



Published in final edited form as:

Nat Med. 2004 September ; 10(9): 909–915.

Cancer immunotherapy: moving beyond current vaccines

Steven A Rosenberg, James C Yang, and Nicholas P Restifo

Steven A. Rosenberg, James C. Yang and Nicholas P. Restifo are in the Surgery Branch of the Center for Cancer Research at the National Cancer Institute, Building 10, Room 2B42, 10 Center Drive, MSC 1502 Bethesda, Maryland 20892-1502, USA.

Abstract

Great progress has been made in the field of tumor immunology in the past decade, but optimism about the clinical application of currently available cancer vaccine approaches is based more on surrogate endpoints than on clinical tumor regression. In our cancer vaccine trials of 440 patients, the objective response rate was low (2.6%), and comparable to the results obtained by others. We consider here results in cancer vaccine trials and highlight alternate strategies that mediate cancer regression in preclinical and clinical models.

We now know the molecular identities of many tumor-associated antigens, and this knowledge has provided a major stimulus for the development of new immunotherapies for the treatment of patients with solid cancers¹. In the field of cancer immunotherapy, most enthusiasm has been directed at the use of cancer vaccines—active immunizations designed to treat growing tumors. A recent review of dendritic cell vaccines mentioned 98 published studies involving over 1,000 patients². A tabulation in 2003 listed 216 ongoing vaccine clinical trials in cancer patients³. These studies were conducted, and others are underway, despite the absence of convincing animal data that cancer vaccines used alone can affect invasive, vascularized tumors.

Why this focus on the use of cancer vaccines for solid tumors, especially when other immunotherapeutic approaches currently in preclinical and clinical trials have shown far more positive results^{4, 5}? The answer to this question is multifold. The widespread success of vaccines for the prevention of viral diseases provided a considerable base of immunologic information as well as a theoretical framework for immunization against cancer antigens, even though antiviral vaccines have not been effective for the treatment of patients with established viral disease. There are also practical reasons for the attractiveness of therapeutic cancer vaccines—they are easily administered to outpatients and generally do not cause significant side effects. Finally, investigators have been enthusiastic about the use of active immunization for patients with solid tumors because of an over-reliance on surrogate and subjective endpoints, such as histologic evidence of tumor necrosis or lymphocyte infiltration, rather than objective cancer regressions. Thus, despite the absence of any significant proportion of patients who achieved clinical responses, many cancer vaccine trials have been optimistically reported because surrogate or subjective endpoints were achieved. Sensitive techniques such as tetramer or ELISpot assays have been used to demonstrate the generation *in vivo* of antitumor T cells in vaccinated patients, but the scarcity of clinical responses in these patients has made it difficult to validate any of these assays as a useful surrogate of clinical response.

Analysis of trials using standard oncologic criteria

Standard oncologic criteria for evaluating and reporting objective clinical responses to treatment are well established in oncology, and adherence to these guidelines is essential in comparing the results of treatment protocols^{6, 7, 8}. A set of criteria proposed recently is the Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors (RECIST): a 30% reduction in the sum of the maximum diameters of lesions to indicate a response, along with the appearance of no new or progressive lesions. The most commonly used definition of objective clinical response, however, is at least a 50% reduction in the sum of the products of the perpendicular diameters of all lesions without the 25% growth of any lesion or the appearance of new lesions. The latter definition has been used in our analysis of our own protocols as well as published studies.

A great deal of effort has been devoted to the preclinical and clinical testing of a variety of cancer vaccines in the Surgery Branch of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). During the past nine years, we, together with our academic and industrial partners, have clinically tested cancer vaccines based on synthetic peptides, 'naked' DNA, dendritic cells, recombinant vaccinia viruses, recombinant fowlpox viruses and recombinant adenoviruses. These efforts include the rigorous testing of many of the commonly used cancer vaccine approaches.

Using conventional oncologic criteria for clinical tumor response, our objective response rate was only 2.6%, which is similar to the overall response rate we determined in a detailed analysis of cancer vaccine trials performed by others. This low clinical effectiveness raises important questions about the appropriate directions for future clinical immunotherapy efforts, especially at a time when alternate approaches such as cell transfer studies confirm the powerful potential of immunotherapy to mediate the regression of large volumes of metastatic disease in experimental models and in humans^{4, 5, 9, 10, 11}.

Cancer vaccines at the NCI Surgery Branch

Between February 1995 and April 2004, 440 individuals with metastatic cancer were treated with 541 different cancer vaccines at the Surgery Branch, NCI. These individuals signed informed consent forms and were entered into clinical trials approved by the NCI Institutional Review Board. The analysis of the 440 participants presented here represents all individuals with metastatic cancer treated with cancer vaccines during this period, with the exception of 13 individuals not able to be evaluated for clinical response and patients who received vaccines along with other agents known to cause cancer regression, such as IL-2 or chemotherapy.

Demographic characteristics of the individuals treated with cancer vaccines are shown in Table 1. Of the 440 patients treated, 422 had metastatic melanoma and 18 had other types of cancer. Among these individuals, 65% had visceral disease, 20% had lymph node disease alone or in combination with disease at subcutaneous sites, and 15% had only subcutaneous or cutaneous disease.

The vaccine treatments received by these patients are shown in Tables 2 and 3. Peptide vaccines alone (generally at a dose of 1 mg every three weeks) were administered to 323 individuals using peptides derived from one of the following: melanoma-differentiation antigens such as MART-1, gp100, tyrosinase or TRP-2, cancer-testes antigens such as NY-ESO-1 or MAGE-12, or Her2/neu or telomerase proteins (Table 2). Fifteen participants received peptides pulsed on dendritic cells. All remaining patients received peptides emulsified in incomplete Freund's adjuvant, except for four who received peptide in saline. Peptide immunization was administered along with IL-12 or GM-CSF to 40 and 18 patients, respectively. One hundred sixty participants received vaccination either with virus (fowlpox, vaccinia or adenovirus) or with naked DNA encoding tumor antigen (Table 3). Results in 244 of these 541 vaccine

treatments have been published previously and these reports provide the details of administration of these vaccines^{12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21}.

