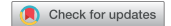


ORIGINAL RESEARCH



Ewing sarcoma partial regression without GvHD by chondromodulin-I/HLA-A*02:01-specific allorestricted T cell receptor transgenic T cells

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ABSTRACT

Background: Chondromodulin-I (CHM1) sustains malignancy in Ewing sarcoma (ES). Refractory ES carries a dismal prognosis and patients with bone marrow (BM) metastases do not survive irrespective of therapy. We assessed HLA-A*02:01/CHM1-specific allorestricted T cell receptor (TCR) wild-type and transgenic cytotoxic (CD8⁺) T cells against ES.

Patients and Methods: Three refractory HLA-A2⁺ ES patients were treated with HLA-A*02:01/peptide-specific alloperitoire-derived (i.e., allorestricted) CD8⁺ T cells. Patient #1 received up to 4.8 × 10⁵/kg body weight HLA-A*02:01⁻ allorestricted donor-derived wild-type CD8⁺ T cells. Patient #2 received up to 8.2 × 10⁶/kg HLA-A*02:01⁻ donor-derived and patient #3 up to 6 × 10⁶/kg autologous allorestricted TCR transgenic CD8⁺ T cells. All patients were treated with the same TCR complementary determining region 3 allrecognition sequence for CHM1 peptide 319 (CHM1³¹⁹).

Results: HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹-specific allorestricted CD8⁺ T cells showed specific *in vitro* lysis of all patient-derived ES cell lines. Therapy was well tolerated and did not cause graft versus host disease (GvHD). Patients #1 and #3 showed slow progression, whereas patient #2, while having BM involvement, showed partial metastatic regression associated with T cell homing to involved lesions. CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells could be tracked in his BM for weeks.

Conclusions: CHM1³¹⁹-TCR transgenic T cells home to affected BM and may cause partial disease regression. HLA-A*02:01/antigen-specific allorestricted T cells proliferate *in vivo* without causing GvHD.

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Allorestricted T cells;
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Introduction

Alloperitoire-derived T cells in cancer immunotherapy are thought to be associated with an increased risk of cross-reactivity as compared with conventional T cells, which in most cases do not eliminate tumors with low mutational burdens. Another obstacle of cancer immunotherapy is the loss of target antigen.¹ Thus, efficacious immunotherapy has to address targets presumed to be essential for cancer cell survival. Chondromodulin-I (CHM1) is a direct target of EWS-FLI1 in Ewing sarcoma (ES) and promotes metastatic spread.² EWS-FLI1 and other EWS-ETS fusion proteins are pathognomic of ES.³ ES patients metastatic to bone marrow (BM) do not survive irrespective of therapy.⁴ Survival of refractory patients is 6 to 7 mo.⁵ So far, T cell checkpoint inhibitors have not been successful in tumors with low mutational burden, particularly in childhood malignancies.⁶⁻¹²

Allrecognition is an evolutionary conserved mechanism, highly efficacious in defense against pathogens, which can be exploited in cancer immunotherapy,¹³ e.g. by major histocompatibility complex (MHC) disparate stem cell transplantation plus treatment with donor-derived T cells.^{14,15} Alloperitoire-derived T cells were used for the identification of T cell receptors (TCR) recognizing ES-derived peptides in the context of (human leukocyte antigen) HLA-A*02:01; these cells are termed allorestricted peptide-specific T cells. We have described previously tumor control without side effects with allorestricted T cells directed against ES-associated peptides CHM1³¹⁹ and EZH2⁶⁶⁶.^{14,16} Here, we report on the first clinical use of both HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic and HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹-peptide directed allorestricted wild-type CD8⁺ T cells in patients with refractory ES.

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📄 Supplemental data for this article can be accessed on the [publisher's website](#).

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Results

Expression of target genes

In previous work, we observed overexpression of CHM1 and EZH2 in ES.¹⁸ In samples obtained from refractory tumor before adoptive transfer, CHM1 was overexpressed compared to healthy body tissue in patients #2 and #3, and more moderately expressed in patient #1 (Fig. 1A). EZH2 was overexpressed in the same samples of patients #1 and #2 and more moderately expressed in patient #3. Furthermore, real-time PCR confirmed strong target upregulation of CHM1 in patient-derived ES cell lines in comparison to controls (Fig. 1B). All cell lines remained HLA-A*02:01 positive (Fig. S2).

