
Differences in Biodistribution of Indium-111- and Iodine-131-Labeled B72.3 Monoclonal Antibodies in Patients with Colorectal Cancer

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We have compared the biodistributions of [¹³¹I]B72.3 and ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 monoclonal antibody (MoAb) in patients with metastatic colon cancers. B72.3 is an IgG₁ that recognizes a mucin-like colon cancer associated antigen. Eight patients were infused with 3–5 mCi and 0.36–20 mg of ¹¹¹In-labeled B72.3 prepared with a bifunctional chelate, isothiocyanatobenzyl-DTPA (SCN-Bz-DTPA). The biodistribution was compared with that of 13 patients previously studied as part of a separate trial, with 1–10 mCi and 0.16–1.35 mg of [¹³¹I]B72.3. The Beta T_{1/2} in serum was 63 ± 5 hr for ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 and 52 ± 10 hr for [¹³¹I]B72.3. Whole-body retention of the ¹¹¹In (T_{1/2} = 11.8 days) was significantly longer than for [¹³¹I] B72.3 (T_{1/2} = 3.3 days), *p* < 0.000001. The ¹³¹I was excreted primarily through the urine. Urinary excretion of ¹¹¹In was low and gamma camera images confirmed that some ¹¹¹In was excreted in the bowel. Tumor localization was seen in one of seven evaluable patients receiving ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3. Gamma camera images showed that the liver concentrates ¹¹¹In but not ¹³¹I. We conclude that ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 is metabolized in a different manner from the iodinated B72.3. The high concentration and prolonged retention of ¹¹¹In by the liver interferes with tumor imaging of metastases.

J Nucl Med 30:320–327, 1989

There has been a great interest in the use of radiolabeled antibodies for tumor imaging (1–22). Most of this work has focused on the uses of iodinated antibodies (1–6,9,12,15,19–21) that have resulted in variable degrees of success for tumor detection. The use of iodine-131 (¹³¹I) for labeling antibodies is not ideal (23). Alternate methods for labeling monoclonal antibodies (MoAb) using bifunctional chelates that can then be labeled with indium-111 (¹¹¹In) have been developed (24–26) and tested in animal models (26,27). The advantages of ¹¹¹In-labeled antibodies include: (a) more favorable energy for imaging; (b) a 2.8 day half-life; (c) suitability for kit formulation; and (d) the stability of

radiolabeled antibodies over their iodinated counterpart (23).

Several clinical trials with ¹¹¹In-labeled MoAb have shown encouraging imaging results (13,17). A drawback to these clinical trials utilizing ¹¹¹In was the large amount of ¹¹¹In concentrating in the liver that interfered with detection of liver metastases. Although the mechanisms that result in concentration of ¹¹¹In in the liver are not completely known, the expectations were that by utilizing a stronger chelate, release of ¹¹¹In from the chelate with translocation into transferrin and concentration in the liver could be avoided.

We have previously reported detection of metastatic colon cancer lesions in 42.7% to 51.9% of patients, using intravenous injection of [¹³¹I]B72.3 (9,10). Correlation with surgical findings documented the specificity of tumor uptake (9,11). B72.3 has been labeled with ¹¹¹In using the bifunctional chelate, 1(p-isothiocyana-

Received Apr. 27, 1988; revision accepted Oct. 11, 1988.

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tobenzyl) diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (SCN-Bz-DTPA), which form a more thermodynamically stable complex with ^{111}In than the mixed or cyclic anhydride of diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid (DTPA) (26). Animal studies with ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 resulted in less liver uptake than other routinely used bifunctional chelate methods (26).

In this report, we present imaging and biodistribution data obtained from eight patients who received ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 and compare these results to data from 13 patients previously studied (9-11) with ^{131}I -labeled B72.3 IgG.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Monoclonal Antibodies

B72.3, is a IgG₁ murine monoclonal antibody, that recognizes a high molecular weight ($>10^6$ D) colon cancer associated antigen (TAG-72) expressed in ~85% of colorectal carcinomas but in virtually no normal adult tissues (29). The generation (28), production, and purification has been previously published (30).

