



Natural Killer and NKT Cells in Cancers

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Message from the Guest Editors

Natural Killer (NK) as well as Natural Killer T (NKT) cells represent exceptional lymphocyte populations with major tumor-killing activity. NK cells possess activating as well as inhibitory receptors. Most NKT cells recognize the antigen-presenting molecule CD1d. NKT cells are classified into type 1 invariant, type 2 diverse, and NKT-like cells. NK, as well as NKT cells, have been shown to play an essential role in autoimmune diseases as well as in cancer. NKT cells are present in peripheral blood mononuclear cells or cord blood in low numbers but can be expanded in vitro. Most clinical trials with NKT cells have been performed with Cytokine-Induced Killer (CIK) cells. CIK cells are licensed, e.g., in Germany.

Due to their easy availability and potent antitumor activity, NK and NKT cells have emerged as promising immunotherapeutic approaches in oncology and may become very important in the prognosis of cancer.

This Special Issue, “Natural Killer (NK) and Natural Killer T (NKT) Cells in Cancers”, will cover a selection of recent research topics and current review articles in this field. Experimental papers, up-to-date review articles, and commentaries are all welcome.





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