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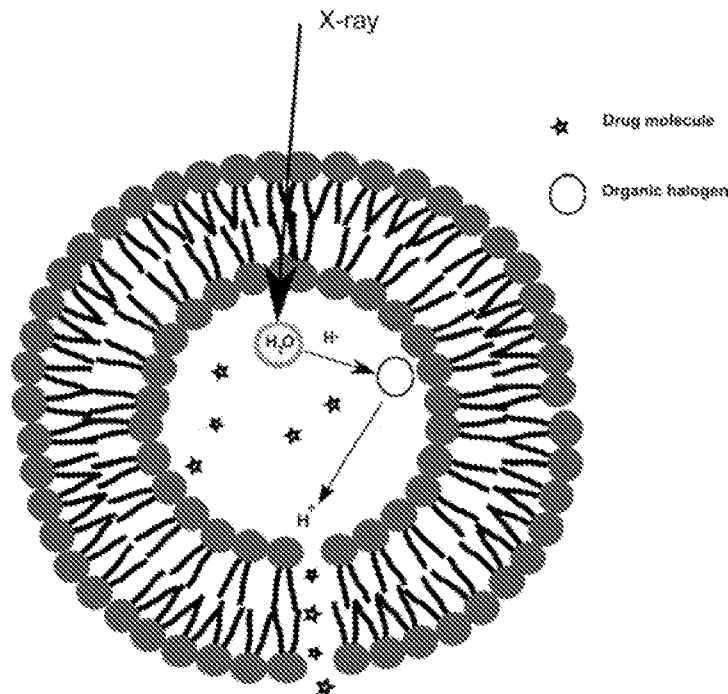


Figure 1

(57) Abstract: Compositions including pH sensitive lipid vesicles comprised of a lipid layer, an agent, and an organic halogen such that the agent is released from the vesicles after exposure to ionizing radiation. Methods of delivering the agent to a target in a subject using the compositions provided herein are also described. The methods allow for controlled release of the agent. The timing of release of the agent from the lipid vesicle may be controlled as well as the location of release by timing and localizing the exposure to ionizing radiation exposure.

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METHODS AND COMPOSITIONS FOR X-RAY INDUCED RELEASE FROM PH SENSITIVE LIPOSOMES

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This patent application claims the benefit of priority of United States Provisional Patent Application No. 61/556,936, filed November 8, 2011, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

INTRODUCTION

10 Current approaches to treatment of cancer and other disorders may include combinations of local therapies, such as surgery and radiation therapy, with systemic therapies, such as chemotherapy and administration of pharmaceuticals or other agents. The therapeutic success of any treatment is proportional to the delivered dose of the pharmaceutical or other agent to the site in the subject where the cancer or disorder is
15 localized. The dose is limited by toxicity to normal tissue and delivery to the affected site in the subject.

Controlled drug release is one method of allowing the use and specific delivery of increased doses of the pharmaceutical or other agent to the affected site in the subject while limiting toxicity caused by the pharmaceutical or agent. Despite numerous
20 advances in the area of controlled drug release to increase delivery of pharmaceuticals and other agents to affected sites in a subject and to release the agents at the affected site in a controlled manner, sufficient localized release of the agents to a localized affected site remains problematic.

25 SUMMARY

Compositions for controlled drug release and methods of using these compositions are provided herein. The compositions are based on pH sensitive liposomes which are capable of releasing a therapeutic agent at a target location and in a controllable manner. In particular, compositions comprising a pH sensitive lipid vesicle
30 comprising an agent and an organic halogen are provided herein. The pH sensitive lipid vesicle is constructed such that exposure of the composition to ionizing radiation allows

the agent to be released from the lipid vesicle. The agent may be released in a controllable fashion and in a localized manner depending on the amount of organic halogen incorporated into the pH sensitive lipid vesicle and the intensity, duration and localized use of ionizing radiation.

5 In another aspect, pharmaceutical compositions comprising the pH sensitive lipid vesicles described herein and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier are provided.

In another aspect, methods of delivering an agent to a target in a subject are provided. These methods include administering the pH sensitive lipid vesicle described herein to the subject and then exposing the target to ionizing radiation, whereby the agent
10 is released from the lipid vesicle near the target in the subject.

In still another aspect, methods of controlled drug release are provided in which the pH sensitive lipid vesicles described herein are administered to the subject and a localized area of the subject is exposed to ionizing radiation causing the agent to be released in a localized area.

15 In a further aspect, methods of treating a condition are provided. The methods include administering the pH sensitive lipid vesicles described herein to a subject with the condition and exposing a portion of the subject to ionizing radiation. The agent is capable of treating the condition and is released from the lipid vesicle in the portion of the subject exposed to ionizing radiation. Suitably the portion of the subject exposed to
20 ionizing radiation is the portion of the subject in which the condition is in need of treatment with the agent. In one aspect, such a treatment moderates or reduces at least one toxic or negative side effect associated with treatment with the agent.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

25 Figure 1 is a schematic diagram of a method for controlled drug release based on a pH sensitive lipid vesicle. A lipid vesicle comprising pH sensitive components, such as lipids or polymers, an aqueous environment, an agent and an organic halogen is depicted. When exposed to ionizing radiation, such as X-rays, the organic halogen reacts with water in the lipid vesicle to release H⁺, decrease the pH inside the vesicle and cause the
30 pH sensitive lipid vesicle to become permeable and release the agent.

