Disease Markers

Hindawi

Special Issue on

Estrogen Receptors' Isoforms in Cancer and Other Pathologies: An Update

CALL FOR PAPERS

Three decades on from the first reports of numerous isoforms and splice variants of estrogen receptor alpha (ER) and later of estrogen receptor beta (ER), both receptors still present a very open issue. It is not pretentious to say that there is a "mystery" regarding their biological role and clinical significance, especially in endocrine related cancers. While ER is a well-established prognostic marker for responsiveness to endocrine therapy in breast cancer, a significant number of ER-positive patients fail to respond to therapy or develop resistance over time. Moreover, the role of ER and ER is implicated in other types of cancer (ovarian, colorectal, prostate, endometrial, and sarcomas), as well as in osteoporosis, neurodegenerative diseases, cardiovascular disease, insulin resistance, lupus erythematosus, endometriosis, and obesity.

The intriguing question today is whether the ER and ER, their isoforms, and internal-exon-deleted splice variants are potential disease markers, especially in the triple negative breast cancer subgroup for which adequate treatment regimens are not available. Moreover, the role of ER as disease marker is often implicated in nonendocrine cancers and different nonmalignant pathologies.

What can we learn about them from earlier studies with competitive RT-PCR, compared to qRT-PCR till chip-based methodology? Do all of the splice variants exist at protein level? How do they influence the activity of full length (wild type) proteins ER and ER? Are they potential disease markers?

The aim of this issue is to summarize the state of the art in biological function and clinical potential of the ERs "pool" in normal and malignant cells. Research articles as well as reviews are welcome.

Potential topics include but are not limited to the following:

- The emergent need for precise nomenclature of different N-terminal isoforms of ER and C-terminal isoforms of ER, as well as for internal-exon-deleted splice variants
- Experimental evidence that internal-exon-deleted splice variants are translated into proteins
- Expression profiling of isoforms and variants in cancers and other pathologies
- Biological role of isoforms and the splice variants of ER and ER
- The clinical importance of isoforms and splice variants of the ER and ER in terms of prediction, prognosis, and therapeutical potential

Authors can submit their manuscripts through the Manuscript Tracking System at https://mts.hindawi.com/submit/journals/dm/erier/.

Papers are published upon acceptance, regardless of the Special Issue publication date.

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