

Thyroid malignant neoplasm-associated biomarkers as targets for oncolytic virotherapy

Mingxu Guan¹
Yanping Ma²
Sahil Rajesh Shah³
Gaetano Romano³

¹Virology, Research and Development, Zoetis Inc., Kalamazoo, MI, USA;

²Virology Laboratory, Shengjing Hospital, China Medical University, Shenyang, Liaoning, People's Republic China; ³Department of Biology, College of Science and Technology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA

Abstract: Biomarkers associated with thyroid malignant neoplasm (TMN) have been widely applied in clinical diagnosis and in research oncological programs. The identification of novel TMN biomarkers has greatly improved the efficacy of clinical diagnosis. A more accurate diagnosis may lead to better clinical outcomes and effective treatments. However, the major deficiency of conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy is lack of specificity. Due to the macrokinetic interactions, adverse side effects will occur, including chemotherapy and radiotherapy resistance. Therefore, a new treatment is urgently needed. As an alternative approach, oncolytic virotherapy may represent an opportunity for treatment strategies that can more specifically target tumor cells. In most cases, viral entry requires the expression of specific receptors on the surface of the host cell. Currently, molecular virologists and gene therapists are working on engineering oncolytic viruses with altered tropism for the specific targeting of malignant cells. This review focuses on the strategy of biomarkers for the production of novel TMN oncolytic therapeutics, which may improve the specificity of targeting of tumor cells and limit adverse effects in patients.

Keywords: thyroid malignancy neoplasm, biomarkers, oncolytic virotherapy

Introduction

Thyroid malignant neoplasm (TMN) is a common endocrine malignancy. Currently, fine-needle aspiration (FNA) cytology and ultrasonography are utilized for clinical diagnosis of thyroid nodules. Data from clinical epidemiological studies indicate that ~40% of adult population has at least a single thyroid nodule. Frequently, these nodules are benign.

In most cases, up to 65% of patients with clinically normal thyroid glands have one or more grossly visible nodules, whereas the incidence of malignancy is 2%–4%.¹ Statistical epidemiology shows that papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) comprises 80%–85% of all thyroid neoplasms, which is frequent in young females with excellent prognosis. Follicular thyroid carcinoma (FTC) accounts for ~10%–15% of cases. PTC and FTC belong to the low-risk group, have a low recurrence rate (<5%), and have an excellent survival rate (>98%).² The least common histotype is anaplastic thyroid carcinoma (ATC; 1%–2%), which has a rapid progression and a very poor prognosis with a mean survival time of 2–6 months. Finally, medullary thyroid carcinoma originates from thyroid parafollicular calcitonin-producing cells and accounts for ~4% of all thyroid malignancies.

Since PTC is the most common thyroid malignancy, there is no issue with diagnosis. Conversely, the follicular variant of PTC often poses a diagnostic challenge. The

Correspondence: Mingxu Guan
Virology, Research and Development,
Zoetis Inc., 333 Portage Street,
Kalamazoo, MI 49007, USA
Email mingxuguan@gmail.com



distinction between these two lesions is important, because prognosis and management are different.³ The detection and management of TMN remains dependent on histological examination, which is the standard for diagnosis. Although FNA biopsy is the most useful diagnostic tool in evaluating a thyroid nodule, preoperative diagnosis of thyroid nodules is frequently imprecise and needs immunohistochemical (IHC) stains to aid in the confirmation of TMN. Therefore, FNA cytology is combined with immunocytochemical biomarker staining, which will improve the diagnostic accuracy in clinical practice. The prognostic use of tumor markers is currently well established and allows for a rapid and accurate diagnosis,⁴ which, in turn, may result in a prompt and more efficacious clinical TMN management. The most effective treatment of thyroid cancer consists of surgical thyroid gland removal, followed by radioactive ablation and thyroid-stimulating hormone (TSH) suppression therapy and/or chemotherapy, depending on the type and stage of the disease. Chemotherapy and radiation work by destroying these fast-growing cells. Unfortunately, other types of fast-growing healthy cells can also be damaged along with cancer cells, causing side effects such as pain, flu-like symptoms, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, hair loss, anemia, and lymphedema. In the worst-case scenario, some tumors are resistant to chemotherapy and radiation therapy. Consequently, the complications of side effects are unacceptable.⁵ It has been noted that a major deficiency with conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy is their specificity. For this reason, a new treatment strategy is urgently needed. In this respect, oncolytic therapy might represent a valid alternative to chemo- and/or radiotherapies. Oncolytic viruses are genetically engineered to replicate only in malignant cells. As a result, the infected tumor cells are lysed and several progeny virions are released, infecting neighboring cells. In the meantime, the infection induces antitumor immune responses. Oncolytic viruses can also be administered

