Letter to the Editor

Molecular Cancer Therapeutics

Wnt Signaling Inhibition Promotes Apoptosis in Sarcomas—Response

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First, we would like to thank Drs. Bertucci, Finetti, and Birnbaum for their scientific input.

The data they provide is certainly very interesting and perfectly complements our work (1). We understand that these results have not been published before, for which reason, they present novel correlations with clinical data in STS compared with other articles describing Wnt/β-catenin signaling alterations only on the molecular level (2, 3, 4). From their results, we would like to highlight two important points.

First, they describe higher β-catenin activation in sarcomas when compared with normal tissue and, especially in leiomyosarcomas, this activation correlates with high-risk cases and lower metastasis-free survival. These findings are consistent with our results on cell lines and primary cultures, in which we compared β-catenin activation and expression of target genes with normal mesenchymal stem cells. Regarding the leiomyosarcoma subtype, we have analyzed several leiomyosarcoma cell lines and primary cultures and also observed high β-catenin activation. In fact, our work (1) demonstrates the importance of the Wnt signaling in liposarcomas and leiomyosarcomas, suggesting that leiomyosarcomas could be a sarcoma subtype that may benefit the most from this inhibitory therapeutic strategy.

Second, we and others (2) have suggested that CDC25A is one of the most relevant target genes in sarcomas. In fact, Bertucci and colleagues also mention a positive correlation of β-catenin activation and CDC25A mRNA expression in a large series of soft tissue samples from patients (1,379), reinforcing the role of CDC25A in sarcomagenesis and making it an attractive biomarker for future research.

Disclosure of Potential Conflicts of Interest

No potential conflicts of interest were disclosed.

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