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Src kinases in chondrosarcoma chemoresistance and migration: dasatinib sensitises to doxorubicin in TP53 mutant cells

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Background: Chondrosarcomas are malignant cartilage-forming tumours of bone. Because of their resistance to conventional chemotherapy and radiotherapy, currently no treatment strategies exist for unresectable and metastatic chondrosarcoma. Previously, PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β and Src kinase pathways were shown to be activated in chondrosarcoma cell lines. Our aim was to investigate the role of these kinases in chemoresistance and migration in chondrosarcoma in relation to TP53 mutation status.

Methods: We used five conventional and three dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma cell lines and investigated the effect of PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway inhibition (enzastaurin) and Src pathway inhibition (dasatinib) in chemoresistance using WST assay and live cell imaging with AnnexinV staining. Immunohistochemistry on tissue microarrays (TMAs) containing 157 cartilaginous tumours was performed for Src family members. Migration assays were performed with the RTCA xCelligence System.

Results: Src inhibition was found to overcome chemoresistance, to induce apoptosis and to inhibit migration. Cell lines with TP53 mutations responded better to combination therapy than wild-type cell lines ($P=0.002$). Tissue microarray immunohistochemistry confirmed active Src (pSrc) signalling, with Fyn being most abundantly expressed (76.1%).

Conclusion: These results strongly indicate Src family kinases, in particular Fyn, as a potential target for the treatment of inoperable and metastatic chondrosarcomas, and to sensitise for doxorubicin especially in the presence of TP53 mutations.

Chondrosarcoma is a malignant cartilage-forming neoplasm of bone and the second most common bone sarcoma in humans (Hogendoorn *et al*, 2013). Conventional chondrosarcoma does not respond to existing chemo- and radiotherapy modalities (Gelderblom *et al*, 2008). Metastasis formation eventually occurs in 71% of grade III chondrosarcoma cases, and with a 10-year survival rate of 29%, this poses a serious treatment problem (Evans *et al*, 1977).

Chemoresistance in chondrosarcoma has long been ascribed to poor vascularisation, hyaline extracellular matrix production and slowly dividing cells (Staals *et al*, 2006; David *et al*, 2011). Though this is true for low-grade chondrosarcomas, high-grade

chondrosarcomas typically are composed of rapidly dividing cells with more myxoid matrix production (Gelderblom *et al*, 2008; Bovée *et al*, 2010). In the search for molecular targets, negative regulators of the apoptotic pathway, such as BCL-2 (Bovée *et al*, 2000; Hameetman *et al*, 2005; Rozeman *et al*, 2005; Soderstrom *et al*, 2010) and survivin (Lechler *et al*, 2011), were identified to be upregulated in chondrosarcoma, and shown to have a role in chemoresistance (Lechler *et al*, 2011; van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012a).

Apart from defective apoptotic pathways, deregulated kinase pathways are of growing interest in the field of cancer and have been suggested to have a role in chondrosarcoma (Bovée *et al*, 2010). We have previously shown activating hyperphosphorylation

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of AKT, and Src family kinases and inactivating hyperphosphorylation of GSK3 β using kinome profiling of chondrosarcoma cell lines and primary cultures (Schrage *et al*, 2009).

Both PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β and Src signalling pathways are described in a variety of different cancer types as well as in progression to malignancy (Verbeek *et al*, 1996; Aligayer *et al*, 2002; Gelman, 2011; McNamara and Degtrev, 2011) and can be activated by receptor tyrosine kinases (RTKs) (Goode *et al*, 1992; Wheeler *et al*, 2009; Saini *et al*, 2011). Activation of the Src pathway promotes cell survival, proliferation and migration, but can also activate the PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway through phosphorylation of PI3K, thereby leading to increased AKT phosphorylation (Johnson *et al*, 2000). Activation of protein kinase C (PKC) by RTKs can also activate the PI3K/AKT pathway, either through phosphorylation of PI3K or through direct phosphorylation of AKT (Aeder *et al*, 2004; Kawakami *et al*, 2004; Figure 1A). Moreover, PKC and AKT can both phosphorylate GSK3 β at Ser9 (Goode *et al*, 1992; Fang *et al*, 2002).

Because of the intricate interplay of PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β and Src signalling pathways in cancer and the observation that both pathways are activated in chondrosarcoma, we hypothesised that the activation of these pathways in chondrosarcoma contributes to chemoresistance.

We therefore investigated the role of both pathways in cell proliferation and chemoresistance. Our data indicate that Src family kinases, Fyn in particular, have a role in chemoresistance and cell migration, and that TP53-mutated cells are especially sensitive to combination therapy with doxorubicin and the Src inhibitor dasatinib.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Compounds. Doxorubicin and cisplatin were obtained from the in-house hospital pharmacy in a 0.9% NaCl solution. Therapeutic concentrations of doxorubicin in patients are 5–50 μM with an *in vitro* range of 1–10 μM , for cisplatin these are 3–13 μM with an *in vitro* range of 1–50 μM (Shrivastav *et al*, 1980). The PKC inhibitor enzastaurin (Faul *et al*, 2003; Eli Lilly, IN, USA) and the Src inhibitor dasatinib (Lombardo *et al*, 2004) (Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Princeton, NJ, USA) were dissolved in DMSO.