Of the participants who received a peptide vaccine, nine showed a partial response and two showed a complete response, for an overall objective response rate of 2.9%. Of participants who received a viral vaccine, two obtained a partial response and one obtained a complete response, for an overall objective response rate of 1.9%. Thus, the overall objective response rate for all vaccine treatments was 2.6%. The 14 individuals who showed objective responses are described in Table 4. Of these responders, 11 had disease confined to skin or lymph node sites and only 3 (21%) had visceral disease, compared to 65% of total participants who had visceral disease. This suggests that the vaccine treatments, when successful, were predominantly effective in patients with disease at cutaneous or lymphatic sites.

Separating ‘spin’ from substance

Hundreds of vaccine clinical trials in patients with metastatic cancer have been published. Some trials do not specify the exact criteria used to determine clinical response; some trials use very ‘soft’ criteria that make the incidence of cancer regression difficult to evaluate (Box 1). Examples include “temporary growth cessation in some individual metastases”²² or “symptoms disappeared”²³ or “tumor necrosis” or “stable disease” or “unexpectedly long survival.” Another analysis included as a partial response “any measurable response in any lesion”². Soft criteria of this sort cause considerable confusion in the analysis of clinical trials because they can occur in the natural course of tumor growth.

Thus we selected 35 reports of vaccine trials that included 765 patients whom we believe are representative of the majority of published trials, including many of the more optimistic trial reports. These studies include patients with multiple cancer types treated with a variety of the most common types of cancer vaccines. Twenty-nine objective responses were reported for an objective response rate of 3.8%. There were 7 (4.0%) responses in 175 patients receiving peptide vaccines, no responses in 206 patients receiving pox viruses, 6 (4.2%) responses in 142 patients receiving native or modified tumor cells and 14 (7.1%) responses in 198 patients receiving dendritic cells. Thus, of the 1,306 vaccine treatments in both the Surgery Branch and the selected trials presented in Table 5, a 3.3% overall objective response rate was seen.

In the light of these very large numbers of patients treated with vaccines and the exceedingly low objective response rates reported for the cancer types included in Table 5, a reevaluation of future directions for cancer immunotherapy trials would be valuable.

How T cells can destroy large, established tumors

Cellular immune responses have an important role in the immunologic rejection of vascularized tissue in animals and man²⁴. In mouse immunotherapy models, transfer of immune T lymphocytes but not antibodies protects mice from tumor challenge; elimination of endogenous CD8⁺ T cells abrogates both protective and therapeutic antitumor effects; and extensive T cell infiltrates are commonly seen in tumors and allografts undergoing immunologic rejection (reviewed in ref. ²⁴). The induction of CD8⁺ cells with specific immune reactivity can depend on interactions with other cell types such as CD4⁺ and antigen-presenting cells, although the final effector in most models is the CD8⁺ lymphocyte. Thus, the majority of cancer immunotherapy efforts are devoted to stimulating cellular immune responses against the growing tumor.

Three criteria are required for the immunologic destruction of established tumors: (i) sufficient numbers of immune cells with highly avid recognition of tumor antigens must be generated *in vivo* (ii) these cells must traffic to and infiltrate the tumor stroma, and (iii) the immune cells

must be activated at the tumor site to manifest appropriate effector mechanisms such as direct lysis or cytokine secretion capable of causing tumor destruction.

Although immune T cells capable of recognizing tumor antigens can be generated by direct immunization in tumor-bearing mice, there are no cancer vaccine models that reproducibly demonstrate that vascularized tumors can be rejected by this approach. The rapid growth of extensively passaged mouse tumors that often express retroviruses represents an obstacle to the study of cancer vaccines that may require extensive immunizations over a long period of time. Thus, most mouse models of cancer vaccines assess the ability to prevent the outgrowth of tumor injected after vaccination or attempt to treat tumors a few days after transplantation when the tumors are not yet vascularized. The presence of even large numbers of immune T cells capable of recognizing tumor antigens in mice is insufficient to mediate tumor regression^{4, 25}. T cells must be in the correct state of activation and differentiation in order to mediate antitumor effects. This point is often underappreciated in the analysis of human immunotherapy trials.

In mice transgenic for T cell receptors that recognize tumor antigens, virtually all T lymphocytes can recognize tumor, but tumor growth and lethality are often unaffected. Inadequate numbers or avidity of the immune cells, the inability of the tumor to activate quiescent or precursor lymphocytes, tolerance mechanisms including anergy, and suppressor influences produced by the tumor or the immune system itself are among the mechanisms that can prevent tumor destruction by immune cells^{25, 26}. These obstacles must be overcome if cancer vaccines are to be effective in mediating cancer regression.

More encouraging, however, are studies that demonstrate the ability of adoptively transferred antitumor immune T cells to mediate the rejection of large vascularized tumors in mice under the appropriate conditions of host immune suppression and antigen stimulation. Large B16 melanomas can be rejected in mice after host lymphodepletion when antitumor T cells are transferred along with antigen-specific vaccination and IL-2 (ref. 4). Cell transfer combined with vaccination, γ_c cytokines and prior host immuno suppression all can maximize tumor destruction^{10, 11, 27}.

