

# MEASUREMENT OF CELL SURVIVAL AS A FUNCTION OF THE DOSE TO ASSESS BNCT EFFECTIVENESS

Nicoletta Protti

For the BNCT group - Pavia



1

## Clinical lessons from the first applications of BNCT on unresectable liver metastases.

A Zonta, U Prati, L Roveda, C Ferrari, S Zonta, AM Clerici, C Zonta, T Pinelli<sup>1</sup>, F Fossati<sup>1</sup>, S Altieri<sup>1</sup>, S Bortolussi<sup>1</sup>, P Bruschi<sup>1</sup>, R Nano<sup>2</sup>, S Barni<sup>2</sup>, P Chiari<sup>2</sup> and G Mazzini<sup>3</sup>

Department of Surgery, University of Pavia and IRCCS San Matteo, Pavia

<sup>1</sup>Department of Nuclear and Theoretical Physics, University of Pavia and I.N.F.N., Pavia

<sup>2</sup>Department of Animal Biology, University of Pavia

<sup>3</sup>IGM CNR Histochemistry and Cytometry Section, University of Pavia, Italy



Hepatic metastases from colon adenocarcinoma

Lung metastases  
Mesothelioma



Applied Radiation and Isotopes 69 (2011) 394-398



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Applied Radiation and Isotopes

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apradiso](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apradiso)



Bortolussi et al. *Radiation Oncology* (2017) 12:130  
DOI 10.1186/s13014-017-0860-6

Radiation Oncology

RESEARCH

Open Access



Understanding the potentiality of accelerator based-boron neutron capture therapy for osteosarcoma: dosimetry assessment based on the reported clinical experience

Silva Bortolussi<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Ian Postuma<sup>2</sup>, Nicoletta Protti<sup>2</sup>, Lucas Provenzano<sup>3,4</sup>, Cinzia Ferrari<sup>5,2</sup>, Laura Cansolino<sup>5,6</sup>, Paolo Dionigi<sup>5,6</sup>, Olimpio Galasso<sup>7</sup>, Giorgio Gasparini<sup>7</sup>, Saverio Altieri<sup>1,2</sup>, Shin-Ichi Miyatake<sup>8</sup> and Sara J. González<sup>3,4</sup>



Limb osteosarcoma

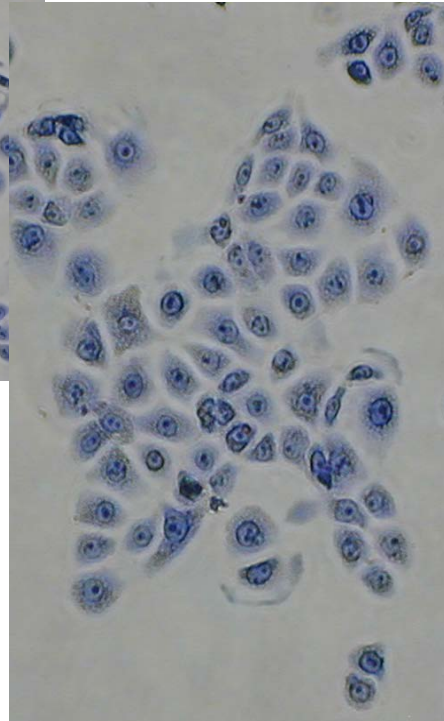
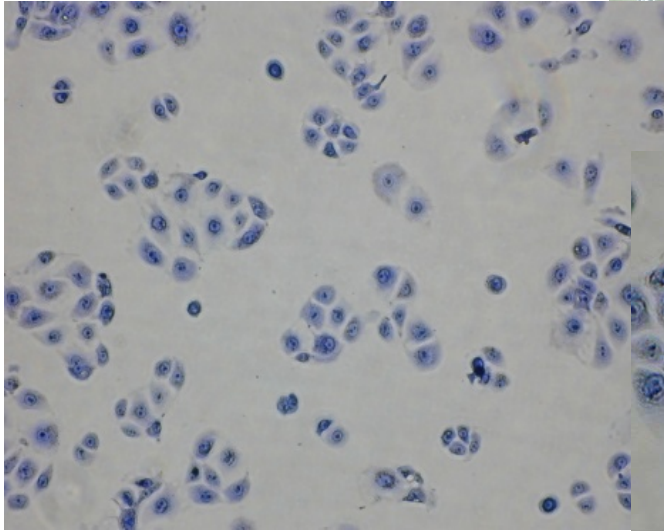
Boron uptake measurements in a rat model for Boron Neutron Capture Therapy of lung tumours

S. Bortolussi<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, J.G. Bakeine<sup>a</sup>, F. Ballarini<sup>a,b</sup>, P. Bruschi<sup>a</sup>, M.A. Gadan<sup>a,c</sup>, N. Protti<sup>a,b</sup>, S. Stella<sup>a,b</sup>, A. Clerici<sup>d</sup>, C. Ferrari<sup>d</sup>, L. Cansolino<sup>d</sup>, C. Zonta<sup>d</sup>, A. Zonta<sup>d</sup>, R. Nano<sup>e</sup>, S. Altieri<sup>a,b</sup>

