

Quantitative comparison of tissue oxygen and motexafin lutetium uptake by *ex vivo* and noninvasive *in vivo* techniques in patients with intraperitoneal carcinomatosis

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1 Introduction

The use of photodynamic therapy (PDT) as an adjuvant therapy to treat intraperitoneal (IP) carcinomatosis following surgical debulking is under active investigation.¹⁻³ However,

Abstract. Near-infrared diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) has been used to noninvasively monitor optical properties during photodynamic therapy (PDT). This technique has been extensively validated in tissue phantoms; however, validation in patients has been limited. This pilot study compares blood oxygenation and photosensitizer tissue uptake measured by multiwavelength DRS with *ex vivo* assays of the hypoxia marker, 2-(2-nitroimida-zol-1[H]-yl)-N-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl)acetamide (EF5), and the photosensitizer (motexafin lutetium, MLu) from tissues at the same tumor site of three tumors in two patients with intra-abdominal cancers. Similar *in vivo* and *ex vivo* measurements of MLu concentration are carried out in murine radiation-induced fibrosarcoma (RIF) tumors ($n=9$). The selection of optimal DRS wavelength range and source-detector separations is discussed and implemented, and the association between *in vivo* and *ex vivo* measurements is examined. The results demonstrate a negative correlation between blood oxygen saturation (StO_2) and EF5 binding, consistent with published relationships between EF5 binding and electrode measured pO_2 , and between electrode measured pO_2 and StO_2 . A tight correspondence is observed between *in vivo* DRS and *ex vivo* measured MLu concentration in the RIF tumors; similar data are positively correlated in the human intraperitoneal tumors. These results further demonstrate the potential of *in vivo* DRS measurements in clinical PDT. © 2007 Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers. [DOI: 10.1117/1.2743082]

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deficiencies in knowledge of crucial PDT parameters *in situ* such as tissue oxygenation, photosensitizer uptake, and treatment light distribution make optimization of treatment parameters difficult.^{1,3}

Common clinical approaches for monitoring tissue oxygen level and photosensitizer uptake include *in vivo* techniques based on Eppendorf pO_2 electrodes⁴⁻⁷ and fluorescence

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spectroscopy,^{8–12} as well as *ex vivo* techniques such as immunohistochemistry, fluorescence imaging, and spectroscopy of excised fresh and frozen tissues. The hypoxia marker, 2-(2-nitroimidazol-1[H]-yl)-N-(2,2,3,3,3-pentafluoropropyl)acetamide (EF5), has been used clinically to detect hypoxia in tumor tissues from patients with intraperitoneal carcinomatosis,¹³ brain tumors,^{14,15} soft tissue extremity sarcomas,¹⁶ squamous cell carcinomas,¹⁷ and other tumors.¹⁸ Quantitative fluorescence immunohistochemical analysis of EF5 adducts in tumors has, in turn, been demonstrated to correlate with radiation resistance preclinically,¹⁹ and with tumor necrosis and cytokine levels in human tumors.^{15,18,20}

Photosensitizer fluorescence is sometimes used for detection of photosensitizer concentration in tissues *ex vivo*^{13,21,22} and *in vivo*.^{9–12,23,24} *Ex vivo* measurements can provide absolute values of photosensitizer concentration, which enable the determination of photosensitizer uptake in individual patients and in specific tissue types.¹³ Conversely, although *in vivo* photosensitizer fluorescence measurements have been correlated with PDT-induced depth of necrosis in animal tissues,²⁵ typically only relative values of photosensitizer concentration are obtained unless additional calibration studies are performed.

The sensitivity of optical methods to tissue absorption provides access to physiological parameters such as blood oxygen saturation, hemoglobin concentration, water and lipid content, and drug concentration.²⁶ Diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS), for example, has been used noninvasively to measure *in vivo* PDT dosimetry parameters such as tissue blood oxygenation, hemoglobin concentration, and photosensitizer concentration in animals^{27–29} and in humans.^{30,31} DRS offers fast data acquisition using relatively simple and inexpensive instruments. Moreover, PDT-induced changes in oxygen and blood flow in rabbit and murine tumors, as measured by DRS and other photon migration devices, have been correlated with necrosis²⁷ and are predictive of PDT outcome.^{29,32} To further establish the clinical potential of real-time DRS for noninvasive monitoring of PDT, it is desirable to evaluate the relationship between DRS and the *ex vivo* methods currently used for quantification of two essential PDT dosimetry parameters: tissue oxygenation (or hypoxia) and photosensitizer concentration.

The purpose of this pilot study is to compare *in vivo* DRS-derived tissue oxygenation and photosensitizer concentration data with *ex vivo* assays of the same tissues. We achieve this aim by quantifying and correlating the levels of oxygen and photosensitizer (motexafin lutetium, MLu) in the peritoneal tumors of two patients entered in our PDT phase 1 trial using two *ex vivo* methods in resected tumor tissues (i.e., EF5 binding and MLu fluorescence) and the *in vivo* DRS technique. MLu is a water-soluble second-generation synthetic photoactive drug^{33,34} previously under investigation in a phase 1 clinical trial of prostate PDT.^{31,35} For comparison, a second *in-vivo/ex-vivo* correlation study of MLu concentration was also performed in a radiation-induced fibrosarcoma (RIF) murine tumor model.

Finally, in carrying out this investigation, we developed and implemented a prescription for determination of an optimal range of DRS source-detector separations and wavelengths for analysis of clinical data. We also evaluated bound-

ary “errors” arising from the RIF murine tumor surface, using finite element (FEM) simulations.

2 Materials and Methods

2.1 Human Subjects and Drugs Administered

Tumor tissue samples were selected from two patients for noninvasive *in vivo* DRS measurements, and *ex vivo* EF5 analysis and MLu fluorescence studies. Two patients were diagnosed with recurrent intra-abdominal mesothelioma [Patient 1 (Pt 1)] and a gastrointestinal stromal tumor [Patient 2 (Pt 2)], respectively. DRS measurements were performed on peritoneal metastases. All patients signed a study-specific informed consent and all experimental procedures were approved by the Institutional Review Board of the University of Pennsylvania and the Clinical Trials Scientific Review and Monitoring committee of the University of Pennsylvania Cancer Center. EF5 (Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, National Cancer Institute) was administered intravenously at a dose of 21 mg/kg via a peripheral intravenous catheter 24 h before surgical debulking. MLu (manufactured by Pharmacy-clics, Incorporated, Sunnyvale, California, and supplied by the Cancer Therapy Evaluation Program, National Cancer Institute) was administered intravenously 3 h before surgical debulking at a dose of 1 mg/kg.

