Viral Encapsulation in Lecithin Liposomes to Enhance the Therapeutic Effect of Oncolytic Viral Cancer Therapy

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Oncolytic viruses have appeared to retain tumor-selective replication in cancer cells. In particular, the oncolytic virus TAV-255 has shown viral replication attenuation in normal cells while retaining cytolytic activity in tumor cells by taking advantage of defects in the p53-tumor suppressor pathway. Extensive testing of oncolytic viruses has shown a limited therapeutic effect due to rapid clearance by the reticuloendothelial (RE) system and antibody neutralization. With the aim to overcome an immune response and to enhance localized delivery, an oncolytic virus liposomal encapsulation method has been designed to increase tumor uptake and the therapeutic efficacy of oncolytic viruses in cancer cells. An inexpensive, non-toxic liposome has been prepared by self-assembly of Lecithin phospholipid bilayers around the Adenovirus capsid. In addition, surface functionalization of the liposomes may be applied to specifically target cancer cells and to compensate for decreased infectivity due to viral encapsulation.