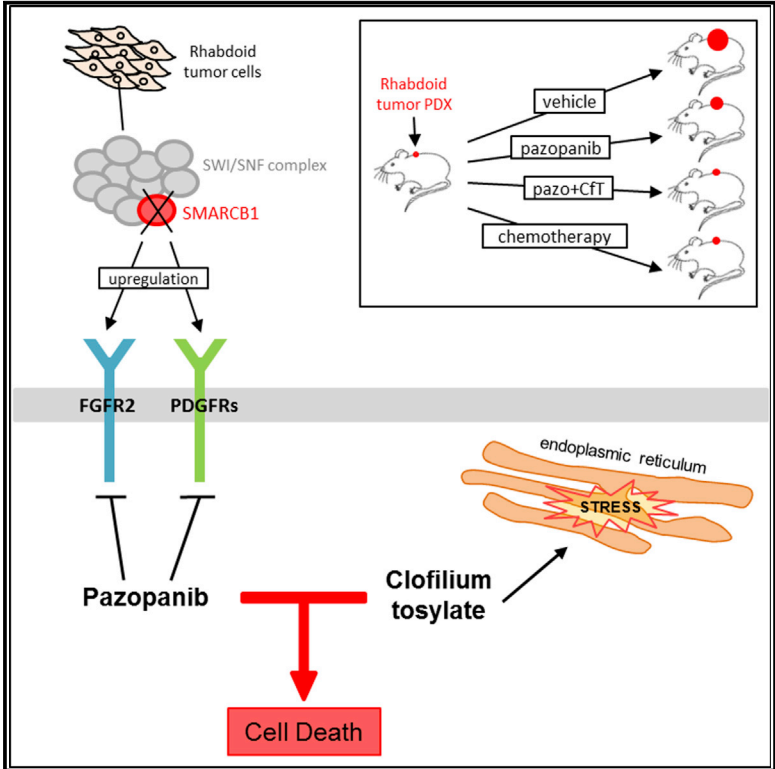


Cell Reports

High-Throughput Drug Screening Identifies Pazopanib and Clofilium Tosylate as Promising Treatments for Malignant Rhabdoid Tumors

Graphical Abstract



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In Brief

Rhabdoid tumors (RTs) are aggressive pediatric tumors characterized by SMARCB1 inactivation. Chauvin et al. identify two SMARCB1-dependent targeted therapies for RT: pazopanib, which inhibits PDGFR and FGFR2, and the potassium channel inhibitor clofilium tosylate, which induces endoplasmic reticulum stress. Combining both drugs induces cell apoptosis and reduces PDX tumor growth.

Highlights

- High-throughput screening identifies pazopanib and clofilium tosylate for rhabdoid tumors
- PDGFR α/β and FGFR2 are identified as targets of pazopanib
- Pazopanib combined with clofilium tosylate induces apoptosis of RT cells
- Reduction of PDX tumor growth by pazopanib is enhanced by the combination with Cft

Data and Software Availability

GSE98277
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High-Throughput Drug Screening Identifies Pazopanib and Clofilium Tosylate as Promising Treatments for Malignant Rhabdoid Tumors

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SUMMARY

Rhabdoid tumors (RTs) are aggressive tumors of early childhood characterized by SMARCB1 inactivation. Their poor prognosis highlights an urgent need to develop new therapies. Here, we performed a high-throughput screening of approved drugs and identified broad inhibitors of tyrosine kinase receptors (RTKs), including pazopanib, and the potassium channel inhibitor clofilium tosylate (CfT), as SMARCB1-dependent candidates. Pazopanib targets were identified as PDGFR α/β and FGFR2, which were the most highly expressed RTKs in a set of primary tumors. Combined genetic inhibition of both these RTKs only partially recapitulated the effect of pazopanib, emphasizing the requirement for broad inhibition. CfT perturbed protein metabolism and endoplasmic reticulum stress and, in combination with pazopanib, induced apoptosis of RT cells *in vitro*. *In vivo*, reduction of tumor growth by pazopanib was enhanced in combination with CfT, matching the efficiency of conventional chemotherapy. These results strongly support testing pazopanib/CfT combination therapy in future clinical trials for RTs.

INTRODUCTION

Rhabdoid tumors (RTs) are rare aggressive cancers of infancy and early childhood that arise in the brain, kidney, liver, and

miscellaneous soft-tissues and are characterized by biallelic inactivation of the *SMARCB1* gene (Versteeg et al., 1998). Although combined in intensive protocols, conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy allow only moderate tumor control, equating to 30% 3-year event-free survival (Brennan et al., 2016), with concerning toxicity. Seeking new therapeutic combinations is therefore of great urgency. Recent efforts have focused on restoring biological functions lost by *SMARCB1* deficiency, such as G1-to-S transition (Smith et al., 2008), or epigenetic factors, such as histone deacetylase (Kerl et al., 2013; Muscat et al., 2016) and the polycomb repressor complex 2 (PRC2) (Knutson et al., 2013). Others have studied the effects of drugs of interest, such as tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKI's) on various cell lines and thereby identified some efficacy of one compound on RT cell lines (Wong et al., 2016). Some of these promising results are now being translated into the clinic (Geoerger et al., 2017). Finally, other strategies rely on new administration modalities of previously approved drugs (“drug repositioning”); metronomic treatments using fenofibrate, celecoxib, and thalidomide, for instance, have shown considerable promise in RT treatment (Robison et al., 2014).

