

Off-label use of statins for the prevention of radiation-induced normal tissue damage

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2018
28-30 JUNE
VIENNA

MASCC/ISOO
ANNUAL MEETING
SUPPORTIVE CARE IN CANCER



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Faculty Disclosure

X	No, nothing to disclose
	Yes, please specify:

Pharmacological modulation of radiation-induced normal tissue damage – criteria to be considered....

- *What is the best target ? -*

- *What is a best druggable target ? -*

- *Are clinically approved drugs (with good safety profile) available for targeting? -*



Controlling Cholesterol with Statins

With 10 years of research and the genes you inherit, your heart health may depend on the drugs you take. Some medicines are effective at lowering cholesterol levels—a key factor in good heart health. Check yours. Then act if necessary.

Lovastatin
Pravastatin
Simvastatin
Fluvastatin
Atorvastatin
Rosuvastatin

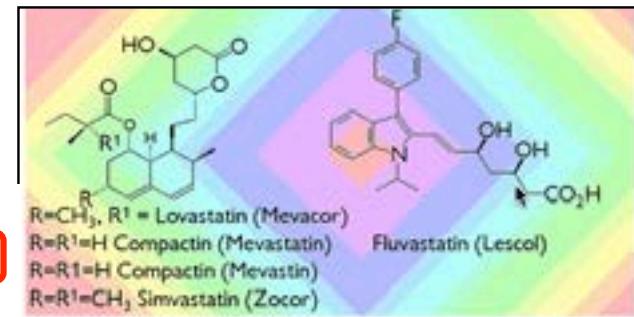
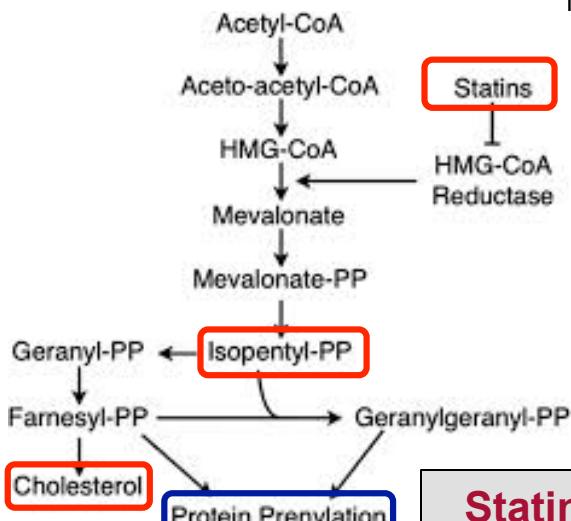


Statins (HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors) are one of the most effective medications to lower the level of cholesterol in the blood by reducing the number of cholesterol molecules produced by the liver. Statins work by blocking a key enzyme in the cholesterol synthesis pathway to regulate the synthesis of cholesterol. This reduces the amount of cholesterol made because it prevents the entry of growing numbers of cholesterol molecules into the liver. As a result, the liver releases more cholesterol into the blood stream, which then flows from the liver into the rest of the body. This results in a reduction in the amount of cholesterol in the arteries—*a condition called atherosclerosis*. In short, you need cholesterol but too much can be bad for you. That's why it's important to keep your cholesterol levels low.

Statins and Cholesterol

The following diagram illustrates the biosynthetic pathway of cholesterol. It shows the conversion of Acetyl-CoA to Aceto-acetyl-CoA, then to HMG-CoA, and finally to Mevalonate. Mevalonate is then converted to Mevalonate-PP, which is further processed to form Isopentyl-PP. Isopentyl-PP is used for protein prenylation, leading to the formation of Cholesterol and Geranylgeranyl-PP. Statins inhibit the enzyme HMG-CoA Reductase, which is highlighted in red in the diagram.

Statins and Cholesterol



Statins inhibit the prenylation of regulatory GTPases (i.e. Rac1/Rho)

Working hypothesis

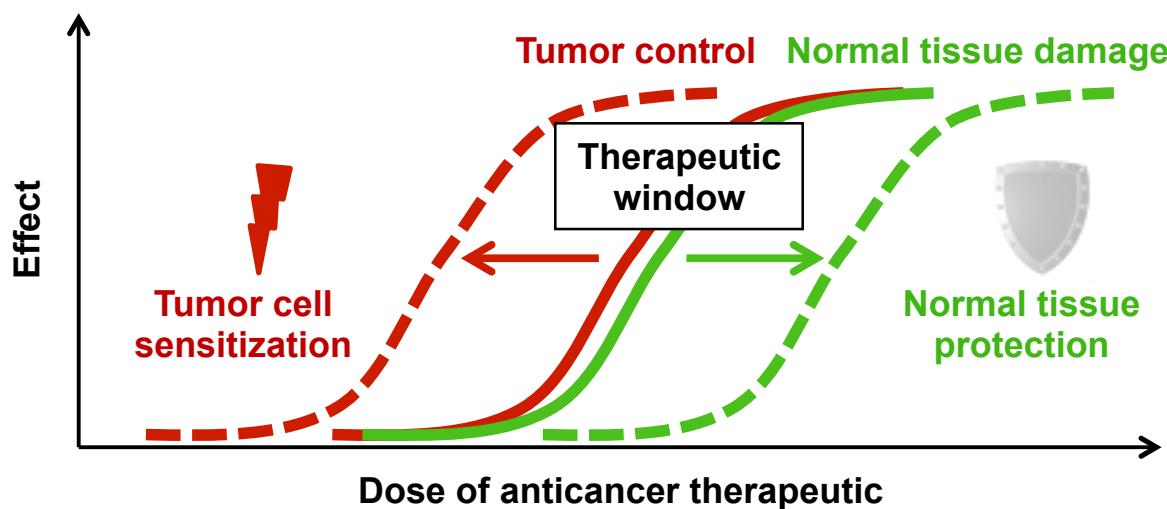
Off-label use of statins reduces the incidence and severeness of radiotherapy-induced