Cell culture. Chondrosarcoma cell lines (Table 1), as well as MCF-7 and HeLa cell lines were cultured in RPMI 1640 (Gibco, Invitrogen Life Technologies, Scotland, UK) supplemented with 1% L-glutamax, 1% penicillin–streptomycin (100 U ml⁻¹) and 10% heat-inactivated fetal calf serum (Gibco, Invitrogen Life Technologies, Scotland, UK). Cells were grown at 37 °C in a humidified incubator with 95% air and 5% CO₂. Cells were cultured until they started multiplying stably. Chondrogenic phenotype was confirmed using RT-PCR for collagen I, IIB, III and X, aggrecan and SOX9 (Cleton-Jansen *et al*, 2005). Identity of cell lines was confirmed using the Cell ID System after completion of experiments (Promega Benelux BV, Leiden, The Netherlands).

Cell viability assay. Chondrosarcoma cell lines were plated in 96-well plates for viability assessment (2×10^4 – 2×10^5 cells per well depending on growth rate) and allowed to grow and adhere overnight after which the respective drugs were added in their corresponding concentrations. Combination assays were performed as described (van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012b) with alternating treatments combining enzastaurin, dasatinib and/or doxorubicin. All experiments were performed in triplicate and at least three times. Graphs show data from one representative experiment. Error bars indicate the s.d.

Immunoblotting. Immunoblotting using AKT, pAKT, Fyn (Cell Signaling, Leiden, the Netherlands) and pSrc antibody

(pSrc pY418, Invitrogen Life Technologies, Bleiswijk, the Netherlands) to investigate the Src and PI3K/AKT signalling pathway and p53 (Do7, Dako, Heverlee, Belgium), MDM2 (IF2, Zymed, Bleiswijk, the Netherlands) and p21 (Santa Cruz, Heidelberg, Germany) was performed as previously described (Schrage *et al*, 2009), using 20 μg of each sample.

Mutation analysis. To identify mutations in AKT1, direct sequencing was performed as described (Pansuriya *et al*, 2011), using DNA derived from 57 tumours, 8 cell lines and 1 primary culture (L3310) using forward primer 3'-TAGAGTGTGCGTGCC CTCTCA-5' and reverse primer 3'-CTGAATCCCCGAGAGGCC AA-5' to screen for hotspot mutations in the AKT1-E17K pleckstrin homology domain.

Apoptosis assay and immunofluorescence. Apoptosis assay and immunofluorescence for caspase 3 and cytochrome C were performed as described (Puigvert *et al*, 2010; van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012b). In short, 20 000 chondrosarcoma cells were grown in black 96-well microclear plates (Greiner, Sigma-Aldrich, Zwijndrecht, the Netherlands) to perform a live cell apoptosis assay (Puigvert *et al*, 2010), with AnnexinV-Alexa633 conjugate using the BD Pathway 855 (Becton Dickinson, Breda, the Netherlands). Time series were quantified using in-house-developed macros for Image-Pro Plus (Media Cybernetics, Bethesda, MD, USA). Drugs were added 0, 24, and 48 h before imaging and Annexin V-Alexa633 conjugate was added immediately before imaging. For all treatments, a pan-caspase inhibitor, z-VAD-fmk (Bachem-Holding AG, Weil am Rhein, Germany), was added 30 min before drug addition and imaging to establish apoptosis specificity of the assay. Before imaging, live nuclei were stained with HOECHST-33342 at 100 ng ml⁻¹. All experiments were performed in triplicate and at least three times. Error bars show s.d. from one representative experiment.

Migration assays. The RTCA xCelligence system (Roche Applied Sciences, Almere, the Netherlands), based on cell–electrode substrate impedance detection technology, was used for migration assays. For migration assays, lower wells of the SIM plates (migration plates) were filled with growth medium (20% fetal calf serum in RPMI). Cell lines were plated at a density of 80 000 cells per well in the top wells in empty buffer (RPMI only) containing 0, 0.2, 0.4, 0.6, 0.8 or 1.0 μM dasatinib. SIM plates were loaded into the RTCA station in the cell culture incubator immediately after plating and cell index was acquired every 5 min. Cell index as acquired by the software was set to 100% migration after flattening of the slope. Experiments were performed in triplicate.

Tissue microarray (TMA) construction and clinicopathological data. Tissue microarrays were constructed from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue using standard procedures (Kononen *et al*, 1998) using a 2.0-mm diameter punch-automated tissue arrayer (3DHitech Ltd, Budapest, Hungary). Each array contained three cores per tumour wherever possible including seven control tissues (skin, colon, tonsil, prostate, mamma carcinoma, spleen and liver). Using a tape-transfer system (Instrumedics, Hackensack, NJ, USA), 4- μm sections were transferred to glass slides. All specimens in this study were handled according to the ethical guidelines described in 'Code for Proper Secondary Use of Human Tissue in The Netherlands' of the Dutch Federation of Medical Scientific Societies. A total of 157 patients with cartilaginous tumours were selected from the archives of the Leiden University Medical Centre. Selected cases included 137 conventional chondrosarcomas (central chondrosarcoma, $n=92$; peripheral chondrosarcoma, $n=45$) and 20 benign cartilage tumours (osteochondroma, $n=9$; enchondroma, $n=11$). Only primary tumours were selected. Histology was reviewed by an experienced bone tumour pathologist (JVMGB). Clinicopathological data are shown in Table 2. Total follow-up was available for 136 of 157 patients, with