Drug repurposing is a valuable route to rapid drug development (Bertolini et al., 2015) because of the known toxicology and pharmacology lower regulatory barriers and cost. Finding relevant new therapies for patients by drug repositioning is particularly relevant in pediatrics, given the lower number of early-phase trials compared with adult oncology. RTs can therefore be good candidates for such experimental investigations. One way to identify promising anti-cancer therapies is to perform large-scale pharmaceutical screenings, which blindly assess both anti-cancer and non-cancer drug activities (Raynal et al.,

2017). Large-scale drug screening also paves the way for potential successful combinations with several identified “hits.” Here, we report results from screening a 1,200 approved-drug library to selectively inhibit SMARCB1-deficient cells. Thereby, we identified one antiarrhythmic agent (clofilium tosylate [CfT]) and broad TKI’s such as vatalanib, ponatinib, and pazopanib, in keeping with recent reports. We found that several tyrosine kinase receptors (RTKs) must be targeted together to recapitulate the *in vitro* toxicity of broad TKI’s. Finally, we show that the combination of the two main hits from our screening, CfT and pazopanib, delays tumor growth *in vivo* with an efficacy comparable to that of conventional chemotherapies currently used in the clinic.

RESULTS

High-Throughput Screening of US Food and Drug Administration-Approved Drugs Identified Vatalanib and CfT

To identify new therapeutic candidates, we screened the Prestwick Chemical Library, containing 1,200 approved molecules, on the G401 cell line and the I2A inducible cell line in the presence or absence (I2A + SMARCB1, hereafter named I2A+) of doxycycline in order to identify drugs specific for SMARCB1-deficient cells. The percentage of cytotoxic drugs (robust Z [RZ] score <−2) in G401, I2A and I2A+ cells was 14%, 21%, and 17%, respectively (Figure 1A; Table S1). Following the selection criteria detailed in Figure S1B, we finally selected (1) compounds showing a RZ score <−5 in at least one RT cell line (I2A or G401 cells) and showing no activity in I2A+ cells (RZ score >−2), which comprised 5 drugs (5-fluorouracil, luteolin, rimexolone, amethopterin [R,S], and methotrexate); and (2) compounds with some weak activity in I2A+ cells (−5 < RZ score <−2) and showing a strong effect in at least one RT cell line (RZ score <−10) and a differential between I2A+ and I2A exceeding 2, leading to the selection of an additional 5 compounds (CfT, podophyllotoxin, ciclopirox ethanolamine, thioguanosine, and vatalanib). Altogether, we identified 10 compounds that inhibited I2A and/or G401 viability significantly more effectively than I2A+.

Confirmation of the Candidate Drugs

To demonstrate that clinically relevant hits can be identified with our screening setup, we performed dose-response curves for the 10 candidate drugs. Six compounds showed a half maximal inhibitory concentration (IC₅₀) <10 μM in both SMARCB1-deficient cell lines (Table 1; Figure S1C), belonging to distinct therapeutic groups: four conventional anti-mitotic agents (amethopterin [R,S], methotrexate, podophyllotoxin, and thioguanosine); one antiarrhythmic agent (CfT), and one broad TKI (vatalanib). To focus on innovative therapies, anti-mitotics were not considered further. Vatalanib and CfT, the two remaining compounds, were tested on a larger panel of 7 SMARCB1-negative RT cell lines and compared to 5 SMARCB1-positive cell lines (I2A+, slowly cycling, in 2 conditions and 4 rapidly cycling non-RT cells). *In vitro* treatment with vatalanib or CfT inhibited SMARCB1-negative cell growth (IC₅₀ median = 5.1 μM or 4.2 μM, respectively), whereas SMARCB1-positive cell lines were significantly

less affected (IC₅₀ median = 10.8 μM or 15.5 μM, respectively) (Figure 1B).

Human RT Cell Lines Are Specifically Sensitive to Pazopanib

Vatalanib was the only TKI identified in the screen, but confirmation assessments revealed a high IC₅₀. Hence, we investigated whether other TKI’s were more potent (i.e., IC₅₀ <1 μM). Among the 9 other US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved TKI’s tested, ponatinib, axitinib, nintedanib, pazopanib, and dasatinib showed an IC₅₀ median ≤1 μM (0.13, 0.3, 0.6, 0.8, and 1 μM, respectively), whereas crenolanib, CP-673451, telatinib, and amuvatinib were less efficient (IC₅₀ median = 2.1, 3.1, 3.9, and 20.6 μM, respectively) (Figure 1C). The highest differential between SMARCB1-negative and SMARCB1-positive cell lines was found with pazopanib (p = 0.001), suggesting that the SMARCB1-dependent effect of TKI is maximal for this drug.

Phosphoproteomic Screen Identifies PDGFRα/β and FGFR2 as Targets of Pazopanib in RTs

To identify RTKs targeted by pazopanib, we assessed the phosphorylation of 49 RTKs upon treatment of the I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cell lines using the Proteome Profiler human phospho-RTK array. Among all RTKs inhibited by pazopanib (listed in Figure S2), only two were impacted in the four cell lines: (1) platelet-derived growth factor receptors (PDGFRs; PDGFRα in I2A and DEV and PDGFRβ in G401 and KD), for which we detected the strongest signal in DMSO-treated cells, and (2) fibroblast growth factor receptor 2 (FGFR2), albeit with lower intensity than PDGFRs (Figures 2A and S2).