LUNG TOXICITY



- Widening of the therapeutic window of IR
- Improving the quality of life of cancer patients





In vitro model system – non-proliferating primary human lung cells

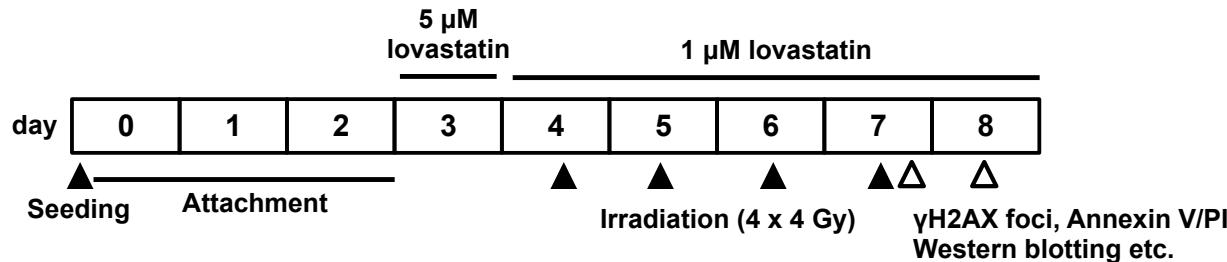


A

HMVEC-L (Human microvascular endothelial cells of the lung)

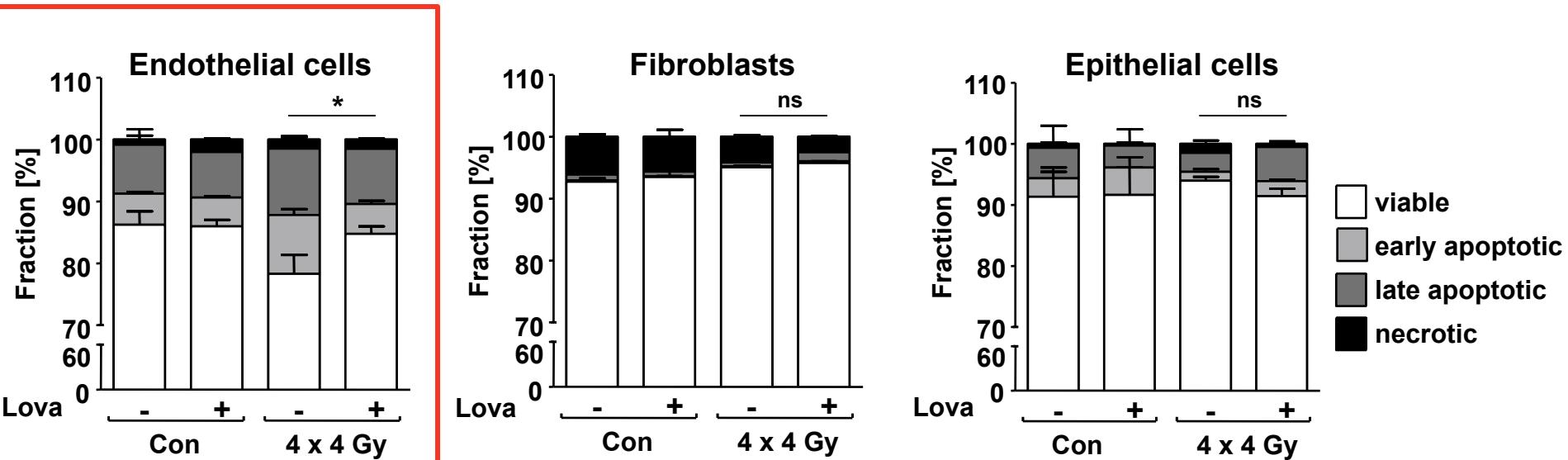
HPF (Human pulmonary fibroblasts)

HSAEpC (Human small airway epithelial cells)



