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(54) Title: METHODS FOR PROTECTION FROM TOXICITY OF ALPHA EMITTING ELEMENTS DURING RADIOIMMUNOTHERAPY

(57) Abstract: Provided herein are methods of reducing nephrotoxicity form at least one alpha particle-emitting daughter of actinium-225 during radioimmunotherapeutic treatment for a pathophysiological condition, methods of improving radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of cancer and methods of increasing the therapeutic index of an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate during treatment of a pathophysiological condition. Adjuvants effective for preventing accumulation of ^{225}Ac daughters within the kidneys are administered during treatment with an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to reduce nephrotoxicity. Examples of adjuvants are chelators, diuretics and/or competitive metal blockers.

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METHODS OF PROTECTION FROM TOXICITY OF ALPHA EMITTING ELEMENTS DURING RADIOIMMUNOTHERAPY

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cross-Reference to Related Application

This nonprovisional application claims benefit of priority of provisional application U.S. Serial No. 60/457,503, filed March 25, 2003, now abandoned.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to the fields of radioimmunotherapy and cancer treatment. Specifically, the present invention provides methods of protecting an individual from toxicity of alpha particle-emitting elements during radioimmunotherapy.

Description of the Related Art

Monoclonal antibody (mAb) based therapies are ideally applicable to the hematopoietic neoplasms (1) because of readily accessible neoplastic cells in the blood, marrow, spleen and lymph nodes which allow rapid and efficient targeting of specific

mAb's. The well characterized immunophenotypes of the various lineages and stages of hematopoietic differentiation has enabled identification of antigen targets for selective binding of mAb to neoplastic cells while relatively sparing other necessary hematopoietic lineages and progenitor cells. Similar work is now being carried out for a variety of solid cancers as well.

In some models of leukemia, specific uptake of antibodies onto target cells can be demonstrated within minutes, followed by losses of mAb from the cells by modulation (2,3). Similar modulation has been seen in pilot studies in acute leukemia in humans (4-7). Based on this biology and pharmacokinetics, it has been proposed that mAb tagged with short-lived nuclides emitting short-ranged, high linear energy transfer (LET) alpha particles (8-9) or short-ranged auger electrons (10-11), may be effective in therapy. These short-ranged particles may be capable of single cell kill while sparing bystanders.

Pilot trials conducted in patients with hematopoietic cancers (4-7,12) have demonstrated the ability of mAb to bind to target cells and have also highlighted the problems of antigen modulation, antigen heterogeneity, tumor burden and human anti-mouse antibody (HAMA) response (4-7,12-16). Some short-lived major tumor responses were seen in these early trials with non-cytotoxic antibodies. More consistent responses were next achieved in recent trials using cytotoxic mAb and isotope tagged mAb (17-24). Two antibodies to CD20 are now approved for the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (24-26). Recently, one antibody for treating AML and one for CLL were also approved. (26-28). A large systematic *in vivo* study of various antibody-based immuno-therapies in acute myelogenous leukemia with more than 300 treated patients has been conducted (4,19,21,29-31).

The expression of the CD33 antigen is restricted to myelogenous leukemias and myeloid progenitor cells, but not to other normal tissues or ultimate bone marrow stem cells (32-35). In summary it has been demonstrated that HuM195 is highly specific for myeloid leukemia cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo*; HuM195 does not react with tissue or cells of other types or neoplastic cells not of myeloid origin. HuM195 reacts

with early myeloid progenitors, but not stem cells, and reacts with monocytes and dendritic cells, but no other mature hematopoietic elements. HuM195 mAbs have high affinities, i.e., on the order of 10^{-9} to 10^{-10} M. M195 mAbs are internalized into target cells after binding.

A series of early studies defined the pharmacology, safety profile, biodistribution, immunobiology, and activity of various M195 agents. M195 showed targeting to leukemia cells in humans (4). Adsorption of M195 onto leukemic target cells *in vivo* was demonstrated by biopsy, pharmacology, flow cytometry, and imaging; saturation of available sites occurred at doses 5 mg/m^2. The entire bone marrow was specifically and clearly imaged beginning within minutes after injection; optimal imaging occurred at 5-10 mg dose levels. Bone marrow biopsies demonstrated significant dose-related uptake of M195 as early as 1 hour after infusion in all patients with the majority of the dose found in the marrow. M195 was rapidly modulated with a majority of the bound IgG being internalized into target cells *in vivo*.

Other trials showed that radiolabeled beta emitting M195, with either I-131 or Y-90, can effect up to 100% cytoreduction of leukemic cells (19). Most patients had reduction in their leukemia burden with prolonged marrow hypoplasia achieved at higher dose levels. These patients were taken to BMT and nearly all achieved CR with several ultimately cured.

A wide variety of nuclides suitable for mAb-guided radiotherapy have been proposed (12). Depending on the particular application, three classes of radionuclides may prove therapeutically useful in leukemia (9-11, 17, 19-23,36-44): ß-emitters (^{131}I, ^{90}Y) with long range (1-10 mm) emissions are probably limited to settings of larger tumor burden where BMT rescue is feasible. Alpha-emitters (^{213}Bi, ^{211}At) with very high energy but short ranges (0.05 mm) may allow more selective ablation (37-51). Auger emitters (^{123}I, ^{125}I) which act only at subcellular ranges (<1 micron) will yield single cell killing but only if internalized.

Radioimmunotherapy has advanced tremendously in the last 20 years with the development of more sophisticated carriers, as well as of radionuclides optimized for

a particular cancer and therapeutic application (52). Radioimmunotherapy (RIT) with alpha particle emitting radionuclides is advantageous because alpha particles have high LET and short path lengths (50-80μm) (53-57). Therefore, a large amount of energy is deposited over a short distance, which renders alpha particles extremely cytotoxic with a high relative biological effectiveness (55-56). Little collateral damage to surrounding normal, antigen-negative cells occurs (57-59). A single traversal of densely ionizing, high energy alpha particle radiation through the nucleus, may be sufficient to kill a target cell (60). In addition, the double stranded DNA damage caused by alpha particles is not easily repaired by the cells, and this cytotoxicity is largely unaffected by the oxygen status and cell-cycle position of the cell (53).

The results of pre-clinical studies with alpha particle emitting ^{225}Ac atomic nanogenerators have generated optimism for their human clinical use (61-62). ^{225}Ac has a sufficiently long half-life (10 days) for feasible use and it decays to stable Bismuth-209 via six atoms, yielding a net of four alpha particles (Figure 1). This permits delivery of radiation even to the less readily accessible cells and also for the radiopharmaceutical to be shipped world-wide (61).

^{225}Ac is successfully coupled to internalizing monoclonal antibodies using DOTA (1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid) as the chelating moiety. The ^{225}Ac-DOTA-antibody construct acts as a tumor-selective, molecular-sized, *in-vivo* atomic generator, i.e., a targetable nanogenerator, of alpha particle emitting elements (61). The ^{225}Ac-DOTA-antibody constructs are stable *in-vivo* and have been shown to be safe and potent anti-tumor agents in mouse models of solid prostatatic carcinoma, disseminated lymphoma and intraperitoneal ovarian cancer (61-62). The safety of ^{225}Ac-HuM195 and ^{225}Ac-3F8 at low doses, has been demonstrated in primates (63).

^{225}Ac decays via its alpha-emitting daughters, Francium-221 (^{221}Fr), Astatine-217 (^{217}At) and Bismuth-213 (^{221}Bi) to stable, non-radioactive ^{209}Bi (58,60,63). These daughters, once formed, are unlikely to associate with the antibody-DOTA construct due to high atomic recoil-energy as a result of alpha decay (65), possible rupture of the chelate and different chemical properties of the daughters. The daughters

generated and retained inside the cancer cell after internalization of the ^{225}Ac labeled antibody, add to its cytotoxic effect (61). Although this property greatly enhances the potency of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerators, it could also result in toxicity as the systemically released radioactive daughters may get transported to and irradiate the normal tissues. The ^{225}Ac-immunoconjugate is stable *in vivo* and the daughters released inside the target cell remain internalized (61). However, the daughters released from the circulating ^{225}Ac nanogenerator, tend to distribute independently of the parent construct (63).