intravenously, in order to search and destroy circulating malignant cells and cancer stem cells (CSCs).

In general, the efficacy of binding to the surface of a given target cell by a virus depends on the presence of specific viral receptors. In some cases, more than one cell surface molecule is required to permit viral entry. Interestingly, the oncolytic virus tropism can be redirected or modified in order to enhance the specificity for targeting of cancer cells. In the past decade, thyroid tumor markers have been identified and characterized. This provided the tools for earlier and more accurate diagnosis, prediction of treatment efficacy, and post-intervention follow-up of patients.^{6,7} In fact, tumor-specific biomarkers have been investigated since the early 1970s.⁸ Currently, thyroid biomarkers combined with FNA have emerged as important instruments for TMN diagnosis in the clinical setting.⁹ These findings had a significant impact on biotechnology development and anticancer oncolytic virotherapy.

The biomarkers for TMN oncolytic virotherapy

Biomarkers are widely used for clinical diagnosis and monitoring. Up-to-date, ~80 biomarkers have been studied for TMN diagnosis and research programs, which include receptors, enzymes, and related antigens. For TMN oncolytic virus design, we discuss seven important thyroid cell membrane biomarkers that would be useful for oncolytic virotherapy. As for the selection criteria, we have carefully compared the sensitivity and specificity in the detection of clinical TMN specimens and tissue distribution as shown in Tables 1¹⁰ and 2.¹¹

Thyrotropin receptor

The thyrotropin receptor (TSHR) is encoded by the *TSHR* gene. The *TSHR* gene maps to human chromosome 14q31 and encodes a seven-transmembrane G-protein-coupled glycoprotein. Total molecular masses are 90–500 kDa, with subunits

Table 1 Estimated protein expression of TMN biomarkers

Biomarker	Estimated protein expression log ₁₀ (ppm)									
	Serum	Plasma	Platelet	Liver	Heart	Lung	Brain	Kidney	Pancreas	Adipocyte
TSHR	–	1	>0	–	–	–	0	–	–	–
TPO	–	>1	>–1	<1	1	–	–	–	–	–
NIS	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
CD133	–	<1	0	–	–	2	–	–	–	–
CD44	2	>1	>1	<3	<2	2	>1	>0	3	–
CAV-1	–	–	0	1	3	>2	–	2	–	4
LGAL3	–	<1	>1	–	<3	>1	2	>1	–	–

Note: – indicates that the value is below zero as reported by Safran et al.¹⁰

Abbreviations: CAV-1, Caveolin-1; NIS, sodium/iodide symporter; CD, cluster of differentiation; LGAL3, galectin-3; ppm, parts per million; TMN, thyroid malignant neoplasm; TPO, thyroid peroxidase; TSHR, thyrotropin receptor.

Table 2 TMN biomarkers in subcellular locations

Biomarker	Subcellular locations from compartment and confidence number from 0 to 5 ^a									
	Extracellular	Plasma	Cytosol	Nucleus endoplasmic	Endosome	Golgi lysosome	Mitochondrion	Space membrane	Reticulum apparatus	
TSHR	1	2	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	
TPO	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	
NIS	4	4	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
CD133	2	5	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	
CD44	3	5	0	2	1	1	4	0	1	
CAV-1	2	5	2	2	5	5	5	1	1	
LGAL3	5	4	3	5	0	1	0	1	5	

