

**Subproject 25:** Clinical study evaluating the impact of combination therapies in the microenvironment and the tumor cells of dogs affected by cancer

**Principal Investigator:** *Dimas Tadeu Covas*

## **Introduction**

The transformation of normal cells into tumor cells can occur spontaneously or be induced by carcinogens, viruses, bacteria, and genetic alterations, among other factors. However, the modified cells interact with normal cells (such as fibroblasts, immune cells, endothelial cells), vessels, and substances produced at the site or from the blood. So, apparently non-transformed cells in tumor site seem to influence tumor growth and this has led to extensive research on the microenvironment of tumors (Lin WW. et al., 2007). Since 1858 Virchow related chronic inflammation and the onset of cancer (A. Mantovani, 2009). More recently researches have been revealed a significant association between inflammation and cancer, showing that chronic inflammation is one of the epigenetic factors that contribute to the onset and progression of the tumor. Neoplasms with the highest prevalence in both humans and dogs are mammary tumors, lymphomas and sarcomas (Withrow et al., 2013). Researchers are conducted to enhance the chemotherapeutic effect of traditionally used in the treatment of cancer in humans and dogs. The use of adjuvant or combination of drugs has demonstrated a superior therapeutic efficacy to the patient's prognosis. There are several reasons that lead to failure of the antitumor chemotherapeutic treatment; among them are the unfavorable pharmacokinetics of the agent that requires the use of highly toxic dose; biodistribution, which leads to toxicity; susceptibility to generate resistance to chemotherapeutics. Research on cancer therapies has adopted new technologies to facilitate the action of chemotherapeutic drugs that act on other therapeutic targets, in addition to tumor cells, such as the immune system and the tumor microenvironment (Lansigan et al., 2010). New technologies involved the development of nanoparticles that facilitate the delivery and chemotherapy in tumor cells, with reduced side effects and potentiating the action of the active principle. Nanoparticles have been used for the diagnosis and therapy of cancer (Kobayashi, T. et al., 2011).

Another option that has been proven highly promising uses the immune system to control the cancer development, to eradicate or control it. Immunotherapy aims to stimulate innate and adaptive immunity together, aiming to combat the tumor. T cells, B cells, NK cells, dendritic cells, macrophages and others play a vital role in fighting tumors. When appropriately stimulated macrophages become pluripotent cells, depending on the signal they receive, passing to play autocrine, endocrine and intercrines function. Macrophages in the tumor environment may acquire other functions influenced by these media, called tumor-associated macrophages (TAM), passing to exert immunosuppressive activity (Coussens et al., 2002). Another form of

therapy that has shown success in treating cancer is hyperthermia. This is a non-ionizing form of radiation that can be employed as adjuvant therapy, causing cell death at temperatures above 42°C (Mian-Zhi, L. et al. May 2011). Histone modification (acetylation, methylation etc.) as well as DNA methylation epigenetic events are broadly implicated in the development and progression of cancer (Lansigan et al., 2010). Recent discoveries and molecular pathways dysregulated signaling has allowed view the role of epigenetic mechanisms in the development and progression of cancer, which are potentially reversible with drug treatments. A clear example is the inhibitors of histone deacetylases (iHDAC) (Kristensen et al, 2009; Kobayashi, T. 2011).

## **Objectives**

Evaluate the cellular microenvironment and tumor response before and after different therapeutic modalities, which involves nanoparticles, iHDAC and hyperthermia in dogs affected with breast tumors, lymphoma and soft tissue sarcomas.

