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Characterizing the anti-tumor response in mice treated with antigen-loaded polyanhydride microparticles

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Abstract

Delivery of vaccine antigens with an appropriate adjuvant can trigger potential immune responses against cancer leading to reduced tumor growth and improved survival. In this study, various formulations of a bioerodible amphiphilic polyanhydride copolymer based on 1,8-bis(*p*-carboxyphenoxy)-3,6-dioxaoctane (CPTEG) and 1,6-bis(*p*-carboxyphenoxy) hexane (CPH) with inherent adjuvant properties were evaluated for antigen-loading properties, immunogenicity, and antitumor activity. Mice were vaccinated with 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating a model tumor antigen, ovalbumin (OVA), in combination with the Toll-like receptor-9 agonist, CpG oligonucleotide 1826 (CpG ODN). Mice treated with OVA-encapsulated CPTEG:CPH particles elicited the highest CD8⁺ T cell responses on day 14 and day 20 when compared to other treatment groups. This treatment group also displayed the most delayed tumor progression and the most extended survival times. Particles encapsulating OVA and CpG ODN generated the highest anti-OVA IgG₁ antibody responses in mice serum but these mice did not show significant tumor protection. These results suggest that antigen-loaded CPTEG:CPH microparticles can stimulate antigen-specific cellular responses and could therefore potentially be used to promote antitumor responses in cancer patients.

Keywords

Polyanhydride; anti-tumor immune response; microparticles; biodegradable polymer; antigen; CpG ODN

1. Introduction

Cancer is responsible for one in every four deaths in the United States and is still not effectively managed therapeutically [1]. The current paradigm of chemotherapy and surgery requires improvements so as to enhance overall survival of cancer patients, and to limit toxic side effects of current chemotherapeutic approaches. Therapeutic cancer vaccines have received substantial impetus through a succession of findings over the past two decades that

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include: (i) the discovery of tumor-associated antigens (TAAs) that potentially flag the presence of tumor cells to the host's immune system [2]; (ii) the finding that dendritic cells (DC) orchestrates the course of immune responses [3]; and (iii) the observation that pathogen-associated molecular patterns derived from microbes are strong inducers of DC maturation and resultant cellular immune responses [4]. Most recently, FDA approval of the first cancer vaccine, Sipuleucel-T (Provenge™), has given the field of cancer immunotherapy a further boost [5].

The delivery of a cancer vaccine through the use of nano- and micro-particle based vectors is showing promise in both clinical and preclinical settings [6]. Ideally such vectors should possess a number of favorable traits that include: biocompatibility; being capable of efficient co-delivery of immunogen (e.g., TAA) and bacterial adjuvants to DC; possessing adjuvant properties; and being capable of being stably stored and inexpensively manufactured [7–9]. In this study we investigated the potential of amphiphilic polyanhydride microparticles based on 1,8-bis(*p*-carboxyphenoxy)-3,6-dioxaoctane (CPTEG) and 1,6-bis(*p*-carboxyphenoxy) hexane (CPH) to be used as a cancer vaccine delivery vehicle. We used 50:50 CPTEG:CPH (Figure 1) microparticles, which have previously shown adjuvant properties in generating robust antigen-specific humoral responses and preferential uptake and activation of DC and macrophages [10–14]. In addition, CPTEG:CPH copolymers have been shown to be non-toxic, stabilizing to antigens, and biodegradable with CPTEG:CPH particles providing a burst release of 10 to 30% of encapsulated antigen followed by zero order release for 10 to 30 days [11, 15–17]. Thus, these polyanhydride vectors possess many of the traits desirable for a cancer vaccine vehicle. When combined with a potent antigen delivery vehicle, the presence of a bacterial or viral adjuvant has shown to increase antigenicity. Many unmethylated CpG motifs of bacterial DNA act as immune stimulants which can bias immune responses to a Th1 type. The synthetic CpG-B oligonucleotide 1826 (CpG ODN) induces DC maturation and B cell activation, through interaction with the Toll-like receptor 9, which leads to enhanced activation of cytotoxic T cell responses [18].

