

# Chapter 13

## CD Receptor and Targeting Strategies



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**Abstract** The clusters of differentiation (CD) are cell-surface receptors involved in cellular functions like activation, adhesion, and inhibition. These ubiquitous receptors express elevated levels of CD on cells which can serve as key marker in several cancers and infectious diseases. We emphasize on CD receptors involved in cancer, infections, and immune response. In particular, we cover the physiology and pathophysiology of the CD receptor and track the latest developments in targeted delivery of therapeutics and diagnostics mediated via CD receptor.

**Keywords** Clusters of differentiation · CD44 · Receptor · Cancer · Infectious diseases · Immunology

### Abbreviations

ADC	Antibody-conjugated drug
Anti-EpCAM	Human epithelial adhesion molecule
BCR	B-cell receptor
BP	Binding peptide
Ca <sup>2+</sup>	Calcium
CD	Cluster of differentiation
Ce6	Chlorine 6
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic leukemia

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CmAbs	Chemotherapeutic monoclonal antibodies
CMC	Critical micelle concentration
CR3	Complement receptor
CS	Chondroitin sulfate
CTCL	Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
CTLs	Cytotoxic T lymphocytes
DAF	Decay acceleration factor
DM4	Maytansine derivative 4
DOX	Doxorubicin
Fcgr	Fcgamma receptor
GEM	Gemcitabine
GO	Graphene oxide
GP120	Envelope glycoprotein
GPI	glycosylphosphatidylinositol
HA	Hyaluronic acid
HSA	Human serum albumin
HCCLM3	Human hepatocellular carcinoma cell line
HCT-116	Human colorectal carcinoma cell line
HepG2	Liver hepatocellular carcinoma
HIV-1	Human immunodeficiency virus type 1
HPMA	N- (2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide
HSV-ttk	Herpes simplex virus truncated thymidine kinase
IFN- $\gamma$	Interferon gamma
Ig	Immunoglobulin
ITAMs	Immunoreceptor tyrosine-based activation motifs
Lck	Lymphocyte-specific protein tyrosine kinase
LNP	Indinavir-lipid nanoparticles
mAb	Monoclonal antibody
MDA-MB-231	M.D. Anderson and MB stands for Metastasis Breast 231
MDR	Multidrug resistance
MHC	Major histocompatibility complex
MS4A1	Membrane Spanning 4-Domains A1
MSNs	Mesoporous silica nanoparticles
MTX	Mitoxantrone
NeoR	Neomycin B-arginine conjugate
NHL	non-Hodgkin lymphoma
OPN	Osteopontin
PDAC	Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma
PEG-PLGA	Polyethylene glycol–poly lactic acid-co-glycolic acid
PEG–PLGA	Polyethylene glycol–poly lactic acid-co-glycolic acid
PIT	Photo-induced therapy
pMHC	Peptide-major histocompatibility complex
PNA	Peptide nucleic acids
PTKs	Protein tyrosine kinase
PTX	Paclitaxel

RFP	Red fluorescent protein
Rluc	Renilla luciferase
SCID	Significant toxicity immunodeficient
SH2	src homology 2
SLN	Solid lipid nanoparticle
TCR	T-cell receptor
TF	Triple fusion
TFIL	Tri-functional immunoliposome
Th	T helper
TNBC	Triple negative xenograft model of breast cancer
TNF- $\alpha$	Tumor necrosis factor alpha
ZAP 70	Zeta-chain-associated protein kinase

## 1 Introduction

The immune system protects human body from being infected by invading foreign organisms by well-controlled feedback mechanisms [1]. The cluster of differentiation (CD), which is also termed as CD molecule, CD marker, or CD antigen, is a cell surface glycoprotein that plays significant role in a number of biological functions, a major role being mediating immune reactions. CD receptors are considered to be highly promising drug targets for cancer, inflammatory, immunological, and infectious diseases [2, 3]. This chapter discusses the major CD involved in enabling improved therapy. An important focus is targeted delivery by receptor-mediated endocytosis via CD44 which has been widely investigated.