The success of these cell transfer approaches in mice has its counterpart in recent human clinical trials⁵. In patients with metastatic melanoma refractory to treatment with high dose IL-2 and to chemotherapy, the transfer of *in vitro*-activated and expanded autologous antitumor lymphocytes plus IL-2 into lymphodepleted patients mediated objective cancer regressions in 6 of 13 patients. Persistence of the transferred cells was seen for up to four months after cell administration⁵. Patient entry into this protocol has now been expanded and we now have observed objective cancer regressions in 18 (51%) of 35 patients, many of whom have bulky disease (data not shown).

The effectiveness of cell transfer immunotherapy also serves to highlight many of the obstacles confronting vaccine therapy approaches and suggests possible means to overcome them. Cancer vaccines often result in low levels of circulating immune cells. Pox virus vaccines have been reported to increase circulating human antitumor antigen-reactive T cells from fewer than 1 in 200,000 to about 1 in 40,000 (refs. 28, 29). In some peptide vaccine trials, frequencies of over 1 in 200 antitumor cells can be generated, yet tumor regression is still not seen³⁰. The cells generated often have low avidity for tumor recognition. In contrast, antitumor T cells used for cell transfer, generated *in vitro* from tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) or from peripheral blood lymphocytes, can be obtained in large numbers (up to 1×10^{11}) and can be selected *in vitro* for highly avid recognition of tumor antigens³¹. Transfer of these cells into lymphodepleted hosts can result in 5–75% of circulating CD8⁺ cells with antitumor activity⁵. Cancer vaccines may need to generate these levels to be clinically effective.

An important reason that T cells generated by cancer vaccines may not destroy solid tumors is the inability of the immune cells to infiltrate and become activated after an encounter with tumor antigen *in vivo*. In contrast to solid tumors, lymphoid tumors allow easier access to the circulation and often express costimulatory molecules that are required in the afferent phase of the immune response, but may also be involved in the activation of memory cells. This may explain why lymphoid tumors have been reported to be more clinically responsive to dendritic cell vaccines³². Solid tumors do not express these costimulatory molecules or produce the inflammatory environment necessary to convert quiescent precursor lymphocytes into activated lymphocytes with the effector functions required for tumor eradication. In contrast, immune cells generated and activated *ex vivo* can be infused in a highly activated state, already displaying the necessary lytic and cytokine-secreting activities required to mediate the destruction of even large solid tumor masses. A challenge to the application of cancer vaccines is the development of methods to not only generate long-term memory cells but also activate these antitumor cells, possibly by improving methods of stimulating antigen presenting cells with new adjuvants *in vivo* or by creating an inflammatory environment at the tumor site to promote the homing of effector lymphocytes to the tumor.

Recent research has emphasized the importance of active suppressor mechanisms arising both from the tumor and from the immune system itself that can inhibit antitumor immune reactions *in vivo*^{33, 34, 35}. Perhaps the most important of these regulatory effects are mediated by CD4⁺CD25⁺ lymphocytes with the ability to suppress both the proliferation and effector functions of immune cells. A major advantage of cell transfer therapies is the ability to deplete host lymphocytes, including these regulatory cells, before cell transfer, and this preparation is critical to the success of many preclinical cell transfer immunotherapies. For cancer vaccines to be effective, it may require the elimination of these regulatory T cells, and although reagents to selectively eliminate these cells *in vivo* are being developed, their clinical efficacy has yet to be established. Chemotherapy- or radiation-induced lymphodepletion can eliminate regulatory cells but cannot be used in conjunction with cancer vaccines because the needed effector cells are also eliminated.

Studies in mouse models have defined additional principles important for human application. Cancer vaccines may be of greatest value when administered as a specific antigenic stimulant to transferred T cells, especially under conditions when host lymphocytes are eliminated that compete with the transferred cells for γ_c homeostatic cytokines such as IL-7, IL-15 and IL-21. Elimination of the 'cellular sinks' for cytokines may enable antitumor T cells to be activated by these endogenous cytokines.

Immunotherapies that cause actual cancer regressions

The description of a wide variety of human cancer antigens that are expressed on multiple cancer types, including many common epithelial cancers, presents new opportunities for the development of cancer immunotherapies. These discoveries have not been successfully exploited to mediate the regression of solid cancers using current cancer vaccine approaches, and changes are required for this approach to bear fruit. The ineffectiveness of cancer vaccine approaches is not commonly appreciated, however, because of the 'spin' often accompanying reports of cancer vaccines. These reports often attribute clinical effectiveness, without standard clinical criteria for tumor regression being achieved. Further confusing the current analysis of cancer vaccines is their application in adjuvant settings, in the absence of measurable disease. Results from this type of use may inappropriately imply effectiveness compared to historical controls^{36, 37, 38}. Although it is possible that cancer vaccines will be more effective in a minimal disease setting before immunosuppressive chemotherapies have been administered, only randomized, controlled trials can convincingly demonstrate the effectiveness of a

therapeutic intervention in the absence of measurable disease or to substantiate claims of 'stable disease.'

