

Review

CD13: A Key Player in Multidrug Resistance in Cancer Chemotherapy

Qie Guo,* Xiao Li,* Meng-Na Cui,* Jia-Lin Sun,* Hong-Yan Ji,* Bei-Bei Ni,* and Mei-Xing Yan†

*Department of Clinical Pharmacy, The Affiliated Hospital of Qingdao University, Qingdao, Shandong, P.R. China

†Department of Pharmacy, Qingdao Women and Children's Hospital, Qingdao, Shandong, P.R. China

Cancer is one of the most serious diseases that are harmful to human health. Systemic chemotherapy is an optimal therapeutic strategy for the treatment of cancer, but great difficulty has been encountered in its administration in the form of multidrug resistance (MDR). As an enzyme on the outer cell surface, CD13 is documented to be involved in the MDR development of tumor cells. In this review, we will focus on the role of CD13 in MDR generation based on the current evidence.

Key words: CD13; Multidrug resistance (MDR); Drug efflux; Chemotherapy; Reactive oxygen species; Immune suppression

INTRODUCTION

Chemotherapy is widely used to treat cancer, often with effective results¹. Chemotherapeutic drugs can be divided into the following kinds according to their anti-tumor mechanisms. (1) Alkylating agents, represented by cyclophosphamide and cisplatin, prevent tumor regeneration by targeting DNA synthesis with cross-linking DNA. Hodgkin's lymphoma and breast and ovarian cancer are sensitive to treatment with alkylating agents². (2) Antimetabolites used in the treatment of chronic leukemia, gastric cancer (GC), and colorectal cancer are represented by 5-fluorouracil, methotrexate, and cytarabine. It has been proven that antimetabolites can interfere with the synthesis of DNA and RNA by reducing the intake of purine nucleotides³. (3) Antitumor antibiotics, including bleomycin and adriamycin, have been widely used in cancer chemotherapy and function by intercalating into DNA base pairs to inhibit the replication of DNA⁴. Beyond these, anticancer drugs obtained from plants, such as vincristine and paclitaxel, can restrain the mitosis that realizes cell regeneration⁵.

Unfortunately, the application of chemotherapeutic drugs is hindered by multidrug resistance (MDR), in which tumor cells show resistance to not only a specific

drug but also other drugs with different structures and mechanisms⁶. Emerging evidence has demonstrated that MDR development represents an important contributor to the unfavorable prognosis of GC patients and the majority of GC deaths⁷. GC patients with MDR often exhibit a median survival period that ranges from 3 to 6 months⁸. A clinical trial was performed in which hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) patients were randomly divided into two groups, including 112 patients who did not receive chemotherapy and 120 patients treated with cisplatin (100 mg) treatment in advance, followed by the administration of mitomycin, cisplatin, and adriamycin for more than 4 weeks. The results showed that the rate of response in HCC patients treated without chemotherapy and in those treated with cisplatin treatment was 26.7% and 11.7%, respectively, suggesting that HCC cells are also less sensitive to chemotherapeutic drugs, probably due to MDR development⁹. Thus, MDR development has become an urgent problem to be solved in cancer chemotherapy.

CD13, also known as aminopeptidase N (APN), is an extracellular peptide belonging to the type II zinc-dependent metalloproteinase family, the members of which are widely expressed and have catalytic activity¹⁰. CD13 promotes tumor angiogenesis, invasion, and metastasis in breast, ovarian, and prostate cancer cells by participating in

Address correspondence to Mei-Xing Yan, Department of Clinical Pharmacy, Qingdao Municipal Women's and Children's Hospital, No. 6 Tongfu Road, Qingdao, Shandong, 266000, P.R. China. Tel: 86-532-6866-1155; Fax: 86-532-6866-1155; E-mail: 470367762@qq.com

enzymatic cleavage of the polypeptide chain¹¹. More strikingly, there is a positive association between CD13 expression and MDR development in tumor cells^{12–14}. Herein we provide comprehensive insights into the role of CD13 in promoting MDR development by mediating the increase in drug efflux, ROS inhibition, and immune suppression.

DRUG EFFLUX: THE NOTORIOUS REASON FOR MDR DEVELOPMENT

Drug efflux, facilitated by membrane transport proteins, is associated with the development of MDR in tumor cells¹⁵. Membrane transport proteins represented by the ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transport superfamily, including P-glycoprotein (P-gp), multidrug resistance-associated proteins (MRPs), lung resistance protein (LRP), and breast cancer resistance protein (BCRP/ABCG), pump out a variety of chemotherapeutic drugs to increase drug efflux and reduce intracellular concentrations, thereby inducing drug resistance in tumor cells¹⁶. P-gp has 12 transmembrane domains and two ATP binding sites that can be inserted into the cell membrane¹⁷. The transmembrane region as a membrane channel is conducive to material transport, while the ATP binding site is responsible for the energy supply¹⁸. Expression of the MDR1 gene encoding P-gp is upregulated in the chemoresistant GC cell line SCG-7901/ADR compared to that in parental SCG-7901 cells¹⁹. Additionally, P-gp is an ABC transport protein that is known to contribute to the incidence of MDR in HCC²⁰. However, new evidence indicates that the MDR1 gene and P-gp are not detected in some tumors with MDR, but MRPs, represented by MRP1-9, were found on the cell membrane of these non-P-gp-expressing MDR cells²¹. MRP1 expression is used to guide the selection of chemotherapeutic regimens, consistent with the positive association between MRP1 expression and drug susceptibility²². MRP5 is involved in the development of intrinsic resistance, while MRP2 and MRP3 are associated with acquired resistance of HCC cells²³. In addition, increased invasive depth and numbers of metastatic lymph nodes in GC specimens are tied to an elevated expression of ABCG2²⁴. Furthermore, protein levels of LRP are higher in GCs with high differentiation than in mucinous carcinomas with poorly differentiated cells, suggesting that LRP is necessary for the development of MDR in GC cells²⁵. Recent evidence suggests that CD13 induces MDR in tumor cells by triggering increased drug efflux¹². In particular, CD13 may activate the expression of ABC family proteins in both cancer stem cells (CSCs) and tumor cells to accelerate MDR development^{13,26}.

