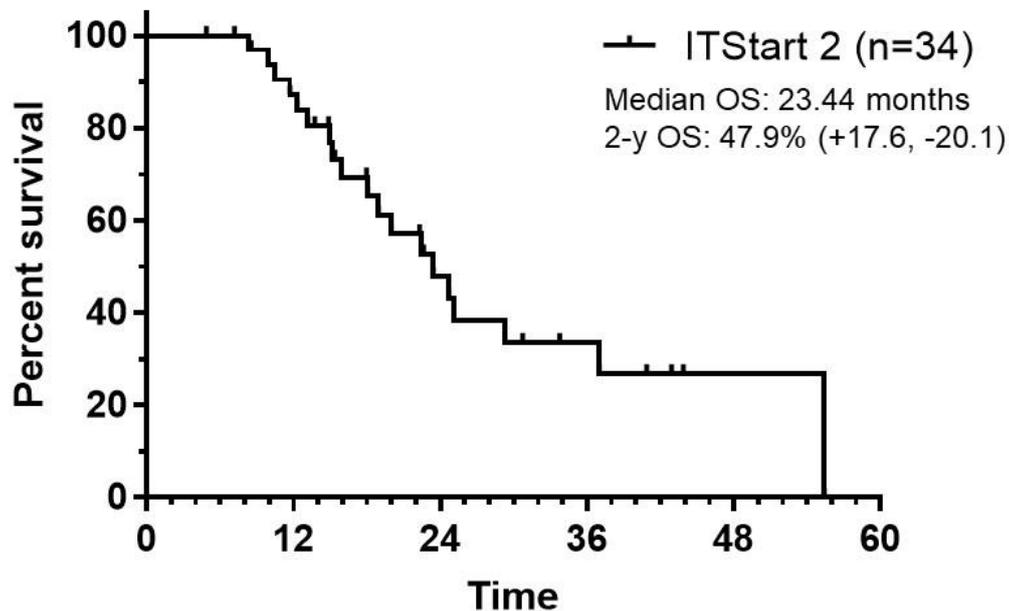


01/05/2019

Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“



Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

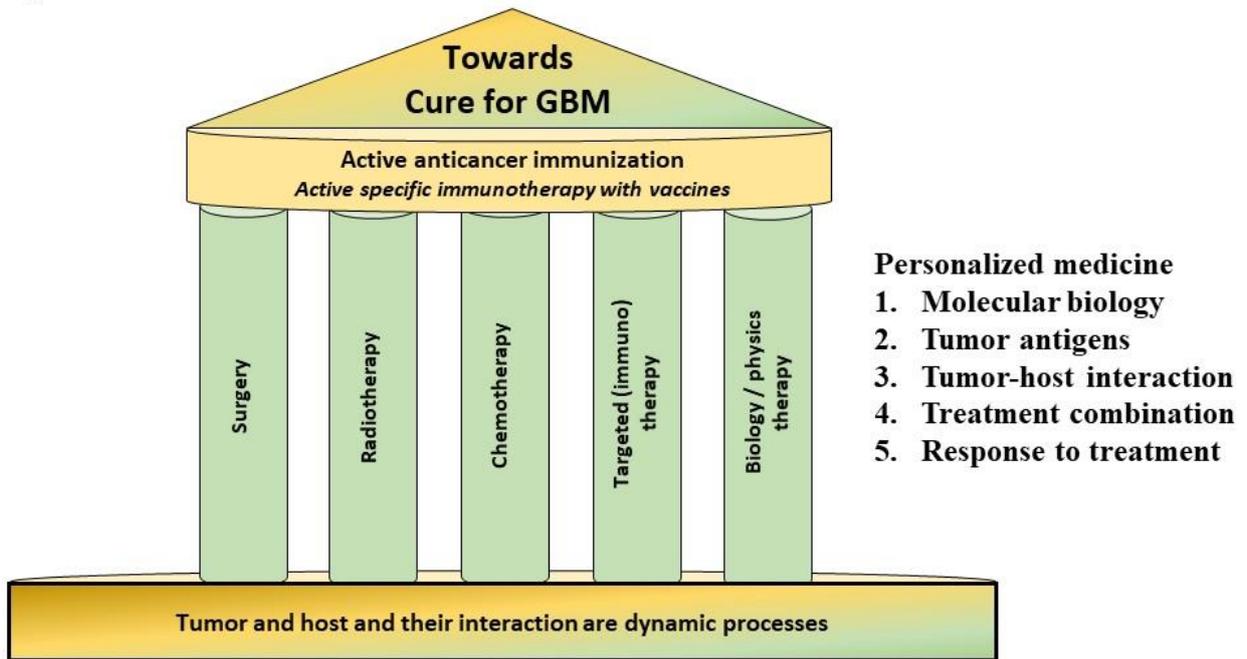


Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

## Perspectives

- IO-VAC®, IO-VAC-P®, IO-VAC-P+®: collaboration with CeGaT, Tübingen
- Defined Neo-epitopes → improved immune monitoring
- Improved immune phenotyping prior to and during multimodal immunotherapy
- Day by day ICD monitoring
- **Quid: research project within the Hyperthermia Community ??**
- Further integration of ICD therapy (NDV injections + modulated electrohyperthermia) within first line treatment combinations, also for other cancer diseases
- **Hope:** find answers how to solve clinical trial challenges (organisation, statistics, regulation, finances)

Figure 1



*E-Book, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, in press*



# Multimodal immunotherapy for patients with ovarian cancer

**Stefaan Van Gool<sup>1</sup>, Jennifer Makalowski<sup>1</sup>, Marija Marko<sup>1</sup>, Wilfried Stuecker<sup>1</sup>**

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

**Cite this article as:**

Van Gool S. et al. (2019): Multimodal immunotherapy for patients with ovarian cancer, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 138- 152  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Multimodal\\_immunotherapy.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Multimodal_immunotherapy.pdf)

## **Introduction**

Ovarian cancer remains a serious disease with bad prognosis, mainly due to spreading disease before diagnosis. Surgery, chemotherapy, and anti-angiogenesis are essential for first line treatment. At time of relapse or metastasis, only palliative treatments can be performed. Active specific immunotherapy, however, give some glimpse of hope.

## **Objectives**

The objective of this study is to report on our experiences obtained from ovarian cancer patients receiving multimodal immunotherapy as individualized treatment approach.

## **Material/Methods**

Since the approval in May 2015 for GMP production of autologous Dendritic cell vaccines loaded with autologous tumor antigens (IO-VAC®), patients with ovarian cancer were treated with multimodal immunotherapy, consisting of injections with Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), modulated electrohyperthermia (mEHT), IO-VAC® and immunomodulatory strategies like ATRA, low dose cyclophosphamide or checkpoint blockers.

## **Results**

We found in our database (01/05/2019) 9 females with ovarian cancer (5 serous, 2 mixed, 2 not documented). Median age at diagnosis was 39y (range 29-64y). Two patients included immunotherapy at time of first event, while the others presented at later events (1, 2 and 4 patients resp. at event 2, 3, 4). All except 2 patients presented with FIGO III B or higher. In median 2 (range 0-4) vaccination cycles with IO-VAC® were administered, 17 (range 7-43) sessions of NDV injections and mEHT treatments, and 1 (range 0-5) total body hyperthermia sessions. One patient received high dose ATRA to block myeloid-derived suppressor cells. At time of analysis, 5 patients were still alive and OS data were calculated from first diagnosis and from start IO-VAC®: Patient 1 (FIGO IV, Event 1): +44m, +40m; patient 2 (FIGO III C, Event 4): +133m, +20m; Patient 3 (FIGO III B, Event 3): +58m, +18m; Patient 4 (FIGO III C, Event 2): +29m, +7m; Patient 5 (FIGO IV, Event 4): +49m, +3m. Other 4 patients died: Patient 6 (FIGO IA, Event 4): 37m, 4m; Patient 7 (FIGO IV, Event 1): 12m, 7m; Patient 8 (FIGO III C, Event 4): 69m, 2m; Patient 9 (FIGO II B, Event 3): 75m, 11m. All treatments were performed in an ambulant setting. Treatment was feasible and safe. There were no toxicities.

## **Conclusion**

Multimodal immunotherapy can contribute to improved OS. Further studies on larger groups of patients with longer follow up are needed to demonstrate the efficacy of multimodal immunotherapy in ovarian cancer.

# Multimodal immunotherapy for patients with ovarian cancer

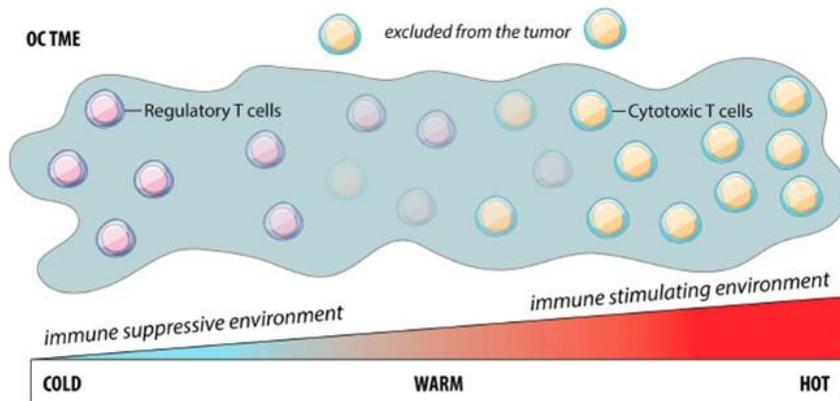
Stefaan Van Gool, MD, PhD

[vangool@iozk.de](mailto:vangool@iozk.de)

[www.iozk.de](http://www.iozk.de)

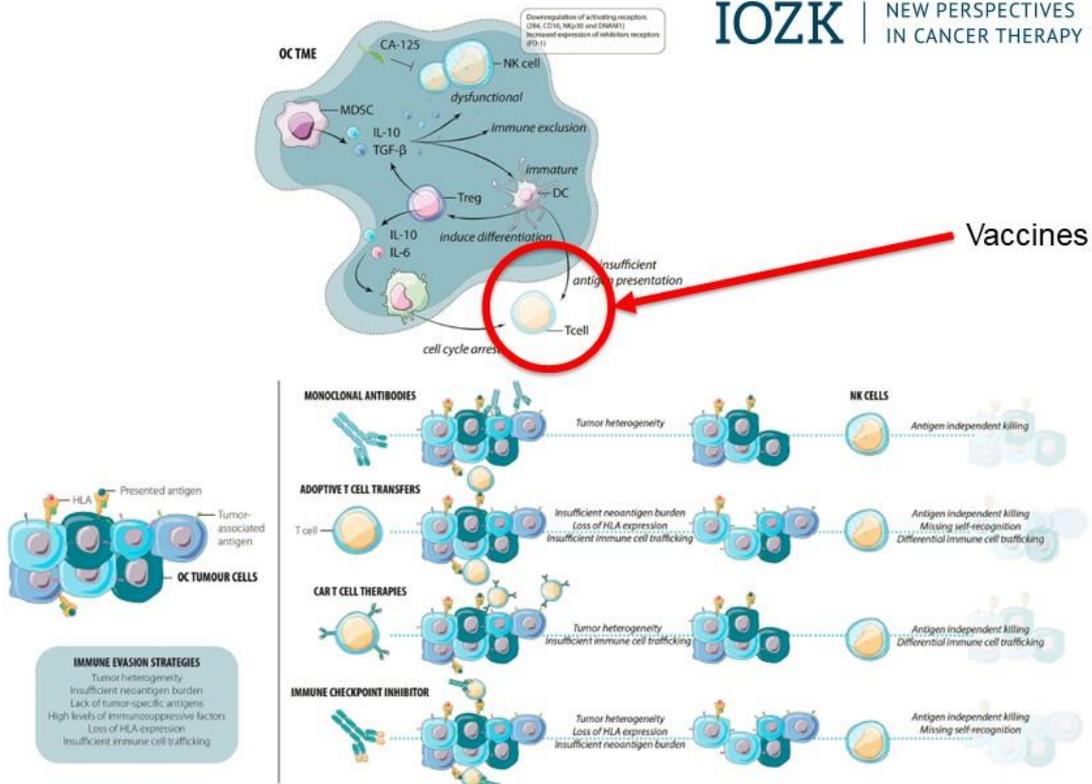
## Ovarian cancer, the silent women killer

- World-wide: 200,000 women affected; 125,000 death of disease
- 1/78 women get ovarian cancer in their life-time
- Majority of women diagnosed at advanced disease stages III and IV
  
- Type I: 30%: genetically stable and slow-growing disease
  - Low-grade serous
  - Endometrioid
  - Clear cell
  - Mucinous
- Type II: 70%: genetically unstable and aggressive
  - High-grade serous
  
- Surgery and Platinum- + Taxane-based chemotherapy



**FIGURE 2 |** The cold, warm or hot tumor microenvironment is a continuum. Cold tumors are characterized by the lack of cytotoxic T cells and are typically associated with an immune suppressive environment. Conversely, hot tumors are well infiltrated by cytotoxic T cells and are associated with an immune stimulating environment and better prognosis than the prior. However, the characterization of tumors is not dichotomous, but rather exists as a sliding scale of cytotoxic T cell infiltration with “warm” tumors representing a situation where although T cells exist, they are excluded and therefore ineffective at producing an efficient anti-tumor response.

Nersesian S et al. *Front Immunol* 2019;10:1782



**FIGURE 1 |** Current immunotherapies frequently result in the persistence of a resistant cell population. This immune evasion of OC tumor cells can be facilitated by tumor heterogeneity, insufficient neoantigen burden, lack of tumor-specific antigens, high levels of immunosuppressive factors, loss of HLA, and/or insufficient immune cell trafficking. NK cells exhibit multiple functions that combat immune escape and tumor relapse: they kill targets and elicit inflammation through both antigen-specific and antigen-independent pathways and detect loss of HLA as a signal for activation. As efficient mediators of tumor immune surveillance and control, NK cells may be able to kill the cells many current immunotherapies leave behind.

Nersesian S et al. *Front Immunol* 2019;10:1782

## Immunological Response after *WT1* mRNA-loaded Dendritic Cell Immunotherapy in Ovarian Carcinoma and Carcinosarcoma

AN COOSEMANS<sup>1,5</sup>, ANKE VANDERSTRAETEN<sup>2</sup>, SANDRA TUYAERTS<sup>2</sup>,  
TINA VERSCHUERE<sup>3</sup>, PHILIPPE MOERMAN<sup>4,6</sup>, ZWI BERNEMAN<sup>8</sup>,  
IGNACE VERGOTE<sup>2,5</sup>, FRÉDÉRIC AMANT<sup>2,5</sup> and STEFAAN W. VAN GOOL<sup>1,7</sup>

Departments of <sup>1</sup>Microbiology and Immunology, <sup>2</sup>Gynecologic Oncology, <sup>3</sup>Neuroscience and <sup>4</sup>Imaging and Pathology, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Leuven, Belgium;  
<sup>5</sup>Gynecology and Obstetrics, <sup>6</sup>Pathology and <sup>7</sup>Pediatrics, University Hospital Leuven, Leuven, Belgium;  
<sup>8</sup>Laboratory of Experimental Hematology, Vaccine and Infectious Disease Institute, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

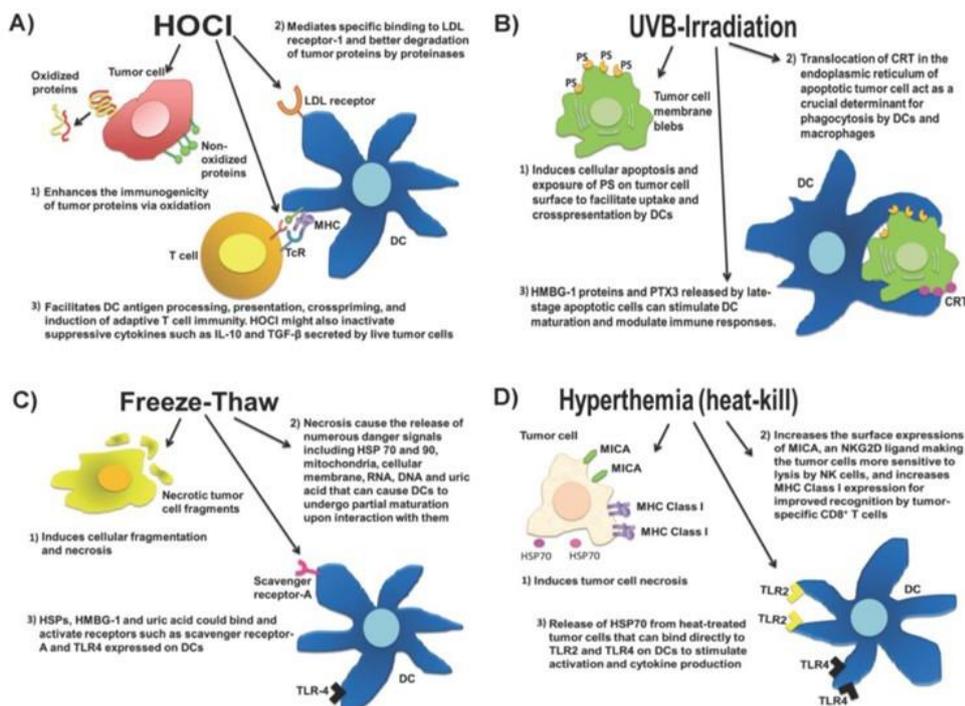


Figure 1. Four whole tumor lysate preparations currently in use in the clinics. (A)

Chiang CLL et al. Vaccines 2015;3:344-372

IOZK GROUP 20190901

Wilfried Stuecker, Leitung der IOZK Arbeitsgruppe, Geschäftsführung

IOZK GmbH & Co.KG

Wilfried Stuecker

**Praxis Stuecker &**  
**Praxis Immun-onkologisches Zentrum Köln**  
**Director: Stefaan Van Gool**  
**Qualitätsbeauftragte: Jennifer Makalowski**  
 Operations Manager: Mahmoud Wahidi

**Medical team**  
 Ärzte: Ahmed Boucharaba, Montassar Cherif, Karin Ehlert,  
 Yadigar Genc, Bernhard Samirae  
 Medizinischer Gutachter: Tobias Sprenger (FB)  
 Data Manager: Marija Marko

**Administrative team**  
**Cécile Dürer (FB)**  
**Katharina Auerbach, Ronny Sporbert, Ruken Durak, Funda Kurnaz**

**Nursing team**  
**Margret Kubella, Julia Hupfer, Ute Graf, Nadine Herget, Julia Polecsak, Janos Kovacs, Martine Bauer, Julia Bauer**

**Cleaning**  
 Emine Zayim

**Arbeitsanweisung**

neue Version gültig ab 16.06.2019

**Material:**

Stefaan Van Gool

Verantwortliche ärztl. Person

- 2 sterile Einmaltücher
- 1 Paar sterile Handschuhe
- 2 kleine sterile Tupfer
- 1 Butterflykanüle steril oder 1 Viggo steril
- Monovetten je nach Alter des Patienten (siehe Tabelle 1)
- Verwendet werden: EDTA-Monovette Fa Saarstedt/EDTA KE/9ml
- Serum-Monovette Fa Saarstedt/Serum Gel /9 ml

**Tabelle 1:**

Alter	Anzahl EDTA-Monovetten	Anzahl Serum-Monovetten
Bis 6 Jahre	4-5	1
Bis 15 Jahre	10-15	1
Ab 16 Jahre/Erwachsene	23	1

**Vorbereitung durch Personal in der Patientenbehandlung:**

Überprüfung der Haltbarkeitsdaten des Materials. Entnahme der Röhrchen mit Handschuhen aus dem Originalgebinde und Legen der Röhrchen in eine Schale ausgeschlagen mit einem sterilen Einmaltuch (Tuch vorsichtig an den Ecken fassen und über die Schale breiten, Röhrchen einlegen). Keine weiteren Manipulationen.

**Die Ärztin/der Arzt bereitet die Blutentnahme wie eine chirurgische Intervention vor:**

- Chirurgische Händedesinfektion
- Sprühdesinfektion der Blutentnahmestelle, Tasten der Vene.
- Sprühdesinfektion zentral über geplanter Blutentnahmestelle. Immer weg von der Punktionsstelle wischen, Tupfer direkt entsorgen
- Sprühen und 1 min warten
- Währenddessen steriles Einmaltuch auspacken, an den Ecken vorsichtig fassen und unter den Patientenarm legen
- Anziehen von sterilen Handschuhen Nochmals Sprühen lassen durch Helferin Butterfly steril von Helferin anreichen lassen. Punktieren
- Der Arzt entnimmt die Röhrchen mit seinen sterilen Handschuhen aus der mit dem sterilen Tuch ausgeschlagenen Schale und legt sie auch dorthin gefüllt zurück. Die Röhrchen werden nicht von anderen Händen angefasst.
- Nach der Blutentnahme werden die Stempel durch den Arzt mit den sterilen Handschuhen abgebrochen und die Röhrchen mit den sterilen Handschuhen mit den Namensaufklebern beklebt. Dann werden die Röhrchen von dem Arzt mit den sterilen Handschuhen in das sterile Tuch in der Schale eingeschlagen und so mit Hilfe von Personal in der Patientenbehandlung möglichst „steril“ in die Tüte verbracht. Ein Auspacken der Röhrchen erfolgt erst im Reiraumlabor.

