

## Review

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# Photodynamic therapy and photothermal therapy for the treatment of peritoneal metastasis: a systematic review

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### Abstract

**Background:** The aim of this review was to analyze pre-clinical studies and clinical trials evaluating photodynamic therapy (PDT), and photothermal therapy (PTT) in peritoneal metastasis (PM) treatment.

**Content:** Systematic review according PRISMA guidelines. Electronic searches using PubMed and Clinical Trials.

**Summary:** A total of 19 preclinical studies analyzing PDT in PM treatment were included. Each new generations of photosensitizers (PS) permitted to improve tumoral targeting. Phase III preclinical studies showed an important tumoral biodistribution (ratio 9.6 vs normal tissue) and significant survival advantage (35.5 vs 52.5 days for cytoreductive surgery vs cytoreductive surgery + PDT,  $p < 0.005$ ). Height clinical trials showed important side effects (capillary leak syndrome and bowel perforation), mainly explained by low tumor-selectivity of the PS used (first generation mainly).

Peritoneal mesothelioma apparition with carbon nanotubes first limited the development of PTT. But gold nanoparticles, with a good tolerance, permitted a limitation of tumoral growth (reduction of bioluminescence to 37% 20 days after PTT), and survival benefit (35, 32, and 26 days for PTT with cisplatin, PTT alone and laser alone, respectively).

**Outlook:** Recent improvement in tumor-selectivity and light delivery systems is promising but further development would be necessary before PDT and PTT routinely applied for peritoneal carcinomatosis.

**Keywords:** photodynamic therapy, photothermal therapy, peritoneal metastasis

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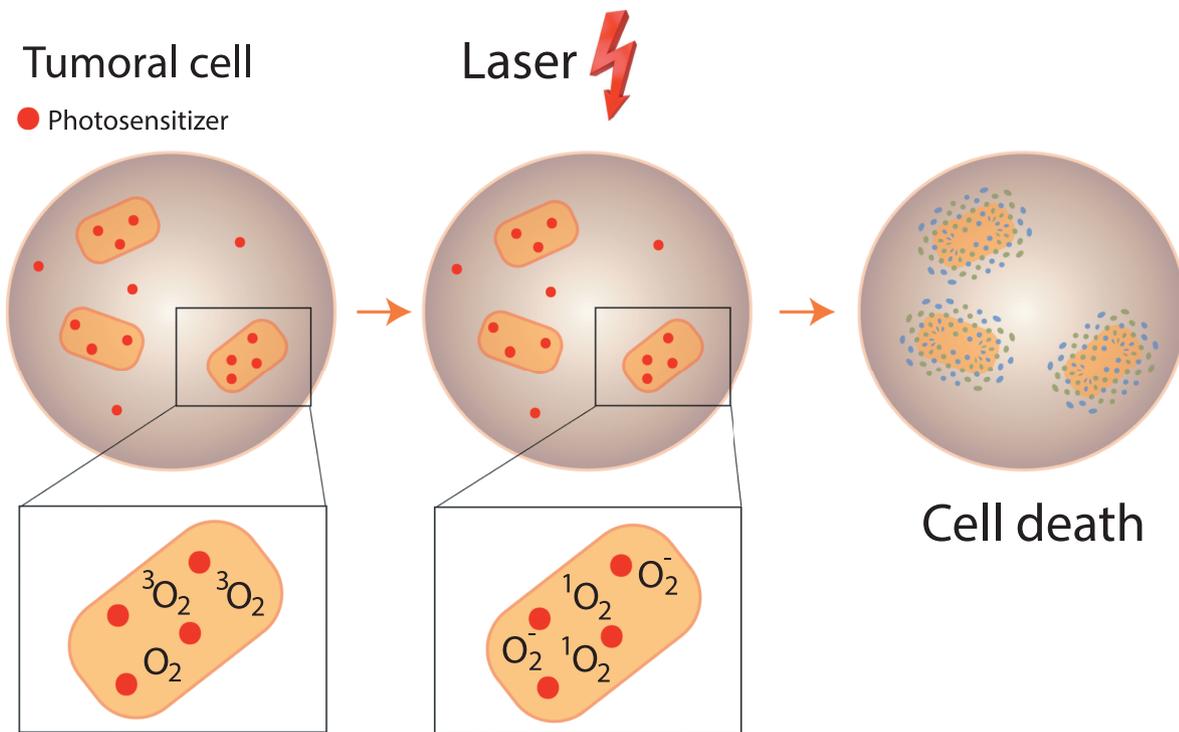
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## Introduction

Peritoneal metastasis (PM) is considered as the terminal stage of malignant disease. The prognosis is poor with a median survival of approximately 5 months without treatment, and 12–24 months with palliative chemotherapy [1, 2]. The only curative intent treatment option is complete cytoreduction surgery (CRS), consisting to resect all macroscopic disease, following (or not function of PM origin) by hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) [2]. The adjuvant application of intraperitoneal (IP) chemotherapy could permit the destruction of residual microscopic disease, which is inevitable after CRS. This treatment presents high mortality rate, about 0–3% [3, 4], and morbidity rates, about 20–60% [5]. A recent French study (PRODIGE 7) shows that, at 60 days, major morbidity (grade 3–4–5 of the Dindo classification) was higher for patients who received CRS + HIPEC (24.1%) than patients with CRS only (13.6%) ( $p = 0.03$ ) [6]. To decrease the morbidity of HIPEC, collaborations between physicists, chemists, and surgeons permit to develop new anticancer modalities with a common objective: to improve tumoral selectivity with a more important vectorization. Two therapeutics are analyzed in PM treatment in this review: photodynamic therapy (PDT), and photothermal therapy (PTT).

## Photodynamic therapy

PDT is known for tens of years [7]. After accumulation of a photosensitizer (PS) in cancer cells, more rapidly than non-malignant tissue, illumination with a light induces cell death. PS is activated with a particular wavelength illumination. Photochemical reaction with oxygen leads to reactive oxygen species (ROS) production. An interaction between ROS and oxygen causes superoxyd oxygen  $O_2^-$ . There is an interaction between PS and oxygen  $^3O_2$  causing oxygen



**Figure 1:** photodynamic therapy: mechanism.

transformation in cytotoxic singlet oxygen  $^1O_2$ .  $O_2$  and  $^1O_2$  create cell death with two mechanism: direct mechanism (necrosis and apoptosis) and indirect mechanism (microvascular damage [8, 9], and antitumor immune responses [10]) (Figure 1). Many PS were developed, and Photofrin<sup>o</sup> was the first used. In 1972, Diamond and al published, as first, in The Lancet, the effectiveness of PDT in treatment of glioma cells in culture and on subcutaneous glioma on rats [7]. In 1975, Kelly and al published first preclinical results with PDT in the treatment of other type of tumors, namely superficial transitional cell carcinoma of the bladder [11]. The first clinical results were in dermatology [12], especially for the treatment of psoriasis, mycosis fungoides, and skin cancer. The main side effect of this therapy involved the skin, and depended on the doses and continuance of the treatment [13]. Between 1982 and 1984, PDT results for treatment of others cancers were published: tracheobronchial tree cancer [14], lung cancer [15], and esophagus cancer [16]. Tochner was the first, in 1985 [17], to evaluate PDT (with Photofrin<sup>o</sup>) for PM treatment.