Phenotype of transferred T cells

Prior to adoptive T cell transfer in patient #1, more than 88% of transferred CHM1³¹⁹ multimer positive CD8⁺ T cells displayed an *effector* phenotype (CD27^{dim}/CD28⁻/IL7Ra⁻/CD62L⁻/CD45RO⁺), while 12% displayed a *central memory* phenotype (CD62L⁺/CD45RO⁺). In patient #2, 66% of CD8⁺ TCR-

transgenic T cells displayed the central memory and 34% a *naïve* phenotype (CD62L⁺/CD45RA⁺). In patient #3, 2.5% of CHM1³¹⁹ multimer positive CD8⁺ TCR-transgenic T cells displayed a *T stem cell memory* phenotype (CD62L⁺/CD45RO⁺/CD45RA⁺/CCR7⁺/CD95⁺) and 67% displayed a *T central memory* phenotype (CD62L⁺/CD45RO⁺/CD45RA⁺/CCR7⁻/CD95⁺). Also, 30.5% showed an *effector* phenotype. Differences in phenotypes were most likely due to varying expansion protocols.^{14,17,19} T cells of patients #1, #2, and #3 were 29.2%, 99.7%, and 45.1% positive for the CHM1³¹⁹-specific multimer, respectively, and 63.5% positive for the EZH2⁶⁶⁶ multimer in patient #1 (Fig. S3).

Specificity of transferred T cells

Wild-type HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ and EZH2⁶⁶⁶ as well as HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells were tested for *in vitro* functionality. We previously demonstrated processing and transportation of the predicted CHM1³¹⁹ nonamer to the surface of target cells.¹⁹ Wild-type HLA-A*02:01/EZH2⁶⁶⁶ as well as HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells and to a lesser degree wild-type HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ are specific

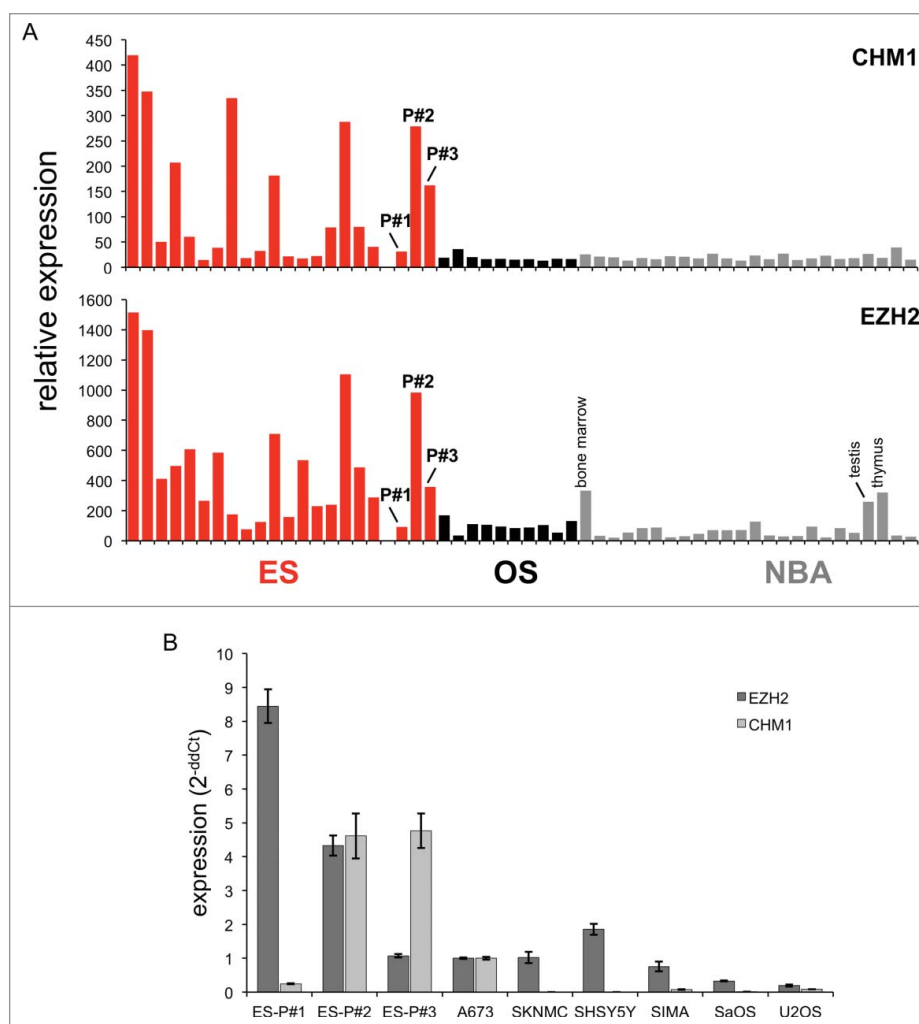


Figure 1. CHM1 and EZH2 relative gene expression in ES primary tumors and cell lines vs. controls. (A) Expression profile of CHM1 and EZH2 in ES primary samples, patient's-derived HLA-A*02:01⁺ cell lines ES-P#1, ES-P#2, ES-P#3, osteosarcoma primary samples, and normal body atlas (NBA) analyzed by microarray (GSE45544 and GSE73166). (B) Real-time RT-PCR confirms upregulation of CHM1 in patient-derived HLA-A*02:01⁺ cell lines ES-P#2, ES-P#3 in comparison to controls. EZH2 is upregulated in ES-P#1, ES-P#2, ES-P#3 in comparison to controls. A673, HLA-A*02:01⁺ ES cell line; SKNMC, SHSY5Y, and SIMA, neuroblastoma cell lines; SaOS, U2OS, osteosarcoma cell lines were used as controls. Analyses were performed as duplicates. Results were normalized to GAPDH and quantified by the ddCt-method.