Sollte eine Abweichung aus praktisch-klinischen Gründen von dieser Anweisung erfolgen, so soll dies auf der Blutabnahmedokumentation unter „Bemerkungen“ vermerkt werden.

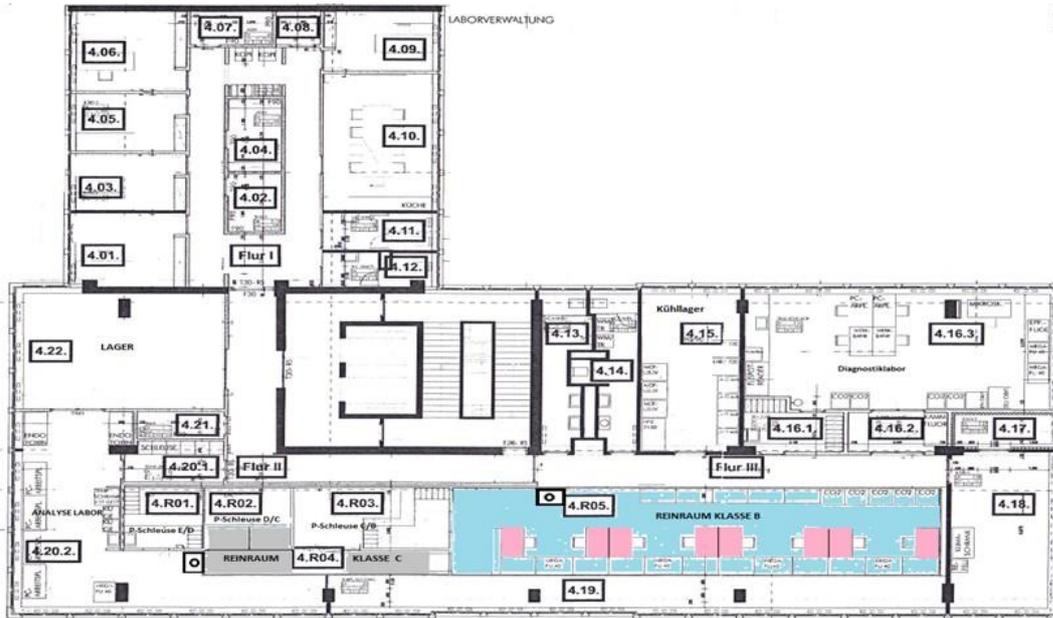


GMP Blutentnahme



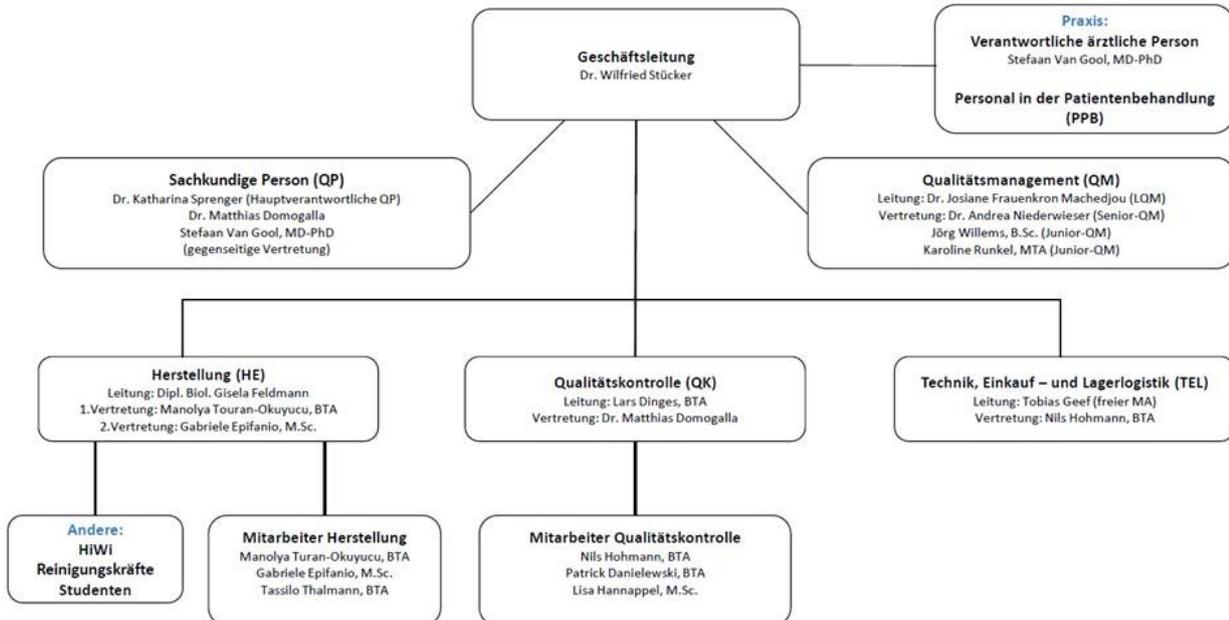
# Flour 4

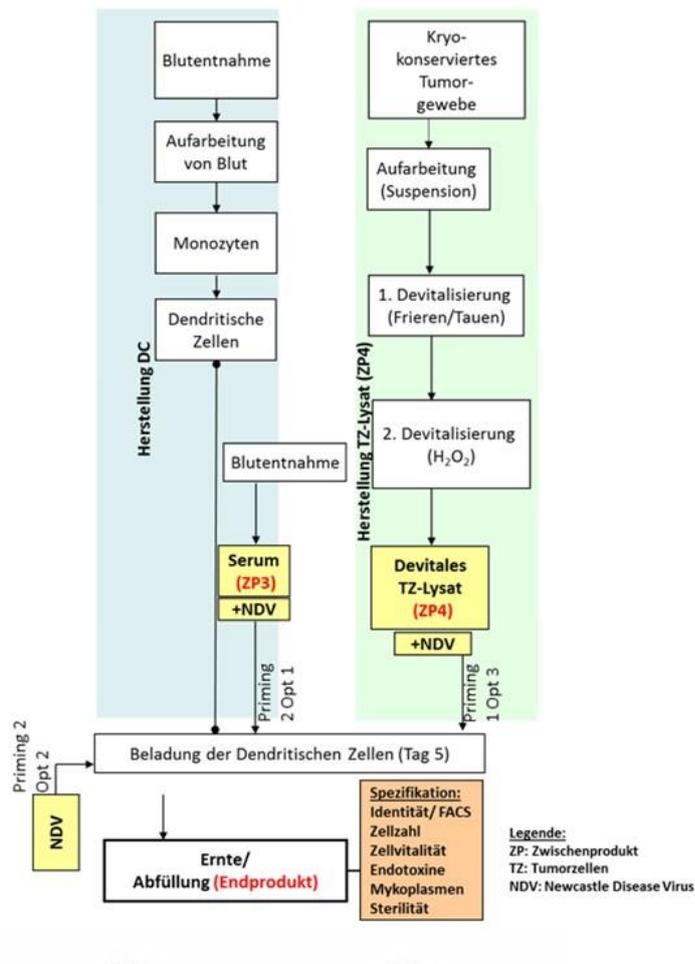
# GMP



# Flour 4 + 12

# GMP





• Humanarzneimittel  
• Prüfpräparate zur Anwendung am Menschen der Phasen I, II, III

**1 HERSTELLUNGSTÄTIGKEITEN**

- Die erlaubten Herstellungstätigkeiten umfassen vollständige und teilweise Herstellung (einschließlich verschiedener Prozesse wie Umfüllen, Abpacken oder Kennzeichnen), Chargenfreigabe und -zertifizierung, Lagerung und Vertrieb der genannten Darreichungsformen sofern nicht anders angegeben;

- Die Qualitätskontrolle und/oder Freigabe und/oder Chargenzertifizierung ohne Herstellungsschritte sollten unter den entsprechenden Punkten spezifiziert werden;

- Unter der relevanten Produktart und Darreichungsform sollte auch angegeben werden, wenn der Hersteller Produkte mit speziellen Anforderungen herstellt, z.B. radioaktive Arzneimittel oder Arzneimittel, die Penicilline, Sulfonamide, Zytostatika, Cephalosporine, Stoffe mit hormoneller Wirkung oder andere potenziell gefährliche Wirkstoffe enthalten (anwendbar für alle Bereiche des Teils 1 mit Ausnahme 1.5.2 und 1.6).

**1.1 Sterile Produkte**

1.1.1 Aseptisch hergestellt

1.1.1.4 Kleinvolumige flüssige Darreichungsformen

**1.3 Biologische Arzneimittel**

1.3.1 Biologische Arzneimittel

1.3.1.2 Immunologische Produkte

**1.6 Qualitätskontrolle**

1.6.4 Biologisch

Einschränkungen oder klarstellende Anmerkungen betreffend den Umfang des Zertifikats:  
Anmerkungen: zu 1.3.1.2  
Spezifische, autologe Anti-Tumor-Dendritenzell-Vakzine zur intrakutanen Anwendung: - aus Patienten-eigenen Monozyten gezüchtete dendritische Zellen, die mit Tumorantigenen aus einem Lysat patienteneigener Tumorzellen mit immunologisch wirksamen Gefahrensignalen ausgehend aus dem Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV) beladen werden.

• Human Medicinal Products  
• Human Investigational Medicinal Products for phase I,II,III

**1 MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS**

- authorised manufacturing operations include total and partial manufacturing (including various processes of dividing up, packaging or presentation), batch release and certification, storage and distribution of specified dosage forms unless informed to the contrary;

- quality control testing and/or release and batch certification activities without manufacturing operations should be specified under the relevant items;

- if the company is engaged in manufacture of products with special requirements e.g. radiopharmaceuticals or products containing penicillin, sulphonamides, cytotoxics, cephalosporins, substances with hormonal activity or other or potentially hazardous active ingredients this should be stated under the relevant product type and dosage form (applicable to all sections of Part 1 apart from sections 1.5.2 and 1.6)

**1.1 Sterile Products**

1.1.1 Aseptically prepared

1.1.1.4 Small volume liquids

**1.3 Biological medicinal products**

1.3.1 Biological medicinal products

1.3.1.2 Immunological products

**1.6 Quality control testing**

1.6.4 Biological

Any restrictions or clarifying remarks related to the scope of this certificate:  
Comments: To 1.3.1.2  
Specific, autologous anti-tumor directed dendritic cell vaccine for intracutaneous application: from patient-derived blood monocytes generated dendritic cells which are loaded with tumor antigens from a lysate of patient-derived tumor cells together with immunologic danger signals from Newcastle disease virus (NDV).

**UMFANG DER ERLAUBNIS**  
Name und Anschrift der Betriebsstätte:  
IOZK Laboratorium GmbH, Maurtbuswall 48, 50676 Köln

Anlage 1

Humanarzneimittel
<b>ERLAUBTE TÄTIGKEITEN</b> Herstellungstätigkeiten (gemäß Teil 1)
<b>Teil 1 - HERSTELLUNGSTÄTIGKEITEN</b>
- Die erlaubten Herstellungstätigkeiten umfassen vollständige und teilweise Herstellung (einschließlich verschiedener Prozesse wie Umfüllen, Abpacken oder Kennzeichnen), Chargenfreigabe und -zertifizierung, Lagerung und Vertrieb der genannten Darreichungsformen sofern nicht anders angegeben;
- Die Qualitätskontrolle und/oder Freigabe und/oder Chargenzertifizierung ohne Herstellungsschritte sollten unter den entsprechenden Punkten spezifiziert werden;
- Unter der relevanten Produktart und Darreichungsform sollte auch angegeben werden, wenn der Hersteller Produkte mit speziellen Anforderungen herstellt, z.B. radioaktive Arzneimittel oder Arzneimittel, die Penicilline, Sulfonamide, Zytostatika, Cephalosporine, Stoffe mit hormoneller Wirkung oder andere potenziell gefährliche Wirkstoffe enthalten (anwendbar für alle Bereiche des Teils 1 mit Ausnahme 1.5.2 und 1.6).
<b>1.1 Sterile Produkte</b>
1.1.1 Aseptisch hergestellt
1.1.1.4 Kleinvolumige flüssige Darreichungsformen
<b>1.3 Biologische Arzneimittel</b>
1.3.1 Biologische Arzneimittel
1.3.1.2 Immunologische Produkte
<b>1.6 Qualitätskontrolle</b>
1.6.4 Biologisch
Einschränkungen oder Klarstellungen bezüglich der Herstellungstätigkeiten zu 1.3.1.2 Spezifische, autologe Anti-Tumor-Dendritenzell-Vakzine zur intrakutanen Anwendung: aus Patienten-eigenen Monozyten gezüchtete dendritische Zellen, die mit Tumorantigenen aus einem Lysat patienteneigener Tumorzellen mit immunologisch wirksamen Gefahrensignalen ausgehend aus dem Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV) beladen werden.

DE\_NW\_04\_OAMP\_2015\_0030 27.05.2015



DE\_NW\_04\_MA\_2015\_0033



27.05.2015 10:27:00

# Phase I/II clinical trial of modulated electro-hyperthermia treatment in patients with relapsed, refractory or progressive heavily treated ovarian cancer

Heon Jong Yoo<sup>1,2</sup>, Myong Cheol Lim<sup>3</sup>, Sang-Soo Seo<sup>3</sup>, Sokbom Kang<sup>3</sup>,  
Jungnam Joo<sup>4</sup>, and Sang-Yoon Park<sup>3,\*</sup>

Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology 2019

<sup>1</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chungnam National University College of Medicine, Daejeon, South Korea, <sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chungnam National University hospital, Daejeon, South Korea, <sup>3</sup>Gynecologic Cancer Branch, Center for Uterine Cancer, and Center for Clinical Trials, Research Institute and Hospital and Cancer Control and Public Health, Graduate School of Cancer Science and Policy, National Cancer Center, Goyang, Korea, and <sup>4</sup>Cancer Biostatistics Branch, Research Institute and Hospital, National Cancer Center

\*For reprints and all correspondence: Sang-Yoon Park, MD, PhD, Center for Uterine Cancer, Research Institute and Hospital, National Cancer Center, 323, Ilsan-ro, Ilsandong-gu, Goyang-si, Gyeonggi-do, 410-769 Republic of Korea. E-mail: parksang@ncc.re.kr

Received 31 January 2019; Editorial Decision 23 April 2019; Accepted 28 April 2019

## Abstract

**Objective:** To determine the maximal tolerated dose (MTD) of modulated electro-hyperthermia (mEHT) treatment and to reveal whether mEHT treatment is feasible and effective as second-line therapy in recurrent and progressive ovarian cancer.

**Methods:** Patients were treated with mEHT with dose escalation during the first cycle (two sessions each week for three weeks) to determine the MTD. Additional cycles were carried out with the determined dose. Dose limiting toxicity (DLT) was defined grade  $\geq 2$ : skin burns and inability to endure the hyperthermic state of the study. The Fact-O quality of life scale was used to assess health-related well-being.

**Results:** Nineteen patients with recurrent and progressive ovarian cancer were enrolled. In the first cycle of mEHT treatment, no patient developed DLT with applied power up to 110 W, 130 W, and 150 W/day; the 150 W was the maximal applied power. Stable disease was observed in only one patient (12.5%). With median progression of 4.0 months (range, 2–17 months), 18 patients (95%) demonstrated disease progression. With median overall survival of 8.0 months (range, 2–32 months), 18 patients (95%) had died. Physical well-being scores were significantly decreased over the study period, although social, emotional, and functional well-being scores did not significantly change.

**Conclusions:** The mEHT treatment was feasible in patients with recurrent or progressive ovarian cancer without any complication and optimal dose of mEHT treatment was up to 150 W for 1 hour/day.



biomedicines



Review

## Breaking Therapy Resistance: An Update on Oncolytic Newcastle Disease Virus for Improvements of Cancer Therapy

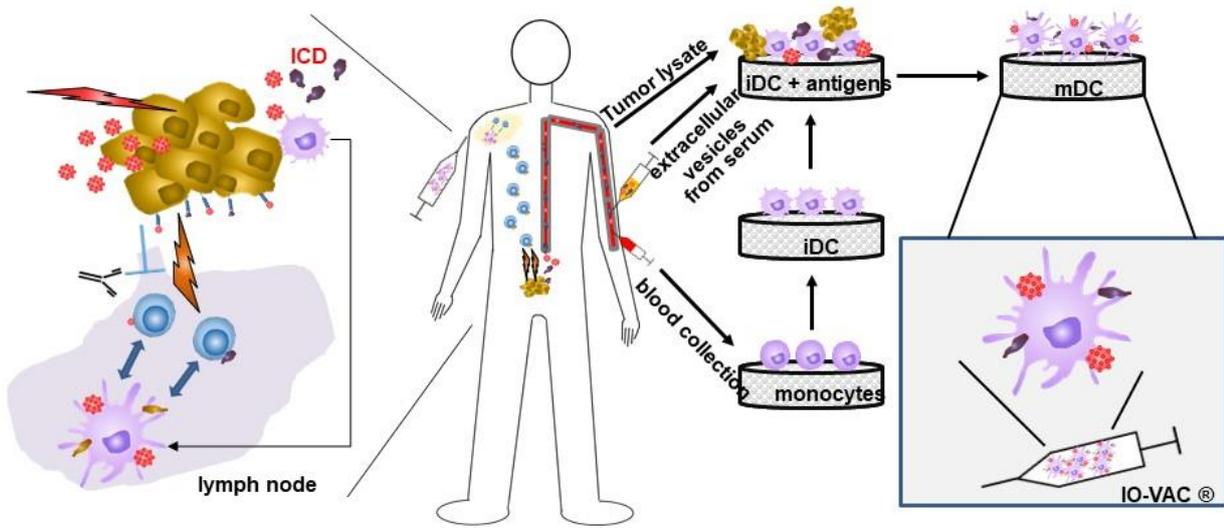
Volker Schirmacher \*, Stefaan van Gool and Wilfried Stuecker

Immune-Oncological Center Cologne (IOZK), D-50674 Cologne, Germany

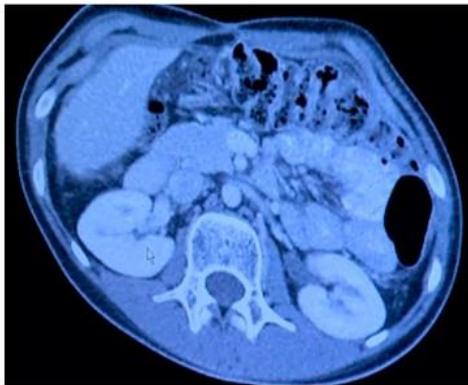
\* Correspondence: V.Schirmacher@web.de

Received: 30 July 2019; Accepted: 23 August 2019; Published: 30 August 2019

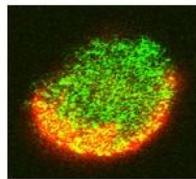
**Abstract:** Resistance to therapy is a major obstacle to cancer treatment. It may exist from the beginning, or it may develop during therapy. The review focusses on oncolytic Newcastle disease virus (NDV) as a biological agent with potential to break therapy resistance. This avian virus combines, upon inoculation into non-permissive hosts such as human, 12 described anti-neoplastic effects with 11 described immune stimulatory properties. Fifty years of clinical application of NDV give witness to the high safety profile of this biological agent. In 2015, an important milestone was achieved, namely the successful production of NDV according to Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). Based on this, IOZK in Cologne, Germany, obtained a GMP certificate for the production of a dendritic cell vaccine loaded with tumor antigens from a lysate of patient-derived tumor cells together with immunological danger signals from NDV for intracutaneous application. This update includes single case reports and retrospective analyses from patients treated at IOZK. The review also presents future perspectives, including the concept of in situ vaccination and the combination of NDV or other oncolytic viruses with checkpoint inhibitors.



