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Antitumor Agents 255. Novel Glycyrrhetinic Acid-Dehydrozingerone Conjugates as Cytotoxic Agents

Jin Tatsuzaki^a, Masahiko Taniguchi^a, Kenneth F. Bastow^b, Kyoko Nakagawa-Goto^a, Susan L. Morris-Natschke^a, Hideji Itokawa^a, Kimiye Baba^c, and Kuo-Hsiung Lee^{a,*}

aNatural Products Research Laboratories, School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7360, USA

bDivision of Medicinal Chemistry and Natural Products, School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7360, USA

cDepartment of Pharmacognosy, Osaka University of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 4-20-1 Nasahara, Takatsuki, Osaka 569-1094, Japan

Abstract

Esterification of glycyrrhetinic acid (GA) with dehydrozingerone (DZ) resulted in a novel cytotoxic GA-DZ conjugate. Based on this exciting finding, we conjugated eleven different DZ analogs with GA or other triterpenoids, including oleanoic acid (OA) or ursolic acid (UA). In an *in vitro* anticancer assay using nine different human tumor cell lines, most of the GA-DZ conjugates showed significant potency. Particularly, compounds **5**, **29**, and **30** showed significant cytotoxic effects against LN-Cap, 1A9, and KB cells with ED₅₀ values of 0.6, 0.8, and 0.9 μ M, respectively. Similar conjugates between DZ and OA or UA were inactive suggesting that the GA component is critical for activity. Notably, although GA-DZ conjugates showed potent cytotoxic activity, the individual components (GA and DZ analogs) were inactive. Thus, GA-DZ conjugates are new chemical entities and represent interesting hits for anticancer drug discovery and development.

Keywords

Glycyrrhetinic acid; Dehydrozingerone; Conjugation; Cytotoxicity

1. Introduction

Triterpenoids, including glycyrrhetinic acid (GA) (1), oleanoic acid (OA) (2), and ursolic acid (UA) (3), are widely distributed in the plant kingdom worldwide and show various pharmacological activities. Structurally, OA and UA have a carboxylic acid on the C17 position rather than the C20 position as in GA and also do not have a ketone at C11 as does GA. GA (1) is the main constituent in the roots of the medicinal plant licorice (*Glycyrrhiza glabra* L), which is broadly used as a flavoring and sweetening agent in food products. The wide-ranging biological activities of GA include anti-inflammatory, ¹ anti-viral, ² anti-allergic, ^{3,4} and antitumor promoting effects. ⁵ OA (2) and its regioisomer UA (3) also have interesting biological activities. ⁶ In addition, a well known phenolic natural product, dehydrozingerone (DZ) (4), possesses anti-flammatory, antioxidant, and antitumor promoting activities. ⁷

^{*}Corresponding author: Tel.: 919-962-0066; fax: 919-966-3893; email: khlee@unc.edu

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Conjugation of two bioactive compounds is now accepted as an effective strategy for designing ligands, inhibitors, and other drugs.⁸ Our group has implemented the conjugation approach in drug discovery, which has led to promising results with varying compound classes.⁹ Therefore, based on the diverse bioactivities of the above-mentioned terpenoids as well as DZ, we initiated a structure activity relationship (SAR) study of terpenoid-DZ conjugation. Herein, we report the syntheses of terpenoid-DZ analogs and their unique cytotoxic activities.

2. Results and discussion

Conjugation of DZ with the terpene acids GA, OA, and UA was achieved by a well known esterification procedure using 1-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)-3-ethylcarbodiimide hydrochloride (EDCI) as condensation reagent in the presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine (DMAP). Among the three initial conjugates, GA-DZ (5), OA-DZ (6), and UA-DZ (7), only compound 5 displayed significant cytotoxic activity as described later. This exciting finding prompted us to synthesize novel GA-DZ analogs **29–38** as shown in Scheme 1. DZ (4) and its analogs (8–17) were derived from the corresponding substituted benzaldehyde (18–28) with acetone or acetophenone via an aldol reaction. The conjugated compounds **29–38** were obtained from the resulting aldol products and GA using the same manner as described above.

Conjugates **5-7** were first evaluated against nasopharynx (KB) and multi-drug resistant KB sub-line expressing P-glycoprotein (KB-VIN) cancer cell lines as shown in Table 1. Interestingly, only GA-DZ (**5**) showed significant activity against these two cell lines with ED_{50} values of 1.7 and 2.8 μ M, respectively, whereas its individual components (GA and DZ) were not active. OA-DZ (**6**) and UA-DZ (**7**) were also inactive. These results suggested that not only was conjugation important, but that a ketone on C11 and/or the position of carboxylic acid on C20 rather than C17 might be important factors for the activity. This exciting result prompted us to explore additional novel GA-DZ analogs **29–38**.

