Cancer Drug Resistance

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Special Issue

The Role and Importance of Epithelial-Mesenchymal Transition (EMT) in Cancer Drug Resistance

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Special Issue Introduction

The cancer stem cell phenotype appeared to be acquired during the epithelial to mesenchyme transition (EMT), a de-differentiation process linked to aggressive metastatic behavior. The realization that mitochondrial pore closing pathways were amplified to a greater extent in cancer stem cells than in hematopoietic stem cells explained why we cannot cure most cancers. The degree of chemotherapy-related DNA damage required to upregulate pore opening in cancer stem cells turned out to be beyond the capacity of normal hematopoietic stem cell and patient tolerance.

Thus, the development of new agents that target the EMT/cancer stem cell phenotype has emerged as a new paradigm to reverse cancer cell drug resistance. This issue will address how new insights into the mechanistic underpinnings of EMT and cancer stem cells may foster the development of novel treatment strategies to restore chemosensitivity.

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