

Emerging Techniques in Cancer Therapy

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Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center



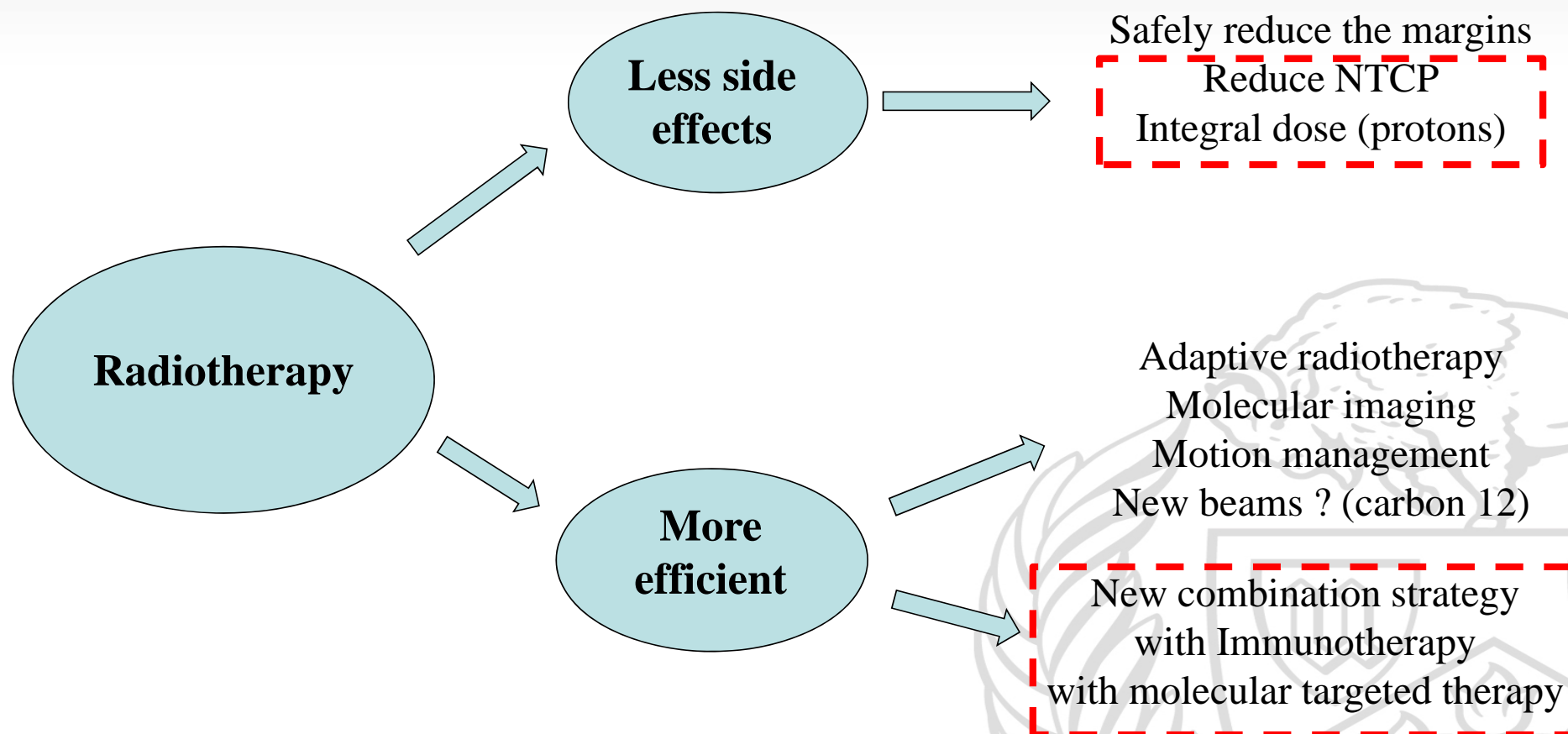
Outline

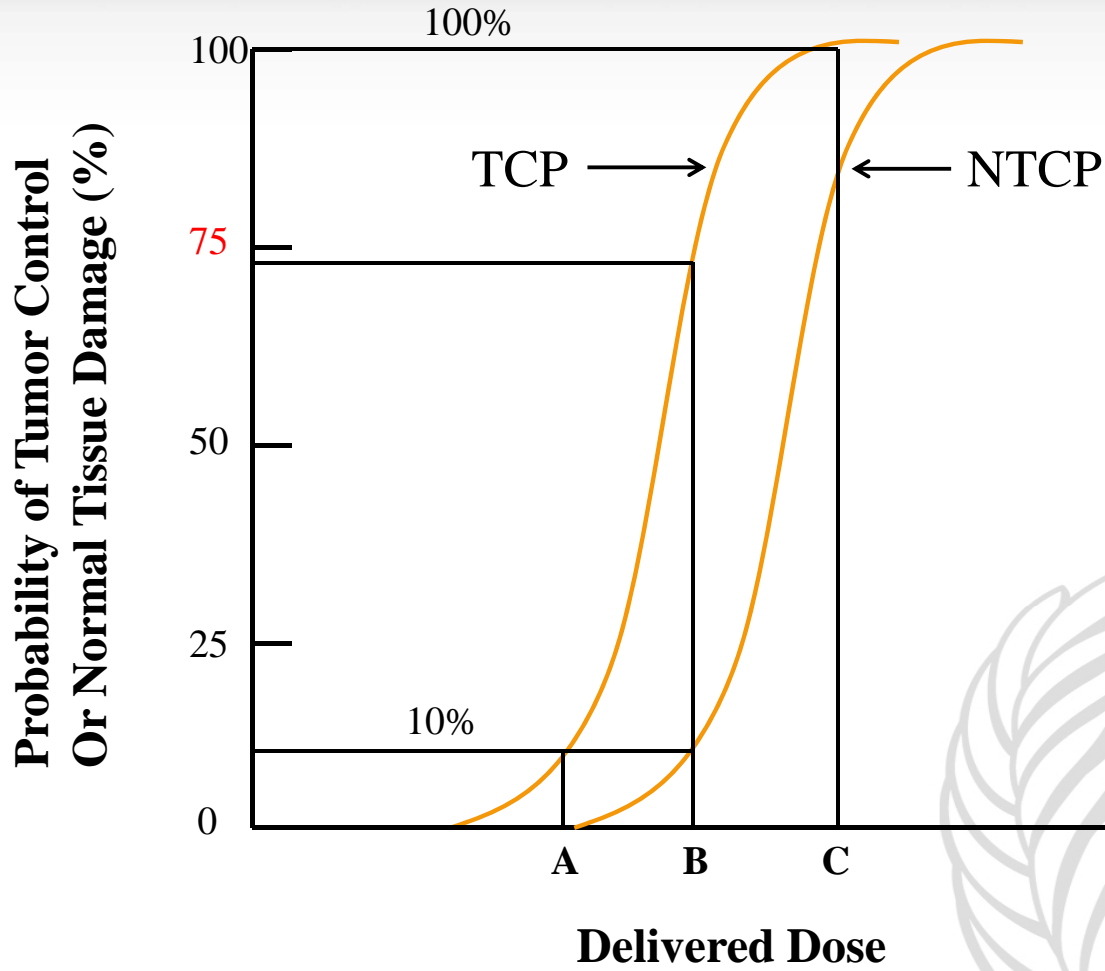
Emerging Technologies in Cancer Therapy

1. FLASH
2. Minibeam Radiotherapy
3. Nanoparticles
4. Immunotherapy with RT



How to improve radiotherapy ? ...





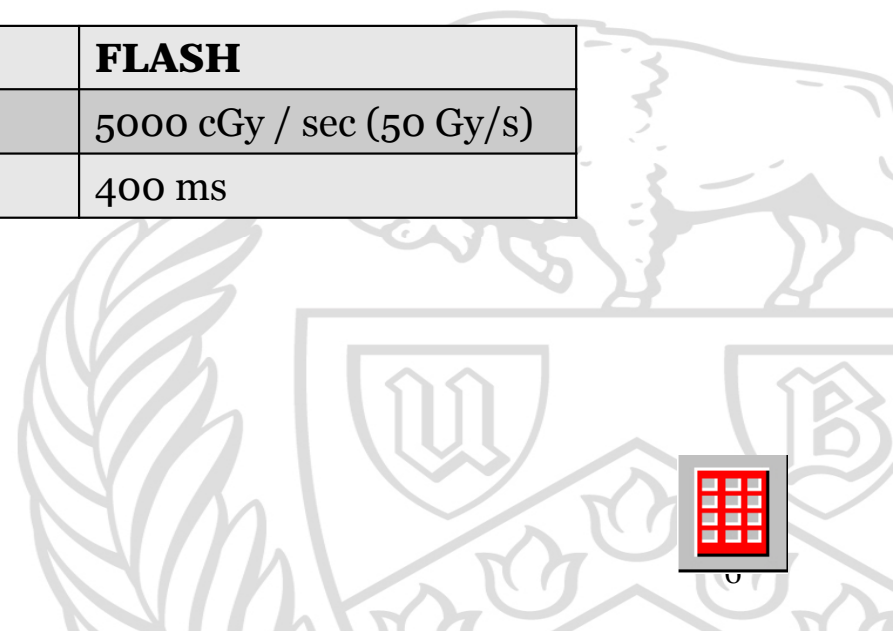
FLASH Radiation Therapy



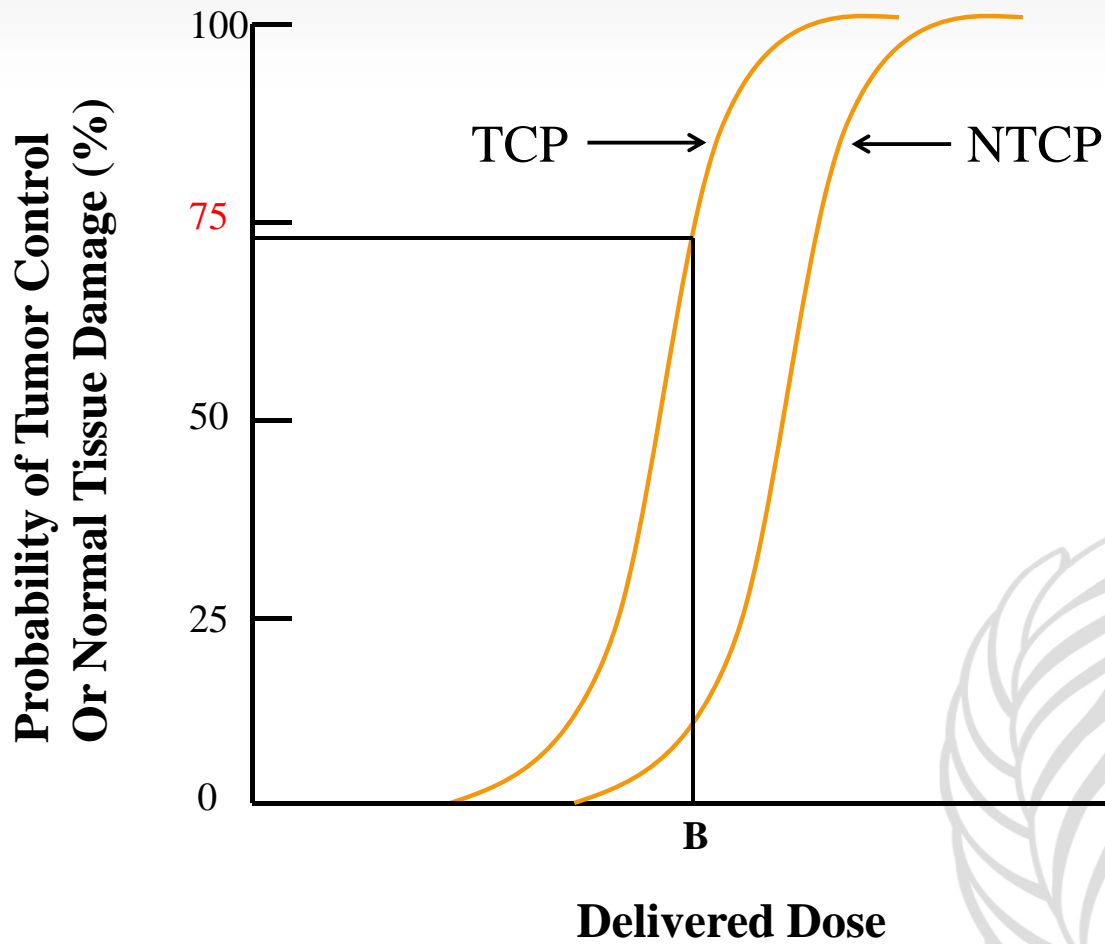
FLASH! – Ultra-high dose rate in radiotherapy

1. Technique developed at Institute Curie (France) by Vincent Favaudon
2. Delivering a dose of radiation in a short period of time (~ 200 ms)

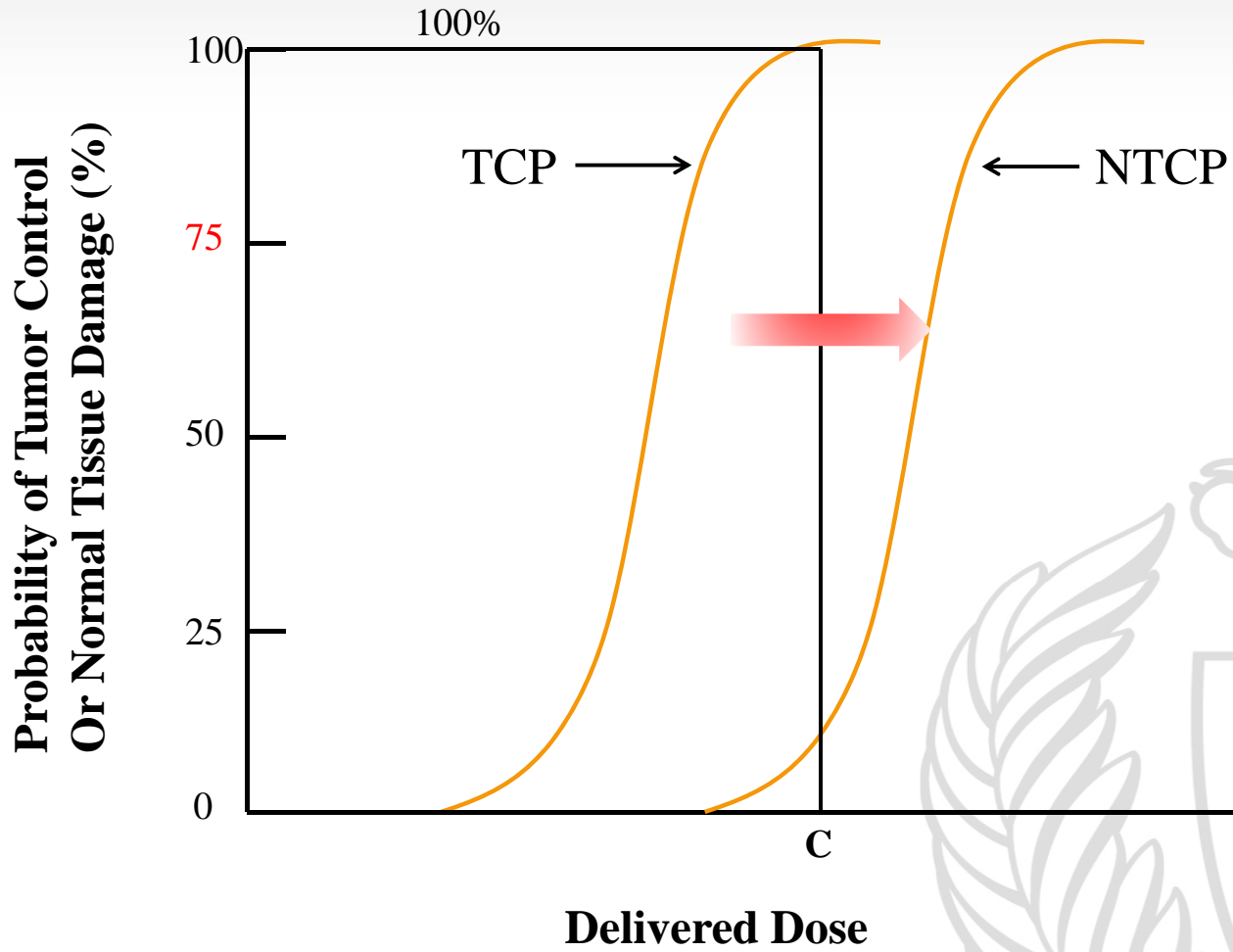
	Conventional	FLASH
Dose Rate	4 – 7 cGy / sec	5000 cGy / sec (50 Gy/s)
Time for 20 Gy	500 sec (\approx 8 min)	400 ms



Conventional RT



Flash RT



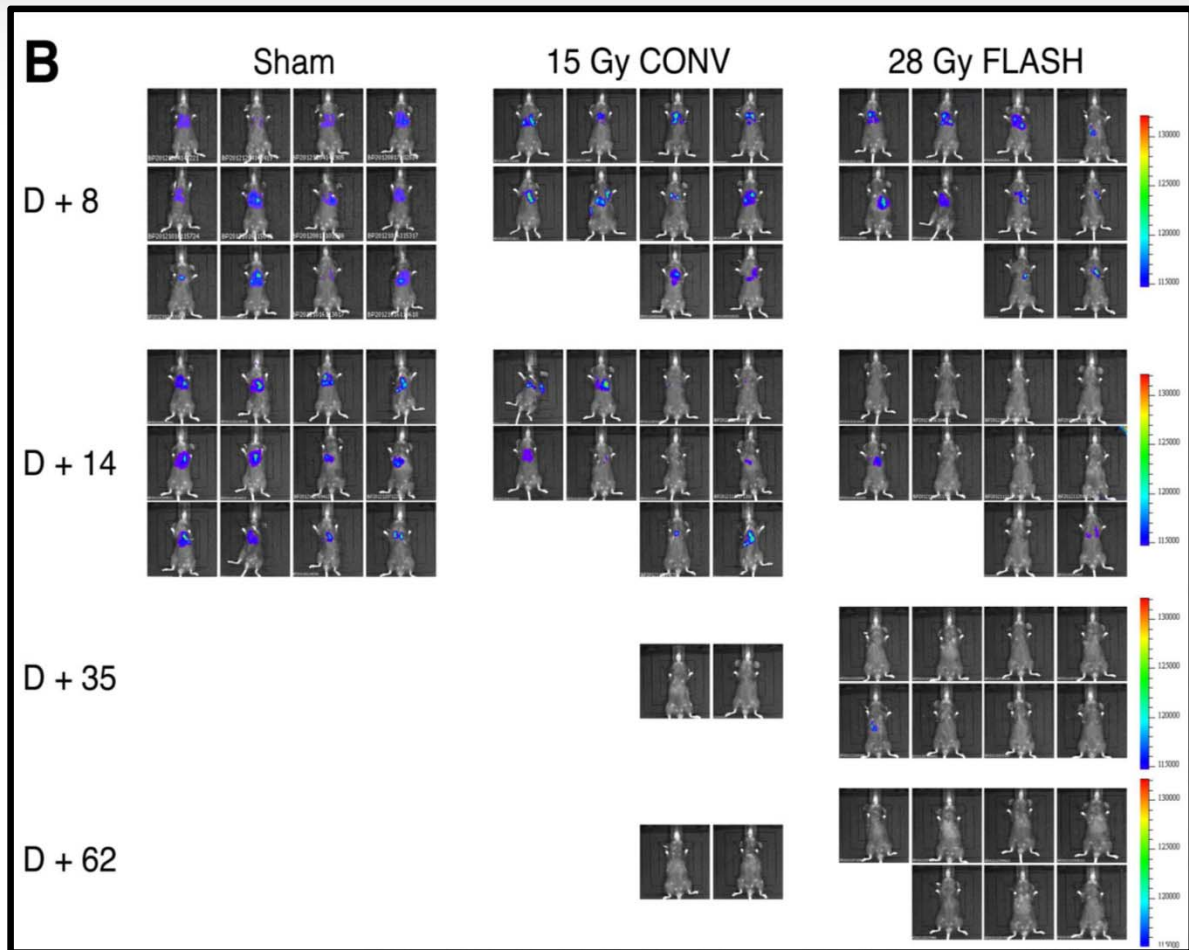
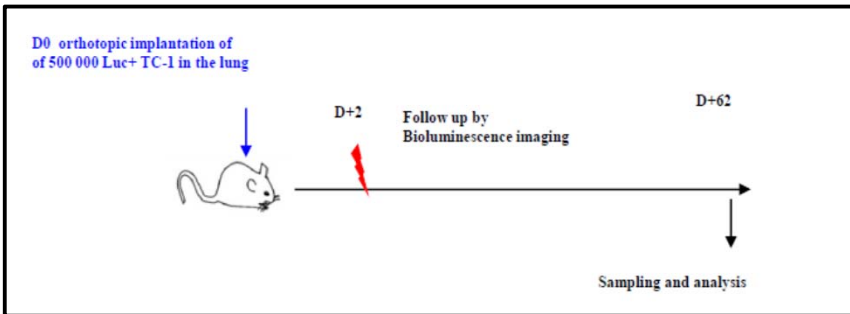
RESEARCH ARTICLE

RADIATION TOXICITY

Ultrahigh dose-rate FLASH irradiation increases the differential response between normal and tumor tissue in mice

Vincent Favaudon,^{1,2*} Laura Caplier,^{3†} Virginie Monceau,^{4,5‡} Frédéric Pouzoulet,^{1,2§}
Mano Sayarath,^{1,2¶} Charles Fouillade,^{1,2} Marie-France Poupon,^{1,2||}
Isabel Brito,^{6,7} Philippe Hupé,^{6,7,8,9} Jean Bourhis,^{4,5,10} Janet Hall,^{1,2}
Jean-Jacques Fontaine,³ Marie-Catherine Vozenin^{4,5,10,11}

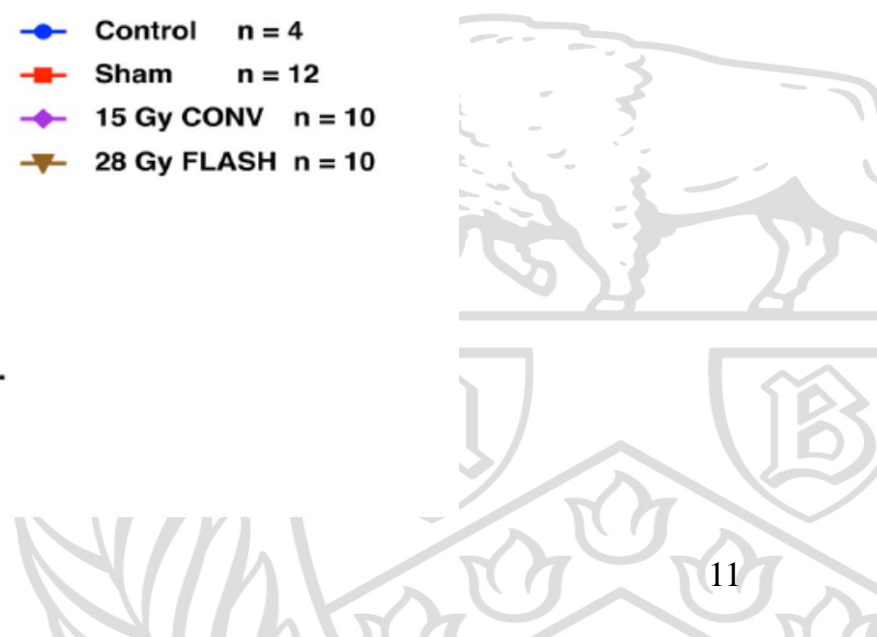
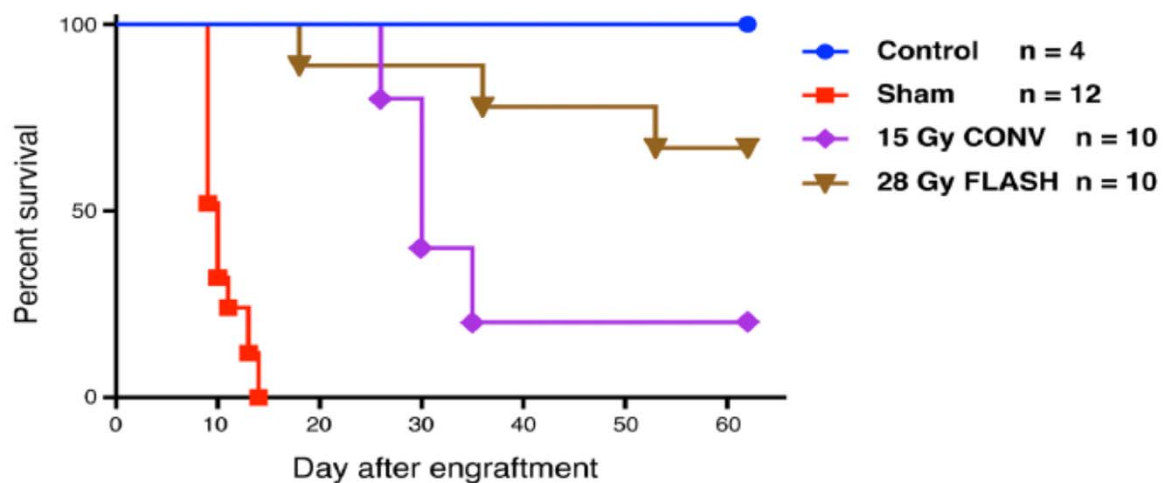






Ultrahigh dose-rate FLASH irradiation increases the differential response between normal and tumor tissue in mice

Vincent Favaudon *et al.*
Sci Transl Med **6**, 245ra93 (2014);
DOI: 10.1126/scitranslmed.3008973





Flash irradiation

Irradiation in a flash: Unique sparing of memory in mice after whole brain irradiation with dose rates above 100 Gy/s



Pierre Montay-Gruel^{a,b,1}, Kristoffer Petersson^{c,1}, Maud Jaccard^c, Gaël Boivin^a, Jean-François Germond^c, Benoit Petit^a, Raphaël Doenlen^d, Vincent Favaudon^b, François Bochud^c, Claude Bailat^c, Jean Bourhis^{a,1}, Marie-Catherine Vozenin^{a,*,1}

^a Department of Radiation Oncology/DO/CHUV, Lausanne University Hospital, Switzerland; ^b Institut Curie, INSERM U1021/CNRS UMR3347, Université Paris-Saclay, Orsay, France; ^c Institute of Radiation Physics (IRA), Lausanne University Hospital; and ^d Faculty of Life Sciences, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland

Asses whether FLASH RT altered the neurocognitive function as compared to conventional RT.