All GA-DZ analogs **29–38** as well as GA-DZ (**5**) itself were tested against nine human tumor cell lines: KB, KB-VIN, lung (A549), ovarian (1A9), colon (HCT-8), breast (ZR-751), and prostate (PC-3, DU-145 and LN-Cap).¹⁰⁻¹³ Doxorubicin was used as a positive antitumor drug control, and GA and DZ were tested for comparison with the conjugates. The bioassay results are shown in Table 2.

These results indicate that, while conjugation between GA and DZ is necessary for significant cytotoxicity, the different substitution patterns on the DZ portion obviously affected the selectivity as well as activity against the nine tested cancer cell lines. Generally, conjugate **31**, with a 2-GA ester and 4-OMe, was remarkably less potent than **5**, **29**, and **30**, which showed significant cytotoxic effects against most of the cell lines with ED₅₀ values less than 3.0 μ M. This result suggested that an *ortho* relation between the methoxy and GA ester groups might be required for strong activity, possibly related to protein binding. Although both **29** and **31** bear the GA ester on the 2-position, **29** with 3-OMe showed broad spectrum cytotoxicity, while **31** with 4-OMe was selective against LN-Cap (EC₅₀ = 1.9 μ M) and HCT-8 (EC₅₀ = 2.6 μ M) cell lines. Regarding cell line selectivity, conjugate **5** with 4-GA ester and 3-OMe showed its highest potency (ED₅₀ = 0.9 and 0.6 μ M) against 1A9 and LN-Cap cells, respectively. Comparatively, conjugate **29** with 2-GA ester and 3-OMe displayed stronger activities against KB (EC₅₀ = 0.8 μ M), 1A9 (EC₅₀ = 0.8 μ M) and PC-3 (EC₅₀ = 1.1 μ M) than the remaining cell lines, and conjugate **30** with 3-GA ester and 4-OMe showed its strongest activity against KB cells with an ED₅₀ value of 0.9 μ M.

Replacing the methoxy (5, 29) with ethoxy (32, 33) caused decreased activity against all cell lines, with loss of activity against KB-VIN, A549, ZR-751, and DU-145 cells. To a lesser

extent, a similar trend was found with a *meta*-fluoro group (compare **29** and **34**). Replacing the methyl group at R_2 with phenyl abolished the cytotoxic activity (see **35–38**).

3. Conclusions

In summary, we found that conjugates between GA and DZ analogs showed significant cytotoxic activity, although the individual components, GA and DZ, and similar conjugates between DZ and similar terpenoids, OA and UA, did not. Novel GA-DZ analogs **5**, **29**, and **30**, in which the methoxy and GA ester groups have an *ortho* relationship, showed significant cytotoxic activity against most of the tested cell lines. More interestingly, different DZ substitution patterns generated various cancer cell selectivities, with the highest potency against LN-Cap (ED₅₀ = 0.6 μ M) and 1A9 (ED₅₀ = 0.9 μ M) for **5**, KB (ED₅₀ = 0.8 μ M) and 1A9 (ED₅₀ = 0.9 μ M) for **30**. Thus, GA-DZ conjugates represent new hits for anticancer drug discovery and development.

4. Experimental

4.1. General

The proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) spectra were measured on a Varian Gemini 2000 (300 MHz) NMR spectrometer with TMS as the internal standard. All chemical shifts are reported in ppm. Mass spectra were obtained on a Hitachi M-4100H mass spectrometer. Analytical thin layer chromatography (TLC) was performed on Merck pre-coated aluminum silica gel sheets (Kieselgel 60 F 254). Column chromatography was performed on a CombiFlash Companion system using RediSep normal phase silica columns (ISCO, Inc., Lincoln, NE). All other chemicals were obtained from Aldrich, Inc. unless otherwise noted.

4.2. General Procedure for Aldol Reaction (4, 8–17)

The aldol intermediates were obtained by using the same procedure described by Elias and Rao.¹⁴ For **4** and **8–13**, acetone with 1N NaOH was used, and for **14–17**, acetophenone in MeOH with 5N KOH was used. Final compounds were purified with CombiFlash chromatography (EtOAc-hexane gradient).

4.3. General Procedure for Esterification (5, 29-38)

A CH₂Cl₂ solution of the same mol ratio of the corresponding terpenoid and DZ analog (4, 8– 17) with a twofold mol ratio of EDCI and DMAP was stirred at room temperature under inert atmosphere overnight. The crude mixture was extracted with CH₂Cl₂, and the organic phase was washed with brine, dried over NaSO₄, and concentrated *in vacuo* to obtain the product as a solid. The crude solid was purified with CombiFlash chromatography (EtOAc-hexane gradient).