Figure 2 is a set of graphs showing the release of a fluorescent marker, calcein, from liposomes after exposure to X-rays over time. Figure 2A shows the results using liposomes containing 1 M chloral hydrate. Figure 2B shows the results using liposomes containing 0.5 M chloral hydrate. Figure 2C shows the results using liposomes containing 0.1 M chloral hydrate. In all three graphs, squares represent release from liposomes after no irradiation exposure. The triangles and circles represent the release of the fluorescent marker from the liposomes after exposure to X-rays. The triangles represent liposomes that also contained 0.1M glucose in the vesicles.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The ability to release a therapeutic drug only at a desired location and in a controllable manner is a crucial step in limiting the potential harmful systemic sequels inherent to non-localized drug delivery. This challenge is yet unmet especially for cancer therapy where the chemical dose is drastically limited by the remote toxicity. Ideally, a drug delivery method would comprise drug transportation to the desired site in a specialized vehicle which protects the drug from acting until an external controlled stimulus triggers the drug release at the target site. Stealth liposomes are a good example of a vehicle that can carry drug cargo in a protected state and evade detection by the body's self defense mechanisms. However, the contained drug is not quickly released only at the desired site and in a controllable manner. Local and controlled drug release is a major challenge for drug therapy and various approaches have been proposed to solve this issue.

One approach for drug delivery makes use of photo sensitive liposomes, which release the trapped drug upon UV photolysis (Bisby et al. 1999; Bisby et al. 2000; Bisby et al. 2000). Photoisomerization drives the photochromic lipid to a bulky state which destabilizes the bilayer and increases its permeability for the entrapped drug. Although very promising, this approach has limits imposed by the use of UV light as activator. The human body is not transparent to UV radiation. The second drawback is given by the high energy requirements for the UV laser pulse (cca 15 mJ/ 10 nsec). Another approach is described in International Application No. PCT/US2010/029413, which is incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

pH sensitive liposomes are one of the most studied and promising approaches for drug delivery (Hazemoto et al. 1990; Kitano et al. 1991; Slepshkin et al. 1997; Lee et al. 1998; Hafez et al. 2000). pH sensitive liposomes are able to deliver their payload as a result of the variation of the internal or external pH, which destabilizes the membrane and increases the permeability for the entrapped drug. A second drug delivery mechanism is represented by their ability to fuse when exposed to the appropriate pH. Although it has been supposed that the intra-tumor pH has lower values and this is one of the main mechanisms of targeted drug release from these liposomes, this assumption has never been satisfactorily proved. Use of pH sensitive liposome to deliver agents to tumor tissues has not been widely demonstrated. On the other hand, the internal pH suffers from variability, and the release rate can be extremely low in many conditions. Moreover, the pH sensitive liposomes can be potentially used only if the diseased site (or the desired location) experiences strong enough pH changes.

The pH sensitive lipid vesicles described herein utilize ionizing radiation to trigger release of the agent only at the irradiated site. The described controlled drug delivery scheme makes use of pH sensitive liposomes loaded with an agent and an organic halogen. The liposomes or lipid vesicles are designed to release the agent upon interaction with highly localized therapeutic X-ray radiation. In particular, the actinic beam will be used to control the pH inside the liposomes. A decrease in pH inside the vesicle will be triggered due to the aqueous solution of organic halogens inside the vesicle yielding an increased acidity upon interaction with ionizing radiation (Andrews and Shore 1950; Freeman et al. 1953; Freeman et al. 1953; Andrews et al. 1957; Woods and Spinks 1957; Heusinger et al. 1959; Platford and Spinks 1959; Woods and Spinks 1960).

Briefly, the agent and a radiation sensitive compound (such as an organic halogen) are encased in the water interior of a pH sensitive lipid vesicle such as a liposome. The free radicals released by radiolysis interact with the organic halogen and increase the acidity, i.e. free protons, inside the vesicles. The protons interact with the pH sensitive components in the lipid membrane (lipids and/or polymers) and the agent is released as a consequence of the increased permeability of the membrane.

Thus the lipid vesicles described herein may be administered to a subject and the agent may be sequestered within the lipid vesicle until the subject or a target area on or in the subject is exposed to ionizing radiation, thereby effecting release of the agent from the lipid vesicle in a subject or in a target area of the subject. The compositions may be used for controlled release of the agent to a target, such as a target tissue, in a localized area. For example, the compositions may be used to deliver an agent to a tumor, damaged tissue, site of infection or site of inflammation.

The lipid vesicles encasing all the components required for drug delivery can have a variety of compositions and internal aqueous contents. The lipid vesicles can be micelles, microspheres or liposomes. Liposomes may be unilamellar or multilamellar. The lipid vesicles are suitably unilamellar, sterically stabilized, stealth, size adjusted for a reduced absorption by the mononuclear phagocyte system (MPS), and the lipidic phase should contain lipids or polymers assuring pH sensitivity. The lipid vesicles may be made of any suitable lipid, including but not limited to, polar lipids, such as phospholipids, such as phosphoglycerides, such as phosphatidylethanolamine, phosphatidylcholine, phosphatidylserine, cardiolipin, palmitoylhomocysteine, cholesterol or combinations thereof. Other lipid moieties may also be included in the lipid vesicles such as triacylglycerols, waxes, sphingolipids, and sterols and their fatty acid esters, or combinations thereof. The lipid vesicle's lipid layer may also include polypeptides, such as transmembrane polypeptides, protein channels or other polypeptides capable of associating with or localizing to the lipid layer.