Tumor tissue samples for EF5 binding and MLu fluorescence were removed at surgery immediately after *in vivo* DRS measurements were obtained. Half of each resected tissue sample was labeled, placed in a specimen container, protected from light, and frozen at –80°C for later MLu fluorescence measurement. The remainder was placed in iced Excell 610 media (JRH Biosciences, Lenoka, Kansas) with 15% fetal calf serum and frozen at –80°C in Tissue Tek OCT (Sakura Finetek USA, Incorporated, Torrance, California) for later EF5 binding assessment.

The tumors were spread over the peritoneum, thus the size of the tumor before excision cannot be described. The excised tissues were 8 × 8.5 × 8.5/5.5 × 9 × 8 mm (Pt 1, site 1, two samples), 32 × 35 × 10 mm (Pt 2, site 1, one sample), and 23 × 19 × 6 mm (Pt 2, site 2, one sample). Two adjacent tumor samples were excised from patient 1. The optical measurement was performed over the area of these two tumor samples before excision. For patient 1, the results of the optical measurement were compared with averaged results derived from both *ex vivo* measurements of the excised tumor samples.

2.2 Animal Tumor Model for Motexafin Lutetium Concentration Validation

Radiation-induced fibrosarcoma (RIF) tumors were propagated on the shoulders of C3H mice (Taconic, Germantown, New York) by the intradermal injection of 3 × 10⁵ cells³⁶ approximately one week before MLu administration. At the time of the study, tumor size was ~4 to 7 mm in diameter, with a maximum volume of ~197 mm³ (tumor volume=diameter × width² × π/6). Animal fur over the tumor area was removed with a shaver and a depilatory (Nair). MLu was administered via tail vein at 2.5, 5, or 10 mg/kg in three animals per dose at ~3 h before the DRS measure-

ments. During DRS measurements, animals were maintained under anesthesia via inhalation of isoflurane through a nosecone.

2.3 Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy

Two continuous wave (cw), white light diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) systems were used to measure tissue optical and physiological properties in the spectral range of ~ 600 to 800 nm, as described previously.³⁰ Briefly, one system was composed of a 250-W quartz tungsten halogen lamp, a hand-held surface contact fiber optic probe, a spectrograph (SP-150, Acton Research, Acton, Massachusetts), and a liquid nitrogen cooled charge-coupled device (CCD) camera (LN/CCD-1100-PF/UV, Roper Scientific, Trenton, New Jersey). The other DRS system was similar, except that the CCD was thermoelectrically cooled and integrated with the spectrograph into a single unit (INS-150-252F, Roper Scientific, Trenton, New Jersey). The fiber optic probe consisted of a single source and ten detection fibers (each with a core diameter of $400\ \mu\text{m}$) spaced nonuniformly. The source-detector separations ρ were all less than 1 cm ($\rho=0.6, 1.2, 1.8, 2.4, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8$, and $10\ \text{mm}$). Our analysis employed a multiwavelength algorithm to simultaneously fit all data in the optimal wavelength range and using optimal source-detector separations. The fits compared data to an analytical solution of the photon diffusion equation (P1 approximation) with semi-infinite boundary conditions.³⁷⁻⁴⁰

The tissue optical properties, i.e., the reduced scattering (μ'_s) and absorption (μ_a) coefficients, were assumed to have the form: $\mu'_s=A(\lambda/\lambda_0)^{-B}$ and $\mu_a=\sum c_i \varepsilon_i(\lambda)$, respectively. Here λ is the light wavelength in nanometers, λ_0 is chosen to be 1 nm so that A has the same units as μ'_s (i.e., cm^{-1}), and c_i and ε_i are the concentration and extinction coefficient of the i 'th chromophore, respectively. The primary chromophores in our analysis were oxyhemoglobin (HbO_2), deoxyhemoglobin (Hb), MLu, and water. The extinction coefficients of HbO_2 , Hb, and water were obtained from the literature,⁴¹ and the extinction coefficient of MLu was obtained by direct spectroscopic measurement in our laboratory (using a grating spectrometer from Ocean Optics, Dunedin, Florida). A nonlinearly constrained optimization function, FMINCON implemented in MATLAB (The MathWorks, Incorporated, Natick, Massachusetts), was used to globally fit the data. The multiwavelength algorithm extracts tissue scattering parameters (A and B) and chromophore concentrations (c_{MLu} , c_{water} , c_{HbO_2} , and c_{Hb}). MLu concentration (c_{MLu}) was reported in ng/mg. Tissue total hemoglobin concentration (THC) and blood oxygen saturation (StO_2) were calculated from these quantities (e.g., $\text{THC}=c_{\text{HbO}_2}+c_{\text{Hb}}$, $\text{StO}_2=c_{\text{HbO}_2}/\text{THC}$).

Signals from the shortest source-detector separation distances ($\sim 0.6\ \text{mm}$) were not used due to sporadic light leakage from the source fiber and to limitations of the photon diffusion model at small source-detector separation distances ($<1\ \text{mm}$). Between one and four DRS measurements were taken from each IP patient; more measurements could not be taken due to time constraints in the operating room. The optimal source-detector separations and wavelength ranges for calculation of patient physiological properties (see Materials and Methods in Sec. 2) were determined after the operation.

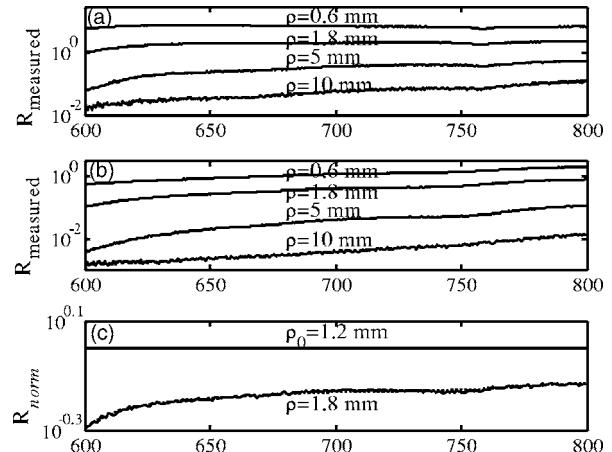


Fig. 1 Representative reflectance spectra R_{measured} of (a) an IP patient tumor and (b) a RIF tumor. The reflectance data R_{measured} are calibrated; it is obtained by dividing the dark-corrected reflectance spectra from tissue sample by the dark-corrected reflectance spectra from an integrated sphere. Normalized reflectance spectra (R_{norm}) taken from the RIF tumor reflectance spectra in (b) is plotted (—) for two separations (ρ) (c). The fit is based on analogous normalization of calculated spectra $R_{\text{calculated}}$ (----). See text for more details.

