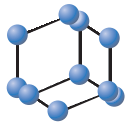


REVIEW ARTICLE

BENTHAM
SCIENCE

Oncolytic Virotherapy for Breast Cancer Treatment



Samia M. O'Bryan and J. Michael Mathis*

Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, USA

Abstract: Breast cancer continues to be a leading cause of mortality among women. While at an early stage, localized breast cancer is easily treated; however, advanced stages of disease continue to carry a high mortality rate. The discrepancy in treatment success highlights that current treatments are insufficient to treat advanced-stage breast cancer. As new and improved treatments have been sought, one therapeutic approach has gained considerable attention. Oncolytic viruses are uniquely capable of targeting cancer cells through intrinsic or engineered means. They come in many forms, mainly from four major virus groups as defined by the Baltimore classification system. These vectors can target and kill cancer cells, and even stimulate immunotherapeutic effects in patients. This review discusses not only individual oncolytic viruses pursued in the context of breast cancer treatment but also the emergence of combination therapies with current or new therapies, which has become a particularly promising strategy for treatment of breast cancer. Overall, oncolytic virotherapy is a promising strategy for increased treatment efficacy for advanced breast cancer and consequently provides a unique platform for personalized treatments in patients.

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1. INTRODUCTION: ADVANCING BREAST CANCER TREATMENT

Breast cancer continues to be the leading cause of death among women under 40 and the second leading cause of death in those over 40 [1]. In 2017, newly diagnosed breast cancer cases will make up nearly one-third of cancer diagnoses, with most of these cases being invasive [1, 2]. While early stage breast cancer is treated with high success, advanced breast cancer remains difficult to manage due to limitations of currently available treatments. Advanced breast cancer tends to develop resistance to standard therapies, thus leaving palliative care as the remaining option for these patients.

Current treatments for breast cancer fall under the cytotoxic, hormonal, and immunotherapeutic categories, all of which have demonstrated limited efficacy in advanced stages of breast cancer. With aggressive systemic therapies, patients often experience significant toxicity, while still only achieving a 50% or lower response rate [3]. These toxicities can persist as long-term ailments, affecting the cardiac and neurological systems and overall quality of life, as well as leading to the development of new primary cancers [4-9]. Combination therapies have been utilized to increase treatment efficiency, and are in extensive use today. However, tumors

continue to develop resistance to these treatment combinations, leading to recurrences that become more challenging to treat. Thus, new therapies are in high demand for the systemic treatment of advanced breast cancer.

Research in oncolytic virotherapy has been ongoing for decades but only recently has the approach advanced to investigations at the clinical level. In recent years, oncolytic viruses have been moving towards clinical application at an accelerated pace. One example is T-VEC, an oncolytic herpes simplex virus (oHSV), which has been approved by the FDA for clinical use [10]. Oncolytic viruses are particularly attractive due to the myriad of targeting strategies they can utilize, thus extending them into the burgeoning field of personalized medicine. As a result, many oncolytic viruses have been identified as potential new therapeutic agents for the treatment of advanced breast cancer.

2. ONCOLYTIC VIRUSES

Oncolytic viruses are derived or engineered from naturally occurring viruses to target and specifically kill cancer cells. Currently, oncolytic viruses are derived from most groups of viruses, which are classified by their genome structure and modes of replication and transcription. These viruses have been subsequently engineered to utilize transcriptional and transductional targeting strategies that restrict replication of oncolytic vector constructs to cancer cells, thus sparing normal cells.

*Address correspondence to this author at the Department of Comparative Biomedical Sciences, School of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, 1909 Skip Bertman Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, USA; Tel: +1 225 578 9889; E-mail: jmathis@lsu.edu

In breast cancer research, various viruses have already been extensively tested preclinically to assess their oncolytic efficacy. Of the seven groups in the Baltimore classification system, viruses from group I (double-stranded DNA viruses), group III (double-stranded RNA viruses), group IV (single-stranded RNA viruses – positive-sense), and group V (single-stranded RNA viruses – negative-sense), have been extensively investigated as candidates for breast cancer therapies, based on their previous use as vaccines or ease of handling and genetic manipulation. As with current treatments in the clinic, oncolytic viruses were initially being explored as single-agents and later in combination with existing therapies. Here we discuss oncolytic viruses produced within the last decade that are being widely studied for therapeutic application in breast cancer.

3. GROUP I VIRUSES

Group I viruses are double-stranded DNA (dsDNA) viruses, which have been explored for breast cancer therapy including oncolytic adenovirus (oAd), herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1), and vaccinia virus (VV). Group I viruses require replication and transcription of their DNA within the host cell nucleus yet do not integrate into the host genome. Each virus utilized for oncolytic therapy has its unique cell entry and replication patterns, which can be exploited efficiently to deliver transgenes into the host cell nucleus.

3.1. Adenovirus

The human adenovirus (Ad) is the most studied oncolytic virus platform in breast cancer research as summarized in Table 1. Typically, Ad serotype 5 (Ad5) constructs target the cell through the human Coxsackievirus and adenovirus receptor (hCAR) receptor found on most cell surfaces. Subsequently, after binding to the receptor, the Ad undergoes endocytosis into the cell, after which the virus genome is transported into the host cell nucleus where it is transcribed and replicated for viral protein production and DNA packaging. Oncolytic Ads (oAds) have been engineered to take advantage of this lifecycle with modifications to the physical characteristics of the virion and the addition of targeting and therapeutic transgenes. One significant alteration found in many oncolytic Ads is the use of tumor-specific promoters, which restrict replication to cells expressing those genes. In addition, since breast tumors usually express low levels of the hCAR receptor the Ad5 vector uses [11], modifications to the Ad fiber protein involved in receptor binding have been shown to increase infectivity of cancer cells [12, 13].

In one study, tumor-specific promoters were utilized to increase breast cancer targeting [14]. A further modification was incorporated to display a chimeric Ad5 fiber protein that used the Ad serotype 3 (Ad3) knob domain. The Ad5/3 modification allowed higher infection rates of breast cancer stem cells in comparison to the wild-type Ad5 fiber [14]. In a subsequent clinical study, the same research team engineered an armed oAd using the Ad 5/3 platform. This virus, Ad5/3-D24-GM-CSF, was restricted to tumor cells containing defects in the p16-Rb pathway through a 24 base pair deletion of the E1A promoter gene [15]. Also, arming the virus with Granulocyte-Macrophage-Colony-Stimulating Factor (GM-

CSF) allowed for the tumor-specific lymphocyte recruitment in human patients [15]. Another research team constructed an oAd armed with a CD40 Ligand (CD40L) transgene targeting breast cancer cells *in vitro*, in which early viral gene expression was regulated by an Estrogen Response Element (ERE) and a Hypoxia-Responsive Element (HRE) [16]. Expression of the CD40L was shown to directly inhibit cancer cell growth by binding to the surface receptor CD40. This oAd successfully inhibited breast cancer cell growth, reduced tumor volumes and displayed immune activation *in vivo* [16]. More recently, a study successfully targeted replication of Ad5-10miR145T to breast cancer cells through the insertion of 10 copies of the binding site for tumor suppressor microRNA (miRNA) miR145 downstream of Ad E1A gene [17]. This particular targeting technique is relatively new and was shown recently to suppress viral replication in cellular environments high in miR145 [17]. Due to decreased levels of miR145 in cancer, Ad5-10miR145T was able to replicate in breast cancer cells resulting in similar efficacy to the control virus [17].