Radiolabeling

The iodogen method (31) was used to label B72.3 with ^{131}I at specific activity of 2.2 to 13.1 mCi/mg and four preparations were labeled with iodine-125 (^{125}I) at specific activities of 2.4 to 4.0 mCi/mg using a similar method. The bifunctional chelate, SCN-Bz-DTPA was conjugated to B72.3 MoAb IgG at a ratio of 3:1. One milligram of conjugated coupled antibody was allowed to react with 13 to 56 mCi of ^{111}In for 60 min. Excess DTPA was then added to complex unreacted ionic ^{111}In , and the protein bound fraction were separated by size exclusion high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) (TSK3000). The specific activities of the final radiopharmaceutical ranged from 0.25 to 13.9 mCi/mg. All products passed sterility and pyrogen testing. A mean of 95% of the ^{111}In in the final product was bound to the antibody as determined by instant thin layer chromatography using plastic-backed silica gel plates (10% ammonium formate/methanol/citric acid 0.2M).

Immunoreactivity

The immunoreactivity of each radiolabeled antibody preparation was tested in a solid phase radioimmunoassay (RIA). The solid phase RIA showed that both the iodinated and ^{111}In -labeled B72.3 IgG retained their immunoreactivity (28). In addition, [^{131}I] B72.3 and ^{111}In -SCN-Bz DTPA B72.3 have been tested in competitive radioimmunoassay and have shown competition that is indistinguishable from unlabeled antibody (unpublished data).

Patients

These studies were performed under a protocol approved by the Human Research Committee of the National Cancer Institute. Each patient gave informed consent. Thirteen patients with metastatic disease from a previously resected primary colorectal carcinoma were studied with [^{131}I]B72.3 and eight were studied with ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 (Table 1). The mean age for patients studied with [^{131}I]B72.3 was 55 yr

old and for those studied with ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 was 59 yr. The patients staging studies included computed tomography of the chest, abdomen and pelvis, liver and spleen scan, bone scan and chest x-ray. All but two patients underwent exploratory laparotomy for clinical indications.

Immunohistology with B72.3 was performed in tumors from 17 of the 21 patients. All 17 expressed the TAG-72 antigen.

The patients studied with ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 were participating in a protocol that selected patients with radiographic evidence of metastatic disease limited to the liver. The patients receiving [^{131}I]B72.3 included a broad population with either liver metastases or other sites of intraperitoneal involvement. We have previously reported scan and clearance data on the 13 patients receiving [^{131}I]B72.3 as part of a larger dose escalation trial (9-11).

Eight patients received ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 (3-5 mCi/0.36-0.78 mg). To determine whether the mass of MoAb had an effect on clearance or biodistribution three patients received coinfusion of unmodified B72.3 for a total of 20 mg. The pharmacokinetics of ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 were compared with that of 13 other patients who received [^{131}I] B72.3 (1-10 mCi/0.16-1.35 mg). In four of the patients receiving ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 a direct comparison was made to iodinated B72.3 by coinfusing them with [^{125}I]B72.3. All antibodies were infused intravenously over 1 hr. The thyroid of patients receiving [^{131}I]- or [^{125}I]B72.3 was blocked (10).

Biodistribution

Following MoAb administration, blood samples were collected at 5, 30, 60, 120, and 240 min daily for 3 days and occasionally at later times until the patients underwent surgery. Urine was collected daily for 3 days postinfusion. For the clearance studies, aliquots of the plasma and urine were counted in a well-type gamma counter along with an aliquot of the injected standard. The dose retained in serum was calculated from the concentration of radioactivity (% dose/ml) multiplied by the patients' estimated plasma volume (32). Whole-body clearance was assessed daily using a NaI crystal probe detector (10).

Patient Imaging

Serial scintiphotos were acquired with a 530-mm large field-of-view gamma camera (General Electric 535, General Electric, Milwaukee, WI) within 2 hr of MoAb administration, and then daily up to the time of surgery. The ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 images were obtained with a medium-energy collimator using a 20% window centered over the 173-keV and 247-keV photopeaks. The [^{131}I]B72.3 images were obtained with a high-energy collimator using a 20% window over the 364-keV photopeak. Anterior and posterior whole-body images as well as multiple spot views (5 to 10 min each) were obtained. In addition to analog images, digital images were also recorded with an on-line computer (Hewlett Packard Scintigraphic Data Analyzer or Elscint). Typical spot views for the ^{111}In images had 300,000 to 1 million counts while those for ^{131}I had 100,000 to 500,000 counts. No image subtraction technique was utilized. Serial images were analyzed by manually drawing regions of interest (ROIs) over the anterior and posterior heart, liver, spleen, kidney, bone marrow, and tumor. The geometric mean was obtained after