For each RIF tumor, 7 to 10 DRS measurements were taken over 7 to 10 tumor sites. Furthermore, due to the hemispheric tumor geometry (with minimal diameter $\sim 4\ \text{mm}$), the signals at the larger source-detector separations were noisy and prone to systematic error. To be consistent for all nine animals, only signals from the detection fibers located 1.2 and $1.8\ \text{mm}$ from the source fiber were used to determine the optical properties and chromophore concentrations in the wavelength range of 600 to 800 nm. The data acquisition time was 100 ms per measurement.

Figures 1(a) and 1(b) depict representative reflectance spectra R_{measured} of an IP patient tumor [Fig. 1(a)] and a RIF tumor implanted on the mouse [Fig. 1(b)]. Note that corrections for the systematic spectral features of the source and detection system are accounted for in R_{measured} ; i.e., after dark-count background subtraction, the raw spectra were divided by the spectrum (i.e., the dark-count subtracted spectrum) taken during a calibration run using an integrating sphere.^{28,30}

Then a source-detector-separation normalized reflectance R_{norm} is calculated. R_{norm} divides spectra taken at separation ρ by that taken at a single separation distance, typically the minimum separation (ρ_0),³⁰ i.e.,

$$R(\rho, \lambda)_{\text{norm}} \equiv R_{\text{measured}}(\rho, \lambda)/R_{\text{measured}}(\rho_0, \lambda). \quad (1)$$

For example, Fig. 1(c) shows R_{norm} (and a fit to R_{norm}) for data derived from a RIF tumor; the top curve is $R_{\text{norm}}(\rho_0 = 1.2\ \text{mm}, \lambda)$ and the second curve is $R_{\text{norm}}(\rho = 1.8\ \text{mm}, \lambda)$. Similarly, Fig. 2 shows R_{norm} from IP patients (see later text). Note that in fitting the data, we compute a similar R_{norm} using calculated reflectance spectra $R_{\text{calculated}}(\rho, \lambda)$. These calculated spectra employ analytical solutions of the diffusion equation with semi-infinite boundary conditions.³⁷⁻⁴⁰

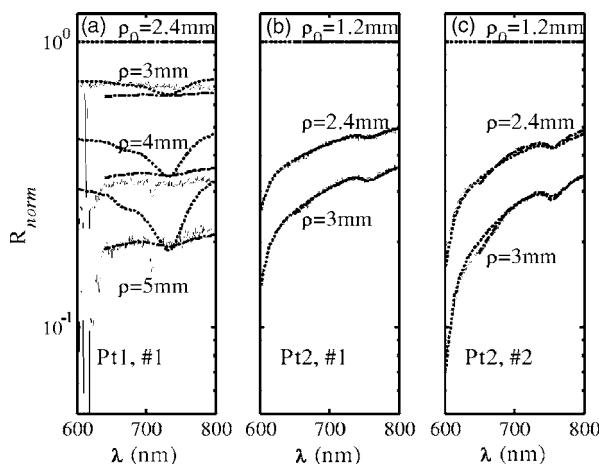


Fig. 2 The normalized reflectance spectra (R_{norm}) plotted (—) at the optimal separations (ρ) for three tumor tissues: (a) patient 1 (Pt 1, tissue 1), (b) patient 2 (Pt 2, tissue 1), and (c) patient 2 (Pt 2, tissue 2). The fits based on $R_{calculated}(\rho)$ using the wavelength range between 600 and 800 nm (----), and using the wavelength range between 640/650 and 800 nm (-----) were plotted in the same figure to compare R_{norm} . The noisy signals at $\lambda \sim 600$ nm in patient 1 (Pt 1, tissue 1) significantly distorted the fitted results when we used 600 to 800 nm for reconstruction. The fits were improved when we used 640/650 to 800 nm for reconstruction (Pt 1, tissue 1 and Pt 2, tissue 2). The fitted results in patient 2 (tissue 1) were insensitive to the wavelength range used for reconstruction.

2.4 2-(2-Nitroimida-Zol-1[H]-yl)-N-(2,2,3,3,3-Pentafluoropropyl)Acetamide Binding

Microscopic images of EF5 binding were obtained for each tissue section using methods previously described.⁴² In brief, 10- μ m frozen tumor sections were fixed in 4% paraformaldehyde, blocked, and stained with EF5 monoclonal antibody (ELK3-51) conjugated to Cy3 dye (regular stain). Multiple regions of the specimen, separated by at least 0.5 mm, were examined. In addition to the standard staining protocol, two tissue sections were stained without antibody to assess endogenous tissue fluorescence. A representative section from each patient was also stained with the standard anti-EF5 antibody mixed with an excess of authentic EF5 drug (0.5 mM). This control is termed “competed stain.” The excess drug binds to all specific sites on the antibody and prevents specific binding to tissue adducts. Accordingly, sections that received competed stain are used as an indication of nonspecific antibody binding. The competed stain values were subtracted from the absolute fluorescence values for the regular stain to obtain a final evaluation of EF5 binding. Additionally, *in vitro* studies were performed to determine the maximum binding level of each tissue.^{14,15} This value is referred to as “cube reference binding” (CRB). The endpoint value used for EF5 binding as a surrogate for hypoxia is percent reference binding, which is the ratio of the *in situ* binding to the CRB, multiplied by 100. The final reported value is corrected for drug exposure,⁴³ camera exposure, and tissue thickness.¹⁷ This final value is percent maximum binding and is reported on a scale of 0 to 100. 1% of maximum binding represents physiologic conditions, which we define as $>10\%$ oxygen; 3% of maximum binding represents modestly hypoxic conditions, which we define as approximately 2.5% oxygen; 10% of maximum binding rep-

resents moderately hypoxic conditions, which we define as 0.5% oxygen; 30% of maximum binding represents severe hypoxia, which we define as 0.1% oxygen; and 100% of maximum binding represents anoxia. Finally, a single EF5 value was reported for each tissue section by averaging the pixels of the EF5 binding microscope image over its entire field of view of approximately 2.1×1.7 mm. This number was used for comparison to DRS-determined blood oxygenation.