In this study, we report on the successful fabrication of CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating the model TAA, ovalbumin (OVA), either alone (CPTEG:CPH-OVA), or co-encapsulated with CpG ODN (CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG). We also further demonstrate the immunogenicity and anti-cancer potential of these microparticles in a prophylactic mouse tumor model.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1 Polymer synthesis

Synthesis of CPTEG:CPH copolymer was carried out by melt polycondensation as described previously [19]. In brief, CPTEG and CPH monomers were mixed in a round-bottom flask at a 50:50 molar ratio to complete a total of 2 g of monomers. 100 mL of acetic anhydride were added to the monomer mixture and reacted for 30 min at 125°C. The acetic anhydride was removed in the rotary evaporator, and the resulting viscous liquid was polymerized in an oil bath at 140°C, under vacuum (<0.03 torr) for 90 min. The resulting polymer was dissolved in methylene chloride and isolated by precipitation into cold hexane in a 1:15 ratio. Purity of the polymer and number average molecular weights were verified and estimated using ¹H nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H NMR) spectra obtained from a Varian VXR-300 MHz NMR spectrometer (Varian Inc., Palo Alto, CA). In addition, gel permeation chromatography (GPC) (Waters HPLC 277 System, Milford, MA using Varian Inc. GPC columns) was performed to determine polymer molecular weight.

2.2. Fabrication and characterization of microparticles loaded with CpG ODN and OVA

Microparticles were prepared using a double emulsion solvent evaporation method derived from Intra et al [20]. Briefly, purified endotoxin free chicken egg white ovalbumin (OVA) (Sigma, St Louis, MO) and endotoxin-free CpG ODN (Integrated DNA Technologies, Coralville, IA) were dissolved in 100 μ L of 1% poly(vinyl alcohol) (PVA) (Mowiol®; Sigma, Allentown, PA) solution. This solution was sonicated for 30 seconds on power setting #10, (Sonic Dismembrator Model 100, Fisher Scientific, Pittsburgh, PA) in 1.5 mL of dichloromethane (DCM) containing 200 mg of 50:50 CPTEG:CPH copolymer. This primary emulsion was then sonicated into 8 mL of 1% PVA solution to generate a secondary emulsion, which was then added to 22 mL of 1% PVA solution. Secondary emulsions were stirred in a fume hood for 2 h to allow evaporation of DCM. Microparticles were centrifuged at 2880 \times g for 5 min. Pellets obtained were washed twice with distilled water followed by freeze drying using FreeZone 4.5 (Labconco Corporation, Kansas City, MO). Particles were stored in sealed containers at -20 °C. Size distribution and zeta potential were measured using a Zetasizer Nano ZS (Malvern, Southborough, MA).

To estimate the loading of OVA and CpG ODN, 20 mg of microparticles from each batch was incubated with 0.2 N NaOH for approximately 12 h at room temperature or until microparticles had fully degraded. This solution was then neutralized using 1N HCl and loading was calculated using equation 1. Percentage encapsulation efficiency (EE) of the fabrication process was calculated as described in equation 2.

$$\text{Loading} = (\text{Concentration} \times \text{Volume}) / \text{weight of particles (mg)} \quad \text{Eq. 1}$$

$$\text{EE} = [\text{Weight of particles (mg)} \times \text{loading} \times 100] / \text{Initial weight of drug } (\mu\text{g}) \quad \text{Eq. 2}$$

Here, *Loading* = μ g OVA or CpG ODN encapsulated per mg of particles, *Concentration* = calculated concentration of OVA or CpG from standard curve (μ g/mL), and *Volume* = volume of OVA or CpG ODN solution (mL).

The surface morphology and shape of microparticles was examined using scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Briefly, a suspension of particles was plated onto a silicon wafer mounted on a SEM stub. This was then coated with gold-palladium by an argon beam K550 sputter coater (Emitech Ltd., Kent, England). Images were captured using a Hitachi S-4800 SEM (Hitachi High-Technologies, Ontario, Canada) at 5 kV accelerating voltage.