Many studies have been conducted with a focus on systemic delivery with efficient viral targeting for the treatment of breast cancer metastasis. In a bone metastasis mouse model, oncolytic Ad.st β Rfc was shown to inhibit bone metastasis and reduce tumor burden [18]. This oAd was armed with a fusion protein, which targeted transforming growth factor beta (TGF- β) receptor 2 (TGFB2). Expression of a soluble form of TGFB2 fused with a human immunoglobulin Fc fragment inhibited the TGF- β signaling pathway associated with breast cancer bone metastasis [18]. Further investigation of this virus and a similar oAd, mhTER-TAd.st β Rfc, which has its replication controlled by a modified human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) promoter, were conducted using a well-established bone metastasis mouse model [19]. In this model, both viruses resulted in low liver toxicity and were effective in inhibiting metastasis resulting in some cases of tumor-free mice [19]. Another oAd, Ad.dcn, was engineered to express the decorin (dcn) protein, and also inhibited bone metastasis and further prevented bone destruction by blocking the activity of TGF- β [20]. To further address the challenge of liver sequestering during systemic delivery, an oAd modified with a chimeric hexon protein containing the Ad serotype 48 (Ad48) hypervariable region was tested in the same bone metastasis model [21]. This oAd showed an improved safety profile in comparison to its unmodified counterpart with a reduction in liver uptake and damage [21].

Low expression of the primary Ad receptor, hCAR, on breast cancer cells is often a limiting factor for efficacy of oAds. Due to the restricted expression of hCAR, infection is poor and alternative entry receptors have been explored to improve transductional targeting of Ads. For example, Ad-Luc(HRG-fiber) containing the Heregulin (HRG) ligand in the HI loop of the Ad knob domain successfully retargeted the virus to the receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-3 (HER3) in breast cancer cells [22]. Another oAd, Ad5-pIX-RFP-FF/NK2, retargeted the oAd to the tyrosine kinase receptor Met (cMet), which was found to be overexpressed in a variety of cancers, including breast cancer [23, 24]. In addition, chimeric Ads using alternative serotypes, such as the

Table 1. Summary of oncolytic Ad (Group I) viruses used in the context of breast cancer therapy.

Baltimore Classification System	Virus	Vector	Modifications	Aim/Target	Refs.
Group I Double-stranded DNA Viruses	Adenovirus (Ad)	Ad5/3mdr-Δ24; Ad5/3-hTERT-Δgp; Ad5/3-cox2L-Δ24	E1 deletion; hTERT promoter insertion; Ad3 fiber knob	Increase breast cancer targeting	[14]
		Ad5/3-D24-GM-CSF	Express GM-CSF; 24 bp deletion in E1A	p16-Rb pathway defects, tumor-specific immunotherapy	[15]
		AdEHCD401	Insert HRE, ERE and E2F-1 promoters; delete Ad E3 19K/6.7K genes; arm with CD40L	Restrict to tumor cells over-expressing estrogen receptor and HIF-1α	[16]
		Ad5-10miR145T	Insert 10 copies of miR145 down stream of E1A	Restrict replication to cancer cells	[17]
		Ad.sTβRFc; Ad.luc2	CMV promoter; Arm with sTGFβRIIFc gene	Target TGF-β	[18]
		mhTERTAd.sTβRFc	mhTERT promoter	Replication controlled	[19]
		Ad.dcn	Express Decorin protein	Produce functional decorin <i>in vivo</i> ; target bone metastasis	[20]
		mHAd.luc2	Ad48 hypervariable region in hexon gene	Reduce liver sequestering	[21]
		AdLuc(HRG-fiber)	HRG ligand in HI loop of Ad knob domain	Retarget to HER3	[22]
		Ad5-pIX-RFP-FF-NK2	NK2 ligand in HI loop of Ad 5 knob domain	Retarget to cMet	[23]
		AdKISS1	Arm with KISS1; Ad5/3 chimeric fiber	Increase infection in breast cancer cells; tumor suppressive	[25]
		OAdmCherry	mCherry fused to pIX protein; Ad5/3 chimeric fiber	Oncolytic improvement with temozolomide	[26]
		CNHK600-IL24	Arm with IL-24	Induce apoptosis	[27]
		P55-HTERT-HRE-TRAIL	Arm with TRAIL	Target TNBC	[28]
		SG500-dNK	Arm with <i>DmDNK</i>	Increase cancer specificity; combination with BVDU or dFdC	[30]
Ad5/3-Δ24-tras	24 bp deletion in E1A; Produce trastuzumab	Local antibody production at tumor sites	[31]		

Abbreviations: Ad: Adenovirus; BVDU: Bromovinyldeoxyuridine, CMV: Cytomegalovirus; dFdC: Difluorodeoxycytidine; GM-CSF: Granulocyte-macrophage colony stimulating factor; HER3: Receptor tyrosine-protein kinase erbB-3; HRG: Heregulin; IL-24: Interleukin-24; TGF-β: Transforming growth factor beta; TNBC: Triple negative breast cancer; TRAIL: TNF-related apoptosis-inducing ligand.

Ad3 fiber protein have been utilized to overcome reduced infection and immune surveillance. This chimeric fiber platform, as described above, utilizes the CD46 receptor, which is often upregulated in cancers. This platform was recently used in a study aimed at improving infection in a breast cancer brain metastases cell line using an oAd armed with the KiSS-1 metastasis suppressor protein (KISS1) [25]. Ad-

KISS1 not only was able to infect the cell line, but it also resulted in increased cytotoxicity, suppression of invasive properties, and induction of apoptosis [25]. In another study using the Ad5/3 platform, triple negative breast cancer cells were targeted with OAdmCherry and the alkylating agent temozolomide [26]. This combination approach increased the efficacy of both treatments over mono-therapeutic controls

by significantly increasing autophagy and oncolytic cell death [26]. These examples of oAds can provide new platforms for additional modifications such as liver detargeting strategies and therapeutic transgene expression for increased virus vector efficacy.