To validate PDGFR and FGFR2 activity and sensitivity to pazopanib, we submitted I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cells to basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) or platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) stimulation, either alone or upon pazopanib treatment. PDGF activation of PDGFRα in I2A and DEV cells and PDGFRβ in G401 and KD cells (Figure 2B) was efficiently inhibited by pazopanib in all 4 cell lines. The downstream effectors ERK1/2 and AKT were also activated by PDGF and inhibited by pazopanib, with a lesser effect observed in KD cells. Similar results were observed for bFGF signaling, which activates ERK1/2 (Figure 2B).

PDGFRs and FGFR2 Are Expressed in Primary RTs and Dependent upon SMARCB1 Loss

We next analyzed whether PDGFRs and FGFR are relevant targets for further studies in humans. RTKs for which phosphorylation was inhibited by pazopanib in more than one cell line (Figure S2) were ordered according to their expression level in primary tumors; PDGFRα, FGFR2, and PDGFRβ were the highest expressed RTKs (Figure 2C).

We then analyzed how expression of RTK and downstream effectors were affected by SMARCB1 using the I2A inducible cells. None of the RTK varied in expression level upon SMARCB1 re-expression, except PDGFRα and FGFR2 (Figure 2D); we also noticed a significant variation in downstream inhibitors, such as DUSP1, DUSP9, and SPRY2 (Figure S3A). Thus, PDGFR and FGFR2, the two consensus signaling targets of pazopanib in our cell lines, are the most highly expressed RTKs in primary

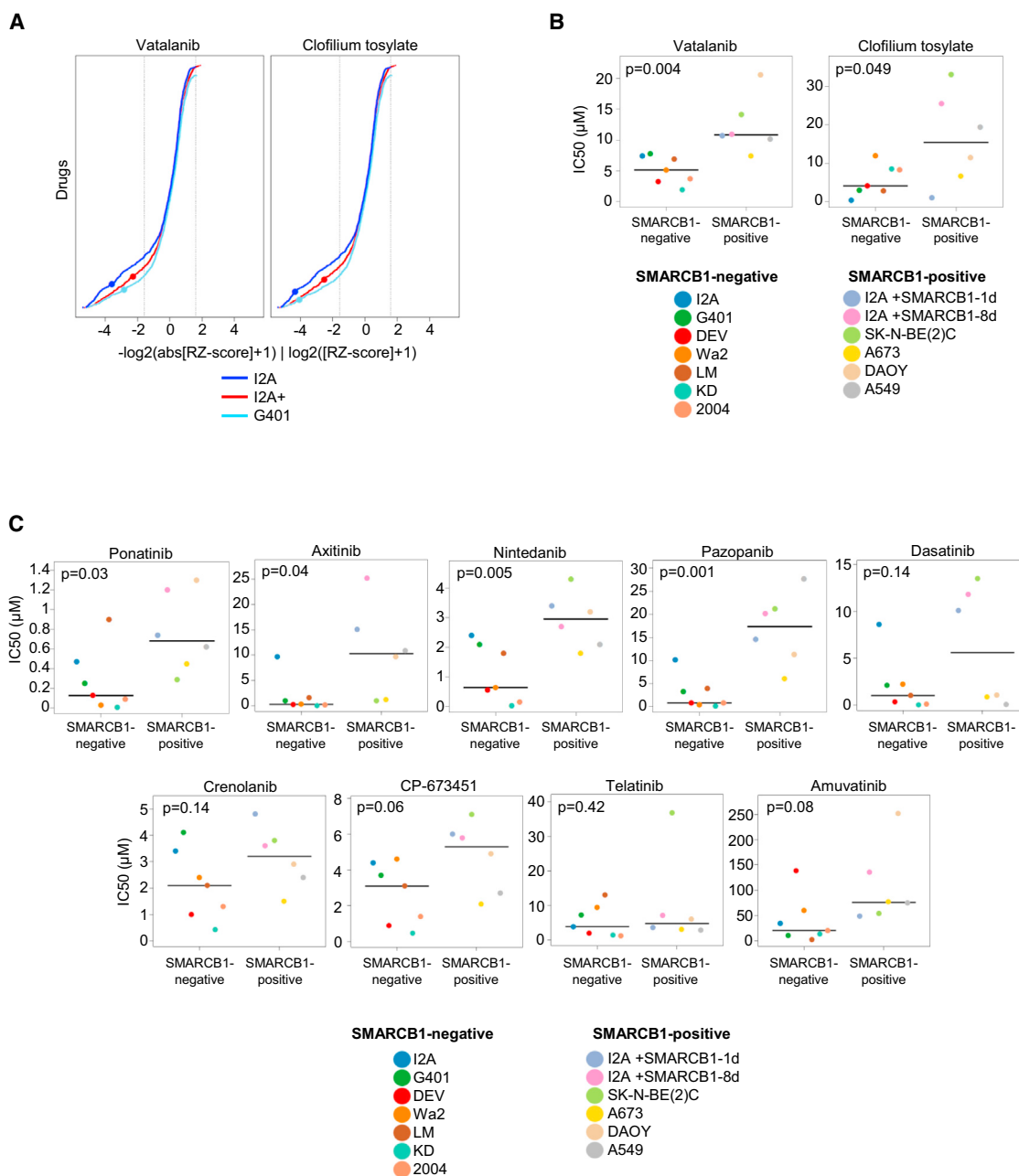


Figure 1. High-Throughput Drug Screening Identifies Vatalanib and CFT

(A) Distribution of RZ scores of 1,200 molecules from the Prestwick Chemical Library in I2A, I2A+, and G401 cell lines. x axis: if the RZ score was negative or positive, the formula $-\log_2(\text{abs}[\text{RZ score}] + 1)$ or $\log_2(|\text{RZ score} + 1)$ was used, respectively. Line color indicates the cell line. Dots correspond to the drug indicated above the panel. RZ score data are provided in Table S1.