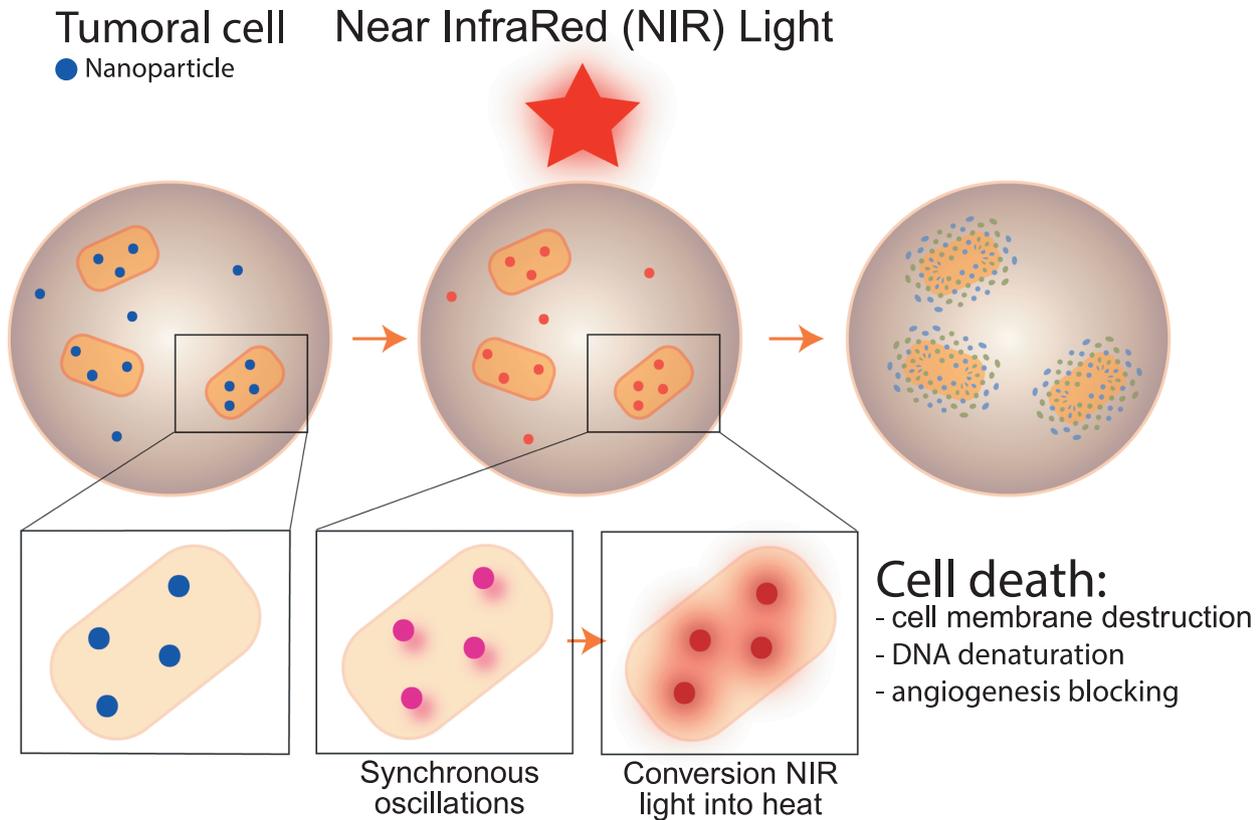
## Photothermal therapy

These last years, we noted a growing interest for therapeutic or diagnostic nanoparticles (NPs) [18]. Some

researchers focused on improving the drug delivery systems and on obtaining higher drug concentrations at the site of the disease with a reduction of the toxicity. Kohane [19] showed in 2008 that NPs formulated with lower molecular weight polymers, were safe with lower incidence of peritoneal adhesions. Furthermore, NPs can bypass drug efflux pumps, thus evading multidrug resistance and achieving significantly higher drug accumulation into the tumoral cells compared to IP therapy with the unformulated free drugs [20–22].

More recently, a strategy involving NPs – mediated hyperthermia (PTT), was reported and tested in cancer treatment [23]. PTT appeared like a new antitumoral therapy because of the selective hyperthermia in tumor tissue without toxicity to healthy tissue. After administration and intra tumoral accumulation, plasmonic NPs are illuminated with a light of adequate wavelength. It causes the NPs conduction band electrons to undergo synchronized oscillations [24], to convert near-infrared (NIR) light into heat, that ultimately kills cancer cells [25–28]. Three mechanism explain the cell death: cell membrane destruction, tumoral DNA denaturation, and angiogenesis blocking [25–28] (Figure 2). In 2003, first studies described PTT in cancer [27–31].

The aim of the present study was to perform a systematic literature review on photodynamic and photothermal therapies for PM treatment. We analyzed preclinical



**Figure 2:** photothermal therapy, mechanism.

and clinical trials function of toxicity (phase I), efficacy and safety (phase II) and survival (phase III).

terms, but 0 with “photothermal therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis” or “photothermal therapy and intraperitoneal” or “nanotubes and peritoneal carcinomatosis”.

## Materials and methods

### Search strategy

A systematic review of the literature was conducted using PubMed and Clinical Trials.

On PubMed, combinations of the following terms were used “peritoneal carcinomatosis”, “photodynamic therapy”, “photothermal therapy”, “nanotubes”, and “intraperitoneal”. Articles were selected by the title first, and by abstract reading (Figure 3). We identified 82 articles with “photodynamic therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis” terms, but only 3 articles with “photothermal therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis” terms, 8 with “photothermal therapy and intraperitoneal”, and 12 articles by using “nanotubes and peritoneal carcinomatosis”.

On Clinical Trials, two trials were proposed with “photodynamic therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis”

### Study inclusion

#### Photodynamic therapy

On PubMed, all studies proposed for “photodynamic therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis” (n = 82) were analyzed. An initial evaluation of the title and abstracts were performed to exclude articles which didn’t really evaluate these therapeutic for PM. Many articles were about photodynamic diagnosis and not therapy. We excluded articles about in vitro experimentations. Thirty-one articles were assessed for eligibility: 9 trials, 20 preclinical studies, and 2 reviews. We analyzed only preclinical studies and clinical trials. Full text was available for 8 trials and 19 preclinical studies. We included, finally, these 27 articles.

On clinical trials, only 1 of the 2 trials proposed was really about the PDT (NCT02840331).

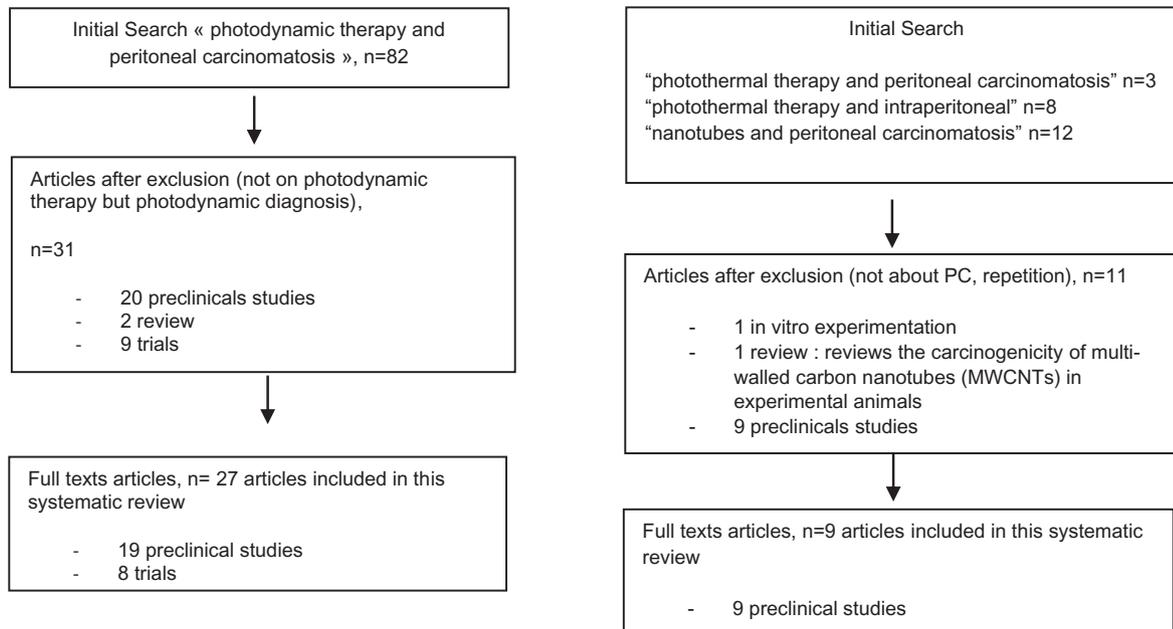


Figure 3: Flow chart.

### Photothermal therapy

On PubMed, all studies proposed for “photothermal therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis”, “photothermal therapy and intraperitoneal”, or “nanotubes and peritoneal carcinomatosis” were analyzed. Titles and abstracts were first evaluated to exclude articles not about PC. Eleven articles were first included. After exclusion of *in vitro* experimentation and review, to analyze only preclinical studies and trials, we really included nine articles.

