

# CYTOTOXICITY AND ANTINEOPLASTIC ACTIVITIES OF ALKYLAMINES AND THEIR BORANE DERIVATIVES

Iris H. Hall\*<sup>1</sup>, Elaine Y. Tse<sup>1,2</sup>, and Rosallah A. Muhammad<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Division of Medicinal Chemistry and Natural Products, School of Pharmacy,  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7360, USA

<sup>2</sup> Pharmacy B.S. Honors Student

<sup>3</sup> Summer Research Apprenticeship for Minority Students Program, Mathematics and Science Education  
Network Pre-College Program, CB#3500, 309 Peabody Hall, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3500, USA

## Abstract

The alkylamines and their related boron derivatives demonstrated potent cytotoxicity against the growth of murine and human tissue cultured cells. These agents did not necessarily require the boron atom to possess potent cytotoxic action in certain tumor lines. Their ability to suppress tumor cell growth was based on their inhibition of DNA and protein syntheses. DNA synthesis was reduced because purine synthesis was blocked at the enzyme site of IMP dehydrogenase by the agents. In addition ribonucleotide reductase and nucleoside kinase activities were reduced by the agents which would account for the reduced d[NTP] pools. The DNA template or molecule may be a target of the drugs with regard to binding of the drug to nucleoside bases or intercalation of the drug between DNA base pairs. Only some of the agents caused DNA fragmentation with reduced DNA viscosity. These effects would contribute to overall cell death afforded by the agents.

## Introduction

Alkylamines and their borane derivatives have shown potent hypolipidemic activity in mice, reducing LDL cholesterol and serum cholesterol and triglyceride levels while elevating HDL cholesterol levels [1,2]. The long chain derivatives, e.g. N,N-dimethyloctadecylamine borane, afforded the most potent hypolipidemic activity [2]. A positive correlation between hypolipidemic activity and cytotoxicity has previously been demonstrated for a number of boron containing compounds including amino acids, amides, esters, and peptides [3-7]. Thus, the purpose of this study is to determine if this correlation exists for a series of alkylamines and their borane derivatives. Antineoplastic and cytotoxic activity will be determined against murine L-1210 lymphoid leukemia, human Tmolt<sub>3</sub> leukemia, HeLa-S<sup>3</sup> uterine carcinoma, A549 lung, colorectal adenocarcinoma, KB nasopharynx, osteosarcoma, and glioma. The mode of action of four representative compounds in the series will be investigated for their effects on L-1210 lymphoid leukemia cell nucleic acid metabolism.

## Materials and Methods

### Source of Compounds

All of the alkylamines and their boron derivatives have been synthesized previously[2] All chemical and physical characteristic of the compounds were identical to those reported [1,2]. All other chemicals, substrates and co-factors were obtained from Sigma Chemical Co. Isotopes were purchased from New England Nuclear [DuPont]

### Antineoplastic Activity

Compounds 1-22 were tested for *in vivo* anti-neoplastic activity in the Ehrlich ascites carcinoma screen in CF<sub>1</sub> male mice (~28g) at 8 mg/kg/day, I.P. Drugs were administered for nine days. The tumor was then harvested and the volume and astrocrit were determined in order to calculate the percent inhibition of tumor growth on day 10. 6-Meracaptopurine was used as the internal standard.[5]

### Cytotoxic Activity

Compound 1-22 were tested for cytotoxic activity by preparing 1 mM solutions of each drug in 0.05% Tween 80/H<sub>2</sub>O by homogenization. The solutions were sterilized by passing them through an Acrodisc filter (45 $\mu$ ). The following cell lines were maintained by the literature techniques [4] for murine L-1210 lymphoid leukemia, rat UMR-106 osteosarcoma, human Tmolt<sub>3</sub> acute lymphoblastic T-cell leukemia, colorectal adenocarcinoma SW480, lung A549, osteosarcoma TE418, KB epidermoid nasopharynx and HeLa-S<sup>3</sup> suspended cervical carcinoma. The protocol of Geran et al. [8] was used to assess cytotoxicity by the trypan blue exclusion for the suspended tumor cells. Solid tumor cytotoxicity was determined by the method of Leibovvitz et al. [9] using 0.2% crystal violet/20% MeOH staining and evaluation at 580 nm in a microplate reader. Standards were determined in each cell line. The compound's ED-50 values, i.e. the concentration which inhibited 50% growth, was expressed in  $\mu$ g/ml.

### Incorporation Studies

Incorporation of labeled precursors into <sup>3</sup>H-DNA, <sup>3</sup>H-RNA and <sup>3</sup>H-protein into 10<sup>6</sup> L-1210 cells was determined by the method of Liao et al. [10]. The concentration response of compounds 4, 12, 14 and 22 for inhibition of DNA, RNA and protein syntheses was determined after 60 min at 25, 50 and 100  $\mu$ M. 1-<sup>14</sup>C-Glycine (53.0 mCi/mol) incorporation into purines was determined by the method of Cadman et al. [11]. <sup>14</sup>C-Formate (53.0 mCi/mol) incorporation into pyrimidines was determined by the method of Christopherson et al.[12].

