



Role of Innate Immune Cells in the Tumor Progression and Metastasis

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Message from the Guest Editor

The milieu in which the tumor grows and proliferates is characterized by the tumor microenvironment, harboring both malignant and non-malignant cells. Among non-malignant cells, consisting of host-derived stromal, immune, and endothelial cells, innate immune cells can play dual and paradoxical roles in tumor development and dissemination. Indeed, they have the potential to recognize and destroy tumor cells, and, on the other hand, they can become pro-tumorigenic by helping the development of the tumor mass, as well as progression, invasiveness, dissemination, and clinical outcome. For cell growth, progression and dissemination, tumor cells must interact with innate immune cells in order to regulate a complex modified tissue compartment. In the tumor microenvironment, there are different key processes that must be established to ensure tumor growth, such as triggering a tumor promoting inflammation, inducing an antigenic immune evasion, activating an angiogenesis switch, and driving metastatic competence. All these factors highlight the key role of the immune system in neoplastic disease.





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