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Regulation of Autophagic Flux for Anti-cancer Therapy

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Message from the Guest Editor

Autophagy is a naturally occurring cellular catastrophic process induced by various cellular stresses, linked to programmed cell death. Cancer cells exposed to anti-cancer drugs employ autophagy for survival. Autophagy is involved in immune evasion of cancer cells by immune checkpoint molecules such as PD-L1 and PD1. Immune checkpoint inhibitor therapy has shown clinical benefits in treating cancers. Anti-cancer drug resistance is closely related with enhanced angiogenic, tumorigenic, and metastatic potential. Deregulation of autophagy occurs in cancers, inflammatory diseases, and metabolic diseases. Autophagic flux regulates the responses to anti-cancer drugs. A signaling pathway such as EGFR/RAS/MAPK is involved in the induction of autophagy. Autophagic flux thus can serve as a target for the development of therapy against cancers and other various inflammatory diseases.



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