Brain model - Flash-RT with a dose of 10 Gy delivered at 100 Gy/s did not alter neurocognitive function as compared to conventional RT.

Published Online First June 6, 2018; DOI: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-17-3375

Clinical Trial Brief Report

Clinical
Cancer
Research

The Advantage of FLASH Radiotherapy Confirmed in Mini-pig and Cat-cancer Patients

Marie-Catherine Vozenin¹, Pauline De Fornel², Kristoffer Petersson^{1,3}, Vincent Favaudon⁴, Maud Jaccard^{1,3}, Jean-François Germond³, Benoit Petit¹, Marco Burki⁵, Gisèle Ferrand⁶, David Patin³, Hanan Bouchaab¹, Mahmut Ozsahin^{1,6}, François Bochud³, Claude Bailat³, Patrick Devauchelle², and Jean Bourhis^{1,6}



RESEARCH ARTICLE

RADIATION TOXICITY

Ultrahigh dose-rate FLASH irradiation increases the differential response between normal and tumor tissue in mice



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com



Original Article

Biological effects in normal cells exposed to FLASH dose rate protons

Manuela Buonanno*, Veljko Grilj, David J. Brenner

Radiological Research Accelerator Facility (RARAF), New York, United States



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Flash irradiation

Irradiation in a flash: Unique sparing of memory in mice after whole brain irradiation with dose rates above 100 Gy/s



Pier
Ben



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Radiotherapy and Oncology

journal homepage: www.thegreenjournal.com



Original Article

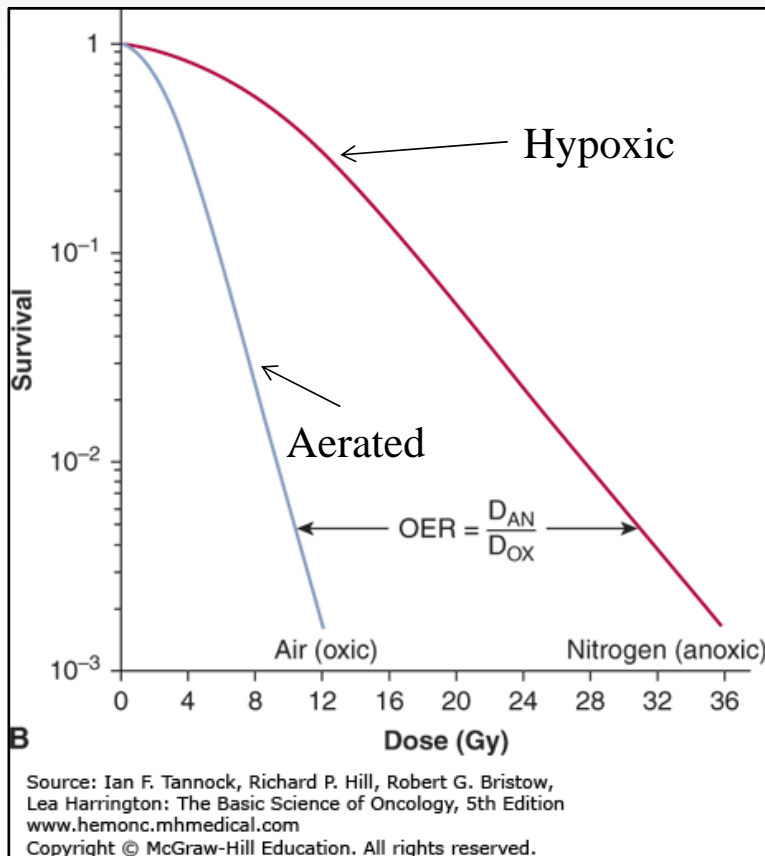
An integrated physico-chemical approach for explaining the differential impact of FLASH versus conventional dose rate irradiation on cancer and normal tissue responses

Thomas R. Spitz^{a,*}, Garry R. Buettner^a, Michael S. Petronek^a, Joël J. St-Aubin^a, Ryan T. Flynn^a, Anthony J. Waldron^a, Charles L. Limoli^b

^aPhysical and Radiation Biology Program, Department of Radiation Oncology, Free Radical Metabolism and Imaging Program, Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa, United States; and ^bDepartment of Radiation Oncology, University of California, Irvine, United States

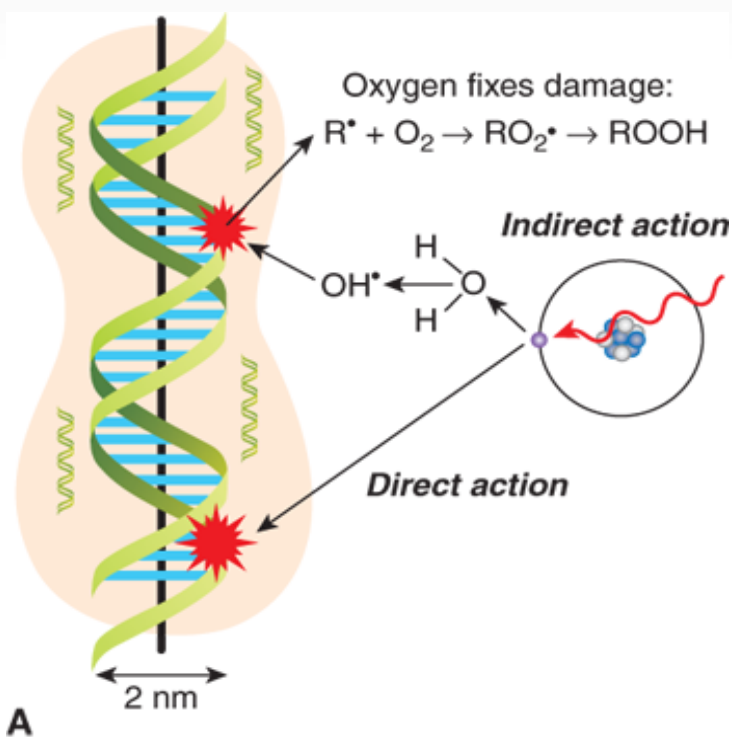


Oxygen Effect



- In the presence of oxygen, cells become radiosensitive.
- Oxygen enhancement ratio (OER)
 - Ratio of dose administered under hypoxic to aerated conditions needed to achieve the same biological effect.
- OER for x-rays is about 2.5 to 3.5

Mechanism of the oxygen effect



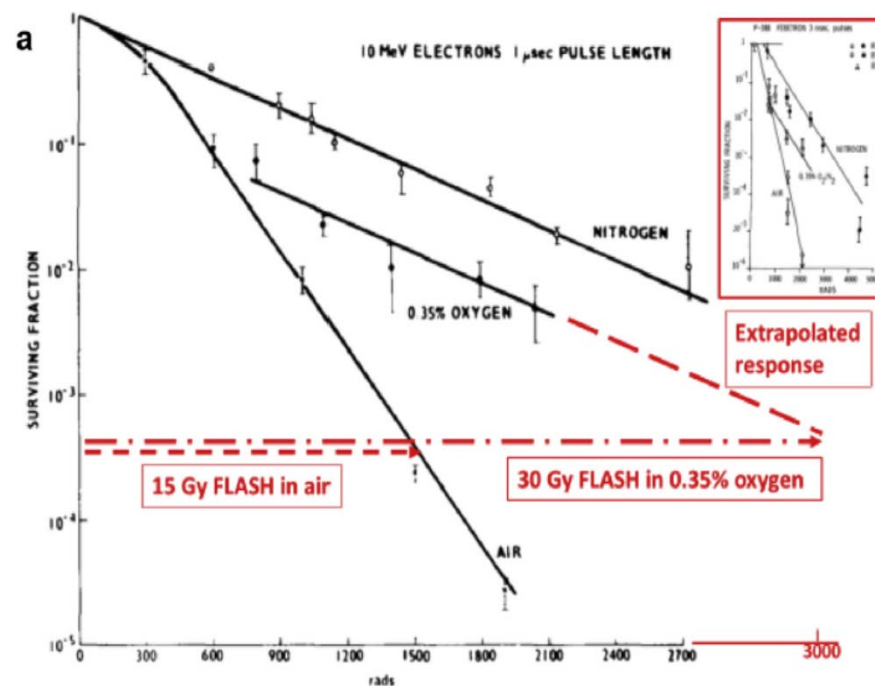
Source: Ian F. Tannock, Richard P. Hill, Robert G. Bristow, Lea Harrington: The Basic Science of Oncology, 5th Edition
www.hemonc.mhmedical.com
 Copyright © McGraw-Hill Education. All rights reserved.

- Absorption of radiation leads to fast charged particles.
- Charged particles help to produce free radicals. (highly reactive)
- Free radicals react with DNA and cause damage.
- But DNA damage can be repaired through reaction with a SH group
- Oxygen "fix" or make permanent the DNA damage - SH group cannot repair the damage.

Why FLASH is effective ?

- FLASH is effective for treating hypoxic tumors surrounded by aerated normal cells
- FLASH RT causes a rapid decrease in O₂ levels in the aerated normal cells
 - Normal aerobic cells becomes hypoxic
 - Normal cells become radioresistant

M.-C. Vozenin et al. / Clinical Oncology 31 (2019) 407–415



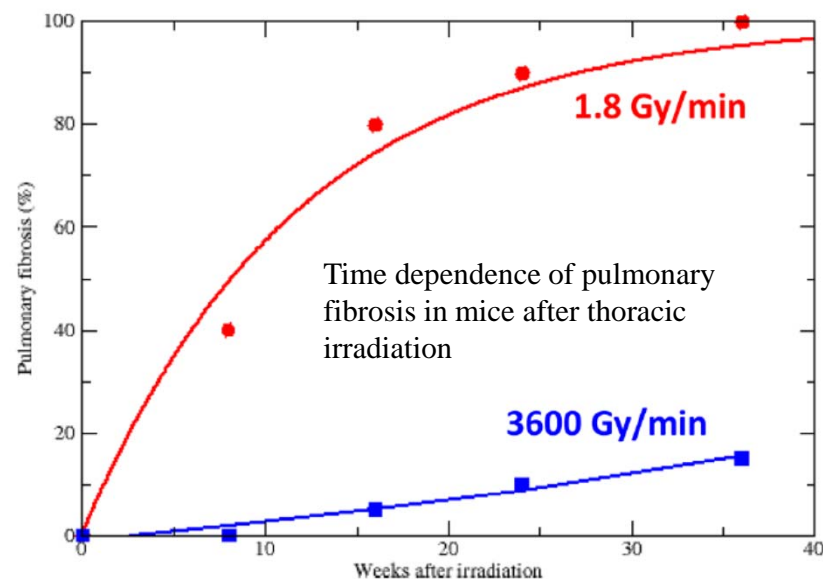
FLASH effect is possible with sufficiently high dose and exposure duration must be sufficiently low

1. FLASH RT Reduced normal tissue toxicity

- Dose escalation is possible

2. Ultra fast delivery

- No intra-fraction motion management
- Potential for markedly reducing radiotherapy workload



Faster and safer? FLASH ultra-high dose rate in radiotherapy

¹MARCO DURANTE, PhD, ²ELKE BRÄUER-KRISCH, PhD and ³MARK HILL, PhD

¹National laboratories, Trento Institute for Fundamental Physics and Applications (TIFPA), National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN), University of Trento, Trento, Italy

²National laboratories, ESRF-The European Synchrotron, Grenoble, France

³Department of Oncology, CRUK/MRC Oxford Institute for Radiation Oncology, Gray Laboratories, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK



High dose-per-pulse electron beam dosimetry: Commissioning of the Oriatron eRT6 prototype linear accelerator for preclinical use

Maud Jaccard, María Teresa Durán, Kristoffer Petersson, and Jean-François Germond
Institute of Radiation Physics, Lausanne University Hospital, Lausanne, Switzerland

- Prototype linac producing an electron beam between 5 and 6 MeV
- Designed to produce a maximum peak current of 300 mA as compared to 1 mA in a standard linac.
- Deliver dose rates up to 200 Gy/s.
- No standard monitor chamber due to saturation effects

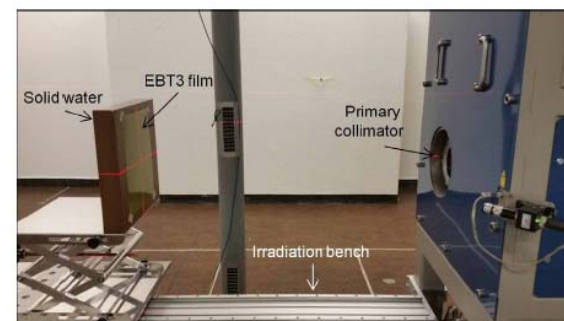
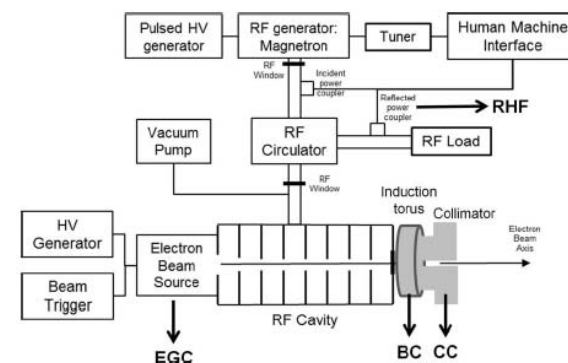
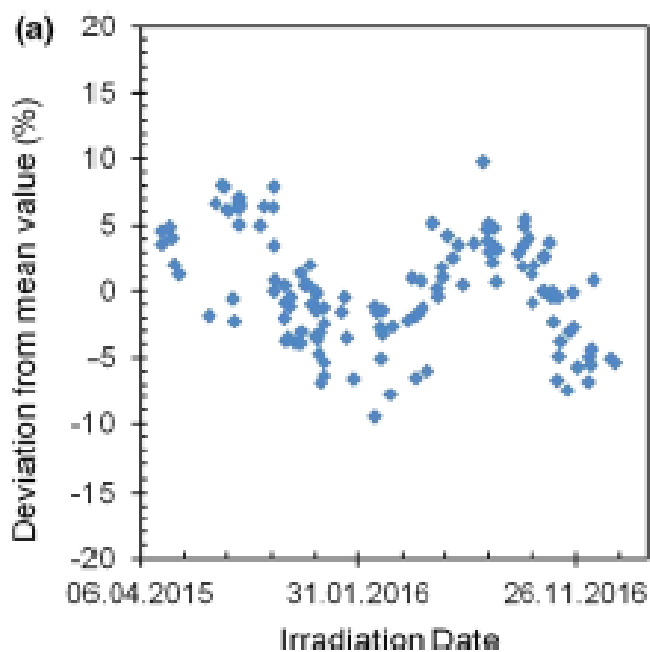


FIG. 2. Oriatron eRT6 linac and irradiation bench: set-up for film dosimetry at the surface of the solid water phantom at an SSD of 1 m. [Color figure can be viewed at wileyonlinelibrary.com]

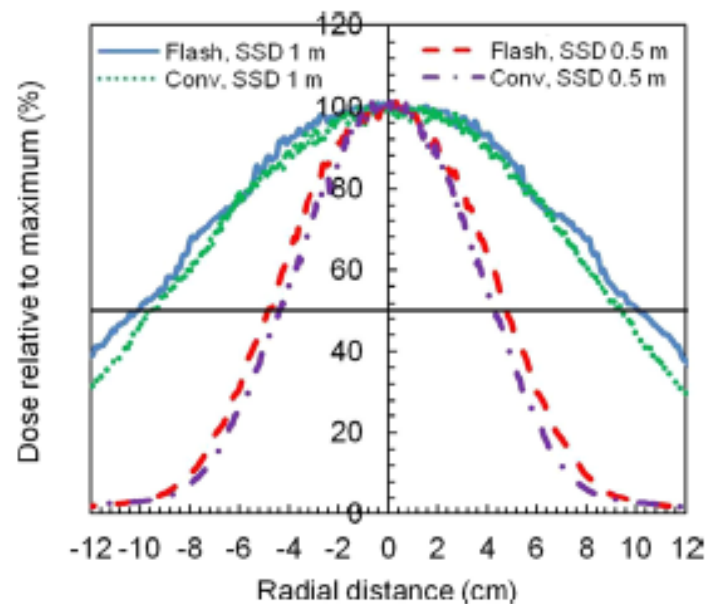


Output stability



20 Month period → ± 10%

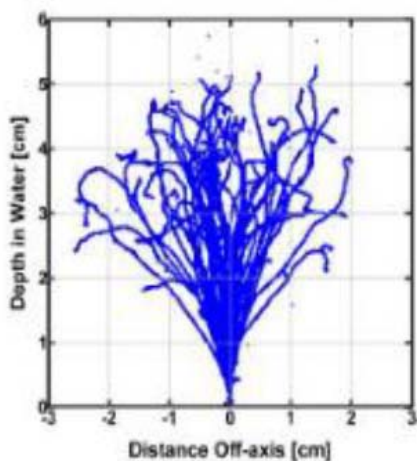
Beam Profiles



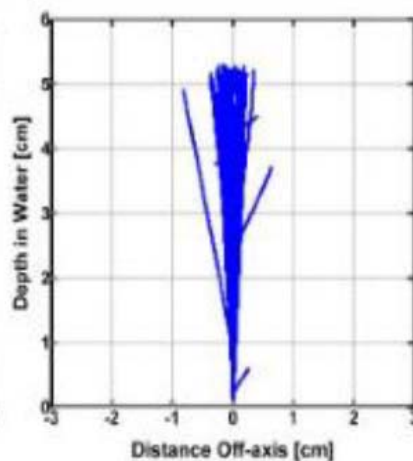
Specially designed scattering foil

FLASH Protons

10 MeV electrons
50 histories



80 MeV protons
50 histories

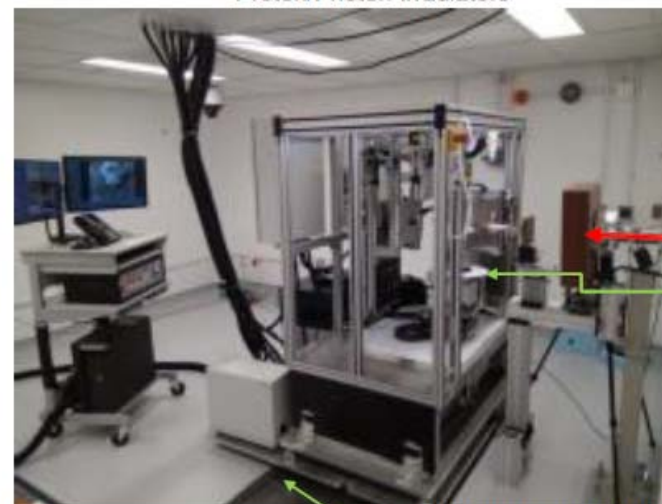


Small Animal Radiation Facility-SARRP with proton beams - UPENN

Prep/Control room with remote anesthesia/SARRP/proton beam operations



Vault with Image-Guided Proton/Photon irradiators



SARRP on moveable rails to align to proton beam when in use

Facility supports:

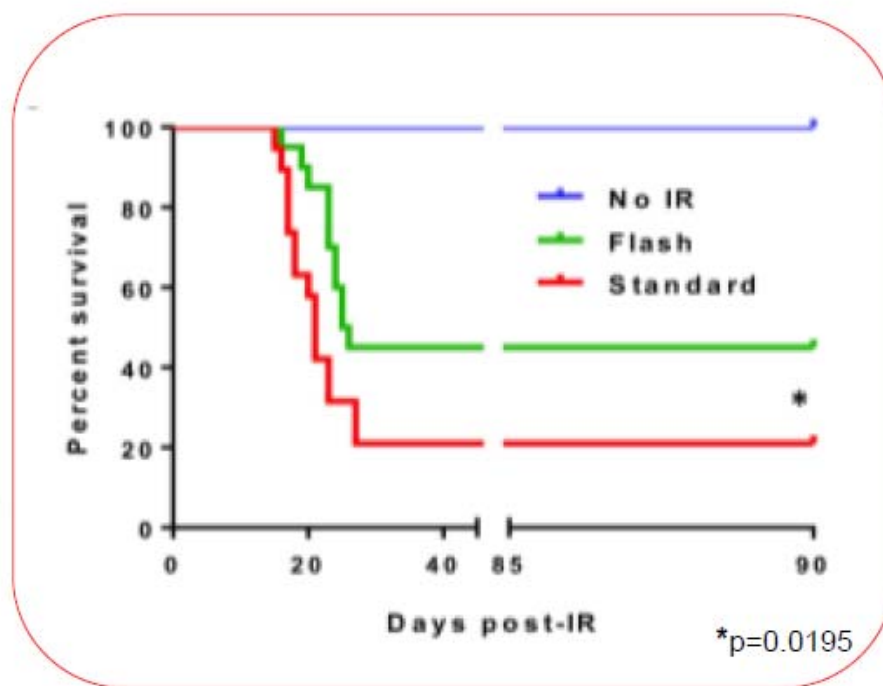
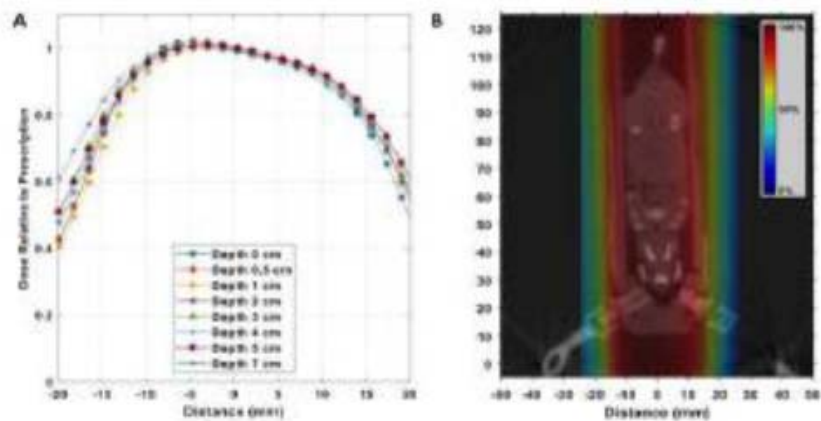
- 23 Penn investigators for animal RT
- Core Facility for P01 "Immune Checkpoints and Radiation in Cancer" (Vonderheide)
- Current FLASH RT efforts

M. Kim *et al. Phys. Med. Biol.* **64** (2019) 135013 (12pp)

Slide courtesy of Lei Dong, Ph.D

Increased survival of C57BL/6 mice treated with FLASH vs conventional WBRT

Mice were whole body-irradiated either with 1 Gy/s or 75 Gy/s irradiation at a single dose of 7.5Gy.