Further examples of modified oAds include those 'armed' with a therapeutically expressing transgene that is produced alongside the oncolytic effects of the replicating Ad. One research team created CNHK600-IL24, an oAd transcriptionally targeted by regulating Ad early gene expression with an hTERT promoter and a promoter containing Hypoxia-Response Elements (HREs). This construct was armed with an expression cassette in which the Cytomegalovirus (CMV) promoter regulated expression of the apoptosis-inducing cytokine IL-24 [27]. CNHK600-IL24 successfully inhibited breast cancer cell growth both *in vitro* and *in vivo* and reduced metastasis after systemic injection [27]. This research team also produced a similar oAd, P55-HTERT-HRE-TRAIL, a virus armed with CMV-driven Tumor Necrosis Factor-Related Apoptosis Inducing Ligand (TRAIL) [28], which has been shown to induce apoptosis in Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) with a mesenchymal phenotype [29]. TNBC was successfully treated in both an orthotopic and a metastasis mouse model, resulting in tumor inhibition and significantly higher survival in the metastasis model when compared to a non-TRAIL expressing control vector [28]. Another transcriptionally targeted oAd, SG500-dNK, armed with the suicide gene deoxyribonuclease kinase (*DmDNK*) from *Drosophila melanogaster*, also exhibited effective breast cancer targeting [30]. However, this oAd was observed to exhibit some off-target replication prompting the authors to recommend additional modification to further restrict replication to the targeted breast cancer cells [30]. Recently, another novel approach to engineering an oAd has been demonstrated with the addition of current monoclonal antibody immunotherapy trastuzumab. In a multiple targeting approach, Ad5/3-Δ24-tras was both transductionally and transcriptionally targeted, allowing for oAd-mediated breast cancer cell lysis and production of the immunotherapeutic anti-HER2-mAb trastuzumab [31]. The production of trastuzumab *de novo* in addition to the oAd-mediated oncolysis caused growth inhibition, tumor reduction and anti-tumor immune response [31].

As oAds approach the clinic, the question arises of whether the best therapeutic use of these oAds would be as a single therapy or as combination/adjuvant therapy. Given the lackluster results in single therapy treatments for breast cancer, a combination approach would be better suited to decrease the toxicity of treatments and increase their effectiveness. For example, the previously described oAd, SG500-dNK, has also been paired with two common chemotherapeutics to assess the effects that the oncolytic virus and chemotherapies have on each other [30]. The chemotherapeutic nucleoside analogs Bromovinyldeoxyuridine (BVDU) and Difluorodeoxycytidine (dFdC) were used after initial infection of TNBC cells *in vitro*. With both analogs, synergistic effects were observed with an increase in cell killing while normal cells were minimally affected [30]. In an *in vivo* xenograft model using the TNBC cell line MDA-MB-231, SG500-dNK in combination with dFdC resulted in significant reduction in tumor growth and increased survival when

compared with the oAd alone [30]. To further illustrate combination approaches, the Ad 5/3-D24-GM-CSF previously described [15], was tested *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and in human patients using the chemotherapeutic drug Cyclophosphamide (CP) [32]. The MDA-MB-436 TNBC cell line was treated *in vitro* and *in vivo*, resulting in increased cell killing and anti-tumor effects when Ad 5/3-D24-GM-CSF was used in combination with CP [32]. In human patients, this combination was shown to be well tolerated without the occurrence of serious adverse events, and many patients exhibited decreases in blood tumor markers [32]. These studies highlight the potential of oAds in the clinic and suggest more focus on combined approaches may facilitate clinical development and application in the near future.

3.2. Herpes Simplex Virus

Herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) is a large, enveloped, dsDNA virus that fuses its envelope to the host cells subsequently releasing its naked virion into the cell. Many of the oncolytic HSV vectors incorporate mutations in viral genes or introduce additional therapeutic or targeting approaches (Table 2). To restrict HSV-1 replication to cancer cells, the $\gamma_{134.5}$ gene was deleted, resulting in a transcriptionally targeted vector unable to replicate in neurons [33]. Additional modifications to the entry mediator glycoprotein gD found on the HSV-1 envelope allowed for retargeting to specific overexpressed receptors in breast cancer, such as the Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (HER-2). This approach was utilized in the oHSV construct R-LM249, which contained the anti-HER-2 single chain antibody trastuzumab in the gD domain [34]. This oHSV was successfully retargeted to the HER-2 receptor in breast cancer cells [35], a receptor commonly overexpressed in some breast cancer subtypes [36]. In addition, treatment with R-LM249 in mice displayed no signs of toxicity, inhibited HER-2 positive tumor growth and even resulted in tumor-free mice [35].

A separate oHSV, G47Δ, contained several gene mutations to restrict replication to breast cancer cells further. The additional mutations in the ICP6 and $\alpha 47$ genes restricted replication to dividing cells [37] and enhanced immune stimulation [38]. In a study of pulmonary breast cancer metastasis treatment with G47Δ, the virus significantly reduced the number of tumors compared to the control [39]. In addition, G47Δ was successfully tested in a breast cancer stem cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo* to assess its ability to target stem cells contributing to tumor growth [40]. In tamoxifen-resistant breast cancer cells and tumors, G47Δ was able to target, replicate in and reduce tumor growth, demonstrating its potential as adjuvant therapy in the clinic [41]. In an attempt to negate the decreased virulence associated with the deletion of $\gamma_{134.5}$ a recent study introduced the C-terminus of murine protein phosphatase I regulatory subunit 15A (MyD116) to the N-terminus of the $\gamma_{134.5}$ gene in a G47Δ recombinant (GD116) [42]. This insertion enhanced the replication and cytotoxicity of GD116 in breast cancer cells *in vitro*, thus introducing a new possible platform to develop oHSV with higher efficiency [42].

Some oHSV vectors have been armed with cancer-combating proteins, enzymes, or drugs to achieve a greater therapeutic effect. In breast cancer treatment, the oHSV-based OSVP virus

Table 2. Summary of oncolytic HSV and VV (Group I) viruses used in the context of breast cancer therapy.

Baltimore Classification System	Virus	Vector	Modifications	Aim/Target	Refs.
Group I Double-stranded DNA Viruses	Herpes simplex virus (HSV)	R-LM249	γ_1 34.5 gene deletion; Trastuzumab scFV in gD domain	Retarget to HER2 receptors	[34]
		G47 Δ	γ_1 34.5 gene deletion; ICP6 gene mutation; α 47 gene mutation	Restriction to breast cancer cells; immune reaction enhancement	[37-41]
		GD116	C-terminus of MyD116 inserted in place of the C-terminus of γ 34.5	Enhance replication and cytotoxicity	[42]
		OSVP	15-hydroxy prostaglandin dehydrogenase gene	Break down tumor promoting prostaglandin E2	[43]
		HF10	Naturally mutated strain	Cellular effects; Combination effects with Bevacizumab targeting VEGF	[44, 45]
		MGH2	Transcriptionally targeted; Express GFP	Combination with apoptosis-inducing compounds; Tumor penetration improvement	[46]
		M002	Express IL-12	Viral replication in combination with HDAC inhibitors	[47]
		HSV1-hGM-CSF	Transcriptionally targeted; Produce GM-CSF	Combination with doxorubicin; Target cancer stem cells and chemoresistant cancer cells	[48]
		rQNestin34.5	ICP34.5 mutation under control of the Nestin promoter	Combination with CAR NK cells expressing anti-EGFR; Target breast cancer brain metastasis	[50]
	Vaccinia virus (VV)	GLV-1h68	Natural tropism to cancer cells; RUC-GFP gene; β -galactosidase gene; β -glucuronidase gene insertions	Target mammary tumors; Replication in cancer cells; Combination approach using prodrugs	[53, 54, 56]
		GLV-1h164	Armed with GLAF-2 antibody	Target VEGF	[55]
		Vvdd	Deletions in TK and VGF genes or Serpin-1 and Serpin-2 genes	Replication restricted to tumor cells; enhanced cytotoxicity	[57, 58]

