

Special Issue

Immunology and Immunotherapy for Head and Neck Cancer

Message from the Guest Editor

In recent years, it has become well established that the immune system plays an integral role in controlling tumor growth and progression. Programmed death 1 (PD-1) is one of the membrane proteins expressed by T cells. In HNSCC, high PD-L1 expression was described in 66 to 87% of HNSCC primary tumors; however, it was also associated with metastasis and poor outcomes, while there are conflicting data concerning its correlation with HPV status in oropharyngeal cancers. Immunotherapy is the standard of care for recurrent/metastatic HNSCC that expresses PDL1 and/or is platinum-resistant; however, most patients only benefit slightly from currently available immunotherapies due to resistance mechanisms or toxicities. Nutritional support as well as the multidisciplinary management of toxicity could improve the efficacy of immunotherapy and, consequently, patients' outcomes.

Guest Editor

Dr. Aurora Mirabile

Department of Medical Oncology, IRCCS San Raffaele Hospital, Via Olgettina 60, 20132 Milan, Italy

Deadline for manuscript submissions

20 December 2025



International Journal of Molecular Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.0
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/227244

*International Journal of
Molecular Sciences*
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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Prof. Dr. Maurizio Battino

Department of Odontostomatologic and Specialized Clinical Sciences,
Sez-Biochimica, Faculty of Medicine, Università Politecnica delle
Marche, Via Ranieri 65, 60100 Ancona, Italy

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