# PRE-CLINICAL IN-VITRO TESTS

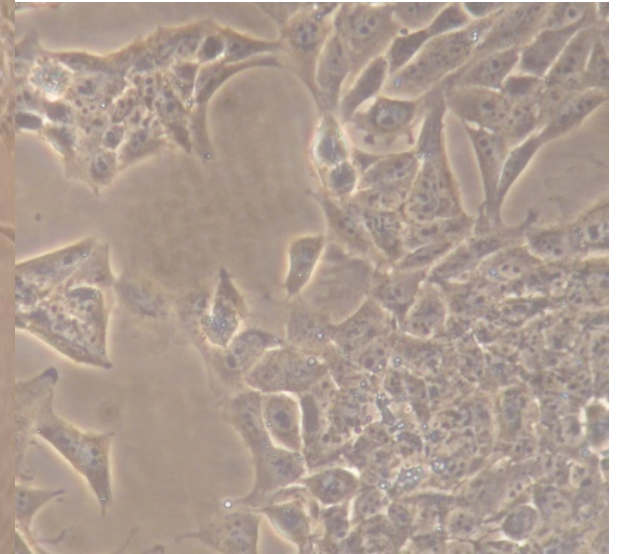
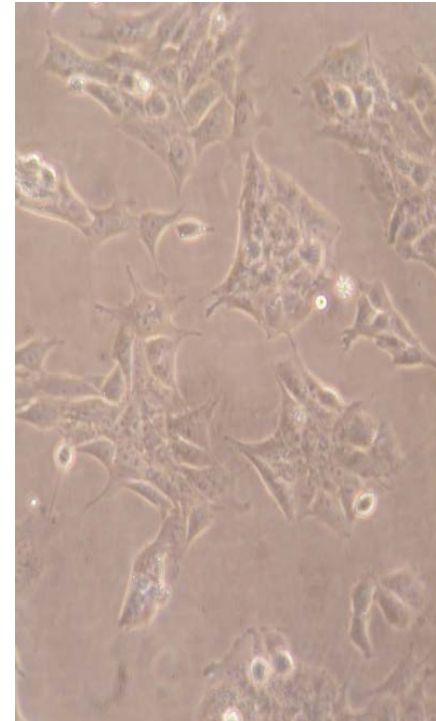
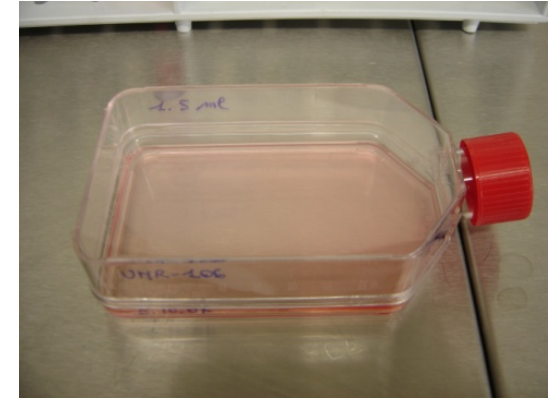
1. Evaluation of boronated carrier toxicity
2. Intracellular  $^{10}\text{B}$  uptake varying concentration and time of incubation
3. Effectiveness of the treatment

# IN-VITRO MODELS



**DHD/K12/TRb  
(DHD)  
rat  
colonic carcinoma  
cell line**

**UMR-106  
(UMR)  
rat  
osteosarcoma  
cell line**

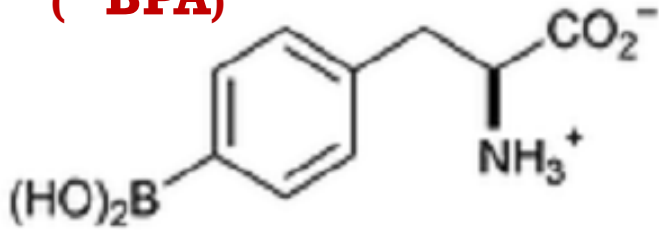




# 1. Intracellular $^{10}\text{B}$ uptake varying concentration and incubation time

**D,L-  $^{10}\text{B}$  boronophenylalanine**

**( $^{10}\text{BPA}$ )**



Cells are seeded and allowed growing for 24 h in DMEM/HAM'S F10 medium.

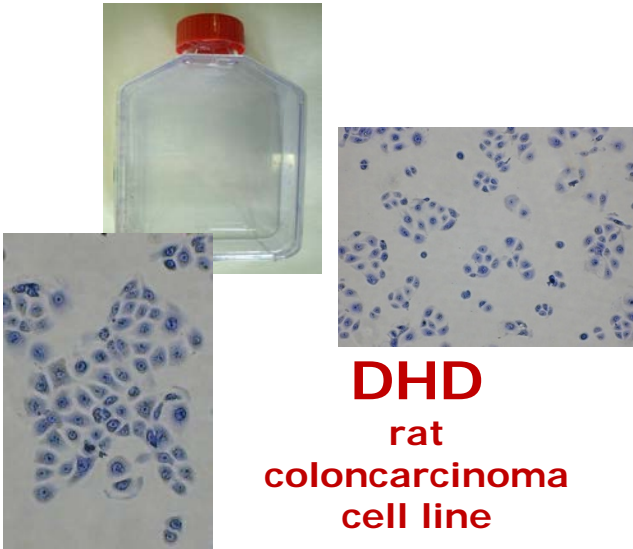
BPA enriched medium at different  $^{10}\text{B}$  concentrations is delivered to cells.

At the end of the time of contact the  $^{10}\text{B}$  containing medium is replaced and cells are washed three times in PBS, trypsinized, harvested and centrifuged in boron deprived medium and counted.

Samples of  $^{10}\text{B}$  enriched medium, PBS, supernatant and cells are deep-frozen in liquid nitrogen for  $^{10}\text{B}$  concentration analyses by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS).