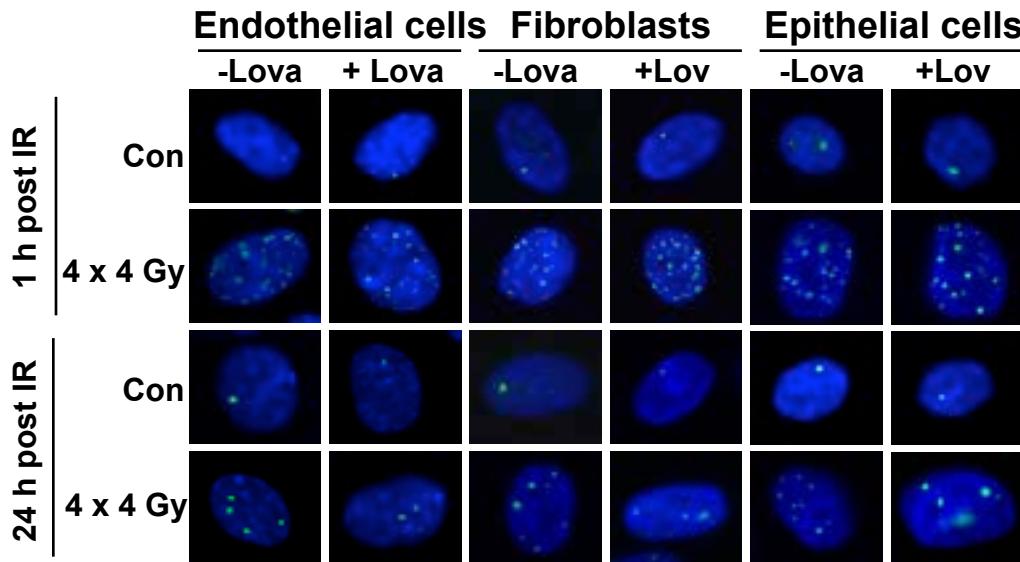
B

Apoptosis (TUNEL assay)

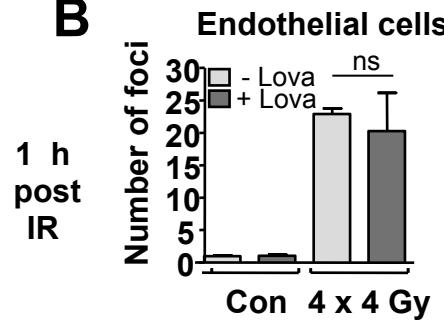
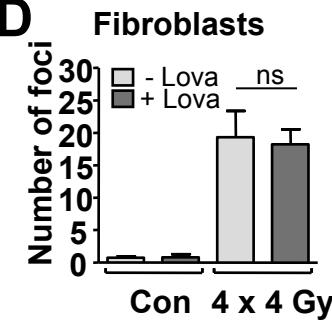
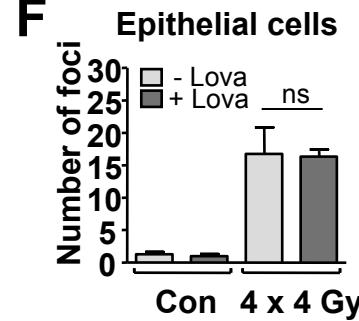
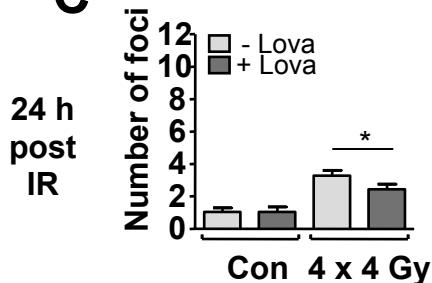
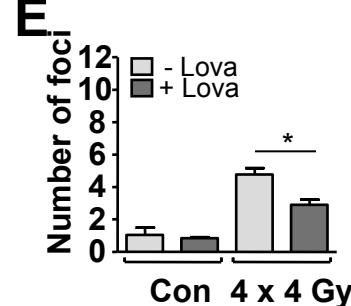
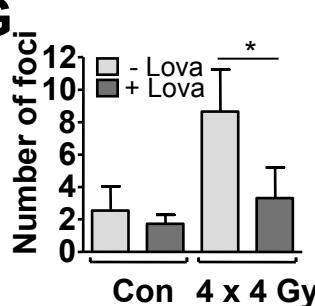




Lovastatin promotes DSB repair following fractionated irradiation of primary human lung cells *in vitro*

**A****DNA damage**

1 nuclear γ H2AX focus
=
1 DSB

B**D****F****C****E****G**

Residual DSBs
=
Indicative of
DSB repair

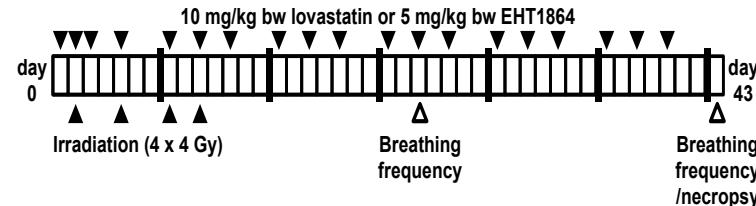
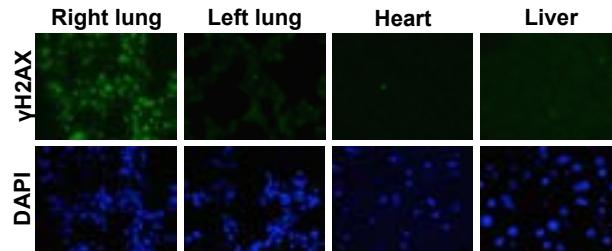
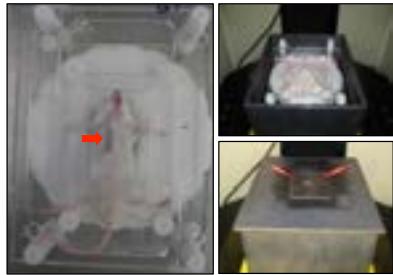