## **Goals**

- 1 Examine the microenvironment of breast tumors in dogs and evaluate primary cell cultures treated with nanoparticles containing doxorubicin*
- 2 Evaluate the microenvironment and tumor cells in lymph nodes of dogs with multicentric lymphoma before and after treatment with nanoparticles loaded with fosfoetanolamida.*
- 3 Evaluate the tumor microenvironment as well as the cellular effect of an inhibitor of histone deacetylases (iHDAC) in dogs with cutaneous lymphoma.*
- 4 Assess the cellular microenvironment and tumor response in dogs with soft tissue sarcomas undergoing treatment by hyperthermia.*

## Schedule of execution related to six-year project

Goals 1,2,3,4	Semesters											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Selecting Patients												
Preparation of Drugs												
Effect Evaluation of tumor microenvironment												
Statistical analysis and results												

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Zhi-mian, I.; yu-wei, z.; cheng-jian, z.; et al. Hyperthermia Increases the Therapeutic Efficacy of SurvivinT34A in Mouse Tumor Models. *Cancer Biology & Therapy* 12:6, 523-530; 201

**SUBPROJETO 25:** Estudo clínico avaliando o impacto de combinações terapêuticas no microambiente e nas células tumorais de cães acometidos por câncer

**Pesquisador Responsável:** *Maria Angélica Miglino*

## **Introdução**

A transformação de células normais em células tumorais pode ocorrer de modo espontâneo, ou serem induzidas por carcinógenos, vírus, bactérias, alterações genéticas, entre outros fatores. Todavia, as células modificadas interagem com, células normais (como fibroblastos, células imunes, células endoteliais), vasos, e substâncias produzidas no sítio ou provenientes do sangue. Sendo assim, aparentemente as células não transformadas no sítio tumoral parecem influenciar o crescimento dos tumores e isto levou a inúmeras pesquisas sobre o microambiente dos tumores (Lin WW. et al, 2007). Desde 1858 Virchow relacionou a inflamação crônica e o aparecimento de câncer (Mantovani A. 2009). Mais recentemente pesquisas revelaram a importante associação entre inflamação e câncer, mostrando que inflamação crônica é um dos fatores epigenéticos que mais contribuem para o surgimento e a progressão do tumor. Das neoplasias com maior prevalência tanto em humanos como cães estão as neoplasias mamária, os linfomas e os sarcomas (Withrow, et al, 2013). Pesquisas são realizadas para melhorar o efeito dos quimioterapêuticos tradicionalmente utilizados no tratamento do câncer em humanos e cães. O uso de adjuvantes ou a combinação de fármacos tem demonstrado eficácia terapêutica superior para o prognóstico do paciente. Várias são as razões que levam ao fracasso do tratamento quimioterapêutico antitumoral, entre elas estão a farmacocinética desfavorável do agente o que obriga ao uso de doses altamente tóxicas, biodistribuição, o que eleva a toxicidade, a susceptibilidade de gerar resistência aos quimioterapêuticos. Pesquisas com terapias contra o câncer tem adotado novas tecnologias para facilitar a ação dos quimioterapêuticos ou medicamentos que atuem em outros alvos terapêuticos, além das células tumorais, tais como o sistema imunológico e o microambiente tumoral. (Lansigan et al, 2010). Novas tecnologias envolveram o desenvolvimento de nanopartículas que facilitam a entrega e o ingresso do quimioterápico na célula tumoral, com reduzidos efeitos colaterais e potencialização da ação do princípio ativo. Nanopartículas têm sido empregadas para o diagnóstico e terapia do câncer (Kobayashi, T. et al., 2011). Outra opção que tem se mostrada altamente promissora emprega o sistema imunológico para o controle do desenvolvimento, erradicação ou mesmo controle do câncer. Com a imunoterapia pretende-se estimular a imunidade inata e adaptativa conjuntamente, visando o combate ao tumor. Células T, células B, células NK, células dendríticas, macrófagos e outras têm função vital no combate dos tumores. Macrófagos quando apropriadamente estimulados tornam-se células pluripotentes, dependendo do sinal que recebam, passando a exercer funções autócrinas, intercrinas e endócrinas. No ambiente tumoral os macrófagos podem adquirir outras funções influenciadas por esses meio, chamados de macrófagos



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