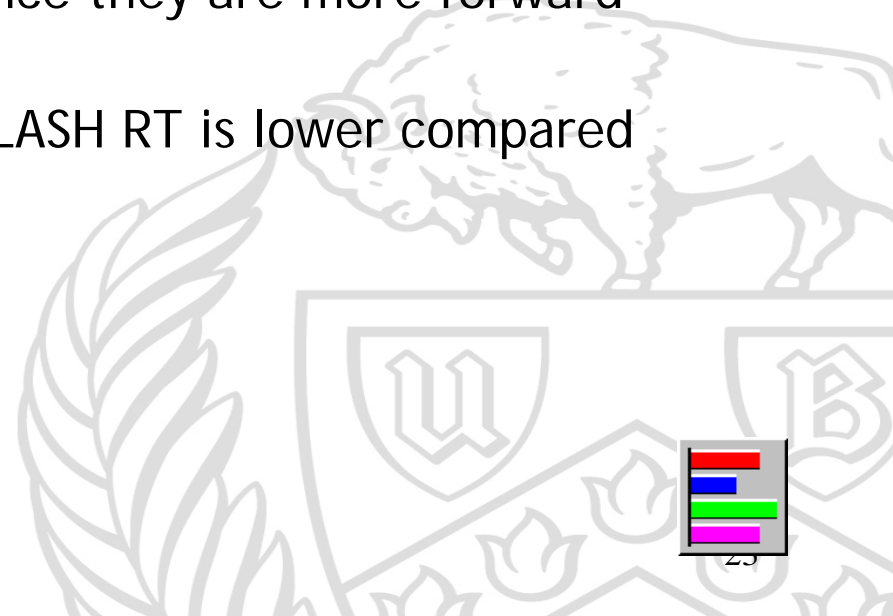


Diffenderfer et al., in revision

Slide courtesy of Lei Dong, Ph.D

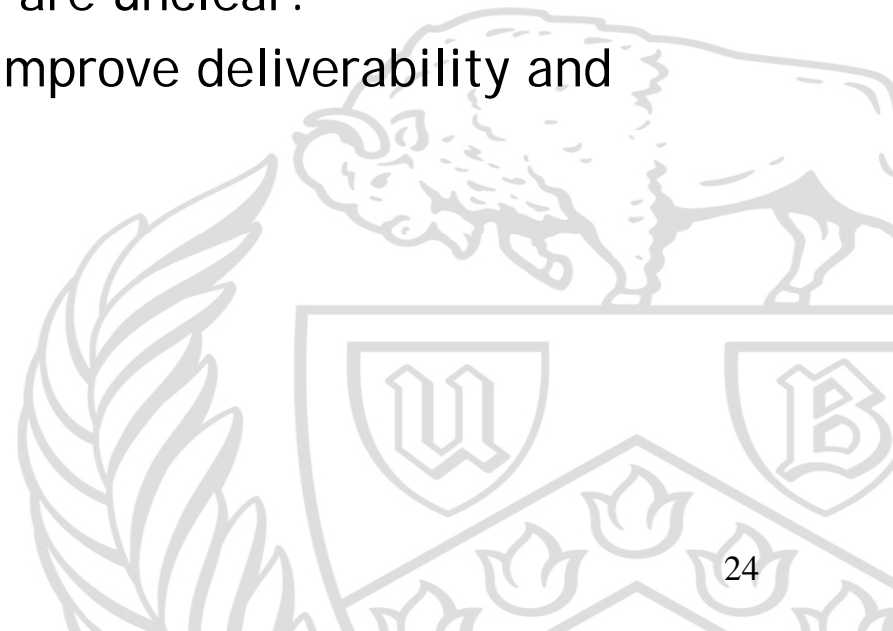
FLASH RT

1. Can deliver dose rate up to 100 Gy/s.
2. Hypoxic cells are more radiosensitive than aerated cells.
3. Electrons are more suitable for FLASH since they are more forward peaked than protons.
4. Animal studies show survival rate with FLASH RT is lower compared with conventional RT.



Summary of FLASH RT


- FLASH RT demonstrate significant normal tissue sparing in animal studies.
- Biological effects and rationales of FLASH are unclear.
- More research needs to be performed to improve deliverability and safety before starting human trials.

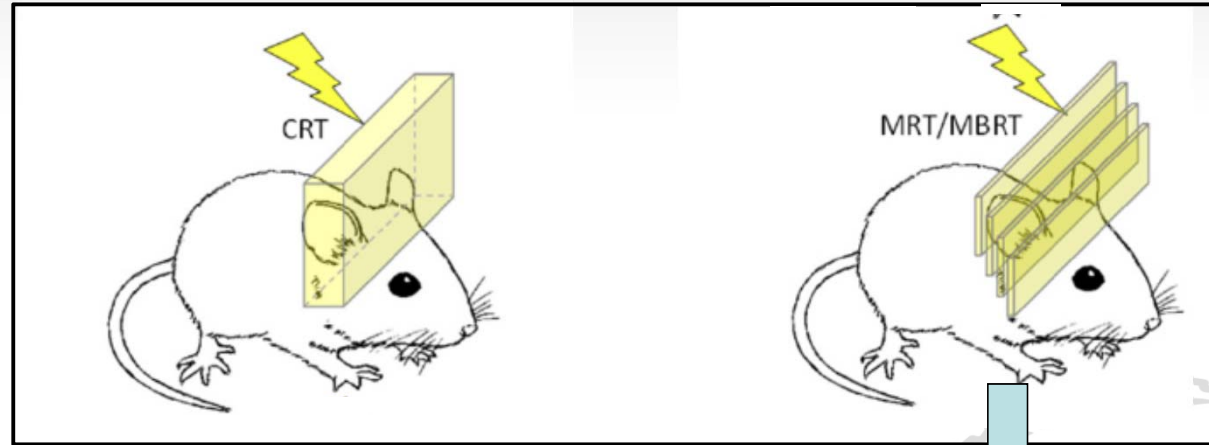


MicroBeam Radiation Therapy

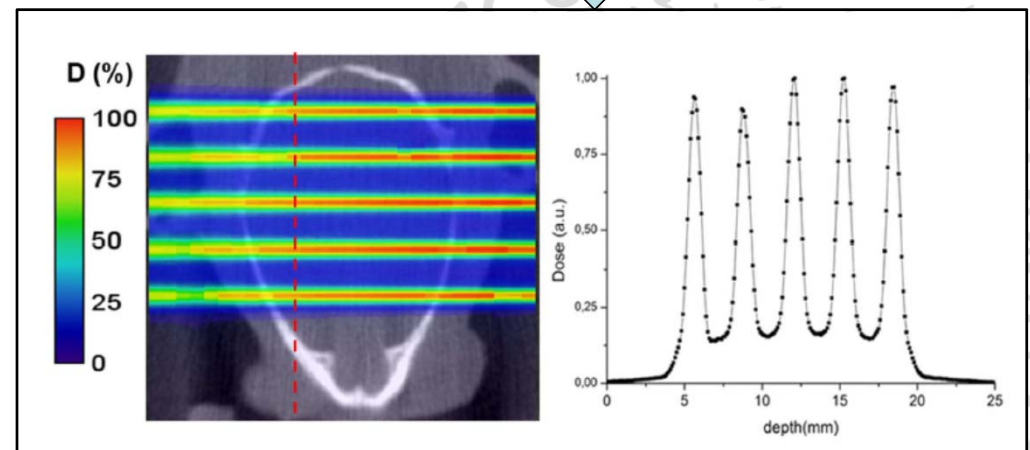


Microbeam Radiation Therapy (MRT)

- Delivers ultrahigh dose (50 – 100 Gy)
- 200 – 1000 μm beam (peaks), separated by wider non-irradiated regions (valleys)
- Reduced normal tissue toxicities – NTCP 
- Most research are focused on Brain lesions.

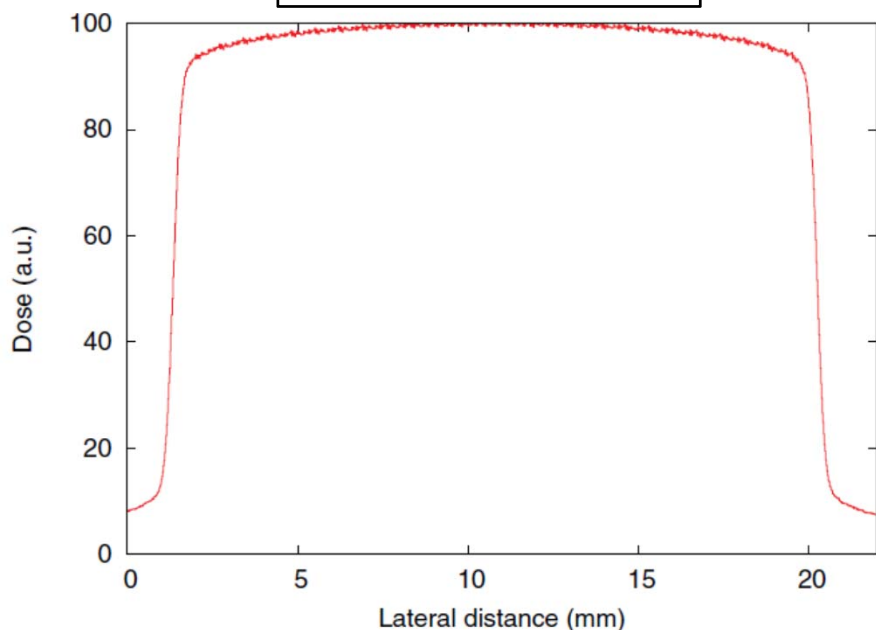


S Bazyar et al.
Phys. Med.
Biol. 62 (2017)

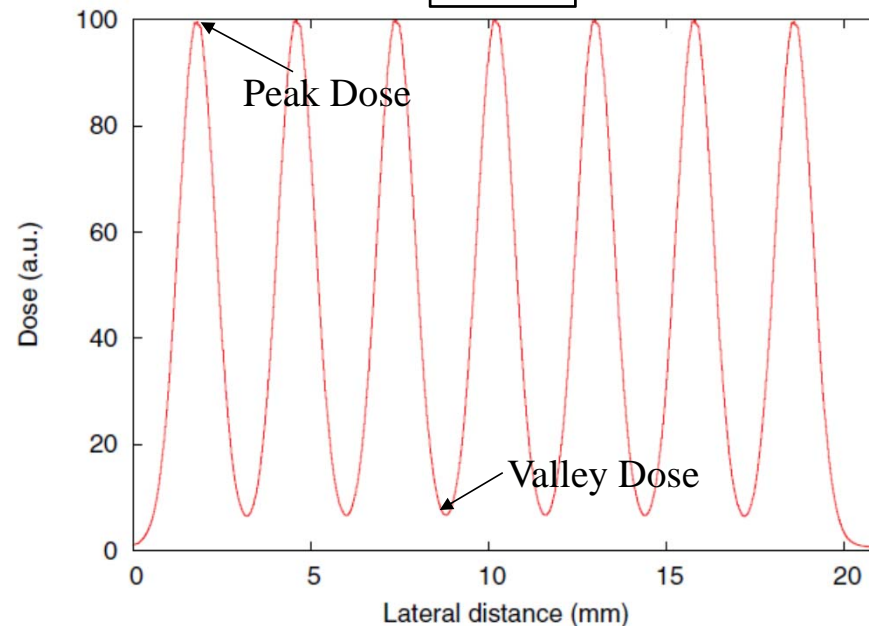


Convention Vs MRT beam

Conventional RT

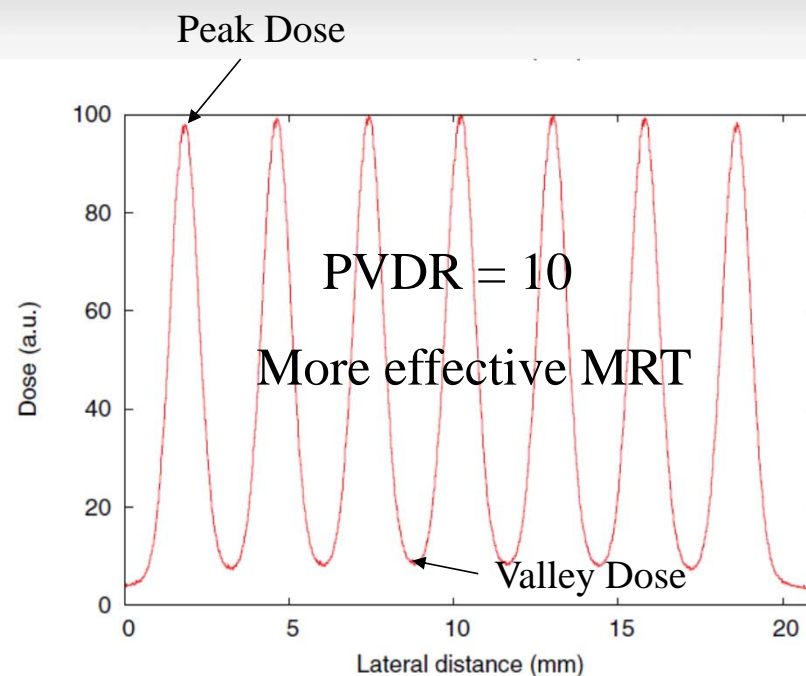
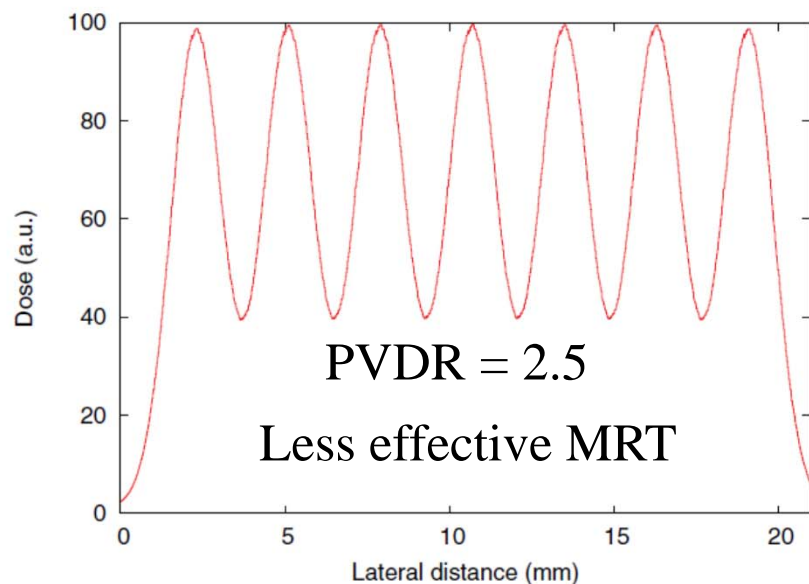


MRT



- MRT dose profiles consist of patterns of peaks and valleys
- Ratio between peak and valley doses is called **peak-to-valley dose ratio (PVDR)**
- The higher the PVDR the better the biological response

Beam Profile effect



- MRT spares normal tissue when beam spacing is less than twice that of beam width
- Sparing effect of MRT depends mostly on valley dose and little on peak dose
- Normal tissue sparing effect vanishes when valley dose approaches tissue tolerance of to broad beam

Preservation of normal cell function with MRT

RADIATION RESEARCH 15, 496-514 (1961)

Histopathologic Effect of High-Energy-Particle Microbeams on the Visual Cortex of the Mouse Brain¹

W. ZEMAN, H. J. CURTIS, AND C. P. BAKER

*Departments of Physics and Biology, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Upton,
New York, and the Department of Pathology, Indiana University,
Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana*

- 140 Gy was delivered to side of the visual cortex of female mice
- 3 groups 1) 1 mm wide beam 2) 75 μ m 3) 25 μ m
- 1 mm wide beam resulted in complete tissue destruction and cavity formation
- 25 μ m caused no damage with a 240 days observation period
- Only after 4000 Gy, nerve and glial cells died in the path of the 25 μ m beam

MRT Vs Broad Beam – Aggressive tumor type

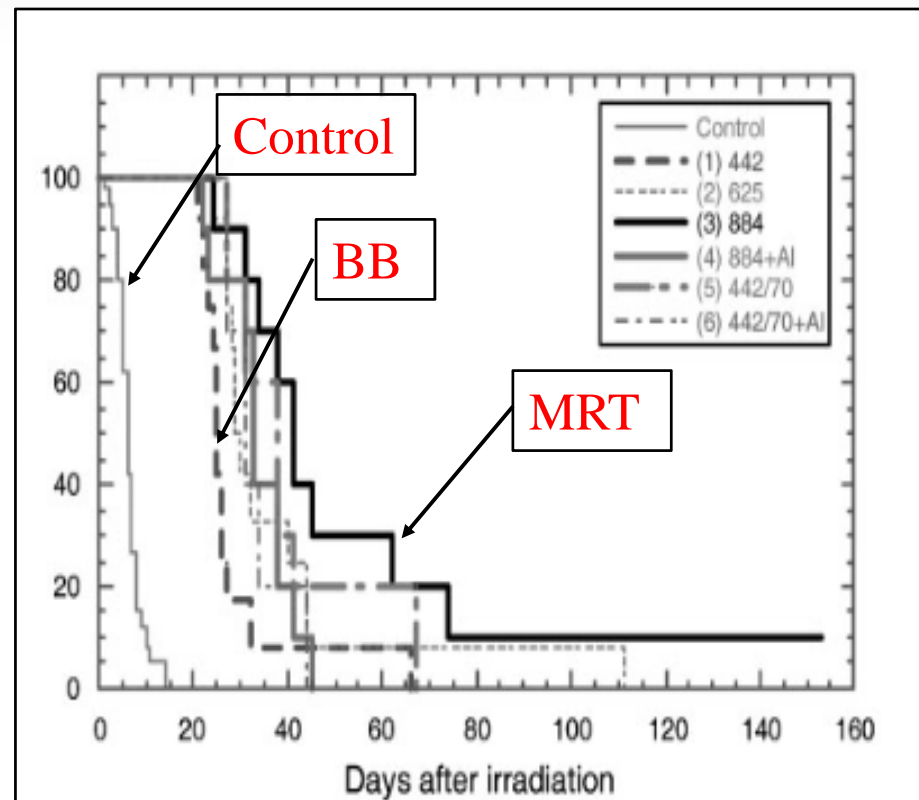
The British Journal of Radiology, 79 (2006), 71–75 © 2006 The British Institute of Radiology
DOI: 10.1259/bjr/50464795

Short communication

Radiosurgical palliation of aggressive murine SCCVII squamous cell carcinomas using synchrotron-generated X-ray microbeams

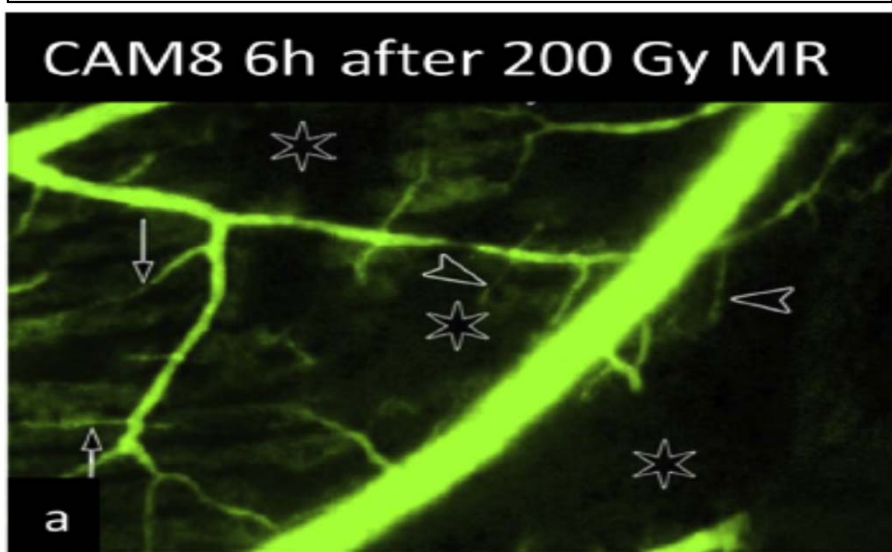
¹M MIURA, PhD, ²H BLATTMANN, PhD, ³E BRÄUER-KRISCH, BEng, ³A BRAVIN, PhD,
¹A L HANSON, PhD, ¹M M NAWROCKY, BA, ¹P L MICCA, BS, ^{1,4}D N SLATKIN, MD and
⁴J A LAISSUE, MD

- Medial survival time (MST) :
 - for BB ~ 20 days
 - for MRT ~ 41 days



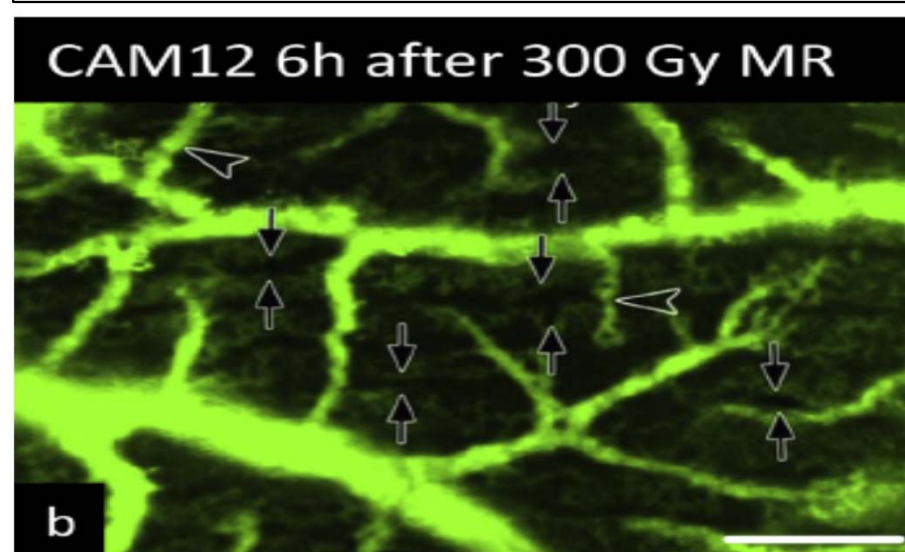
Tumor Vs Normal cell – Microbeam radiation