4.3.1. DZ-GA conjugate (5)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1-H), 7.17-7.12 (m, 2H, 2'-H and 6'-H), 7.01 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 5'-H), 6.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 2-H), 5.70 (br s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.22 (br s, 1H, 3β-H), 2.78 (br d, 1H, *J* = 13.5 Hz, 1"β-H), 2.44-2.38 (m, 1H, 1"α-H), 2.39 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9"α-H), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.35 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.88 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.22 (C11", C=O in GA), 198.18 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.33 [C-30", GA-C(O)O-DZ], 169.14 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 151.57 (C-3') 142.76 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 141.74 (C-4'), 133.29 (C-1'), 128.55 [-CH=CHC(O) Me in DZ], 127.29 (=CH-), 123.21 (=CH-), 121.49 (=CH-), 111.25 (=CH-), 78.78 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.83 (C-9", CH), 55.74 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.97 (C-5", CH), 48.10 (C-18", CH), 45.36, 44.44 and 43.21 (C-8', 14" and 20"), 41.27 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 21", CH₂), 37.46 (C-21" or 1", CH₂), 37.08 (C-10" or C-4"), 32.79 (C-7", CH₂), 31.87 (C-4", or C10"),

31.21 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.54 (C-28", CH₃), 28.30 (C-24", CH₃), 28.11 (C-27", CH₃), 27.47 [C-1, -C(O)CH₃], 27.31 (C-15" or C-16", CH₂), 26.47 (C-16" and C-15", CH₂×2), 23.40 (C-29", CH₃), 18.73 (CH₃), 17.47 (C-6", CH₂), 16.35 (C-25", CH₃), 15.56 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS m/z 645.4159 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₁H₅₇O₆, 645.4152).

4.3.2. DZ-OA conjugate (6)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1-H), 7.16-7.10 (m, 2H, 2'-H and 6'-H), 6.97 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 5'-H), 6.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 2-H), 5.32 (br s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.83 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.22 (br s, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.89 (m, 1H, 18"-H), 2.38 (s, 3H, 4-CH₃), 1.19 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.00 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.94 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.92 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.90 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.85 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.79 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.94 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.92 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.90 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.85 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.23 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 175.48 (OA -*C*(O)O-DZ), 172.88 (C-13", -C=C- in OA), 151.85 (C-3'), 143.20 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 142.90 (C-4'), 142.20 (=CH-), 132.97 (C-1'), 127.09 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 123.45 (=CH-), 123.04 (=CH-), 122.73 (=CH-), 111.20 (C'-2), 79.00 (C-3", CH-OH in OA), 55.81 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 55.23 (C-5", CH), 48.35 (C-17"), 47.62 (C-9", CH), 46.55 (C-19", CH₂), 41.80 (C-14"), 41.32 (C-18", CH), 39.43 (C-8"), 38.75 (C-1", CH₂), 38.47 (C-4"). 37.00 (C-10"), 33.79 (CH₂), 27.45 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.19 (CH₂), 25.81 (CH₃), 23.61 (CH₃), 23.44 (CH₂), 23.08 (C H₂), 18.33 (CH₂), 17.21 (CH₃), 15.45 (CH₃), 15.30 (CH₃); MS *m*/z 631 [M+H]⁺; HR-SIMS *m*/z 669.4005 [M+K]⁺ (calcd for C₄₁H₅₈O₅K, 669.3921).

4.3.3. DZ-UA conjugate (7)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.46 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 1-H), 7.06 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.1, 1.8 Hz, 6'-H), 7.09 (br s, 1H, 2'-H), 6.96 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 5'-H), 6.60 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.3 Hz, 2-H), 5.31 (t, 1H, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 12"-H), 3.82 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.21 (br s, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.35 (d, 1H, *J* = 11.1 Hz, 18-H), 2.38 (s, 3H, 4-CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.00 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.97 (d, 3H, *J* = 6.3 Hz, CH₃), 0.94 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (d, 3H, *J* = 4.5 Hz, CH₃), 0.85 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.79 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 198.22 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 175.22 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 151.86 (C-3'or 4'), 142.89 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 142.21 (C-4' or 3'), 137.70 (=CH-), 132.97 (C-1'), 127.09 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 126.02 (=CH-), 123.41 (=CH-), 121.52 (=CH-), 111.21 (C-2'), 79.03 (C-3", CH-OH in UA), 55.80 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 55.25 (C-5", CH), 52.95 (C-18" or 9", CH), 48.78 (C-18" or 9", CH), 47.60 (C-17"), 42.26 (C-14"), 39.70 (C-8"), 39.19 (C-19" or 20", CH), 38.83 (C-19" or 20", CH), 38.76 (C-1", CH₂), 38.68 (C-4"), 37.00 (C-10"), 36.54 (CH₂), 33.26 (CH₃), 30.79 (CH₂'), 28.15 (CH₃), 27.46 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.25 (CH₂), 24.37 (CH₂), 23.40 (CH₂), 21.18 (CH₃), 18.35 (CH₂), 17.53 (CH₃), 16.99 (CH₃), 15.63 (CH₃), 15.52 (CH₃); HR-SIMS *m*/z 669.3967; [M +K]⁺ (calcd for C₄₁H₅₈O₅K, 669.3921).MS *m*/z 631 [M+H]⁺.

