

IL-12 Reprograms CAR-Expressing Natural Killer T cells to Long-Lived Th1-Polarized Cells with Potent Antitumor Activity

Figure S1

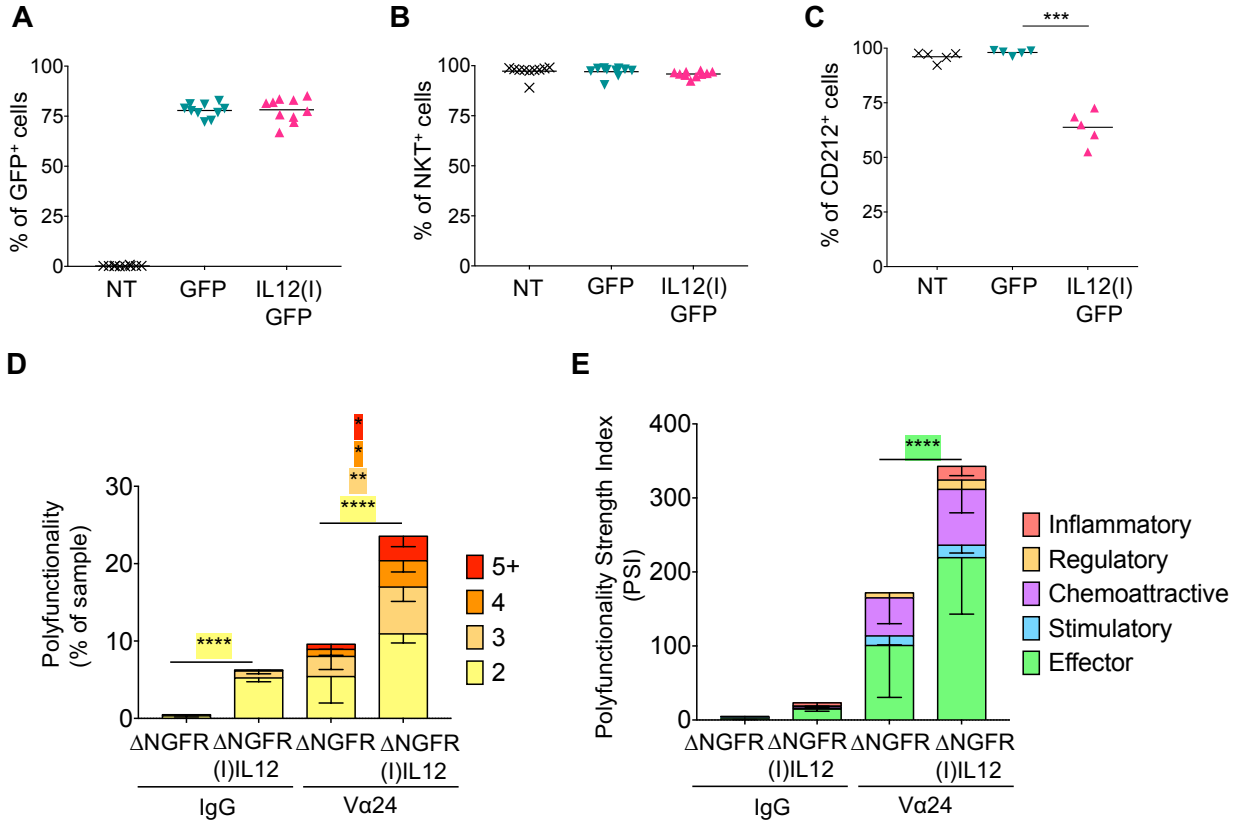


Figure S1. NKTs transduced with the IL12(I)GFP vector are polyfunctional. **A.** Summary of the NKT transduction efficiency measured as percentage of GFP⁺ cells in non-transduced NKTs (NT), NKTs transduced with the control GFP vector (GFP) and with the IL12(I)GFP vector. Mean is shown, n = 10. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Summary of the NKT purity in NT, GFP and IL12(I)GFP NKTs at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 10. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Summary of the IL-12 receptor expression measured as percentage of CD212⁺ cells in NT, GFP and IL12(I)GFP NKTs. Mean is shown, n = 5; ****p*=0.0007; paired T test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** NKTs were transduced with retroviral vectors in which GFP was switched with ΔNGFR to allow sorting of the transduced NKTs¹. Single-cell polyfunctionality of ΔNGFR and IL12(I)ΔNGFR NKTs after activation with the control IgG Ab or the iNKT Ab (Vα24) was determined. Mean and standard deviation are shown, n = 4. IgG *****p*<0.0001; Vα24 *****p*<0.0001; ***p*=0.0014; 4 cytokines **p*=0.0319; 5+ cytokines **p*=0.0316; 2way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **E.** Single-cell PSI of ΔNGFR and IL12(I)ΔNGFR NKTs after activation with the control IgG Ab or the iNKT Ab (Vα24). Mean and standard deviation are shown, n = 4. *****p*<0.0001; 2way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S2