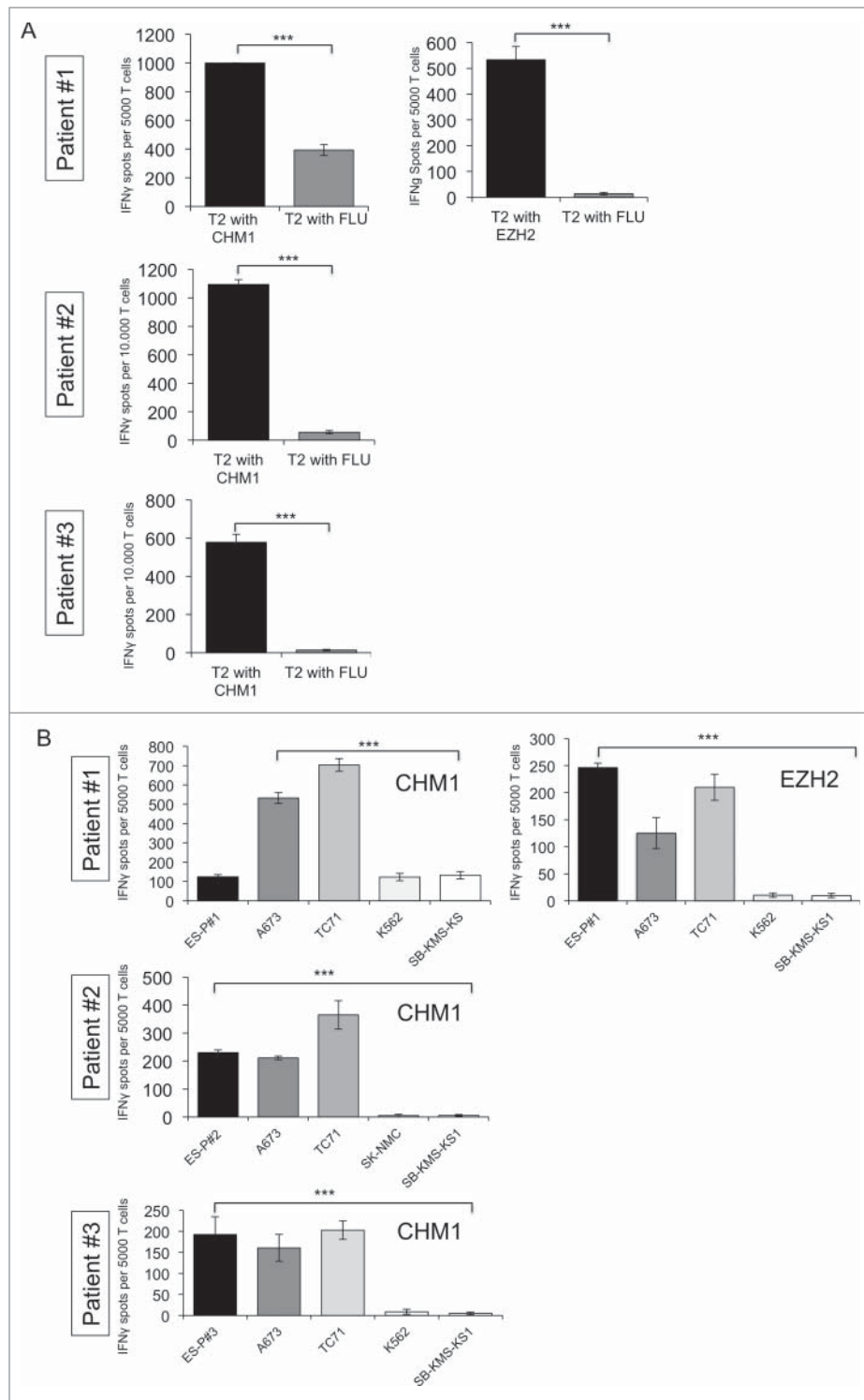


Figure 2. Donor-derived HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells specifically recognize HLA-A*02⁺/CHM1⁺ cell lines *in vitro*. (A) CHM1³¹⁹-TCR-transgenic T cells specifically recognize CHM1⁺-loaded T2 cells and (B) HLA-A*02:01⁺/CHM1⁺ Ewing sarcoma cell lines A673, TC-71, and the patient-derived cell line SB-KMS-GH in contrast to HLA-A*02:01⁻/CHM1⁺ SK-NMC, K562, and SB-KMS-KS1 control cell lines in IFN γ ELISpot assays. The E/T ratio for ELISpot assay was 1:4. Error bars represent standard deviation of triplicate experiments. Asterisks indicate significance levels.

against respective peptide loaded T2 cells (Fig. 2A). HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells are specific against HLA-A*02⁺/CHM1⁺ ES cell lines (including patient-derived cell lines ES-P#1, ES-P#2 and ES-P#3) in IFN γ ELISpot assays (Fig. 2B).