The lipid vesicles are pH sensitive lipid vesicles. Those of skill in the art will appreciate many pH sensitive lipids and pH sensitive polymers are available to generate pH sensitive lipid vesicles. The pH sensitive lipids may include, but are not limited to phosphatidylethanolamine, palmitoylhomocysteine or analogs or derivatives thereof, such as dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine. pH sensitive polymers may include a pH sensitive moiety including, but not limited to alkylacrylic acid, ethylacrylic acid, propylacrylic acid, butylacrylic acid, and methylacrylic acid. See U.S. Patent Nos. 7,951,846, 7,655,468, 7,186,399, 6,426,086 and 5,283,122 and U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 20110027171, 20100129430, and 20100009926. The pH sensitive lipids or polymers may be included in the lipid vesicle at between 1 and 25 mol%, suitably 2-20 mol %,

suitably 2-5 mol %. The actual composition and lipid ratio in the pH sensitive lipid vesicles may be varied and should be chosen in such a way as to initiate a sustained release at the achieved pH while sealing at the initial pH.

The lipid vesicles may additionally include a functional group such as a targeting molecule or polyethylene glycol. The targeting molecule or polyethylene glycol may be exposed on or attached to the outer surface of the liposome to target the lipid vesicle to a specific tissue or to increase the half- life of the lipid vesicle after administration to a subject. The targeting molecule may be a polypeptide or protein. Suitable targeting molecules include, but are not limited to, an antibody, a receptor such as the folate receptor or a ligand for a receptor that helps target the lipid vesicle to a specific tissue. The targeting molecule may be attached to the outer surface of the lipid vesicle, be a peripheral or integral membrane protein or may be attached by other means known to those skilled in the art such as myristoylation, acetylation, prenylation, palmitoylation, glycosylphosphatidyinositol (GPI) anchors or via cholesterol.

The liposome may be made by any method, including those known to those skilled in the art, such as sonication, extrusion, reverse phase evaporation, the infusion procedure, detergent dilution and the Mozifari method. Suitably the lipid vesicles are made by extrusion. In the Examples, the liposomes were made by extrusion. Suitably, the liposomes are at least about 20nm, 100nm, 200nm, 250nm in diameter. Suitably the liposomes are no larger than about 400nm, 500nm, 1 micron, 2 microns or 4 microns in diameter. The size of the liposome may depend on its selected use. Suitably, the liposomes are of a size such that they are capable of selectively extravasating from leaky blood vessels near a tumor site or a site of inflammation.

The radiation sensitive compound, suitably an organic halogen, should be added in the desired concentration during preparation of the lipid vesicles. The agent can be added during lipid vesicle preparation (passive loading) or after preparation (active or passive loading). The unincorporated components can be removed by centrifugation, dialysis, gel column filtration, etc. The lipid vesicles suitably are prepared with and contain an aqueous media. The aqueous medium can be water or water-based and may also contain salts, sugars, such as glucose, or other additives that may serve to stabilize the vesicle, make the vesicle more pH sensitive or affect the activity of the agent.

The agent controlled release process is initiated by ionizing radiation interacting with water in the aqueous media of the lipid vesicle. Without being bound by theory, the primary interaction takes place between X-ray photons and water, and the Compton Effect dominates in this energy range for low Z. Organic halogen compounds, such as chloral hydrate, are some of the most sensitive to ionizing radiation. The hydrogen halide formed in high yield acidifies the aqueous solution of the lipid vesicle by decreasing the pH. The acid formation is dependent on the organic halogen concentration, radiation dose amount, radiation dose time of exposure, and temperature. Those of skill in the art will understand that the concentration and ionizing radiation dose will depend on the tissue being treated, agent being delivered and subject as well as other factors. The radiolysis of organic halogenated compounds in aqueous solution is a chain reaction; it has been extensively proved that the interaction with radiation results in the formation of hydrogen halide and the acid produced modulates the solutions' pH. The reaction mechanisms and the reaction products (other than acids) are not known in detail but the action is undoubtedly indirect, through the radicals produced in water by the actinic beam. The energy loss in the therapeutic energy range for water solutions is due entirely to the Compton effect; the high yield of the acid formation (at least 100 molecules/ion pair) can be explained only if we account for a chain reaction in the acid formation mechanism. This high yield is essential in modulating the internal pH of liposomes using rather modest radiation doses. The acid produced can decrease the solution pH by a few units, more than enough to destabilize the lipid bilayer and release the agent, or to deliver the agent by promoting the fusion of the pH sensitive liposomes with cells. In the Examples, 6MeV X-ray, 400Rad, 2 minutes duration was sufficient to mediate release of the agent from liposome comprising 0.1M to 1M chloral hydrate. Those of skill in the art will understand that the amount of agent released within a particular time after exposure to radiation will be related to the particular dose of ionizing radiation provided and the amount of organic halogen incorporated in the liposome along with other factors. Doses of radiation may be any dosage used to treat individuals without causing undue toxicity. Suitably the dose of radiation may be between 200 and 600 Rad.