The lack of clinical effectiveness of currently available cancer vaccines should not be interpreted to mean that cancer vaccine approaches are at an investigational 'dead end.' Rather, it emphasizes the need for profound changes in the application of this approach. Increased efforts to generate antitumor CD4⁺ cells that recognize MHC class II-restricted antigens may have impact because of the importance of CD4⁺ cells in enhancing antitumor reactions and sustaining the activation and survival of CD8⁺ effector cells. Increased numbers of T cells with higher avidity are required *in vivo* and exploration of improved adjuvants such as new toll-like³⁹ receptor agonists to activate innate immunity, the use of agonistic anti-4-1BB antibodies to stimulate CD8⁺ cells¹¹ or the administration of homeostatic cytokines such as IL-15 require study⁴⁰. Preliminary trials have suggested that immunization with certain peptides³⁰ or pox viruses²⁰ can improve response rates to high-dose IL-2, although these observations will require testing in prospective randomized trials. Many current tumor antigens do not derive from molecules essential for cell survival, and thus vaccines that target antigenic molecules critical for cell viability may be more effective. Methods for stimulating an inflammatory environment at the tumor site or introducing costimulatory molecules along with antigen⁴¹ may be required to activate quiescent precursors. Eliminating both tumor and lymphocyte-mediated immune suppressive mechanisms without adversely affecting the desired antitumor effector cells also holds promise. Specifically, the blockade of secreted immunosuppressive molecules such as TGF- β , IL-10, IL-13 or prostaglandins may be required as well as selective means for eliminating CD4⁺CD25⁺ regulatory cells. Blockade of the negative costimulatory molecule CTLA-4 using a monoclonal antibody can result in regression of established human tumors in limited numbers of patients⁴², and further exploration of these manipulations in conjunction with vaccination are needed. Although only small numbers of patients have been treated, cell transfer studies, despite their labor-intensive requirements, are currently very encouraging because they demonstrate that large numbers of adequately activated, tumor-specific T cells in a lymphodepleted host environment can cause the regression of large, vascularized cancers in mice and humans. These cell transfer approaches demonstrate that immunotherapy can be successful in cancer patients and thus increased effort in the development of cancer immunotherapy is needed. Future clinical studies should utilize standard criteria for clinical response and require validation in increased numbers of patients.

References

1. Rosenberg SA. Progress in human tumour immunology and immunotherapy. *Nature* 2001;411:380–384. [PubMed: 11357146]
2. Ridgway D. The first 1000 dendritic cell vaccines. *Cancer Invest* 2003;21:876–886.
3. Ribas A, Butterfield LH, Glaspy JA, Economou JS. Current developments in cancer vaccines and cellular immunotherapy. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:2415–2432. [PubMed: 12805342]
4. Overwijk WW, et al. Tumor regression and autoimmunity after reversal of a functionally tolerant state of self-reactive CD8⁺ T cells. *J Exp Med* 2003;198:569–580. [PubMed: 12925674]
5. Dudley ME, et al. Cancer regression and autoimmunity in patients following clonal repopulation with anti-tumor lymphocytes. *Science* 2002;298:850–854. [PubMed: 12242449]
6. Miller AB, Hoogstraten B, Staquet M, Winkler A. Reporting results of cancer treatment. *Cancer* 1981;47:207–214. [PubMed: 7459811]
7. Therasse P, et al. New guidelines to evaluate the response to treatment in solid tumors. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;92:205–216. [PubMed: 10655437]
8. James K, et al. Measuring response in solid tumors: unidimensional versus bidimensional measurement. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1999;91:523–528. [PubMed: 10088622]

9. Eberlein TJ, Rosenstein M, Rosenberg SA. Successful systemic adoptive immunotherapy of a disseminated solid syngeneic murine tumor with long-term cultured T cells. *Transp Proc* 1983;15:396–398.
10. Hanson HL, et al. Eradication of established tumors by CD8⁺ T cell adoptive immunotherapy. *Immunity* 2000;13:265–277. [PubMed: 10981969]
11. May KF, Chen L, Zheng P, Liu Y. Anti-4-1BB monoclonal antibody enhances rejection of large tumor burden by promoting survival but not clonal expansion of tumor-specific CD8⁺ T Cells. *Cancer Res* 2002;62:3459–3465. [PubMed: 12067989]
12. Cormier JN, et al. Enhancement of cellular immunity in melanoma patients immunized with a peptide from MART-1/Melan A. *Cancer J Sci Am* 1997;3:37–44. [PubMed: 9072306]
13. Salgaller ML, Marincola FM, Cormier JN, Rosenberg SA. Immunization against epitopes in the human melanoma antigen gp100 following patient immunization with synthetic peptides. *Cancer Res* 1996;56:4749–4757. [PubMed: 8840994]
14. Kammula SA, Marincola FM, Rosenberg SA. Real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction assessment of immune reactivity in melanoma patients after tumor peptide vaccination. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2000;92:1336–1344. [PubMed: 10944556]
15. Phan GQ, et al. Immunization of patients with metastatic melanoma using both class I and class II restricted peptides from melanoma-associated antigens. *J Immunother* 2003;26:349–356. [PubMed: 12843797]
16. Panelli MC, et al. Phase I study in patients with metastatic melanoma of immunization with dendritic cells presenting epitopes derived from the melanoma-associated antigens MART-1 and gp100. *J Immunother* 2000;23:487–498. [PubMed: 10916759]
17. Zaks TZ, Rosenberg SA. Immunization with a peptide epitope (p369-377) from HER-2/neu leads to peptide-specific cytotoxic T lymphocytes that fail to recognize HER-2/neu⁺ tumors. *Cancer Res* 1998;58:4902–4908. [PubMed: 9809997]
18. Rosenberg SA, et al. Immunizing patients with metastatic melanoma using recombinant adenoviruses encoding MART-1 or gp100 melanoma antigens. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1998;90:1894–1900. [PubMed: 9862627]
19. Rosenberg SA, et al. Impact of cytokine administration on the generation of antitumor reactivity in patients with metastatic melanoma receiving a peptide vaccine. *J Immunol* 1999;163:1690–1695. [PubMed: 10415076]
20. Rosenberg SA, et al. Recombinant fowlpox viruses encoding the anchor-modified gp100 melanoma antigen can generate antitumor immune responses in patients with metastatic melanoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 2003;9:2973–2980. [PubMed: 12912944]
21. Rosenberg SA, et al. Inability to immunize patients with metastatic melanoma using plasmid DNA encoding the gp100 melanoma-melanocyte antigen. *Hum Gene Ther* 2003;14:709–714. [PubMed: 12804135]
22. Thurner B, et al. Vaccination with mage-3A1 peptide-pulsed mature, monocyte-derived dendritic cells expands specific cytotoxic T cells and induces regression of some metastases in advanced staged IV melanoma. *J Exp Med* 1999;190:1669–1678. [PubMed: 10587357]
23. Stift A, et al. Dendritic cell-based vaccination in solid tumor. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:135–142. [PubMed: 12506182]
24. Schriber, H. Tumor Immunology. in *Fundamental Immunology* (ed. Paul, W.E.) 1557–1592 (Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, USA, 2003).
25. Speiser DE, et al. Self antigens expressed by solid tumors do not efficiently stimulate naive or activated T cells: implications for immunotherapy. *J Exp Med* 1997;186:645–653. [PubMed: 9271580]
26. Marincola FM, Jaffee EM, Hicklin DJ, Ferrone S. Escape of human solid tumors from T-cell recognition: molecular mechanisms and functional significance. *Adv Immunol* 2000;74:181–273. [PubMed: 10605607]
27. Klebanoff CA, et al. IL-15 enhances the in vivo antitumor activity of tumor-reactive CD8⁺ T cells. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2004;101:1969–1974. [PubMed: 14762166]
28. Von Mehren M, et al. The influence of granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor and prior chemotherapy on the immunological response to a vaccine (ALVAC-CEA B7.1) in patients with metastatic carcinoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 2001;7:1181–1191. [PubMed: 11350882]

