## **ELECTRONIC SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION (ESI)**

## Speciation in human blood of Metvan, a vanadium based potential anti-tumor drug

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**Figure S1**. Concentration distribution curves of the species formed in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen with a molar ratio of 1/5 and V concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M.



**Figure S2**. High field region of the X-band anisotropic EPR spectra recorded at 120 K as a function of pH in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen with a molar ratio of 1/5 and V concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M. The  $M_1 = 7/2$  resonance of  $[VO(Me_2phen)(H_2O)_3]^{2+}$  (equatorial-equatorial coordination) is indicated with **I**, of  $[VO(Me_2phen)(H_2O)_3]^{2+}$  (equatorial-axial coordination) with **II**, of *cis*- $[VO(Me_2phen)_2(H_2O)]^{2+}$  with **III**, and of *cis*- $[VO(Me_2phen)_2(OH)]^+$  with **IV**.



**Figure S3**. ESI mass spectrum recorded in the positive mode at pH 4.80 in ultrapure LC-MS water in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen with a molar ratio of 1/2 and V concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M.



**Figure S4**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^{IV}O(Me_2phen)_2]^{2+}$  revealed at m/z = 241.57 in the positive ESI-MS spectrum recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen$  (ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.80, molar ratio 1/2, V concentration  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M).



**Figure S5**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^{IV}O(Me_2phen)(OH)]^+$ , revealed at m/z = 292.04 in the positive ESI-MS spectrum recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen$  (ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.80, molar ratio 1/2, V concentration 1.0 × 10<sup>-5</sup> M).



**Figure S6**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^VO_2(Me_2phen)_2]^+$  revealed at m/z = 499.13 in the positive ESI-MS spectrum recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen$  (ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.80, molar ratio 1/2, V concentration  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M).



**Figure S7**. ESI-MS/MS spectrum of the fragment  $[V^VO_2(Me_2phen)_2]^+$  recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen$  (positive ion mode, m/z = 499.5 ± 1.0, ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.80, molar ratio 1/2, V concentration  $1.0 \times 10^{-5}$  M).



**Figure S8**. High field region of the X-band anisotropic EPR spectra recorded at 120 K as a function of pH in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen/H<sub>3</sub>citr with a molar ratio of 1/2/2 and V concentration of 1.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M. The  $M_I = 7/2$  resonance of  $[VO(\text{citrH})(H_2O)_2]^{2+}$  is indicated with **I**, of  $[VO(Me_2\text{phen})(\text{citrH})]$  with **II**, of  $[VO(Me_2\text{phen})(\text{citrH})]^-$  with **III** and of  $[VO(Me_2\text{phen})(\text{citrH}_{-1})]^{2-}$  with **IV**.



**Figure S9**. ESI mass spectrum recorded in the negative mode at pH 4.90 in ultrapure LC-MS water in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen/H<sub>3</sub>citr with a molar ratio of 1/2/2 and V concentration of 2.5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M.



**Figure S10**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^{IV}O(Me_2phen)(citr)]^-$  revealed at m/z = 464.03 in the negative ESI-MS spectrum recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen/H_3citr$  (ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.90, molar ratio 1/2/2, V concentration 2.5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M).



**Figure S11**. ESI-MS/MS spectrum of the fragment  $[V^{IV}O(Me_2phen)(citr)]^-$  recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen/H_3citr$  (negative ion mode,  $m/z = 464.0 \pm 1.0$ , ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.90, molar ratio 1/2/2, V concentration  $2.5 \times 10^{-6}$  M).



**Figure S12**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^{IV}O(Me_2phen)(citr)+2H]^+$  revealed at m/z = 466.06 in the positive ESI-MS spectrum recorded on the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen/H_3citr$  (ultrapure LC-MS water, pH 4.90, molar ratio 1/2/2, V concentration 2.5 × 10<sup>-6</sup> M).



**Figure S13**. High field region of the X-band anisotropic EPR spectra recorded at 120 K as a function of pH in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen/Hlact with a molar ratio of 1/2/4 and V concentration of 1.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M. The  $M_I = 7/2$  resonance of  $[VO(Me_2phen)(H_2O)_3]^{2+}$  (equatorial-equatorial coordination) is indicated with I, of  $[VO(Me_2phen)(H_2O)_3]^{2+}$  (equatorial-axial coordination) with II, of  $[VO(Me_2phen)(lact)(H_2O)]^+$  with III, of cis- $[VO(Me_2phen)_2(H_2O)]^{2+}$  with IV and of cis- $[VO(Me_2phen)_2(OH)]^+$  with V.



**Figure S14**. Experimental (a) and calculated (b) isotopic pattern for the peak of  $[V^VO_2(Me_2phen)(lact)+H]^+$  revealed at m/z = 381.06 in the positive ESI-MS spectrum of the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2phen/Hlact$  in ultrapure LC-MS water (pH 3.80, molar ratio of 1/2/4, V concentration of  $5.0 \times 10^{-6}$  M).



Figure S15. Concentration distribution curves of the species formed in the system  $V^{IV}O^{2+}/Me_2$ phen/MeIm with a molar ratio of 1/5/4 and V concentration of  $1.0 \times 10^{-3}$  M.



**Figure S16**. High field region of the X-band anisotropic EPR spectra recorded at 120 K at pH 7.4 in the system containing: a) V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup>/Me<sub>2</sub>phen/MeIm 1/2/4 (V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup> 1.0 × 10<sup>-3</sup> M); b) V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup>/Me<sub>2</sub>phen/Hb 2/4/1 (V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup> 6.2 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M); c) V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup>/Me<sub>2</sub>phen/Hb 2/10/1 (V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup> 6.2 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M) and d) V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup>/Hb 2/1 (V<sup>IV</sup>O<sup>2+</sup> 6.2 × 10<sup>-4</sup> M). The  $M_{\rm I}$  = 7/2 resonance of the species [VO(Me<sub>2</sub>phen)(MeIm)(OH)]<sup>+</sup> and *cis*-[VO(Me<sub>2</sub>phen)<sub>2</sub>(MeIm)]<sup>2+</sup> is indicated with **I**, of VO–Me<sub>2</sub>phen–Hb with **II** and of the sites β and γ of Hb ((VO)Hb<sup>β</sup> and (VO)Hb<sup>γ</sup>) with **III** and **IV**. The  $M_{\rm I}$  = 7/2 resonance of VO–Me<sub>2</sub>phen–Hb is also denoted by the dotted line.