Validated SJSA-1 Xenograft Model:
Subcutaneous And Metastatic Xenograft Tumor Model

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Sarcoma Xenografts: A Model for Preclinical Research

Sarcomas are a diverse group of malignant tumors that arise from connective tissues such as bone, muscle, fat, and cartilage. Due to their rarity and heterogeneity, developing effective treatments remains a significant challenge. Xenograft models, in which human sarcoma cells or tumor fragments are implanted into immunodeficient mice, are used for studying tumor biology and testing potential therapies. These models closely mimic the growth patterns, genetic characteristics, and treatment responses of human sarcomas, making them essential for preclinical drug development. Patient-derived xenografts (PDXs) are particularly advantageous as they preserve the heterogeneity of the original tumor, allowing researchers to evaluate personalized treatment strategies. Additionally, xenograft models enable the study of metastasis, tumor microenvironment interactions, and resistance mechanisms, providing crucial insights into sarcoma progression. Cell line-derived xenografts (CDXs), on the other hand, use established cancer cell lines to create tumors in animals, offering a more standardized and reproducible model for testing drug efficacy.

SJSA-1 Cell Line

The SJSA-1 cell line is derived from the bone tissue of a 19-year-old Black male patient diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a highly aggressive bone cancer. These cells are classified as fibroblasts and retain characteristics that make them valuable for cancer research, particularly in studying osteosarcoma's molecular mechanisms. As an osteosarcoma model, SJSA-1 cells provide insights into tumor biology, including cell proliferation, apoptosis, and genetic alterations associated with malignancy. These cells can be cultured and manipulated to investigate various aspects of osteosarcoma development and metastasis. In addition to their role in understanding tumor progression, SJSA-1 cells are essential for testing potential therapies aimed at targeting the underlying pathways of osteosarcoma. Their utility extends to drug screening, where they serve as an *in vitro* model to evaluate the efficacy of new anticancer compounds. Researchers also use SJSA-1 cells to explore the genetic and epigenetic changes that drive osteosarcoma's aggressive nature, contributing to the identification of potential biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

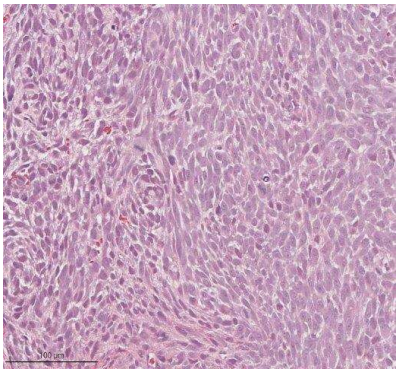

Figure 1. Tumor Histology. H&E stained section of subcutaneously-implanted SJSA-1 tumor (Altogen Labs).

Altogen Labs Validated SJSA-1 Xenograft Model

At Altogen Labs, preclinical study design for xenografts involves maintaining all cell flasks at a phase of exponential population growth. SJSA-1 cells are collected for injection, and their cell count and viability are determined using trypan blue staining. The cell suspension is adjusted to the required concentration, which consists of Matrigel mixed with SJSA-1 cells. One million cells (1 x 10^6 cells) in a 140-200 µL volume are injected subcutaneously into the hind leg of each mouse. NOD/SCID or athymic BALB/C mice, aged 10-12 weeks, are used for this experiment. The inoculation sites are monitored for tumor establishment, and tumor size is measured using digital calipers until it reaches 100-150 mm³. At this point, animals are randomly sorted into treatment groups, and the in-life portion of the study begins with the administration of the compound of interest. Tumor size and whole-body weights of the mice are measured and recorded three times a week. The study ends when the tumor size reaches a predetermined limit of 2,000 mm³ or the study's endpoint is

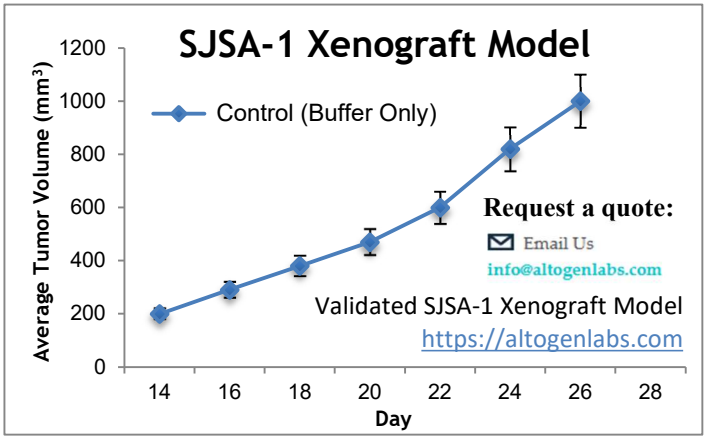

Figure 2. SJSA-1 osteosarcoma xenografted in immunocompromised mice, mean values +/- SEM (Altogen Labs).

reached. All animals are humanely euthanized for necropsies, and tumor tissues are removed and weighed. Digital imaging is taken of the tumors, and remaining tissues are collected for further analysis. These tissues may be frozen in liquid nitrogen, stabilized with RNA-later reagent, submerged in 10% NBF formalin, or used to isolate nucleic acids.