CAM8 – Cells representing **tumor vasculature**



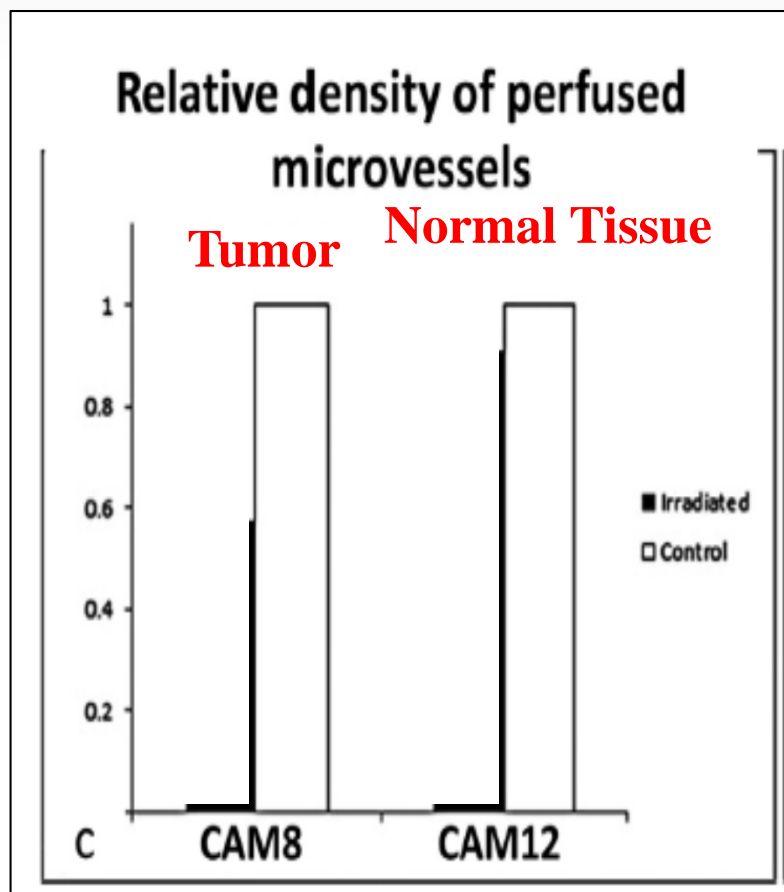
- Total destruction of capillaries
- Large areas were no longer perfused after 6 hrs (asterisks)
- Destroyed supplying vessels (arrows)

CAM12 – Cells representing **normal tissue vasculature**



- Negligible effects on vasculature
- Large density of preserved micro vessels
- Few small supplying vessels were mildly affected

Perfusion Rate – Tumor Vs Normal tissue after radiation



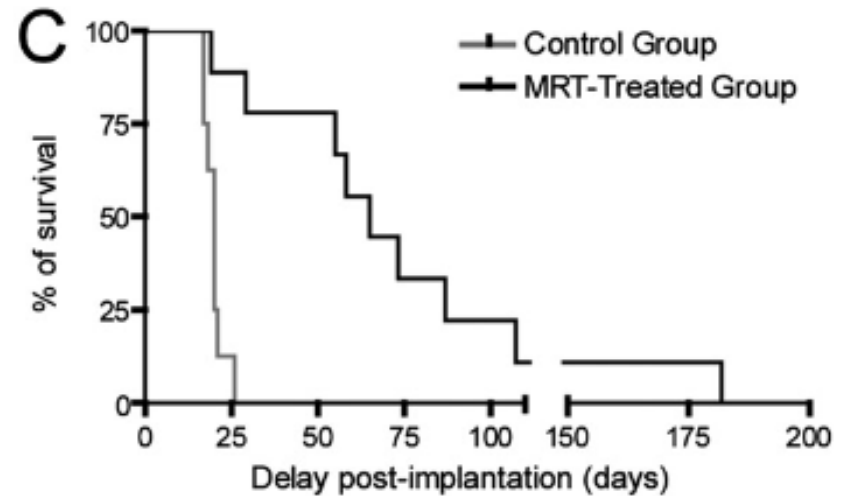
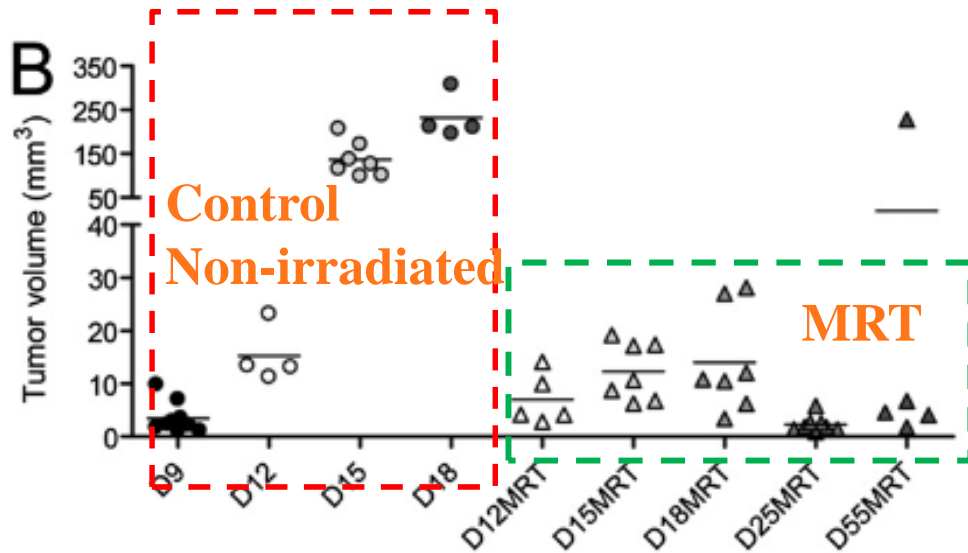
- Immature tumor vessels cannot repair damage induced by MRT
- Mature vessels in the normal tissue are able to repair themselves



BIOLOGY CONTRIBUTION

PREFERENTIAL EFFECT OF SYNCHROTRON MICROBEAM RADIATION THERAPY ON INTRACEREBRAL 9L GLIOSARCOMA VASCULAR NETWORKS

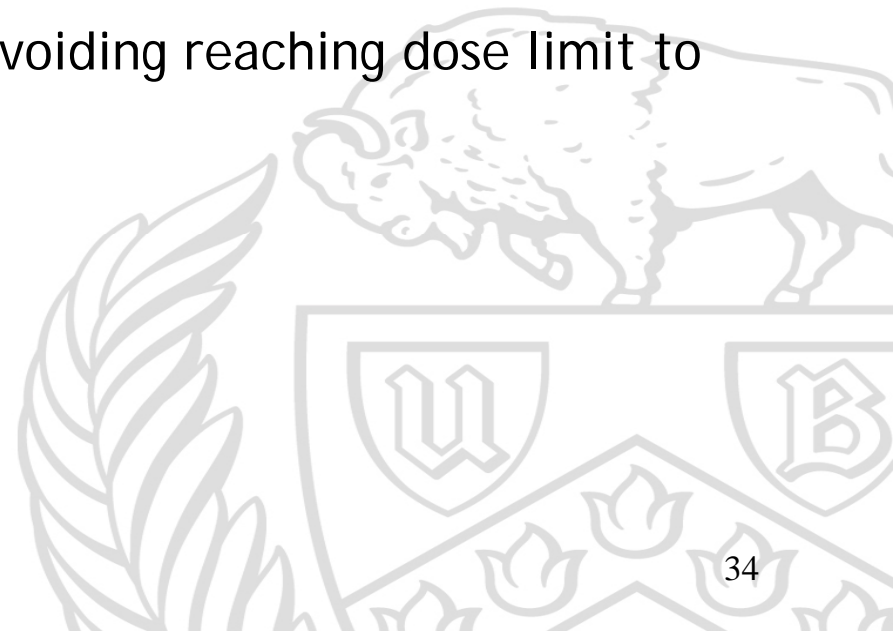
AUDREY BOUCHET, M.S.,* BENJAMIN LEMASSON, M.S.,^{†‡§} GÉRALDINE LE DUC, PH.D.,*
 CÉCILE MAISIN, M.S.,^{†‡} ELKE BRÄUER-KRISCH, M.S.,* ERIK ALBERT SIEGBAHN, PH.D.,[¶] LUC RENAUD,^{||**}
 ENAM KHALIL, PH.D.,^{††} CHANTAL RÉMY, PH.D.,^{†§} CATHY POILLOT, M.S.,^{†§} ALBERTO BRAVIN, PH.D.,*
 JEAN A. LAISSUE, M.D.,^{‡‡} EMMANUEL L. BARBIER, PH.D.,^{†§} AND RAPHAËL SERDUC, PH.D.*



MRT efficiently slows down the intracranial 9L gliosarcoma growth in rats

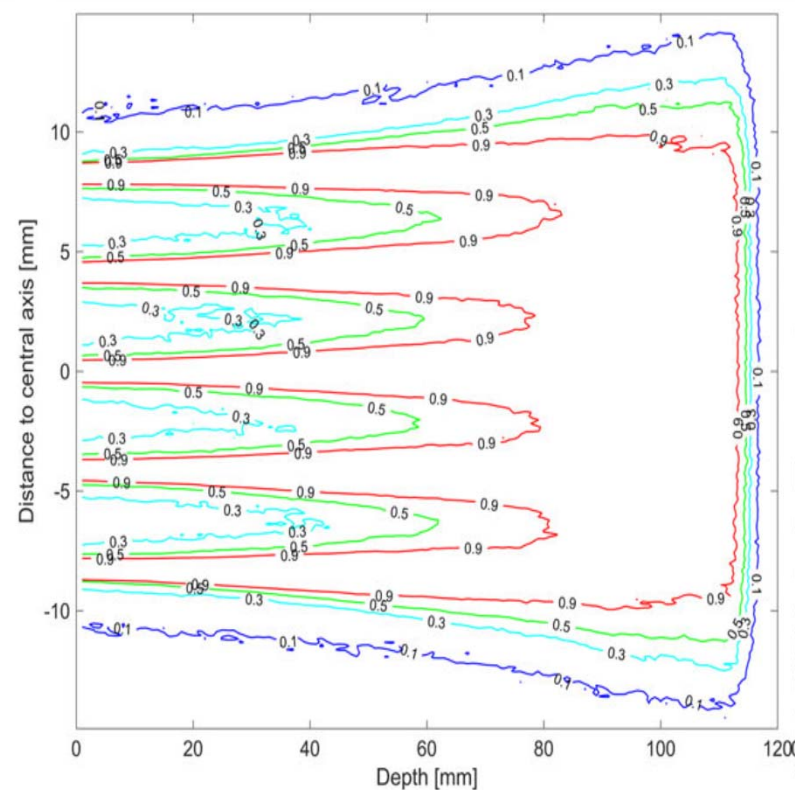
Requirement of MRT

- Very high dose rate ~ 100 Gy/s
 - Avoid dose smearing due to movement
- High peak to valley dose ratio
 - Maintain high dose to target while avoiding reaching dose limit to OAR



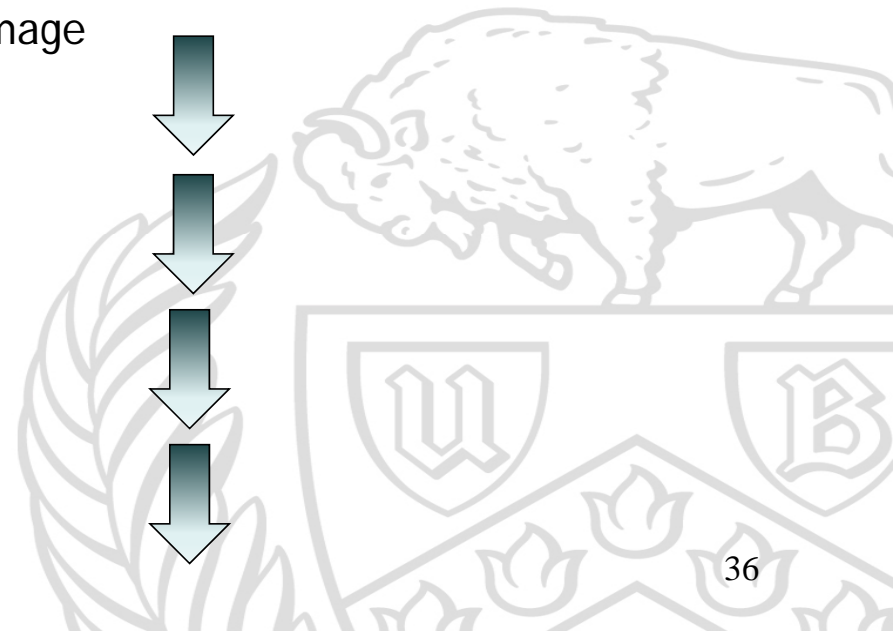
Proton minibeam radiation therapy (pMBRT)

- Reduced lateral scatter - more distinctive peak to valley doses.
- Sparing of proximal tissue (Bragg Peak)
- Can produce very high dose rates with protons.



Microbeam radiation preferentially affects tumor

- Sparing of normal tissue:
 - Resistance of MATURE normal blood vessels to microbeam irradiation
- Damage to tumor:
 - IMMATURE tumor vessels cannot repair damage
 - Decrease in number of vessels
 - Decrease in perfusion
 - Increase in tumor hypoxia
 - Death

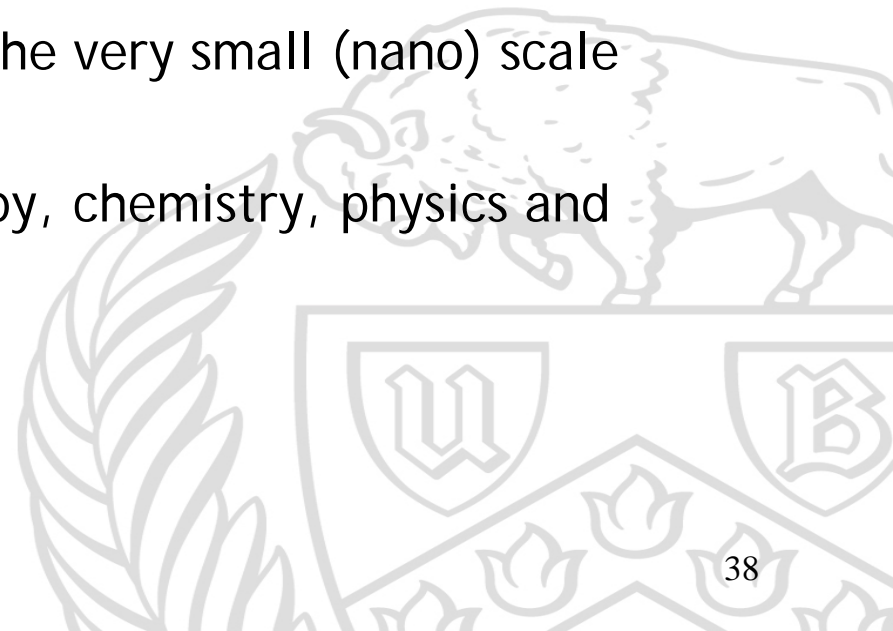


Nanorobot



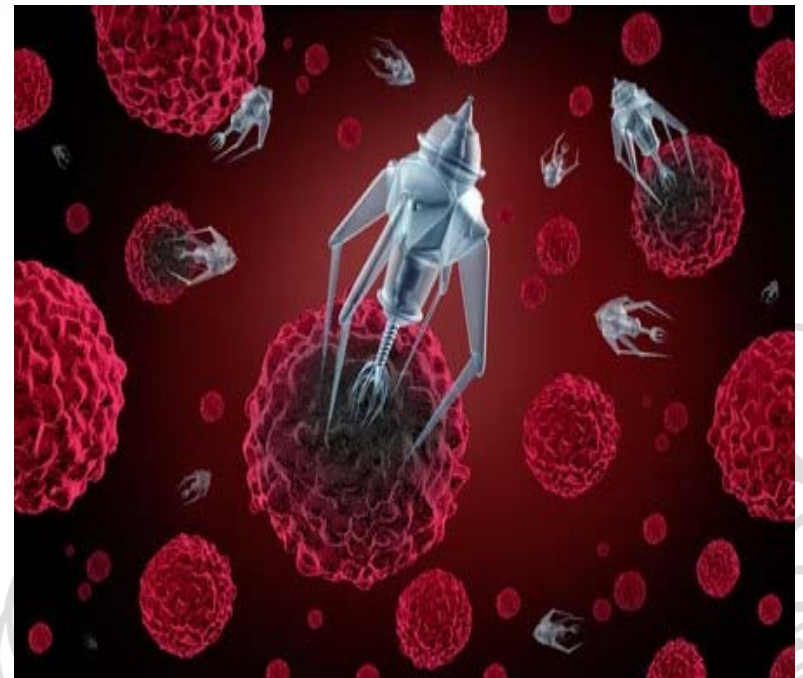
What is Nanotechnology?

- Nanometer is 10^{-9} meters (one billionth of a meter)
- The thickness of one human hair is 100,000 nanometers
- Nanotech is the design of technology on the very small (nano) scale
- Made possible with advances in microscopy, chemistry, physics and computer science



Nanotechnology and Cancer

- Currently cancer is treated by surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation therapy
- These treatments have side effects
- What if we specifically target cancer using nanotechnology (Nano robots)
- Nano robots have potential as intelligent drug delivery that respond only to tumor cells

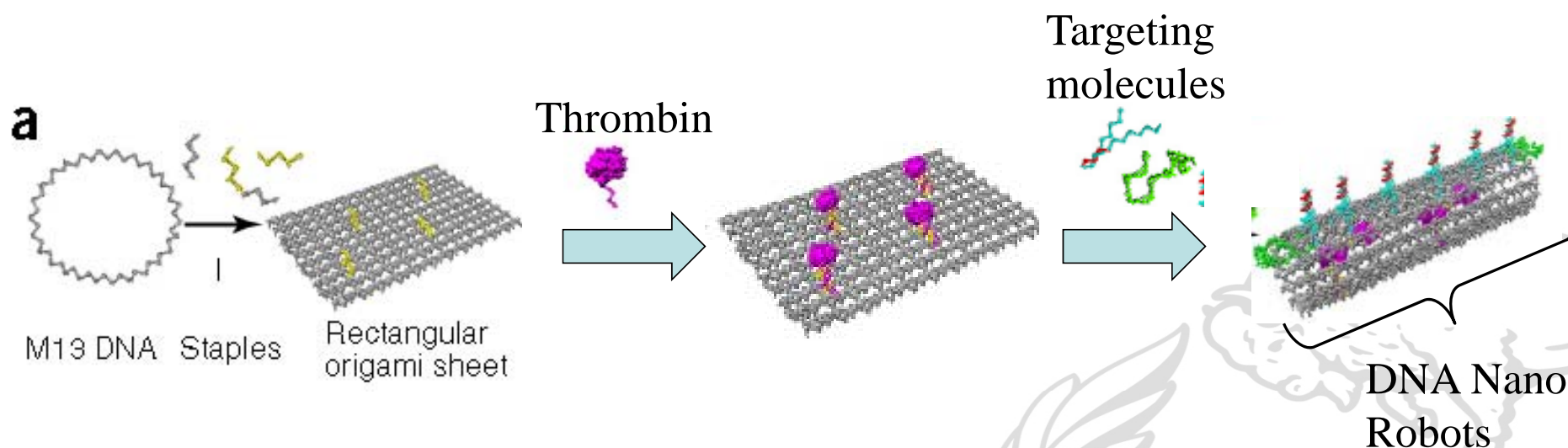


Nanobots

- Selective occlusion of tumor blood vessels, to deprive tumors of nutrients and oxygen and start an avalanche of tumor cell death
- This strategy can be used on all solid tumors
- Coagulation protease **thrombin** regulates obstructive thrombosis
- **Nanobots** - Little devices the size of red blood cells
- Nanobots protect the thrombin until exposure is triggered by interaction with tumor marker



Creation of DNA Nano robots



A DNA nanorobot functions as a cancer therapeutic in response to a molecular trigger *in vivo*

Suping Li^{1,2,10}, Qiao Jiang^{1,10}, Shaoli Liu^{1,2,10}, Yinlong Zhang^{1,3,10}, Yanhua Tian^{1,4}, Chen Song¹, Jing Wang¹, Yiguo Zou¹, Gregory J Anderson⁵, Jing-Yan Han⁶, Yung Chang⁷, Yan Liu⁷, Chen Zhang⁸, Liang Chen⁹, Guangbiao Zhou⁸, Guangjun Nie^{1,2}, Hao Yan⁷, Baoquan Ding^{1,2} & Yuliang Zhao^{1,2}

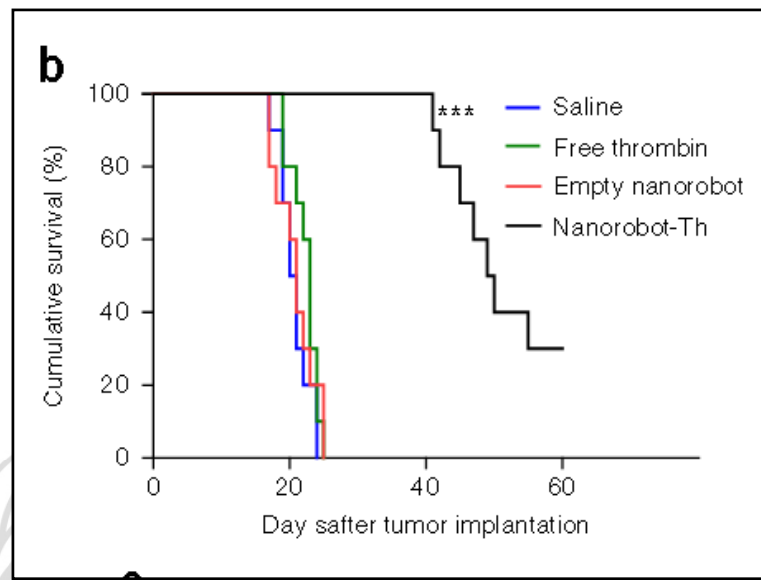
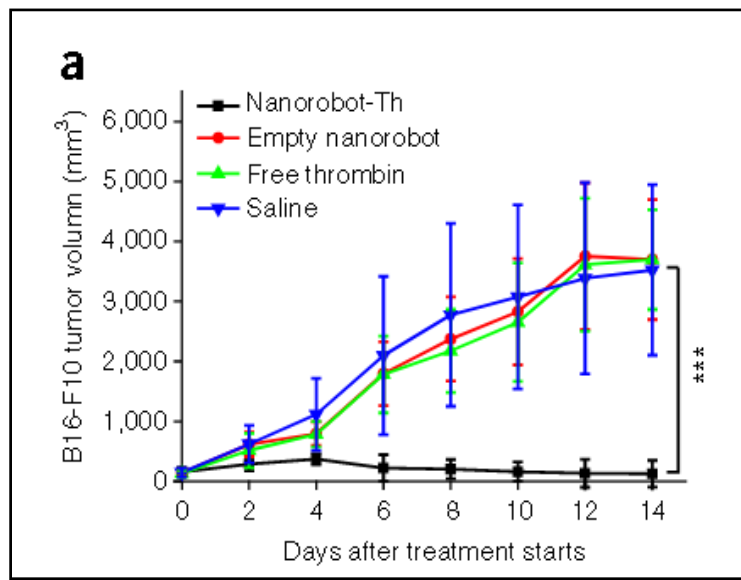
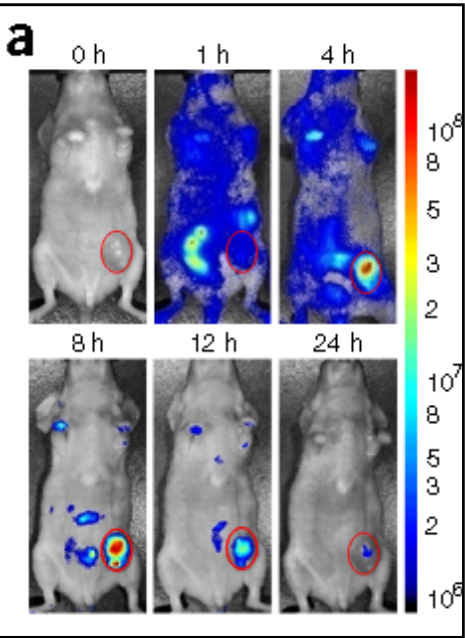
Cancer treatment with Nano Robots