Lovastatin and the Rac1 inhibitor EHT1864 protect from fractionated IR-induced lung cell apoptosis



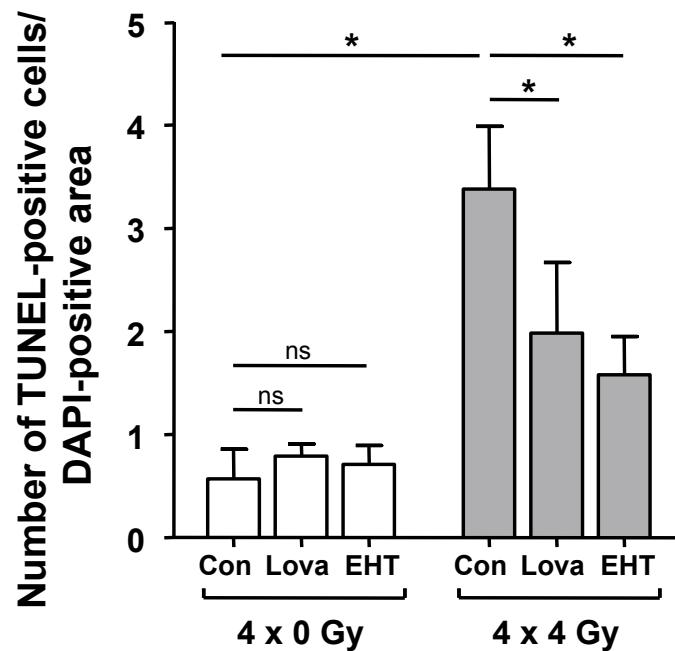
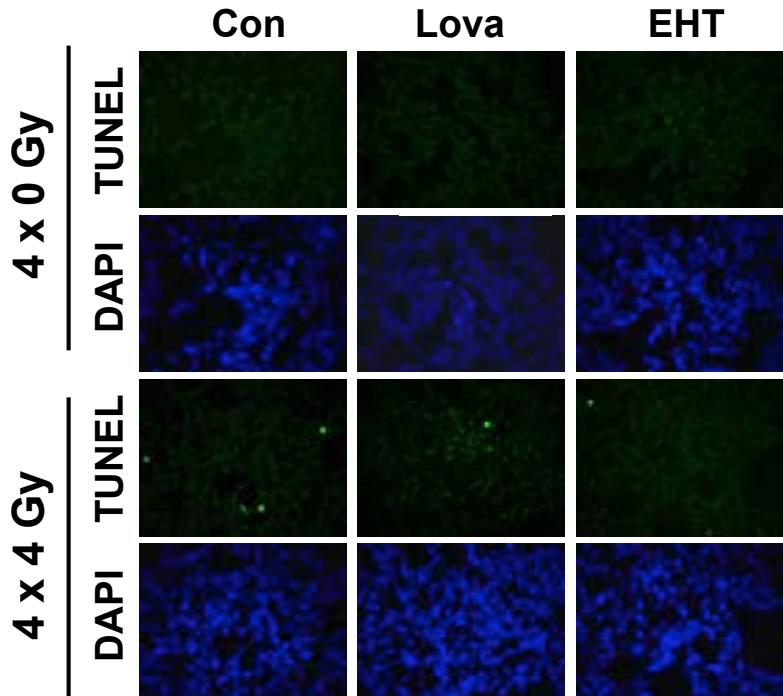
Model: Hypofractionated irradiation of the right lung (4 x 4 Gy)
- Analysis after 4 weeks (subacute model) -

A



B

Apoptosis (TUNEL assay)

