Targeting a xenobiotic transporter to ameliorate vincristine-induced sensory neuropathy

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Supplemental Information Text

Detailed Materials and Methods

Animals. For all experiments, age- and sex-matched mice (8-12 weeks old) were used. All animals were housed in a temperature-controlled environment with a 12-h light cycle, given a standard chow diet and water *ad libitum*, and were handled according to the University Laboratory Animal Resources Animal Care and Use Committee at The Ohio State University, under an approved protocol (2015A00000101- R2). Wild-type mice on a DBA/1LacJ or FVB background were purchased from The Jackson Laboratory or Taconic Biosciences. OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice on a DBA/1LacJ background were provided by Drs. Richard B. Kim (Western University, London, Ontario, Canada) and Jeffrey L. Stock (Pfizer, Groton, CT). OATP1A/1B-deficient [OATP1A/1B(-/-)] mice were purchased from Taconic Biosciences (Taconic Biosciences, Cambridge City, IN). LYN-deficient [LYN(-/-)] mice were kindly provided by Dr. Clifford A. Lowell (University of California, San Francisco, CA) (1).

Peripheral neuropathy assessment. Mice received a single i.p. injection of vincristine diluted in normal saline at a dose of 1 mg/kg. The nocifensive behaviors (hind paw flinching) after mechanical stimulation (Von Frey Hairs test, VFH) were used to assess the development of mechanical allodynia before and at 24, 48, 72 h and 1 week after drug administration. Mice were individually housed and acclimated to handling and to the VFH testing apparatus for several days prior to start of the experiment. Baseline measurements were obtained prior to dosing. Behavioral testing was conducted in a quiet room following procedures previously described (2-4). Briefly, mice were placed on a wire mesh floor while loosely restrained in a plexiglass compartment and allowed to acclimate for 1 h prior to initiation of testing. For testing, a blunt filament (0.5 mm diameter) was applied perpendicularly to the plantar surface of the hind paw with a constant force for 2-5 s. When a spontaneous hind paw withdrawal occurred, the stimulus was stopped and the gram force of the pressure to withdrawal was recorded. This procedure was assessed 3 times by applying the filament to the mid-plantar region of each hind paw from beneath the mesh floor and with intervening intervals of a few seconds. Values for each animal were then used to average across groups to yield a mean group threshold response, an upper cutoff limit of 6 g was set to prevent tissue damage.

For studies evaluating chronic neurotoxicity, vincristine (1 mg/kg) was administered once a week by i.p. injection for four weeks (cumulative dose 4 mg/kg), preceded by nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o.) or its vehicle (0.5% methylcellulose in water). A clinical electro-diagnostic system (Ultra Pro S100, Natus Neurology) was used to perform nerve conduction studies (3). The supramaximal action potential amplitude (AMP) and the nerve conduction velocity (NCV) were measured for the caudal and sciatic nerve, 24 h before treatment (baseline) and at the end of the experiment. Stimulating electrodes were placed on the fourth digits of the hind paw, and two recording electrodes were placed 10 mm proximally, near the ankle. Similarly, stimulating electrodes were placed at the base of the tail, and two recording electrodes were placed 35 mm proximally on the tail. For both the digital and caudal nerve, a total of 10 supramaximal stimulations was delivered. Velocity was calculated as a ratio of the distance from stimulating electrodes divided by the distant latency, and amplitude from peak-to-peak. Mice were maintained under isoflurane anesthesia delivered via a nose cone and the body temperature was controlled during the recordings with a heating pad. AMP and NCV were normalized and expressed as a percent change from baseline to account for inter-experimental variability in baseline recordings. Thermal hyperalgesia (Hargreaves test) was evaluated with a dynamic esthesiometer (model 390, IITC Life Science) (3). Baseline measurements were obtained prior to dosing. On the day of testing, mice were placed in a Plexiglas chamber for 45 min to acclimate. The stimulus was stopped and the time to withdrawal latency was recorded. This was assessed alternately on each hind paw every 2 min for 3 consecutive trials to obtain a mean value of the heat tolerated by the mice. To prevent tissue damage, an upper cutoff limit of 30 s was set, after which the increasing thermal stimulus was terminated.