In vivo persistence of transferred T cells

In patient #1 no transferred T cells were retrieved from either peripheral blood, BM, lymph-node, or from tumor samples (data not shown).

Patient #2 showed a clinical response to T cell therapy. BM aspirates from the posterior iliac spines at day 6 after first adoptive transfer stained 1.9% (left) and 0.7% (right) positive for the CHM1³¹⁹ multimer, demonstrating homing to affected BM (Fig. 3A). At day 14 after first transfer, BM aspirates converted multimer negative (Fig. 3B, Fig. S4A). At day 7 after second transfer (day 39 after first), 0.8% (left) and 2.3% (right) aspirates stained positive (Fig. S4B). At day 14 after second transfer, positive cells increased to 1.1% (left) and 4.4% (right). In the same interval, positive staining in peripheral blood cells increased from 0.9 to 2.8% (Fig. 3C). HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells persisted in the right posterior iliac spine (at least 14 d after second transfer) as well as in the peripheral blood at least 27 d after second transfer (Fig. 3D).

Patient #3: HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells were detectable in peripheral blood 42 d after second transfer (68 d after first transfer). *In vivo* persistence in peripheral blood was shown until 51 d after second transfer (day 77 first transfer, Fig. S8). Follow-up blood samples were not obtained due to return to the home country.

HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cell transfer have no side effects and can be associated with partial tumor regression

T cells were well tolerated in all patients. At the time of T cell transfer *Patient #1* had progressive disease after refractory fifth relapse 6 y following initial diagnosis. She progressed and died 5 mo after first transfer without any signs of graft versus host disease (GvHD) (Fig. S7A). Survival after last relapse was also 5 mo (Table S1). The time between initial diagnosis and death was 7 y.

Patient #2 had progressive disease after refractory third relapse 2 y after initial diagnosis. He showed partial metastatic regression in positron emission and computed tomography (PET-CT) after adoptive transfer: At day - 1 before first transfer, PET-CT showed a pathological [¹⁸F]fluorodeoxyglucose (FDG)-uptake of the BM at the left posterior iliac spine (Fig. S5). Marrow aspirates were positive on the left and the right side, but showed more ES cells on the left side. At day 20 after first transfer the PET-CT FDG-uptake on the left side, as quantified by maximal standardized uptake value (SUV^{max}), had increased to an SUV^{max} of 4.1 but remained negative on