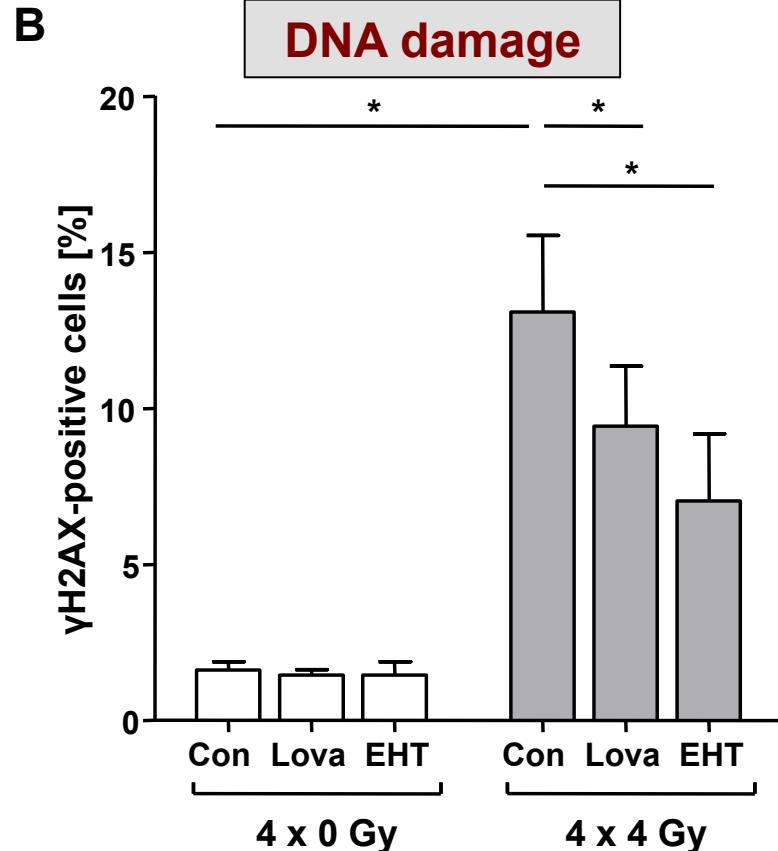
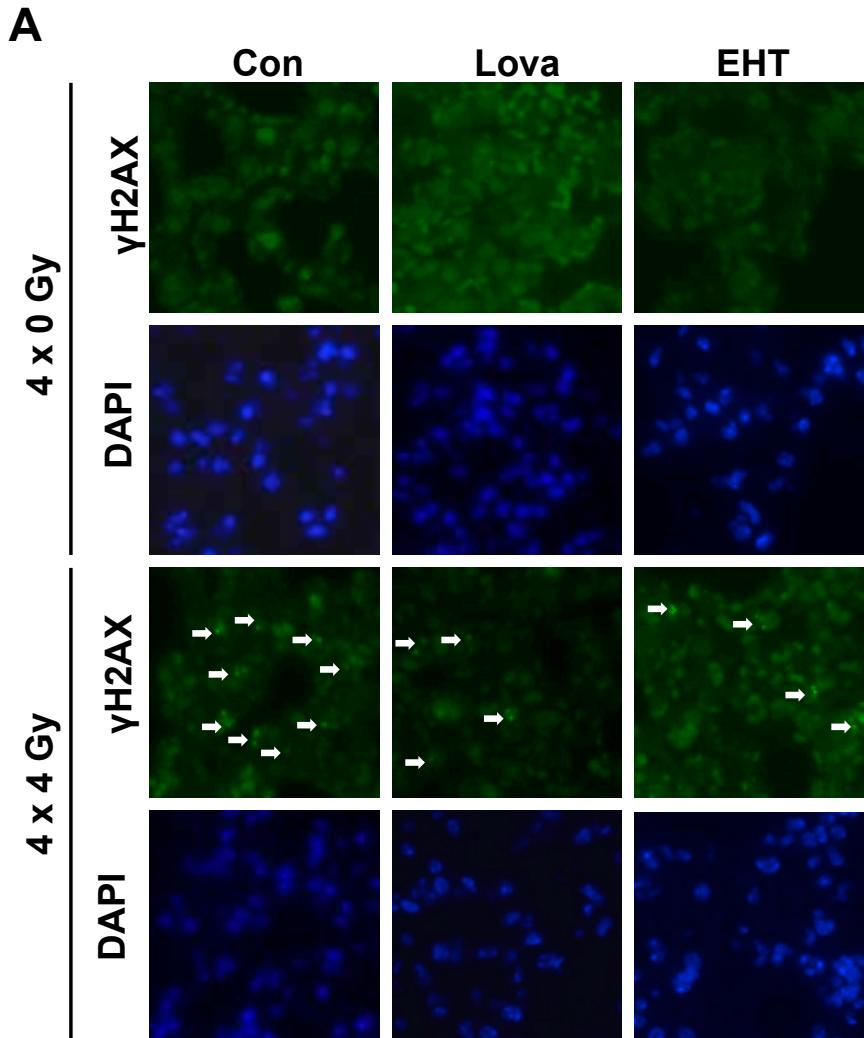




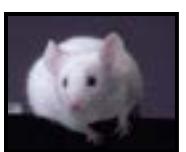
Lovastatin and EHT1864 reduce fractionated IR-stimulated residual DNA damage (DSBs) in lung tissue