CD13: THE GENESIS OF DRUG EFFLUX MEDIATED BY CANCER STEM CELLS

CSCs, which include a small number of tumor cells with self-renewal and tumor-initiating ability, slow

growth, and low differentiation status, play a decisive role in the initiation of tumor formation and growth²⁷. CSCs can induce drug resistance, recurrence, and metastasis of malignant tumors²⁸. Nevertheless, the current research on CSCs is still in the early stages. More exciting advances in sorting and identifying cancer stem cells have been reported. CSCs can be identified by magnetic-activated cell sorting (MACS) and fluorescence-activated cell sorting (FACS) using specific surface markers²⁹. In addition, CSCs are also characterized as side population (SP) cells that can efflux Hoechst 33342, showing low fluorescence or no fluorescence, and thus can be separated by FACS³⁰. At present, SP cells have been successfully isolated from HCC, pancreatic cancer, lung cancer, and GC cells^{31–34}. Cell markers, such as CD24, CD105, CD44, CD90, CD133, EpCAM, CD13, and OV6, have been identified on these SP cells³⁵.

CD13 plays a vital role in the self-renewal capacity of liver cancer stem cells (LCSCs), which are derived from the differentiation of hepatic stem cells and oval cells³⁶. CD13⁺ LCSCs maintain a semidormant state at the G₀/G₁ transition in the hypoxic environment of the liver fibrous capsule, and the growth of new tumors is demonstrated after these cells are transplanted subcutaneously into immune-deficient mice, but no new tumors grow after anti-CD13 antibody or the CD13 inhibitor bestatin is administered^{37,38}. CD13⁺ SP cells were also found to be resistant to irinotecan, and these SP cells highly express ABCG2³⁹. In vivo results demonstrate that CD13⁺ cells have stronger lung metastasis ability as well as greater resistance to doxorubicin and vincristine than CD13⁻ MHCC-97L cells due to the high expression of ABCG2⁴⁰. More intriguingly, Li-7, a unique CD13⁺ HCC line that was developed by cancer stem cell differentiation in culture, has been shown to be resistant to sorafenib due to the high expression of P-gp and MRP2⁴¹.

Emerging evidence has demonstrated that the induction of ABC transporter expression mediated by CD13 in CSCs is caused by abnormal activation of the Hedgehog (Hh) signaling pathway⁴². The Hh pathway plays an important role in maintaining the function of CSCs but is mostly inactivated in normal cells. The Hh signal is delivered by two receptors, also known as Patched (Ptc) and Smoothed (Smo), on the cell membrane. Hedgehog signal transduction begins from Patched, is transmitted by a G protein-coupled receptor, and finally initiates the activation of the Gli family to promote gene transcription⁴³. An epoch-making study indicates that green fluorescent protein (GFP)-labeled CD13 can be captured by CD90⁺ A549 cells, and this GFP-CD13 fusion protein localized to Patched⁴⁴. A further study showed that human glioblastoma stem cells display significant resistance to etoposide and 5-fluorouracil with aberrant expression of CD13 and CD133⁴⁵, and transcriptional activity of Gli-1 in HCC

is reduced after a blocking antibody targeting CD13 is administered, accompanied by a decrease in ABCG2 expression⁴⁶. Moreover, CD13 can act as a pseudoligand of Patched to sensitize the Hedgehog signaling pathway, leading to the upregulation of ABCG2, P-gp, MRP2, and MRP3, which are direct targets of Gli1 in the induction of drug resistance⁴⁷.

Signal transduction initiated by Notch, including Notch-1, Notch-2, Notch-3, and Notch-4, is another pathway for maintaining normal growth and differentiation of CSCs. Notch-1 is the most commonly studied receptor, and its role in MDR formation caused by CD13 expression is a focus of much research. Notch-1 expression is upregulated in colon cancer cell lines, whereas inhibition of Notch-1 can increase the sensitivity of tumor cells to regorafenib⁴⁸. A further study was carried out in which CD44⁺CD13⁺ SP cells were sorted from gastric cancer stem cells. These SP cells show sustained loss of Notch-1 after stimulation by small interfering RNA targeting CD13, but MW167, an inhibitor of Notch-1, had no effect on the expression of CD13⁴⁹. In addition, constitutive expression of Notch-1 was positively related to ABCG2 protein levels in glioma stem cells⁵⁰. More importantly, miR-34 has also been shown to be involved in regulating the expression of CD13, and miR-34 overexpression restrained CD13 expression to decrease Notch-1 levels, thus reversing the resistance of pancreatic cancer stem cells to gemcitabine⁵¹.

CD13: THE MODERATOR OF DRUG EFFLUX MEDIATED BY TUMOR CELLS

It is currently believed that CD13 can be used as a hub for promoting the expression of ABC transporters. Moreover, CD13 can initiate this regulation by upregulating the expression of p53 and CDX2 in HCC cells⁵². The activation of P-gp requires self-phosphorylation. Protein kinase C (PKC) plays important roles in several signal transduction cascades by phosphorylating the serine and threonine amino acid residues on signaling proteins⁵³. Additionally, the MDR cell lines obtained by drug selection are often accompanied by increased PKC activity, indicating a positive correlation between PKC expression and MDR. Furthermore, the expression of CD13 in the K562 leukemia cell line can induce the upregulation of PKC α , which may be related to the high phosphorylation of P-gp⁵⁴.

