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(54) **Title:** CANCER TREATMENT

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates generally to the treatment of cancer. One embodiment of the invention provides a method of treating cancer in an individual, the method comprising: administering to the individual an effective amount of trichostatin A (TSA).

## CANCER TREATMENT

## CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of co-pending US Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 61/869,039, filed 22 August 2013, which is hereby incorporated herein.

## BACKGROUND

Histone deacetylase (HDAC) inhibitors have been investigated for their use in cancer therapies due to their ability to inhibit tumor cell growth with comparatively little toxicity. Known HDAC inhibitors include, for example, rocilinostat (ACY-1215), Zolinza (vorinostat), abexinostat hydrochloride (PCI-24781), suberoylanilide hydroxamic acid (SAHA), valporic acid (VPA), Pracinostat (SB939), PCI-24781 (CRA-024781), JNJ-26481585, Mocetinostat (MGCD0103, MG0103), Droxinostat, MC1568, Givinostat (ITF2357), Tubastatin A HCl, PCI-34051, Tacedinaline (CI994), and Panobiostat (LBH589, NVP-LBH589).

Aurora Kinase A (AURKA) is one member of a serine and threonine kinase family known to be important in maintaining normal mitotic chromosomal segregation. Its protein localizes in the centrosomes of interphase cells and in the spindle of mitotic cells. AURKA overexpression has been linked with carcinogenesis in humans and has been detected in tumors of the breast, gastric tissues, colorectal tissue, bladder, pancreas, ovaries, prostate, and lung. It is possible, however, for any cancer to overexpress AURKA, which may be determined, for example, by testing a tumor for AURKA overexpression. Inhibition of AURKA expression has been shown to reduce cell invasion *in vivo*. As such, AURKA, too, is a cancer treatment target, typically through small molecule inhibition. Known AURKA inhibitors include, for example, VE465, tozasertib (VX-680), MK-0457, MK-5108, Alisertib (MLN8237).

Due to the efficacy of HDAC inhibitors and AURKA inhibitors in blocking cancer

progression on their own, studies have evaluated the effect of their combined administration in non-human cancer models. For example, Li et al. found that co-treatment with VPA and VE465 induced more apoptosis than either compound did alone. Similarly, Okabe et al. found a synergistic inhibitory effect on the proliferation of cancer cells through the administration of either vorinostat or pracinostat in combination with tozasertib. The studies leading to the discovery of the present invention were undertaken since even though the dual HDAC and AURKA blocking effect was desirable in the treatment of cancer, no single entity is generally known to have this dual effect.

#### SUMMARY

One embodiment of the invention provides a method of treating cancer in an individual, the method comprising: administering to the individual an effective amount of trichostatin A (TSA).

Another embodiment of the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising: trichostatin A (TSA) as a sole or primary aurora kinase A (AURKA) inhibitor; and a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient or carrier.

In another embodiment, the invention provides a method of treating a cancer in an individual, the method comprising: determining, from a tumor sample obtained from the individual's body, a level of aurora kinase A (AURKA) expression; and in the case that the level of AURKA expression is indicative of overexpression, administering to the individual an effective amount of trichostatin A (TSA).

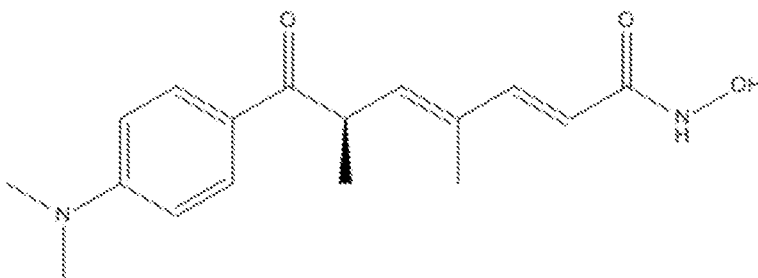
In still other embodiments of the invention, treatment with TSA is combined with one or more other cancer treatments. Such other treatments may include, for example, small molecule AURKA inhibition. Such a combined treatment may, in some cases, decrease the

AURKA level to near zero.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Trichostatin A (TSA or 7-[4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]-N-hydroxy-4,6-dimethyl-7-oxohepta-2,4-dienamide), is an antifungal antibiotic and a known class I and II HDAC inhibitor.

The structure of TSA is shown in Formula I below.