Tumor burden is an important determinant in the biodistribution of the antibody (16, 65). However, the free daughters produced in the vasculature from the circulating unbound antibody or the antibody bound to the surface of a target cell, could diffuse or be transported to various target organs where they can accumulate and cause radiotoxicity. Bismuth is known to accumulate in the renal cortex (66-69). It has been observed that after injection in mice, francium rapidly accumulates in the kidneys (unpublished result). Francium distribution in the body has not been described due to its short half-life that makes experimental study difficult (69).

Monkeys injected with escalating doses of the untargeted ^{225}Ac nanogenerator developed a delayed radiation nephropathy manifesting as anemia and renal failure (63). Therefore, a possible hindrance to the development of these agents as safe and effective cancer therapeutics is likely to be their nephrotoxicity. By preventing the renal accumulation of the radioactive daughters or by accelerating their clearance from the body, the therapeutic-index of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator could be enhanced.

Astatine-217 has the shortest half-life of 32 ms of the alpha-emitting daughters of ^{225}Ac. It decays almost instantaneously to ^{213}Bi. ^{213}Bi and ^{221}Fr have relatively longer half-lives of 45.6 min. and 4.9 min., respectively, and therefore, have the potential to cause radiation damage (61,59). The presence of bismuth-binding, metallothionein-like proteins in the cytoplasm of renal proximal tubular cells, makes the kidney a prime target for the accumulation of free, radioactive bismuth (66-68). Dithiol chelators have been shown to chelate bismuth and enhance its excretion in various animal as well as human studies (64,69,71-72). Dithiol chelators also enhanced the total body

clearance of the gamma emitting tracer, ^{206}Bi acetate (12). Chelators such as ethylenediamine tetraacetic acid (EDTA) or diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA) also may chelate such metals.Ca-DTPA has been used in the U. S. as a chelating agent for plutonium and other transuranic elements (73-74).

^{221}Fr is another potentially toxic daughter of ^{225}Ac. Francium, like sodium and potassium, is an alkali metal. Furosemide and thiazide diuretics are known to increase urine output and accelerate the elimination of sodium and potassium in urine, by inhibiting their reabsorption in different segments of the nephron (75).

The inventors have recognized a need in the art to improve the safe and efficacious use of ^{225}Ac as a stable and extraordinarily potent tumor-selective molecular sized generator in both established solid carcinomas or in disseminated cancers.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore, in one aspect, the present invention provides a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of at least one adjuvant effective for preventing accumulation of metal in kidneys;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the pathophysiological condition; and

preventing accumulation of alpha particle-emitting daughters of said antinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual via interaction between said adjuvant and said ^{225}Ac daughters or the kidney tissue or a combination thereof thereby reducing nephtotoxicity during the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and

preventing accumulation of bismuth-213 daughters of said actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual by scavenging thereof with said chelator thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radio immunotherapeutic treatment.

In a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic;

administering an actinium-225radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and

preventing accumulation of francium-211 daughters of said actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individually inhibiting re-absorption of francium-211 therein with said diuretic thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radio immunotherapeutic treatment.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of improving radio immunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and

scavenging bismuth-213 daughters of the actinium-225 with said chelator to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for said cancer.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of improving radio immunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic;

administering anactinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and

inhibiting renal uptake of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 with said diuretic to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for said cancer.

In yet a further aspect, the present invention provides a method of increasing the therapeutic index of an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate during treatment of a pathophysiological condition in an individual comprising:

inhibiting renal uptake of at least one alpha particle-emitting daughter of actinium-225 whereby nephrotoxicity is reduced during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of said actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate.

Preferably, said adjuvant(s) is administered prior to administering said actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate, said adjuvant (s) continuing to be administered after said actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate.

Preferably, said chelator is administered prior to administering said ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate, said chelator continuing to be administered after said ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate.

Preferably, said diuretic is administered prior to administering said ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate, said diuretic continuing to be administered after said ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate.

Preferably, said inhibitins renal uptake of said ^{225}Ac daughter(s), comprises:

administering a pharmacologically effective amount of an adjuvant comprising:

a chelator to scavenge said ^{225}Ac daughters therewith; or

a diuretic to inhibit reabsorption of said ^{225}Ac daughters within a kidney; or

a competitive metal blocker to prevent binding of said ^{225}Ac daughters within a kidney; or

a combination thereof.

Specifically, the prior art is lacking in methods of using, individually or in combination, adjuvant chelation, diuretic or competitive metal blockade to reduce

nephrotoxicity from ^{225}Ac daughters generated during radioimmunotherapy. The present invention fulfils this long-standing need and desire in the art.

In related methods inhibitin of renal uptake of ^{225}Ac daughters is accomplished by administering a pharmacologically effective amount of an adjuvant comprising a chelator to scavenge the ^{225}Ac daughters therewith or of a diuretic to inhibit reabsorption of the ^{225}Ac daughters within a kidney or of a competitive metal blocker to prevent binding of ^{213}Bi within a kidney or a combination of a chelator, a diuretic and the competitive metal blocker.

Other and further aspects, features, and advantages of the present invention will be apparent from the following description of the presently preferred embodiments of the invention. These embodiments are given for the purpose of disclosure.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The appended drawings have been included herein so that the above-recited features, advantages and objects of the invention will become clear and can be understood in detail. These drawings form a part of the specification. It is to be noted, however, that the appended drawings illustrate preferred embodiments of the invention and should not be considered to limit the scope of the invention.

Figure 1 depicts a simplified Ac-225 generator to Bi-213 decay scheme, yielding 4 net alphas. The half-lives are shown in *italics*.

Figure 2 depicts the structures of 2,3 dimercapto-1-propanesulfonic acid (DMPS) and meso 2,3 dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA)

Figures 3A-3B compare the effect of dithiol chelators on ^{213}Bi distribution in kidneys and blood. **Figure 3A** compares reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity by DMPS or DMSA treatment at 6 hours and 72 hours post-injection. The renal ^{221}Fr activity is unchanged at both time-points. **Figure 3B** compares the increase in the ^{213}Bi activity in blood by chelation therapy with DMPS or DMSA at 6 hours and 72 hours post injection. Data are mean (SE). %ID/g = percentage of injected dose per gram of tissue.

Figures 4A-4B depict the effect of diuresis or a combination of metal chelation and diuresis on renal ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi activity. **Figure 4A** shows the reduction in the 24 hour renal ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi activities by furosemide and chlorothiazide (CTZ) treatment. **Figure 4B** shows the reduced renal accumulation of ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi at 24 hours post-injection by combination therapy with DMPS and furosemide or CTZ. Data are mean (SE). %ID/g = percentage of injected dose per gram of tissue.

Figure 5 depicts the effect of competitive metal blockade on ^{225}Ac daughter distribution and shows the reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity by bismuth subnitrate (BSN) at 6 hours and 24 hours post-injection.

Figures 6A-6C depict the effect of tumor burden on ^{225}Ac daughter distribution. **Figure 6A** compares the percentage of human-CD20 cells in the bone marrow of a "high burden" and a "low burden" animal to that of a non tumor-bearing mouse of the same strain. **Figure 6B** shows the reduction in the ratio of kidney to femur activity for ^{225}Ac and ^{213}Bi in animals with higher tumor burden. DMPS treatment further reduced the kidney to femur activity ratio for ^{213}Bi. **Figure 6C** shows the reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity by the presence of higher tumor burden, and further enhancement of the effect by concomitant DMPS treatment. Error bars denote SE. %ID/g = percentage of injected dose per gram of tissue.

Figure 7 depicts the biodistribution of [Ac]Hum195 at 24 hours in DMPS-treated and untreated monkeys.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment of the present invention there is provided a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition comprising administering a pharmacologically effective dose of at least one adjuvant effective for preventing accumulation of a metal in kidneys; administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the pathophysiological condition; and preventing accumulation of alpha particle-emitting daughters of the actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual via interaction between the adjuvant and the ^{225}Ac daughters or the kidney tissue or a combination thereof thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment. In an aspect of this embodiment the adjuvant(s) may be administered prior to administering the actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate with the adjuvant(s) continuing to be administered after the actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate.