2.3. Prophylactic murine tumor model

Eight to twelve week-old male wild type C57BL/6 mice (Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine) (n = 4/group) were treated with intraperitoneal injections of the following six groups of treatments: (i) OVA and CpG ODN encapsulated in 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles (CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG); (ii) OVA encapsulated in 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles (CPTEG:CPH-OVA); (iii) OVA encapsulated in 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles with soluble CpG ODN; (iv) Blank 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles at an equivalent dose to the OVA particles; (v) Soluble OVA and CpG ODN; (vi) Naïve (untreated). For mice treated with soluble CpG, the particles or solution of OVA was admixed with CpG solution immediately prior to injections. Each mouse was primed on day 0 and similarly boosted on day 7 with the indicated treatments. Doses of 100 μ g of OVA and 50 μ g of CpG ODN per mouse were consistently used. On day 21 OVA-specific CD8⁺ CD3⁺ T lymphocyte levels were determined from peripheral blood harvested by submandibular bleeds (see section 2.4). On day 28 OVA-specific IgG_{2a} and IgG₁ antibody titers were measured in serum harvested by submandibular bleeds (see section 2.5). On day 35, mice were subcutaneously challenged

with 2×10^6 OVA-expressing E.G7 cells (American Type Culture Collection, Manassas, VA) and tumor volumes were monitored over time using equation 3. All animal experiments were carried out in accordance with current institutional guidelines for the care and use of experimental animals.

$$\text{Tumor Volume} = \frac{4}{3} \pi \times [\text{Diameter 1 (mm)} \times \text{Diameter 2 (mm)} \times \text{Height (mm)}] \quad \text{Eq. 3}$$

2.4. Tetramer staining on peripheral blood lymphocytes

The frequency of OVA-specific CD3⁺ CD8⁺ T lymphocytes was determined by tetramer staining and direct immunofluorescence, as previously described [22]. The tetramer used was the H-2K^b SIINFEKL Class I iTA^g™ MHC Tetramer (K^b-OVA₂₅₇) labeled with PE (Beckman Coulter, Fullerton, CA). Surface CD8 and CD3 were stained with FITC-labeled rat anti-mouse CD8 (eBioscience, San Diego, CA) and PE-Cy5-labeled hamster anti-mouse CD3 (eBioscience, San Diego, CA) antibodies respectively. Samples were acquired using a FACScan flow cytometer (Becton Dickinson, NJ) and analyzed with FlowJo software (TreeStar, OR).

2.5. Estimation of anti-OVA antibodies in peripheral blood using the enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assay (ELISA)

Measuring antigen-specific IgG₁ and IgG_{2a} levels can provide information not only with respect to the degree of humoral stimulation but also as to the type (Th1 or Th2) of antigen-specific immune response generated through the determination of IgG_{2a}:IgG₁ ratios [23]. High IgG_{2a}:IgG₁ ratios tend to indicate potential for a Th1 type or cellular immune response whilst a low IgG_{2a}:IgG₁ ratio is more indicative of a Th2 type or primarily humoral response. OVA-specific IgG₁ and IgG_{2a} antibodies in peripheral blood were quantified using a modification of a standard ELISA protocol that has been described in detail previously [24]. Briefly, serum samples were collected via submandibular bleeding and serial dilutions of the serum samples were incubated in wells of Immulon® 2HB 96-well high binding polystyrene microtiter plates (Thermo, Milford, MA) that had been previously coated with 5 µg/mL of OVA solution in PBS. Plates were washed with PBS-tween, followed by incubation with alkaline phosphatase conjugated goat anti-mouse IgG antibodies (Southern Biotech, Birmingham, AL). Excess antibody was washed away followed by addition of p-nitrophenylphosphate (Sigma, St Louis, MO) in the dark. Absorbance was measured after 2 hours at 405 nm using a SpectraMax® Plus384 microplate reader (Molecular Devices LLC, Sunnyvale, California).

2.6 Statistical Analysis

Groups were compared by one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) followed by Tukey post-test to compare all pairs of treatments. Analysis of survival curves was performed using log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test (GraphPad Prism, La Jolla, CA). Results presented are representative of 2–3 repeats.

3. Results

3.1. Polymer characterization

The purity of the 50:50 CPTEG:CPH copolymer was verified using ¹H NMR spectroscopy. The NMR spectra indicated that the actual composition of the copolymer was in agreement with the molar feed ratio (data not shown). GPC analysis showed that the 50:50 CPTEG:CPH copolymer had a weight average molecular weight of 8500 g mol⁻¹ with a

polydispersity index of 1.7. These results are consistent with previously published data [14, 25].