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4ALjfzDSpl>



A DNA nanorobot functions as a cancer therapeutic in response to a molecular trigger *in vivo*

Suping Li^{1,2,10}, Qiao Jiang^{1,10}, Shaoli Liu^{1,2,10}, Yinlong Zhang^{1,3,10}, Yanhua Tian^{1,4}, Chen Song¹, Jing Wang¹, Yiguo Zou¹, Gregory J Anderson⁵, Jing-Yan Han⁶, Yung Chang⁷, Yan Liu⁷, Chen Zhang⁸, Liang Chen⁹, Guangbiao Zhou⁸, Guangjun Nie^{1,2}, Hao Yan⁷, Baoquan Ding^{1,2} & Yuliang Zhao^{1,2}



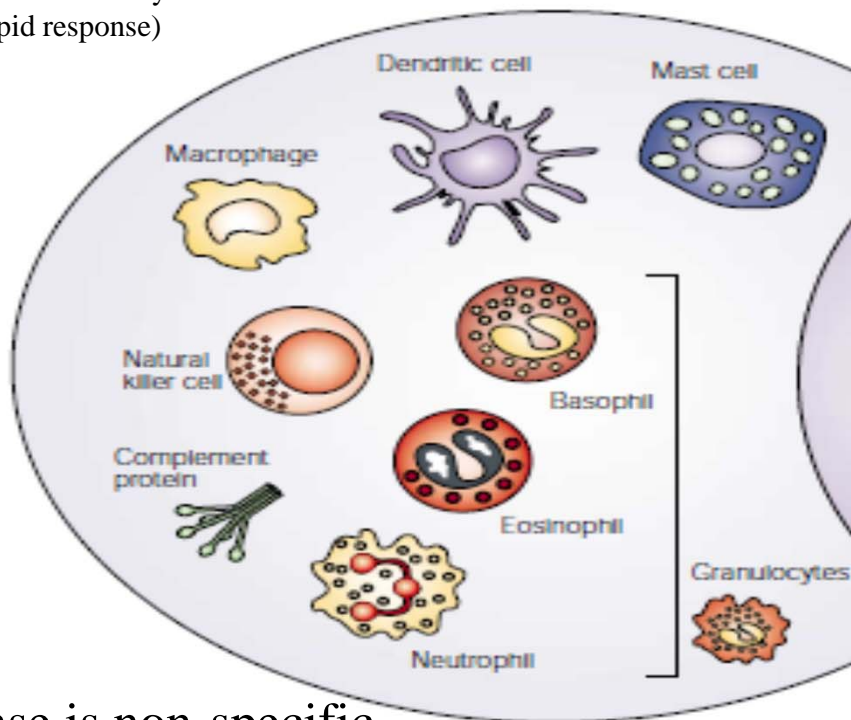
Mouse implanted with human breast tumor

Immuno-Radiotherapy

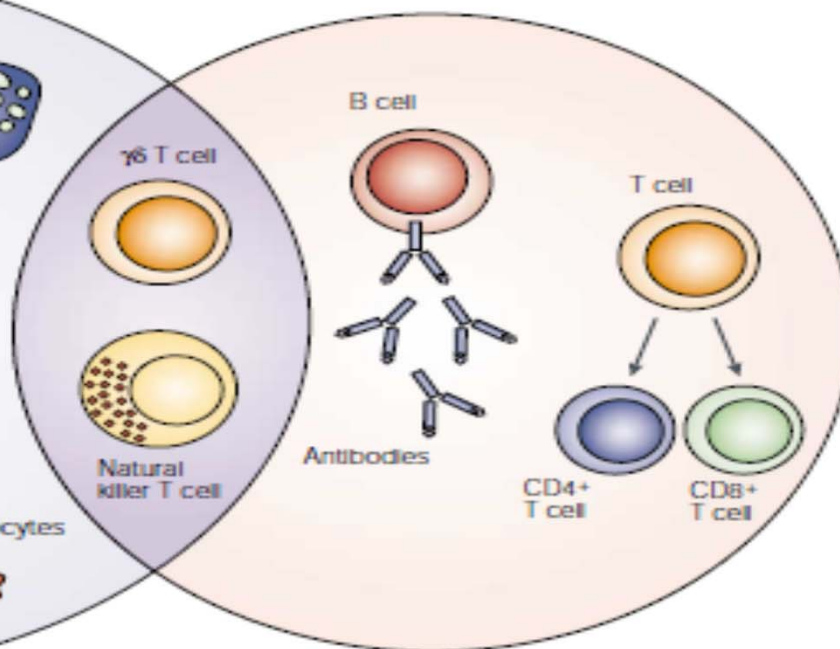


Immune Sub-Systems

Innate Immunity
(rapid response)



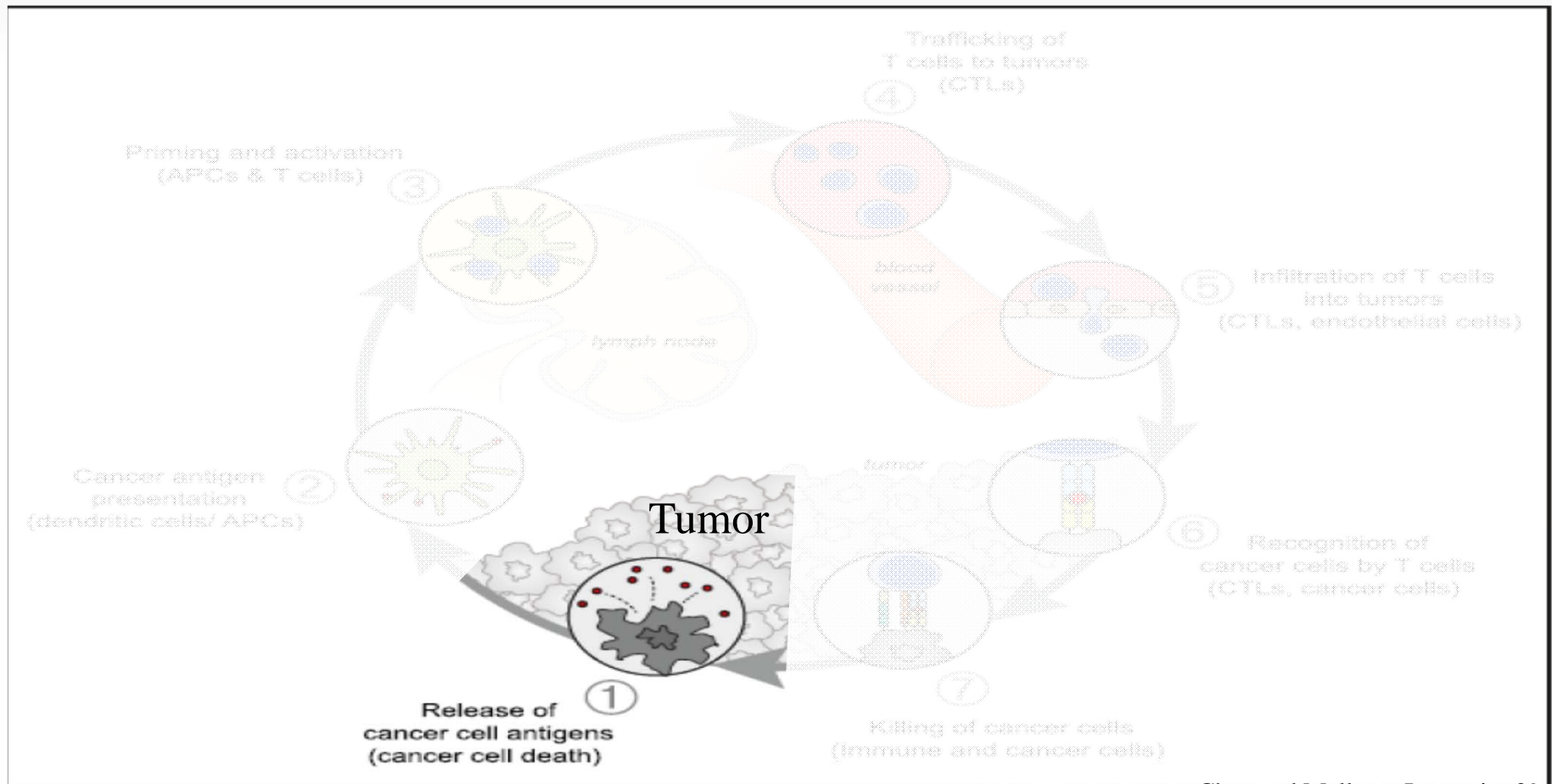
Adaptive Immunity
(slow response)



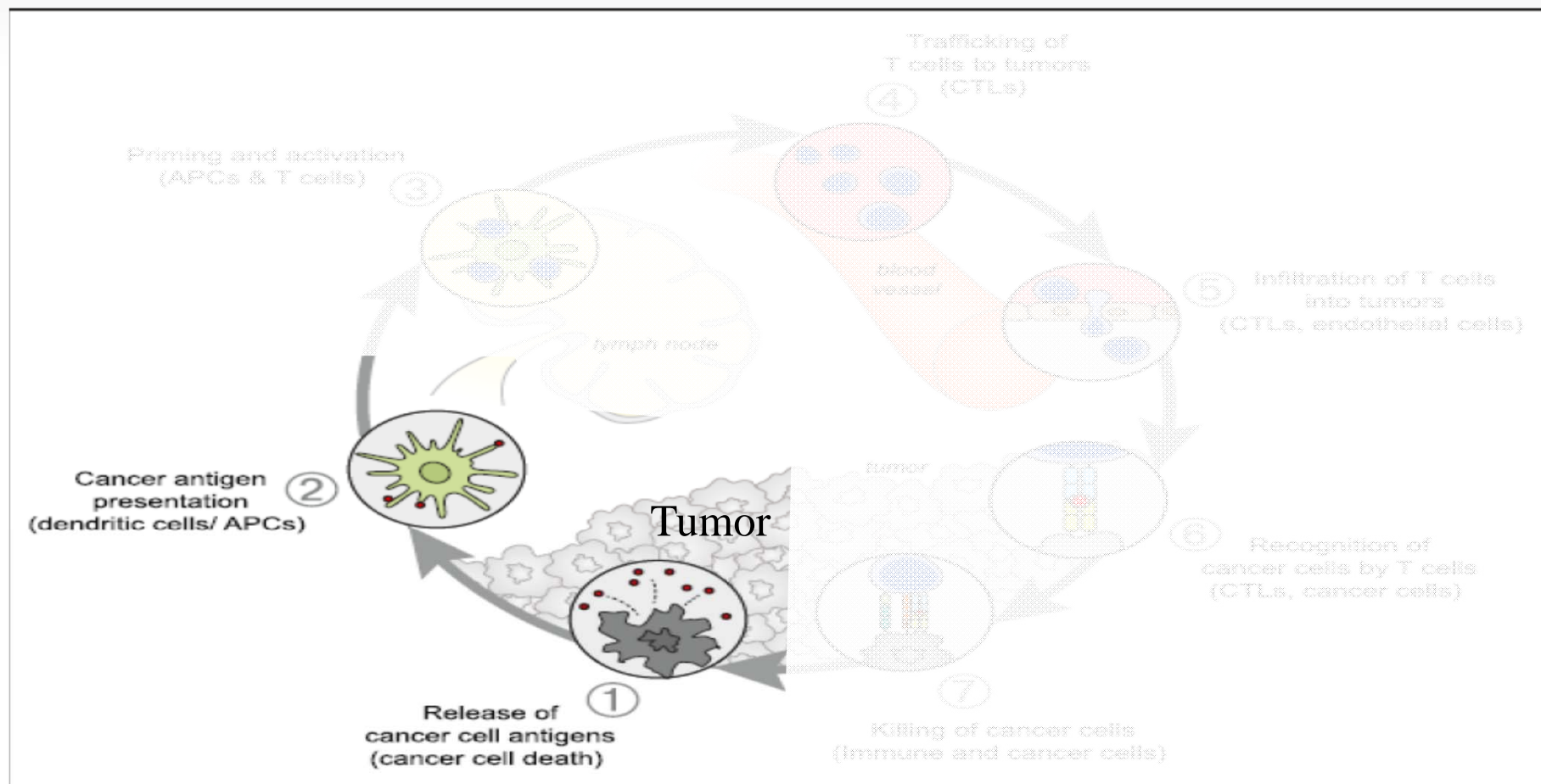
- Response is non-specific
- Exposure leads to immediate response
- No immunological memory

- Pathogen and antigen specific response
- Lag time between exposure and response
- Exposure leads to immunological memory