Through the comparison of the expression of MRP2, MRP3, and MRP5 in the normal liver cell line L-02, the hepatoma cell line BEL and the HCC drug-resistant cell line BEL/ADM, one study clarified that MRP2 expression in EL/ADM cells is higher than that in L-02 and BEL cells, but the expression of MRP3 and MRP5 was distinctly different in L-02, BEL, and BEL/ADM cells⁵⁵. This suggests that MRP2 may be involved in the development

of intrinsic MDR in HCC, and MRP5 and MRP3 expression may be related to acquired MDR in HCC. CD13 expression was positively correlated with the expression of MRP2 and MRP3 in HCC cells and LCSCs, indicating that CD13 mediates intrinsic and extrinsic MDR in HCC cells by increasing drug efflux⁵⁶. MRPs belong to the ABC superfamily along with P-gp, and MRPs can pump drugs with the help of ATP-dependent glutathione-binding S carrier (GS-X pump), for which the activity of glutathione-S-transferases (GSTs), including GST α , GST μ , and GST π , was essential⁵⁷. The constructive findings show that alkylating agent and platinum drugs can be excreted out of the cells through this so-called “GSH–drug coupling” mechanism. GST π is currently considered to be the most closely associated with MDR formation⁵⁸. In the colorectal cancer cell line SW480, GST π expression can be obviously induced after CD13 is overexpressed, followed by increased expression of MRP2⁵⁹.

Unlike P-gp and MRPs, LRP is a kind of nonglycoprotein, the gene of which is located in the short arm of the sixth chromosome, which is very close to the gene encoding MRP⁶⁰. It has been proven that two mechanisms are involved in MDR mediated by LRP. First, LRP prevents drugs from passing through nuclear pores into the nucleus. Additionally, LRP can deliver chemotherapeutic drugs into transport vesicles in the cytoplasm and present atrioventricular distribution, thus expelling them into the extracellular space through exocytosis^{61,62}. CD13 silencing can inhibit LRP expression in lung cancer, ovarian cancer, rectal cancer, and leukemia cells⁶³. Further results indicate that the nuclear pore complex (NPC), which can mediate the nuclear transport of proteins and the nuclear translocation of mRNA, has limited assembly in lung cancer cells, which have a remarkable expression of CD13⁶⁴.

In conclusion, CD13 plays a vital role in promoting drug efflux mediated by ABC transporters, in which diverse mechanisms are involved.

OXIDATIVE STRESS OBSTRUCTION BY CD13: THE IMPORTANT FACTOR OF MDR GROWTH

Reactive oxygen species (ROS) are formed as a natural byproduct of the normal metabolism of oxygen and are crucial in the maintenance of normal intracellular homeostasis⁶⁵. However, ROS levels can increase dramatically under environmental stress (e.g., UV light or tumor initiation), which is characterized by oxidative stress⁶⁶. Chemotherapeutic drugs mostly rely on the induction of tumor cell apoptosis to exert a therapeutic effect, and apoptosis mediated by mitochondrial pathways is largely dependent on ROS. ROS can promote the influx of Ca²⁺ to promote the release of CytC, which can be combined with apoptotic protease activating factor-1 (Apaf-1) to engender the formation of apoptotic bodies⁶⁷. These

apoptotic bodies can recruit caspase molecules, leading to the activation of caspase 3/9, which is the executor of cell apoptosis⁶⁸. Unfortunately, when MDR occurs, oxidative stress is blocked. Studies have shown that there is a negative relation between CD13 expression and the level of ROS⁶⁹. In addition, the expression of Apaf-1 in patients with long-term administration of chemotherapeutic drugs is significantly lower than that in patients treated with initial chemotherapy and is negatively correlated with the expression of CD13⁷⁰. We have also found that the expression of BCL-XL and BCL-2 in HCC and normal tissues is not the same, and there is also a positive correlation between the BCL-XL and BCL-2 expression and the expression of CD13⁷¹.

The mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway is crucial in the eukaryotic signal transmission network. Signal transduction mediated by MAPK and the downstream cascade molecules p38 MAPK, JNK, and ERK1/2 can be propagated by MAP kinase, MAPK kinase, and MEK kinase⁷². The ERK1/2 signaling pathway regulates cell growth and differentiation, and the signaling pathways of p38 and MAPK JNK play an important role in inflammation initiation and cell apoptosis⁷³. Interestingly, mounting evidence supports a physiological role for ROS as a second messenger responsible for regulating drug resistance together with MAPK⁷⁴. The release of ROS can inhibit GST activity and reduce the synthesis of glutathione and downregulate P-gp expression, accompanied by inactivation of ERK1/2 and JNK⁷⁵. Combined treatment with molybdate, 5-fluorouracil, and mitomycin C activated JNK and P38, and elevated levels of intracellular ROS and decreased expression of CD13 were demonstrated⁷⁶. As such, we believe that high CD13 expression enables inhibition of ROS-induced stress, leading to the inhibition of cell apoptosis, thus generating MDR.