2.5 Ex Vivo Motexafin Lutetium Fluorescence

MLu was extracted from frozen samples of human or murine tissues using a procedure based on a previous report.⁴⁴ Tissues were thawed to room temperature, weighed, and divided into samples of ~ 50 mg (macro) or ~ 10 mg (micro). Samples were homogenized (Polytron 1200) in 1000- μ l (macro) or 400- μ l (micro) phosphate buffer (24 mM, pH 7.5) and mixed with chloroform and methanol, each at a volume equivalent to the phosphate buffer. Samples were centrifuged (3500 rpm, 15 min), the organic layer was collected, and 600 μ l (macro) or 200 μ l (micro) was transferred to a cuvette. Fluorescence was measured by a spectrofluorometer (FluoroMax-3, Jobin Yvon, Incorporated, Edison, New Jersey) over an emission scan range from 650 to 850 nm. The excitation wavelength was $\lambda_{ex}=474$ nm and the peak MLu emission was at λ_{em} of 740 nm. MLu concentration in the tissue was calculated based on the increase in fluorescence resulting from the addition of a known amount of MLu to each sample after its initial reading. Data are presented as ng of MLu per mg of tissue.

2.6 Clinical Data Analysis: Selection Criteria for Fitting Optimization

In this pilot study, we selected optimal source-detector separations based on the point at which fitting errors (see definition later) increased by a factor of 2. Thus we chose $\rho=2.4, 3, 4$, and 5 mm for patient 1 (tissue 1) and $\rho=1.2, 2.4$, and 3 mm for patient 2 (tissues 1 and 2).

Our choice of wavelength range was slightly more complex. In our previous publications,²⁸⁻³⁰ we empirically determined that the wavelength range from ~ 600 to 800 nm was optimal for determination of tissue optical and physiological properties. However, in the current clinical study we experienced difficulty determining tissue oxygenation using this wavelength range. These difficulties are possibly due to poor signal-to-noise ratio, to limitations of the diffusion model in regions of high tissue absorption, to tissue surface homogeneity, or to uncontrolled variations in the operating room (OR). Figure 2 depicts the normalized reflectance (R_{norm}) in the spectral range between 600 and 800 nm. Also shown are the fits based on $R_{calculated}(\rho, \lambda)$ using the wavelength range between 600 and 800 nm (dashed line), and using the wavelength range between 640/650 nm (explained next) and 800 nm (dash-dot line).

From Fig. 2 we see that the chosen wavelength range affects the fitting results. In patient 1 (Pt 1, tissue 1), the noisy signals at $\lambda \sim 600$ nm significantly compromise the fitting (dash line). In patient 2, however, the fitted results using two different wavelength ranges (600 to 800 nm versus 650 to 800 nm) showed no difference for bulk tissue 1 and only a small difference at ~ 650 nm for bulk tissue 2.

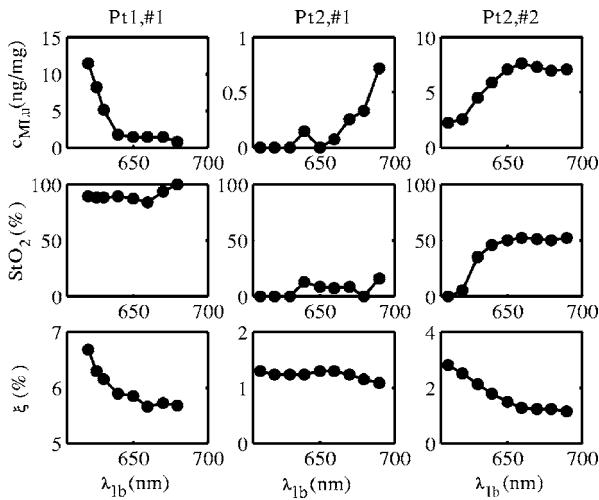


Fig. 3 The reconstructed StO_2 (%), c_{MLu} , and fitting error (%) are plotted versus λ_{lb} corresponding to the DRS measurements [in Figs. 2(a)–2(c)], in patients 1 (tissue 1) and 2 (tissues 1 and 2). The reconstruction was preformed using different fitting wavelength ranges from λ_{lb} to λ_{ub} , where λ_{lb} varied from 610 to 690 nm and $\lambda_{ub}=800$ nm. c_{MLu} reached a minimum, then stabilized at $\lambda_{lb}\sim 650$ nm in patient 1 (tissue 1) and patient 2 (tissue 1). StO_2 did not vary much while λ_{lb} was varied in patient 1, but stabilized at $\lambda_{lb}\sim 650$ nm in patient 2 (tissue 2). In patient 2 (tissue 1), StO_2 and c_{MLu} are insensitive to the change of λ_{lb} .

To select the optimal wavelength range, we examined extracted tissue oxygenation (StO_2 in percent), MLu concentration (c_{MLu} in ng/mg), and fitting error (in percent) using different fitting wavelength ranges from λ_{lb} to $\lambda_{ub}=800$ nm, where λ_{lb} varied from 610 to 690 nm (lb is lower bound and ub =upper bound). In our previous studies,³⁰ we have defined a fitting error as $\epsilon = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (R_{measured} - R_{calculated})^2}{N}}$, where

$$\epsilon^2 = \sum_{\rho} \sum_{\lambda} \left| \frac{R_{measured}(\rho, \lambda)}{R_{measured}(\rho = \rho_0, \lambda)} - \frac{R_{calculated}(\rho, \lambda)}{R_{calculated}(\rho = \rho_0, \lambda)} \right|^2. \quad (2)$$

Figure 3 plots the extracted StO_2 (%), c_{MLu} , and (%) versus λ_{lb} for the DRS measurements [in Figs. 2(a)–2(c)] of patients 1 (tissue 1) and 2 (tissues 1 and 2). Our general plan was to choose the wavelength range that minimizes ϵ and stabilizes the derived parameters. Notice that c_{MLu} reached a minimum and then stabilized at $\lambda_{lb}\sim 650$ nm in patient 1 (tissue 1) and patient 2 (tissue 2). StO_2 did not change much, while λ_{lb} in patient 1 was varied, but stabilized at $\lambda_{lb}\sim 650$ nm in patient 2 (tissue 2). In patient 2 (tissue 1), StO_2 and c_{MLu} are insensitive to λ_{lb} changes. This insensitivity is not surprising, because good fits were achieved across the entire wavelength range of 600 to 800 nm for this tumor sample (Fig. 2). c_{MLu} reached a maximum then stabilized in patient 2 (tissue 2), but was not as stable in patient 2 (tissue 1). In assigning c_{MLu} for patient 2 (tissue 1), we somewhat arbitrarily used its value at 650 nm, wherein patient 2 (tissue 2) stabilized.