In other aspects of this embodiment the adjuvant may be a chelator, a diuretic, a competitive metal blocker or a combination of these. Representative examples of a chelator are 2,3 dimercapto-1-propane sulfonic acid, meso 2,3-dimercapto succinic acid, diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, calcium diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid, or zinc diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid. Examples of a diuretic are furosemide, chlorthiazide, hydrochlorothiazide, bumex or other loop diuretic. The competitive metal blocker may be bismuth subnitrate or bismuth subcitrate. In these aspects the ^{225}Ac daughter may be bismuth-213, francium-221 or a combination thereof.

In all aspects the actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate may comprise an actinium-225 bifunctional chelant and a monoclonal antibody. An example of such a radioimmunoconjugate is [^{225}Ac] DOTA-HuM195. Further to all aspects the pathophysiological condition may be a cancer or an autoimmune disorder. The cancer may be a solid cancer, a disseminated cancer or a metastatic cancer. A representative cancer is myeloid leukemia.

In a related embodiment there is provided a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition comprising administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator; administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and preventing accumulation of bismuth-213 daughters of the actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual by scavenging thereof with the chelator thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment.

Further to this embodiment the method comprises administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic and preventing accumulation of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual by inhibiting reabsorption of francium-211 therein with the diuretic thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment.

In another related embodiment there is provided a method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition comprising administering a pharmacologically effective

dose of a diuretic; administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and preventing accumulation of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual by inhibiting reabsorption of francium-211 therein with the diuretic thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment.

In all of these related embodiments the chelators and the diuretics are as described *supra*. Additionally, the points of administration of the chelator and/or the diuretic during treatment are as described *supra*. Furthermore, in these related embodiments the ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate and the cancers treated are as described *supra*.

In another embodiment of the present invention there is provided a method of improving radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of a cancer in an individual, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator; administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and scavenging bismuth-213 daughters of the actinium-225 with the chelator to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for cancer. Further to this embodiment there is provided a method of administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic; and inhibiting renal uptake of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 with the diuretic to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for the cancer.

In a related embodiment there is provided a method of improving radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, comprising administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic; administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and inhibiting renal uptake of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 with the diuretic to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for the cancer.

For all these embodiments the chelators and the diuretics are described

supra, as are the points of administration of the chelator and/or the diuretic during treatment. Again in these embodiments the ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate and the cancers treated are as described *supra*.

In yet another embodiment there is provided a method of increasing the therapeutic index of an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate during treatment of a pathophysiological condition in an individual comprising inhibiting renal uptake of at least one alpha particle-emitting daughter of actinium-225 whereby nephrotoxicity is reduced during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate.

In an aspect of this embodiment the step of inhibiting renal uptake comprises administering a pharmacologically effective amount of an adjuvant comprising a chelator to scavenge the ^{225}Ac daughters therewith or of a diuretic to inhibit reabsorption of the ^{225}Ac daughters within a kidney, or a competitive metal blocker to prevent binding of said ^{225}Ac daughters within a kidney or a combination thereof. An example of an ^{225}Ac daughter scavenged by a chelator is bismuth-213. An example of an ^{225}Ac daughter that is inhibited from reabsorbing into the kidneys is francium-211. An example of an ^{225}Ac daughter that is prevented from binding within a kidney is ^{213}Bi.

In all embodiments and aspects thereof, the pathophysiological condition may be a cancer or an autoimmune disorder. The cancer may be a solid cancer, a disseminated cancer or a micrometastatic cancer. An example of a cancer is myeloid leukemia. Furthermore, the chelators, the diuretics, the competitive metal binders, the points of administration thereof during treatment, the ^{225}Ac radioimmunoconjugate and the cancers treated are as described *supra*.

As used herein "radioimmunotherapy" shall refer to targeted cancer therapy in which a radionuclide is directed to cancer cells by use of a specific antibody carrier.

As used herein, "alpha particle" shall refer to a type of high-energy, ionizing particle ejected by the nuclei of some unstable atoms that are relatively heavy

particles, but have low penetration.

As used herein, "radionuclide" shall refer to any element that emits radiation from its nucleus.

As used herein, "^{225}Ac nanogenerator" shall refer to a nano-scale, *in-vivo* generator of alpha particle emitting radionuclide daughters, produced by the attachment of a chelated Actinium-225 atom to a monoclonal antibody.

Provided herein are methods of controlling renal uptake of actinium-225 daughters generated by an ^{225}Ac nanogenerator during targeted radioimmunotherapy which accelerate the clearance of the alpha particle-emitting daughters from the body. Methods utilizing metal chelation, diuresis, or competitive metal blockade may be used as adjunct therapies to modify the potential nephrotoxicity of ^{225}Ac daughters. Generally, a radioimmunoconjugate comprising an ^{225}Ac nanogenerator will bind a targeted tumor cell. Upon binding the actinium-255 decays and delivers the alpha particle-emitting daughters to the cell to effect treatment. Once the decay cascade sequence begins, however, the daughter radiometals are no longer bound to the antibody and all daughters are not delivered to the targeted tumor cell. Thus, the daughters are free to accumulate in healthy tissues such as the kidneys causing toxicity.

Chelated metals are protected and are, therefore, safe if detached from the antibody due to their rapid renal clearance. Chelators such as, but not limited to, the dithiol chelators 2,3 dimercapto-1-propane sulfonic acid (DMPS) and meso 2,3-dimercapto succinic acid (DMSA) shown in Figure 2 or other chelators, e.g., ethylenediamine tetra-acetic acid (EDTA), diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (DTPA), calcium diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (Ca-DTPA), or zinc diethylenetriamine pentaacetic acid (Zn-DTPA),may be used to prevent the accumulation of free bismuth-213 daughters in the patient. Preferably, DMPS is used to chelate bismuth-213 daughters.

The present invention also provides methods of using diuretics to reduce renal uptake of francium-211 daughters and, by extension as a decay product thereof, bismuth-213 daughters into the nephron via inhibition of reabsorption of francium-211

through diuresis. Examples of such diuretics are furosemide, chlorthiazide, hydrochlorothiazide, bumex, or other loop diuretic. Additionally, competitive metal blockers may be used to compete with bismuth-213 for binding sites in the renal tubular cells of the kidney. Examples of a nonradioactive bismuth competitor are bismuth subnitrate or bismuth subcitrate.

Thus, as described herein, adjuvants, e.g., chelators, diuretics or competitive metal blockers, either individually or in combination, may be used as an adjunct chelating therapy to modify the nephrotoxicity of bismuth-213 and/or francium-211. Combination of adjuvant therapies results in cumulative effects over individual therapies. Therefore, nephrotoxicity is reduced during treatment and larger and more effective doses of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator may be administered. This may allow up to a doubling or more of the therapeutic index of such radiochemotherapeutics. As such, radioimmunotherapeutic treatment of pathophysiological conditions, such as but not limited to, cancers, e.g., leukemias, and autoimmune disorders are improved.

In the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator the actinium-225 may be stably bound to a monoclonal antibody via a bifunctional chelant, such as a modified 1,4,7,10-tetraazacyclododecane-1,4,7,10-tetraacetic acid (DOTA) which chelates the actinium-225 while binding it to the monoclonal antibody. Although not limited to such, an example of a radioimmunoconjugate (RIC) suitable for targeted therapy of myeloid leukemia cells is the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator [^{225}Ac] DOTA-HuM195.

Additionally, the methods provided herein are more efficacious in reducing nephrotoxicity in patients with a higher tumor burden. The presence of high levels of a specific target tumor burden caused a decrease in the amount of circulating, untargeted antibody and, therefore, the systemically released daughters. Furthermore, the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator comprises a monoclonal antibody that is internalized within the target tumor cells. Therefore, a sub-saturating amount of antibody, e.g., about 2-3 mg of HuM195, administered to a patient results in more of the generated daughters being retained inside the cancer cell because, theoretically, almost all of the antibody should be able to bind to the target cells and be internalized.