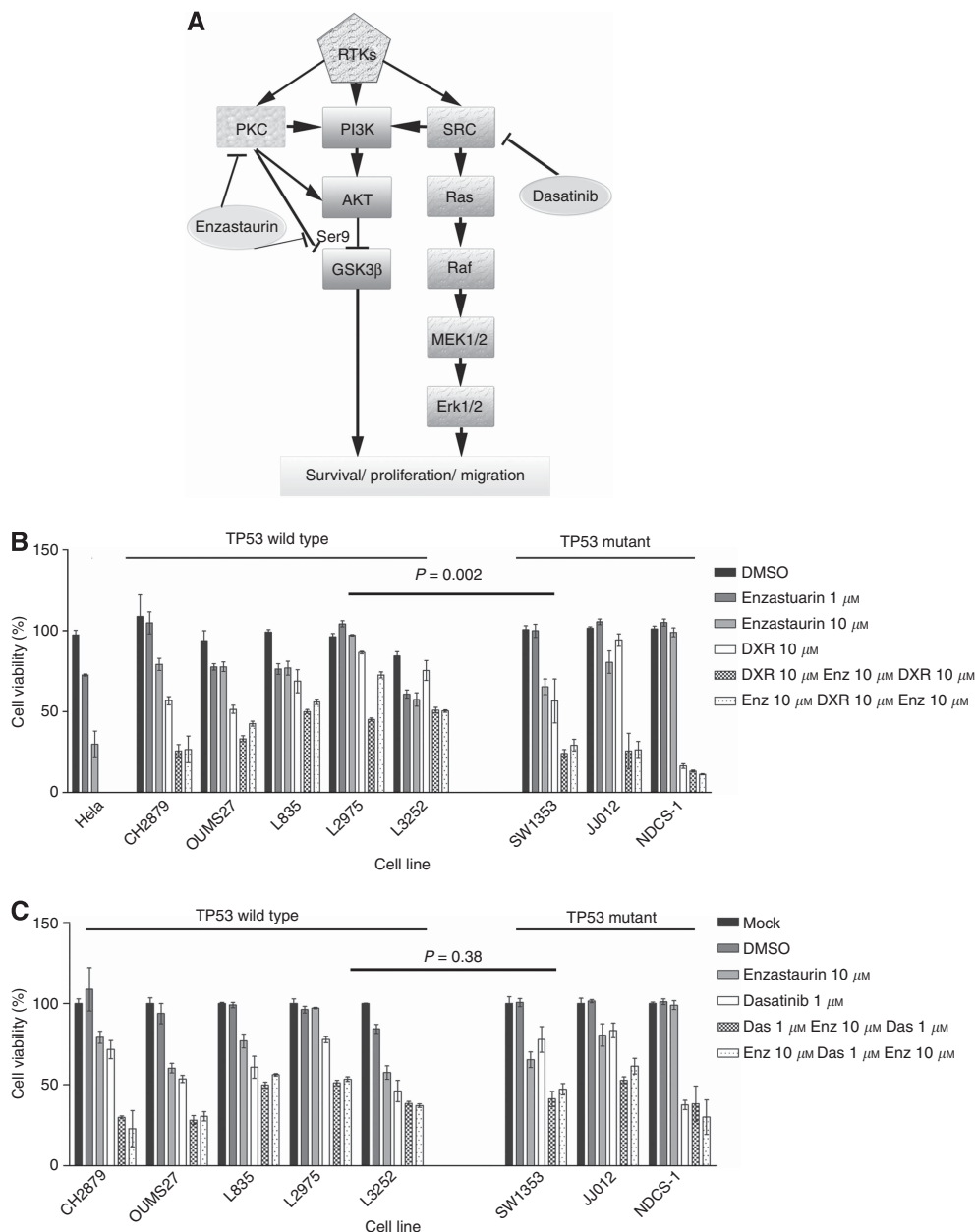


Figure 1. Chondrosarcoma cell lines are not sensitive to PKC inhibition. (A) Schematic representation of activation of PI3K and Src pathway by RTKs. Receptor tyrosine kinases can activate PKC, phosphatidylinositol 3-kinase (PI3K) and Src. PKC and Src can also activate the PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway, promoting survival, proliferation and migration. The Src pathway activates the Ras/Raf pathway. Enzastaurin is a selective PKC inhibitor also reported to inhibit activating phosphorylation of GSK3 β . Dasatinib is a Src inhibitor. Adapted from Fizazi (2007). (B) HeLa cell line showing 70% decrease in cell viability after treatment with enzastaurin. Chondrosarcoma cell lines poorly respond to enzastaurin alone, and an additive effect is observed when alternating 10 μ M doxorubicin (DXR) and 10 μ M enzastaurin (Enz) for 24 h each for 72 h in total. No difference is observed when order of administration is reversed. Significant difference between TP53 mutant and wild-type cell lines ($P = 0.002$). (C) Combination of enzastaurin with Src inhibitor dasatinib (Das) showing additive effect in chondrosarcoma cell lines. No significant difference is observed between TP53 mutant and wild-type cell lines ($P = 0.38$).

14 patients showing metastasis at completion of this study. Histological grading of chondrosarcoma was performed according to Evans *et al* (1977). Rare chondrosarcoma subtypes were excluded.

Immunohistochemistry. Immunohistochemistry was performed on the TMAs. Slides were incubated with antibodies against Src, Lck, Fyn, Yes and phosphorylated Src (pSrc, recognises active Src family members phosphorylated at Y419). Details of antibodies and procedures are provided in Supplementary Table 1.