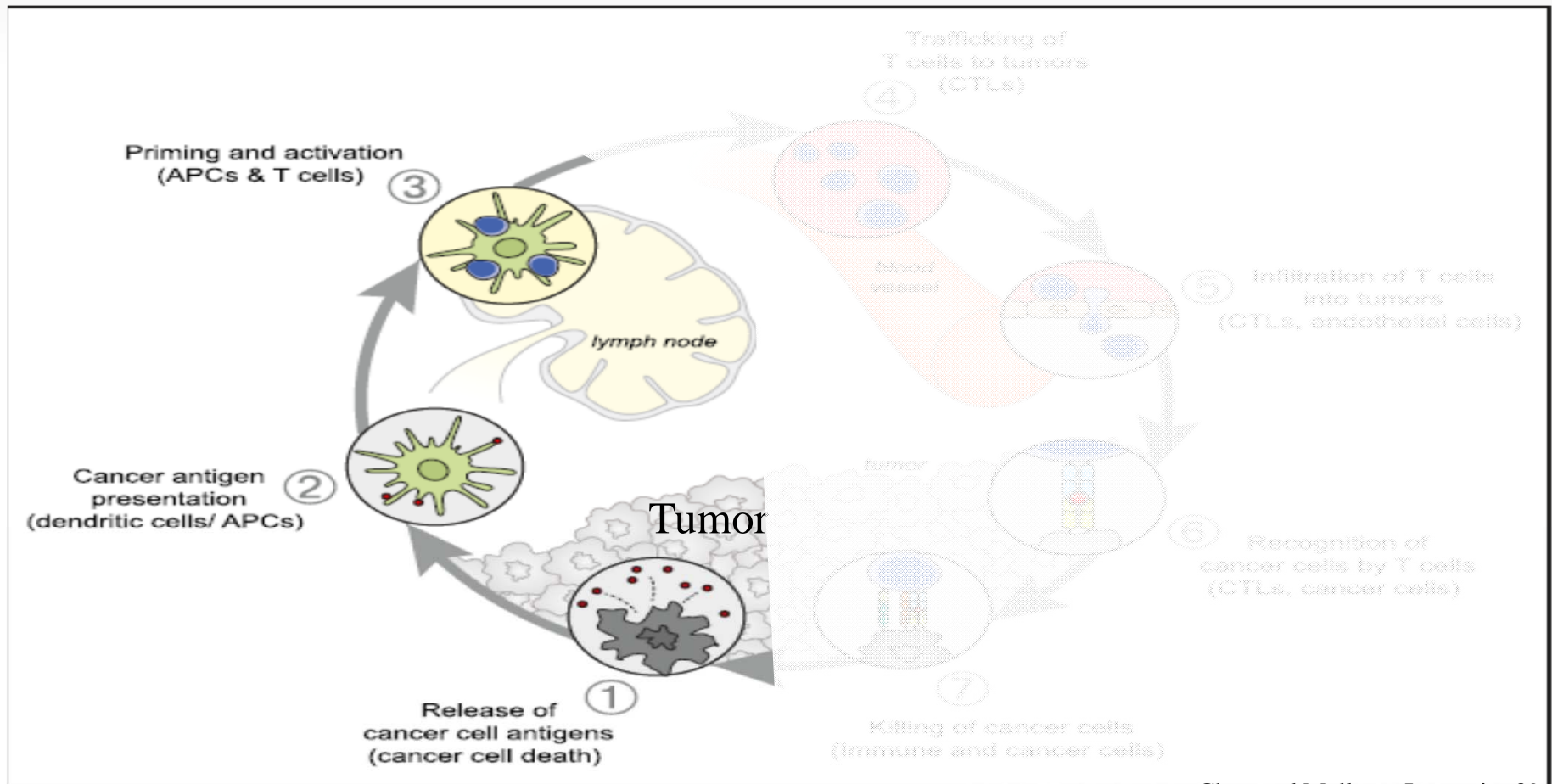
The Cancer detection by Immune system



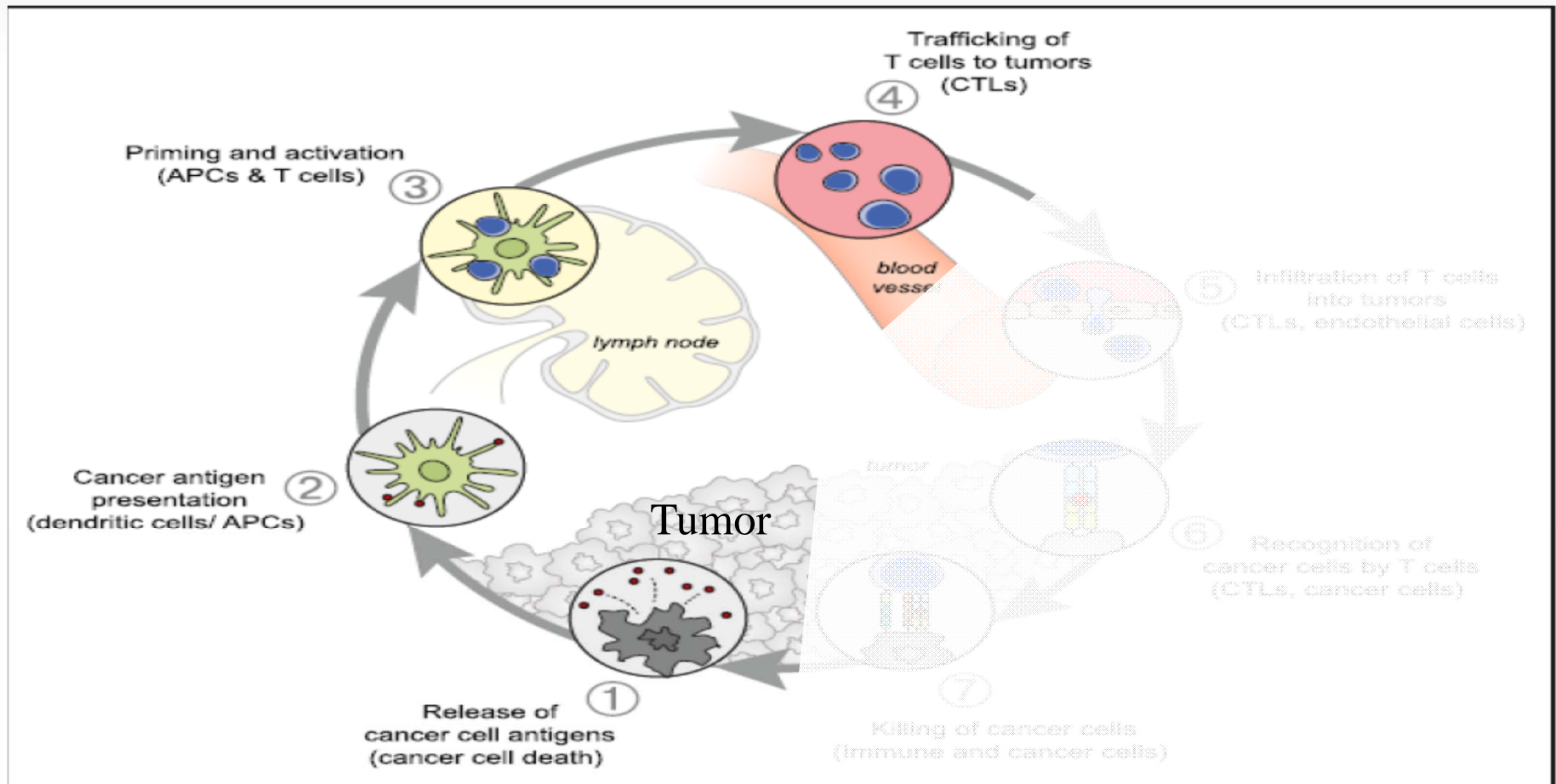
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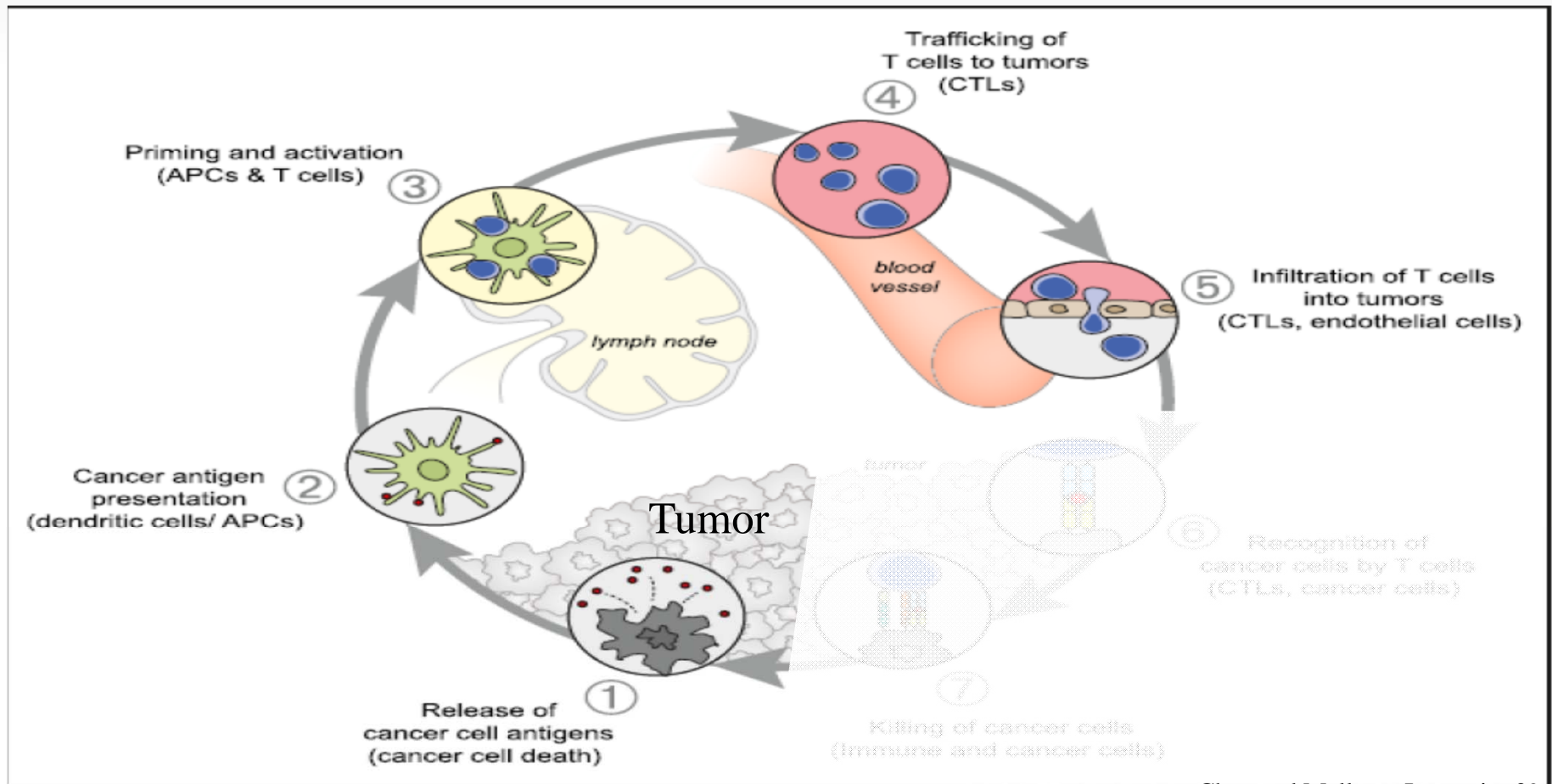
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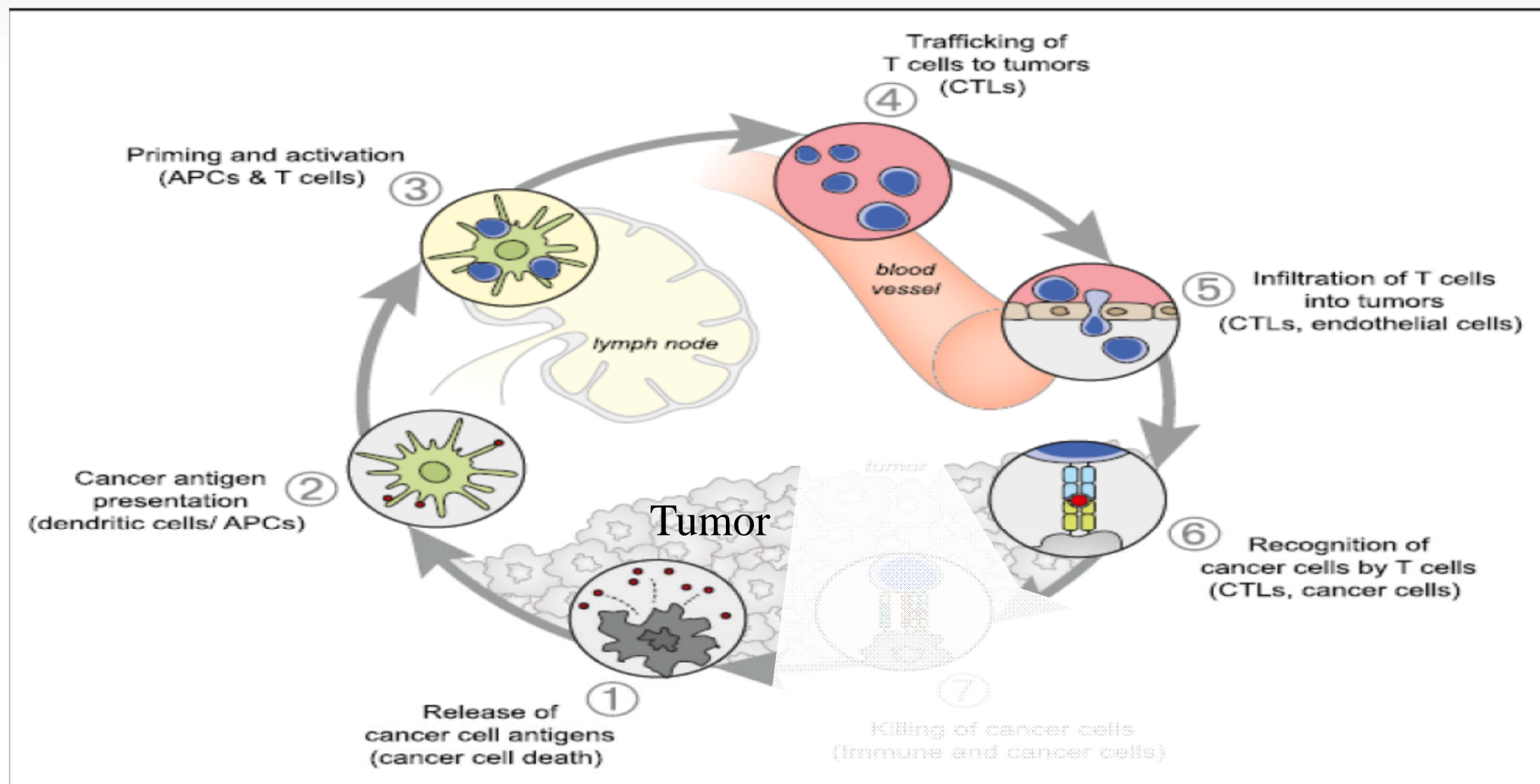
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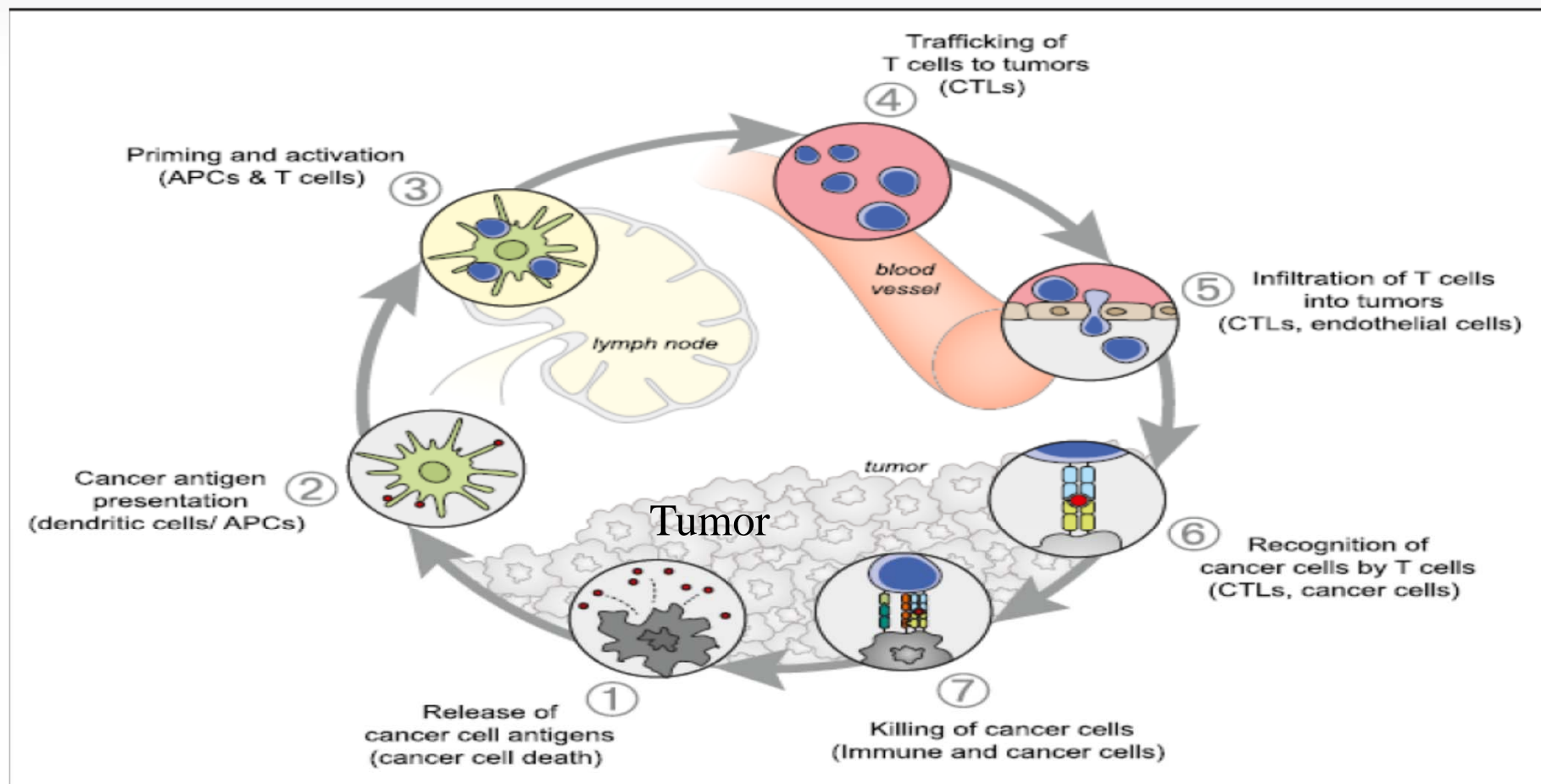
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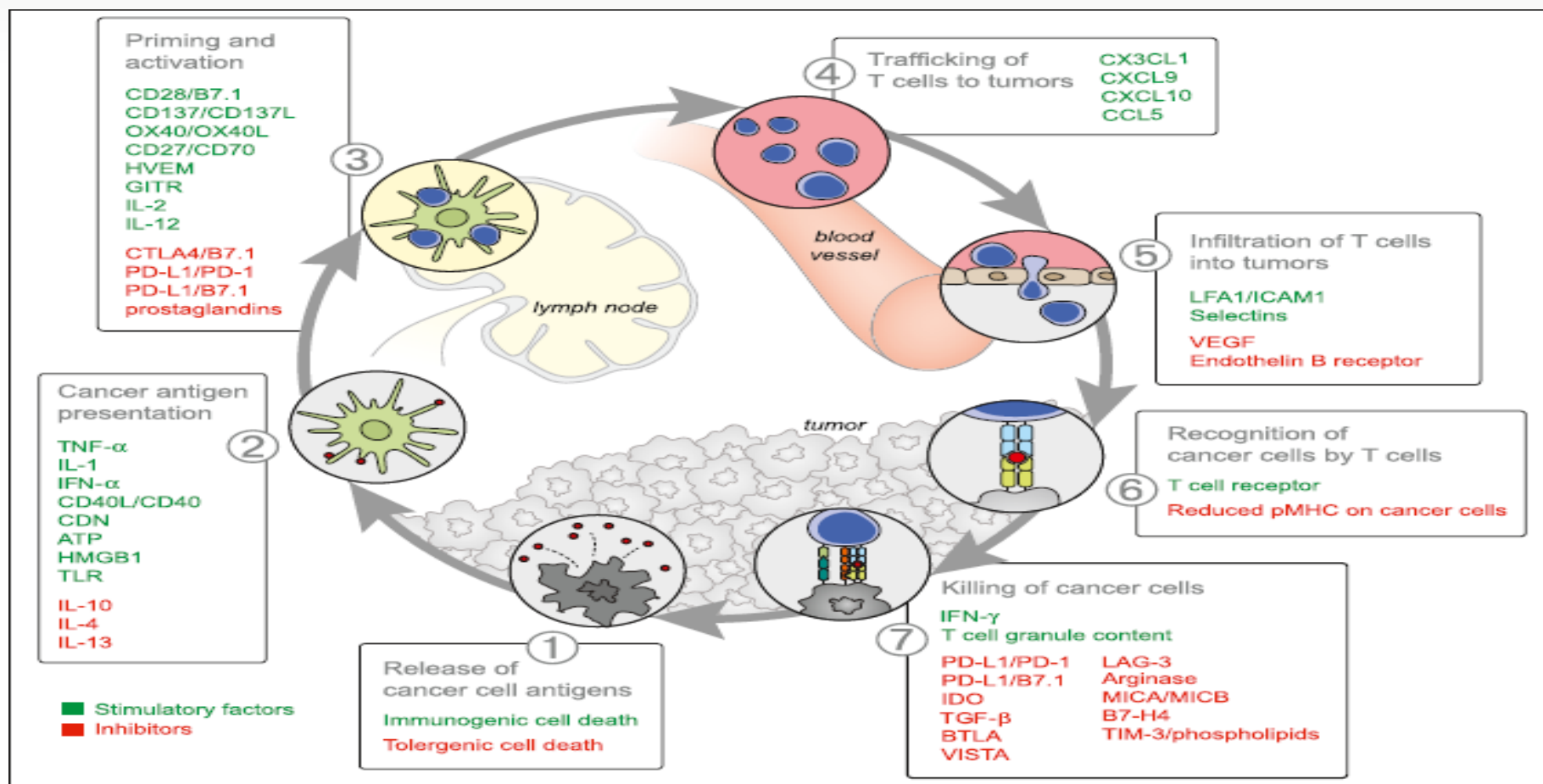
The Cancer detection by Immune system



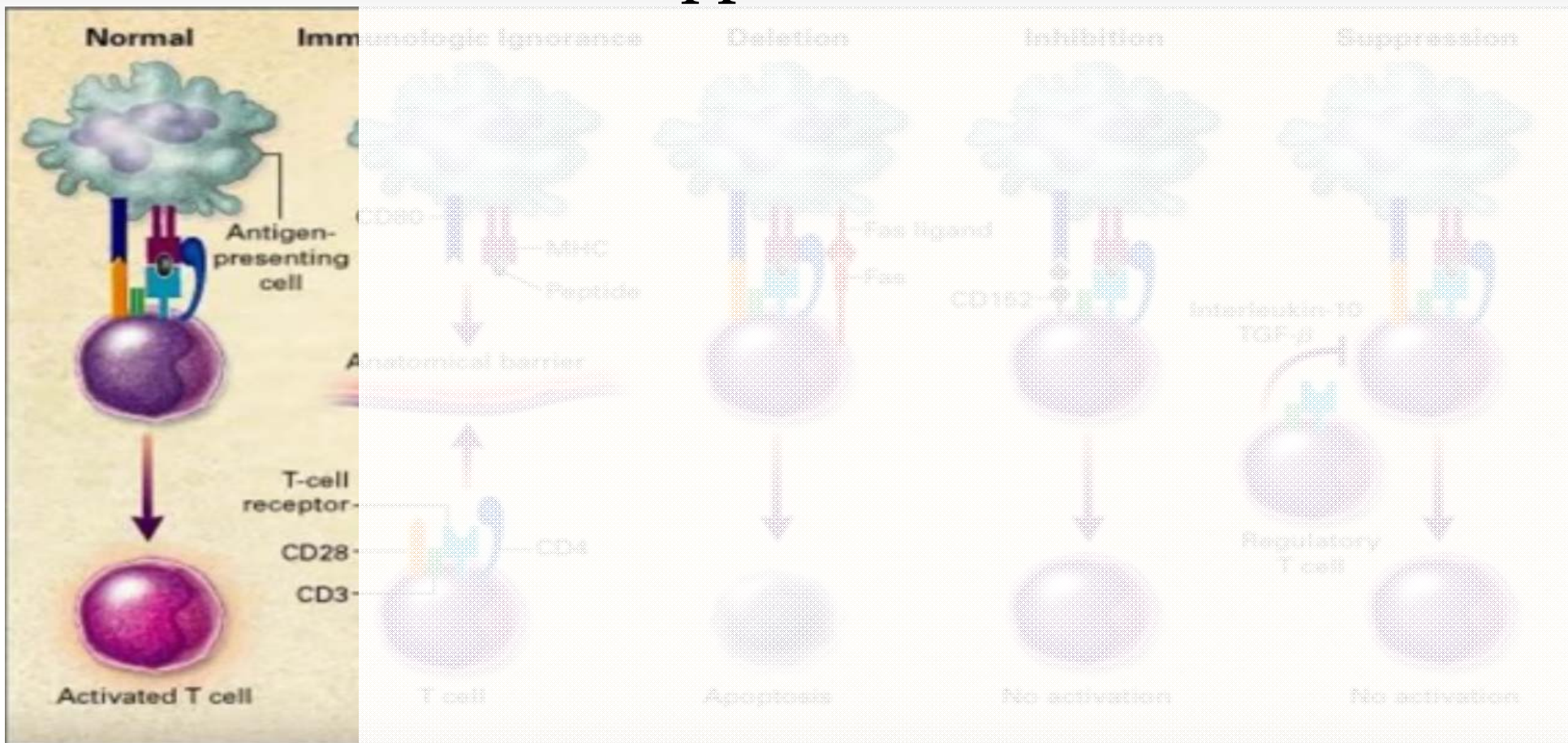
The Cancer detection by Immune system



The Cancer Immunity Cycle

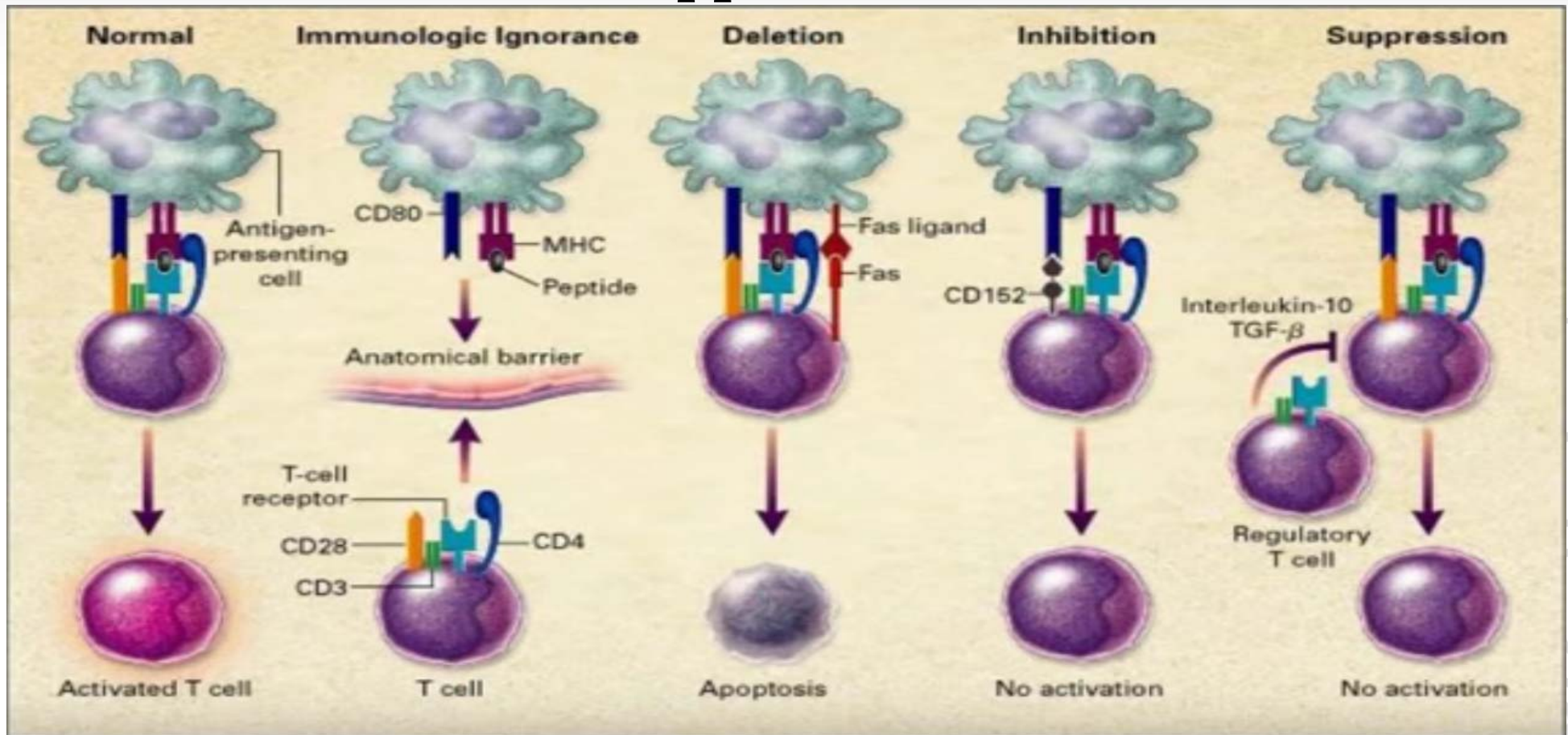


Cancer - Immunosuppression



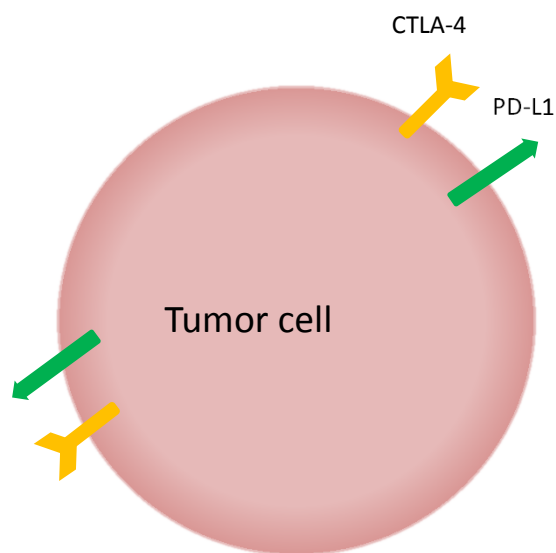
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3hlGq-3F1uQ>

Cancer - Immunosuppression



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Radiation and Immunotherapy

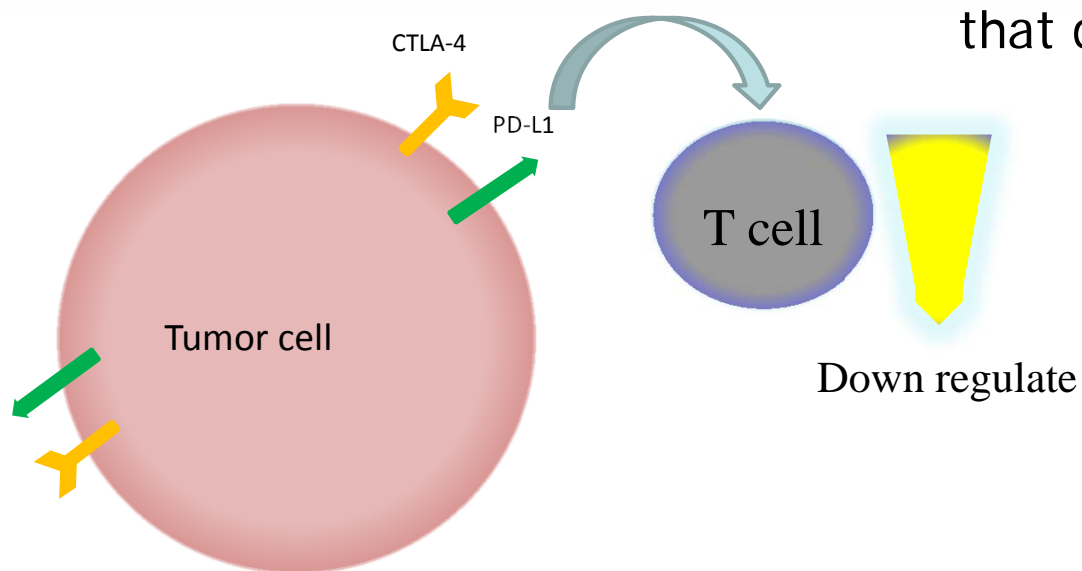


- To kill tumor cells by the immune system
 1. Induce tumor cells to release tumor specific antigens.
 2. Suppress inhibitory molecules/receptors.

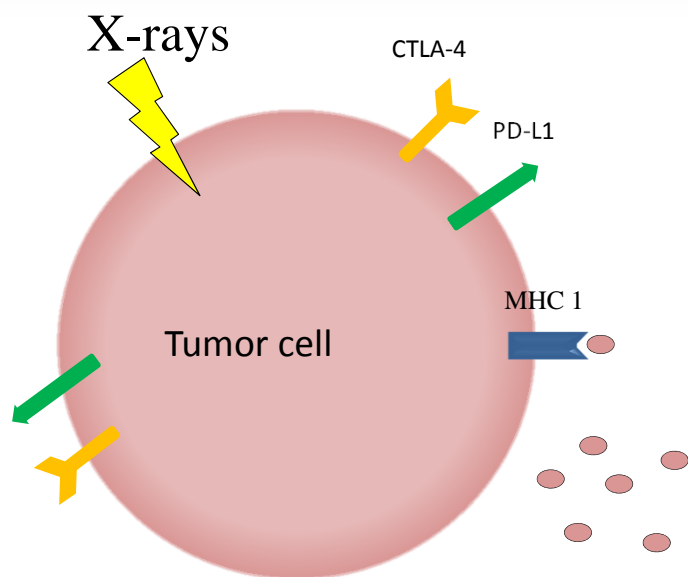


Radiation and Immunotherapy

- CTLA-4 and PD-L1 are inhibitory receptors that down regulate T cell function.