Abbreviations: EGFR: Epidermal growth factor receptor; GFP: Green fluorescent protein; GM-CSF: Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor; HDAC: Histone deacetylase; HER2: Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IL-12: Interleukin-12; NK: Natural killer; TK: Thymidine kinase; VEGF: Vascular endothelial growth factor; VGF: Vaccinia growth factor.

incorporated a 15-hydroxyprostaglandin dehydrogenase gene encoding an enzyme that breaks down tumor promoting prostaglandin E2 [43]. In mouse models of orthotopic and metastatic breast cancer, this oHSV inhibited tumor growth, metastasis, and even contributed to immune stimulation after treatment [43].

In recent years, the oHSV HF10 virus, a naturally mutated strain, was evaluated in human breast cancer patients. In one study, breast cancer patients who had recurrences were treated with single or repeated doses of HF10 injected into single tumor nodules [44]. Interestingly, these patients demonstrated tumor size reductions and CD8-positive T cell infiltration that was suggestive of an antitumor response [44]. Another phase I dose escalation clinical trial was com-

pleted using HF10, in which six with recurrent breast cancer of seventeen patients with advanced cancers were included [45]. While HF10 injections were safe and well-tolerated, a follow-up clinical trial enrolling a larger cohort of breast cancer patients would likely yield more relevant data to assess its efficacy as a therapy in this disease setting.

Several studies have evaluated oHSV efficacy in combination with other treatments such as chemotherapies, immunotherapies, and targeted therapies. MGH2, a transcriptionally targeted oHSV was assessed in conjunction with doxycycline-induced caspase 8 expression, recombinant TRAIL, and/or chemotherapy paclitaxel [46]. Treatment *in vivo* with doxycycline to induce caspase 8 expression resulted in apoptosis which increased MGH2 infection by facilitating virus

spread and therefore increased cell death intratumorally [46]. Pretreatment with a paclitaxel-TRAIL combination also increased MGH2 spread within tumors and contributed to higher cell death and necrosis [46]. Similarly, an Interleukin-12 (IL-12) expressing oHSV, M002 also exhibited increased replication in breast cancer cells including in HSV-resistant cells when paired with select histone deacetylase inhibitors [47]. Another oHSV, HSV1-hGM-CSF, has been constructed to transcriptionally target breast cancer cells and produce human granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor upon replication [48]. HSV1-hGM-CSF treatment given as an adjuvant therapy with chemotherapeutic agent doxorubicin was able to significantly reduce tumor volume in a breast cancer mouse model when compared to either treatment alone [48]. Similar effects were shown with HF10 when combined with the monoclonal antibody bevacizumab in treatment against a xenograft mouse model [49].

Recently, a unique study was carried out combining the glioma-specific oHSV, rQNestin34.5 with Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) modified Natural Killer (NK) cells expressing an Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (EGFR) antibody fusion (EGFR-CAR-NK-92) [50]. This approach can target both EGFR expressing cancer cells and EGFR-negative cancer cells within the tumor. Herein, Breast Cancer Brain Metastases were initially treated intratumorally with the EGFR-CAR-NK-92 cells and subsequently treated with the oHSV [50]. Similar to the studies previously described, the combination here reduced tumor growth more than the single therapy controls and resulted in significantly increased survival in the mice [50]. Overall, the trend observed with oAd experiments was replicated using oHSVs, suggesting that combination approaches are superior to single therapy approaches. Due to the recent FDA approval of Imlygic (talimogene laherparepvec or T-VEC) as an oHSV for clinical treatment of melanoma [10], advancement of oHSV into the clinic for breast cancer treatment may not be far.

3.3. Vaccinia Virus

The vaccinia virus (VV) is unique among dsDNA viruses in that its replication occurs entirely in the cytoplasm, and not the nucleus of the cell [51]. This feature is touted as an additional safety benefit for an oncolytic virus due to the genome integration risk being eliminated. In addition, VV has a natural tropism to tumors, making it an ideal candidate as an oncolytic virus [52]. In breast cancer, an oncolytic VV (oVV) has been shown to have high tumor cell infectivity, replicate well and cause tumor regression (Table 2). One strain, GLV-1h68, an oVV containing three gene modifications for successful visual and immunohistochemical tracking, was able to successfully replicate in and kill canine mammary tumor cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo* within a nude mouse model [53]. In human breast cancer stem cells demonstrating increased resistance to chemotherapy and irradiation, GLV-1h68 was able to replicate more efficiently when compared to the non-stem cell type counterparts [54]. When assessed in a xenograft mouse model using breast cancer stem cells, GLV-1h68 was also able to significantly inhibit tumor growth, making this a potential oncolytic virus to target hard to kill cancer stem cell populations [54]. In another study, an oVV named GLV-1h164, armed to express the single-chain antibody GLAF-2 against Vascular Endothelial

Growth Factor (VEGF) was tested in triple negative breast cancer [55]. GLV-1h164 significantly regressed xenografts of triple negative breast cancer tumors when compared to the non-GLAF-2 expressing parent virus [55]. In addition, VEGF was successfully targeted, as was seen by the decrease in vascular flow and the inhibition of tumor vasculature post-treatment [55].

A few studies in recent years have combined oVV with anti-cancer agents to increase vector potency in treating breast cancer. One study combined GLV-1h68 with (1S)-*seco*-CBI-DMAI- β -D-galactoside 1, a prodrug activated by β -galactosidase, which is expressed in the virus [56]. This study was the first attempt using this type of prodrug *in vivo* in a tumor-bearing model. Herein, a human metastatic breast cancer cell line, GI-101A, was used to form xenograft tumors in nude mice that were treated first with the oVV GLV-1h68 and subsequently with the prodrug [56]. As a result, tumors were significantly reduced in volume compared with the controls, leading the research team to surmise the potential of prodrug combinations with oVV [56]. In another study, also using a transcriptionally targeted strain, Vvdd, tested the virus in combination with a 4-1BB (CD137) receptor antagonist [57]. Vvdd contains additional deletions that further restrict replication and cytolytic activity to tumor cells, enhancing this oVV tumor targeting and cytotoxicity [58]. The combination of the 4-1BB antagonist and Vvdd was able to inhibit tumor growth and increase survival in an immunocompetent mouse model, as well as impact metastatic tumors at other sites of the body [57]. Also, antitumor effects were seen as a reduction of breast cancer metastasis and tumor infiltration by CD8⁺ T cells, NK cells, and myeloid cells, highlighting the potential use of VV in immunotherapy [57]. As this VV research in breast cancer treatment expands, more drug combinations and immunotherapeutic applications should be addressed. With more studies, oVV may advance to clinical trials in the near future.