TABLE 1
Summary of the Patients Receiving B72.3

Name	Sex	Injected dose		S.A.	Scan result	Tumor location	Tumor size (cm)	Tumor antigen status
		mg	mCi					
¹³¹I B72.3*								
1	M	0.16	2.1	13.13	+	Rectum	4.5 × 5	+
2	F	0.17	2.0	11.76	-	Rectum, pelvis	4 × 3	+
3	M	0.18	2.0	11.11	-	Liver, lung, LN	NK	+
4	F	0.22	1.6	7.27	-	Rectum, LN	3.7 × 3.2	+
5	M	0.26	2.0	7.69	+	Liver	NK	NK
6	M	0.26	2.0	7.69	+	Orbit, bone	NS	+
7	M	0.27	2.0	7.41	+	Liver	2.5	+
8	M	0.36	0.8	2.22	-	Omentum	2.5 × 4	+
9	F	0.40	1.9	4.75	+	Liver, peritoneum	0.2-3 × 3	+
10	M	1.08	10.0	9.26	-	Lung	1 × 0.8	NK
11	M	1.18	9.4	7.97	+	Liver, LN	2.5 × 2	+
12	M	1.32	10.0	7.58	+	Diffuse peritoneum	10 × 4	+
13	F	1.35	10.0	7.41	-	Liver	3 × 2.5	+
¹¹¹In B72.3								
14	F	0.36	5.0	13.89	-	Lung, liver	7 × 7	+
15	F	0.41	4.6	11.22	+	Liver, LN (portal)	3 × 2	+
16	M	0.50	5.0	10.00	-	Liver, LN (portal)	14 × 15	+
17	M	0.77	2.7	3.51	-	Liver	6 × 5	+
18	M	0.78	3.4	4.36	-	Lung, liver	1.5 × 1.5	NK
19†	M	0.46	2.2	4.78	-	Liver	2.5 × 1.5	+
20†	M	0.46	2.2	4.78	-	Liver	6.5 × 4	+
21†	M	0.56	5.0	8.93	-	Liver, LN (ileum)	5 × 3, 5 × 4	NK
¹²⁵I B72.3								
16	M	0.50	1.2	2.44				
19†	M	0.55	2.2	4.00				
20†‡	M	0.55	2.2	4.00				
21†	M	0.71	2.0	2.82				

S.A., specific activity mCi/mg; LN, lymph node; NK, not shown; NS, no surgery.

* Portions of the ¹³¹I B72.3 data have been previously published (Reference 9, 10).

† Patients coinjected with ¹¹¹In and ¹²⁵I B72.3 and unlabeled B72.3 for a total of 20 mg.

‡ Patient had partial subcutaneous infiltration of his antibody dose.

correction for physical decay. Values were expressed as counts per pixel per injected radioactivity (mCi).

The scans were interpreted by three nuclear medicine physicians who had available the results of the patients clinical staging. The images were interpreted as positive when focal areas of increased uptake were seen in the analog images not corresponding to sites of physiologic uptake (blood pool, bladder, and thyroid). As a "gold" standard, scan results were compared to surgical and radiographic findings.

RESULTS

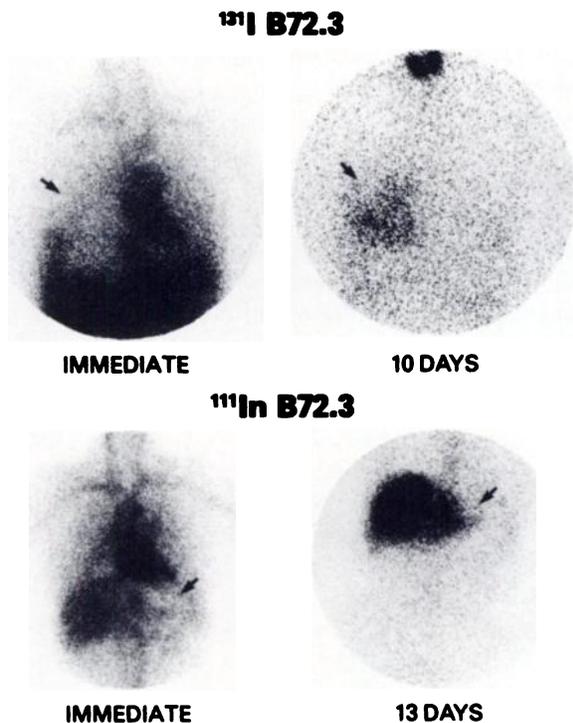
Representative scintiphotos are depicted in Figure 1. The early images showed biodistribution of ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 that was very similar to that of [¹³¹I] B72.3, showing predominant blood-pool activity in the heart, liver, and spleen while large tumor sites in the