IMMUNE SUPPRESSION BY CD13: AN ACCELERATOR OF MDR DEVELOPMENT

As shown previously, the cancer patients with MDR to chemotherapeutic drugs often exhibited immune tolerance⁷⁷. It has been reported that CD13 is expressed not only on the surface of tumor cells but also in a large number of other cells and lymphocytes, which participate in the inflammatory response of T lymphocytes⁷⁸. Critically, when a tumor develops, CD13 can be expressed by antigen-presenting cells such as macrophages and monocytes to inhibit their antigen-presenting ability and the cytotoxic potential of natural killer cells against tumors⁷⁹. Chemokines (e.g., fMLP), antigen-presenting molecules (e.g., CD86), and a variety of immune-activating substances (e.g., IL-8) display obvious degradation⁸⁰. CD13 can also reduce the binding of major histocompatibility complex class II (MHC II), thereby reducing the

ability of T cells to recognize tumor antigens. Moreover, CD13⁺CD4⁺CD25^{hi} regulatory T cells exhibit higher suppressive function than CD4⁺CD25^{hi} regulatory T cells that do not express CD13 and increase with tumor stage in non-small cell lung cancer patients⁸¹. CD13^{hi} neutrophil-like myeloid-derived suppressor cells also exert immune suppression through arginase 1 expression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma⁸². However, evidence to support that immune escape mediated by CD13 plays a key role in MDR is still lacking.

CONCLUSIONS

MDR of tumor cells to multiple chemotherapeutic agents is still the main reason for chemotherapy failure and is difficult to handle in the treatment of cancer. To seek effective countermeasures to reverse MDR and enhance the effectiveness of chemotherapy for malignant tumors, the mechanism involved in MDR formation should be thoroughly researched.

As an exopeptidase, CD13 works ubiquitously in different peptide metabolism pathways. Interestingly, CD13 is overexpressed in many tumor cells and plays a key role in tumor angiogenesis, invasion, and metastasis, and also has been identified as a factor encouraging MDR development.

The abnormal expression of multidrug resistance-associated proteins is a culprit of increased drug efflux. In this review, we consider that CD13 can regulate the accumulation of ABC transporters, including P-gp, MRPs, LRP, and BCRP/ABCG, from gene transcription and protein expression in tumor cells. Although LRP is a new protein related to MDR, CD13 has been revealed to have a regulatory relationship with it. Therefore, it is obvious that the tumor-associated antigen CD13 can induce the occurrence of MDR by directly targeting ABC transporters.

CSCs are considered the most challenging enemy of tumor treatment because most of them are in a resting stage in the cell cycle. It is noteworthy that CD13 may increase the expression of ABC transporters by activating the Hedgehog and Notch-1 signaling pathways in CSCs to induce MDR development, creating a challenge for treatment. Moreover, p53 and CDX2 can promote the transcriptional activity of genes encoding ABC transporters, while PKC and GSTs provide a way for ABC transporters to pump chemotherapeutic drugs out of tumor cells.

ROS are promoters of cell apoptosis, but tumor cells lag in response to apoptosis, especially when they are resistant to chemotherapeutic drugs. In addition to mediating the efflux of drugs, CD13 can also inhibit the oxidative stress reaction of tumor cells. In particular, CD13 can downregulate ROS expression, resulting in inactivation of the MAPK signaling pathway with increased expression of ABC transporters.