The radiation sensitive agent used herein is suitably an organic halogen. The organic halogens suitable for use include but are not limited to chloral hydrate, fluoral

hydrate, or bromal hydrate (Woods and Spinks 1957; Heusinger, Woods et al. 1959; Woods and Spinks 1960). The amount of organic halogen added to the lipid vesicles is dependent on the pH necessary to allow permeabilization of the lipid vesicle and the dose of ionizing radiation that will be used. Generally a lower amount of organic halogen will lead to a lower change in pH in the lipid vesicle after exposure to ionizing radiation. In the Examples, 0.1 M to 1M chloral hydrate was added to the liposomes. Suitably the amount of organic halogen added is between 0.01M and 2M, suitably from 0.1 to 1M. As demonstrated in the Examples glucose can be added to the lipid vesicle to increase the efficiency of release from the vesicles. Glucose can be added between 0.01 M and 1 M. Suitably glucose is added at between 0.1 M and 1 M.

The agent contained within the lipid vesicles may be any suitable pharmaceutical or other active agent, including but not limited to, chemotherapeutic agents, toxins, radiotherapeutic agents, radiosensitizing agents, imaging agents, tracking agents, antimicrobials, anti-inflammatory agents, polypeptides such as recombinant proteins, cytokines or antibodies, small chemicals or any combination thereof. In alternative embodiments, the active agent may be an angiogenesis inhibitor or an apoptosis inducer.

Illustrative anticancer drugs that may be administered according to the present invention include acivicin, aclarubicin, acodazole, acronycine, adozelesin, alanosine, aldesleukin, allopurinol sodium, altretamine, aminoglutethimide, amonafide, ampligen, amsacrine, androgens, anguidine, aphidicolin glycinate, asaley, asparaginase, 5-azacitidine, azathioprine, Bacillus calmette-guerin (BCG), Baker's Antifol (soluble), beta-2'-deoxythioguanosine, bisantrene HCL, bleomycin sulfate, busulfan, buthionine sulfoximine, BWA 773U82, BW 502U83.HCl, BW 7U85 mesylate, ceracemide, carbetimer, carboplatin, carmustine, chlorambucil, chloroquinoline-sulfonamide, chlorozotocin, chromomycin A3, cisplatin, cladribine, corticosteroids, Corynebacterium parvum, CPT-11, crisnatol, cycloctidine, cyclophosphamide, cytarabine, cytembena, dabis maleate, dacarbazine, dactinomycin, daunorubicin HCl, deazauridine, dexrazoxane, dianhydrogalactitol, diaziquone, dibromodulcitol, didemnin B, diethyldithiocarbamate, diglycoaldehyde, dihydro-5-azacytidine, doxorubicin, echinomycin, edatrexate, edelfosine, eflornithine, Elliott's solution, elsamitrucin, epirubicin, esorubicin,

estramustine phosphate, estrogens, etanidazole, ethiofos, etoposide, fadrazole, fazarabine, fenretinide, filgrastim, finasteride. Flavone acetic acid, floxuridine, fludarabine phosphate, 5-fluorouracil, Fluosol.RTM., flutamide, gallium nitrate, gemcitabine, goserelin acetate, hepsulfam, hexamethylene bisacetamide, homoharringtonine, hydrazine sulfate, 4-hydroxyandrostenedione, hydroxyurea, idarubicin HCl, ifosfamide, interferon alfa, interferon beta, interferon gamma, interleukin-1 alpha and beta, interleukin-3, interleukin-4, interleukin-6, 4-ipomeanol, iproplatin, isotretinoin, leucovorin calcium, leuprolide acetate, levamisole, liposomal daunorubicin, liposome encapsulated doxorubicin, lomustine, lonidamine, maytansine, mechlorethamine hydrochloride, melphalan, menogaril, merbarone, 6-mercaptopurine, mesna, methanol extraction residue of Bacillus calmette-guerin, methotrexate, N-methylformamide, mifepristone, mitoguazone, mitomycin-C, mitofane, mitoxantrone hydrochloride, monocyte/macrophage colony-stimulating factor, nabilone, nafoxidine, neocarzinostatin, octreotide acetate, ormaplatin, oxaliplatin, paclitaxel, pala, pentostatin, piperazinedione, pipobroman, pirarubicin, piritrexim, piroxantrone hydrochloride, PIXY-321, plicamycin, porfimer sodium, prednimustine, procarbazine, progestins, pyrazofurin, razoxane, sargramostim, semustine, spirogermanium, spiromustine, streptonigrin, streptozocin, sulofenur, suramin sodium, tamoxifen, taxotere, tegafur, teniposide, terephthalamidine, teroxirone, thioguanine, thiotepa, thymidine injection, tiazofurin, topotecan, toremifene, tretinoin, trifluoperazine hydrochloride, trifluridine, trimetrexate, tumor necrosis factor, uracil mustard, vinblastine sulfate, vincristine sulfate, vindesine, vinorelbine, vinzolidine, Yoshi 864, zorubicin, and mixtures thereof.

