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**INFLUÊNCIA DO PROTO-ONCOGENE PCPH/NTPDASE5
NA MIGRAÇÃO CELULAR E NA RESISTÊNCIA
TERAPÊUTICA CONTRA A TEMOZOLOMIDA EM
GLIOBLASTOMA MULTIFORME**

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*“Agir, eis a inteligência verdadeira.
Serei o que quiser, mas tenho que querer o que for.
O êxito está em ter êxito, e não em ter condições de êxito.
Condições de palácio tem qualquer terra larga,
Mas onde estará o palácio se não o fizerem ali?”*

Livro do Desassossego – Fernando Pessoa

Lista de Abreviatura

ADP (*adenosina difosfato*);
AMP (*adenosina monofostato*);
AP (*ecto-fosfatase alcalina*);
ATP (*adenosina trifosfato*);
AKT (*proteína cinase B*);
CD73 (*ecto-5'-nucleotidase*);
CMPK1 (*citidina monofosfato cinase 1*);
EGFR (*receptores de fator de crescimento epidérmico*);
E-NPPS (*ecto-nucleotídeo pirofosfatase/fosfodiesterase*);
GBM (*glioblastoma multiforme*);
MGMT (*O⁶-metilguanina-DNA metiltransferase*);
MMR (*via mismatch repair*);
MTIC (*monometil triazeno imidazol carboxamida*);
mt-NTPDase5 (*oncogene*);
mt-PCPH (*oncogene*);
mTOR (*proteína alvo da rapamicina em mamíferos*);
NTPDase (*ecto-nucleosídeo trifosfato difosfohidrolase*);
NTPDase5 (*ecto-nucleosídeo trifosfato difosfohidrolase 5 e proto-oncogene*);
O⁶-metil-G (*O⁶-metilguanina*);
PCPH (*proto-oncogene*);
PI3K (*fosfoinositol 3-cinase*);
PTEN (*fosfatase homóloga a tensina*);
TMZ (*temozolomida*);
UTP (*uracil trifosfato*);
UDP (*uracil difosfato*);
UMP (*uracil monofosfato*);

Resumo

Gliomas são os principais tumores primários do sistema nervoso central em humanos. A falta de êxito no tratamento desses tumores esta associada à capacidade de suas células atravessarem os estreitos espaços extracelulares no cérebro, migrando por relativas longas distâncias, tornando difícil uma remoção cirúrgica total e efetiva. Por isso, o tratamento quimioterápico com Temozolomida geralmente acompanha a terapia cirúrgica.

O proto-oncogene PCPH, identificado sequencial e funcionalmente como a ecto-enzima degradadora de nucleotídeos NTPDase5, apresenta um perfil expressão desregulado na maioria dos processos neoplásicos, sendo frequentemente diferentes os níveis de expressão quando comparados células normais e tumorais. Recentemente foi observado que nas amostras clínicas mais agressivas de glioblastomas a expressão da NTPDase5 estava mais elevada, estando associada com uma menor sobrevida do paciente.

Sendo assim, o objetivo desse trabalho foi realizar uma revisão sistemática a respeito da relação do proto-oncogene NTPDase5/PCPH, bem como da proteína mutada a oncogene ativo mt-NTPDase5/mt-PCPH, nos diferentes processos neoplásicos, a qual acabou por confirmar a relação desse gene com os diferentes tipos de neoplasias e as descobertas e dúvidas remanescentes a respeito do papel desempenhado pelo mesmo. Ainda, verificar o papel da superexpressão do proto-oncogene na atividade migratória e na resistência celular de células de glioma de rato C6 ao tratamento com temozolomida. Nossos resultados demonstram que, após a superexpressão dessa proteína, as células C6 apresentam uma maior atividade migratória e uma resistência elevada ao tratamento com baixas concentrações de temozolomida. Sugere-se que tais observações sejam ainda mais evidentes com a superexpressão do oncogene ativo, mt-NTPDase5, e que o silenciamento de ambas proteínas NTPDase5/mt-NTPDase5 pode vir a ser uma alternativa para complementar e potencializar o tratamento a essa neoplasia extremamente agressiva do sistema nervoso central.

Abstract

Gliomas are the main primary central nervous system tumors in humans. The lack of success in treating these tumors is associated with the ability of its cells to pass through the narrow extracellular spaces in the brain by migrating for long distances, making it difficult a full and effective surgical removal. Therefore, chemotherapy with Temozolomide often accompanies surgical therapy.

The proto-oncogene PCPH, sequential and functionally identified as the nucleotide degrading ecto-enzyme NTPDase5, has a deregulated expression profile in different types of cancer. Most often is observed different expression levels of the NTPDase5 when comparing both healthy and tumor cells. Recently it was observed that the most aggressive clinical samples of glioblastomas expressed higher levels of the NTPDase5 and was associated with a shorter survival.

Thus, the aim of this study was to conduct a systematic review about the relationship between the proto-oncogene NTPDase5/PCPH as well as the mutated active oncogene, mt-NTPDase5/mt-PCPH, in different neoplastic processes. Furthermore, to verify the role of the proto-oncogene overexpression in rat glioblastoma C6 cell migratory activity and resistance against treatment with temozolomide. Our results present that, after the overexpression of this protein, C6 cells have a higher migratory activity and a high resistance to treatment with low concentrations of temozolomide. It is suggested that these observations could be even more evident with the overexpression of the active oncogene mt-NTPDase5, and that silencing of both NTPDase5/mt-NTPDase5 proteins may prove to be an alternative to complement and enhance the treatment of this extremely aggressive central nervous system neoplasia.

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1. Introdução

1.1. Glioblastoma Multiforme

Gliomas são os principais tumores primários do sistema nervoso central (SNC) em humanos, representando, pelo menos, 80% dos tumores cerebrais (Schwartzbaum, Fisher et al. 2006). As neoplasias mais comuns das células da glia incluem astrocitomas (derivadas de astrócitos), oligodendrogliomas (derivadas de oligodendrócitos) e ependimomas (derivadas de células ependimais). Os astrocitomas são ainda classificados em quatro graus, de acordo com a organização mundial de saúde (OMS): os graus I e II são os mais brandos, e os graus III e IV mais malignos e com pior prognóstico, sendo o glioma de grau IV, denominado glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), conhecido como uma das neoplasias humanas mais agressivas e resistentes aos tratamentos atuais (Louis, Ohgaki et al. 2007; Preusser, de Ribaupierre et al. 2011; Tanase, Enciu et al. 2013).

O GBM pode ser primário ou progredir de um astrocitoma de grau menor, sendo considerado, então, secundário. O desenvolvimento do glioblastoma primário ou secundário ocorre, geralmente, pelo acúmulo de diferentes alterações genéticas, as quais apresentam como principal característica em comum, a perda de heterozigosidade (LOH; *loss heterozygozy*) do braço longo do cromossomo 10 (10q). Adicionalmente, a superexpressão dos receptores de fator de crescimento epidérmico (EGFR) e mutações no gene PTEN (*phosphatase and tensin homolog*) são alterações típicas do GBM primário, enquanto que mutações no gene TP53 são as alterações genéticas mais frequentes no desenvolvimento do GBM secundário (Kleihues and Ohgaki 2000; Ohgaki 2005; Ohgaki and Kleihues 2007) conforme representado na Figura 1.

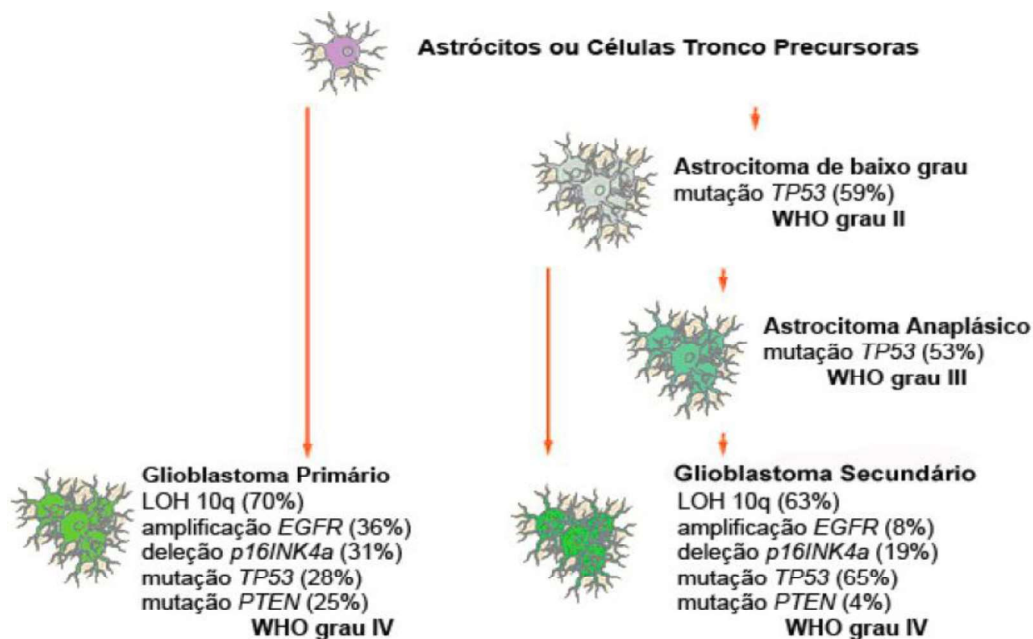


Figura 1. Diferentes alterações genéticas que direcionam o desenvolvimento do glioblastoma multiforme primário e secundário. A principal diferença ocorre na superexpressão do gene *EGFR* e nas mutações do *PTEN* associadas ao GBM primário, e nas mutações do *TP53* mais frequentes no GBM secundário. Retirado de (Ohgaki and Kleihues 2007).

A progressão dos gliomas é uma combinação de diversos fatores, como proliferação na ausência de estímulo externo, bloqueio da apoptose, formação de novos vasos sanguíneos e habilidade de invadir o tecido normal (Holland, Celestino et al. 2000). O tratamento convencional envolve a remoção cirúrgica do tumor, acompanhada de radioterapia, a qual pode ser utilizada em conjunto com a quimioterapia. A falta de êxito no tratamento desses tumores está associada à capacidade de suas células atravessarem os estreitos espaços extracelulares no cérebro, migrando por longas distâncias relativas, tornando-se alvos difíceis para uma remoção cirúrgica total e efetiva (Lefranc, Rynkowski et al. 2009). Por isso, sessões de rádio e quimioterapia geralmente acompanham o tratamento cirúrgico, bem como a terapia com temozolomida (TMZ). Esse fármaco pertence a uma classe de agentes alquilantes, como um derivado da imidazotetrazina e possui uma notável atividade antitumoral em pacientes com gliomas e melanomas malignos (Gunther, Pawlak et al. 2003).

1.1.1. Temozolomida

Atualmente, a TMZ é o quimioterápico padrão no tratamento de gliomas. Esse agente alquilante age causando danos ao DNA da célula tumoral através da metilação do mesmo, o que ativa os mecanismos de reparo induzindo a morte celular por apoptose (Nagasubramanian and Dolan 2003; Dehdashti, Hegi et al. 2006). Após a sua administração, a TMZ é hidrolisada de uma maneira não enzimática, extra-hepática, e forma o composto ativo monometil triazeno imidazol carboxamida (MTIC). Este composto metila as bases nitrogenadas guanina nas posições N⁷ e O⁶, e da adenina na posição N³, sendo mais severa a metilação da O⁶ guanina, formando a O⁶-metilguanina (O⁶-metil-G), que desencadeia mutagenicidade e toxicidade celular (Beranek 1990).

A lesão O⁶-metil-G é reparada pela proteína de reparo O⁶-metilguanina-DNA metiltransferase (MGMT). Essa proteína é frequentemente expressa em altos níveis nos tumores, sendo um importante fator de risco na resistência terapêutica, pois diminui a eficácia dos agentes alquilantes (Pegg, Dolan et al. 1995). Em diferentes tipos de câncer, incluindo de cólon, pulmão, mama e ovário, foi evidenciada uma atividade bastante elevada dessa proteína (Kaina and Christmann 2002). Em GBM, no entanto, a porcentagem de tumores com deficiência de MGMT é particularmente elevada, o que explica a escolha da TMZ no tratamento concomitante desse tipo de neoplasia (Silber, Blank et al. 1999; Kaina and Christmann 2002).

Dados do Grupo Neuro Oncológico Germânico (NOA) indicam alguns dos benefícios do uso da TMZ no tratamento de gliomas. Seus ensaios clínicos demonstraram que quando a radioterapia foi acompanhada do uso de TMZ, a sobrevida de dois anos aumentou de 10.4% para 26.5% (Stupp, Hegi et al. 2009). As recomendações atuais são de que o uso da TMZ é particularmente útil em pacientes que apresentam uma metilação e consequente silenciamento da região promotora do gene que codifica a proteína MGMT. Nesses pacientes a sobrevida de dois anos aumentou para 49% quando utilizado o tratamento de radioterapia concomitante com o uso da TMZ (Hegi, Diserens et al. 2005). Com o protocolo de tratamento atual, o qual determina o uso de radioterapia e de TMZ como acompanhamento da intervenção cirúrgica, a sobrevida média de pacientes com GBM é de 1 a 2 anos após o diagnóstico (Stupp, Hegi et al. 2009). Em alguns casos de prognóstico favorável, no entanto, foi documentada uma sobrevida de 5 anos após a terapia concomitante, justificando o uso desse quimioterápico. Além disso, a TMZ é consideravelmente mais tolerável pelos pacientes quando comparada com outros agentes quimioterápicos, como a vincristina (Stupp, Hegi et al. 2009).

Em amostras com deficiência de MGMT, porém com resistência ao quimioterápico, foi observado que a mutação O⁶-metil-G pareava com uma base de timina, a qual era reconhecida por proteínas da via MMR (mismatch repair) e removida. No entanto, novamente devido à ausência da proteína MGMT a ligação da mutação O⁶-metil-G com a timina ocorria juntamente com a sua remoção subsequente pela MMR. Esse ciclo contínuo resultou na ativação de mecanismos apoptóticos, levando a morte celular (Zhang, Stevens et al. 2012; Ghosal and Chen 2013).

As outras mutações provenientes do tratamento com TMZ, N7-metil-G e N3-metil-G, são reparadas rapidamente pelo BER (base excision repair). Se houver uma deficiência nessa via, tais lesões se tornam altamente citotóxicas. A proteína PARP-1 (poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1) é uma proteína chave para a sinalização do DNA mutado e consequente ação da BER, sendo assim, a inibição dessa proteína aumenta a citotoxicidade causada pela TMZ (Zhang, Stevens et al. 2012).

Além das vias indicadas acima (MGMT, MMR e BER), outros componentes chaves em diversas vias de sinalização celular também tem sido apontados como possíveis responsáveis pela resistência de tumores ao tratamento com quimioterápicos. Nesse contexto, uma das principais proteínas estudadas é o proto-oncogene PCPH/NTPDase5, a qual vem sendo relacionada com o aumento da resistência ao tratamento de diversos tipos de tumores. (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999; Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001; Blaquez, Regadera et al. 2002; Fang, Shen et al. 2010).

1.2. O Sistema Purinérgico

Os nucleotídeos são particularmente conhecidos pela sua ação intracelular e importância como carreadores de energia em todos os organismos. No entanto, atualmente sabe-se que essas moléculas são capazes de agir também no meio extracelular, como mediadoras de sinalização celular, ligando-se a receptores específicos presentes na membrana das células. Esse sistema de sinalização celular ficou conhecido como sistema purinérgico, sendo as moléculas de purinas (ATP, ADP e adenosina) e de pirimidinas (UTP e UDP) as responsáveis pelas ações do mesmo, em especial o ATP e a adenosina (Ralevic and Burnstock 1998).