## 2 The Receptor

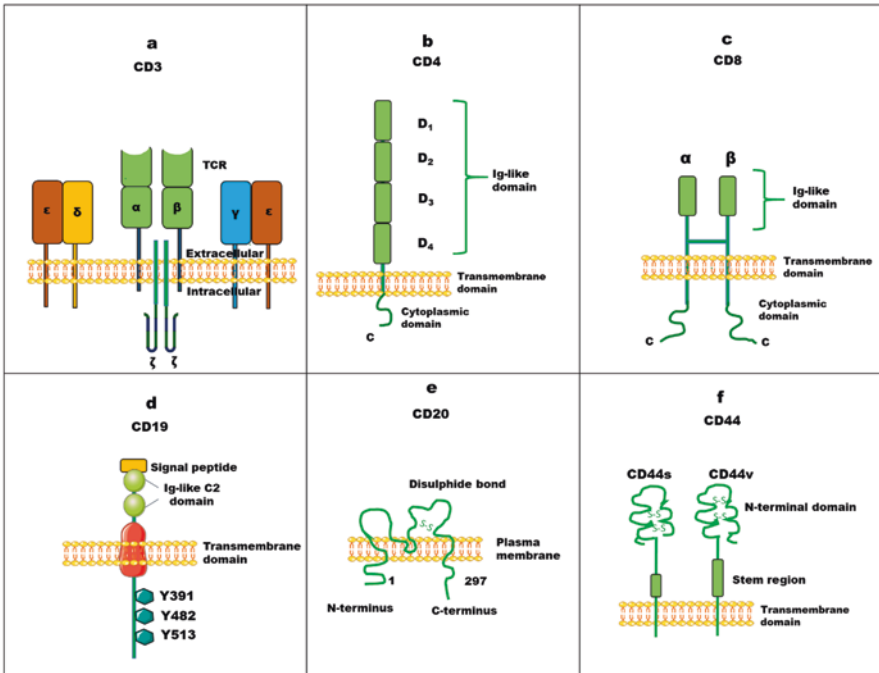
The “clusters of differentiation” (CD) is a term used to denote cell surface molecules which serve as targets for immunophenotyping of cells. As far as physiology is concerned, CD antigens can behave in many ways, often acting as important receptors or ligands. Some CD antigens do not play a part in the signaling of cells, but have other features such as cell activation, cell adhesion, and cell inhibition [4, 5]. In immunophenotyping, CD antigens are widely used as cell markers, enabling cells to be characterized based on what molecules are present on their surface. These markers serve to associate different cells with specific immune functions. Over 350 unique and distinctive CD markers have been recognized by the official list of determinants [6]. A discussion on all is beyond the purview of this chapter. We focus on six receptors, namely, CD3, CD4, CD8, CD19, CD20, and CD44 which play important roles in cancer and infectious disease. Details on other CD antigens/receptors may be referred in [6].

### 3 The CD Antigens and Receptors

CD antigens and receptors engage in diverse roles, acting as either receptors on cells or ligands for receptors to initiate a signal cascade that could alter some cellular function.

#### 3.1 CD3 Complex (T-Cell Receptor (TCR) Complex)

TCR complex is noncovalently coupled with a set of five immunoglobulins associated with transmembrane proteins. Five polypeptides involved are CD3 $\gamma$  (21–28 kDa), CD3 $\delta$  (20–28 kDa), CD3 $\epsilon$  (20–25 kDa), CD3 $\zeta$  (16 kDa), and CD3 $\eta$  (22 kDa) shown in Fig. 13.1a. CD3 proteins have an extracellular region of the N-terminal, a transmembrane domain, and a cytoplasmic tail with immunoreceptor tyrosine activation motifs (ITAMs). There is also an immunoglobulin-like domain. The cytoplasmic region and domain of CD3  $\epsilon$ , CD3  $\gamma$ , CD3  $\delta$ , and CD3  $\zeta$  comprise totally 10 ITAMs which make the complex extremely susceptible to antigen binding. Aspartic acid imparts a negative charge to CD3 $\gamma$ , CD3 $\delta$ , and CD3 $\epsilon$ . The side



**Fig. 13.1** Schematic representations of the structures of (a) CD3, (b) CD4, (c) CD8, (d) CD19, (e) CD20, and (f) CD44

chain of this negatively charged amino acid interacts with the strongly loaded side chains of proteins in the TCR $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  transmembrane areas, an interaction that can either add to complicated integrity or signaling function [7–15].

CD3 functions as T-cell coreceptor and enables activation of the cytotoxic CD8<sup>+</sup> and CD4<sup>+</sup> naive T cells. The CD3 chains serve two distinct functions for activating T cells, namely, facilitating the introduction of TCR into the plasma membrane and transduction of signals following involvement through the TCR binding site. Together, the TCR and the CD3 molecules form the TCR complex. To produce an activation signal in T lymphocytes, these CD3 chains are associated with the TCR and the  $\zeta$  chain. The complex functions by transmitting intracellular signals during the recognition of antigen TCR. CD3  $\epsilon$  is one of at least three invariant proteins associated with the TCR variable antigen recognition chains and signal transduction function. Because CD3 is necessary for the activation of T cells, drugs especially monoclonal antibodies are explored for immunosuppressant therapies [7–9].

### 3.2 CD4

CD4, a transmembrane glycoprotein (Fig. 13.1b), is expressed on the cell surface as a single polypeptide having four immunoglobulin (Ig)-like extracellular domains, making it a superfamily member of the Ig. It has a hydrophobic transmembrane domain with 38 amino acids comprising an extremely fundamental cytoplasmic tail, together with phosphorylated serine residues. CD4's N-terminal Ig-like domains interact with the non-polymorphic  $\alpha$ 2 and  $\beta$ 2 domains of MHC class II molecules, mediating functions of recognition and adhesion CD4's cytoplasmic tail has locations that make better physical linkage with cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CTLs, a lymphocyte-specific protein tyrosine, Lck) kinase [16].

CD4, the component of the T lymphocyte receptor and coreceptor of the human immunodeficiency virus, is downmodulated when antigen or phorbol esters activate cells. Amplification of CD4 by activated T cell as a response to an enzyme-based signaling cascade generates signal by the TCR which produces various kinds of T-helper cells. Using the extracellular domain, CD4 binds with MHC class II molecules which are present on the APC. Both the TCR complex and CD4 are designated for binding to distinct areas of the MHC II molecule during antigen presentation [17].