Gross motor performance associated with the tested vincristine regimens was evaluated by ladder tests and open field tests, as previously described (5, 6). Briefly, mice received a single i.p. injection of vincristine at a dose of 1 mg/kg. The ladder test and open field test were used to assess the development of motor neuron toxicity before and at 24, 48, and 72 h after drug administration. For elevated ladder tests, the elevated ladder was placed 30 cm above the ground and made up of two clear side walls (1 m long and 19 cm high) and a cover on the top and several metal rungs (3 mm diameter),

where the distance between two adjacent rungs is changeable (1-5 cm). The elevated ladder tests were initiated after mice had been acclimated to their surrounding for at least 4 h. The mice were placed at one end of the ladder and encouraged to move forward by a food reward at the other end of the ladder. If a mouse had a misstep, their foot contacts the metal plate, completes a circuit, and is automatically counted by an electrical counter. Experiments were repeated 3 times for each mouse, and an average of the three trials was used for analysis. Open-field locomotion was assessed with the Basso Mouse Scale (BMS) rating system (7). The open field was a round table that was 20.32 cm high and 1.524 m in diameter situated in a quiet testing room with normal lighting. The mice were acclimated to the testing table for 20 min daily for a week before drug administration. Two analysts blinded to the composition of the treatment groups simultaneously scored hindlimb locomotion for 4 min per mouse using a score sheet described previously (7). Parameters of interest included paw position (rotated in, rotated out, parallel placement), trunk stability, tail position, coordination, and plantar and dorsal support. Quantification was based on a scoring system where conditional variables are given a numerical representation in each category. A higher number correlates to better hindlimb locomotor function and 'normal' behavior scores a 9; conversely, a lower number represents abnormal locomotion.

Pharmacokinetic studies. Pharmacokinetic studies were performed following an established protocol (8). To determine the plasma concentration-time profiles of nilotinib in mice, oral nilotinib (formulated in 0.5% hydroxypropyl-methylcellulose in water) was administered at a dose of 10 mg/kg. Serial whole blood samples (0.25, 0.5, 1, 2, 4, and 6 h) were collected from the submandibular vein for the initial three timepoints, from the retro-orbital sinus vein for the subsequent two time-points, and cardiac puncture at the terminal time-point. Blood samples were centrifuged at 11,000 rpm for 5 min, and the plasma supernatants collected and stored at -80°C until analysis by a validated method based on reversed-phase liquid chromatography coupled to tandem mass-spectrometric detection (LC-MS/MS). Livers were collected from the same animals at endpoint and, to prevent continuing metabolic activity, tissues were snap frozen using liquid nitrogen. In another experiment, nilotinib was administrated orally at doses of 25 mg/kg or 100 mg/kg, and after 1.5 h, plasma, liver, and whole DRG were collected. All plasma and tissue specimens were stored at -80°C until further processing.

The pharmacokinetic profiles of vincristine in mice were evaluated after administration by i.p. injection at a dose of 1 mg/kg. Whole blood samples were collected 0.08, 0.25, 0.5, 1, and 4 h, and livers were collected at the final time point. To evaluate the influence of nilotinib pre-treatment on the profile of vincristine, whole blood and liver samples were collected at the same time points. All plasma and tissue specimens were stored at -80°C until further processing. All tissues were homogenized with 5-mm stainless steel bead (Qiagen) and processed for 4 min at 40 Hz. Finally, the beads were removed, and the homogenized samples were stored at -80°C until analysis by LC-MS/MS.

Pharmacokinetic parameters were calculated by non-compartmental analysis using Phoenix WinNonlin version 8.0 (Certara). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) was determined by visual inspection of the data from the concentration-time curves. The linear trapezoidal rule was used to obtain the area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC), and drug levels in tissues were corrected for contaminating plasma.

Determination of drug levels. Nilotinib was quantified using a Vanquish UHPLC coupled with a Quantiva triple quadrupole mass spectrometer from Thermo Fisher Scientific was used for LC-MS/MS analysis. An Accucore aQ column (150 \times 2.1 mm, dp = 2.6 µm, Thermo Fisher Scientific) was protected by a C18 AQUASIL guard cartridge (2.1 mm × 10 mm, dp =3 μm, Thermo Fisher Scientific). The injection volume was 5.0 μL. The temperature of the autosampler rack was 4°C, and the temperature of the column was maintained at 50°C. Mobile phase A consisted of water with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid and mobile phase B consisted of acetonitrile: methanol (1:1) with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid. The total run time was 4.6 min. The gradient conditions were as follows: 0–0.5 min, 45% B; 0.5–3.5 min, 45 to 90%, 3.5–4.0 min, 90% B;4.0–4.1 min, 90% to 45% B; 4.1–4.6 min, 45% B with a flow rate was 0.4 mL/min. The MS assay setting with the positive voltage applied to the ESI capillary was set at 4000 V, and the capillary temperatures was 375 °C with a vaporizer temperature of 450 °C. Argon was used as the collision gas at a pressure of 1.5 mTorr. Precursor molecular ions and product ions were recorded for confirmation and detection of nilotinib (530.162→289.025), using [²H3]-nilotinib (nilotinib-d3) as an internal standard (533.1→288.94). Results from assay validation studies revealed that the within-day precision and

between-day precision ranged 0.61-3.43%, and the accuracy ranged 96.9-103%. The lower limit of quantification was 5 ng/mL.

