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Paclitaxel Activity in Cervical Cancer & Breast

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Abstract

Cancer is a multifactorial disease and is the one of the leading causes of death worldwide. The contributing factors include specific genetic background, chronic exposure to various environmental stresses and improper diet. All these risk factors lead to the accumulation of molecular changes or mutations in some important proteins in cells which contributes to the initiation of carcinogenesis. Chemotherapy is an effective treatment against cancer but undesirable chemotherapy reactions and the development of resistance to drugs which results in multi-drug resistance. The last decade witnessed the introduction of exciting new chemotherapeutic agents. Among these, paclitaxel emerged as one of the most powerful compounds.

Breast cancer (BC) is a very aggressive and frequently metastatic tumor in women. Chemotherapy has proven to be a promising treatment option to combat this type of cancer. Among the various chemotherapeutic agents, paclitaxel (PTX) plays an important role in the treatment of various types of cancer. This review gives an outline of chemotherapy of advanced, persistent or recurrent cervical cancer. Paclitaxel is used in the first line treatment of ovarian cancer, but acquired resistance represents the most important clinical problem and a major obstacle to a successful therapy. Several mechanisms have been implicated in paclitaxel resistance; however, this process has not yet been fully explained.

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