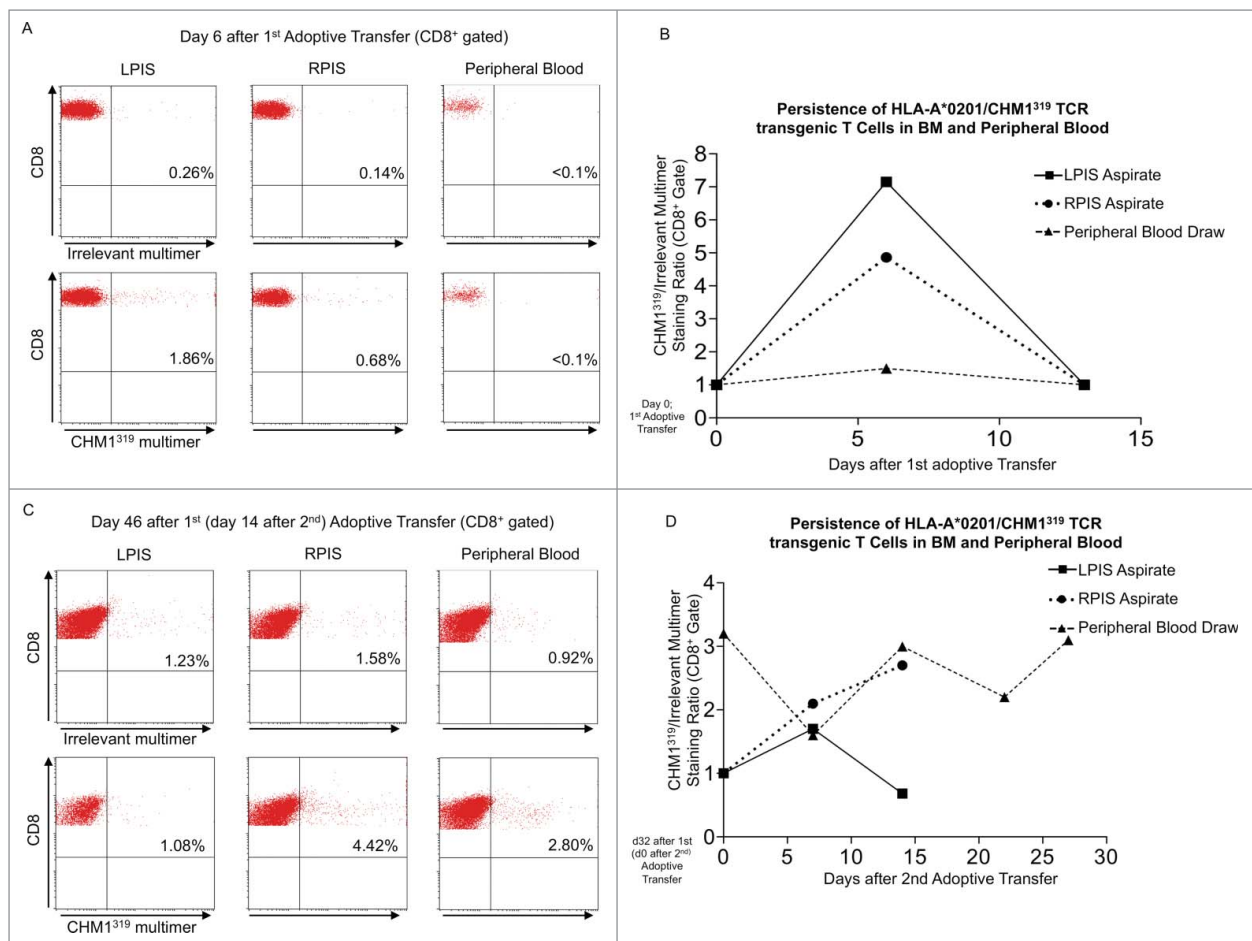


Figure 3. Transferred HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ T cell receptor transgenic T cells home to bone marrow of patient #2 and persist. (A) Bone marrow (BM) aspirates from the left posterior iliac spine (LPIS) stain positive for the CHM1³¹⁹ multimer at a stronger rate than BM of the right posterior iliac spine (RPIS) at day 6 after first adoptive transfer. Peripheral blood (PB) cells do not stain CHM1³¹⁹ multimer positive. (B) At day 14 after first transfer BM aspirates and peripheral blood cells convert CHM1 multimer negative, demonstrating loss of adoptively transferred T cells after first adoptive transfer (x-axis; CHM1³¹⁹ multimer⁺/irrelevant multimer⁺ CD8⁺ staining ratio). (C) and (D) At day 14 after second adoptive transfer BM aspirates show a stronger CHM1³¹⁹ multimer fluorescence in RPIS but CHM1³¹⁹ loss in LPIS. PB is CHM1³¹⁹ multimer positive and HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ T cell receptor transgenic T cells proliferate until last PB draw on day 27 after second (day 56 after first) adoptive transfer. An irrelevant EZH2⁶⁶⁶/HLA-A*02:01 restricted multimer serves as control (CD8⁺ gate).

the right side. On day 21 after second transfer (day 53 after first transfer) immunohistochemistry of the left posterior iliac spine showed CD8⁺ T cell infiltration in both ES tumor and stromal tissue (Fig. S6A and S6B) while PET-CT revealed a partial regression (Fig. 4A). In addition, PET-CT FDG-uptake of the right iliac spine, right acetabular roof, left femoral neck, left

acetabular pillar, and the calvarium showed impressive regression with respect to SUV^{max} (Fig. 4B and C; Table S2). Non-specificity of the PET FDG-uptake was ruled out by focal (vs. diffuse) localization and the interval between the last aplasia-genic therapy and start of T cell transfer (more than 3 mo). ES regression after second adoptive transfer was noted in six of