(B and C) IC₅₀ values of vatalanib and clofilium tosylate (B) or expanded series of TKi (C), normalized to DMSO control, in 7 SMARCB1-negative and 6 SMARCB1-positive cell lines (I2A at day 1 or day 8 after DOX withdrawal). Dots represent the mean of 2–3 independent experiments; horizontal lines represent the median. p values were obtained by two-tailed unpaired Student's t test.

tumors, and their expression, together with various signaling effectors, is regulated by *SMARCB1*. Furthermore, analysis of publicly available data on human samples (Johann et al., 2016) revealed a striking low methylation of *PDGFRα* and *FGFR2* promoters (Figures S3B–S3D); in contrast, chromatin immunopre-

ciation sequencing (ChIP-seq) data in the G401 cell line (Wang et al., 2017) showed no histone modification in enhancer regions upon *SMARCB1* re-expression (Figures S3E and S3F). Together, these findings suggest that *SMARCB1* regulates RTK expression via promoter methylation.

Table 1. RZ Scores (Median of Replicates) and IC₅₀ Values in I2A, G401, and I2A+ Cell Lines for the 10 Selected Hits

Perturbator	Therapeutic Group	RZ Scores (Median of Replicates)			IC ₅₀ (μM)		
		I2A	G401	I2A+	I2A	G401	I2A+
5-Fluorouracil	chemotherapy	−2.07	−15.57	−1.57	78.9	0.8	37.7
Luteolin	expectorant	−8.54	−5.34	−1.11	25.3	11.7	27.3
Rimexolone	glucocorticoid steroid	−2.26	−8.84	−1.72	47.0	8.0	32.0
Amethopterin (R,S)	chemotherapy	−3.35	−7.32	−1.34	0.07	0.3	7.6
Methotrexate	chemotherapy	−3.38	−7.29	−1.76	0.08	0.3	0.4
CfT	antiarrhythmic	−19.30	−15.93	−4.77	0.4	3.0	1.1
Podophyllotoxin	chemotherapy	−7.45	−17.73	−4.78	0.02	0.01	0.1
Ciclopirox ethanolamine	antifungal	−9.63	−11.94	−3.61	50.9	5.7	41.0
Thioguanosine	chemotherapy	−8.63	−11.55	−4.74	5.3	2.5	7.4
Vatalanib	RTK inhibitor	−11.24	−6.24	−3.88	7.4	7.8	10.7

Dual Depletion of PDGFR and FGFR2 Partly Recapitulates the Effect of Pazopanib on RT Cell Lines

To confirm the sensitivity of SMARCB1-deficient cells to FGFR2 and/or PDGFR α/β inhibition, we investigated whether depletion of PDGFRs or FGFR2 could recapitulate the effect of pazopanib. To this aim, I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cells were transfected with small interfering RNA (siRNA) against FGFR2 and/or PDGFR α (I2A and DEV) and FGFR2 and/or PDGFR β (G401 and KD). Despite a strong knockdown effect of the siRNAs (Figure 2E), PDGFR and FGFR2 depletion did not affect RT cell viability (Figure 2F) or apoptosis (Figure 2G). In contrast, co-depleting PDGFR α and FGFR2 in I2A and DEV cells and PDGFR β and FGFR2 in G401 and KD cells significantly decreased cell viability in all four RT cell lines, but not in control I2A+ cells (Figure 2F). In I2A, G401, and KD cells, a significant increase in apoptosis was also induced by dual depletion compared to control cells (Figure 2G), and this was related to decreased AKT phosphorylation (data not shown). Thus, PDGFR or FGFR2 depletion alone is insufficient to phenocopy the effect of pazopanib, which was better recapitulated by dual RTK inactivation.

Combinatory Treatment of Pazopanib and CfT Induces Apoptosis in RTs

To circumvent potential resistance to single therapies, we investigated whether pazopanib and CfT could potentiate each other when used in combination. We thus exposed 4 SMARCB1-deficient RT cell lines and 4 SMARCB1-positive cell lines to pazopanib at IC₅₀ concentrations combined with CfT at intermediate concentration (2.5 μM) and assessed toxicity by two methods, Annexin V (Figure 3A) and resazurin (data not shown). Pazopanib treatment significantly induced apoptosis when compared to DMSO-treated cells in all RT cell lines tested except G401, whereas no apoptosis was observed in CfT-treated cells. When pazopanib was combined with CfT, a significant increase in apoptosis was detected in all 4 RT cell lines, whereas 3 out of 4 SMARCB1-positive cell lines were significantly less affected. Thus, our results suggest some specific vulnerability of RT cell lines to the pro-apoptotic activity of pazopanib combined with CfT. To understand the biological effects of CfT, we submitted I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cells to bFGF or PDGF stimulation, alone or upon CfT treatment. CfT treatment affected neither pro-

tein levels of PDGFR α/β and FGFR2 nor their phosphorylation and ERK or AKT activation. However, RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) performed on DEV and G401 cells upon CfT treatment revealed striking changes in protein metabolism and endoplasmic reticulum stress (Figure S4), suggesting that TKi's and CfT induce apoptosis by two complementary mechanisms.

