

# Inspection of the global behaviour of a radiogenic cancer treatment nonlinear model

Kaushik Dehingia<sup>1</sup>, Bhagya Jyoti Nath<sup>2</sup>, Hemanta Kumar Sarmah<sup>3</sup>, Anusmita Das<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1, 3, 4</sup> Department of Mathematics, Guwahati University, Assam, India

<sup>2</sup> Department of Mathematics, Barnagar College, Sorbhog, Assam, India

SUMMARY

Neoplastic diseases are liable for 12% of deaths around the world. The researchers of several disciplines tried to observe the dynamics of tumour growth with the response to other cell population of the physical body. They need the used ever-new technique to regulate the tumour growth and its eradication from the physical body. Clinically, there are many treatment strategies like surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, gene therapy, immunotherapy and combination of this etc. to beat the disease. During this paper, we analysed a model for the effect of radiogenic therapy within the treatment of cancer. Local stability analysis at various equilibrium points has discussed during this paper. For greater interest, we have shown that the tumour free equilibrium point is globally asymptotically stable. We even have done numerical verification of our mathematical result.

**Key words:** cancer, radiogenic therapy, positivity, bounded-ness, local stability, global stability

## INTRODUCTION

A multi-faceted disease, which involves heterogeneous interaction between abnormal cells and surrounding environment of it, called Cancer [1]. When the body is not capable to control the growth of abnormal cell and when the body cell lose their ability to die, occur cancer [2]. Surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, hormone therapy, and immunotherapy, either in isolation or in the combination of two or more of these are prominently used in cancer treatment [3]. With the utilization of radioisotopes, radiation is highly effective to eradicate tumours [4]. Chemotherapy is the treatment in which mostly used chemically designed drugs. Today, the researchers heavily busy with immunotherapy because it contains lesser side effects than other treatments. Immunotherapy increasing the effectiveness of the immune system to counter cancer cells by emphasizing the body's own natural ability to battle cancer. It encompasses the use of cytokines with ACI, engineering genetic antibody called (mAbs), and IL-2 therapy to improve or restore immune system function. However, chemo-immunotherapy enriches tumour recession and antitumor immune response [1]. Speciously vaccines, monoclonal antibodies, lymphocytes and cytokines are the key tools for tumour immunology [5]. The harshness of disease, treatment procedure and asset of patients' immune system are the key factors on which cancer treatment depends [6-9].

Gene therapy may use when no other therapies which are mentioned above treated well to the patient's body. By introducing a well-designed gene into the cells of a patient gene therapy correct an inborn inaccuracy of metabolism, alter or repair an acquired genetic abnormality, and provide a new function to a cell [10]. Recently, the research has proven that with the lesser effect on normal tissues a combination of gene and radiotherapy called radiogenic therapy may perform well in cancer curability [4, 11, 12]. Also, it has clinically demonstrated that the use of radiogenic therapy has many potential reimbursements with different toxicity profiles of both two therapies [13]. Radiations counter abnormal cells and increase the proliferation rate of the body's immune cells and greater the anti-tumour response [11]. At the same time, gene therapy also kills tumour cells by inserting toxin genes under the control of a tumour-specific promoter and blocks the mechanisms by which tumours evade immunological destruction [2].

Mathematical modelling is increasing rapidly to predict the effectiveness of specific treatment. Modelling of any biological

### Address for correspondence:

Kaushik Dehingia, Department of Mathematics, Guwahati University, Assam, India, email: kaushikdehingia17@gmail.com

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phenomena links the experimental result to computational results [14, 15]. Mathematical models played an active role in the research of disease dynamics and are becoming instrumental in planning treatment strategies and give deep insight into understanding complex biological processes [16]. Modelling of cancer is usually divided into two phases, the one is to deal with the concept of the system without treatment, and another one is treatments in the evocative form [1]. Treatments with new features are evolved in nowadays, and it becomes a broad research area for any kind of researchers. In this study, we have proposed a radiogenic therapy cancer model by modifying the Tsygvintsev et al. gene therapy model [12] and based on radiotherapy model [9] with some assumptions. Further, we have analysed the dynamics of the model using the basics of mathematics.