Subacute model



1 nuclear γH2AX focus
=
1 DSB

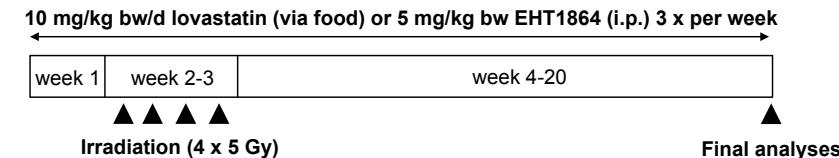
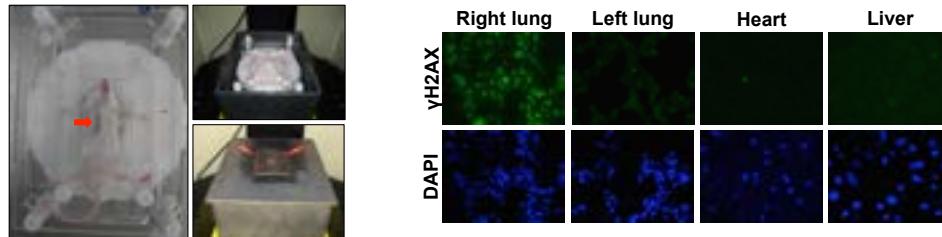


Lovastatin and EHT1864 mitigate sustained inflammatory responses resulting from fractionated lung irradiation

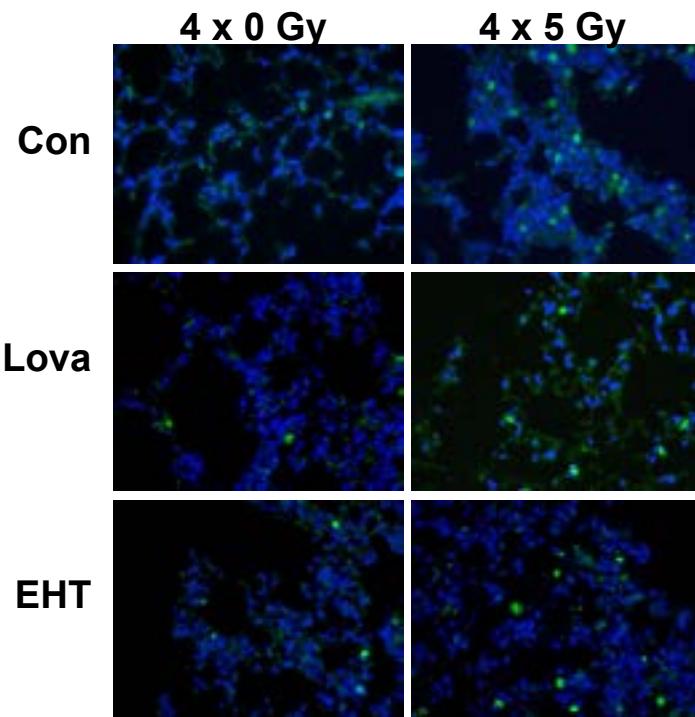


Model: Hypofractionated irradiation of the right lung (4 x 4 Gy)
- Analysis after 20 weeks (subchronic model) -