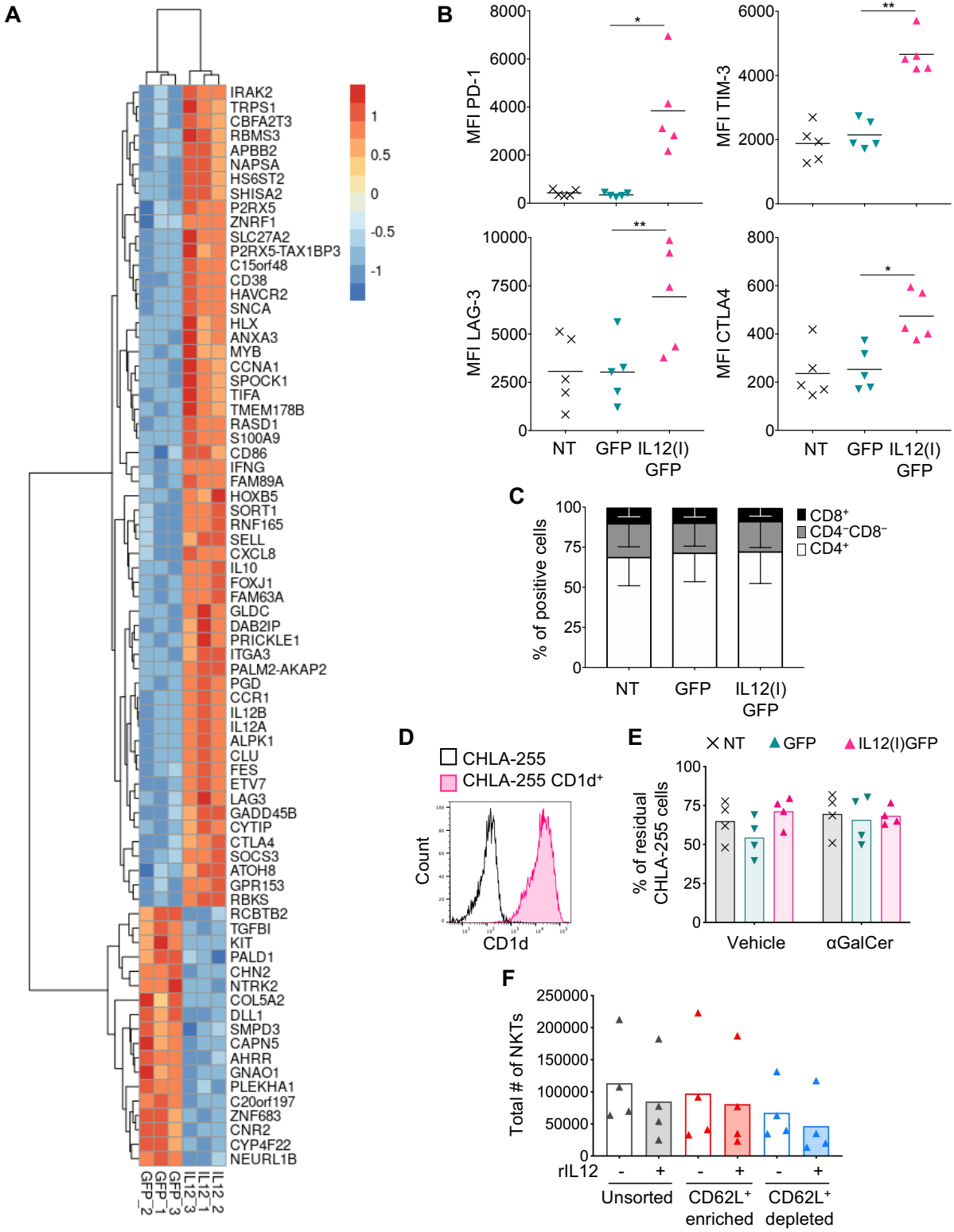


Figure S2. IL-12 reprograms NKTs to activated and proliferative cells. **A.** Heat map showing the comparison of the RNAseq data of GFP vs IL-12(I)GFP NKTs. **B.** Summary of the Mean Fluorescence Intensity (MFI) of PD-1, TIM-3, LAG-3, and CTLA4 in NT, GFP, and IL12(I)GFP NKTs at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 5; * $p=0.0132$ for PD-1; ** $p=0.0031$ for TIM-3; ** $p=0.0057$ for LAG-3; * $p=0.0154$ for CTLA4; paired T test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Summary of the quantification of CD4 single positive, CD8 single positive, or CD4 and CD8 double negative NKTs in NT, GFP, and IL12(I)GFP NKTs at day 14 of culture. Mean and standard deviation are shown, n = 10. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** Representative flow cytometry plot of the CD1d expression in wild-type and CD1d-transduced CHLA-255 cells. **E.** Summary of the quantification of residual tumor cells when NKTs were cocultured with wild type CHLA-255 cells with or without α GalCer (100 ng/ml). Four days later cells were collected and stained with the anti-iTCR ($V\beta 11$) and anti-GD2 Abs to identify NKTs and neuroblastoma cells, respectively, by flow cytometry. Mean is shown, n = 4. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **F.** Non-sorted NKTs, CD62L⁺ sorted NKTs and CD62L depleted NKTs were cultured for 6 days with or without recombinant human IL-12 (10 ng/ml). Data show cell counts at day 6; mean is shown; n = 4. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S3