Vincristine was quantified using the same equipment and an Accucore aQ column (50 \times 2.1 mm, dp = 2.6 μm, Thermo Fisher Scientific) protected by a C18 AQUASIL guard cartridge (2.1 mm × 10 mm, dp =3 μm, Thermo Fisher Scientific). The injection volume was 2.0 μL. The temperature of the autosampler rack was 4°C, and the temperature of the column was maintained at 50°C. Mobile phase A consisted of water with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid and mobile phase B consisted of acetonitrile with 0.1% (v/v) formic acid. The total run time was 2.2 min. The gradient conditions were as follows: 0–0.5 min, 10% B; 0.5–0.51 min, 10 to 50%, 0.51–1.8 min, 50% to 95% B; 1.8–1.81 min, 95% to 10% B; 1.81–2.2 min, 10% B with a flow rate was 0.4 mL/min. The MS assay setting with the positive voltage applied to the ESI capillary was set at 3536.36 V, and the capillary temperatures was 375°C with a vaporizer temperature of 450 °C. Argon was used as the collision gas at a pressure of 1.5 mTorr. Precursor molecular ions and product ions were recorded for confirmation and detection of vincristine (825.438→765.354), using [²H3] vincristine sulfate (vincristine-d3) as an internal standard (828.488→768.275). Results from assay validation studies revealed that the within-day precision and between-day precision ranged 1.87-5.20%, and the accuracy ranged 91.7-107%. The lower limit of quantification was 2.5 ng/mL.

Vincristine levels in whole DRG samples (L4 and L5) from wild-type and OATP1B2(-/-) mice were measured by MALDI Mass spectrometry imaging at 30 min, after i.v. administration of vincristine at a dose of 4 mg/kg. DRG tissues were embedded in gelatin and cryosectioned to 12 μm thick. The sample slides were coated with 10 mg/mL of 2,5-dihydroxybenzoic acid (DHB), with 16 passes at a 100 μL/min flow rate and were imaged with a laser spot size of 50 μm. Imaging data were acquired with a Bruker 15T FTICR using SciLS Lab Version 2022a Pro. All the data were normalized by total ion count of the imaged samples (9).

Morphologic and morphometric evaluation. For morphologic evaluation, L4-L5 DRGs were fixed by immersion in 4% paraformaldehyde and 2% glutaraldehyde, and sciatic and caudal nerve were fixed by immersion in 2.5% glutaraldehyde. Samples were post fixed in OsO4, embedded in epoxy resin, and used for light microscopy and morphometric analysis. Semi-thin 1-μm sections (spaced at 50-μm intervals) of

DRG, sciatic and caudal nerves were prepared, stained with toluidine blue, and examined with a Zeiss Axioskop WideField Light Microscope, as described previously (10). Representative images were captured with a QIClick Digital CCD color camera. For DRG morphometrics, the somatic size was measured for each cell containing nucleolus, and at least 200 DRG neurons per animal were manually measured and analyzed with a computer-assisted image analyzer (ImageJ software, Bethesda, MD). For sciatic nerve, all myelinated fibers evaluable in the analyzed space were counted and the internal (axonal) and external (total) diameters of myelinated fibers were measured on at least 500 myelinated fibers/nerve. The histograms of g-ratio (axonal diameter/whole fiber diameter as a measure of myelination degree in each fiber) distribution were generated. An observer blinded to the group compositions performed all the morphometric determinations.

Cellular accumulation. Human embryonic kidney (HEK293) cells (ATCC) overexpressing OATP1B1, OATP1B3, or OATP1B2 were generated as described previously (11). The transporter nomenclature used throughout is based on recent recommendations proposed by Hagenbuch and Stieger (12). The transporter-expressing cells were functionally characterized by assessing the uptake of the prototypical substrate, estradiol-17β-_D-glucuronide (EβG) (0.2 μM). HEK293 cells were maintained in DMEM supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS, and routinely checked to ensure there was no mycoplasma contamination (MycoAlert Detection Kit). Passages were kept to a minimum and cells were not used beyond passage 30. The cell culture conditions and details of accumulation experiments for tritium-labeled vincristine (ART 03310) were performed as described previously (11). Briefly, prior to uptake experiments, cells were grown to 90% confluence on poly-lysine coated multi-well plates. For uptake, cells were briefly rinsed with warm 1X PBS and incubated in the presence or absence of a vehicle or inhibitor, prepared in serum and phenol-red free DMEM for 15 min (pre-treatment). The pre-treatment was rinsed off with warm 1X PBS followed by the addition of radiolabeled compounds for 5-30 minutes. After incubation, transport was halted by aspirating radiolabeled drug, and rinsing the cells three times with ice-cold 1X PBS. Total radioactivity originating from the substrates was measured by lysing the cells with 1N NaOH, neutralized with 2N HCL, and measuring total radioactivity by liquid scintillation counting using an LS 6500 Counter (Beckman). Drug uptake results were normalized to total protein content and

then to data obtained in cells carrying an empty vector plasmid, which was set to 100%. The influence of inhibitors, including nilotinib (10 μM; 15-min pre-incubation) and rifampicin (10 μM; 15-min pre-incubation) on OATP1B1, OATP1B3, or OATP1B2 function was evaluated using EβG (Axxora LLC) as the prototypical substrate.