### Enzyme Assays

Inhibition of various enzyme activities was carried out by first preparing the appropriate L-1210 cell homogenate or subcellular fraction, then adding the test drug during the enzyme assay. For the concentration response studies, inhibition of enzyme activity was determined at 25, 50 and 100  $\mu$ M after incubation for 60 min. DNA polymerase  $\alpha$  activity was determined in a cytoplasmic extract isolated by the method of Eichler et al.[13]. The polymerase assay was that of

Sawada et al. [14], with ( $^3\text{H}$ )-TTP. Messenger-, ribosomal- and transfer-RNA polymerase enzymes were isolated with different concentrations of ammonium sulfate (Anderson et al., [15] Hall et al. [16]) and the individual RNA polymerase activities were determined using  $^3\text{H}$ -UTP. Ribonucleoside reductase activity was measured with  $^{14}\text{C}$ -CDP [17]. The deoxyribonucleotides labeled with  $^{14}\text{C}$ -dCDP were separated from  $^{14}\text{C}$ -rCDP from the ribonucleotides by TLC on PEI plates. Thymidine, TMP and TDP kinase activities were measured with  $^3\text{H}$ -thymidine (58.3 mCi/mol) in the medium of Maley and Ochoa [18]. PRPP amidotransferase activity was determined by the method of Spassova et al. [19], and IMP dehydrogenase activity was determined with  $^{14}\text{C}$ -IMP (Amersham, Arlington Heights, IL) where XMP was separated on PEI plates (Fisher Scientific) by TLC (Becker et al. [20]). Carbamyl phosphate synthetase activity was determined by the method of Kalman et al. [21] and citrulline was determined colorimetrically (Archibald, [22]). Aspartate transcarbamylase activity was determined by the method of Kalman et al. [21] and carbamyl aspartate was determined colorimetrically [23]. Thymidylate synthetase activity was analyzed by the method of Kampf et al. [24]. The  $^3\text{H}_2\text{O}$  measured was proportional to the amount of TMP formed from ( $^3\text{H}$ )-dUMP. Dihydrofolate reductase activity was determined by the spectrophotometric method of Ho et al. [25]. Protein was determined for all of the enzymatic assays (Lowry et al. [26]).

#### DNA Assays

Deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates were extracted by the method of Bagnara and Finch [27]. Deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates were determined by the method of Hunting and Henderson [28] with calf thymus DNA, *E. coli* DNA polymerase I, non-limiting amounts of the three deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates not being assayed, and either 0.4 mCi of ( $^3\text{H}$ -methyl)-dTTP or ( $^3\text{H}$ )-dCTP.

The effects of the compounds on DNA strand scission were determined by the methods of Suzuki et al. [29], Pera et al. [30], and Woynarowski et al. [31]. L-1210 lymphoid leukemia cells were incubated with 10  $\mu\text{Ci}$  thymidine methyl- $^3\text{H}$ , 84.0 Ci/mmol and drug at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  for 24 h at 37°C. After harvesting the L1210 cells ( $10^7$ ), the cells were centrifuged at 600 g x 10 min in PBS, washed and suspended in 1 ml of PBS. Lysis buffer (0.5 ml; 0.5 M NaOH, 0.02 M EDTA, 0.01% Triton X-100 and 2.5% sucrose) was layered onto a 5-20% alkaline-sucrose gradient (5 ml; 0.3 M NaOH, 0.7 KCl and 0.01 M EDTA) followed by 0.2 ml cell preparation. After incubating 2.5 hr at room temperature, the gradient was centrifuged at 12,000 rpm at 20°C for 60 min (Beckman rotor SW60). Fractions (0.2 ml) were collected from the top of the gradient, neutralized with 0.2 ml of 0.3 N HCl, and radioactivity measured. Thermal calf thymus DNA [ct-DNA] denaturation studies, UV absorption studies and DNA viscosity studies were conducted after incubating compounds 4, 12, 14 and 22 at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  in PBS buffer pH 7.2 at 37°C for 24 hr [32].

#### RESULTS

A number of compounds were active in the Ehrlich ascites carcinoma screen compound 4 afforded 77% inhibition, compound 5 caused 86% inhibition and compound 11 caused 87% while compound 14 resulted in 76%

inhibition of tumor growth in vivo. Generally the alkylamine amines were not as potent as the boron derivatives. [Table 1].

Table 1. Structures and In Vivo Anti-neoplastic Activity of Alkylamine and Their Boron Derivatives at 8 mg/Kg/day, I.P.