Notes: ^aConfidence number 0–5: It graphically summarizes the types of evidence supporting the localization by Binder et al.¹¹

Abbreviations: CAV-1, caveolin-1; NIS, sodium/iodide symporter; CD, cluster of differentiation; LGAL3, galectin-3; TMN, thyroid malignant neoplasm; TPO, thyroid peroxidase; TSHR, thyrotropin receptor.

varying in mass from 15 kDa to 90 kDa.^{12,13} TSHR is a major controller of thyroid cells that responds to TSH and stimulates the production of thyroxine (T₄) and triiodothyronine (T₃). The TSHR receptor is primarily found on the surface of the thyroid epithelial cells. The binding of soluble thyrotropin to its receptor activates adenylyl cyclase and intercellular levels of cAMP rise. cAMP activates all functional aspects of the thyroid cell, including iodine pumping; thyroglobulin synthesis, iodination, endocytosis, and proteolysis; thyroid peroxidase (TPO) activity; and hormone release.¹⁴ A positive thyroid tissue staining was observed exclusively along the basal cell surface of the flattened follicular cell tissues using a monoclonal antibody against the C-terminal region of human TSHR.^{15,16}

TSHR expression is higher than other biomarkers in thyroid follicular cells in physiological and pathological circumstances. Normally, the expression levels of TSHR and of TPO in the thyroid are approximately fourfold, which is higher than sodium/iodide symporter (NIS).¹⁷ TSHR expression levels have been associated with TMN progression. Low expression of TSHR predicts a poor prognosis in TMN. Tanaka et al¹⁸ showed that low expression of TSHR in the recurrent tissue was strongly related to a poorer outcome in patients with PTC. In recent years, molecular diagnostic tests such as reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) have been increasingly used in clinical laboratories and research programs. The circulating TSHR-mRNA levels were measured in 19 patients with differentiated thyroid cancer (DTC) using RT-PCR. The sensitivity was 100% and the specificity was 98%.¹⁹ A similar study indicated that the positive predictive value and specificity were 81% and 83%, respectively, in 374 patients. Moreover, the TSHR-mRNA positive predictive value, specificity, and accuracy in 54 patients with FTC were 96%, 96%, and 85%, respectively.²⁰ The results of high sensitivity and specificity may prove that

the TSHR has high levels of expression in patients with PTC. Conversely, ~10% of TMN lost TSH responsiveness.²¹

NIS

The NIS is a solute carrier family 5 (SLC5A5) protein encoded by the *SLC5A5* gene, which is located on chromosome 19p13.11 in humans. The gene size of NIS is 23,202 bp, encoding a transmembrane glycoprotein. The proteins are 643 amino acids in length with a molecular weight of 87 kDa and 13 transmembrane domains. The protein contains three potential N-linked glycosylation sites, which transport two sodium cations (Na⁺) for each iodide anion (I⁻) into the follicular cells of the thyroid gland for synthesis of thyroid hormone.²² In addition to TSH, other factors can also influence NIS expression, such as thyroid iodine content, insulin, insulin-like growth factor, transforming growth factor β 1, tumor necrosis factor α , interferon γ , interleukin (IL)-1 α , IL-1 β , and IL-6.^{23–25} NIS is highly expressed in the thyroid. Low levels of NIS in other extra thyroidal tissues have been detected by IHC and/or RT-PCR, but it is not clear to what extent it is active in these tissues.²⁶

Clinical studies have shown that the NIS mRNA was detected in 32% (11/34) of DTC patients.²⁷ The NIS protein was detected in 35% (8/23) of patients with PTC, 44% (4/9) of patients with FTC, 25% (2/8) of patients with benign tumors, and 100% (4/4) of patients with autoimmune lesions.²⁸ However, compared with normal thyroid tissue, the levels of NIS expression in thyroid carcinomas were markedly reduced^{29,30} and ~10%–20% DTCs do not express the NIS gene.³¹ NIS has been incorporated into a remarkable variety of viral and nonviral vectors such as oncolytic herpes simplex virus, adenovirus, and measles virus that were engineered to express the NIS. The oncolytic viruses are selectively destructive to a variety of human tumor cell types. The virus spread in vivo can be monitored by noninvasive imaging of NIS gene

expression. By administration of high dose radioiodine, the oncolytic virus potency can be boosted.