**Some mathematical preliminaries**

Suppose that  $y=f(y)$  is a vector form of a set of nonlinear ODE. Suppose that  $y^*$  is an equilibrium point. Let the Jacobian matrix corresponding to the equilibrium point  $y^*$  be as  $J^*$ .

**Lemma:** An equilibrium point  $y^*$  of the differential equation  $y=f(y)$  is stable if all the eigenvalues of  $J^*$ , the Jacobian evaluated at  $y^*$ , have negative real parts. The equilibrium point is unstable if at least one of the eigenvalues has a positive real part [17].

**Definition:** A Lyapunov function  $W(Y)$  is a function consisting of state variables which has a minimum at an equilibrium point and which has no local minima [17].

**Lemma:** Let  $\Omega$  be a region of phase space containing the equilibrium point  $y^*$ . Let  $W: \Omega \rightarrow R$  be a continuous and differentiable function.  $W$  is a positive definite function for the point  $y^*$  if it satisfies the following two conditions.

- (i)  $W(y^*) = 0$  and
- (ii)  $W(y) > 0$  for  $y \in \Omega - \{y^*\}$  [17]

**Lemma:** Let  $y^*$  be an equilibrium point of the differential equation  $y=f(y)$  and let  $W$  be a positive definite function for this point. The equilibrium point is globally asymptotically stable i.e., the solutions tend to this point for initial conditions in the neighbourhood of  $y^*$  if  $\dot{W}(y) < 0$  for all  $y \in \Omega - \{y^*\}$  [17].

**The model**

In this study, we formulate our model that primarily based on Tsygvintsev et al. [12] gene therapy model. The model deals

with effector cell population  $E(t)$ , tumour or cancerous cell population  $T(t)$ , gene therapy  $u_1$  (one kind immunotherapy) and a single dose of radiotherapy  $\gamma$ .

**The effector cell:** To model effector cells  $E(t)$  at any time  $t > 0$ , our first assumption is that the NK cells, Interleukin-2, LAK, Lymphocytes, T helper cells all belong to effector cells population. Next, we supposed that during gene therapy, the immune system strongly respond to the tumour site and it is represented by the term  $cT$ . The effector cells proliferate itself in its site which is represented by a Michaelis-Menten fashion  $\frac{pE}{E+f}$ , which is a decreasing function of effector cells.  $-dE$  is the natural decay of effector cells. The external immunotherapy source to the effector site is represented by the term  $u_1$ , which is time-dependent. From these assumptions, the dynamics of effector cell population can be expressed by the differential equation

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1$$

**The tumour cell:** Tumour cells  $T(t)$  proliferate logistically which can be modelled by  $rT(1-bT)$ , at any time  $t > 0$  with parameters and  $b$  assigning the cancer growth rate and cancer cell capacity respectively. The term  $-\frac{aET}{g+T}$  used for the high cancer clearance

during gene therapy with the effector cells negative response. The single-dose radiation  $\gamma$  kills only the tumour direct contact with tumour site [9]. Keeping in these, the dynamics of tumour cells represented by following differential equation.

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1$$

**The overall model:** With the above discussion, we may finalize our model, which is

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1$$

$$\frac{dT}{dt} = rT(1-bT) - \frac{aET}{g+T} - \gamma T$$

**Assumptions:**

1. The effector cells  $E(t)$  proliferate by itself with a decreasing function of Michaelis-Menten form
2. The effector cells  $E(t)$  arise with direct contact of tumour  $T(t)$