Cells are layered on mylar disks for neutron autoradiography

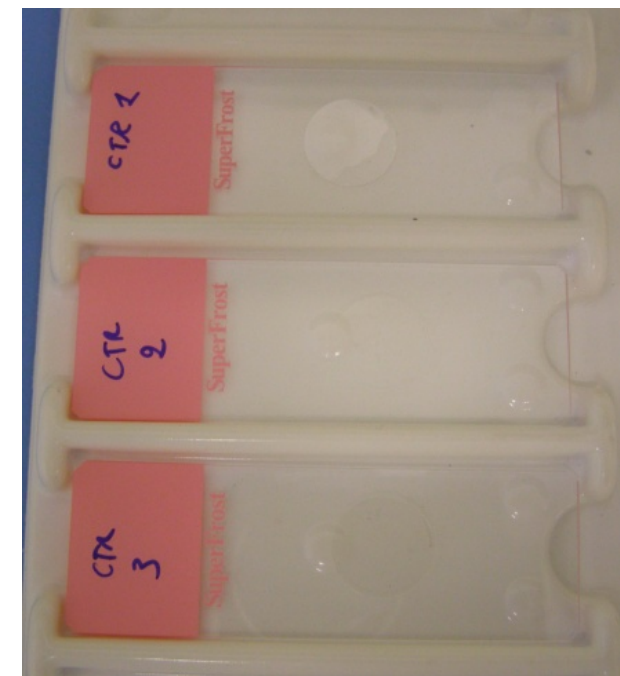
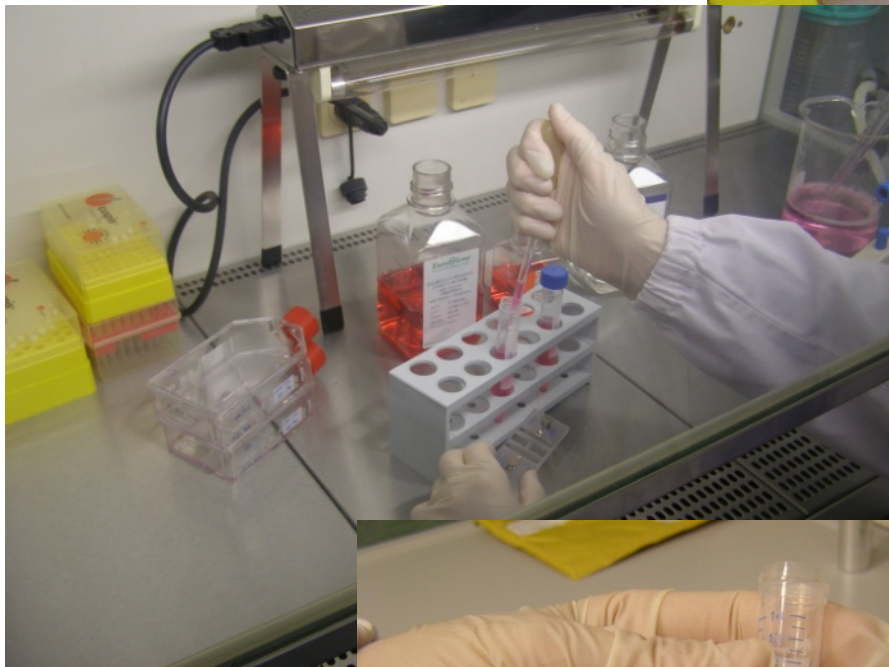
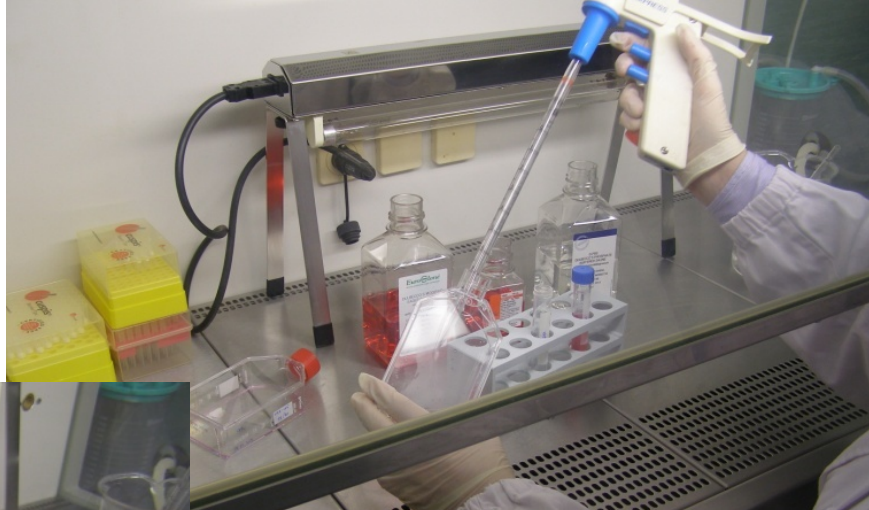
**Methods**



