

Immunological aspects of Targeted Alpha Therapy response

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Alpha-radiotherapy is an internal radiation therapy based on the use of α -particle emitters. These radionuclides are highly cytotoxic and altogether their characteristics make them of particular interest in the treatment of disseminated cancers, minimal residual disease and micro-metastases. Nowadays there is a growing interest for these α -emitters whose development in the clinic was so far limited. Indeed remarkable clinical results have been observed in hematological malignancies and lately in metastatic castration-resistant prostate cancer. Apart from their direct cytotoxic potential on tumor cells, preclinical in vitro and in vivo studies have also investigated the bystander effects of alpha-radiotherapy, in particular on the tumor microenvironment and its immune components. Depending on the type of tumor and on the α -radionuclide, the scope of these studies could help specify the optimal conditions for the use of alpha-radiotherapy as well as the combination therapies most likely to potentiate tumor eradication.

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