CLAIMS

1. An in vitro method for inhibiting the expression of at least one target gene, wherein said expression inhibits or prevents apoptosis of a tumor cell, wherein at least one double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) is introduced into the tumor cell, one strand S1 of which has a region consisting of less than 25 consecutive nucleotides which is complementary to the target gene, wherein only the end of the dsRNA located at the 3' end of the strand S1 has a single-stranded overhang, composed of 1 to 4 nucleotides at the 3' end of the strand S1, wherein the complementary region of the dsRNA has 19 to 24 nucleotides, wherein the target gene is at least one gene of the Bcl-2 family.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the single-stranded overhang is composed of 2 or 3 nucleotides.

3. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the complementary region of the dsRNA has 21 to 23, particularly 22 nucleotides.

4. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the strand S1 has less than 30, preferably less than 25, particularly preferred 21 to 24 nucleotides.

5. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one end of the dsRNA is modified in order to counteract a degradation in the tumor cell or a dissociation.

6. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the cohesion of the dsRNA mediated by the complementary nucleotide pairs is increased by at least one, preferably two further chemical linkage(s).

7. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the target gene is Bcl-2, Bcl-w or Bcl-xL, or wherein Bcl-2 as well as Bcl-xL are target genes.

8. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the dsRNA consists of a strand S2 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 and the strand S1 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 or a strand S2 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 3 and the strand S1 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 4 according to the attached sequence protocol.

9. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the tumor cell is a pancreas carcinoma cell.

10. The method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the dsRNA is introduced into the tumor cell via a micellar structure surrounding the dsRNA, preferably a liposome or via a capsid surrounding the dsRNA.

11. Medicament for use in therapy of a tumorous disease including at least one double-stranded ribonucleic acid (dsRNA) for inhibiting the expression of at least one target gene wherein said expression inhibits or prevents apoptosis of tumor cells, wherein one strand S1 of the dsRNA has a region consisting of less than 25 consecutive nucleotides which is complementary to the target gene, wherein only the end of the dsRNA located at the 3’ end of the strand S1 has a single-stranded overhang, composed of 1 to 4 nucleotides at the 3’ end of the strand S1, wherein the complementary region of the dsRNA has 19 to 24 nucleotides, wherein the target gene is at least one gene of the Bcl-2 family.

12. The medicament according to claim 11, wherein the single-stranded overhang is composed of 2 or 3 nucleotides.

13. The medicament of claim 11 or 12, wherein the complementary region has 19 to 24, preferably 21 to 23, particularly 22 nucleotides.

14. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the strand S1 has less than 30, preferably less than 25, particularly preferred 21 to 24 nucleotides.

15. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein at least one end of the dsRNA is modified in order to counteract a degradation in the tumor cell or a dissociation.

16. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein the cohesion of the dsRNA mediated by the complementary nucleotide pairs is increased by at least one, preferably two further chemical linkage(s).

17. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein the target gene is Bcl-2, Bcl-w or Bcl-xL, or wherein Bcl-2 as well as Bcl-xL are target genes.

18. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 17, wherein the dsRNA consists of a strand S2 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 1 and the strand S1 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 2 or a strand S2 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 3 and the strand S1 with the sequence SEQ ID NO: 4 according to the attached sequence protocol.

19. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 18, wherein the tumorous disease is a pancreas carcinoma.

20. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 19, wherein the dsRNA in the medicament is present in a solution or a micellar structure, preferably a liposome or is enclosed in a capsid.

21. The medicament according to any one of claims 11 to 20, wherein the medicament has a preparation suitable for inhalation, oral uptake or injection, in particular for intravenous and intraperitoneal injection or for injection directly into a tumor tissue.

22. The medicament according to claim 21, wherein the preparation consists of a physiologically acceptable buffer, in particular a phosphate buffered salt solution, and the dsRNA.