Compound #	Name	Percent Inhibition
N = 6	Ehrlich Ascites Carcinoma Growth	
1	N,N-Dimethylbenzylamine Borane	67
2	N,N-Dimethyl-n-butylamine Borane	59
3	N,N-Dimethyl-n-hexylamine Borane	69
4	N,N-Dimethyl-n-octylamine Borane	77
5	N,N-Dimethyl-n-decylamine Borane	86
6	N,N-Dimethyl-n-undecylamin Borane	67
7	N,N-Dimethyl-n-dodecylamin Borane	58
8	N,N-Dimethyl-n-tridecylamin Borane	34
9	N,N-Dimethyl-n-tetradecylamine Borane	54
10	N,N-Dimethyl-n-pentadecylamine Borane	66
11	N,N-Dimethyl-n-hexadecylamine Borane	87
12	N,N-Dimethyl-n-octadecylamine Borane	52
13	N,N-Dimethyl-n-octadecylamine	43
14	N-Methyl-n-octadecylamine	76
15	Decylamine	37
16	Undecylamine	37
17	Dodecylamine	48
18	Tridecylamine	38
19	Tetradecylamine	56
20	Hexadecylamine	44
21	Didecylamine	45
22	Octadecylamine	35
	6MP	99

In vitro cytotoxicity demonstrated that a number of the compounds afforded ED-50 values less than 2 µg/ml. In the L-1210 lymphoid leukemia screen compounds 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16, and 18 were active. In the human Tmolt<sub>3</sub> leukemia screen, compounds 4, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22 were effective. The HeLa-S<sup>3</sup> uterine carcinoma growth was reduced by compounds 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 16. KB nasopharynx growth was suppressed by compounds 14, 19 and 21. SW-480 colon adenocarcinoma growth was reduced by compounds 11, 12, 14, 16, 19, 20 and 21. Lung A549 growth was reduced by 7, 14, 18, 19, 21 and 22. Bone osteosarcoma growth was reduced by compounds 7, 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22. Brain glioma growth was suppressed by compounds 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22. [Table 2]

The mode of action study with four of the derivatives in L-1210 cells after 60 min incubation showed that DNA synthesis was inhibited 74% at 100 µM for compound 4 whereas compounds 12, 14 and 22 caused 24-54% reduction. RNA synthesis was only inhibited by compound 4 by 50% and compound 22 by 16%. RNA synthesis was elevated by compound 12 by 32% and by compound 14 by 79%. Protein synthesis was reduced 31% to 60% after 60 min. incubation with the agents. [Table 3-6]

DNA polymerase α activity was stimulated by compounds 4 and 12 by 52% and 106%, respectively but was inhibited 67% and 53% by compounds 14 and 22. mRNA polymerase activity was suppressed 18% to 23% by the compounds.

rRNA polymerase activity was inhibited by all four compounds 10% to 34%. t-RNA polymerase activity was suppressed 2% to 28% after 60 min. incubation. Ribonucleoside reductase activity was suppressed 22% to 34% at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  of the agents. Dihydrofolate reductase activity was reduced 16% by compound 4 but the activity was elevated 31%-48% by compounds 14 and 12. De novo synthesis of purine was inhibited approximately 37% to 57% by the four agents at 100  $\mu\text{M}$  after 60 min incubation. However, the activity of the regulatory enzyme PRPP amido-transferase activity was

Table 2 Cytotoxicity of Alkylamines and N,N-Dimethylalkylamine Boranes in Murine and Human Tissue Culture Cell Lines

N=4 Cp'd	ED-50 values = $\mu\text{g/ml}$							
	L-1210 Leuk- emia	Tmolt <sub>3</sub> Leuk- emia	HeLa-S <sup>3</sup> Uterine	KB Naso - pharynx	SW480 Colon	A549 Lung	Bone Osteo- Sarcoma	Brain Glioma
#								
1	1.69	2.00	1.53	3.48	7.52	8.04	5.73	7.71
2	1.19	2.89	2.18	7.38	2.33	6.85	5.61	6.63
3	3.77	3.90	1.44	6.84	4.42	6.14	6.66	7.42
4	2.57	1.96	1.62	5.67	5.82	3.76	5.14	7.72
5	3.86	4.85	1.36	6.72	3.97	5.97	5.44	7.21
6	3.57	1.35	1.78	4.26	6.35	4.87	3.10	4.90
7	1.47	1.35	2.21	6.07	7.27	1.22	1.50	0.63
8	1.47	1.94	1.53	4.39	7.52	7.86	3.75	6.53
9	1.43	2.29	2.29	4.06	7.56	7.69	1.78	1.79
10	0.95	3.11	1.87	3.61	7.27	7.83	3.28	7.72
11	2.30	2.09	1.57	5.53	1.62	2.52	2.38	1.58
12	2.57	2.06	2.31	3.70	1.68	4.89	3.75	2.78
13	1.83	1.71	2.63	6.11	3.63	6.25	4.32	8.32
14	3.12	1.43	2.89	1.27	1.31	1.15	1.09	0.27
15	3.59	1.74	2.21	3.76	7.52	3.97	4.91	-----
16	1.56	2.43	1.87	4.13	1.56	6.70	3.51	6.73
17	2.48	1.43	2.47	2.93	5.09	2.10	1.84	1.72
18	1.47	1.47	2.29	2.05	4.07	1.06	1.98	1.15
19	2.57	0.97	2.73	1.95	1.31	0.995	1.54	1.13
20	2.68	3.54	2.68	4.16	1.25	4.07	5.66	5.49
21	2.39	0.775	3.14	1.58	1.16	1.06	1.59	1.47
22	2.75	1.87	2.12	3.25	4.03	1.01	1.05	0.84
5FU	1.41	2.14	2.47	1.25	3.09	5.64	-----	1.28
AraC	2.76	2.67	2.13	2.84	3.42	4.60	-----	1.88
HU*	2.67	3.18	1.96	5.29	4.74	7.37	7.32	2.27

