

Cancer and Emerging Trends

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Cancer is a serious and potentially life threatening illness. In US cancer is considered as the second foremost cause of death next to cardiovascular diseases. About 50% of men and 33% of women in US develop cancer during their lifetime. Symptoms initiate with uncontrolled proliferation of the cell [1].

Cancer encompasses uncontrolled cell growth and metastasis. However all the tumors are not cancerous, as in the case of benign tumors which do not spread to other parts of the body. Commonly occurring cancers include Breast Cancer, Lung Cancer, Prostate Cancer, Renal Cancer, Skin Cancer, Brain tumor etc. Tumor suppressor genes and Oncogenes play a vital role in oncogenesis. Tumor suppressor genes act as check points and control cell division. When these are damaged due to radiation or chemicals, cells grow out of control. Oncogenes have the potential to cause cancer ie, make the cell to grow out of control.

As of now nearly 100 carcinogens were identified. Among them utmost cause is the use of nicotine. Another cause of cancer is viruses which include: Hepatitis B and C viruses associated with Liver cancer, Epstein-Barr viruses associated with non-Hodgkin lymphomas and nasopharyngeal cancer, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes Kaposi Sarcoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, Human Papilloma Viruses (HPVs) which causes cervical, vulva and penis cancers. Several evidences confirmed role of miR-10b in cancer progression, specifically on metastasis [2].

Generalized cancer treatments include Surgery, Chemotherapy, Hormonal therapy, Radiation therapy, Immunotherapy, Adjuvant Therapy etc. The increased knowledge of cancer led to the remarkable progress on cancer therapy with the application of Antiangiogenic chemotherapy, use of Nanodiamonds etc. [3]. In case of prostate cancer hormone signaling pathways play an essential role. Hence hormonal therapy like androgen-deprivation can be used as a treatment for prostate cancer in advanced stages [4]. Suicide gene therapy was proved to be an effective treatment against cancer [5].

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