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Paradigm shift towards molecular basis of cancer diagnosis and treatment: the hemato-lymphoid perspective

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Diagnosis of diseases especially neoplasms has witnessed a monumental change in its approach. Up until a few years back, the focus lied on histomorphological diagnosis and a blanket treatment was administered based on the disease. With careful understanding of difference in clinical course and treatment response in different patients suffering from the same disease, there arose a need to understand tumor biology to prognosticate and individualize treatment. Research on genetic basis of various neoplasms highlighted different tumor biology and actionable mutation targets in the same disease thus giving rise to the need for detecting these mutations and development of antibodies/molecules which can target them. Hemato-lymphoid malignancies were one of the earliest to be decoded for different tumor biology, prognosis, response to conventional treatment and need for different treatment strategies based on the underlying genetic mutation. We look into the paradigm shift in the diagnosis of these neoplasms, how the approach has progressively changed from diagnosis based on morphology to present times, classifying prognosis and personalizing treatment, based on the underlying genetic biology.

Biography

Kunal Sharma is currently working as a Consultant Oncopathologist, Molecular Pathologist & Section Head with SRL Diagnostics, India. He was in past working as Consultant Oncopathologist & Head of Quality Assurance at CORE Diagnostics Pvt. Ltd. He has been a guest faculty & presenter at numerous international and national conferences like Lymphoma & Myeloma Congress- New York, CAP-Chicago, The International Society of Paediatric Oncology (SIOP), Nigerian Medical Association, Dhaka Medical College & Bangladesh association of Hematologists, Indian Cancer Congress, ISMPOCON, YROC, ONCOCON etc. He was the faculty & mentor of the largest National hands on IHC workshop (D-I-Y) at JNMC, Belgavi. He has numerous international publications including first reported case of Cellular Ovarian Fibroma in India. He completed his MBBS with aggregate of 73% and received his Post-graduate training (DNB) in Oncopathology from HCG Cancer Hospital, Bangalore.

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