It is contemplated that the adjunct methods described herein may be used with targeted ^{225}Ac nanogenerator radioimmunotherapy of pathophysiological conditions benefiting from ^{225}Ac radioimmunotherapy. For example, the methods presented herein may be used in conjunction with radioimmunotherapeutic methods for treatment of solid cancers, disseminated cancers and micrometastatic cancers. Thus, leukemias, such as myeloid leukemia, may benefit from this adjunct therapy. It is further contemplated that other diseases or disorders for which ^{225}Ac nanogenerator would be administered may benefit from these adjuvants. An example of such a disorder is an autoimmune disorder.

The adjuvants of the present invention may be administered prior to the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator with continued administration after the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment. Routes of administration may be either oral or via injection, such as intravenous injection, and are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art.

It is also contemplated that administration of the adjuvant chelators, diuretics and competitive metal blockers is via an appropriate pharmaceutical composition. In such case, the pharmaceutical composition comprises the adjuvant and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Such carriers are preferably non-toxic and non-therapeutic Preparation of such pharmaceutical compositions suitable for the mode of administration is well known in the art.

The adjuvants are administered in an amount to demonstrate a pharmacological effect, e.g., an amount to reduce nephrotoxicity due to bismuth-213 or francium-211 accumulation within the kidneys. An appropriate dosage may be a single administered dose or multiple administered doses. The doses administered optimize effectiveness against negative effects of radioimmunotherapeutic treatment. As with all pharmaceuticals, including the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator described herein, the amount of the adjuvant administered is dependent on factors such as the patient, the patient's history, the nature of the cancer treated, i.e., solid or disseminated, the amount and specific activity of the actinium generator construct administered and the duration of the radioimmunotherapeutic treatment.

As the adjuvants of the present invention are approved and available for human use, the amounts administered would typically fall within recommended usage guidelines designated by the package inserts or by the general practice of medicine. For example, doses of DMPS may be in the recommended range of 0.1-1mmol/kg/d for the treatment of heavy metal poisoning (64). An example of a dosing regimen for DMSA may be about 10 mg/kg every 8 hours and for DMPS may be 200-1500 mg/day in divided doses.

It is contemplated that use of the adjuvant therapies described herein would allow significant escalation of patient doses of actinium-225. A therapeutic dose of an adjuvant where the ratio of available adjuvant molecules to ^{213}Bi atoms or ^{211}Fr atoms is substantially high provides for a significant reduction in nephrotoxicity. Therefore, with a capability to clear free actinium-225 daughters greater than the daughters generated for a given dose, higher doses of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator may be administered with a reduced risk of subsequent nephrotoxicity during treatment. A dose of about 0.5 μCi/kg to about 5.0 μCi/kg of actinium-225 may be used to treat the patient. A representative example is about 1μCi/kg of actinium-225. However, determination of dosage of the adjuvants described herein and of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator is well within the skill of an artisan in the field and may be determined to be any therapeutically effective amount using at least the criteria discussed *supra*.

As described herein, the invention provides a number of therapeutic advantages and uses. The embodiments and variations described in detail herein are to be interpreted by the appended claims and equivalents thereof. The following examples are given for the purpose of illustrating various embodiments of the invention and are not meant to limit the present invention in any fashion.

EXAMPLE 1

Animals

Female BALB/c and severe combined immunodeficient (SCID) mice, 4-12 weeks of age, were obtained from Taconic, Germantown, NY. Cynomologus monkeys

were obtained. All animal studies were conducted according to the NIH *Guide for the care and use of laboratory animals* and were approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use committee at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

EXAMPLE 2

Preparation and quality control of actinium-225 labeled antibodies

^{225}Ac was conjugated to SJ25C1, a mouse anti-human CD19 IgG1 monoclonal antibody (Monoclonal Antibody Core Facility, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center) or HuM195, a humanized anti-CD33 IgG1 monoclonal antibody; (Protein Design Labs, Fremont, CA) using a two-step labelling method, as described previously (76). Routine quality control of the labeled antibody was performed using instant thin layer chromatography (ITLC) to estimate the radio-purity (62,77).

EXAMPLE 3

Administration of actinium-225 nanogenerator to mice

The mice were anesthetized and then injected intravenously in the retro-orbital venous plexus with 0.5μCi of either ^{225}Ac labeled HuM195 for chelation, diuresis and competitive metal blockade experiments or of ^{225}Ac labeled SJ25C1 for tumor burden experiments. The injected volume was 100μl. In order to detect adequate numbers of disintegrations in tissues by use of the gamma-counter, the injected doses of ^{225}Ac nanogenerator, i.e., ~30μCi/kg, are much higher than the doses for human clinical trials with these adjuvants.

EXAMPLE 4

Statistical analysis

Graphs were constructed using Prism (Graphpad Software Inc., SanDiego, CA). Statistical comparisons between experimental groups were performed by either the Student's t-test (two-group comparison) or one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's multiple comparison post-hoc test (three-group comparison). The level of statistical

significance was set at $p<0.05$.

The inter-experiment variance in the tissue daughter activities at a given time-point was expected due to possible age-related variability in the capacity of the reticuloendothelial system to metabolize the labeled antibody. However, the intra-experiment variability within an experimental group was very small.

EXAMPLE 5

Free metal scavenging with DMPS or DMSA

Animals received either 2,3-dimercapto-1-propanesulfonic acid (DMPS; Sigma, St. Louis, MO) or meso-2,3-dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA; Sigma, St. Louis, MO) in drinking water (1.2 mg/ml and 1.5 mg/ml, respectively), starting one day before injection with ^{225}Ac nanogenerator and continued until the animals were sacrificed. The control animals received regular drinking water. Animals (n=5 per group) were sacrificed at 6 and 72 hours post-injection by carbon-dioxide asphyxiation.

Samples of blood taken by cardiac puncture, of kidneys, of liver and of small intestine were removed. The organs were washed in distilled water, blotted dry on gauze, weighed, and the activity of ^{221}Fr (185-250 keV window) and ^{213}Bi (360-480 keV window) was measured using a gamma counter (COBRA II, Packard Instrument Company, Meriden, CT). Samples of the injectate (100µl) were used as decay correction standards. Adjustment was made for the small percentage of bismuth activity that counted in the francium activity window. Percentage injected dose of ^{225}Ac, ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi per gram of tissue weight (%ID/g) was calculated for each animal at the time of sacrifice, using the equation (78):

$$A_{2(0)} = [A_2 - A_{2\,(eq)} \cdot (e^{-\lambda 2t} - e^{-\lambda 1t})] \cdot e^{\lambda 2t}$$

where $\lambda 1$ and $\lambda 2$ are the decay constants of Ac and Bi, respectively. The mean %ID/g was determined for each experimental group.

The renal ^{213}Bi activity differed significantly between the DMPS or DMSA treated groups and untreated controls at 6 hours (ANOVA, $p < 0.0001$) and 72 hours (ANOVA, $p < 0.0001$) post-injection with the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator (Figure 3A).

The 6 hour renal ^{213}Bi activity in the control group was 95.7 ± 3.8 %ID/g, which was reduced to 38.6 ± 5.5 %ID/g and 66.0 ± 1.9 %ID/g in DMPS and DMSA treated groups, respectively. A similar reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity was observed at 72 hours post-injection of 66.7 ± 7.9 %ID/g in controls versus 21.7 ± 2.1 %ID/g and 41.4 ± 7.3 in DMPS and DMSA treated groups, respectively. DMPS was significantly more effective than DMSA in preventing the renal ^{213}Bi accumulation at both time-points (6h, $p < 0.001$; 72h, $p < 0.001$). The renal ^{221}Fr activity, however, was not significantly different between the experimental groups at either 6 hours (ANOVA, $p = 0.39$) or 72 hours (ANOVA, $p = 0.20$) post-injection (Figure 3A).