29. Eder JP, et al. A phase I trial of a recombinant vaccinia virus expressing prostate-specific antigen in advanced prostate cancer. *Clin Cancer Res* 2000;6:1632–1638. [PubMed: 10815880]
30. Rosenberg SA, et al. Immunologic and therapeutic evaluation of a synthetic peptide vaccine for the treatment of patients with metastatic melanoma. *Nat Med* 1998;4:321–327. [PubMed: 9500606]
31. Dudley ME, et al. Adoptive transfer of cloned melanoma-reactive T lymphocytes for the treatment of patients with metastatic melanoma. *J Immunother* 2001;24:363–373. [PubMed: 11565838]
32. Timmerman JM, et al. Idiotype-pulsed dendritic cell vaccination for B-cell lymphoma: clinical and immune responses in 35 patients. *Blood* 2002;99:1517–1526. [PubMed: 11861263]
33. Sakaguchi S, Sakaguchi N, Asano M, Itoh M, Toda M. Immunological self-tolerance maintained by activated T-cells expressing IL-2 receptor alpha-chain (CD25) - Breakdown of a single mechanism of self-tolerance causes various autoimmune-diseases. *J Immunol* 1995;155:1151–1161. [PubMed: 7636184]
34. Hori S, Takahashi T, Sakaguchi K. Control of autoimmunity by naturally arising regulatory CD4 cells. *Adv Immunol* 2003;81:331–371. [PubMed: 14711059]
35. Shevach EM, McHugh RS, Piccirillo CA, Thornton AM. Control of T-cell activation by CD4⁺ CD25⁺ suppressor T cell. *Immunol Rev* 2001;182:58–67. [PubMed: 11722623]
36. Morton DL, et al. Prolongation of survival in metastatic melanoma after active specific immunotherapy with a new polyvalent melanoma vaccine. *Ann Surg* 1992;482
37. Slingluff CL, et al. Phase I trial of a melanoma vaccine with gp100_{280–288} peptide and tetanus helper peptide in adjuvant: immunologic and clinical outcomes. *Clin Cancer Res* 2001;7:3012–3024. [PubMed: 11595689]
38. Mazzaferro V, et al. Vaccination with autologous tumor-derived heat-shock protein gp96 after liver resection for metastatic colorectal cancer. *Clin Cancer Res* 2003;9:3235–3245. [PubMed: 12960108]
39. Takeda K, Kaisho T, Akira S. Toll-like receptors. *Annu Rev Immunol* 2003;21:335–376. [PubMed: 12524386]
40. Waldmann TA, Dubois S, Tagaya Y. Contrasting roles of IL-2 and IL-15 in the life and death of lymphocytes: implications for immunotherapy. *Immunity* 2001;14:105–110. [PubMed: 11239443]
41. Hodge JW, et al. Enhancing the potency of peptide-pulsed antigen presenting cells by vector-driven hyperexpression of a triad of costimulatory molecules. *Vaccine* 2001;19:3552–3567. [PubMed: 11348723]
42. Phan GQ, et al. Cancer regression and autoimmunity induced by cytotoxic T lymphocyte-associated antigen 4 blockade in patients with metastatic melanoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2003;100:8372–8377. [PubMed: 12826605]
43. Scheibenbogen C, et al. Phase 2 trial of vaccination with tyrosinase peptides and granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor in patients with metastatic melanoma. *J Immunother* 2000;23:275–281. [PubMed: 10746554]
44. Slingluff CL, et al. Clinical and immunologic results of a randomized phase II trial of vaccination using four melanoma peptides either administered in granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor in adjuvant or pulsed on dendritic cells. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:4016–4026. [PubMed: 14581425]
45. Cebon J, et al. Two phase I studies of low dose recombinant human IL-12 with Melan-A and influenza peptides in subjects with advanced malignant melanoma. *Cancer Immun* 2003;3:7. [PubMed: 12862418]
46. Noguchi M, et al. Induction of cellular and humoral immune responses to tumor cells and peptides in HLA-A24 positive hormone-refractory prostate cancer patients by peptide vaccination. *Prostate* 2003;57:80–92. [PubMed: 12886526]
47. Peterson AC, Harlin H, Gajewski TF. Immunization with Melan-A peptide-pulsed peripheral blood mononuclear cells plus recombinant human interleukin-12 induces clinical activity and T-cell responses in advanced melanoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:2342–2348. [PubMed: 12805336]
48. Vonderheide RH, et al. Vaccination of cancer patients against telomerase induces functional antitumor CD8⁺ T lymphocytes. *Clin Cancer Res* 2004;10:828–839. [PubMed: 14871958]
49. Van Driel WJ, et al. Vaccination with HPV16 peptides of patients with advanced cervical carcinoma. *Eur J Cancer* 1999;35:946–952. [PubMed: 10533477]