Subcutaneous SJSA-1 Models for Preclinical Testing

The SJSA-1 cell line is a well-characterized human osteosarcoma model commonly used in preclinical research. Subcutaneous SJSA-1 xenografts, in which these cells are implanted under the skin of immunodeficient mice, provide a reliable and reproducible platform for studying tumor growth, progression, and therapeutic response. This model is particularly valuable for evaluating the efficacy of novel chemotherapeutic agents, targeted therapies, and immunotherapies. SJSA-1 tumors are known for their rapid growth and high expression of MDM2, making them especially relevant for studying MDM2-p53 interactions and testing MDM2 inhibitors. The subcutaneous implantation site allows for easy tumor monitoring and measurement, facilitating non-invasive assessment of treatment efficacy.

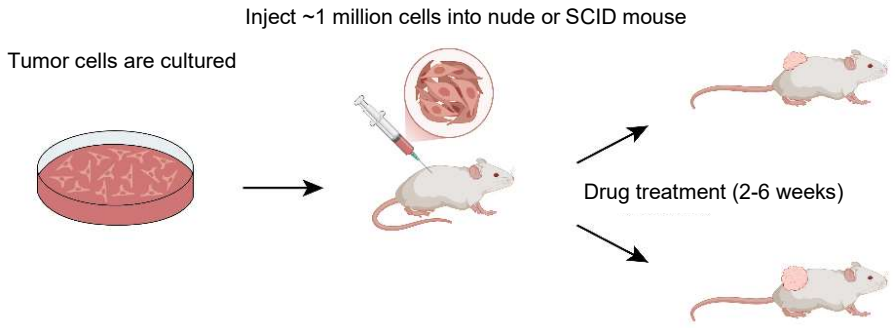

Figure 3. Illustration of subcutaneous implantation of SJSA-1 cells. (Altogen Labs).

Treatment Responses in Metastatic SJSA-1 Osteosarcoma Models

Metastatic SJSA-1 models are widely used in cancer research to study the progression and therapeutic response of osteosarcoma, a rare but aggressive bone cancer. SJSA-1 cells, derived from a human osteosarcoma, are particularly valuable for modeling metastatic disease due to their ability to disseminate to secondary sites such as the lungs and bones. These models help researchers investigate the molecular mechanisms underlying metastasis, including cell migration, invasion, and survival in distant organs. Additionally, metastatic SJSA-1 models provide a platform for testing novel therapies aimed at preventing or treating metastasis. By using *in vivo* models, researchers can assess the efficacy of targeted treatments, chemotherapies, and immunotherapies in a dynamic tumor microenvironment.

The Role of SJSA-1 Oncogenes in Targeted Cancer Therapy Studies

SJSA-1 is a human osteosarcoma cell line characterized by wild-type TP53 and high levels of MDM2 amplification. This overexpression of MDM2 leads to the suppression of p53 function, reducing apoptosis and promoting tumor survival. As a result, SJSA-1 is widely used in cancer research to study the effects of MDM2 inhibitors, such as Nutlin-3 and RG7388, which aim to restore p53 activity. Additionally, this cell line harbors an NRASQ61K mutation, making it a suitable model for investigating MAPK pathway inhibitors, including trametinib. Studies show that while SJSA-1 cells undergo growth arrest in response to these inhibitors, they exhibit minimal apoptosis due to persistent p53 suppression. This unique oncogenic profile makes SJSA-1 valuable for testing targeted therapies and understanding resistance mechanisms in osteosarcoma.

