Unraveling killing kinetics:

real-time cell analysis in oncology

Fetene Tekle <u>ftekle@its.jnj.com</u> 27 September 2024 Wiesbaden, Germany Non-Clinical Statistics Conference NCS 2024

Johnson&Johnson Innovative Medicine

Introduction: cell counts in real-time

IncuCyte = Real-time cell analysis assays ×ĆELĻigence CellCount

In oncology:

Measuring cell proliferation to understand impact of treatment on cell count.

Introduction: cell counts in real-time

Experimental setup:

- Read-out: Cell Count
- Variables:
 - Time (every x hours, for period t)
 - Dose levels (at least 6)
- Replicates:
 - Technical
 - Biological (e.g. donors)



Motivating example

Compare compounds based on **maximum killing capacity** and **killing kinetics**.



- Which compound kills the quickest?
- Which compounds kill most cells?
- Which compound kills at lower
 - concentrations?



Which compound has best efficacy?

Typical analysis: focus on dose response

2D data



TcellK2



AUC-based (summarized over time)



Dose response analysis results



 EC50 [95% CI]
 EC50 [95% CI]

 Compound 1
 0.47 [0.18, 1.21]
 0.57 [0.27, 1.20]

 Compound 2
 0.014 [0.0068, 0.028]
 0.014 [0.0049, 0.04]

- Both compounds are able to kill all cancer cells (same lower asymptote)
- Compound 2 more potent (start killing at lower concentration)

Compound 1

0.1

10

100

Dose response analysis results







	EC50 [95% CI]	EC50 [95% CI]
Compound 1	0.47 [0.18, 1.21]	0.57 [0.27, 1.20]
Compound 2	0.014 [0.0068, 0.028]	0.014 [0.0049, 0.04]



- Both compounds are able to kill all cancer cells (same lower asymptote) ٠
- Compound 2 more potent (start killing at lower concentration) ٠
- Does Compound 2 also start killing at earlier timepoint ?? •

Understanding killing kinetic

How to bring in time aspect?



Understanding killing kinetic



At each concentration extract:

MO = Earliest time at which we can statistically detect **difference in cell count compared to control**

If no difference: MO = > last timepoint t

$$EI_{i,j} = \propto + \beta Treatment_i + \delta_j factor(Time_{i,j}) + \gamma_j Treatment_i X factor(Time_{i,j}) + \varepsilon_{i,j}$$

Understanding killing kinetic: results



Min MO = 18h; earliest timepoint where at least one concentration show difference from control Max MO = 96h; earliest timepoint at which all concentrations show difference from control

Understanding killing kinetic: results

M0 time-concentration profile:



- Both compounds showed significant effect much earlier than the last time point,
- Compound 2 showed earlier significant killing in time and concentration
- Compound 1 shows a steeper decline in time-concentration profile

Comparing compounds: Dose response & killing kinetic



M0 kinetic time-concertation profile



	EC50 estimate (95% CI)
Compound 1	0.47 (0.18, 1.21)
Compound 2	0.014 (0.0068, 0.028)

- Both compounds are able to kill all cancer cells (same lower asymptote)
- Compound 2 more potent (start killing at lower concentration)
- Compound 2 start killing not only at lower concentrations, but also at earlier timepoints

Complement each other

Conclusions

- M0 metric provides additional information on the time-concentration dynamic of compounds by providing the specific time points at which clear effect started to show-up.
- Instead of significant effect, also a specific desired (pre-defined) minimal amount of killing can be used to extract a time profile.
- Creating time concentration profiles are pragmatic approach to get a view on killing kinetic without extensive kinetic modelling.

Acknowledgement









Bie Verbist

Yannick Breton

Nicholas Hein

Alemu Takele

Oncology Discovey scientists for fruitfull discussions during the exploration