50. Sato Y, et al. A phase I trial of cytotoxic T-lymphocyte precursor-oriented peptide vaccines for colorectal carcinoma patients. *Br J Cancer* 2004;90:1334–1342. [PubMed: 15054451]
51. Jager E, et al. Induction of primary NY-ESO-1 immunity: CD8⁺ T lymphocyte and antibody responses in peptide-vaccinated patients with NY-ESO-1⁺ cancers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2000;97:12198–12203. [PubMed: 11027314]
52. Khleif SN, et al. A phase I vaccine trial with peptides reflecting ras oncogene mutations of solid tumors. *J Immunother* 1999;22:155–165. [PubMed: 10093040]
53. Tanaka S, et al. Peptides vaccination for patients with melanoma and other types of cancer based on pre-existing peptide-specific cytotoxic T-lymphocyte precursors in the periphery. *J Immunother* 2003;26:357–366. [PubMed: 12843798]
54. Gulley J, et al. Phase I study of a vaccine using recombinant vaccinia virus expressing PSA (rV-PSA) in patients with metastatic androgen-independent prostate cancer. *Prostate* 2002;53:109–117. [PubMed: 12242725]
55. Conry RM, et al. Phase I trial of a recombinant vaccinia virus encoding carcinoembryonic antigen in metastatic adenocarcinoma: comparison of intradermal versus subcutaneous administration. *Clin Cancer Res* 1999;5:2330–2337. [PubMed: 10499601]
56. Horig H, et al. Phase I clinical trial of a recombinant canarypoxvirus (ALVAC) vaccine expressing human carcinoembryonic antigen and the B7.1 co-stimulatory molecule. *Cancer Immunol Immunother* 2000;49:504–514. [PubMed: 11092617]
57. Von Mehren M, et al. Pilot study of a dual gene recombinant avipox vaccine containing both carcinoembryonic (CEA) and B7.1 transgenes in patients with recurrent CEA-expressing adenocarcinomas. *Clin Cancer Res* 2000;6:2219–2228. [PubMed: 10873071]
58. Marshall JL, et al. Phase I study in cancer patients of a replication-defective avipox recombinant vaccine that expresses human carcinoembryonic antigen. *J Clin Oncol* 1999;17:332–337. [PubMed: 10458251]
59. Marshall JL, et al. Phase I study in advanced cancer patients of a diversified prime-and-boost vaccination protocol using recombinant vaccinia virus and recombinant nonreplicating avipox virus to elicit anti-carcinoembryonic antigen immune responses. *J Clin Oncol* 2000;18:3964–3973. [PubMed: 11099326]
60. Soiffer R, et al. Vaccination with irradiated autologous melanoma cells engineered to secrete human granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor generates potent antitumor immunity in patients with metastatic melanoma. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1998;95:13141–13146. [PubMed: 9789055]
61. Mitchell MS, et al. Phase I trial of large multivalent immunogen derived from melanoma lysates in patients with disseminated melanoma. *Clin Cancer Res* 2004;10:76–83. [PubMed: 14734454]
62. Salgia R, et al. Vaccination with irradiated autologous tumor cells engineered to secrete granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor augments antitumor immunity in some patients with metastatic non-small-cell lung carcinoma. *J Clin Oncol* 2003;21:624–630. [PubMed: 12586798]
63. Neumunaitis J, et al. Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor gene-modified autologous tumor vaccines in non-small-cell lung cancer. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 2004;96:326–331. [PubMed: 14970281]
64. Dols A, et al. Vaccination of women with metastatic breast cancer, using a costimulatory gene (CD80)-modified, HLA-A2 matched, allogeneic, breast cancer cell line: clinical and immunological results. *Hum Gene Ther* 2003;14:1117–1123. [PubMed: 12885350]
65. Banchereau J, et al. Immune and clinical responses in patients with metastatic melanoma to CD34⁺ progenitor-derived dendritic cell vaccine. *Cancer Res* 2001;61:6451–6458. [PubMed: 11522640]
66. Hersey P, et al. Phase I/II study of treatment with dendritic cell vaccines in patients with disseminated melanoma. *Cancer Immunol Immunother* 2003;53:125–134. [PubMed: 14600790]
67. Nestle FO, et al. Vaccination of melanoma patients with peptide- or tumor lysate-pulsed dendritic cells. *Nat Med* 1998;4:328–332. [PubMed: 9500607]
68. Schuler-Thurner B, et al. Rapid induction of tumor-specific type 1 T helper cells in metastatic melanoma patients by vaccination with mature, cryopreserved, peptide-loaded monocyte-derived dendritic cells. *J Exp Med* 2002;195:1279–1288. [PubMed: 12021308]