Tab. 1. The parameter value for the model	Parameters	Meaning	Values	interval	Source
	$c$	Cancer antigenicity	0.05 (1/time)	$[10^{-3}, 0.5]$	[12]
	$u_1$	Immunotherapy term	1 (cell/time)	$[10^{-2}, 10^2]$	[12]
	$p$	Proliferation rate of $E$	0.1245 (1/time)	0.1245	[12]
	$f$	Half-saturation for $E$ proliferation term	$10^{-3}$ , (cells)	$[10^{-5}, 1]$	[12]
	$d$	The half-life of effector cells $E$	0.03 (1/time)	0.03	[12]
	$R$	Cancer growth rate	0.18 (1/time)	$[10^{-1}, 2]$	[12]
	$b$	Cancer cell capacity	$10^{-9}$ (1/cells)	$10^{-9}$	[12]
	$a$	Cancer clearance term	1 (1/cells)	$[10^{-2}, 10^2]$	[12]
	$g$	Half-saturation, for cancer clearance	$10^5$ (cells)	$10^5$	[12]

Both the two therapies can have the ability to clear the tumour at the same time at a different level

3. Gene therapy clears the tumour combined with effector cells  $E(t)$

4. Radiation  $\gamma$  supply directly to the tumour site such that it kills tumour cells  $T(t)$  only

**Parameters**

**Positivity and bounded-ness**

Since the right-hand side of the system (3) is completely continuous and locally Lipschitzian on  $C$ , the solution  $(E(t), T(t))$  of the model with initial conditions  $E(0) \geq 0, T(0) \geq 0$  exists and is unique on  $(\zeta, 0)$ , where  $0 < \zeta \leq \pm\infty$  [18]. From system with initial conditions  $E(0) \geq 0, T(0) \geq 0$ , we have from the second equation of the system.

$$\frac{dT}{T} = \left\{ r(1-bT) - \frac{aE}{g+T} - \gamma \right\} dt$$

$$\Rightarrow T(t) = T(0) e^{\int_0^t \left\{ r(1-bT) - \frac{aE}{g+T} - \gamma \right\} dt} \geq 0$$

Again

$$dE = \left( cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1 \right) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow dE = \left[ cT(0) e^{\int_0^t \left\{ r(1-bT) - \frac{aE}{g+T} - \gamma \right\} dt} + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1 \right] dt$$

Since,

$$c > 0, T(0) e^{\int_0^t \left\{ r(1-bT) - \frac{aE}{g+T} - \gamma \right\} dt} \geq 0, u_1 > 0$$

Therefore, we can drop these non-negative quantities, hence we get

$$dE = \left( \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE \right) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{dE}{E} = \left( \frac{p}{E+f} - d \right) dt$$

$$\Rightarrow E(t) = E(0) e^{\int_0^t \left\{ \frac{p}{E+f} - d \right\} dt}$$

$$\geq 0$$

Hence, all the solution of the system with initial conditions  $E(0) \geq 0$  and  $T(0) \geq 0$  exists in the interval  $(0, 1)$  and  $E(t) \geq 0$  and  $T(t) \geq 0$  for all  $t \geq 0$

From the second equation of system, it follows that

$$\frac{dT}{dt} \leq rT(1-bT)$$

From the standard Kamke comparison theory [19], we get

$$\limsup_{t \rightarrow \infty} T(t) \leq \frac{1}{b}$$

Now, from the first equation of the system (3), it follows that

$$\frac{dE}{dt} = cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1$$

$$\leq cT_s + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1$$

[Since  $T(t)$  bounded, Let  $\sup T(t) = T_s$

Taking,  $cT_s + u_1 = K$

[By assumption and parameter values this is constant]

Hence,

$$\frac{dE}{dt} \leq \kappa + \frac{pE}{E+f}$$

$$\Rightarrow E(t) \leq E(0) + \int_0^t \left\{ \kappa + \frac{pE(s)}{E(s)+f} \right\} ds$$

The generalised Gronwall Lemma [20] gives  $E(t) < M_1$  where  $M_1$  is uniformly bounded.

Therefore,  $T(t)$  of the system subject to initial conditions  $E(0) \geq 0, T(0) \geq 0$  is bounded but  $E(t)$  may be bounded under some conditions among parameters and the bound of  $T(t)$  for  $t > 0$ .

