Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy for Brain Tumor Imaging and Photothermal Therapy: From Mouse Studies to Clinical Trials

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Outline:

Introduction

- Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy

(advantages and challenges)

- Experiments and Results
- A companion clinical study to evaluate SERS technology for GBM imaging

- SERS for intraoperative diagnosis and therapy of GBM

- Using immune cells for delivery of SERS nanoparticles to GBM
- Conclusions & Future Plans



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Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS):



L. Guerrini and D. Graham, Chemical Society Reviews 41 (2012) 7085.

Surface Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) in Biomedical Imaging:



Kircher et al. Nature Medicine **18** (2012) 829.

Dog Frontal Lobe Meningioma post-contrast T1 MRI

Pre-Operative

Post-Operative



Whorls and Psammoma bodies (center) and dura mater (left, right, bottom)

Histology of the tumor tissue (H&E)



SEM at a tissue section, showing nanoparticles embedded in tumor tissue:



Investigation of intratumoral diffusion pattern and kinetics of Raman nanoparticles:

- No BBB challenge
- Administration of a much lower dose of the nanoparticles to tumor compared to intravenous approach
- Nanoparticles will be removed during the tumor resection procedure
- No nanoparticles in liver and spleen
- Challenging for highly diffusive types of GBM
- Challenging for deep brain tumors which are not accessible

Investigation of intratumoral diffusion pattern and kinetics of Raman nanoparticles:



Stereotactic injections of the U87-GFP-Luc cells

Bioluminescent images of the mice



Excising the brains for analysis

Intracranial injection of the nanoparticles

Brain sectioning and analysis:

123456



H & E stained tissues showing tumor margin

Immune Cells for Delivery of Contrast Agents and Therapeutic Nanoparticles to Brain Tumors:



Cross section Raman images: cell cytoplasm (red), nucleus (blue) and TiO2 NPs (yellow)

Top view

10 um

B. Kann et al. Analyst 139 (2014) 5069-5074.

Preparation of the Raman nanoparticles for cell labeling:



Antibody conjugated Raman Nanoparticles

Hydrodynamic size and surface charge of antibody conjugated Raman nanoparticles



Raman and fluorescent imaging of the MCF7 breast cancer cells after nanoparticles binding:





Single cell Raman images of the MCF7 cells after nanoparticles binding



Fluorescent images of the MCF7 cells after nanoparticles binding

Labelled immune cells for nanoparticles delivery to brain tumors:



Brain Imaging, Intravital microscopy, Histology Administration of the labelled T-cells

Intracranial implantation of the tumors

Fluorescent images of the naïve T-cells labelled with Raman nanoparticles:



Overlay

Preliminary Raman image of a naïve T-cell labelled with Raman nanoparticles:



Conclusions & Future Plans

- Nanoparticles development: PEG coating stabilized the NPs
- Clinical studies:
- Preliminary clinical results are promising. More cases will be studies.
- Large scale synthesis of nanoparticles
- Intraoperative studies:
- More mice brains are under investigations.
- Quantification of the temperature increase
- Performing the experiment *in vivo*
- Immune cell studies:
- Proliferation and functionality of the labelled T-cells should be studied more accurately.
- Different types of T-cells (CD8+ and CD4+ T-cells) will be tested, with specificity to our tumor model (GL26)
- Administration of the labelled T-cells to mice with tumor and in vivo imaging



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Image: Raman nanoparticles diffused into the brain tumor



- Prof. Gambhir (Stanford, Radiology)
- Prof. Sinclair (Stanford, MSE)
 - Edwin Chang, Chirag Patel, Steven Madsen, Ryan Davis, Nicole De Jesus, Jung Ho Yu, Travis Shaffer, Aaron Mayer, Demir Akin, Carmel Chan, Surya Murty
- Gambhir's lab
- Dr. Dickinson (UC Davis)
- Others

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Stanford Cancer Imaging Training (NIH T32)



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