Exposure of the compositions described herein to ionizing radiation allows the agent to be released from the lipid vesicles by decreasing the pH and causing the lipid vesicle to become permeable as described above. Suitably, exposure of the lipid vesicles to ionizing radiation releases at least 25% of the agent within 4 hours after exposure. More suitably, exposure of the lipid vesicle to ionizing radiation releases at least 50% of the agent within 8 hours after exposure. More suitably, exposure of the lipid vesicle to ionizing radiation releases at least 75% of the agent within 8 hours after exposure. More

suitably, exposure of the lipid vesicle to ionizing radiation releases at least 90% of the agent within 8 hours after exposure.

The lipid vesicle compositions described herein may be used to make pharmaceutical compositions. Pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compositions described above and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier are also provided. A
5 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is any carrier suitable for *in vivo* administration. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers suitable for use in the composition include, but are not limited to, water, buffered solutions, saline, glucose or dextrose solutions, glycerol, oil-based or bacterial culture fluids. Additional components of the
10 compositions may suitably include, for example, excipients such as stabilizers, preservatives, diluents, emulsifiers and lubricants. Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers or diluents include stabilizers such as carbohydrates (e.g., sorbitol, mannitol, starch, sucrose, glucose, dextran), proteins such as albumin or casein, protein-containing agents such as bovine serum or skimmed milk and buffers (e.g., phosphate
15 buffer). Especially when such stabilizers are added to the compositions, the composition is suitable for freeze-drying or spray-drying. The composition may also be prepared in conventional forms, either as a liquid solution or suspension or in a solid form suitable for preparation as a solution or suspension in a liquid prior to injection, or as an emulsion.

Methods of delivering an agent to a target in a subject are also provided. The
20 methods include administering the lipid vesicles described herein to a subject and exposing the target to ionizing radiation. The ionizing radiation and the organic halogen interact to reduce the pH of the lipid vesicle and destabilize or increase the permeability of the lipid vesicle resulting in the release of the agent from the lipid vesicle at the target site to result in controlled delivery of the agent to the target. The target may be a specific
25 tissue or organ such as the liver, kidneys, spleen or may be the site of a tumor, infection, inflammation or other site of disease. Suitably, the lipid vesicle is administered prior to administration of the ionizing radiation. Suitably, the ionizing radiation source is X-rays as used in the Examples. Other suitable sources of ionizing radiation include gamma-rays and beta-rays. Proton therapy is a promising approach for cancer therapy and proton
30 therapy will also provide a useful source of ionizing radiation. The methods include

methods of controlled drug release in which the agent is released from the lipid vesicles in a localized area within the subject and/or at a specific time.

5 Methods of treating a condition, suitably a medical condition, by administering the lipid vesicle compositions described herein to a subject in need of treatment for the condition. The subject or a portion of the subject is then exposed to ionizing radiation. The agent is capable of treating the condition when released from the pH sensitive lipid vesicle in the portion of the subject exposed to ionizing radiation. By releasing the agent only in or near the portion of the subject exposed to ionizing radiation, the dose of the agent may be increased locally without adverse side-effects that may be associated with
10 treatment with the agent systemically. Thus agents whose side-effects limit the effective dosage range may be used at higher effective doses in combination with the pH sensitive lipid vesicles described herein. Alternatively, many agents have adverse side-effects that are not associated with the effectiveness of the agent. The methods described herein may result in decreased side-effects associated with treatment with the agent.

15 The lipid vesicle or liposome is generally administered to the subject prior to administration of the ionizing radiation, which triggers release of the active agent, but the compositions and ionizing radiation may be administered simultaneously in certain circumstances. Suitably the lipid vesicle or liposome is administered at 10 minutes, 30 minutes, 1 hour, 2 hours, 4 hours, 8 hours, 24 hours, 48 hours, 3 days, 4 days, 5 days, 6
20 days or up to 7 days prior to administration of ionizing radiation. The compositions may be administered locally or systemically. The lipid vesicle may be administered by any means available, including those known to those skilled in the art, such as intravenous, intratumoral, intraperitoneal, intramuscular, intra-arterial, intraventricular, subcutaneous, dermal, or transdermal delivery. The lipid vesicle may be exposed to ionizing radiation
25 by exposing the subject or a part of the subject to the radiation. Suitably, the agent is administered in an amount effective to treat the condition and achieve a therapeutic effect in the subject, e.g., an antineoplastic effect.

The methods may be used to treat subjects having one or more of a wide variety of medical conditions, including but not limited to cancer, such as meningiomas, hepatic

cell carcinoma, pancreatic tumors, infectious diseases including fungal, bacterial, or parasitic diseases, inflammatory diseases including psoriasis and arthritis and atrial-ventricular malformations. Treatment of cancer includes, but is not limited to, killing cancer cells, slowing metastases, slowing or stopping angiogenesis, slowing or stopping
5 the growth of the cancer cells or the size or mass of a tumor, making the cancer more responsive to a secondary therapy, such as radiation treatment. Treating an infectious disease includes, but is not limited to, reducing the length or severity of the infection, reducing morbidity, reducing mortality or killing the infectious agent. Treating an inflammatory disease includes, but is not limited to, reducing the amount or size of
10 inflammation, reducing the severity of the inflammation, and reducing the length of the inflammatory outbreak.