**Local stability analysis at equilibrium points**

In this section, we will study the existence and stability analysis of the system (3) at various equilibrium points. The equilibrium points of the system (3) are

1. Cancer-free equilibrium  $P_1^*(E_1^*, T_1^*)$  and  $P_2^*(E_2^*, T_1^*)$

$$\text{Where, } E_1^* = \frac{A_2^* + \sqrt{B_2^*}}{2d} \quad E_2^* = \frac{A_2^* - \sqrt{B_2^*}}{2d} \quad \text{and } T_1^* = 0$$

$$A_2^* = p + u_1 - df \quad B_2^* = (p + u_1 - df)^2 + 4u_1df$$

2. Cancer infected equilibrium  $P_3^*(E_3^*, T_2^*), P_4^*(E_4^*, T_2^*), P_5^*(E_5^*, T_3^*)$  and  $P_6^*(E_6^*, T_3^*)$

$$\text{Where, } E_3^* = \frac{A_3^* + \sqrt{B_3^*}}{4rbd}$$

$$E_4^* = \frac{A_3^* - \sqrt{B_3^*}}{4rbd} \quad \text{and } T_2^* = \frac{A_1^* + \sqrt{B_1^*}}{2rb}$$

$$A_1^* = r(1-gb) - \gamma, \quad B_1^* = (r(1-gb) - \gamma)^2 - 4rb(aE + \gamma g - rg)$$

$$A_3^* = (A_1^* + \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2(p + u_1 - df);$$

$$= \left\{ (A_1^* + \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2rd(p + u_1 - df) \right\}^2 + 8rbdf \left\{ (A_1^* + \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2u_1rb \right\}$$

$$A_4^* = (A_1^* - \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2rb(p + u_1 - df)$$

$$B_4^* = \left\{ (A_1^* - \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2rd(p + u_1 - df) \right\}^2 + 8rbdf \left\{ (A_1^* - \sqrt{B_1^*})c + 2u_1rb \right\}$$

For stability analysis linearizing the system (3) to obtain Jacobian as follows:

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} -d + \frac{pf}{(E+f)^2} & c \\ -\frac{aT}{g+T} & r(1-2bT) - \frac{agE}{(g+T)^2} - \gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

Local stability at each equilibrium point is checked by using Lemma 2.1 and the parameter Table 1 and has the following results.

The coexistence of both effector and tumour cell: With using the value of the parameters from Table 1 and the radiation dose  $\gamma=0.1$  the systems has two biologically feasible equilibrium points out of which  $P_1^*(37.4832,0)$  are cancer-free shows saddle point behaviour with the unstable result and cancer infected equilibrium point  $P_3^*(8401.37, 5018.33)$  shows inward spiral behaviour with locally asymptotically stable nature. Hence, at this point, both effector and tumour compete with each other in presence of radiogenic therapy. That means both cells population goes to damped oscillation behaviour about zero instead of asymptotes to zero (Figure 1a).

The radiogenic therapy may cut out: Employing the values presented in Table 1 as well as radiation dose  $\gamma=0.195$ , the number of stationary points is only one  $P_1^*(37.4832,0)$ , which is cancer-free. This stationary point is asymptotically stable and the system shows nodal sink nature at this equilibrium. That means the effector cell population incorporates with the

treatment given can suppress the tumour growth to zero with time increase (see Figure 1b). However, because of the higher dose of radiation, which gives a negative impact on effector cells, the effector cell population also goes down rapidly with the increase of time. Which is not the aim of the treatment and the treatment fails in this case.

The radiogenic therapy succeeds: Through the values presented in Table 1 as well as the immuno-therapy dose  $u_1=53$ , cancer clearance term  $a=5$  and the radiation dose  $\gamma=0.1$ , there exists only one equilibrium point  $P_1^*(1770,0)$ . That means, at this, the body may be in a healthy stage as because the system behaves asymptotically stable with nodal sink nature. The tumour cells asymptote to zero rather than oscillating about zero (Figure 1c) i.e., after a sufficient amount of time and a suitable amount of radiation and immuno-therapy dose the tumour cells are vanished by the use of treatment. This shows the combined effect of radiogenic therapy.

The initial values used in these simulations are  $E(0)=T(0)=1000$ .

