

Publication

Antiangiogenesis: current clinical data and future perspectives

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Neovascularization is a prerequisite for progressive growth of solid tumors and their metastases. This process is tightly regulated by a large number of proangiogenic and antiangiogenic factors such as VEGF, bFGF and matrix-metalloproteinases. The inhibition of angiogenesis is an innovative therapeutic approach and could represent a powerful adjunct to traditional therapy of malignant tumors. Preclinical trials have been very successful but in clinical studies meaningful response rates could only be shown in some cases. This might indicate the existence of different angiogenic phenotypes in humans. It seems that at present only a part of the interactions between the angiogenic cytokines are known. In addition, new receptor/ligand systems which regulate the neovascularization are being described. This article presents an overview of the most important angiogenically active substances, preclinical and clinical data, surrogate markers as well as future perspectives.

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