Pazopanib Alone or In Combination with CfT Reduces RT Growth *In Vivo*

To assess the therapeutic potential of pazopanib and CfT on RT *in vivo*, we used two RT patient-derived xenografts (PDXs), RT-001-HAM (exons 1–4, homozygous deletion) and IC-pPDX-6 (exons 1–9, homozygous deletion). In both PDXs, pazopanib treatment significantly reduced RT growth compared to vehicle-treated mice. Furthermore, association with CfT demonstrated a significant potentiation of pazopanib's antitumor effect. The combination showed a similar or even a stronger effect than standard conventional chemotherapy (etoposide and carboplatin) on the two PDXs (Figures 3B–3E). Our candidate drugs alone and in combination significantly decreased Ki67 staining (Figures 3F and 3G). Altogether, these results demonstrate the therapeutic potential of pazopanib and, further, the benefit of combining pazopanib with CfT for treating RTs.

DISCUSSION

Although no mutation or amplification in any RTK gene is found in RTs, there is emerging evidence that TKi's may be important for the clinical management of this aggressive malignancy (Huang, 2017). The first evidence showed that targeting IGF-1R induced apoptosis in BT12 and BT16 AT/RT cell lines (D'cunja et al., 2007). In addition, the EGFR-HER2 TKi lapatinib inhibited the growth of BT16 AT/RT xenografts (Singh et al., 2013; Wöhrlé et al. 2013) also highlighted the potential efficacy of NVP-BGJ398, a FGFR inhibitor, on A204, G401, and G402 extra-cranial RT cell lines and related this efficacy to the dependence of FGFR on SMARCB1. Results from a wide TKi library screening recently highlighted the specific sensitivity of A204 and G402 extra-cranial RT cell lines to TKi, among several other sarcomas (Wong et al. 2016). In keeping with our findings, they identified pazopanib as an active agent in RTs, although no preclinical