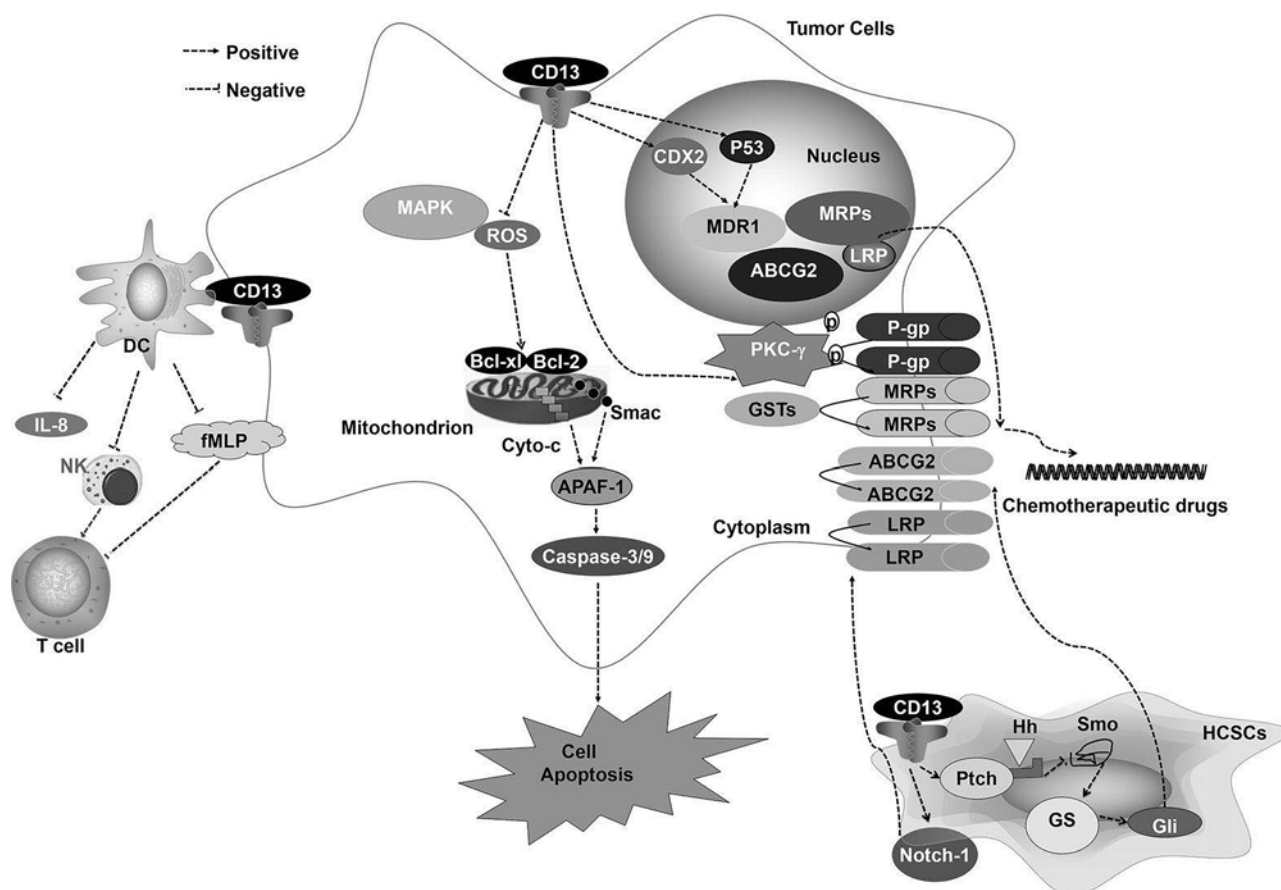


Figure 1. CD13 mediates multidrug resistance (MDR) development by triggering multiple mechanisms.

Immune suppression has been suggested as a mediator of tumor occurrence, and immune incompetence is also a cause of drug resistance. Studies have found that the expression of CD13 in lymphocytes can inhibit specific and nonspecific immunity by suppressing the secretion of inflammatory factors and preventing antigen presentation. As shown in Figure 1, CD13 mediates the production of MDR by triggering multiple mechanisms. Our discussion will provide a theoretical basis for further study of tumor MDR. Simultaneously, our review is useful in finding ways to reverse the drug resistance of tumors, and CD13 can be not only a direct target for cancer therapy but also a key point to reverse multidrug resistance. MDR might be resolved by CD13 inhibition induced by bestatin. The combination of bestatin and chemotherapeutic drugs, such as cisplatin, 5-fluorouracil, and the FOLFOX regimen (comprised of 5-fluorouracil, oxaliplatin, and leucovorin), may represent a novel therapeutic approach for GC and HCC patients^{12–14}. However, thus far, bestatin has not received FDA approval or has been tested in clinical trials, and there are no reliable methods to distinguish CD13 expression by normal cells, drug-resistant cells, and drug-sensitive cells. Thus, more research is needed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: The authors would like to thank AJE (American Journal expert) for editing our manuscript. The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

REFERENCES

1. Miller KD, Nogueira L, Mariotto AB, Rowland JH, Yabroff KR, Alfano CM, Jemal A, Kramer JL, Siegel RL. Cancer treatment and survivorship statistics, 2019. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2019;69(5):363–85.
2. Kantner T, Watts AG. Characterization of reactions between water-soluble trialkylphosphines and thiol alkylating reagents: Implications for protein-conjugation reactions. *Bioconjug Chem.* 2016;27(10):2400–6.
3. Składanowski AC. The role of soluble 5'-nucleotidases in the conversion of nucleotide analogs: Metabolic and therapeutic aspects. *Curr Med Chem.* 2013;20(34):4249–59.
4. Fais S. A nonmainstream approach against cancer. *J Enzyme Inhib Med Chem.* 2016;31(6):882–9.
5. Tilaoui M, Mouse HA, Jaafari A, Zyad A. Differential effect of artemisinin against cancer cell lines. *Nat Prod Bioprospect.* 2014;4(3):189–96.
6. Dong X, RJ Mumper. Nanomedicinal strategies to treat multidrug-resistant tumors: Current progress. *Nanomedicine (Lond)* 2010;5(4):597–615.
7. Van Cutsem E, Sagaert X, Topal B, Haustermans K, Prenen H. Gastric cancer. *Lancet* 2016;388(10060):2654–64.

