



Navigating the Future of Cancer Diagnosis: A Comprehensive Review of Novel Approaches for Community-Based Treatment

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Abstract

In addition to their ability to maintain proliferative signalling, insensitivity to growth suppressive signals, resistance to cell death, unlimited replication capability, promotion of angiogenesis, stimulation of invasion and metastasis, reprogramming of environmental and cellular metabolism, and evasion of immune destruction, cancer cells are distinguished by their uncontrollable cell proliferation. Cancer cells that have genetic alterations are able to evade apoptosis and the regulatory mechanisms of the cell cycle. While genetic changes also have a big impact, environmental variables is a major influence in the development of cancer. Cancer risk is increased by a number of chemical and physical carcinogens, including alcohol use, smoking, and asbestos exposure. Dietary ingestion of aflatoxin and arsenic also increases the risk of cancer. The development of cancer is also influenced by biological carcinogens, such as infections caused by specific bacteria, viruses, or parasites. Remarkably, lifestyle variables including smoking, drinking, having a high body mass index, eating poorly, and not getting enough exercise account for about one-third of cancer-related fatalities. Thanks to the advancements in cancer vaccines, immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs), and CAR-T cells, immunotherapy has become a highly effective cancer treatment option in recent times. Preclinical research has demonstrated that CAR-T cell and immune checkpoint inhibitor combination therapy is more effective than individual treatments in treating a variety of cancers. The development of novel genomic and molecular medicines has made it more crucial than ever to create and interpret molecular tumour profiles precisely in order to provide personalised cancer treatment. But in this developing field, the remarkable developments in molecular methods and the accuracy of the data acquired with these instruments are important factors to take into account.

Keywords: Cancer, Immune destruction, Biological carcinogens, immunotherapy, molecular therapies, malignancies

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1. Introduction

One in six deaths worldwide are attributed to cancer, making it a serious global health concern. In 2020, there were an estimated 19.3 million new cases of cancer and a tragic 10 million deaths from cancer. Cancer is a complex sequence of illness conditions that progresses intricately due to a loss of

growth control. For many years, the only available forms of treatment were chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery, either alone or in combination. On the other hand, current discoveries on the mechanisms underlying the development of cancer have resulted in a notable enhancement of treatment approaches. Combinatorial techniques have shown promise

in the treatment of cancer. These approaches may involve a combination of standard chemotherapeutics such as taxanes and platinum compounds, or they may involve several targeted therapies. A paradigm shift in the management of cancer is reflected in the emergence of novel techniques such as biological molecules, immunological-mediated therapy, and pharmaceuticals. These strategies demonstrate the unwavering effort to withstand mortality and increase survival in metastatic cancer by being used even in situations where traditional medicines are ineffective. The creation of novel medications that target neoplastic cancers depends on a thorough comprehension of the features and processes particular to various tumour types. Chemotherapy, which is acknowledged as the most efficient and popular treatment, uses genotoxicity to attack tumour cells, mainly by generating reactive oxygen species that kill these cells. Another common strategy is the use of hormone therapies, which function as cytostatic drugs by limiting the growth of tumours through a variety of mechanisms, including hormone receptor blocking, restriction of adrenal steroid synthesis, and hormonal growth factor limitation via the hypothalamic–pituitary–gonadal axis (HPGA). This narrative evaluation explores cutting-edge tactics that are presently undergoing development in addition to giving a summary of the most cutting-edge and innovative cancer treatments. By addressing the shortcomings of conventional treatments, these tactics hope to provide fresh insights into the identification and management of cancer. The influence of these novel anti-cancer strategies is highlighted by the state of clinical practice today, opening the door to more successful cancer diagnosis and treatment in the future [1-6].

2. Treatment options for cancer

The two main categories of cancer treatment techniques are advanced or new modalities and conventional (traditional). Over half of all ongoing clinical trials in modern medicine are focused on developing novel treatments for cancer. The kind of cancer, where it is located, and how far along it is in its progression all affect the therapy option. Conventional cancer treatment approaches, such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery, have long been the cornerstones of the field. Nonetheless, a variety of cutting-edge techniques have emerged as a result of the area of cancer research's evolution. Contemporary treatment options for these include stem cell interventions, anti-angiogenic medicines, hormone therapy, immunotherapy, and dendritic cell-based immunotherapy. These innovative methods mark a new chapter in the battle against this intricate and multidimensional illness and demonstrate the advancements made in utilizing 183 therapies to the unique features of the malignancy.