4. GROUP III VIRUSES

The double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) class of viruses represents a diverse group of pathogens that infect a broad range of host species, from bacteria and fungi to animals and plants. Most of these viruses have icosahedral capsid structures, and contain from one to a dozen different RNA molecules, each coding for one or more viral proteins. Upon infection, the genomic dsRNA is transcribed into mRNAs that will serve for both translation and replication.

4.1. Reovirus

Reovirus is a dsRNA virus whose exact lifecycle mechanism is still not fully understood. However, reovirus has been accepted as generally nonpathogenic in humans [59], and consequently have been exploited as oncolytic viruses (Table 3). Interestingly, Type 3 Dearing reovirus strain is naturally oncolytic and preferentially infects tumor cells. The oncolytic effect of this strain in breast cancer cells has been explored in several studies. One study tested a panel of breast cancer cell lines and found that all were susceptible to reovirus infection regardless of hormone receptor status, whereas normal breast epithelial cells were not [60]. This broad infection capacity has been attributed to activated Ras pathway or mutated Ras protein in cancer cells [61]. When

Table 3. Summary of oncolytic Group III and Group IV viruses used in the context of breast cancer therapy.

Baltimore Classification System	Virus	Vector	Modifications	Aim/Target	Refs.
Group III Double-stranded RNA Virus	Reovirus	Type 3 Dearing strain	Naturally oncolytic	Targeting and efficacy	[60, 62-66]
Group IV Positive sense Single-stranded RNA Virus	Coxsackievirus	CVA21	Wild-type Kuykendall strain	Breast cancer infection and replication	[68]
		B3 strain	miR-1 and miR-217 insertions in 3' UTR	TNBC	[69]
	Poliovirus	PVSRIP0	Polio/rhinovirus recombinant	Efficacy and effects in prostate and breast cancer	[71]

Abbreviations: TNBC: Triple negative breast cancer; UTR: Untranslated region.

tested in mice using core biopsies of a human breast cancer tumor, reovirus treatment successfully caused tumor regression [62]. This study also found that reovirus is a sufficient vector to target breast cancer stem cells, as they also exhibit aberrant Ras activity [62]. Because of encouraging studies indicating the reovirus type 3 Dearing strain would make an ideal oncolytic virus for the clinic, it quickly rose to clinical testing. In 2013, a dose-escalation phase I trial was published reporting on reovirus (Reolysin) used as a local injection at the tumor site [63]. While patients ranged in cancer type, three were metastatic breast cancer patients. Of these three, one was determined to have stable disease after treatment, and the study concluded that treatment with reovirus proved to be safe in various advanced stage cancers [63].

Reovirus has also been tested in combination with docetaxel and gemcitabine to study possible enhancement of its oncolytic activity. In the phase I clinical trial, 25 oncology patients were treated with docetaxel in combination with reovirus. Of these patients, one presented with metastatic breast cancer which was considered to have undergone a complete response to the treatment [64]. A phase I trial combining gemcitabine with reovirus showed some positive effects in cancer patients including one breast cancer patient. However, the results of this study were less definitive, prompting a suggestion for further exploration on this particular combination [65].

Given that these combination studies had only two breast cancer patients enrolled, further exploration in a breast cancer cohort would be more enlightening on the potential of reovirus in combination with commonly used breast cancer treatments. Recently, a preclinical study combined reovirus with an anti-PD-1 inhibitor to target breast cancer cells both *in vitro* and *in vivo* with an immunocompetent mouse model [66]. The authors demonstrated that reovirus was capable of inducing an immune response and when combined with anti-PD-1 therapy, tumor reduction, and immune response was so marked that 70% of mouse cohort was cured [66]. Remarkably, this combination enabled a systemic protective anti-tumor response that inhibited tumor growth during a tumor re-challenge, thus providing further evidence in support for using of reovirus in clinical trials [66]. However, while

reovirus has quickly risen to clinical trials, further exploration with a breast cancer cohort of patients should be conducted to determine its potential as a breast cancer treatment.

The remainder of this review will touch on two additional groups of viruses that have been advanced in breast cancer research. These more recent studies involve virus platforms that could be utilized in breast cancer therapy. While some of these examples have been used in treating other tumor types, breast cancer could be similarly targeted.

5. GROUP IV VIRUSES

The positive-sense single-stranded RNA (+ssRNA) class of virus is unique in that the genome can immediately produce proteins as positive sense ssRNA that function as mRNA within the cytoplasm. Those explored for use in breast cancer treatment are picornaviruses within the genus *Enterovirus*, also known as intestinal viruses. Here we discuss the coxsackievirus and polioviruses that have been examined in breast cancer research (Table 3).

5.1. Coxsackievirus

The naturally occurring Coxsackievirus A21 (CVA21) strain, which is mildly pathogenic to humans, enters the cell through receptor-mediated infection, particularly using a complex of the intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1) and the Decay-Accelerating Factor (DAF). This receptor complex is found to be overexpressed in many cancers including breast cancer [67]. One study using CVA21 successfully destroyed breast cancer cells in single monolayers and spheroid cultures, as well as *in vivo* SCID mouse models of xenograft and orthotopic metastatic breast cancer [68]. Recently, the coxsackievirus B3 strain has been genetically modified to increase safety by inserting transcriptionally regulated miRNA sequences [69]. Here, triple negative breast cancer was treated *in vitro* and *in vivo* with results indicating an increase in safety as tumor growth was suppressed [69]. The encouraging results from these studies introduce coxsackievirus strains to oncolytic virotherapy for breast cancer and pave the way for further safety studies as a single agent as well as in combination drug approaches.

5.2. Poliovirus

Recently, a study using poliovirus has explored the treatment of breast cancer xenograft models. While poliovirus is associated with neurological pathogenesis resulting in the debilitating polio disease, this study utilizes the live-attenuated polio vaccine with an additional rhinovirus gene insert to further prevent replication in neural cells [70]. In addition, the poliovirus uses the CD155 receptor for entry, which is found in nearly all cancers, making it an ideal candidate for oncolytic therapy. Here, PVSRIPO was tested on breast cancer cells *in vitro* and *in vivo* xenografts resulting in cell lysis and delayed tumor growth [71]. Most interestingly, treatment with PVSRIPO resulted in robust immune activation and neutrophil infiltration in tumors, highlighting its potential as an immunotherapeutic vector [71].

6. GROUP V VIRUSES

There has been additional breast cancer research conducted with viruses from the negative-sense single-stranded RNA (-ssRNA) group. The -ssRNA group encompasses viruses that have frequently been used to treat a variety of different cancers. However, the application in breast cancer has only been recently explored both *in vitro* and *in vivo* as shown in Table 4 and includes Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), Measles Virus (MV), Maraba virus, and Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV).