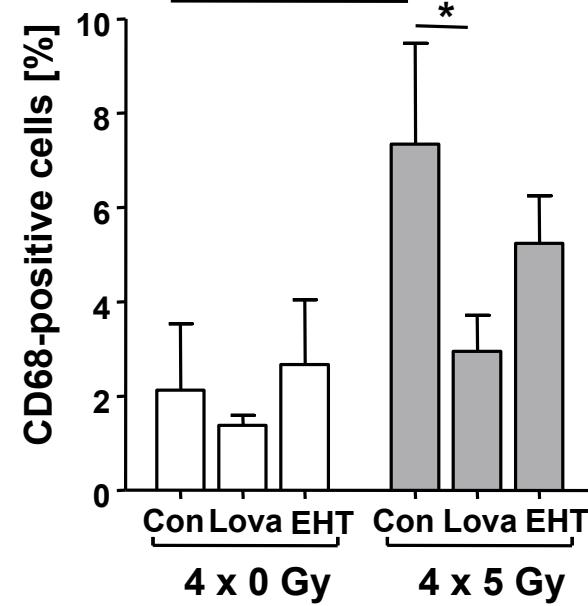
A



B



**Inflammation
(Anti-CD68 staining)**



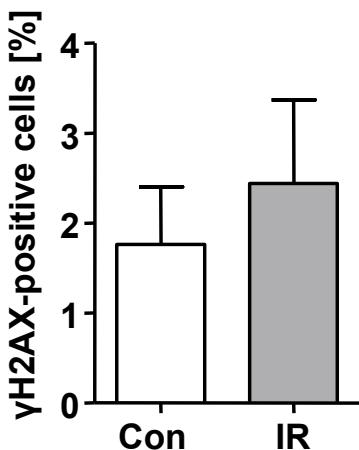
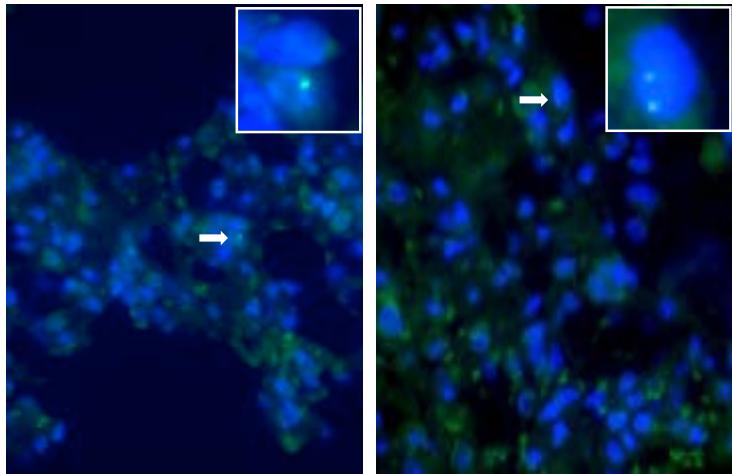
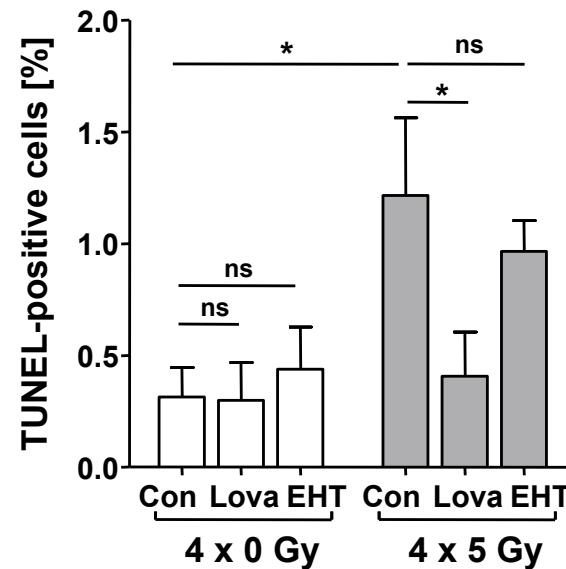
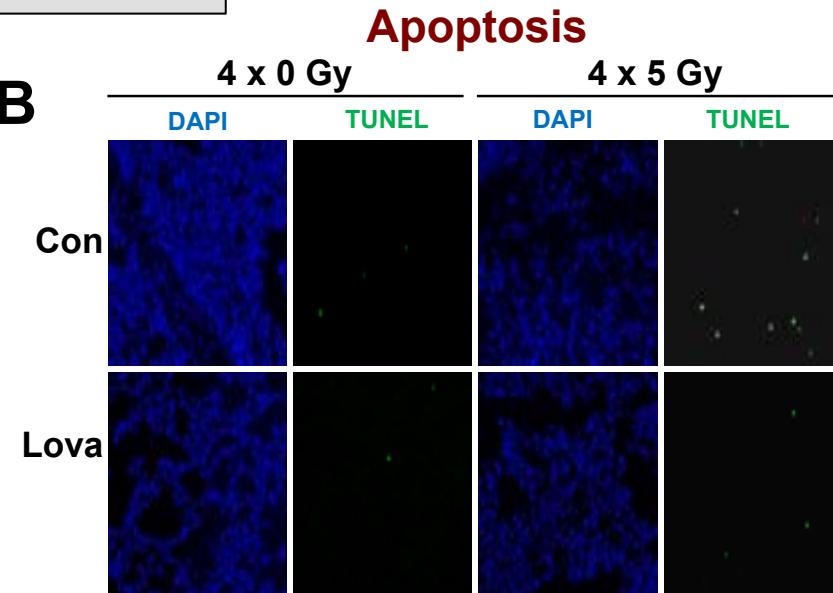


