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Molecular Cancer Therapeutics
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CANCER THERAPEUTICS INSIGHTS

COMPANION DIAGNOSTICS AND CANCER BIOMARKERS

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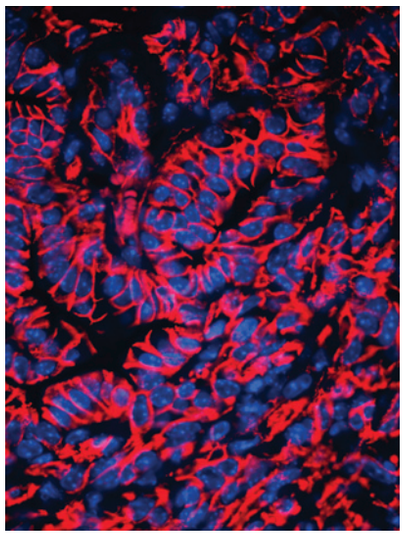

Hypoxia can drive loss of tumor cell differentiation and elevate metastatic potential in pancreatic cancer. Inhibition of heparanase with PG545 reduced vascular function and increased hypoxia in a GEMM of pancreatic cancer; however, PG545 treatment did not enhance tumor cell EMT. Immunofluorescence was used to show that tumors from PG545-treated animals express elevated levels of membrane-associated β-catenin, a characteristic of epithelial cells. These data are consistent with observed changes in E-cadherin and other EMT-associated proteins and suggest that the proinvasive effects of hypoxia can be abrogated by inhibition of heparanase. For details, see article by Ostapoff and colleagues on page 1190.

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