Estudos demonstraram que o ATP age como um co-transmissor em conjunto com transmissores de sinais clássicos, tanto no sistema nervoso central como periférico e, além disso, as moléculas de purinas atuam como mensageiros extracelulares poderosos também em

células não neuronais, agindo em células secretoras endócrinas e exócrinas, em células endoteliais, imunes e inflamatórias (Burnstock and Knight 2004).

Os nucleotídeos e nucleosídeos de purina e pirimidina são liberados para o meio extracelular por diversos mecanismos fisiológicos, como exocitose, abertura de canais de membrana e via transportadores (North and Verkhatsky 2006; Pankratov, Lalo et al. 2006; Burnstock 2007; Abbracchio, Burnstock et al. 2009). Além disso, as moléculas de purinas e as pirimidinas são liberadas por células em processo de apoptose, sendo um indicador precoce de dano celular (Burnstock 2007). Após a liberação dos nucleotídeos, esses são degradados enzimaticamente por uma extensa família de ecto-nucleotidases (Robson, Seigny et al. 2006), as quais são responsáveis pela degradação das purinas e pirimidinas liberadas no espaço extracelular. Esse metabolismo é de extrema importância para o controle da sinalização purinérgica, uma vez que essas enzimas são capazes de controlar a interação nucleotídeo/receptor através da hidrólise dessas moléculas ao final da sinalização. Uma vez no meio extracelular, as purinas, pirimidinas e seus metabólitos agem nas células alvo através da ativação dos receptores específicos: os receptores purinérgicos ou purinoreceptores. Estes são divididos em tipo P1, os quais são metabotrópicos, respondem principalmente a adenosina e são subdivididos em quatro subtipos A₁, A_{2a}, A_{2b} e A₃ e receptores do tipo P2, que reconhecem principalmente o ATP e o UTP e seus análogos difosfatados, sendo divididos, segundo critérios funcionais, em dois grupos distintos: P2X, ionotrópicos, e P2Y, metabotrópicos (Ralevic and Burnstock 1998). A presença dos nucleotídeos extracelulares, das ecto-nucleotidases e dos purinoreceptores demonstra que o sistema purinérgico é um sistema transmissor completo, conforme esquematicamente representado na Figura 2.

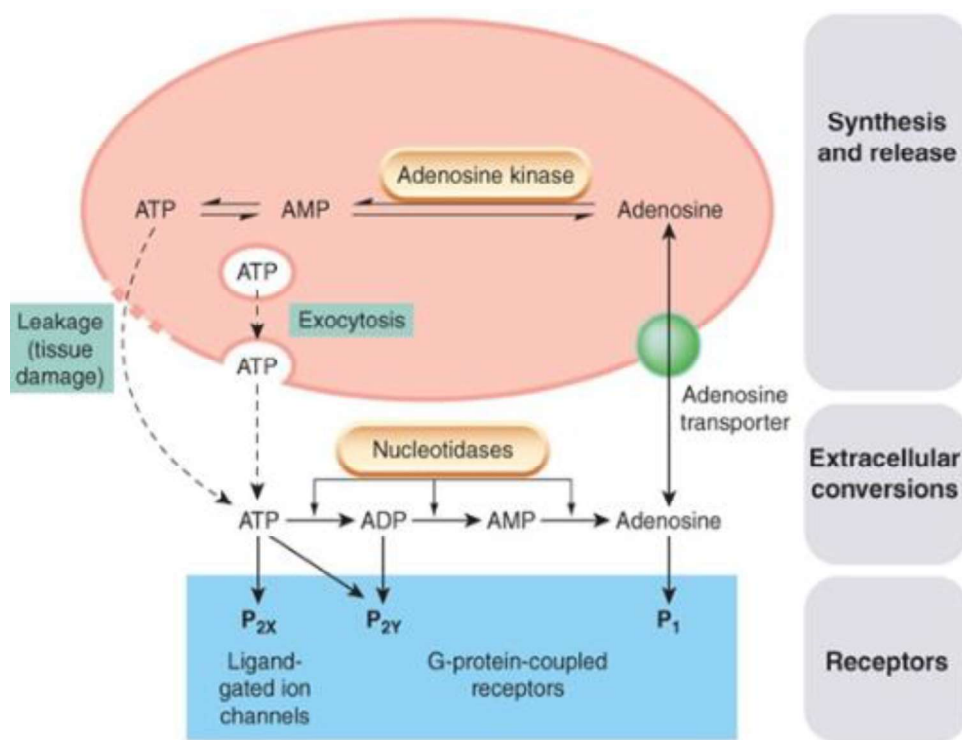


Figura 2. Esquema detalhando a sinalização purinérgica. Liberação do ATP intracelular, sua degradação pelas ecto-nucleotidases e a ativação dos receptores purinérgicos específicos para cada substrato. Retirado de (Rang 2006)

1.2.1. Ecto-nucleotidases

Considerando que os nucleotídeos da adenina podem ativar receptores purinérgicos P2 e que os produtos de degradação podem ativar os receptores P1, a regulação da quantidade relativa destes nucleotídeos/nucleosídeos se torna fundamental na sinalização mediada por estes compostos. Assim, mecanismos que controlam a concentração dessas substâncias, como as ecto-nucleotidases e os transportadores de adenosina, possuem uma posição central neste sistema (Wink 2003).

Até o momento já foram clonadas e caracterizadas funcionalmente ecto-nucleotidases pertencentes a diversas famílias (Figura 3): NTPDases (ecto-nucleosídeo trifosfato difosfohidrolase), as quais hidrolisam nucleotídeos tri e difosfatados no meio extracelular; E-NPPS (ecto-nucleotídeo pirofosfatase/fosfodiesterase); AP (ecto-fosfatase alcalina) e a enzima CD73 (ecto-5'-nucleotidase), a qual hidrolisa o AMP, gerado pela hidrólise do ATP e do ADP (Zimmermann 1996; Zimmermann, Braun et al. 1998; Zimmermann 1999; Fields and Burnstock 2006; Robson, Seigny et al. 2006).

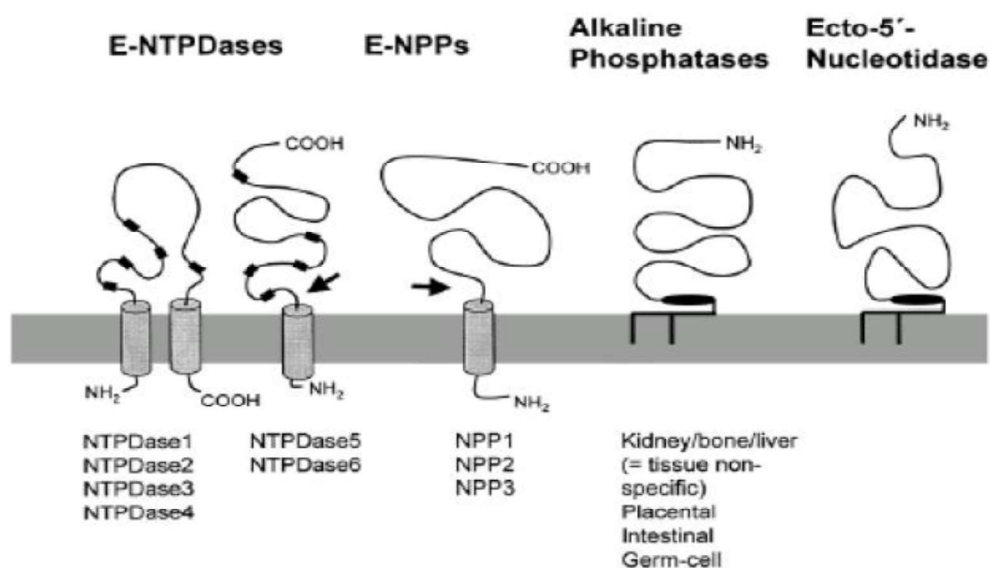


Figura 3. Topografia de membrana proposta para as ecto-nucleotidases, consistindo da família das E-NTPDases, família E-NPP, fosfatases alcalinas e ecto-5-nucleotidase. Retirado de (Zimmermann 2001).

Em mamíferos, até o momento, pelo menos oito membros da família Ecto-NTPDase têm sido clonados e funcionalmente caracterizados: NTPDase1 (CD39), NTPDase2 (CD39L1), NTPDase3 (CD39L3, HB6), NTPDase4 (UDPase), NTPDase5 (CD39L4), NTPDase6 (CD39L2), NTPDase7 (LALP1) e NTPDase8. Uma das principais características de todas as Ecto-NTPDases é a presença de cinco regiões altamente conservadas, denominadas de regiões conservadas da apirase (ACR; *apyrase conserved region*) (Plesner 1995).

Quatro dos oito subtipos das Ecto-NTPDases são típicas enzimas localizadas na superfície celular e com seu sítio catalítico voltado para o meio extracelular, são elas: NTPDases 1, 2, 3 e 8, as quais hidrolisam os nucleotídeos trifosfatados, incluindo o ATP e o UTP fisiologicamente ativos. A hidrólise de nucleotídeos difosfatados varia entre os subtipos, a NTPDase1 hidrolisa ATP e ADP na mesma proporção, as NTPDase 3 e 8 possuem uma preferência pelo ATP como substrato e a NTPDase2 possui uma alta preferência pelos nucleotídeos trifosfatados, tanto que já fora classificada como uma ecto-ATPase (Zimmermann 2001; Kukulski, Levesque et al. 2005). As NTPDases 1, 2, 3 e 8 se caracterizam por estar firmemente ancoradas à membrana por dois domínios transmembrana, os quais são especialmente importantes para manter a atividade catalítica da enzima e a especificidade pelo substrato (Grinthal and Guidotti 2002; Arakaki, Nagao et al. 2003). As NTPDases 5 e 6 estão localizadas no meio intracelular, possuem apenas um domínio transmembrana e podem ser clivadas próximo a esse domínio e serem liberadas como proteínas solúveis. As NTPDases 4 e

7 estão localizadas totalmente no meio intracelular (Robson, Seigny et al. 2006). A descrição esquemática dessas enzimas pode ser observada na Figura 4.

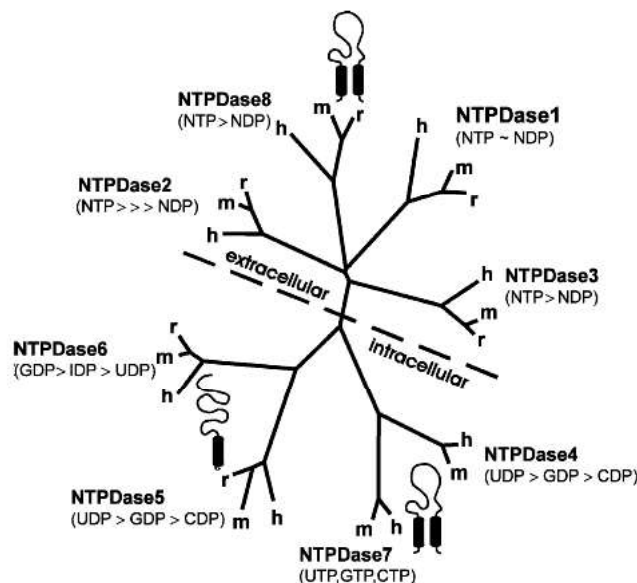


Figura 4. Árvore filogenética hipotética dos membros da família das Ecto-NTPDases, presentes em rato (r), humanos (h), e camundongos (m), segundo a sequência gênica de aminoácidos de cada uma. O comprimento da linha indica a diferença entre as sequências de aminoácidos. Ainda, o esquema diferencia as NTPDases localizadas na superfície celular e no meio intracelular. Por fim, ainda é demonstrada a preferência de substrato de cada uma das enzimas e se as mesmas apresentam um ou dois domínios transmembrana Retirado de (Robson, Seigny et al. 2006).

A CD73 é uma enzima ligada à membrana plasmática por uma âncora lipídica de glicosilfosfatidilinositol, com o sítio catalítico voltado para o meio extracelular sendo responsável pela degradação de AMP em seu respectivo nucleosídeo, representando a principal fonte enzimática de adenosina extracelular. Sua atividade hidrolítica é potencializada por cátions divalentes (magnésio) e inibida por ADP, ATP e pelo análogo pouco hidrolisável, 5'- α,β -metileno-difosfato (AOPCP) (Zimmermann 1992). Sendo assim, mecanismos de regulação da expressão protéica e da atividade catalítica dessa enzima, são cruciais para a manutenção do balanço entre ATP e AMP, regulando, consequentemente, os efeitos biológicos dessas moléculas sinalizadoras.

A cascata de ecto-nucleotidas iniciada pelas NTPDases pode ser terminada pela ação da CD73, com a hidrólise do nucleosídeo monofosfatado. Juntas, a CD73 e a adenosina desaminase (ADA), a qual é uma ectoenzima envolvida na rota de salvação das purinas,

convertem a adenosina em inosina, regulando a concentração plasmática de adenosina (Robson, Seigny et al. 2006).

1.2.2. NTPDase5 (CD39L4)

A NTPDase5, também conhecida como CD39L4 (*CD39 antigen-like 4*), é uma enzima solúvel, que apresenta preferência pelos nucleotídeos difosfatados e baixa afinidade para degradação dos nucleosídeos trifosfatados. Essa enzima, bem como as demais NTPDases, é glicosilada e possui a capacidade de formar dímeros de dissulfeto, no entanto foi demonstrado que nenhuma dessas características contribui significativamente na sua atividade ADP ou UDPásica, diferenciandoa das demais enzimas da família (Mulero et al., 2000). Ainda, a NTPDase5 difere do restante das NTPDases por ser o único membro descrito até o presente momento, como um proto-oncogene, também conhecido por PCPH (Paez, Recio et al. 2001).

Foi demonstrado que o proto-oncogene PCPH está conservado desde leveduras até os seres humanos, fato que dá indícios a respeito da sua importância no metabolismo nas células eucarióticas (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999). Esse proto-oncogene está localizado no cromossomo 12 de ratos e no cromossomo 14 de humanos, sendo ativado a oncogene por uma deleção pontual, a qual resulta na transdução de uma oncoproteína truncada, de tamanho 27 kDa (246 aminoácidos), e expõe uma cauda hidrofóbica C-terminal na sequência mutada. Tal proteína é consideravelmente menor do que a proteína de 47 kDa (469 aminoácidos), traduzida pelo gene não mutado (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999) (Figura 5).

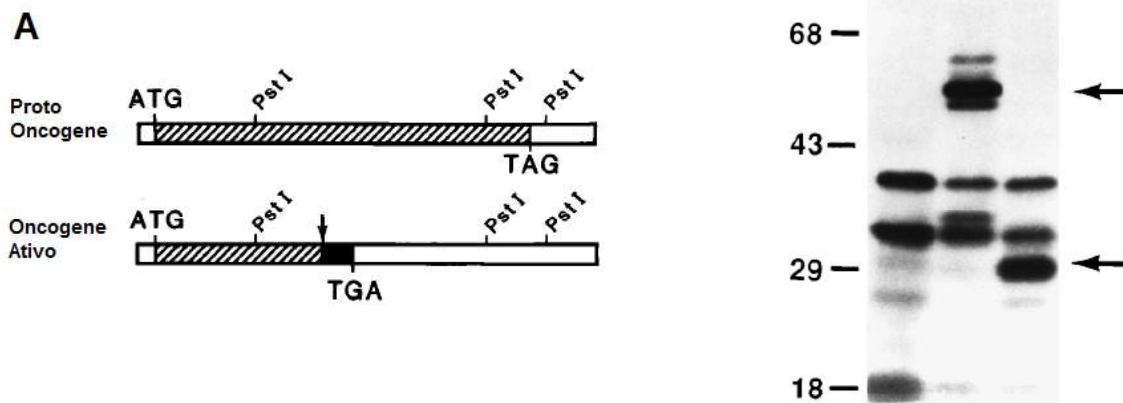


Figura 5. Estrutura do proto-oncogene PCPH normal e mutado. A) Após a deleção pontual e a perda de uma base "T" pelo proto-oncogene, o códon de terminação sofre uma translação "downstream" de 99 pares de base, causando uma mudança no quadro de leitura do gene; B) proteínas formadas pelo proto-oncogene (469 aminoácidos) e pelo oncogene ativo (246 aminoácidos), *Empty pBluescript SK + (pBS)* como controle. Adaptado de (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999).

