



Cytomegalovirus, Inflammation and Oncomodulation

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Message from the Guest Editor

Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV) is an immune and onco-modulatory virus that belongs to the herpes virus family with unique capacity to maintain latency after primary infection. The sero-prevalence for HCMV is 50–100% worldwide. Inflammation is the key element for HCMV reactivation in blood monocytes that result in differentiation of monocytes into macrophages or dendritic cells, which can transmit the virus to other cell types and can cause serious disease in immunocompromised individuals and cancer patients. During the past years a link between HCMV and certain types of cancer such as Glioblastoma, breast cancer, ovarian cancer and colon cancer has been shown. In these studies high prevalence of viral proteins and nucleic acids was detected in tumor tissue specimens with evidence of onco-modulatory abilities conferred by this virus. Frequent reactivation of latent HCMV in tumor tissues by inflammation would exacerbate inflammation by increasing production of inflammatory factors that may contribute to tumor progression.





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