

Special Issue

Radiotherapy and the Tumor Microenvironment: From Basic Mechanisms to Clinical Translation

Message from the Guest Editors

Around half of cancer patients receive radiotherapy as part of their cancer treatment. Whilst the ability of radiotherapy to induce cell death through DNA damage is well known, the interplay between the immune system and radiotherapy is complex, and its role in patient outcomes is unclear. Animal models suggest that T-cells can be critical for the therapeutic effect of radiotherapy, but instances of abscopal responses are rarely described in the clinical setting. Furthermore, combination trials of radiotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitors have often failed to deliver the benefits seen in pre-clinical models. Thus, to develop effective radiotherapy-immunotherapy combinations it is critical to understand the immune effects of radiotherapy, both locally in the tumor microenvironment and systemically. Identification of novel biomarkers are urgently needed to drive a more personalized approach to combining radiotherapy with immuno-oncology agents.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

31 October 2026



Cancers

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.4
CiteScore 8.8
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/258423

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Cancers is an international online journal addressing both clinical and basic science issues related to cancer research. The journal is publishing in Open Access format, which will certainly evolve to ensure that the journal takes full advantage of the rapidly changing world of information and knowledge dissemination. It publishes high-quality clinical, translational, and basic science research on cancer prevention, initiation, progression, and treatment, as well as other related topics, particularly to capture the most seminal studies in the rapidly growing area of immunology, immunotherapy, and tumor microenvironment.

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