Lovastatin protects from fractionated IR-induced subchronic lung injury



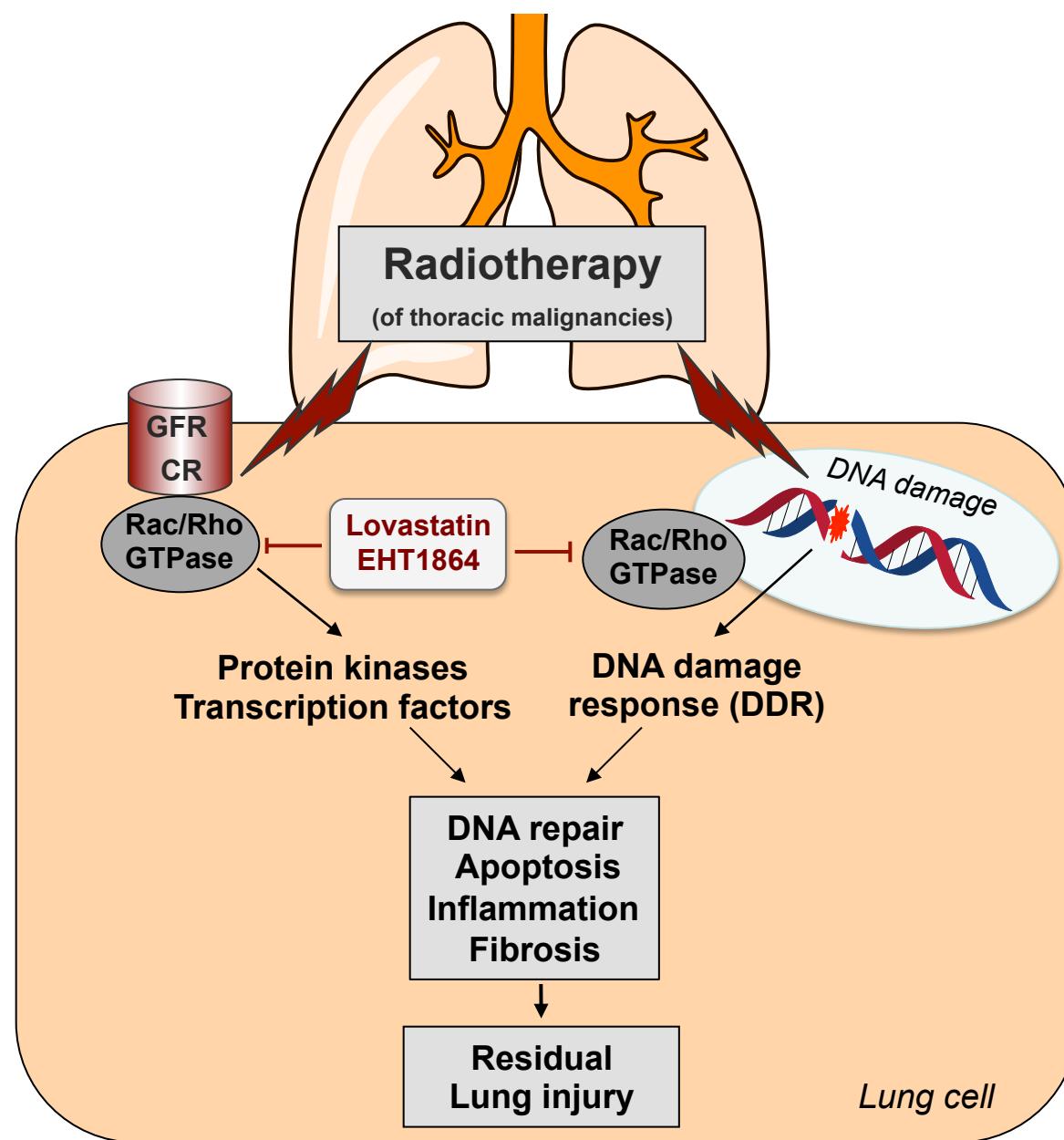
Subchronic model

DNA damage (γ H2AX - DSB)

A**B**



Beneficial effects of pharmacological targeting of Rac/Rho signaling – Hypothetical model



Further preclinical data using rodent model systems

Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol Vol 44. pp 415–422, 2011

Simvastatin Attenuates Radiation-Induced Murine Lung Injury and Dysregulated Lung Gene Expression

Biji Mathew¹, Yong Huang²Ralph R. Weichselbaum^{4*}, and Joe G. N. Garcia^{1*}

DOI:10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-07-0625

Clin Cancer Res. 2007 Sep 15;13(18 Pt 1):5331-40.

Human Cancer Biology

Pravastatin Inhibits the Rho/CCN2/Extracellular Matrix Cascade in Human Fibrosis Explants and Improves Radiation-Induced Intestinal Fibrosis in Rats

Valérie Haydout,^{1,4} Céline Bourgier,^{1,*} Marc Pocard,^{2,6} Antoine Lusinchi,³ Jocelyne Aigueperse,⁵ Denis Mathé,¹ Jean Bourhis,^{1,3} and Marie-Catherine Vozenin-Brotóns^{1,4}



Evaluating the efficacy of statins and ACE-inhibitors
in reducing **gastrointestinal toxicity** in patients receiving
radiotherapy for pelvic malignancies

Linda J. Wedlake^a, Foteini Silia^b, Barbara Benton^b, Amyn Lalji^b, Karen Thomas^c,
David P. Dearnaley^{d,e}, Peter Blake^f, Diana Tait^b, Vincent S. Khoo^d,
H. Jervoise N. Andreyev^{b,*}

ANTICANCER RESEARCH 37: 1453-1458 (2017)

doi:10.21873/anticanres.11469

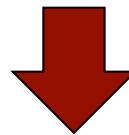
**Statins Protect Against Acute RT-related Rectal
Toxicity in Patients with Prostate Cancer:
An Observational Prospective Study**

ISABELLA PALUMBO^{1,2}, FABIO MATRONE¹, GIAMPAOLO MONTESI¹, RITA BELLAVITA²,
MARCO LUPATTELLI², SIMONETTA SALDI¹, ALESSANDRO FRATEGIANI², ELEONORA ARENA¹,
CRISTINA MARIUCCI¹, LORENZO FALCINELLI², VITTORIO BINI³ and CYNTHIA ARISTEI^{1,2}

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Off-label use of lipid lowering statins might attenuate multiple acute and chronic adverse effects of radiotherapy, thereby

- (i) widening the therapeutic window of radio-chemotherapy and**
 - (ii) favouring aspects of supportive care in cancer**
- without impairing the anticancer efficacy of radiotherapy**



Further retrospective and prospective clinical trials reassessing the radioprotective potency of statins in humans are preferable!

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- Lena Schumacher
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V. Ziegler
PhD student



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Thanks for your attention!