69. Geiger JD, et al. Vaccination of pediatric solid tumor patients with tumor lysate-pulsed dendritic cells can expand specific T cells and mediate tumor regression. *Cancer Res* 2001;61:8513–8519. [PubMed: 11731436]
70. Su Z, et al. Immunological and clinical responses in metastatic renal cancer patients vaccinated with tumor RNA-transfected dendritic cells. *Cancer Res* 2003;63:2128–2133.
71. Fong L, et al. Altered peptide ligand vaccination with Flt3 ligand expanded dendritic cells for tumor immunotherapy. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2001;98:8809–8814. [PubMed: 11427731]
72. Holtl L, et al. Immunotherapy of metastatic renal cell carcinoma with tumor lysate-pulsed autologous dendritic cells. *Clin Cancer Res* 2002;8:3369–3376. [PubMed: 12429623]
73. Belli F, et al. Vaccination of metastatic melanoma patients with autologous tumor-derived heat shock protein gp96-peptide complexes: clinical and immunologic findings. *J Clin Oncol* 2002;20:4169–4180. [PubMed: 12377960]
74. Janetzki S, et al. Immunization of cancer patients with autologous cancer-derived heat shock protein gp96 preparations: a pilot study. *Int J Cancer* 2000;88:232–238. [PubMed: 11004674]

Table 1

Patient characteristics

| | | Patients | Percentage |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|
| Sex | Male | 280 | 64% |
| | Female | 160 | 36% |
| Race | Asian | 1 | 0% |
| | Black | 2 | 0% |
| | White | 437 | 99% |
| Age | 11–20 | 4 | 1% |
| | 21–30 | 27 | 6% |
| | 31–40 | 74 | 17% |
| | 41–50 | 124 | 28% |
| | 51–60 | 125 | 28% |
| | 61–70 | 65 | 15% |
| | Over 70 | 21 | 5% |
| Performance status | 0 | 382 | 87% |
| | 1 | 54 | 12% |
| | 2 | 4 | 1% |
| Disease | Melanoma | 422 | 96% |
| | Renal cell cancer | 10 | 2% |
| | Ovarian cancer | 4 | 1% |
| | Colorectal cancer | 3 | 1% |
| | Breast cancer | 1 | 0% |
| Prior treatment | Surgery | 440 | 100% |
| | Chemotherapy | 198 | 45% |
| | Radiotherapy | 101 | 23% |
| | Hormonal | 70 | 16% |
| | Immunotherapy | 310 | 70% |
| | Any 2 or more | 354 | 80% |
| Response | Any 3 or more | 212 | 48% |
| | CR | 4 | 1% |
| | PR | 9 | 2% |
| | NR | 428 | 97% |

Total, 440 patients received 541 different vaccines. CR, complete response; PR, partial response; NR, no response. Performance status, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status.

Table 2
Peptide vaccine immunization of patients with metastatic cancer

| Peptide | HLA restriction | Total patients | NR | PR | CR |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----|----|----|
| MART-1 ₂₇₋₃₅ | A2 | 23 | 22 | 1 | 0 |
| MART-1 ₂₇₋₃₅ + IL-12 | A2 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| MART-1 ₂₆₋₃₅ (27L) | A2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| TRP-2 ₁₈₀₋₁₈₈ | A2 | 20 | 19 | 1 | 0 |
| gp100 ₂₀₉₋₂₁₇ | A2 | 9 | 8 | 0 | 1 |
| gp100 ₂₀₉₋₂₁₇ (210M) ^a | A2 | 32 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₂₀₉₋₂₁₇ (210M) + IL-12 | A2 | 28 | 28 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₂₀₉₋₂₁₇ (210M) + GM-CSF | A2 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₂₈₀₋₂₈₈ | A2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₂₈₀₋₂₈₈ (2889V) ^b | A2 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₁₅₄₋₁₆₂ | A2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100ES: ₂₀₉₋₂₁₇ (210) | A2 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| g209-2M + MART-27L | A2 | 23 | 23 | 0 | 0 |
| g209-2M, g280-9V, MART-27L ^c + tyr3D ^d | A2 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0 |
| gp100 ₄₄₋₅₉ | DR4 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| gp100 ₄₄₋₅₉ + g209-2M + MART-27L | A2/DR4 | 22 | 21 | 0 | 1 |
| Tyrosinase ₂₄₀₋₂₅₁ | A1 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 0 |
| gp100 ₁₇₋₂₅ | A3 | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Tyrosinase ₂₀₆₋₂₁₄ | A2 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| TRP-1 ORF1-9 | A31 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Combination peptides | Non-A2 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 0 |
| MAGE-12 ₁₇₀₋₁₇₈ | Cw7 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 0 |
| NY-ESO-1 ₁₅₇₋₁₆₅ (165V) | A2 | 19 | 19 | 0 | 0 |
| NY-ESO-1 ₁₆₁₋₁₈₀ | DP4 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| NY-ESO-1 ₁₆₁₋₁₈₀₊₁₅₇₋₁₆₅ (165V) | A2/DP4 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| Her2/neu ₃₆₉₋₃₇₈ | A2 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Telomerase ₅₄₀₋₅₄₈ | A2 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Dendritic cells + g209-2M + MART-27L | A2 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 0 |
| Total | | 381 | 370 | 9 | 2 |

Overall objective response rate = 2.9%. HLA, human leukocyte antigen; CR, patients showing complete response; PR, patients showing partial response; NR, patients showing no response.

^a g209-2M.

^b g280-9V.

^c MART-1₂₆₋₃₅(27L).

^d Tyrosinase₃₆₈₋₃₇₆(370D).

Table 3
Viral vaccine immunization of patients with metastatic cancer

| Virus | HLA restriction | Total patients | NR | PR | CR |
|---|-----------------|----------------|-----|----|----|
| Fowlpox MART-1 | Any | 12 | 12 | 0 | 0 |
| Fowlpox gp100 | Any | 20 | 20 | 0 | 0 |
| Fowlpox gp100(210M, 288V) | A2 | 15 | 14 | 1 | 0 |
| Fowlpox gp100 (ES ₂₀₉₋₂₇₁ (210M)) | A2 | 46 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| Vaccinia MART-1 | Any | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Vaccinia gp100 | Any | 16 | 16 | 0 | 0 |
| Adenovirus MART-1 | Any | 17 | 16 | 0 | 1 |
| Adenovirus gp100 | Any | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| DNA gp100(210M, 288V) | A2 | 22 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| Total | | 160 | 157 | 2 | 1 |

Overall objective response rate = 1.9%. HLA, human leukocyte antigen; CR, patients showing complete response; PR, patients showing partial response; NR, patients showing no response.