TPO

Thyroid peroxidase or thyroperoxidase (TPO) is a membrane-bound glycoprotein that belongs to the peroxidase family, XPO subfamily. TPO plays a key role in the thyroid hormone biosynthesis by catalyzing both the iodination of tyrosyl residues and the coupling of iodotyrosyl residues in thyroglobulin to form precursors of the thyroid hormones of T_4 or T_3 .³² In humans, TPO is encoded by the *TPO* gene. The *TPO* gene contains 17 exons and covers at least 150 kb of chromosome 2 (2p25).³³ TPO is restricted to the apical plasma membrane of the follicular epithelial cells and comprises two identical subunits of ~100 kDa molecular weight each. The *TPO* gene includes the species coding for a 933-amino acid protein (termed TPO-1) and a second in which exon 10 is deleted thus is 57 residues shorter (termed TPO-2).³⁴ The protein has several different isoforms, which vary by size and location within the cell. Some isoforms are inactive because they are not located in the cell membrane. TPO is stimulated by TSH, which upregulates gene expression.³⁵ Because TPO catalyzes the iodination of proteins, iodide retention within thyroid cells may lead to rapid tumor cell death.³⁴

Several groups had reported the expression of TPO protein and mRNA in TMN clinical samples. The sensitivities of various methods for the detection of TMN were distinct. The TPO had a sensitivity of 50% (12/24) in PTC specimens and 11% (1/11) in FTC specimens by IHC.³⁶ The TPO mRNA expression was 70% (7/10) in patients with known metastases, and 36% (39/110) in patients without metastases. In the control group, the TPO mRNA was 7.4% (4/54).³⁷ Ishikawa et al reported that the positive rate of TPO mRNA was 61% (14/23) in cases of stage I carcinoma, 4% (2/49) in cases with benign thyroid disease, and negative in 20 healthy volunteers by RT-PCR.³⁸ In contrast, two groups reported independently with different results as mentioned earlier that the expression of TPO is lost or decreased in patients with TMN.^{39,40}

CD133

Cluster of differentiation (CD)133 antigen (PROM1, promini-1, or AC133) is a 115–120 kDa pentaspan membrane glycoprotein with five transmembrane domains, which localize to cellular protrusions. The CD133 in humans is encoded by the *PROM1* gene on chromosome 4 (4p15).⁴¹ CD133 was initially described as a surface marker specific for human hematopoietic stem cells, endothelia progenitor

cells, neuronal, glial stem cells, and adult stem cells. It has a low level of expression in the kidney, pancreas, placenta, and fetal liver tissue. The function of CD133 has been related to cell differentiation, proliferation, and apoptosis.⁴² CD133 has been frequently used as a biomarker for CSCs including leukemia cells and brain tumor cells, although its biological function is unclear.⁴³

In previous studies of ATC cell lines, CD133-expressing cells have been shown to possess the characteristics of stem cells and have the ability to initiate tumors. CD133⁺ cells exhibited stem-cell-like features such as high proliferation, self-renewal, and colony-forming ability in vitro. CD133⁺ ATC cells are responsible for tumor growth in immunodeficient mice, and it can be regulated by TSH.⁴⁴ Ke et al analyzed the expression of selected pluripotent, differentiated thyroid-specific genes and genes related to epithelial–mesenchymal transition in both CD133^{pos} and CD133^{neg} cells derived from resected primary tumors. Cells expressing CD133 were isolated with magnetic microbeads, and total RNA was detected by real-time quantitative PCR. Thyroid specific gene expression was significantly higher in CD133^{neg} than in CD133^{pos} cells, including NIS (negative/positive = 2~4 fold), Tg (negative/positive = 1.02~36 fold), TPO (negative/positive = 1.1~3 fold) and TSHR (negative/positive = 1~2 fold).⁴⁵ Liu and Brown detected the specimens of ATC, PTC, and FTC by IHC to examine the expression of stem cell markers (nestin, CD133, and CD44) and a marker for epithelial–mesenchymal transition (E-cadherin). Intense expressions of nestin, CD133, and CD44 and no expression of E-cadherin were observed in ATC. The expressions of CD133 and CD44 were variable in the PTC, FTC, and nonneoplastic thyroid tissue and were at a lower level of expression of these markers in the overall pattern.⁴⁶ The CD133⁺ cells were more chemoresistant and radioresistant than CD133⁻ ATC cells.⁴⁷ The explanation is that CSCs may express a higher level of multidrug resistance adenosine triphosphate-binding cassette pumps, which allow these cells to pump out chemotherapeutic compounds, greatly reducing their effectiveness.⁴⁸

