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Smoking and Lung Cancer: Cellular and Molecular Differences between Smokers and Never-Smokers

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Message from the Guest Editors

Dear Colleagues,

Lung cancer epidemiologic trends reflect the past trends of cigarette smoking to a great extent. Although lung cancer is strongly associated with cigarette smoking, nevertheless only about 15% of smokers get lung cancer, and also some never-smokers develop this malignancy. The proportion of never-smokers among Asian patients is higher than in Caucasians Other environmental factors include air pollution: occupational; second-hand tobacco smoke; smoke from domestic combustion for heating; radon in uranium miners. There are significant histopathological differences hetween smokers and never-smokers Expression of many genes is different in smoking versus never-smoking lung cancer patients. Polymophisms of several genes have been found to be risk factors in never or light smokers, but tended to be protective in heavy smokers. There are also differences in de novo gene mutations and their frequencies in smokers and neversmokers bearing lung cancer.













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