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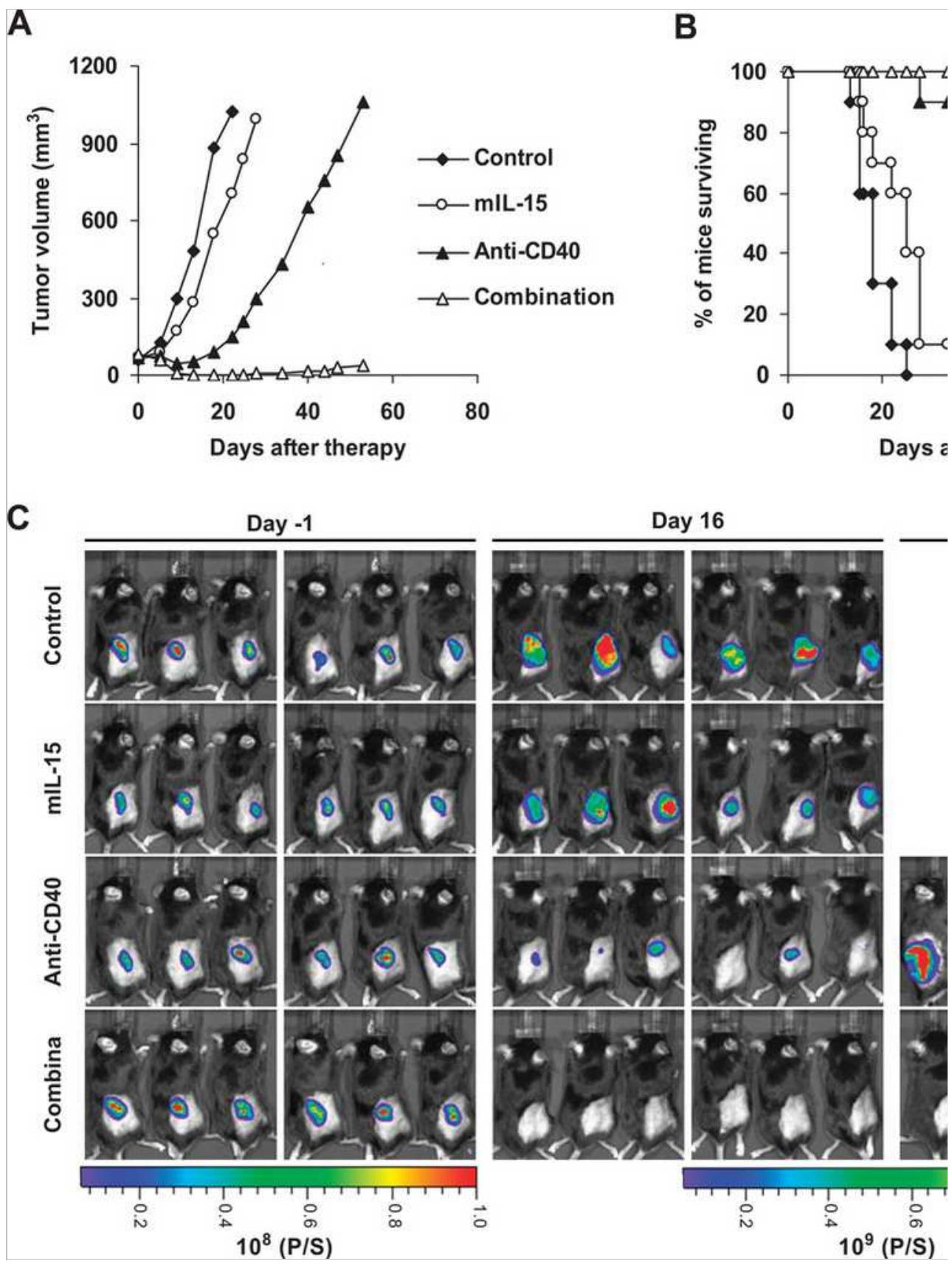
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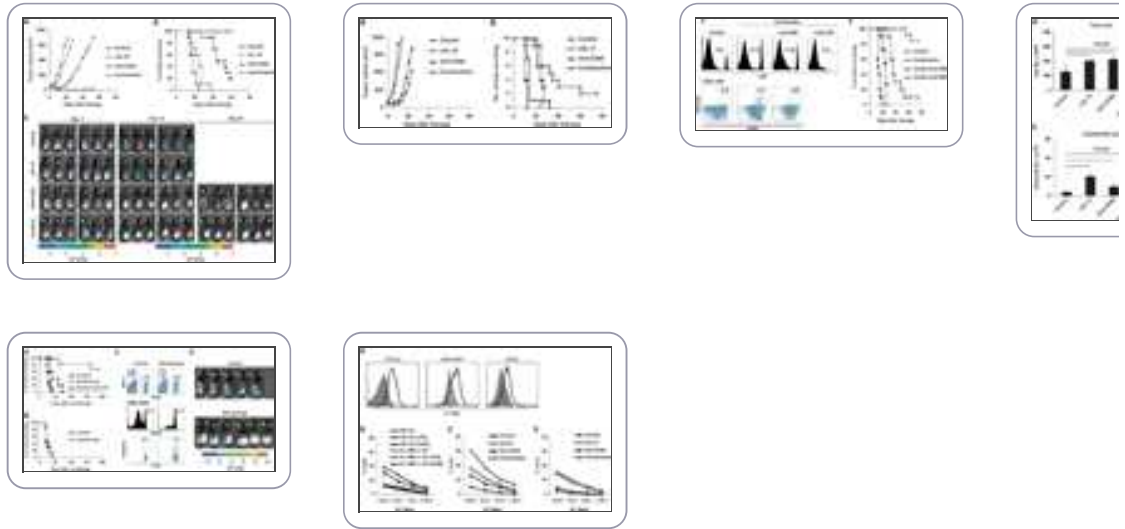
Figure 1



The combination therapy that involved mIL-15 and an agonistic antibody to CD40 led to the regression of established TRAMP-C2 tumors in wild type C57BL/6 mice.

The therapy was started when the tumors were well established with an average volume of 100 mm³. (A) Changes of tumor volumes during the therapeutic course and (B) Kaplan-Meier survival curves of TRAMP-C2 tumor-bearing mice in one of the two therapeutic studies (n=9–10). Treatment with mIL-15 (2.5 µg/mouse, 5 days a week for 2 weeks) inhibited the tumor growth slightly in the TRAMP-C2 tumor-bearing mice when compared with the mice in the P (p<0.05) while treatment with the anti-CD40 antibody (▲) at a dose of 200 µg/mouse on days 3, 7 and 10 provided greater inhibition of the tumor growth of the TRAMP-C2 tumor-bearing mice when compared with the mice in the mIL-15 alone group (p<0.001). Furthermore, combination therapy (△) with mIL-15 and anti-CD40 antibody provided a greater therapeutic efficacy as demonstrated by the survival curves. Mice in the combination group were alive at day 60 with 80% becoming tumor-free, while the mice in the anti-CD40 antibody alone group and none of the mice in the mIL-15 alone groups were alive at that time. (C). Bioluminescence imaging of the TRAMP-C2/luc-GFP tumor-bearing mice confirmed efficacy of combination treatment. Groups of 6 mice in each group were taken at different time points. Treatment with anti-CD40 antibody significantly inhibited tumor growth. However, at day 40 after initiation of the therapy, only one mouse in the anti-CD40 group was tumor free. In contrast, the combination treatment led to tumor-free mice with all of the 6 mice in the group becoming and remaining tumor free.

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