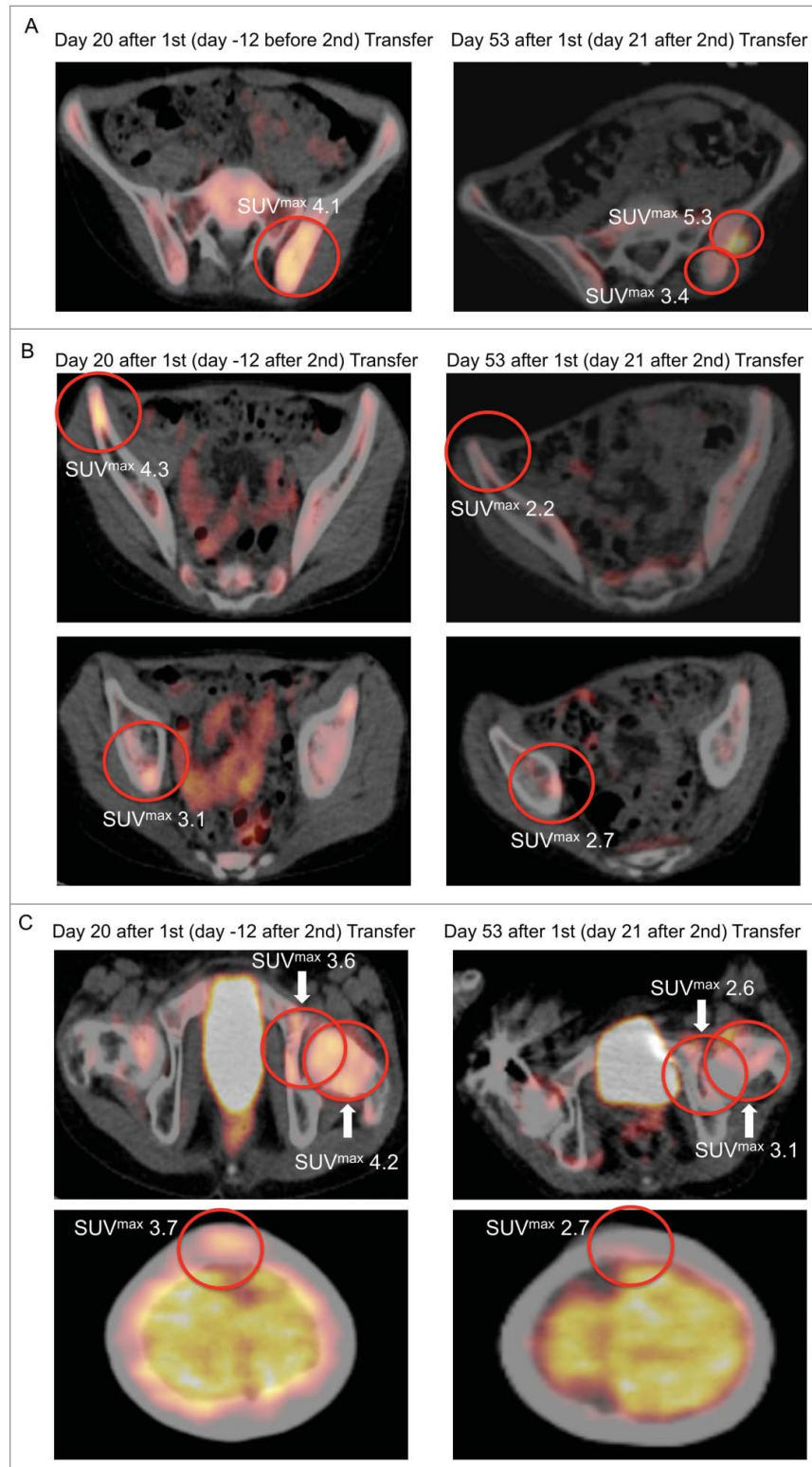


Figure 4. PET-CT FDG-uptake reduction in multiple bone sites after second adoptive transfer. After second adoptive transfer, prior PET-CT positive sites (left panel) at the (A) left iliac spine, (B) right iliac spine and right acetabular roof, as well as (C) left femoral neck, left acetabular pillar, and calvarium showed significant regression with respect to metabolic volume and SUV^{max} (right panel).

Table 1. Disease course of single PET-CT positive sites after first and second adoptive transfer of HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells compared with reference PET-CT before therapy (Patient #2).

| | After first adoptive transfer | | | After second adoptive transfer | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Progressive sites | New metastases | Regressive sites | Progressive sites | New metastases | Regressive sites |
| Lower extremity | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| Pelvis | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Upper extremity | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lungs | approx. 50 | approx. 30 | 0 | >50 | >50 | 0 |
| Skull | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

eight metastatic bone/BM sites, mainly in the pelvis. Lung metastases were progressive and 10 new bone/BM metastases emerged with 8 of 10 located in the extremities (Table 1). The patient died 2 mo after first adoptive transfer due to pulmonary disease progression without showing any signs of GvHD. Survival after last relapse was 5 mo (Table S1). The time between initial diagnosis and death was 30 mo.

Patient #3: This patient had refractory primary disease, progressive 1 y after initial diagnosis. Tumor volume and positron emission tomography magnetic resonance imaging (PET-MRI) FDG-uptake of involved compartments increased continuously after adoptive transfer (Fig. S7B). The patient furthermore had an in-field relapse after delayed first irradiation of the primary (Fig. S7C). CT scans indicated no appearance of new metastases after second transfer until day 43 after second (day 69 after first) transfer. Follow-up PET or CT imaging was not obtained. Two doses of checkpoint inhibitors were administered in 2 instead of the 3 weeks as recommended by the manufacturer. On day 21 after the second dose (day 64 after first, day 38 after second transfer), the patient developed a temporary grade 3 maculo-papular rash with pruritus and grade 1 bullous dermatitis consistent with a known adverse event after checkpoint inhibition (CTCAE v3.1). The rash was successfully treated with two doses of methylprednisolone (1 mg/kg IV) and skin symptoms regressed completely after 3 weeks. The patient died 4 mo after first adoptive transfer due to lung disease progression (3 mo after second) without receiving any aplasiogenic chemotherapy for 6 mo. Survival after last relapse was 9 mo (Table S1). The time between initial diagnosis and death was 20 mo.

A matched pair analysis with 15 controls from our Cooperative ES Study Group Registry, treated according to best practice (EURO-Ewing 2008, matched for time to first relapse, type of first relapse, primary metastases, age at diagnosis, number of relapses, gender, overall survival and death) revealed a higher mean overall survival of 136 d (816 vs. 680 days) in those patients treated with adoptive T cell transfer. Due to the low number of patients treated with adoptive T cell transfer this difference was not significant.