As shown in Figure 3B, the mean blood ^{213}Bi activity was higher (6h, ANOVA $p< 0.0001$; 72h, ANOVA $p< 0.0001$) in the DMPS (9.2 ± 0.5 %ID/g and 5.5 ± 0.1 %ID/g at 6 and 72 hours, respectively) and DMSA (5.8 ± 0.5 %ID/g and 4.8 ± 0.6 %ID/g at 6 and 72 hours, respectively) treated groups as compared to the controls with 1.8 ± 0.1 %ID/g and 1.5 ± 0.7 %ID/g at 6 and 72 hours, respectively. However, the blood ^{221}Fr activity was unaltered by chelation therapy (data not shown). Similar results were seen with calcium-diethylenetriamine pentaacetate (Ca-DTPA), but it was less effective than DMPS in reducing the renal ^{213}Bi activity (data not shown).

In plasma the dithiol chelators are transported free or as disulfides with plasma proteins and non-protein sulfhydryl compounds, e.g. cysteine (79). In human plasma, DMPS has been shown to form non-protein sulfhydryls to a greater extent at 37%, than DMSA at 8%. Therefore, DMPS is thought to be more reactive in plasma than DMSA (79). Also, it is believed that the presence of charged carboxyl groups impede the transport of DMSA through cell membranes (80).

These factors may account for the greater effectiveness of DMPS in reducing the renal ^{213}Bi uptake, as compared to DMSA. DMPS, being more reactive, is rapidly oxidized in aqueous solutions to form di-sulfides (81). However, a loss of efficacy was not observed when DMPS was administered in drinking water. This possibly is due to disulfide reduction in the renal tubular cells by a glutathione-disulfide exchange reaction, to yield the parent drug. This effect has been shown in previous

studies (79).

The increase in the blood ^{213}Bi activity with chelation therapy may have resulted from the chelation and retention of ^{213}Bi generated in blood from the circulating ^{225}Ac nanogenerators or from the extraction of tissue ^{213}Bi into the blood stream. The circulating chelator-^{213}Bi complex is not expected to cause any significant toxicity due to the short path length of alpha particles (50). In contrast, the reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity is critical to the safety of the ^{225}Ac nanogenerators.

EXAMPLE 6

Diuretic therapy

Mice were randomized to furosemide treatment, chlorthiazide (CTZ) treatment or no treatment (control) groups (5 animals per group). Furosemide and CTZ were administered intraperitoneally (i.p.). The loading doses of furosemide and CTZ were 250mg/kg and 750 mg/kg respectively, administered one hour before ^{225}Ac nanogenerator injection. The maintenance doses were 100mg/kg and 300mg/kg, respectively, administered 12 hours and 24 hours after the loading dose. The controls were injected with an equal volume of saline (vehicle).

Alternatively, mice received DMPS (1.2 mg/ml in drinking water) and either furosemide or CTZ i.p using the same dose schedule as above. The controls received regular drinking water and were injected with an equal volume of saline. The animals were sacrificed at 24 hours post-injection with the labeled antibody and the mean activity (%ID/g) of ^{225}Ac, ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi in blood and kidneys was calculated for each experimental group, as described above.

Diuretic therapy prevented the renal accumulation of both ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi (Figure 4A). The 24 hour renal ^{221}Fr activity differed significantly (ANOVA, $p<0.0001$) between the experimental groups (21.9 ± 1.0 %ID/g in controls versus 11.8 ± 0.4 %ID/g and 9.7 ± 0.4 %ID/g in furosemide and CTZ treated groups, respectively). Similarly, the 24 hour renal ^{213}Bi activity was 38.7 ± 1.0 %ID/g in the controls versus 18.3 ± 0.6 %ID/g and 18.6 ± 1.6 %ID/g in furosemide and CTZ treated groups, respectively (ANOVA,

$p<0.0001$). However, the renal ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi activities were not significantly different between the two treated groups (Bonferroni's post-hoc analysis, $p>0.05$ for both ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi activities).

Furthermore, the combination of DMPS with a diuretic, furosemide or CTZ, caused a greater reduction of ~75-80% in the renal ^{213}Bi activity than seen with DMPS or diuretics alone (Figures 4A-4B). The 24 hour renal ^{213}Bi activity was 45.7 ± 1.0 %ID/g in controls versus 10.4 ± 1.0 %ID/g and 10.5 ± 1.5 %ID/g in DMPS + furosemide and DMPS + CTZ groups, respectively (ANOVA, $p<0.0001$). The reduction in the renal ^{221}Fr accumulation, however, was similar to that seen with diuretic treatment (25.7 ± 1.3 %ID/g in controls versus 9.7 ± 0.4 %ID/g and 13.3 ± 1.4 %ID/g in DMPS + furosemide and DMPS + CTZ groups, respectively (ANOVA, $p<0.0001$).

Different classes of diuretics inhibit the tubular reabsorption of the alkali metals, Na^+ or K^+ or both, although they differ in their potency, mechanism and site of action within the nephron. Furosemide and CTZ act, respectively, in the ascending limb of Henle's loop and distal convoluted tubule of the nephron (82). The significant drop in the renal ^{221}Fr activity with furosemide and CTZ possibly is due to an inhibition of the renal tubular reabsorption of ^{221}Fr which is an alkali metal and is, therefore, expected to behave like Na^+ and K^+. Since ^{213}Bi is generated from ^{221}Fr, a decrease in the renal ^{213}Bi ensued. Furthermore, the combination of DMPS with a diuretic, e.g., furosemide or CTZ, resulted in an even greater reduction in renal ^{213}Bi activity than seen with DMPS or the diuretics alone. The administered doses of furosemide and CTZ were scaled from previously published literature on their ED_{50} in mice. The doses exceed the human therapeutic doses as there is a species difference in the ED_{50} of these drugs (83).

EXAMPLE 7

Competitive metal blockade

Mice (5 per group) were injected i.p. with 200µl of 1% bismuth subnitrate (BSN; Sigma, St. Louis, MO) suspension (100mg/kg) or an equal volume of saline (controls) 4 hours before ^{225}Ac nanogenerator injection. These animals were sacrificed at

6 hours post-injection with the ^{225}Ac nanogenerator. Alternatively, mice were injected i.p. with 200µl of 1% BSN suspension, 4 hours before and 8 and 20 hours after ^{225}Ac nanogenerator injection (n=5) or an equal volume of saline (n=5). These animals were sacrificed 24 hours after ^{225}Ac nanogenerator injection. The mean %ID/g of ^{225}Ac, ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi in blood and kidneys at sacrifice-time was calculated for each experimental group.

Competitive blockade of ^{213}Bi binding-sites in the renal tubular cells by non-radioactive bismuth resulted in a moderate, but significant, reduction in the renal ^{213}Bi activity at both 6 hour ($p = 0.004$) and 24 hour ($p < 0.0001$) time-points (Figure 5). Renal ^{213}Bi activity at 6 and 24 hours post-injection was 57.5 ± 2.4 %ID/g and 64.9 ± 1.2 %ID/g, respectively in controls versus 46.1 ± 1.4 %ID/g and 48.2 ± 0.6 %ID/g, respectively in BSN treated animals. As expected, the renal ^{221}Fr activity was unaltered (Figure 5) at either time-point (6 hours, p=0.10; 24 hours, p=0.61).

EXAMPLE 8

Effect of DMPS on tumor burden

Disseminated human Daudi lymphoma (84) treated with ^{225}Ac labeled anti-CD19, was used as the model system. SCID mice, 10-12 weeks old, were randomized to "low tumor burden" or 7 days growth of tumor, "high tumor burden" or 30 days growth of tumor or "high tumor burden + DMPS" group or 30 days growth of tumor and treated with 1.2mg/ml DMPS in drinking water, starting one day before injection with ^{225}Ac nanogenerator. All mice were injected intravenously with $5x10^6$ Daudi lymphoma cells in 0.1ml phosphate buffered saline (PBS). The "low burden" animals were injected with the tumor cells 23 days after the "high burden" ones. The animals were checked daily for the onset of hind-leg paralysis. 30 days after injection of tumor cells in the "high burden" animals and 7 days after injection for the "low burden" group, all animals were injected retro-orbitally with 0.5µCi of ^{225}Ac labeled SJ25C1 in 100µl.