2.7 Finite Element Method

To explore the role of tumor shape in affecting derived optical properties, we developed a finite element solver. The in-house

finite element solver was written in MatLab to numerically solve the photon diffusion equation.⁴⁵ An isotropic point source of light was assumed to be located a distance $1/\mu'_s$ below the source at the air-tissue interface. Robin boundary conditions were used on all boundaries, accounting for the refractive index mismatch at diffuse/nondiffuse interfaces. We used software called GiD (see Ref. 46) to generate an unstructured tetrahedral mesh with varying element size. The element size, defined as the average length of six sides of tetrahedron, was set to be ~ 0.1 mm near source and detector positions, and was gradually increased to ~ 1 mm for the rest of the tumor volume.

The analytical solution of the photon diffusion equation for cw reflectance from a semi-infinite turbid medium with the extrapolated boundary conditions (EBC) has been well described and has been shown to agree with the Monte Carlo simulations in previous studies.³⁸ Here, we validate our FEM by comparing FEM generated reflectance from a $2.4 \times 2.4 \times 1$ -cm³ turbid slab with analytical semi-infinite boundary condition solutions [Ref. 30, Eq. (3)] at multiple source-detector separations used in our clinical data analysis ($\rho = 0.6, 1.2, 1.8, 2.4, 3, 4$, and 5 mm). The slab was big enough to simulate a semi-infinite geometry and contained a scattering medium with the following predetermined optical properties: $A = 1500.2$ cm⁻¹, $B = 0.8278$, $c_{HbO_2} = 33.20$ μM , $c_{Hb} = 67.77$ μM , $c_{MLu} = 3.41$ μM (or ng/mg considering the molecular weight of MLu is approximately 1000), and 90% water. The mesh we used in the FEM contained 11,804 nodes and 60,770 elements. We compared the FEM-simulated and analytically calculated reflectance at four wavelengths—620, 650, 700, and 800 nm—as an example. The corresponding optical properties, calculated based on $\mu'_s(\lambda) = A(\lambda/\lambda_0)^{-B}$ and $\mu_a(\lambda) = \sum c_i \epsilon_i(\lambda)$, were $\mu'_s = 7.32, 7.04, 6.62$, and 5.93 cm⁻¹ and $\mu_a = 0.488, 0.288, 0.186$, and 0.098 cm⁻¹ at $\lambda = 620, 650, 700$, and 800 nm, respectively.

The reflectance generated from FEM simulation closely matched the analytical solution with extrapolated boundary conditions for all the source-detector separation distances except the smallest ($\rho=0.6$ mm), where FEM simulations generated a higher reflectance. The deviation between two models was $\sim 10\%$ at $\rho=1.2$ mm, but became larger (~ 18 to 28%) at $\rho=0.6$ mm. Numerical error was negligible because we used a fine mesh. Different boundary conditions used in the analytical solutions and the FEM model may also induce small errors. The reflectance signal generated by FEM at ρ

1.2 mm was consistently higher than that of the analytical solution at all of four wavelengths, leading us to assume the systematic error between FEM and analytical solution is constant and to introduce a correction factor to account for the inherent discrepancy between two models in the shape simulations discussed next.

2.8 Evaluation of Radiation-Induced Fibrosarcoma Tumor Boundary Effect Using Finite Element Method

A mesh as shown in Fig. 4 was generated for FEM simulation data from a hemispheric-like RIF tumor. The computational volume consisted of a rectangular-shaped base with a hemisphere of 4-mm radius. The top of the hemisphere was truncated to account for the deformation due to the optical probe.

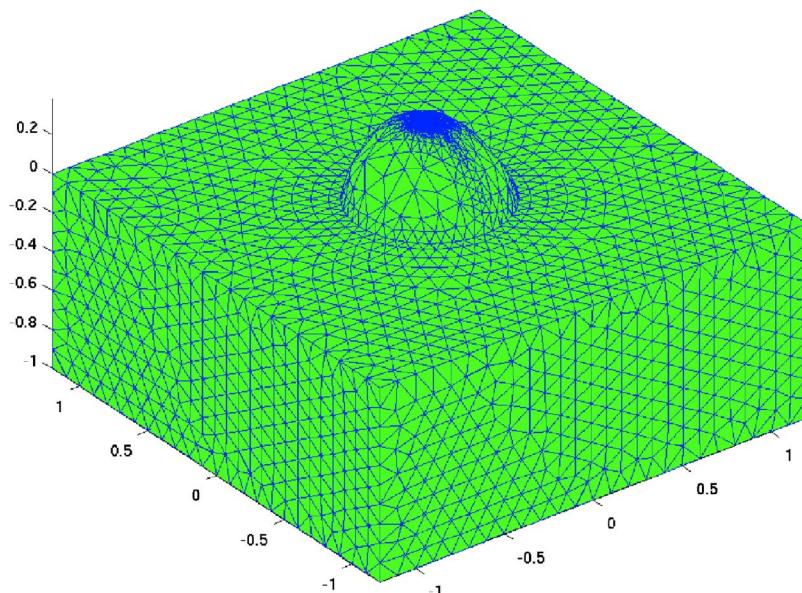


Fig. 4 The mesh, consisting of a hemisphere of 4-mm radius and a rectangular base, was used to model the geometry of a radiation-induced fibrosarcoma (RIF) tumor for finite element method (FEM) simulations. The top of the hemisphere was truncated, leaving a radius of 0.9 mm to accommodate a source and two detector fibers at separations of 1.2 and 1.8 mm. Coordinate dimensions in the figure are in centimeters.