Discussion

Allorestricted T cells do not undergo thymic education²⁰ and are generally thought to be more cross-reactive than conventional T cells. While being associated with GvHD, allogeneic donor lymphocyte infusions in general have failed to cause

solid tumor regression. Conventional TCR reactivity is low against tumor-derived non-mutated peptides due to thymic education.^{21,22} One possibility to enhance conventional TCR reactivity is affinity enhancement by random mutagenesis. However, these TCR mutants are also prone to cross-reactivity with unpredictable and fatal off-target effects.²³ For efficacious T cell therapy, both, the identification of proteins essential for cancer survival and TCR reactivity have to be addressed.^{2,14,17,19,24}

Utilization of TCRs from the allogeneic repertoire, exploiting a naturally occurring mechanism of self-defense, may circumvent both the requirement for affinity enhancement and anergy of T cells to tumor self-antigens.^{15,25} Attempts to translate recent achievements of cellular therapy with e.g., chimeric antigen receptor T cells into the treatment of solid tumors, in particular pediatric sarcomas, has had limited success so far.^{9-11,26,27} Since oncogenic drivers often are not antigenic, additional targets selectively overexpressed and required for malignancy and metastasis are to be identified supporting the application of TCR driven T cells.^{15,28,29}

CHM1 is directly upregulated by the ES driving fusion oncogene EWS-FLI1 and maintains an undifferentiated, invasive phenotype, and metastatic spread. Given its critical role in ES malignancy, CHM1 constitutes an excellent therapeutic target.² In previous studies, we have demonstrated efficacious T cell responses of clonally expanded wild-type HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ and HLA-A*02:01/EZH2⁶⁶⁶ restricted T cells against ES cell lines *in vitro* and *in vivo*.¹⁹ However, high manufacturing complexity, low cell numbers and rapid T cell exhaustion prompted us to generate large-scale ES-specific TCR transgenic T cells with less differentiated phenotypes off-the-shelf.^{14,17}

To facilitate the generation of highly enriched ES-specific T cells with a central memory-like phenotype, we successfully transduced allogeneic donor cells and autologous cells with CHM1-specific TCRs. We demonstrate here that adoptively transferred haplodisparate HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹-specific allorestricted TCR-driven T cells are well tolerated without GvHD even at doses up to 8×10^6 /kg. This may be a key finding in this small series, given common concerns against allorestricted T cells because of their potential for cross-reactivity. The assumption that, because of their 100–1,000-fold higher incidence, allogeneic T cells are more degenerate and/or promiscuous than conventional T cells has never been clearly established experimentally.²⁵ Peptide specificity of our allorestricted cells is indicated by the absence of GvHD, in spite of a cell dose 100 times higher than recommended to avoid GvHD by nonspecific haplodisparate T cells.³⁰

Even in combination with the application of immune checkpoint inhibitors directed against CTLA-4 and PD-1 our haplo-disparate T cells were well tolerated. We do not rule out that checkpoint inhibition contributed to tumor regression. Both checkpoint inhibitors may enable in part the transferred HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic CD8⁺ T cells to unfold their antitumor activity leading to *in vivo* proliferation, trafficking to involved tumor sites and consecutively to execute partial regression of metastatic tumor sites.

Homing of transferred HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ TCR transgenic T cells to at least two affected BM sites could be demonstrated in patient #2. Moreover, due to persistence of HLA-A2 and CHM1 surface expression, a specific immune response of HLA-A*02:01/peptide⁺ T cells against all patient-derived ES cell lines was shown. Persistence of HLA-A*02:01 and CHM1 surface expression might be explained by the lack of immunoeediting, since the tumor encounters the allorestricted TCR for the first time at therapy. In one of three patients with refractory disseminated disease treated with these T cells, we observed partial tumor regression.

In summary, we demonstrate that HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ allorestricted TCR transgenic T cells home to affected BM can be associated with disease regression and do not cause GvHD. This is the first report on HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ allorestricted TCR transgenic T cells in ES patients. Our observations suggest that CHM1³¹⁶ is a relevant target for a TCR mediated approach. This observation raises hope that patients with advanced ES may benefit from immunotherapy in a state of residual disease in the future. Clinical trials to support this hypothesis are warranted.

Patients and methods

Cell lines, donor PBMC, PCR, expression analyses, ELISpot, identification, and expansion of CHM1³¹⁶-specific TCR CHM1-4B4, and generation of CHM1³¹⁹-TCR-transgenic T cells including their immunophenotyping were all used as described previously (Blaeschke et al.,¹⁴ Schirmer et al.,¹⁷ Supplemental data sheet 1, Table S3).

Tumor staging and detection of antigen-specific T cells

Staging was done by hybrid FDG PET-CT or PET-MRI and BM cytology. Transferred CD8⁺ T cells were monitored via CD8⁺/CD3/peptide multimer staining of blood and BM.

Statistics

Descriptive statistics was used to determine mean, standard deviation, and standard error of the mean. Differences were analyzed by unpaired two-tailed student's *t*-test as indicated using Excel (Microsoft); *p*-values < 0.05 were considered statistically significant (**p* < 0.05; ***p* < 0.005; ****p* < 0.0005). Survival was calculated from the most recent date stating local or systemic relapse, which led to progressive disease, i.e., post-relapse survival.