Immunohistochemical reactions were performed according to standard laboratory methods (Bové *et al*, 2000) and visualised using DAB + Substrate Chromogen System (Dako, Heverlee, Belgium). Tissue microarray slides were scanned using a high-resolution Mirax Desk Instrument (Zeiss, Mirax 3DHitech) and scored independently by two observers (JVMGB and JGvO) and discrepancies were discussed. Staining intensity (0 = absent, 1 = weak, 2 = moderate, 3 = strong) and extent of the staining (0 = 0%, 1 = 1–24%, 2 = 25–49%, 3 = 50–74% and 4 = 75–100%) were assessed. Staining was considered high (score ≥ 4) or low

Table 1. Chondrosarcoma cell lines

Cell Line	Tumour type	Grade	Gender	Age	Passage	TP53 ^a	IDH1 ^b	IDH2 ^b	Reference
SW1353	Solitary central	II	F	72	21	V203L	wt	R172S	Commercial (ATCC)
OUMS27	Solitary central	III	M	65	27	wt	wt	wt	Kunisada <i>et al</i> (1998)
CH2879	Solitary central	III	F	35	>80	wt	wt	wt	Gil-Benso <i>et al</i> (2003)
JJ012	Solitary central	II	M	39	9	G199V	R132G	wt	Scully <i>et al</i> (2000)
L835	Solitary central	III	M	55	50	wt	R132C	wt	van Oosterwijk <i>et al</i> (2012a)
L2975	Dedifferentiated		M	57	60	wt	R172W	wt	van Oosterwijk <i>et al</i> (2012a)
NDCS1	Dedifferentiated		M	38	60	C242S	wt	wt	Kudo <i>et al</i> (2007)
L3252	Dedifferentiated		F	52	30	wt	wt	wt	van Oosterwijk <i>et al</i> (2012a)

^aIDH mutations for used cell lines were described in Pansuriya *et al* (2011) and van Oosterwijk *et al* (2012a).

^bTP53 mutations for used cell lines were described in van Oosterwijk *et al* (2012a,b).

Table 2. Clinicopathological data

	Peripheral (n = 45)	Central (n = 92)
Male vs female	27 vs 18	39 vs 53
Median age at diagnosis (years)	37 (14–82)	50 (20–84)
Histology		
Grade I	31	42
Grade II	11	36
Grade III	3	14
Metastasis	4/45	10/92
Median follow-up (months)	121 (15–299)	103 (7–292)

(score <4). As external positive and negative control for all the antibodies, specimens of normal tonsil were used. Cores with a negative internal control or loss of tissue were excluded from the analysis.

Statistical analysis. Survival was evaluated by Kaplan–Meier analysis and the log-rank test. Values of $P \leq 0.05$ were considered statistically significant. Variables that achieved significance ($P \leq 0.05$) were entered subsequently into a multivariate analysis using the Cox regression model. Cox regression analysis was carried out with clinical outcome (overall survival) as the independent variable. Correlation between expression and grade and individual stainings were evaluated using Pearson chi-squared test for independent variables. Values of $P \leq 0.05$ for asymptomatic two-sided testing were considered significant. The data were analysed using SPSS version 17.0 software (Chicago, IL, USA).

For combination assays, the combination index according to the method of Chou and Talalay (1984) was calculated. A combination index (CI) of below 1 indicates synergy, and CI of above 1 indicates additive effect. Correlation between combination indices was evaluated using independent two-sided *t*-test using GraphPad Prism 5 software (La Jolla, CA, USA). Values of $P \leq 0.05$ were considered significant.

RESULTS

PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway is not involved in chemoresistance of chondrosarcoma cell lines. To investigate the PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway, chondrosarcoma cells were treated with 1 μ M and 10 μ M enzastaurin (Faul *et al*, 2003), a PKC β inhibitor shown to

inhibit AKT signalling and GSK3 β phosphorylation (Graff *et al*, 2005). Whereas the cervical cancer cell line HeLa shows 70% reduction in cell viability after treatment with 10 μ M enzastaurin (Figure 1B), chondrosarcoma cell lines were less sensitive to enzastaurin treatment. Two chondrosarcoma cell lines showed complete resistance (NDCS-1 and L2975), whereas in the two most responsive cell lines (SW1353 and L3252) a maximum reduction in cell viability of ~40% was achieved (Figure 1B). As the PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β pathway is involved in cell survival, we set out to examine its role in chemoresistance. Enzastaurin was combined with doxorubicin over the course of 72 h, alternating treatments every 24 h, as we previously showed that drug administration on separate days was most effective (van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012b). While there was no difference in response between IDH-mutated and IDH wild-type cell lines, cell lines with TP53 mutations responded better to combination treatment than TP53 wild-type cell lines ($P = 0.002$; Figure 1B). However, a lack of synergy between the two drugs was observed (combination indices >2), as reduction in cell viability was attributed to the effect of doxorubicin alone (NDCS-1) or the additive effect of enzastaurin and doxorubicin. Activation of AKT1 can be through mutations in the pleckstrin homology domain, found mostly in solid tumours (Mahajan and Mahajan, 2012), leading to activated downstream signalling and decreased sensitivity to kinase inhibitors (Carpten *et al*, 2007). Hotspot mutations in the pleckstrin homology domain of AKT1 were absent in the primary chondrosarcoma tumour tissues or cell lines.