Inicialmente foi identificada uma homologia parcial entre ambas as proteínas (proto-PCPH e PCPH ativo) e o grupo de proteínas CD39, as quais são componentes do sistema purinérgico. Mas não foi possível, em um primeiro momento, concluir se as proteínas do proto-oncogene e do oncogene ativo também possuíam atividade degradadora de nucleotídeos, tais quais as proteínas do grupo CD39 (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999). Páez et al., 2001, encontrou, então, um nível de identidade genética de 98%, entre o proto-oncogene PCPH e a ectonucleotidase NTPDase5. Também determinou que o PCPH, bem como a NTPDase5, possui capacidade de degradação de ATP e ADP (sendo mais específica na hidrólise de ADP), comprovando também a identidade funcional entre ambas (Paez, Recio et al. 2001).

Estudos iniciais verificaram que uma superexpressão do gene PCPH aumenta a resistência celular a diversos tipos de estresse, tais como privação nutricional, hipertermia ou radiação ionizante (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999). Ainda, o gene PCPH foi primeiramente caracterizado após a sua frequente detecção no processo de tumorigênese em células embrionárias de *hamsters* NIH3/T3, convertidas ao estado neoplásico, por indução com tratamento do carcinógeno 3-metilcolantreno (Velasco, Castro et al. 1994). Após a identificação

do PCPH com a enzima NTPDase5, os estudos subsequentes tiveram como base principal, a ideia de que a ação carcinogênica do PCPH/NTPDase5 poderia ocorrer através da modulação do equilíbrio celular de ATP, o qual pode interferir em funções celulares tais como ciclo celular, apoptose, proliferação e diferenciação (Paez, Recio et al. 2001).

1.3. Papel da NTPDase5/PCPH no Processo Neoplásico

A superexpressão da enzima NTPDase5 foi detectada em uma série de neoplasias, sendo as mudanças fenotípicas determinadas tanto pelo proto-oncogene, quanto pelo oncogene ativo, embora estas sejam mais evidentes na presença da oncoproteína mutada. As principais transformações associadas ao aumento na expressão da NTPDase5 são uma maior resistência celular ao estresse e uma diminuição dos níveis de ATP. Sendo o último consequência provável da ação da NTPDase5 em enzimas que possuem o ATP como substrato específico, acredita-se que o aumento da degradação desse nucleotídeo seja o responsável por ocasionar uma maior resistência da célula cancerígena ao tratamento com quimioterápicos (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999; Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001; Blaquez, Regadera et al. 2002; Villar, Arenas et al. 2007; Fang, Shen et al. 2010).

1.3.1. Perfis de Expressão da NTPDase5 em Neoplasias

A NTPDase5 está expressa em níveis alterados nos diferentes tipos de tecidos normais e neoplásicos. Os primeiros estudos a respeito desse assunto evidenciaram a presença da proteína mutada (mt-NTPDase5), de 27 kDa, em diversos tecidos saudáveis de origem epitelial. Já a expressão da proteína normal, de 47 kDa, foi demonstrada na maioria das células de linhagens tumorais estudadas, levantando a hipótese da relação dos níveis dessas proteínas com o fenótipo neoplásico (Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001). Ainda, níveis elevados da NTPDase5 normal foram identificados em tecidos saudáveis renais e hepáticos (Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002). Como o gene da NTPDase5 é conservado em mamíferos e apresenta expressões distintas nos diferentes tecidos, sugere-se que possa haver um mecanismo específico e preciso da regulação da expressão dessa proteína em cada tecido (Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001; Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002). Estudos mais específicos, referentes aos determinados tipos de cânceres, demonstraram perfis de expressões distintos dessa proteína em cada neoplasia, conforme revisado abaixo.

Tumores mamários malignos e benignos induzidos em ratos apresentam uma expressão aumentada da NTPDase5 normal e uma queda na expressão da mt-NTPDase5, quando comparados com a glândula mamária saudável, sendo mais evidente nos tumores malignos (Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002). Um perfil de expressão semelhante foi verificado na comparação de células de tecido normal e neoplásico da laringe. Nas células saudáveis de cultura primária da laringe, provenientes de espécimes cirúrgicas, foi verificado um nível maior de expressão da mt-NTPDase 5, enquanto que nas linhagens de carcinoma da laringe, UM-SSC-11A, UM-SCC-12, UM-SCC-23 e UM-SCC-81B, foi evidenciada uma perda na expressão dessa proteína e um aumento na expressão da NTPDase5 normal (Blanquez, Regadera et al. 2002).

As linhagens de tumor de células germinativas testiculares NCCIT e NT2/D1 também apresentaram níveis elevados de NTPDase5 e níveis muito baixos de mt-NTPDase5. No entanto, a maioria das amostras de tumores de células germinativas de 54 pacientes, apresentaram um aumento nos níveis de expressão da mt-NTPDase5, quando comparado com o tecido saudável adjacentes (Regadera, Blanquez et al. 2006).

Análises imunohistoquímicas identificaram também que nos casos de neoplasia da laringe e das células testiculares germinativas, a concentração de NTPDase5 é mais elevada nas áreas de diferenciação e transformação neoplásica, com baixa proliferação, do que nas áreas de proliferação celular. Isso leva a hipótese de que tal proteína atua mais nos processos iniciais do câncer, do que nos fenótipos neoplásicos já bem avançados, agressivos e malignos (Blanquez, Regadera et al. 2002; Regadera, Blanquez et al. 2006).

Amostras clínicas de câncer de próstata juntamente com análise das linhagens tumorais de próstata RwPe-1, LNCap, C4-2 e PC-3, demonstraram que a NTPDase5 não está expressa de forma significativa na próstata saudável, mas que a sua presença já é notada nos casos de hiperplasia benigna e que está mais expressa nas amostras neoplásicas. Embora na linhagem tumoral PC-3 a proteína não tenha sido detectada, na linhagem LNCap os níveis de expressão foram muito altos. Ainda, identificaram uma relação positiva entre o nível da NTPDase5, especialmente da mt-NTPDase5 e a capacidade invasiva do câncer de próstata. Essa capacidade, seria uma consequência associada mais a motilidade celular do que a proliferação (Villar, Arenas et al. 2007).

Quando identificado o perfil de expressão da NTPDase5 em amostras individuais de colón normal, adenoma de cólon e adenocarcinomas, no entanto, foi demonstrado que a

NTPDase5 apresenta níveis de expressão decrescente a medida que aumenta a malignidade da lesão (Mikula, Rubel et al. 2010).

Os estudos apontam que quando há um aumento da NTPDase5 e da mt-NTPDase5, o mesmo ocorre nos estágios ainda iniciais e benignos do processo de diferenciação tumoral, sugerindo que a desregulação dos níveis dessas proteínas está envolvido nos estágios iniciais do desenvolvimento neoplásico. Sendo assim, o uso da NTPDase5 poderia ser considerado como uma ferramenta de identificação precoce de células neoplásicas (Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002; Regadera, Blaquez et al. 2006; Villar, Arenas et al. 2007).

1.3.2. Mecanismos de Ação da NTPDase5 em Neoplasias

Sugere-se que a NTPDase5 e em especial a mt-NTPDase5, confirmam resistência a célula, quando submetidas a condições de estresse (Velasco et al., 1999). Tal resistência é conferida as células, em parte, devido a atividade difosfohidrolase dessa enzima, que ocasiona uma redução nos níveis intracelulares de ATP. Isso faz com que as proteínas cinases ativadas pelo estresse, fiquem sem o seu suprimento de fosfato necessário para sua atuação. Assim não ocorre a correta sinalização ao estresse e a consequente progressão das etapas iniciais da apoptose (Recio, Paez et al. 2002).

Um dos mecanismos sugeridos pelo qual pode ocorrer a proteção celular a apoptose, conferida pela NTPDase5, é através da inibição da proteína mTOR. Após a exposição celular a radiação ionizante, a mTOR desempenha um papel pró-apoptótico e essa função é antagonizada pela expressão da mt-NTPDase5 ou pela superexpressão da NTPDase5. Ambas possivelmente bloqueiam a fosforilação da mTOR e a translocação da mTOR fosforilada do citoplasma para o núcleo, impedindo a fosforilação da p53. A fosforilação da p53 induz a produção e liberação de certas proteínas ao citoplasma, as quais são mediadoras da liberação do citocromo c pela mitocôndria e pela consequente ativação da cadeia da caspase 9/3, indutora de apoptose (Tirado, Mateo-Lozano et al. 2003). Essa rota de sinalização é influenciada pela concentração intracelular de ATP e, por sua vez, o aumento da expressão da NTPDase5 e da mt-NTPDase5 bloqueia essa via, reduzindo os níveis de apoptose (Figura 6).

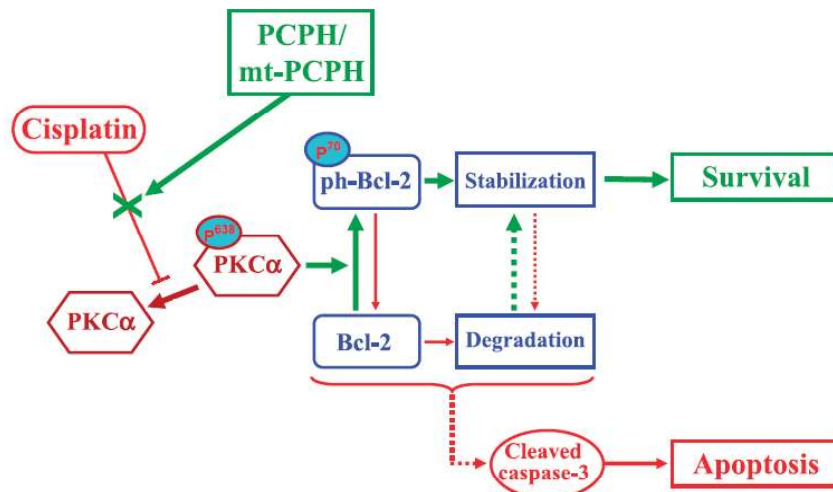


Figura 7. Modelo proposto para o mecanismo de promoção da resistência a apoptose induzida pela cisplatina. A NTPDase5/mt-NTPDase5 (PCPH/mt-PCPH) impede a ação da cisplatina de desfosforilação da PKCα e consequente degradação da Bcl-2 (rota vermelha). A PKCα fosforilada fosforila a Bcl-2 promovendo a sua estabilização e prevenindo a sua degradação por apoptose induzida pela cisplatina (rota verde). Retirado de (Villar, Quadri et al. 2009).

Adicionalmente, Fang e colaboradores demonstraram a participação da NTPDase5 como um link importante no *loop* de sinalização da via PI3K/PTEN, a qual promove a sobrevivência e o crescimento celular e que frequentemente está ativa nas células tumorais (Fang, Shen et al. 2010). Neste trabalho, os autores verificaram que em células com o gene PTEN silenciado havia um aumento de expressão da NTPDase5. Também mostraram que a sua superexpressão está correlacionada com a ativação da AKT, especialmente em células de linhagens de diferentes tipostumorais e em amostras de tumores primários. Essas células silenciadas apresentaram também uma atividade aumentada de degradação de ATP em AMP. Considerando-se que os substratos da NTPDase5 são as moléculas UDP e ADP, encontrou-se que a via de degradação de ATP ocorre na presença da enzima CMPK1, a qual retira um fosfato do ATP e fosforila uma molécula de UMP, gerando ADP e UDP, respectivamente (Figura 8).

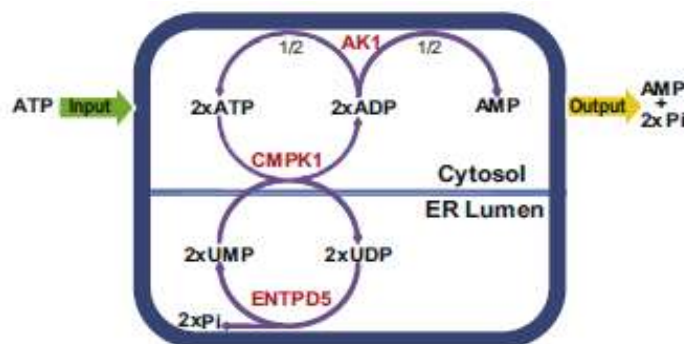


Figura 8. Via de degradação de ATP pela NTPDase5 ocorre na presença da enzima CMPK1 que retira um fosfato do ATP e fosforila uma molécula de UMP, gerando ADP e UDP, respectivamente Retirado de (Fang, Shen et al. 2010).

A NTPDase5, por ativar a AKT, desenvolve também um papel crítico no desencadeamento do efeito Warburg o qual é caracterizado por um aumento da glicólise anaeróbica, mesmo na presença de oxigênio, aumentando os níveis de lactato e a produção de macromoléculas importantes para a proliferação celular, promovendo a angiogênese e a metástase (Fang, Shen et al. 2010; Shen, Huang et al. 2011). Células com a via PI3K/AKT ativada possuem um nível mais elevado de tradução proteica, sobrecarregando o retículo endoplasmático e aumentando as chances de um empacotamento errado e de proteínas mal formadas. A NTPDase5 é uma proteína presente no retículo endoplasmático e a sua superexpressão aumenta a degradação de UDP a UMP promovendo a n-glicosilação e o empacotamento proteico. Assim há uma diminuição do estresse do retículo endoplasmático nas células tumorais com superexpressão dessa proteína (Fang, Shen et al. 2010; Shen, Huang et al. 2011). Tal mecanismo permite que os receptores de fatores de crescimento, como o EGFR, IGFR e HER-2, sejam corretamente expressos e empacotados, mantendo um nível elevado desses nas células tumorais. De fato, após o silenciamento da enzima NTPDase5, em células que possuem a AKT ativa, há o comprometimento da expressão e glicosilação desses receptores (Fang, Shen et al. 2010; Shen, Huang et al. 2011).

Tumores do sistema respiratório apresentam uma heterogeneidade quanto a ativação da AKT e inibição da PTEN, aqueles com essa via ativa, no entanto, são mais resistentes a tratamentos que envolvem restrição nutritiva (Curry et al., 2013). De fato, a supressão da NTPDase5 em células de carcinoma pulmonar resulta em uma diminuição da atividade da AKT, diminuição dos níveis do receptor de fator de crescimento IGF-IR e uma menor proliferação

celular em condições de restrição nutritiva, tornando essas células mais suscetíveis a tal tratamento (Curry, Mino-Kenudson et al. 2013).

A superexpressão da mt-NTPDase5 em carcinoma colo-retal também desencadeou um menor nível de ATP intracelular. Foi observado, ainda, que tal redução desempenha um papel central no aumento da resistência dessa neoplasia a quimioterápicos (MacCarthy and Notario 2013). No entanto, não foi identificada atividade ATPásica da mt-NTPDase5, sugerindo que a degradação de ATP ocasionada pela proteína mutada, possa ocorrer através da interação com outras proteínas e não por atividade NTPDásica propriamente dita. Tais achados podem redirecionar todas as pesquisas referentes a ação da mt-NTPDase5 nos processos neoplásicos e necessitam ser investigados mais profundamente (MacCarthy and Notario 2013).

1.3.3. NTPDase5 em Glioblastomas Multiformes

Amostras clínicas de glioblastomas multiformes apresentaram um nível de expressão de NTPDase5 mais elevado quando comparado com os tecidos normais adjacentes (Zadran, Amighi et al. 2012). Ainda, as amostras com maiores níveis de expressão dessa proteína estão associadas com taxas de sobrevida significativamente menores, quando comparadas com amostras de menor expressão de NTPDase5. Resultados similares são apresentados na Figura 9, a qual representa um gráfico de Kaplan-Meier gerado a partir de dados clínicos da base de dados Rembrandt do National Cancer Institute. Apesar do número de pacientes no grupo com baixa expressão do gene da NTPDase5 em GBM ser pequeno (10 casos), eles apresentam uma sobrevivência muito maior quando comparado com os pacientes com expressão média ou alta desse gene. Indicando que uma maior expressão de NTPDase5 possa estar relacionada com a agressividade tumoral (Rembrandt).

