The Rationale for the Combination of the Monoclonal Antibody NEO-201 with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

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- Background of NEO-201
- NEO-201 target epitope
- NEO-201 mechanisms of action
- Results from Phase I 1st in human NEO-201 study
- Rationale to combine NEO-201 with Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICIs)
- Preliminary results from Phase 2 combination study with Pembrolizumab in patients refractory to ICIs



Only Human Derived and Human Tested Neo-Epitope Platform to Create Novel Therapeutics



- Only platform that has discovered functional neo-antigens that have been tested for immunogenic responses
- Validated targets with anti-tumor activity



NEO-201 Binds to tumor associated form of CEACAM-5 and CEACAM-6



CELLLINE (CANCER TYPE)	MARKER	% POSITIVE	MFI
ASPC-1 (pancreas)	NEO-201	75.86	9,078
	CEACAM5	20.04	869
	CEACAM6	77.87	52,138
BxPC-3	NEO-201	97.41	5,259
	CEACAM5	79.54	711
(pancreas)	CEACAM6	98.45	18,690
CEDAC 1	NEO-201	85.21	1,728
CFFAC-I	CEACAM5	25.83	1,108
(pancreas)	CEACAM6	96.50	27,792
1 81747	NEO-201	29.15	858
(colon)	CEACAM5	36.34	1,030
	CEACAM6	63.41	1,462

From these screening the Carcinoembryonic Antigen-Related Cell Adhesion Molecule (CEACAM)5, also known

as CEA, and CEACAM 6 were identified as the most likely targets of NEO-201

Zeligs et al. Frontiers in Oncology, 2020



IHC Confirmed that NEO-201 Reactivity is Specifically Tumor-Associated



Tsang et al. Cancers, 2022

- NEO-201 does not react against normal epithelial tissue CEACAM-5/6 positive.
 - Majority of normal tissues stained CEACAM5⁺ and/or CEACAM6⁺
- NEO-201 reacts against tumor tissue CEACAM-5/6 positive.
 - Majority of sampled tumors stained "triple positive" – NEO-201⁺ CEACAM5⁺ CEACAM6⁺

It is possible that a difference in glycosylation pattern explains the specific binding of NEO-201 to specific tumorassociated CEACAM-5 and CEACAM-6 variants but not to those expressed on healthy tissues as shown by the immunohistochemistry analysis.



NEO-201 Binding to O-glycans

Rationale to Study O-GLYCAN Binding:

NEO-201 binds to mammalian expressed rhCEACAM6 but not bacterial expressed rhCEACMA6 by ELISA



Post-translation modification (glycosylation) is made by **mammalian cells** on CEACAM-6; **Bacterial cells** do not make post-translational modifications to be added on protein structures



NEO-201 Binding to O-glycans

Role of O-Glycans in Tumor Cells

Tumor cells are characterized by the expression of truncated *O*-glycans, such as Tn antigen and T antigen, on the cell surface. These truncated structures are expressed by multiple tumor types, such as:

- Solid tumors of epithelial origin: breast cancers, ovarian cancers, gastric cancers, and colon cancers.
- Liquid tumors: AML and multiple myeloma

Truncated *O*-glycans, in general support tumor progression and their presence is strongly correlated to poor prognosis.



NEO-201 strongly binds to core 1 O-glycans



O6, CORE-1 strongest binding

The O-glycan array analysis consisting of 94 different O-glycans demonstrated that NEO-201 interact with different O-glycans. **Binding to Core-1 O-glycans is the strongest observed**



NEO-201 Targets Neutrophils and a Small Population of CD4+ T-cells in Human PBMCs From Healthy Donors



NEO-201 doesn't react with other hematopoietic subsets (B cells, CD8+ T cells, NK cells, monocytes)

Fantini et al. Cancer Biother Radiopharm, 2020



NEO-201 kills cells expressing truncated Core-1 O-glycans through antibody dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC)



Tsang et al. Cancers, 2022



Fantini et al. Frontiers in Immunology, 2018

NEO-201 targets human immunosuppressive Tregs in human PBMCs from healthy donors and cancer patients