SJSA-1 Osteosarcoma Drug Resistance

SJSA-1 is a human osteosarcoma cell line known for its high resistance to chemotherapy, making it a critical model for studying drug resistance mechanisms. Research has shown that SJSA-1 exhibits increased expression of miR-34a-5p, which downregulates the DLL1 gene, a key regulator in the Notch signaling pathway. This suppression of DLL1 contributes to multi-drug resistance by inhibiting apoptosis and promoting cell survival under chemotherapy stress. In contrast, restoring DLL1 expression sensitizes SJSA-1 cells to drug-induced cell death, suggesting that targeting the miR-34a-5p/DLL1 axis could be a promising therapeutic approach. Furthermore, the ATF2/ATF3/ATF4 signaling pathway has been implicated in the regulation of chemoresistance in these cells, highlighting the complex molecular interactions that sustain osteosarcoma survival. Understanding the genetic and signaling alterations in SJSA-1 provides valuable insights into overcoming chemoresistance in osteosarcoma treatment.

SJSA-1 Handling Procedures and Subculturing Protocol

To ensure the highest cell viability, it is essential to thaw the vial and initiate culture as soon as possible upon receipt. If immediate culturing is not possible, the frozen culture should be stored in the liquid nitrogen vapor phase, as storage at -70°C will lead to a loss of viability. To thaw the vial, place it in a 37°C water bath, agitating gently, and ensure the O-ring and cap do not come into contact with the water to minimize contamination risks. Thawing should be completed rapidly, in approximately 2 minutes. Once thawed, remove the vial from the water bath and decontaminate it by dipping or spraying with 70% ethanol. From this point forward, all procedures should be carried out under strict aseptic conditions. The contents of the vial should be transferred to a 75 cm² tissue culture flask and diluted with the recommended complete culture medium (refer to batch-specific information for the dilution ratio). To maintain the proper pH, it is crucial to avoid excessive alkalinity in the medium during cell recovery. It is recommended that the culture vessel containing the growth medium be pre-incubated for at least 15 minutes to allow the medium to equilibrate to its optimal pH range (7.0 to 7.6) before adding the vial contents. Incubate the culture at 37°C in a suitable incubator, with a 5% CO2 in air atmosphere if using the specified medium. If the cryoprotective agent needs to be removed immediately or a more concentrated cell suspension is desired, centrifuge the cell suspension at approximately 125 xg for 5 to 10 minutes, discard the supernatant, and resuspend the cells in fresh growth medium according to the recommended dilution ratio provided in the specific batch information.

To subculture the cells, first remove the spent medium and add fresh 0.25% trypsin containing 0.53 mM EDTA solution. Gently rinse the cells with this solution and then remove the excess trypsin. Allow the culture to sit at room temperature, or alternatively at 37°C, for 2 to 5 minutes to facilitate cell detachment. After the incubation period, add fresh medium to neutralize the trypsin, and aspirate the solution. Finally, transfer the detached cells into new flasks for continued culture.

Case Study: Targeting SJSA-1 to Overcome Osteosarcoma Chemoresistance

A study by Pu Y, *et al*., published by *Cell Death and Disease* journal, investigates the role of SJSA-1, a chemo-resistant osteosarcoma cell line, in drug resistance mechanisms. SJSA-1 was found to have significantly lower expression of the long noncoding RNA (lncRNA) LAMTOR5-AS1 compared to the chemo-sensitive G-292 cell line. Overexpression of LAMTOR5-AS1 in SJSA-1 reduced its drug resistance, while its knockdown in G-292 increased resistance to chemotherapeutic agents like cisplatin (DDP). The study also identified nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (NRF2) as a key player in SJSA-1-mediated drug resistance. NRF2, known for its role in oxidative stress regulation, was highly expressed in SJSA-1 cells, correlating with increased chemoresistance. Mechanistically, LAMTOR5-AS1 was shown to regulate NRF2 by inhibiting its degradation while impairing its transcriptional activity. Furthermore, NRF2 controlled its own regulation by promoting LAMTOR5-AS1 expression, forming a feedback loop that is disrupted in drug-resistant cells. *In vivo* experiments using SJSA-1-derived xenografts confirmed that LAMTOR5-AS1 overexpression enhanced chemosensitivity, suggesting a potential therapeutic strategy. These findings highlight the critical role of SJSA-1 in osteosarcoma chemoresistance and suggest that targeting LAMTOR5-AS1 and NRF2 may help improve treatment outcomes.