4.3.4. DZ-GA conjugate (29)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.56 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 1-H), 7.26-7.19 (m, 2H, 4'-H and 6'-H), 7.02-6.99 (m, 1H, 5'-H) 6.68 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.4 Hz, 2-H), 5.69 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.84 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.23 (dd, 1H, *J* = 10.2, 6.3 Hz, 3" α -H), 2.77 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 13.7, 3.6, 3.6 Hz, 1" β -H), 2.53 (br-d, 1H, *J* = 13.7 Hz, 1" α -H) 2.35 (s, 1H, 9" α -H), 2.33 (s, 3H, 4-H), 1.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.91 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.91 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.16 (C11", C=O in GA), 197.74 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.11 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 169.11 (C-13", -C=C-in GA), 161.61 (C-3'or 2'), 138.96 (C-2' or 3'), 136.23 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 129.22 (=CH-), 128.63 (=CH-), 128.54 (C-1'), 126.60 (=CH-), 118.38 (=CH-), 113.79 (=CH-), 78.75 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.82 (C-9", CH), 55.80 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.95 (C-5", CH), 47.77 (C-18", CH), 45.37, 44.68 and 43.20 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.27 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.08 (C-10"), 32.78 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.88 (C-4"), 31.30 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.62 (CH₃), 28.54 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.50 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.29 (CH₂), 26.53 (CH₂), 26.40 (C-16" or -15", CH₂), 23.42 (C-29", CH₃), 18.71 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.33 (C-25", CH₃), 15.56 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS *m*/z 645.4160 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C4₁H₅₇O₆, 645.4152).

4.3.5. DZ-GA conjugate (30)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.44 (d, 1H, J = 16.3 Hz, 1-H), 7.40 (dd, 1H, J = 8.5, 2.2 Hz, 6'-H), 7.20 (d, 1H, J = 2.2 Hz, 2'-H), 6.98 (d, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz, 5'-H) 6.59 (d, 1H, J = 16.3 Hz, 2-H), 5.70 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.87 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.22 (m, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.78 (ddd, J = 13.5, 3.5, 3.5 Hz, 1" β -H), 2.42 (br-d, 1H, J = 13.5, 2.8 Hz, 1" α -H), 2.37 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9"α-H), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.15 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) § 200.24 (C11", C=O in GA), 198.21 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.42 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 169.19 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 155.12 (C-3'or 4'), 142.34 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 140.08 (C-4' or 3'), 128.52 (=CH-), 127.77 (C-1'), 127.48 (=CH-), 125.94 (=CH-), 121.99 (=CH-), 112.40 (=*C*H-), 78.76 (C-3", *C*H-OH in GA), 61.83 (C-9", *C*H), 55.86 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.94 (C-5", CH), 48.07 (C-18", CH), 45.39, 44.42 and 43.20 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.25 (C-19", CH₂), 39.13 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.45 (C-10"), 37.08 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 32.78 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.88 (C-4"), 31.22 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.58 (CH₃), 28.34 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.44 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.30 (CH₂), 26.53 (CH₂), 26.44 (C-16" or -15", CH₂), 23.40 (C-29", CH₃), 18.71 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.36 (C-25", CH₃), 15.57 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS m/z 645.4157 $[M+H]^+$ (calcd for C₄₁H₅₇O₆, 645.4152).

4.3.6. DZ-GA conjugate (31)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.63 (d, 1H, J = 8.8 Hz, 6'-H), 7.53 (d, 1H, J = 16.2 Hz, 1-H), 6.84 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 5'-H) 6.56 (d, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, 3'-H), 6.61 (d, 1H, J = 16.2 Hz, 2-H), 5.67 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.23 (ddd, 1H, J = 9.9, 6.3, 6.3 Hz, $3''\alpha$ -H), 2.78 (ddd, J = 13.7, 3.5, 3.5 Hz, $1''\beta$ -H), 2.30 (br-d, 1H, J = 13.7, 3.5 Hz, 1"α-H), 2.31 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9"α-H), 1.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 199.99 (C11", C=O in GA), 197.63 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.63 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 168.40 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 162.22 (C-4' or 2'), 150.98 (C-4' or 2'), 136.01 (=CH-), 128.80 (=CH-), 128.11 (=CH-), 126.48 (=CH-), 120.00 (C-1'), 112.48 (=CH-), 108.46 (=CH-), 78.76 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.84 (C-9", CH), 55.65 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.96 (C-5", CH), 48.24 (C-18", CH), 45.39, 44.63 and 43.22 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.04 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.91 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.11 (C-10"), 32.79 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.98 (C-4"), 31.24 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.57 (CH₃), 28.30 (CH₃), 28.10 (CH₃), 27.64 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.31 (CH₂), 26.46 (CH₂), 26.39 (CH₂), 23.46 (C-29", CH₃), 18.70 (CH₃), 17.50 (C-6", CH₂), 16.34 (C-25", CH₃), 15.55 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS m/z 645.4145 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₁H₅₇O₆, 645.4152).