Quanto ao mecanismo de ação pelo qual essa proteína atua nesse tipo de câncer, além da sua comprovada participação na via PI3K/PTEN, a qual está hiperativa em aproximadamente 90% dos GBMs (Fang, Shen et al. 2010; Sami and Karsy 2013), a NTPDase5 é responsável por desempenhar um papel modulador na bioenergética dessa neoplasia, aumentando a eficiência catabólica da glicólise. Ainda, quando silenciada, ocasiona um aumento no influxo de ATP para o interior celular e provoca uma diminuição na oxidação de ácidos graxos e promove um aumento nos níveis de vacúolos autofágicos no citoplasma celular. (Zadran, Amighi et al. 2012).

Kaplan-Meier Survival Plot for Samples with Differential ENTPD5 Gene Expression

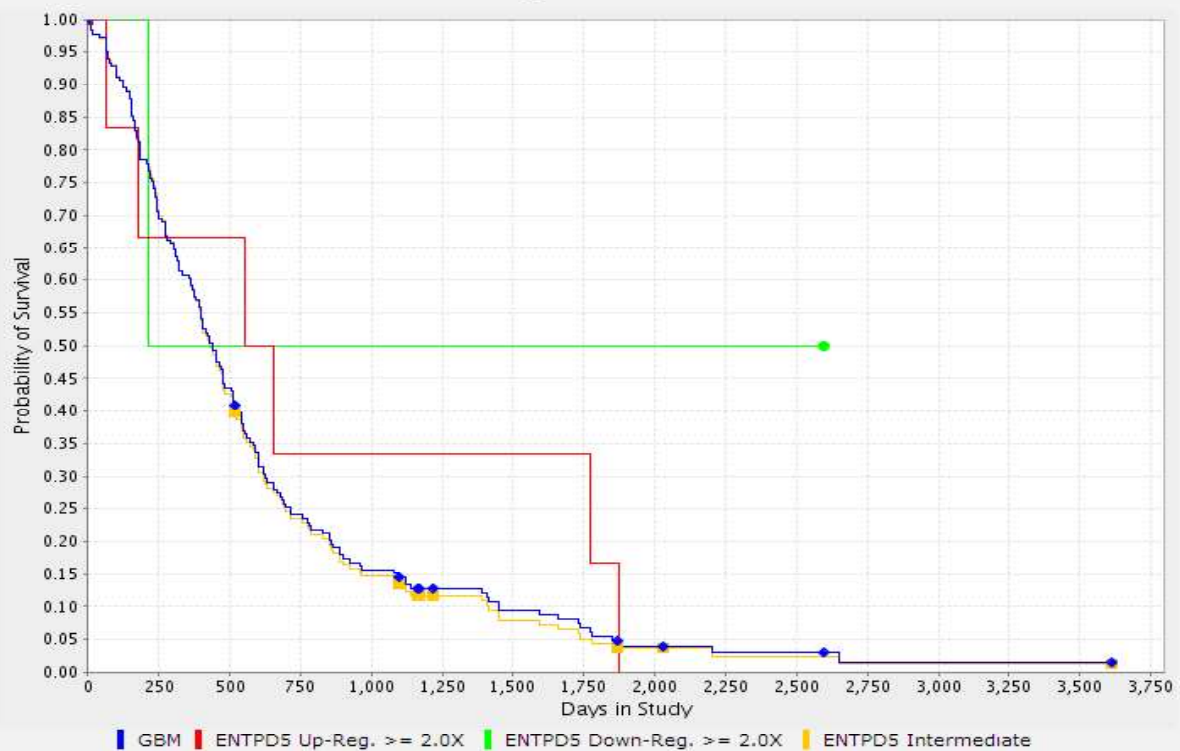


Figura 9. Curva de sobrevivência de pacientes de acordo com a expressão do gene da NTPDase5. (Retirado de <https://caintegrator.nci.nih.gov/rembrandt/>) (Rembrandt).

2. Objetivos

2.1. Objetivo geral

- Investigar a influência da superexpressão do proto-oncogene PCPH/NTPDase5 na resistência ao tratamento com temozolamida em linhagem de glioma C6.

2.2. Objetivos específicos

- Realizar uma revisão sistemática com o intuito de compilar os estudos realizados até o momento a respeito do papel da NTPDase5 nos diferentes processos neoplásicos;
- Avaliar a expressão endógena da NTPDase5 em linhagem de glioma de rato C6 em comparação com astrócitos.
- Avaliar o nível de expressão gênica e proteica da NTPDase5 nas células de glioma transfectadas com o plasmídeo contendo a sequência da NTPDase5, em comparação com as células de glioma C6 controle, transfectadas com o plasmídeo vazio.
- Avaliar a atividade migratória das células de glioma superexpressas com o gene NTPDase5 em comparação com células de glioma C6 controle.
- Avaliar a resistência dos gliomas ao tratamento com temozolamida em células superexpressas com o gene PCPH/NTPDase5, em comparação com células de glioma C6 controle.

Essa dissertação foi organizada em dois capítulos:

Capítulo I- apresenta um artigo de revisão sistemática, onde pesquisou-se o papel do PCPH/NTDPase 5 no desenvolvimento do câncer, bem como os mecanismos propostos para a sua atuação.

Capítulo II- artigo de dados, onde foi investigado se uma maior expressão do PCPH/NTDPase 5 poderia causar algum impacto, na atividade migratória e na resistência de células de glioma C6, mediante ao tratamento com temozolamida.

Capítulo I

Roles and mechanisms of NTPD5/PCHP in cancer progression: a systematic review.

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Review Article

NTPDase5/PCPH as a New Target in Highly Aggressive Tumors: A Systematic Review

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The protooncogene *PCPH* was recently identified as being the ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 5 (*ENTPD5*). This protooncogene is converted into an oncogene by a single base pair deletion, resulting in frame change and producing a premature stop codon, leading to a mutated protein (mt-PCPH) with only 27 kDa, which is much smaller than the original 47 kDa protein. Overexpression of the PCPH as well as the mutated PCPH increases the cellular resistance to stress and apoptosis. This is intriguing considering that the active form, that is, the oncogene, is the mutated PCPH. Several studies analyzed the expression of NTPDase5/mt-PCPH in a wide range of tumor cells and evaluated its role and mechanisms in cancer and other pathogenic processes. The main point of this review is to integrate the findings and proposed theories about the role played by NTPDase5/mt-PCPH in cancer progression, considering that these proteins have been suggested as potential early diagnostic tools and therapy targets.

1. Introduction

The ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 5 (NTPDase5; EC: 3.6.1.6), also known as CD39L4 (*CD39 antigen-like 4*) [1], is an enzyme that acts mostly on diphosphate nucleosides, rather than triphosphate nucleosides. It can be secreted from mammalian cells through an aminoterminal hydrophobic domain that encodes a signal peptide sequence [2]. The CD39L4 has three potential glycosylation sites and has the capacity to form disulfide dimers; however, none of these characteristics seem to significantly contribute to the ADPase or UDPase activity, which distinguishes the CD39L4 from the other proteins in this family [3]. The NTPDase5 also differs from the other members of E-NTPDase family, as it is the only one characterized as a protooncogene, also known as PCPH [4, 5].

The *PCPH* is a highly conserved gene from yeast to humans, suggesting basic roles in eukaryotic cells function [6]. It is located on chromosomes 12 and 14 in mice and humans, respectively, and it is transformed into an oncogene,

called *mt-PCPH*, through a single base pair depletion resulting in frame change and producing a premature stop codon, originating a protein with 246 amino acids (25 kDa) instead of the normal protein with 469 amino acids (47 kDa) [7].

In the first studies, it was not possible to conclude whether the PCPH had nucleotide degrading activity, since it shares the apyrase conserved regions [7]. In 2001, Páez and collaborators showed a degree of genetic similarity of 98% between the protooncogene *PCPH* and *ENTPD5* and also determined that PCPH and NTPDase5 were capable of degrading ADP and ATP (preferentially ADP) [4]. First, it was shown that extracts from stable mt-PCPH-transformed NIH3T3 cells presented GDPase activity, using in-gel activity (performed by native gel electrophoresis of the extracts and staining for inorganic phosphate) and standard GDPase assays [8]. Later, the same group, by a different experimental approach, demonstrated that NTPDase activity of mt-PCPH was undetectable *in vitro* or when tested *in situ* in living cells [9]. The authors stated that this discrepancy could be due to the production of recombinant mt-PCPH in non-human expression systems.

The *PCPH* gene was initially identified as a protooncogene, due to its frequent mutation in the 3-methylcholantrene-induced tumorigenesis process in a Syrian hamster fibroblast cell line [6]. Subsequent studies were mainly based on the hypothesis that the carcinogenic action of PCPH/NTPDase5 could modulate the cellular balance of ATP, potentially interfering with cellular functions such as cell cycle, apoptosis, autophagy, proliferation, and differentiation [5].

The major functional difference between the normal NTPDase5 and the mt-PCPH oncoprotein is that the former provides lower levels of protection against apoptotic agents, including chemotherapeutic drugs, and radiation than the latter. This role of mt-PCPH seems to be mediated by its ability to promote a Ras-independent sustained activation of the ERK pathway [7, 8, 10]. The different expression profiles of these proteins and consequent changes in the cellular resistance observed in the studies reviewed suggest that it may be involved in the survival, growth, or migratory activity of some kinds of tumors. Yet, it is not very clear how this protein, in fact, contributes to the development of the different types of neoplasias. In addition, it was observed that NTPDase5 KO mice presented an increase in cases of liver pathology and neoplasia [11], adding more doubts about how the level of its expression influences cancer development.

The aim of this work is to provide an overview, in a systematic review format, of the expression profile of the NTPDase5 and mt-PCPH in cancer cell lines and tumor samples, in comparison to healthy tissues, and describe the proposed mechanisms by which the mutated and WT proteins act in the neoplastic development.

2. Method

This review describes a “literature overview” about PCPH/NTPDase5 in all types of cancer.

2.1. Search Details. We performed an electronic search on January, 2014, for papers indexed in PubMed and Scopus database. The search strategy comprised only the medical subject heading (MeSH) term “ENTPD5 or NTPDase5.” For inclusion in this review, papers had to describe any relation of PCPH/NTPDase5 to cancer. No language restriction was applied. By this search strategy, 55 papers were identified. After reviewing their abstracts, 14 eligible papers were chosen and three citations retrieved from manual search were included, providing 17 papers that examined PCPH/NTPDase5 expression status in cancer (Figure 1).

Data were extracted from each original study about PCPH/NTPDase5 gene or protein expression in normal and pathological state as well as its isoform expression patterns in tissues and tumor cells.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Expression Profile of ENTPDase5. ENTPD5 is expressed at different levels in several types of normal and neoplastic

tissues suggesting a tissue-specific regulation [12, 13]. Interestingly, the first studies on this subject revealed the presence of 27 kDa PCPH immune-related polypeptide (believed to be the truncated, i.e., mutated, *PCPH* oncogene) in various cell extracts of healthy epithelial tissues and the expression of 47 kDa polypeptide (believed to be the full length *PCPH* gene), in most of the tumor cell lines studied, hypothesizing that there was a potential relationship between the levels of these proteins and the neoplastic phenotype [12]. However, high levels of the normal NTPDase5 have also been identified in healthy liver and kidney tissues [13]. It is important to mention that these studies were performed with an anti-PCPH polyclonal antiserum raised in rabbits with a purified bacterial recombinant PCPH [8, 12, 13]. Considering that the PCPH/NTPDase5 shares the conserved apyrase regions [1], it is possible that this antiserum also recognizes other members of the E-NTPDase family.

Thus, it is possible to conclude that the expression of ENTPD5/mt-PCPH in tumors studied so far is highly variable, as described in Tables 1 and 2.

Breast tumors induced in mice exhibited increased expression of the normal NTPDase5 and decreased expression of the mt-PCPH when compared with healthy mammary gland, and this difference was more evident in malignant tumors in comparison to benign tumors [13]. A similar expression profile was observed when comparing neoplastic cell lines of the larynx and healthy cells from a primary culture of the larynx. A higher mt-PCPH expression was observed in the healthy cells when compared with carcinoma cells lines: UM-SSC-11, UM-SCC-12, UM-SCC-23, and SCC-81B. Interestingly, a loss of this protein expression was associated with an increase in the expression of the normal NTPDase5 [19]. In human normal and neoplastic breast samples, however, the normal NTPDase5 appeared in all tested samples both benign and malignant. Expression of mt-PCPH correlated positively with the aggressiveness of the breast carcinoma and was not detected in the benign tumors [18].

Testicular germ tumor cell lines NCCIT and NT2/D1 also presented high levels of NTPDase5 and very low levels of mt-PCPH [17]. However, most clinical specimens of germ tumor cell of 54 patients showed an increase in expression of mt-PCPH when compared with healthy adjacent tissue [17]. Additionally, the expression of mt-PCPH is increased in the precursor lesions of germ tumor cell.

Immunohistochemical analysis also identified that, in cases of laryngeal cancer and testicular germ tumor cells, the concentration of NTPDase5 is higher in areas of differentiation and neoplastic transformation, with low proliferation, than in areas with high proliferation rates, raising the hypothesis that this protein acts more in the initial processes of cancer than in well-advanced, malignant neoplastic phenotypes [17, 19].