2.1 Traditional cancer treatments

The most typically recommended conventional cancer treatment strategies involve surgically removing the tumours and then starting chemotherapy or radiation therapy with x-rays. Surgery is the most effective of these therapies while the disease is still in its early stages. Radiation therapy can cause damage to healthy cells, organs, and tissues. Chemotherapy reduces morbidity and mortality, but nearly all of the chemicals used in this treatment cause

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damage to healthy cells, especially to those that proliferate and grow rapidly. Treatment resistance is a phenomenon that happens when an anti-cancer treatment causes cancer cells that were initially suppressed by the medicine to become resistant to it. It is among the principal problems with chemotherapy. The primary causes of this are elevated drug efflux and decreased medicine absorption. There are a number of drawbacks to the conventional chemotherapeutic approach, such as challenging dosage selection, low selectivity, rapid drug metabolism, and generally unfavourable side effects.

2.1.1 Cutting-Edge and Novel Cancer Treatments

The largest obstacles to treating cancer and utilizing 183 its symptoms are drug resistance and its delivery mechanisms, even though there are already several approved treatment options and drugs on the market. Standard cancer treatment is less effective due to the pathophysiology of the tumour and the aberrant design of the blood arteries in the tumour tissue. The list of innovative and unique cancer therapies that are now being used has both benefits and drawbacks.

2.1.2 Treatment Using Stem Cells

Bone marrow (BM) contains undifferentiated cells called stem cells that can develop into any kind of body cell. Another potentially helpful and secure cancer treatment option is stem cell therapy. One potential application of stem cells, now in the exploratory clinical trial stage, is the regeneration of other injured tissue. Clinical trials are actively using bone marrow, adipose tissues, and connective tissues to harvest mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs).

2.1.3 Stem Cells with Pluripotency

With the exception of placental cells, embryonic stem cells (ESCs) are distinct from the homogenous inner mass cells of the embryo and can differentiate into any type of cell. The discovery of Yamanaka factors in 2006 revolutionised cell biology by enabling the generation of pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) from living cells in a culture. iPSCs and ESCs are the same, but iPSCs and ESCs are morally clear-cut because they do not involve the destruction of embryos. Currently, hematopoietic embryonic stem cells (hESCs) and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) are used in the generation of effector T cells and natural killer (NK) cells, as well as in the development of anti-tumor vaccines.

2.1.4 Adult Stem Cells

Neural stem cells (NSCs), myeloid stem cells (MSCs), and hematopoietic stem cells (HSCs) are three types of adult stem cells (ASCs) that are commonly used in cancer therapy. HSCs, which are present in BM, have the ability to create every adult blood cell in the body. Currently, leukaemia and multiple myeloma are the only conditions for which the FDA has approved the infusion of cord blood-derived HSCs. Twenty MSCs are found in many tissues and organs, and they are essential for tissue repair and cell regeneration into osteocytes, adipocytes, and chondrocytes. Because of their special biological characteristics, MSCs are

used in conjunction with other therapeutic modalities to treat tumours. Primary and metastatic breast cancers, among other tumours, are treated with TM due to their capacity to self-renew and generate new neurons and glial cells [7–11].

2.1.5 Stem Cells for Cancer

The process by which normal stem cells or precursor/progenitor cells differentiate into cancer stem cells (CSCs) is known as epigenetic modifications. The development, spread, and recurrence of cancer are among the conditions in which they are involved in the treatment of tumours, indicating possible advantages in the control of solid tumours.²³ Stem cells function in a variety of ways to treat tumours. The homing process, which is the HSCs' rapid migration into particular stem cell niches in bone marrow, is one technique. The engraftment phase follows the transplants, which is required for the development of 184tilizing184184 blood cells. For this process to occur, endothelial cells must engage with stem cell CXCR4 receptors via LFA-1, VLA-4/5, and CD44. Additionally, the matrix degradable enzyme MMP-2/9 must be produced. The second mechanism is the tumor-tropic effect, which is the migration of MSCs towards the tumour microenvironment I after they are drawn there by the CXCL16, SDF-1, CCL-25, and IL-6 produced by the cancer cells.²² It similarly depends on the active interaction of these receptors. Cancer stroma growth is also influenced by MSC differentiation within the cancer cells.²⁴ Furthermore, stem cells release paracrine substances such as soluble materials and extracellular vesicles (Evs). With the help of transplanted HSCs, they can also develop into any kind of blood cell. In general, stem cell therapy employs a range of approaches to treat cancer, including HSC transplantation, MSC infusion, therapeutic carriers, the production of immune effector cells, and vaccine manufacturing.³¹ The stem cell cancer therapy approach was associated with the following side effects: the first five were viral infection, tumorigenesis, medication toxicity and resistance, adverse outcomes in allogeneic HSC transplantation, elevated immune responses and autoimmunity, and adverse outcomes in allogeneic HSC transplantation. Despite a lot of progress, problems such as low cell targeting, managing therapeutic doses, and retention at tumour locations still need to be investigated and fixed in the future. Furthermore, more work needs to be done to establish safety and efficacy before moving forward with clinical trials, even though current stem cell technologies show significant promise in treating cancers.