For the cellular vincristine uptake screening, human cervical carcinoma cells (HeLa) were transfected with transporters of interest, including hOAT1, hOAT3, hOAT4, hOATP1A2, hOATP3A1, hOATP4A1, hOATP5A1, hOATP1C1, hOATP1B1, hOATP1B3, hOATP2B1, hOCT1, hOCT2, hOCTN1, hOCTN2, hASBT, hNTCP, hNPT1, hMATE1, hOSTα/β, hPEPT1, hPEPT2, rOatp1a1, rOatp1a4, rOatp1a5, rOatp1b2, rNtcp, rAsbt, rOat1, and rOct1. Cells were transfected with expression plasmid or vector control lacking any insert using Lipofectin reagent (Invitrogen). Sixteen hours thereafter, cells were washed with transport media (OPTIMEM, Invitrogen) and treated with radiolabeled drug. At various time intervals, cells were washed three times with ice-cold PBS and then lysed with 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate. The cellular radioactivity was quantified by liquid scintillation counting as described above. Similar analyses were performed in HEK293 cells transfected with hOATP1A2, hOATP1C1, mMATE1, and hMATE1, with cells seeded in poly lysine pre-coated 12-well plates. For hOATP1A2 and hOATP1C1, transient transfections were performed with either an empty vector, OATP1A2, or OATP1C1 using Lipofectamine 2000 according to the manufacturers protocol (Invitrogen). At 48 h post transfection, uptake studies were performed with [³H]estrone-3-sulfate (E-3-S) or vincristine in hOATP1A2overexpressing cells and EβG or vincristine in hOATP1C1-overexpressing cells. For studies involving HEK293 cells transfected with MATE1, tetraethylammonium (TEA) was used as a positive control substrate in potassium-based buffers at pH 8.4 (instead of PBS), as described previously (13).

Gene expression analysis. Human DRG total RNA was purchased from Clontech Laboratories (Mountain View, CA) and was obtained post-mortem from 21 male/female white subjects (16 to 65 years old). RNA from cells was extracted using an Omega Extraction kit, according to manufacturer's protocol. Samples were analyzed using real-time quantitative PCR and Taqman Probes (Applied Biosystems). The relative gene expression was determined using the ΔΔCt method, and normalized to the mouse or human housekeeping gene, GAPDH. Amplified products were later visualized after separation of bands on a 2%

(wt/vol) agarose gel as described previously (14). OATP1B1, OATP1B3, and reduced folate carrier protein 1 (RFC1) gene expression from tumor samples of 314 pediatric patients with acute myeloid leukamia and 655 pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia were obtained from cancer genomics data on the St. Jude Cloud (15). RFC1 was used as reference gene in tumor samples (16).

Antitumor efficacy evaluation. The influence of nilotinib on vincristine activity against cancer cells was performed on the ATCC TCP-1010 Leukemia Cell Line Panel (ie, Kasumi-1, HL-60, THP-1, K-562, RS4;11, Molt-4, and Ccrf-Cem). For *in vitro* cytotoxicity studies, stock solutions of nilotinib and vincristine were prepared in DMSO. The cell growth inhibitory potential of vincristine was evaluated with an MTT Cell Proliferation and Viability Assay following a 72-h continuous exposure. In brief, 50 µL containing 10,000 cells were plated in a 96-well format and exposed to a range of vincristine concentrations (up to 1 µM; at a 1:2 ratio) in the presence or absence of 1 uM nilotinib for 69 h at 37°C. The MTT dye was added 69 h after initiation and incubated at 37°C for an additional 3 h. The MTT dye is reduced by metabolically active and proliferating cells to form insoluble formazan crystals, which are solubilized by an acidified isopropyl alcohol solution, and the colorimetric output determined by using a multi-plate reader with 570 and 650 excitation and emission filters, respectively. The data were normalized to an untreated, proliferating condition at the 72-h time point, and set to 100%. A nonlinear sigmoidal curve fit was used to obtain IC⁵⁰ values.