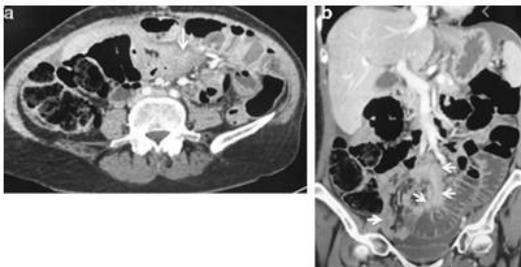
	Cancer		mature dendritic cells		anti-tumor immune response		PD-L1
	monocytes		T cells		Newcastle Disease Virus		checkpoint inhibitors
	immature dendritic cells		extracellular vesicles		mEHT		



Translational oncology



**IO-VAC®**



## Patient characteristics

Number	Age	Subtype	FIGO stadium	First line treatment	Second line treatment	Third line treatment	Fourth line treatment	Events prior to IO-VAC®
22657	48	Papillary	FIGO IV	S				1
22563	29	Mucinous	FIGO IA	S + S	S + CT + CT	S + HIPEC + CT	S + HIPEC	4
23125	37	Endometrioid	FIGO IIIC	S + CT	S + CT	CT	CT + Avastin	4
23232	58	Serous papillary	FIGO IV	CT + S				1
23359	38	Serous papillary	FIGO IIIC	R0 + CT	S + CT + Avastin	CT + Avastin		4
23529	64	Serous papillary	FIGO IIB	S + CT	B + CT			3
23597	48	Serous	FIGO IIIB	S + CT	S + HIPEC + CT			3
24009	38	Serous	FIGO IIIC	S + CT				2
24142	39	Serous papillary	FIGO IV	R1 + CT + Avastin	CT	TT	RCT	4

Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

## Immunotherapy details

Number	mEHT sessions	NDV injections	DC vaccination	DC cell numbers	Tumor antigens	TBH	Immuno-modulation	Other treatments
22657	43	43	4		MPs + Tumor-L + NDV	5	CPM	
22563	7	7	1	43600000	Tumor-L + NDV	1	CPM	
23125	17	17	0	0		2		
23232	25	25	2		MPs + Tumor-L + NDV	0		Avastin
23359	12	12	2	24200000	MPs + NDV	1		
23529	42	42	4	30600000	MPs + Tumor-L + NDV	2	ATRA	Avastin
23597	21	21	2	32200000	MPs + NDV	2	ATRA	
24009	15	15	2	17000000	MPs + NDV	0	ATRA	
24142	12	12	2	19800000	MPs + NDV	5	ATRA	

Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

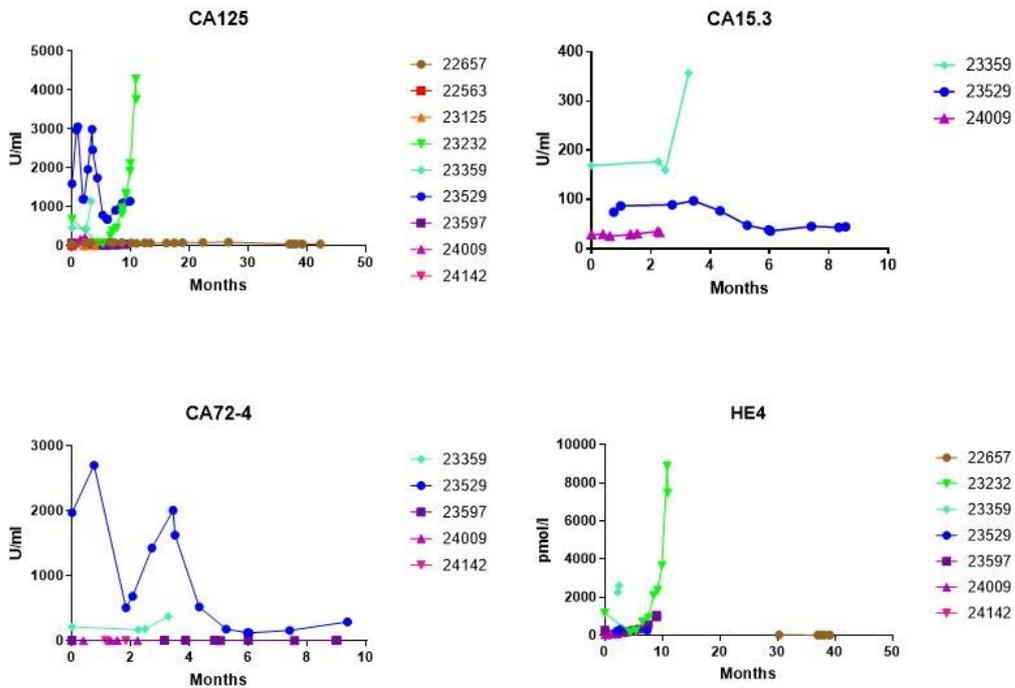
## Overall survival

Number	Age	Subtype	FIGO stadium	Events prior to IO-VAC®	OS since diagnosis (months)	OS since IO-VAC® treatment (months)
22657	48	Papillary	FIGO IV	1	+ 43,9	+ 39,38
22563	29	Mucinous	FIGO IA	4	37,21	3,48
23125	37	Endometrioid	FIGO IIIC	4	+ 144,63	31,93
23232	58	Serous papillary	FIGO IV	1	12,2	6,69
23359	38	Serous papillary	FIGO IIIC	4	69,25	1,54
23529	64	Serous papillary	FIGO IIB	3	74,49	10,92
23597	48	Serous	FIGO IIIB	3	+ 57,87	+ 18
24009	38	Serous	FIGO IIIC	2	+ 29,21	+ 7,25
24142	39	Serous papillary	FIGO IV	4	+ 48,82	+ 2,75

18

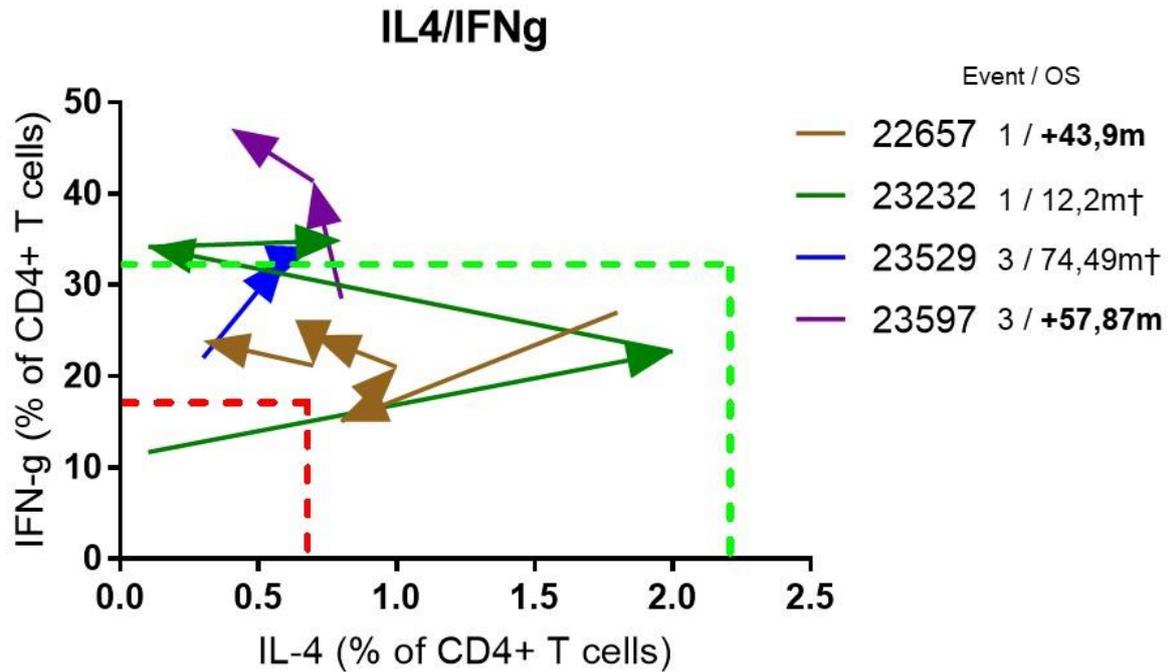
Retrospective summary of patients treated as „Individueller Heilversuch“

## Tumor markers



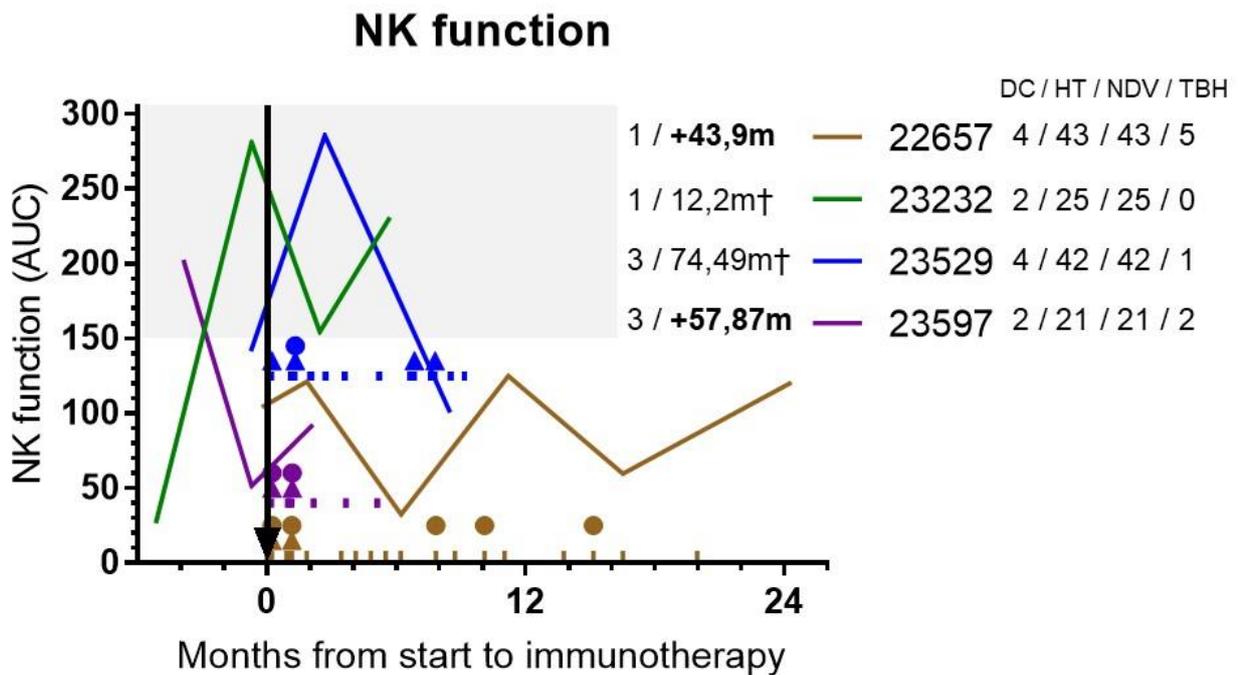
Retrospective summary of patients treated as „Individueller Heilversuch“

## Th1 / Th2 balance



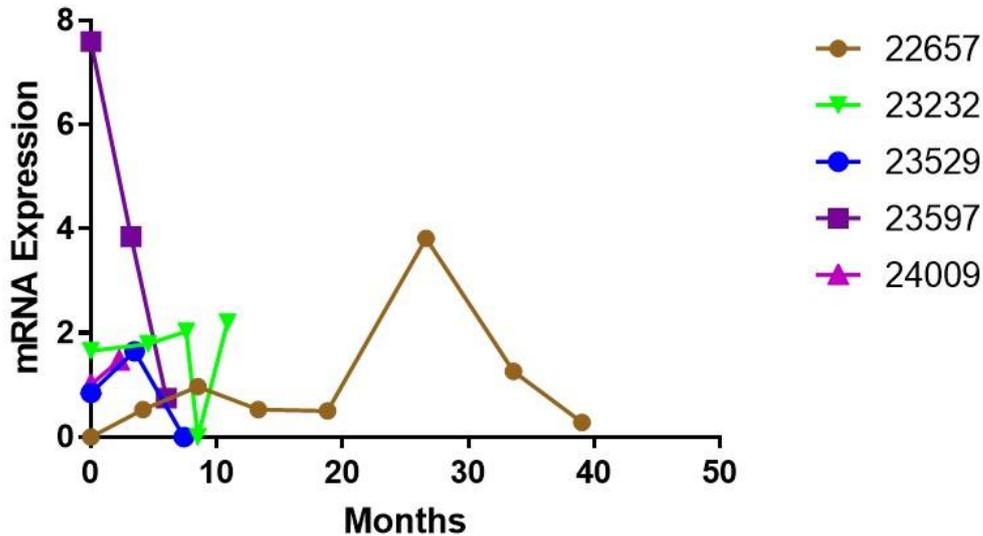
Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

## NK cell function



Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

## Messenger RNA expression for PDL1 on Circulating Cancer Cells



Retrospective summary of patients treated as „*Individueller Heilversuch*“

## Conclusion

- Multimodal immunotherapy for ovarian cancer
  - NDV injections
  - Modulated electrohyperthermia sessions
  - Autologous DC vaccines loaded with autologous tumor antigens
  - Immunomodulatory strategies
    - Total body hyperthermia
    - Checkpoint inhibitors
    - Others
- Ambulant treatment, feasible without major toxicities
- OS might be prolonged with good quality of life



# Numerical Simulation and Evaluation of Magnetic Particle Hyperthermia System and Conditions

Nikos Maniotis and Theodoros Samaras

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

**Cite this article as:**

Maniotis N. and Samaras T. (2019): Numerical Simulation and Evaluation of Magnetic Particle Hyperthermia System and Conditions, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 153- 161  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Numerical\\_Simulation.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/Numerical_Simulation.pdf)

## Introduction

Magnetic particle hyperthermia (MPH) is a novel, minimally invasive, therapeutic modality, used as a cancer treatment, that employs a magnetic fluid (also termed ferrofluid) as the heating source. A magnetic fluid is a stable colloidal suspension of magnetic nanoparticles (MNPs) that can be injected directly into the tumor or delivered to the tumor via passive or active targeting upon intravenous administration. Once accumulated to the tumor area, MNPs are exposed to an external alternating magnetic field (AMF) that causes reversal of their magnetic moments, activating mechanisms of energy deposition in the form of heat [1].

## Objectives

The main objective of the present work is the development and evaluation of numerical models for the description of the phenomena that take place in a MPH *in vitro* system. In particular, we aim at the estimation of the spatial distribution of the magnetic field and the spatiotemporal temperature distribution by taking into account all the appropriate field and heat transfer boundary conditions.

## Material/Methods

In order to simulate the physical phenomena, two numerical models were developed in COMSOL Multiphysics. In the first model the "Azimuthal Induction Currents" interface provided in "AC/DC" Module, was used in order to obtain the magnetic field distribution corresponding to a 2-turn circular and 8-turn squared coil geometries, while in the second model the transient analysis of the "General Heat Transfer" interface provided in "Heat Transfer" Module was employed to calculate the MNPs volumetric power dissipation (by importing Rosensweig's model [2]) and obtain the time-dependent heating curves. The ferrofluid concentration used was 4 mg/ml for an aqueous solution of 10 nm magnetite MNPs, dispersed in 1 ml of water, while the AMF amplitude and frequency were 30 mT and 765 kHz, respectively, for the 2-turn coil, and 60 mT and 365 kHz, respectively, for the 8-turn coil.

## Results

The solution of the electromagnetic problem provides the magnetic field distribution for the experimentally applied current amplitude and frequency. The role of coils geometry is also presented since COMSOL takes into account the coil geometrical characteristics, ignored in the analytical expressions. Moreover, the solution of the Heat Transfer problem gives the spatial distribution of temperature in the various subdomains of the MPH system like the ferrofluid, the vial, the coil and the surrounding air while the time-dependent heating curves are obtained after 30 minutes of treatment and are compared to the corresponding experimental ones observed under the same conditions. The spatiotemporal distribution of the MNPs volumetric power dissipation is also estimated for the non-adiabatic conditions, studied in the present work, validating Rosensweig's model [2].

## Conclusion

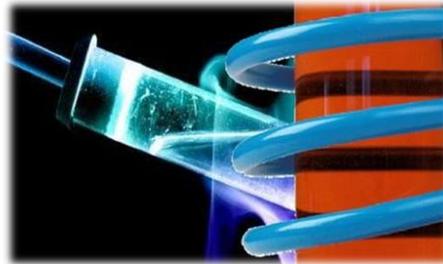
Proper use of simulations can lead to better understanding of complex physical processes, further progress in the development of novel MPH equipment designs, replacement of invasive temperature measurements and establishment of updated hyperthermia treatment protocols. *In silico* testing and evaluation of material properties and innovative methods can substantially accelerate their approval for clinical use and result in better treatment quality.

## References

- [1] Dutz, S. and Hergt, R. (2014) Magnetic particle hyperthermia—a promising tumour therapy?. *Nanotechnology.*, 25(45), 452001.
- [2] Rosensweig, R. E. (2002) Heating magnetic fluid with alternating magnetic field. *J. Magn. Magn. Mater.*, 252,370-374.



# NUMERICAL SIMULATION AND EVALUATION OF MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA SYSTEM AND CONDITIONS



**N. Maniotis** and T. Samaras

MagnaCharta Group, Physics Department, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

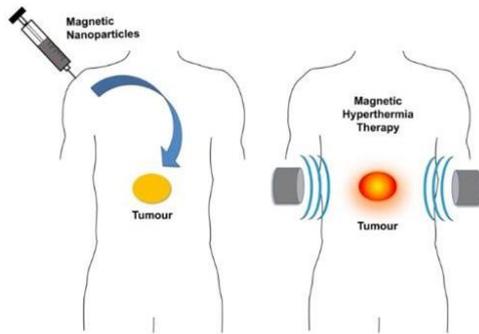
37th Conference of the International Clinical Hyperthermia Society



## INTRODUCTION

NUMERICAL SIMULATION AND EVALUATION OF  
MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA SYSTEM  
AND CONDITIONS

# MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA



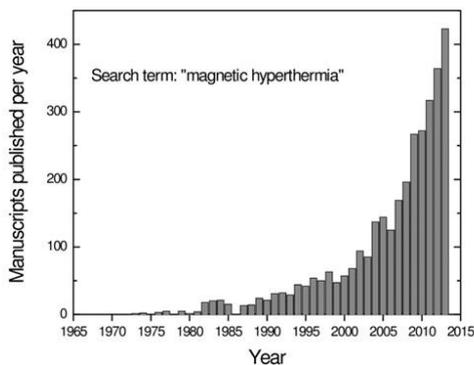
- **Magnetic particle hyperthermia**: novel, **minimally invasive**, therapeutic modality, used as a **cancer treatment**, that employs a **magnetic fluid** (also termed ferrofluid) as the **heating source**.
  - **Magnetic fluid**: stable colloidal suspension of **magnetic nanoparticles** injected **directly** or delivered to the tumor via passive or active (functionalized) targeting upon **intravenous** administration.
  - **Nanoparticles**: tiny particles of **iron oxide** suspended - very finely distributed - in **water**. As soon as applied, they **agglomerate** and remain like an **implant** in the tissue to be treated.
  - **Alternating magnetic field** causes the particles to generate **heat**.
- ✓ Cancer cells more **susceptible** than healthy at **41-45°C temperature region**, rise within this **region** leads to **suppression** of cancer cells growth and tumor **shrinkage**.

1



Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH

# MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA



Applied Physics Reviews 2.4, 041302 (2015)

- 1957: Was first proposed by Gilchrist et. al.
- 2011: MagForce (Berlin, Germany). obtained the first and only European Union regulatory approval of a nanotechnology therapy for treatment of brain tumors.
- NanoTherm® therapy combines the use of a ferrofluid (i.e. aqueous SPIONs), which is injected directly into the tumor site, and an AMF applicator, which is set to operate at a fixed frequency, of 100 kHz with an amplitude range, from 2 to 15 kA/m.
- Magnetic hyperthermia is used as an adjuvant therapy to RT and ChT.

2

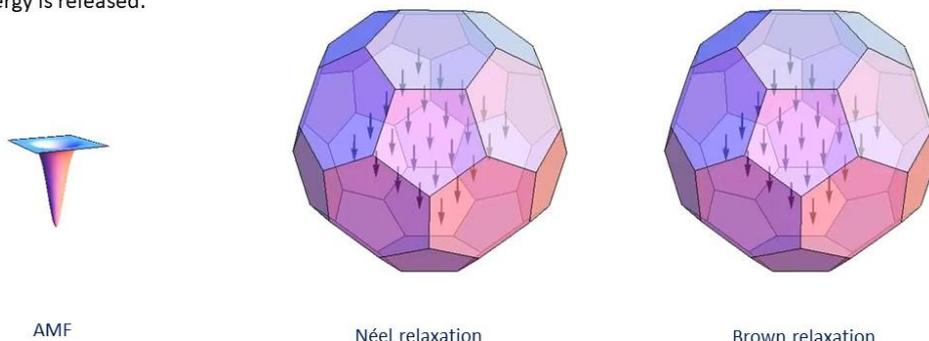


Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH

Introduction

# PHYSICAL MECHANISMS OF POWER DISSIPATION IN THE TISSUE ENVIRONMENT

- When an external magnetic field that provides sufficient energy is applied to the system, the magnetic moment of a nanoparticle may be displaced from its preferred orientation. Consequently, as the magnetic moment returns to the equilibrium state (relaxation), thermal energy is released.



Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH

Rosensweig's model (Adiabatic system)

$$P = \pi\mu_0\chi_0H_0^2f \frac{2\pi f\tau}{1 + (2\pi f\tau)^2} \text{ [W/m}^3\text{]}$$

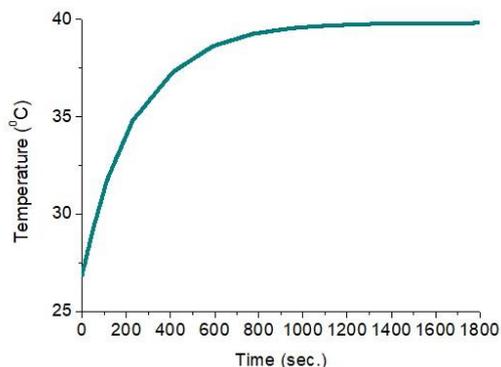
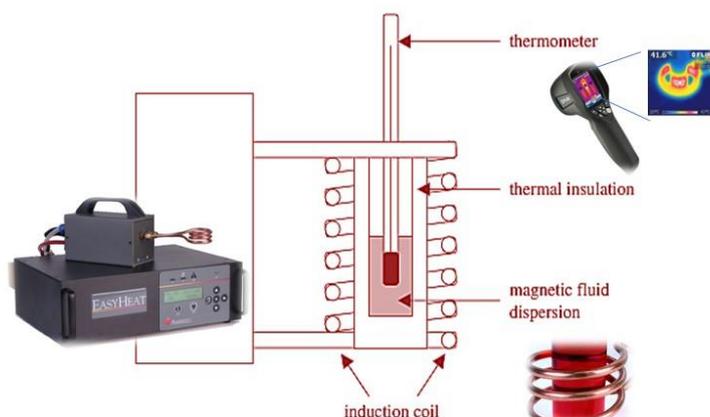
3

Introduction

## IN VITRO TESTING

Frequency: 100-1000 kHz

Magnetic Field Intensity Amplitude: 10-100 kA/m



- The main objective of the present work is the development and evaluation of numerical models for the description of the phenomena that take place in a MPH in vitro system.



Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH

4



## METHODS AND RESULTS

NUMERICAL SIMULATION AND EVALUATION OF  
MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA SYSTEM  
AND CONDITIONS

### Methods and Results

- In order to simulate the physical phenomena, two numerical models were developed in COMSOL Multiphysics v. 3.5a.

#### Parameters examined

- Effect of coil geometry
- Boundary conditions
- Time-dependent heating curves
- Nanoparticles distribution in ferrofluid
- Efficiency

### PROCEDURE & CONDITIONS

- ✓ Amplitude : 30 mT, 60 mT
- ✓ Frequency : 765 kHz, 400 kHz
- ✓ Magnetic Nanoparticles diameter : 10 nm
- ✓ Material: Magnetite ( $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$ )
- ✓ Concentration: 4 mg/mL
- ✓ Solution: 1 mL Water
- ✓ Volume fraction ( $\varphi$ ): 0.07%

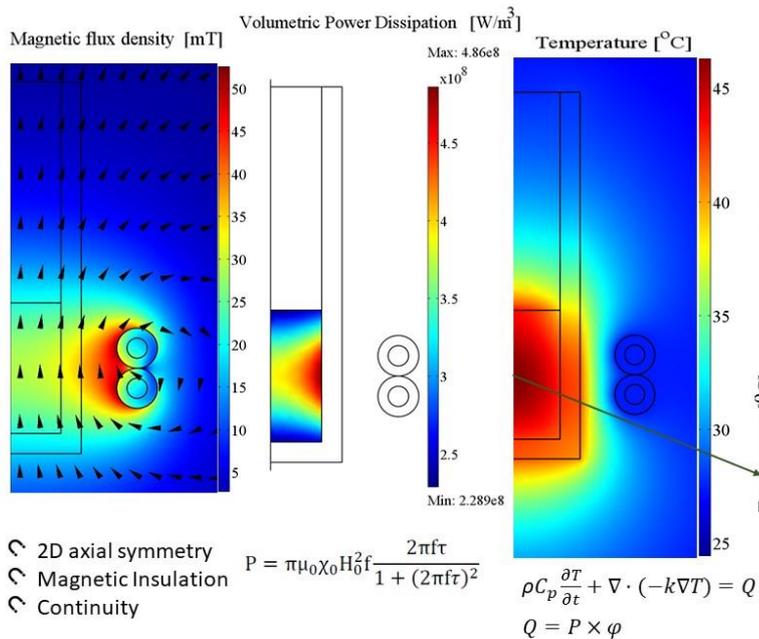


Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH

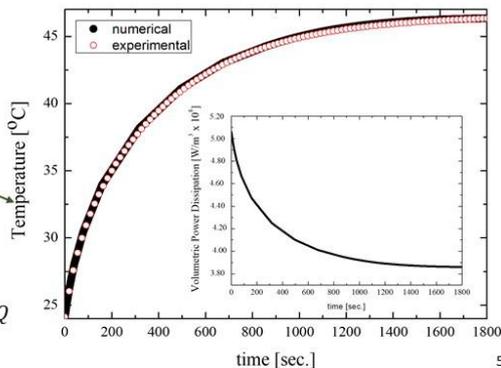
4

Methods and Results

2-TURN CIRCULAR COIL

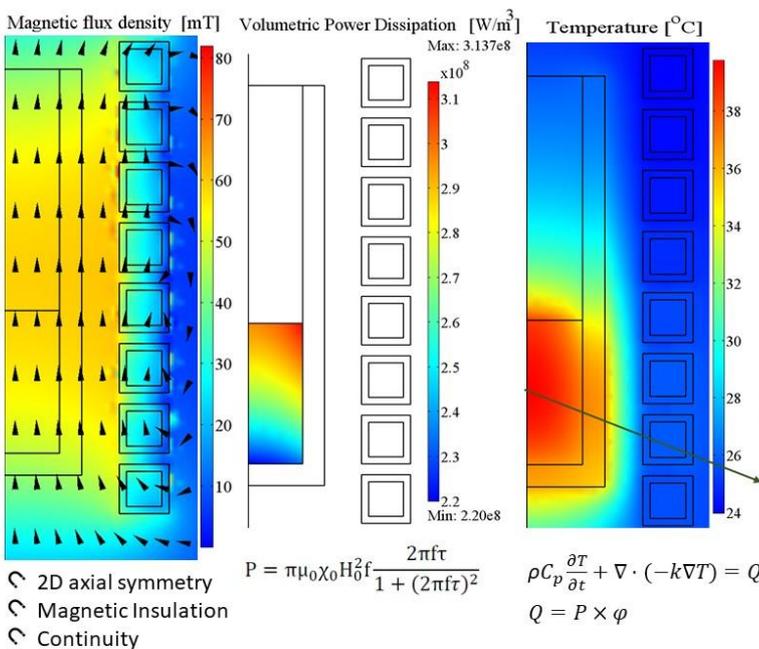


- 2D axial symmetry
- Convective Heat Flux (Natural and Forced)
- Radiation
  - surface to surface
  - surface to ambient
- Dirichlet

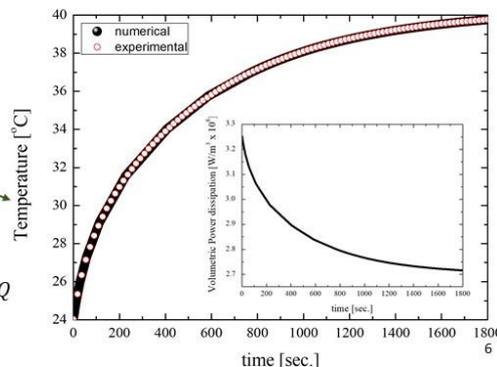


Methods and Results

8-TURN SQUARED COIL



- 2D axial symmetry
- Convective Heat Flux (Natural and Forced)
- Radiation
  - surface to surface
  - surface to ambient
- Dirichlet





## TO SUM UP

NUMERICAL SIMULATION AND EVALUATION OF  
MAGNETIC PARTICLE HYPERTHERMIA SYSTEM  
AND CONDITIONS

### CONCLUSIONS

- The role of coils geometry in field homogeneity is presented since COMSOL takes into account the coil geometrical characteristics, ignored in the analytical expressions.
- The time-dependent heating curves are in good agreement with the corresponding experimental ones observed under the same conditions validating our method.
- The assumption of nanoparticles homogeneous spatial distribution in the water was also verified by the good agreement between theoretical and experimental results.
- The appropriate dose is chosen so as not to attenuate magnetic nanoparticles thermal performance but also to be absorbed to the maximum possible from the tissues and yield the best possible heat.
- Proper use of simulations can lead to better understanding of complex physical processes, further progress in the development of novel MPH equipment designs, replacement of invasive temperature measurements and establishment of updated hyperthermia treatment protocols.
- In silico testing and evaluation of material properties and innovative methods could substantially accelerate their approval for clinical use and result to better treatment quality.

# THE MAGNACHARTA GROUP

Physics Department, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

**Magnetic Nanostructure Characterization: Technology and Applications**

➤ **Professors**

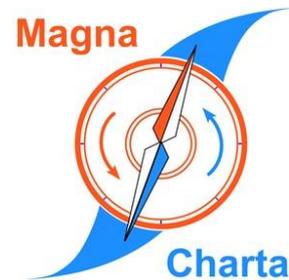
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➤ **Post doc Researchers**

Despoina Sakelari, Kostas Simeonidis, Antonis Makridis

➤ **PhD Students**

Eirini Myrovali, Aikaterini-Rafailia Tsiapla, Antonia-Areti Kalimeri



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

*This work has been supported by the State Scholarships Foundation (IKY)*



**Nikos Maniotis, Physics Department, AUTH**

# The effects of microwave normothermic irradiation on cultured cancer cells

**Mamiko Asano<sup>1</sup>, Minoru Sakaguchi<sup>2</sup>, Satoshi Tanaka<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere (Kyoto University, Uji, Japan)

<sup>2</sup>Laboratory of cell biology (Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Takatsuki, Japan)

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**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

## Cite this article as:

Asano M. and Sakaguchi M. and Tanaka S. (2019): The effects of microwave normothermic irradiation on cultured cancer cells, *Oncothermia Journal* 27: 162- 173  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/The\\_effect\\_of\\_microwave.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/The_effect_of_microwave.pdf)

## Introduction

Microwaves (frequency: 0.3–300 GHz) have long been used in cancer therapies such as microwave coagulation therapy and hyperthermia therapy. In these therapies, microwave irradiation is used to kill tumour cells by raising cellular temperature. These therapies have been used for treatment of various cancers for a long time. In recent years, microwave irradiation technology has been developed further, and it has been reported that the yield and reaction rate of many chemical reactions can be increased by microwave irradiation at a much lower temperature as compared to a conventional heating method such as water bath heating<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, we hypothesized that microwave normothermic irradiation might affect biological phenomena in cells.

## Objectives

We previously developed a microwave irradiation system that could irradiate cells under normothermic conditions by controlling the outputs and frequency precisely<sup>2</sup>. We then investigated the cell death pathways in HL-60 cells, induced during microwave irradiation under normothermic conditions. After being exposed to our microwave irradiation system, the cells were killed through "caspase-independent apoptosis"<sup>3</sup>. In this study, we investigated the cell death of other cultured cancer cells by microwave irradiation such as T98G (for human glioblastoma cells), MDA-MB-231 (for human breast cancer cells), and KATO III (for human gastric cancer cells).

## Material/Methods

T98G, MDA-MB-231, and KATO III cells were seeded in 35 mm culture dishes containing 2.5 mL of media, at a density of  $1 \times 10^5$  cells/mL. Microwave irradiation (2.45 GHz) was applied for 1 h, and the temperature of cells was maintained at 37 °C. However, the temperature inside the applicator, during these experiments, was set at 10 °C. Following irradiation, the cells were moved to a CO<sub>2</sub> incubator, where they were incubated for 6 h before used in the following assays; Caspase 3/7 assay carried out by using Caspase-3/7 Assay Kit (AnaSpec, San Jose, CA, USA) and Annexin V-PI assay performed by using an Annexin V-FITC Apoptosis Detection Kit (Nacalai Tesque).

## Results

According to the microscopic observations, the number of late stage apoptotic cells (both Annexin V and PI positive) had increased in all cell types, while early apoptotic cells (Annexin V positive, PI negative) were not observed. The adherent cell types, T98G and MDA-MB-231, were cast off by microwave irradiation, further indicating that cells were near death. Moreover, after microwave irradiation, the activity of caspase 3/7 did not increase significantly in any of the cell types.

## Conclusion

The results indicate that cell death pathways activated by microwave irradiation in the examined cells may be similar. However, further investigations should be performed to better understand the effects of irradiation on each cell type in detail.

## References

- [1] Sawada T. and Yamada T. (2018) *J. Jpn. Petrol. Inst.*, 61(2), 121-128.
- [2] Asano M., Sakaguchi M., Tanaka S., et al. (2017) Effects of normothermic conditioned microwave irradiation on cultured cells using an irradiation system with semiconductor oscillator and thermo-regulatory applicator, *Sci Rep*, 7, 41244.
- [3] Asano M., Tanaka S., Sakaguchi M., et al. (2017) Normothermic microwave irradiation induces death of HL-60 cells through heat-independent apoptosis. *Sci Rep*, 7(1), 11406.

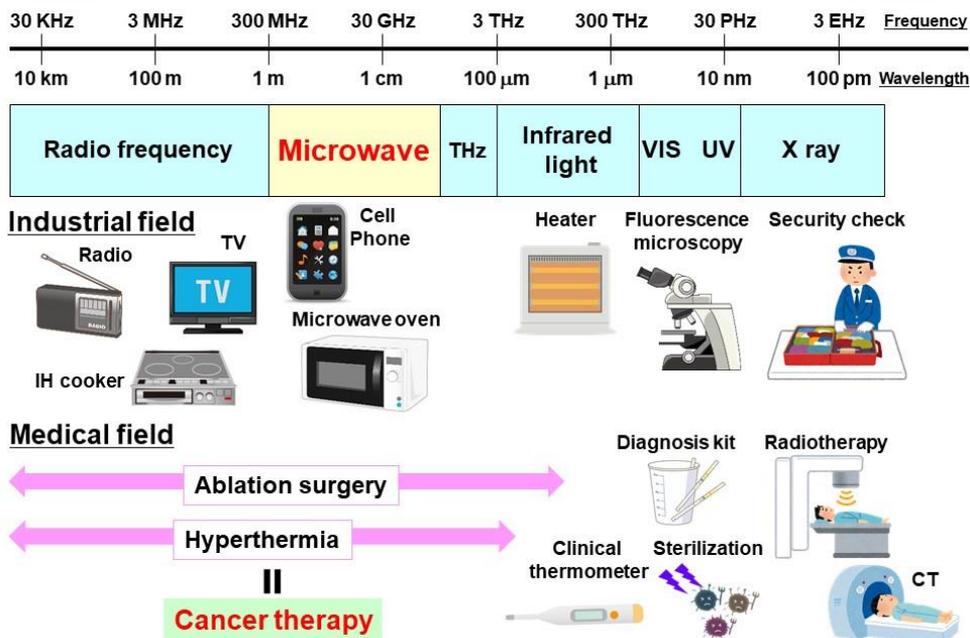
# The Effects of microwave normothermic irradiation on cultured cancer cells

Mamiko Asano<sup>1</sup>, Minoru Sakaguchi<sup>2</sup>, Satoshi Tanaka<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Institute for Sustainable Humanosphere, Kyoto University, Japan.

<sup>2</sup>Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Japan.

## What are 'Microwaves'?



# Outline of our presentation

## Recent trends of microwave irradiation

- Spread of a semiconductor oscillator
- Development of simulation technology for electromagnetic field



We can control microwave energy for cells precisely.

### Outline

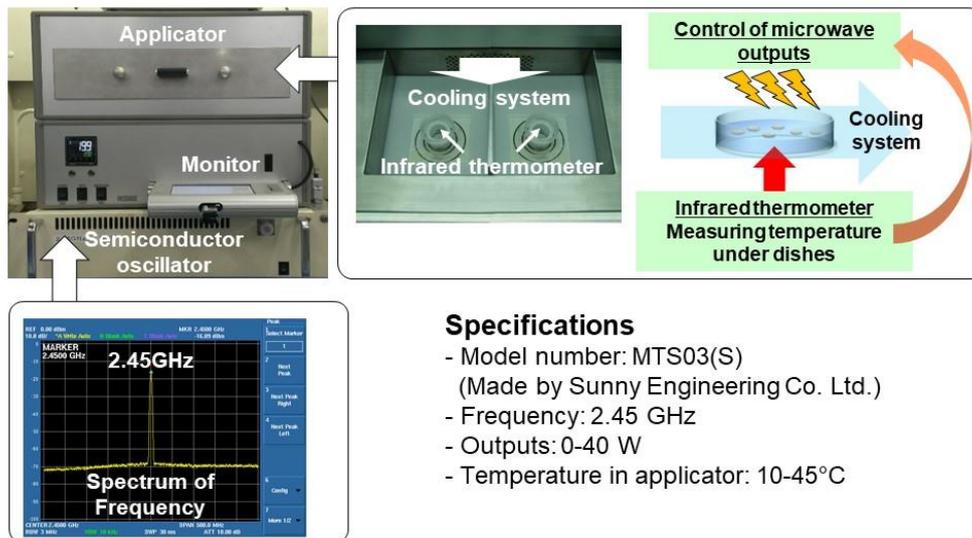
- 1, Microwave irradiation system for cultured cells.
- 2, Cell death pathway by microwave normothermic irradiation.

\*normothermic: at normal body temperature

## Microwave irradiation system

Microwave can be irradiated normothermally\* in this system

\*normothermal: at normal body temperature



### Specifications

- Model number: MTS03(S)  
(Made by Sunny Engineering Co. Ltd.)
- Frequency: 2.45 GHz
- Outputs: 0-40 W
- Temperature in applicator: 10-45°C

# Procedure: assays of cell death pathways



HL-60 cells (Human promyelocytic leukemia cells)  
 $1 \times 10^5$  cells/mL

Negative control group  
 Without any treatments

Microwave irradiation group  
 Kept at 37°C for 1 h  
 (Applicator: 10°C)

Thermal treatment group  
 Incubation at 42.5°C for 1 h  
 (Most of cells are killed  
 at 42.5°C.)

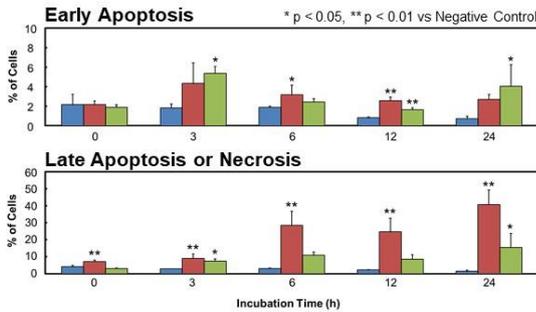
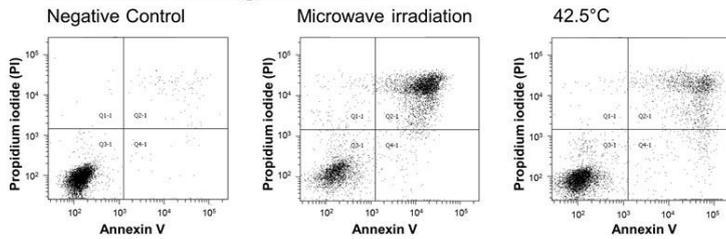
Incubation in CO<sub>2</sub> incubator for 0-24 h

Assays of cell death pathways  
 (Western blotting, ELISA assay, microscope observation, etc.)

## Annexin V - Propidium Iodide (PI) assay

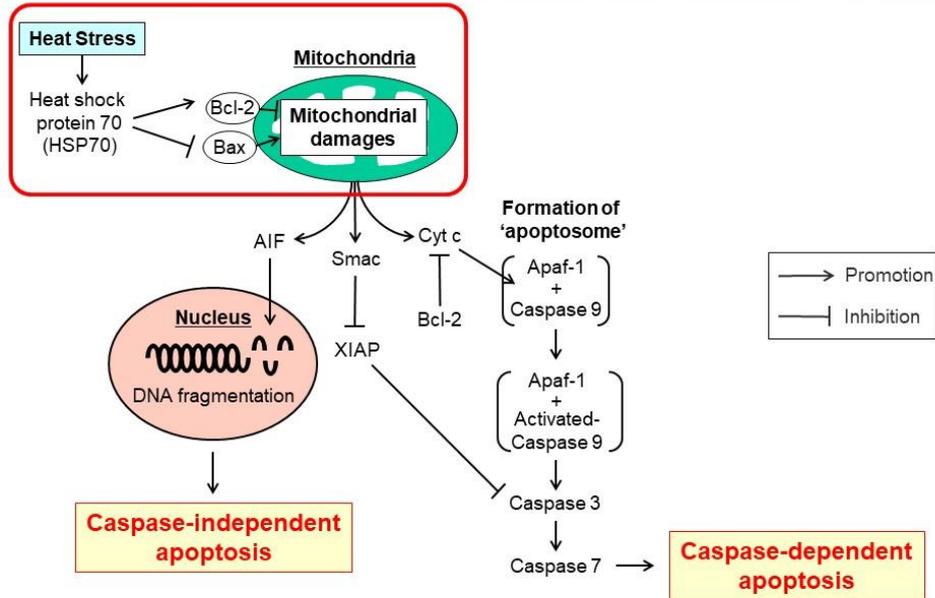
Asano M<sup>o</sup> et. al., *Sci. Rep.*, 7, 11406 (2017).

After 24 h following treatments



**MW+42.5°C**  
 Cell death was induced in a time-dependent manner.

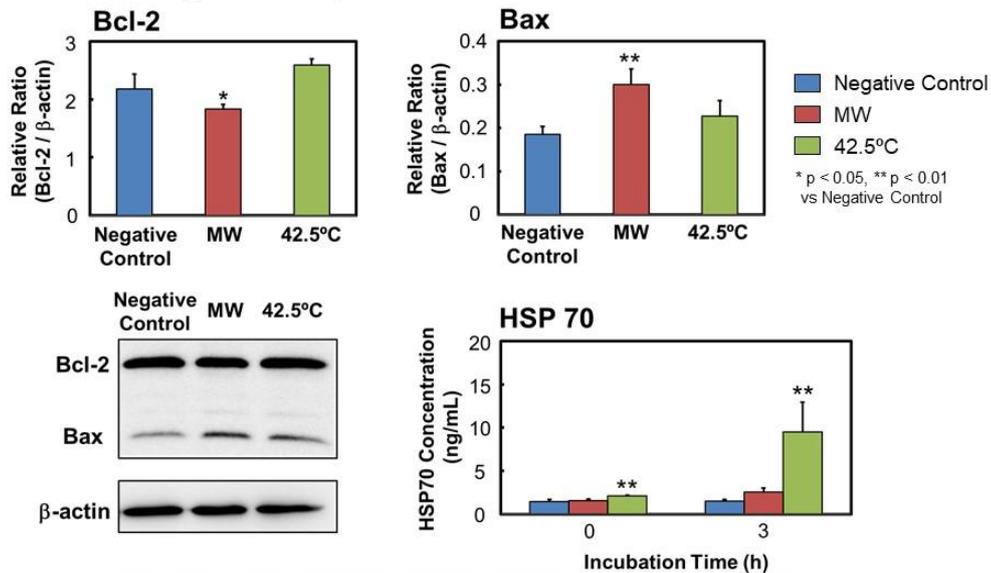
# Caspases-related apoptotic pathways



## Expression of Bcl-2 family and HSP 70 activation

After 3 h following treatments

Asano M<sup>o</sup> et. al., *Sci. Rep.*, 7, 11406 (2017).