### GLOBAL STABILITY

Linear stability analysis shows how a system behaves in a neighbourhood of an equilibrium point. It does not, however, describe anything about what happens further away from equilibrium. In this section, we will show the point  $P_1^*(1770, 0)$  is globally stable by constructing a Lyapunov function, which described the total eradication of the tumour.

Define a Lyapunov functional of the model as

$$W = (E - E_1)^2 + (T - T_1)^2$$

Differentiating on both sides with respect to time, we get

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{W} &= 2(E - E_1)\dot{E} + 2(T - T_1)\dot{T} \\ &\leq 2E\dot{E} + 2T\dot{T} \quad (\text{Since } (E - E_1) \leq E \text{ and } T_1 = 0) \\ &= 2E \left( cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1 \right) + 2T \left\{ rT(1-bT) - \frac{aET}{g+T} - \gamma T \right\} \\ &= 2E \left( cT + \frac{pE}{E+f} - dE + u_1 \right) + 2T \left\{ rT(1-bT) - \frac{aET}{g+T} - \gamma T \right\} \\ &= X^T AX \end{aligned}$$

Where

$$X = [E, T] \quad ; \quad A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{2p}{E+f} + 2d - \frac{2u_1}{E} & -c \\ -c & -2r(1-bT) + \frac{aE}{(g+T)} + 2\gamma \end{bmatrix}$$

Here,

$$\begin{aligned} \det(A_{11}) &= \frac{-2p}{E+f} + 2d - \frac{2u_1}{E} \\ (0 \leq T < \frac{1}{b} \text{ and } \frac{p-df}{d} \leq E < E') \\ &= 0.0599 \quad (E' = 1.6667 \times 10^9) \\ &> 0 \end{aligned}$$

And

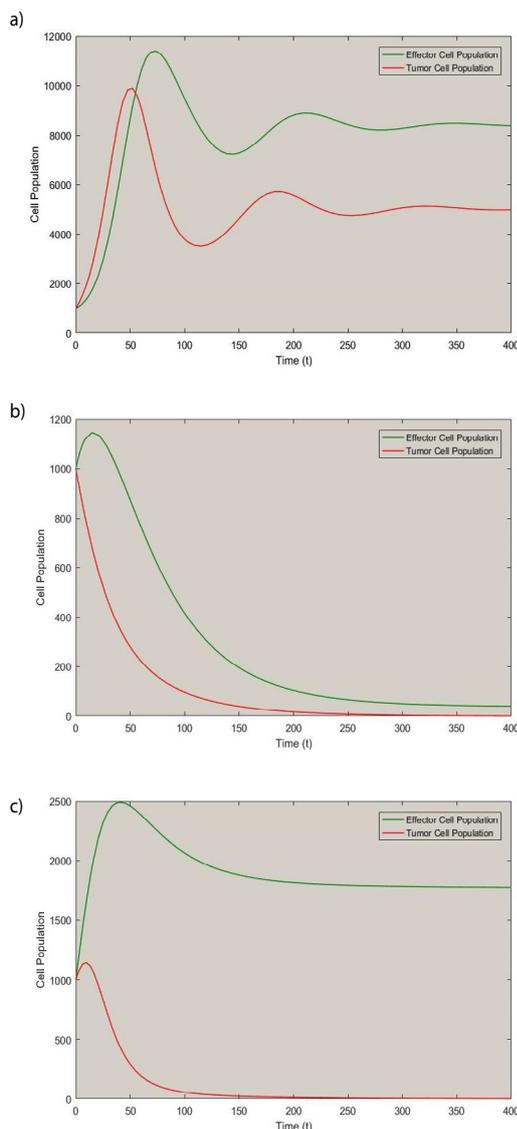


Fig. 1. Radiogenic therapy; (a) Radiation dose  $\gamma=0.1$ ; (b) Radiation dose  $\gamma=0.195$ ; (c) Immunotherapy term  $u_1=53$ , cancer clearance term  $a=5$  and Radiation dose  $\gamma=0.1$ ,