6.1. Vesicular Stomatitis Virus

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is a relatively new virus in breast cancer virotherapy, and initial studies reveal its oncolytic potential as well as challenges that will require more engineering and testing. VSV is unable to replicate in normal human cells yet can replicate in oncogenic human cells through the cellular mutations accumulated in cancer cells, possibly through antiviral pathways. This unique characteristic, in addition to its low pathogenicity in humans, provides a unique safety profile sought after in virotherapy. However, treatment approaches have struggled to increase its efficacy to rival that of more commonly used oncolytic viruses. For example, a study using the oncolytic VSV (oVSV) mutant rM51R-M was unable to completely inhibit progression of tumor growth in an *in vivo* breast cancer model, even in combination with IL-12 [72]. Recently, a study using the mutant VSV Δ 51 tested the vector in combination with Microtubule-Destabilizing Agents (MDAs) to increase the efficacy of the oVSV vector [73]. Herein, VSV Δ 51-resistant 4T1 breast cancer cells were treated *in vitro* with MDAs, followed by the virus resulting in synergistic effects on the viral spread and cell death, including VSV Δ 51-resistant breast cancer cells [73]. *In vivo*, the vector in combination with MDAs was able to delay tumor progression and increase survival, as well as trigger antitumor activity [73].

Interestingly, a study that examined a combination of VSV and VV in various established cancer cell lines showed that the VV significantly enhanced VSV replication [74]. Administering the viral combination in an aggressive 4T1 breast cancer model, corroborated the *in vitro* data while simultaneously establishing the safety of the combination [74]. This result was further supported by using a more extensive panel of cancers using *ex vivo* tumor tissue slices,

also finding significantly enhanced viral replication when compared to singularly infected cultures [74]. While breast cancer specimens were not included in this study, the virus combination approach can be utilized with other established oncolytic viruses in breast cancer research, as seen in (Table 4). Recently, a study using an oVSV armed with a reovirus Fusion-Associated Small Transmembrane protein (FAST) demonstrated successful decreases in tumor growth and increased survival in a syngeneic murine breast cancer model [75]. This study highlighted the ability of the FAST protein (p14) to increase virus transmission and dissemination within the model as well as the induction of an anti-tumor immune response [75]. Overall, VSV is just beginning to enter breast cancer research; its natural oncolytic activity makes it a candidate for breast cancer research, particularly in an immunotherapeutic capacity.

6.2. Measles Virus

Oncolytic measles virus (oMV) derived from the attenuated Edmonston-B (MV-Edm) vaccine strain have been tested in clinical trials for various cancers, and in recent years, the exploration into breast cancer applications has begun. MV utilize the following receptors: CD46 [76] ubiquitously expressed on all nucleated cells, SLAM (signaling lymphocytic activation molecule) [77] often overexpressed in cancer cells, and the Poliovirus Receptor-related protein 4 (PVRL4) [78]. Attenuated oMV have been utilized to specifically target cancer cells, by limiting their replication to oncogenic cells. In a study using both MV-GFP virions and MV-GFP-infected dendritic cells, breast cancer cells were successfully infected by both modes and virus was able to eradicate the cancer cells [79]. This result illustrated an important approach of oncolytic virotherapy in the context of preexisting immunity. The data from this study suggest that carrier cells (such as dendritic cells used in these experiments) are efficient in bypassing MV-neutralizing antibodies and successful in delivering the vector to breast cancer cells [79]. These results were further supported by a pleural effusion xenograft model where MV-GFP rapidly infected and spread amongst tumors including distant metastasis using either free-virions or carrier dendritic cells [79]. In another study a CD150 (SLAM) blind strain was created, rMV-SLAMblind, resulting in infection of breast cancer cells *via* the Nectin cell adhesion molecule 4 Nectin-4 or PVRL4 receptor, which coincidentally is also overexpressed in breast cancer cells [80]. This virus improved upon the vaccine derivative, MV-Edm, in enhancing oncolytic activity both *in vitro* and *in vivo* in breast cancer cells [80]. Furthermore, safety testing in Rhesus monkeys concluded that rMV-SLAMblind did not demonstrate symptoms typically seen in a measles infection [80].

A separate research team sought to retarget MV to the urokinase-type Plasminogen Activator Receptor (uPAR) which is primarily expressed in cancer and is associated with tumor progression and metastasis [81]. This study utilized both syngeneic and xenograft breast cancer mouse models to test species-specific versions of the uPAR-targeting oMV vectors (MV-m-uPA and MV-h-uPA). Both viruses were cancer-specific, and were shown to delay tumor progression in both models and significantly increased survival in a human xenograft model [81]. A subsequent study with these viruses

Table 4. Summary of oncolytic Group V viruses used in the context of breast cancer therapy.

Baltimore Classification System	Virus	Vector	Modifications	Aim/Target	Refs.
Group V Negative-sense Single-stranded RNA Virus	Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV)	rM51R-M	Naturally oncolytic	Breast cancer cell infection and cell death in combination with IL-12	[72]
		VSVΔ51	Naturally oncolytic; Deletion in matrix protein	Efficacy in combination with MDAs	[73]
		VSVΔ51; VVD-eGFP; VVΔB18R-eGFP	Vaccinia virus B18R gene deletion	B18R gene product contribute to viral replication; synergistic effect of viral co-infection	[74]
		VSV-p14	Armed with FAST protein	Increase virus infection and spread	[75]
	Measles Virus (MV)	MV-GFP	Green fluorescent protein expression	Modes of infection using dendritic cell carriers or MV alone in cancer cells	[79]
		rMV-SLAMblind	Mutated to be incapable of binding CD150 receptor	Infection <i>via</i> PVRL4 receptor	[80]
		MV-m-uPA; MV-h-uPA	Retarget to uPAR	Increased infection and targeting through tumor stroma	[81, 82]
		MV-un-muPA	Modified for murine and human targeting; Targeted to human CD46 and murine uPAR	Effects on tumor stroma and tumor infection by oncolytic MV	[83]
		MV-lambda; MV-s-NAP; MV-lambda-NAP	Express human lambda Ig chain (and/or) neutrophil-activating protein	Effects of combination treatment with alisertib	[84]
	Maraba Virus	MG1	G protein mutation (Q242R); M protein mutation (L123W)	Increase virus oncolysis; Attenuate replication in normal cells	[85-88]
	Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV)	Lentogenic LaSota strain	None	Tumor selectivity	[89]
		Oncolytic strain MTH-68	None	Combination radiofrequency hyperthermia treatment of a breast cancer patient	[90]

Abbreviations: FAST: Fusion-associated small transmembrane protein; IL-12: Interleukin-12; MDAs: Microtubule-destabilizing agents; MV: Measles virus; PVRL4: Poliovirus receptor-related protein 4 Nectin-4; uPAR: Urokinase-type plasminogen activator receptor.

utilized uPAR overexpression in tumor stroma fibroblasts and determined that the tumor stroma could be utilized to transfer infection to tumor cells, induce apoptosis and significantly delay tumor progression [82]. Further modification of an oMV to dual target murine and human cells in a xenograft breast cancer mouse model resulted in increased survival and decreases of tumor-associated fibroblasts and endothelial cells [83]. These studies illustrate a unique approach to breast cancer treatment by targeting both the tumor stroma and tumor cells that can provide additional avenues for successful clinical treatment.