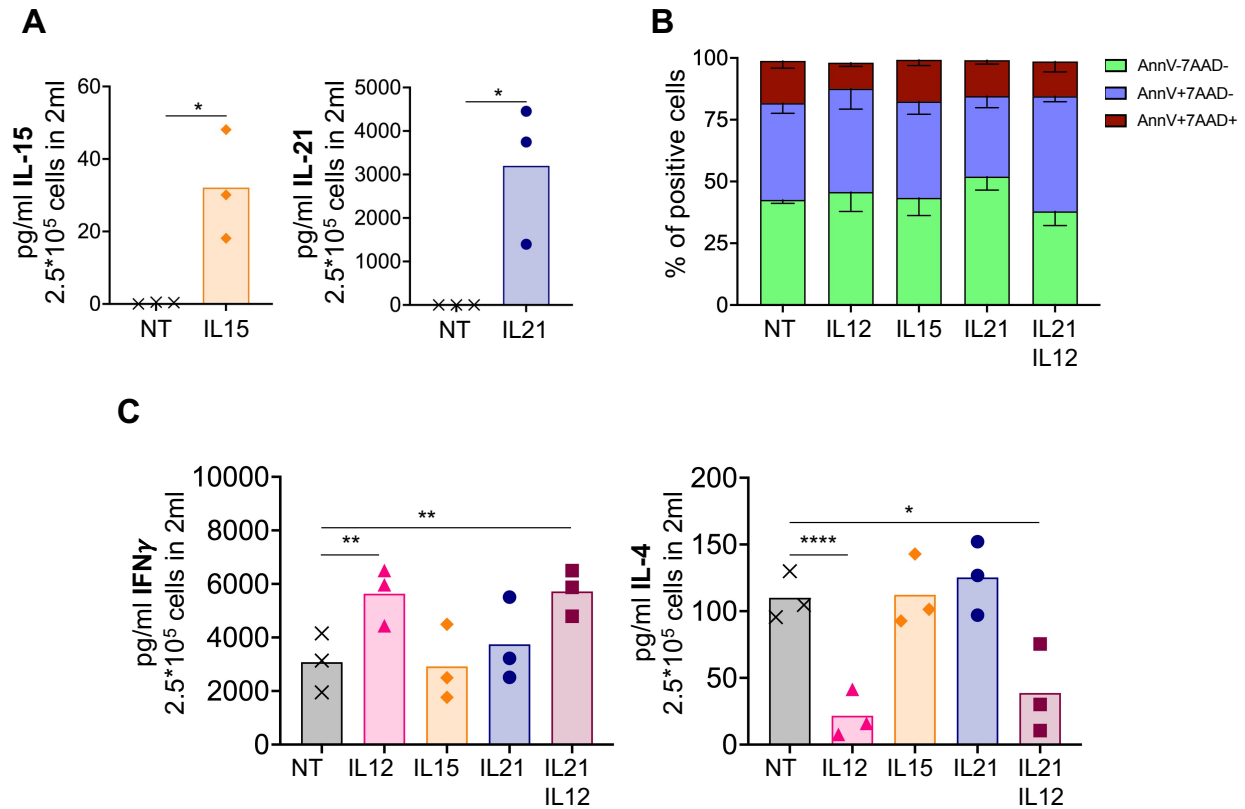


Figure S3. IL-15 and IL-21 do not cause Th1 polarization of NKTs. NKTs were genetically engineered to express either IL-15 or IL-21 and compared to NKTs expressing IL-12. **A.** Quantification of human IL-15, and IL-21 in supernatants collected 48 and 24 hrs after activation of control NKTs (NT) and IL-15 or IL-21 transduced NKTs activated with the iNKT Ab (1×10^5 cells/well in 24 well plates in 2 mL of complete media without cytokines). Mean is shown, $n = 3$; $*p=0.0217$ for IL-15; $*p=0.0258$; unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Summary of the AnnexinV⁻/7-AAD⁻, AnnexinV⁺/7-AAD⁻ or AnnexinV⁺/7-AAD⁺ cells in NKTs (NT) and IL-12, IL-15, IL-21 or IL-12/IL-21 transduced NKTs after activation with the iNKT Ab for 48 hrs. Mean and standard deviation are shown, $n = 3$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Quantification of IFN- γ , and IL-4 in supernatants collected 24 hrs after activation with the iNKT Ab of NKTs (NT) and IL-12, IL-15, IL-21 or IL-12/IL-21 transduced NKTs. Mean is shown, $n = 3$; $p=0.0376$; $**p=0.0069$ NT vs IL-12; $**p=0.0072$ NT vs IL-21+IL-12; $****p<0.0001$; one way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S4

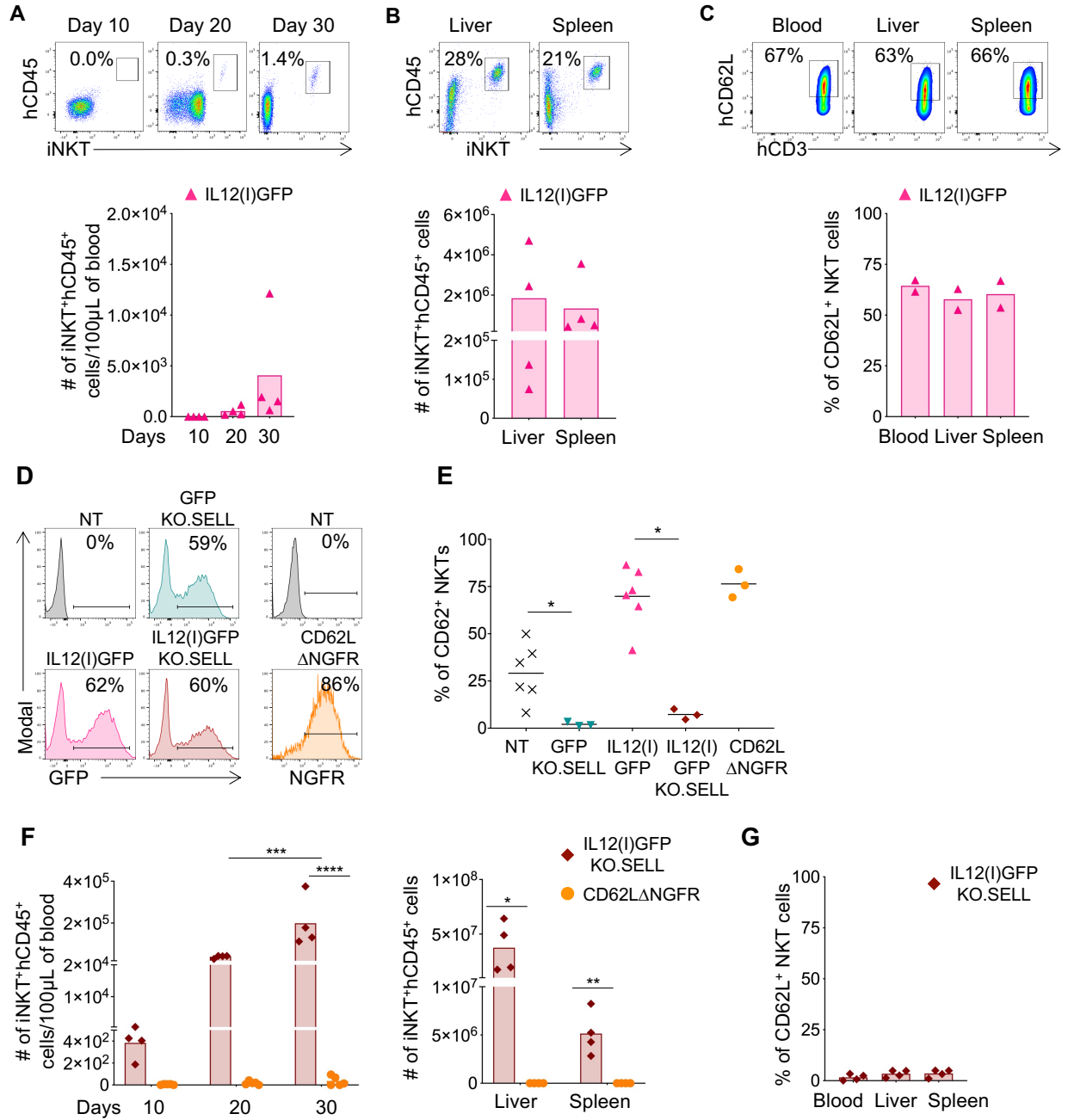


Figure S4. IL-12 confers long-term longevity *in vivo* to NKTs. **A.** Representative flow cytometry plots (upper panel) and summary (lower panel) of the quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in peripheral blood samples collected 10, 20, and 30 days after the infusion of IL12(I)GFP NKTs in of non-tumor-bearing NSG mice in the re-transplant model. Mean is shown, n = 4, from two independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Representative flow cytometry plots (upper panel) and summary (lower panel) of the quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in livers and spleens collected at sacrifice (day 30 - 50) from non-tumor-bearing NSG mice infused with IL12(I)GFP NKTs described in A. Mean is shown, n = 4, from two independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Representative flow cytometry plots (upper panel) and summary (lower panel) showing the expression of CD62L in IL12(I)GFP NKTs at sacrifice in peripheral blood, livers, and spleens of mice described in A. Mean is shown, n = 2. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** Representative flow cytometry plots of the GFP or NGFR expression in transduced NKTs; n = 3. **E.** Summary of the quantification of CD62L⁺ NKTs in NT, GFP with the knockout of CD62L (GFP KO.SELL), IL12(I)GFP, and IL12(I)GFP with the knockout of CD62L (IL12(I)GFP KO.SELL) and CD62L overexpressing (CD62L.ΔNGFR) NKTs at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 3 for GFP KO.SELL, IL12(I)GFP KO.SELL and CD62L.ΔNGFR; n = 6 for NT and IL12(I)GFP. **p*=0.0462 NT vs. GFP KO.SELL; **p*=0.0370 IL12(I)GFP vs. IL12(I)GFP KO.SELL; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **F.** Summary of the quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in peripheral blood samples collected 10, 20, and 30 days after the infusion of IL12(I)GFP KO.SELL or CD62L.ΔNGFR NKTs, and in livers and spleens at sacrifice. Mean is shown, n = 4, from two independent experiments; **p*=0.0167; **p*=0.0041; ****p*=0.0002; *****p*<0.0001; two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni correction. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **G.** Summary of the expression of CD62L in IL12(I)GFP KO.SELL NKTs at sacrifice in the peripheral blood, livers, and spleens. Mean is shown, n = 4, from two independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S5