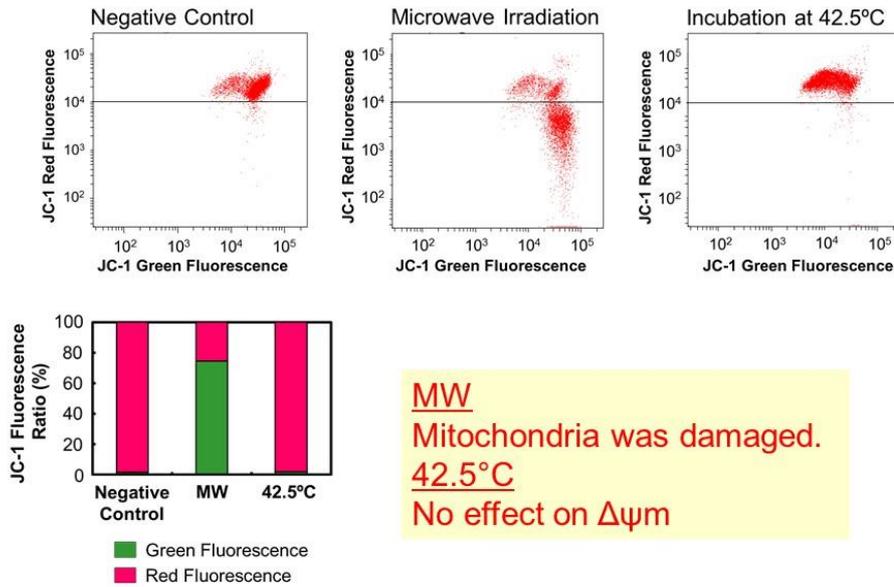


**MW** Bcl-2 family promoted mitochondrial damages.  
**42.5°C** Thermal stress response was occurred.

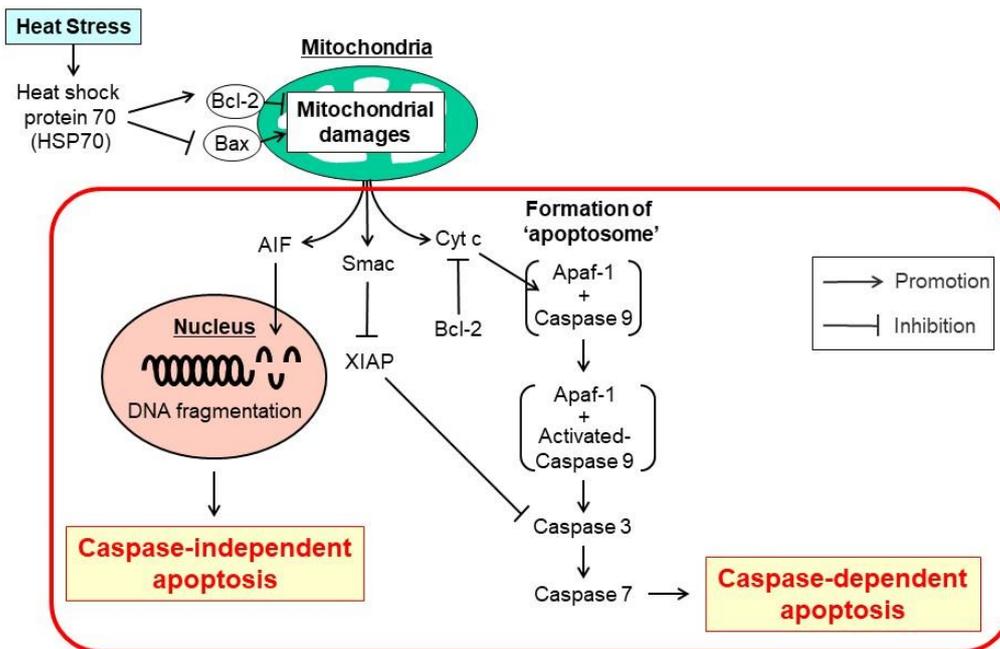
# Mitochondrial membrane potential ( $\Delta\psi_m$ ) assay

Asano M<sup>\*</sup> et al., *Sci. Rep.*, 7, 11406 (2017).

After 3 h following treatments



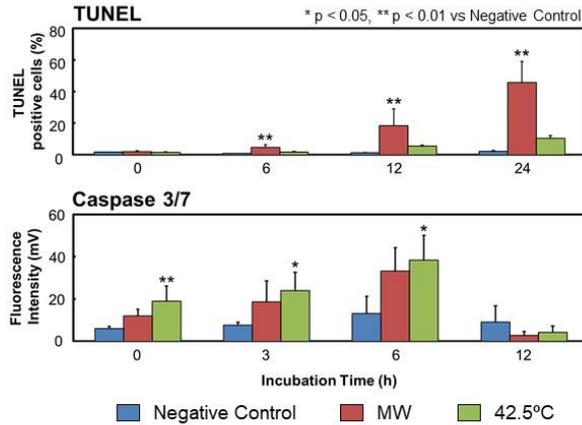
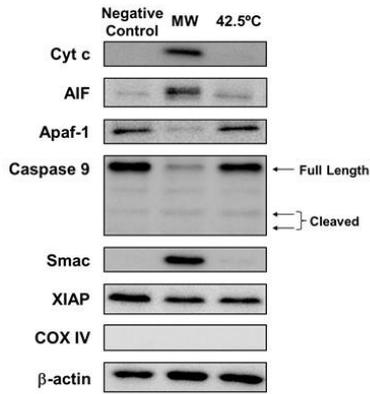
# Caspases-related apoptotic pathways



# Caspase independent or dependent apoptosis

Asano M<sup>\*</sup> et. al., *Sci. Rep.*, 7, 11406 (2017).

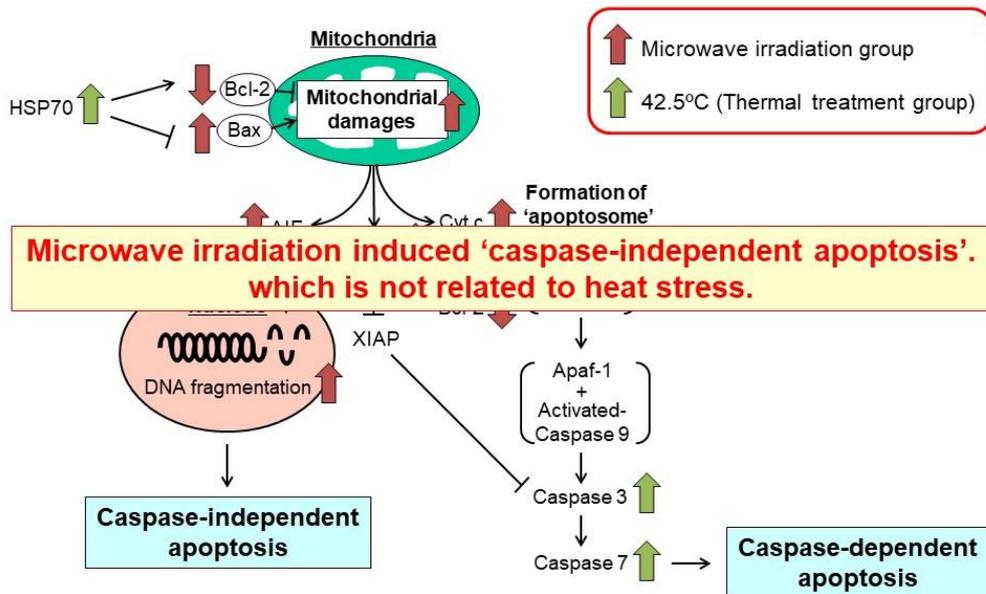
After 3 h following treatments  
(Cytosol extraction)



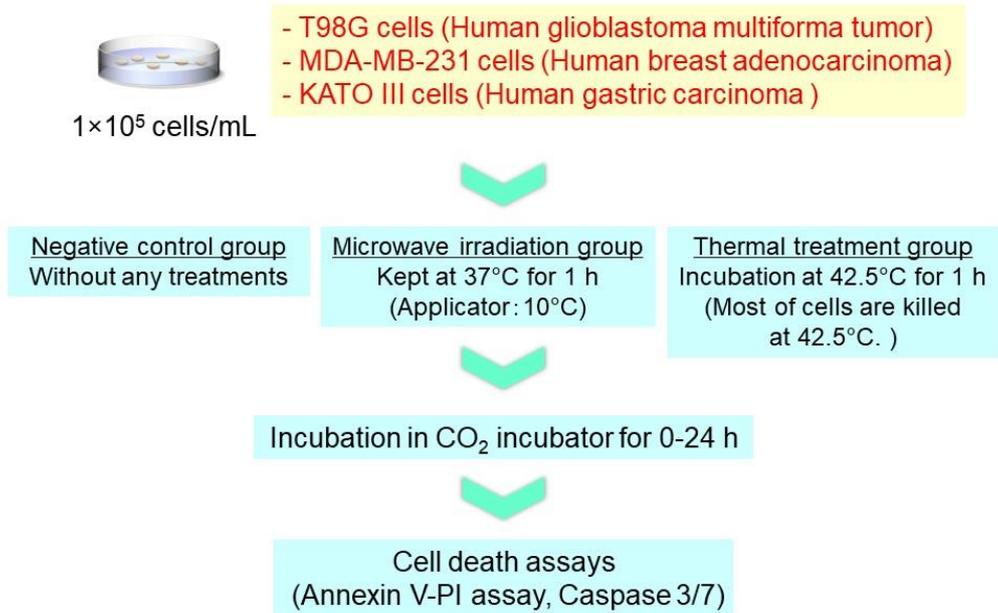
**MW**  
AIF induced DNA fragmentation.  
⇒ Caspase independent apoptosis

## Summary: apoptotic cell death pathways

\*Asano M et. al., *Sci. Rep.*, 7, 11406 (2017).

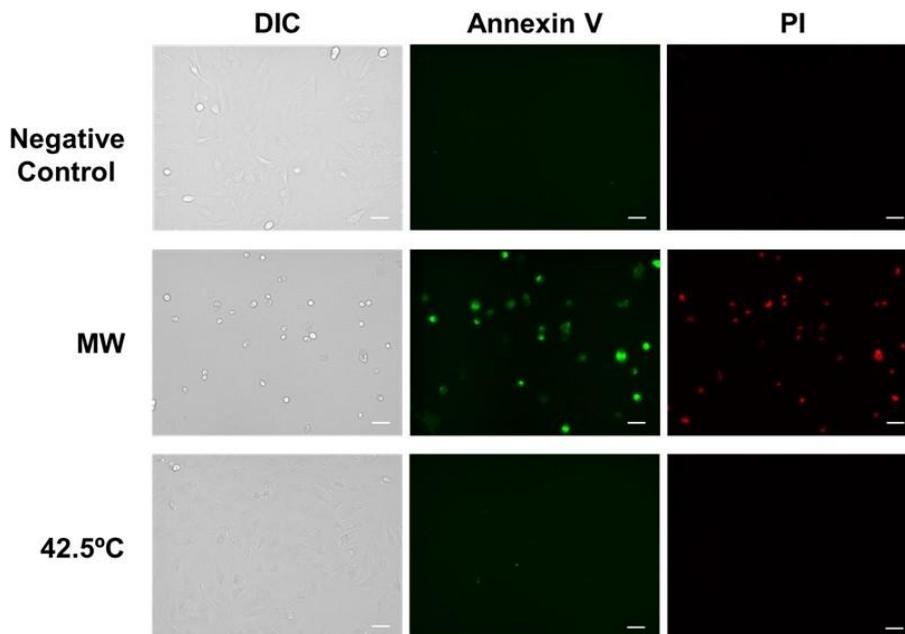


## Procedure: cell death assays



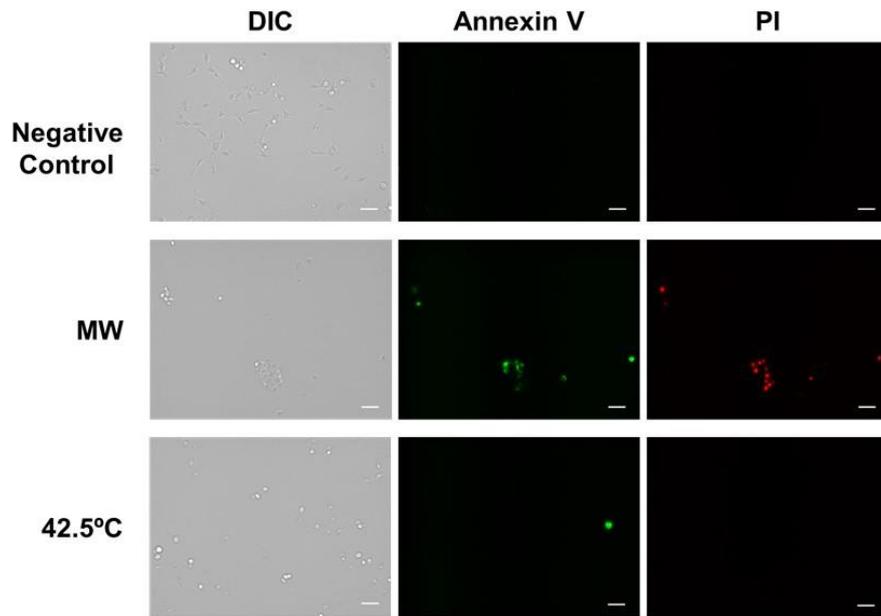
## Annexin V-PI assay (T98G)

### T98G



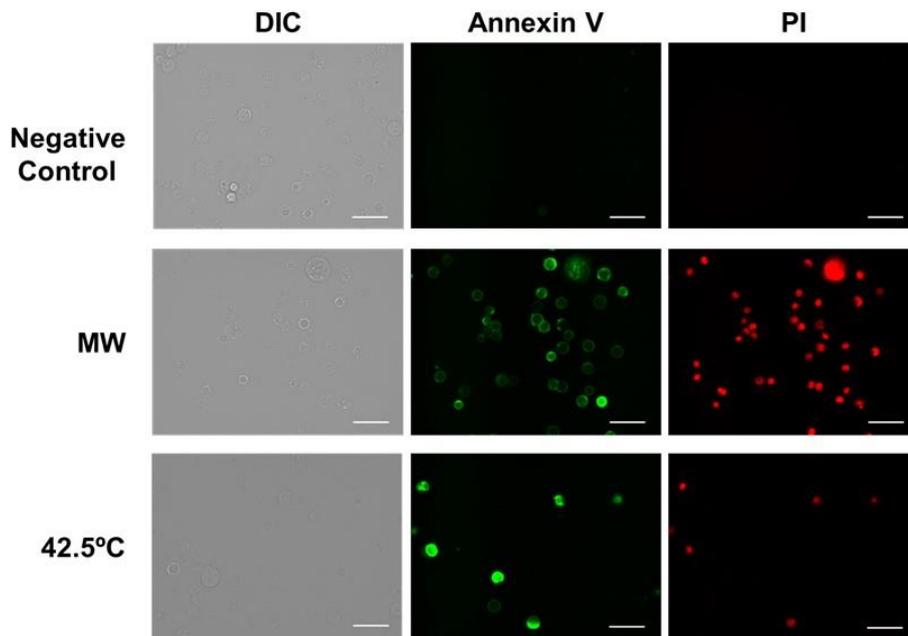
## Annexin V-PI assay (MDA-MB-231)

### MDA-MB-231



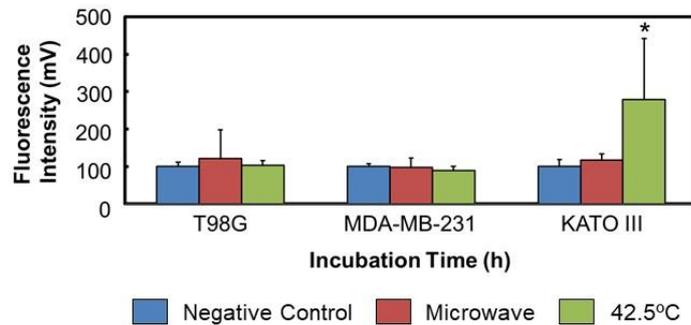
## Annexin V-PI assay (KATO III)

### KATO III



# Caspase 3/7 assay

## Caspase 3/7



Caspase 3/7 was...

- NOT activated by microwave irradiation.
- activated in KATO III cells only at 42.5°C.

## Conclusion

### Microwave irradiation

- HL-60 cells were killed through 'Caspase **independent** apoptosis'.
- T98G, MDA-MB-231 and KATO III cells might be killed through the similar pathway of HL-60 cells.

### 42.5°C (Thermal treatment group)

- Cells were killed through 'Caspase **dependent** apoptosis'.

### Future works

- Cell death analysis for many types of cancer cells.
- Application to *in vivo* (e.g. xenograft mouse models).

# Acknowledgements

## **Collaborators**

Prof. Katsuyoshi Tabuse

Prof. Hitoshi Matsumura

Dr. Takako Yamaguchi

Prof. Yoshikazu Fujita

(Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences)

Dr. Tomohiko Mitani (Kyoto University)

Dr. Keiichiro Kashimura (Chubu University)

Prof. Masaya Kawase (Nagahama Institute of Bio-Science and Technology)

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• Future Development Research Funding Program FY2019, Kyoto University.

Thank you for your attention!



# Evaluation of clinical studies when no reference arm exists

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In the advanced metastatic stages of the malignant diseases the standard curative therapies usually fail, and the patient receive palliative care only. In the case of modulated electro-hyperthermia (mEHT, tradename oncothermia) this situation is common. The patients come to mEHT when no other curative therapy is available, and mEHT tries to turn the simple palliation to the curative therapeutic approach again. This could be with resensitization of the standard conventional therapies or applied mEHT in monotherapy regime together with the best supportive care. The treatment setup in these cases is very individual, it depends on the previous treatments and their results, the reason of the inapplicability of conventional methods (like organ failure, hemato-complications, refractory status, intolerable side effects, comorbidities, etc.). Due to the broad spectra of the patients and the missing availability of other active treatment for comparison form randomized, the double arm is impossible.

Furthermore, sometimes highly personalized therapies combined with mEHT block the collection of the homogeneous group and limit its double-arm randomization. Due to the above problems, many clinical trials have prospective or retrospective datasets without comparison to the control-group formed by the same cohort as the active one. The measured single arm naturally contains the relevant information; however, in most of the cases, it is impossible to obtain it from the complex survival curve without a reference. Our objective is to discuss the situations of the single arm evaluation. We give a method for the mining of information from single arm study to increase the level of evidence of the measured dataset. The basic idea of the data-separation is the appropriate parameterization of the non-parametric Kaplan-Meier survival pattern by the psychometric poly-Weibull fit. With the Weibull decomposition of the survival curve, we can fit at least two subgroups of patients. The weighted sum of the decomposed fractions could be optimized analytically and determining the best parameters of the components and the best composition ratio of the weighted sum is also possible. We will show how the method works in a real clinical environment through mEHT as a complementary method, applied curatively when no other conventional curative therapies are available. The decomposed function of the non-responding group provides an excellent agreement with the historical controls in the investigated group of patients with pancreatic cancer and non-small-cell-lung-cancer studies.



