

Photochemical internalization – an innovative technology giving strong enhancement of cytotoxic T-cell responses to peptide-and protein based vaccines.

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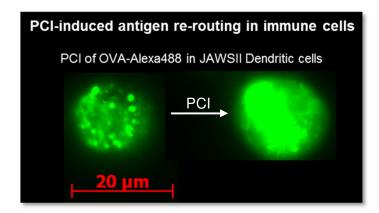


PCI Biotech at a glance

- A listed cancer-focused Norwegian biotech company
- <u>Photochemical internalisation</u> ("PCI"), lightinduced enhancement of the effect of drugs
- Phase II clinical studies with cytotoxic drugs in two indications; head & neck and bile duct cancer
- PCI is also a very good technology for delivery of oligonucleotides and other nucleic acids
- Pre-clinical program on therapeutic vaccination, with promising results showing substantial enhancement of the important cytotoxic T-cell response

PCI induces endosomal escape by illumination





PCI technology – enabling drugs to reach intracellular therapeutic targets



STEP 1:

 TPCS_{2a} (S) and the active molecule (D) are injected into the body and reaches the target cells

STEP 2:

- TPCS_{2a} (S) and the active molecule (D) are taken up by the cell, but D is unable to reach the target (T), as it is encapsulated in an endosome
- S is washed away from the cell membrane, but trapped in endosomes

STEP 3:

- Light activates TPCS_{2a} (S) in the membrane of the endosome
- The membrane integrity is affected and the active molecule released

STEP 4:

 The active molecule (D) can now bind to its target (T) and initiate the therapeutic response











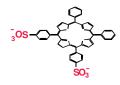
The active molecule

- Anticancer agent, e.g. bleomycin, gemcitabine
- Oligonucleotide, e.g. siRNA
- Protein, e.g. antibodydrug conjugate
- Peptide: e.g. antigen



The PCI component

- Light sensitive component
- Amphinex® TPCS₂₂





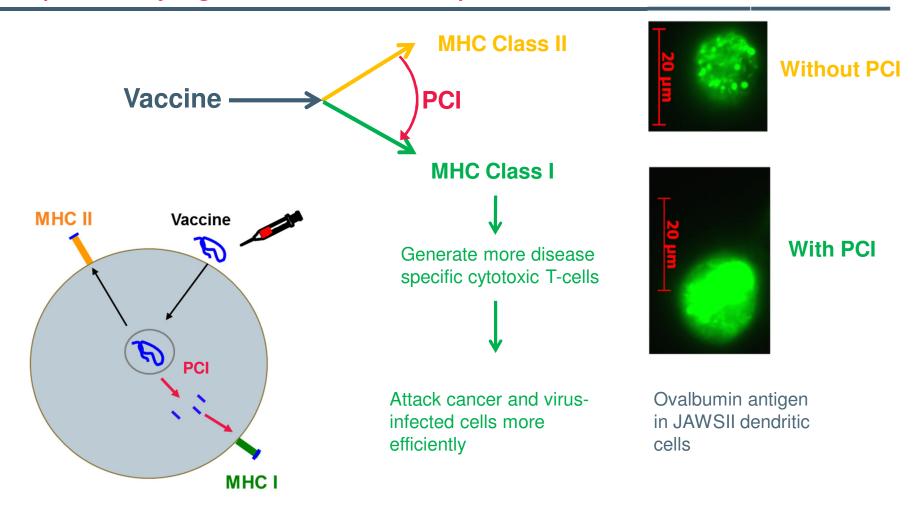
The target

- Target for the active molecule
- E.g. DNA, mRNA, enzyme, microtubuli

PCI mechanism of action – triggered endosomal escape through illumination



PCI for vaccination – enhancing cytotoxic T-cell response by light-induced cross presentation

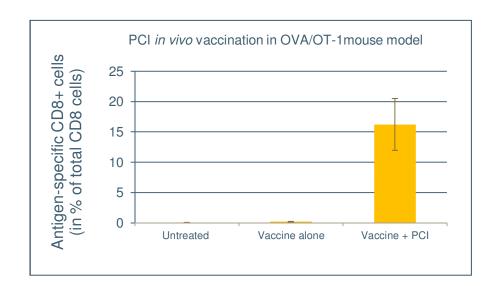




PCI enhances *in vivo* vaccination in mouse OVA/OT-1 model (collaboration University Hospital Zurich)