3.2. Characterization of 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles loaded with CpG ODN and OVA or OVA alone

The 50:50 CPTEG:CPH microparticles were prepared using a double emulsion solvent evaporation process as described in materials and methods. When OVA alone was used, loading efficiencies of >78% were obtained, yielding 11.8 µg of OVA encapsulated per mg of microparticles (Table 1). When CpG ODN and OVA were co-encapsulated, the loading efficiency of OVA was only 12%, but the amount of OVA in the microparticles was adequate to be used in subsequent *in vivo* studies. The mean diameter of all microparticle preparations was between 1 to 3 µm. The zeta potential of blank microparticles was -0.63 mV, which did not change significantly upon encapsulation of OVA and CpG ODN into the microparticles (Table 2). SEM revealed the various microparticle preparations to possess smooth morphology (Figure 2).

3.2 Immunogenicity of different CPTEG:CPH formulations

Immunocompetent C57BL/6 mice were given prime/boost vaccinations with CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating OVA plus/minus soluble or co-encapsulated CpG ODN. On day 28 after the priming vaccination serum titers of OVA-specific IgG₁ and IgG_{2a} antibodies were measured using ELISA. Results revealed that mice receiving CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG generated significantly higher OVA-specific antibody responses (both IgG₁ and IgG_{2a}) than all other formulations (Figure 3). Using a tetramer binding assay, OVA-specific T lymphocytes in the peripheral blood from mice on days 14 and 20 revealed no significant changes with the exception of the group vaccinated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA, which displayed the greatest levels of OVA-specific T lymphocytes on both days. In addition, the levels of OVA-specific T lymphocytes in the group vaccinated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA were found to be significantly increased by day 20 (Figure 4).

3.3 Tumor protection studies

Thirty-five days after the initial boost with the various microparticle formulations C57BL/6 mice were challenged with a lethal dose of an OVA-expressing tumor cell line (E.G7). Tumor volumes were monitored over the subsequent 28 days and revealed all formulations to have significantly enhanced protective effects when comparing tumor volumes on day 14 to untreated (naïve) mice and mice treated with blank microparticles (Figure 5). Analysis of survival revealed that mice treated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA or CPTEG:CPH-OVA + soluble CpG ODN had significantly ($p < 0.05$) improved survival over all other groups (Figure 6 b) on day 14. At the termination (day 28 post tumor challenge) of the study, 75 % of mice survived in the CPTEG:CPH-OVA group whilst 50 % of mice survived in the group treated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA + soluble CpG ODN. All but one of the surviving mice had slow growing tumors. As calculated from the log-rank test the median survival for the CPTEG:CPH-OVA group was undefined whilst for the CPTEG:CPH-OVA + soluble CpG ODN group the median survival was 27.5 days.

4. Discussion

To date, studies with biodegradable polyanhydride particles have involved the encapsulation of pathogen-derived antigens, which have subsequently demonstrated protection against infectious pathogens such as tetanus [26] and *Yersinia pestis* [27]. However, the potential for the amphiphilic CPTEG:CPH microparticles, specifically, to be used as cancer vaccines has yet to be explored. In this study, we investigated the cancer vaccine potential of CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating a model TAA. Development of cancer vaccines

are often challenging since there is a need to invoke a cell-mediated immune response instead of, or as well as, a humoral response. Delivery of antigen in a particulate, rather than soluble, form is required for the successful generation of an adaptive tumor-specific cytotoxic T lymphocyte response capable of eradicating the primary tumor and, more importantly, its metastatic lesions [28]. If a particulate cancer vaccine delivery system is to be successful it must fulfill a number of requirements [6], including: (i) protection of the TAA; (ii) efficient delivery to dendritic cells; and (iii) concomitant stimulation of dendritic cells leading to subsequent stimulation of an immune response capable of eradicating the tumor [6]. Microparticles made of CPTEG:CPH have shown to stabilize encapsulated antigens [29, 30] and their ability to activate dendritic cells is comparable to that of LPS [16, 27, 31]. It has been speculated that the structural similarity of 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particulates to LPS [32] leads to effective immune activation resulting in long term antibody production [19]. Thus, 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particles fulfill many of the traits required for a potentially successful cancer vaccine vector.