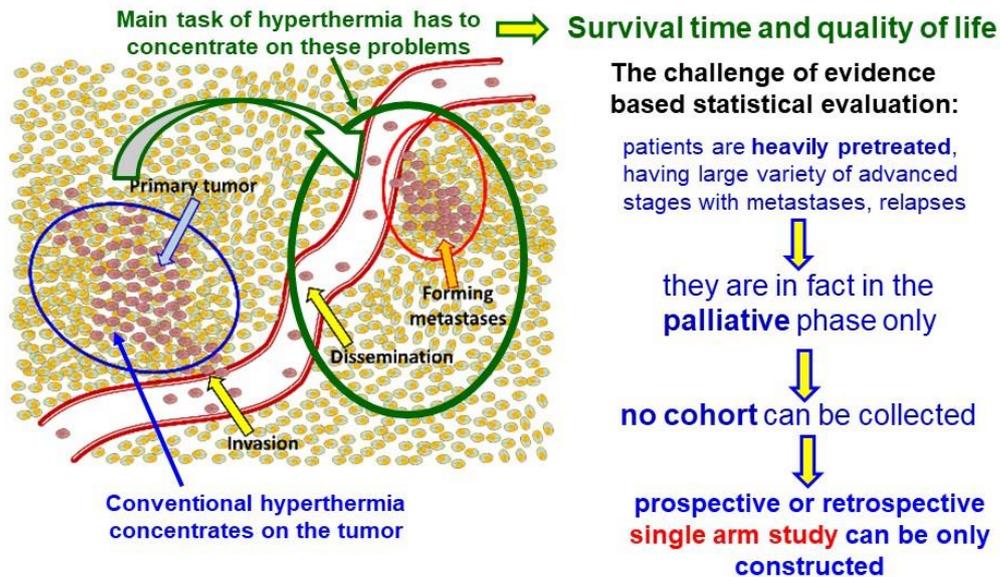
# Evaluation of clinical studies, when reference arm doesn't exist

**Andras Szasz, Ph.D.**  
Professor, St. Istvan University  
CSO of Oncotherm Group

## Outline

- The problem of the evidences in advanced diseases
- The general behaviour of the survival curves
- The strategies of studies
- Evaluation examples: pancreas, lung, glioblastoma

## Challenge of hyperthermia in oncology



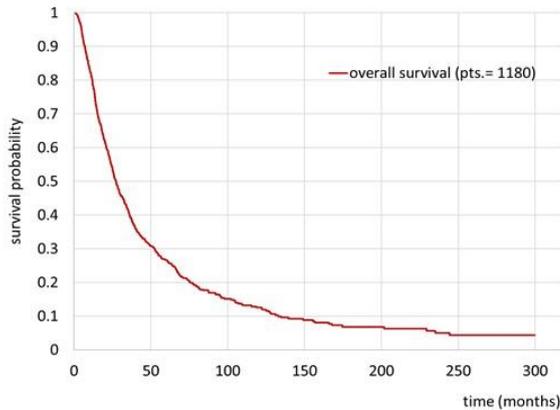
**How to deal with this challenge?**

### Outline

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## The survival curve

Well-known **Kaplan-Meier** non-parametric estimation shows survival probability by time



Szasz A, Szasz N, Szasz O (2010) *Oncothermia - Principles and practices*. Springer Science, Heidelberg

The Kaplan-Meier estimate contains **all relevant information**, only we are **not able to filter it** (missing reference)

The survival has special self-similar behavior, because the **step-wise** growing of the tumor.

All new cells met the condition of the **microenvironments** produced by the cells in previous steps

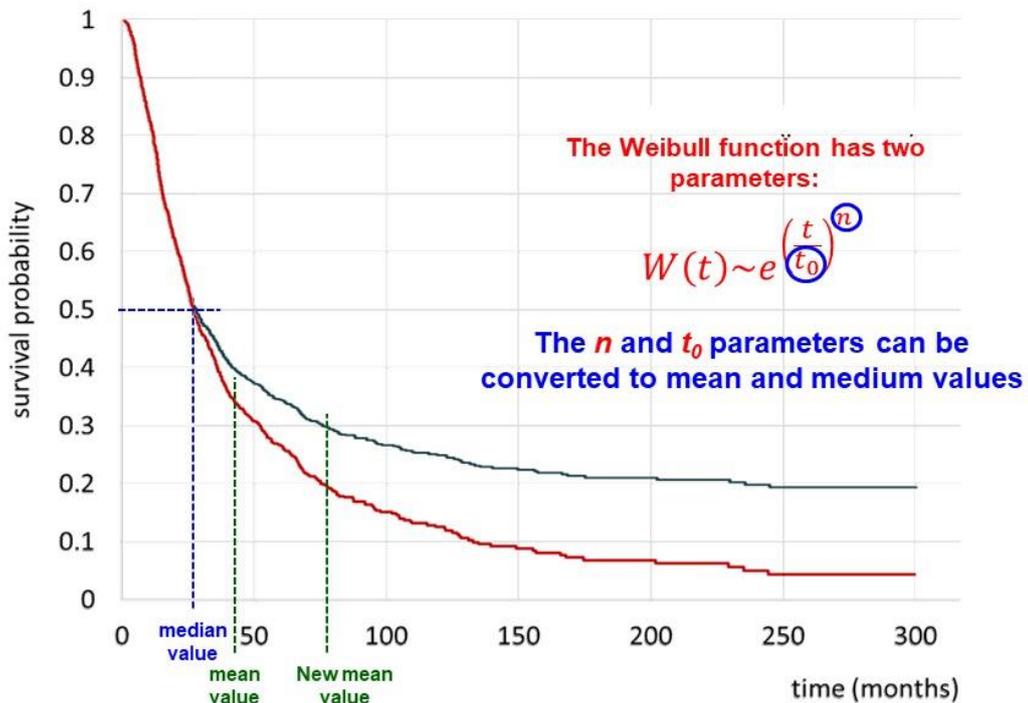
The **self-similar** development could be followed by the physiologic-psychologic function:

**Weibull-function**

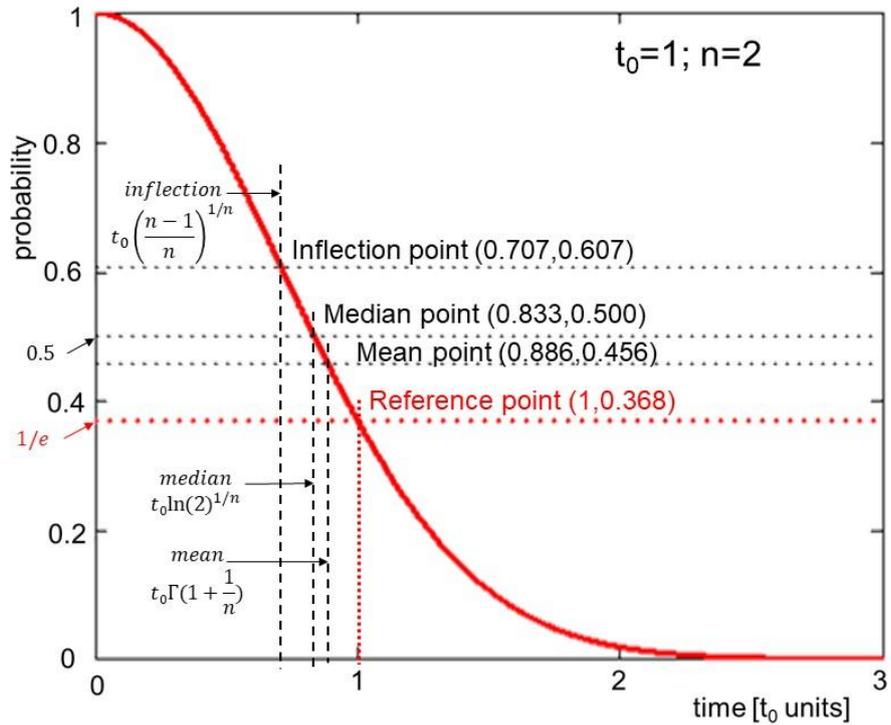
$$W(t) \sim e^{-\left(\frac{t}{t_0}\right)^n}$$

where  $t$  is the time,  $t_0$  is a scale factor and  $n$  is a form factor

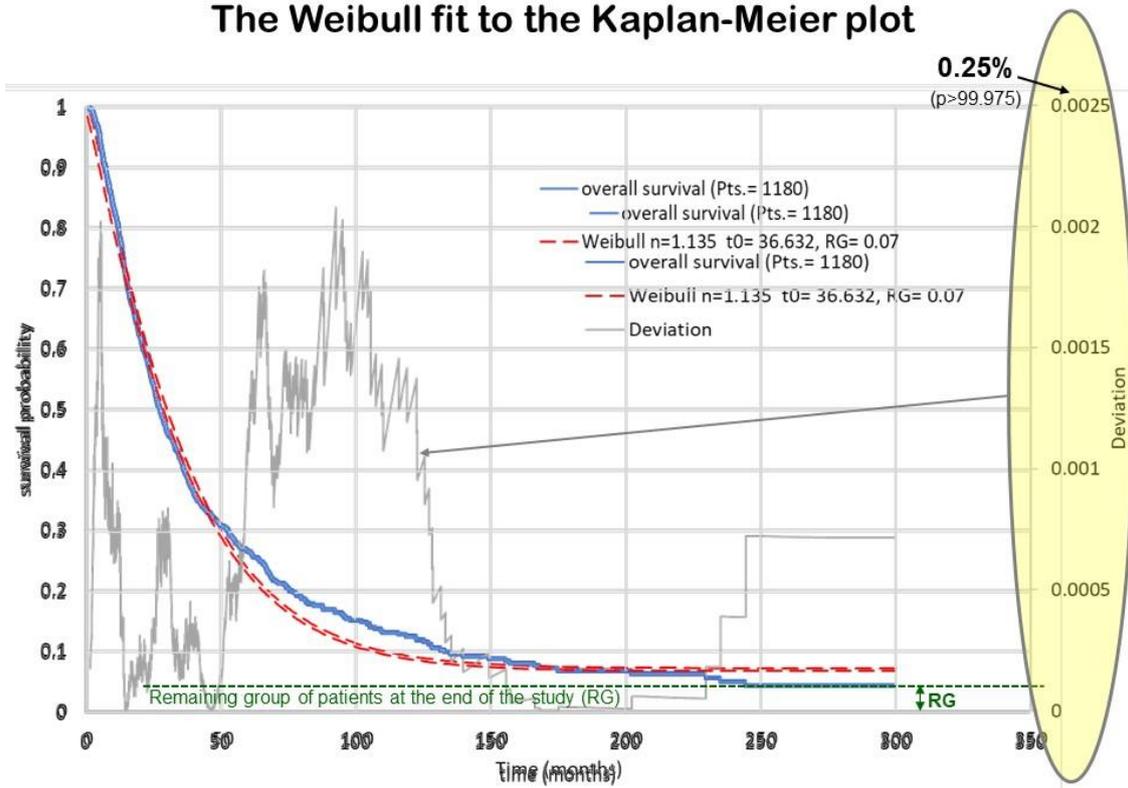
## Two parameters characterize the survival curve



## The Weibull function

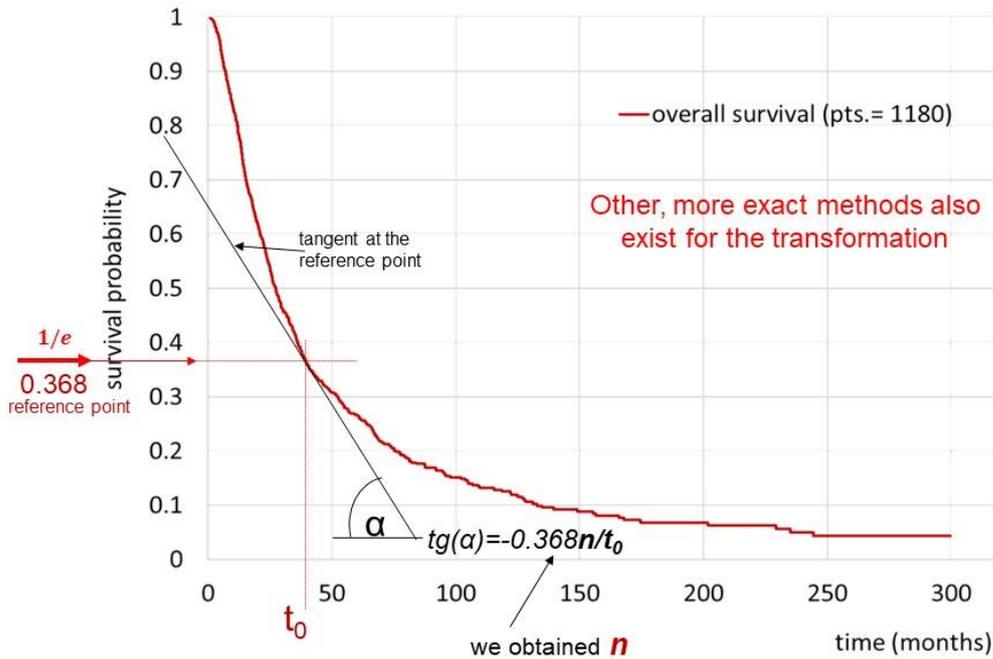


## The Weibull fit to the Kaplan-Meier plot



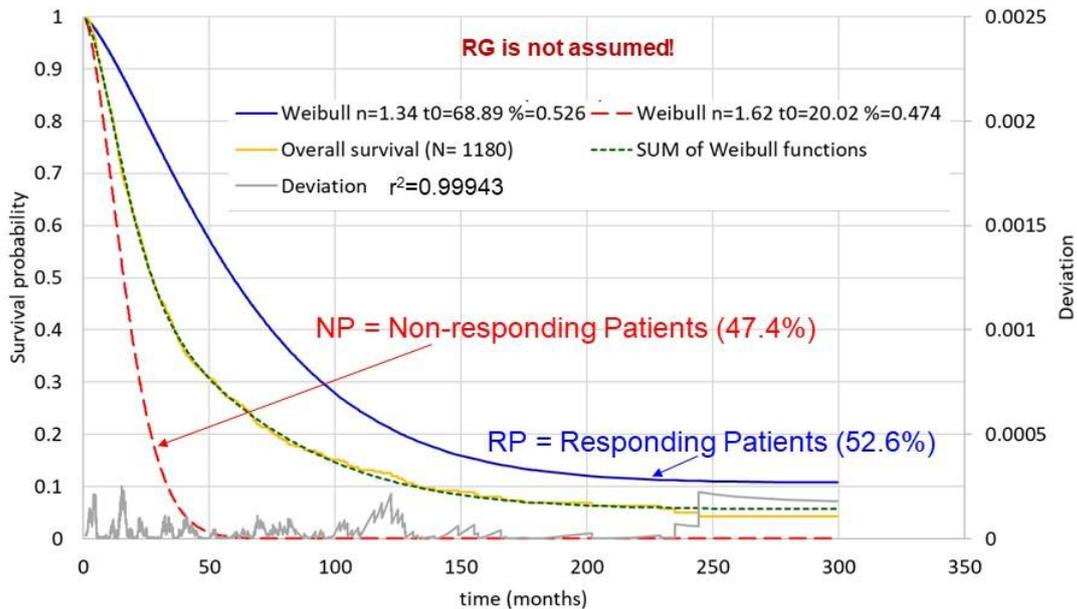
## Two parameter conversion in the survival curve

Two parameters, mean and median could be transferred to  $n$  and  $t_0$



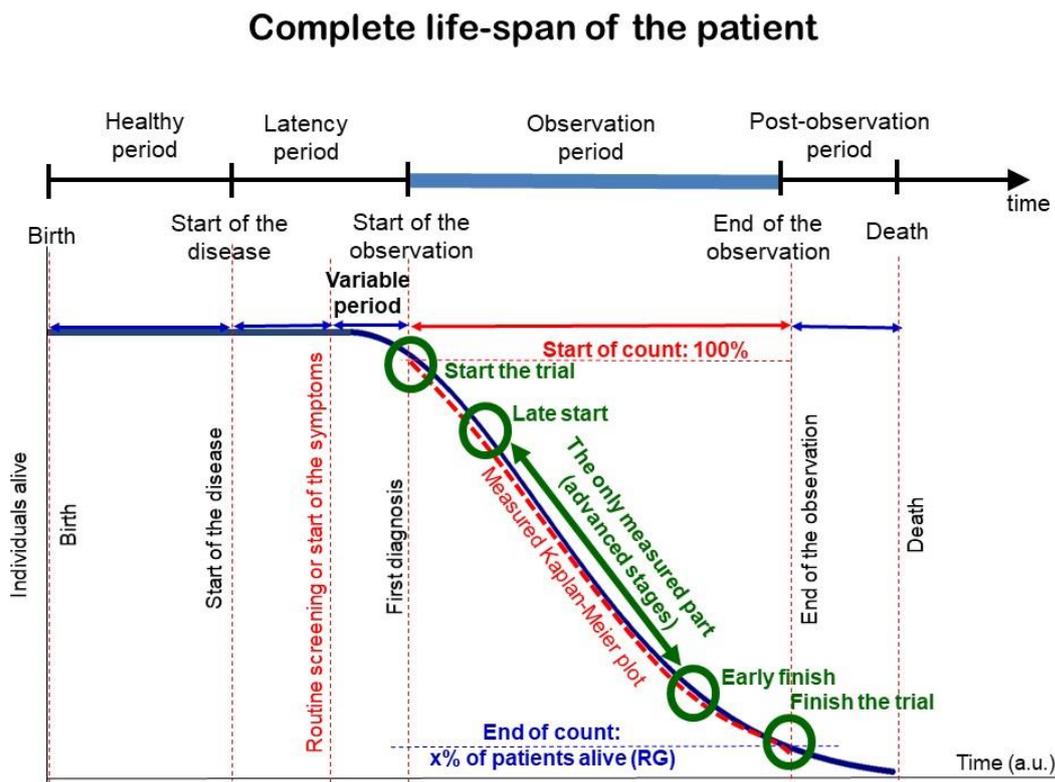
## Calculating responding and non-responding patients

$$W^{(KM)}(t) = c_{RP} e^{-\left(\frac{t}{t_0^{(RP)}}\right)^{n^{(RP)}}} + (1 - c_{RP}) e^{-\left(\frac{t}{t_0^{(NP)}}\right)^{n^{(NP)}}}$$

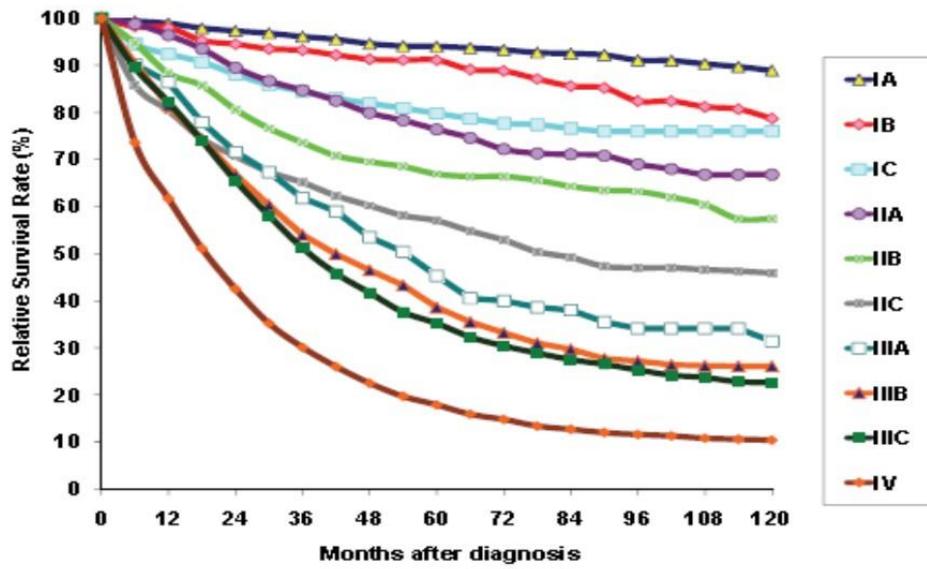


## Outline

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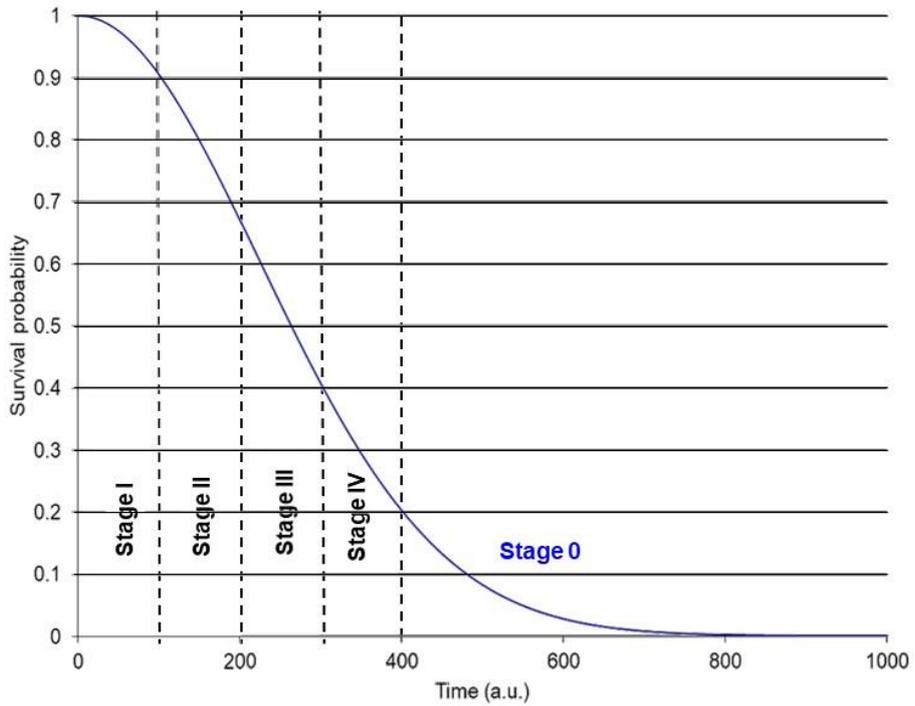


## Trials for advanced stages (NSCLC)

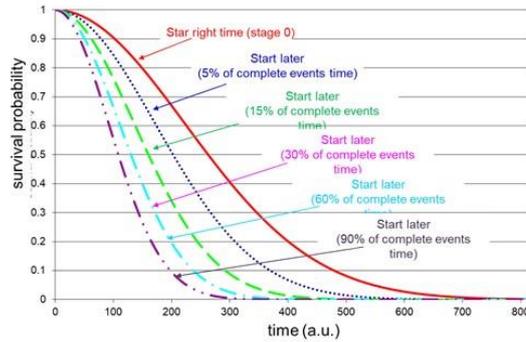
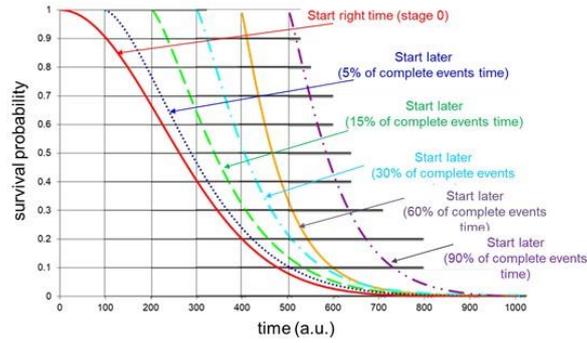