\* Hydroxyurea

not significantly affected by the agents with only 15% to 21% inhibition. Nevertheless, IMP dehydrogenase activity was markedly reduced by all four agents 38% to 75%. The first enzyme in the pyrimidine pathway were significantly reduced, i.e. carbamyl phosphate synthetase activity, which was suppressed 87% by compound 22 whereas the other three compounds caused 15% to 24% reduction in activity. Aspartate transcarbamylase activity was reduced 17% by compound 4 and was elevated by compounds 14 and 22. However, thymidylate synthase activity was unaffected by the agents. Thymidine kinase activity was reduced 46% to 69%, TMP kinase activity was reduced 21% to 37% and TTP

kinase activity was reduced 10% to 35% by the four agents at 100  $\mu$ M. d[NTP] pools were reduced by the derivatives after 60 min. incubation. d[ATP] levels were reduced 16% to 21%. d[GTP] levels were reduced

Table 3 Effects of N,N-Dimethyl-n-octylamine Borane (4) on L-1210 Leukemia Cell Metabolism over 60 Min

Assay	Percent of Control (X + SD)			
	Control	25 $\mu$ M	50 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
DNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5a	53 $\pm$ 4*	42 $\pm$ 2*	26 $\pm$ 2*
RNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 6b	103 $\pm$ 7	62 $\pm$ 6*	50 $\pm$ 3*
Protein synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5c	119 $\pm$ 5	76 $\pm$ 4*	69 $\pm$ 4*
DNA polymerase alpha	100 $\pm$ 6d	73 $\pm$ 6	141 $\pm$ 7*	152 $\pm$ 6*
mRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7e	112 $\pm$ 7	81 $\pm$ 5	81 $\pm$ 4*
rRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 4f	149 $\pm$ 5	118 $\pm$ 5	90 $\pm$ 4
tRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7g	91 $\pm$ 6	89 $\pm$ 5	77 $\pm$ 5*
Ribonucleoside reductase	100 $\pm$ 5h	87 $\pm$ 5	75 $\pm$ 5*	69 $\pm$ 4*
Dihydrofolate reductase	100 $\pm$ 5i	94 $\pm$ 6	86 $\pm$ 5	84 $\pm$ 6
Purine de novo synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5j	95 $\pm$ 5	64 $\pm$ 4*	63 $\pm$ 4*
PRPP amido transferase	100 $\pm$ 6k	90 $\pm$ 6	80 $\pm$ 4*	79 $\pm$ 5*
IMP dehydrogenase	100 $\pm$ 5l	89 $\pm$ 6	78 $\pm$ 5*	49 $\pm$ 3*
Carbamyl phosphate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 7m	92 $\pm$ 6	89 $\pm$ 6	85 $\pm$ 5
Aspartate transcarboxylase	100 $\pm$ 6n	101 $\pm$ 7	99 $\pm$ 6	83 $\pm$ 6
Thymidylate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 5o	107 $\pm$ 7	107 $\pm$ 6	103 $\pm$ 5
Thymidine kinase	100 $\pm$ 6p	79 $\pm$ 6*	35 $\pm$ 4*	35 $\pm$ 4*
Thymidine monophosphat kinase	100 $\pm$ 7q	72 $\pm$ 5*	63 $\pm$ 5*	63 $\pm$ 5*
Thymidine diphosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 6r	117 $\pm$ 7	83 $\pm$ 6	77 $\pm$ 5*
d(ATP)	100 $\pm$ 5s			84 $\pm$ 5
d(GTP)	100 $\pm$ 6t			78 $\pm$ 4*
d(CTP)	100 $\pm$ 5u			48 $\pm$ 3*
d(TTP)	100 $\pm$ 4v			110 $\pm$ 5

Control values for 10<sup>6</sup> cells/hr

a = 7719 dpm; b = 1014 dpm, c = 17492 dpm, d = 9019 dpm, e = 1343 dpm, f = 325 dpm, g = 400 dpm, h = 48780 dpm, i = 0.144 D O.D. units, j = 28624 dpm, k = 0.0878 O.D. units, l = 19575 dpm, m = 0.807 mol N-carbamyl aspartate, n = 0.273 mmol citrulline, o = 77616 dpm, p = 1371 dpm, q = 1179 dpm, r = 1891 dpm, s = 17.07 pmoles, t = 13.58 pmoles, u = 33.60 pmoles, v = 31.04 pmoles. \* P  $\geq$  0.001 Student's "t" test

22% to 30%. d[CTP] levels were reduced 32% to 52% whereas d[TTP] levels were slightly elevated from 105 to 21%.