Amphiphilic CPTEG:CPH particles have previously shown high encapsulation efficiency of different model proteins using various particle preparation methods [16, 27]. In this study, OVA was shown to be efficiently encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH microparticles using a double emulsion solvent evaporation method. However, co-encapsulation of CpG ODN and OVA into CPTEG:CPH microparticles (CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG) was found to be much less efficient. High concentrations of CpG ODN in the water phase led to precipitation of polymer-DNA aggregates from the primary emulsion. Destabilization of the primary emulsion was curtailed by decreasing the CpG ODN:polymer ratio from 0.015 to 0.001. This alteration did not affect microparticle size but did result in low loading for CpG ODN and OVA. The possibility that the presence of nucleic acid is responsible for the destabilization of the primary emulsion was confirmed by the observation that microparticle aggregation also occurred when herring sperm DNA was used instead of CpG ODN (data not shown).

We found that certain CPTEG:CPH-based formulations could provide significant, albeit incomplete, prophylactic protection against tumor-challenge. Mice vaccinated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA afforded the greatest protection. What was particularly unexpected was that these mice showed both increased survival and significantly decreased tumor volumes (day 14) compared to mice vaccinated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG. It has been shown previously that a higher proportion of IgG_{2a} antibodies relative to IgG₁ antibodies favors the production of antigen-specific cytotoxic T cells [23], which is key to eradicating cancer [33]. However, we found that ratios of IgG_{2a}:IgG₁ antibodies were small (< 0.25) for all particulate treatment groups, suggesting Th2-biased immune responses. The observed Th2 response by the CPTEG:CPH-OVA formulation was not surprising since CPTEG:CPH particles encapsulating different antigens have previously been shown to generate Th2 responses. However, when CpG ODN was co-encapsulated (CPTEG:CPH-OVA/CpG), or co-delivered in soluble form, the IgG_{2a}:IgG₁ ratio did not increase. In other words, CpG ODN did not push the response toward a Th1, or even, Th0 response. This was unexpected since CpG ODN has been previously reported to promote Th1 immune responses [34, 35]. One possible explanation for this observation is that the adjuvant properties of 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particles resulted in abrogation of the normal effect of CpG ODN. In other words, 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particles have been shown previously to possess strong adjuvant properties [11] and therefore, when added in relatively high doses compared to the CpG ODN, could result in a phenotypic dominance. It has also been reported that LPS can abrogate effects of CpG ODN [36] and, since 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particles are LPS-like in their effect on dendritic cell activation [13], it is possible that 50:50 CPTEG:CPH particles have a similar dominating influence over dendritic cells and therefore subsequent immune responses. The OVA-specific CTL responses were marginally, but significantly, increased in

mice vaccinated with CPTEG:CPH-OVA whilst none of the other treatment groups displayed significant increases relative to the naïve group. This may explain why the CPTEG:CPH-OVA group exhibited the greatest tumor protection and improved survival ($p < 0.05$). This further supports development of novel CPTEG:CPH polymeric carriers as antigen delivery systems for cancer vaccines.

Conclusions

To date, the use of biodegradable microparticles in tumor immunotherapy has primarily involved PLGA microparticles [6]. Here, microparticles composed of the bioerodible amphiphilic polyanhydride, 50:50 CPTEG:CPH, provided significant protection against tumor challenge without additional adjuvants, making it a promising vaccine delivery system that requires further evaluation of the mechanism of action. In addition, the fact that these polyanhydrides are tunable systems indicates there is potential for modifications that can lead to more cellular (or Th1-biased) immune responses.

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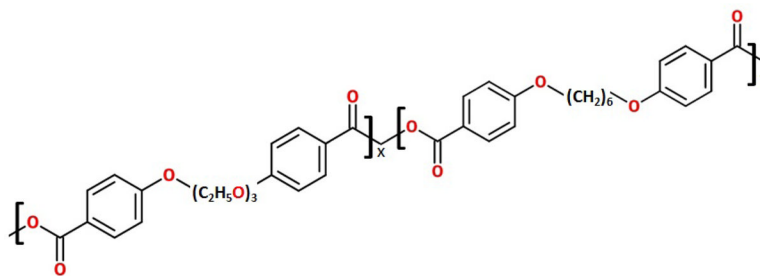


Figure 1.
Chemical structure of CPTEG:CPH polymer.