4.3.7. DZ-GA conjugate (32)⁻¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.47 (d, 1H, J = 16.2 Hz, 1-H), 7.13 (dd, 1H, *J* = 8.0, 1.9 Hz, 6'-H), 7.11 (d, 1H, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 2'-H), 6.98 (d, 1H, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 5'-H) 6.59 (d, 1H, J = 16.2 Hz, 2-H), 5.71 (s, 1H, 12-H), 4.10 (q, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.23 (m, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.78 (ddd, J = 13.5, 3.4, 3.4 Hz, 1" β -H), 2.35-2.40 (m, 1H, 1" α -H), 2.39 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 $(s, 1H, 9''\alpha-H), 1.40$ (t, 3H, J = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.40 $(s, 3H, CH_3), 1.37$ (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.87 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.14 (C11", C=O in GA), 198.25 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.24 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 169.02 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 151.00 (C-4' or 3'), 142.88 [-CH=CHC(O)Me in DZ], 141.71 (C-4' or 3'), 133.22 (C-1'), 128.63 (=CH-), 127.19 (=CH-), 123.67 (=CH-), 121.24 (=CH-), 111.96 (=CH-), 108.46 (=CH-), 78.75 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 64.23 (-OCH₂CH₃ in DZ), 61.82 (C-9", CH), 54.94 (C-5", CH), 48.11 (C-18", CH), 45.39, 44.40 and 43.18 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.11 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.62 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.09 (C-10"), 32.75 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.92 (C-4"), 31.14 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.49 (CH₃), 28.38 (CH₃), 28.08 (CH₃), 27.45 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.29 (CH₂), 26.50 (CH₂), 26.43 (CH₂), 23.45 (CH₃), 18.68 (CH₃), 17.47 (C-6", CH₂), 16.33 (C-25", CH₃), 15.55 (C-23", CH₃), 14.85 (OCH₂CH₃ in DZ); HR-SIMS *m*/z 659.4315 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₂H₅₉O₆, 659.4309).

4.3.8. DZ-GA conjugate (33)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.59 (d, 1H, J = 16.5 Hz, 1-H), 7.23-7.17 (m, 2H, 5'-H and 6'-H), 6.99 (dd, 1H, J = 6.8, 2.9 Hz, 4'-H), 6.68 (d, 1H, J = 16.5 Hz, 2-H), 5.70 (s, 1H, 12''-H), 4.10 (q, 2H, J = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 3.23 (m, 1H, $3''\alpha$ -H), 2.78 $(ddd, J = 9.9, 3.6, 3.6 Hz, 1"\beta-H), 2.49 (m, 1H, 1"\alpha-H), 2.33 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9"\alpha-H),$ 1.39 (t, 3H, J = 6.9 Hz, OCH₂CH₃), 1.46 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.23 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, $\overline{CH_3}$), 0.91 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) § 200.07 (C11", C=O in GA), 197.66 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.03 (C-30", -C(O) O-DZ), 168.97 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 150.98 (C-2'or 3'), 138.96 (C-2' or 3'), 136.35 (=CH-), 129.11 (=CH-), 128.78 (=CH-), 128.69 (=CH-), 126.56 (=CH-), 118.07 (=CH-), 114.38 (=CH-), 78.76 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 64.28 (-OCH₂CH₃ in DZ), 61.83 (C-9", CH), 54.95 (C-5", CH), 47.69 (C-18", CH), 45.39, 44.64 and 43.17 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.07 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.80 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.09 (C-10"), 32.75 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.96 (C-4"), 31.27 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.92 (CH₃), 28.43 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.72 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.30 (CH₂), 26.50 (CH₂), 26.36 (CH₂), 23.54 (CH₃), 18.70 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.34 (C-25", CH₃), 15.56 (C-23", CH₃), 14.92 (OCH₂CH₃ in DZ); HR-SIMS m/z $659.4311 [M+H]^+$ (calcd for $C_{42}H_{59}O_6$, 659.4309).