Healthy donor #2: PBMCs

NEO-201+/CD4+ population express Tregs markers

Tregs recognized by NEO-201 are CD4+/CD25+/CD127-/Foxp3+ cells







NEO-201 targets granulocytic myeloid-derived suppressor cells (gMDSCs)



gMDSCs generated from Neutrophils

- Neutrophils were isolated using EasySepTM direct human neutrophil isolation kit.
- Isolated neutrophils were cultured in complete RPMI1640 supplemented with human GM-CSF (10ng/ml) and human IL-6 (10ng/ml).
 - After 7 days, cells were then profiled by flow cytometry
 - NEO-201 recognizes CD33+/HLA-DRneg/CD15+ /CD14-/CD66b+ cells



NEO-201 mediates elimination of immunosuppressive gMDSCs & Tregs

Immunosuppressive cells induced by tumors play an important role in inhibiting anti-cancer immune therapies from being effective*





Mechanisms of action of NEO-201





Completed Phase 1 at NCI, NIH, USA

Study design



All patients with SD had mutations in RAS genes. Three patients harbored KRAS gene mutations, one patient had mutation in NRAS gene (one patient showed both KRAS and NRAS mutated)



Lesson Learned from Phase 1 Clinical Trial

Cole et al. J Exp Clin Cancer Res (2023) 42:76 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13046-023-02649-6 Journal of Experimental & Clinical Cancer Research

RESEARCH

Open Access

First-in-human phase 1 clinical trial of anti-core 1 O-glycans targeting monoclonal antibody NEO-201 in treatment-refractory solid tumors

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STUDY PUBLISHED 3-29-23

Cole et al. JECCR, 2023

PATIENT 13 (SD): reduction of 86.4% and 50.6% of circulating CD4⁺/NEO-201⁺ Tregs at C1D15 and C3D1 respectively

Conversely, no reduction of circulating CD4⁺/NEO-201⁺ Tregs was observed in the other 4 patients with PD



Rationale for Combination of NEO-201 and Pembrolizumab

- The low response rates and resistance to PD-1/PD-L1 blockade may be due to the action of **Regulatory T (Tregs) cells and gMDSCs** in the TME. Tregs cells have been demonstrated to **play a role in increase resistance to PD-1/PD-L1 blockade**
- Our preliminary data showed that NEO-201 can target and mediate elimination of Tregs cells and gMDSCs through CDC and ADCC respectively.
- Based on this data we hypothesize that combining NEO201 with PEMBROLIZUMAB may overcome resistance to PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoints inhibitors by depleting immune-suppressive cells (Tregs and gMDSCs) and enhancing immune system mediated anti-tumor activity in subjects for whom pembrolizumab is currently indicated



NEO-201 + Pembrolizumab Phase 2 Clinical Trial

Objectives

- Determine Objective Response Rate (ORR = CR, PR, SD) as determined by RECIST v1.1 guidelines and progression free survival (PFS) in four cohorts of subjects (subjects with NSCLC, HNSSC, uterine and cervical cancers) receiving NEO-201 at the RP2D in combination pembrolizumab at the FDA approved adult dose
- Assess immunogenicity of NEO-201 in adults with relapsed or chemo-resistant solid tumors participating in the dose escalation cohort and in the first 10 subjects receiving combination therapy.



- Subjects receive NEO-201 at RP2D (1.5 mg/kg) IV every 2 weeks on Days 1, 15 and 29 of a 42-day cycle.
- Pembrolizumab is administered at 400 mg IV every 6 weeks on Day 2 of every 42-day cycle.



NEO-201 and Pembrolizumab phase 2 clinical trial: preliminary data

To date 7 subjects have been considered evaluable for efficacy and completed first stage restaging scans.

Disease Cohort	Enrolled	Time on Study	Response	
NSCLC	1	3 months	Stable disease (SD)	
Cervical	1	8 months +	Stable disease (SD)	
HNSCC	1	11 months +	Stable disease (SD)	
HNSCC	1	3 months	Progressive disease (PD	
Endometrial	3	3 months	Progressive disease (PD)	

3 of 7 evaluable patients have shown SD



NEO-201 + Pembrolizumab: Immune Monitoring

3 patients with SD and 4 patients with PD at the first radiological assessment

Evaluation of percentage of Tregs and gMDCSs from PBMCs pre and post treatment by flow cytometry in 7 patients that underwent the first radiological assessment:

Time points analyzed:

- before to start the treatment with NEO-201 (C1D1 PRE)
- after 14 days of first infusion with NEO-201 (C1D15),
- before to cycle 2 (C2D1 PRE; 42 days after first infusion)
- before of cycle 3 (C3D1 PRE; 84 days after first infusion)



Comparison of Levels of gMDSCs and Tregs Pre and Post Treatment in Patients with SD

Patients that showed a decrease of both gMDSCs and Tregs achieved the longest stabilization of the disease (patient 1 and 7)

gMDSCs: general downtreand of circulating gMDSCs

Tregs: general downtrend of circulating Tregs



gMDSC population, within alive PBMCs, was defined as HLA-DR^{neg}/CD33⁺/CD15⁺/ CD14^{neg}/CD66b⁺ cells.