Studies with clinical specimens of prostate cancer and prostate tumor cell lines RWPE-1, LNCaP, C4-2, and PC-3 demonstrated that NTPDase5 is not significantly expressed in healthy prostate tissue but is present in cases of benign hyperplasia and is more pronouncedly expressed in tumor samples. Also, this protein was not detected in the tum

Table 1: NTPDase5 profile expression in tumor cell lines

Author; Year	Tumor Cell Line	Control Group	Methods	NTPDase5 expression	mt-PCPH expression
Zadran, 2012	Human brain tumor cell lines U87 and U87vIII*	Not described	WB	Expressed in U87 and at higher levels in U87vIII	Not described
Villar, 2007	Human prostate tumor cells line LNCaP, C42 and PC3	Nonneoplastic human prostatic epithelial cells (RWPE-1)	RT-PCR and WB	Not detected in RWPE-1 but it was highly detected in LNCaP, and in both C42 PC3 was expressed at lower levels	Not described
Regadera; 2005	Testicular germ cell tumors NCCIT (mutant Tp53) and NT2/D1 (wild-type Tp53)	Not described	WB	Both cell lines expressed several NTPDase5-immunorelated polypeptides (ranged 20-90 KDa)	Low molecular-size polypeptides were less abundant in NT2/D1 than NCCIT cells
Blázquez, 2004	Human benign and malignant neoplastic breast samples	Normal human breast tissue samples	WB	Both normal tissue, benign and malignant breast tumors samples showed the expression of the NTPDase 5 protein	Only the more aggressive breast tumor samples expressed the mt-PCPH
Blázquez; 2002	Cell lines cultured from explants of laryngeal tumors (SCC) at stages II, III and IV	Primary laryngeal epithelial cells (LECs) from the normal margin of surgical specimens	WB	Expression related directly to the evolution of the three grades of laryngeal dysplasia, characterized by increments of cell proliferation in parallel with changes in epithelial differentiation	LECs expressed more mt-PCPH than normal NTPDase5 and SCCs presented a loss in the mt-NTPDase5
Rouzzati; 2001	20 mammary tumor derived cell lines	Not described	WB	Detectable in 8 of the 20 cells lines	The mt-PCPH, after prolonged exposures, was detectable in all but two cell lines
Rouzzati; 2001	18 tumor cell lines derived from the central or peripheral nervous system	Not described	WB	Absent in 13 cell lines and barely detectable in 4 cell lines	Expressed in 13 cell lines
Rouzzati; 2001	6 colon tumor cell lines	Not described	WB	Expressed highly in all six cell lines	Expressed in 4 cell lines
Rouzzati; 2001	5 lung tumor cell lines	Not described	WB	Detectable at low levels in all five cell lines	Detectable at low levels in 4 cell lines
Rouzzati; 2001	1 pancreas tumor cell line	Not described	WB	Highly expressed	Detectable at low levels

Table 2: NTPDase5/mt-PCPH profile expression in clinical samples

Author; Ano	Tissue study	Methods	Sampling size	Control group	NTPDase5 expression	mt-PCPH expression
Zandran; 2012	Primary gliomablastoma multiforme (GBM)	Tissue microarrays, IHC and WB	140 patients	Adjacent normal brain	Elevated levels were observed in GBM cores when compared to adjacent normal tissues	Not described
Mikula; 2010	Adenocarcinomas and colonic adenomas	Mass spectrometry and qRT-PCR	5 adenocarcinoma; 12 colonic adenoma; 4 normal mucosa	Normal mucosa	Continuously down regulated in a progression from normal mucosa to adenocarcinoma	Not described
Villar; 2007	Prostate normal, hyperplastic and tumor cells	IHC	63 patients	Normal human prostate	Not detected in normal prostate, slightly in HPB and elevated in PIN and prostate carcinoma (samples with a Gleason score less than 7 present lower levels)	Not described
Regardera; 2006	Testicular tumors	IHC	54 patients	Normal testicular tissue	Increased expression in testicular tumors relative to normal tissue; present in well- differentiated squamous epithelia and lost in dedifferentiated squamous cells	Not described
Blázquez; 2002	Laryngeal mild, moderate, and severe stages dysplastic lesions	IHC	59 patients	Normal laryngeal mucosa	Expressed at lower levels in severe than in mild dysplastic cases and at much lower levels than in the normal tissue	Not described
Blázquez; 2004	Human breast tumors	IHC and WB	54 patients	Normal human breast samples	Undetectable in normal and benign samples and increase in carcinoma in situ and more strongly in invasive ductal and lobular carcinoma	Absence in benign human breast and low molecular weight polypeptides in ductal and lobular carcinoma
Solanas; 2002	Rat mammary benign and malignant tumors induced	IHC and WB	35 malignant tumors; 19 benign tumors	Normal rat mammary gland	Tumor samples showed higher levels and was more expressed in the malignant tumors	Tumor samples showed decrease in the mt- NTPDase 5 expression when compared with the normal tissue

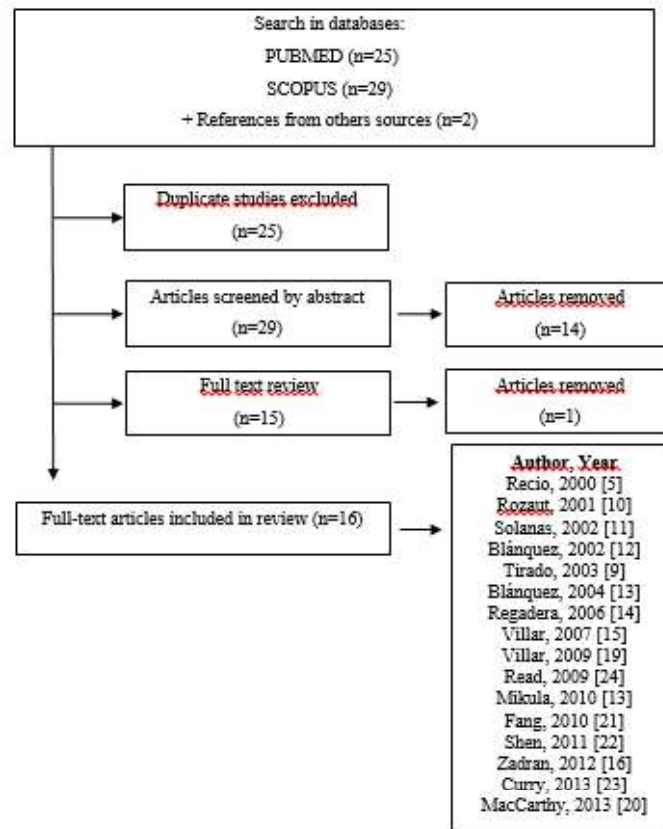


Figure 1: Methodological flow chart of the search strategy in PubMed and Scopus databases

cell line PC-3 but was expressed in LNCaP cell line. In addition, a positive relationship between the level of NTPDase5 expression, and especially mt-PCPH expression, and the invasiveness of prostate cancer was found, thus associating the expression of the NTPDase5 more with cancer motility than with its proliferation [16].

Clinical samples of glioblastoma multiforme (GBMs) showed a higher level of NTPDase5 expression when compared to adjacent normal tissues [15]. In addition, the samples with higher expression levels of this protein were associated with significantly lower survival rates when compared to samples with lower NTPDase5 expression. However, the *NTPDase5* expression profile in individual samples of normal colon, adenomas, and colon adenocarcinomas presented that the *ENTPD5* gene expression decreased with the increase of lesion malignancy [20].

When an increase in either the NTPDase5 or the mt-PCPH expression was present, this was observed as early as nonneoplastic lesions, suggesting that the deregulation of these proteins is involved in the initial stages of neoplastic development. Thus, it is possible to consider the use of the NTPDase5 as a tool for early identification of various neoplastic cells [13, 16, 17].

Recently, cervical human cancer cells SiHa (HPV 16-positive), HeLa (HPV 18-positive), and C33A (HPV-negative) were shown to present different levels of *ENTPD5* gene expression, and the highest expression observed in SiHa cells suggests a link between *ENTPD5* and oncogenic viral proteins in cervical cancer development [14].

3.2. How NTPDase5 Acts in Cancer Progression. The neoplastic transforming activity is the role of the mt-PCPH that represents the major functional difference between the normal protooncogene and mutated active oncogene. It is supposed that this activity is due to the ability of this protein to cause a Ras-independent sustained activation of ERK1 [8].

Although the normal NTPDase5 lacks the transforming ability, it is suggested that the NTPDase5 and especially the mt-PCPH confer resistance to cells subjected to stress conditions [7]. Such resistance is conferred in part by the diphosphohydrolase activity of this enzyme, which causes a reduction in the intracellular ATP and inactivation of the stress-activated protein kinases, which is reversed by returning the intracellular ATP to physiological levels [21].

One of the cell protection mechanisms against apoptosis afforded by NTPDase5 is through inhibition of mTOR.

After cellular exposure to ionizing radiation, mTOR plays a proapoptotic role and this role is antagonized by the expression of mt-PCPH protein or by the overexpression of the normal protein NTPDase5. They are responsible for blocking the activation of mTOR and its translocation from the cytoplasm to the nucleus, preventing the phosphorylation of p53 at Ser¹⁸. Phosphorylation of p53 mediates the release of cytochrome c by mitochondria and the subsequent activation of caspase 9/3, inducing the apoptosis [8]. This signaling pathway is influenced by intracellular ATP concentrations, and an increase in the expression of NTPDase5 and mt-PCPH blocks this pathway and reduces the levels of apoptosis (Figure 2).

It was also observed that the overexpression of the NTPDase5 protein and more significantly the mt-PCPH actually decreases the intracellular concentration of ATP and confers resistance not only to stress-induced apoptosis but also to those induced by chemotherapy. The overexpression of these enzymes increased resistance of prostate tumor cells when in contact with cisplatin and of colorectal carcinoma cells when in contact with oxaliplatin [9, 22].

The proposed mechanism by which NTPDase5/mt-PCPH increases the neoplastic cell resistance to cisplatin is due to the ability of this protein to prevent the dephosphorylation of the kinase PKC α induced by chemotherapy. By keeping the PKC α phosphorylated at Thr638, this protein phosphorylates and stabilizes the antiapoptotic protein Bcl-2 at Ser⁷⁰, making this enzyme resistant to cisplatin-induced proteasome degradation pathway, as suggested by Villar et al. [22]. Furthermore, it was observed that NTPDase5 interacts functionally with not only the PKC α but also the PKC δ protein, which was recognized as a key mediator in the NTPDase5 functions related to changes in the cell growth and invasive activity of the pancreatic tumor cells (Figure 2) [22].

Fang et al. [23] have demonstrated the involvement of the NTPDase5 also as an important link in the PI3K/PTEN loop-signaling pathway, which promotes cell growth and survival and is frequently found active in tumor cells. In this work, the authors found that PTEN knockout cells had increased expression of NTPDase5, and its overexpression is correlated with the activation of AKT, especially in cell lines of various tumor types and in primary tumor samples (Figure 2). These knockout cells also showed an increased degradation of ATP to AMP; however, as the substrates of NTPDase5 are UDP and ADP, it was found that the ATP degradation pathway occurs in the presence of the enzyme CMPK1, which removes a phosphate of ATP to phosphorylate an UMP molecule, generating UDP and ADP, respectively.

NTPDase5, by activating AKT, also plays a critical role in triggering the Warburg effect, leading to an increase in anaerobic glycolysis even in the presence of oxygen, increasing the levels of lactate and production of important macromolecules for cell proliferation, promoting angiogenesis and metastasis [23, 24]. Cells with activated PI3K/AKT pathway have a higher level of protein translation, which causes an overloading in the endoplasmic reticulum and increases the chances of a deficient folding process and

consequent malformed proteins. The NTPDase5 is a protein present in the endoplasmic reticulum, and overexpression of this enzyme increases the degradation of UDP to UMP promoting protein N-glycosylation and folding, reducing the stress in the tumor cells endoplasmic reticulum [23, 24]. This mechanism allows growth factor receptors such as EGFR, IGFR, and HER-2 to be expressed and properly folded, maintaining high levels of these receptors in tumor cells. In fact, *NTPDase5* knockout in cells possessing active AKT impairs the expression and glycosylation of these receptors [23, 24].

In addition to participating in the PI3K/PTEN signaling pathway, which is overactive in approximately 90% of GBMs, NTPDase5 also plays an important role in the development of this cancer. This protein plays a modulatory role in the bioenergetics of this malignancy, increasing the catabolic efficiency of the aerobic glycolysis. In addition, when *NTPDase5* is suppressed, it causes a decrease in fatty acid oxidation and promotes an increase in the ATP influx and of the autophagic vacuoles in the cytoplasm [15].

Tumors of the respiratory system have a heterogeneity in what concerns the activation of Akt and PTEN inhibition. Those with this signaling pathway being active, however, are more resistant to treatments that involve starvation [25]. Indeed, suppression of the *NTPDase5* in lung carcinoma cells results in a decrease in Akt activity, decreased levels of IGF-IR growth factor receptor, and reduced cell proliferation under conditions of starvation, making these cells more susceptible to this type of treatment [25].

Finally, overexpression of *mt-PCPH* in colorectal carcinoma caused an increase in chemotherapy resistance [9]. The authors showed that a crucial event for this observation was a decrease in the intracellular levels of ATP [9]. However, no ATPase activity was observed in the mt-PCPH protein, probably due to a loss of conserved catalytic determinant regions in the truncated form, which may affect its tertiary structure and then the enzymatic function. This suggests that ATP degradation caused by the mutated protein may occur through interaction with other proteins and not through its NTPDase activity *per se*. Such findings can redirect all research involving the action of mt-PCPH in neoplastic processes and need to be further investigated [9].

4. Conclusions

In most of the types of cancers studied, the NTPDase5/mt-PCPH shows a change in its expression levels even in precursors of the malignant and benign lesions, which makes this protein a potential tool for early diagnosis of tumorigenesis. This enzyme has also been identified as a key element in a number of pathways known to be frequently activated in neoplastic processes and which give tumor cells a survival advantage when compared to healthy cells. In most cases, the participation of the NTPDase5/mt-PCPH occurs with a change in the intracellular ATP concentration and with participation of this enzyme in the phosphorylation and activation processes of proteins with antiapoptotic activity, conferring to the tumor cells resistance against apoptosis by stress or by chemotherapy treatments. The two main

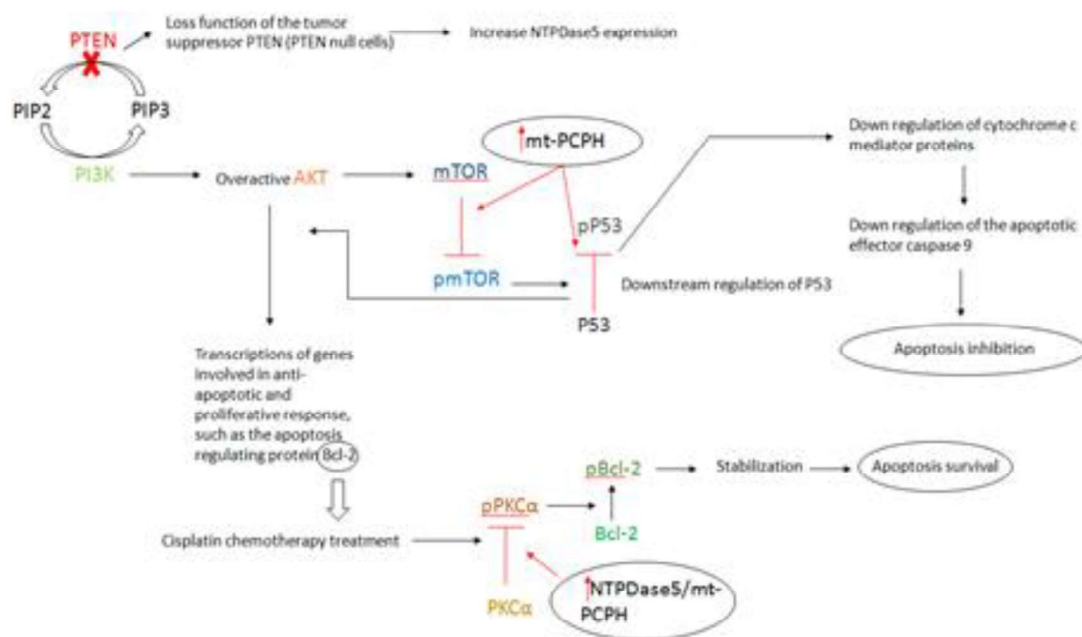


Figure 2: Integration of the proposed pathways by which the NTPDase5/mt-PCPH acts on the neoplastic progression. Due to the lack of information about the role of these proteins in cancer development and progression, this scheme presents all data published so far, not taking into consideration in which cell the proposed mechanisms were studied although it is possible that some of the contradictions presented may be a direct consequence of this fact. The figure demonstrates how the loss of the tumor suppressor PTEN possibly causes an increase in NTPDase5 expression and an overactive PI3K/AKT pathway. AKT and mTOR regulate cell growth and survival, such as Bcl-2 gene leading to an increase in apoptotic resistance. Furthermore it is also suggested that the NTPDase5 interacts with PKC α , upregulating its levels and inducing cancer cell invasiveness. p53, pPKC α , and pBcl-2 are the phosphorylated forms of the respective proteins and correspond to the phosphorylation of p53 at Ser¹⁸, pPKC at Thr⁶³⁸, and Bcl-2 at Ser⁷⁰.

pathways related to the NTPDase5/mt-PCPH activity are the mTOR and the PI3K/PTEN signaling pathways, which are directly related, since the inhibition of PTEN results in a PI3K and consequent AKT overactivation, which in turn regulates the growth of tumor cells by different signaling pathways, one being its effect on mTOR (Figure 2).

This review included all the data published so far regarding the role of the proteins NTPDase5/mt-PCPH in cancer development and progression. Due to the scarcity of studies with NTPDase5/mt-PCPH, it is difficult to establish tissue- or cell-type-specific functions. However, it seems relatively well established that *ENTPD5* and mainly *mt-PCPH* expression are related with tumorigenic transformation. The findings presented in the studies reviewed raise the idea of using NTPDase5 as a possible target for cancer treatment.