ct-DNA studies demonstrated that U.V. absorption from 220 nm to 340 nm was decreased with compounds 4, 14 and 22 and thermal denaturation T<sub>m</sub> values were affected by the presence of the agents after 24 hr. at 100  $\mu$ M; the control T<sub>m</sub> value was 85.3 °C, compound 4 was 77°C, compounds 12 and 22 were 70°C, compound 14 was 65°C. L-1210 DNA strand scission studies demonstrated that compounds 12 and 22 after 24 hr. at 100  $\mu$ M caused essentially no DNA strand scission while compounds 4 and 14 did cause DNA fragmentation [Fig. 1]. ct-DNA viscosity studies demonstrated that the control value was 324 sec. Whereas after incubating with compounds 4, 14 and 22, the viscosity time had decreased to 302-318 sec.

Table 4 Effects of N,N-Dimethyl-n-octadecylamine Borane(12) on L-1210  
Leukemia Cell Metabolism over 60 Min

Assay	Percent of Control			
	Control	25 $\mu$ M	50 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
DNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	80 $\pm$ 5	50 $\pm$ 4*	49 $\pm$ 4*
RNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 6	114 $\pm$ 6	106 $\pm$ 5	132 $\pm$ 7*
Protein synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	63 $\pm$ 4*	56 $\pm$ 5*	48 $\pm$ 4*
DNA polymerase alpha	100 $\pm$ 6	157 $\pm$ 5*	202 $\pm$ 7*	206 $\pm$ 6*
mRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	74 $\pm$ 5*	72 $\pm$ 4*	71 $\pm$ 5*
rRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 4	80 $\pm$ 5	79 $\pm$ 4*	69 $\pm$ 4*
tRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	96 $\pm$ 6	77 $\pm$ 6*	72 $\pm$ 6*
Ribonucleoside reuctase	100 $\pm$ 5	97 $\pm$ 5	96 $\pm$ 6	78 $\pm$ 5*
Dihydrofolate reductase	100 $\pm$ 5	96 $\pm$ 6	135 $\pm$ 6*	148 $\pm$ 7*
Purine de novo synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	60 $\pm$ 5*	62 $\pm$ 4*	54 $\pm$ 3*
PRPP amido transferase	100 $\pm$ 6	85 $\pm$ 6	79 $\pm$ 5*	78 $\pm$ 6*
IMP dehydrogenase	100 $\pm$ 5	45 $\pm$ 4*	31 $\pm$ 4*	25 $\pm$ 3*
Carbamyl phosphate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 7	105 $\pm$ 6	100 $\pm$ 7	83 $\pm$ 5
Aspartate transcarboxylase	100 $\pm$ 6	108 $\pm$ 6	106 $\pm$ 5	102 $\pm$ 6
Thymidylate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 5	108 $\pm$ 6	102 $\pm$ 5	94 $\pm$ 5
Tymidine kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	78 $\pm$ 5*	76 $\pm$ 5*	31 $\pm$ 4*
Thymidine monophosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 7	81 $\pm$ 6	74 $\pm$ 6*	73 $\pm$ 5*
Thymidine diphosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	99 $\pm$ 7	81 $\pm$ 4	77 $\pm$ 5*
d[ATP]	100 $\pm$ 5			80 $\pm$ 4*
d[GTP]	100 $\pm$ 6			74 $\pm$ 3*
d[CTP]	100 $\pm$ 5			63 $\pm$ 4*
d[TTP]	100 $\pm$ 4			113 $\pm$ 6

### Discussion

The alkylamines and their boron derivatives were not as potent as other boronated amines, heterocyclic amine, peptides or nucleosides, but a few derivatives at 8 mg/kg/day did produce greater than 80% inhibition of in vivo tumor growth. The majority of the agents were cytotoxic in the suspended cell growth, i.e. L-1210, Tmolt<sub>3</sub> and HeLa-S<sub>3</sub>. Selected derivatives demonstrated potent activity in the solid tumor cells cultures. The alkylamines which contain no boron moiety generally were more effective against the growth of the solid tumor cell cultures. This activity may be due to some type of detergent activity of these agents being that they are long chain alkyl groups. Furthermore, compound 14, N-methyl-n-octadecylamine demonstrated the widest activity against the growth of human cultured tumors cell lines.

The mode of action study demonstrated that L-1210 leukemic cell DNA and protein syntheses were inhibited from 25 to 100  $\mu$ M within 60 min. The major effect of the agents appeared to be on de novo purine synthesis with the regulator enzyme site IMP dehydrogenase being blocked by the agents. The magnitude of reduction of IMP dehydrogenase

-----  
 Table 5 Effects of N-methyl-n-octadecylamine(14) on L-1210 Leukemia Cell Metabolism over 60 Min