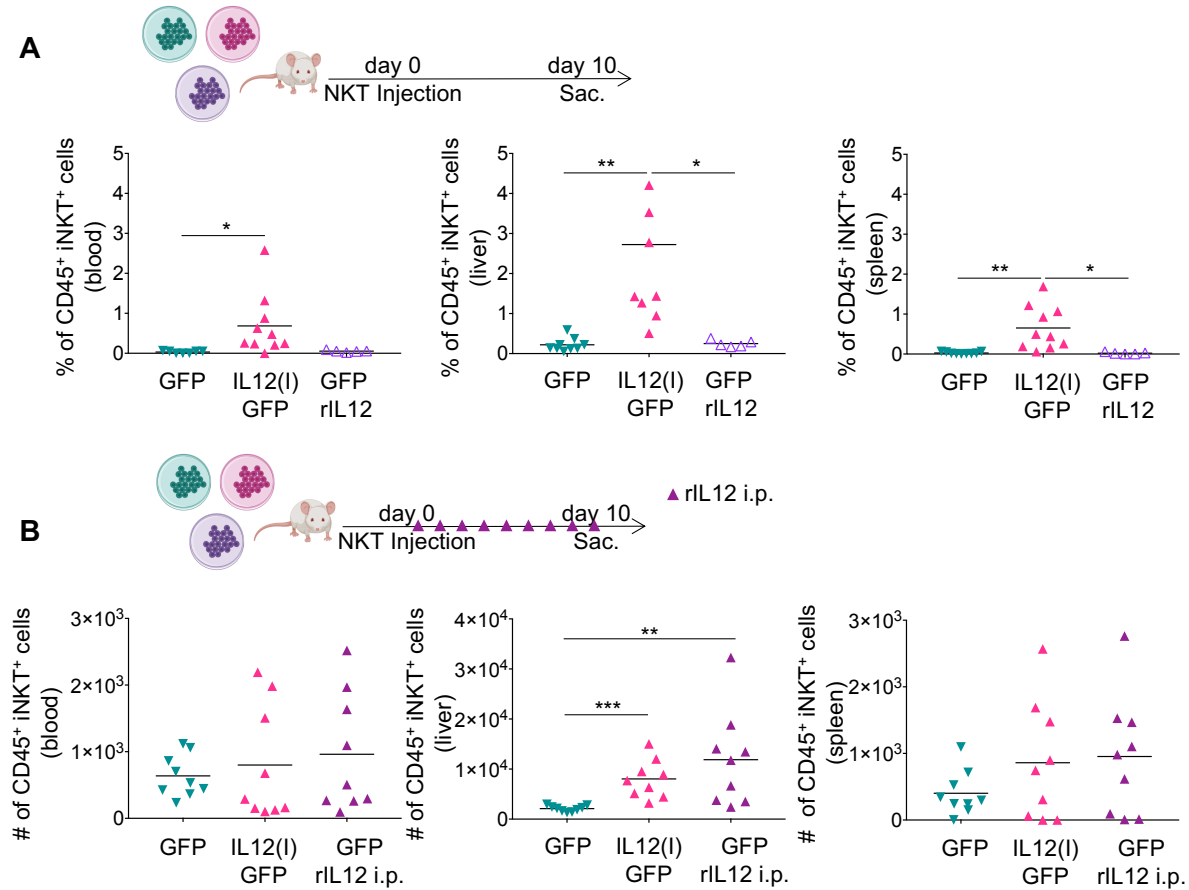


Figure S5. IL-12 continuous exposure is required to ensure the long-term engraftment of NKTs *in vivo*. **A.** NSG non-tumor-bearing mice were engrafted i.v. with GFP NKTs, IL-12(I)GFP NKTs or GFP NKTs cultured *ex vivo* with 10 ng/ml of human recombinant IL-12. At day 10 mice were sacrificed, and peripheral blood, livers, and spleens were collected to quantify human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺). Mean is shown, n = 7 for GFP, n = 10 for IL12(I)GFP and n = 5 for GFP rIL12i.p.; **p*=0.0418 in peripheral blood; **p*=0.0135 and ***p*=0.0011 in livers; **p*=0.0248 and ***p*=0.0033 in spleens; unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** NSG non-tumor-bearing mice were engrafted i.v. with GFP NKTs, IL-12(I)GFP NKTs, or GFP NKTs cultured *ex vivo* with 10 ng/ml of human recombinant IL-12. Mice also received 0.5 μg of recombinant IL-12 administered intraperitoneally daily. On day 10 mice were sacrificed, and the peripheral blood, livers, and spleens were collected to quantify human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺). Mean is shown, n = 9; ***p*=0.0072; ****p*=0.0003; unpaired T test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S6