Inhibition of Src family kinases with dasatinib does not potentiate the effect of enzastaurin in chondrosarcoma cell lines. To exclude active Src signalling causing the limited response we observed to enzastaurin, we combined enzastaurin with the Src inhibitor dasatinib. In five cell lines (CH2879, OUMS27, SW1353, NDCS-1 and L3252), cell viability after combination treatment dropped below 50% (Figure 1C). However, the reduction in cell viability could not be ascribed to a synergistic effect in any of the cell lines. Rather it was found to be due to the effect of dasatinib (L835, NDCS-1 and L3252) or the additive effect of dasatinib and enzastaurin (combination indices >2, Figure 1C). TP53 mutation status was not correlated to response ($P = 0.38$, Figure 1C). Interestingly, treatment with 1 μ M dasatinib for 24 h was found to decrease phosphorylation of AKT in OUMS27, L835, L3252 and NDCS-1 cell lines (Figure 2A).

Src signalling contributes to chemoresistance of chondrosarcoma cells. We have previously shown Src signalling to be involved in chondrosarcoma cell proliferation (Schrage *et al*, 2009). Immunoblotting confirmed the presence of phosphorylated Src (Y418) in the chondrosarcoma cell lines, with lowest expression in

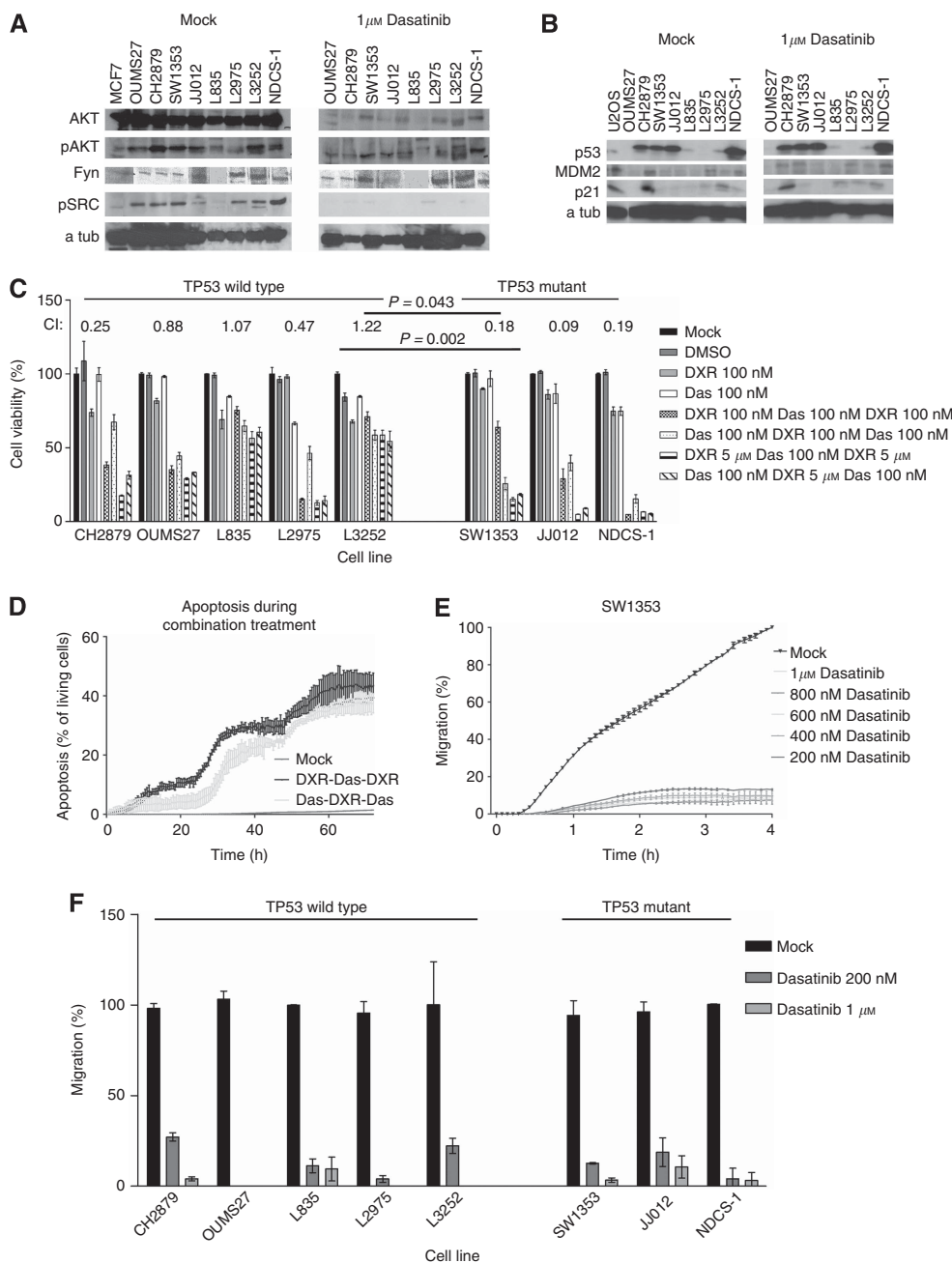


Figure 2. The Src pathway is involved in chondrosarcoma chemoresistance. **(A)** Immunoblotting showing AKT, pAKT, Fyn, pSrc and loading control α -tubulin (a tub) for untreated chondrosarcoma cell lines and after 24-h $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib. MCF-7: breast cancer cell line, shown as positive control. Presence of all kinases in all cell lines phosphorylated Src in all cell lines, although levels are very low in L835. After 24-h $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib treatment, levels of pSrc (at Y418) are decreased in all cell lines, and of pAKT in OUMS27, L835, L3252, JJ012 and NDCS-1. **(B)** Immunoblotting showing p53, MDM2 and p21 in untreated chondrosarcoma cell lines (Mock) and after 24-h $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib. U2OS (osteosarcoma) cell line is shown as positive control. MDM2 expression is low in all cell lines. TP53 wild-type cell lines are negative for p53 protein expression, with low p21 protein expression, except for CH2879. TP53 mutant cell lines show high TP53 protein expression with low p21 protein expression. No change in protein levels is observed after 24-h $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib treatment. **(C)** Combination of dasatinib (Das) with doxorubicin (DXR) leads to synergistic loss of cell viability at concentrations, which are ineffective on their own in most cell lines. Combination treatment was more effective in TP53 mutant cell lines than in TP53 wild-type cell lines ($P=0.002$ for cell viability, $P=0.043$ for combination indices). **(D)** Apoptosis assay in JJ012 cell line alternating $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib (Das) and $1 \mu\text{M}$ doxorubicin (DXR) demonstrates the occurrence of apoptosis during combination. Apoptosis is calculated as percentage of AnnexinV-Alexxa633-stained cells per total number of HOECHST-stained cells. **(D and E)** Dasatinib successfully inhibits migration in chondrosarcoma cell lines in concentrations as low as 200 nM. **(E)** SW1353 cell line shown as representative over the course of 4 h; **(F)** bar chart showing migration for all cell lines.

L835 cells, and 24 h with $1 \mu\text{M}$ dasatinib resulted in decreased pSrc levels (Figure 2A). To examine the role of Src signalling in chemoresistance, dasatinib was combined with doxorubicin. A synergistic effect was observed in cell lines CH2879, OUMS27,