8. Allemani C, Weir HK, Carreira H, Harewood R, Spika D, Wang XS, Bannon F, Ahn JV, Johnson CJ, Bonaventure A, Marcos-Gragera R. Global surveillance of cancer survival 1995–2009: Analysis of individual data for 25,676,887 patients from 279 population-based registries in 67 countries. *Lancet* 2015;385(9972):977–1010.
9. Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2018. *CA Cancer J Clin*. 2018;68(1):7–30.
10. Wickström M, Larsson R, Nygren P, Gullbo J. Aminopeptidase N (CD13) as a target for cancer chemotherapy. *Cancer Sci*. 2011;102(3):501–8.
11. Zhang X, Fang H, Zhang J, Yuan Y, Xu W. Recent advance in aminopeptidase N (APN/CD13) inhibitor research. *Curr Med Chem*. 2011;18(32):5011–21.
12. Guo Q, Sui ZG, Xu W, Quan XH, Sun JL, Li X, Ji HY, Jing FB. Ubenimex suppresses Pim-3 kinase expression by targeting CD13 to reverse MDR in HCC cells. *Oncotarget* 2017;8(42):72652–65.
13. Guo Q, Jing FJ, Qu HJ, Xu W, Han B, Xing XM, Ji HY, Jing FB. Ubenimex Reverses MDR in gastric cancer cells by activating caspase-3-mediated apoptosis and suppressing the expression of membrane transport proteins. *Biomed Res Int*. 2019;2019:4390839.
14. Guo Q, Jing FJ, Xu W, Li X, Li X, Sun JL, Xing XM, Zhou CK, Jing FB. Ubenimex induces autophagy inhibition and EMT suppression to overcome cisplatin resistance in GC cells by perturbing the CD13/EMP3/PI3K/AKT/NF- B axis. *Aging (Albany NY)* 2019;12(1):80–105.
15. Kachalaki S, Ebrahimi M, Mohamed Khosroshahi L, Mohammadinejad S, Baradaran B. Cancer chemoresistance; biochemical and molecular aspects: A brief overview. *Eur J Pharm Sci*. 2016;8:20–30.
16. Chen Z, Shi T, Zhang L, Zhu P, Deng M, Huang C, Hu T, Jiang L, Li J. Mammalian drug efflux transporters of the ATP binding cassette (ABC) family in multidrug resistance: A review of the past decade. *Cancer Lett*. 2016;370(1):153–64.
17. Li XQ, Wang L, Lei Y, Hu T, Zhang FL, Cho CH, To KK. Reversal of P-gp and BCRP-mediated MDR by tariquidar derivatives. *Eur J Med Chem*. 2015;101:560–72.
18. Alfarouk KO, Stock CM, Taylor S, Walsh M, Muddathir AK, Verduzco D, Bashir AH, Mohammed OY, Elhassan GO, Harguindey S. Resistance to cancer chemotherapy: Failure in drug response from ADME to P-gp. *Cancer Cell Int*. 2015;15:71.
19. Cui J, Yin Y, Ma Q, Wang G, Olman V, Zhang Y, Chou WC, Hong CS, Zhang C, Cao S, Mao X, Li Y, Qin S, Zhao S, Jiang J, Hastings P, Li F, Xu Y. Comprehensive characterization of the genomic alterations in human gastric cancer. *Int J Cancer* 2015;137(1):86–95.
20. Gao B, Yang FM, Yu ZT, Li R, Xie F, Chen J, Luo HJ, Zhang JC. Relationship between the expression of MDR1 in hepatocellular cancer and its biological behaviors. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol*. 2015;8:6995–7001.
21. Keppler D. Multidrug resistance proteins (MRPs, ABCs): Importance for pathophysiology and drug therapy. *Handb Exp Pharmacol*. 2011;201:299–323.
22. Rocha Gda G, Oliveira RR, Kaplan MA, Gattass CR. 3 -Acetyl tormentic acid reverts MRP1/ABCC1 mediated cancer resistance through modulation of intracellular levels of GSH and inhibition of GST activity. *Eur J Pharmacol*. 2014;741:140–9.
23. Qian JQ, Sun P, Pan ZY, Fang ZZ. Annonaceous acetogenins reverses drug resistance of human hepatocellular carcinoma BEL-7402/5-FU and HepG2/ADM cell lines. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol*. 2015;8(9):11934–44.
24. Westover D, Li F. New trends for overcoming ABCG2/BCRP-mediated resistance to cancer therapies. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2015;34:159.
25. Hu WQ, Peng CW, Li Y. The expression and significance of P-glycoprotein, lung resistance protein and multidrug resistance-associated protein in gastric cancer. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2009;28:144.
26. Wang Q, Chen N, Yu C, Wei Z, Li Z, Jin Z. Aberrant expression of CD13 and stem cell markers in CD133-induced liver cancer in mice. *J BUON*. 2019;24(4):1408–13.
27. Hoek KS, Goding CR. Cancer stem cells versus phenotype-switching in melanoma. *Pigment Cell Melanoma Res*. 2010;23(6):746–59.
28. Guo Z, Li LQ, Jiang JH, Ou C, Zeng LX, Xiang BD. Cancer stem cell markers correlate with early recurrence and survival in hepatocellular carcinoma. *World J Gastroenterol*. 2014;20(8):2098–106.
29. Nakayama M, Ogasawara S, Akiba J, Ueda K, Koura K, Todoroki K, Kinoshita H, Yano H. Side population cell fractions from hepatocellular carcinoma cell lines increased with tumor dedifferentiation, but lack characteristic features of cancer stem cells. *J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2014;29(5):1092–101.
30. Zhang H, Xi H, Cai A, Xia Q, Wang XX, Lu C, Zhang Y, Song Z, Wang H, Li Q, Chen L, Guo Z. Not all side population cells contain cancer stem-like cells in human gastric cancer cell lines. *Dig Dis Sci*. 2013;58(1):132–9.
31. Zhang N, Li R, Tao KS, Cao DY, Ti ZY, Ding R, Cai L, Zhang FQ, Dou KF. Characterization of a stem-like population in hepatocellular carcinoma MHCC97 cells. *Oncol Rep*. 2010;23(3):827–31.
32. Niess H, Camaj P, Renner A, Ischenko I, Zhao Y, Krebs S, Mysliwicz J, Jäckel C, Nelson PJ, Blum H, Jauch KW, Ellwart JW, Bruns CJ. Side population cells of pancreatic cancer show characteristics of cancer stem cells responsible for resistance and metastasis. *Target Oncol*. 2015;10(2):215–27.
33. Ho MM, Ng AV, Lam S, Hung JY. Side population in human lung cancer cell lines and tumors is enriched with stem-like cancer cells. *Cancer Res*. 2007;67(10):4827–33.
34. Haraguchi N, Utsunomiya T, Inoue H, Tanaka F, Mimori K, Barnard GF, Mori M. Characterization of a side population of cancer cells from human gastrointestinal system. *Stem Cells* 2006;24(3):506–13.
35. Shimoda M, Ota M, Okada Y. Isolation of cancer stem cells by side population method. *Methods Mol Biol*. 2018;1692:49–59.
36. Tanimizu N, Mitaka T. Re-evaluation of liver stem/progenitor cells. *Organogenesis* 2014;10(2):208–15.
37. Guzman Rojas, Rangel R, Salameh A, Edwards JK, Dondossola E, Kim YG, Saghatelian A, Giordano RJ, Kolonin MG, Staquicini FI, Koivunen E, Sidman RL, Arap W, Pasqualini R. Cooperative effects of aminopeptidase N (CD13) expressed by nonmalignant and cancer cells within the tumor microenvironment. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 2012;109(5):1637–42.
38. Haraguchi N, Ishii H, Mimori K, Tanaka F, Ohkuma M, Ho Min K, Hirofumi A, Daisuke T, Hisanori H, Hiroaki N, Graham F, Barnard, Yuichiro, Masaki M. CD13 is a therapeutic target in human liver cancer stem cells. *J Clin Invest*. 2010;120(9):3326–39.
39. Shishido Y, Ueno S, Yamazaki R, Nagaoka M, Matsuzaki T. ABCG2 inhibitor YHO-13351 sensitizes cancer stem/