liver appeared as a cold defect. With time, the biodistribution of the two preparations diverged. The [¹³¹I] B72.3 cleared from blood pool and normal organs resulting in improved tumor to nontumor contrast at delayed time points. In contrast, ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 accumulated in the normal liver and was retained. As a result, in all but one patient liver metastases were not seen to concentrate the MoAb in amounts greater than the normal liver. Three patients with liver metastases and no radiographic evidence of extrahepatic metastases were found to have lymph node involvement at the time of laparotomy. The ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 scintiphotos failed to detect portal lymph nodes (two patients) and a mesenteric lymph node (one patient).

The serum clearance of the two preparations were not significantly different, the Beta T_{1/2} for ¹¹¹In-SCN-

Bz-DTPA B72.3 was 63 ± 5 hr and for $[^{131}\text{I}]\text{B72.3}$ it was 52 ± 10 hr (Fig. 2). The whole-body clearance curves of $^{111}\text{In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3}$ had a biologic $T_{1/2}$ of 11.8/days compared to a $T_{1/2}$ for $[^{131}\text{I}]\text{B72.3}$ of 3.3 days ($p < 0.000001$) (Fig. 3). The cumulative urinary excretion of ^{111}In and ^{131}I was significantly different (Table 2) with much less excretion of ^{111}In at every time point ($p < 0.0001$). The whole-body excretion (probe counts) of ^{131}I correlated well with the urinary excretion of ^{131}I indicating that the whole-body clearance was almost exclusively through this route. In contrast, the cumulative urinary excretion of ^{111}In was significantly lower than the whole-body loss of ^{111}In over the period of observation ($p < 0.01$), suggesting another route of excretion in addition to the urinary. The pharmacokinetics of ^{111}In and ^{125}I were directly compared in three of four patients receiving coinfusion of $^{111}\text{In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3}$ and $[^{125}\text{I}]\text{B72.3}$. The mean Beta $T_{1/2}$ in serum for ^{111}In was 62.3 hr, and that of ^{125}I was 58.4 hr ($p = 0.25$). At 96 hr, a mean of 14% of the ^{111}In and 45% of the ^{125}I had been excreted in the urine ($p < 0.0001$).

Figure 4 shows data from the region of interest for



The arrows indicate the tumor sites.

FIGURE 1

Representative scintiphotos of $^{111}\text{In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3}$ and $[^{131}\text{I}]\text{B72.3}$ in patients with liver metastases from colon cancer. Initial biodistribution of the two preparations was similar (left panel). With time a difference in liver retention of radioactivity was noted (right panel). The arrows indicate the sites of metastatic liver disease. In the lower panel the tumor did not concentrate the antibody.

PLASMA CLEARANCE OF B72.3

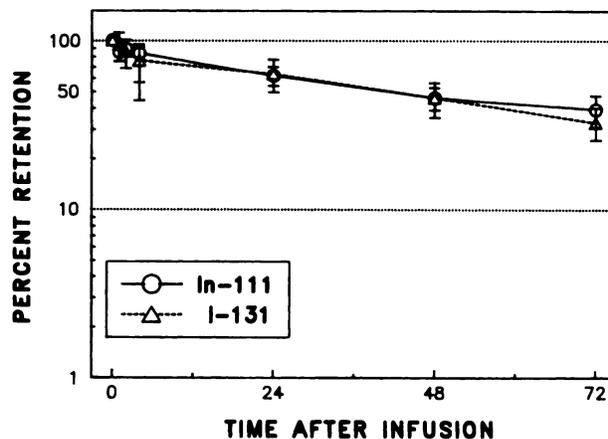


FIGURE 2

Plasma clearance of B72.3. There are no significant differences in the retention (mean \pm s.d.) of $^{111}\text{In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3}$ and $[^{131}\text{I}]\text{B72.3}$ in serum.

