

Gadolinium Chloride (GdCl₃) Inhibits Cell Proliferation and Cell Motility in Cisplatin-Resistant Human Oral Cancer CAR Cells: A Novel Screening System for Real Time Imaging Using IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System

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ABSTRACT

Gadolinium chloride (GdCl₃) is a contrast medium for Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) use. Previously, our study has demonstrated that GdCl₃ significantly reduced cell viability and triggered apoptosis in human osteosarcoma cells by death receptor, mitochondria-dependent and Endoplasmic Reticulum (ER) stress pathways. However, no report showed the anticancer effects of GdCl₃ on drug-resistant oral cancer cells. In the present study, we investigated the anti-proliferation and anti-motility effects of GdCl₃ on the cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells. Our results showed that GdCl₃ inhibited cell proliferation and cell motility in a time-dependent manner by using IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System. Our finding provides direct evidence of real-time imaging analysis to support the oral anti-cancer effects of GdCl₃ on drug-resistant oral cancer cells in vitro.

Introduction

Oral cancer is the fifth leading cause of death in cancer from the annual report of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, R.O.C. (Taiwan) in 2014 [1]. Chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery are major treatments for oral cancer [1-4]. However, drug resistance to the chemotherapeutic agents is a major impediment in clinical medical treatment [4,5]. It is urgent for the discovery of a new compound to overcome resistance of chemotherapeutic drugs in oral cancer. Gadolinium (Gd), a member of Lanthanides family element, has multi-biological effects and applications in Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) contrast medium or the potential anti-cancer agents [6,7]. Gadolinium chloride (GdCl₃) has demonstrated to inhibit cell proliferation and to induce mitochondria-dependent apoptosis in human hepatoblastoma HepG2 cells [7]. Our previous study has shown that GdCl₃

triggered U-2 OS cell apoptosis through death receptor, mitochondria and ER stress-dependent pathways [6]. This study is to investigate the anti-cancer effects of GdCl₃ on cell proliferation and cell motility of cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells.

Materials and Methods

1. Chemicals and reagents

Gadolinium chloride (GdCl₃) was obtained from Sigma-Aldrich Co. (St. Louis, MO, USA). Fetal bovine serum (FBS), Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM), L-glutamine, and penicillin/streptomycin were obtained from Thermo Fisher Scientific (Waltham, MA, USA).

2. Cell culture

The cisplatin-resistant cells (CAR) was developed by treating CAL 27 cell line, a parental human tongue squamous cell carcinoma (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA, USA) with 10 to 80 μ M of cisplatin. The cells were cultured in DMEM fortified with 10% FBS, 100 U/ml penicillin, 100 μ g/ml streptomycin, and 2 mM L-glutamine at 37°C with a humidified 5% CO₂ air. The cisplatin-resistant CAR cells were constantly cultured in complement medium containing 80 μ M cisplatin, unless otherwise indicated [1,2,4,5].

3. Cell proliferation assay by IncuCyte™ kinetic live cell imaging system

To measure the cell proliferation, CAR cells (2×10^4 cells) were plated into a 96-well plate and then incubated with or without 100 μ M of GdCl₃. Cell proliferation was determined by the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System (Essen BioScience, Ann Arbor, MI, USA). Imaging was photographed every 2 h for a 48-h period [1,8].

4. Cell motility assay by IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System

Cell motility assay was analyzed using wound healing assay and by IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System. CAR cells were replated in 96-well plates ($\sim 1 \times 10^5$ cells/well) and incubated to 90% confluence. After scratch wounds were made using the IncuCyte Scratch instrument (Essen Bio Science), cells were treated with or without 50 μ M of GdCl₃. Cell motility was determined by the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging

System (Essen Bio Science). Imaging was photographed every 3 h for a 48-h period [4,9].

Results and Discussion

After CAR cells were treated with GdCl₃ at 100 μ M, cell proliferation was assessed by IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System. Cell proliferation was decreased in GdCl₃-treated CAR cells in a concentration-dependent manner (Figure 1 and Supplementary video 1).