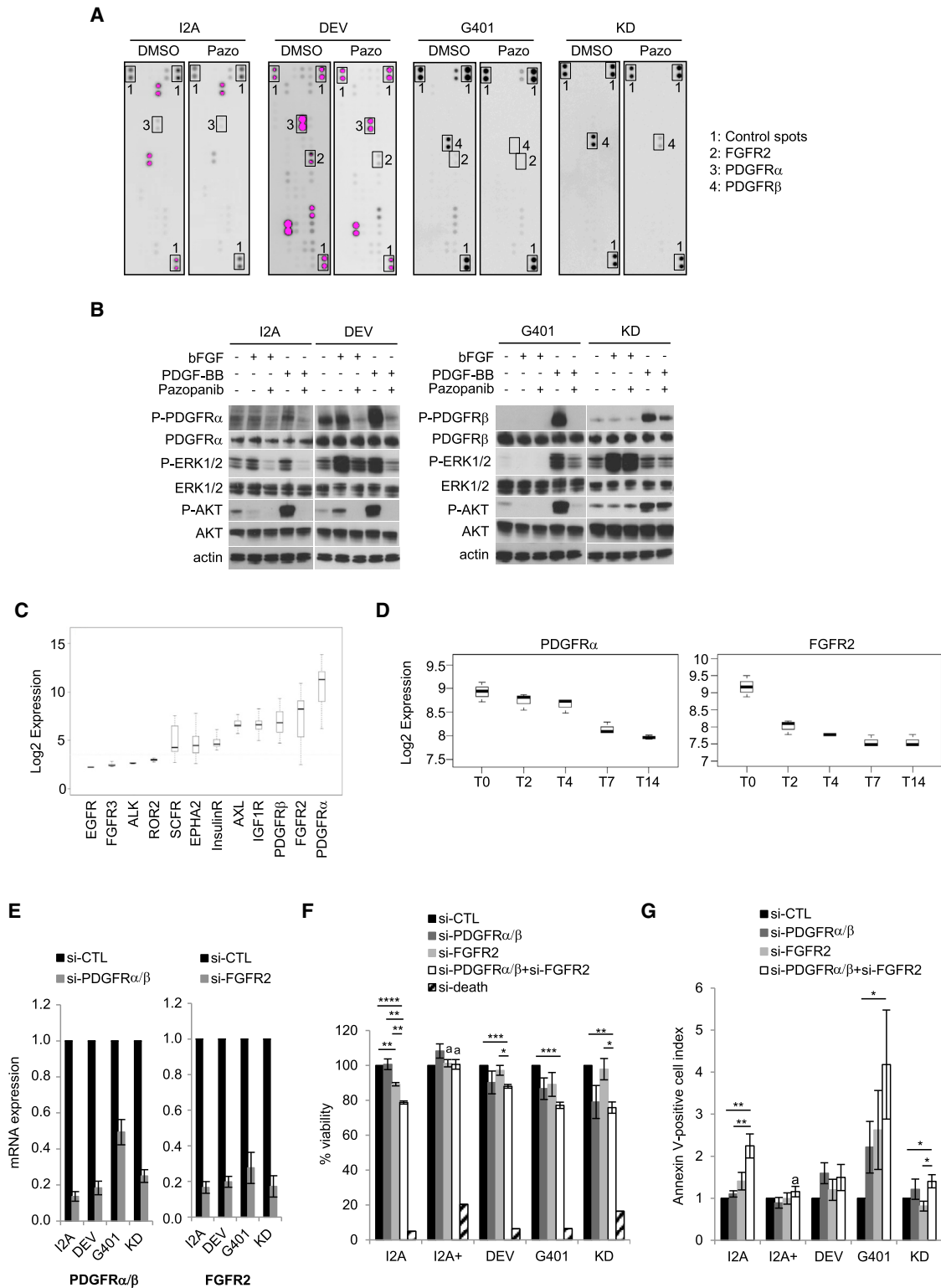


Figure 2. PDGFR α/β and FGFR2 Are Targeted by Pazopanib

(A) Phospho-RTK array showing the inhibitory effects of pazopanib on the phosphorylation of multiple RTKs in I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cell lines. Vertical pairs of spots represent one receptor; control (1), FGFR2 (2), PDGFR α (3), and PDGFR β (4) are boxed.

(B) Immunoblot of PDGFR α , PDGFR β , ERK1/2, and AKT phosphorylation levels in I2A, DEV, G401, and KD cell lines after overnight starvation, bFGF or PDGF-BB stimulation, and pazopanib treatment.

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in vivo testing was reported. This result was supported by the Genomics of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer Project, where the cytotoxicity of 130 anticancer drugs on almost 700 cancer cell lines was tested (Garnett et al., 2012); the only 2 drugs showing a cytotoxic effect in the 2 SMARCB1-negative cell lines (G401 and G402) were pazopanib and nutlin-3a. From subsequent *in vitro* resistance-based experiments and primary tumor expression profiling, Wong et al. (2016) identified PDGFR α and FGFR1 as potential oncogenic drivers in RTs and emphasized the necessity of dual RTK depletion to circumvent resistance mechanisms. Finally, Torchia et al. (2016) reported some ability of dasatinib to delay BT12 xenograft growth and showed that PDGFR β expression, targeted by dasatinib, is epigenetically controlled by SMARCB1 in a subgroup of AT/RT. Altogether, consistent with our own findings, several recent studies converge to identify PDGFR α , PDGFR β , and FGFRs as potential oncogenic actors in RTs, although their expression profiles may vary according to cell line or primary tumor subtype. How these results will translate into the clinic is a major upcoming issue. The bottleneck of several previously published studies resides in the absence of confirmation in faithful *in vivo* models. In our hands, pazopanib showed actual growth delay on two extra-cranial RT PDXs as a single agent. However, it did not enable sustainable tumor control, which emphasizes the necessity for drug combination. Combining TKI's with other drugs that can act synergistically to lower its IC₅₀ will thus be necessary.

The second drug we identified in our screen is Cft, an antiarrhythmic agent. Interestingly, several studies also provide some evidence of unexpected antitumor effects of antiarrhythmic agents. Amiodarone, nimodipine, and verapamil, three major antiarrhythmic agents used in the clinic, showed cytotoxicity on cancer cells (Kubiak et al., 1989; Durmaz et al., 1999). In line with our observation of a metabolic effect of Cft, recent data have shown that targeting a potassium channel can lead to selective apoptosis of cancer cells via reactive oxygen species (Leanza et al., 2017). The potential dependence of RT cell lines on protein metabolism and their sensitivity to endoplasmic reticulum stress provides therapeutic and biological perspectives.

In conclusion, our study provides evidence that exploiting vulnerability to TKI's in SMARCB1-deficient tumors may be an effective therapeutic strategy. Pazopanib has been approved in the treatment of various sarcomas in adults, and a pediatric phase 1 with a liquid formulation has been published (Glade

Bender et al., 2013). Whether its use in combination with downstream effector inhibitors or Cft will affect tumor response deserves to be tested in a clinical trial.

EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURES

Cell Lines

The drug screening was performed on G401 cells (ATCC CRL-1441) and on the inducible system I2A, derived from MON as previously published by our team (Medjkane et al., 2004). Five other human cell lines were used: KD (Versteeg et al., 1998), 2004 (Versteeg et al., 1998), DEV (Giraudon et al., 1993), Wa2 (Handgretinger et al., 1990), and LM (Versteeg et al., 1998). Four cell lines were used as controls: A673 (Ewing sarcoma), DAOY (medulloblastoma), A549 (SMARCA4-deficient lung carcinoma; obtained from the ATCC [CRL-1598, HTB-186, and CCL-185, respectively]), and SK-N-BE(2)C (neuroblastoma) (Barnes et al., 1981). Details for cell culture conditions are described in Supplemental Experimental Procedures.

Compound Screening Workflow

For toxicity screening, cells were plated out in 384-well thin-bottom imaging plates for 24 hr. The Prestwick Chemical Library V2 (Prestwick Chemical), a collection of 1,200 off-patent drugs already approved by the FDA, was then added to a final dose of 10 μ M in each well. 48 hr after compound transfer, cells were stained with 0.2 μ g/mL DAPI. Images of the DAPI channel (4 fields/well) were acquired using the IN Cell Analyzer 2000 automated wide-field system (GE Healthcare). The drug screening was performed in two independent experiments for each cell line.

Screening Data Analysis

The raw cell count was transformed with log function and normalized using plate median methods and variance adjusted using B-score normalization (Mosteller and Tukey, 1977; Birmingham et al., 2009). RZ score transformations were applied to center and scale the data across the screen. The screening data from each cell-replicate pair was treated individually. RZ scores for a given compound were then mean summarized per replicate screen. Drugs were then ranked based on a maximum RZ score and hits picked on the selection criteria shown in Figure S1B. Details are provided in Supplemental Experiment Procedures.