^{111}In and ^{131}I patients. The ROI analysis showed that the blood-pool activity represented by a ROI over the left ventricle gradually decreased at a similar rate for both preparations. These determinations correlated with the plasma activity measured directly in a gamma

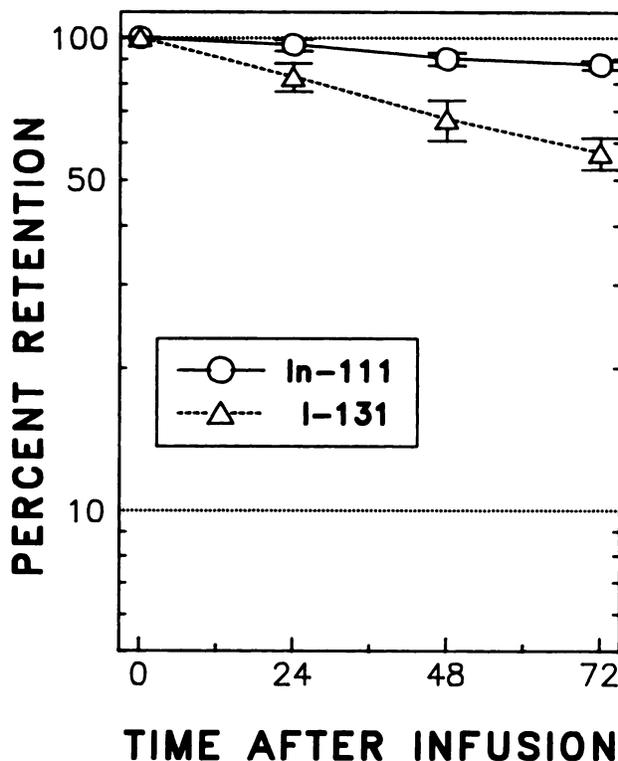


FIGURE 3

The whole-body retention (mean \pm s.d.) of patients receiving $^{111}\text{In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3}$ was significantly prolonged when compared to that of patients receiving radioiodinated B72.3.

TABLE 2
Urinary Excretion and Whole-Body Excretion

Time (hr)	¹³¹ I		Urine excretion		Whole-body excretion*			
	Mean	± s.d.	¹¹¹ In		¹³¹ I		¹¹¹ In	
0-24	15.9	4.94	3.0	0.80 [†]	17.5	6.00	5.9	1.65 [†]
0-48	31.9	9.54	5.3	1.26 [‡]	32.9	7.00	10.0	3.44 [‡]
0-72	42.3	12.5	7.9	1.35 [§]	43.0	4.83	12.6	2.56 [§]

* Fraction of radioactivity excreted from the body was determined by using a NaI probe (see text).

† p values for differences between ¹³¹I and ¹¹¹In excretion (n = 13 for ¹³¹I and n = 7 for ¹¹¹In): [†]p < 0.002, [‡]p < 0.01, [§]p < 0.002.

TABLE 3
Liver to Heart Ratio

Time (hr)	¹³¹ I		¹¹¹ In	
	Mean	Sd	Mean	Sd
0	0.65 [†]	0.14	0.70 [†]	0.10
24	0.67 [†]	0.14	1.19 [†]	0.34
48	0.73 [†]	0.17	1.43 [†]	0.45
72	0.74 [†]	0.29	1.85 [†]	0.50

Comparison of ¹³¹I (n = 6) and ¹¹¹In (n = 5) liver to heart ratios using ROI data: [†] Not significantly different, [†] p < 0.01.

counter (¹³¹I]B72.3, r = 0.900, ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3, r = 0.903, p < 0.05). There was a striking difference between the ¹¹¹In and ¹³¹I liver activity. With ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3, liver activity increased throughout the study indicating a steady accumulation of ¹¹¹In. In contrast, ¹³¹I liver activity was greatest in the first images and declined thereafter. This change in the ¹³¹I liver activity also paralleled the gradual reduction of the blood-pool activity.

Comparisons of liver to heart (blood pool) ROI ra-

dioactivity are shown in Table 3. For the [¹³¹I]B72.3 preparation the liver to heart ratio was nearly constant throughout the study. With ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3, the initial liver to heart ratio was not significantly different from that of ¹³¹I; thereafter this ratio increased and was significantly greater than for the ¹³¹I preparations. Radioactivity in the spleen and bone marrow were slightly greater with ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 than with ¹³¹I. The ¹¹¹In activity in these organs and kidney plateaued after 24 hr. The ¹³¹I activity in these organs remained constant for 24 hr and thereafter diminished slightly, paralleling the drop in blood-pool activity.