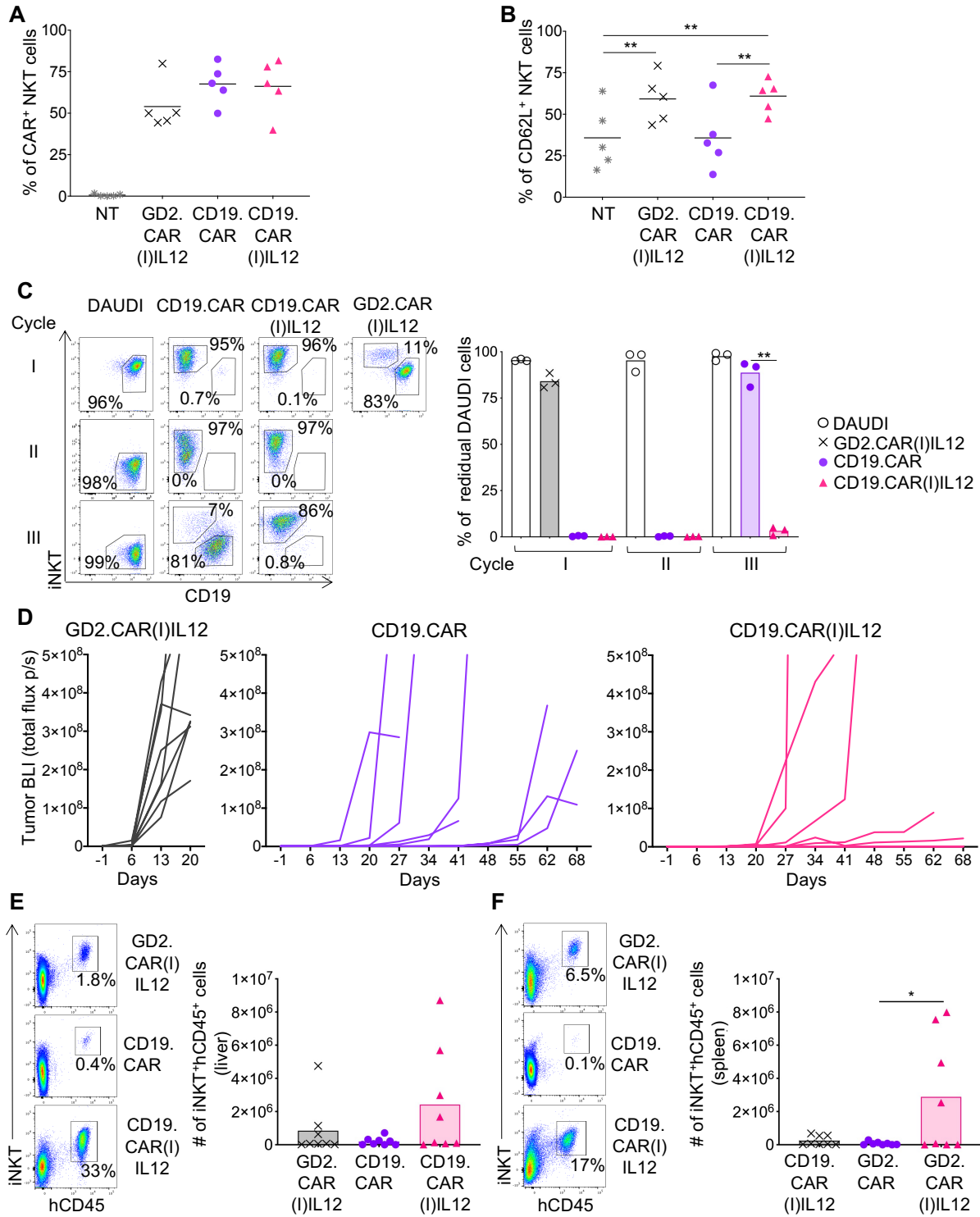


Figure S6. Antitumor activity of CD19.CAR-NKTs expressing IL-12. **A.** Summary of CAR expression in control (NT) and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, $n = 5$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Summary of CD62L expression in NT and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, $n = 5$; $**p=0.0017$ NT vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; $**p=0.0082$ CD19.CAR vs. CD19.CAR(I)IL12; $**p=0.0074$ NT vs. CD19.CAR(I)IL12; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Representative flow cytometry plots (left) and summary (right) of the quantification of residual tumor cells after each cycle when NKTs were cocultured with Daudi cells (E:T=1:2). Cells were collected and stained with iNKT and scFv-specific CD19 Abs to identify NKTs and lymphoma cells, respectively, by flow cytometry. Mean is shown, $n = 3$; $**p=0.0010$, paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** BLI tumor kinetics; $n = 8$ from three independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **E.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in livers collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, $n = 8$, from three independent experiments. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **F.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in spleens collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, $n = 8$, from three independent experiments; $*p=0.0383$; unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S7

