New modality of curietherapy with holmium oxyde submicronic particles

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Introduction: Arguments of radioactive particles using such as curie therapy agent is to obtain a more homogeneous and intense radio effect and consequently improve anti-tumoral effect and decrease ratio of relapse. The aim of this study is to demonstrate that sub-micronic holmium oxide particles (NanoH™) could be activated without alteration of particle structure, could be directly injected in a tumour, with a high intra-tumour permanence, without overall adverse effect, and with anti-tumour effect.

Materials and Methods: The tumour model is double xenograft of murine breast cells (1372 MAT B III cell lineage) in Fischer rats. 10⁶ cells were injected under isoflurane anaesthesia by sub-cutaneous route at both thigh of 13 rats. 300nm sized particles containing about 90% of holmium oxide were synthesized, dessicated and then activated in neutron reactor. ¹⁶⁶Ho particles were suspended in a solution of PVA and 10% ethanol to obtain a solution with a specific activity of 56.5 MBq/100µl and mass particle concentration of 7.7 %. Each 8-10 mm diameter tumour of 10 rats were injected at 7 days post-tumour graft with an activity of 15 to 200 MBq, either with a hypodermic syringe either a high kinetic injection system (CERMA™) in 7 rats (14 tumours). Volume of tumours were daily calculated in all rats. Animals were sacrificed at 14 days post xenograft.

Results: In witness rat population, mean of tumour volume at 7, 11, and 14 days is respectively : 0.012 cm³(SD = 0.038), 1.5 cm³(SD = 0.98), 4.84 cm³(SD = 2.97) and 8.8 cm³(SD = 4) with mean ratio of a increased volume between d7 and D11 = 46%. One rat was death at D10 due to anaesthesia problem. In treated rat mean of tumour volume at 7, 11, 14 and 16 days is respectively : 0.95 cm³(SD = 0.43), 0.98 cm³(SD = 0.51) and 1.3 cm³(SD =
0.37) with mean ratio of a increased volume between d7 and D11 = 9.9%. In 9/12 tumours, growth of tumour after injection of holmium particles at D11 is inhibited (mean of increasing volume tumour ratio= -9%, -43% to + 27%). In 3/12 tumours, growth of tumour was observed (mean of increasing volume tumour ratio= 71 %, 41% to + 113%), maybe related to a bad injection (without the tumour).

**Conclusion :** Curietherapy with submicronic holmium oxyde particles are promising new agent for curietherapy by direct intra-tumor injection, with perspectives of additional treatment in glioblastoma.