2.1.6 Personalised medication treatment

The terms “molecularly targeted drugs,” “molecularly targeted therapies,” and “precision medicines” are sometimes used interchangeably to refer to drugs or other substances that are specifically designed to interfere with growth molecules, thereby preventing the growth and spread of cancer.³⁴ The TM of an atypical tumour, which consists of endothelial cells, pericytes, smooth muscle cells, fibroblasts, various inflammatory cells, dendritic cells, and CSCs, determines the initiation and progression of tumours. TM-forming cells actively interact with malignant cells through a variety of signalling routes and mechanisms that are appropriate for maintaining a

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moderately high rate of cellular proliferation. Thus, it is the field of study where effective targeting strategies for cancer therapy are mediated by TM circumstances. It is challenging to target cancer cells specifically with traditional chemotherapy because they resemble normal cells. Therefore, those issues are resolved by cellular mechanisms, which include cell cycle arrest, induction of apoptosis, prevention of proliferation, and disruption of metabolic reprogramming by targeted drug therapy agents.³⁶ Two strategies that can be employed in the treatment of cancer are TM modification and targeting TM for drug delivery.³⁷ Targeted therapy drugs do function differently from standard chemotherapy drugs in that they attack cancer cells while causing less damage to normal cells, which is a programming that distinguishes them from normal, healthy cells. When erlotinib was added to regular chemotherapy, the survival rate for patients with advanced pancreatic cancer increased from 17% to 24% due to the use of targeted therapy. Chronic myeloid leukaemia has significantly improved with imatinib, whereas renal cell carcinoma and breast cancer have been treated with remarkable success with trastuzumab, sunitinib, and rituximab, respectively [12-18].

Based on how they operate or where they target, we can categorise the targeted cell agents. Certain enzymes act as growth signals for cancer cells. Certain targeted treatments block enzymes that serve as growth signals for cancer cells. We refer to these medications as enzyme inhibitors. By obstructing these cell signals, cancer can be prevented from growing and spreading. Because they target the specific regions of the cell that determine whether a cell lives or dies, some targeted therapies are also known as apoptosis-inducing medications. Examples include the cell survival-promoting protein protein kinase B (PKB/Akt), serine/threonine kinase, and experimental inhibitors of this enzyme. By preventing the tumours from growing new blood vessels, these medications aid in cutting off the tumours' blood supply and preventing them from spreading. Furthermore, they halt the growth of tumours by reducing the blood supply to the tumour by the inhibition of angiogenic agents, such as VEGF or its receptors. According to the study, individuals with advanced colorectal cancer had a longer survival period after receiving 5-fluorouracil-based chemotherapy in addition to Avastin (bevacizumab).

3. Target agent types

3.1 Monoclonal Antibodies

Artificially produced antibodies are immune system proteins that are injected intravenously to target certain cancer cell targets. They have a higher percentage of human than murine components. Target agents of monoclonal antibodies are employed in various ways to attack the target cell, including recruiting host immune functions, binding to ligands or receptors to disrupt essential cancer cell processes, and delivering a lethal payload, such as radioisotope or toxin.⁴⁴ One such monoclonal antibody that targets CD-33 is gemtuzumab, which is currently used to treat AML by conjugating with calicheamicin.⁴⁵ Another is ibritumomab tiuxetan, an anti-CD20 90Y metal isotope-based medication being developed for clinical therapy.⁴⁶ Target agents of monoclonal antibodies are also 184tilized to deliver active

therapeutics, prodrug activation enzymes, and chemotherapy toxins.