Assay	Percent of Control			
	Control	25 $\mu$ M	50 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
DNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	76 $\pm$ 5*	69 $\pm$ 5*	76 $\pm$ 4*
RNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 6	155 $\pm$ 6*	176 $\pm$ 5*	179 $\pm$ 6*
Protein synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	74 $\pm$ 4	62 $\pm$ 5	51 $\pm$ 5*
DNA polymerase alpha	100 $\pm$ 6	100 $\pm$ 5	53 $\pm$ 4	33 $\pm$ 3*
mRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	96 $\pm$ 6	83 $\pm$ 6	77 $\pm$ 5*
rRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 4	78 $\pm$ 5*	75 $\pm$ 5*	68 $\pm$ 5*
tRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	103 $\pm$ 7	86 $\pm$ 7	82 $\pm$ 6
Ribonucleoside reductase	100 $\pm$ 5	104 $\pm$ 6	79 $\pm$ 6	68 $\pm$ 5*
Dihydrofolate reductase	100 $\pm$ 5	107 $\pm$ 7	131 $\pm$ 6	131 $\pm$ 5
Purine de novo synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	57 $\pm$ 5*	47 $\pm$ 5*	43 $\pm$ 4*
PRPP amido transferase	100 $\pm$ 6	87 $\pm$ 6	87 $\pm$ 5	82 $\pm$ 6
IMP dehydrogenase	100 $\pm$ 5	75 $\pm$ 5*	60 $\pm$ 5*	45 $\pm$ 4*
Carbamyl phosphate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 7	81 $\pm$ 6	76 $\pm$ 5*	76 $\pm$ 4*
Aspartate transcarboxylase	100 $\pm$ 6	119 $\pm$ 7	139 $\pm$ 7*	122 $\pm$ 6
Thymidylate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 5	103 $\pm$ 5	108 $\pm$ 6	98 $\pm$ 6
Tymidine kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	68 $\pm$ 6	44 $\pm$ 5*	38 $\pm$ 4*
Thymidine monophosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 7	80 $\pm$ 7	71 $\pm$ 5*	69 $\pm$ 4*
Thymidine diphosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	86 $\pm$ 6	72 $\pm$ 6*	65 $\pm$ 5*
d[ATP]	100 $\pm$ 5			82 $\pm$ 4
d[GTP]	100 $\pm$ 6			70 $\pm$ 5*
d[CTP]	100 $\pm$ 5			61 $\pm$ 5*
d{TTP]	100 $\pm$ 4			115 $\pm$ 6*

-----

activity was of sufficient amount to explain the observed reduction of purine synthesis as well as DNA synthesis. Other metabolic site which were affected marginally by the agents were m-, r-and t-RNA polymerases, ribonucleoside reductase, carbamyl phosphate synthetase, and nucleoside kinases. The inhibition of the activities of these enzymes would be additive with regard to inhibiting DNA synthesis and tumor cell death. The reduction in some of the d[NTP] pools would also lower DNA synthesis. The reduction in these pools probably is due to the inhibition of purine and pyrimidine de novo synthetic pathways for deoxytriphosphate nucleosides as well as ribonucleoside reductase activity for the conversion of ribosenucleotides to deoxyribonucleotides. ct-DNA studies with the agents suggest that there was some type of interaction with the nucleosides of DNA as demonstrated by the decrease in U.V. absorption, decreased Tm values and lower DNA viscosity. In the L-1210 cells the observed DNA fragmentation would cause cell death and explain the reduction in DNA viscosity.

Table 6 Effects of Octadecylamine(22) on L-1210 Leukemia Cell Metabolism over 60 Min

Assay	Percent of Control			
	Control	25 $\mu$ M	50 $\mu$ M	100 $\mu$ M
DNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	90 $\pm$ 6	73 $\pm$ 5*	46 $\pm$ 5*
RNA synthesis	100 $\pm$ 6	118 $\pm$ 6	115 $\pm$ 7	84 $\pm$ 5
Protein synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	86 $\pm$ 6	85 $\pm$ 5	40 $\pm$ 4*
DNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 6	94 $\pm$ 5	81 $\pm$ 6	47 $\pm$ 5*
mRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	89 $\pm$ 6	83 $\pm$ 6	82 $\pm$ 6
rRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 4	99 $\pm$ 5	83 $\pm$ 6	66 $\pm$ 5*
tRNA polymerase	100 $\pm$ 7	103 $\pm$ 6	102 $\pm$ 6	98 $\pm$ 5
Ribonucleoside reductase	100 $\pm$ 5	130 $\pm$ 6	84 $\pm$ 5	66 $\pm$ 4*
Dihydrofolate reductase	100 $\pm$ 5	119 $\pm$ 7	116 $\pm$ 6	96 $\pm$ 5
Purine synthesis	100 $\pm$ 5	70 $\pm$ 4*	54 $\pm$ 5*	51 $\pm$ 5*
PRPP amido transferase	100 $\pm$ 6	94 $\pm$ 5	86 $\pm$ 6	85 $\pm$ 6
IMP dehydrogenase	100 $\pm$ 5	194 $\pm$ 7	119 $\pm$ 6	62 $\pm$ 5*
Carbamyl phosphate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 7	71 $\pm$ 5*	31 $\pm$ 4*	13 $\pm$ 3*
Aspartate transcarboxylase	100 $\pm$ 6	123 $\pm$ 5	159 $\pm$ 6*	164 $\pm$ 6*
Thymidylate synthetase	100 $\pm$ 5	105 $\pm$ 6	110 $\pm$ 6	104 $\pm$ 6
Thymidine kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	91 $\pm$ 5	74 $\pm$ 5*	54 $\pm$ 5*
Thymidine monophosphat kinase	100 $\pm$ 7	92 $\pm$ 6	76 $\pm$ 5*	70 $\pm$ 5*
Thymidine diphosphate kinase	100 $\pm$ 6	105 $\pm$ 7	101 $\pm$ 6	90 $\pm$ 5
d[ATP]	100 $\pm$ 5			79 $\pm$ 5*
d[GTP]	100 $\pm$ 6			76 $\pm$ 4*
d[CTP]	100 $\pm$ 5			68 $\pm$ 4*
d[TTP]	100 $\pm$ 4			115 $\pm$ 6