Cell Viability Assay

For IC₅₀ determination, cell viability was assessed using a resazurin assay after 48 hr of drug exposure. IC₅₀ data were generated from nonlinear fit of dose-response curves using a four-parameter regression fit in PRISM 5 software (GraphPad). Details are provided in Supplemental Experiment Procedures.

Analysis of Apoptosis

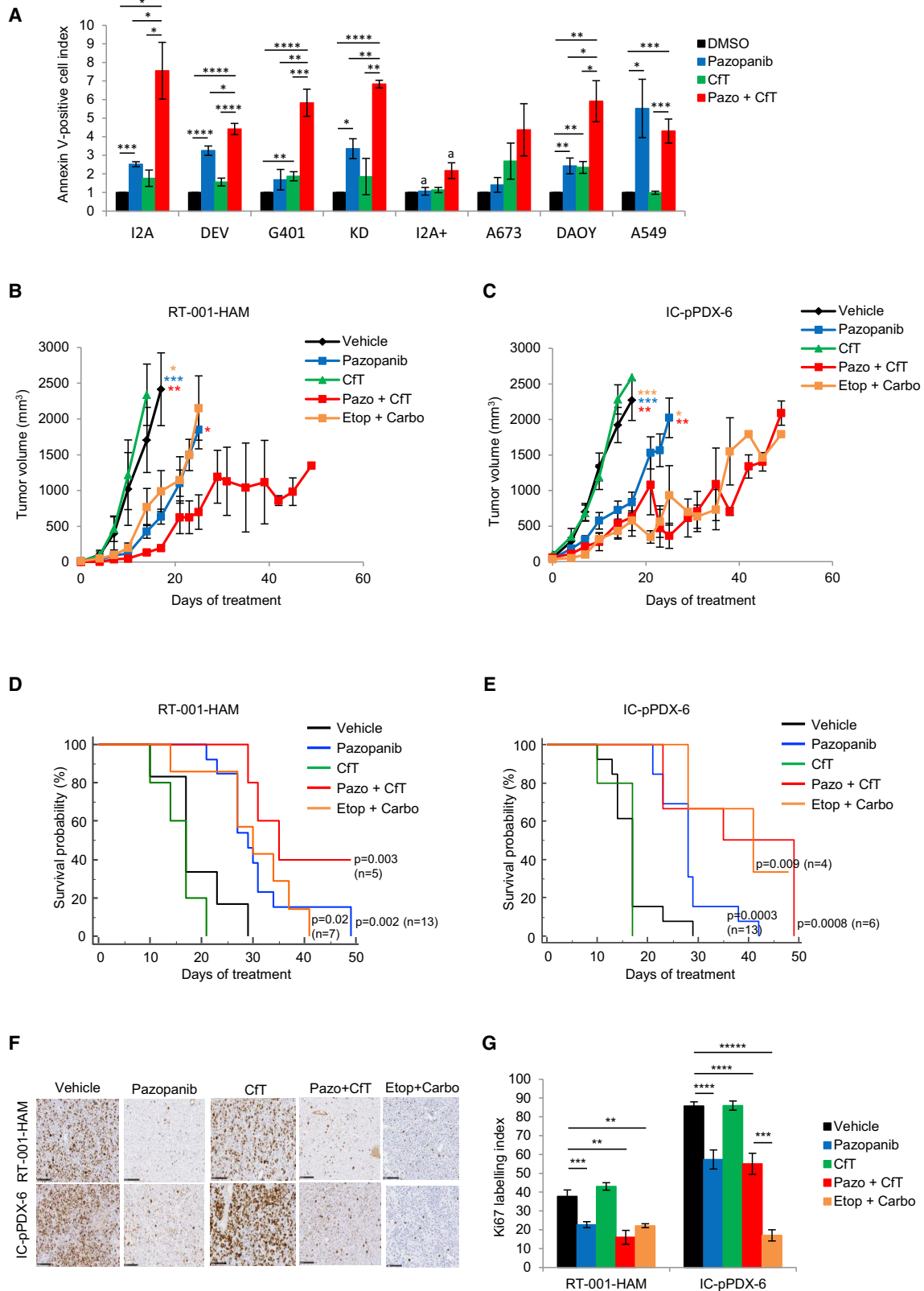
Cells (including supernatant) were harvested 72 hr after treatment or transfection and stained with APC-Annexin V (BD Biosciences) and 7-aminoactinomycin D (Life Technologies). I2A cells were treated or transfected at day 1 after doxycycline withdrawal. Samples were assayed on an LSR II flow cytometer

(C) Ordered boxplots showing log₂ expression of RTKs for which phosphorylation was inhibited by pazopanib in more than one cell line, obtained on Affymetrix U133Plus2.0 arrays in 48 human primary RTs (Han et al., 2016). Central rectangles span the first quartile to the third quartile, the horizontal line shows the median, and whiskers are taken to 1.5 \times interquartile range (IQR) from the quartile.

(D) Log₂ expression of PDGFR α and FGFR2 obtained on Affymetrix HuGene 2.1st arrays in I2A at different time points (days) after doxycycline withdrawal. Central rectangles span the first quartile to the third quartile; the horizontal line shows the median; whiskers are taken to 1.5 \times IQR from the quartile.