Table 4

Objective responses to vaccine treatment

| Patient | Vaccine | Sites | Tumor size | | Response duration (months) |
|---------|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------|----------------------------|
| | | | Before | After | |
| 1 | MART-1 peptide | Mediastinal lymph node | 15.7 | 5.6 | 78 |
| 2 | MAGE-12 peptide | Neck lymph node | 6.0 | 0.4 | 29+ |
| 3 | Tyrosinase peptide | Mediastinal lymph node | 4.5 | 1.7 | 5 |
| 4 | TRP-2 peptide | Para-aortic lymph node | 3.6 | 0 | 27+ |
| | | lung | 0.12 | 0 | |
| 5 | gp100 (class I and II and MART peptide | Inguinal lymph node | 1.0 | 0 | 19 |
| 6 | NY-ESO-1 peptide | Mediastinal lymph node | 3.8 | 0.17 | 12 |
| | | subcutaneous | 0.73 | 0 | |
| 7 | gp100 peptide | Cutaneous/subcutaneous | 1.8 | 0 | 4 |
| 8 | Multiple peptides | Cutaneous/subcutaneous | Small multiple | | 3 |
| 9 | Multiple peptides | Lung | 5.9 | 0.60 | 4 |
| | | Liver | 3.2 | 0.48 | |
| | | Subcutaneous | 16.3 | 2.0 | |
| | | Intraperitoneal | 15.2 | 0 | |
| 10 | Adenovirus MART-1 | Mediastinal lymph node | 5.6 | 0 | 76+ |
| | | subcutaneous | 4.0 | 0 | |
| 11 | Fowlpox-gp100 (210m, 288v) | Cutaneous/subcutaneous (multiple) | 55.4 | 0.1 | 50+ |
| 12 | gp100 DNA | Cutaneous | 0.1 | 0 | 50+ |
| 13 | Dendritic cells pulsed with peptide | Lung | 6.0 | 1.2 | 8 |
| | | Subcutaneous | 5.2 | 3.2 | |
| 14 | Dendritic cells pulsed with peptide | Cutaneous | 0.53 | 0.25 | 2 |

Table 5
Results of clinical vaccine studies in patients with metastatic cancers

| Vaccine type | Reference | Cancer type | Vaccine | Total patients | Patients responding | |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Peptide | 43 | Melanoma | Tyrosinase + GMCSF | 16 | 0 | |
| | 44 | Melanoma | Peptides in IFA or on DC | 26 | 3 | |
| | 45 | Melanoma | MART-1 + IL-12 | 28 | 2 | |
| | 46 | Prostate | Peptides | 10 | 0 | |
| | 47 | Melanoma | Peptides on PBMC + IL-12 | 20 | 2 | |
| | 48 | Breast and prostate | Telomerase | 7 | 0 | |
| | 49 | Cervix | HPV16 E7 | 17 | 0 | |
| | 50 | Colorectal | Peptides in IFA | 10 | 0 | |
| | 51 | Multiple | NY-ESO-1 | 12 | 0 | |
| | 52 | Multiple | Ras in DETOX adjuvant | 15 | 0 | |
| | 53 | Multiple | Peptides in IFA | 14 | 0 | |
| | Virus | 29 | Prostate | Vaccinia-PSA | 33 | 0 |
| | | 54 | Prostate | Vaccinia-PSA | 42 | 0 |
| 55 | | Colorectal | Vaccinia-CEA | 20 | 0 | |
| 56 | | Colorectal | Vaccinia-CEA and B7-1 | 18 | 0 | |
| 57 | | Multiple | Avipox-CEA(IGMCSF) | 60 | 0 | |
| 58 | | Multiple | Avipox-CEA | 15 | 0 | |
| 59 | | Multiple | Vaccinia + avipox-CEA | 18 | 0 | |
| Tumor cells | 60 | Melanoma | Transduced with GM-CSF | 26 | 1 | |
| | 61 | Melanoma | Membranes on silicone beads | 17 | 1 | |
| | 62 | Lung | Transduced with GMCSF | 26 | 1 | |
| | 63 | Lung | Transduced with GMCSF | 43 | 3 | |
| | 64 | Breast | Transduced with B7-1 | 30 | 0 | |
| | Dendritic cells | 65 | Melanoma | Pulsed with peptides | 17 | 0 |
| 66 | | Melanoma | Pulsed with peptides or lysates | 33 | 3 | |
| 67 | | Melanoma | Pulsed with peptides or lysates | 16 | 5 | |
| 68 | | Melanoma | Pulsed with peptides | 24 | 1 | |
| 22 | | Melanoma | Pulsed with MAGE-3A1 peptide | 11 | 0 | |
| 69 | | Childhood cancers | Pulsed with lysates | 15 | 1 | |
| 70 | | Kidney | Transfected with RNA | 15 | 0 | |
| 71 | | Colorectal | Pulsed with CEA peptides | 12 | 1 | |
| 72 | | Kidney | Pulsed with tumor lysates | 35 | 3 | |
| 23 | | Multiple | Pulsed with tumor lysates | 20 | 0 | |
| Heat shock protein | 73 | Melanoma | Hsp-96 | 28 | 2 | |
| | 74 | Multiple | Hsp-96 | 16 | 0 | |
| | | | Total | 765 | 29 | |