# Understanding potential benefits of adaptive therapy

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Melanoma intermittent therapy (in vivo)



Das Thakur et al. Nature, 2013, 494:251-5

- Intermittent therapy (4 week on/2 week off) improves response in vivo
- Various responses: some regression vs. gradual increase
- Resistant cells become drug dependent for continued proliferation
- Cessation of drug leads to regression of drug-resistant cells

# Intermittent therapy clinical trials





Schreur et al. Lancet Oncol, 2017

Valpione et al. Eur J Cancer, 2018

- Re-challenge after treatment break or other therapy due to progression or other causes
- Drug holidays: 4-12 weeks
- Re-challenge clinically meaningful
- Diverse response and duration

# Intermittent therapy clinical trials





- Phase 2 trial of intermittent therapy
- 8 week continuous therapy lead in, 3 week off and 5 week on or continuous therapy
- Intermittent dosing did not improve progression free survival
- No difference in the overall survival and the overall toxicity
- This one-size-fits-all approach unlikely to be optimal clinically

# Inter-patient variability





Zhang et al. Nature Comm, 2017

#### Melanoma adaptive therapy in vivo



# Melanoma adaptive therapy in vivo





Smalley et al. Ebiomedicine, 2019

- Transcriptional heterogeneity in melanoma cell lines
- Drug induced distribution changes
- WM164 cell lines seems to be recovering drug sensitivity
- Inhibition of growth in 4-10 week off WM164 vs. drug sensitivity of basal cell line
- Decided to use WM164 cell line xenograft model

# Melanoma adaptive therapy in vivo





- Goal: maintain drug-sensitive transcriptional states through adaptive dosing
- Mathematical model guided scheduling
- Drug holiday associated with drug sensitivity

#### Mathematical model



State 1 State 2 State 3



#### Model calibration & prediction





- 11 one-side xenograft models
- Measure individual mouse tumor volume changes every 2~3 days
- Estimate model parameters (H) that minimize the difference between model predicted tumor volume and mouse tumor volume every 2~3 days

# Model calibration & prediction





Smalley et al. Ebiomedicine, 2019

#### Predicted drug sensitive (S) and resistant (R) proportion change

Start	T <sub>0</sub> S R						Average
End	Tend						
							Size

- Make predictions of tumor volume changes in 2 treatment scenarios: on and off
- Follow model predicted treatment decision (on or off) for subsequent 2~3 days
- Diverse treatment on and off schedule
- ~ 50% less tumor volume & ~64% dose rate compared to continuous MTD
- Not all xenograft model benefits from adaptive therapy





Smalley et al. Ebiomedicine, 2019

# Benefits of adaptive therapy diverse





- Effectiveness of adaptive therapy will vary among patients
- Who will likely benefit most from adaptive therapy?
- Predictive factors



- Who will likely benefit most from adaptive therapy?
- What are predictive factors?

# Melanoma tumor burden marker





- Critical to obtain tumor burden as frequent as possible
- Serological marker that can be measured frequently
- Melanoma tumor burden marker: LDH, lactate dehydrogenase
- LDH is only serologic marker used for monitoring advanced melanoma in US
- Elevated serum LDH is associated with worse outcomes in patients treated with BRAF/ MEK inhibitors



# Applying the model to patient data



- 8 patients with metastatic melanoma, treated with continuous MTD BRAF/MEK
- LDH: every 2~4 weeks
- PD: progression disease (> +20%), SD: stable disease (<= +20%), PR: partial response (< -25%)</li>

#### **Ensemble prediction**





# $a \forall \sqrt{\frac{\alpha}{0}} different ent on \overline{\alpha}$ if treatment on models





# Model calibration



 $\beta = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if treatment on} \\ \overline{\beta} & \text{if treatment off} \end{cases} \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if treatment on} \\ \overline{\beta} & \text{if treatment off} \end{cases}$ 



$$\min_{\vec{\theta}} \left\| V\left(t; \rightarrow \theta\right) - L(t) \right\|_{2}^{2},$$
  

$$\theta = \{S_{0}, K, \delta, r_{R}, \alpha\}$$
  

$$r_{S} = 0, \text{ when therapy is on}$$
  

$$R^{2} = 0.81$$
  
relative error: 0.004 -0.62  

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#### Model predicted adaptive therapy





- Treatment stop when LDH <= -50% of initial, re-start: LDH = initial</li>
- Adaptive therapy delayed time to progression: ~4.6 months with ~54% dose rate compared to continuous MTD





- Various parameters (not estimated) considered
- Time gained from continuous therapy: ~ 20 months
- Dose rate: 20~74% of continuous MTD
- Most beneficial: R—>S switching rate is high & sensitive cell growth rate is low

## Different threshold:-20%





- Treatment stop when LDH <= -20% of initial, re-start: LDH = initial</li>
- Time gained from continuous therapy: up to 25 months
- Dose rate: 6~66% of continuous MTD

## Progression free survival



Science and Techr

- PFS of adaptive therapy is significantly higher than MTD
- -20% is better than -50% stopping criteria

# Mathematical model: competition









- Predicted time gained: ~3.5 months (vs. 4.3 months from the previous model)
- Dose rate: ~46% of continuous MTD

# Predicted benefit





- Various growth rates of sensitive cell population considered: r<sub>S</sub>: 0~95% of r<sub>R</sub>
- Dot: average time gained for each patient
- Time gained: ~6 months (vs. 20 months from the drug induced resistance model)
- Dose rate: 12~100% of continuous MTD
- Most beneficial: large number of initial sensitive cells

# Progression free survival



Science and Techno

- PFS of adaptive therapy is significantly higher than MTD
- -20% is better than -50% stopping criteria



- Effectiveness of adaptive therapy varies among patients
- Understanding the underlying mechanism for the variability for patient selection
- Multiple mathematical and computational models may be required
- Two different mathematical models: competition and plasticity
- Adaptive therapy improves progression free survival compared to MTD continuous therapy
- Key predictive factors: initial number of sensitive cell population, switching rate from R to S, and growth rate of drug sensitive cell population

#### Thanks





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