4.3.9. DZ-GA conjugate (34)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.53 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 1-H), 7.45-7.17 (m, 3H, 4', 5', and 6'-H), 6.72 (d, 1H, *J* = 16.5 Hz, 2-H), 5.68 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.23 (m, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.78 (ddd, *J* = 9.6, 6.0, 6.0 Hz, 1" β -H), 2.38 (m, 1H, 1" α -H), 2.35 (s, 3H, 4-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9" α -H), 1.45 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); 1³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.11 (C11", C=O in GA), 197.36 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 173.75 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 168.61 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 156.26 (C-3' or 2'), 137.54 (C-3' or 2'), 134.99 (=CH-), 129.97 (C-1'), 129.76 (=CH-), 128.76 (=CH-), 126.93 (=CH-), 122.29 (=CH-), 118.18 (=CH-), 78.77 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.83 (C-9", CH), 54.96 (C-5", CH), 47.98 (C-18", CH), 45.38, 44.82 and 43.18 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.16 (C-19", CH₂), 39.13 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.57 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.10 (C-10"), 32.78 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.89 (C-4"), 31.29 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.42 (CH₃), 28.38 (CH₃), 28.10 (CH₃), 27.79 [-C(O)CH₃], 27.31 (CH₂), 26.49 (CH₂), 26.41 (CH₂), 23.43 (CH₃), 18.70 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.34 (C-25", CH₃), 15.61 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS *m*/z 633.3949 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₀H₅₄O₅F₅, 633.3953).

4.3.10. DZ-GA conjugate (35)⁻¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.03-7.49 (m, 5H, 2^{'''}-6^{'''}-H) 7.77 (d, 1H, J = 15.8 Hz, 1-H), 7.46 (d, 1H, J = 15.8 Hz, 2-H), 7.26 (dd, 1H, J = 8.3 Hz, 6'-H), 7.21 (d, 1H, J = 1.9 Hz, 2'-H), 7.04 (d, 1H, J = 8.3 Hz, 5'-H), 5.71 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.90 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.23 (dd, 1H, J = 10.0, 5.9 Hz, $3''\alpha$ -H), 2.78 (ddd, 1H, J = 13.5, 3.2, 3.2Hz, 1"β-H), 2.41 (br-d, 1H, J = 13.5 Hz, 1"α-H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9"α-H), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.37 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.48 (C11" C=O in GA), 190.80 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.58 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 169.40 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 151.78 (C-4'or 3'), 144.51 [-CH=CHC(O)Ph in DZ], 141.95 (C-4' or 3'), 138.43 (C-4), 133.99 (C-1'), 133.03 (=CH-), 128.87 (C×2 in Ph), 128.76 (C×2 in Ph), 123.44 (=CH-), 122.57 (=CH-), 121.62 (=CH-), 112.03 (=CH-), 79.01 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 62.07 (C-9", CH), 56.03 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 55.19 (C-5", CH), 48.33 (C-18", CH), 45.63, 44.68 and 43.45 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.52 (C-19", CH₂), 39.36 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.69 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.32 (C-10"), 33.02 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 32.12 (C-4"), 31.46 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.80 (CH₃), 28.54 (CH₃), 28.32 (CH₃), 27.55 (CH₂), 26.69 (CH₂), 23.64 (CH₂), 18.95 (CH₃), 17.73 (C-6", CH₂), 16.60 (C-25", CH₃), 15.80 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS m/z 707.4306 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₆H₅₉O₆, 707.4309).

4.3.11. DZ-GA conjugate (36)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.00-7.46 (m, 5H, 2^{'''}-6^{'''}-H) 7.84 (d, 1H, J = 15.9 Hz, 1-H), 7.48 (d, 1H, J = 15.9 Hz, 2-H), 7.38 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 6'-H), 7.25 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 8.1 Hz, 5'-H), 7.03 (dd, 1H, J = 8.1, 1.5 Hz, 4'-H),

Tatsuzaki et al.

5.69 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.85 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.23 (m, 1H, 3" α -H), 2.77 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 13.5, 3.4, 3.4 Hz, 1" β -H), 2.77 (ddd, 1H, *J* = 13.5, 3.4, 3.4 Hz, 1" α -H), 2.34 (s, 1H, 9" α -H), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.13 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.88 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.80 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.17 (C11", C=O in GA), 190.24 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.24 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 151.74 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 139.27 (C-2' or 3'), 138.05 (C-2' or 3'), 137.73 (=CH-), 132.74 (=CH-), 129.17 (C-4), 128.60 (C×2 in Ph), 128.50 (C×2 in Ph), 126.63 (=CH-), 124.47 (=CH-), 118.30 (=CH-), 113.81 (=CH-), 78.76 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.80 (C-9", CH), 55.84 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.95 (C-5", CH), 47.79 (C-18", CH), 45.37, 44.68 and 43.20 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.30 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.47 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.08 (C-10"), 32.79 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.85 (C-4"), 31.31 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.55 (CH₃), 28.51 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.30 (CH₂), 26.55 (CH₂), 26.42 (CH₂), 23.39 (CH₃), 18.71 (CH₃), 17.50 (C-6", CH₂), 16.34 (C-25", CH₃), 15.56 (C-23", CH₃); HR-SIMS *m*/*z* 707.4315 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C4₆H₅₉O₆, 707.4309).