Tregs population, within CD4+/CD3+ cells in alive PBMCs, was defined as CD3+/CD4+/Foxp3+/CD45RA+ cells



Phase 2 Clinical Trial: Preliminary Data

Patients with Stable Disease (SD)

Cervical cancer patient:

- 50 years old with chemo-resistant metastatic mucinous carcinoma.
- 80% tumor tissue positive for NEO-201 staining in IHC with 3+ intensity.
- Stable disease for more than 8 months after first infusion with both antibodies
- Patient qualified for debulking surgery requiring exiting the study

Head and neck squamous cell carcinoma patient:

- 72 years old with moderately differentiated carcinoma.
- 10-15% tumor tissue positive for NEO-201 staining in IHC with 3+ intensity.
- Stable disease for more than 11 months after first infusion with both antibodies

NSCLC patient:

- 69 years old with metastatic lung adenocarcinoma
- 90% tumor positive for NEO-201 staining in IHC with 3+ intensity
- Stable disease by RECIST on Day 84.
- Patient was taken off study per treating physician's decision.



Comparison of Levels of gMDSCs and Tregs Pre and Post Treatment in Patients with PD

Uptrend of gMDSCs and/or Tregs correlated with progression of the disease

gMDSCs:

general uptrend of circulating gMDSCs

Tregs: general uptrend of circulating Tregs



gMDSC population, within alive PBMCs, was defined as HLA-DR^{neg}/CD33⁺/CD15⁺/ CD14^{neg}/CD66b⁺ cells.

Tregs population, within CD4+/CD3+ cells in alive PBMCs, was defined as CD3+/CD4+/Foxp3+/CD45RA+ cells



Conclusions

- NEO-201 target and kills specifically cells expressing core 1 O-glycans
- NEO-201 does not target and destroy healthy tissues
- **NEO-201 has several mechanisms of action**. NEO-201 is able to mediate both ADCC and CDC.
- NEO-201 can also target and eliminate human Tregs and gMDSCs
- Preliminary results from Phase 2 clinical trial combining NEO-201 + Pembrolizumab showed that a decrease of both circulating Tregs and gMDSCs in patients with durable SD is suggestive of good prognosis for treatment with NEO-201 in combination with ICIs.





APPENDIX



List of publications: NEO-201

- Fantini, M. et. al. Preclinical characterization of a novel monoclonal antibody NEO-201 for the treatment of human carcinomas. *Front Immunol* 2018, *8*, 1899. <u>https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29354121/</u>
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- Tsang, K.Y. et al. Development and Characterization of an Anti-Cancer Monoclonal Antibody for Treatment of Human Carcinomas. *Cancers* 2022, 14, 3037. <u>https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6694/14/13/3037</u>
- Tsang, K.Y. et al. Identification of the O-Glycan Epitope Targeted by the Anti-Human Carcinoma Monoclonal Antibody (mAb) NEO-201. Cancers 2022, 14, 4999. <u>https://www.mdpi.com/2072-6694/14/20/4999</u>
- 8. Cole, C.B. et al. First-in-human phase 1 clinical trial of anti-core 1 O-glycans targeting monoclonal antibody NEO-201 in treatment-refractory solid tumors. *J* Exp Clin Cancer Res 2023, 42(1):76. <u>https://jeccr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13046-023-02649-6</u>



NEO-201 binds to various human carcinoma cell lines

Flow cytometry analysis of NEO-201 binding to tumor cell lines derived from various types of solid tumors