Formula I

Applicants have surprisingly found that TSA, although previously known as an HDAC inhibitor, is also capable of inhibiting AURKA expression. As such, TSA may be used as the primary or sole AURKA inhibitor in the treatment of cancers. Cancers that may be treated according to embodiments of the invention include, for example, breast cancer, gastric cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, hematological cancer, skin cancer, and malignancies.

A human retinal pigment epithelial cell line was treated with trichostatin or vehicle for 24 hours and gene expression for 22,238 probe sets covering 12,490 genes was generated using an Affymetrix instrument. The effect of trichostatin A on AURKA expression is shown below in Table 1, and indicates a clear more than ten-fold downregulation of AURKA expression.

Table 1

InstanceID	Probe	Rank	Fold expression change	GeneName	Gene
10005532	208079_s_at	22253	-20.0837023	aurora kinase A	AURKA
10005533	208079_s_at	22245	-18.95510102	aurora kinase A	AURKA
10005533	204092_s_at	22238	-17.32256882	aurora kinase A	AURKA
10005532	204092_s_at	22227	-15.79825298	aurora kinase A	AURKA
10005542	204092_s_at	22222	-14.33801143	aurora kinase A	AURKA
10005542	208079_s_at	22221	-14.19814583	aurora kinase A	AURKA

These results support the use of TSA in the treatment of cancer. For example, an individual may be treated for cancer by administering to the individual an effective amount of TSA, wherein the effective amount is an amount sufficient to inhibit expression of AURKA in the individual. Such an amount may also be sufficient to inhibit HDAC activity in the individual. In some embodiments of the invention, the effective amount is between about 0.1 mg/kg/day and about 10 mg/kg/day, e.g., between about 0.5 mg/kg/day and about 5 mg/kg/day.

In some embodiments, treating the individual may further comprise determining, from a tumor sample obtained from the individual's body, a level of AURKA expression. Such determining may include any known or later-developed method or technique, including, for example, quantitative antigen-antibody interactions, the use of labeled nucleotide probes, etc.

TSA may be administered to the individual to be treated in the form of a pharmaceutical composition. Pharmaceutical compositions to be used according to various embodiments of the invention comprise a therapeutically effective amount of TSA or an active metabolite of TSA, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or other form (e.g., a solvate) thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or carriers. The phrase "pharmaceutical composition" refers to a composition suitable for administration in medical

use. It should be appreciated that the determinations of proper dosage forms, dosage amounts, and routes of administration for a particular patient are within the level of ordinary skill in the pharmaceutical and medical arts.

Administration may be oral but other routes of administration may also be employed, e.g., parenteral, nasal, buccal, transdermal, sublingual, intramuscular, intravenous, rectal, vaginal, etc. Solid dosage forms for oral administration include capsules, tablets, pills, powders, and granules. In such solid dosage forms, the compound is admixed with at least one inert pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient such as (a) fillers or extenders, as for example, starches, lactose, sucrose, glucose, mannitol, and silicic acid, (b) binders, as for example, carboxymethylcellulose, alginates, gelatin, polyvinylpyrrolidone, sucrose, and acacia, (c) humectants, as for example, glycerol, (d) disintegrating agents, as for example, agar-agar, calcium carbonate, potato or tapioca starch, alginic acid, certain complex silicates, and sodium carbonate, (e) solution retarders, as for example paraffin, (f) absorption accelerators, as for example, quaternary ammonium compounds, (g) wetting agents, as for example, cetyl alcohol, and glycerol monostearate, (h) adsorbents, as for example, kaolin and bentonite, and (i) lubricants, as for example, talc, calcium stearate, magnesium stearate, solid polyethylene glycols, sodium lauryl sulfate, or mixtures thereof. In the case of capsules, tablets, and pills, the dosage forms may also comprise buffering agents. Solid dosage forms such as tablets, drages, capsules, pills, and granules also can be prepared with coatings and shells, such as enteric coatings and others well known in the art. The solid dosage form also may contain opacifying agents, and can also be of such composition that they release the active compound or compounds in a certain part of the intestinal tract in a delayed manner. Examples of embedding compositions which can be used are polymeric substances and waxes. The active compounds can also be in micro-encapsulated form, if appropriate, with

one or more of the above-mentioned excipients. Such solid dosage forms may generally contain from 1% to 95% (w/w) of the active compound. In certain embodiments, the active compound ranges from 5% to 70% (w/w).