The truncated circular plane had a diameter of 1.8 mm to accommodate a single source and two detector fibers at separations of 1.2 and 1.8 mm that were used in our MLu measurements of RIF tumors.

Because of the systematic error between FEM and analytical solution mentioned before, the correction factor $F(\rho, \lambda)$, derived from the semi-infinite normalized reflectance ratio, was used for evaluation of the RIF tumor boundary shape effect. We first generated reflectance data using the hemispheric mesh and the FEM code. Then we calculated $R(\lambda)_{\text{norm}}$ from the data and corrected it by multiplying $F(\lambda)$ and $R(\lambda)_{\text{norm}}$. We fit to this “simulation data” using the analytical semi-infinite model, and thereby extracted A , B , and c_i of the underlying medium.

3 Results

3.1 Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy Measurement of Motexafin Lutetium Concentration in Radiation-Induced Fibrosarcoma Murine Tumors

Diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) of photosensitizer concentration has been validated in tissue phantoms.³⁰ To evaluate *in vivo* DRS measurements of photosensitizer concentration in the context of the present study, we performed DRS measurements of MLu concentration in nine radiation-induced fibrosarcoma (RIF) murine tumors.

Immediately after DRS measurements, the RIF tumors were excised, frozen, and stored for subsequent *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay. Figure 5 shows the MLu concentration (ng/mg) measured *in vivo* by DRS versus *ex vivo* by spectrofluorometric assay in the same tumors. Due to their small size, each tumor was run as a single sample by *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay, thus no error bars are presented for these data. The error bars for the DRS data points represent the standard error (STE) of 7 to 10 measurements taken randomly

over various sites on the tumor of each animal.

Excellent agreement was found between the DRS measurements and those obtained by the spectrofluorometric assay. The correlation coefficient (r^2) and the slope of the *in vivo* versus *ex vivo* data were derived by linear regression and were 0.87 and 1.10, respectively. In all nine animals, MLu uptake by the RIF tumor was shown to be approximately half of the MLu dosage administered. The administered MLu doses were 2.5, 5, and 10 mg/kg. The mean \pm STE of the *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assays were 1.14 ± 0.17 , 2.65 ± 0.21 , and 4.79 ± 0.20 ng/mg, respectively.

3.2 Ex Vivo Measured 2-(2-Nitroimida-Zol-1[H]-yl)-N-(2,2,3,3,3-Pentafluoropropyl)Acetamide Binding and Motexafin Lutetium Concentration

Table 1 summarizes the results of the pixel-averaged EF5 binding and MLu concentration determined by *ex vivo* assays of three intraperitoneal carcinoma samples from two patients. In patient 1, DRS measurements were performed at a single tumor site with two continuous captures (dual-measurement) before tumor excision. In patient 2, DRS measurements were performed at two different sites (tissue samples 1 and 2). At each site, four randomly selected adjacent locations were measured by DRS. After DRS measurements, each tumor was excised and divided equally for analysis of EF5 binding and MLu concentration.

The EF5 binding in six of the eight tissue sections corresponded to the physiologic range ($\sim 1\%$ binding, corresponding to $pO_2 \sim 76$ mmHg), and the modest hypoxia range ($\sim 3\%$ binding, corresponding to $pO_2 \sim 19$ mmHg), as previously defined.^{13,47} Two out of the eight sections exhibited moderate EF5 binding, ~ 4 to 6% , which falls on the border of the modest and moderate hypoxia ranges ($\sim 10\%$ binding, corresponding to $pO_2 \sim 3.8$ mmHg). In patient 2, two separate tissue sections obtained from either sample 1 or 2 had

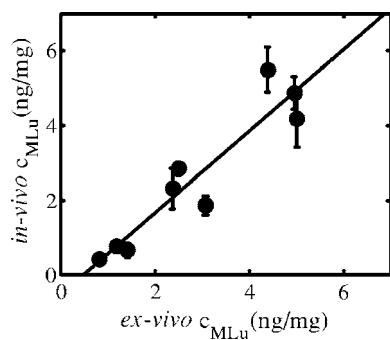


Fig. 5 RIF tumor MLu concentration (c_{MLu} in ng/mg) determined by *in vivo* DRS is plotted versus MLu concentration (c_{MLu} in ng/mg) measured by *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay ($n=9$). The correlation coefficient (r^2) and the slope of the data were 0.87 and 1.10, respectively. The standard error in *in vivo* c_{MLu} ranged from 0.15 to 0.79 ng/mg. There is no error bar plotted for *ex vivo* c_{MLu} , because only one tissue sample was analyzed for each animal.

almost identical EF5 binding (i.e., 4.60% versus 4.66% in sample 1, 1.55 versus 1.45% in sample 2); both of these regions had mild hypoxia. Four sections of the same sample from patient 1 showed a small degree of variation, i.e., from 0.09 to 2.35% EF5 binding; all of these regions were oxic. Regarding the EF5 heterogeneity, our patient 2 microscope images of EF5 binding showed a few small cell clusters (50 μ m in diameter) that were very mildly hypoxic. The patient 1 samples were oxic, and no patterns could be described because of minimal binding.

MLu concentration, measured by spectroscopic assays, ranged from an average of 0.595 ng/mg in bulk tissue 1 of patient 2 to 0.882 ng/mg in bulk tissue 2 of patient 2. Generally, uptake was extremely consistent among samples and patients. The lowest and highest values of drug uptake were found in two samples taken from patient 1 (i.e., 0.24 ng/mg versus 1.299 ng/mg).

3.3 Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy Measurements in Intraperitoneal Carcinoma Patients

DRS data from patients 1 and 2 were analyzed to determine oxygenation and MLu concentration using our selection criteria described in Materials and Methods in Sec. 2. The results are presented in Table 1. In patient 1, two continuous DRS measurements were performed at the same site (i.e., the probe was placed once on the tissue surface and DRS data were taken at two different time points). The so-determined oxygenation and MLu concentration were similar (i.e., $StO_2 = 88.98$ versus 88.88%, $c_{MLu} = 1.76$ versus 2.37 ng/mg). In patient 2, we performed four DRS measurement at four random locations within the “bulk” tissue sample (i.e., four tissue contacts of the fiber optic probe). One measurement was made at each location. Substantial variation in tissue oxygenation was observed in this case. StO_2 ranged from 0 to 54.76% in sample 1 and from 39.83 to 73.40% in sample 2. MLu concentration among locations ranged from 0 to 1.97 ng/mg in sample 1 and from 2.10 to 10.27 ng/mg in sample 2.

