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From drug discovery to experimental and clinical applications: An overview of 40 years' experience in photodynamic therapy of cancer

We will present our long-term team's experience of photodynamic therapy (PDT) of certain types of tumors. This presentation aims to show how to enhance efficacy of PDT and ways to increase it. The lecture includes our search for ideal photosensitizers as we were the first to show that natural uroporphyrin may be used for the diagnosis and treatment of tumors by using PDT. We will present data to show bio-distribution and selective tumor localization of endogenous porphyrins induced and stimulated by 5-aminolevulinic acid as a newly developed technique. Moreover, mechanism of action of PDT will be discussed, as well as our novel approaches to enhance efficacy of PDT and innovations to increase it including modification and synthesis of newly developed photosensitizers. We will present our vast experience of experimental as well as clinical applications of PDT of tumors and discuss our results obtained during four decades.

Biography

Mohamed El-Far has worked in Biochemistry for 40 years and published over 90 peer-reviewed papers. He is serving on the Editorial Boards and is an Editor to four international journals. He acts as UNESCO Expert in Science and Technology. He has served as Visiting Professor to University of California, Utah Laser Center and Mayo Clinic for several years, also to Cardiff and Swansea Universities, UK. He is a Member of International Photodynamic Association and Royal Society of Chemistry, UK.

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