## Late start challenge

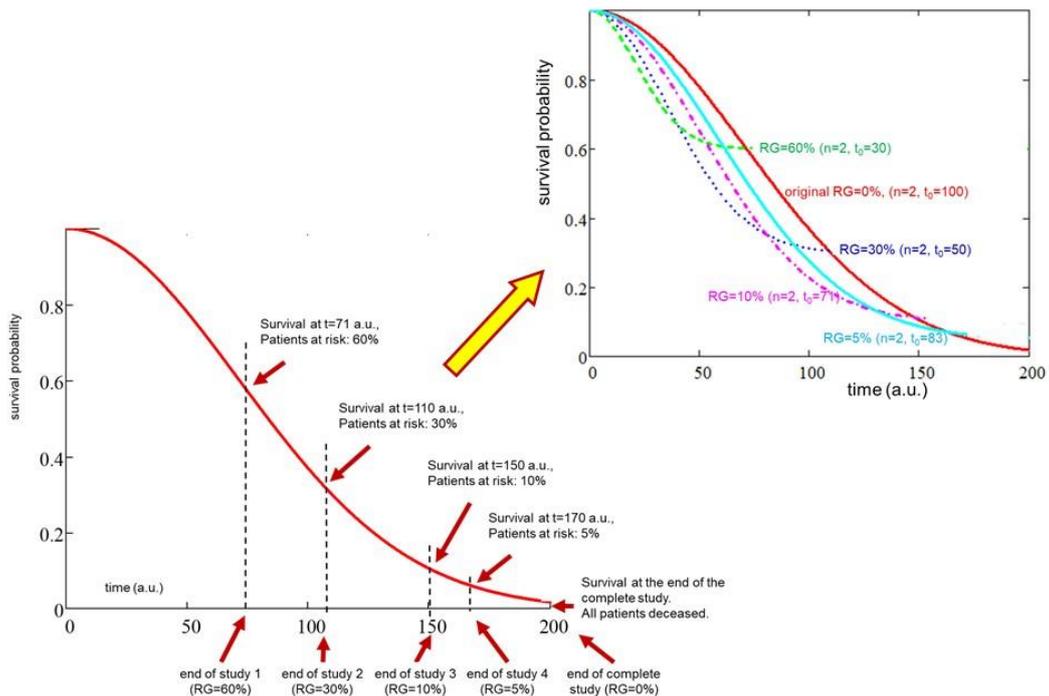
All late starts consider their start point as 100%, and starts at zero time



## Consider every late start as 100%



## The early end situation truncates the original plot



## Outline

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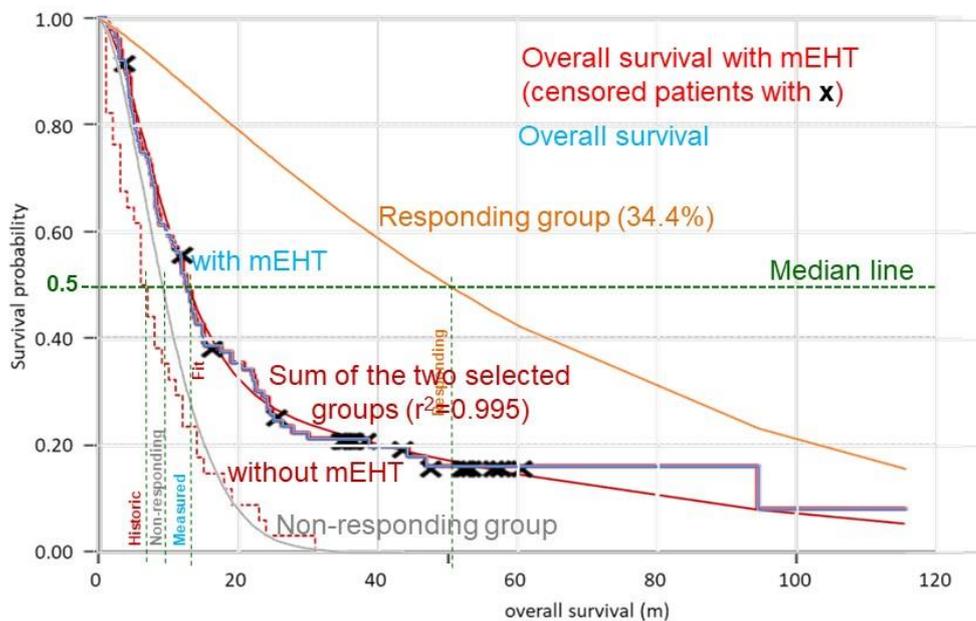
### Study of inoperable advanced pancreas carcinoma

Dani A, et al. (2008) Clinical study for advanced pancreas cancer treated by oncothermia. Forum Hyperthermie 1:13–20

Number of patients

- active arm n=99 (73+26 two centers)
- control arm n=34 (historical control)

Decomposition to responding and non-responding groups



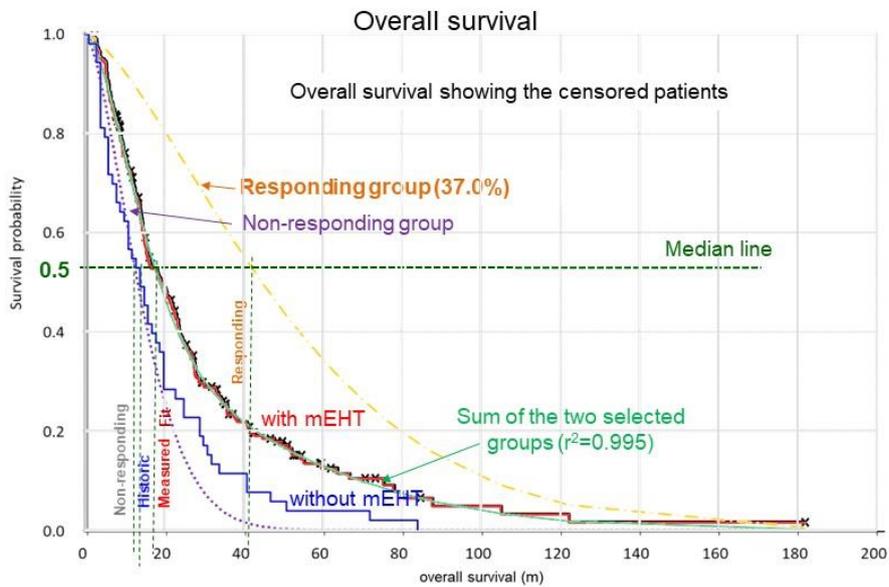
## Study of advanced non-small-cell lung cancer

Szasz A (2014) Current status of oncothermia therapy for lung cancer. Korean J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 47:77-93

Number of patients

- active arm n=258 (197+61 two centers)
- control arm n=53 (historical control)

Decomposition to responding and non-responding groups



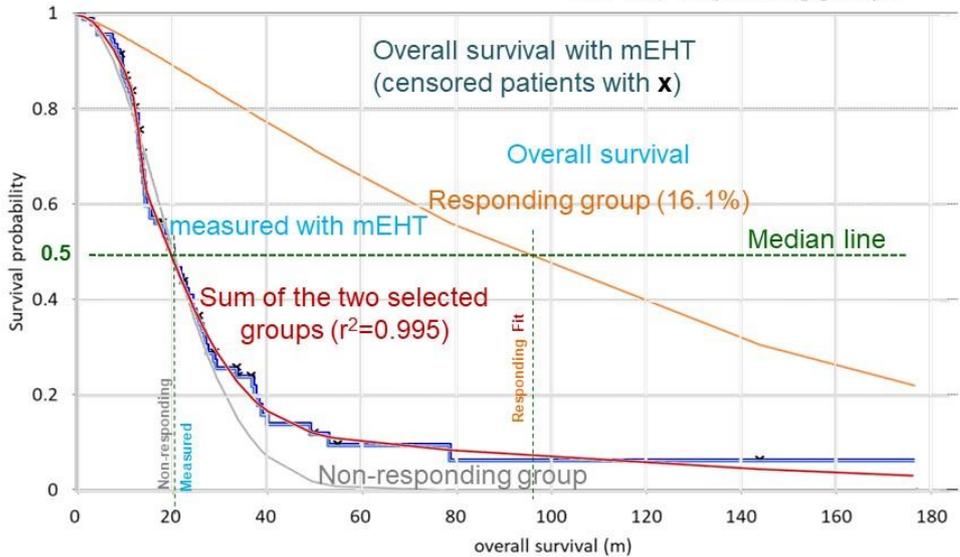
## Study of advanced glioblastoma multiform, monotherapy

Sahinbas H, et al. (2007) Retrospective clinical study of adjuvant electro-hyperthermia treatment for advanced brain-gliomas. Deutsche Zeitschrift fuer Onkologie 39:154-160

Number of patients

- active arm n=94 (single institution)

Decomposition to responding and non-responding groups



# Modified Hardin-Jones-Pauling (HJP) method

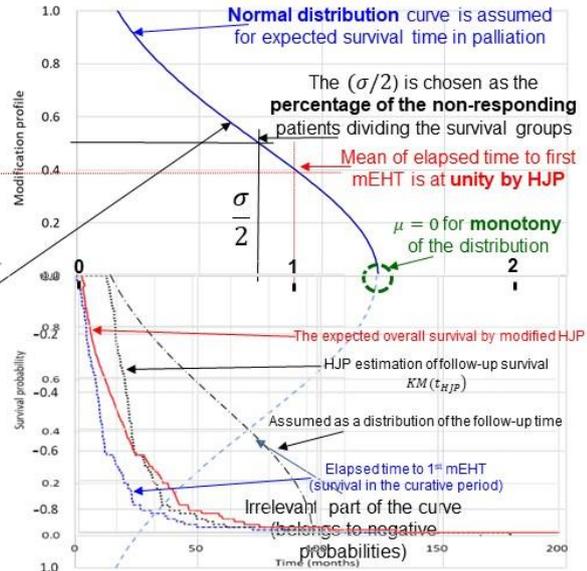
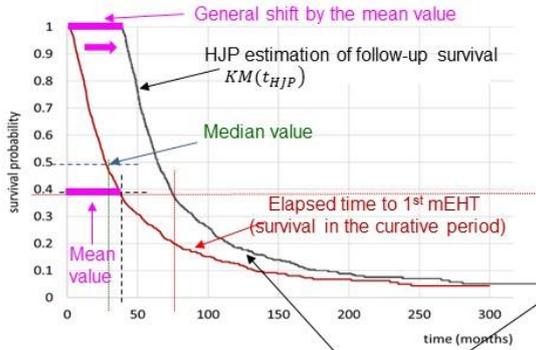
**HJP argument:** the expected survival of the patients in a follow-up time of a study is the average time involved in the study added to the final time of the observation.

**Challenge:** Patient who had entered in palliative phase early has less probability to survive longer.

**Our assumption:** the expected survival in palliative period can be calculated from its elapsed time

Modified HJP estimation

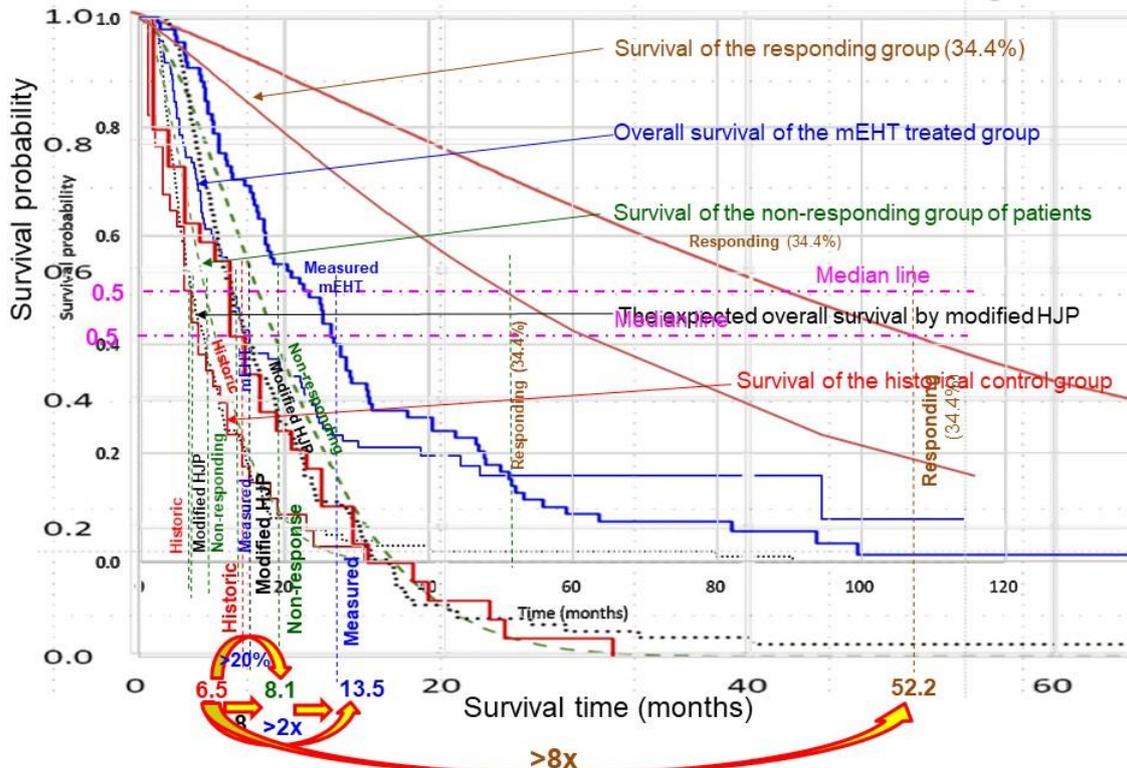
$$KMm(t_{HJP}) = \frac{KM(t_{HJP})}{\alpha\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(KM(t_e) - \mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$



The expected survival time after finishing the conventional curative period (starting the palliative only) is the convolution of the HJP estimation and the normal distribution fit to the KM curve.

Pauling L, Herman ZS: (1989) Criteria for the validity of clinical trials of treatments of cohorts of cancer patients based on the Hardin Jones principle. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:6835-6837

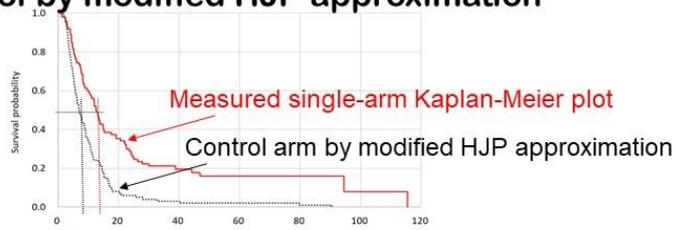
## Verification of modified HJP estimation



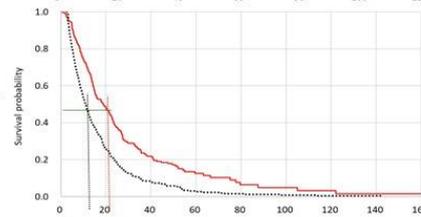
## Quasi-control by modified HJP approximation

### Overall survival

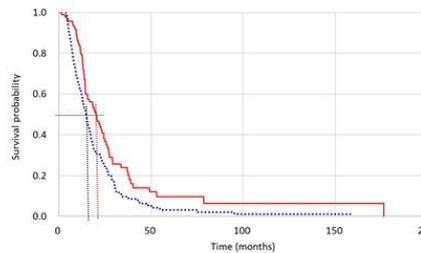
pancreas carcinoma



non-small-cell lung cancer



Glioblastoma multiform



## The job is done

- ☑ The problem of the evidences in advanced diseases
- ☑ The general behaviour of the survival curves
- ☑ The strategies of studies
- ☑ Evaluation examples: pancreas, lung, glioblastoma

**Thank you very much for your attention**

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# **How to set up an individual program of hyperthermia and conventional treatment in heavily pretreated cancer patients**

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Fachklinik Dr. Herzog, Bad Salzhausen, Germany

**Presented at the 37th ICHS, Thessaloniki**

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Herzog A. (2019): How to set up an individual program of hyperthermia and conventional treatment in heavily pretreated cancer patients, Oncothermia Journal 27: 188-195  
[www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/How\\_to\\_set\\_up\\_an\\_individual\\_program.pdf](http://www.oncotherm.com/sites/oncotherm/files/2019-10/How_to_set_up_an_individual_program.pdf)

Hyperthermia is not sufficient as sole treatment. Even though there are experimental studies on cancer cells and in animals showing that hyperthermia may kill cancer cells, in patients up to now the results are not satisfactory.

But hyperthermia may serve as an important tool to improve the efficacy of conventional treatments like chemotherapy or radiation. This has been shown in numerous studies in particular in advanced, recurrent or metastatic disease. But to achieve good results it is not enough to just perform hyperthermia. A skilful setting of hyperthermia and conventional treatments is crucial.

There are not only different types of hyperthermia (superficial, deep-regional, whole-body hyperthermia), there are also several different drugs of chemotherapy and different techniques of radiation which must be put together in a correct order to achieve best possible success.

For first- or second-line treatment of cancer there are in general guidelines clearly showing possible success rates of certain treatments whereas in heavily pre-treated patients there are no guidelines anymore. So individual treatment concepts have to be set up.

In three exemplary patients (pancreatic cancer with peritoneal carcinosis, recurrent synovial sarcoma and non-small-cell lung cancer) treatment strategies are explained and the outcome discussed.

### **Patient 1: Diagnosis: Pancreatic cancer with peritoneal metastases**

Oncological history:

- 11/15      Advanced cancer of pancreatic tail. Distal pancreatectomy, splenectomy, left colectomy.
- 01/16      FOLFIRINOX 12 cycles.
- 03/17      Carcinosis of gall bladder. Cholecystectomy. Pembrolizumab for 10 cycles. Progressive peritoneal carcinosis.
- 10/17      T-cell immunotherapy, PD.
- 12/17      Ileus and jaundice. Removal of parts of small intestine removed. Ileostomy. Bile duct metal stent
- 02/18      Subileus, nasogastric tube, parenteral nutrition (Image 1)

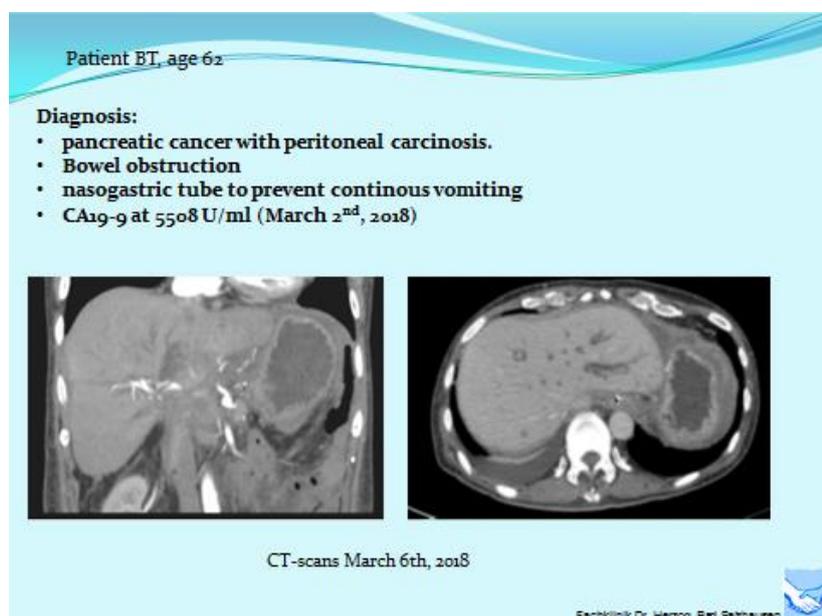


Image 1

**Problem:** The patient was heavily pre-treated with chemotherapy (Folfinirox), immunotherapies and several surgeries. He came to us in a terminal situation, was not able to eat anymore and had a nasogastric tube because of continuous vomiting. The tumor marker CA19-9 was >5.000. The patient was extremely weak and in pain. No treatment options and no likelihood of response to chemotherapy anymore. (Johns Hopkins center, USA) To decide about a treatment in such a difficult situation it is necessary to consider all relevant factors. (Image 3)

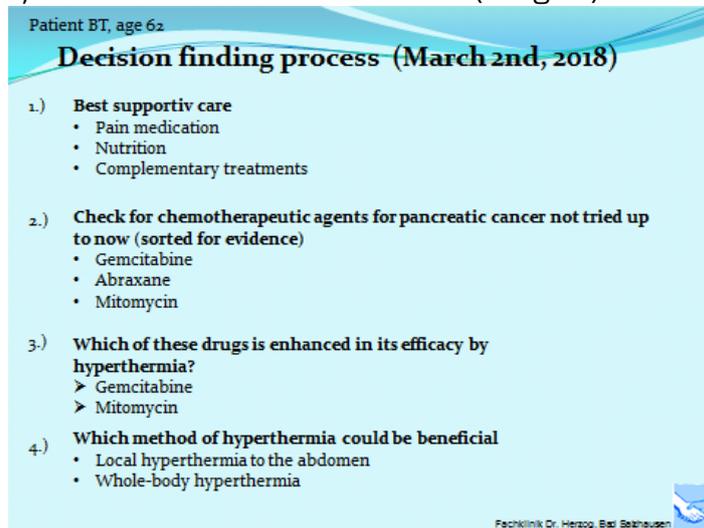


Image 2

**Solution:**  
 03/18 Local and whole body hyperthermia (Oncotherm EHY 2000, Iratherm 2000) In combination with Gemcitabine. Parenteral nutrition and complementary treatments.