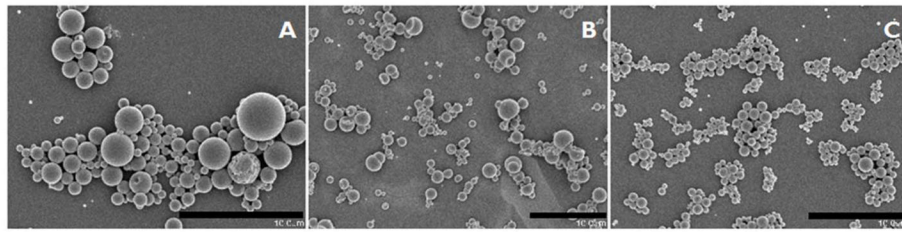


Figure 2. SEM microphotographs of different CPTEG:CPH microparticle formulations
SEM images of *A*: Blank CPTEG:CPH microparticles; *B*: CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating OVA; *C*: CPTEG:CPH microparticles encapsulating OVA and CpG-ODN. Size bar represents 10 µm.

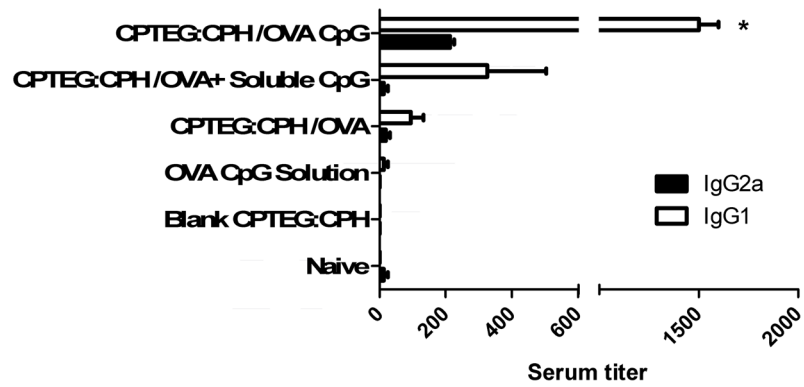


Figure 3. Comparative serum titers of IgG_{2a} and IgG₁ OVA-specific antibodies after vaccination with different CPTEG:CPH microparticle formulations

On day 28 post primary vaccination with indicated treatments, OVA-specific IgG₁ and IgG_{2a} titers were measured in sera using ELISA (as described in materials and methods section). All groups were compared using ANOVA followed by Tukey post-test ($*p < 0.01$). CPTEG:CPH/OVA CpG group showed significantly higher serum titers for IgG₁ when compared with all groups.