- initiating-like side population cells to irinotecan. *Anticancer Res.* 2013;33(4):1379–86.
40. Hu C, Li H, Li J, Zhu Z, Yin S, Hao X, Yao M, Zheng S, Gu J. Analysis of ABCG2 expression and side population identifies intrinsic drug efflux in the HCC cell line MHCC-97L and its modulation by Akt signaling. *Carcinogenesis* 2008;29(12):2289–97.
 41. Yamada T, Abei M, Danjoh I, Shiota R, Yamashita T, Hyodo I, Nakamura Y. Identification of a unique hepatocellular carcinoma line, Li-7, with CD13(+) cancer stem cells hierarchy and population change upon its differentiation during culture and effects of sorafenib. *BMC Cancer* 2015;15:260.
 42. Carballo GB, Honorato JR, de Lopes GPF, Spohr TCLSE. A highlight on Sonic hedgehog pathway. *Cell Commun Signal.* 2018;16(1):11.
 43. Kasper M, Regl G, Frischauf AM, Aberger F. GLI transcription factors: Mediators of oncogenic Hedgehog signalling. *Eur J Cancer* 2006;42(4):437–45.
 44. Giroux-Leprieur E, Costantini A, Ding VW, He B. Hedgehog signaling in lung cancer: From oncogenesis to cancer treatment resistance. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2018;19(9):2835.
 45. Girardi D, Barrichello A, Fernandes G, Pereira A. Targeting the hedgehog pathway in cancer: Current evidence and future perspectives. *Cells* 2019;8(2):153.
 46. Zhang G, Wang Z, Luo W, Jiao H, Wu J, Jiang C. Expression of potential cancer stem cell marker ABCG2 is associated with malignant behaviors of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Gastroenterol Res Pract.* 2013;2013:782581.
 47. Laukkanen MO, Castellone MD. Hijacking the hedgehog pathway in cancer therapy. *Anticancer Agents Med Chem.* 2016;16(3):309–17.
 48. Mirone G, Perna S, Shukla A, Marfe G. Involvement of Notch-1 in resistance to regorafenib in colon cancer cells. *J Cell Physiol.* 2016;231(5):1097–105.
 49. Zhao Y, Chen X, Ma L, Zuo Z, Zhu Z, Zhu X, Wang Q, He E, Xiong L, Pei J, Xu L, Hou L, Chen S. Electro acupuncture pretreatment induces tolerance against focal cerebral ischemia through activation of canonical Notch pathway. *BMC Neurosci.* 2012;13:111.
 50. Pohlmann E, Murphy S. Abstract 3862: Isolation and nanoscale visualization of glioblastoma stem-like cells utilizing the Notch1 receptor. *Cancer Res.* 2014;74:3862.
 51. Yabuuchi S, Pai SG, Campbell NR, de Wilde RF, De Oliveira E, Korangath P, Streppel MM, Rasheed ZA, Hidalgo M. Notch signaling pathway targeted therapy suppresses tumor progression and metastatic spread in pancreatic cancer. *Cancer Lett.* 2013;335(1):41–51.
 52. Li Y, Bi H, Zhong G, Huang L, Li G, Xia Y, Chen X, Huang M. Effect of phorbol 12-myristate 13-acetate on function and gene expression of P-glycoprotein in adriamycin-resistant K562/ADM cells. *Pharmacology* 2013;92(3–4):121–30.
 53. Sun Q, Li Y. The inhibitory effect of pseudolaric acid B on gastric cancer and multidrug resistance via Cox-2/PKC- / P-gp pathway. *PLoS One* 2014;9(9):e107830.
 54. Yang X, Li X, Duan Z, Wang X. An update on circumventing multidrug resistance in cancer by targeting P-glycoprotein. *Curr Cancer Drug Targets* 2018;18(7):677–96.
 55. Qian JQ, Sun P, Pan ZY, Fang ZZ. Annonaceous acetogenins reverses drug resistance of human hepatocellular carcinoma BEL-7402/5-FU and HepG2/ADM cell lines. *Int J Clin Exp Pathol.* 2015;8(9):11934–44.
 56. Liu AQ, Ge LY, Lu XL, Luo XL, Cai YL, Ye XQ, Geng FF. Silencing of the hTERT gene by shRNA inhibits HCC growth in vitro and in vivo. *PLoS One* 2014;9(9):e107019.
 57. Lin Y, Huang Y, Zheng W, Wu K, Luo Q, Zhao Y, Xiong S, Wang F. Quantification of bindings of organometallic ruthenium complexes to GST by mass spectrometry. *J Inorg Biochem.* 2015;146:44–51.
 58. Cree IA, Charlton P. Molecular chess? Hallmarks of anti-cancer drug resistance. *BMC Cancer* 2017;17(1):10.
 59. Meyerhardt JA, Mayer RJ. Systemic therapy for colorectal cancer. *N Engl J Med.* 2005;352(5):476–87.
 60. Fletcher JI, Williams RT, Henderson MJ, Norris MD, Haber M. ABC transporters as mediators of drug resistance and contributors to cancer cell biology. *Drug Resist Updat.* 2016;26:1–9.
 61. Kartal-Yandim M, Adan-Gokbulut A, Baran Y. Molecular mechanisms of drug resistance and its reversal in cancer. *Crit Rev Biotechnol.* 2016;36(4):716–26.
 62. Hagmann W, Jesnowski R, Faissner R, Guo C, Löhr JM. ATP-binding cassette C transporters in human pancreatic carcinoma cell lines. *Pancreatol* 2009;9(1–2):136–44.
 63. Murakami S. Molecular mechanism of multi-drug resistance. *Nihon Rinsho* 2008;66(1):193–203.
 64. Chen YL, Yang TY, Wu CL, Chen KC, Hsu SL, Hsueh CM. Mechanisms underlying lung resistance-related protein (LRP)-mediated doxorubicin resistance of non-small cell lung cancer cells. *Chin J Physiol.* 2016;59(6):331–47.
 65. Bose J, Rodrigo-Moreno A, Shabala S. ROS homeostasis in halophytes in the context of salinity stress tolerance. *J Exp Bot.* 2014;65(5):1241–57.
 66. Schieber M, Chandel NS. ROS function in redox signaling and oxidative stress. *Curr Biol.* 2014;24(10):R453–62.
 67. Jia G, Wang Q, Wang R, Deng D, Xue L, Shao N, Zhang Y, Xia X, Zhi F, Yang Y. Tubeimoside-1 induces glioma apoptosis through regulation of Bax/Bcl-2 and the ROS/cytochrome C/caspase-3 pathway. *Oncotargets Ther.* 2015;8:303–11.
 68. Kaleem S, Siddiqui S, Siddiqui HH, Badruddeen, Hussain A, Arshad M, Akhtar J, Rizvi A. Eupalitin induces apoptosis in prostate carcinoma cells through ROS generation and increase of caspase-3 activity. *Cell Biol Int.* 2016;40(2):196–203.
 69. Cui Q, Wang JQ, Assaraf YG, Ren L, Gupta P, Wei L, Ashby CR Jr, Yang DH, Chen ZS. Modulating ROS to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer. *Drug Resist Updat.* 2018;41:1–2.
 70. Dharmaraja AT. Role of reactive oxygen species (ROS) in therapeutics and drug resistance in cancer and bacteria. *J Med Chem.* 2017;6(8):3221–40.
 71. Kesavardhana S, Kanneganti TD. Stressed-out ROS take a silent death route. *Nat Immunol.* 2018;19(2):103–05.
 72. Tikkanen R, Nikolic-Paterson DJ. Mitogen-activated protein kinases: Functions in signal transduction and human diseases. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2019;20(19):4844.
 73. Chen NN, Wei F, Wang L, Cui S, Wan Y, Liu S. Tumor necrosis factor alpha induces neural stem cell apoptosis through activating p38 MAPK pathway. *Neurochem Res.* 2016;41(11):3052–62.
 74. Jalmi SK, Sinha AK. ROS mediated MAPK signaling in abiotic and biotic stress-striking similarities and differences. *Front Plant Sci.* 2015;6:769.
 75. Lee S, Rauch J, Kolch W. Targeting MAPK signaling in cancer: Mechanisms of drug resistance and sensitivity. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2020;21(3):1102.
 76. Yamashita M, Wada H, Eguchi H, Ogawa H, Yamada D, Noda T, Asaoka T, Kawamoto K, Gotoh K, Umeshita K, Doki Y, Mori M. A CD13 inhibitor, ubenimex,

