



Estrogens in Human Cancer

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Message from the Guest Editors

Estrogens must be considered as a superfamily of pleiotropic regulators of development, structure, function and homeostatic control of a large array of human tissues, organs and systems. Estrogen superfamily is composed by both parent (circulating) hormones, precisely estradiol and estrone, and their metabolic derivatives that are brought about by the activity of metabolizing enzymes in target tissues.

Although estrogens act as physiological regulators, their excess, deficiency and/or alteration of signaling machinery may eventually lead to developing a variety of human diseases, including cancer. In this framework, an integrated knowledge on estrogen signaling and metabolism appears to be essential not only for a deeper understanding of estrogen-related mechanisms underlying various classical (e.g. breast, prostate) and nonclassical (e.g. colorectal, liver, lung) hormone-related tumors, but also to provide an important experimental basis for developing preventive strategies and/or targeted therapies of human cancers.





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