**Acknowledgements:**

Compounds used in this study were supplied by U.S. Borax Research Corporation, Anaheim, CA 92801 for which we are appreciative. Funding for this reaserch was provided by the UNC Pharmacy Foundation Seed Grant.

**References**

1. Hall IH, Griffin TS, Docks EL, Brotherton RJ, Futch G. Hypolipidemic activity of N,N-dimethylamine borane in rodents, J. Pharm. Sci. 1986, 75: 706.
2. Griffin TS, Docks EL, Brotherton RJ, Hall IH. The hypolipidemic activity of alkylamines and their borane derivatives: structure-activity relationship in rodents. Eur. J. Med. Chem. 1991, 26: 517.
3. Hall IH, Gilbert CJ, McPhail, Morse KW, Hassett K, Spielvogel BF. Antineoplastic activity of boron analogues of  $\alpha$ -amino acids. J. Pharm. Sci. 1985, 74: 755.
4. Sood CK, Sood A, Spielvogel BF, Yousef JA, Burhman S, Hall IH. Synthesis and anti-neoplastic activity of some cyano-, carbomethoxy- and carbamoylborane adducts of heterocyclic amines, J.Pharm. Sci. 1991, 80: 1133.
5. Hall IH, Spielvogel BF, McPhail AT. Antineoplastic activity tetrakis- $\mu$ -(trimethylamine-boranecarboxylato)-bis(trimethylamine-

carboxyborane)diccopper(II) in Ehrlich ascites carcinoma. *J. Pharm. Sci.* 1984, 73: 222.

## L-1210 DNA Strand Scission

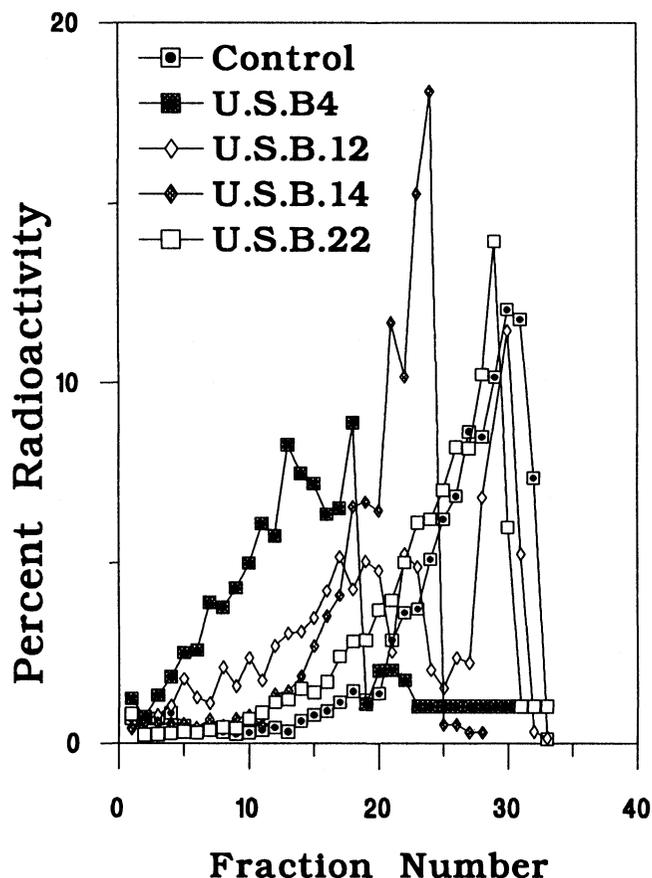


Fig. 1 Effects of Alkylamines and their Boranes on DNA Fragmentation

6. Sood A, Sood CK, Spielvogel BF, Hall IH. Boron analogues of amino acids VI. Synthesis and characterization of di- and tripeptide analogues as antineoplastic, anti-inflammatory and hypolipidemic agents. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* 1990, 25: 301.

7. Hall IH, Hall ES, Chi LK, Shaw BR, Sood A, Spielvogel BF. Antineoplastic activity of boron containing thymidine nucleosides in Tmolt3 leukemic cells, *Anticancer Res.* 1992, 12:1091.