### 3.3 CD8

In both humans and mice, majority of CD8 molecules expressed on T-cell surface confined by MHC class I are CD8 $\alpha\beta$  heterodimers consisting of CD8 $\alpha$  (38 kDa chain) and CD8 $\beta$  (30 kDa chain) joined by disulfide linkage which are depicted in Fig. 13.1c. Some intestinal T cells on the cell surface, however, express a

CD8 $\alpha\alpha$  homodimer. The complete CD8 protein consists of one Ig-like extracellular hydrophobic domain and 26-residue cytoplasmic tail. Adherence of CD8 to the  $\alpha 3$  MHC class I domain occurs following recognition of the TCR-domain-based recognition and adherence to TCRs. The CD8 cytoplasmic tail connection to Lck (lymphocyte-specific protein tyrosine kinase) is weak compared to CD4 [10–15, 18].

The CD8 cell surface marker protein helps to differentiate between the CTLs CD8<sup>+</sup> and T helper (Th) cells CD4<sup>+</sup>. Involvement of CD8 in CTL coactivation has been associated with enhancing antigen sensitivity and stabilization of the TCR/MHC interaction. The CD8 coreceptor interacts with a distinct invariant region of the MHC I molecule compared to TCR, thereby enabling formation of a tripartite (TCR/peptide-major histocompatibility complex, pMHC)/CD8 complex.

### 3.4 CD19

CD19 antigen (95 kDa) is a transmembrane glycoprotein. It belongs to superfamily of Ig, the antigen which is categorized as a type I transmembrane protein. It consists of a single transmembrane domain, with C terminus in the cytoplasm and N terminus positioned extracellularly. It is encoded by the CD19 gene of 7.41 kilobyte situated on chromosome 16's short arm which codes for the CD19 molecule. The extracellular component includes two Ig-like domains of type C2 separated by a narrower prospective non-Ig-like domain associated with disulfide, and additional carbohydrate sites linked to N. There is no vital homology between CD19 and other recognized proteins [19]. The structure of CD19 receptor is shown in Fig. 13.1d. CD19 modulates B-cell receptor (BCR)-dependent and independent signaling. Another important role is to establish intrinsic B-cell signaling thresholds. It supports growth of antigen-independent development. It also influences the activation of B cells induced by immunoglobulin that is crucial to generate an ideal immune response. In B-cell activation, CD19 as an adaptor protein helps to incorporate signaling proteins from the cytoplasm to the membrane. It is also considered important as a signal subunit for CD19/CD21 conjugation by linking with the BCR.

### 3.5 CD20

CD20 is a nonglycosylated phosphoprotein of 35 kDa which is embedded in the cell membrane. In humans, CD20 is encoded by the MS4A1 gene, which belongs to the membrane-spanning 4A gene family. It possesses four domains spanning the membrane with a short extracellular segment of about 43 residues and the terminal amino and

carboxy N in the cytoplasm. This orientation prevents antigen shedding. It acts as a marker in lymphocytic leukemia and lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma and aids in targeting of monoclonal antibodies. The structure of CD20 receptor is shown in Fig.13.1e. CD20 is discovered in the pro-B stage of healthy mature B cells, in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and in Hodgkin lymphoma occurrences. CD20 is a component of cell surface complex which regulates the transfer of calcium (Ca<sup>2+</sup>) channel-based intracellular signaling pathway. However, interruption of the encoding of the Ca<sup>2+</sup> channel gene shows no effect on the growth of B-cells or on the execution of immune responses.

### 3.6 CD44

CD44 is 37-kDa protein with three domains: extracellular, intracellular, and transmembrane domains (Fig.13.1f). The extracellular domain comprising a globular protein with amino terminal (~180 aa) serves as a ligand-binding receptor mainly for hyaluronic acid (HA), a negatively charged glycosaminoglycan. It has six cysteine residues that form three disulfide bonds and sites for N glycosylation of five conserved residues in the amino acid terminal of CD44. The unconserved extracellular domain is primarily linked with carbohydrate alteration (O-glycosylation), while alternative splicing enables inclusion of additional aa sequence taken from the CD44 gene’s variable exons. The transmembrane domain is useful in mediating HA binding.

Wide distribution of tissue and several isoforms enable CD44 to play a variety of biological functions as depicted in Fig.13.2.