As with many oncolytic viruses being explored in clinical trials, combination therapies with MV are of particular interest due to the evidence that these approaches can increase the efficacy of viral therapies. For example, several MVs (*e.g.*, MV-GFP, MV-lambda, MV-s-NAP, and MV-lambda-NAP)

have recently been tested with alisertib. Alisertib (MLN8237) is an Aurora A kinase inhibitor whose activity is synergistic with viral replication. The combination of these oMV vectors with alisertib significantly improved breast cancer cell eradication compared to virus-only treatment, and in some cases resulted in complete eradication *in vitro* [84]. When this combination was repeated *in vivo* using MV-lambda-NAP, survival of a xenograft metastasis mouse model of breast cancer was significantly improved, and in some cases resulted in complete regression [84]. In the pleural effusion model previously described, a combination of alisertib and MV-s-NAP also increased survival significantly compared to single-agent therapy [84]. With the combination of drugs such as alisertib, the efficacy of MVs can be increased and utilized in clinical trials, leading to better outcomes and possibly the advancement of the oMV vector to clinical use.

6.3. Maraba Virus

The Maraba virus, another relatively new member of oncolytic virotherapy vectors, has made its way into breast cancer research. In a study exploring the virus as a VSV-related rhabdovirus with potent oncolytic activity, a recombinant Maraba, MG1 was engineered to increase its oncolytic potential while attenuating its ability to replicate in normal cells [85]. Maraba MG1 was safely administered intravenously, and repeated doses in a syngeneic colon cancer model resulted in complete regression of tumors [85]. In a subsequent study investigating the 4T1 mouse breast cancer metastasis model, administration of MG1 or a UV-inactivated version in a preoperative treatment scheme dramatically reduced lung metastasis [86]. Assessment of MG1 in combination with paclitaxel treatment further enhanced breast cancer cell killing by enhancing viral replication both *in vitro* and *in vivo* [87]. Even more remarkable, a recent study examined long-term immune response effects to intratumorally injected MG1 when combined with surgical resection post-treatment, showed that the virus was able to slow metastases and even resulted in complete responses in a subset of *in vivo* breast cancer models examined [88]. Through re-challenge mouse models and gene expression analysis, the authors concluded that immune activation was crucial to the overall response *in vivo* [88]. Further illustrating this point, mouse cohorts that were first treated *in vivo* with MG1, followed by surgical resection and anti-PD-1 therapy, demonstrated 60-90% complete responses after tumor re-challenge [88]. These recent results further support previously described data points in other studies that show an increase in treatment efficacy when oncolytic viruses are used in conjunction with other anti-cancer therapeutics.

6.4. Newcastle Disease Virus

The final vector of the -ssRNA group explored in breast cancer is Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV). While NDV has been examined in the past as an oncolytic vector, only in recent years has it been tested in breast cancer. A recent study, assessing the pro-inflammatory response to NDV in a number of tumor lines, including breast cancer, found that NDV is a potent activator of type I and II interferon responses in addition to Interleukin 6 (IL-6) expression [89]. The authors of this study concluded that NDV has potential as an immunotherapeutic agent. More research is needed to assess the NDV vector efficacy in oncolytic virotherapy. However, it is worth mentioning a successful case study using NDV in which a 70-year-old female with invasive ductal breast cancer that had metastasized to the liver was treated with a combination of targeted hyperthermia, Dendritic Cell (DC) immunotherapy, and NDV injections over the course of five years after initial diagnosis [90]. Since the patient opted out of conventional treatment (*i.e.*, chemotherapy) and chose the personalized immunotherapy regimen, her case introduced data from a previously untreated source. The patient tolerated the therapy well with no changes to lifestyle or quality of life, as often seen in those undergoing conventional therapy. At the time of its publication, the patient had surpassed the six-month expected survival by 60 months [90]. In addition, the metastasis had not progressed and remained stable throughout therapy [90]. This finding illustrates a compelling argument that chemotherapy is inadequate;

instead, successfully modulating breast cancer through oncolytic virotherapy and immunotherapy could provide a long-term survival advantage to individuals over conventional treatment approaches.

CONCLUSION: A MULTI-COMBINATION APPROACH

Throughout the development of oncolytic virotherapy, a reoccurring theme that has been gaining traction in the field, particularly in breast cancer, has been combination approaches. Monotherapeutic approaches have been crucial to the understanding the mechanisms involved in virus-specific contributions to therapeutic response and optimizing oncolytic activity. However, the inadequate efficacy and lack of complete responses at the clinical level are driving new combination approaches. Anti-cancer drugs can often result in synergistic effects when combined with oncolytic virotherapy, presenting a platform for personalized therapies. These combinations have enhanced both the drug and viral vector efficacy *in vitro* and *in vivo* in most cases provided a greater therapeutic effect. Importantly, the combinations discussed in this review have shown to improve and support anti-cancer immune responses.

An innovative approach to oncolytic virotherapy would be the combination of different oncolytic viruses to target the same disease in distinct ways. The first example of this strategy was published in 2010 by a research team in Canada, combining VSV and VV. This study examined the combination in the context of various established cancer cell lines, which resulted in the finding that the VV significantly enhanced VSV replication [74]. As described earlier, VSV is new to breast cancer virotherapy and is still met with challenges affecting its overall efficacy. However, this study introduced a new method that could enhance VSV replication dramatically [74]. Administering the treatment in the context of an aggressive 4T1 mouse tumor model *in vivo*, corroborated the *in vitro* data as well as established its safety [74]. Further infection of *ex vivo* tumor tissue slices from a range of cancers supported the *in vitro* and *in vivo* data as well, showing significant enhancement of viral replication when compared to singularly infected cultures [74]. While breast cancer specimens were not included in this particular study, the virus combination approach opens the door to exploit those more established oncolytic viruses in breast cancer research.

Although oncolytic viruses for use in breast cancer treatments are taking great strides towards the clinic, many hurdles still remain. For example, Ad vectors have faced challenges in clinical trials because of limited efficacy observed in patients to date. However recent studies suggest that therapeutic benefits can be improved when Ads are used in combination with therapeutic drugs [26, 30-32] or immune checkpoint inhibitors [91]. This approach is a particularly promising avenue as Ads have already been studied extensively for breast cancer treatment and have an established safety profile in clinical trials. Likewise, HSV-based therapeutic vectors such as T-VEC may be insensitive to treating all cancer cell types due to deletion of the γ 34.5 gene, which also compromises the replication of the virus [42]. Novel improvements to the HSV platform could be utilized to enhance the anti-tumor effects on breast cancer [42]. VV vec-

Table 5. Clinical trials for breast cancer treatment using oncolytic virotherapy approaches.