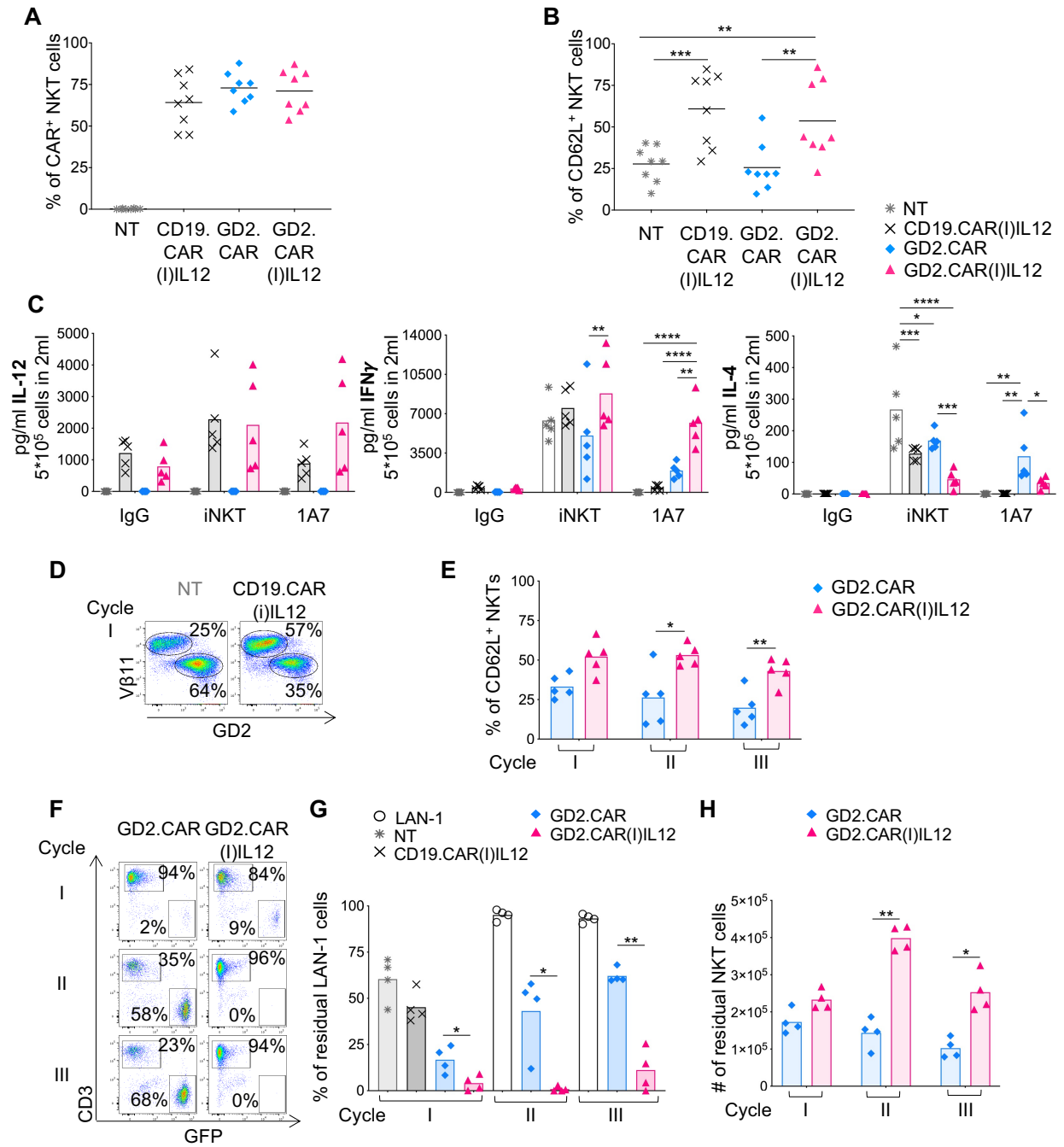


Figure S7. Antitumor activity of GD2.CAR-NKTs expressing IL-12. **A.** Summary of CAR expression in control (NT) and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, $n = 8$. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Summary of CD62L expression in NT and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, $n = 8$; $**p=0.0024$ NT vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; $**p=0.0013$ GD2.CAR vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; $***p=0.0009$ NT vs. CD19.CAR(I)IL12; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Quantification of human IL-12, IFN- γ , and IL-4 in supernatants collected 24 hrs after activation of NT, CD19.CAR(I)IL12, GD2.CAR and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 with the iNKT or 1A7 Abs. Isotype control (IgG) was used as negative control. Cytokines were measured in supernatants collected 24 hrs after plating 5×10^5 cells/well in 24 well plates in 2 mL of complete media without cytokines. Mean is shown, $n = 5$; $*p<0.0388$; $**p<0.0084$; $***p<0.0009$; $****p<0.0001$; two-way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** Representative flow cytometry plots of residual tumor cells after the first cycle when NKTs were cocultured with CHLA-255 (E:T=1:1) and then collected and stained with iTCR (V β 11) and GD2 Abs to identify NKTs and neuroblastoma cells, respectively, by flow cytometry. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **E.** Quantification of the CD62L expression at the end of each cycle when GD2.CAR and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs were cocultured with CHLA-255 cells. Mean is shown, $n = 5$; $*p=0.0119$; $**p=0.0082$; paired t test. **F-H.** Representative flow cytometry plots (**F**), summary of the quantification of residual tumor cells (**G**) and NKTs (**H**) after each cycle when NKTs were cocultured with LAN-1 (GFP $^+$) cells (E:T=1:2) and then collected and stained with CD3 to identify NKTs by flow cytometry. Mean is shown, $n = 4$; cycle I tumor cell % $*p=0.0140$; cycle II tumor cell % $*p=0.0267$; cycle III tumor cell % $**p=0.0058$; cycle II NKT number $**p=0.027$; cycle III NKT number $*p=0.0252$; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S8

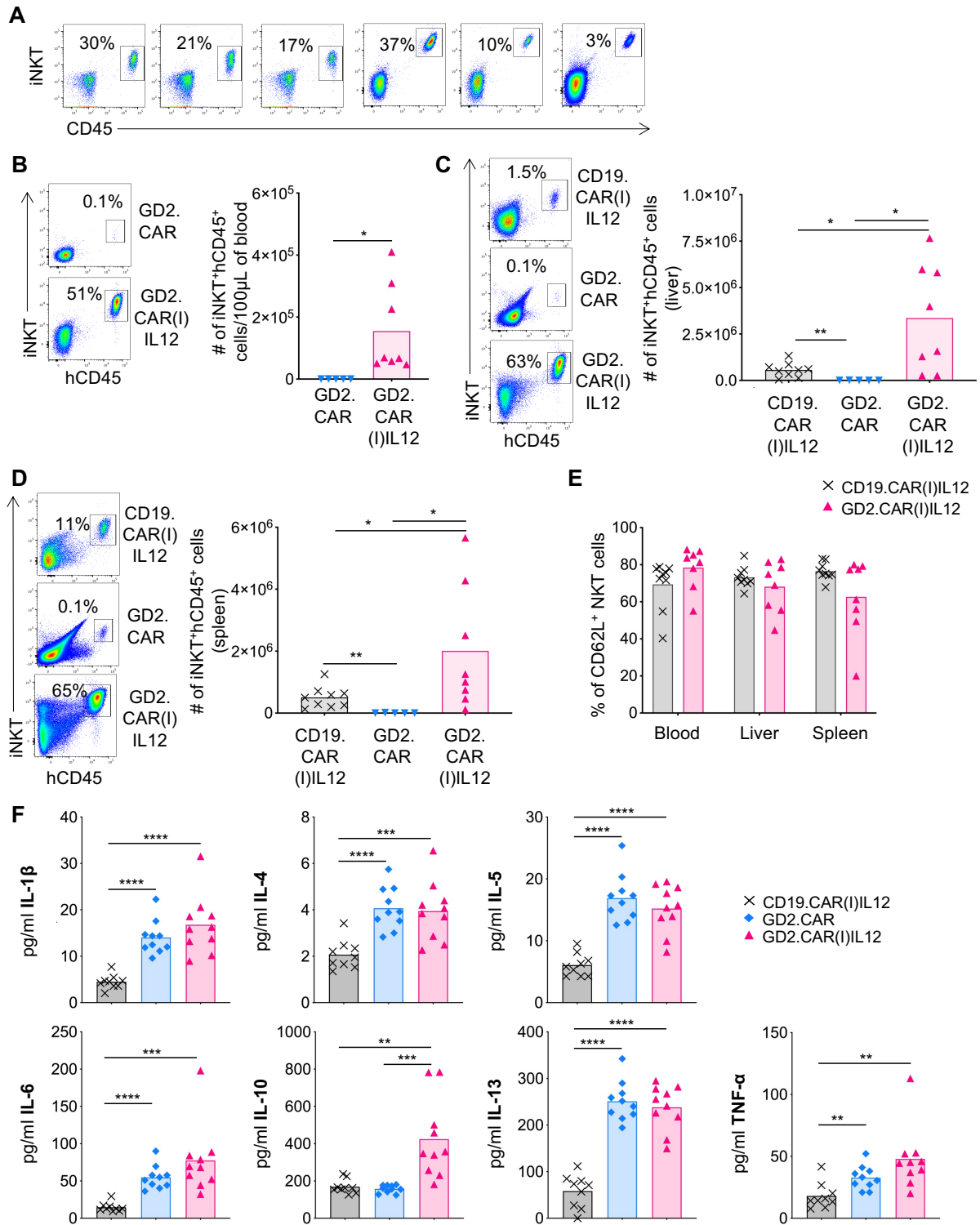


Figure S8. GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs persist long-term *in vivo* in a metastatic neuroblastoma tumor model. **A.** Flow cytometry plots showing the percentage of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in peripheral blood samples collected 8 weeks after the infusion of GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs in three independent experiments. **B.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in peripheral blood samples collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, n = 5 for GD2.CAR and n = 8 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12, from three independent experiments; * $p=0.0354$, unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in livers collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, n = 5 for GD2.CAR, n = 8 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and n = 9 for CD19.CAR(I)IL12, from three independent experiments; * $p=0.0114$ CD19.CAR(I)IL12 vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; * $p=0.0269$ GD2.CAR vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; ** $p=0.0080$; unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in spleens collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, n = 5 for GD2.CAR, n = 8 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and n = 9 for CD19.CAR(I)IL12, from three independent experiments; * $p=0.0419$ CD19.CAR(I)IL12 vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; * $p=0.0496$ GD2.CAR vs. GD2.CAR(I)IL12; ** $p=0.0082$; unpaired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **E.** Summary of CD62L expression in human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) at sacrifice. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **F.** Quantification of human cytokines detected in the serum of mice 4 weeks after the injection of CD19.CAR(I)IL12, GD2.CAR and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs. Mean is shown, n = 10; **** $p<0.0001$; IL-4: *** $p=0.0009$, IL-6: *** $p=0.0008$, IL-10: ** $p=0.0025$, *** $p=0.0009$, TNF- α : ** $p=0.0054$ GD2.CAR vs. CD19.CAR(I)IL12, ** $p=0.0042$ GD2.CAR(I)IL12 vs. CD19.CAR(I)IL12; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.