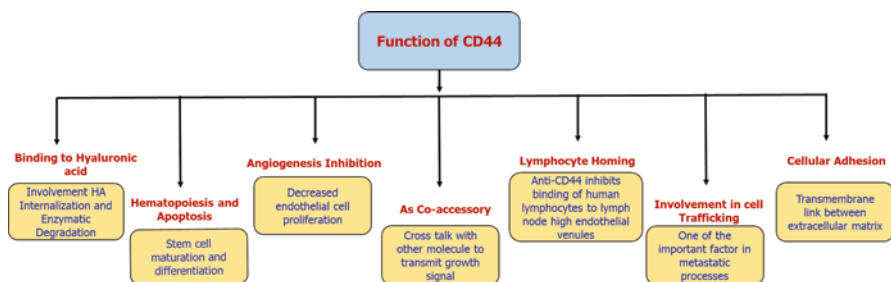


Fig. 13.2 Physiological function of CD44

## 4 Ligand Binding and Receptor-Mediated Signaling

### 4.1 CD3

Antigen-based stimulation results in conformational modifications in the CD3 polypeptide cytoplasmic tails triggered by stimulating MHC/TCR interaction with protein tyrosine kinase (PTKs). These PTKs, like Lck and Fyn, are members of the Src family. They phosphorylate conserved tyrosine residues that are present on the CD3 complex's ITAMs, to produce a protein-docking site (Zeta-chain-associated protein kinase, ZAP 70). PTKs trigger interaction between MHC/TCR which leads to modified conformation of the CD3 polypeptides in the cytoplasmic tails after antigen stimulation. CD3-integrated ZAP-70 initiates phosphorylation of transmembrane protein that serves as a linker of T cells which are activated subsequently by association with phospholipase C $\gamma$ 1 (PLC $\gamma$ 1). C $\gamma$ -dependent pathways include signals for calcium and diacylglycerol (DAG)-initiated responses, rearrangements in cytoskeletal rearrangements and integrin activation pathways that mediate cell-to-cell and cell-to-matrix interactions [20, 21].

### 4.2 CD4 and CD8

TCR produce signals which are amplified by CD4 and CD8 by using their intracellular domains. MHC II recognizes CD4 and MHC I recognizes CD8 which results in phosphorylation of MHC-based engagement of TCR $\alpha\beta$ . CD4 and CD8 are thought to function as coreceptors and are present near the TCR in the membrane which increases physical association of Lck and brings them in close proximity with the tails of the CD3 chains. The Lck causes phosphorylation of the ITAMs in the CD3 tails which results in generation of cascading event-associated intracellular signaling that leads to T-cell activation.

### 4.3 CD19

CD19 is mostly located on B cell and acts as BCR-associated coreceptor that enhances BCR signaling. Two signaling pathways are followed after activating the antigen which include B-cell receptor (BCR)-dependent signaling and BCR-independent signaling. First pathway includes BCR ligation through tyrosine-based CD19 phosphorylation and recruiting src homology 2 (SH2) domain. On the other hand, the CD19 receptor serves as a subunit for signal transduction for the CD19/CD21 cluster in the second pathway. These immune complexes possessing C3dg and antigen would bridge CD21, and thereby CD19, to activate the B cell.



#### 4.4 CD20

Antibody binding to CD20 initiates movement of molecules on to lipid rafts (membrane microdomains) which are rich in cholesterol and sphingolipids (Fig. 13.1e). Lipid rafts aided signal transduction, enabling receptors and signaling effectors to colocalize [22].

#### 4.5 CD44

The involvement of CD44-associated signaling with tumorigenesis is established through HA- independent or dependent signaling pathways. Binding of low molecular weight HA can block the oncogenic pathways associated with CD44 thereby enabling tumor suppression [23–25].

### 5 Structure Activity Relationship (SAR)

The SAR data are reported only for CD44 which is among the most investigated CD receptor and is discussed in this section. Glycosaminoglycans are repeating amino-associated disaccharide units that connect the chain to key proteins in the receptor. The glycoaminoglycans heparan sulfate and chondroitin sulfate are large molecules with sulfate and carboxylate groups that are charged with a large number of anionic groups. These anionic side chains exhibit affinity for cations. Different isoforms of CD44 seem to have distinctive glycosylation patterns. CD44s have a tiny portion of chondroitin sulfate, whereas the CD44 keratinocyte molecule (CD44v3–v10) is primarily glycosylated by heparan sulfate. CD44 isoforms occur in both glycosylated and nonglycosylated forms, indicating that some of the activities of the molecule do not depend on the side chains of glycosaminoglycans. Due to their degree of glycosylation, some CD44 isoforms exceed 200 kDa. Intermittent size isoforms (110–160 kDa) are mainly expressed on epithelial cells [26, 27].

### 6 Pathophysiological Features of CD

CD receptor's expression in the pathogenesis of cancer and various infectious diseases are under investigation. Many studies have demonstrated CD expression-based regulation in various diseases. Some of the major diseases related to the pathophysiological significance of CD isoforms are discussed in this chapter.

## 6.1 *Cancer*

CD19 mediates establishment of intrinsic B-cell signaling thresholds by modifying B-cell-dependent and autonomous signaling. But CD19 is a less specific marker of B-cell lineage because CD20 is five times more expressed on B cell than CD19 antigen. CD20 is associated with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and in lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma. Likewise, researchers demonstrated the expression of CD20, a B-cell marker in thyroid cancers including classic papillary thyroid carcinomas and high-grade thyroid cancers [28]. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC) is the most common fatal cancer of pancreas. In PDAC, multiple immune responses and related pathways including phosphorylation of CD3 are associated with progression of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma [29, 30]. In pancreatic cancer, the CD44 variant isoform v6 (CD44v6) expression was found elevated, which is responsible for metastasis.

Conversion of expression from CD44v to CD44s was observed during breast cancer progression in murine model. Head and neck squamous cancer cell line was associated with overexpression of CD44v3 which lead to significant increase in cell migration. In gastrointestinal cancer, CD44v9 levels were found elevated in gastric adenocarcinoma, while the CD44v (v6–10, v7–10, v8–10) were primarily found in gastric tumors when studied in the transgenic mice model of gastric carcinogenesis [31].