The pH sensitive vesicles or liposomes may also comprise an agent selected from an imaging agent such as a fluorescent marker, a dye, a radiological marker or other tracking agent. These vesicles may be used in methods of tracking or determining the
15 dosage or exposure to ionizing radiation. For example the tracking agent may be used as a visual aid to ensure that the proper dosage of ionizing radiation was administered to a subject to reach a desired site or cause a desired reaction.

Administration of the compositions described herein to a subject in accordance with the invention appears to exhibit beneficial effects in a dose-dependent manner.
20 Thus, within broad limits, administration of larger quantities of the compositions is expected to achieve increased beneficial biological effects than administration of a smaller amount. Moreover, efficacy is also contemplated at dosages below the level at which toxicity associated with the agent is seen.

It will be appreciated that the specific dosage administered in any given case will
25 be adjusted in accordance with the compositions being administered, the disease to be treated or inhibited, the condition of the subject, and other relevant medical factors that may modify the activity of the compositions or the response of the subject, as is well known by those skilled in the art. For example, the specific dose for a particular subject depends on age, body weight, general state of health, diet, the timing and mode of
30 administration, the rate of excretion, medicaments used in combination and the severity

of the particular disorder to which the therapy is applied. Dosages for a given patient can be determined using conventional considerations, e.g., by customary comparison of the differential activities of the compositions described herein and of the agent provided without a lipid vesicle delivery vehicle, such as by means of an appropriate conventional pharmacological or prophylactic protocol.

The maximal dosage for a subject is the highest dosage that does not cause undesirable or intolerable side effects. The number of variables in regard to an individual prophylactic or treatment regimen is large, and a considerable range of doses is expected. The route of administration will also impact the dosage requirements. It is anticipated that dosages of the compositions will reduce symptoms of the condition at least 10%, 20%, 30%, 40%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 90% or 100% compared to pre-treatment symptoms or symptoms is left untreated. It is specifically contemplated that pharmaceutical preparations and compositions may palliate or alleviate symptoms of the disease without providing a cure, or, in some embodiments, may be used to cure the disease or disorder.

Suitable effective dosage amounts for administering the compositions may be determined by those of skill in the art, but typically range from about 1 microgram to about 100,000 micrograms per kilogram of body weight of the agent weekly, although they are typically about 1,000 micrograms or less per kilogram of body weight weekly. In some embodiments, the effective dosage amount ranges from about 10 to about 10,000 micrograms per kilogram of body weight weekly. In another embodiment, the effective dosage amount ranges from about 50 to about 5,000 micrograms per kilogram of body weight weekly. In another embodiment, the effective dosage amount ranges from about 75 to about 1,000 micrograms per kilogram of body weight weekly. The effective dosage amounts described herein refer to total amounts administered, that is, if more than one agent is administered, the effective dosage amounts correspond to the total amount administered. The compositions can be administered as a single dose or as divided doses. For example, the composition may be administered two or more times separated by 4 hours, 6 hours, 8 hours, 12 hours, a day, two days, three days, four days, one week, two weeks, or by three or more weeks. The number of liposomes or vesicles in a dose will depend largely on the amount of the agent per liposome or per mL of the solution.

The following examples are meant only to be illustrative and are not meant as limitations on the scope of the invention or of the appended claims. All references cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entireties.

5

EXAMPLES

Pharmaceuticals, therapeutics or other agents can be released from pH sensitive liposomes when the external or internal pH decreases depending on the liposomes. The liposomes are pH sensitive and include an organic halogen in the liposome. The pH of an organic halogen solution decreases upon X-ray irradiation. The decreased pH facilitates drug release by increasing the liposomal membrane permeability of the pH sensitive vesicles.

Materials and Methods

pH sensitive liposomes which are stable at neutral pH but become destabilized at slightly acid pH were prepared as previously described by extrusion through polycarbonate filters (Hafez, 2000 and in International PCT Application No. PCT/US2010/029413). The liposomes were composed of phosphatidylethanolamine, distearoylphosphatidylcholine, cholesterol, and 1,2-distearoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphoethanolamine-N-[methoxy(polyethylene glycol)-2000] in a molar ratio of 1:0.5:0.5:0.075 in unbuffered chloral hydrate (C₂H₃Cl₃O₂) solutions of 1M, 0.5M, and 0.1 M, with or without addition of 0.1M glucose (pH was adjusted to 7.1 for all samples). The fluorescent drug simulator, calcein, was added during liposome preparation at 5mM concentration, sufficient for fluorescence self quenching. Control samples with identical composition but without glucose were prepared at the same time with the test samples. All test samples were irradiated with 6MeV X-ray, 400Rad, 2 minutes (therapeutic dose). The fluorescence as indicator of drug release was measured before and after irradiation with a Horiba fluorometer (Fluoromax 4P) in kinetics mode. The maximum release was estimated from the fluorescence measured upon complete membrane destabilization with 0.2% Triton X-100.