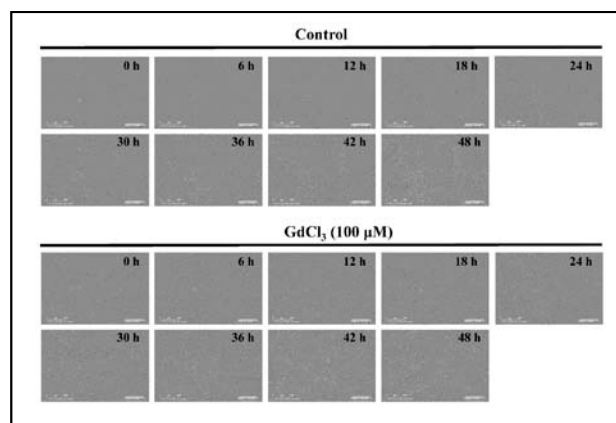
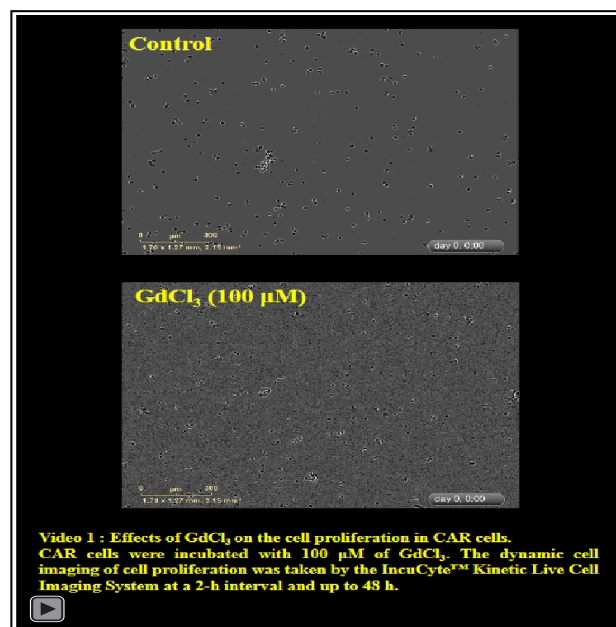


Figure 1: Effects of gadolinium chloride (GdCl₃) on cell proliferation in cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells. Cells were treated with or without 100 μ M GdCl₃ for 24 h. Cell proliferation imaging was determined by the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System. Imaging was photographed every 6 h for a 48-h period.