In seven of 13 patients who received [¹³¹I]B72.3, tumor was identified by scanning (Table 1). Four of the six patients with hepatic metastases had lesions identified on scan. Only one of eight patients with liver metastases who received ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 had a positive scan for hepatic metastases. In this patient, faint tumor concentration was identified in the computer acquired images. In the other patients with hepatic metastasis, tumor uptake of ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 was not detected and occasionally lesions appeared to have less activity than the normal liver.

Figure 5 shows plotted ROI data from three patients with hepatic metastasis. In Patient A-11, who received [¹³¹I]B72.3, initial hepatic activity was greater than tumor activity. Clearance of activity from normal liver, however, was faster than from the tumor, and images at delayed times clearly showed positive uptake in the tumor (Fig. 1).

In Patient B-1, who was given ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3, both hepatic and tumor activity increased with time and ROI analyses showed tumor to nontumor ratios < 1.0. Therefore, the tumor always appeared as a "cold" defect.

In Patient B-2, who also received ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3, the liver and tumor activity remained relatively constant throughout the study. Unlike the other ¹¹¹In-SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 cases, this patient had a tumor to liver ratio of > 1.0. The digital images showed that activity was slightly more concentrated in the tumor than in normal liver.

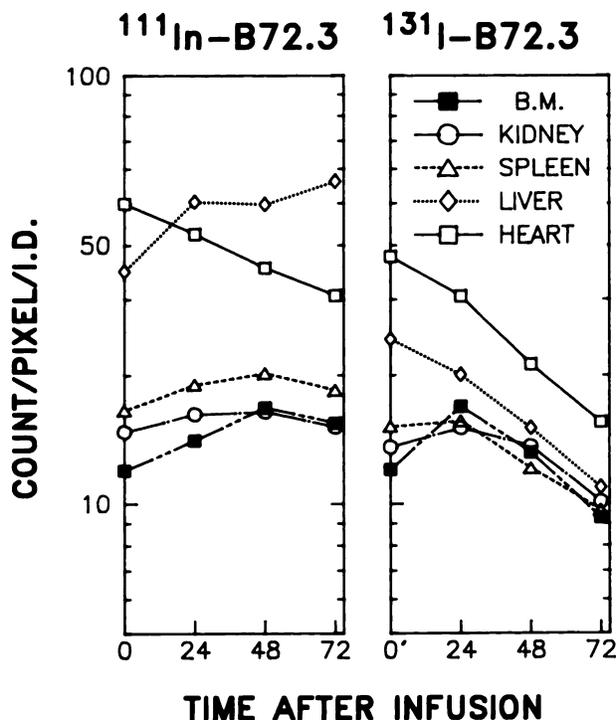


FIGURE 4
The sequential changes (mean) in concentration of ¹¹¹In and ¹³¹I in normal organs was determined from the ROI analysis of gamma camera images. The ROI data was expressed as counts per pixel normalized to the mCi administered.

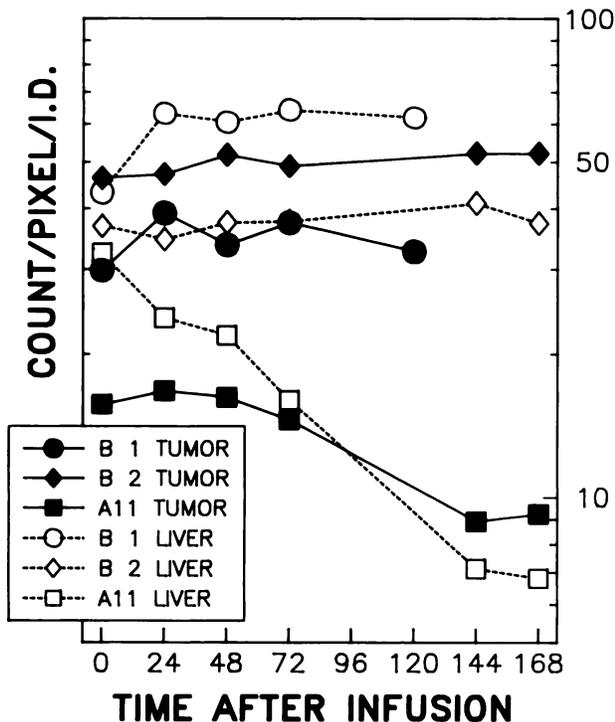


FIGURE 5
The serial differences in concentration of ^{111}In (two patients) or ^{131}I in the normal liver and in liver metastases of patients receiving radiolabeled B72.3 was obtained from ROI analyses.