CD44

CD44 antigen is an 80–250 kDa type I transmembrane glycoprotein that binds hyaluronan and a variety of cell surface ligands such as osteopontin, collagens, and matrix metalloproteinases. In humans, the CD44 antigen is encoded by the *CD44* gene located on chromosome 11p13.⁴⁹ The molecule exists in multiple spliced forms and shows enormous variability in glycosylation. CD44 is expressed in a large number of mammalian cell types. It also participates

in a wide variety of cellular functions including cell–cell interactions, cell adhesion and migration, and tumor metastasis.⁵⁰

It has been noted that the CD44-positive rates are 97% (65/67) in PTC, 56% (9/16) in follicular adenomas, 50% (4/8) in Hürthle cell neoplasms, 33% (5/15) in medullary thyroid carcinoma, and 38% (3/8) in FTC by anti-CD44 monoclonal antibody staining.⁵¹ The study also showed increased expression of CD44 variants compared with normal thyroid tissues in FTC, PTC, and some follicular adenomas.⁵² It is believed that the expression of CD44v3 and CD44v6 variant isoforms might be crucial in the development of nodal metastasis in cases of FTC.⁵³ CD44 was detected with an antibody recognizing all forms of CD44, including CD44v3 and CD44v6 variant isoforms, in 213 patients with DTC. PTCs were significantly more often high expressers of CD44s and CD44v6 than FTC ($P < 0.001$ for both). Furthermore, it is believed that the reduced level of CD44s seems to be an independent prognostic factor for unfavorable disease outcome.^{54,55}

Caveolin-1

Caveolin-1 (CAV-1) is a small protein (21–24 kDa), which is the principal structural component of the cholesterol/sphingolipid-enriched plasma membrane microdomain caveolae.⁵⁶ The Caveolin family proteins are typically associated with microdomains that are found in the plasma membrane of numerous cells.⁵⁷ The genes of *CAV1* and *CAV2* are located on chromosome 7 (7q31) and *CAV3* on chromosome 3 (3p25). CAV-1 and CAV-2 are most prominently expressed in endothelial, fibrous, and adipose tissues, but the CAV-3 is restricted to striated and smooth muscle. Caveolins' functions include vesicular trafficking, cholesterol homeostasis, cell adhesion, apoptosis, and neurodegenerative disease. CAV-1 could also compartmentalize and concentrate signaling molecules including G-protein subunits and receptor and nonreceptor tyrosine kinases.⁵⁸

CAV-1 has been reportedly overexpressed in cancer cells.⁵⁹ For example, CAV-1 expression was found in malignant thyroid epithelium and more abundantly in tumor stroma but varied in both compartments within and between PTC subtypes. CAV-1 expression in the epithelium was more intense in classical PTC than in the other histological types. On the contrary, stromal CAV-1 expression was stronger in the follicular, solid, and trabecular PTC variants than in classical PTC.⁶⁰ Normal follicular cells did not express CAV-1, but CAV-1 expression in high incidence, and especially in microcancer (<1.0 cm in diameter) of

papillary carcinoma has been observed. The incidence of CAV-1 expression was significantly reduced in undifferentiated (anaplastic) carcinoma. Therefore, it is assumed that CAV-1 may play an important role mainly in the early phase of papillary carcinoma.⁶¹ Ito et al reported that CAV-1 was expressed in 96.2% of the follicular variant of papillary carcinoma and the expression was more frequently expressed in follicular variant of papillary carcinoma than in FTC ($P < 0.0001$).⁶²