Solid compositions for oral administration can be formulated in a unit dosage form, each dosage containing from about 1 mg to about 500 mg of active ingredient. The term "unit dosage form" refers to physically discrete units suitable as unitary dosages for human subjects and other mammals, each unit containing a predetermined quantity of active ingredient calculated to produce the desired effect over the course of a treatment period, in association with the required pharmaceutical carrier. TSA can be formulated, e.g., in a unit dosage form that is a capsule having 1–500 mg of active in addition to excipients.

Liquid dosage forms for oral administration include pharmaceutically-acceptable emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, and elixirs. In addition to the compound or composition, the liquid dosage forms may contain inert diluents commonly used in the art, such as water or other solvents, solubilizing agents and emulsifiers, as for example, ethyl alcohol, isopropyl alcohol, ethyl carbonate, ethyl acetate, benzyl alcohol, benzyl benzoate, propyleneglycol, 1,3-butyleneglycol, dimethylformamide, oils, in particular, cottonseed oil, groundnut oil, corn germ oil, olive oil, castor oil and sesame oil, glycerol, tetrahydrofurfuryl alcohol, polyethyleneglycols and fatty acid esters of sorbitan or mixtures of these substances. Besides such inert diluents, the composition can also include adjuvants, such as wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, sweetening, flavoring, and perfuming agents.

In some embodiments of the invention, TSA is provided in a liquid form and administered to an individual intravenously.

While this invention has been described in conjunction with the specific embodiments outlined above, it is evident that many alternatives, modifications and variations will be

apparent to those skilled in the art or are otherwise intended to be embraced. Accordingly, the embodiments of the invention as set forth above are intended to be illustrative, not limiting. Various changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims. All patents, patent application, scientific articles and other published documents cited herein are hereby incorporated in their entirety for the substance of their disclosures.

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of treating cancer in an individual, the method comprising:  
administering to the individual an effective amount of trichostatin A (TSA).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount is an amount sufficient to decrease an aurora kinase A (AURKA) level in the individual.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount is an amount sufficient to inhibit histone deacetylase (HDAC) activity and decrease an aurora kinase A (AURKA) level in the individual.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the effective amount is between about 0.1 mg/kg/day and about 10 mg/kg/day.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the effective amount is between about 0.5 mg/kg/day and about 5 mg/kg/day.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein TSA is the only AURKA inhibitor administered to the individual.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cancer includes at least one cancer selected from a group consisting of: breast cancer, gastric cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, hematological cancer, skin cancer, and malignancies.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein administering includes orally administering.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein administering includes intravenously administering.
10. A method of treating a cancer in an individual, the method comprising:  
determining, from a tumor sample obtained from the individual's body, a level of aurora kinase A (AURKA) expression; and  
in the case that the level of AURKA expression is indicative of overexpression, administering to the individual an effective amount of trichostatin A (TSA).
11. The method of claim 10, wherein the effective amount is an amount sufficient to decrease an aurora kinase A (AURKA) level in the individual.
12. The method of claim 10, wherein the effective amount is an amount sufficient to inhibit histone deacetylase (HDAC) activity and decrease an aurora kinase A (AURKA) level in the individual.
13. The method of claim 10, wherein the effective amount is between about 0.1 mg/kg/day and about 10 mg/kg/day.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the effective amount is between about 0.5 mg/kg/day and about 5 mg/kg/day.
15. The method of claim 10, wherein TSA is the only AURKA inhibitor administered to the individual.
16. The method of claim 10, wherein the cancer includes at least one cancer selected from a group consisting of: breast cancer, gastric cancer, colon cancer, rectal cancer, bladder cancer, pancreatic cancer, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, lung cancer, hematological cancer, skin cancer, and malignancies.
17. The method of claim 10, wherein administering includes orally administering.
18. The method of claim 10, wherein administering includes intravenously administering.
19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising:  
trichostatin A (TSA) as a sole or primary aurora kinase A (AURKA) inhibitor; and  
a pharmaceutically-acceptable excipient or carrier.
20. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 formulated for oral administration.
21. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19 formulated for intravenous administration.

22. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 19, comprising TSA in an amount between about 1 mg and about 500 mg.
  
23. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the amount of TSA is equivalent to a dose between about 0.1 mg/kg/day and about 10 mg/kg/day.
  
24. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 23, wherein the amount of TSA is equivalent to a dose between about 0.5 mg/kg/day and about 5 mg/kg/day.
  
25. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 22, wherein the amount of TSA is effective to inhibit histone deacetylase (HDAC) activity.