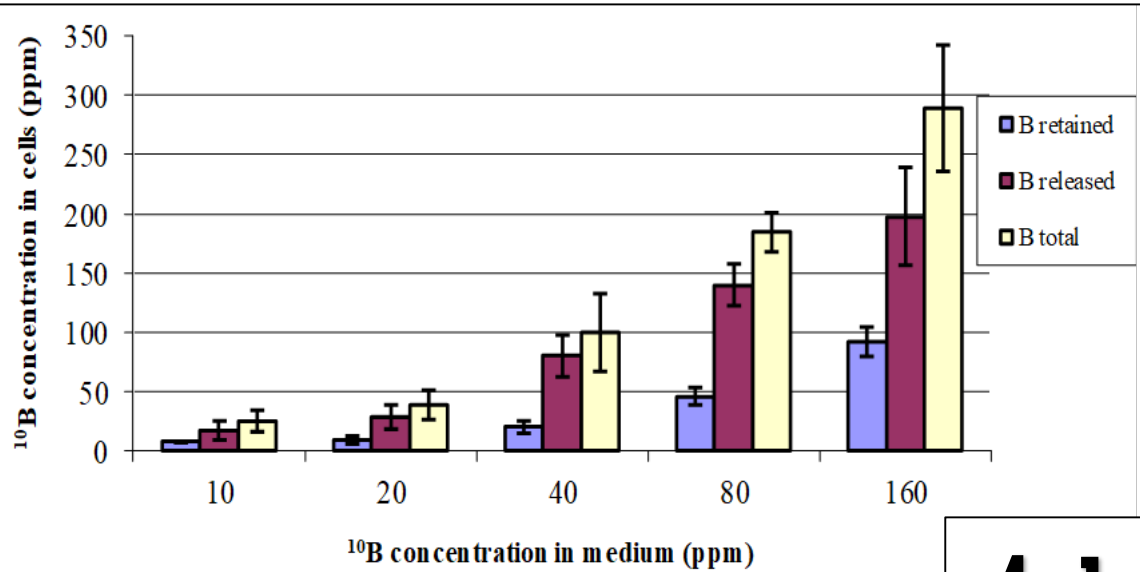
**DHD**

rat

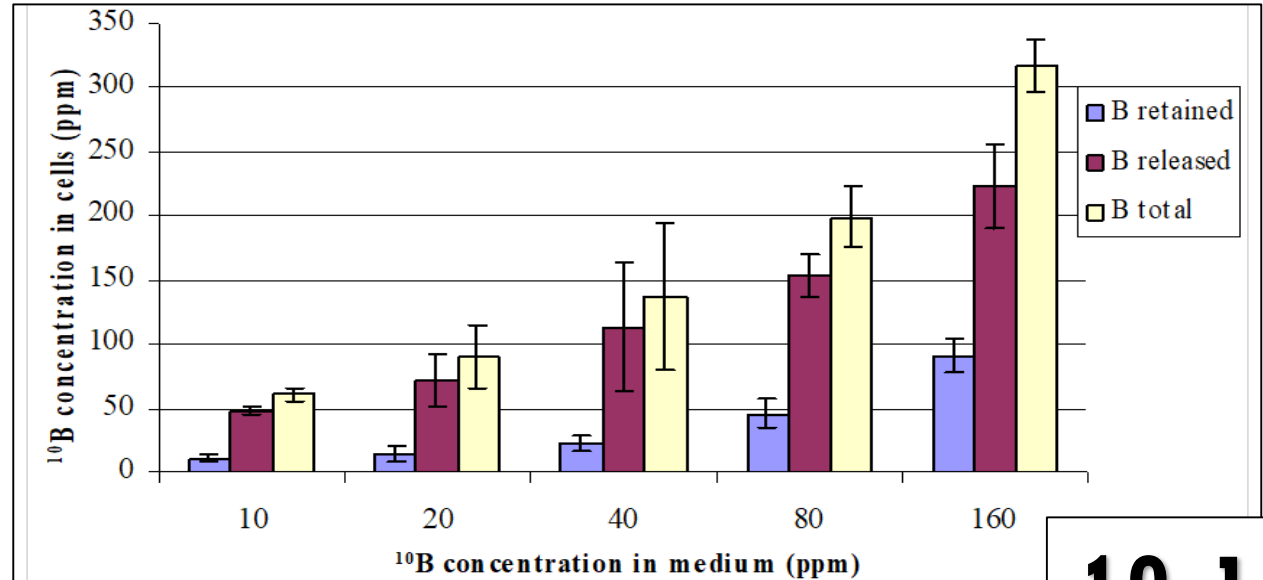
coloncarcinoma  
cell line



# Results



4 h



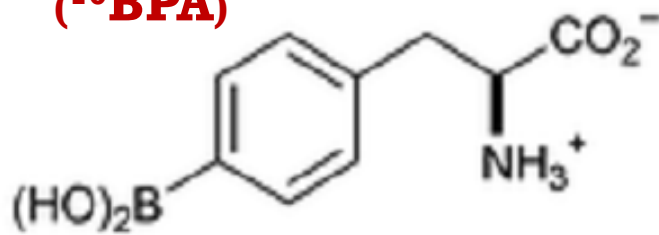
18 h

despite the boron release, 80 ppm treatments result always in a retained boron fraction of more than 40 ppm which is about half the concentration supplemented in medium and sufficient to deliver an adequate radiation dose to cells when studying effectiveness

## 2. Toxicity

**D,L- <sup>10</sup>boronophenylalanine**

**(<sup>10</sup>BPA)**



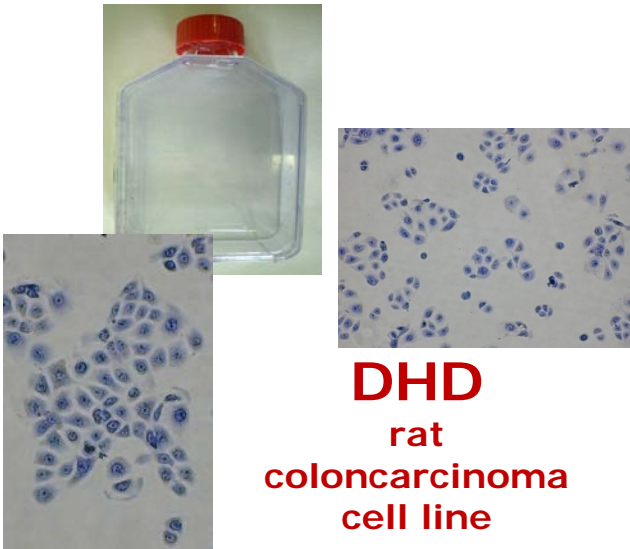
Cells are seeded and allowed growing for 24 h in DMEM/HAM'S F10 medium.

BPA enriched medium at <sup>10</sup>B concentrations from 10 to 160 µg/ml is delivered to cells for 4 h and 18 h.

At the end of the time of contact the <sup>10</sup>B containing medium is replaced and cells are washed three times in PBS, trypsinized, harvested and centrifuged in boron deprived medium and counted;

Cells, diluted at three different concentrations are plated in five different Petri plates for each of them and allowed to grow for about 10 days for the plating efficiency test.