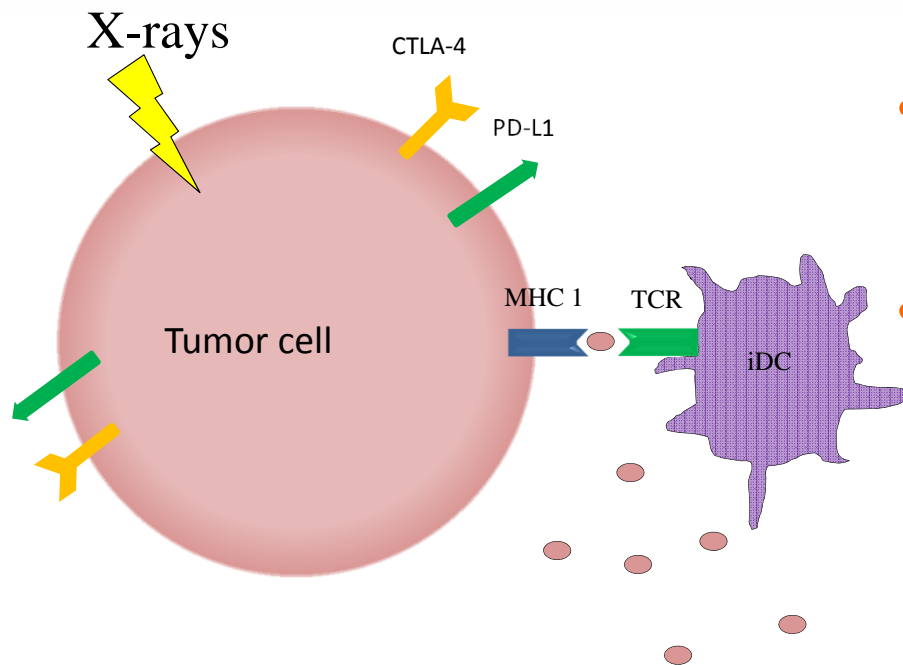
Radiation and Immunotherapy



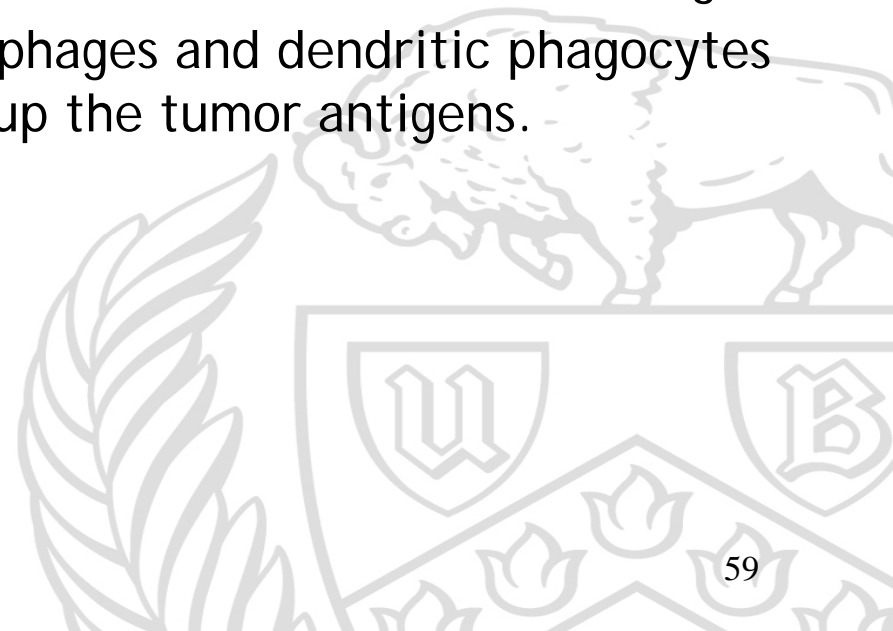
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- Radiation increases the expression of death receptors called MHC 1 and promotes the release of tumor antigens.



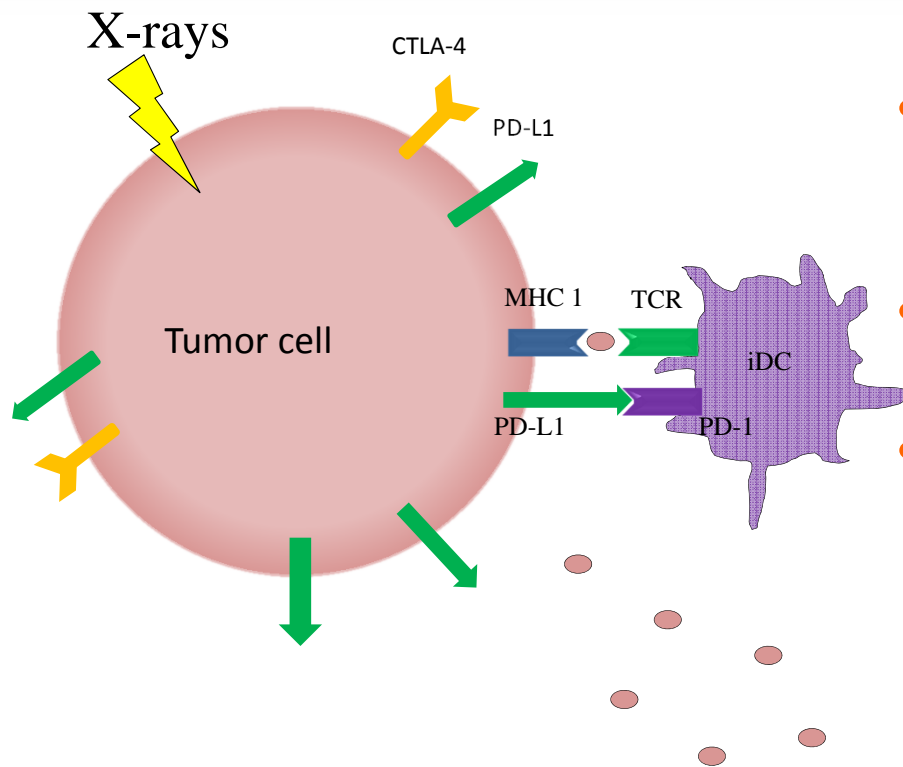
Radiation and Immunotherapy



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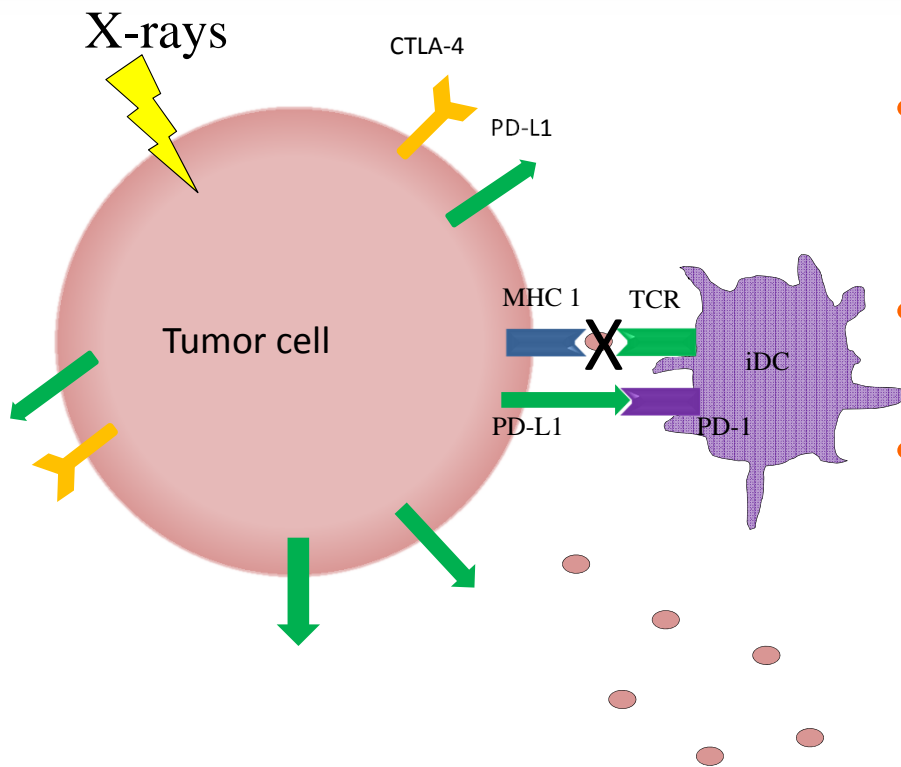


Radiation and Immunotherapy



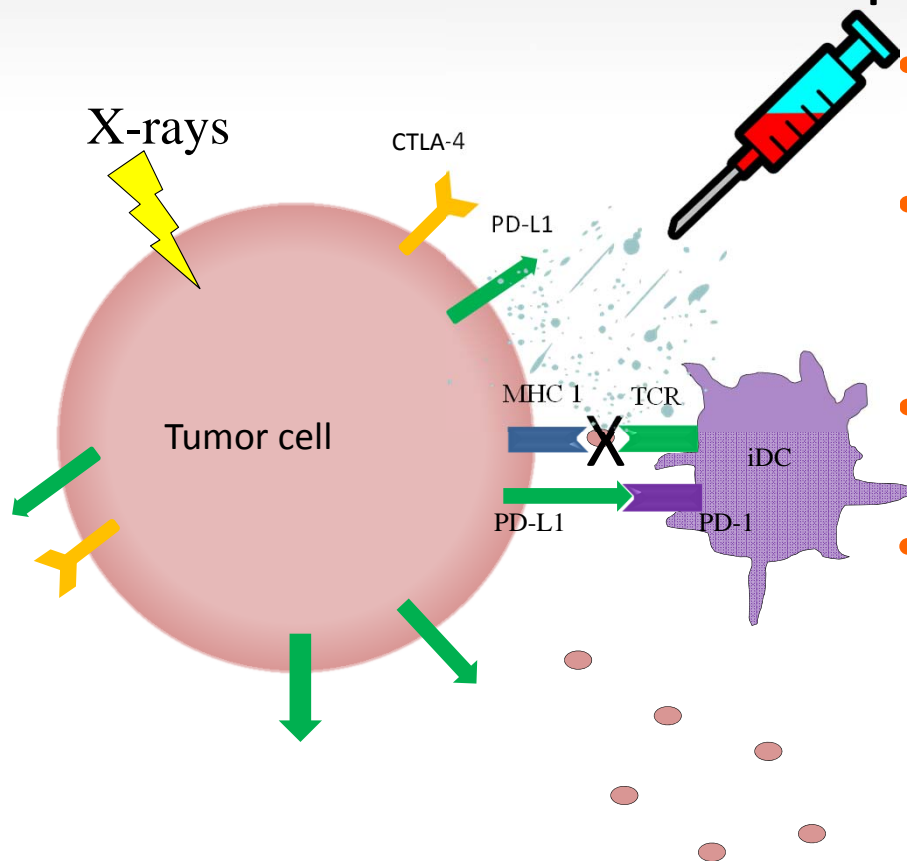
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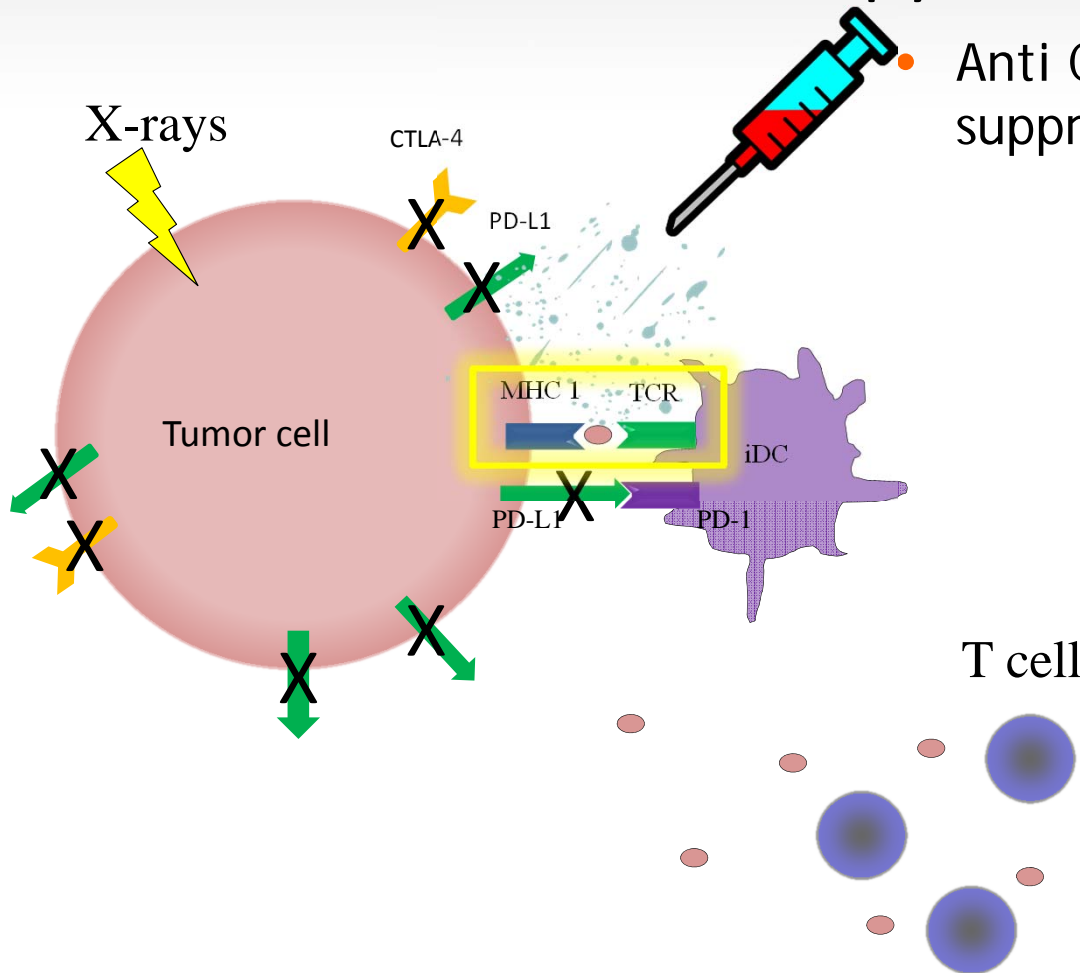
Radiation and Immunotherapy



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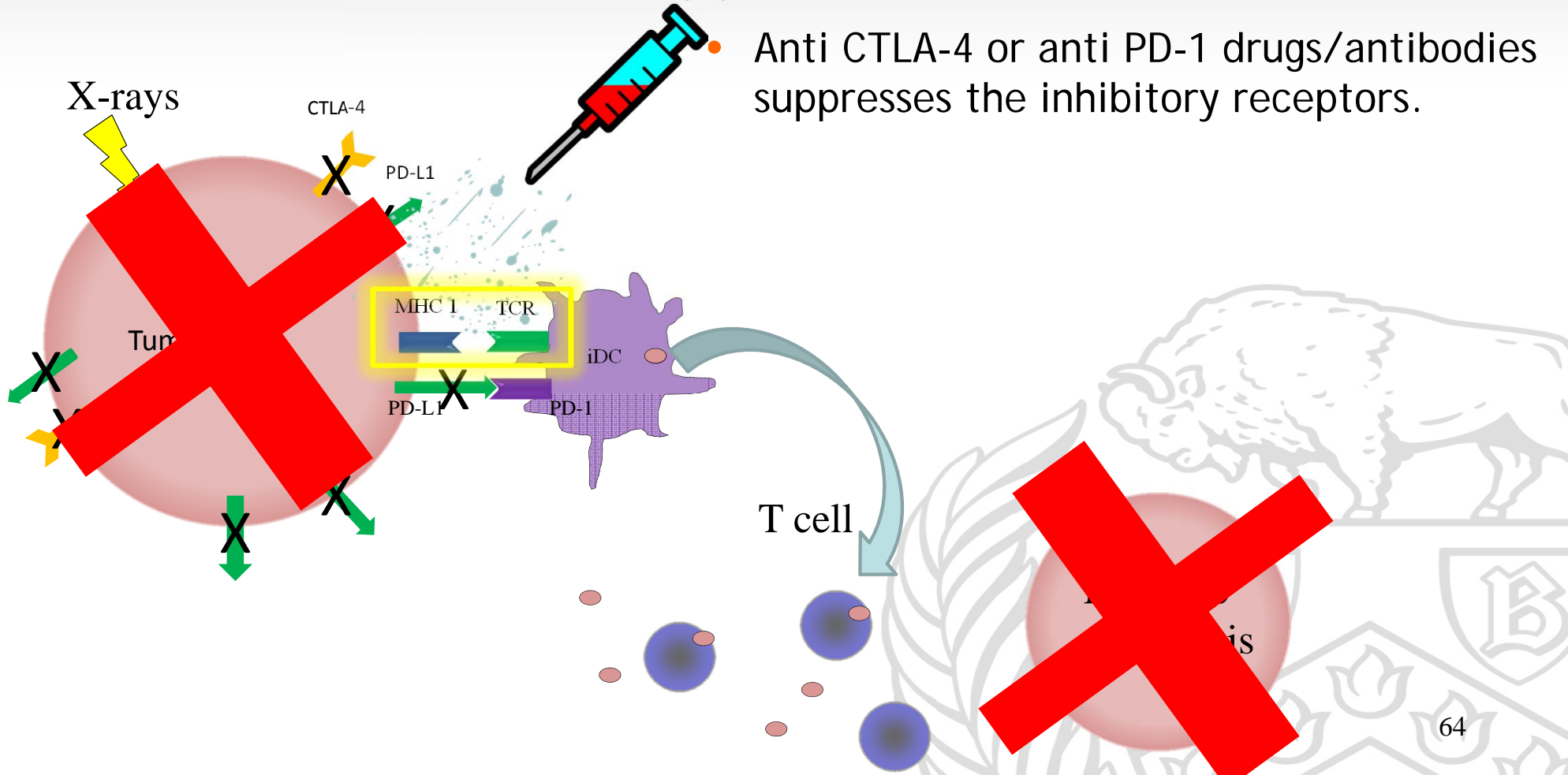
Radiation and Immunotherapy

Anti CTLA-4 or anti PD-1 drugs/antibodies suppresses the inhibitory receptors.



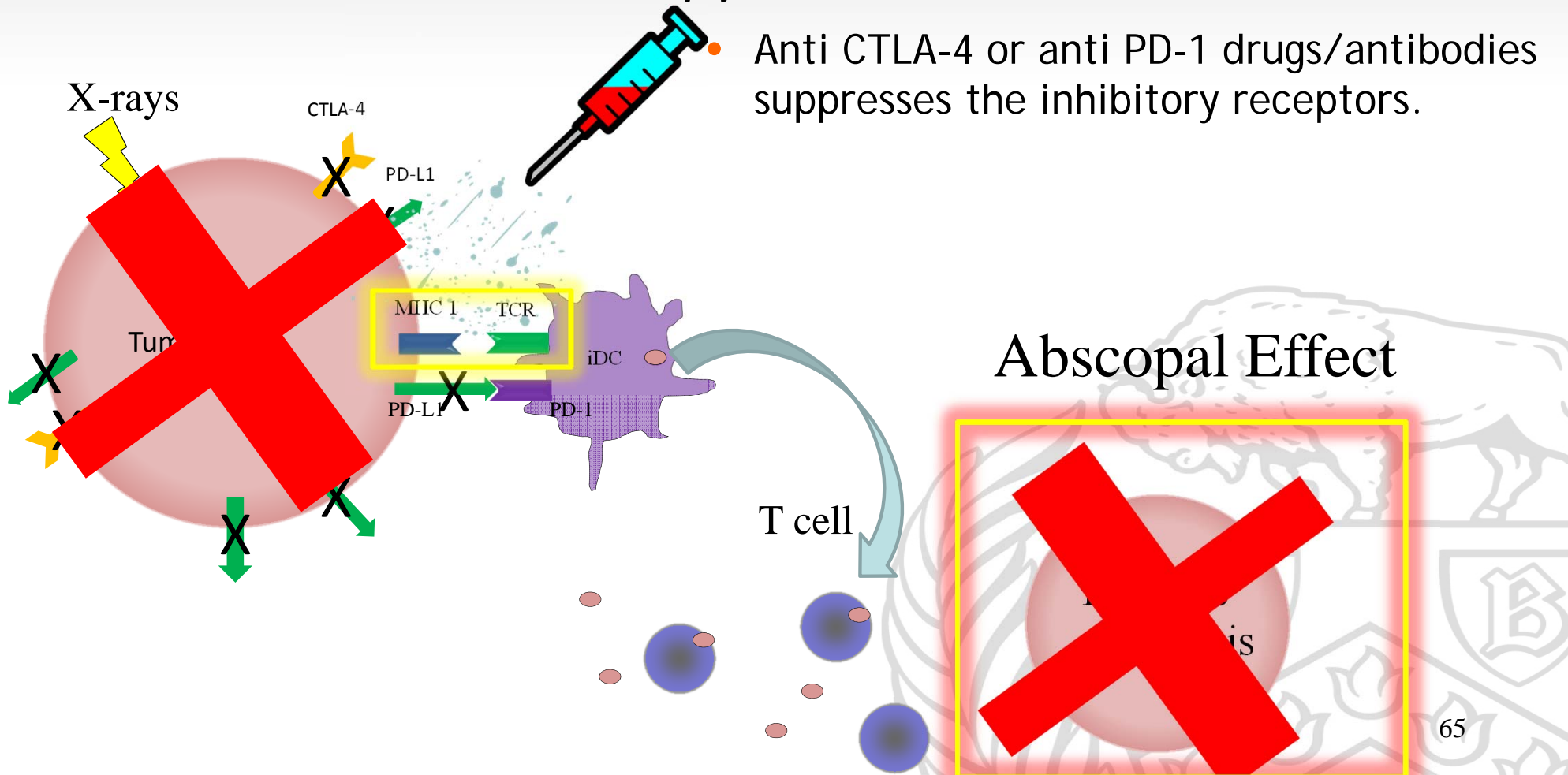
Radiation and Immunotherapy

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Radiation and Immunotherapy

Anti CTLA-4 or anti PD-1 drugs/antibodies suppresses the inhibitory receptors.