8. Geran RJ, Greenburg NH, MacDonald MM, Schumacher AM, Abbott BJ. Protocols for screening chemical agents and natural products against animal tumors and other biological systems. *Cancer Chemo Rep* 1972; 3: 9.

9. Leibovitz AL, Stinson JC, McComb WB III, McCoy CE, Mazur KC, Mabry ND. Classification of human colorectal adenocarcinoma cell lines. *Cancer Res* 1976; 36: 4562.
10. Liao LL, Kupchan SM, Horwitz SB. Mode of action of the antitumor compound bruceatin, an inhibitor of protein synthesis. *Mol Pharmacol* 1976; 12: 167.
11. Cadman E, Heimer R, Benz C. The influence of methotrexate pretreatment on S-flaxorouracil metabolism in L1210 cells. *J Biol Chem* 1981; 256: 1695.
12. Christopherson RI, Yu ML, Jones ME. An overall radioassay for the first three reactions of de novo pyrimidine synthesis. *Anal Biochem* 1981; 11: 240.
13. Eichler DC, Fisher PA, Korn D. Effect of calcium on the recovery distribution of DNA polymerase from cultured human cells. *J Biol Chem* 1977; 252: 4011.
14. Sawada H, Tatsumi K, Sadada M, Shirakawa S, Nakamura T, Wakisaka G. Effects of neocarzinostatin on DNA synthesis in L1210 cells. *Cancer Res* 1974; 34: 3341.
15. Anderson KM, Mendelson IS, Guzik G. Solubilized DNA-dependent nuclear RNA polymerases from the mammary glands of late-pregnant rats. *Biochem Biophys Acta* 1975; 383: 56.
16. Hall IH, Carlson GL, Abernathy GS, Piantadosi C. Cycloalkanones IV. Antifertility agents. *J Med Chem* 1974; 17: 1253-1257.
17. Moore EC, Hurlbert RB. Regulation of mammalian deoxyribonucleotide biosynthesis by nucleotide or activators and inhibitors. *J Biol Chem* 1966; 241: 4802.
18. Maley F, Ochoa S. Enzymatic phosphorylation of deoxycytidylic acid. *J Biol Chem* 1958; 233: 1538.
19. Spassova MK, Russev GC, Goovinsky EV. Some pyrazoles as inhibitors of purine biosynthesis de novo. *Biochem Pharmacol* 1976; 25: 923.
20. Becker JH, Lohr GW. Inosine-5 $\beta$ -phosphate dehydrogenase activity in normal and leukemic blood cells. *Klin Wochenschr* 1979; 57: 1109.
21. Kalman SM, Duffield PH, Brzozwki TJ. Purification and properties of a bacterial carbamyl phosphate synthetase. *J Biol Chem* 1966; 241: 871.
22. Archibald RM. Determination of citrulline and allantoin and demonstration of citrulline in blood plasma. *J Biol Chem* 1944; 156: 121.
23. Koritz SB, Gohen PP. Colorimetric determination of carbamyl amino acid and related compounds. *J Biol Chem* 1954; 209: 145.
24. Kampf A, Barfknecht RL, Schaffer PJ, Osaki S, Mertes MP. Synthetic inhibitors of *Escherichia coli* calf thymus and Ehrlich ascites tumor thymidylate synthetase. *J Med Chem* 1976; 19: 903.
25. Ho YK, Hakala T, Zakrzewski SF. 5-(1-Adamantyl) pyrimidines as inhibitors of folate metabolism. *Cancer Res* 1971; 32: 1023.
26. Lowry OH, Rosebrough J, Farr AL, Randall RJ. Protein measurement with folin phenol reagent. *J Biol Chem* 1951; 193: 265.
27. Bagnara AS, Finch LR. Quantitative extraction and estimation of intracellular nucleoside-triphosphate in *Escherichia coli*. *Anal Biochem* 1971; 45: 24.
28. Hunting D, Henderson JF. Determination of deoxyribonucleoside triphosphates using DNA polymerase: a critical evaluation. *Can J Biochem* 1982; 59: 723.
29. Suzuki H, Nishimura T, Muto SK, Tanaka N. Mechanism of action of macromycin: DNA strand scission, inhibition of DNA synthesis mitosis. *J Antibacteriol* 1978; 32: 875.

30. Pera JF Sr, Rawlings CJ, Shackleton J, Roberts JJ. Quantitative aspects of the formation and loss of DNA. *Biochem Biophys Acta* 1981; 655: 152.
31. Woynarowski JW, Beerman TA, Konopa J. Introduction of deoxyribonucleic acid damage in HeLa S<sup>3</sup> cells by cytotoxic and antitumor sesquiterpine lactones. *Biochem Pharmacol* 1981; 30: 3005.
32. Zhao Y, Hall IH, Oswald CB, Yokoi T, Lee KH. Anti-malarial agents III. Mechanism of action of artesunate against *Plasmodium berghei* infection. *Chem Phar Bull* 1987; 35: 2052.

**Received: February 12, 1996 - Accepted: March 5, 1996 -  
Received in revised camera-ready format: March 21, 1996**