## 6.2 *HIV*

The human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) encephalitis causes damage to the brain by longstanding HIV infection, in which predominant cells like monocytes/macrophages are available. Angiocentric CD3<sup>+</sup> T-cell-based endothelial injury resulted in infection of the child brain with HIV via the blood-brain barrier [32]. HIV-infection-based reduction in CD4<sup>+</sup> T cell gradually affects immune cell homeostasis which may cause death. HIV replicates by binding to the CD4 molecule on the outer body of Th cells which leads to destruction of CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells and gradual reduction in number of T cell [33]. While CD4 levels decline, the expansion in CD8 T cells, which occurs resulting in disturbances of the T-cell compartment, is attributed to the severe symptoms seen in HIV-infected patients. Dysregulation in the levels of CD4 and CD8 provide insights into the immunological response to acute HIV infection. CD4:CD8 ratios have profound effect on HIV disease progression which marks imbalance in CD4 T-cell regeneration and persistently elevated CD8 T-cell counts [34].

### 6.3 Tuberculosis

CD4 and CD8 T cell have significant role in protection from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* [35–37]. Several reports suggest that CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells exert a profound role in protection against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* than CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell. CD4<sup>+</sup> T cells have several subsets, like Th1, Th2, Th17, and regulatory T cells, and all these subsets come together to enable infection management. Some CD4 subsets may distinguish between active and dormant forms in *mycobacterium tuberculosis* infection. CD4<sup>+</sup> Th1 cell-based defense mechanism against infection leads to secretion of cytokines like interferon-gamma (IFN- $\gamma$ ) or tumor necrosis factor (TNF- $\alpha$ ) which are involved in the recruitment and activation of monocytes and granulocytes [38].

## 7 Antagonist for Ligand Binding

The antagonists of CD are group of antibodies, antigen-binding portions of antibodies, small organic molecules, aptamers, or polypeptides. The efficacy of anti-CD antibodies against various cancers and HIV has been well studied. Studies with such antagonist are summarized in Table 13.1.

## 8 Ligands Explored

### 8.1 Osteopontin (OPN)

OPN binding induces CD44-mediated cell signaling which results in tumor suppression and metastasis. OPN and CD44 expression revealed positive correlation in 159 non-small cell lung cancers and 243 gastric cancer patients' tissues. CD44 knock-down or anti-CD44 antibody reduces the secretion of OPN which prevented OPN-activated c-jun-NH2-kinase signals leading to a reduction in colorectal cancer cells clonogenicity [51, 52].

### 8.2 Chondroitin Sulfate (CS)

CS potentiated efficacy of gemcitabine by enhancing inhibition of bladder cancer cells. CS-g-polymer-based camptothecin micelles exhibited dual receptor-mediated uptake mechanism through CD44 via clathrin-mediated endocytosis and exhibited potentiated effect in lung cancer cells compared to free drug [53, 54].

**Table 13.1** Anti-CD antibodies effective against cancer and HIV

Antibody	CD specific	Comments	References
OKT3 (muromonab, murine)	CD3	Reduced acute rejection in organ transplantation procedures	[39]
Visilizumab (HuM291, humanized)	CD3	Efficacy against graft-versus-host disease in marrow transplantation (prevented rejection)	[40]
Ibalizumab (humanized)	CD4	Increased protection against HIV fusion and entry	[41]
TNX-355 (humanized)	CD4	Potent activity against HIV-1 by blocking HIV binding to the CCR5 and CXCR4 coreceptors	[42]
Zanolimumab (humanized)	CD4	Treatment of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma (CTCL) by inhibition of T-cell signaling via a dual action, namely, potent Fc-dependent lysis of CD4 <sup>+</sup> T cells and downregulating CD4	[43]
AFM11 (humanized)	CD3, CD19	Promising for treatment of CD19 <sup>+</sup> malignancies the advantage of improved safety risk profile	[44]
GBR401 (humanized)	CD19	Markedly, higher antibody-dependent cytotoxicity on primary malignant B cells at 500 times lower concentration compared to fucosylated similar mAb and to rituximab	[45]
SAR3419 (humanized)	CD19	Trigger cell-cycle arrest and apoptosis, leading to cell death and tumor regression	[46]
Combotox (humanized antibody huB4 conjugated to the maytansine derivative DM4)	CD19, CD22 <sup>+</sup> diphtheria toxin	Enhanced specificity and potent activity in human pre-B-ALL blasts cells	[47]
DT2219ARL (humanized)	CD19, CD22 <sup>+</sup> diphtheria toxin	Treatment of positive B-cell leukemia or lymphoma	[48]
Ofatumumab (Arzerra/ Genmab) (fully human)	CD20	Long-lasting depletion of B cells from peripheral blood and lymph nodes of cynomologus monkeys compared to rituximab	[49]
KM201, KM114, IM7 (Rat)	CD44	Reduced the clinical severity of arthritis in ameliorate murine model	[50]

## 9 Receptor-Mediated Targeting Strategies

Targeting to immune cell subsets such as CD receptor which are overexpressed in tumor conditions are more beneficial than attempts to target cancer cells directly because immune cells subsets can migrate actively into cancer cells [55].

