

Angiogenesis in Head and Neck Cancer

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Abstract

Locally advanced Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma (HNC) is a challenging disease for the lack of effective therapies even in the era of molecular medicine (the five-year survival does not exceed 40%). For patients with metastatic and recurrent HNC the standard treatment is the combination of Cetuximab/Platinum and Fluorouracil but median overall survival rate for this population remains lower than 11%. The main reasons of these disappointing outcomes include acquired drug resistance, anti Epidermal growth factors variants, epithelial to mesenchymal transition and tumor hypoxia. Angiogenesis plays a crucial role in HNSCC development and proliferation. Drugs may interfere with the angiogenic process via different mechanisms and there is a sound rationale for combining anti-angiogenic agents with chemotherapy or multiple anti-angiogenic strategies. Promising preclinical results with angiogenic inhibitors have engendered a number of trials, but until now there are not yet conclusive data on the value of anti-angiogenic therapy in HNC. This paper aims to review the role of angiogenesis inhibitors in head and neck cancer.

Received: May 10, 2022; **Accepted:** May 16, 2022; **Published:** May 25, 2022

Biography

Denaro N, has completed his medical education and working at an oncology department at Santa Croce e

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