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interests regarding the publication of this paper.

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Capítulo II

The influence of overexpression of the proto-oncogene NTDPase 5/PCPH on the *in vitro* treatment of glioma C6 cell line with temozolomide

Manuscrito em fase de preparação.

Capítulo II

The influence of overexpression of the proto-oncogene NTPDase 5/PCPH on the *in vitro* treatment of glioma C6 cell line with temozolomide

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Abstract

Glioblastomas are the main tumors of the central nervous system and in most cases, due to its high migratory and invasive activity, it is not possible the surgical removal of all neoplastic tissue. For this reason, sections of radio and chemotherapy with Temozolomide, usually follow the surgical treatment. The PCPH gene was identified as having the same identity of the Ectonucleoside triphosphate diphosphohydrolase 5 (NTPDase5). In addition, in recent studies, this gene was also defined as a proto-oncogene that has 47-kDa. It is converted in the active oncogene, by a single base pair deletion, resulting in the transduction of a 27-kDa mutated protein. Transfections assays demonstrated that the overexpression of the PCPH increase the cellular resistance to apoptosis, caused by stress and by chemotherapy treatment, especially when it is present in the active form. Then, we raised the hypothesis that the NTPDase5 could influence the resistance of the glioblastoma cells against chemotherapy treatment. Thus the main point of this study was to perform transfections assays to study the influence of the overexpression of this gene in the glioma C6 cell line, migratory activity and on the *in vitro* treatment of those cells with temozolomide. Our data suggests that the overexpression of the NTPDase5 in C6 cells confers an increase in the migratory activity of this cells and in the resistance against low concentration temozolomide treatment, highlighting this enzyme as a potential target in novel therapeutic approaches against this type of neoplasia.

Keywords: NTPDase5; oncogene; PCPH; purinergic, GBM, glioblastoma;

Introduction

Glioblastomas are the most common brain tumors, characterized by its high invasive power and recurrence, with patients presenting a median survival that does not exceed 15 months, despite multiple treatments (Demuth and Berens 2004). The progression of these tumors it is a combination of a variety of factors, such as apoptosis blocking, angiogenesis, and development of ability to invade normal tissues (Holland, Celestino et al. 2000). The neoplastic cells are able to cross small extracellular spaces in the brain, making even more difficult to treat the gliomas with total effective surgical resection (Lefranc, Rynkowski et al. 2009). For this reason, sections of radio and chemotherapy with Temozolomide, usually follow the surgical treatment. Temozolomide belongs to a class of alkylating agents and has a remarkable antitumor activity in patients with malignant gliomas and melanomas (Gunther, Pawlak et al. 2003).

The PCPH gene was identified as a proto-oncogene, due to its frequent detection as an active oncogene in the tumorigenesis process on fibroblast cell lines of *Syrian hamsters*, converted to the neoplastic state, by treatment with 3-methylcholantrene. The carcinogen exposure caused the oncogenic activation of the PCPH gene, by inducing a single base-pair deletion within its coding sequences, which resulted in a shift of the normal open reading frame. The mutated open reading frame encode a truncated oncoprotein (mt-PCPH), which encompass the first 213 N-terminal amino acids of the normal PCPH protein and add an additional hydrophobic C-terminal tail of 33 amino acids, not present in the normal protein. The normal protein has 47 kDa, while the protein from the activated gene has 27 kDa (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999). Sequential analyses in the PCPH gene lead to the identification as the same gene known as the ADP/UDP degrading protein NTPDase5. This intracellular enzyme has a transmembrane domain, that when cleaved, allows it to go to the extracellular medium as a soluble protein (Robson, Sevigny et al. 2006).

The NTPDase5 plays an important role in the development of glioblastoma multiforme (GBM). Clinical specimens of GMB showed a higher expression of NTPDase5 when compared with normal adjacent tissues. In addition, samples with higher expression of this protein are associated with significantly lower survival rates compared to samples with lower expression (Zadran, Amighi et al. 2012). Deregulation of the PCPH/NTPDase5 expression was detected in a number of different neoplastic cells. When it was overexpressed, the major changes observed were an increase in cell resistance to stress and a decrease in intracellular ATP levels. The latter is pointed as responsible for causing a higher resistance of cancer cells to chemotherapy treatment. Both, the NTPDase5 and mt-NTPDase5 determine these changes, although they are more evident in the presence of the mutated protein (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999; Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001; Blaquez, Arenas et al. 2004; Villar, Arenas et al. 2007; Fang, Shen et al. 2010).

Considering the importance of PCPH in the gliomas pathology, we overexpressed the NTPDase5 in C6 glioma cells to verify its influence in the migratory capacity of this tumor cells as well as in their resistance against treatment with temozolomide.

Materials and Methods

Cell Culture

The rat primary astrocytes (kindly obtained from Cell Signaling Laboratory – UFRGS) were cultivated as previous described (Wink, Lenz et al. 2003; Wink, Braganhol et al. 2006), using high glucose DMEM with 10% fetal bovine serum. The glioma cell lines C6 (obtained from the Biochemistry Department – UFRGS) were cultivated with low glucose DMEM with 10% fetal bovine serum.

Transient transfection of the NTPDase5 in glioma cell lines

This technique was performed as previously described (Mulero, Yeung et al. 2000, Wink, Braganhol et al. 2006). The plasmid containing the NTPDase5 sequence used to transfect the glioma cell line was a gift from Dr. Mulero (Mulero, Yeung et al. 1999) (Mulero et al., 1999). The cells used as control were transfected with the same amount of the empty vector pcDNA3. Both transfections occurred in the presence of the Fugene[®] 6 transfection reagent, obtained from Promega (L.L.C., USA), according to manufacturer instructions. Twenty-four hours after the transfection assay, the cells were selected using 800 µg/mL of G418 dissulfate salt selective antibiotic (Sigma Chemical Co. St. Louis, M.O., USA) during five consecutive days.

Quantitative Real Time PCR

Total RNA and cDNA from rat astrocytes and C6 gliomas were generated as described before (Wink, 2006) SYBR Green I-based real-time PCR was carried out on StepOne[™] (Applied Biosystems) using a Fast SYBR[®] Green MasterMix (Applied Biosystems). After an initial denaturing step for 1 min at 95 °C, conditions for cycling were 35 cycles of 1 minute at 94 °C 1 minute at 60° annealing temperature and 1 min at 72 °C. The fluorescence signal was measured right after incubation for 5 s at 79 °C following the extension step, which eliminates possible primer dimer detection. At the end of the PCR cycles, a melting curve was generated to identify specificity of the PCR product. Also, for normalization of each sample, β-actin primers were used to measure the amount of β-actin cDNA. All samples were run in triplicate and the data were presented as ratio of enzymes/ β-actin. The primers used were:

PCPH/ENTPDase5 sense 5'-GGGATCCTTTGAGATGTTTAACAGCACT/
antisense 5'-GAATTCCTGGTTACCACCATACTGGTA;

β-actin: sense 5'-CCACCCACCTCAGATAGAA/ antisense
5' TGTGAGCCAGGATGTAGAA;

The β -actin was used as reference gene.

Western blotting

Cells were lysed using RIPA buffer containing 20 mM (pH 8.0) Tris-HCl, 150 mM NaCl, 5 mM EDTA, 10% glycerol, 0.025% TritonX-100 plus 1 μ g/ml aprotinin, 1 μ g/ml leupeptin, and 0.1mM phenylmethylsulfonyl fluoride (PMSF). Samples were centrifuged for 10 min at 12,000 $\times$ g, and total proteins were quantified with using the Bradford method (Bradford 1976). Aliquots samples were denatured in Laemmli sample buffer (2% SDS, 10% glycerol, 60 mM Tris-Cl [pH 6.8] and 0.01% bromophenol blue) for 3 min at 95°C. . SDS–polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE) was performed loading a total of 60 g of protein on a 12% polyacrylamide gel (50 μ l/well) with a standard molecular weight marker (Spectra™ Multicolor Broad, Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc, Rockford, IL, USA) followed by transfer to PVDF membrane by semi-dry electroblotting (Bio-Rad Trans-Blot® SD, Hercules, CA, USA). The primary antibody was NTPDase5 anti-rabbit (diluted 1:500) at 4 °C overnight and visualized using horseradish peroxidase-conjugated goat anti-rabbit IgG (diluted 1:7500). The antibody used was generated by immunization of rabbits with synthetic peptides corresponding to amino acids 109–122 (EVAKDSIPRSHWKK) (Mulero, Yeung et al. 2000). Anti-mouse β -tubulin (diluted 1:1000) was used to verify equivalent protein loading normalization.

Scratch Assay

C6 gliomas were cultured in 6-well plates and transfected as described above. . After the selection, cells were trypsinized and seeded in 12-well plates at 5 $\times$ 10⁴ cells/well. After 24 hours, the monolayers were scratched using a fine micropipette tip. The monolayer was washed with PBS followed by fresh serum-free medium addition and the images were taken immediately (0h) and after 4, 8, 12 and 24 h. The scratched areas were measured using the software ImageJ®. The healing was plotted versus time after scratch.

Cell viability assay of glioma C6 treated with Temozolomide.

Cell viability was quantified by the 3-(4,5-dimethylthiazol-2-yl)-2,5-diphenyltetrazolium bromide (MTT) method. Cells were transfected and selected on 6-well plates. After that, the monolayer was trypsinized and 10^4 cells/well were seeded in 96-well plates. After 24 hours, cells were treated with temozolomide (TEMODAL® product monograph, Merck Canada Inc.), (Kindly obtained from Centro de Pesquisa em Oncologia – Hospital Mãe de Deus), diluted in DMEM 10% in a concentrations of 50 μ M, 100 μ M, 500 μ M and 1000 μ M. The TMZ treatment was performed for 5 consecutive days, and the cells were collected daily to conduct the MTT assay. After addition of 100 μ l of MTT tetrazolium salt (Sigma Chemical Co. St. Louis, M.O., USA) solution to each well, the plates were incubated in a CO₂ incubator for 3 and a half hours. The absorbance of each well was measured using a SpectraMax® PLUS Microplate Spectrophotometer (Molecular devices, US) plate reader with a wavelength of 570 nm.

Data Analysis

The data from the quantitative real time PCR assay was analyzed using the delta delta ct algorithm (Livak and Schmittgen 2001). The scratch assays were analyzed with the use of the ImageJ software. For the scratch and MTT viability assays, the level of significance was determined by an unpaired two-tailed Student's *t* test (GraphPad InStat3 software). All quantitative data are presented as mean $\pm$ standard error of the mean and the significance was ascertained with a 95% confidence ($p < 0.05$).

Results

Glioma cells present a gain of the NTPDase5 and loss of the mt-NTPDase

The basal levels of mRNA and protein of NTPDase5 were compared in astrocytes and glioma C6 cell line at normal condition, by the PCR and Western blotting techniques, respectively. The results demonstrated that while in the astrocytes the normal NTPDase5, with 47 kDa, is barely detected, C6 cells presented a higher level of this proto-oncogene (Figure 1A and 1B). The gain of the NTPDase5 reveals a phenomenon that has already been described in other types of cancers (Blanquez, Regadera et al. 2002; Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002; Regadera, Blanquez et al. 2006).

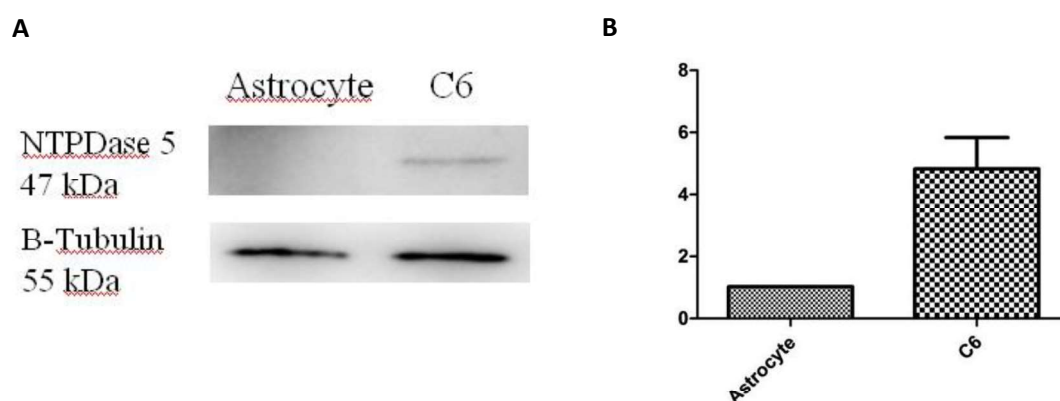


Figure 1. Expression profile of NTPDase5 in astrocytes and C6 glioma cells. A) Western blot image comparing the NTPDase5/mt-NTPDase5 expression in C6 glioma cells and in astrocytes. The image describes the higher expression of the normal NTPDase5 protein in glioma cells and the higher expression of the mutated protein mt-NTPDase5 in astrocytes. B) Real time assay describing the difference between the gene expression of the NTPDase5 in C6 glioma cells and astrocytes. The real time PCR was performed three times and the ddCT mean was 4,82 with and standard error of 1,02.

Overexpression of NTPDase5 in glioma C6 cells

The overexpression of NTPDase5 in glioma C6 was efficient at protein and mRNA levels, as shown in immunoblot image (**Figure 2A**) and by real-time PCR (**Figure 2B**).

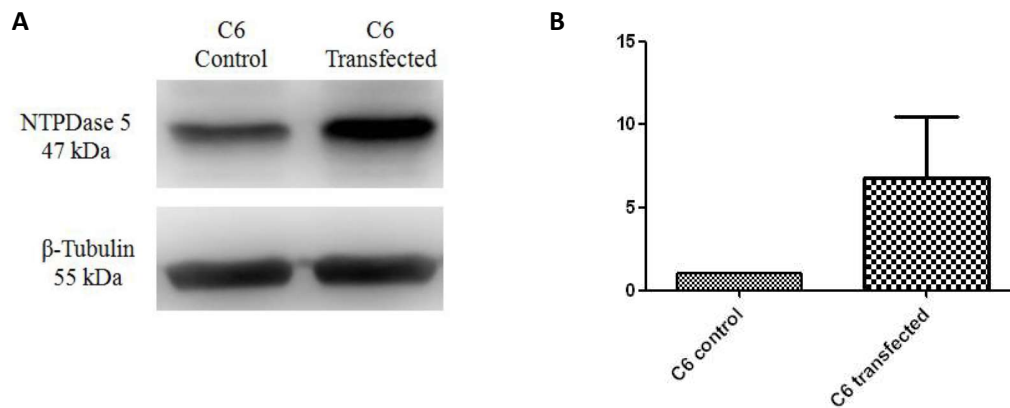


Figure 2. A) Representative immunoblot image showing the comparison of expression between C6 glioma cells transfected with NTPDase5 plasmid or C6 transfected with empty vector (control). B) Quantification of NTPDase5 mRNA expression between C6 glioma cells transfected with NTPDase5 and C6 transfected with empty vector (control). The experiment was performed three times and the ddCT mean was 6,79 with a standard error of 3,07, describing the efficiency of the NTPDase5 plasmid used.

The overexpression of NTPDase5 enhances migration ability of glioma C6 cells

Used to compare the cell migratory activity between glioma C6 transfected with NTPDase5 and their controls, the scratch wound assay demonstrated that the overexpression of the NTPDase5 granted an increase in the migratory capacity of these neoplastic cells. There was a significant statistic difference in all four times (4hrs, 8hrs, 12hrs and 24hrs) observed, when comparing the closure of wounds in transfected C6 with the control cells (**Figure 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7**). Although the difference was not highly expressive it was consistent in all experiments performed, maintaining a low standard deviation and sustaining the statistical significance.

