### Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0022-328X(18)30334-6

DOI: 10.1016/j.jorganchem.2018.05.009

Reference: JOM 20443

To appear in: Journal of Organometallic Chemistry

Received Date: 19 February 2018

Revised Date: 8 May 2018

Accepted Date: 9 May 2018

Please cite this article as: X. Duan, Q. Ruan, Q. Gan, X. Song, Si'. Fang, X. Zhang, J. Zhang, Radiosynthesis and evaluation of novel <sup>99m</sup>Tc(CO)<sub>3</sub>-labelled thymidine dithiocarbamate derivatives for tumor imaging with SPECT, *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry* (2018), doi: 10.1016/j.jorganchem.2018.05.009.

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# Radiosynthesis and evaluation of novel <sup>99m</sup>Tc(CO)<sub>3</sub>-labelled thymidine dithiocarbamate derivatives for tumor imaging with SPECT

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#### **Abstract:**

A series of novel thymidine dithiocarbamate derivatives (DTC-TdR) were successfully synthesized and then radiolabelled using  $[^{99m}Tc(CO)_3]^+$  core with high yields. The chemical characterizations of  $^{99m}Tc(CO)_3$ -labelled dithiocarbamate derivatives have been carried out by preparing their corresponding rhenium complexes. The radiotracers were stable *in vitro*, and the partition coefficient results indicated that they were lipophilic. The cell uptake studies showed the uptakes of these  $^{99m}Tc(CO)_3$ -labelled thymidine derivatives were mediated by nucleoside transporters. Biodistribution of the complexes in mice bearing tumor showed that they had high tumor uptake and good tumor/muscle ratio. A clear SPECT imaging of the tumor location was obtained in mice bearing S180 tumor with one of radiotracers, suggesting they would be potential tumor imaging agents.

#### 1. Introduction

As the most established radiotracer for positron emission tomography (PET), the uptake of <sup>18</sup>F-FDG (2-[<sup>18</sup>F]fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose) is strongly related with glucose metabolism [1]. Due to the presence of the Warburg effect, the uptake of <sup>18</sup>F-FDG in tumor is usually significantly increased [2], making it the gold standard radiotracer for tumor detection and clinical staging. While <sup>18</sup>F-FDG also accumulates in brain, inflammatory lesions and other metabolically active organs [3]. Sustained proliferation is one of the hallmarks of cancer[4], and DNA synthesis is the most

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