30

Results

The results are presented in Figure 2. The dashed line represents release of calcein after treatment of the vesicles with 0.2% Triton X-100 and is considered 100% release. All test samples indicated extensive calcein release upon irradiation. As a
5 general rule, addition of glucose at 0.1 M increased slightly the efficiency of release for all samples, and this confirms previous experimentation showing that glucose addition facilitates pH decreases upon irradiation (Hilsenrod 1956). The non-irradiated sample containing 1M chloral hydrate showed some calcein leakage at rest (Figure 2a) and suggested that at this concentration the liposomes are not highly stable. The samples
10 containing 0.5M (Figure 2b) and 0.1M (Figure 2c) chloral hydrate showed a higher stability and minimal or no leakage at rest. Both the samples including 0.5M or 0.1M chloral hydrate showed over 50% release of the calcein by 8 hours after the exposure to X-rays.

15 Conclusions

We demonstrated that X-ray radiation can control the release of drugs from pH sensitive liposomes containing organic halogen solutions. Further optimization will focus on using various lipid compositions for faster release and improved stability at rest and stability and controlled release in the context of a subject.

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35

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 5 1. A pH sensitive lipid vesicle composition comprising a lipid layer, an agent and an organic halogen, wherein exposure of the composition to ionizing radiation allows the agent to be released from the lipid vesicle.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the organic halogen is chloral hydrate or bromal hydrate.
- 10 3. The composition of claim 1 or 2, wherein the agent is a cancer therapeutic agent, a polypeptide, a toxin, a radiotherapeutic agent, a radiosensitizing agent, an angiogenesis inhibitor, an imaging agent or combinations thereof.
4. The composition of any one of claims 1-3, wherein the lipid layer comprises pH sensitive lipids.
- 15 5. The composition of claim 4, wherein the pH sensitive lipids are selected from phosphatidylethanolamine, palmitoylhomocysteine, diacylsuccinylglycerols, dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine, or analogs or derivatives thereof.
6. The composition of any one of claims 1-5, wherein the lipid layer comprises pH sensitive polymers.
- 20 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the pH sensitive polymers are polymers with a pH sensitive moiety selected from an alkylacrylic acid, ethylacrylic acid, propylacrylic acid, butylacrylic acid, and methylacrylic acid.
8. The composition of any one of claims 1-7, wherein the lipid layer comprises lipid anchored polyethylene glycol.
- 25 9. The composition of any one of claims 1-8, wherein the lipid layer comprises cholesterol.
10. The composition of any one of claims 1-9, further comprising a targeting molecule.
- 30 11. The composition of claim 10, wherein the targeting molecule is selected from a targeting polypeptide, a folate receptor, an antibody or combinations thereof.

12. The composition of any one of claims 1-11, wherein the lipid layer comprises at least one polypeptide capable of localizing in the lipid layer.
13. The composition of any one of claims 1-12, wherein exposure to ionizing radiation releases at least 25% of the agent within 4 hours after exposure.
- 5 14. The composition of any one of claims 1-12, wherein exposure to ionizing radiation releases at least 50% of the agent within 8 hours after exposure.
15. The composition of any one of claims 1-14, wherein the ionizing radiation source is X-rays or gamma rays.
16. The composition of any one of claims 1-15, wherein the organic halogen is
10 present at a concentration of at least 0.1M in the vesicle.
17. The composition of any one of claims 1-16, wherein the pH sensitive lipid vesicle is a liposome.
18. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the pH sensitive lipid vesicle composition of any one of claims 1-17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 15 19. A method of delivering an agent to a target in a subject, the method comprising:
a. Administering the composition of any one of claims 1-18 to the subject
and
b. Exposing the target to ionizing radiation, whereby the agent is released
from the pH sensitive lipid vesicle near the target in the subject.
- 20 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the target comprises a tumor.
21. The method of claim 19 or 20, wherein the pH sensitive lipid vesicle is administered prior to exposing the target to ionizing radiation.
22. A method of controlled drug release, the method comprising the method of any one of claims 19-21, wherein the agent is released in a localized area.
- 25 23. A method of treating a condition, the method comprising administering the composition of any one of claims 1-18 to a subject with the condition and exposing a portion of the subject to ionizing radiation, wherein the agent is capable of treating the condition and whereby the agent is released from the pH sensitive lipid vesicle in the portion of the subject exposed to ionizing radiation.
- 30 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the condition is cancer.

25. The method of any one of claims 23 or 24, wherein the method reduces the side-effects associated with treatment of the agent in the absence of the pH sensitive lipid vesicle.

