

**POSTER PRESENTATION**

**Open Access**

# Whole blood targeting and activation of monocytes with TLR7 agonist formulated in cationic liposomes

Simon S Jensen<sup>1\*</sup>, Pia T Johansen<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Zucker<sup>2</sup>, Jonas Henriksen<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Andresen<sup>2</sup>, Alcide Barberis<sup>3</sup>, Roberto Maj<sup>3</sup>, Housman Pourhassan<sup>1</sup>, Jeanette Wern<sup>1</sup>, Monika Gad<sup>1</sup>

From Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer 28th Annual Meeting  
National Harbor, MD, USA. 8-10 November 2013

Monocytes are one of the major phagocytic cells in the periphery that patrols the circulation for invading pathogens, and upon activation differentiates into dendritic cells, capable of migration to lymph nodes eliciting an adaptive immune response. Monocytes has for more than a decade been precursor cell for generation of autologous dendritic cell cancer vaccines, but clinical results have shown limiting benefits for the patients. One way of improving dendritic cell vaccines is targeting the monocytes in vivo with a suitable carrier of adjuvant together with tumor antigens, to boost monocyte differentiation towards tumor antigen presenting DCs. Here we report a novel monocyte targeting liposome technology capable of delivering TLR7 agonist to CD14 positive monocytes in fresh whole human blood. Liposomes with a positive surface charge were able to specifically target monocytes over lymphocytes and granulocytes, and showed association with 90-100 % of the monocytes. Formulation of the TLR7 agonist in monocyte targeting liposomes showed strong activation of the monocytes, with potent induction of proinflammatory cytokines, and differentiation into tissue inflammatory DCs, demonstrating that the liposomes are able to deliver compounds to the endosomes where TLR7 is present. The present monocyte targeting technology may be a promising approach for designing cancer vaccines with suitable adjuvants and cancer antigens.

#### Authors' details

<sup>1</sup>Immune Cell Targeting, Bioneer, Hoersholm, Denmark. <sup>2</sup>Department of Micro and Nanotechnology, DTU Nanotech, Lyngby, Denmark. <sup>3</sup>Telormedix, Bioggio, Switzerland.

<sup>1</sup>Immune Cell Targeting, Bioneer, Hoersholm, Denmark  
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

Published: 7 November 2013

doi:10.1186/2051-1426-1-S1-P130

**Cite this article as:** Jensen et al.: Whole blood targeting and activation of monocytes with TLR7 agonist formulated in cationic liposomes. *Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer* 2013 **1**(Suppl 1):P130.

#### Submit your next manuscript to BioMed Central and take full advantage of:

- Convenient online submission
- Thorough peer review
- No space constraints or color figure charges
- Immediate publication on acceptance
- Inclusion in PubMed, CAS, Scopus and Google Scholar
- Research which is freely available for redistribution

Submit your manuscript at  
[www.biomedcentral.com/submit](http://www.biomedcentral.com/submit)