Abscopal Effect

- Is a phenomenon in the treatment of metastatic cancer where localized radiation treatment of a tumor causes not only a shrinking of the treated tumor, but also a shrinking of tumors outside the scope of the localized treatment.
- Combination of RT and immunotherapy are resulted in successful treatment of:
 - ❑ Metastatic breast cancer
 - ❑ Colorectal cancer
 - ❑ Lung cancer
 - ❑ Melanoma



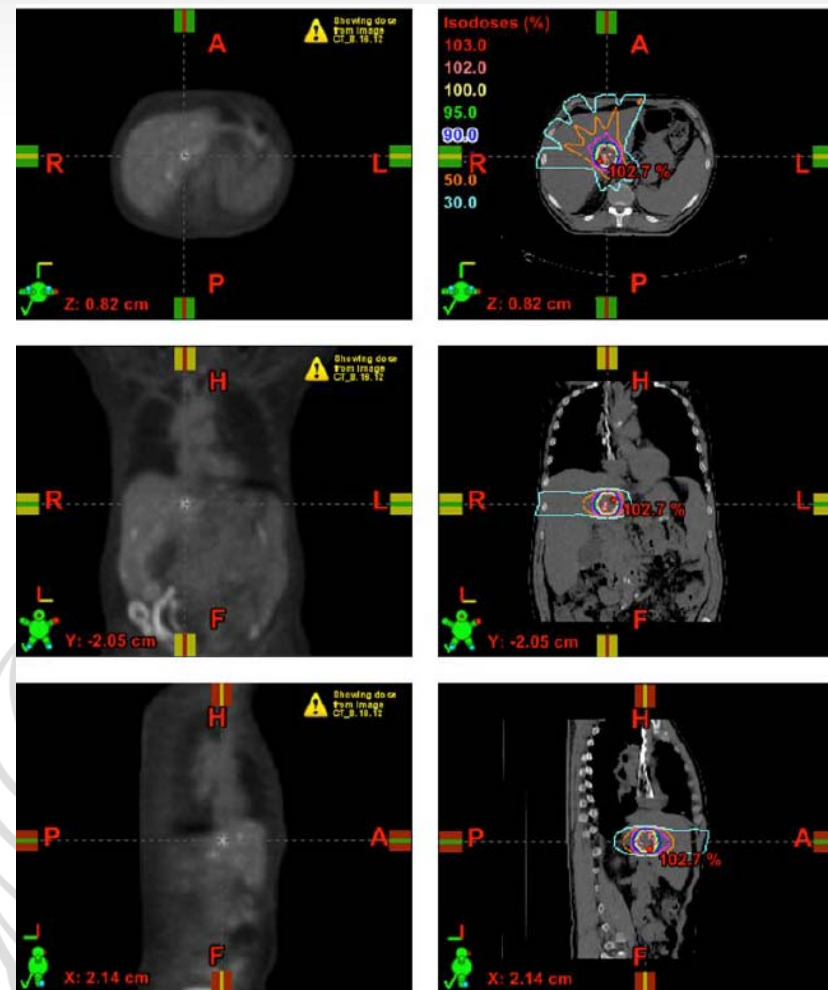
Patient with Metastatic NSCLC

Progression after 3 lines of chemo: Multiple lung, bone and liver metastasis

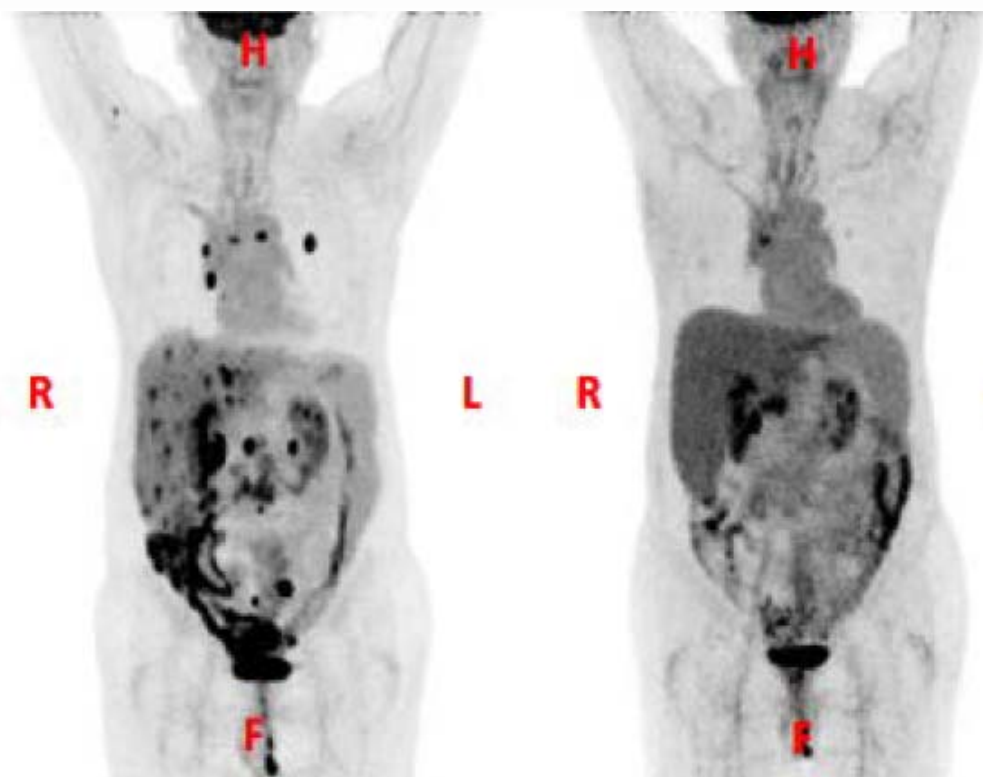
RT to one liver met 6 Gy x 5 (TD 30 Gy) + Ipilimumab



Slide courtesy of Silvia C Formenti

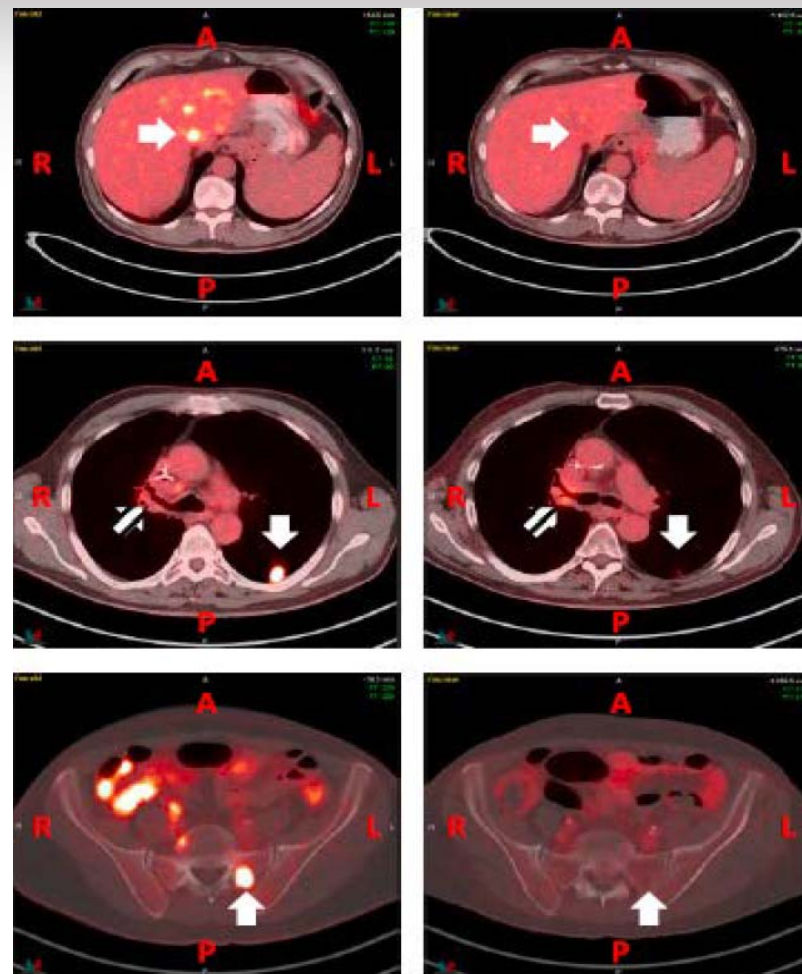


Metastatic NSCLC: Response to RT
+ ipilimumab



August 2012

January 2013



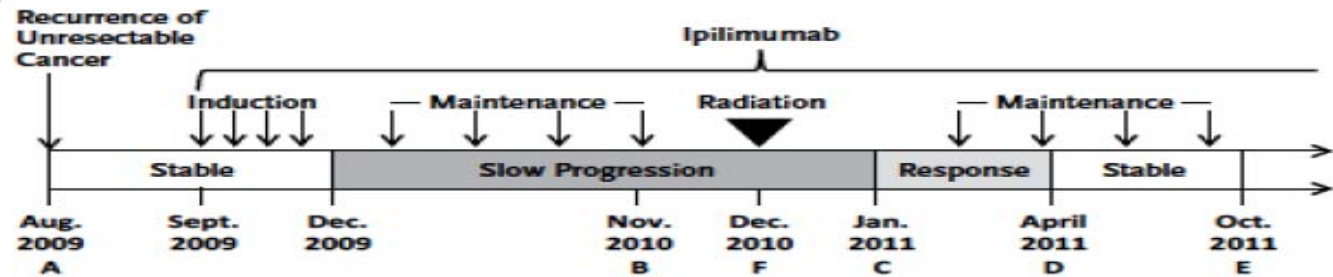
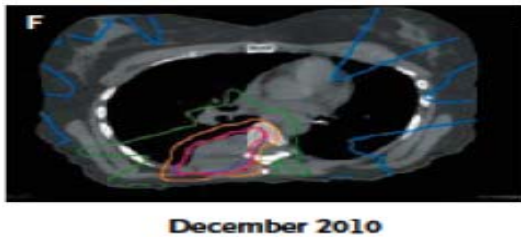
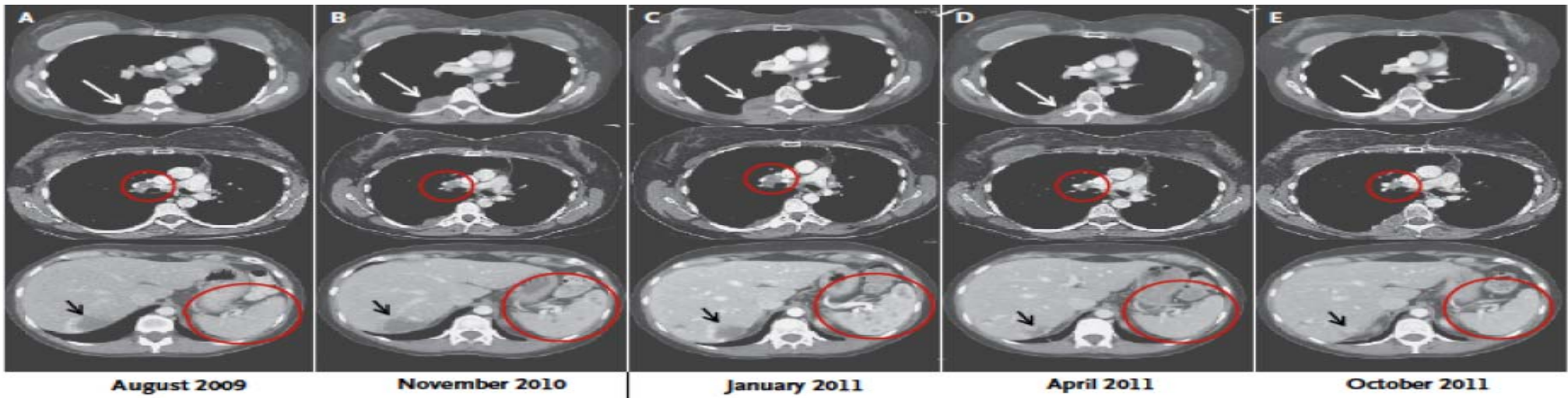
August 2012

January 2013

THE NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF MEDICINE

BRIEF REPORT

Immunologic Correlates of the Abscopal Effect in a Patient with Melanoma



Irradiation and anti-PD-L1 treatment synergistically promote antitumor immunity in mice

JCI, 2014

Liufu Deng,¹ Hua Liang,¹ Byron Burnette,¹ Michael Beckett,¹
Thomas Darga,¹ Ralph R. Weichselbaum,¹ and Yang-Xin Fu²

¹Department of Radiation and Cellular Oncology, The Ludwig Center for Metastasis Research, and
²Department of Pathology, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, USA.

[Am J Clin Oncol](#). 2015 Feb;38(1):90-7. doi:
10.1097/COC.0b013e3182868ec8.

**Immune-priming of the Tumor Microenvironment by Radiotherapy:
Rationale for Combination With Immunotherapy to Improve
Anticancer Efficacy.**

[Shahabi V¹](#), [Postow MA](#), [Tuck D](#), [Wolchok JD](#).

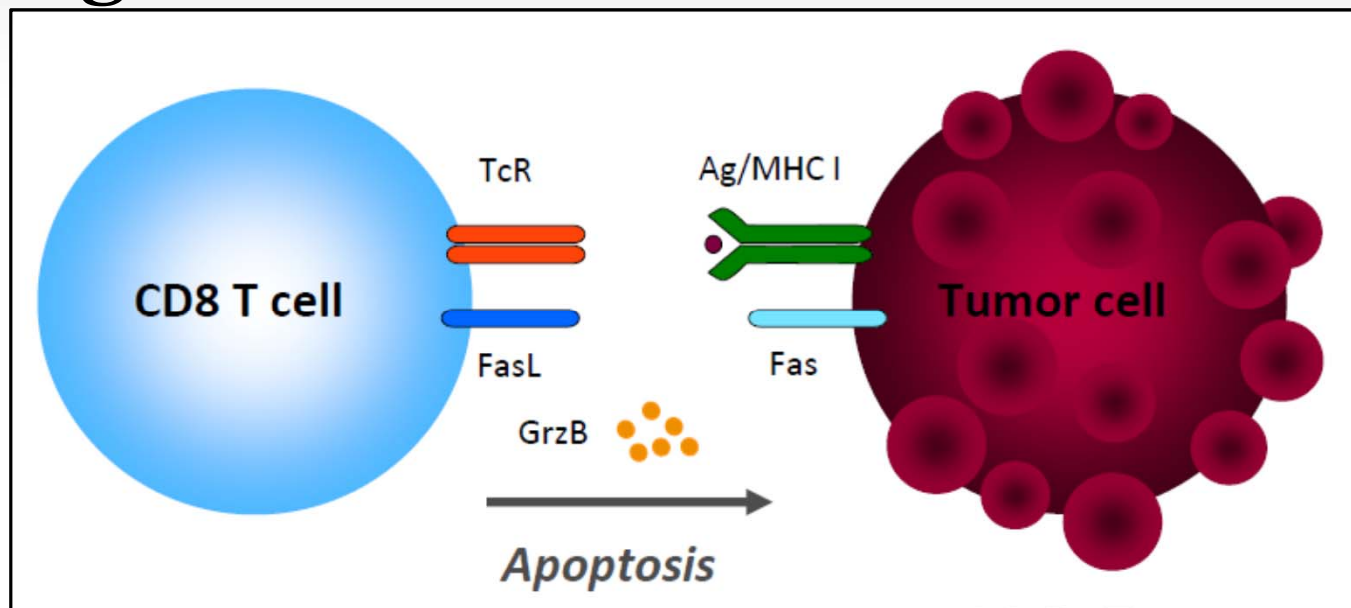
International Journal of
Radiation Oncology
biology • physics

**Anti-PD-1 Blockade and Stereotactic Radiation Produce
Long-Term Survival in Mice With Intracranial Gliomas**

Zeng et al, 2013

www.redjournal.org

Advantages of RT Based Cancer Immunotherapy



1. Exquisite specificity for target; limit collateral damage.
2. Target non-resectable tumors.
3. T cells can target tumors at sites throughout the body.
4. Long-lasting protection.

Slide courtesy of Elizabeth Rapasky

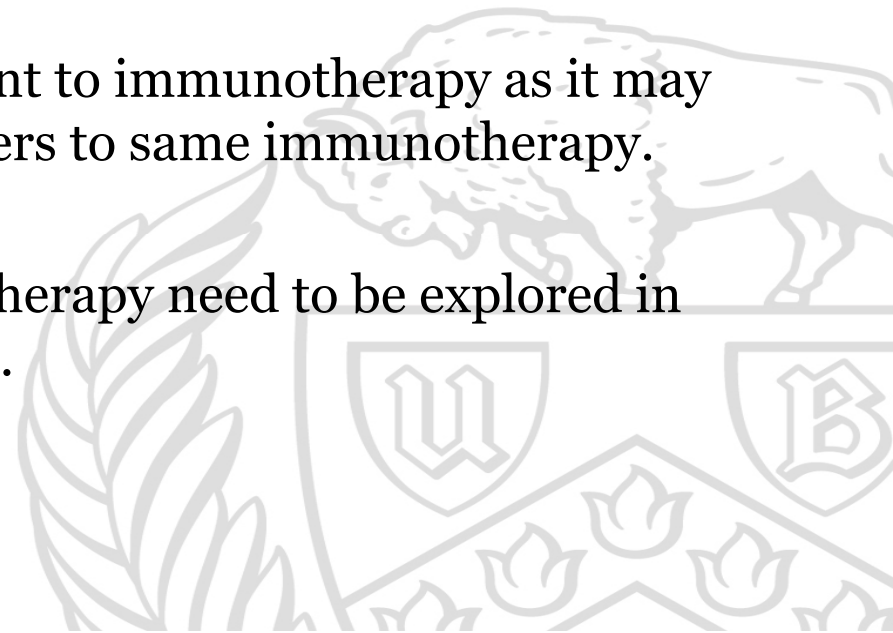
Many questions remain:

- Optimal site to irradiate in metastatic disease.
- Patient selection
- Sequencing of radiotherapy/immunotherapy
- RT dose and fractionation
- Best combinations



Summary

- Preclinical and clinical evidence suggest that local radiotherapy can contribute to the efficacy of cancer immunotherapy, by rendering the irradiated tumor more immunogenic.
- Radiotherapy can be harnessed as an adjuvant to immunotherapy as it may convert non-responding patients to responders to same immunotherapy.
- Dose/fractionation and sequencing of radiotherapy need to be explored in combination with immunotherapy strategies.



What are the mechanisms of Tumor Escape from Immune Response ?

1. Target cells down regulate the proteins responsible for presenting the tumor antigens to the immune system.
2. There is a anatomical barrier preventing the T cells from reaching the target cell
3. Target cell can use a FAS ligand to promote T cell apoptosis
4. Regulatory T cells could send false messages (TGF- β and IL-10) to the killer T cells preventing the T cells from killing the target cells
5. All of the above



Thank You

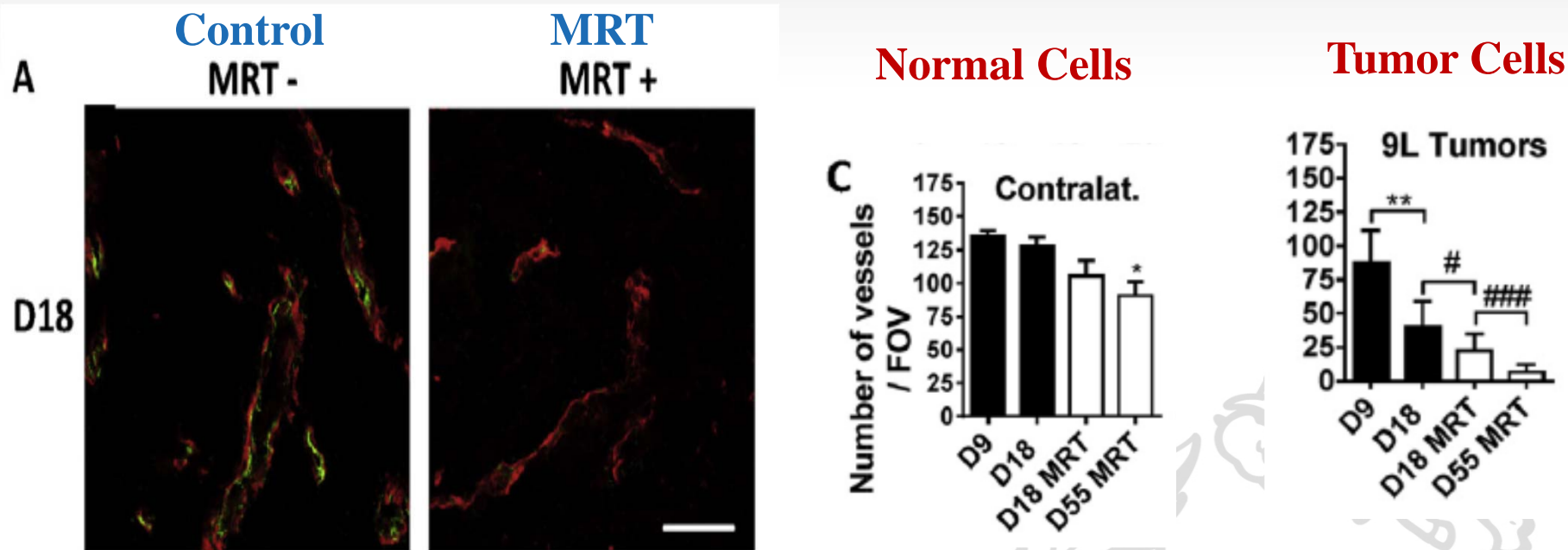


Mechanisms of Tumor Escape from Immune Response

- Loss of MHC or TAP - proteins responsible for transporting and presenting foreign substances to the immune system.
- Secretion of immunosuppressive factors
 - e.g. TGF- β , IL-10
- T cells don't penetrate solid tumors
- Exhaustion of T cells

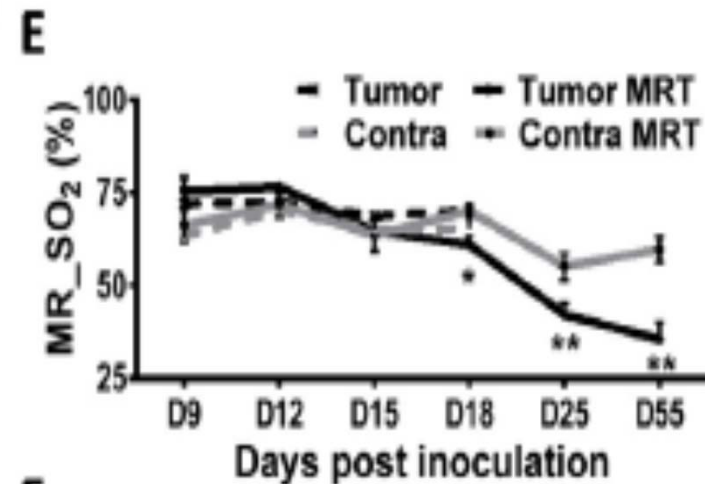
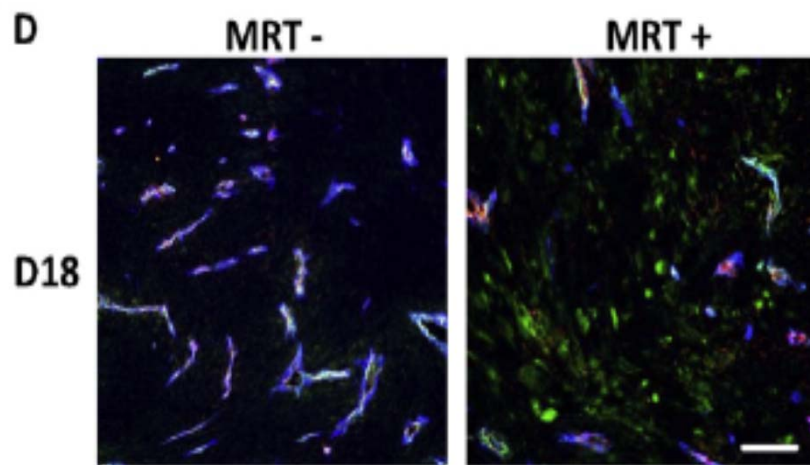


Decrease in tumor blood volume, and vessel density



- RECA-1 (green labelling) is absent in MRT irradiated tumor cells
 - RECA-1 is a protein essential for DNA repair.
- Significant decrease in the fractional blood volume and in diameter of tumor vessel.

Decrease in tumor oxygenation



- Significant changes in blood volume causes hypoxia in tumors
 - Over-expression of GLUT1 (marker for hypoxia)
- MRT preferentially induces vessel damage in tumor cells which led to reduction of tumor oxygenation