

Metabolic Alterations in Cancer

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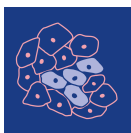
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Message from the Guest Editor

Cancer metabolism is an essential aspect of tumorigenesis, as alterations in the cellular metabolism pathway are evident in cancer cells compared with most normal tissue cells. Metabolic alterations include aerobic glycolysis, reduced oxidative phosphorylation and increased biosynthesis of macromolecules needed to accommodate tumor cells' increased energy requirements in comparison to normal cells. Thus, metabolism is a critical driver of cancer malignancy and affects most, if not all, aspects of tumor biology, from cancer cell growth, proliferation and invasion to metastasis and drug resistance. Mutations or alterations in the cancer cells themselves can drive these metabolic changes, but the metabolism of the patient also plays an important role. For example, we know that the metabolic changes that occur in response to obesity help to support the development of many types of cancer.

Understanding how metabolism influences the behavior of cancer cells could support the development of new antitumoral strategies and drugs targeting metabolic pathways to deprive cancer cells of the biochemical resources they have come to depend on.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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