



Systemic and Mucosal Inflammation in Colorectal Cancer: Underlying Factors, Significance, and Related Biomarkers

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Colorectal cancer (CRC) is the fourth most common tumor type in the world. Genetic and environmental factors contribute to the carcinogenesis of colorectal epithelial cells. It is widely accepted that the persistence of chronic inflammation, such as inflammatory bowel disease, is one of the most important environmental factors in the formation of CRC, and that unbalanced cell proliferation and cell death can lead to carcinogenesis. The function of the immune system and the genetic and acquired molecular mechanisms by which it regulates the phenotype or function or fate of tumor cells are still much debated. However, it is certain that multiple mechanisms are involved in cellular stress and determine cell survival and death. Although somatic genetic changes and subsequent clonal expansion and the polymeric framework leading to cancer can be provided by colorectal adenoma–carcinoma sequences, much controversy remains regarding changes that may occur in the early stages of CRC in morphologically normal tissues.





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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