**Methods**



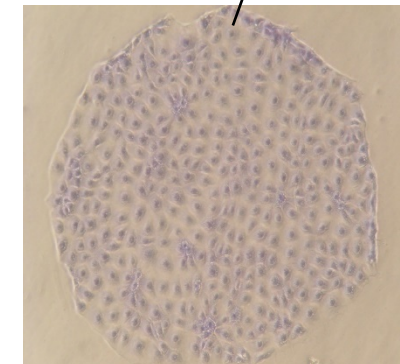
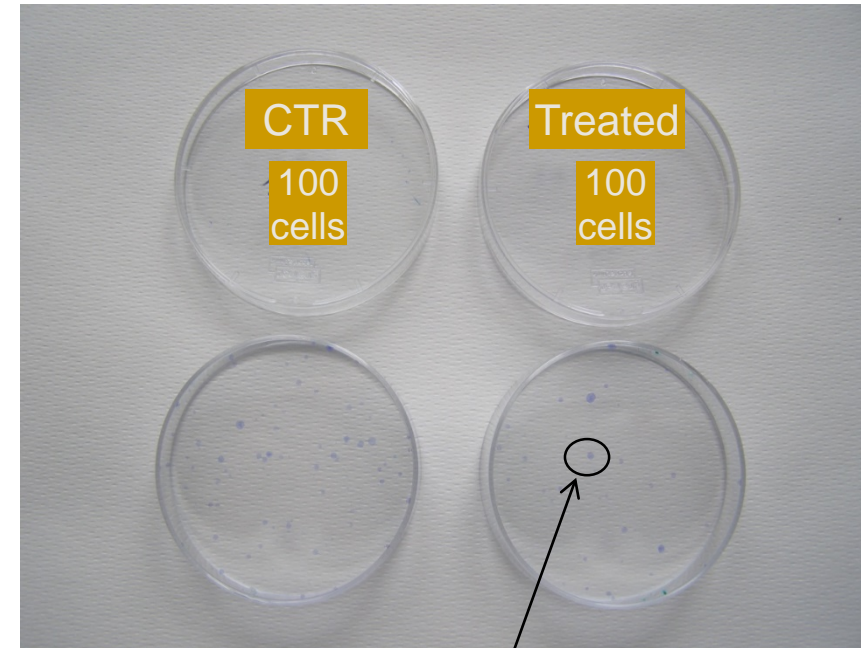
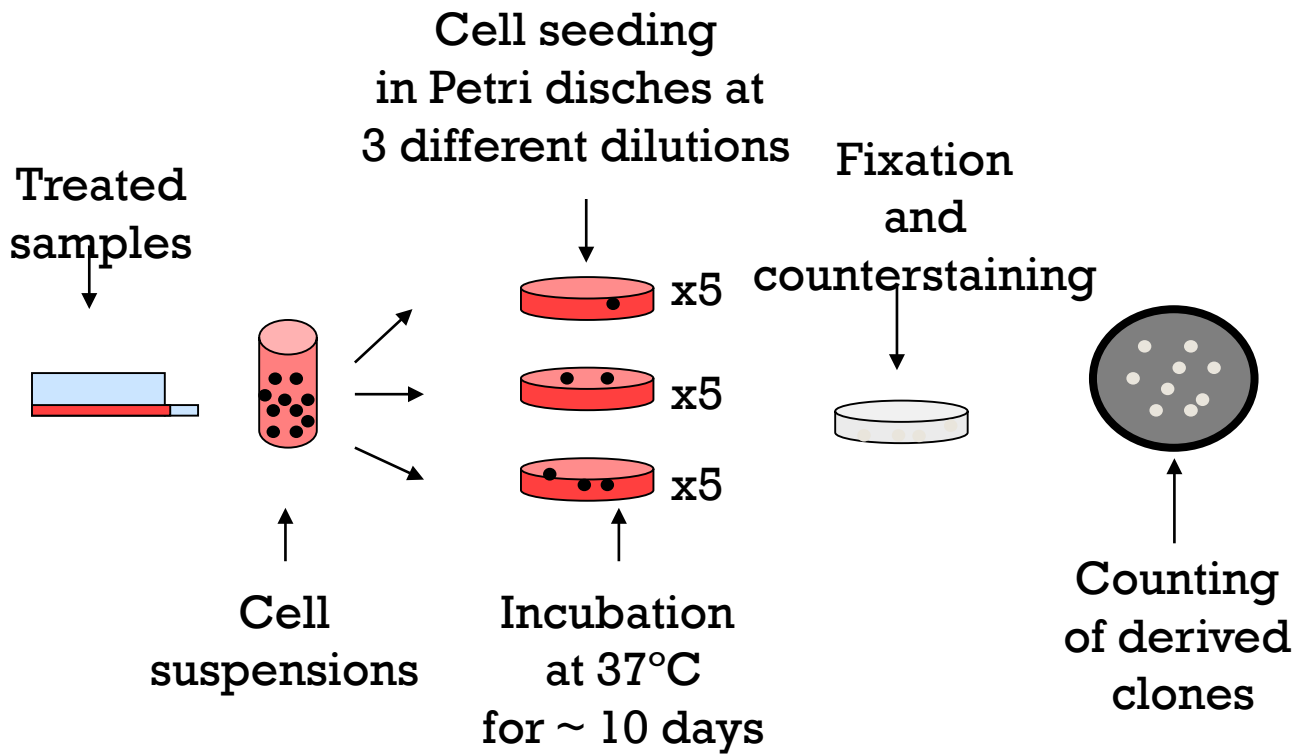
**DHD**

rat

colonicarcinoma  
cell line



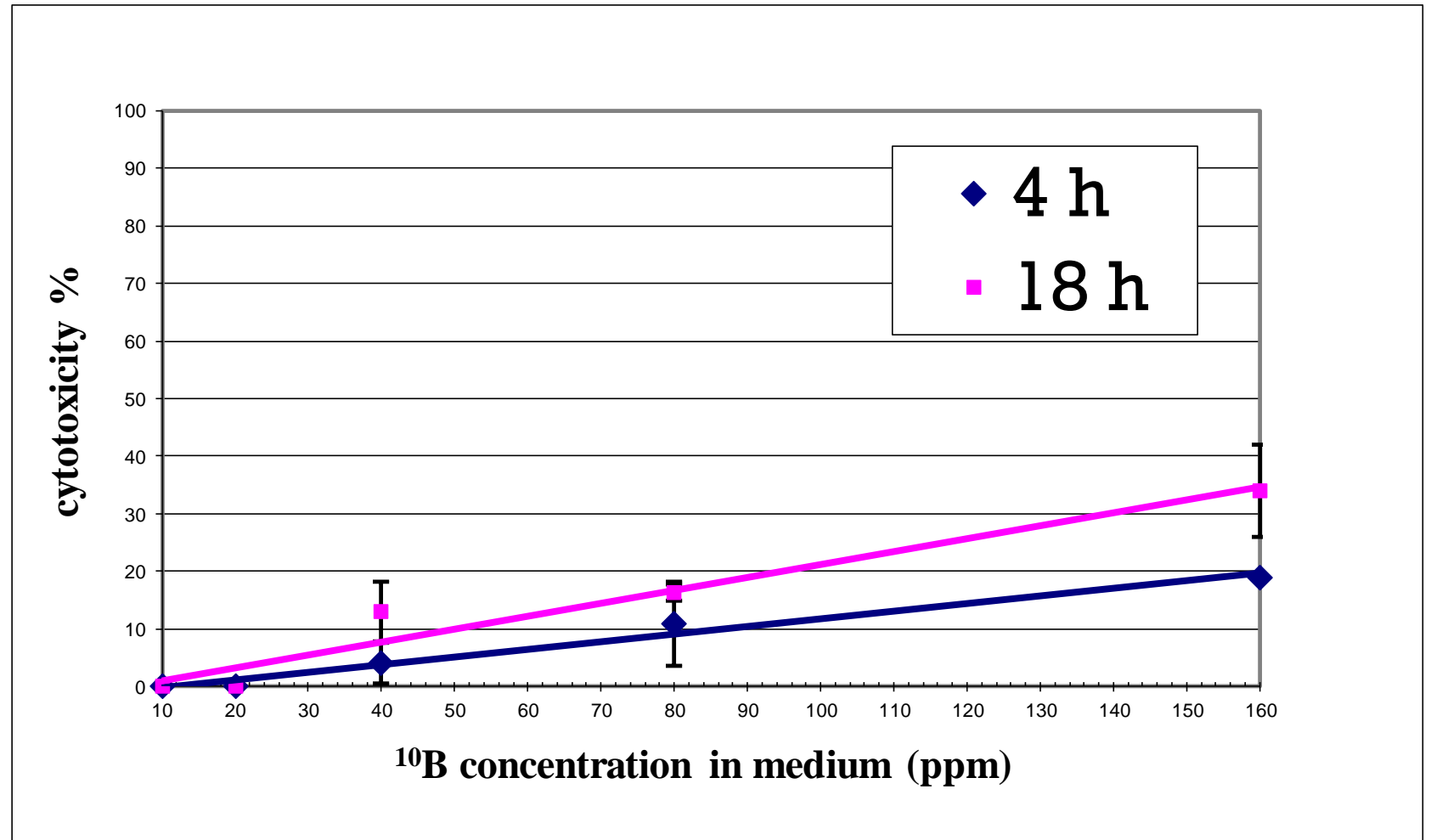
# Plating Efficiency Test



$$\text{Plating Efficiency (EP) (\%)} = \frac{\text{n}^\circ \text{ of colonies}}{\text{n}^\circ \text{ of seeded cells}}$$

$$\text{Cell survival (\%)} = \frac{\text{EP treated sample}}{\text{EP ctr cells}}$$