The animals (5 per group) were sacrificed at 24 hours post-injection and

the mean ^{225}Ac, ^{221}Fr and ^{213}Bi activity (%ID/g) in blood, femurs and kidneys was calculated for each experimental group. The % of human-CD20 positive cells in the femoral bone marrow was estimated in one representative animal from the "high and low burden" groups by flow cytometric staining with phycoerythrin (PE)-conjugated anti-human CD20 (BD, San Jose, CA) and compared to that of a non tumor-bearing mouse of the same strain.

The expression of CD19 and CD20 antigens and binding of the antibody (SJ25C1) to CD19 on Daudi cells were confirmed by flow cytometry before injecting the tumor in animals. The percentage of target lymphoma cells, i.e., bone marrow cells positive for human CD20, in one representative "low burden" and "high burden" animal were 0.12% and 27.5%, respectively (Figure 6A). Due to higher localization of the labeled antibody (^{225}Ac activity) to the femurs, the kidneys to femur activity ratios for ^{225}Ac were significantly lower ($p < 0.0001$) in the groups with higher tumor burden (Figure 6B).

As demonstrated in Figure 6C, the presence of a higher tumor burden resulted in a significant decrease in the renal ^{213}Bi activity, (52.6 ± 3.1 %ID/g, in "low burden" versus 38.8 ± 1.3 %ID/g in "high burden" animals; $p = 0.003$), which was reduced further by DMPS treatment (16.7 ± 2.7 %ID/g; $p < 0.0001$ compared to untreated "high burden" group and $p < 0.0001$ compared to "low burden" group). The femur ^{213}Bi activity was significantly higher ($p < 0.0001$) in the untreated "high burden" group (8.5 ± 0.5 %ID/g) as compared to the "low burden" group (2.7 ± 0.3 %ID/g). However, DMPS treated "high burden" animals had lower ^{213}Bi activity ($p = 0.002$) in the femurs (4.8 ± 0.6 %ID/g) than untreated "high burden" animals (Figure 6C). The ratio of kidney to femur activity for ^{213}Bi was significantly lower ($p < 0.0001$) in the high tumor burden group (Figure 6B).

The presence of high levels of a specific target, i.e., tumor burden, caused a decrease in the amount of circulating, untargeted antibody and, therefore, the systemically released daughters. This translated to an increase in the activity of ^{225}Ac and its radioactive daughters in the femurs where the tumor resided and a corresponding

decrease in their activities in the kidneys. The effect may have been blunted by the large dose of antibody used and the low specific activity of the radioimmunoconjugate as, approximately, 1 out of 1000 antibodies were labeled with ^{225}Ac.

Based on the number of available CD19 sites per Daudi cell, 120 million tumor cells, which is an estimated tumor load in a "high burden animal", are expected to maximally absorb approximately 1.2μg of the antibody, whereas 6.7μg of the antibody was injected per animal. This translates to an excess of injected antibodies as compared to the available binding sites. A typical acute myeloid leukemia patient has approximately 10^{12} leukemia cells and based on the available CD33 sites, approximately 5 mg of HuM195 could be absorbed. However, administering sub-saturating amounts, i.e., about 2-3 mg of antibody per patient would yield a more pronounced reduction in the renal daughter accumulation is expected.

DMPS treatment further reduced the renal ^{213}Bi accumulation in animals that bore the target tumor. Additionally, a reduction in the femur ^{213}Bi activity was seen in these animals. However, despite the reduction in the ^{213}Bi activity in the femurs, the kidney to femur activity ratio in these animals for ^{213}Bi was, in fact, significantly lower. This is because of a greater relative reduction in the ^{213}Bi accumulation in kidneys than in the femurs. Free bismuth has been shown to accumulate in the femurs even in the absence of a bone marrow tumor (64). Therefore, the ^{213}Bi activity in the femurs cannot be entirely accounted for by the ^{213}Bi inside the tumor cells. The reduction in the femur ^{213}Bi activity may be due to its scavenging from the tumor cells or the femurs. It also could be due to scavenging of free ^{213}Bi produced on the surface of the tumor cells as a result of the attachment of the labeled antibody.

EXAMPLE 9

In vivo biodistribution of [Ac]Hum195 at 24 hours

Two cynomolgus monkeys weighing about 7 kg were injected with 25 μCi of Ac-225 nanogenerators on HuM195 antibodies. One monkey received water and the other received DMPS in water for 24 hours and one dose of DMPS intravenously 90 min

before sacrifice. At 24 hours the two monkeys were sacrificedand the kidneys examined for Bi-213 daughters. A 70% reduction in Bi-213 in the kidneys of the treated monkey was found (Figure 7).

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Any patents or publications mentioned in this specification are indicative of the levels of those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains. Further, these patents and publications are incorporated by reference herein to the same extent as if each individual publication was specifically and individually incorporated by reference.

One skilled in the art will appreciate readily that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and obtain the ends and advantages mentioned, as well as those objects, ends and advantages inherent herein. The present examples, along with the methods, procedures, treatments, molecules, and specific compounds described herein are presently representative of preferred embodiments, are exemplary, and are not intended as limitations on the scope of the invention. Changes therein and other uses will occur to those skilled in the art which are encompassed within the spirit of the invention as defined by the scope of the claims.

Throughout this specification and the claims which follow, unless the context requires otherwise, the word "comprise", and variations such as "comprises" and "comprising", will be understood to imply the inclusion of a stated integer or step or group of integers or steps but not the exclusion of any other integer or step or group of integers or steps.

The reference to any prior art in this specification is not, and should not be taken as, an acknowledgment or any form or suggestion that the prior art forms part of the common general knowledge in Australia.

The claims defining the invention are as follows:

1. A method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of at least one adjuvant effective for preventing accumulation of a metal in kidneys;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the pathophysiological condition; and

preventing accumulation of alpha particle-emitting daughters of said actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual via interaction between said adjuvant and said ^{225}Ac daughters or the kidney tissue or a combination thereof thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radio immunotherapeutic treatment.

2. A method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and

preventing accumulation of bismuth-213 daughters of said actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individual by scavenging thereof with said chelator thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radio immunotherapeutic treatment.

3. A method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophysiological condition, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic;

administering an actinium-225radioimmunoconjugate to treat the cancer; and

preventing accumulation of francium-211 daughters of said actinium-225 within the kidneys of the individually inhibiting re-absorption of francium-211 therein with said diuretic thereby reducing nephrotoxicity during the radio immunotherapeutic treatment.

4. A method of improving radio immunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a chelator;

administering an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and

scavenging bismuth-213 daughters of the actinium-225 with said chelator to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for said cancer.

5. A method of improving radio immunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, comprising:

administering a pharmacologically effective dose of a diuretic;

administering anactinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate; and

inhibiting renal uptake of francium-211 daughters of the actinium-225 with said diuretic to reduce nephrotoxicity in the individual during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of the actinium-225 to improve the treatment for said cancer.

6. A method of increasing the therapeutic index of an actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate during treatment of a pathophysiological condition in an individual comprising:

inhibiting renal uptake of at least one alpha particle-emitting daughter of actinium-225 whereby nephrotoxicity is reduced during the treatment thereby increasing the therapeutic index of said actinium-225 radioimmunoconjugate.

7. A method of reducing nephrotoxicity in an individual during radio immunotherapeutic treatment of a pathophyscological condition, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

8. A method of improving radio immunotherapeutic treatment of cancer in an individual, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

9. A method of increasing the therapeutic index of an actinium-225 radioummunoconjugate during treatment of a pathophysiological condition in an individual, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the Examples.

