Combination therapy for the treatment of Primary Effusion Lymphoma

Published date: Aug. 15, 2014

Technology description

Market Opportunity

Primary effusion lymphoma (PEL) is an aggressive type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma typically associated with human herpesvirus 8 infection in immunocompromised individuals. PEL is an incurable orphan disease and has extremely poor prognosis with median survival of several months. The current standard of care for PEL is using cytotoxic chemotherapeutic agents, which increases the risk of treatment-related mortality. Given the poor prognosis and limited treatment options of PEL, there is clearly an unmet medical need to be addressed.

USC Solution

USC researchers have found that a combination of two types of drugs, one of which is FDA approved and the other in clinical development, yielded promising results in treating PEL. This drug combination works on molecular and cellular levels by targeting PEL cells specifically through targeting a molecular feature of PEL. This combination also successfully increased the survival of PEL xenograft mice. Moreover, these two types of drugs are synergistic. Different members from each group were tested in such combination and proved to be successful.

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