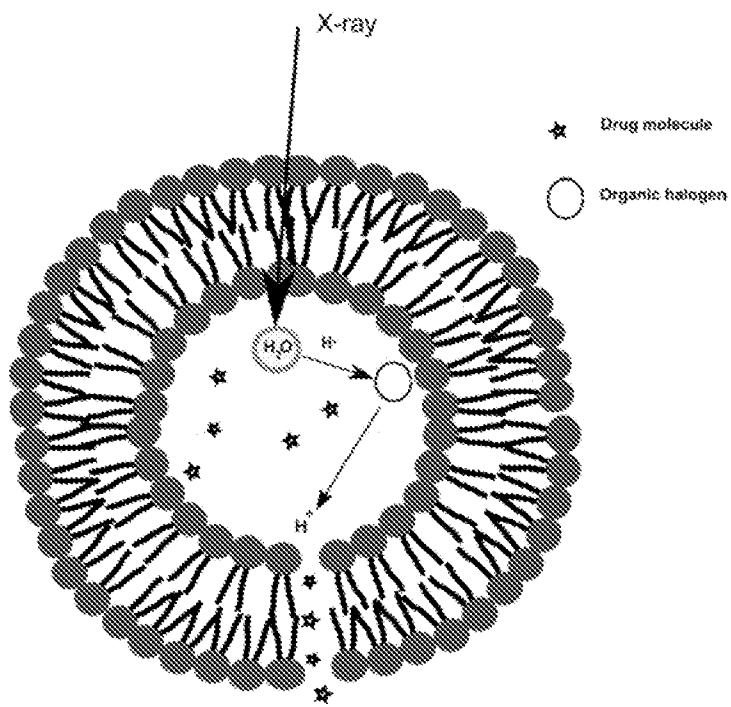
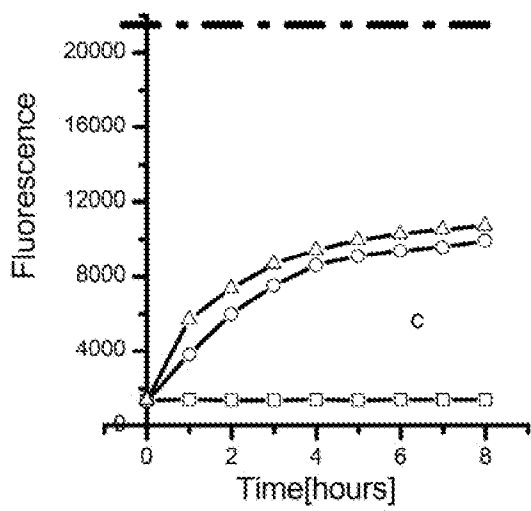
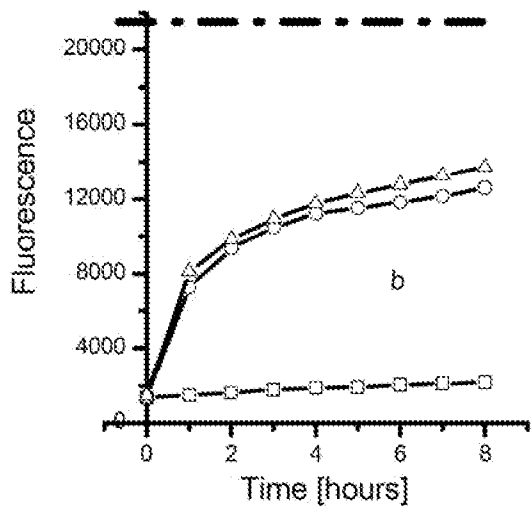
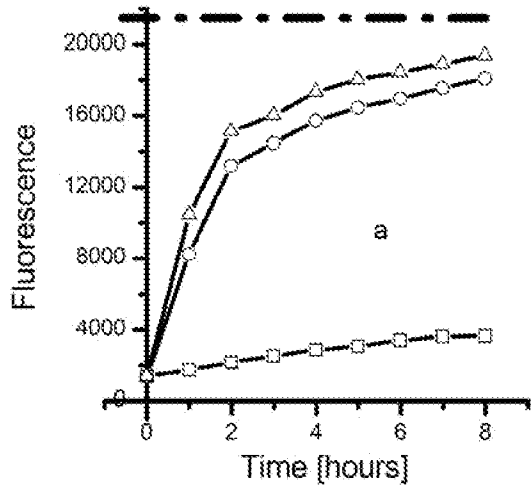


Figure 1

Figure 2



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 12/64087

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(8) - A61K 9/127 (2012.01) USPC - 424/450 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) USPC: 424/450 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) Electronic Database Searched: PUBWEST (PGPB,USPT,USOC,EPAB,JPAB), Google, sciencedirect. Search Terms Used Phosphatidylethanolamine, palmitoylhornocysteine or diacylsuccinylglycerols, dioleoylphosphatidylethanolamine, (radiation same releas\$, vesicle composition, radiation		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 5,770,222 A (Unger et al.) 23 June 1998 (23.06.1998) entire document especially col 2, ln 10-17; col 7, ln 42-51; example 6, claim 20; col 2, ln 60-67; figure 2; col 31, ln 13-16; col 10, ln 49	1-3
Y	US 2006/0099141 A1 t (O'Brian et al.) 11 May 2011 (11.05.2011) entire document especially abstract; para [0052]; [0065]	1-3
A	US 2011/0105995 A1 (Zhu et al.) 05 May 2011 (05.05.2011) entire document	1-3
A	US 2006/0159739 A1 (Lasic et al.) 20 July 2006 (20.07.2006) entire document	1-3
A	US 5,891,465 A (Keller et al.) 06 April 1999 (06.04.1999) entire dpcument	1-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/>		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 26 December 2012 (26.12.2012)		Date of mailing of the international search report 11 JAN 2013
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: ISA/US, Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. 571-273-3201		Authorized officer: Lee W. Young PCT Helpdesk: 571-272-4300 PCT OSP: 571-272-7774

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 12/64087

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: 4-25
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.