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Exosomes in Cancer Metastasis

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Message from the Guest Editor

Since 1889, research on the mechanisms responsible for metastasis has been largely focused on interactions between the tumor and the host. Until the idea of extracellular vesicles as intercellular communication was put forward, new insights were gained into the mechanism of tumor metastasis. However, many unanswered questions exist. For one, we have no information about how tumor-derived EVs are directed to an organ and how exactly they arrive there. Additionally, once at the site, how do the EVs engage specific tissue cells? Once engaged, which components of the exosome cargo, i.e., proteins, lipids or nucleic acids, delivered to recipient cells are responsible for inducing pro-metastatic changes? Can microvesicles (MVs) be more effective in shaping premetastatic changes than small EVs? Are the direct effects of tumor-derived EVs the only or the major pro-metastatic mechanism? Can the indirect interactions of EVs with immune or neural systems be involved in creating the prometastatic niche? Answering these questions is of prime importance for unraveling the complex mesh of molecular interactions that underlie metastasis.













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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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