Figure S9

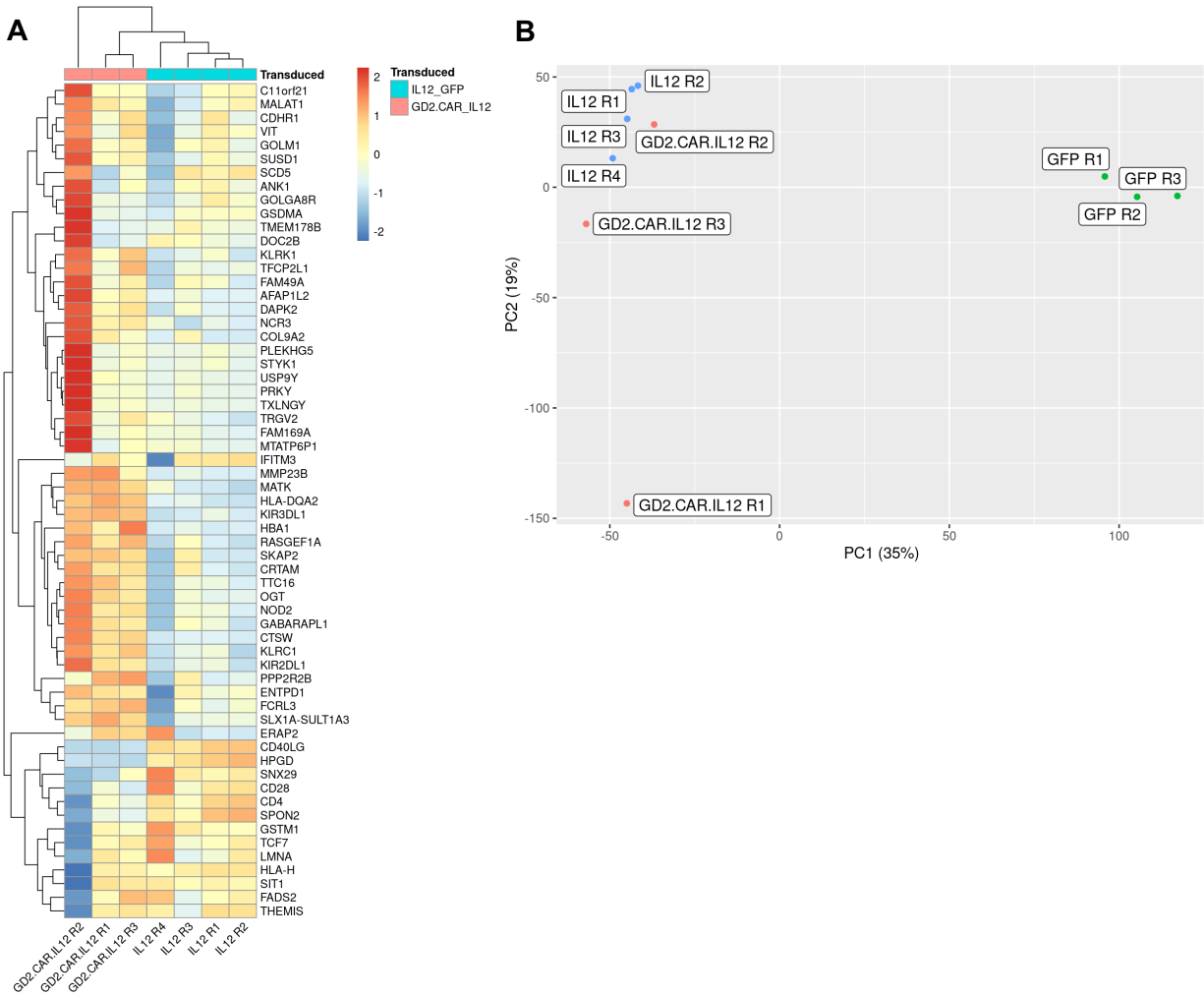


Figure S9. Gene expression profiles in IL12(I)GFP NKTs and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs. A. Heatmap of RNAseq differential gene expression between IL12(I)GFP and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKTs. All genes with an absolute log₂ fold-change > 1 and an FDR-adjusted p-value < 0.05 are included. **B.** Principal component analysis of RNAseq expression data from GFP, IL12(I)GFP and GD2.CAR(I)IL12 NKT samples.

Figure S10

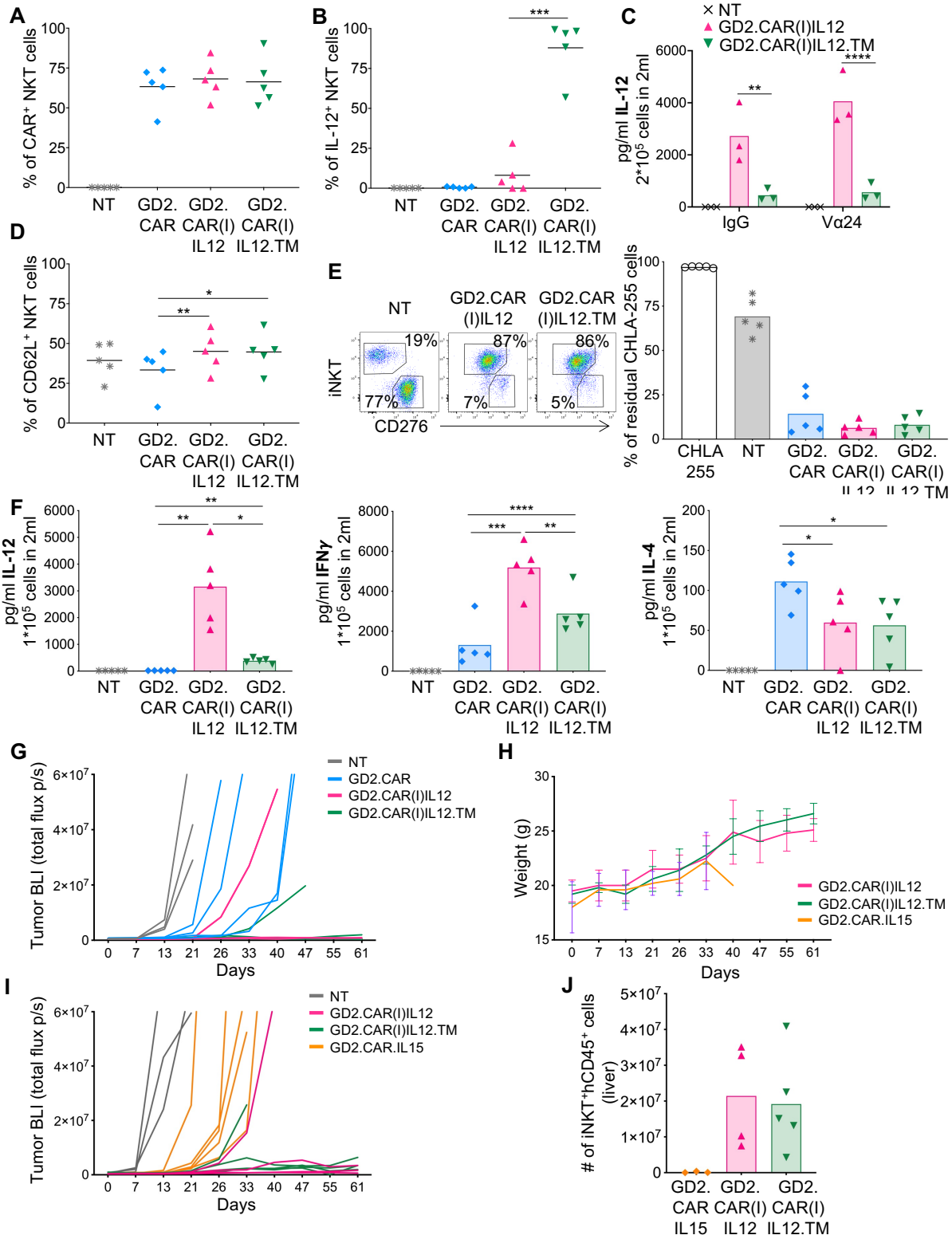
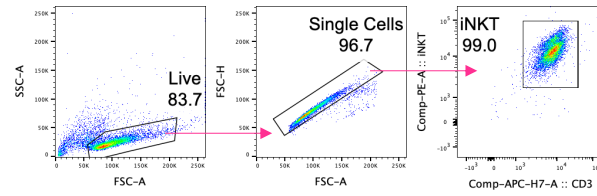