# Results

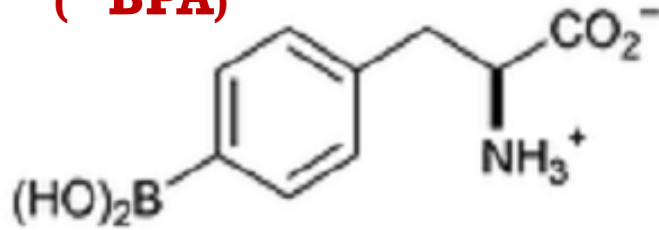


Starting from 40 ppm, BPA shows a time and concentration dependent cytotoxic effect on DHD cells that reaches 20% in case of 4 h treatment and 30% in case of 18 h treatment at the highest concentration.

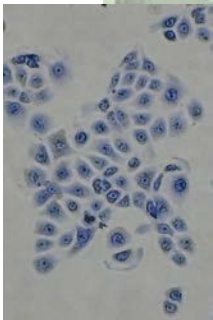
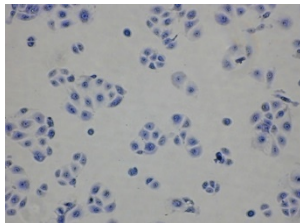
### 3. Effectiveness of irradiation

**D,L- <sup>10</sup>boronophenylalanine**

**(<sup>10</sup>BPA)**



**Methods**



**DHD**  
rat  
coloncarcinoma  
cell line

Cells preincubated for 4h with 80 ppm <sup>10</sup>B enriched medium and untreated cells are harvested, centrifuged and maintained in boron-free medium at 4 °C

Cells are submitted to neutron irradiation at the concentration of 5x10<sup>6</sup>/ml within one hour, replacing medium when transferred into the irradiation tubes

Irradiation of boron enriched and control cells is performed in the thermal column of the TRIGA Mark II reactor (University of Pavia)

After neutron exposure cells are diluted in B-free medium for subsequent clonogenic assay. Non irradiated boron enriched and boron lacking cells are treated as the irradiated samples;

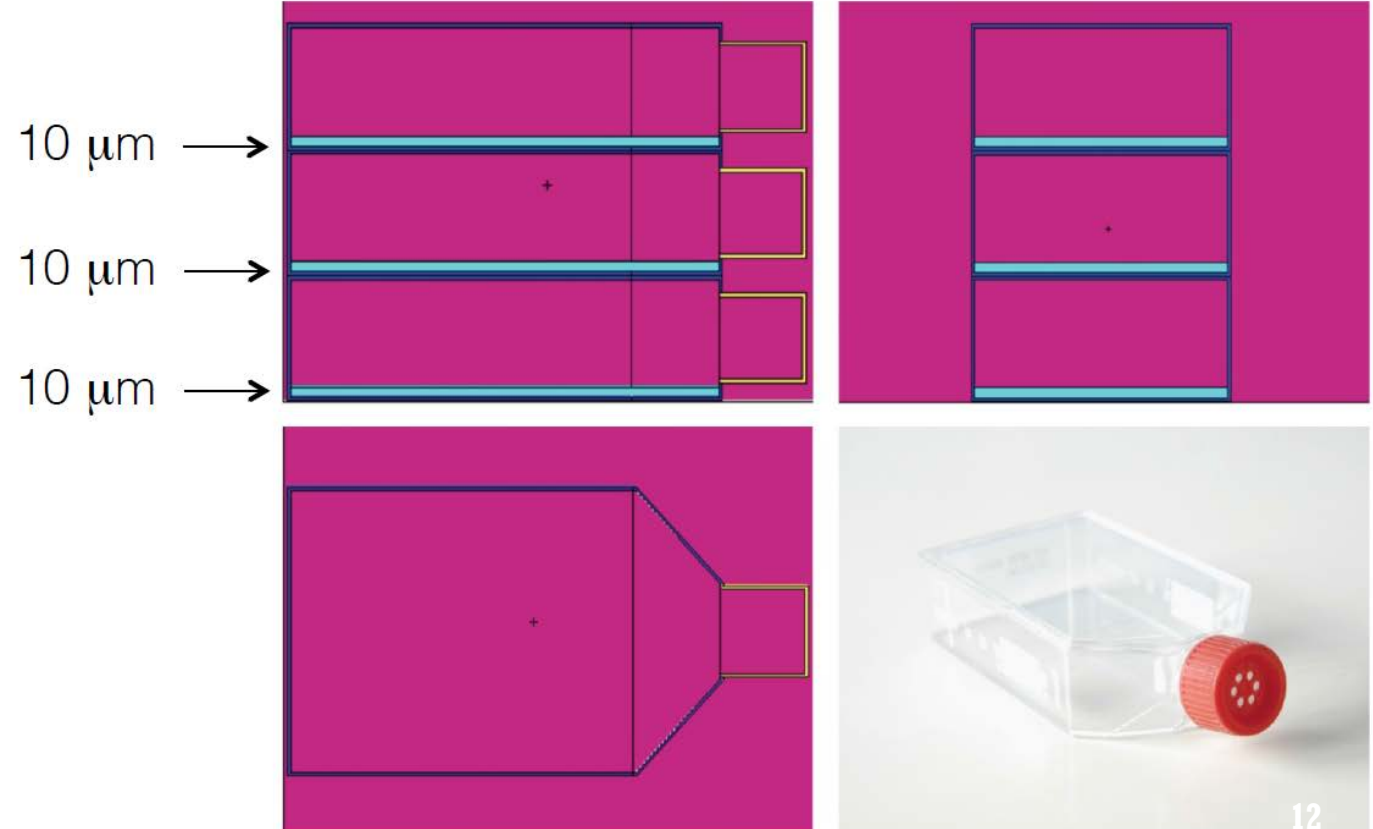
B <sup>-</sup> R <sup>-</sup>	B <sup>+</sup> R <sup>-</sup>
B <sup>-</sup> R <sup>+</sup>	B <sup>+</sup> R <sup>+</sup>

Boron intracellular concentration is measured FOR EACH experiment.