Table 1 Oxygenation (hypoxia) and photosensitizer values in human tumors, measured by *in vivo* versus *ex vivo* assays. Tissues were assigned an ID in the operating room at the time that DRS was performed. Oxygen saturation (% StO_2) and MLu concentration (c_{MLu} ng/mg) were extracted from DRS measurement using a diffusion model (see Methods and Materials in Sec. 2). In patient 1(tissue 1), two continuous measurements were taken on the same site (single contact of the probe and tumor surface). In patient 2 (bulk tissues 1 and 2), four different measurements were taken on four adjacent sites (four fresh contacts of the probe and tumor surface).

Patient Number	1	2	2
Bulk tissue ID	1	1	2
Tumor Location	Celiac axis	Left anterior abdominal wall	Pelvis
EF5 binding (percent maximum)	0.4841 1.8758 0.0927 2.3460	4.5959 4.6634 0.473 0.747 1.299 0.705 1.146	1.5475 1.4478
Mean \pm STE	1.200 \pm 0.541	4.630 \pm 0.034	1.498 \pm 0.050
<i>Ex vivo</i>	0.663	0.498	0.916
c_{MLu} (ng/mg)	0.240 0.473 1.299 0.705 1.146	0.540 0.747 0.789 0.829 0.00	0.789 0.940 39.83 73.40
Mean \pm STE	0.754 \pm 0.164	0.595 \pm 0.077	0.882 \pm 0.047
<i>In vivo</i>	88.98	54.76	51.75
DRS% StO_2	88.88	8.17	49.95
c_{MLu} (ng/mg)	2.37 0.00 0.00 0.00	0.00 2.10 10.27	7.05 2.10 10.27
Mean \pm STE	2.06 \pm 0.31	0.49 \pm 0.50	6.52 \pm 1.68

3.4 Correlation of Diffuse Reflectance Spectroscopy and Ex Vivo Measurements

Table 1 lists the mean and standard error (STE) of *in vivo* DRS and *ex vivo* tissue oxygenation (or EF5 binding) and MLu concentration measurements for each tumor tissue. The association between *in vivo* and *ex vivo* measurements from

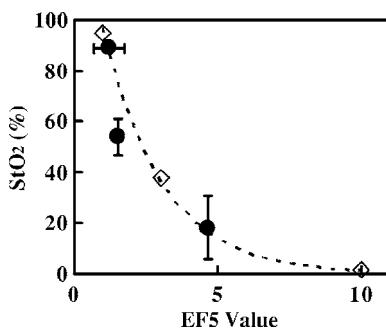


Fig. 6 StO₂ (in percent) determined by diffuse reflectance spectroscopy (DRS) is plotted versus hypoxia marker EF5 binding (percent of maximum value). In patients 1 (data point with StO₂=88.93%) and 2 (data point with StO₂=17.81 and 53.75%), the number of measurements (*n*) was 4 and 2, respectively, for EF5 studies, and 2 and 4, respectively, for StO₂ measurements. The error bars represent the standard error (STE) of the mean. The dashed line shows an empirically fit through three data points (◊) that have been pre-established to represent the association of oxygen partial pressure pO₂ and EF5 binding in an *in vitro* calibration study: pO₂=76, 19, and 3.8 mmHg correspond to 1, 3, and 10% of EF5 cube reference binding. Oxygen partial pressure pO₂ values were converted to StO₂ and plotted in the figure based on a published study,³⁹ where StO₂=pO₂ⁿ/p50ⁿ+pO₂ⁿ, p50=23.4, *n*=2.44. The correlation of StO₂ and EF5 binding agrees well with the established association curve of pO₂ and EF5 binding.

patients 1 and 2 is shown in Figs. 6 and 7. Figure 6 shows tissue oxygenation (StO₂ in percent) measured by DRS versus EF5 binding. Figure 7 shows MLu concentration (*c*_{MLu} in ng/mg) measured by DRS versus MLu concentration measured by the *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay. The error bars on these plots represent the standard error (STE) of the mean. In patients 1 and 2, the number of measurements (*n*) was 4 and 2, respectively, for EF5 studies, and 2 and 4, respectively, for StO₂ measurements. In patients 1 and 2, *n*=6 and 3, respectively, for the *ex vivo* *c*_{MLu} assay and 2 and 4, respectively, for the *in vivo* *c*_{MLu} assay.

As expected, StO₂ and EF5 binding were negatively correlated (Fig. 6). The dashed line (and diamonds) in Fig. 6 is derived from an independent *in vitro* determination of the association between tissue oxygen (pO₂) and EF5 binding level.⁴⁷ In this study,⁴⁷ the relationship between pO₂ and percent EF5 cube reference binding was established: 10% oxygen (pO₂=76 mmHg)≈1% of cube reference binding; 2.5% oxygen (pO₂=19 mmHg)≈3% of cube reference binding; and 0.5% oxygen (pO₂=3.8 mmHg)≈10% of cube reference binding. To obtain the dashed line in Fig. 6, we converted pO₂ to StO₂ based on published results,³⁹ wherein StO₂=pO₂ⁿ/p50ⁿ+pO₂ⁿ, p50=23.4, *n*=2.44, and empirically fit the data (diamonds).

In Fig. 7, a positive correlation between DRS-measured *c*_{MLu} and spectrofluorometer-measured *c*_{MLu} was observed, although the DRS-measured concentrations were significantly higher than the concentrations found by the *ex vivo* assay; thus, the patient data are quite different from that of the murine tumors. Among the *ex vivo* measurements, the significant higher standard error of *c*_{MLu} in patient 1 (*c*_{MLu}=0.754±0.164 ng/mg) is due in part to large intratumor heterogeneity. The mean *c*_{MLu} (±STE) of these two excised

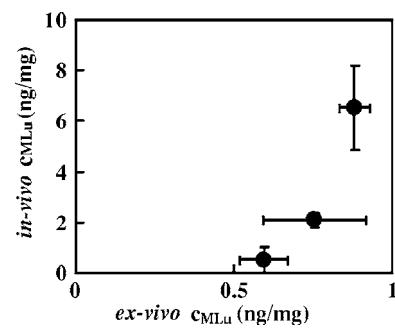


Fig. 7 MLu concentration (*c*_{MLu} in ng/mg) determined by *in vivo* DRS is plotted versus MLu concentration (*c*_{MLu} in ng/mg) measured by *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay. In patients 1 (data point with *in vivo* *c*_{MLu}=2.06 ng/mg) and 2 (data point with *in vivo* *c*_{MLu}=0.49 and 6.52 ng/mg), the number of measurements (*n*) was 6 and 3, respectively, for the *ex vivo* *c*_{MLu} assay and 2 and 4, respectively, for the *in vivo* *c*_{MLu} assay. The error bars represent the standard error of the mean. A positive trend was seen between *in vivo* and *ex vivo* methods in measuring MLu concentration.

samples from the same tumor were 0.459±0.122 and 1.050±0.178 ng/mg, respectively.