Antibody-conjugated drugs (ADC) are considered as new therapeutics for cancer treatment and infectious diseases that comprise of CD-antibody which can specifically target disease-associated CD antigen conjugated with drug. The efficacy of ADC highly depends on intracellular-uptake-enabled apoptosis of diseased cells. Antibody-conjugated drug is internalized through receptor-mediated endocytosis, that is, clathrin/caveolae-mediated endocytosis [56–58].

## 9.1 Prodrugs

Targeted antibody-mediated prodrug therapy is an approach wherein the antibody recognizes the tumor site to enable localization following which enzymes at the site will hydrolyze the prodrug to release the anticancer agent in the tumor [59, 60]. Such antibody-directed enzyme prodrug therapy (ADEPT) provides many advantages such as amplification (increase the number of drug molecules at site of action), has bystander effect (ability of drug molecule to diffuse to neighboring cells), reduce systemic side effects and potential to overcome drug resistance [61].

Chimeric anti-CD20 antibody are highly effective in the therapy of B-cell malignancies and non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) and chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) either individually or as combinatorial approach with other chemotherapy treatments [62]. For example, Haisma et al. demonstrated antibody-mediated enzyme prodrug therapy by engineering monochain of fusion protein Anti-CD20 antibody and human  $\beta$ -Glucuronidase enzyme to convert a prodrug N-[4-doxorubicin (DOX)-N-carbonyl(-oxy ethyl) phenyl] O- $\beta$ -glucuronyl carbamate into DOX at the tumor site [63].

## 9.2 Drug Conjugates

Conjugates can be prepared by reaction between polymer and targeting antibody/proteins or therapeutic cargoes like drug and antigens. Release of the therapeutic cargo from the conjugates at the targeted site is mediated by intracellular lysosomal enzymes after cell internalization. DOX conjugated to a copolymer of N-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide (HPMA) linked with targeting antibody such as anti-CD4, anti-CD71, reduced the MDR of DOX [64]. Targetable anti-CD3 antibody DOX-N-(2-hydroxypropyl) conjugate revealed inhibition of proliferation of human T cell and peripheral-blood lymphocyte [65]. Neomycin B-arginine conjugate (NeoR) showed 30-fold enhanced potency by inhibiting HIV particle binding to CD4 in HIV-1 strains R5 and X4 [66]. Human serum albumin (HSA)-CD4 hybrid revealed comparable in vitro binding and antiviral properties with 140-fold higher elimination half-life compared to soluble CD4 in rabbit model [67]. In another study, SAR3419 an anti-CD19 antibody was attached to the DM4 (maytansine derivative) via a cleavable disulfide linker. Mice xenograft-model-based preclinical

study of maytansine derivative–anti-CD19 conjugate followed by conduction of Phase I trials revealed antitumor efficacy with acceptable safety in human B-cell lymphoma models [68]. The conjugation of proteins and DNAs or peptide nucleic acids (PNAs) has also been explored. A tetramer of anti-CD20-Fab conjugated with PNAs showed in vitro potent and specific cytotoxicity followed by induction of apoptosis of CD20<sup>+</sup> Ramos cells [69].

### 9.3 *Nanocarriers*

#### 9.3.1 *Liposomes*

Liposomes are lipid bilayer vesicles made up of natural or synthetic lipid which are used for active targeting by functionalizing with ligand. Targeted-liposome delivery of drugs enhances the interaction with the target cells by fusion with the cell membrane surface or internalization by endocytosis. Antibody-combined liposomes called immunoliposomes can be prepared by antibody lipid conjugates, covalently attaching antibody to liposomes or by adsorption on the liposomal surface.

Vaidya et al. developed tri-functional immunoliposome (TFIL) by conjugating Trastuzumab (anti-human epidermal growth factor receptor-2) and OKT-3 (anti-CD3) antibodies to DOX-loaded liposome using the micelle transfer method. TFIL revealed good cytotoxicity in breast cancer tumor cells by activating immune cells (T lymphocyte) [70]. Ishida et al. prepared sterically stabilized immunoliposomes (SIL) by attaching anti-CD19 antibody to PEG lipid derivatives which revealed stealth property enabled threefold enhancement in liposomal association efficiency with CD19<sup>+</sup> human B cell lymphoma cells [71]. Theresa et al. demonstrated that anti-CD19 antibody-conjugated liposomal DOX improved the therapeutic efficiency without significant toxicity in immunodeficient (SCID) mice inoculated with human B-cell lymphoma (Namalwa) cells [72]. Flasher et al. examined binding ability of soluble CD4-conjugated liposomes to glycoprotein gp120 of HIV-infected cell and revealed high association efficiency compared to unconjugated liposomes [73]. Glycosylphosphatidylinositol (GPI)-anchored form of gp120 of HIV-1 which employed GPI signal of decay acceleration factor (DAF) revealed spontaneous insertion into liposome membrane using GPI anchor. This liposome exhibited specific binding to CD4. A succinct summary of other liposome-based CD44 receptor targeting for cancer is provided in Table 13.2.