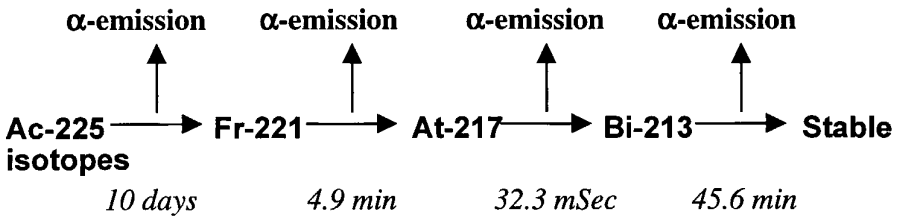
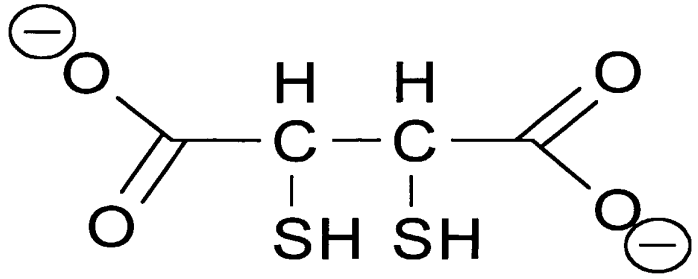
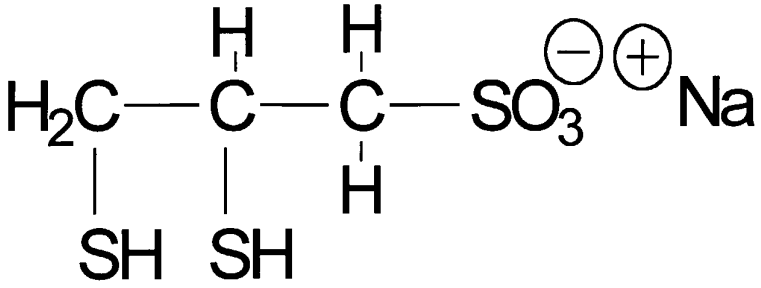

α-emission
α-emission
α-emission
α-emission
Ac-225
isotopes
Fr-221
At-217
Bi-213
Stable
10 days
4.9 min
32.3 mSec
45.6 min

Fig. 1



DMSA



DMPS

Fig. 2

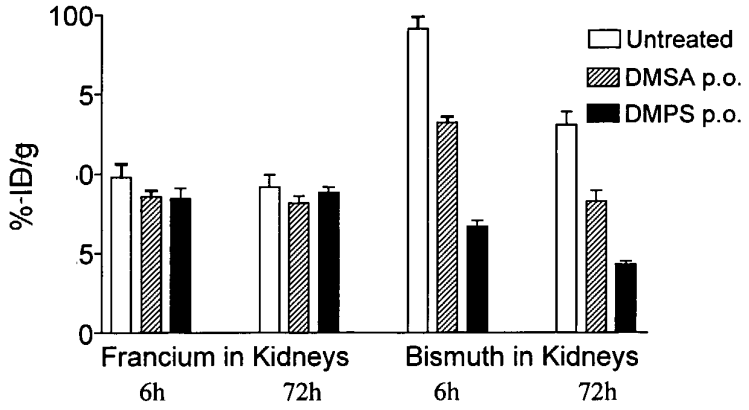

100
5
0
5
0
%-ID/g
Untreated
DMSA p.o.
DMPS p.o.
Francium in Kidneys
6h
72h
Bismuth in Kidneys
6h
72h

Fig. 3A

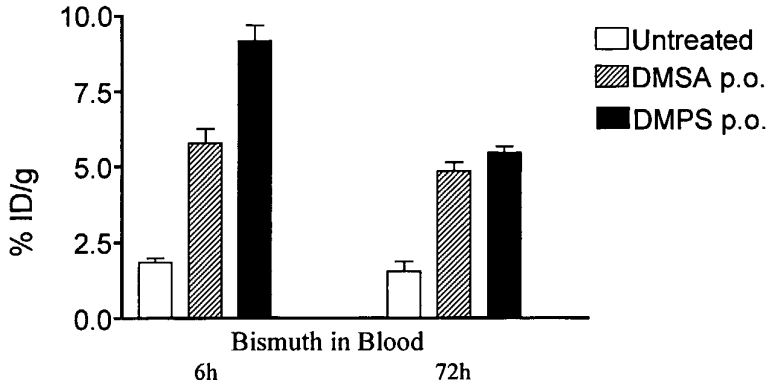

10.0
7.5
5.0
2.5
0.0
% ID/g
Untreated
DMSA p.o.
DMPS p.o.
Bismuth in Blood
6h
72h

Fig. 3B

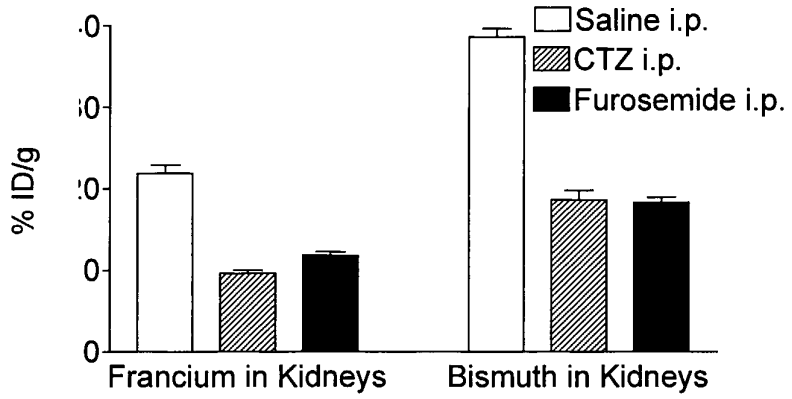

Saline i.p.
CTZ i.p.
Furosemide i.p.
% ID/g
Francium in Kidneys
Bismuth in Kidneys

