

Bölüm 27

KANSER KÖK HÜCRELERİNİ HEDEFLEYEN TEDAVİLER

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Kanser kök hücreleri (KKH) kendi kendini yenileme özelliği kazanabilen ve tümör kitlesini oluşturan non-tümörojenik kanser hücrelerine differansiye olabilen malign hücreler şeklinde tanımlanmaktadır.¹ KKH'lerinin tümörün başlangıç evresinde, relapslarda, metastaz gelişmesinde ve geleneksel tedavilere rezistans gelişiminde rol oynadığı düşünülmektedir.² Bu özellikleri sebebiyle KKH'lerine karşı yeni tedavi yaklaşımlarının geliştirilmesi gerekmektedir. Son yıllarda immünolojik gelişmelerin ışığında kanser hücreleri ve immün sistem arasındaki hücresel ve moleküler ilişkiler daha iyi anlaşılmıştır. Bu sayede daha az toksisite ile daha uzun ve kalıcı klinik yanıtlar güncel tümör immün terapileri ile bir grup hastada elde edilebilmektedir.³ Tümör immün terapilerinde elde edilen kalıcı yanıtların sebebi net olarak bilinmese de, KKH'leri hedef alıyor olması bu kalıcı yanıtın temel sebebi olarak düşünülebilir. Bu hipotez kesin olarak kanıtlanabilirse KKH'lere karşı immün terapiler bu kalıcı yanıtları önümüzdeki yıllarda daha fazla hastada sağlayabilecektir.

KKH'LERİN GELENEKSEL TEDAVİLERE REZİSTANSI

İlerlemiş malign tümörlerin prognozu kemoterapi ve radyoterailerdeki gelişmelere rağmen hala zayıftır. KKH'lerin yetersiz hedef alınması bu zayıf tedavi yanıtının sebebi olabilir. KKH'lerin geleneksel tedavilere dirençli olduğu bilinmektedir.⁴ KKH'lerin kemoterapi rezistansı, ilaç akış pompalarının artmış ekspresyonu, daha verimli DNA onarımı⁵ ve KKH'lerin kendi mikroçevreleriyle olan ilişkileri⁶ ile açıklanabilir. Bu tedaviye direnç göz önünde bulundurduğunda, yeni ve alternatif tedavilerin geleneksel tedavilerin etkinliğini arttırmak amacıyla geliştirilmesi gerekmektedir.

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