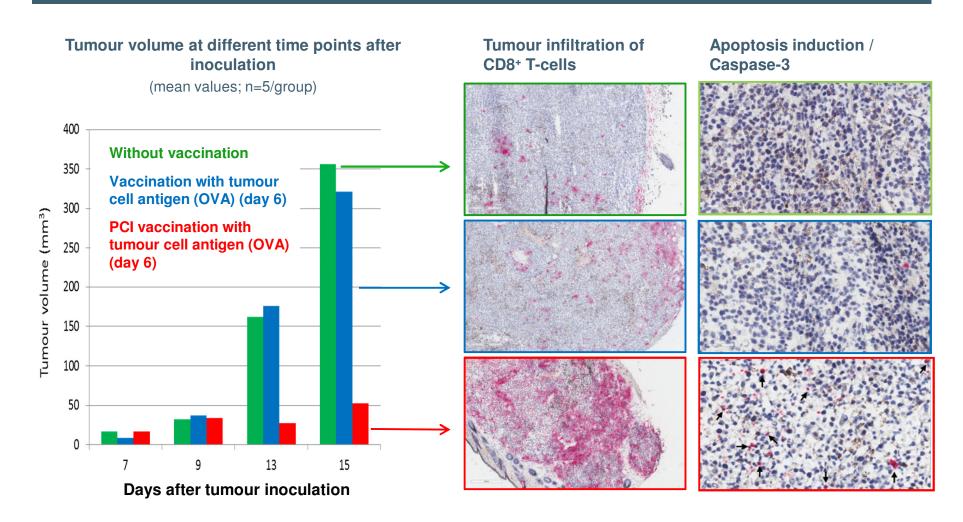
→ Vaccinated mice were anaesthetized and placed with the abdominal side down directly on the glass plate on a LumiSource light table for PCI treatment



 → With PCI vaccination enhancement of up to > 100 can be achieved

PCI induced immune response translates into therapeutic effect in animal tumour model (B16-OVA melanoma/OT-1)

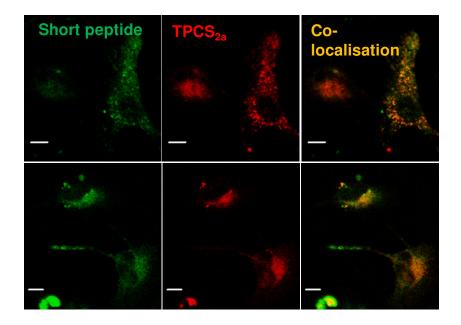




Short peptide antigens are taken up in endosomes – cytosolic release induced by PCI



Also short peptides are taken up by endocytosis, co-localises with TPCS_{2a} in endosomes and are re-localised upon illumination



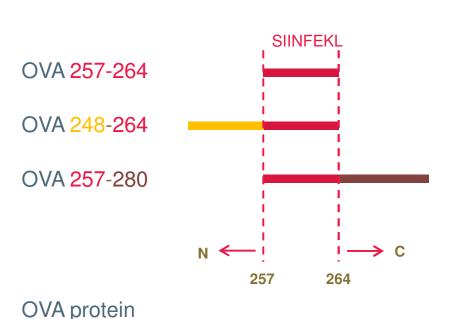
Before illumination

After illumination

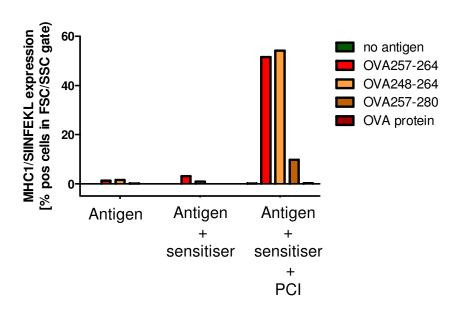
PCI with N- and C-terminal extended SIINFEKL (OVA) peptides increases MHC I presentation in macrophages



Cells stained with antibody specific for SIINFEKL/MHC I complex



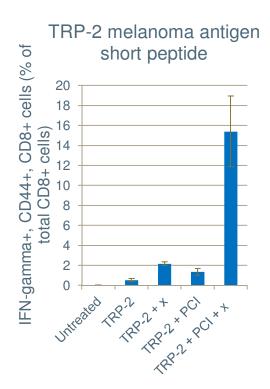
MHC1/SIINFEKL expression in B6 macrophage cell line, OVA peptides and proteins, concentrations of all antigens corresponds to 3 µg/ml of SIINFEKL

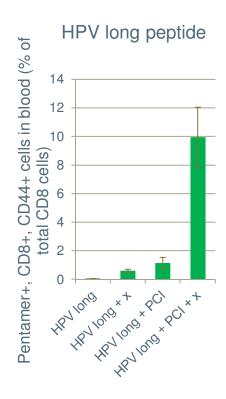


With peptide antigens PCI acts in synergy with other vaccination technologies.

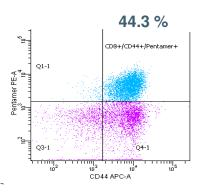


- PCI provides increased antigen presentation
- An additional "danger signal" (X) may enhance effect further





HPV Vaccine with PCI



 Studies with PCI therapeutic vaccination in animal model for HPV induced cancer on-going – initial results very promising



Conclusions

- The PCI vaccination technology can enhance CD8-cell immune responses > 100 times.
- PCI acts by enhancing MHC class 1 antigen presentation by releasing antigens into the cytosol of antigen presenting cells
- The technology can be used with both protein, long peptide and short peptide antigens.
- PCI acts in synergy with other vaccination enhancing technologies
- The photosensitising compound used in PCI is already tested in clinical trials, has a good safety profile and is stable and easily produced.
- PCI is an innovative technology with an unique mechanism for enhancing the effect of many types of vaccines where a CD8 T-cell response is desired

CONCEPTS





DESIGNS







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Thank you