#### 9.3.2 *Nanoparticles*

The diversity and physical, chemical, and biological versatility of nanoparticles can be exploited for use in targeted cancer and infectious disease therapy. The specificity of antibody-conjugated nanoparticles can be exploited to focus the delivery of drug to targeted cells overexpressing the targeted surface antigen.

**Table 13.2** Liposomes and nanoparticles for CD44 targeted delivery in cancer

Active/ targeting system	Ligand	Study outcome	References
<i>Liposomes</i>			
Timosaponin AIII	Anti-CD44 antibody	Enhanced circulation time and receptor- mediated targeting in HepG2 tumor-bearing mice models	[74]
DOX	Hyaluronic acid	Avid binding and temperature-dependent internalization in B16F10 cells (murine melanoma)	[75]
Arginine- and histidine-rich cell penetrating peptide	Hyaluronic acid	Enhanced liposomal uptake and improved efficacy in a murine hepatic carcinoma tumor xenograft model	[76]
Modified RNA Aptamer (APT)	–	Higher sensitivity and selectivity for APT liposome in human lung cancer cells (A549) and human breast cancer cells (MDA-MB-231)	[77]
<i>Nanoparticles (NPs)</i>			
Mitoxantrone (MTX)-conjugated HA-PEGylated magnetic nanoparticles	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	Significantly improved binding and internalization into MDA-MB-231 cell line	[81]
SN38-conjugated hyaluronic acid gold nanoparticles	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	LED radiation-induced increased cytotoxicity and retention up to 8 days in metastatic colon cancer	[82]
HA-coated mesoporous silica nanoparticles (MSNs)	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	Higher endocytosis HCT-116 cells	[83]
Camptothecin-loaded HA-decorated mesoporous silica nanoparticles	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	Rapid internalization in HeLa cells and enhanced antitumor activity compared to free drug	[84]
Hyaluronic acid-paclitaxel (PTX) -self-assembled nanoparticles	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	Fourfold reduction in tumor volume on day 14 in H22 tumor-bearing mice model	[85]
Hyaluronic acid deoxycholic acid conjugated NPs	Hyaluronic acid (HA)	Enhanced endocytosis in human breast adenocarcinoma cells with higher tumor targeting capacity in tumor-bearing mice	[86]

Biotinylated-anti-CD3 antibodies conjugated with gelatin nanoparticles are reported to achieve specific receptor-mediated endocytic cellular uptake into human T-cell leukemia cells [78]. The targeting ability of anti-human CD8 antibody coupled with PLGA (poly(lactic-co-glycolic acid) nanoparticles to CD8 expressing mammalian cells was confirmed by the presence of anti-CD8-conjugated nanoparticles in cells within 1 h while unconjugated nanoparticles took 48 h [79]. Immunonanoparticles obtained by surface functionalization of paclitaxel-loaded polymeric nanoparticles with anti-HER2 (Herceptin®) and anti-CD20 (Mabthera®) antibodies demonstrated improved anticancer drug efficacy due to active targeting using immune nanoparticles [80].

CD44 is among the more extensively evaluated receptors for targeted delivery in cancer therapy. Strategies employing CD44 targeted nanoparticles for drug delivery in cancer are enlisted in Table 13.2.

### 9.3.3 Micelles

Micelles are nanoscopic structures, less than 100 nm described by a hydrophobic core structure in the center and are formed by self-assembly of amphiphilic copolymers in aqueous media above a concentration called the critical micelle concentration (CMC). DOX-loaded micelles conjugated with hyaluronic acid (HA)-grafted with folic acid developed to target CD44-positive tumor, revealed significant enhancement in cellular uptake by CD44 receptor-mediated endocytosis, and promising tumor targeting in HCCLM3 (human hepatocellular carcinoma cell line) tumor-bearing nude mice [87]. In tumor-associated tissue, various glycans are often overexpressed as compared to normal tissues, which can be targeted for tumor therapy [88, 89]. Agrawal et al. conjugated hyaluronic acid with DOX-loaded PEG-PLGA (polyethylene glycol-poly lactic acid-co-glycolic acid) micelles to improve targeting in CD44 overexpressed in the Ehrlich ascites tumor-bearing mice. The developed system revealed high efficacy and also blood circulation longevity which could have facilitated high tumor accumulation [90].

### 9.3.4 Solid Lipid Nanoparticles (SLN)

Receptor-mediated targeting strategies for cancer or infected cells using SLN have specific applications for delivering hydrophobic cargos. For instance, Shen et al. developed paclitaxel-loaded HA-coated SLNs which provided effective intracellular delivery of paclitaxel and induced apoptosis in CD44<sup>+</sup> cells in vitro, while in vivo study demonstrated selectively enhanced targeting in CD44 overexpressed tumor-bearing lung tissues along with enhanced antitumor activity at low doses of paclitaxel [91]. Indinavir-lipid nanoparticles (LNP) were engineered for surface modification with two CD4 binding peptides (BP4 and BP2). These CD4-binding peptides coupled on LNPs led to blockage of CD4 with considerably enhanced anti-HIV activity [92].

### 9.3.5 Miscellaneous

#### Nanosheets

Li et al. have demonstrated HA-conjugated Graphene oxide (GO) sheets loaded with a photosensitizer Chlorine6 (Ce6). Nanohybrids of HA-GO/Ce6 revealed a significantly rapid and tenfold enhanced uptake in HeLa cancer cell line in comparison to free Ce6 which was ascribed to HA-facilitated CD44-receptor-mediated endocytosis [93].



