



Radiotherapy and Immunotherapy Combinations for the Treatment of Cancer

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Radiotherapy (RT) is a principal component of cancer treatment, given to over 50% of patients. In addition to direct cytotoxic activity via the induction of DNA damage, RT can influence the immune response to cancer and recalibrate the tumour microenvironment. Immunogenic changes in response to RT contribute to multiple stages of the cancer immunity cycle, activate the innate immune system and orchestrate priming of tumour-specific immunity. Alternatively, RT can exacerbate immune suppression via the upregulation of inhibitory checkpoints, and recruitment of myeloid cells. The ability of RT to modulate immune responses to cancer provides a clear rationale for combination with immunotherapeutic strategies. An extensive array of preclinical studies support this concept, demonstrating improved local control following combination therapy and highlighting the exciting potential to augment systemic immunity, leading to remission of disease outside of the irradiated field (abscopal responses).





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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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