Figure S10. NKTs expressing the membrane-bound IL-12 upregulate CD62L and acquire pro-inflammatory properties. **A.** Summary of the CAR expression in control (NT) and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 5. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **B.** Summary of IL-12 expression on the cell surface of NT and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 5; *** $p=0.0004$; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **C.** Quantification of human IL-12 in supernatants collected 24 hrs after activation of NT, GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM with the iNKT Ab. IgG Ab was used as negative control. Cytokines were measured in supernatants collected 24 hrs in experiments in which 1×10^5 cells/well were plated in 24 well plates in 2 mL of complete media without cytokines. Mean is shown, n = 3; ** $p=0.0012$, **** $p<0.0001$; two-way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **D.** Summary of the CD62L expression in NT and transduced NKTs assessed at day 14 of culture. Mean is shown, n = 5; * $p=0.0143$; ** $p=0.0018$; paired t test. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **E.** Representative flow cytometry plots, and quantification of residual tumor cells in coculture experiments of CHLA-255 and NKTs (E:T=1:2). At day 4 cells were collected and stained with iNKT and CD276 Abs to identify NKTs and neuroblastoma cells, respectively, by flow cytometry. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **F.** Quantification of IL-12, IFN- γ , and IL-4 in supernatants collected after 24 hrs from the coculture of CHLA-255 and NKTs (1×10^5 cells/well in 24 well plates in 2 mL of complete media without cytokines). Mean is shown, n = 5; * $p<0.0444$; ** $p<0.0091$; *** $p=0.0009$; **** $p<0.0001$; two-way ANOVA. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **G.** Metastatic xenograft neuroblastoma model in which mice were engrafted i.v. with 1×10^6 CHLA-255 Firefly-luciferase labeled neuroblastoma tumor cells and treated with 5×10^6 NT, GD2.CAR, GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM NKTs. BLI tumor kinetics; n = 3 for NT and n = 4 for CAR NKTs. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **H-J.** Metastatic xenograft neuroblastoma model in which mice were engrafted i.v. with 1×10^6 CHLA-255 Firefly-luciferase labeled neuroblastoma tumor cells and treated with 5×10^6 GD2.CAR.IL15 or GD2.CAR(I)IL12 or GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM NKTs. Source data are provided as a Source Data file. **H.** Mice weight in grams. Mean and standard deviation are shown, n = 4 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and n = 5 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM and GD2.CAR.IL15. **I.** BLI tumor kinetics; n = 3 for NT, n = 4 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and n = 5 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM and GD2.CAR.IL15. GD2.CAR(I)IL12 vs. GD2.CAR.IL15 $p=0.0016$; GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM vs. GD2.CAR.IL15 $p=0.0007$; two-way ANOVA. **J.** Quantification of human NKTs (iNKT⁺CD45⁺) in livers collected at the time of sacrifice. Mean is shown, n = 3 for GD2.CAR.IL15, n = 4 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12 and n = 5 for GD2.CAR(I)IL12.TM.

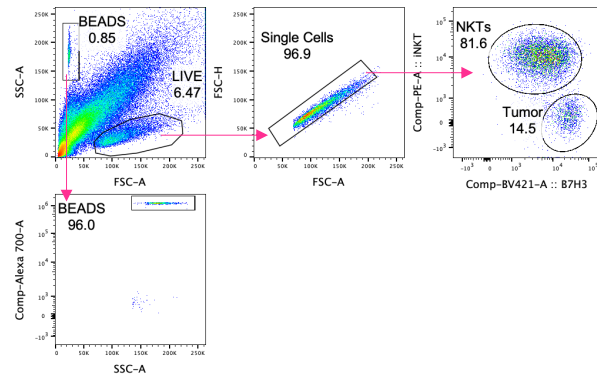
Figure S11

Flow Gating Strategy

In vitro phenotype



In vitro coculture



In vivo

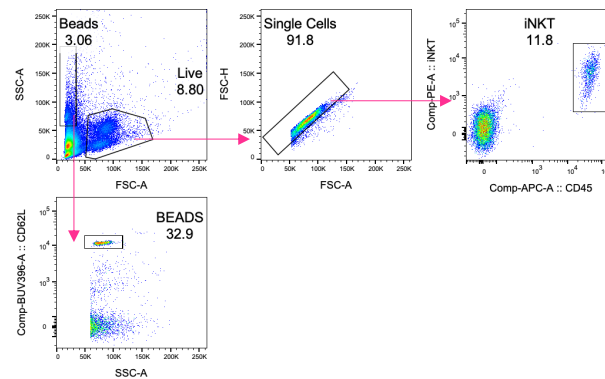


Figure S11. Flow gating strategy

Supplementary Reference

1. Diaconu I, Ballard B, Zhang M et al. Inducible Caspase-9 Selectively Modulates the Toxicities of CD19-Specific Chimeric Antigen Receptor-Modified T Cells. *Mol. Ther.* 2017;25:580-592.