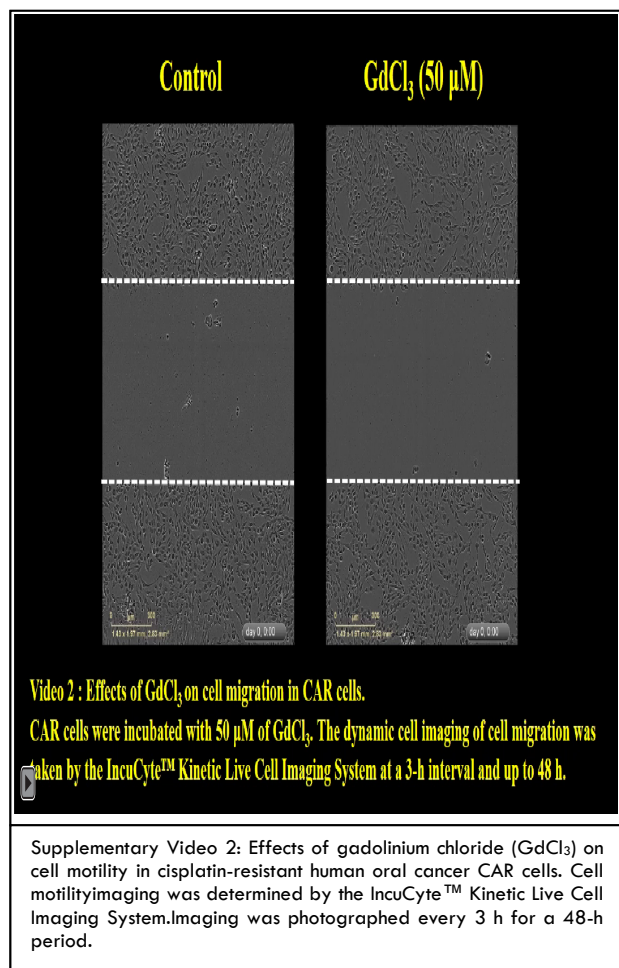
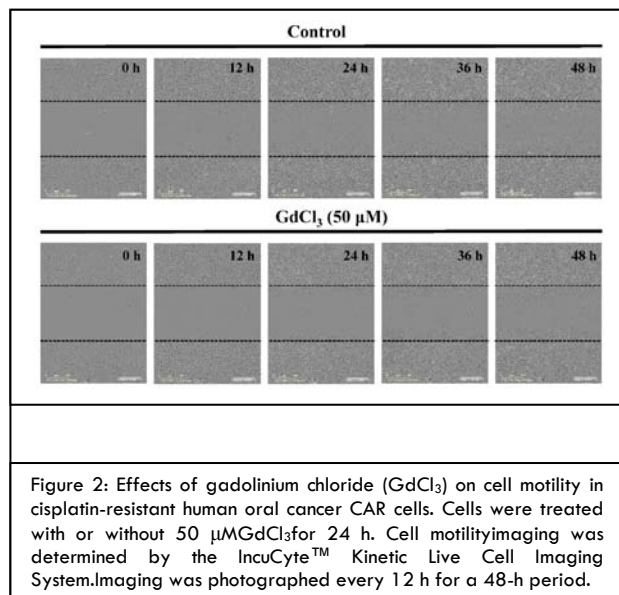


Video 1: Effects of GdCl₃ on the cell proliferation in CAR cells. CAR cells were incubated with 100 μ M of GdCl₃. The dynamic cell imaging of cell proliferation was taken by the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System at a 2-h interval and up to 48 h.

Supplementary Video 1: Effects of gadolinium chloride (GdCl₃) on cell proliferation in cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells. Cells were incubated with or without 100 μ M of GdCl₃. Cell proliferation imaging was determined by the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System. Imaging was photographed every 2 h for a 48-h period.

When cells were treated with GdCl₃ at 100 μ M, the morphological changes, detachment from the surface,

and some cell debris were observed in CAR cells. Our data suggested that GdCl₃ inhibited cell proliferation in CAR cells. In addition, CAR cells were exposed to 50 μ M of GdCl₃, cell motility was reduced in CAR cells, and this effect was in a time-dependent manner (Figure 2 and Supplementary video 2).



Our results indicated that high concentration of GdCl₃ caused growth inhibition and low concentration of GdCl₃ caused antimotility in CAR cells. Lanthanides (Lns) compounds have anti-cancer activities such as anti-proliferation, promotion of cell cycle progression, antimotility and induction of cell apoptosis [6,10-13]. This study is first to report that GdCl₃ can be successfully functional to inhibit cell proliferation and motility in cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells. It is important and essential for anti-cancer drug discovery to measure the cell proliferation rate in an in vitro study [14-17]. Many strategies and methods have been proposed to detect cell proliferation rates. MTT and WST-1 have been widely used to detect the overall metabolic activity in cells [18-20]. However, those methods cannot provide direct evidence of real-time imaging analysis [1]. In the current study, we are the first time to use the IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System for characterizing cell proliferation and cell motility in GdCl₃-treated CAR cells. In the future, the anti-proliferation and antimotility activities of GdCl₃ will be further studied by using this powerful tool IncuCyte™ Kinetic Live Cell Imaging System in our group.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we herein demonstrated that GdCl₃ exhibits direct anti-cancer activity by suppression of cell proliferation and cell motility in cisplatin-resistant human oral cancer CAR cells.

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