Phase	Virus	Additional Therapy	Disease	Status	ID
I	vvDD-CDSR (VV)	None	Melanoma, HNSCC, Breast, Liver, colorectal, and Pancreatic cancers	Completed	NCT00574977
I	CVA21 (Coxsackievirus)	None	Solid tumor cancers	Completed	NCT00636558
I	HF10 (HSV)	None	Refractory HNSCC, Skin SCC, Breast carcinoma, Melanoma	Completed	NCT01017185
II	Reolysin (reovirus)	Paclitaxel	Metastatic breast cancer	Completed	NCT01656538
I	MV-NIS (MV)	None	Metastatic breast cancer and HNSCC	Active, not recruiting	NCT01846091
I	VCN-01 (Ad)	Gemcitabine Abraxane	Advanced/metastatic tumors pancreatic adenocarcinoma	Recruiting	NCT02045602
I/II	MG1MA3 (oncolytic Maraba) and AdMA3 (Ad vaccine)	None	Advanced/metastatic solid tumors	Recruiting	NCT02285816
I	Toca 511 (retroviral replicating vector)	Toca FC (5-fluorocytosine formulation)	Solid tumors, Lymphoma	Recruiting	NCT02576665
I/II	JX-594 (VV)	Metronomic CP	Advanced breast cancer, soft-tissue sarcomas	Recruiting	NCT02630368
I/II	Talimogene Laherparepvec (HSV)	Paclitaxel	TNBC	Recruiting	NCT02779855
I	Pexa-Vec (VV)	Ipilimumab	Metastatic/Advanced tumors	Recruiting	NCT02977156
II	ADV/HSV-tk (Ad)	Valacyclovir, Pembrolizumab, and stereotactic XRT	TNBC and NSCLC	Recruiting	NCT03004183
I	PVSRIPO (oncolytic poliovirus)	None	Stage II-IV TNBC	Not yet recruiting	NCT03564782

Abbreviations: Ad: Adenovirus; CP: Cyclophosphamide; HNSCC: Squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck; HSV: Herpes simplex virus; MV: Measles virus; NSCLC: Non-small cell lung cancer; SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma; TNBC: Triple negative breast cancer; VV: Vaccinia virus; XRT: Radiation therapy.

tors have a number of advantages including selective and robust cancer cell killing using *in vitro* and *in vivo* preclinical models of breast cancer [53-58]. However, despite extensive safety experience as a live vaccine, clinical trials using oVV vectors have not included breast cancer patients to date. Recently, newer vectors such as reovirus [66], MV [82, 83], and Maraba virus [88] have shown promising preclinical results in the treatment of breast cancer. It is too soon to determine the clinical impact of these virus platforms in a clinical setting, since they will likely need further vector improvements and extensive preclinical testing.

As discussed throughout this review, combination approaches using current therapeutic drugs promise an increase in therapeutic efficacy, and highlight how quickly the oncolytic virotherapy field is developing in cancer research. Currently, there are a number of Phase I and II clinical trials using oncolytic viruses that are completed or ongoing for treating breast cancer patients, as shown in Table 5. The majority of these are utilizing a combination approach to treat advanced-stage cancers. However, while the combination approach appears promising, further challenges lie in identi-

fying and developing successful and safe combinations. Proper combinations will likely rely on patient disease progression, prior chemotherapy and resistance, the milieu of gene mutations in oncogenes and tumor suppressor genes, virus receptor expression, and immune status. This approach will likely present a challenge in clinical trials as it suggests a degree of personalization that may not be easily replicated among individuals. Nevertheless, with safety profiles established for many of the vector platforms, oncolytic virotherapy represent a new era of breast cancer therapy in which potentially effective and well-tolerated regimens may also further improve quality of life post-treatment.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

-ssRNA	=	Negative-Sense Single-Stranded RNA
+ssRNA	=	Positive-Sense Single-Stranded RNA
Ad3	=	Ad Serotype 3
Ad5	=	Ad Serotype 5
Ad48	=	Ad Serotype 48
Ad	=	Adenovirus
BVDU	=	Bromovinyldeoxyuridine

CAR	=	Chimeric Antigen Receptor
CD40L	=	CD40 Ligand
cMet	=	Tyrosine kinase Receptor Met
CMV	=	Cytomegalovirus
CP	=	Cyclophosphamide
CVA21	=	Coxsackievirus A21
DAF	=	Decay-Accelerating Factor
DC	=	Dendritic Cell
dcn	=	Decorin
dFdC	=	Difluorodeoxycytidine
DmDNK	=	Deoxyribonuclease kinase
dsDNA	=	Double-stranded DNA
dsRNA	=	Double-stranded RNA
EGFR	=	Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor
ERE	=	Estrogen Response Element
FAST	=	Fusion-associated Small Transmembrane protein
GFP	=	Green Fluorescent Protein
GM-CSF	=	Granulocyte-Macrophage-Colony-Stimulating Factor
hCAR	=	Human Coxsackievirus and Adenovirus receptor
HDAC	=	Histone deacetylase
HER-2	=	Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2
HER3	=	Receptor Tyrosine-Protein Kinase erbB-3
HNSCC	=	Squamous cell carcinoma of the head and neck
HRE	=	Hypoxia-Response Element
HRG	=	Heregulin
HSV-1	=	Herpes simplex virus type 1
ICAM-1	=	Intercellular adhesion molecule 1
IL-12	=	Interleukin-12
IL-6	=	Interleukin 6
KISS1	=	KiSS-1 metastasis suppressor protein
MDAs	=	Microtubule-destabilizing Agents
miRNA	=	microRNA
MV	=	Measles virus
MyD116	=	Murine Protein Phosphatase I Regulatory subunit 15A
NDV	=	Newcastle Disease Virus
Nectin-4	=	Nectin cell adhesion molecule 4
NK	=	Natural Killer
NSCLC	=	Non-small Cell Lung Cancer
oAds	=	Oncolytic Ads
oHSV	=	Oncolytic HSV
oMV	=	Oncolytic MV
oVSV	=	Oncolytic VSV
oVV	=	Oncolytic VV
PVRL4	=	Poliovirus receptor-related protein 4
SCC	=	Squamous Cell Carcinoma
SLAM	=	Signaling Lymphocytic Activation Molecule
-ssRNA	=	Negative-sense single-stranded RNA
TERT	=	Telomerase reverse transcriptase
TGFBR2	=	Transforming growth factor beta receptor 2
TGF- β	=	Transforming growth factor beta
TNBC	=	Triple-negative Breast Cancer
TRAIL	=	Tumor Necrosis Factor-related Apoptosis inducing ligand

uPAR	=	Urokinase-type Plasminogen Activator receptor
VEGF	=	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
VSV	=	Vesicular stomatitis virus
VV	=	Vaccinia virus
XRT	=	Radiation Therapy

CONSENT FOR PUBLICATION

Not applicable.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest, financial or otherwise.

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