Patients

All patients and their legal guardians signed informed consent before therapy. Regulatory authorities were notified in advance

and therapy was approved by the IRB and the health care ethics committee. All patients underwent the verification of target and HLA-A*02:01 expression (Fig. 1A).

Patient #1: In March 2004, a 17 y old girl was diagnosed with localized ES of the left fibula (tumor volume 120 mL). BM aspirates were negative. After treatment with the Euro-Ewing 99 protocol, including local irradiation (44.8 Gy) and busulfan/melphalan-based high-dose chemotherapy with autologous rescue, she suffered a first relapse of the thoracic spine (T VII and T IX) in November 2006. The HLA-A*02:01⁺ patient received irinotecan and temozolomide relapse therapy followed by involved lesion irradiation (40 Gy), reduced intensity chemotherapy and allotransplant of her haploidentical HLA-A*02:01⁻ brother in July 2007. The second relapse (March 2009, L III) was treated with donor lymphocyte infusions (DLI) up to 3×10^5 /kg and local irradiation (36 Gy). The third relapse (September 2009, L I) was treated with local irradiation (50 Gy). The fourth relapse (June 2010, L III and multiple lung metastases) was treated with repetitive DLI up to 2×10^6 /kg and local irradiation (18 Gy). She developed acute GvHD °III–IV that was successfully treated with prednisolone, mycophenolate mofetil, and basiliximab. After fifth relapse (multifocal, November 2010, pelvis and left femur), she became refractory and eligible for adoptive therapy with HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ and HLA-A*02:01/EZH2⁶⁶⁶ allorestricted cloned wild-type CD8⁺ T cells from her haploidentical brother. 4×10^4 /kg (d0), 2×10^5 /kg (d21), and 4.8×10^5 /kg (d28) T cells were infused at a 1:1 ratio (Fig. S1A, Table S1).

Patient #2: In April 2013, a 12 y old HLA-A*02:01⁺ boy with ES of the right femur was started on the Euro-Ewing 2008 protocol. BM aspirates were negative at diagnosis. His first relapse in March 2014 was treated with irinotecan and temozolomide, tandem myeloablative chemotherapy, autologous rescue and reduced intensity conditioning for allotransplant from his haploidentical HLA-A*02:01⁻ mother. Local treatment consisted of MRI-directed involved compartment irradiation to the primary tumor, to osseous metastases (total dose 50–55 Gy) and to the lungs (15 Gy) as well as resection of the right distal femur tumor mass. After third relapse (multifocal, May 2015), he became refractory and eligible for adoptive therapy of HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ allorestricted TCR transgenic CD8⁺ T cells from his mother. At this point, BM cytology was positive. 1×10^6 /kg donor derived CHM1³¹⁹-TCR transgenic CD8⁺ T cells were infused (d0), followed by transfer of 8.2×10^6 /kg HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ T cells (d32 in combination with nivolumab 1 mg/kg and ipilimumab 3 mg/kg, Fig. S1B, Table S1).

Patient #3: In November 2014, a 13 y old boy was diagnosed with ES of the right chest wall without BM involvement. He received chemotherapy similar to Euro-Ewing 2008 without concurrent irradiation. He developed progressive multifocal disease (local relapse plus pulmonary metastases), treated with irinotecan/vincristine. He next failed salvage with topotecan/cyclophosphamide and irinotecan/temozolomide chemotherapy and radiation therapy (total of 50.4 Gy) of the right lung tumor. Autologous stem cell apheresis was impossible due to BM exhaustion. BM aspirates were tumor negative throughout the course. Temporary control of the primary was now achieved by radiation. 3×10^6 /kg autologous HLA-A*02:01/CHM1³¹⁹ allorestricted TCR transgenic CD8⁺ T cells on day 0

were followed by a second dose of 6×10^6 /kg in combination with checkpoint inhibitors nivolumab (1 mg/kg) and ipilimumab (3 mg/kg) on day 26. Prior to each dose, 50 mg of cyclophosphamide was given orally for a total of 7 d. Checkpoint inhibitors were re-administered on day 43 (Fig. S1C, Table S1).

Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest

S. Burdach has an ownership interest in PDL BioPharma and holds intellectual property (EU and US patents) in gene expression analysis. D. Busch holds shares in Juno Therapeutics. The other authors declare no potential conflicts of interest.

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Author contributions

UT, SS, AK, MT, DS, FB, OS, RAR, TGPG, and SB did the experiments. UT, SS, IE, AK, MT, DS, FB, OS, RAR, TGPG, GHSR, PHS, and SB analyzed the data. UT, SS, AK, DS, FB, TGPG, GSHR, and SB interpreted the data. SJ, AR, and UD performed the statistical analysis. DHB provided multimer technology. UT, SS, KG, ITvL, and SB fulfilled diagnoses, collected patient information and did the follow up. UT and SB conceived, designed, and supervised the analysis. UT, SS, PHS, and SB drafted and revised the report.

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