Tritium-labeled vincristine (ART 03310) was purchased from American Radiolabeled Chemicals. Prior to cellular accumulation studies, 1 million leukemic cells were transferred into 1.5 mL microcentrifuge tubes. In brief, the cells were spun down to remove growth medium and warm 1X PBS was added to rinse the cells of residual growth serum. The cells were then incubated for 5 min in a 500 µL solution containing 1 µM radiolabeled vincristine in the presence or absence of 0.1% DMSO or 1 µM nilotinib. After incubation, the cells were washed three times with cold 1X PBS to remove extracellular radioactivity. The cells were lysed in a solution containing 1 N NaOH for 4 h and neutralized with 2 N HCl. Total radioactivity was counted using liquid scintillation and normalized to protein concentrations (BCA protein kit).

Global untargeted metabolomics study. The plasma and DRG samples from wild-type mice and OATP1B2(-/-) mice were analyzed for structurally named and unknown molecules using a non-targeted semi-quantitative LC-MS/MS and gas chromatography/mass spectrometry platforms (Metabolon, Durham, NC). Raw data were extracted, peak-identified and QC processed using Metabolon's hardware and software. Compounds were identified by comparison to library entries of purified standards or recurrent unknown entities. Metabolon maintains a library based on authenticated standards that contains the retention time/index (RI), mass to charge ratio (m/z), and chromatographic data (including MS/MS spectral data) on all molecules present in the library. Peaks were quantified using area-under-the-curve, each biochemical in raw area counts was rescaled to set the median equal to 1, and missing values were imputed. Welch's two-sample *t*-test was used to identify biochemicals that differed significantly between experimental groups.

Statistical analysis. All data represent the mean and SEM before and/or after normalization to baseline values and are expressed as a percentage, unless stated otherwise. All experiments were performed using multiple replicates and were performed independently on at least two independent occasions. An unpaired two-sided Student's t test with Welch's correction was used for comparisons between two groups, and a one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post hoc test was used for comparing more than two groups. Behavioral data were analyzed using two-way ANOVA with Tukey's or Bonferroni's post hoc test, repeated across time-points and groups. A $P < 0.05$ was used as the statistical cutoff across all analysis.

Figure S1. Validation of vincristine transport and toxicity in secondary *in vitro* **and** *in vivo* **models.** Transport of positive control substrates estrone-3-sulfate (E-3-S), tetraethylammonium (TEA), estradiol-17β-p-glucuronide (EβG), or vincristine in HEK293 cells engineered to overexpress human (h) OATP1A2 (A), hOATP1C1 (B), mouse (m) MATE1 (C) or hMATE1 (D). Each bar represents mean \pm SD of two independent experiments ($n = 6$), with uptake data normalized to values observed in cells transfected with an empty vector control (VC). (E) and (F) Vincristine-induced mechanical withdrawal threshold reduction showed no significant differences between wild-type mice and MATE1-deficient mice (E), while deficiency of all OATP1A- and OATP1B-type transporters (OATP1A/1B KO) and OATP1A/1B-KO mice with transgenic (tg) overexpression of hOATP1B3 (F) were protected against this phenotype. All mice received a single 1 mg/kg dose of vincristine (n = 10-12 per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars), and statistical analyses were performed using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post hoc test: ***P* < 0.01, compared to baseline values.

Figure S2. Role of OATP1B in vincristine-induced sensory peripheral neurotoxicity. (A) Single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) activity percentage of OATP1B3 over-expressed cell after treated vincristine (n = 20 per group). Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post hoc test: ***P* < 0.01, *****P* < 0.0001, compared to wild-type mice. (B) Schematic overview of vincristine-induced sensory peripheral neurotoxicity: female wild-type mice and OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice received an i.p. injection of 1 mg/kg vincristine or the corresponding vehicle once a week (cumulative dose of 4 mg/kg). Von-Frey tests were performed on day -1, 9, 16, 18, and 23. Thermal hyperalgesia (Hargreaves test) and nerve conduction studies of the sciatic and caudal nerve were measured on days -1 and 23. Tissue samples for morphologic evaluation were obtained on day 24. (C) Vincristine-treated mice developed a slight weight loss over the course of the treatment in both wild-type and OATP1B2- deficient groups. (D) and (E) Mechanical allodynia changes in wild-type mice and OATP1B2(-/-) mice receiving 4 weekly 1 mg/kg doses of vincristine. Normalized mechanical allodynia (E) was expressed as a percentage change relative to baseline values ($n = 6-8$ per group). Statistical analysis was performed using a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post hoc test: ***P* < 0.01, ****P* < 0.001, *****P* < 0.0001, compared with baseline values. (F) and (G) Vincristine- induced mechanical withdrawal threshold reduction showed no significant differences between male and female mice receiving a single 1 mg/kg dose of vincristine (n = 7-9 per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars or symbols) \pm SEM (error bars).

