Cancer Stem Cell Markers in Lung Cancers: Proofs of Concepts and Some Reservations

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Lung cancer: highest death rate and poorest patient survival







Current Treatment Modalities in Lung Cancers









ALK- Anaplastic lymphoma kinase EGFR- Epidermal growth factor receptor KRAS - Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene

Lung Foundation of America

Cancer stem cells within lung tumour are crucial players in cancer therapy

Chemotherapy

- Induces cell death and reduction of tumour bulk
- Drug resistance leads to recurrence or death

Cancer stem cells (CSCs)

- Self-renewal
- Generate phenotypic heterogeneity
- Tumoriaenicity in immunocompromised mice



Reya T, et. al., Nature 414, 105-111(2001)

Our goal...

To identify cancer stem cell markers that are involved in the initiation, progress and drug resistance in lung cancers.

Increased OCT4B levels in lung tumor tissues



Suppression of OCT4B sensitizes lung adenocarcinoma cells to cisplatin treatment



Cortes-Dericks L et al. Anticancer Res. 2013 Dec;33(12)

OCT4B – octamer-binding transcription factor 4 A549 – lung adenocarcinoma cell line; hFb16lu – normal lung fibroblasts; hLMSC – human lung mesenchymal stem cells

mRNA levels of CSC-associated genes in paired normal and lung adenocarconoma biopsies



mRNA levels of ALDH, CD133 and OCT4A decreases with increasing tumor stage





OCT4A





Stage 1-3, tumor stage
G1 -3, tumor grade
</>> 3 cm, tumor size
NO/N+, lymph node metastasis

Cortes-Dericks et al. Eur J Cardiothorac Surg (2012) 41 (6)

Increased CSC-associated gene profiles correlate with reduced disease-free intervals in lung adenocarcinoma



mRNA levels of CSC-associated genes are increased in drug-resistant cells in malignant pleural mesothelioma

25

20 15⊥ 5⊤

H28 *

Fold Change in mRNA Expression

Fold Change in mRNA Expression





H28, H2052, MSTO211H – malignant pleural mesothelioma cell lines MPM- malignant pleural mesothelioma

Increased levels of uPAR, ABCG2 and CD133 in cisplatin -resistant cells





MSTO211H

Pemetrexed-resistant cells





Cortes-Dericks L, et al. Int J Oncol. 2010 Aug; 37(2)

Reliability of ALDH to demarcate a CSC from non-CSC subpopulation in malignant pleural mesothelioma cells



FACS-based ALDH cell sorting



FACS – fluorescence activated cell sorting H28, H2052, Meso4 – mesothelioma cell lines

Phenotypic generation of ALDH-sorted cells



Cortes-Dericks L et al. BMC Cancer. 2014, 14:304

Both ALDH^{high} and ALDH^{low} subpopulations contain cisplatin-resistant tumor spheres



putative cancer stem cell population

Conclusions

- Cancer stem cell marker is not universal to any type of cancer.
- <u>**Personalized therapy**</u> identification of CSC markers in patient's clinical specimens before and after therapy may lead to specific targeting of drug-resistant subpopulation.

Tracking patient-specific cancer stem cells



Micro-PET – micro positron emission tomography MRI – magnetic resonance imaging CT – computed tomography





krebsliga schweiz ligue suisse contre le cancer lega sviszera contro il cancro



Thank you for your attention

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