4 Discussion

Clinical PDT dosimetry is made complex by many dynamic and interdependent treatment factors. Explicit dosimetry strategies attempt to monitor one or more of these factors, including oxygen availability, photosensitizer concentration, and light distribution.⁴⁸ Near-infrared photon-migration spectroscopy and imaging have emerged as important noninvasive techniques to monitor tissue blood oxygenation, blood flow, photosensitizer concentration, and light penetration depth during clinical PDT.^{30,31,35} However, clinical validations of this technique are scarce: measurement of Photofrin and MLu concentration, respectively, has been validated in tissue phantoms²⁹ and normal dog skin.⁴⁹ Validation of the oxyhemoglobin dissociation curve in human and mouse blood has been carried out with oxygen-sensitive electrodes.^{29,30,39,50} Validation of carbogen-induced changes of the StO₂ and pO₂ in murine tumors measured by DRS and the Eppendorf pO₂ histogram, respectively, have been carried out,³⁰ and averaged StO₂ measured by DRS agreed well with cryospectrophotometric measurements in five of nine rodent mammary tumors.⁵¹ This pilot study extends the range of *in vivo* validation of DRS to include comparison with levels of EF5 binding in excised tissues and comparison with *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assays of MLu concentration; furthermore, these comparisons use human tumor tissues from clinical PDT patients.

Hypoxia is one of the characteristics of malignant tumors that has been associated with disease progression and treatment resistance.^{52,53} The two clinically relevant immunohistochemistry-based 2-nitroimidazole assays for hypoxia in human tumors are EF5 and pimonidazole.^{14,15} These markers have been used extensively to label hypoxia in non-oncologic diseases where hypoxia is important,^{14,15} as well as in tumors. In this study, we demonstrate a negative correlation between DRS-measured tissue blood oxygenation and tissue hypoxia based on EF5 binding in the same tumor samples. The association we detected between StO₂ and EF5 binding

agrees very well with *in vitro* calibration studies.^{39,47}

In the measurement of MLu concentration, excellent agreement between DRS and the *ex vivo* assay was found in RIF tumors. On the other hand, although DRS-measured MLu concentration in our intraperitoneal carcinoma patients was positively correlated with the *ex vivo* assay, the DRS-measured MLu concentration was also systemically higher than the results of the *ex vivo* assay.

It is important to consider possible causes of this discrepancy. To this end we performed 44 random DRS measurements over the same frozen tissue samples from patient 2 (tissues 1 and 2) that were used in the *ex vivo* analysis. These frozen samples were large enough ($>10 \times 6$ mm) for DRS measurements and for use of the diffusion model. The DRS measurements gave (mean \pm STE): $c_{\text{MLu}} = 0.45 \pm 0.20$ and 0.17 ± 0.10 ng/mg for tissues 1 and 2, respectively. These numbers are much smaller than our *in vivo* DRS measurement results and are very close to the results of the *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assays. Similarly, in previous PDT studies of peritoneal tissues of normal dogs,⁴⁹ DRS measured significantly lower MLu concentration in frozen tissues compared to *in vivo* tissues. We argued then that when the drug-light interval is short (<5 h), there is likely to be a high concentration of MLu in the blood vessels at the time of *in vivo* assay. As such, our findings of lower drug levels in the *ex vivo* environment may be explained by DRS measurements that reveal lower total hemoglobin concentration in *excised* tissues ($\text{THC} = 107 \pm 22$ μM for tissue 1, 66 ± 10 μM for tissue 2), compared to *in vivo* tissues (194 ± 58 μM for tissue 1, 662 ± 162 μM for tissue 2). To corroborate this hypothesis, we plotted the relationship between DRS-measured *ex vivo* MLu concentration and THC for tissue 2 ($n=14$). The results clearly indicated that MLu concentration was linearly proportional to THC ($R^2=0.78$).

Additionally, in our previously published paper,⁴⁹ quantitative agreement was found between *in vivo* DRS and *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay for some tissue types (skin), but not for other tissue types (rectum). The work documents that environment is affecting MLu concentration and suggests that differences in MLu concentration *in vivo* and *ex vivo* are real. Skin demonstrated a 1:1 correlation between *in vivo* DRS and *ex vivo* spectrofluorometric assay. Measurements of the skin will necessarily include unvascularized tissue (i.e., the epidermis). The RIF tumor is grown intradermally. Thus the fact that *in vivo* and *ex vivo* data are identical in skin and skin tumors adds support to the conclusion that differences in hemoglobin concentration between *in vivo* and *ex vivo* tissue samples are a primary contributor to differences in the measured MLu concentration.

Finally, we evaluated the effect of RIF tumor geometric shape on the extracted optical properties. The RIF tumors have a hemispherical boundary. We have investigated this factor by generating simulated reflectance data at multiple wavelengths (600 to 800 nm) and two separations ($\rho=1.2$ and 1.8 mm) using the finite element method (FEM), described in Materials and Methods in Sec. 2, in both semi-infinite and hemisphere geometries. The results revealed differences in the reflectance spectra (data not shown). However, the extracted MLu concentration increased from the true value of 3.4 ng/mg to 3.9 ng/mg (i.e., a 13% increase). The extracted

scattering coefficient varied a little more from its true value, i.e., at most 20%. Similarly, c_{Hb} and c_{water} experienced moderate shifts, 16% lower and 12% higher, respectively, and c_{HbO_2} shifted to a higher value by only 2.1%. Thus, the boundary effect of the hemisphere geometry likely contributed to an increase in calculated MLu concentration by $\sim 13\%$. In the future, we can include this relatively small effect in our calculations.

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