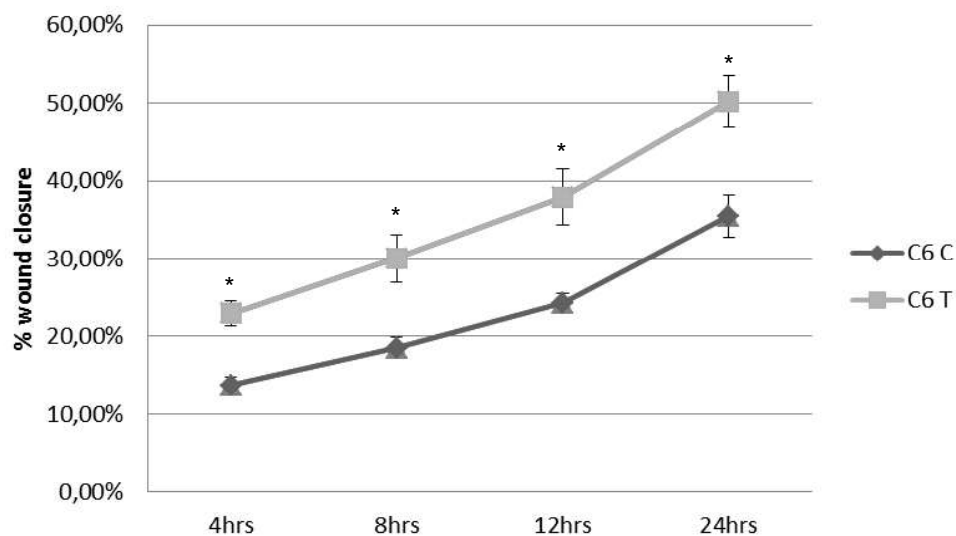


Figure 3. Scratch assay comparing the migratory activity of the transfected C6 glioma cells with the NTPDase5 plasmid and its control. The comparison was made at 4hrs, 8hrs, 12 hrs and 24 hrs after the wounds were opened. This image presents data of the mean of two different assays. In all four times was observed a statistic difference ($p = 0.0292$, $p = 0.0262$, $p = 0.0247$ and $p = 0.0301$, respectively) with the cells overexpressing NTPDase5 presenting an increase migration in all times

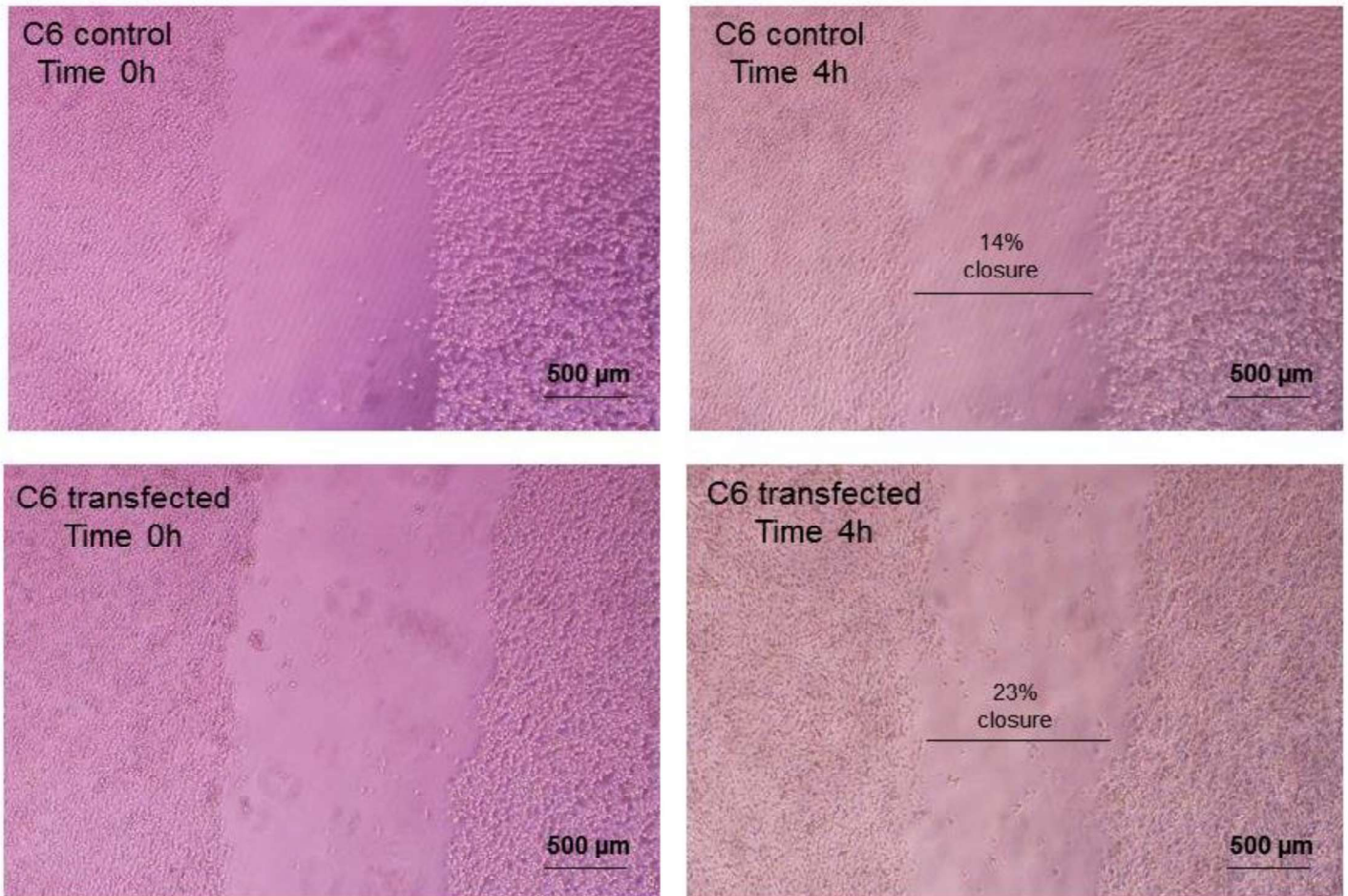


Figure 4. Images from the scratch assay presenting the difference observed in the migratory activity between the transfected C6 glioma cells and its control. The overexpressed NTPDase5 C6 glioma cells show a 23% wound closure, while the control C6 cells show only 14% wound closure 4 hours after the scratch.

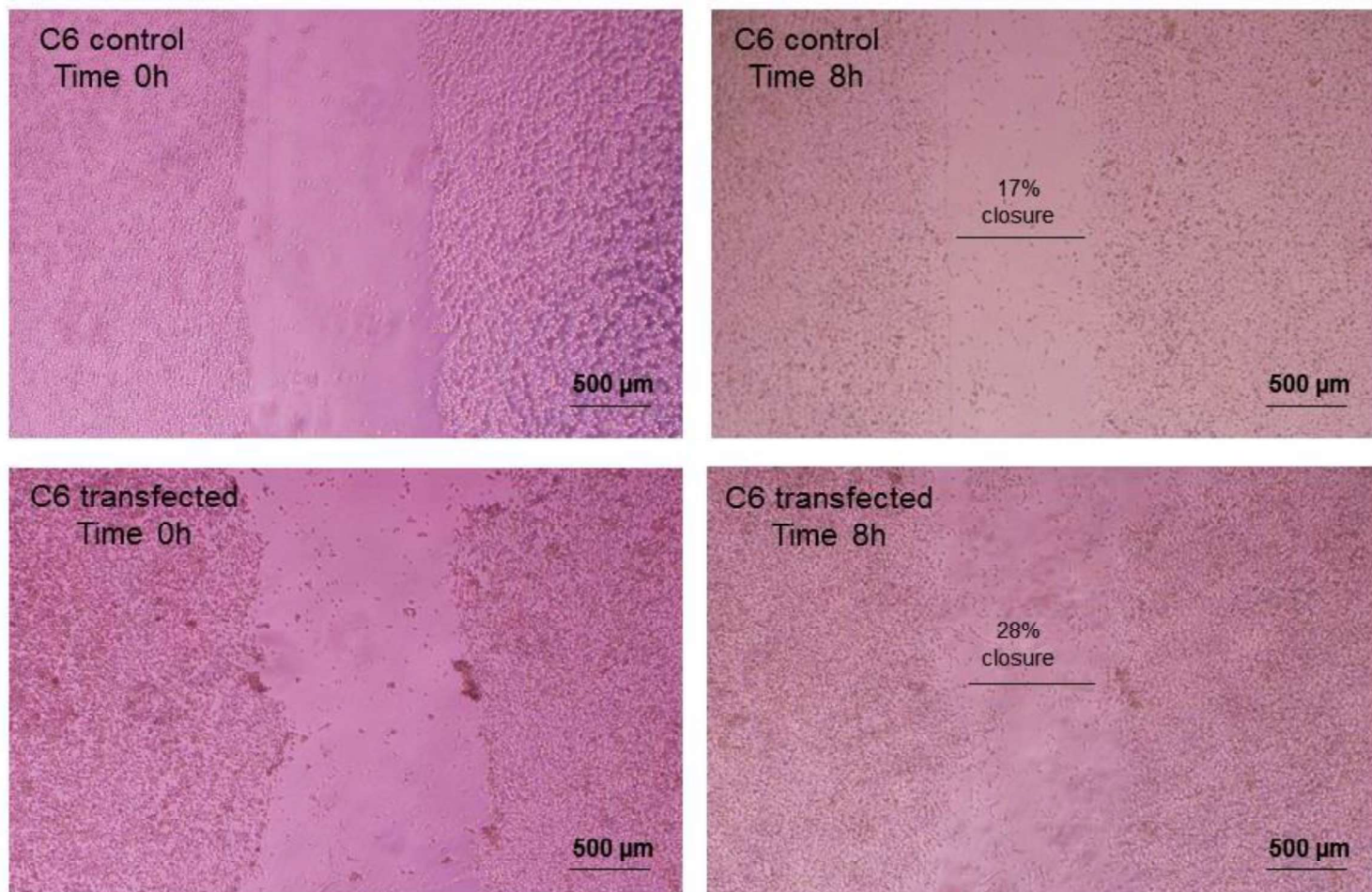


Figure 5. Images from the scratch assay presenting the difference observed in the migratory activity between the transfected C6 glioma cells and its control. The overexpressed NTPDase5 C6 glioma cells show a 28% wound closure, while the control C6 cells show only 17% wound closure 8 hours after the scratch.

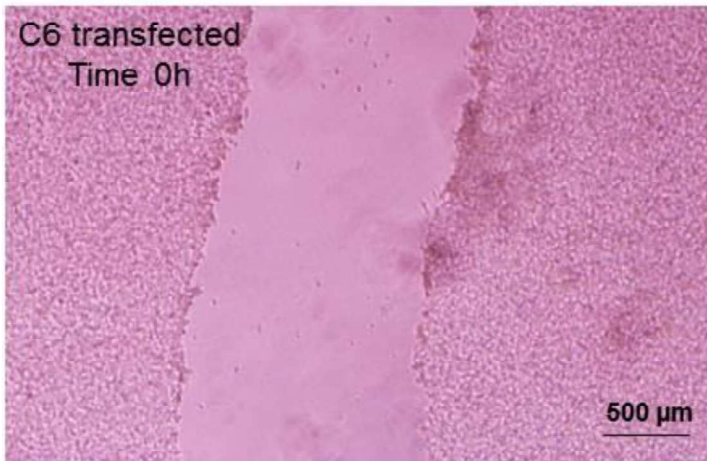
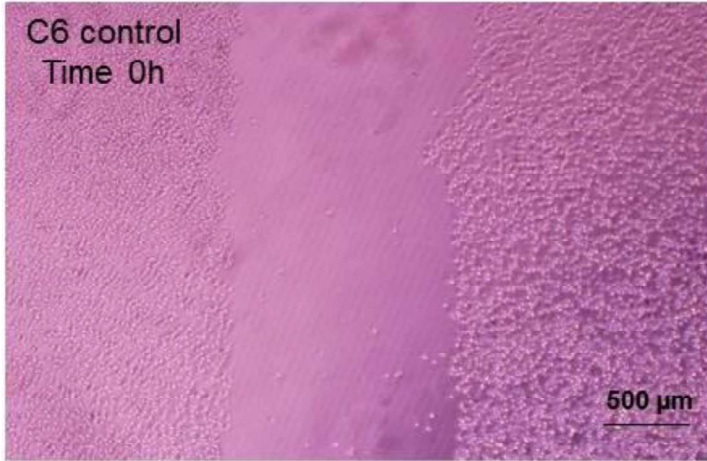


Figure 6. Images from the scratch assay presenting the difference observed in the migratory activity between the transfected C6 glioma cells and its control. The overexpressed NTPDase5 C6 glioma cells shows a 28% wound closure, while the control C6 cells shows only 17% wound closure 8 hours after the scratch.

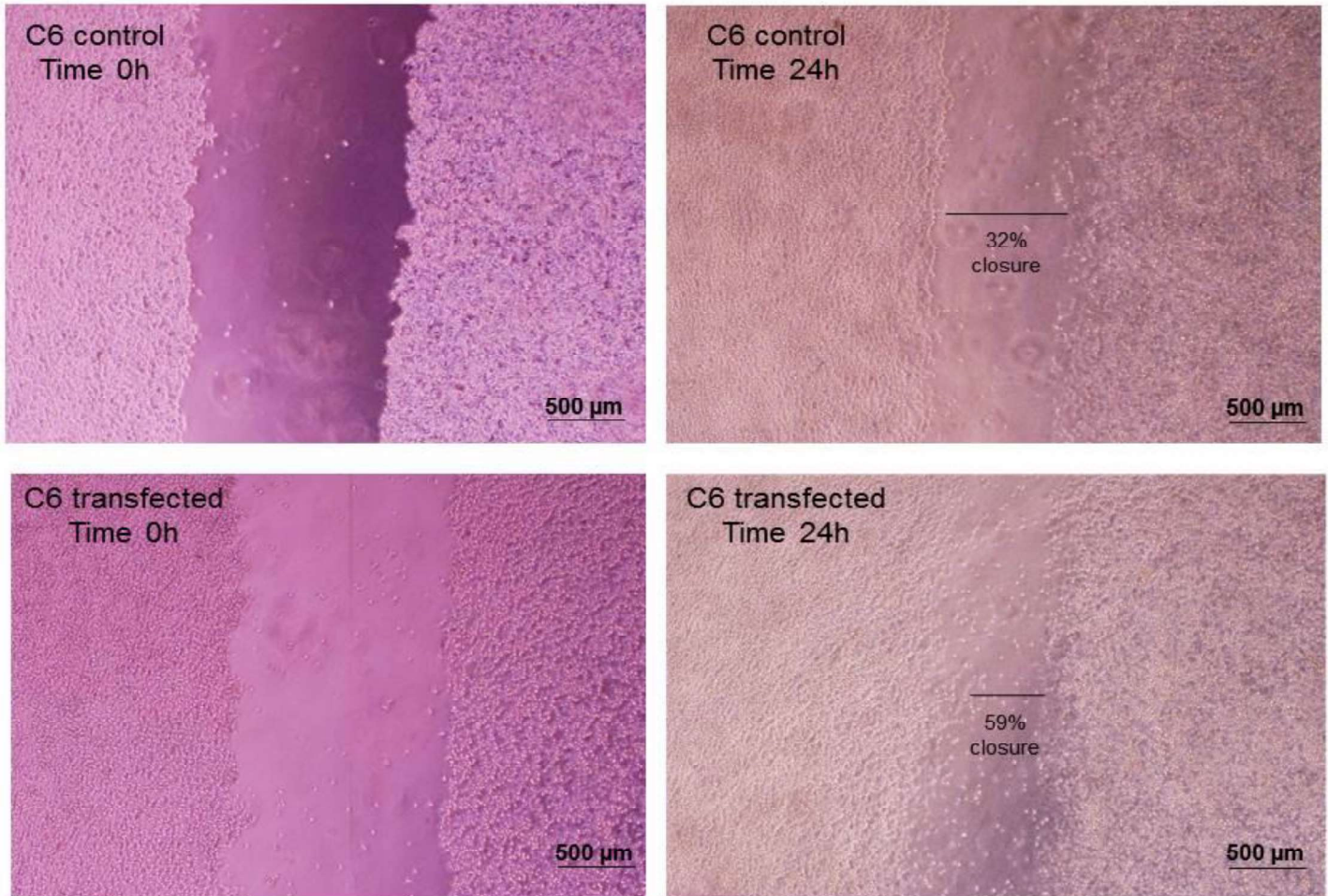


Figure 7. Images from the scratch assay presenting the difference observed in the migratory activity between the transfected C6 glioma cells and its control. The overexpressed NTPDase5 C6 glioma cells show a 55% wound closure, while the control C6 cells show only 32% wound closure 24 hours after the scratch.