- synergistically enhances the effects of anticancer drugs in hepatocellular carcinoma. *Int J Oncol*. 2016;49(1):89–98.
77. Zhang Y, Xu J, Zhang N, Chen M, Wang H, Zhu D. Targeting the tumour immune microenvironment for cancer therapy in human gastrointestinal malignancies. *Cancer Lett*. 2019;458:123–35.
78. Domagala-Kulawik J, Osinska I, Hoser G. Mechanisms of immune response regulation in lung cancer. *Transl Lung Cancer Res*. 2014;3(1):15–22.
79. Ghosh M, Gerber C, Rahman MM, Vernier KM, Pereira FE, Subramani J, Caromile LA, Shapiro LH. Molecular mechanisms regulating CD13-mediated adhesion. *Immunology* 2014;142(4):636–47.
80. Ghosh M, Subramani J, Rahman MM, Shapiro LH. CD13 restricts TLR4 endocytic signal transduction in inflammation. *J Immunol*. 2015;19(9):4466–76.
81. Ju S, Qiu H, Zhou X, Zhu B, Lv X, Huang X, Li J, Zhang Y, Liu L, Ge Y, Johnson DE, Ju S, Shu Y. CD13+CD4+CD25hi regulatory T cells exhibit higher suppressive function and increase with tumor stage in non-small cell lung cancer patients. *Cell Cycle* 2009;8(16):2578–85.
82. Zhang J, Xu X, Shi M, Chen Y, Yu D, Zhao C, Gu Y, Yang B, Guo S, Ding G, Jin G, Wu CL, Zhu M. CD13hi Neutrophil-like myeloid-derived suppressor cells exert immune suppression through Arginase 1 expression in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Oncoimmunology* 2017;6(2):e1258504.