Dose is escalated by increasing reactor power, at a fixed irradiation time of 10 minutes.

Neutron flux and photon dose is well characterized in the irradiation position, by previous experimental measurements and by MCNP calculations.

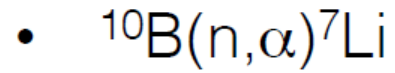
Flasks have been simulated in the irradiation position.



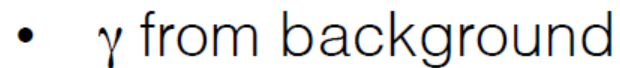
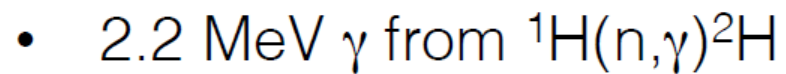
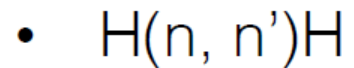
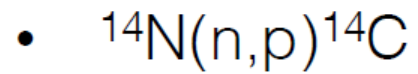
## Dose calculations



Production rate was calculated in cells, then transport

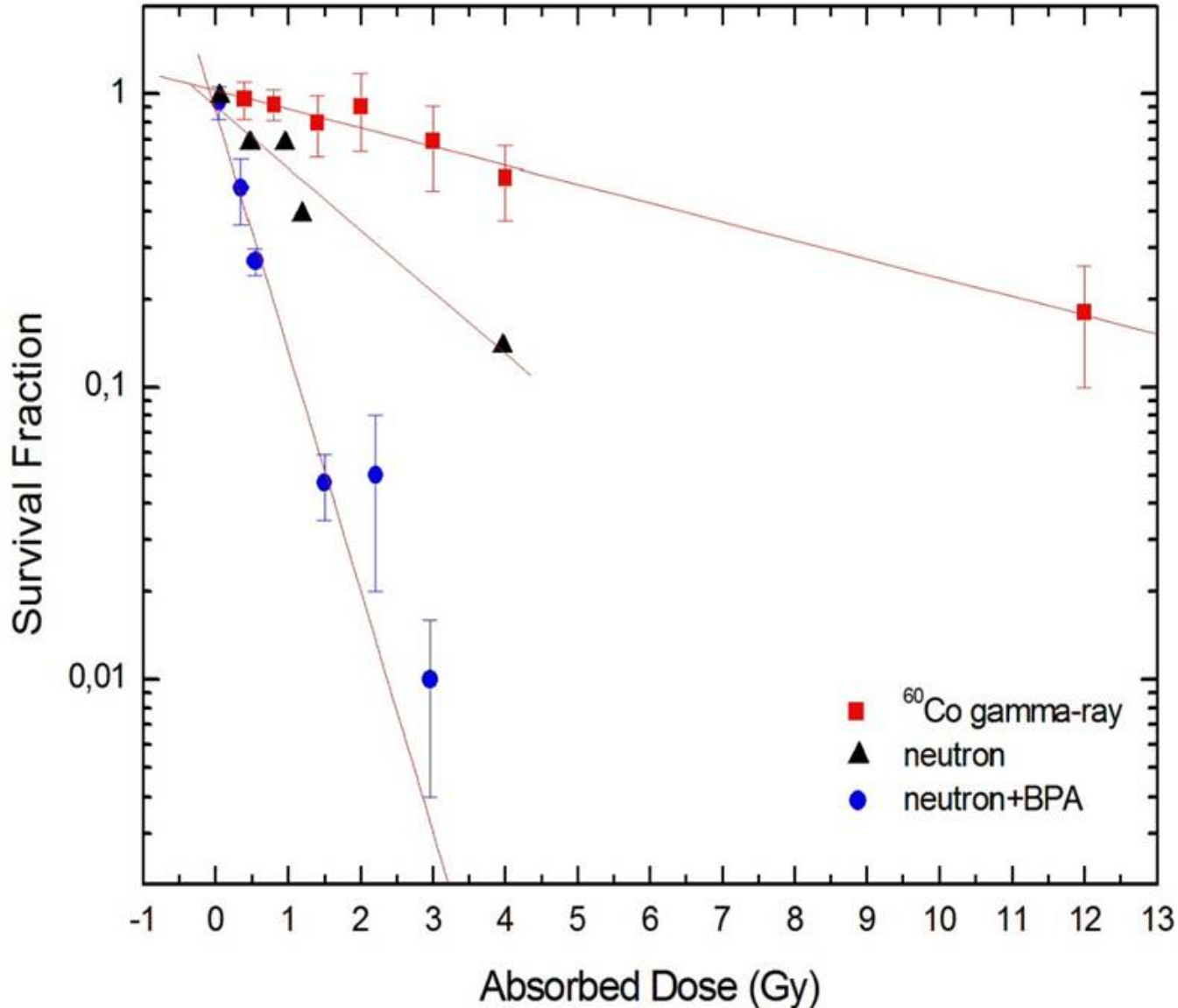


selective contribution



non-specific background

# Results

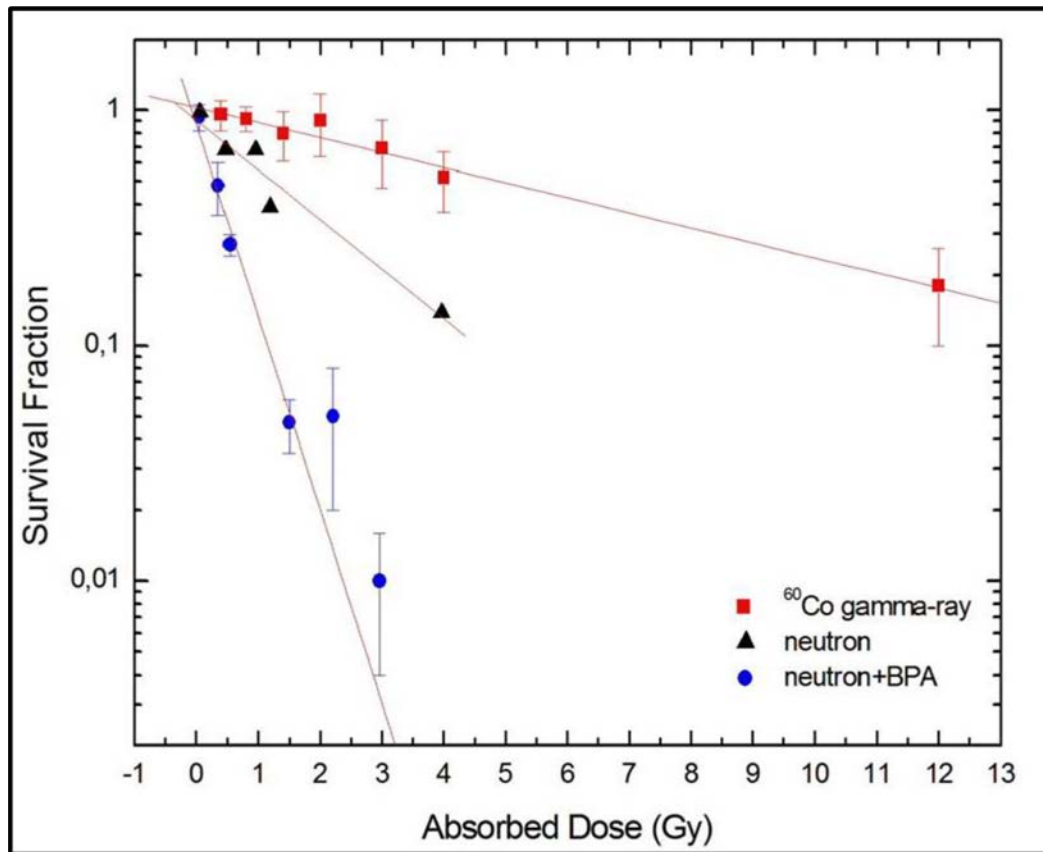


Survival curves of DHD cells:

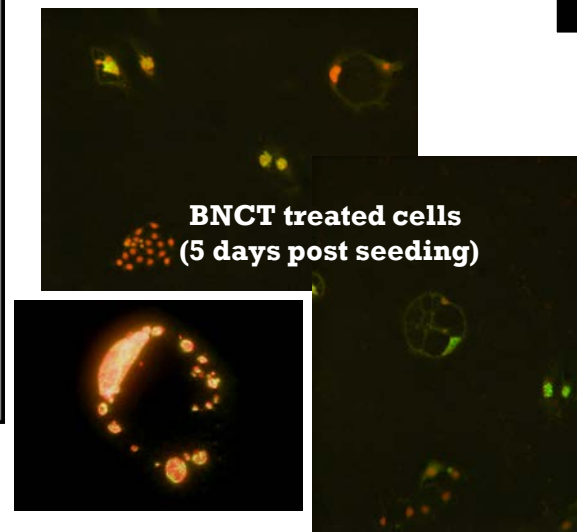
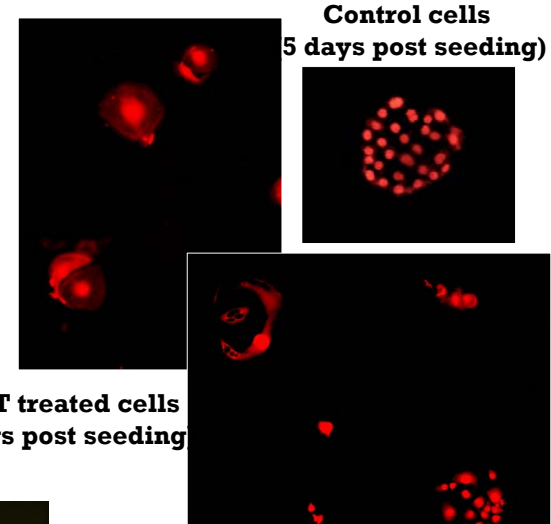
- Incubated for 4h in 80 ppm BPA enriched medium and exposed at different reactor power.
- Irradiated with neutrons only at different reactor power
- **Irradiated with photons**

Used to calculate RBE/CBE and parameters for isoeffective dose

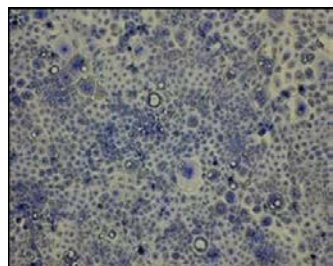
**Cell survival**



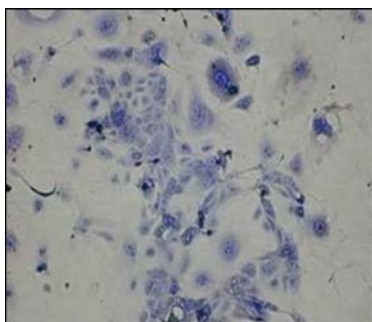
Nuclei of DHD cells stained with Propidium Iodide



Cellular damages induced by BNCT: apoptotic and giant cells