The overexpression of NTPDase5 increases the resistance to low doses of Temozolomide

To test the influence of the NTPDase5 in the temozolomide resistance, transfected gliomas cells were treated for 5 days with different drug concentrations. The results showed that in low concentrations (50 μ M and 100 μ M), closer to the current plasmatic concentration of this drugs in human patients (Hammond, Eckardt et al. 2004) the overexpression of the NTPDase5 promoted an increase in the resistance of the glioma cells to temozolomide. This increase was statistically different after the third and fourth day of treatment respectively, and persisting until the final day (**Figure 8**).

In the other hand, when the cells were treated with higher concentrations of temozolomide (500 μ M and 1000 μ M), the increase in NTPDase5 protein did not shown a significant increase in the resistance of cells against the chemotherapy. Although the data from day 3 and 4 of the 500 μ M treatment concentration presented an significant p value ($p = 0,0433$ and $p = 0,0473$, respectively), this difference was not sustained until the end of the experiment (**Figure 8**).

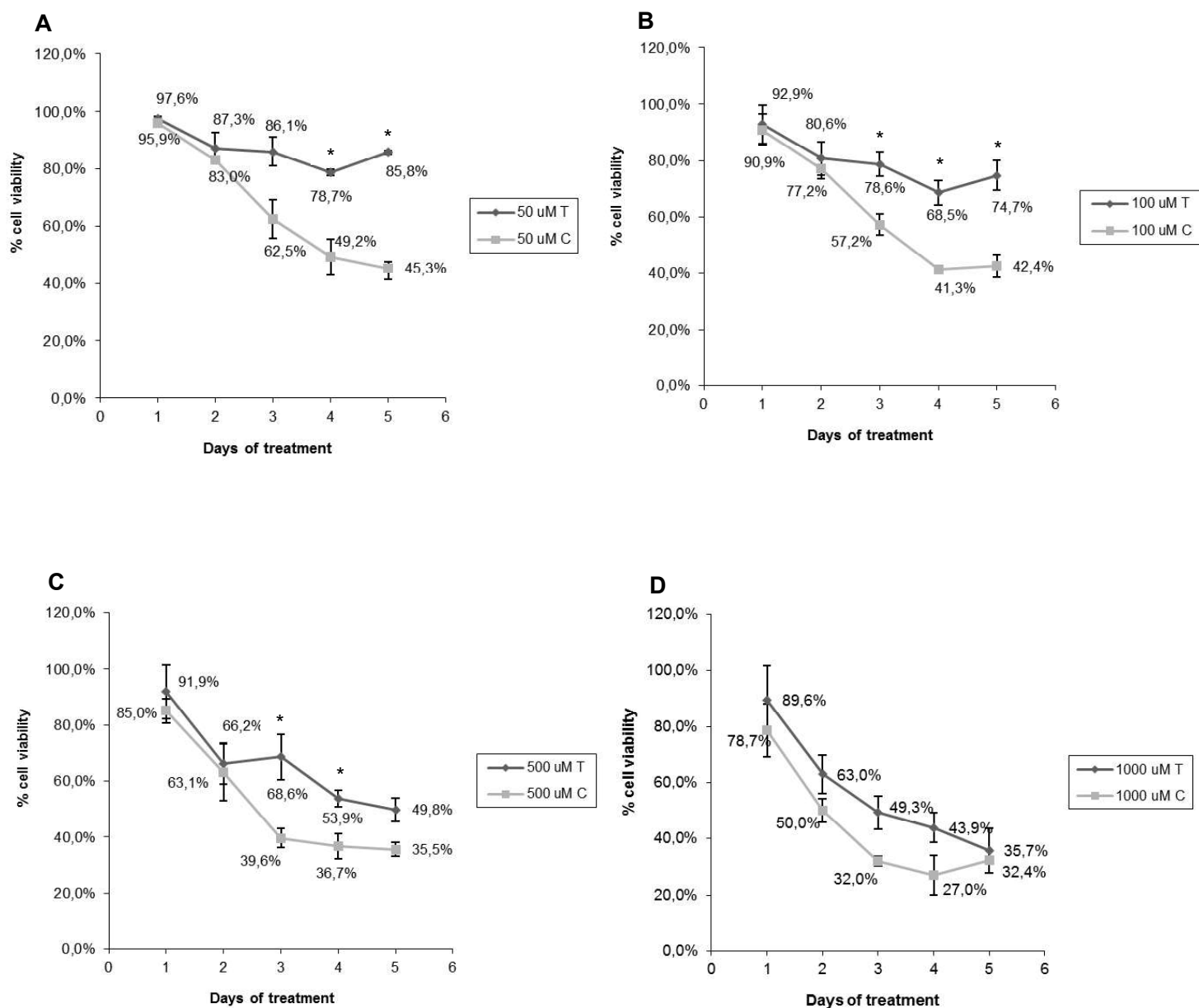


Figure 8. Time-course of viability of glioma C6 cells after five consecutive days of treatment with different concentrations of temozolomide: 50µM (A), 100µM (B), 500µM (C) and 1000µM (D). This image presents the mean of two different assays. The treatment with lower concentrations of temozolomide presented the higher difference between C6 glioma cells overexpressing the NTPDase5 or C6 control cells in the final days. The 1000µM concentration did not show any difference between transfected and control cells. Although the 500µM concentration, presented a difference in days 3 and 4, the p value

was very closed to the 0.05 limit. The points described with a “*” were the points with significant p value ($p < 0.05$).

Discussion

The NTPDase5 is expressed at different levels in the different types of normal and neoplastic tissues. The first studies on this subject revealed the presence of the protein mt-NTPDase5, with 27 kDa, in various healthy epithelial tissues, and the expression of the normal protein with 47 kDa in most of the tumor cell lines studied, hypothesizing that there is probably a relationship between the levels of these proteins and the neoplastic phenotype (Rouzaut, Recio et al. 2001). It was observed that, malignant and benign breast tumors induced in mice exhibit increased expression of the normal NTPDase5 and a decrease in the expression of the mt-NTPDase5 when compared with healthy mammary gland, being more evident in malignant tumors (Solanas, Escrich et al. 2002). A similar expression profile was presented when comparing neoplastic cells of the larynx and healthy cells from the primary cultures. It was verified that the carcinoma cells lines, UM-SSC-11, UM-SCC-12, UM-SCC-23 and SCC-81B present a loss of mt-NTPDase5 and an increase in the expression of the normal NTPDase5 (Blanquez, Regadera et al. 2002). Our data comparing the rat glioma cell line C6 with normal astrocytes, agree with those previous finding, considering that we observed a higher expression of NTPDase5 in the C6 cells. Interestingly, the analysis of clinical samples of glioblastoma multiforme showed that the tumors expressed a higher level of NTPDase5 when compared to the adjacent normal tissues. In addition, patients whose samples presented a higher expression of NTPDase5 were associated with significantly lower survival rates (Zadran, Amighi et al. 2012).

The fate of NTPDase5 seems different concerning the tumor types. In prostate cancer it was identified a positive relationship between the level of NTPDase5 expression, especially the mt-NTPDase5, and the invasiveness. (Villar, Arenas et al. 2007). Immunohistochemical analysis also identified that in cases of

laryngeal cancer and testicular germ tumor cells, the concentration of NTPDase5 is higher in areas of differentiation and neoplastic transformation, with low proliferation, than in cell proliferating areas (Blanquez, Regadera et al. 2002; Regadera, Blanquez et al. 2006). These studies raised the hypothesis that the NTPDase5 and mt-NTPDase5 play a role much more important in the migratory activity of the tumor cells than in the proliferating activity. This idea can corroborate our results showing a significant increase in the motility of the gliomas cells that were overexpressing the NTPDase5. This is an important observation considering that clinical GBMs present an invasiveness capacity similar to the C6 cells. The migratory activity confers to these cells capacity to spread through the brain, making it impossible to remove all the neoplastic tissue by surgical approach (Grobben, De Deyn et al. 2002). In this context, an intervention that could possibly incapacitate the GBM cells to migrate and consequently turn these cells less invasive, would be very handful to help decrease the margins of surgical dissections, preserving the brain structure and morphology.

The data presented in this study described an increased resistance to clinical relevant doses of Temozolomide by C6 cells that overexpressed NTPDase5. It is suggested that the NTPDase5, and especially the mt-NTPDase5, confer resistance to cells subjected to stress conditions (Velasco, Avila et al. 1999). It was also observed that the overexpression of the NTPDase5, and more significantly the mt-NTPDase5, not only confers resistance to stress-induced apoptosis but also to those induced by chemotherapy, increasing the resistance of prostate tumor cells when in contact with cisplatin and of colorectal carcinoma cells when in contact with oxaliplatin (Villar, Quadri et al. 2009; MacCarthy and Notario 2013). Thus, it is possibly to hypothesize that the NTPDase5, in fact, influences the resistance of the glioma cells against chemotherapy treatment. In addition the overexpression of the mt-NTPDase5, not tested in our study, could increase this resistance even more.

The PI3K/PTEN signaling pathway is known to be active in approximately 90% of the glioblastoma cases. The NTPDase5 has been shown as an important player in the PI3K/PTEN signaling pathway, which promotes cell growth and survival. Fang et al., described that in embryonic fibroblast from PTEN null mice (MEFs), with an overactive AKT, overexpressed the NTPDase5 and presented an increase in the ATP depletion to AMP, also it as observed that this protein increase the PTEN null cell proliferation (Fang, Shen et al. 2010; Sami and Karsy 2013). In addition, Zadran et al. showed that NTPDase5 plays a modulatory role in the bioenergetics of glioblastoma cells lines U87 and U87vIII. Furthermore, the knockout of the NTPDase5 in these cells is responsible for increasing the influx of ATP and promotes an increase of the autophagic vacuoles, suggesting that the expression of this protein confers a higher resistance to this type of cell death as well (Zadran, Amighi et al. 2012).

Our data suggests that the NTPDase5 protein plays an important role in the neoplastic development and survival of the GBM. It will be also important to evaluate the exact participation of the mtNTPD5 in these tumors. The comprehension of the dynamics of each protein in the normal and cancer cells can make them as a targets to be blocked in future treatments approaches, hopefully improving the success rate of the GBM treatment and survival.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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Considerações Finais

Ao escrever a revisão sistemática e a discussão do artigo experimental, foi possível perceber que há uma escassez de artigos que descrevam claramente o papel da enzima NTPDase5/PCPH, a qual atua como um proto-oncogene, no desenvolvimento e na progressão neoplásica. O descobrimento do proto-oncogene e do oncogene ativo é recente e ainda muito controverso o papel que ambos desempenham no câncer. Mesmo assim, os resultados até o momento são muito promissores e certamente, as pesquisas relacionadas, aumentaram exponencialmente, conforme for se identificando o potencial dessa proteína em terapias específicas e inovadoras contra diversos tipos de tumores.

A primeira etapa do artigo experimental teve como objetivo determinar a diferença de expressão da NTPDase5 na linhagem C6 de glioblastoma de ratos, comparando-as com astrócitos saudáveis, também de ratos. O resultado apontou um aumento claro de expressão da proteína normal, de 47 kDa nas células tumorais, mas também demonstrou que as células saudáveis expressavam níveis mais elevados do oncogene mutado, de 27 kDa. Esse resultado deverá ser confirmado pelo uso de primers específicos para a proteína mutada, bem como com o desenvolvimento de vetor expressando a proteína.

A seguir, o foco foi voltado em realizar o experimento de transfecção e comprovar a sua eficiência. Pelos experimentos de Western blotting, RT-PCR quantitativo e pela seleção com o uso do agente G418 foi possível verificar que a superexpressão da NTPDase5 foi bem sucedida, o que permitiu o uso das células para verificar como essa proteína influencia na biologia dos gliomas.

Os experimentos para estudar a ação da NTPDase5 na atividade migratória das células apresentaram resultados muito consistentes e semelhantes em todas as réplicas, o que garantiu um baixo desvio padrão e uma significância estatística em todos os tempos observados (4 horas, 8 horas, 12 horas e 24 horas). Em

todos os tempos foi possível verificar um aumento na migração celular nas células C6 que superexpressaram a NTPDase5, quando em comparação com as células C6 controle.

O experimento para testar a influência da superexpressão da NTPDase5 na resistência das células C6 no tratamento quimioterápico com a TMZ, uma maior resistência ao tratamento, mas apenas nas concentrações mais baixas. Em concentrações mais altas, tanto as células transfectadas para NTPDase5 quanto as controles apresentaram a mesma taxa de morte celular. Esse resultado é promissor considerando-se que em altas doses não há uma seletividade e muitas células são mortas.

A partir dos resultados obtidos nos experimentos realizados e pelo conhecimento adquirido durante a escrita do artigo de revisão, os próximos experimentos para a complementação do trabalho são:

1. Confirmar os dados da migração, realizando uma curva de crescimento das células transfectadas e controles pelo método do “population doublings”. Esse dado poderá confirmar se as células realmente migraram mais ou se tiveram uma maior taxa de proliferação.
2. Avaliar os níveis de expressão da mt-NTPDase5 nos gliomas e compará-los com astrócitos primários.
3. Padronizar a medida da atividade enzimática da NTPDase5 no sobrenadante das células transfectadas e controles para ter uma indicação se há um maior nível de degradação dos nucleotídeos, um dos mecanismos apontados na literatura para a atuação da enzima no câncer.
4. Os mesmos experimentos deverão ser realizados com a superexpressão do oncogene ativo (mt-NTPDase5), para verificar se a proteína mutada influenciará as células de glioblastoma de forma semelhante aos dados obtidos nesta dissertação ou não, sugerindo-se a hipótese que a

superexpressão da mt-NTPDase5 acarretará as mesmas mudanças, porém de forma mais intensa e significativa.

5. Realizar o silenciamento da NTPDase5 e, posteriormente da mt-NTPDase5, para verificar se o *knockout* dessa proteína tornará as células de glioblastoma mais suscetíveis ao tratamento quimioterápico, apresentando ainda mais a possibilidade de uso dessa proteína como um possível vetor no tratamento dessa neoplasia, a qual é extremamente agressiva.

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ANEXO I

PARECER DE APROVAÇÃO DO CEUA



COMISSÃO CIENTÍFICA E COMISSÃO DE PESQUISA E ÉTICA EM SAÚDE

UFCSPA

A Comissão de Ética no uso de Animais, analisou o Projeto:

Projeto: 12-083

Versão do Projeto:

Versão do TCLE:

Pesquisadores:

MÁRCIA ROSÂNGELA WINK

PAULA ANDREGHETTO BRACCO

Título: INFLUÊNCIA DA SUPEREXPRESSÃO DO PROTO-ONCOGENE
PCPH/ECTO-NTDPASE5 NO TRATAMENTO IN VITRO DE LINHAGENS DE GLIMAS
COM TEMOZOLAMIDA.

Este projeto foi aprovado em seus aspectos éticos e metodológicos. Todo e qualquer alteração do projeto, assim com eventos adversos graves, deverão ser comunicados a esta CEUA.

Porto Alegre, 17 de julho de 2012.

Pedro R. T. Romão
Coordenador CEUA/UFCSPA