



Mathematical Modelling of Chemotherapy Scheduling

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Where does the MTD paradigm come from ?

- Skipper-Schabel-Wilcox seminal papers in the 1960's
- Basic principle = proliferation
- **Exponential** growth of the tumor cell population *N(t)*



 $\frac{dN}{dt} = aN \qquad \text{a} \sim T^{-1} \quad T = \text{doubling time}$

Where does the MTD paradigm come from ?

Log-kill hypothesis

a given dose kills a given fraction of the tumor cell population



- Established on leukemic cell lines
- Focus: curability

"(...) it appears that high-level, short-term schedules offer considerably greater potential for obtaining "cures". This preference does not necessarily hold with regard to achieving maximum increase in life span of animals which die in spite of therapy"

The Norton-Simon hypothesis: tumor growth model

- Relative growth rate is not constant in time, it decelerates
- Challenges the exponential model ⇒ Gompertz growth



The Norton-Simon hypothesis

Second hypothesis: effect of the therapy is proportional to the

proliferative fraction only

$$\frac{dN}{dt} = ae^{-bt}N - eC(t)e^{-bt}N$$



- Suggested densification of adjuvant chemotherapy protocols in breast cancer
- Subsequently validated in phase III study

Citron et al., J Clin Oncol, 2003

still focuses on tumor eradication

Norton, Simon, Cancer Treat Rep, 1976

Tumor heterogeneity and re-sensitization

Minimizing Long-Term Tumor Burden: The Logic for Metronomic Chemotherapeutic Dosing and its Antiangiogenic Basis

J Theor Biol, 2003

Philip Hahnfeldt *†‡, Judah Folkman§||¶ and Lynn Hlatky†‡



Tumor heterogeneity and re-sensitization



- In the context of tumor heterogeneity, long-term minimization may often be the more practical objective
- Metronomic scheduling is the best way to achieve it
- Lends theoretical support to the anti-angiogenic basis of metronomic therapy as endothelial cells because of higher ability to desensitize

A dedicated model for metronomic chemotherapy

Hypotheses:

- 1. Chemo has an **anti-angiogenic** effect by killing proliferative endothelial cells.
- 2. Cancerous cells develop resistances to the CT whereas endothelial cells don't.

3. At low dose, the killing action of the drug is stronger on the endothelial compartment than on the tumor one

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dN}{dt} = aN \ln\left(\frac{K}{N}\right) - \alpha_1 e^{-R \int_0^t C(s) ds} C(t)N \\ \frac{dK}{dt} = bN - dN^{2/3} K - \alpha_2 C(t) K \\ & \checkmark & \checkmark & \land = \text{tumor cells} \\ & & \checkmark & \land = \text{carrying capacity} \\ & & = \text{vascular support} \\ & & \land A \text{ effect} & \text{Resistance} & \text{CT effect} \end{cases}$$

+ PK/PD model for exposure of the drug given the concentrations

Benzekry, Barbolosi, Andre et al., MMNP, 2012

A dedicated model for metronomic chemotherapy

MTD schedule: 100 mg at day 0 of 21-days cycle

Tumor cells

Docetaxel PK/PD parameters

Metronomic schedule: 10 mg/day every day without resting period

Carrying capacity



Benzekry, Barbolosi, Andre et al., MMNP, 2012

Modeling of toxicity and scheduling of vinorelbine in NSCLC

Toxicity





Barbolosi, André et al., Cancer Chemother Pharmacol (2014)

 \Rightarrow ongoing phase I trial

Elharrar, Barbolosi, André et al. (2016)

Adaptive therapy

- Evolutionary viewpoint of resistance to therapy. Darwinian selection
- Complex dynamics are hard to control. Why, then, use fixed, rigid protocols of drugs, dose and timing?
- Gatenby suggests to rather adapt the protocol as the tumor evolves in response to therapy



A change of strategy in the war on cancer

Patients and politicians anxiously await and increasingly demand a 'cure' for cancer. But trying to control the disease may prove a better plan than striving to cure it, says **Robert A. Gatenby**.

Gatenby, Nature, 2009



Gatenby et al., Cancer Res, 2009

Primary tumor VS metastases

Primary tumor



CT/AA combination. What sequence?

Bevacizumab D0 Etoposide D8 versus Etoposide D0 Bevacizumab D8



⇒ The best sequence is different for the PT and the mets

Conclusions

- Although mathematics are a discipline far from medicine, theoretical models have often driven the paradigms underlying chemotherapy schedules
- Rational design of chemotherapy protocols...
- ...and sequences in combination therapies (CT/AA, radio-immuno therapy)

Benzekry, Pasquier, Andre et al., Semin Cancer Biol, 2015

Thank you for your attention!

