

# Evaluation of the Hollow Fiber Model as a highly predictive in vivo testing system for the selection of xenograft tumor models in cancer drug discovery

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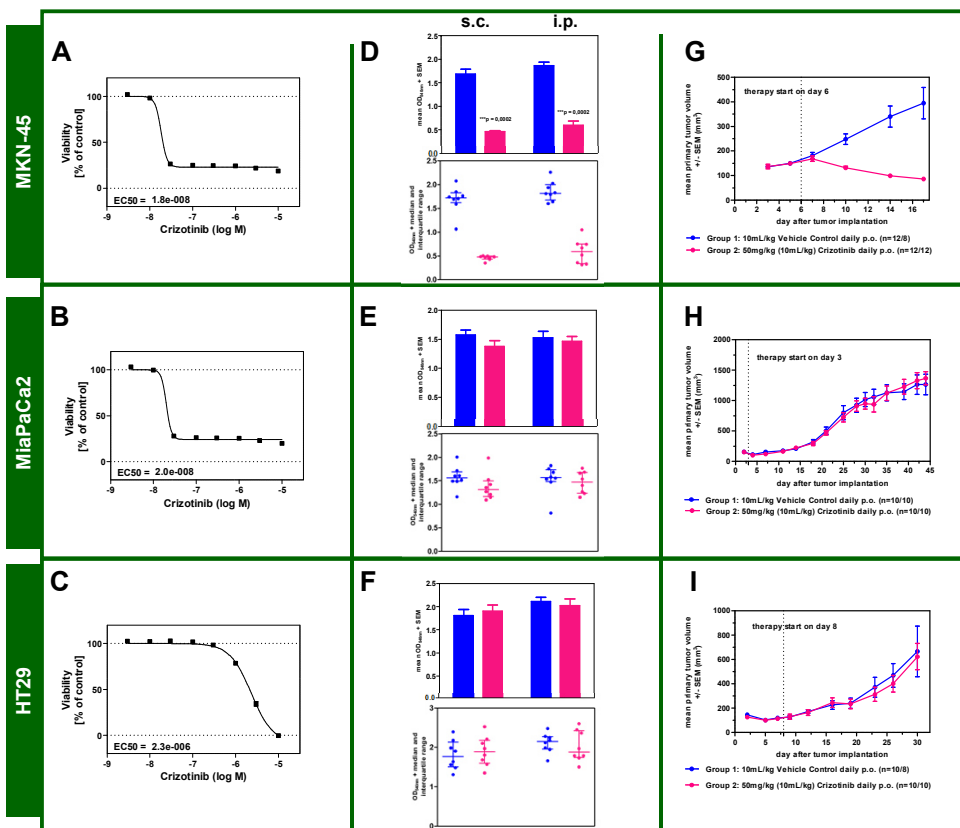
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**Introduction** In cancer drug discovery, lead compounds showing anticancer efficacy in vitro need to be prioritized for further in vivo analysis. The Hollow Fiber Model\* allows the evaluation of anticancer efficacy of a drug in three cell lines simultaneously in a single mouse. Following drug treatment, the number of viable cells in the fibers provides information about the drugs' potential in vivo anti-tumor efficacy.

To evaluate the predictive power of the Hollow Fiber Model we compared the antitumoral efficacy of the inhibitor Crizotinib on 9 tumor cell lines in the Hollow Fiber Model with the efficacy in a conventional xenograft study. The kinase inhibitor Crizotinib is a FDA-approved drug for NSCL, which inhibits the kinases ALK, MET and ROS1 and was run in a proliferation assay against a large panel of tumor cell lines to determine the IC50 values. Subsequently, 9 cell lines representing different inhibitor potencies via IC50 proliferation assay were chosen for comparison of the proliferation, Hollow Fiber Model and xenograft tumor model results.

\*Hollingshead et al. (1995)

**Method** Six hollow fibers were loaded with three cell lines pairwise and implanted into two different body compartments of 8 NMRI nude mice: subcutaneously under the skin and intraperitoneally into the cavity of abdomen. After the mice were treated with Crizotinib for 14 days, hollow fibers were re-sected and the amount of viable cells in each fiber was quantified via MTT assay.



**In vitro Proliferation assay**  
Proliferation assay using the CellTiter-Glo® Luminescent readout for MKN-45 (A), MiaPaCa2 (B) and HT29 (C). Mice were treated 14 days with Crizotinib (50mg/kg) and its Vehicle control followed by cell viability analysis.

**Hollow Fiber Model**  
Hollow Fiber Model in vivo using MKN-45 (D), MiaPaCa2 (E) and HT29 (F). Mice were treated 14 days with Crizotinib (50mg/kg) and its Vehicle control daily orally. Content of tumor cells in hollow fibers subcutaneously (s.c.) and intraperitoneally (i.p.) were determined by MTT assay.

**Xenograft tumor model**  
Subcutaneous xenograft study example for MKN-45 (G), MiaPaCa2 (H) and HT29 (I). Mice were treated with Crizotinib (50mg/kg) and its Vehicle control daily orally until study end. Tumor growth was monitored over time using caliper measurements.

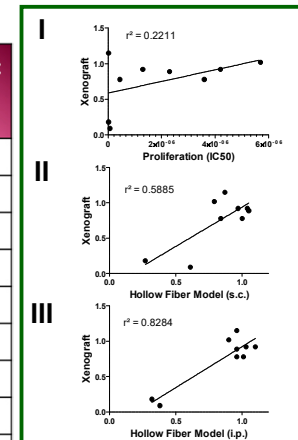
## Summary

Cell line	Proliferation assay [IC50]	Hollow Fiber [T/c*]		Xenograft [T/c*]
		s.c.	i.p.	
MKN-45	1,8E-8	✓ = ✓	0,27 0,32	✓ = ✓ 0,18
MiaPaCa2	2,0E-8	✗ ✗ ✗	0,87 0,96	✗ = ✗ 1,15
KARPAS299	7,0E-8	✓ = ✓	0,61 0,38	✓ = ✓ 0,08
Molm-13	4,4E-7	✗ ✗ ✗	0,84 1,01	✗ = ✗ 0,78
Colo-205	1,3E-6	✗ = ✗	0,97 1,03	✗ = ✗ 0,92
HT29	2,3E-6	✗ = ✗	1,05 0,96	✗ = ✗ 0,89
HCT-116	3,6E-6	✗ = ✗	1,0 0,96	✗ = ✗ 0,78
LN229	4,2E-6	✗ = ✗	1,04 1,1	✗ = ✗ 0,92
SKOV-3	8,9E-6	✗ = ✗	0,79 0,90	✗ = ✗ 1,02

\* T/c = ratio of mean treatment / mean control

Xenograft outcome is well predicted by the Hollow Fiber Model, demonstrated by linear regression

=> 9 of 9 cell lines were correctly predicted by the Hollow Fiber Model, whereas only 7 of 9 cell lines were correctly predicted by proliferation assay.



**Linear regression** of proliferation assay IC50 (I), hollow fibers implanted s.c. (II) and i.p. (III) against xenograft in vivo studies.

## Conclusions

- **In vivo Hollow Fiber Model as an intermediate step in the drug development process bridging the gap** between in vitro assay and xenograft in vivo studies (see cartoon on the right)
- **Considering in vivo pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic processes of test compound**
- **Animal reduction** according to the three rules of animal welfare (3R) **testing three cell lines simultaneously**
- **A defined and short assay time with low variability**
- **Predictive in vivo screening tool**