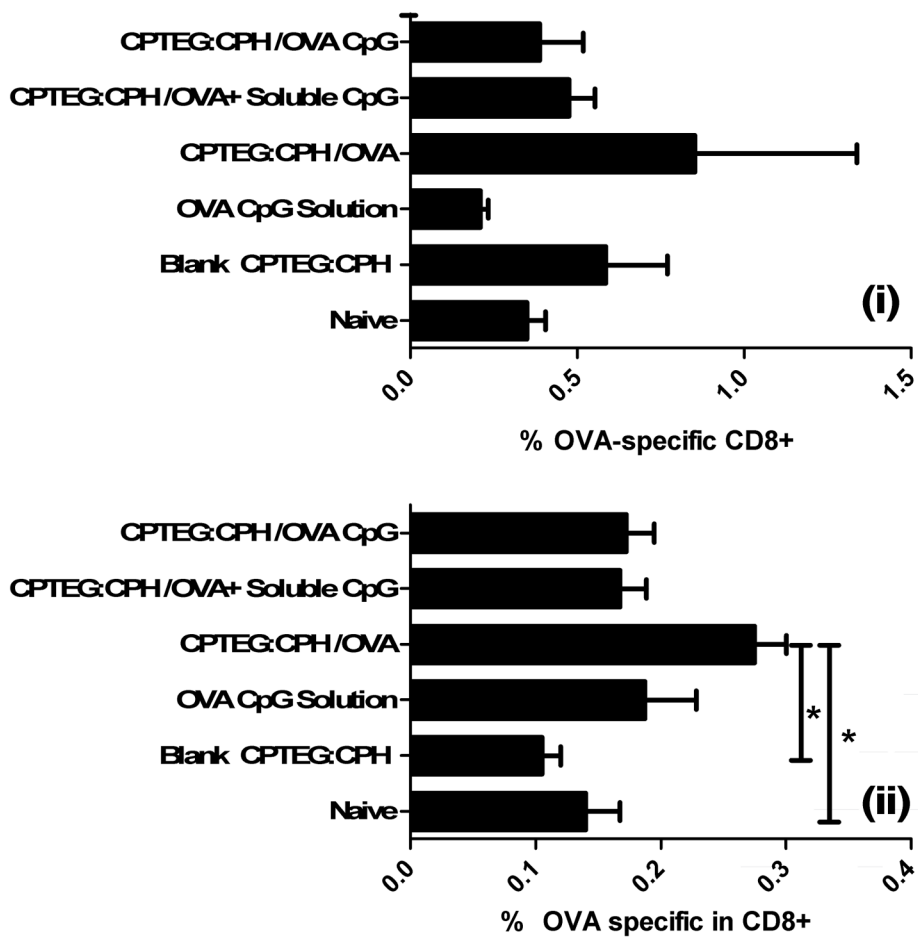
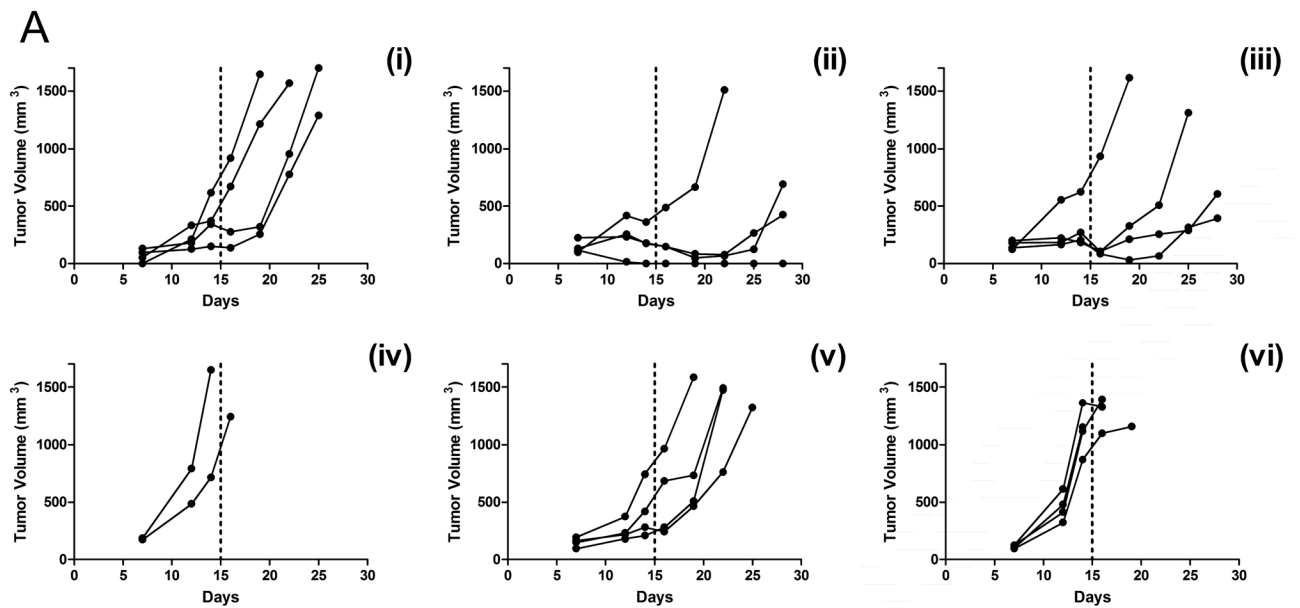


Figure 4. Analysis of OVA-specific T cell frequency in PBLs of mice vaccinated with different CPTEG:CPH microparticle formulations

Mice were primed (day 0) and boosted (day 7) with indicated formulations. PBLs were stained using a fluorescently tagged tetramer, designed to bind to OVA-specific CD8+ T cells, on day 14 (i) and day 20 (ii) post primary vaccination with indicated microparticle formulations. All groups were statistically compared using ANOVA followed by Tukey post-test ($*p < 0.05$).