DISCUSSION

This study demonstrates major differences in biodistribution of ^{131}I - and ^{111}In]B72.3 MoAb. The most prominent differences were the prolonged whole-body retention of ^{111}In , its high liver uptake and its excretion into bowel. Several mechanisms could be responsible for these differences between the ^{131}I - and ^{111}In -labeled MoAb (18,33,34). Although a slow release of ^{111}In could not be excluded, rapid release did not occur since a comparison of ^{111}In and ^{131}I or a direct comparison of ^{111}In with ^{125}I showed similar plasma clearance. Others have reported similar clearance of ^{111}In and radioiodinated MoAb from blood and longer retention of ^{111}In than iodine in tumor and normal tissue (18,33). This suggests that once the MoAb has been metabolized, the differences in retention of ^{111}In and iodine are secondary to differences in their handling, rather than differences in the handling of the antibody. We speculate that the liver represents a normal route of metabolism for murine MoAb and both of our radiolabeled preparations are handled similarly and the differences observed are secondary to differences in the handling of the ^{131}I or ^{111}In . The ^{131}I is not retained intracellularly but rapidly excreted from the body. In contrast, ^{111}In binds to intracellular sites and is retained for long periods of time (35). Alternatively, the lack of concentration of ^{131}I by the liver and the fact that hepatic and

plasma clearance of ^{131}I closely parallel one another, could also be explained by small differences in metabolism of the ^{111}In and ^{131}I antibody. It is unlikely that uptake of ^{111}In in the liver is secondary to colloid formation, because the MoAb was purified by HPLC and analysis prior to injection shows no evidence of colloid formation. Had colloids been formed, liver uptake would occur quickly rather than in the gradual mode observed in our patients.

Although the TAG-72 antigen circulates and can be detected in serum (36) we could not detect a correlation between the level of circulating antigen and liver uptake.

The urinary excretion of ^{111}In was smaller than that of ^{131}I . This was confirmed by measuring the excretion of ^{111}In and ^{125}I from patients receiving coinjection of both tracers. Comparison of the urinary excretion of ^{111}In with the probe counts and visualization of the gastrointestinal tract by gamma scintigraphy suggested that half of the excreted ^{111}In could be excreted through the gut. No stools were obtained to quantitate this or determine the form in which the ^{111}In was excreted. Gastrointestinal excretion represents a significant problem for detection of peritoneal implants or local recurrence.

Our results show several similarities with other work using ^{111}In -labeled antibodies prepared with the mixed anhydride or bicyclic anhydride of DTPA that have shown liver uptake and variable amount of bowel activity. While ^{131}I]B72.3 shows little accumulation in the liver, other ^{131}I -labeled MoAb have demonstrated liver uptake (13-15,18). Since radioiodine does not concentrate in the liver, this accumulation may be due to the binding of cross-reacting antigens in the liver to receptors in the liver such as Fc receptors or binding to circulating cells which then clear into the liver (17).

Our findings suggest that the accumulation of the ^{111}In in the liver, spleen, and bone marrow is lower with our preparation. However, we cannot determine whether this is due to the greater stability of the chelate or to a characteristic of the MoAb.

There are limitations in our comparison of ^{131}I and ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA MoAb. The patients injected with ^{111}In -SCN-Bz-DTPA B72.3 represented an extremely difficult test for the technique since the series was biased toward patients with liver metastases whereas the ^{131}I]B72.3 patients had a broader spectrum of metastatic sites. The high concentration of ^{111}In in the liver resulted in poor detection of metastases in the liver and in lymph nodes adjacent to the liver. In contrast, ^{131}I did not concentrate in the liver and hepatic metastases were frequently visualized when the ^{131}I blood-pool activity cleared (10).

The current study indicates that although the radiolabeled antibodies behaved similarly in vitro, in vivo handling of the antibodies and/or radionuclides may result in significantly different biodistribution.

Further studies should be directed at elucidating the mechanism of liver uptake and attempting to eliminate this "nonspecific" uptake in order to take advantage of the superior physical properties of ^{111}In .

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors acknowledge the expert technical assistance of Margarita Lora, Patrick Maloney, and Diane Simpson in handling patient samples and assays; Marge Cawley, Susan Lange, Susan Kummer, and Penny Yolles for imaging the patients, and Karen Anderson and Lori Byrne for preparation of this manuscript.

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