CELL LINE	TUMOR TYPE	% POSITIVE	MFI	
COLO 205	Colon	10.33	245	
HT-29	Colon	38.40	352	
LS174T	Colon	46.46	345	
SW1116	Colon	2.36	194	
SW1463	Colon	1.23	278	
SW480	Colon	1.70	575	
ASPC-1	Pancreatic	79.26	8927	
BxPC-3	Pancreatic	97.25	2584	
CAPAN-2	Pancreatic	29.69	327	
CFPAC-1	Pancreatic	97.79	9281	
PANC-1	Pancreatic	3.29	289	
H441	NSCLC (adenocarcinoma)	69.16	675	
H522	NSCLC (adenocarcinoma)	1.38	238	
HCC4006	NSCLC (adenocarcinoma)	99.27	9899	
HCC827	NSCLC (adenocarcinoma)	77.46	692	
SK-LU-1	NSCLC (adenocarcinoma)	1.77	685	
CALU-1	NSCLC (squamous)	4.22	571	
H1703	NSCLC (squamous)	4.16	111	
H226	NSCLC (squamous)	4.83	209	
H520	NSCLC (squamous)	61.78	443	
AU-565	Breast (HER2+)	50.04	227	
BT-474	Breast (PR+/HER2+)	68.79	591	
HCC1500	Breast (ER+/PR+)	1.53	597	
SK-BR-3	Breast (HER2+)	1.61	329	
T-47D	Breast (ER+/PR+)	8.00	161	
ZR-75-1	Breast (ER+/PR+/HER2+)	68.80	550	
BT-549	Breast (ER-/PR-/HER2-)	1.47	477	
HCC1937	Breast (ER-/PR-/HER2-)	19.14	510	
HCC38	Breast (ER-/PR-/HER2-)	2.15	226	
MDA-MB-468	Breast (ER-/PR-/HER2-)	6.33	344	

NEO-201 positive cell lines appear in bold text. NEO-201 positivity was defined as % positive >10%



Positivity was determined using fluorescence minus one (FMO) controls. Positive cell lines were ranked according to their quantified expression level (% positive × MFI), and then sorted into groups of low (<200), medium (200-1000), and high (<1000) expression

Fantini et al. Frontiers in Immunology, 2018



NEO-201 binds to truncated Core-1 O-glycans expressed by human solid and blood tumors and by neutrophils





Tumor cells negative for NEO-201 binding are not killed by NEO-201

NEO-201 binding to tumor cells: flow cytometry analysis





	% NEO-201 POSITIVE			
	ASPC-1	OVCAR8		
UNSTAINED	0	1		
NEO-201 FITC	81	1		

ADCC killing assay



ADCC activity using ASPC-1 (pancreatic carcinoma) or OVCAR-8 (ovarian carcinoma) cells as target cells. Cells were treated with 10μ g/mL of NEO- 201 or human IgG1 (negative control). Purified NK cells from one healthy donors were used as effector cells at an E:T ratio of 25:1.

***statistically significant (p < 0.001) by T-test.



Antitumor efficacy of NEO-201 in CFPAC-1 tumor xenografts



Tumors were established in 6-week old female athymic NU/NU nude mice by implanting tumor cells subcutaneously in the right flank of the mice.

Once tumors reached $\sim 100 \text{ mm}^3$ in size, mice were then injected intraperitoneally with:

- 1. vehicle alone (saline solution) + PBMCs
- 2. human IgG1 (250 μ g) + PBMCs
- 3. NEO-201 (100 and 250 µg) + PBMCs
- 4. NEO-201 (250 µg) alone

NEO-201 + PBMCs induced a substantial reduction in tumor growth at both dose levels compared to either the saline + PBMCs or human IgG + PBMCs control groups

Fantini et al. Frontiers in Immunology, 2018





Days after cells inoculation

Tumors were established in 6-week old female athymic NU/NU nude mice by implanting OV-90 tumor cells into the right ovarian bursa (A) or into peritoneal cavity to mimic disseminated ovarian cancer (C). Once tumors reached $\sim 100 \text{ mm}^3$ in size, mice were then injected intraperitoneally with:

- 1. vehicle alone (saline solution)/IgG1
- 2. human IgG1 (250 μ g) + PBMCs
- 3. NEO-201 (250 µg) + PBMCs
- 4. NEO-201 (250 µg) alone

NEO-201 + PBMCs induced a substantial reduction in tumor growth and prolonged the survival of treated mice compared to the human IgG + PBMCs control group.