4.3.12. DZ-GA conjugate (37)⁻¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 8.02-7.45 (m, 5H, 2'''-6'''-H) 7.74 (d, 1H, J = 15.7 Hz, 1-H), 7.39 (d, 1H, J = 15.7 Hz, 2-H), 7.49 (dd, 1H, J = 15.7 Hz, 1-H), 7.49 (dd, 1H, J = 1 8.3 Hz, 6'-H), 7.31 (d, 1H, J = 1.9 Hz, 2'-H), 7.00 (d, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz, 5'-H), 5.72 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.89 (s, 3H, OCH₃), 3.23 (m, 1H, $3''\alpha$ -H), 2.78 (dm, 1H, J = 13.7 Hz, $1''\beta$ -H), 2.44 (dm, 1H, J = 13.7 Hz, 1" α -H), 2.35 (s, 1H, 9" α -H), 1.40 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.39 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.16 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.14 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.01 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.89 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.81 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.21 (C11", C=O in GA), 190.53 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.45 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 169.19 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 153.17 (C-4'or 3'), 143.85 [-CH=CHC (O)-Ph in DZ], 140.10 (C-4' or 3'), 138.33 (C-4), 132.61 (=CH-), 128.57 (C×2 in Ph), 128.47 (C×2 in Ph), 128.28 (=CH-), 128.15 (=CH-), 128.03 (C-1'), 121.93 (=CH-), 120.89 (=CH-), 112.38 (=CH-), 78.76 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.82 (C-9", CH), 55.86 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.94 (C-5", CH), 48.00 (C-18", CH), 45.39, 44.42 and 43.20 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.28 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.47 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.08 (C-10"), 32.77 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.89 (C-4"), 31.25 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.58 (CH₃), 28.39 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.30 (CH₂), 26.53 (CH₂), 26.45 (CH₂), 23.41 (CH₃), 18.71 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.36 (C-25", CH_3), 15.57 (C-23", CH_3); HR-SIMS m/z 707.4305 [M+H]⁺ (calcd for C₄₆H₅₉O₆, 707.4309).

4.3.13. DZ-GA conjugate (38)—¹H NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 7.99-7.45 (m, 5H, Ar-H) 7.82 (d, 1H, J = 15.7 Hz, 1-H), 7.40 (d, 1H, J = 15.7 Hz, 2-H), 7.77 (dd, 1H, J = 8.5 Hz, 6'-H), 6.87 (dd, 1H, J = 8.8, 2.5 Hz, 5'-H), 6.59 (d, 1H, J = 2.5 Hz, 3'-H), 5.66 (s, 1H, 12"-H), 3.87 $(s, 3H, OCH_3), 3.22 (dd, 1H, J = 10.0, 6.2 Hz, 3"\alpha-H), 2.76 (ddd, 1H, J = 13.5, 3.3, 3.3 Hz, 1")$ β -H), 2.29 (br-dd, 1H, J = 13.5, 4.6 Hz, 1"α-H), 2.34 (s, 1H, 9"α-H), 1.41 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.39 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.12 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.12 (s, 3H, CH₃), 1.00 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.86 (s, 3H, CH₃), 0.80 (s, 3H, CH₃); ¹³C NMR (300 MHz, CDCl₃) δ 200.02 (C11", C=O in GA), 190.27 (C-3, C=O in DZ), 174.74 (C-30", -C(O)O-DZ), 168.57 (C-13", -C=C- in GA), 162.26 (C-4' or 2'), 151.29 (C-4' or 2'), 138.33 (C-4), 137.61 (=CH-), 132.55 (=CH-), 128.73 (=CH-), 128.55 (C×2 in Ph), 128.42 (C×2 in Ph), 128.00 (=CH-), 121.61 (=CH-), 120.56 (C-1'), 112.53 (=CH-), 108.40 (=CH-), 78.77 (C-3", CH-OH in GA), 61.80 (C-9", CH), 55.68 (-OCH₃ in DZ), 54.93 (C-5", CH), 48.22 (C-18", CH), 45.38, 44.632 and 43.20 (C-8', 14" or 20"), 41.04 (C-19", CH₂), 39.12 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.80 (C-1" or 22", CH₂), 37.07 (C-10"), 32.78 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 31.95 (C-4"), 31.24 (C-7" or 21", CH₂), 28.53 (CH₃), 28.29 (CH₃), 28.09 (CH₃), 27.30 (CH₂), 26.46 (CH₂), 26.38 (CH₂), 23.44 (CH₃), 18.69 (CH₃), 17.49 (C-6", CH₂), 16.35 (C-25", CH₃), 15.56 $(C-23'', CH_3)$; HR-SIMS m/z 707.4320 $[M+H]^+$ (calcd for $C_{46}H_{59}O_6$, 707.4309).