Fig. 4A

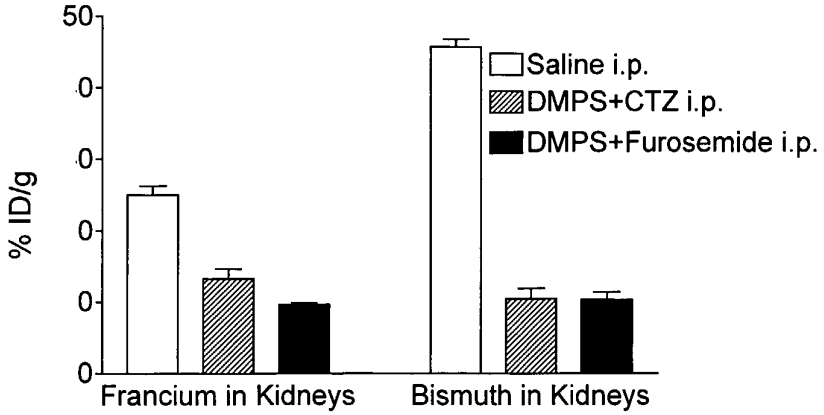

50
Saline i.p.
DMPS+CTZ i.p.
DMPS+Furosemide i.p.
% ID/g
Francium in Kidneys
Bismuth in Kidneys

Fig. 4B

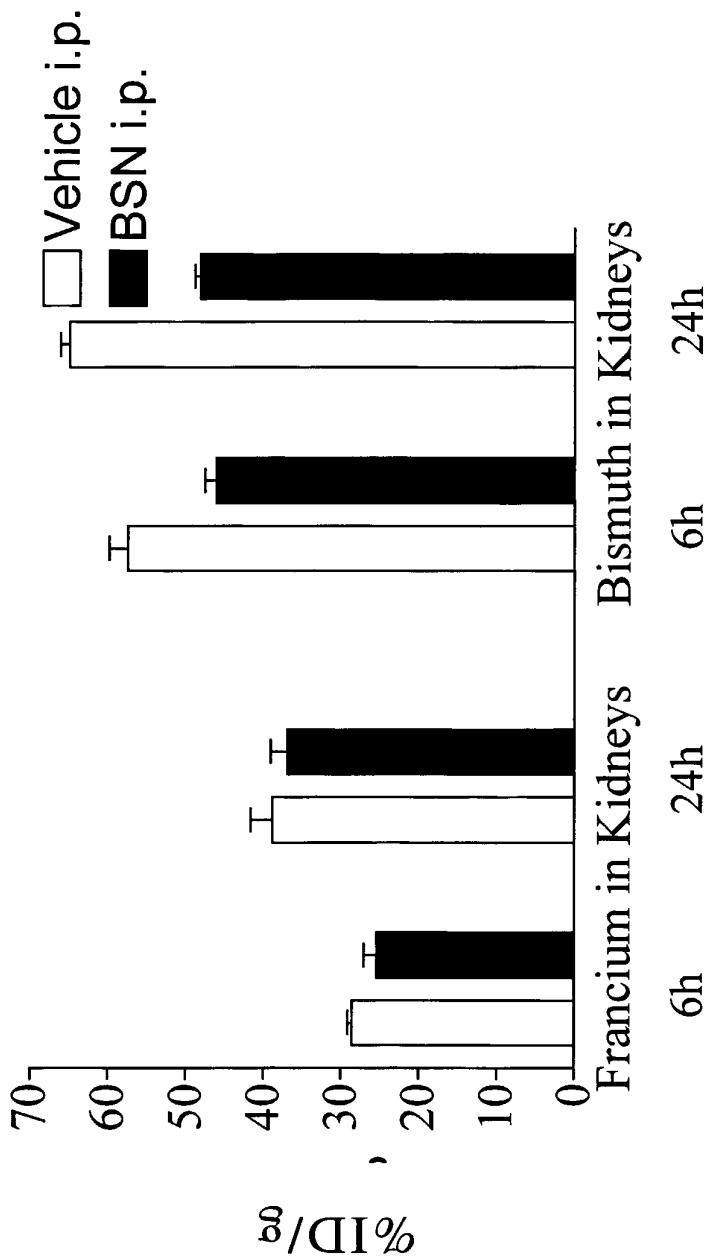

Vehicle i.p.
BSN i.p.
%ID/g
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Francium in Kidneys
6h
24h
Bismuth in Kidneys
6h
24h

Fig. 5

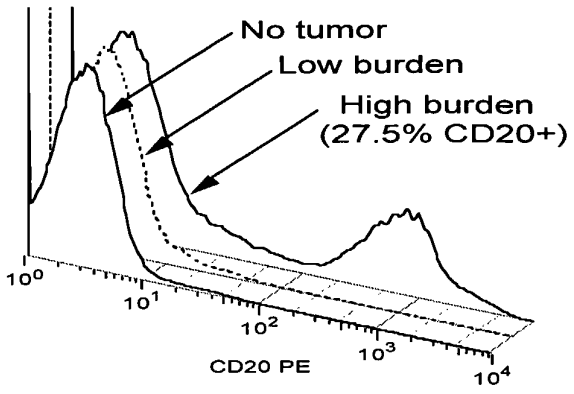


Fig. 6A

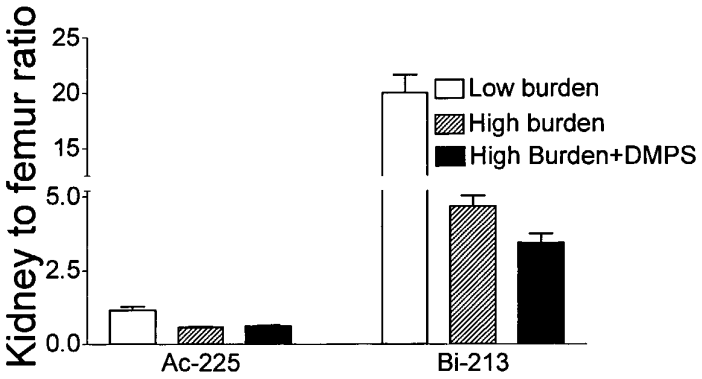


Fig. 6B

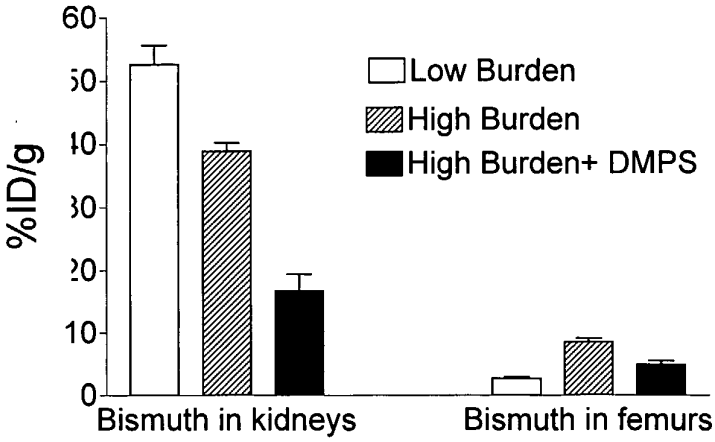


Fig. 6C

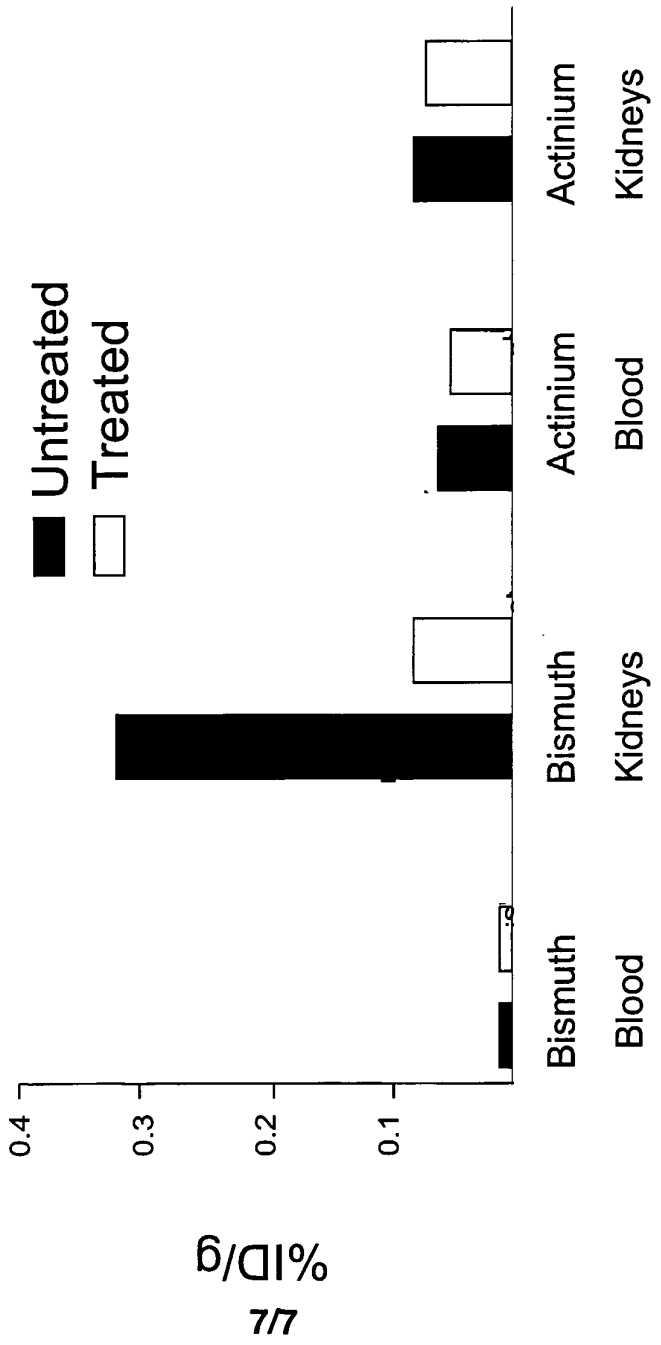

Untreated
Treated
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
%ID/g
Bismuth
Blood
Bismuth
Kidneys
Actinium
Blood
Actinium
Kidneys
Organs

Fig. 7