## Results

### Photodynamic therapy

#### Preclinical studies (Table 1)

We included 27 articles in this review with 19 pre-clinical studies. PM origins varied: 9 ovarian, 4 colonic, 2 gastric, 1 sarcomatosis, 1 pancreatic carcinomatosis, and 2 without carcinomatosis (Table 1). Results are presented in Table 1. We divided these articles by the PS used and the type of study: phase I corresponding in pharmacokinetics and toxicity study, phase II corresponding in efficacy and safety study, and phase III in survival study. Three generations of PS are described. The first generation consisted

only in Photofrin<sup>®</sup>, hematoporphyrin derivative. Second and third generation PS were designed to improve tumor uptake, specificity of action and to reduce general toxicity. Before 1995, Photofrin<sup>®</sup> was the only PS used. PDT for treatment of ovarian carcinomatosis with Photofrin<sup>®</sup> was first described in a mouse model in 1985 by Tochner [17]. He demonstrated the effectiveness of PDT with Photofrin<sup>®</sup> with a high cure rate of 85 %, a decrease in abdominal size (26 of 29 had a marked reduction in abdominal girth) and an impact on the survival (6 of 15 of twice-treated group were alive at 90 days and considered cured). This author validated the tolerance of this treatment in a phase I preclinical study [32]: dogs received Photofrin<sup>®</sup> both intravenously and intraperitoneally before IP light treatment. All dogs tolerated the treatment without significant morbidity. Perry [33] validated the tolerance and the tumor PS concentration in an other phase I study in 1991. The route of sensitizer administration (intravenous versus IP) did not significantly affect tumor sensitizer levels, toxicity, or mortality, with a maximal tolerated light dose at 1.04 J/cm<sup>2</sup>. Griffin [34] validated in an other phase I the tolerance of this treatment.

With the arrival of second generation of PS, especially Foscan<sup>®</sup> (meta(tetrahydroxyphenyl)chlorin = mTHPC) and hexaminolevulinat (HAL), other authors interested in the effective of PDT for PM. Morlet [35], first, evaluated PDT with mTHPC in this indication. He demonstrated that tumor-selectivity decreased with time and concluded that

Table 1: PDT: preclinical studies.

Author	Year	Animal model	Tumor model	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Tochner	1985	Mice (n = 68)	Ovarian: embryonal ovarian carcinoma	Photofrin <sup>o</sup> : 1th G	2h and 15d	9.6 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase III	<u>Toxicity:</u> The treatment resulted in death in 5 mice (1 only autopsy: perforation of small bowel) <u>Tumour response:</u> 26 of 29 mice (mice that survived beyond 72 h after treatment with both Photofrin <sup>o</sup> and laser light) had a marked reduction in abdominal girth. One half of these returned to weights similar to those of normal mice that had no tumor transplant. <u>Survival:</u> PDT group: 17/20 (85%) survival at 25 days. These were disease free at 11 months. All mice not receiving PDT treatment died between days 20 and 23.
Tochner	1991	Canine (n = 13)	Non-tumoral	Photofrin <sup>o</sup> : 1th G	2 h	0.57–0.74 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I	All animals tolerated the treatment without significant morbidity. <u>Histopathology:</u> Liver consistently showed hemosiderin-like deposits mainly in the periportal parenchymal cells + a 50% incidence of mild inflammatory peritoneal response.
Perry	1991	Mice (n = 40)	Sarcoma: MCA-207	Photofrin <sup>o</sup> : 1th G	24 h	2.08 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I	<u>Tumor PS concentration:</u> no difference between IV and IP administration. <u>IP administration</u> resulted in longer elimination half-time (113.6 h vs 60.6 h) <u>Toxicity:</u> Survival data of non-tumor bearing. Although there were survivors in the IP sensitizer group the difference was not statistically significant
Morlet	1995	mice	Colon: HT 29	mTHPC: 2nd G	24–72 h	10 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	<u>Amount of m-THPC in tissues by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) and spectrofluorometry:</u> <u>mTHPC 0.8 and 1.6 mg/kg:</u> HPLC and spectrofluorometric measurements: ratios (tumor to skin and tumor to muscle) decreased between 12 and 72 h after injection (of 0.8 and 1.6 mg/kg m-THPC) → indicating that tumour-selectivity decreases with time <u>Phototoxicity:</u> slight erythema was observed with 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> 2 h after irradiation. With 30 J/cm <sup>2</sup> , skin was burnt and required 7 days to heal <u>Tumour growth:</u> – laser performed 24 h after m-THPC injection: a decrease in the tumor growth (–40%) index was noted only for mice injected with 1.6 mg/kg (p < 0.01) – laser performed 72 h after m-THPC injection: no significant difference in the tumour growth index

(continued)

Table 1: (continued)

Author	Year	Animal model	Tumor model	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Veenhuizen	1997	Rat	Colon: CC531	mTHPC: 2nd G	IV: 24 and 72 h IP: 4 and 24 h	4–24 h: 6 or 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> 72 h: 25–50 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	mTHPC distribution: The tumour/normal tissue ratios were more than 5 for all tissues tested at 24 h after ip. administration, and more than 10 for all tissues except pancreas, fat and diaphragm Regrowth times (single-tumour model only): Significant delay in tumour regrowth was achieved for 6 J/cm <sup>2</sup> at 24 h after IV, or at 4 h after IP mTHPC (p = 0.019 and 0.045, respectively). Optimal illumination time: Repeated administration of mTHPC (2*0.15 mg/kg <sup>-1</sup> ) and illumination (2*6 or 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> ) with a 1 week interval also failed to improve tumour response
Griffin	2001	Canine (n = 13)	Non-tumoral	Lu-Tex: 1th G	3 h	0.5–2.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I	All of the dogs tolerated IP PDT without major acute or late clinical effects. All treated dogs and one control dog showed transient elevations in hepatic enzyme
Song	2007	Rat (n = 344)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	HMME: 2rd G	3 h	50 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase III	Survival: PDT prolonged survival (p = 0.008) At the end of the study: – treatment group: the median follow-up time of 45 days (95% CI, 1.17–88.83 days), the survival rate was 33.3% – control groups: the median follow-up was 15 days (95% CI, 6.68–23.32 days) and 19 days (95% CI, 13.16–24.84 days) (surgery alone and surgery + laser without PS)
Ascencio	2008	Rat (n = 22)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	HAL: 2nd G	4 h	45 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	Necrosis and normalized fluorescence intensities (ratio between the fluorescence intensity before and after illumination (percentage)). Direct linear correlation between normalized fluorescence intensity and necrosis (R <sup>2</sup> = 0.89)
Ascencio	2008	Rat (n = 36)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	HAL: 2nd G	4 h	Fractionated illumination: 30 J cm <sup>2</sup> Linear illumination: 45 J cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	Necrosis: was superior with fractionated illumination compared to continuous illumination (3.67 ± 0.70 vs. 3.10 ± 0.94) (p < 0.05)

(continued)

Table 1: (continued)

Author	Year	Animal model	Tumor model	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Estevez	2010	Rat (n = 60)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	HAL: 2nd G	4 h	Fractionated illumination: 30 J cm <sup>2</sup> Linear illumination: 45 and 30 J cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	Necrosis: Fractionated illumination is more efficient than continuous illumination at 45 J cm <sup>-2</sup> (213 ± 113 μm vs 154 ± 133 μm) (p < 0.05) and than continuous illumination at 30 J cm <sup>2</sup> (213 ± 113 μm vs 171 ± 155 μm) (p < 0.05)
Kishi	2010	Mice	Gastric: MKN-4	Talaporfin: 1th G	2–8 h	2, 5, and 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	Talaporfin concentration: Fluorescent intensity ratio gradually decreased over time compared to the ratio observed at 2 h <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– in the <i>peritoneal tumors</i>: 78 % at 4 h/48 % at 8 h</li> <li>– in <i>liver</i>: 79 % at 4 h/31 % at 8 h</li> <li>– in <i>small intestine</i>: 36 % at 4 h/24 % at 8 h</li> </ul> Necrosis: Dependent on the time interval between laser treatment and talaporfin administration at all laser doses (2 J/cm <sup>2</sup> , p < 0.0001; 5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> , p = 0.022; 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> , p < 0.0001), but they were independent of the laser dose at both times treatment conditions recommended: 2 J/cm <sup>2</sup> laser dose and a 4-h interval
Raue	2010	Rat (n = 90)	Colon DHD/ K12/TRb	HAL: 2nd G	6 h	3.0 W.	Phase II	Tumour weight: CRS + HIPEC → lesser than in all other treatment groups (p = 0.09) Experimental Peritoneal Carcinosis Index (ePCI): CRS + HIPEC → 4 (0–14), the lowest ePCI count (p = 0.03) Only additional HIPEC therapy with mitomycin showed a significant tumour reduction
Mroz	2011	mice	Colon: CT26	BB4-Cremophor: 3rd G	24 h	100 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase III	Bioluminescence: BB4-Cremophor significantly suppressed tumor growth compared with control treatment Survival: BB4-Cremophor-mediated PDT with white light leads to significant survival advantage Necrosis and Apoptosis: Necrosis rather than apoptosis was the main mode of cell death (TUNEL: no apoptotic cell)