Figure S3. Vincristine does not affect gross motor function regardless of OATP1B2 genotype. (A) Gross motor function of wild-type mice or OATP1B2 deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice at baseline and 1-, 2-, and 3-days post-administration of a single i.p. dose of vincristine (1 mg/kg; $n = 8$ per group) as assessed by an automated ladder test. (B) Open field evaluation of wild-type mice or OATP1B2(-/-) mice at baseline and 1-, 2-, and 3-days post-administration of a single i.p. dose of vincristine (1 mg/kg; $n = 8$ per group) using the mean Basso Mouse Scale for Locomotion (BMS) score. There were no pronounced differences observed in response to vincristine administration in either wild-type mice or OATP1B2(-/-) mice and both groups had an average score of 9, which represents normal locomotor behavior. ns denotes not statistically significant.

Figure S4. Role of OATP1B in vincristine tissue accumulation. (A) Gene expression of OATP1A4 in DRG specimens isolated from untreated wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient $[OATP1B2(-/-)]$ mice (n = 3 per group). (B) Plasma concentration-time curves profile of vincristine (1 mg/kg) in wild-type mice or OATP1A/1B-deficient mice (n = 7-14 per group). Accumulation of vincristine in liver (C) and DRG (D), expressed as tissue to plasma AUC ratio of vincristine (1 mg/kg) in wild-type mice or OATP1B2(-/-) mice (n = 3 per group). Statistical analysis was performed using unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: **P* < 0.05, compared to wild-type values. All data presented represent the mean (bars or symbols) \pm SEM (error bars). Representative MALDI mass spectrometry imaging of vincristine distribution in the DRG (L4 and L5) were obtained at 30 min and indicate fragment segmentation of the images (E) and distribution of vincristine in different regions of the DRG of wild-type mice and OATP1B2(- /-) mice. The signal corresponding to vincristine was detected at 825.46 *m/z*. (G) Intensity boxes indicate that higher average signals were detected in wild-type mice compared OATP1B2(-/-) mice.

Figure S5. Role of OATP1B2 in microtubule targeting agents-induced peripheral neurotoxicity. Mechanical allodynia in wild-type mice and OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice 48 h after a single dose of vinorelbine (11 mg/kg, i.v.), ixabepilone (2 mg/kg, i.v.), eribulin (1.2 mg/kg, i.v.), docetaxel (10 mg/kg, i.v.), paclitaxel formulated in Cremophor EL-ethanol (CrEL-Paclitaxel; 10 mg/kg, i.v.), paclitaxel formulated as an albumin nanoparticle (nab-Paclitaxel; 10 mg/kg, i.v.), and vincristine (1 mg/kg, i.p.) (n = 5-13 per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars), and paw sensitivity is expressed as a percentage over baseline values. Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: **P* < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01, compared to wild-type values.

Figure S6. Time-course of microtubule targeting agents-induced mechanical allodynia. Mechanical allodynia was examined after single doses of vincristine (A), vinorelbine (B), eribulin (C), docetaxel (D), and ixabepilone (E) in wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice (n = 5-13 per group). Paw sensitivity is expressed as a percentage over baseline values. Statistical analysis was performed using a two-way ANOVA with Bonferroni's post hoc test: ***P* < 0.01, ****P* < 0.001, compared to corresponding values in OATP1B2(-/-) mice values. All data presented represent the mean (symbols) \pm SEM (error bars). n.s. denotes not statistically significant.

Figure S7. Identification of nilotinib as an inhibitor of OATP1B-type transporters. (A) Intracellular accumulation of EβG uptake into HEK293 cells overexpressing mouse (m) OATP1B2 or the human (h) OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 transporters. Relative uptake is expressed as percentage change compared with empty vector (VC) controls ($n = 3$ per group). Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: **P* < 0.05, compared to VC. (B) Plasma concentration of nilotinib (25 mg/kg or 100 mg/kg, 1.5 h post-treatment) in wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient $[OATP1B2(-/-)]$ mice $(n = 3 \text{ per group})$. (C) Levels of nilotinib (25 mg/kg or 100 mg/kg, 1.5 h posttreatment) in livers of wild-type mice or OATP1B2(-/-) mice (n = 3 per group). All data presented represent the mean (bars or horizontal lines) \pm SEM (error bars). n.s. denotes not statistically significant.

Figure S8. Influence of nilotinib administration on phosphorylation of LYN kinase in DRG. Levels of LYN kinase protein (LYN (#2796) and Phospho-LYN (#2731), Cell Signaling Technology) (A) and protein quantification (B) were evaluated in DRG samples from untreated, vehicle treated, or nilotinib treated (100 mg/kg; p.o.) wild-type mice, using specific antibodies for phospho-LYN and total LYN (n = 3 per group). (C) Mechanical allodynia in wild-type mice and LYN-deficient [LYN(-/-)] mice 24 h after a single dose of vincristine (1 mg/kg, i.p.) (n = 8-10 per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars), and paw sensitivity is expressed as a percentage over baseline values. Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: ****P* < 0.001.