Zeligs et al. Frontiers in Oncology, 2020



Phase 1 Dose Escalation of NEO-201 Alone: Completed

Gender	Male: 6 (35%)	Female: 11 (65%)			
Age (years)	30-50: 5 (29%)	51-60: 4 (24%)	61-70: 5 (29%)	71-80: 2 (12%)	> 80: 1 (6%)
Cancer Type	Colorectal: 11 (65%)	Pancreatic: 4 (24%)	Breast: 2 (12%)		
Race	White: 15 (88%)	African American: 2 (12%)			
Ethnicity	Non-Hispanic: 17 (100%)				
Performance Status	ECOG 0: 6 (35%)	ECOG 1: 9 (53%)	ECOG 2: 2 (12%)		

Seventeen (17) patients with advanced solid tumors were enrolled on a first-in-human, dose escalation clinical study of NEO-201 with 3 dose levels ranging from 1 mg/kg to 2 mg/kg

4 received NEO-201 at dose level 1 (1 mg/kg)
7 received NEO-201 at dose level 2 (2 mg/kg)
6 received NEO-201 at dose level 1.5 (1.5 mg/kg)

Cole et al. JECCR, 2023

Drug was administered via IV infusion biweekly.

The primary objective was to assess the safety via dose limiting toxicities (DLTs), determine the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) and the recommended phase 2 dose (RP2D). Based on the toxicity data and the results of interim PK analysis, **the MTD and RP2D was determined to be 1.5mg/kg.**



Phase 1 dose escalation of NEO-201: PK analysis

Cole et al. JECCR, 2023



First Dose (C1D1)	n	C _{MAX} (mg/L)	AUC _{LAST} (hr*mg/L)	T _{1/2} (hr)	CL/F (mL/hr)	Vz/F (L)
1.0 mg/kg Q2W	4	16.0 (9.7%)	444 (47%)	19.0 (61%)	0.200 (91%) ¹	3.54 (28%) ¹
2.0 mg/kg Q2W	7	18.2 (5.5%)	998 (42%)	80.0 (115%) ²	0.100 (11%) ^{2,3}	5.97 (40%) ^{2,3}
1.5 mg/kg Q2W	6	18.0 (11%)	1217 (39%)	46.2(46%) ⁴	0.070 (33%) ^{4,5}	4.23 (19%) ^{4,5}

- PK analysis showed no difference between 1.5 mg/kg and 2 mg/kg cohorts
- 1.5 mg/kg and 2 mg/kg cohort: it is very likely that at 2mg/kg, NEO-201 it could be cleared between C1D7 and C1D9.

Transient neutropenia in all patients after 72h from infusion

• Patients treated with G-CSF starting from C1D5 or C1D6 from infusion



Lesson Learned from Phase 1 Clinical Trial



Cole et al. JECCR, 2023





A. Waterfall plot indicating best response and best percent change in tumor size for all patients eligible for response evaluation (n=13). Dose level (DL) is indicated as in the legend and the dotted line at 20% indicates the threshold for stable disease (SD) according to RECIST v1.1 criteria.

B. Spider plot of percent change in tumor size across all cycles. Each cycle is 28 days in length (4 weeks). Among patients with SD, three patients were restaged after cycle 2. One patient was restaged at the end of cycle 9 (36 weeks of treatment)

C. Swimmer plot of time on study by dose level for all evaluable patients. All 4 patients with SD after at least 4 doses of NEO-201 (8 weeks of treatment) elected to continue receiving therapy.





Figure depicts the binding of NEO-201 to naïve Tregs (Pat 1 C1D1 PRE)

Left plot: percentage of CD4+/CD3+ cells in whole viable PBMCs.

Right plot: fractions of CD4+/CD3+ cells based on the CD45RA and Foxp3 status.

Central bottom plots : percentage of NEO-201+/CD3+ cells in each fraction.

Data are presented as percentage of viable cells expressing Treg cell-surface markers. Positivity was determined by using fluorescence-minus-one controls. Analysis was performed using BD FACSuite software.



NEO-201 recognizes gMDSCs in PBMCs from cancer patients (Phase 2 clinical trial)



Figure depicts the binding of NEO-201 to gMDSCs (Pat 7 C1D1 PRE)

Left plot: percentage of CD33+/HLA-DRneg cells in whole viable PBMCs.

Right plot: percentage of CD15+/CD14-cells from CD33+/HLA-DRneg cells

bottom plot : percentage of NEO-201+/CD66+ cells from CD33+/HLA-DRneg/CD15+/CD14cells

Data are presented as percentage of viable cells expressing gMDSCs-surface markers. Positivity was determined by using fluorescence-minusone controls. Analysis was performed using BD FACSuite software.