(continued)

Table 1: (continued)

Author	Year	Animal model	Tumor model	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Hino	2013	Mouse	Gastric: MKN-45	HAL: 2nd G	5 h	4.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	<u>Necrosis</u> : Necrotic areas significantly larger in the treated group  Violet and green LEDs: Equally effective (p = 0.368), with both significantly more effective than the red LED
Guyon	2014	Rat (n = 42)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	HAL: 2nd G	4–8 h	0.8, 5, 10, or 20 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I	Toxicity: Rhabdomyolysis, intestinal necrosis and liver function test anomalies. The highest delta between basal PPIX content and PPIX content after HAL administration was found for the liver (X27), the lungs (X16) and tumor nodules (X14). HAL PDT lacked specificity
Azais	2016	Rat (n = 18)	Ovarian: NuTu-19	Porph-s-FA: 3rd G	No illumination	No illumination	Phase I	<u>Immunohistochemistry techniques</u> : – ovary, liver, and tumor tissue showed FR $\alpha$ positive cell contingents – peritoneum, small intestine, colon, kidney were FR $\alpha$ – negative tissue <u>Confocal microscopy</u> : cytoplasmic red endocytosis vesicles are correlated to FR $\alpha$ tissue expression colon, small intestine, kidney, and peritoneum: no fluorescence Ovary <u>Tissue quantification of Porph-s-FA</u> : the mean tumor-to-normal tissue ratio: 9.6
Yokoyama	2016	Rat	Ovarian: DISS	Methyl-ALA + CA: 3rd G	3 h	90 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase III	<u>Survival</u> : Mean survival time: – DS alone: 35.5 days – DS + methyl-ALA-PDT: 46.3 days – DS + methyl-ALA-PDT + CA: 52.5 days – DS + methyl-ALA: longer survival time compared to DS alone (p=0.08) – DS + methyl-ALA-PDT + CA: significantly longer survival time compared to DS alone (p < 0.005)
Azais	2017	Rat	Ovarian: NuTu-19 (and SKOV-3 in vitro) n = 18	Porph-s-FA: 3rd G	No illumination	No illumination	Phase I	<u>Tissue quantification of Porph-s-FA</u> : The mean tumor-to-normal tissue ratio: 9.6 <u>Fluorescence measurement</u> : carcinomatosis = higher fluorescence than liver and peritoneum

(continued)

Table 1: (continued)

Author	Year	Animal model	Tumor model	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Kato	2017	Mice	Pancreas: AsPC1/luc	Mal3-chlorin vs talaporphin: 3rd G vs 1th G	4 h and 7 d	13.9 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase II	<p><u>Bioluminescence imaging:</u> Mal3-chlorin significantly suppressed tumor growth compared with control treatment (<math>p = 0.036</math>) and tended to suppress it more than PDT with talaporfin (<math>p = 0.074</math>)</p> <p><u>Ascite:</u> Mal3-chlorin tend to inhibit the volume of ascites compared to mice in the control and PDT with talaporfin group (<math>p = 0.066</math> and <math>p = 0.159</math>, respectively)</p> <p><u>Apoptosis:</u> Mal3-chlorin significantly increased apoptosis indices compared with control treatment or PDT with talaporfin</p>

Porph-s-FA, 5-(4-Carboxyphenyl)-10,15,20-triphenylporphyrin (Porph) and (N-[2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethoxy]ethyl]folic acid)-4- carboxyphenylporphyrin; Lu-Tex, Motexafin lutetium; HAL, 5-aminolevulinic acid; PPIX, protoporphyrin IX; Mal3-chlorin, maltotriose-conjugated chlorin, (5,10,15,20-tetrakis-[4-( $\beta$ -D-maltotriosylthio)-2,3,5,6-tetrafluorophenyl]-2,3-[methano-(N-methyl)iminomethano]chlorin); BB4-Cremophor, N-methylpyrrolidinium-fullerene formulated in Cremophor-EL micelles; IP, intraperitoneal; IV, intravenous; HMME, Hematoporphyrin monomethyl ether; mTHPC, meta-tetrahydroxyphenyl-chlorin; methyl-ALA + CA, 5-aminolevulinic acid methyl ester hydrochloride and clofibrac acid

PDT results were better 24 h after drug administration than at 72 h (tumor growth decrease,  $-40\%$ , with  $1.6\text{ mg/kg}$  mTHPC injected 24 h before irradiation). Veenhuizen [36] showed that IP injection of PS permitted a better tumor biodistribution than IV injection. An uptake of up to  $40\%$  of the mTHPC injected dose was found per gram tumor at 4 h after an IP injection, and this resulted in very high ( $>14$ ) concentration ratios of tumor to normal tissues. Low uptake was found after the IV injection route ( $1\%$  of the injected dose per gram tumor) with lower tumor/normal tissue ratios ( $<8$ ). The impact of the type of illumination was evaluated by Ascencio [37] and Estevez [38]. Ascencio [37] compared illumination after PS intraperitoneally injection in rats with ovarian PM, and concluded to the superiority of fractioned illumination compared to continuous illumination (necrosis value:  $3.7 \pm 0.7$  vs  $3.1 \pm 0.9$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). He showed the direct linear correlation between necrosis and normalized fluorescence too [38]. Estevez [39] validated these results with a more important tumoral necrosis with fractioned illumination vs continuous illumination (at  $45\text{ J/cm}^2$ :  $213 \pm 113\ \mu\text{m}$  vs  $154 \pm 133\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $p < 0.05$ , and at  $10\text{ J/cm}^2$ :  $213 \pm 113\ \mu\text{m}$  vs  $171 \pm 155\ \mu\text{m}$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ). Ascencio showed Song [40], combining CRS with PDT, was the first to demonstrate in a phase III study, a survival improvement (CRS + PDT 45 days versus 15 days with CRS alone,  $p < 0.01$ ) with a 2nd generation of PS. Raue [41] compared in a phase II study, the association of CRS with PDT (PS: 2nd) vs HIPEC (mitomycin). Only additional HIPEC therapy with mitomycin showed a significant tumor reduction (tumor weight and Experimental Peritoneal Carcinosis Index). The real limit of the PDT with 2nd generation of PS was the toxicity. It was particularly induced by the lack of specificity of PS for tumor tissue. Mroz [42] reported death in all mice illuminated with red light. Guyon [43] shown that PDT with HAL induced rhabdomyolysis, intestinal necrosis and liver function test anomalies, leading to death in 2 out of 34 rats.

To solve this problem, the ultimate generation of PS was developed, consisting in targeted PS [44–46].

Azaïs [44, 45] conjugated PS with folate: folate receptor appeared like a promising target for epithelial ovarian cancer targeted therapy. He demonstrated in a phase I the good intra tumor biodistribution of this new PS (mean tumor-to-normal tissue ratio: 9.6).

Yokoyama [46] demonstrated, in the only phase III study with a new generation of PS (the methyl-ALA PDT + CA), a survival improvement. Adjunction of clofibrinic acid (a peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor  $\alpha$  ligand) in CP from ovarian cancer permitted to improve rats survival compared to other treated rats, mainly CRS alone (mean survival time: 52.5 days vs 35.5 days).