Figure S9. Effect of nilotinib-vincristine combination treatment on weight loss in mice. (A)

Schematic overview of evaluation of the combinatorial treatment strategy and endpoint considerations over time. (B) Concurrent administration of nilotinib did not influence weight loss over time in wild-type mice and OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice. All mice received weekly i.p. injections of vincristine (1 mg/kg) preceded by vehicle (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, HPMC) or nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o.)

Figure S10. Inhibition of OATP1B2 protects against mechanical allodynia changes in mice receiving vincristine. (A) Absolute mechanical allodynia reading in wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice receiving weekly i.p. injections of vincristine (1 mg/kg) and were pre-treated with vehicle alone (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, HPMC) or nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o) 30-min prior to each vincristine dose. (B) Normalized mechanical allodynia readings, expressed as percentage change relative to baseline values (n = 6-7 per group). *P* < 0.05 compared to baseline values. (C) Influence of varying nilotinib doses (10, 25, or 100 mg/kg) and rifampin (20 mg/kg) on vincristine-induced mechanical allodynia in wild-type mice receiving single i.p. injections of vincristine (1 mg/kg) (n = 4-7 per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars). Statistical analysis was performed using a twoway ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test: **P* < 0.05, ***P* < 0.01, compared with baseline values.

Figure S11. Effect of nilotinib on electrophysiological changes in mice receiving vincristine (VCR). Changes in sciatic nerve maximal action potential amplitudes (A), sciatic nerve conductance velocity (NCV) (B), caudal nerve maximal action potential amplitudes (C), and caudal nerve NCV (D) in wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice receiving weekly i.p. injections of vincristine (1 mg/kg). Mice were pre-treated with vehicle (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose) or nilotinib (Nilo; 100 mg/kg; p.o.) 30 min before every vincristine injection and representative electrophysiological readings are shown in panel (E) . Data are expressed as percentage change relative to baseline values ($n = 6-8$ per group). Data presented represent the mean (horizontal lines) \pm SEM (error bars). Statistical analysis was performed using a two-way ANOVA with Tukey's post hoc test: ****P* < 0.001, *****P* < 0.0001.

Figure S12. Protective effect of nilotinib on morphologic changes in the DRG of mice receiving vincristine. (A) Light microscopy analysis of the DRG of wild-type mice and OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice receiving weekly i.p. injections of vincristine at a dose of 1 mg/kg (cumulative dose 4 mg/kg). Mice were pre-treated with vehicle (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose) or nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o.) 30 min before every vincristine injection. After 4 weeks, vincristine-induced sensory neuron loss (circle) was evident in wild-type mice. Nilotinib pre-treatment and OATP1B2-deficiency protected against these morphologic changes. Magnification = $20x$. Scale bar = 50 µm. (B) Vincristine-induced reduction in cell area in DRG specimens and prevention bynilotinib pre-treatment or OATP1B2 deficiency ($n = 3$ per group). Data presented represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars). Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post hoc test: **P* < 0.05.

Figure S13. Protective effect of nilotinib on morphologic changes of the caudal nerve in mice receiving vincristine. Light microscopy analysis of the caudal nerve of wild-type mice and OATP1B2 deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice receiving weekly i.p. injections of vincristine at a dose of 1 mg/kg (cumulative dose 4 mg/kg). Mice were pre-treated with vehicle (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose) or nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o.) 30 min before every vincristine injection. After 4 weeks, vincristine-induced axonopathy (arrow) and fiber loss (circle) were evident in wild-type mice, and nilotinib pre-treatment or OATP1B2 deficiency protected against these morphologic changes. Magnification = $63x$. Scale bar = 20 μ m.

Figure S14. Protective effect of nilotinib on morphologic changes of the sciatic nerve in mice receiving vincristine. G-ratio (estimated by dividing the axon diameter by the myelinated fiber diameter) was calculated as a measure of myelination and axonal integrity of sciatic nerves. Vincristine induced a reduction in the frequency of the largest fibers (G-ratio = 0.7), and an increasing of the frequency of the smallest fibers (G-ratio = 0.5) in wild-type mice receiving weekly i.p. injections of vincristine at a dose of 1 mg/kg (cumulative dose 4 mg/kg), and pre-treatment of nilotinib or OATP1B2 deficiency [OATP1B2(-/-)] protected against these morphologic changes ($n = 3$ per group). Data presented represent the mean.

