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miR-195 Potentiates the Efficacy of Microtubule-Targeting Agents in Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

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## ABSTRACT

Microtubule-targeting agents (MTAs) are widely used for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The response rate is only ~25%, mainly attributable to drug resistance. To identify determinants of resistance in NSCLC, we performed a high-throughput screen using a library of miRNA mimics. Here we report that miR-195 synergizes with MTAs to inhibit the growth of NSCLC cells *in vitro*, that increased expression of miR-195 sensitizes NSCLC cells to MTAs and that repression of miR-195 confers resistance to MTAs. We show that NSCLC tumors over-expressing miR-195 are more sensitive to MTA treatment and that induced expression of miR-195 in NSCLC tumors potentiates the anti-tumor effect of MTAs. Additionally, we demonstrate that miR-195 targets checkpoint kinase 1 (CHEK1) to regulate the response of NSCLC cells to MTAs, that over-expression of CHEK1 contributes to resistance to MTAs and that knock-down of CHEK1 synergizes with MTAs to repress cell growth. Our results highlight the importance of miR-195 in regulating the response of NSCLC cells to MTAs, and as a therapeutic adjuvant to MTA treatment.

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