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Is melanoma a hormone dependent cancer?

Melanoma is a dangerous form of skin cancer with higher mortality rate in males than in females, indicating a sex difference. Though acquisition of melanoma was hormone independent, but survival in melanoma was hormone dependent as shown by clinical studies. Moreover previous animal and cell culture studies showed the regulation of melanoma growth by various hormones. This raises the question whether melanoma is a hormone dependent cancer? Based on epidemiological SEER data, clinical studies, previous animal and cell culture experiments and our own cell culture studies on mouse and human melanoma cells, an attempt has been made to show the involvement of sex steroids in the survival of melanoma.

Biography

Pandurangan Ramaraj obtained Master's degree in Medical biochemistry from JIPMER and Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Indian Institute of Science, India. His postdoctoral research work in US involved gene and function studies involving transgenic & knockout mice, oncogene transfer into human hematopoietic stem cells and transdifferentiation of murine mesenchymal stem cell. He started teaching career as an Instructor at Cleveland Chiropractic College, Los Angeles before joining Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine as an Asst. prof, where currently teaching Medical Biochemistry to D.O. students. He is interested in studying the effect of steroid hormones on cancer using mouse and human melanoma cell lines as model systems.

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