

Radioisotope

Lu-177, lutetium-177
Transition metals
T $\frac{1}{2}$: 6.71 days

Production

In nuclear reactor:
 $^{176}\text{Yb} (n, \gamma)^{177}\text{Yb} (\beta^-)^{177}\text{Lu}$

Radiation

Beta particles (β^-)
Gamma photons (γ)

Use

In clinical trials (phase II) as combination treatment for clear cell renal cell carcinoma (ccRCC).

Target/Mechanism

Girentuximab is a monoclonal antibody, specifically binding to the carbonic anhydrase IX (CAIX) antigen highly expressed in 94% of the ccRCC cases, and otherwise not present in normal tissue. Upon administration, ¹⁷⁷Lu-girentuximab selectively binds to cancer cells expressing CAIX. Once bound to the cancer's surface, it's internalized, allowing the beta radiation emitted by ¹⁷⁷Lu to damage the DNA of cancer cells, inducing cell death and inhibiting tumor growth.

Insight

Phase II clinical trial (NCT05239533), is investigating safety and efficacy of ¹⁷⁷Lu-girentuximab in patients with advanced ccRCC in combination with Nivolumab, an immune checkpoint inhibitor that binds to PD-L1. Prior to administration, the imaging is performed using ⁸⁹Zr-girentuximab.

PART1: Patients are enrolled to evaluate what is the maximum tolerated doses (MTD) of ¹⁷⁷Lu-girentuximab in combination with standard-dose Nivolumab. If at least 1 patient responds to the treatment, the trial is extended to part 2.

PART2: Efficacy of the combination at the MTD of ¹⁷⁷Lu-girentuximab in patients with advanced ccRCC as assessed by best Overall Response Rate/ORR by 24 (+/- 2) weeks by Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumors (RECIST v1.1).