## Clinical trials (Table 2)

Height trials were published on the PM treatment by PDT: 3 phase I and 5 phase II. PC origin was different in each trial: PC from ovarian cancer, digestive origin, primary peritoneal carcinoma, sarcoma. The majority of these trials (7/8) evaluated Photofrin<sup>®</sup> mediated IP PDT.

### – Phase I:

Sindelar [47] demonstrated successfully delivered to all peritoneal surfaces in all 23 patients in whom debulking was technically possible. Major complications of the procedure (CRS + PDT) included intestinal fistulas (2/23), postoperative hemorrhage (1/23), necrotizing pancreatitis (1/23), and ureteral leakage (1/23). We noted that 6/23 patients remained free of evidence of recurrent disease for up to 18 months after IP PDT.

Delaney [48] demonstrated the feasibility of delivering PDT to the peritoneal cavity at the time of laparotomy after debulking surgery in patients with disseminated IP tumors. Of the 54 patients in the study population, 39 underwent successful debulking and intraoperative PDT using Photofrin<sup>®</sup>. He described the maximum tolerated dose of PDT given 48 h after intravenous administration of Photofrin<sup>®</sup> ( $2.5\text{ mg/kg}$ ),  $3.75\text{ J/cm}^2$  of green light with boosts of green light ( $5.0\text{--}7.5\text{ J/cm}^2$ ) or red light ( $10\text{--}15\text{ J/cm}^2$ ). There were no operative or postoperative deaths in this series. Major morbidity was seen in 9/39 (23%) of patients undergoing surgery and PDT ( $n = 3$  bowel perforations,  $n = 2$  prolonged intubation, and  $n = 1$  gastric perforation, colo cutaneous fistula, postoperative hemorrhage, pancreatitis, and ureteral injury). There were an increased number of postoperative pleural effusions in patients undergoing PDT, compared to those just being explored (CRS/PDT-: 3/15 (20%) vs CRS + PDT: 23/39 (59%),  $p = 0.01$ ). Thirty-one patients (80%) had no evidence of disease recurrence at 2–3 months follow-up. The median survival of patients who received PDT was 30 months.

Wierrani [49], investigated PDT with mTHPC (the only clinical trial with a 2nd generation of PS) in eight patients with recurrent gynecological cancer that metastasated to the peritoneum. One patient died 2 days post-operatively secondary to heart failure. This treatment appeared like tolerable with limited side effects

### – Phase II:

All phase II trials evaluated toxicity and effectiveness of IP PDT in PC. Patients received Photofrin  $2.5\text{ mg/kg}$  i.v. 48 h before debulking surgery (CRS). The most important adverse effect described in each trial was the capillary leak syndrome. It is characterized by a body weight gain

Table 2: PDT: clinical trials.

Year	Tumor origin and patients	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
1991	n = 23 13 ovarian cancer 8 sarcoma 2 pseudomyxoma peritonei	Photofrin <sup>®</sup> : 1th G 1.5–3.0 mg/kg	48–72 h	3.2–5.30 J/cm <sup>2</sup> boosted to high doses (>10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> ) to limited areas of the peritoneum (diaphragm or pelvis) that are at risk for residual disease	Phase I	PDT was successfully delivered to all peritoneal surfaces in all 23 patients in whom debulking was technically possible. <u>Toxicity:</u> Major complications included postoperative hemorrhage, necrotizing pancreatitis, ureteral leakage, and intestinal fistulas <u>Outcomes:</u> Clinical assessment after treatment at regular intervals of at least every 3 months 6/23 patients remained free of evidence of recurrent disease for up to 18 months after IP PDT 8 patients had positive cytologic washings at the time of laparotomy → serial washings after treatment
1993	n = 54 22 epithelial ovarian cancer 13 sarcoma 8 GI carcinomatosis 4 pseudomyxoma peritonei 4 borderline epithelial ovarian tumor 4 borderline epithelial ovarian tumor 1 adrenal cortical carcinoma 1 fallopian tube carcinoma 1 mesothelioma	Photofrin <sup>®</sup> : 1th G	48–72 h	– Red light: 2.8–3.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> – Red light 15 J/cm <sup>2</sup> – Green light 5–7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I/II	<u>Toxicity:</u> <u>Complication</u> <u>Secondary to PDT</u> Small bowel perforation Prolonged intubation (7–9 days) Gastric perforation Colo-cutaneous fistula Surgical Ureteral injury Necrotizing pancreatitis Postoperative hemorrhage <u>Outcomes:</u> Response to treatment was evaluated by clinical examination and abdominal CT scan every 3 months At potential follow-up times of 3.8–43.1 months (median 22.1 months), 30/39 patients are alive and 9/39 are free of disease <u>Relationship of drug and light dose to treatment response and outcome</u> Maximum tolerated dose of intraoperative PDT following debulking surgery: – 48 h after IV administration 2.5 mg/kg DHE – 3.75 J/cm <sup>2</sup> – 514 nm green light Feasibility of the delivery of PDT to the peritoneal cavity after debulking surgery

(continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Year	Tumor origin and patients	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
1997	n = 8 6 ovarian cancer 2 uterine cancer	mTHPC: 2nd G 0.15 mg/ kg IV	96 h	5 J/cm <sup>2</sup>	Phase I	<u>Toxicity:</u> 1 death postoperative: heart failure <u>Outcomes:</u> To date (8 weeks), 6 women remain free of relapses by imaging with x-ray, CT scan, and NMR tomography Our procedure is a therapeutic improvement
2001	n = 11. Intra-peritoneal sarcomatosis	Photofrin®: 1th G 2.5 mg/ kg IV	48 h	<u>Green light:</u> – 2.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> mesentery, small bowel and colon <u>Red light:</u> – 5.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : stomach – 7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : diaphragms, liver, and spleen – 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : pelvis and peritoneal gutters – “boost doses”: areas of gross disease	Phase II	<u>Toxicity:</u> All patients: developed a systemic vascular leak postoperatively and required massive fluid resuscitation 1 patient: early postoperative pulmonary embolism <u>Outcomes:</u> Response to treatment was evaluated by abdominal CT scan at 3 and 6 months, diagnostic laparoscopy at 3–6 months, and clinical examination every 3 months The mean length of follow-up is 7.0 months (range, 1.7–17.3)
2001	n = 42 14 GI malignancies 12 ovarian cancers 15 sarcomas	Photofrin®: 1th G 2.5 mg/kg IV	48 h	<u>Green light:</u> – 2.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> mesentery, small bowel and colon <u>Red light:</u> – 5.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : stomach – 7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : diaphragms, liver, and spleen – 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : pelvis and peritoneal gutters – “boost doses”: areas of gross disease	Phase II	<u>Toxicity:</u> The most common serious toxicities were anemia (38%), liver function test (LFT) abnormalities (26%), and gastrointestinal toxicities (19%), and one patient died from a myocardial infarction early <u>Outcomes:</u> All patients: capillary leak syndrome Patient follow-up visits were scheduled for 1 month and every 3 months postoperatively. CT scans were performed every 3 months, and laparoscopic evaluation was offered at the 6 month follow-up to every patient who was CT scan-negative for recurrence Actuarial median survival was 21 months. The patients who were completely resected before receiving PDT have a significantly better actuarial survival compared to patients who were incompletely resected Median time to recurrence was 3 months (range, 1–21 months)

(continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Year	Tumor origin and patients	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
2003	n = 65 Carcinomatosis or sarcomatosis of any type	Photofrin <sup>®</sup> : 1th G 2.5 mg/kg IV	48 h	Green light: – 2.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> mesentery, small bowel and colon Red light: – 5.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : stomach – 7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : diaphragms, liver, and spleen – “boost doses”: areas of gross disease	Phase II	<b>Toxicity:</b> Capillary Leak Syndrome: The mean crystalloid requirement for the first 48 h after surgery was 29.3L ± 12.4L (range, 10–90L). n = 45 patients (69%); blood products with an average of 5.4 units of packed red blood cells each (range, 1–17 units). n = 30 patients (46%); fresh-frozen plasma with mean of 5.3 units per patient transfused (range, 1–15 units) n = 7 patients (11%); platelet transfusions, averaging 1.3 six-packs per patient transfused (range, 1–2) → patients typically experienced a dramatic positive fluid balance within the first 48 h, which was followed by a diuresis over the next 5 days, gradually returning to a net even fluid balance at day 7  Postoperative death: n = 1  Overall, 110 complications developed in 45 (69%) of the 65 patients: The principal complications were pulmonary, infectious, and gastrointestinal. Significant complications included 6 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome, 28 patients with infectious complications, and 4 patients with anastomotic complications  Statistical analyses revealed that surgery-related factors were significantly associated with these complication outcomes
2004	n = 66 14 ovarian cancer 16 GI cancer 21 sarcoma	Photofrin <sup>®</sup> : 1th G 2.5 mg/kg IV	48 h	Green light: – 2.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> mesentery, small bowel and colon Red light: – 5.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : stomach – 7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : diaphragms, liver, and spleen – 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : pelvis and peritoneal gutters – “boost doses”: areas of gross disease	Phase II	Follow-up every 3 months: clinical examination, laboratory studies, a chest radiograph, and a CT or MRI scan of the abdomen and pelvis. at 6 months: patients with a radiographic complete response were offered a diagnostic laparoscopy <b>Recurrence:</b> The highest recurrence rate: sarcoma (p = 0.000146) The lowest recurrence rate: ovarian PC Most common site of recurrence: pelvis Comparison between site recurrence and treatment area: not significant p = 0.4248 Suggest a dose-response relationship for IP PDT

(continued)

Table 2: (continued)

Year	Tumor origin and patients	PS used	Interval between PS injection and illumination (h)	Energy	Type of study	Results
Hahn [48] 2006	n = 100 Ovarian cancer: 33 GI cancer: 37 Sarcoma: 30	Photofrin <sup>®</sup> : 1th G 2.5 mg/ kg IV	48 h	Green light: – 2.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> mesentery, small bowel and colon Red light: – 5.0 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : stomach – 7.5 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : diaphragms, liver, and spleen – 10 J/cm <sup>2</sup> : pelvis and peritoneal gutters – “boost doses”: areas of gross disease	Phase II	Outcomes: Follow-up: every 3 months the first year with clinical examination and computerized tomography scan of the abdomen and pelvis. Every 6 months the second year. At the 6 month follow-up visit, if the patient had no clinical evidence of disease, a minilaparotomy or a laparoscopy was done for pathologic restaging. The median potential follow-up was 51 months At 6 months: 3 of 33 (9.1 %) ovarian, 2 of 37 (5.4 %) GI, and 4 of 30 (13.3 %) sarcoma cancer patients had achieved a complete response (as assessed by minilaparotomy or laparoscopy) <u>Toxicity:</u> The most common toxicity: a capillary leak syndrome (net positive fluid balance of 20 l in the first 24 h, patients required fluid resuscitation for the first 4–5 days) 2 patients died in the immediate postoperative period: 1 by inferior wall myocardial infarction and 1 by intra-abdominal bleeding 4 patients: prolonged intubation, respiratory distress syndrome 4 patients: bowel fistulae or an anastomotic leak 2 patients: wound infection 20 patients: mild photosensitivity (grades 1 and 2) <u>Photosensitizer concentration in tumor samples</u> Uptake of Photofrin was measured in a total of 143 tumor samples from 48 patients: high degree of intrapatient and interpatient heterogeneity in Photofrin Feasible but no significant objective complete responses or long-term tumour control.

CRS, cytoreductive surgery; GI, gastrointestinal; mTHPC, meso-tetrahydroxyphenylchlorin-based photodynamic therapy.

of 15–20% and requiring intensive care management and volume resuscitation.

Bauer [50] demonstrated that all patients ( $n=11$ ) developed a systemic vascular leak postoperatively. This toxicity appeared to be worse in patients who required the most extensive debulking. One patient suffered an early postoperative pulmonary embolism. Five patients (45%) have no evidence of disease at follow-up (range, 1.7–17.3 months), four patients (36%) are alive with disease progression and two patients (18%) died from disease progression.

Canter [51] included 65 patients. Significant complications included 6 patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome, 28 patients with infectious complications, and 4 patients with anastomotic complications. Fluid requirement for the patients during the first 48 h was important: the mean crystalloid requirement was 29.3L, 49 patients required blood products, 30 patients required fresh-frozen plasma, and 7 patients received platelet transfusions. Other complications developed in 45 (69%) of the 65 patients: the principal complications were pulmonary, infectious, and gastrointestinal (pancreatitis/pancreatic leak in three patients, two whom underwent distal pancreatectomy, enterocutaneous fistulae in two patients, and peritoneovaginal fistula in one patient). Statistical analyses revealed that surgery-related factors were significantly associated with these complication outcomes (a greater number of nodules removed and larger body mass index, defined as continuous factors, were both significantly associated with a greater risk of pulmonary complications).

Hendren [52] included 42 patients and described common serious toxicities: anemia (38% of patients), transient LFT abnormalities (26%), and bowel obstruction or other GI abnormalities (19%). All patients developed the capillary leak syndrome perioperatively. One patient had a serious pulmonary embolism, three patients developed intra-abdominal abscesses, and two patients developed fistulae. One patient died from a myocardial infarction early. The median follow-up was 21 months with a better survival for patients receiving completely cytoreductive surgery before PDT ( $p=0.015$ ).

Wilson [53] enrolled 66 patients. Forty-five, and 49 patients were evaluable for response rates, and patterns of recurrence, respectively. Eleven of 45 patients showed no evidence of recurrence 3 months after treatment. The pelvis was the site with the highest rate of recurrence after IP PDT, 19 of 49 (39%) patients. The highest recurrence was seen in sarcoma patients (19 of 82 sites) and the lowest was seen in ovarian cancer patients (8 of 47 sites).

Hahn [54] described the most important phase II trial with 100 patients. Two patients died in the immediate

postoperative period from bleeding, sepsis, adult respiratory distress syndrome, and cardiac ischemia. The most common adverse effect related was capillary leak syndrome. Twenty patients developed skin photosensitisation. The median follow-up was 51 months. All 100 patients had progressed by the time of statistical analysis. The median failure-free survival and overall survival by strata were ovarian, 2.1 and 20.1 months; gastrointestinal cancers, 1.8 and 11.1 months; sarcoma, 3.7 and 21.9 months. No significant objective complete responses or long-term tumor control was found. Heterogeneity in PS uptake and tumor oxygenation, lack of tumor specificity for PS uptake, and the heterogeneity in tissue optical properties may account for the lack of efficacy observed.

Since 2006, no more trial evaluating PDT for PM treatment was published.

On Clinical trials, when we searched “photodynamic therapy and peritoneal carcinomatosis”, 2 studies were proposed. The first was about photodynamic diagnosis and not therapy. The second consisted in a prospective follow-up of outcomes in patients receiving PDT for neoplastic diseases (head and neck cancer, pleural malignancies, PM or sarcomatosis, and prostate cancer). They would like to retrospectively review treatment parameters of all patients who undergo/underwent PDT. Recruiting started in 2011, until 2021. Survival and disease free (10 years) were two objectives.

## Photothermal therapy

PTT for the treatment of peritoneal dissemination of colorectal cancer was first proposed by Levi-Polyachenko [55] in 2009 using localized carbon nanotubes stimulated with infrared light. Carbon nanotubes have special electrical, optical, and thermal characteristics due to the arrangement of the carbon atoms confined in nanometer sized volumes. They can influence the electric field in their localized area, which enhances absorption of electromagnetic energy and generates rapid heating of the tube.

Nine preclinical studies were published on IP PTT: 4 phase I, 3 phase II and 2 phase III (Table 3).