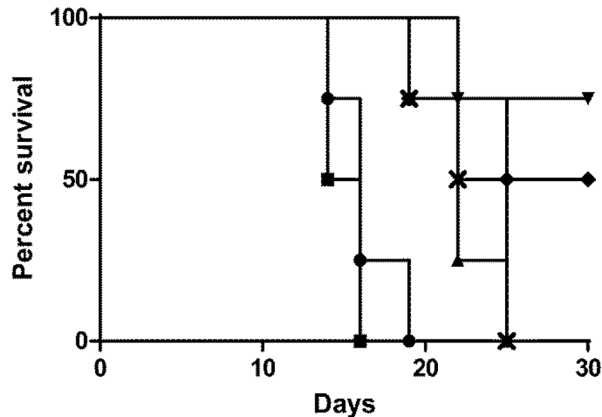
B

Day 14	Naive	Blank CPTEG:CPH	OVA CpG Solution	CPTEG:CPH /OVA	CPTEG:CPH /OVA+ Soluble CpG	CPTEG:CPH /OVA CpG
Naive			*	***	**	**
Blank CPTEG:CPH			*	**	*	*

Figure 5. The prophylactic anti-tumor effect of vaccinating mice with different CPTEG:CPH microparticle formulations

Thirty-five days prior to subcutaneous challenge with E.G7-OVA tumor cells, mice were vaccinated with the following microparticle formulations on day 0 (prime) and day 7 (boost): (i) OVA and CpG-ODN encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH; (ii) OVA encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH; (iii) OVA encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH with soluble CpG-ODN; (iv) Blank CPTEG:CPH particles; (v) Soluble OVA and CpG-ODN; (vi) Naive. **A.** Tumor volumes were recorded and each curve represents the tumor growth for each individual mouse. Tumor volumes from each treatment group were statistically compared using ANOVA followed by tukey post-test. (***) $p < 0.001$; (**) $p < 0.01$; (*) $p < 0.05$. **B.** Summary of those groups that were significantly different from Naïve and Blank CPTEG:CPH groups. All other group pairings showed no significant differences.

A.



B.

Day 14	naïve	Blank CPTEG:CPH	OVA CpG Solution	CPTEG:CPH/OVA	CPTEG:CPH/OVA+ Soluble CpG	CPTEG:CPH/OVA CpG
Naive			*	**	*	*
Blank CPH-CPTEG			*	*	*	*
OVA CpG Solution				*	*	
Median survival (days)	16	15	22	undefined	27.5	23.5

Figure 6. Survival curve of mice bearing E.G7-OVA tumors

Mice were primed (day 0) and boosted (day 7) with (✖) OVA and CpG-ODN encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH microparticles; (▼) OVA encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH microparticles; (◆) OVA encapsulated in CPTEG:CPH microparticles with soluble CpG-ODN; (■) blank CPTEG:CPH microparticles; (▲) Soluble OVA and CpG-ODN. A. Survival of mice in each treatment group was recorded along with (●) naïve group. (n = 4). B. Survival curves were analyzed using the log-rank (Mantel-Cox) test and the groups with significant differences between them displayed. (** $p < 0.01$; * $p < 0.05$).

Table 1

Loading efficiency and loading mass of OVA and CpG encapsulated CPTEG:CPH microparticles

Group	% Loading efficiency	Loading mass ($\mu\text{g}/\text{mg}$ of Polymer)
OVA loaded CPTEG:CPH	78.6%	OVA:11.8
OVA and CpG loaded CPTEG:CPH	OVA: 12.0%	OVA:1.8
	CpG: 21.0%	CpG: 0.2

Table 2

Particle size and zeta potential of CPTEG:CPH microparticles as measured by zetasizer Nano ZS

	Particle size (μm)	Polydispersity index (PDI)	Zeta potential (mV)
Blank Particles	3.08	0.25	-0.63 ± 3.81
OVA loaded CPTEG:CPH	2.02	0.54	-3.50 ± 10.10
OVA and CpG loaded CPTEG:CPH	1.57	0.52	-5.24 ± 7.24