SW1353, JJ012, NDCS-1 and L2975 (combination indices ranging from 0.09 to 0.88; Figure 2C), and the order of drug administration did not influence efficacy. Interestingly, a significant difference between both the cell viability ($P=0.002$) and the combination

indices ($P=0.043$) was observed between cell lines with and without TP53 mutations, and both cell lines that were resistant to combination treatment (L835 and L3252) were wild type for TP53 mutations. We continued to investigate p53 accumulation as well as MDM2 and p21 expression in cells treated with and without treatment with dasatinib (Figure 2B). As expected, high p53 protein expression with low to absent p21 was seen in the three TP53 mutant cell lines. All TP53 wild-type cell lines demonstrated low p53 and p21 protein expression with the exception of CH2879, demonstrating high levels of p53 and p21. Protein levels were not affected by dasatinib treatment. All cell lines showed low MDM2 protein expression.

No correlation with IDH mutations was found.

Src inhibition combined with doxorubicin induces apoptosis.

Using annexinV-binding live cell imaging, we confirmed our previous findings (Schrage *et al*, 2009) that dasatinib monotreatment does not induce apoptosis (Figure 2D, first 24 h). However, when combined with doxorubicin, up to 50% of cells had entered apoptosis after completion of the third cycle of combination treatment (JJ012 cell line shown as a representative cell line, Figure 2D). Because of the effect of doxorubicin during the first

24 h, 10% more cells had entered apoptosis during combination treatment starting doxorubicin, than during combination treatment starting with dasatinib. Apoptosis could be inhibited using the pan-caspase inhibitor z-VAD-fmk (results not shown).

Dasatinib inhibits migration of chondrosarcoma cell lines. As Src family members also have a role in motility and adhesion (Saito *et al*, 2010), we continued to investigate the migratory capacity of the chondrosarcoma cell lines. Using a transwell system, all chondrosarcoma cell lines showed migratory properties, and started migrating ~ 30 min after plating, except for JJ012 cells, which started migrating only 4 h after plating (results not shown). In the presence of dasatinib, however, a complete inhibition of cell migration was achieved for all cell lines at concentrations as low as 200 nM (Figure 2E and F). No difference between cell lines harbouring TP53 mutations and wild-type cell lines was observed.

Fyn is the most important Src family member in chondrosarcoma tissues. To identify the most important Src family member in chondrosarcoma, we evaluated the expression of the 4 family members Src, Yes, Fyn and Lck, as well as pSrc in primary tumour samples. Active Src signalling as evidenced by positive staining for pSrc was found in 88–100% of the tumours (Table 3,

Table 3. Protein expression in tumours using immunohistochemistry

	Peripheral chondrosarcoma				Central chondrosarcoma			
	Osteochondroma	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Enchondroma	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III
pSrc	3/3 (100%)	12/13 (92%)	6/6 (100%)	3/3 (100%)	4/5 (80%)	21/24 (88%)	21/22 (96%)	10/10 (100%)
Src	1/7 (14%)	7/17 (41%)	8/8 (100%)	2/3 (67%)	4/7 (57%)	12/31 (39%)	12/31 (39%)	7/13 (54%)
Yes	0/7 (0%)	3/23 (13%)	0/10 (0%)	0/3 (0%)	0/7 (0%)	0/36 (0%)	3/30 (10%)	0/14 (0%)
Fyn	7/8 (88%)	16/20 (80%)	9/10 (90%)	3/3 (100%)	5/5 (100%)	17/35 (49%)	31/35 (89%)	13/14 (93%)
Lck	0/3 (0%)	1/23 (4%)	2/10 (20%)	0/3 (0%)	0/7 (0%)	1/38 (3%)	0/33 (0%)	2/13 (15%)