– Phase I:

Three authors [56–58] evaluated multi-wall carbon nanotubes (MWCNT) and one gold NPs toxicities. The incidence of peritoneal mesothelioma was a controversial analysis after MWCNT administration. Whereas Takagi [56] and Rittinghausen [57] described an important mortality after MWCNT with an important incidence of mesothelioma at necropsy (until 98% mice treated with

**Table 3:** Photothermal therapy (PTT): preclinical studies.

Author	Year	Animal model	Nanoparticles	Type of study	Results
Takagi	2008	Mice (n = 76)	MWCNT	Phase I	The highest mortality, MWCNT group followed by the Crocidolite group → study was terminated at week 25 (180 days) MWCNT induced mesothelioma along with Crocidolite (positive control)
Muller	2009	Rat	MWCNT	Phase I	After 24 months, MWCNT with or without structural defects did not induce mesothelioma (4 or 6%, respectively), while Crocidolite induced a clear carcinogenic response (34.6% animals with mesothelioma vs 3.8% in vehicle controls). The incidence of tumors other than mesothelioma was not significantly increased across the groups
Zhang	2010	Mice	Gold nanoparticles	Phase I	Gold nanoparticles at low concentrations do not cause appreciable toxicity Obvious effects on organ index have been observed at high concentration. <u>Toxicity:</u> More important for orally administration (significant decreases in body weight, spleen index, and red blood cells) and intraperitoneal routes than IV injection
Bagley	2013	Mice	PEG-NRs	Phase II	<u>Toxicity and effectiveness of implanted NIR illumination source:</u> – <u>Initial temperature change</u> after 50 s of direct implanted NIR illumination in (e) tumors, (f) intestine, and (g) liver → More important in PEG-NR treated animals versus controls – <u>Maximal temperature change</u> for tumor, liver, and intestine of PEG-NR treated animals (n = 5 per tissue) → significant accumulation of PEG-NRs in the liver – <u>Histology and Ki-67 immunohistochemical staining</u> of tissues following PEG-NR therapy with implanted NIR device. No tissue damage or proliferative defects in intestine/Thermal effects were more modest than in ovarian tumors or the liver – <u>Quantification of doxorubicin-loaded liposomes and AngioSPARK750</u> in tumor 3 h after injection and PEG-NR/Implant NIR therapy or injection only → concentration was superior for PEG-NRs + implant NIR
Rittinghausen	2014	Rats (n = 500)	MWCNT	Phase I	<u>Mortality:</u> At the end of the experimental time after 24 months mortality was: 80% in the MWCNT A and B low- and high-dose groups and in the MWCNT C high-dose group 56% in the MWCNT D low-dose group 76% in the amosite asbestos group (positive control) and 34% in the negative control group <u>Histopathological findings:</u> → Malignant mesotheliomas of the peritoneum MWCNT A groups: 98% (high-dose) and 90% (low-dose) MWCNT B groups: 90% (high dose) and 92% (low dose) MWCNT C groups: 94% (high dose) and 84% (low dose) MWCNT D groups: 70% (high dose) and 40% (low dose) Amosite asbestos group: 66% Medium control group: 1 mesothelioma (2%) → granulomas on the peritoneal surface: most of the MWCNT-treated rats
Diddens-Tschoeke	2015	Mice (n = 34)	PdNc(OBu)8	Phase II	<u>Histology/Necrosis:</u> In contrast to the control groups, the central area of the tumor tissue treated during 15 and 20 s was completely necrotic. Adjacent peripheral normal tissue including skin and muscle remained completely unaffected.

(continued)

Table 3: (continued)

Author	Year	Animal model	Nanoparticles	Type of study	Results
Nowacki	2015	Mice (n = 60)	A0-o-CX-chem-CD133	Phase III	<p>12 groups: 4 controls, 8 study groups (labeled as: C1, C2, C3, A0-o-C1-chem, A0-o-C2-chem, A0-o-C3-chem, A0-o-C1-chem-CD133, A0-o-C3-chem-CD133)</p> <p><u>Toxicity:</u> necrosis → differences in the evolution of the metastatic and infiltration processes in each of the experimental groups.</p> <p><u>Survival:</u>            The first animal death: 4th day, in group C1            The longest individual survival rate: 16th day, group A0-o-C1-chem-CD133            The shortest general survival (8 days): control group K3            The longest survival (12.6 days): group A0-o-C1-chem-CD133 (p = 0.05)            The survival rates for the other control groups were as follows: K1 – 11.0 days; K2 – 9.0 days and K4 – 8.4 days.</p>
Wu	2015	Mice	pSGNs	Phase II	<p><u>Necrosis:</u> Mice with ovarian PC, treated with pSGNs (OD800 = 1.5) or 10% trehalose and irradiated with an 808-nm NIR laser → IP lavage → annexin V and propidium iodide</p> <p>The percentage of necrosis in cancer cells was significantly increased in the groups that received IP PTT mediated by pSGNs</p> <p><u>Toxicity:</u> damage of normal tissues in the intraperitoneal cavity → TUNEL assay            No noticeable damage in normal tissues (liver, kidney, spleen, intestinal epithelium)</p> <p><u>Chemoluminescent intensity:</u> The NIR laser irradiation was repeated every 3–4 days. IP administered pSGNs combined with NIR laser irradiation significantly inhibited tumor growth compared with the control, NIR-only, and pSGNs-only groups in both tumor cell models. Repeated PTT can inhibit IP tumor growth in vivo.</p> <p>Conjugating pSGNs with anti-human CD47 monoclonal antibody:            The group treated with anti-human CD47 conjugated pSGNs and NIR laser irradiation had the strongest therapeutic effect on the human ovarian cancer cell xenograft model.</p>
Zhang	2018	Mice	C-GERTs	Phase III	<p><u>Toxicity:</u> Histological analysis of major organs (liver, lung, kidney, heart, and spleen) → no obvious signs of toxicity are found in the harvested organs</p> <p><u>Bioluminescence:</u> The C-GERTs + laser group shows the best therapeutic effect, with near complete elimination of tumors and suppression of regrowth</p> <p>Total flux (TF) value 20th days:            – saline and cisplatin: increased to more than 600 % of the initial value            – C-GERTs + laser group: near complete elimination of tumors and suppression of regrowth; average TF value decreased to about 37 % 20 days after treatment.</p> <p><u>The extent of tumor dissemination in the abdominal cavities:</u> significant reduction in tumor number, size, and weight in the GERTs + laser group</p> <p>GERTs + laser group: few small intra-abdominal tumors (5 per mouse).            C-GERTs + laser group: 80 % of mice were completely cured, with just 2 mice found to have 1 small tumor remaining each.</p> <p>The average tumor weight in the C-GERTs + laser group was significantly reduced to 0.03 ± 0.05 g per mouse → tumor weights in the saline + laser, cisplatin, C-GERTs, and GERTs + laser groups (≈ 0.80 ± 0.14, 0.55 ± 0.08, 0.41 ± 0.06, and 0.18 ± 0.15 g per mouse, respectively)</p> <p><u>Survival:</u> The C-GERTs + laser group achieves a survival rate of 100 % during the observation period (35 days). All mice in the other four groups eventually succumbed to their tumors, with survival times of 26.33 ± 2.05, 24 ± 1.63, 25.33 ± 2.05, and 31.67 ± 1.25 days for saline + laser, cisplatin, C-GERTs, and GERTs + laser groups, respectively</p>

PdNc(OBu)<sub>8</sub>, Palladium 5,9,14,18,23,27,32,36-octabutoxynaphthalocyanine; MWCNT, multi-wall carbon nanotubes; A0-o-CX-chem-CD133, nanovehicles based on anti-CD133 antibodies bioconjugated to carbon nanotubes loaded with platinum (Pt) -prodrugs; PEG-NRs, polyethylene glycolcoated gold nanorods; pSGNs, pegylated silica-core gold nanoshells; C-GERTs, cisplatin-loaded gap-enhanced Raman tags; IV, intravenous; IP, intra peritoneal

high dose); Muller [58] did not note this incidence. In a rat experimentation, after 24 months follow-up, MWCNT with or without structural defects did not induce mesothelioma (4 or 6 %, respectively), while Crocidolite induced a clear carcinogenic response (34.6 % animals with mesothelioma vs 3.8 % in vehicle controls). Gold NPs didn't induce mesothelioma but obvious effects on organ index had been observed at high concentration [59]. Toxicity was more important for orally administration (significant decreases in body weight, spleen index, and red blood cells) and IP routes than IV injection.

– Phase II:

Bagley [60] described a strategy combining systemically delivered plasmonic nanomaterials with intraperitoneally implanted NIR illumination sources. In mouse models of orthotopic ovarian cancer pretreated with PEG-NRs (polyethylene glycolcoated gold nanorods), delivery of NIR light via the implanted device selectively elevated the temperature of ovarian tumors. Data illustrated that synergies between plasmonic nanomaterials and novel NIR illumination methods could achieve selective and tolerable photothermal effects in complex anatomical environments. He demonstrated that localized plasmonic heating of ovarian tumors can enhance accumulation of therapeutic agents including doxorubicin liposomes in this orthotopic tumor model.