Galectin-3

The Galectin-3 (LGALS3) is a protein that is encoded by a single gene, *LGALS3*, located on chromosome 14, locus q21–q22.⁶³ The molecular weight of this protein is ~30 kDa, and it contains a carbohydrate-recognition-binding domain of ~130 amino acids that enable the specific binding of β -galactosides. This protein localizes to the extracellular matrix, the cytoplasm, and the nucleus. It plays a role in numerous cellular functions including cell adhesion, cell activation and chemoattraction, cell growth, differentiation, cell cycle, apoptosis, innate immunity, cell adhesion, and T-cell regulation.^{63,64} It has been known that LGALS3 is distributed widely around the tissues but in a low level.

To date, LGALS3 has been extensively studied as an IHC marker of thyroid malignancy, and a high diagnostic accuracy has been reported even for difficult pathological diagnoses.⁶⁴ Feilchenfeldt et al reported that the mRNA levels of LGALS3 and thyroglobulin in 28 benign and 31 malignant thyroid samples were quantified by real-time PCR. The LGALS3 expression at the mRNA was 60% (12/20) and the protein level was 100% (8/8), respectively.⁶⁵ The positive rate was 84% (41/49) when combined with the LGALS3 and HBME-1 in PTC specimens.⁶⁶ Two groups of researchers have detected the LGALS3 by IHC in PTC specimens. Saleh et al have shown that the sensitivity and the specificity for LGALS3 were 92.3% and 77.3%, respectively.⁶⁷ Song et al reported that positive expression of LGALS3 was 97% (427/441) in PTC group and 51% (77/151) in the benign thyroid lesions group.⁶⁸ These results may further support the notion that the high level of LGALS3 antigen expression occurs in patients with PTC.

Conclusion and recommendations

Naturally, the virus could replicate only in the permissive cells. Recent advances in modification of viral surface proteins by genetic manipulation have allowed for altered tropism of the manipulated virus, an approach that has been used successfully. Using what we have discussed on the

biomarkers to design the TMN oncolytic virus, the outcome of new oncolytic viruses should have a greater potential to achieve the goals of the TMN oncolytic virotherapy.

There are a number of different types of oncolytic viruses that have been altered from natural viruses in the laboratory such as adenovirus, reovirus, measles virus, herpes simplex virus, Newcastle disease virus, and vaccinia virus.^{69,70} An ideal oncolytic virus is one that can specifically target and replicate only in the tumor cells and does not damage normal tissues. Meanwhile, the host immune system will not limit viral replication or clear out from the body before the oncolytic virus destroys the tumor cells. However, when all the tumor cells are eliminated, the oncolytic virus no longer has the ability to replicate in the body. We are consistent with the aforementioned considerations and confident that the infectivity of vesicular stomatitis virus and Newcastle disease virus targeting tumor cells via expanded viral tropism has been modified because the animal viruses could easily avoid human immune-mediated viral clearance.⁷¹

Over the years, there have been several biological techniques and strategies that have been successfully used in oncolytic virus modifications.⁷² As strategies of producing novel TMN oncolytic therapeutics using the TMN biomarkers, we can summarize as: 1) TSH is a glycoprotein and consists of two subunits: the α subunit and the β subunit. The α subunit is responsible for stimulation of adenylate cyclase. The β subunit determines its receptor specificity. Expression of

TSH β subunit on the selected oncolytic virus for specific binding TSHR is crucial because the binding specificity and affinity is much higher than antibody–antigen binding.^{71,73}

2) Expression of specific antibodies (usually Fab fragments) and specific ligands against TPO, NIS, CD44, CD133, CAV-1, or Galectin-3 could assist the oncolytic virus toward TMN cells.⁷⁴ For example, the TPO protein, 933 amino acid type I dimeric membrane-bound enzyme, is on the surface of thyroid follicular cells^{75,76} that could be targeted by anti-TPO antibodies.^{76,77} 3) Another approach to design the oncolytic virus is considering the expression of peptide aptamers that can specifically target the TMN biomarkers on the thyroid follicular cells. Theoretically, the peptide aptamers could provide a high affinity-binding surface for a specific target protein. It can be used against any molecular target including small molecules, toxins, peptides, proteins, and even whole cells⁷⁸ (Figure 1).

