**LTX-315: A first-in-class oncolytic peptide that reshapes the tumor microenvironment**

**Background**

The oncolytic peptide LTX-315, which has been de novo designed based on structure-activity relationship studies of host-defense peptides, has the ability to kill human cancer cells and induce long-lasting anticancer immune response when injected locally into tumors established in immunocompetent murine models (1-3,11).

The oncolytic effect of LTX-315 involves perturbation of the plasma membrane and the mitochondria with subsequent release of danger-associated molecular pattern molecules (DAMPs) such as ATP, Cytochrome C and HMGB1 (4-9). Furthermore, LTX-315 effectively disintegrates the cellular compartments with subsequent release of tumor antigens as demonstrated by a greater T-cell infiltration (TILs), TILs clonality and the number of clones with greater abundance in the tumor microenvironment.

In experimental tumor models, LTX-315 exerts abscopal effects and reshapes the tumor microenvironment by decreasing the local abundance of immunosuppressive cells and by increasing the frequency of effector T-cells (9,10). LTX-315’s ability to convert immunogenically “cold” tumors to “hot” makes it ideal combination partner with other immunotherapies as confirmed in experimental tumors combining LTX-315 with immune checkpoint inhibitors and immunonemotherapy.

**LTX-315**

![Image of LTX-315](image_url)

**Mode of action**

LTX-315 induces a unique type of immunogenic cell death

**LTX-315 treatment leads to increased tumor infiltration of CD8+ T cells**

Treatment induces T-cell infiltration into both treated primary lesions but also in distal non-treated tumors (abscopal effect)

**LTX-315 demonstrates synergy with other standard of care cancer therapies**

**WITH CHEMOTHERAPY**

- Low dose cyclophosphamide (A20 B-lymphoma)
- Doxorubicin (4T1 breast cancer)

**WITH CHECKPOINT INHIBITORS**

- Anti CTLA-4
- Anti PD-1

**Conclusion**

- LTX-315 shows an enhanced anticancer efficacy against A20 lymphomas and 4T1 breast carcinomas when combined with cyclophosphamide and doxorubicin, respectively.
- LTX-315 acts in synergy with checkpoint inhibition.
- The LTX-315 unique “release and reshape” properties make it a promising candidate for combination with several types of immunotherapies.
- LTX-315 is currently in clinical phase 1/2a studies.

**References**

5. Eike et al. Oncotarget. 2015
11. Sveinbjornsson et al. Future Medicinal Chemistry. 2017