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Drug Resistance of Head and Neck Cancer

Guest Editor:

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Message from the Guest Editor

Drug resistance in head and neck cancer (HNC) remains a major health problem worldwide. HNC can arise in the lips, oral cavity, nasal cavity, pharynx, larynx, and salivary glands, and accounts for approximately 890,000 new cases and more than 450,000 deaths each year. The majority of HNC occurs in the oral cavity and approx. 90% of HNC is categorized as head and neck squamous cell carcinoma. Despite the recent advances in therapeutic modalities, the prognosis and 5-year survival rates for patients with advanced, recurrent, and metastatic diseases remain poor due to treatment resistance. The current standard-of-care for HNC involves surgical removal combined with radiation and chemotherapy or immunotherapy. Unfortunately, more than half of locally advanced HNC cases recur or become metastatic following initial treatments and are no longer responsive. Multidrug resistance and survival mechanisms driving drug efflux, metabolism, noncoding RNAs, and cancer stem cells are known to contribute to the resistance in HNC and remain to be fully explored. The current Special Issue will address the current status and future novel directions for understanding drug resistance in HNC.

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