Diddens-Tschoeke [61] showed PTT effectiveness in subcutaneous tumoral model after IP injection of NPs. In contrast to the control groups, the central area of the tumor tissue treated during 15 and 20 s was completely necrotic, without necrosis on adjacent organs.

Wu [62] repeatedly performed noninvasive PTT mediated by pegylated silica-core gold nanoshells (pSGNs) in vivo with external NIR laser irradiation. Mice were treated with 808 nm of NIR laser irradiation in five areas on the abdomen. The number of annexin V/PI double-positive cancer cells in the group that received PTT was twice as high as that of the other groups ( $p = 0.0024$ , NIR + pSGNs vs control;  $p = 0.007$ , NOR + pSGNs vs NIR only;  $p = 0.0034$ , NIR + pSGNs vs pSGNs only). In addition, no cell damage in IP vital organs was observed on the basis of a TUNEL assay and Ki-67. Chemoluminescence analysis showed that pSGNs IP administered combined with NIR laser irradiation significantly inhibited tumor growth compared with the control, NIR-only, and pSGNs-only groups in both tumor cell models. Repeated PTT inhibited IP tumor growth in vivo. The group treated with anti-human CD47 conjugated pSGNs and NIR laser irradiation had the strongest therapeutic effect on the human ovarian cancer cell xenograft model.

– Phase III

Nowacki [63] compared mice survival with PC, treated by 12 different possibilities: 4 controls, 8 study groups (labeled as: C1, C2, C3, A0-o-C1-chem, A0-o-C2-chem, A0-o-C3-chem, A0-o-C1-chem-CD133, A0-o-C3-chem-CD133). A0-o-C1-chem consisted in nanovehicles based on anti-CD133 antibodies bioconjugated to carbon nanotubes loaded with platinum (Pt) -prodrugs. The longest survival (12.6 days) was obtained by A0-o-C1-chem-CD133 group ( $p = 0.05$ ), whereas the survival rates for the other control groups were as follows: K1 – 11.0 days; K2 – 9.0 days and K4 – 8.4 days.

Zhang [64] in a recent phase III study, evaluated C-GERTs-based chemo-photothermal synergistic therapy for treatment of advanced ovarian cancers. He didn't find obvious signs of toxicity in the harvested organs, but a best therapeutic effect, with near complete elimination of tumors and suppression of regrowth for mice treated with C-GERTs + laser. C-GERTs consisted in cisplatin-loaded gap-enhanced Raman tags. The C-GERTs + laser group achieves a survival rate of 100 % during the observation period (35 days). All mice in the other four groups eventually succumbed to their tumors, with survival times of  $26.33 \pm 2.05$ ,  $24 \pm 1.63$ ,  $25.33 \pm 2.05$ , and  $31.67 \pm 1.25$  days for saline + laser, cisplatin, C-GERTs, and GERTs + laser groups, respectively. These results demonstrated that C-GERTs-based chemo-photothermal synergistic therapy can effectively control the spread of disseminated tumors in mice and has potential as a safe and powerful method for treatment of advanced ovarian cancers, to improve survival and life quality of patients.

## Discussion

Residual microscopic metastases after cytoreductive surgery, remains a therapeutic challenge. HIPEC represents an efficient therapy but with an important morbidity. For many years others therapeutics were developed by the collaborations of physicists and surgeons. Technical innovations permit to treat tumor with more specificity to decrease morbidity. Peritoneal metastases present little penetration on the peritoneum, that represent an ideal indication for these new therapeutics which are PDT and PTT. The antitumoral target of these treatment is particularly explained by “the enhanced permeability and retention effect” (EPR effect). EPR effect is a concept by which molecules of certain sizes (typically liposomes, NPs, and macromolecular drugs) tend to accumulate in tumor tissue much more than they do in normal tissues [65]. The

EPR effect is usually employed to describe NP and photosensitizer delivery to cancer tissue [66]. PSs have an aromatic structure, which gives them a strong lipophilic character too. LDL has attracted attention as endogenous carrier of hydrophobic therapies (including certain anti-tumor). Indeed, the LDL-drug complexes are very effectively incorporated in the tumors, via receptors, which is an important factor of tumor selectivity. To improve this tumoral selectivity, antitumor vectors are coupled (new generation of PS).

PDT is older than PTT. Different PSs exist and have different indications. In France, Photofrin<sup>o</sup> is indicated in the treatment of recurrence of non-small cells lung cancers or esophagus cancer having received prior regional treatment. In oncology, Foscan<sup>o</sup> is indicated in palliative head and neck epithelial cancer, if others therapies aren't possible. The toxicity, especially cutaneous, have slowed the development of this therapy in others cancers. This review shows the safety, the effectiveness and specificity with better tumor-selectivity, shorter retention time, improvement of the therapeutic window and reduction of the associated phototoxicity, in preclinical studies. Only eight human clinical trials [47–54], mainly with first generation of PS (7/8), are published. The conclusion was that PDT after cytoreductive surgery is feasible without long-term tumor control and with a significant toxicity. The most frequent toxicity correspond in a capillary leak syndrome. It is characterized by a body weight gain of 15–20% and requiring intensive care management and volume resuscitation. But the majority of clinical trial (7/8) evaluated first generation of PS. We expect a decrease of toxicity and an improvement of efficacy with new generation of PS.

More recently PTT appeared as a new therapeutic in oncology. Plasmonic NPs are injected to induce a hyperthermia after laser illumination. In comparison with PDT, few articles analyze effectiveness of PTT in PC treatment. Only nine preclinical studies are published: 4 phase I [56–59], 3 phase II [60–62], and 2 phase III [63, 64]. MWCNT were first evaluate in phase I study. The correlation with peritoneal mesothelioma apparition and high mortality impacted the development of this therapy. Other NPs are used, like gold NPs or silica gold nanoshell. The association with another drug (chemotherapy: cisplatin or anti-CD133 antibodies) permitted to developed preclinical phase II studies with effective results in terms of tumoral necrosis or tumoral growth (bioluminescence). Two preclinical phase III validated the improvement of survival with PTT in comparison with chemotherapy, laser or control.

## Limitations

This review is limited by the type of studies included: only preclinical and trials. We included a reasonable but limited number of articles. The number of phase III preclinical examination is limited ( $n=4$  for PDT and  $n=2$  for PTT) and it is not possible to affirm the survival benefits of these treatment today. In addition, we know that animals models (mice mainly) do not always replicate the human results because of the biological differences.

For future trials, digestive toxicity with intestinal fistulas in the most important toxicity we fear with these news therapeutics. We know that PM are spread of mesentery and bowel, but it is important not to increase digestive perforation with vectorized treatment. It is the main limit we expect with these news targeted therapeutics. Others technical problems exist for clinical trial: does the treatment inject during hospitalization 48 h before surgery? Is the laser actually adapted for IP illumination? Is it easy to change the power during surgery (like in clinicals trials for PDT evaluation)? Is it necessary to adapt power of the laser function of digestive anastomosis during surgery? Or is it better to make illumination before anastomosis? Wavelength for PTT (in NIR light) need to have eyes protection. Is it possible to say that this therapy is safe for caregivers? What are the different risks of these therapies? These issues may complicate the development of these therapies in the clinic.

## Conclusions

PDT and PTT are promising therapies to treat PM. PDT was evaluated since 1985 but the lack of specificity of PS limited the extension of this therapy. With the apparition of the new generation of PS, preclinical results showed a better tumoral biodistribution with an important tumor-to-normal tissue ratio (9.6) and significant survival advantage (35.5 days vs 52.5 days for cytoreductive surgery vs cytoreductive surgery + PDT,  $p<0.005$ ). We are looking for clinical trial with new generation of PS to validate the tolerance and the effectiveness of this therapy.

PTT is a more recent therapy. Preclinical studies with gold NPs, demonstrated a regression of tumoral growth and an improvement of survival in comparison with controls (PTT mice had a survival rate of 100% during the observation period, at the contrary of others groups) with tolerable side effect. Other phase III preclinical studies could permit to validate these first effective and survival results. A lot of problematics may complicate clinical development

(illumination technique, decision of a laser power, bowel complications, staff security) and it is not yet possible to affirm the survival benefits of these treatment.

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