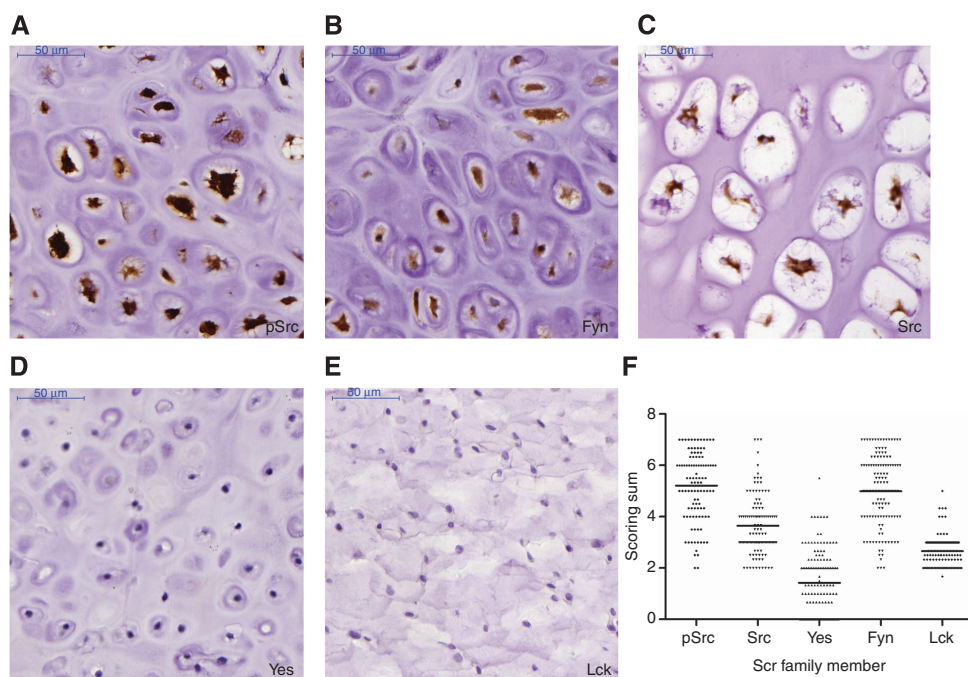


Figure 3. Immunohistochemistry demonstrating expression of Src family members in conventional chondrosarcoma tissue. (A) High pSrc expression in grade I chondrosarcoma. (B) High-intensity nuclear Fyn expression in grade I chondrosarcoma. (C) High-intensity cytoplasmic and nuclear Src expression in grade I chondrosarcoma. (D) Absence of Yes expression in grade II chondrosarcoma. (E) Absence of Lck in grade II chondrosarcoma. Scale bars, 50 μm. (F) Scatterplot showing distribution of staining scores among chondrosarcoma tissue samples.

Figure 3A and F). Of the four Src family members, we found Fyn (76.1% high expression, 89 out of 117) and Src (46.6% high expression, 48 out of 103) to be most abundantly expressed in chondrosarcoma (Table 3, Figure 3B, C and F). In contrast, high expression of Yes and Lck was observed in only 5% of all chondrosarcoma cases (6 out of 116 and 6 out of 120, respectively) (Table 3, Figure 3D–F). During the staining procedures, some cores were lost due to inherent structural instability of the tissue. A significant increase in Src expression was seen between grade I and grade II peripheral CS ($P=0.005$, Pearson chi-squared test). Though not significant, Src expression in tumours was found to be inversely correlated with overall survival ($P=0.3$, log rank). Fyn expression was found to significantly increase with increasing histological grade in both peripheral chondrosarcoma ($P=0.05$ Pearson chi-squared test) and central chondrosarcoma ($P=0.000$, Pearson chi-squared test). No significant correlations to metastasis were found. Using western blot, we confirmed expression of Fyn in all cell lines, with low expression in L835 (Figure 2A).

DISCUSSION

Chondrosarcomas are resistant to conventional chemotherapy. Despite ongoing research, there is still nothing to offer patients with unresectable or metastatic disease and the need for new, targeted therapies is high. We here explored the effects of increased PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β and Src signalling on chondrosarcoma chemoresistance and cell migration using enzastaurin and dasatinib, respectively. We show that dasatinib is more effective in overcoming chondrosarcoma chemoresistance than enzastaurin, and acts synergistically with doxorubicin to inhibit cell viability and induce apoptosis. Most importantly, we show that in cell lines with TP53 mutations, the combination of tyrosine kinase inhibitors with doxorubicin is more beneficial than in wild-type TP53 cell lines.

Chondrosarcoma is a heterogeneous disease, and this heterogeneity is represented in the cell lines. Recently, IDH1 and IDH2 mutations were found in chondrosarcoma (Amary *et al*, 2011), and we published that these mutations are retained in chondrosarcoma cell lines (Pansuriya *et al*, 2011; van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012a). Of the two cell lines that were non-responsive to combination treatment of doxorubicin with dasatinib, one central chondrosarcoma cell line (L835) carried an IDH1 mutation, whereas the other (dedifferentiated chondrosarcoma cell line (L3252)) was wild type for IDH. Thus, no correlation between IDH mutation status and response to dasatinib monotherapy or combination treatment with doxorubicin was observed. More likely, the lack of sensitivity to dasatinib in the L835 cell line is caused by the low pSrc activity in this cell line.