In spite of the remarkable progress that has been made in the development of oncolytic virotherapy, until now, the work on the seven TMN biomarkers, except for NIS, has not been studied and clinical trials have not been started. Substantial hurdles still remain to enhance onco-specificity, viral antitumor immunity, and administration routes. The lack of understanding of the tight adaptation mechanism of the oncolytic virus to the tumor cell, and in combination with the other therapeutic genes, is still an issue that needs to be addressed. Like any other new treatment procedure, precaution must be taken such as reducing viral toxicity and

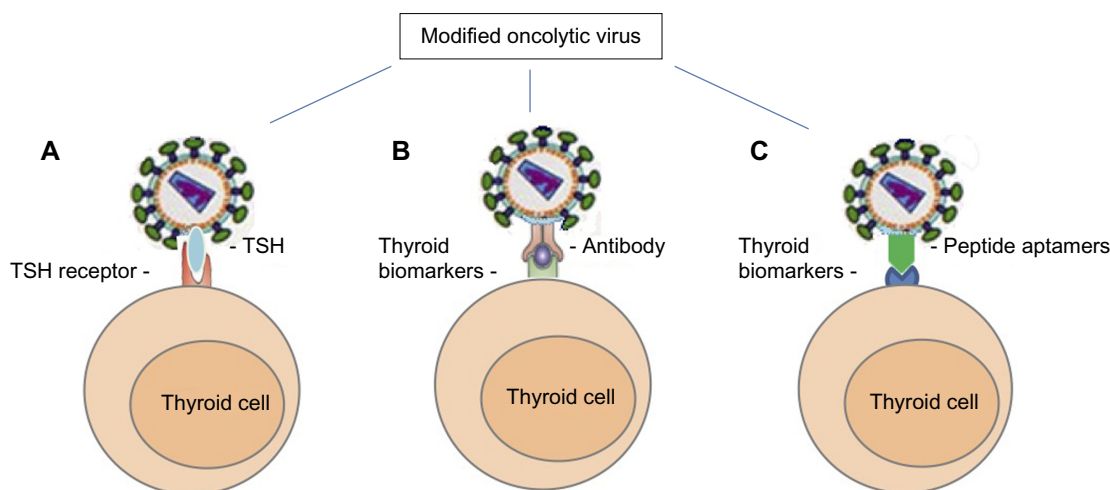


Figure 1 Oncolytic viral tropism altered by modification of viral surface proteins.

Notes: The modified virus binds with thyroid cell membrane biomarkers including TSHR, TPO, NIS, CD44, CD133, CAV-1, or Galectin-3. **(A)** TSH β subunit on the selected oncolytic virus for specific binding TSHR on thyroid cells. **(B)** Expression of specific antibodies against the thyroid membrane-bound biomarkers. **(C)** Expression of peptide aptamers that specifically target the TMN biomarkers on the thyroid follicular cells.

Abbreviations: CAV-1, Caveolin-1; NIS, sodium/iodide symporter; CD, cluster of differentiation; LGAL3, galectin-3; TMN, thyroid malignant neoplasm; TPO, thyroid peroxidase; TSHR, thyrotropin receptor.

controlling the spread of virus when considering oncolytic virotherapy for treating thyroid disorders. Researchers should be mindful of these plasma membrane-bound biomarkers and the three strategies discussed earlier in designing TMN oncolytic viruses.

Acknowledgment

We would like to thank Mr Tsai, KC for English manuscript editing.

Author contributions

All authors made substantial contributions to conception; took part in revising the article critically for important intellectual content; gave final approval of the version to be published; and agree to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this work.

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