Figure S15. Nilotinib does not influence vincristine uptake into L1210 and P388D1 murine

leukemia cells. (A) Gene expression of the OATP1B2 gene in L1210 and P388D1 murine leukemia cells (n = 3 per group). (B) Uptake of vincristine (1 μM, 30 min incubation) in L1210 and P388D1 murine leukemia cells in the presence or absence of nilotinib (10 μM) (n = 6 per group). Uptake data are normalized to total protein levels. All data presented represent the mean $(bars) \pm SEM$ (error bars).

Figure S16. Identification of α-tocopherol as an endogenous neuronal biomarker of OATP1B-type transport. (A) Intracellular accumulation of α-tocopherol into HEK293 cells overexpressing human (h) OATP1B1 or OATP1B3. Relative uptake is expressed as percentage change compared with empty vector controls (VC) (n = 3-6 per group). Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: ***P* < 0.01, compared to vector control. α-tocopherol mediated inhibition of estradiol-17β-p-glucuronide (EβG) (B) and vincristine (C) uptake in HEK293 cells transfected with an empty vector (VC), mouse OATP1B2, OATP1B1, or OATP1B3. Uptake is expressed as percentage change compared with VC ($n = 3$ -6 per group). Statistical analysis was performed using an unpaired two-sided Student's *t* test with Welch's correction: **P* < 0.05, compared with vehicle values. (D) Relative plasma level and DRG-to-plasma concentration ratio of α-tocopherol in wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient [OATP1B2(-/-)] mice 2 h after the administration of vehicle control (hydroxypropyl methylcellulose), rifampin (20 mg/kg; i.p.) or nilotinib (100 mg/kg; p.o.). Data are normalized to baseline levels in wild-type mice ($n = 3$ per group) and represent the mean (bars) \pm SEM (error bars). Statistical analysis was performed using one-way ANOVA with Dunnett's post hoc test: **P* < 0.05.

Table S1. Pharmacokinetic parameters of vincristine in mice.

 a Data represent mean \pm SEM.

Abbreviations: Cmax, peak plasma concentration; AUC0-4h, area under the plasma concentration-time curve between time zero and 4 hours; N, number of mice per group.

Table S2. Summary of drugs, formulations, treatment schedules, doses and test time points of MTAsinduced mechanical allodynia by Von Frey test.

a Data represent mean ± SEM.

Abbreviations: Cmax, peak plasma concentration; AUC0-4h, area under the plasma concentration-time curve between time zero and 4 hours; N, number of mice per group.

Sample Name	OATP1B1 (CT value)	OATP1B3 (CT value)	GAPDH (CT value)
CCRF	37.4	Undetermined	19.7
CCRF	37.8	41.4	19.7
CCRF	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.5
MOLT4	37.6	Undetermined	19.1
MOLT4	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.0
MOLT4	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.1
RS411	38.1	Undetermined	18.9
RS411	39.2	Undetermined	18.9
RS411	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.0
HL60	Undetermined	Undetermined	17.6
HL60	37.9	Undetermined	17.6
HL60	38.7	Undetermined	17.5
K562	37.8	Undetermined	19.2
K562	39.2	Undetermined	19.2
K562	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.2
THP1	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.5
THP1	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.6
THP1	Undetermined	Undetermined	19.9
hOATP1B1 cell	22.6	Undetermined	19.0
hOATP1B1 cell	22.6	Undetermined	19.0
hOATP1B1 cell	22.3	Undetermined	19.1
hOATP1B3 cell	Undetermined	20.1	18.8
hOATP1B3 cell	Undetermined	20.0	18.8
hOATP1B3 cell	Undetermined	20.0	18.8

Table S4. Expression of OATP1B1 and OATP1B3 genes in human leukemia cells**.**

Table S5. Genetic variants in OATP1B3 associated with vincristine induced peripheral neuropathy in children with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.*

*A total of 669 variants with minor allele frequency >3% within 10k bps flanking of the OATP1B3 gene *SLCO1B3* were tested for association between genotypes and vincristine-induced peripheral neurotoxicity in the cohort of 321 pediatric patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (17). Shown are singlenucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) with *P* < 0.05 without adjusting for multiple testing. Permutation teste were used to generate adjusted *P*-values for multiple testing.

Table S6. Differentially circulating endogenous metabolites in untreated plasma of wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient (KO) mice. Names in red indicate previously identified putative OATP1B-type transport biomarkers (18). Positive fold changes indicate higher plasma levels in OATP1B2-deficient mice. Statistical analysis was performed using Welch's two-sample *t*-test.

Table S7. Differentially detected endogenous metabolites in DRG samples of untreated wild-type mice or OATP1B2-deficient (KO) mice. Names in red indicate previously reported putative OATP1B-type transport biomarkers (18). Negative fold change indicates lower levels in DRG of OATP1B2-deficient mice. Statistical analysis was performed using Welch's two-sample *t*-test.

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