$$\det(A) = \left( \frac{-2p}{E+f} + 2d - \frac{2u_1}{E} \right) \left( -2r + 2rbT + \frac{2Ea}{g+T} + 2\gamma \right) - c^2$$

$$> \left( \frac{-2p}{E'+f} + 2d - \frac{2u_1}{E'} \right) \left\{ -2r + 2rb \frac{1}{b} + \frac{2a(p-df)}{d \left( g + \frac{1}{b} \right)} + 2\gamma \right\} - c^2$$

$$= 1.0096 > 0 \text{ Where}$$

$$E' = \frac{\left( p + \frac{c}{b} - df \right) + \sqrt{\left( p + \frac{c}{b} - df \right)^2 + \frac{4dfc}{b}}}{2d}$$

∴  $\dot{W} < 0$ , because the matrix A is positive definite.

The equilibrium point  $P_1^*$  satisfies all the conditions of Lyapunov stability theorem i.e. tumour-free equilibrium point  $P_1^*$  to be globally asymptotically stable [Lemma 2.3]. Hence, the equilibrium point  $P_1^*(1770, 0)$  is globally asymptotically stable on the domain  $(R_0^+)^2$  (where  $(R_0^+)^2$  is denote the non-negative octant of  $R^2$ ) if the Lyapunov  $\dot{W} < 0$  at this point (Figures 2 and 3).

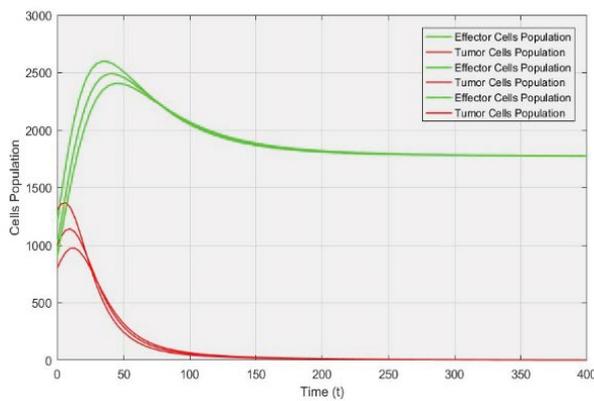


Fig. 2. Time series solution for various initial values for  $E(t)$  and  $T(t)$

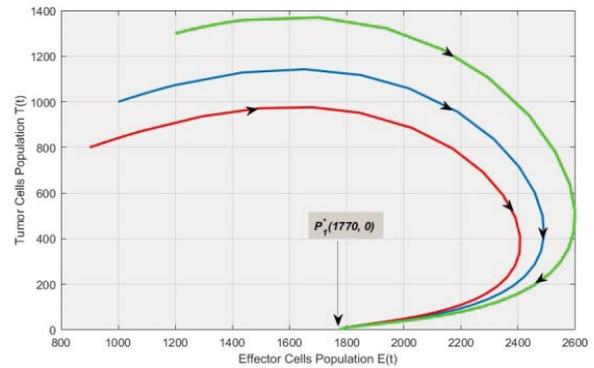


Fig. 3. This figure depicts the point  $P_1^*(1770, 0)$  is globally asymptotically stable

### CONCLUSION

Cancer research has undergone radical changes in the last few decades. The main subject of this paper to investigate the effectiveness of radiogenic therapy. Here, we have observed that if we treat tumour site with sufficient amount of immunotherapy drugs and radiotherapy dose under some circumstances, cancer may be eradicated from the body. We further investigated for the total eradication of cancer by checking global stability at tumour free equilibrium. From our observation, the trajectory of the system goes towards the point  $P_1^*(1770, 0)$  for various initial conditions (Figure 2) which described the global stability of the system (Figure 3). Hence, we may conclude that cancer may eradicate from the body with the use of radiogenic therapy by choosing a suitable amount of drug dose. This research gives small amounts of help to the oncologists in practice the cancer treatment. In future, we will analyse the model with pulsed radiation and optimal continuous radiation therapy using delay differential equation for a better realistic scenario.

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