

Theranostics

Nuclear Medicine

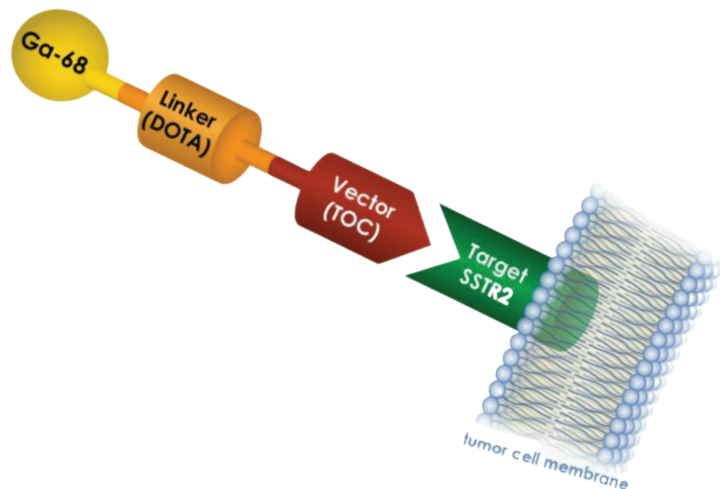
What is theranostics?

Theranostics is the term for combination of therapeutics and diagnostics (using one radionuclide to image tumours and a second radionuclide to treat tumours by delivering cancer-killing radiation). Basically, it means targeting a single receptor molecule on cancer cells with two different radionuclides (imaging and therapy). This is to achieve a precise and personalized treatment strategy.

The diagnostic phase of theranostics

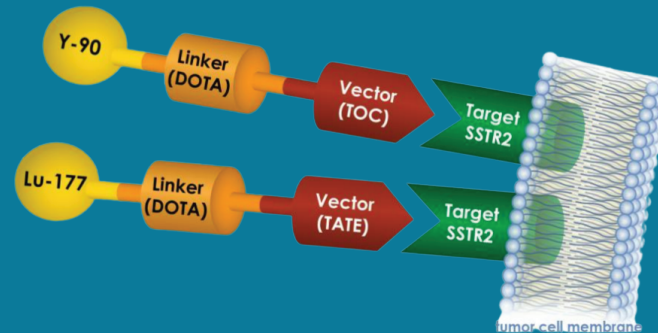
Tumour cells have a shell, called a membrane; there are certain proteins such as the somatostatin receptor (SSTR2) on the tumour cell membrane that can serve as a target for cancer drugs.

Ga-68 DOTATOC is a radioactive diagnostic drug that targets SSTR2. Ga-68 DOTATOC is injected into a patient's vein and travels throughout the bloodstream to all organs and tissues of the body. If the patient has a neuroendocrine tumour with SSTR2 on the tumour cell membranes, the Ga-68 DOTATOC will bind to the SSTR2 and the tumour will light up on a PET scan.



The therapeutic phase of theranostics

Once neuroendocrine cancer is diagnosed using Ga-68-DOTATOC PET scan, the Ga-68 can be replaced with another radionuclide, such as lutetium-177 (Lu-177) or yttrium-90 (Y-90), that can target and kill tumour cells that have SSTR2 on their membranes.



Therapeutic Y-90-DOTATOC and Lu-177-DOTATATE can both be injected into a patient's veins and travel to any part of the body that has SSTR2 proteins. These therapeutic drugs bind to the SSTR2 proteins like a key in a lock, allowing the drug to enter the tumour cells and kill it by damaging that cell's DNA. Healthy cells around the tumour that do not have SSTR2 proteins on their membrane are not affected by the drug.

Such strategy allows oncologists to image treatable cancer tissues more completely, select patients for therapeutic applications, see precisely where therapeutic agents will be delivered, and monitor the ability of the therapeutic agent to shrink tumours over time. Theranostics provide oncologists with novel and highly effective tools to create precision treatment strategies and predict benefits of a particular treatment based on the patients unique molecular and genomic profile.

THERANOSTICS: "SEEING WHAT WE TREAT TREATING WHAT WE SEE"

This is also called targeted radionuclide therapy as it is aimed at the particular molecular target of the functioning cancer cells. Therefore, a higher dose of radiation can be targeted at the tumour without affecting many normal healthy cells.

How theranostics is different from traditional radiotherapy?

Radiation therapy can be highly effective in treating cancer or alleviating symptoms in patients with untreatable advanced-stage cancers. Approximately half of all cancer patients will receive radiation therapy at some point in their treatment, which uses externally or internally delivered x-rays, protons or other high energy particles to target and destroy cancer cells. While improved technological approaches have reduced healthy tissue deterioration, traditional radiotherapy still causes side effects that can be difficult for some patients to tolerate. In addition, traditional radiotherapy is unable to target more than one site of disease, limiting its utility for patients with metastatic cancer. However, traditional radiotherapy remains one of oncology's most powerful treatment tools.

This novel approach to tumour treatment, targeted radionuclide therapy, is reengineering the use of radiation treatments in precision oncology and delivering a new class of cancer therapies. The goal of targeted radionuclide therapy development is to combine alpha, beta or gamma-particle emitting isotopes or radionuclides with peptides, antibodies, or small molecules, to develop therapies with high specificity for certain types of tumours. Delivered to the patient intravenously, targeted radionuclide therapies are designed to travel directly to the tumour to deliver therapeutic radiation with high precision. This precision is intended to focus delivery of the radiation to the tumour tissue while minimizing radiation exposure to normal tissue.

What type of cancer can be treated with theranostics?

Theranostics can be effective in treating metastatic, inoperable tumours in the advanced stage of disease including prostate cancers and neuroendocrine tumours of various organs like the stomach, pancreas, small & large intestines and lung. Last but not the least, post-operative ablation of residual thyroid remnant and treatment of metastatic thyroid cancer is also in the gamut of theranostics.

The above cancers have sufficient evidence available currently that there is a definite benefit in using radionuclide therapy. However, many other cancers may also have a benefit when they express certain types of target receptors like fibroblast activation protein (FAP) and chemokine receptors (CXCR4), can be targeted with theranostics.

Our Molecular and Targeted Radionuclide Theranostics include:

*PRRT for Neuroendocrine Tumours

- Lutetium -177 DOTATATE therapy
- Actinium - 225 DOTATATE therapy
- Yttrium - 90 DOTATATE therapy

*PRLT for Prostate Cancer

- Lutetium -177 PSMA therapy
- Actinium - 225 PSMA therapy

*TARE for Liver Cancer/Liver Mets

- Yttrium- 90 Microspheres therapy
- I-131 Radio-Iodine therapy for Thyroid Cancers
- I-131 MIBG therapy for Pheochromocytoma & Neuroblastoma
- Lutetium EDTMP therapy for Bone Metastasis

Theranostics:

The game changer offers Novel Service in the armamentarium of 360° cancer care

- Multi-disciplinary tumour board approach
- Excellent experience from the past by the Nuclear medicine - Molecular Therapy Physicians team
- Increased progression free survival
- Well known reduction in Symptoms
- Minimum side effects
- Quick discharge
- Ray of Hope in advanced Cancers



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