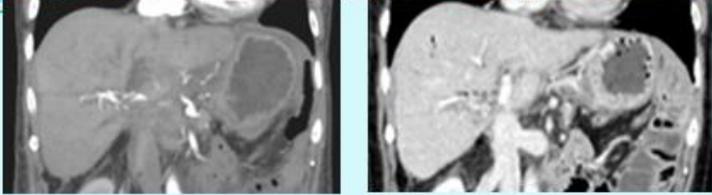
**Result:** Decrease of tumor markers. Normal food uptake and bowl function, good quality of life again.

10/18 Maintenance therapy with Capecitabine and hyperthermia.  
 04/19 Cholangitis and stenosis of bile duct stent. Placement of 2 plastic stents into the metal stent. Continuation of Capecitabine and hyperthermia.  
 06/19 Lasting PR, Ca19-9 at 73,6ng/ml, good quality of life.

**Comment:** Given the situation of this patient in the beginning a survival beyond a few weeks was not likely. Now 1 1/2 years after first admission the patient is still alive and in a good condition. Only the combined treatment adding hyperthermia to chemotherapy can explain this outcome. After Gemcitabine alone in his condition such a result never would have been expected. (Image 3)

**Patient BT, age 62 Diagnosis: pancreatic cancer with peritoneal carcinosis**

03/18                      04/19



- ❖ At start of treatment no promising options
- ❖ Expected success of Gemcitabine alone in best case szenario: few months
- ❖ Hyperthermia seems to have been the crucial factor of success
- ❖ Possible benefit of hyperthermia plus Gemcitabine in pancreatic cancer is supported by studies

Fachklinik Dr. Herzog, Bad Bollhausen

Image 3

### **Patient 2: Diagnosis: Synovial sarcoma of left knee**

Oncological history:

- 01/16 Lump at left knee, at biopsy synovial sarcoma
- 03/16 Resection, stage pT2R0
- 04/16 Radiation of the distal right femur
- 12/16 Local recurrence above the field of radiation
- 01/17 Resection of recurrence, Radiatio and brachytherapy
- 06/17 Grossly swollen left leg, thrombosis of the vena femoralis caused by large tumour metastases in the left groin.
- 08/17 Chemo-immunotherapy with Doxorubicin and Olaratumab, PD
- 10/17 Carboplatin and Gemcitabine, PD
- 12/17 Pazopanib, PD
- 02/18 One cycle of Ifosfamide high dose, not tolerated (encepalopathy). Progression of the disease resulting in a tumour of more than 11 cm diameter in the left groin reaching into the pelvis, compressing bladder and ureter and growing around the blood vessels and nerves of the left leg. 3 more large masses along and around the arteria femoralis down the left thigh, the lowest mass a few centimeters above the inner left knee. (Image 4)

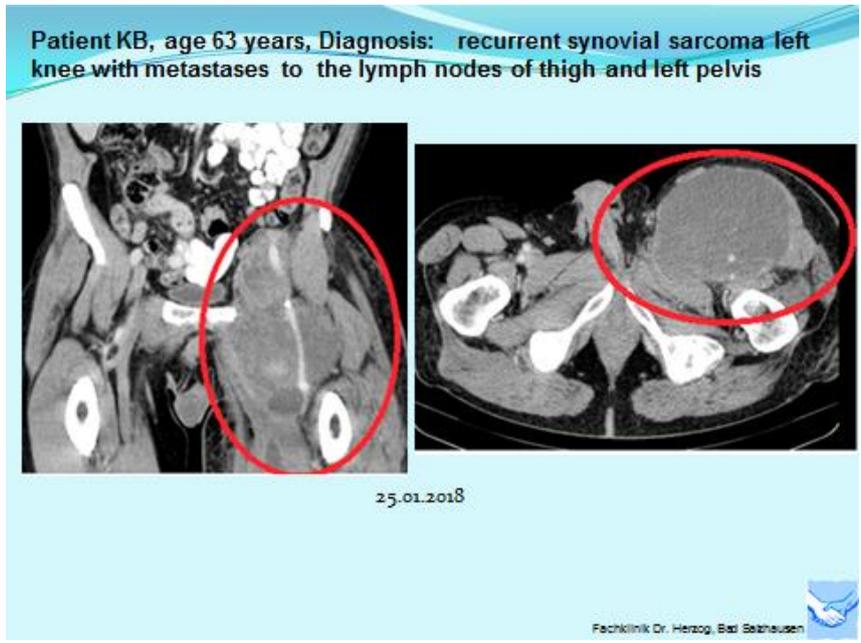


Image 4

**Problem:** Metastatic sarcoma of the left knee spreading into the lymphatic tissues along the left thigh up to the pelvis. Progression after 3 lines of chemotherapy and immunotherapy. The last chemotherapy with Ifosfamid in high dose he almost had not survived. No other treatment options now than left hemipelvectomy and amputation of the left leg. (Image 5)

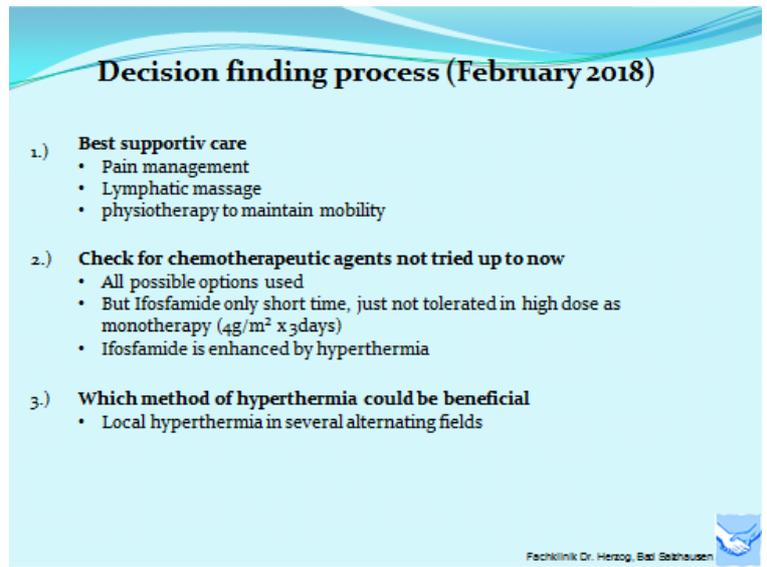


Image 5

**Solution:** Continuation of Ifosfamide but in lower doses ( $2,2 g/ m^2/ 24 hrs \times 3 days$ ) combined with local hyperthermia (Oncotherm EHY 2000) to the metastatic sites at pelvis and left thigh.

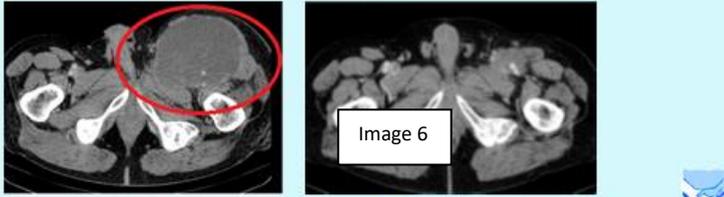
**Result:** Very good partial remission. The patient was free of pain, could walk again without crutches, the swelling of the leg had come down. (Image 6)

### Treatment plan:

Chemotherapy → Ifosfamide in reduced dose (2,2g/m<sup>2</sup> x 3days, 4 cycles)  
 Hyperthermia → several sessions of local hyperthermia to the different sites from pelvis to knee (EHY 2000, Oncotherm)

Goal: Reduction of tumors to prevent hemipelvectomy and to allow a less traumatic and debilitating leg amputation

Result (06/18): very good partial remission  
 regain of mobility, no pain anymore  
 patient operable now for limb saving surgery  
 (University hospital Heidelberg)



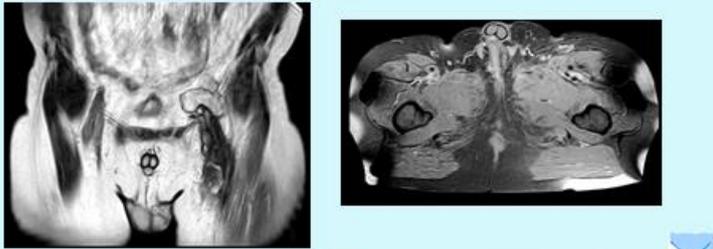
25.01.2018 15.06.2018 Fachklinik Dr. Herzog, Bad Seibershausen

**Comment:** Because of the good response amputation was not necessary anymore. Limb saving treatment was now considered. This result can only be explained by the additional treatment with hyperthermia.

But the patient didn't want to have surgery because of possible damage. (Image 7)

### Further development

- Patient refused surgery, wanted to keep his leg
- Hyperthermia continued as sole therapy
- 11/18 PD again, but still no distant metastases
- 01/19 Proton therapy plus local hyperthermia, PR
- 09/19 SD, patient active, exercising, walking on both legs, good quality of life



27.06.2019 Fachklinik Dr. Herzog, Bad Seibershausen

### Patient 3: Diagnosis: NSCL (adenocarcinoma) with metastases to the brain (EGFR pos.)

Oncological history:

- 01/11 Adenocarcinoma of the left lung with brain metastases (T3, M1), surgery of the brain metastases, chemotherapy with Carboplatin and Vinorelbine, radiation of the lung tumour and the brain.
- 07/11 Progression of the brain metastases, treatment with Gammaknife.
- 10/11 Progression in the lung, Pemetrexed
- 02/12 Progression in the brain and the lung, treatment with Gammaknife for the brain. Treatment with Tarceva for the lungs, progressive disease. (Image 8)

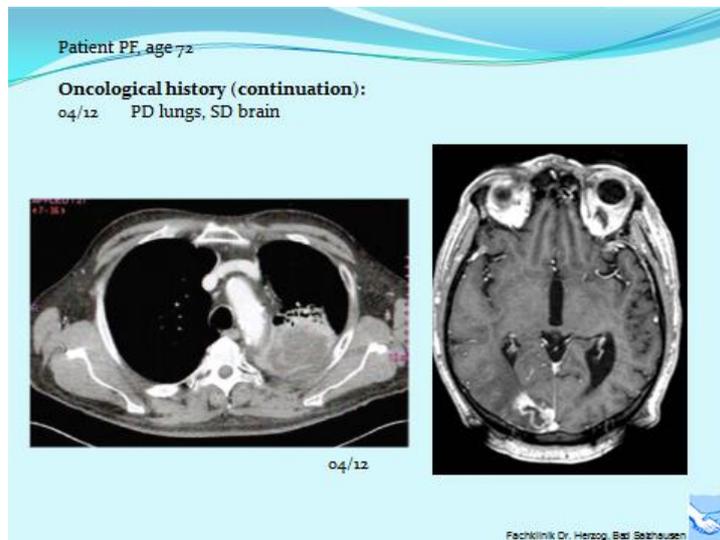


Image 8

**Problem:** Progressive disease after multiple chemotherapies and targeted therapy. He suffered from cough and chest pain. No treatment options anymore, the tumor was considered as resistant to further chemotherapy. (Image 9)

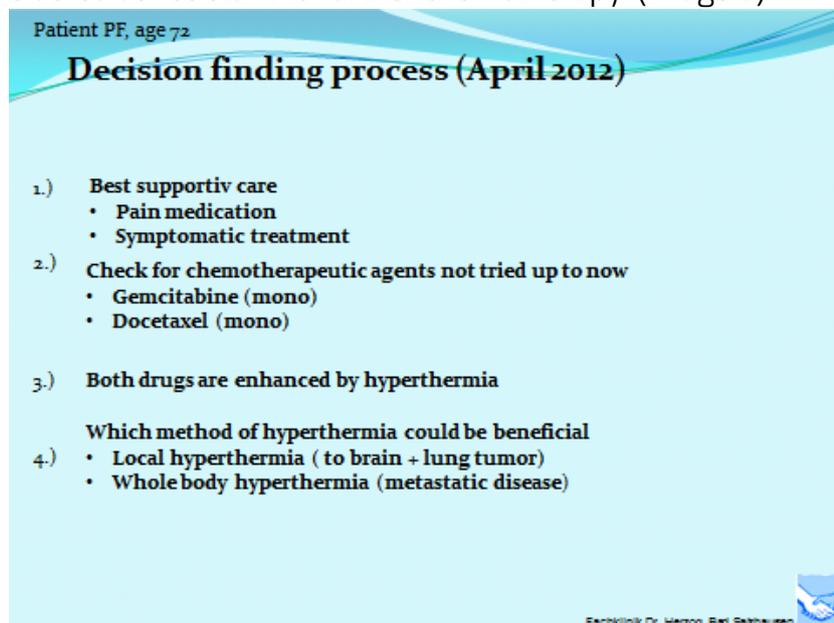


Image 9

**Solution:** Whole body and local hyperthermia in combination with Taxotere in moderate doses.

**Result:** Partial remission of the pulmonary disease, no new activity in the brain

Further development:

03/15 Stereotactic radiation of the remaining lung tumor

Since 10/15 normalization of tumor markers, no evidence of active disease. (Image 10)

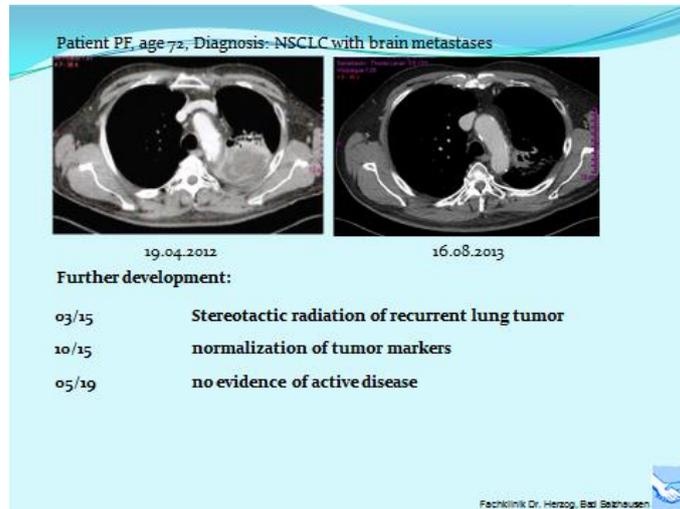


Image10

**Comment:** In this patient the likelihood of response to further chemotherapy was little and if at all only for a short time. Hyperthermia in this case very likely helped to overcome resistance and enabled long term survival. The patient has now been free of disease for more than 4 years (since March 2015), he is in a good quality of life. He comes every 6 months for check-up.

**Conclusion**

Even in heavily pre-treated patients there is a chance to achieve a good and long-lasting treatment success. Hyperthermia in these cases seems to be the crucial tool. The setting in each situation has to be a specific combination with adapted programs of conventional treatments like chemotherapy and radiation.

**This work was supported by the  
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NATIONAL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT  
AND INNOVATION OFFICE  
HUNGARY

PROGRAM FINANCED  
FROM THE NRDI FUND

*MOMENTUM OF INNOVATION*

Höhenlufttrainingssystem in einer völlig neuen Dimension

# airPoint IHHT professional

- System für automatisches Intervall-Hypoxie-Hyperoxie-Training
- Terminal inkl. All-in-One Touch-PC
- Steuer- und Monitoring-Software, Training-Datenbank
- Design Relax-Liege (verschiedene Modelle, optional)



**BESSER ALS ...  
STÄRKER ALS ...  
WIRTSCHAFTLICHER ALS ...  
IN JEDER PRAXIS EINSETZBAR!**

Komplettlösung für vollautomatisches Höhenlufttraining

- Wirkt genau dort, wo die Energie entsteht: In den Energiekraftwerken der Zellen (Mitochondrien)
- Automatische Umschaltung zwischen hypoxischer Reizphase und hyperoxischer Erholungsphase
- Umfassende Studienlage

## Intervall-Höhenlufttraining auf Knopfdruck

- im individuellen einstellbaren Intervall wird abwechselnd hypoxische ( $O_2$ -reduziert) und hyperoxische (30-40%  $O_2$ ) Luft inhalieret.
- Hypoxie- und Hyperoxiephasen werden automatisch geregelt und eingestellt.
- Die Steuersoftware passt den Sauerstoffgehalt der eingeatmeten Luft permanent an die individuelle Sauerstoffsättigung ( $SpO_2$ ) des Trainierenden an.
- Der Sauerstoffgehalt kann sehr feinfühlig (in 0,1 Schritten – entsprechend ca. 50 Metern) eingestellt werden.

## Höhenverträglichkeitstest

- Vorprogrammierte Höhenverträglichkeitstests (Hypoxic-Response-Test) zur Beurteilung der individuellen Hypoxie-Sensitivität und zur Ermittlung optimaler, individueller Trainingsparameter.

## Genauigkeit und Sicherheit

- **Biofeedback:** Bei Abweichungen der gewünschten Sauerstoffsättigung reguliert der Generator den  $O_2$ -Gehalt sehr feinfühlig, bis der gewünschte  $SpO_2$ -Zielwert erreicht wird.
- **Safety Cut Off:** Bei Unterschreitung einer vorgegebenen minimalen Sauerstoffsättigung ( $SpO_2$ ) schaltet der Generator sofort auf Umgebungs-luft (Normoxie) um.

## Visualisierung und Dokumentation der Messdaten

- Echtzeit-Messung und Darstellung der Bioparameter auf dem PC-Monitor im Zeitverlauf dargestellt:  $O_2$ -Gehalt, Sauerstoffsättigung, Puls, Zeit, Phasen (Hypoxie/Normoxie).
- Dokumentation und Ausdruckmöglichkeit der einzelnen Sessions.

European Representative – The Pockwood, Corp.

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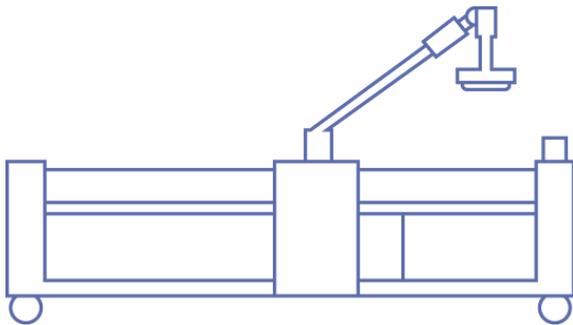
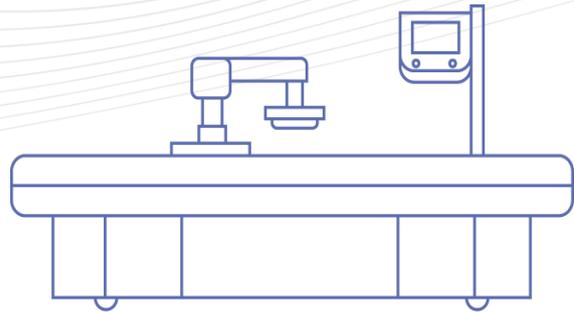
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# THE ONCOTHERMIA METHOD & DEVICES ▾

▪ Oncothermia is based on the classical method of Hyperthermia, one of the oldest cancer treatment methods. Unlike conventional Hyperthermia, Oncothermia does more than simply warm up deep layers of tissue. It combines such warming with a modulated electric field, with a carrier frequency of 13.56 MHz, which is generated by two active electrodes.

## > EHY-2030

The EHY-2030 is our latest development in the treatment of loco-regional (including deep and surface) tumors. The newly designed device includes the Smart Electrode Seystem (SES), the plug-in Patient Management System (PMS-100) and a user-friendly touch screen display with full system control. The new RF generator with increased power has been developed with a new intelligently controlled step motor tuning system for rapid impedance matching to achieve faster tuning times.

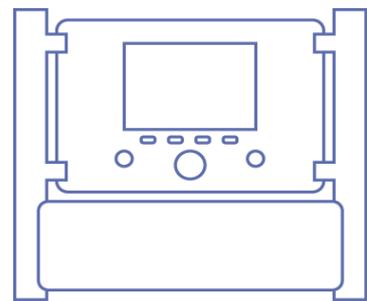


## EHY-2000<sub>plus</sub> <

The EHY-2000<sub>plus</sub> is a widely accepted system for loco-regional deep mEHT applications. This model has been used for treatment worldwide for more than 20 years. Popular, versatile device, applicable for a range of solid tumors and improved over the years through feedback from our doctors and experts and the requirements of patients and the people treating them. The EHY-2000<sub>plus</sub> is an easy to use and highly reliable device.

## > EHY-1020

The EHY-1020 is specifically designed to treat prostate diseases. Both malignant and benign tumors (BPH) can be treated using this system. It uses a catheter with built-in electronics and counter electrode. The EHY-1020 system is compact and easy to use. The method has been successfully used by our customers since 2010 with high success rates and minimal side effect.



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hyperthermic oncology