Control cells (5 days post seeding)



BNCT treated cells (15 days post seeding)

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect  
**Applied Radiation and Isotopes**  
 journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/apradiso](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/apradiso)

Extra-corporeal liver BNCT for the treatment of diffuse metastases: What was learned and what is still to be learned

A. Zonta<sup>a,\*</sup>, T. Pinelli<sup>d,e</sup>, U. Prati<sup>b</sup>, L. Roveda<sup>b</sup>, C. Ferrari<sup>a</sup>, A.M. Clerici<sup>a</sup>, C. Zonta<sup>a</sup>, G. Mazzini<sup>c</sup>, P. Dionigi<sup>a</sup>, S. Altieri<sup>d,e</sup>, S. Bortolussi<sup>d,e</sup>, P. Bruschi<sup>d</sup>, F. Fossati<sup>d,e</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Departments of Surgery, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy  
<sup>b</sup> Oncologic Surgery, Cancer Center of Excellence Fond. "E. Campanella", Casasco, Italy  
<sup>c</sup> Departments of Animal Biol., ICM-CNR Histocytochemistry and Cytometry Section, Pavia, Italy  
<sup>d</sup> Departments of Nuclear and Theoretical Physics, University of Pavia, Pavia, Italy  
<sup>e</sup> National Institute of Nuclear Physics (INFN) Pavia Section, Pavia, Italy