(E) qRT-PCR analysis of knockdown efficacy of siRNAs used to silence PDGFR α or FGFR2 (I2A and DEV) and PDGFR β or FGFR2 (G401 and KD). Data were normalized to siRNA control (si-CTL) and are shown as the mean \pm SEM of results obtained with 3 different siRNAs against PDGFR α , 2 different siRNAs against PDGFR β , and 2 different siRNAs against FGFR2.

(F and G) Cell viability (F) and Annexin V staining (G) upon siRNA silencing of PDGFR α , FGFR2, and the combination in I2A, I2A+, and DEV cells and of PDGFR β , FGFR2, and the combination in G401 and KD cells. Death-siRNA was used as a positive control of cell mortality. Data were normalized to si-CTL and are shown as the mean \pm SEM of results obtained with 3 different siRNAs against PDGFR α , 2 different siRNAs against PDGFR β , and 2 different siRNAs against FGFR2 (n = 3–4 independent experiments). For each gene, the siRNA inducing the higher depletion of its target considering the qRT-PCR results was used in dual depletion experiments. ns, not significant; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ****p < 0.0001; a, p < 0.05 versus I2A of the same transfection (two-tailed unpaired Student's t test).



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(Becton Dickinson). Data were analyzed with FlowJo software (Tree Star), and the Annexin-V-positive cell index was calculated by normalizing the percentage of Annexin-V-positive cells to control.

Human Phospho-Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Array

The human phospho-RTK Array kit for 49 RTKs (R&D Systems) was used to simultaneously detect the relative tyrosine phosphorylation levels. A total of 4×10^6 I2A cells with doxycycline, G401, DEV, and KD cells were seeded in 25-cm² flasks 1 day before treatment with pazopanib at IC₅₀ concentrations or DMSO as a control. Cells were then harvested after 30 min of treatment, and the RTK array analysis was performed as described in [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#). For phospho-array validation experiments, cells underwent overnight serum starvation and were stimulated with 25 ng/mL of bFGF (Sigma-Aldrich) or 50 ng/mL of PDGF-BB (Millipore) in the presence or absence of pazopanib at IC₅₀ concentrations. Details regarding cell extraction and western blotting are given in [Supplemental Experiment Procedures](#).

Transient Transfections

The procedures for transfections are detailed in [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#).

RNA Extraction, Reverse Transcription, and qRT-PCR

Details are provided in [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#).

RNA-Seq Analyses

RNA from DEV and G401 cells were extracted 48 hr after initiation of treatment with CfT from 3 independent experiments. mRNA expression was assessed using the Illumina HiSeq2500 platform. Data processing and analyses are detailed in [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#).

Patient-Derived Xenograft Studies

Two RT PDX models were used: RT-001-HAM (liver tumor; [Nicolle et al., 2016](#)) and IC-pPDX-6 (soft tissue; Curie Institute). Drug effects were assessed in Swiss nude mice. Treatment modalities and assessment of efficacy are detailed in the [Supplemental Experimental Procedures](#). The project was approved per the Curie Institute ethical committee (approval no. 05191.4); all experiments were performed in compliance with ethical requirements.

Statistical Methods

Experimental results are representative of at least two independent experiments. *In vivo* experiments were performed with at least four mice per group. The statistical significance of data in all figures was evaluated by Student's t test.

DATA AND SOFTWARE AVAILABILITY

The accession numbers for the I2A microarray gene expression data and the CfT-treated G401 and DEV RNA-seq data are GEO: GSE98277 and GEO: GSE102467, respectively.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Supplemental Information includes Supplemental Experimental Procedures, four figures, one table, and one data set and can be found with this article online at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.celrep.2017.10.076>.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Conceptualization, F.B and C.C.; Methodology, C.C., E.D.N., and F.B.; Investigation, C.C., A. Leruste, Z.-Y.H., A.T.-E., M.B., and E.A.; Validation, C.C.; Formal Analysis and Visualization, M.A., A. Lescure, and W.R.; Resources, D.S., S.Z., S.C., M.-M.A., L.M., S.B., and J.M.-P.; Writing – Original Draft, C.C. and F.B.; Writing – Review & Editing, C.C., F.B., and O.D.; Supervision, F.B. and O.D.; Funding Acquisition, F.B., S.R.-R., and O.D.

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Figure 3. *In Vitro* and *In Vivo* Treatment with Pazopanib and CfT

(A) Annexin V staining in the indicated cell lines after treatment with pazopanib, CfT, or the combination, normalized to DMSO control. Data are shown as the mean \pm SEM (n = 3–8 independent experiments). ns, not significant; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ****p < 0.00001; a, p < 0.05 versus I2A of the same treatment (two-tailed unpaired Student's t test).

(B–E) Tumor volume (B and C) and Kaplan-Meier survival curves (D and E) of RT-001-HAM (B and D) and IC-pPDX-6 (C and E) RT PDXs treated with pazopanib, CfT, both combined, or the etoposide-carboplatin combination. ns, not significant; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001 (two-tailed unpaired Student's t test). Data in (B) and (C) are shown as the mean of tumor volume \pm SEM (n = 4–13 mice for each group). p values in (D) and (E) compared drug-treated groups with the vehicle-treated group.

(F and G) Ki67 immunostaining images (F) and data (G) are shown as the mean of Ki67 labeling index \pm SEM. Scale bar represents 100 μ m. ns, not significant; *p < 0.05; **p < 0.01; ***p < 0.001; ****p < 0.00001; *****p < 0.000001 (two-tailed unpaired Student's t test).

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