Src inhibition with dasatinib resulted in successful sensitisation for doxorubicin treatment, especially in TP53 mutant chondrosarcoma cell lines. Approximately 30% of chondrosarcomas carry TP53 mutations, and these mutations are found especially in high-grade chondrosarcomas (Oshiro *et al*, 1998; Terek *et al*, 1998). Three of the eight cell lines carry a TP53 mutation (SW1353, JJ012 and NDCS-1), and these cell lines also showed a better response to combination treatment with low combination indices when compared with TP53 wild-type cell lines. This is an interesting result as mutant TP53 is described to actively inhibit apoptosis through activation of p21 (Donzelli *et al*, 2012) or to confer chemoresistance through engaging in oncogenic transcription complexes (Huang *et al*, 2012). Previously, dasatinib was found to interfere with the p53 transcriptional activity induced by the MDM2 inhibitor nutlin-3 (Zauli *et al*, 2011). We show that dasatinib does not affect p53 nor p21 protein expression in chondrosarcoma cells. Dasatinib as a single agent proved

ineffective in chondrosarcoma patients (Schuetze *et al*, 2010). However, recent clinical studies with dasatinib in other malignancies have shown its efficacy not only irrespective of TP53 status as a single agent (Bosco *et al*, 2012) but also to overcome TP53 mutation status-related chemoresistance (Amrein *et al*, 2008). The results of these clinical studies in combination with the data we show here strongly suggest clinical evaluation of the efficacy of dasatinib in combination with doxorubicin in chondrosarcoma patients harbouring TP53 mutations.

As we demonstrate Src signalling to have a role in chemoresistance, we further explored the expression of the different Src family kinases (SFKs) in human chondrosarcoma tissues. Fyn was most widely expressed (89 out of 117) and was found to increase with increasing histological grade, suggesting a role in chondrosarcoma progression. Fyn is reported to be upregulated in multiple cancers, and to be associated with malignant progression and metastasis formation (Posadas *et al*, 2009; Chen *et al*, 2010; Saito *et al*, 2010). We confirmed that indeed the Src pathway is important in chondrosarcoma cell motility, as dasatinib completely inhibited migratory capacity of all chondrosarcoma cell lines even at low dose.

Clinical trials with dasatinib have shown the efficacy and low toxicity of dasatinib in combination with conventional chemotherapeutic agents in solid tumours (Montero *et al*, 2011). In a phase II study of dasatinib with hyper-CVAD in patients with Philadelphia chromosome-positive lymphoblastic leukaemia, long-term remission was achieved in newly diagnosed patients (Ravandi *et al*, 2010), and in a phase I–II study of dasatinib with doxorubicin in castration-resistant prostate cancer, disappearance of bone lesions was obtained (Araujo *et al*, 2012). The results obtained with dasatinib in combination with chemotherapy strongly encourage the exploration of dasatinib in combination with doxorubicin in patients with chondrosarcoma.

Both the PI3K/AKT/GSK3 β and Src kinase pathways are activated by RTKs (Goode *et al*, 1992; Wheeler *et al*, 2009), and have diverse roles in promoting growth, survival and metastasis (Aligayer *et al*, 2002; Wheeler *et al*, 2009; Yang *et al*, 2010; McNamara and Degterev, 2011; Saini *et al*, 2011). We show here that constitutive activation of AKT due to mutations does not have a role in chondrosarcoma, and further research should elucidate which RTK is responsible for the high AKT, GSK3 β and Src phosphorylation (Schrage *et al*, 2009). A possible candidate is IGF-1, which can activate the PI3K/AKT and Src pathway through the RTK IGF-1R (Grimberg, 2003), and has been shown to induce PI3K/AKT signalling and migration in chondrosarcoma cell lines (Wu *et al*, 2011). Src family kinases can induce phosphorylation of the RTK domains of IGF-1 as well as the PDGF receptors through SHP-2 leading to receptor internalisation. This increases binding efficacy with PI3K, leading to increased proliferative capacity of cancer cells (Wu *et al*, 2001; Carver *et al*, 2010). Moreover, AKT functions as a gatekeeper of apoptosis through phosphorylation of BAD. AKT-mediated phosphorylation of BAD inhibits its binding capacity to antiapoptotic BCL-2 family members, which will prevent a cell from entering apoptosis (Gilmore *et al*, 2002; Maddika *et al*, 2007). We recently published that the antiapoptotic BCL-2 family members also have a role in chondrosarcoma chemoresistance (van Oosterwijk *et al*, 2012b). Combined with the results of the present study, this is suggestive of a common mechanism. However, more studies are needed to explore whether the activation of the IGF pathway by Src leading to the inhibition of BH3 proteins and apoptosis through AKT may be involved in chondrosarcoma chemoresistance.

In conclusion, we found that inhibition of the Src pathway was successful in overcoming chemoresistance and inhibited migration. A synergistic response to combination treatment was observed, which was significantly stronger ($P=0.002$) in cell lines harbouring TP53 mutations. Moreover, as we observed the Src family

member Fyn to be the most prevalent in chondrosarcoma tissues, we hypothesise Fyn to have a major role in the chemoresistance and malignant progression of chondrosarcoma. These results aid in the understanding of signalling pathways in chondrosarcoma and may lead to the development of effective therapeutic strategies for currently untreatable metastatic chondrosarcoma.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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