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- 10. The *in vitro* cytotoxicity assay was carried out according to procedures described in Rubinstein et al. ¹¹ Drug stock solutions were prepared in DMSO, and the final solvent concentration was <1% DMSO (v/v), a concentration without effect on cell replication. The human tumor cell line panel consisted of epidermoid carcinoma of the nasopharynx (KB), a multi-drug resistant KB sub-line expressing P-glycoprotein (KB-VIN), lung (A549), ovarian (1A9), colon (HCT-8), breast (ZR-751), and prostate (PC-3, DU-145, LN-Cap). The KB-VIN tumor cell line is cross-resistant to doxorubicin (Table 1). Detailed characterization of this cell is described elsewhere. ^{10,11} Cells were cultured at 37 °C in RPMI-1640 with 100 μg/mL kanamycin and 10% (v/v) fetal bovine serum in a humidified atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. Initial seeding densities varied among the cell lines to ensure a final absorbance of 1-2.5 A₅₆₂ units. Drug exposure was for two days and the ED₅₀ value, the drug concentration that reduced the absorbance by 50%, was interpolated from dose-response data. Each test was performed in duplicate, and absorbance readings varied no more than 5% between replicates.
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Figure 1. Structures of GA, OA, UA, DZ, and their conjugates.

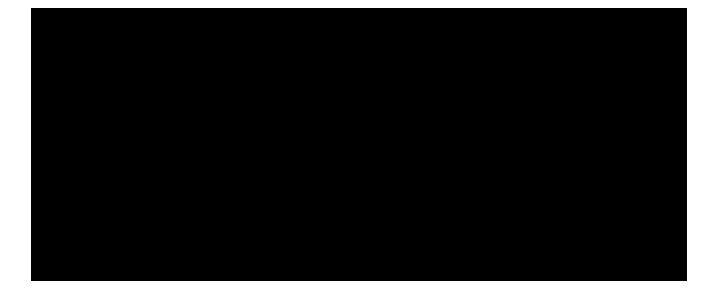




Table 1

Cytotoxicity screening of DZ-terpenoid conjugates

| Compound | ED ₅₀ (μΜ |) ^{<i>a</i>} / Cell line ^{<i>b</i>} |
|-----------|----------------------|---|
| | KB | KB-VIN |
| 5 (GA-DZ) | 1.7 | 2.8 |
| 6 (OA-DZ) | NA^{C} | NA |
| 7 (UA-DZ) | 10.5 | NA |
| DZ | NA | NA |
| GA | NA | NA |
| OA | NA | NA |
| UA | 8.3 | 8.1 |

 a Cytotoxicity as ED₅₀ values for each cell line, the concentration of compound that cause 50% reduction in absorbance at 562 nm relative to untreated cells using the sulforhodamine B assay. The average value is from two independent determinations and variation (SEM) was no greater than 10%.

 b Human epidermoid carcinoma of the nasopharynx (KB), multi-drug resistant KB sub-line expressing P-glycoprotein (KB-VIN)

^c Not active

| z |
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Data for GA-DZ conjugates against human tumor cell replication

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| | | | LN-Cap | |
|---|---------|--|--------|--|
| | | | DU-145 | |
| | | | PC-3 | |
| | | ıe ^a | ZR-751 | |
| | Table 2 | ${\bf ED}_{50}$ ($\mu {\bf M}$) / Cell line $^{m a}$ | HCT-8 | |
| - | F | | 6VI | |

Tatsuzaki et al.

| 4 | | | | | | , 5 <u>6</u> | | I N Can |
|------------|--------|------|------|-------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|
| | KB-VIN | A549 | 1A9 | HCT-8 | 1¢7-XZ | rc-3 | DU-145 | den-ver |
| 1.6 | 2.5 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 1.7 | 2.8 | 1.4 | 3.1 | 0.6 |
| 9 0.8 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 3.0 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 2.8 |
| 0 0.9 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 2.8 | 9.6 | 6.5 |
| | >15 | 15.5 | 5.9 | 2.6 | >15 | 7.4 | >15 | 1.9 |
| | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.1 | 2.7 | 5.2 | 3.3 | 5.8 | 1.1 |
| | 13.2 | 3.0 | 1.8 | 4.9 | 8.8 | 3.5 | >15 | 6.8 |
| | 8.7 | 3.2 | 1.3 | 2.2 | 2.7 | 1.6 | 2.7 | 4.4 |
| | NA | >14 | >14 | >14 | NA | >14 | >14 | >14 |
| 6.6 9.9 | NA | >14 | 13.3 | >14 | >14 | 14.1 | >14 | 14.1 |
| | NA | NA | >14 | >14 | NA | 14.1 | >14 | 14.1 |
| | >14 | NA | NA | >14 | NA | >14 | 13.0 | >14 |
| | >21 | NA | >21 | 19.5 | NA | >21 | >21 | >21 |
| | NA | >52 | 33.9 | >52 | >52 | >52 | >52 | 51.0 |
| OX^b 0.1 | 4.97 | 0.18 | 0.02 | 1.20 | 0.04 | 0.26 | 0.15 | 0.04 |

b Doxorubicin