## Scaffolds

Tumor-specific, anti-CD20-bound paclitaxel-loaded albumin scaffold was engineered. In vivo biodistribution study showed greater therapeutic potential than only anti-CD20 and paclitaxel-loaded albumin scaffold. Preclinical testing of this formulation demonstrated increased deposition of antibody-mediated drug in the tumor, justifying translation for clinical evaluation of this nano-antibody-targeted chemotherapy [94].

## Nanoparticles as Theranostics

Molecular imaging with targeted drug delivery in cancer has been extensively used for effective therapy and diagnosis [95]. For instance, Jiefu Jin et al. studied CD44 targeted mAb (monoclonal antibody) photosensitizer complex for simultaneous detection with photo-induced therapy (PIT) in the CD44-positive triple negative xenograft model of breast cancer (TNBC) and found it promising [95]. Liposomes were loaded with DOX or a triple fusion (TF) gene containing the truncated thymidine kinase (HSV-ttk) of herpes simplex virus and the red fluorescent protein (RFP) renilla luciferase (Rluc) for imaging. These Anti-CD44 antibody-conjugated liposomes ensured targeting of CD44 hepatocellular carcinoma cells with good cytotoxicity and also revealed delay in growth of hepatocellular tumor [96]. Capolla et al. developed anti-CD20-conjugated biodegradable nanoparticles for animal imaging with drug delivery to cancerous cells. The nanoparticles exhibited good binding specificity with MEC1 cells and chronic lymphocytic leukemia patient's cells. In vivo study proposed that the anti-CD20-conjugated nanoparticles improved tumor pharmacokinetic profiles and enhanced tumor imaging compared to nontargeted nanoparticles in human/mouse model of B-cell malignancy [97].

## 9.4 Clinical Studies

Monoclonal antibodies are considered as an emerging class of pharmaceuticals for targeted therapy of many human diseases such as cancer, HIV or other infectious diseases. Although many antibody-targeting strategies are developing and five antibodies are now approved for cancer or infectious diseases, more approvals are expected from among the 20 or so antibodies currently in clinical development. The efficacy of anticancer drug by targeting to site of action is being met by the exploration of a wide range CD-antigen-targeted strategies, however, there is clinical need to increase the safety [98]. In clinical trials, Besponsa® and Mylotarg™ are recently approved and >50 ADCs, which are in various phases of clinical trial as monotherapy or in combination with other anticancer drug for treatment of several types of cancer, show desirable results [99]. Clinical trial status with these receptor-mediated antibodies is listed in Table 13.3.

**Table 13.3** List of CD targeting antibodies in clinical trials

Antibodies	CD Targeting moieties	Clinical trials	Indication	Outcome/measures	References
BI-1206 with rituximab	Anti-CD32b monoclonal antibody (BI-1206) and anti-CD20 antibody	Phase 1 (ongoing)	B-cell lymphoma and leukemia	Study ongoing	[100]
Removab	Anti-EpCAM (human epithelial adhesion molecule) x Anti-CD3	Phase 1/2	Ovarian cancer	Study revealed decreased in EpCAM+ malignant cells in ascites by up to 5 log	[101]
Ibalizumab	Anti-CD4	Completed	Multidrug-resistant HIV-1 infection	Study revealed significant reduction in HIV. RNA was 1.1 log <sub>10</sub> copies per ml	[102]
HuMax-CD4	Human monoclonal anti-CD4 antibody	Completed	Refractory cutaneous T-cell lymphoma	Well tolerated with no major toxicity	[103]
Rituximab	Anti-CD20 monoclonal antibody	Completed	Low-grade non-Hodgkin lymphoma	Well tolerated and extremely effective in patients	[104]

## 9.5 Advantages and Limitations

CD receptor-mediated treatments for infections and cancer revealed targeting based enhancement in efficacy which could result in long-term survival and eventual cure of such diseases [105–106]. Anti-CD chemotherapeutic monoclonal antibodies (CmAbs) possess generally mild adverse effects compared to standard chemotherapy, while conjugated CmAbs precipitate serious adverse effects. These adverse effects are usually associated with the antigens which they are targeting and with the intravenous route of administration [106]. For example, bevacizumab targets tumor growth factor in the blood vessels and produces adverse effects such as high blood pressure and renal damage [107]. Rituximab treatment has infusion-related responses such as syndrome of cytokine release and syndrome of tumor lysis [108]. Other negative reactions prevalent with most CmAbs include chills, weakness, headache, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, and eruption.

Although excellent progress is evident in the field of antibody engineering and cancer therapy, manufacturing costs are approximately twice the price of conventional medicines [109]. There is no doubt that CmAbs engineering has marked a

major milestone in cancer therapy, and with the success rate of marketing these drugs better than that of small molecular drugs, pharmaceutical companies are anticipated to continue to move toward more specific, less harmful, and more cost-effective CmAb.

## 10 Conclusion

CD receptor-targeted drug delivery provides tremendous scope in clinical application. Targeting the overexpressed CD receptor represents an exciting novel approach for infectious diseases and cancer.

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