

Scientific Abstract

B-cell CLL cells express unique immunoglobulin idiotypes that are patient specific. Vaccination with a plasmid DNA vaccine containing the patient's own specific idiootype sequence is a safe and rapid method of immunotherapy of potential benefit for patients with early stage CLL. The DNA vaccine study has five objectives: (1) to determine if patients with Binet Stage A CLL generate an immune response to an antigen delivered by a DNA vaccine; (2) to determine if patients with Binet Stage A CLL generate an immune response to a tumor derived antigen delivered by a DNA vaccine; (3) to determine the optimal dose of DNA vaccine to obtain anti-idiootype immune responses; (4) to characterize any adverse effects of idiootypic vaccination with a DNA vaccine; (5) to determine if DNA idiootypic vaccination is capable of inducing remission in Binet's Stage A CLL.