d-Tocopherol TEG (LMO)

Category	Antisense & siRNA
Modification Code	d-toco-TEG
Reference Catalog Number	26-6628
5 Prime	Y
3 Prime	Y
Internal	Y
Molecular Weight(mw)	672

Click here for a list Cellular Delivery Modifications.
Oligonucleotides are predominantly hydrophilic species and require help in permeating cell membranes. One strategy to improve cellular uptake of therapeutic oligonucleotides is to conjugate them with non-toxic, lipophilic molecules. Gene Link offers cholesteryl TEG, alpha-tocopherol and stearyl labelling of oligonucleotides and this strategy has proved to be useful for delivering therapeutic oligonucleotides to a broad distribution of targets.

alpha-tocopherol TEG Modification
alpha-tocopherol (vitamin E) is both lipophilic and non-toxic even at high doses so would be an excellent candidate as a lipophilic carrier for oligonucleotides. Similar to cholesterol TEG, the TEG liker arm facilitates solubility issues of the oligo making it soluble in aqueous buffers.

Cholesterol TEG Modification
Cholesterol TEG Modification is a lipophilic modification aiding in cellular delivery. The TEG liker arm facilitates solubility issues of the oligo making it soluble in aqueous buffers.

Stearyl Modification
Stearyl Modification is C18 lipid, it is an economical and effective carrier molecule. We envisage that the 5'-stearyl group will become a favored lipophilic carrier for experimentation with synthetic oligonucleotides.

GalNAc
A more directed approach to the delivery of therapeutic oligonucleotides specifically to the liver has been to target the asialoglycoprotein receptor (ASGPR) using a suitable glycoconjugate. Indeed, ASGPR is the ideal target for delivery of therapeutic oligonucleotides to the liver since it combines tissue specificity, high expression levels and rapid internalization and turnover. The use of oligonucleotide glycoconjugates has led to significant advances in therapeutic delivery as evidenced by the work of Alnylam Pharmaceuticals which has developed multivalent N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) conjugated siRNAs that bind at nanomolar levels to ASGPR (1). A similar strategy has been applied at Ionis Pharmaceuticals directed at the development of antisense oligonucleotide therapeutics (2).
The GalNAc ligand originally used by Alnylam is the triantennary ligand would seem to lend itself to formation by post synthesis conjugation to the 3' terminus but a complex trivalent GalNAc support would also be perfectly applicable, if challenging to produce.

However, an alternative approach using a monovalent GalNAc support with two additions of a monovalent GalNAc phosphoramidite was also described and yielded a trivalent GalNAc structure. This (1+1+1) trivalent GalNAc structure led to GalNAc modified siRNA oligos with potency equal to the equivalent siRNA with the triantennary GalNAc ligand both in vitro and in vivo.

Researchers at Ionis have developed antisense oligonucleotides containing the GalNAc cluster. In their case, they were able to show2 that moving the triantennary GalNAc ligand to the 5' terminus led to improved potency in vitro and in vivo. As may be expected, such a large complex ligand lends itself to solution phase chemistry to produce GalNAc modified antisense oligos. However, a solid phase synthetic approach was also described, and compared to the solution phase approach structure of the 5'-GalNAc triantennary ligand (4).

A further report on antisense oligonucleotides demonstrated (5) the effectiveness of modifying at the 5' terminus using monovalent GalNAc ligands. Up to five GalNAc monomers were added in a serial manner (Figure 3) and it was shown that activity of the antisense oligonucleotides improved as the number of GalNAc units increased. The authors also showed that phosphodiester linkages between the GalNAc units were preferable to phosphorothioate linkages in their testing (5).

Recommended Further Reading

N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) Oligo Application Note: Glen Report 29.14: N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) Oligonucleotide Conjugates

References. Adapted from Glen Research Reports. http://www.glenresearch.com/GlenReports/GR29-14.html

1. J.K. Nair, et al., J Am Chem Soc, 2014, 136, 16958-61.
2. T.P. Prakash, et al., Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry Letters, 2015, 25, 4127-4130.
3. K.G. Rajeev, et al., Chembiochem, 2015, 16, 903-8.
4. I. Cedillo, et al., Molecules, 2017, 22.
5. T. Yamamoto, M. Sawamura, F. Wada, M. Harada-Shiba, and S. Obika, Bioorganic & Medicinal Chemistry, 2016, 24, 26-32.