

Special Issue

Circulating Factors—CAMLs, CTC/cfDNA—Predictive Factors to Aid in Diagnoses of Cancer and Determination of Its Recurrence

Message from the Guest Editor

Evaluable biological specimens within circulation can aid in diagnosing the presence, progression or steady state of a malignancy and are fundamental in determining whether a cancer treatment is effective. Circulating cells and liquid components that are indicators of the presence of a malignancy have been identified in blood. Cellular components include cancer-associated macrophage-like cells (CAMLs). CAMLs are enlarged phagocytic macrophage-like cells. A second cell is an intact circulating tumor cell (CTC). CTC testing is currently approved as a clinical test for breast, prostate and colorectal cancers. In addition to these cells, cell-free DNA is a blood component resulting both from normal and malignant cells. Cell-free DNA requires a base concentration to be detected and be able to differentiate tumor from normal DNA. All three of these biological entities are capable of being informative regarding the status of a tumor. Combining CAML, CTC and cfDNA analyses as a strategy for screening high-risk populations has the potential to identify and treat patients in early stage disease, where it can have the greatest impact.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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