

OncoTherapy Science, Inc.

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Publication of a paper describing the antitumor effect of MELK inhibitor OTS167
on ovarian cancer

OncoTherapy Science, Inc. (President & CEO: Jae-Hyun Park; hereinafter, “OncoTherapy”) today announces that an article that described the oncogenic properties of MELK in ovarian cancer and the inhibitory activities of a small molecule MELK inhibitor OTS167 against ovarian cancer cell growth *ex vivo* has been published in *Journal of Gynecologic Oncology*.

In this paper, (1) the prognostic significance of MELK expression in ovarian cancer, and (2) the anti-proliferative effect of OTS167 on ovarian cancer cells are reported. MELK mRNA expression was significantly higher in ovarian cancer than in normal ovary tissues, and high MELK mRNA expression was observed in patients with advanced stage, positive ascites cytology and residual tumor size. Furthermore, patients with high MELK mRNA expression showed shorter progression-free survival. OTS167 showed significant growth inhibitory effect against patient-derived ovarian cancer cells, regardless of their tumor locations, histologic subtypes and stages.

These results suggest the clinical potential of MELK as both a prognostic marker and a therapeutic target for ovarian cancer using clinical ovarian cancer samples, and also imply therapeutic potential of OTS167 as a new treatment option in ovarian cancer.

The paper has been published online in *Journal of Gynecologic Oncology*.

<https://eigo.org/Synapse/Data/PDFData/1114JGO/jgo-31-e93.pdf>