Additional Case Study: Targeting Endosialin in SJSA-1 Osteosarcoma Models

In a study conducted by Capone E, *et al.*, published by *Oncotarget* journal, researchers explored the efficacy of a novel antibody-drug conjugate (ENDOS/ADC) targeting endosialin, a surface receptor highly expressed in sarcomas, using SJSA-1 osteosarcoma xenograft models. SJSA-1 cells, which exhibit high endosialin levels, were used to evaluate the therapeutic potential of ENDOS/ADC. The study demonstrated that the antibody component of ENDOS/ADC, hMP-E-8.3, efficiently binds and internalizes into SJSA-1 cells, facilitating targeted drug delivery. *In vitro* experiments showed that ENDOS/ADC treatment induced significant cytotoxicity in SJSA-1 cells while sparing endosialin-deficient counterparts, confirming its specificity. *In vivo* studies further validated ENDOS/ADC's effectiveness, leading to sustained tumor regression in SJSA-1 xenografts, with some cases achieving complete remission. The treatment was well-tolerated, with no significant toxicity observed in mice. These findings support the further development of ENDOS/ADC as a promising therapeutic strategy for osteosarcoma and other endosialin-expressing tumors.

The Role of Patient-Derived Tumor Organoids in Drug Screening

Organoids are three-dimensional *in vitro* cultures derived from patient tumor biopsies that maintain critical features of the original tumor, such as genetic and phenotypic heterogeneity. In contrast to traditional two-dimensional cell cultures, organoids preserve the complex tissue architecture of tumors and can be efficiently expanded from primary patient samples, allowing researchers to utilize organoids for personalized preclinical cancer research and drug development. While xenograft and allograft models provide insights into tumor-stroma and immune interactions, organoids offer a more

rapid and scalable system for assessing therapeutic efficacy. Recent developments in organoid technology have led to the establishment of patient-derived tumor organoid (PDTO) biobanks, which serve as living repositories for studying cancer progression and drug resistance.

The SJSA-1 xenograft model offers several experimental options for comprehensive tumor studies. At Altogen Labs, researchers can assess tumor growth delay (TGD) and tumor growth inhibition (TGI) to evaluate therapeutic efficacy. The model allows flexibility in dosing parameters, including frequency, duration, and administration routes such as intravenous, intratracheal, continuous infusion, intraperitoneal, intratumoral, oral gavage, topical, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intranasal, and advanced micro-injection or pump-controlled IV techniques. Additional analyses include tumor immunohistochemistry, blood chemistry assessments, and toxicity evaluations, with the option of implementing a broad health observation program. Gross necropsies and histopathology provide further insights into treatment effects, while a positive control group using cisplatin at 35-40 mg/kg ensures benchmark comparisons. Advanced imaging techniques, such as fluorescence-based whole-body imaging and MRI, enable real-time tumor tracking and therapeutic monitoring.

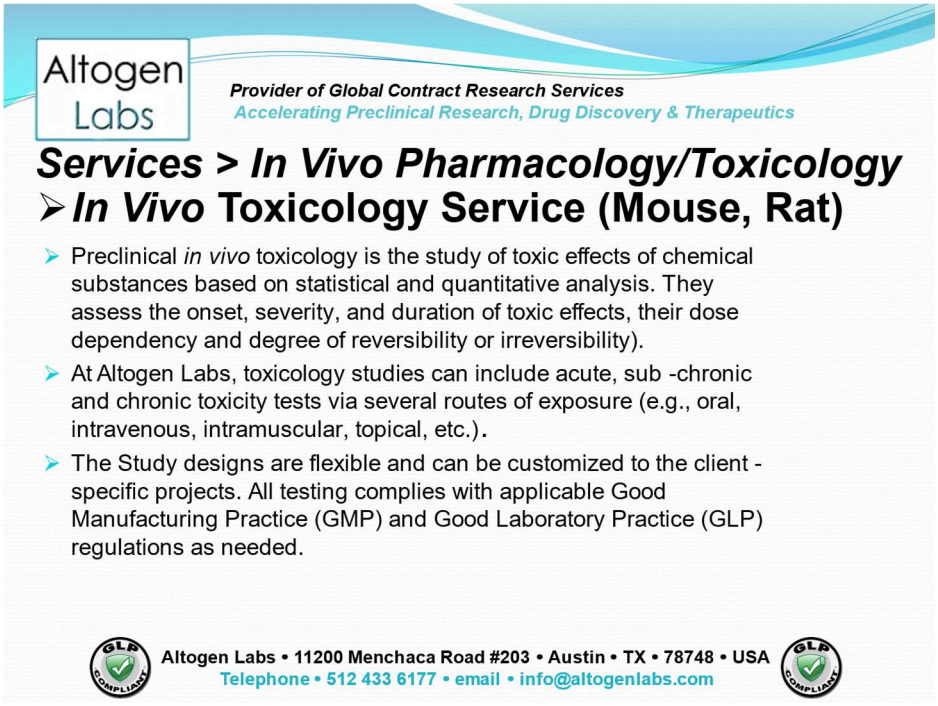

Figure 4. Altogen Labs *in vivo* toxicology services (Altogen Labs).

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