3.2 Inhibitors of small molecules

Having a protein size of about 500 Da, these are easier to absorb orally and easily translocate across plasma membranes compared to monoclonal antibodies. Mainly, they disrupt cellular processes by interfering with tyrosine kinases' intracellular signalling. This inhibits tyrosine kinase signalling and starts a molecular cascade that can inhibit cell growth, proliferation, migration, and angiogenesis in malignant tissues.⁴⁸ Two examples of small molecule inhibitors are gefitinib and erlotinib, which inhibit EGFR and epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) kinase, respectively, in patients with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Other medications that inhibit EGFR/Erb-B2 Receptor Tyrosine Kinase 2 (ERBB2) in ERBB2-positive breast cancer and VEGFR kinase in renal cancer include lapatinib and sorafenib.

3.3 Cancer treatment with ablation

When a tumour is smaller than 3 cm in size and surgery is not an option, ablation is a therapeutic method that eliminates the tumour without removing it. For bigger tumours, ablation is also combined with RFA. However, because this procedure destroys some of the normal tissue surrounding the tumour, it may not be appropriate to treat tumours close to major bile ducts, the diaphragm, or major blood vessels.

3.4 Ablation of heat

This method targets a focused zone within and surrounding the tumour, destroying tumour tissue by subjecting it to extreme hyper- or hypothermia. Thermal ablation eliminates the tumour along with a 5–10 mm thick border of what appears to be normal tissue, much like surgery, however the tissue is killed there and then absorbed by the body. Although the process is typically administered utilizing a percutaneous or non-invasive route, it is comparable to surgery when performed using an open, laparoscopic, or endoscopic approach. The method is determined by the kind of tumour, location, doctor's preference, and state of health. Currently being employed in the clinical context are cryoablation, microwave ablation, high-intensity focused ultrasound, and radiofrequency ablation (RFA). Against others, cryoablation uses a hypothermic modality to cause tissue destruction through a freeze-thaw process. With the exception of cryoablation, all of these treatments work on the basis of hyperthermia. Cryoablation had the greatest capacity to induce a post-ablative immunogenic response of all the ablation techniques. Recent research has demonstrated that cryoablation and RFA, in addition to causing tissue disruption, can alter the immune system. These techniques are used as treatments for TM and systemic circulation. Research has demonstrated that ablation techniques impact carcinogenesis by causing an immunogenic gene signature. This method has a benefit over surgery in that it offers a less invasive (e.g., laparoscopic or percutaneous) approach to

cancer therapy and is being considered as a substitute for conventional surgical therapies.

3.5 Freezing

One method of ablation that causes substantial tissue damage is cryoablation, which involves freezing tissue to a deadly temperature and then forcing liquid to develop. This therapy is primarily used to treat benign and malignant primary tumors.⁵⁵ James Arnott, who tried using cold temperatures to create local numbness prior to surgical procedures in the nineteenth century, reported that freezing temperatures can impair cancer cell viability. He improved a patient's chances of survival by recommending cryoablation as a desirable treatment choice. The Joule-Thomson effect, which was extensively researched in the 1930s and concluded to use liquid CO₂ under high pressure, liquid air, and liquid oxygen to achieve the cooling effect and the subsequent formation of ice crystals so employed to treat lesions, warts, and keratosis, is the basis for cryoablation techniques. But after 1950, Allington took the position of liquid N₂ in the management of different skin lesion conditions.

3.6 RFA treatment

RFA is a minimally invasive procedure that uses high-frequency electrical currents (hyperthermic conditions) to eliminate cancer cells. It is guided by images. Needle electrodes are guided into a tumour cell using imaging techniques like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed tomography (CT), and ultrasound. RFA is typically the most successful method for treating tiny tumours with a diameter of less than 3 cm. RFA can be utilized in conjunction with other traditional cancer treatment options.⁵⁷ Medium tumours (diameters up to 5 cm) can be treated with RFA once deployable devices or multiple-electrode systems are initiated.

3.7 Gene therapy

To treat a particular illness, a normal copy of a damaged gene is inserted into the genome through a process known as gene therapy. The adenosine deaminase (ADA) gene was originally introduced to T cells in individuals with severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID) in 1990 using a retroviral vector. There are presently about 2900 gene therapy clinical trials underway, with cancer accounting for two thirds of these. Cancer gene therapy approaches include targeted silencing of oncogenes, expression of wild-type tumour suppressor genes, expression of proapoptotic and chemosensitizing genes, and expression of genes that elicit particular anti-tumor immune responses. The infusion of prodrug ganciclovir to trigger its expression and generate particular cytotoxicity is effective when done using thymidine kinase (TK) gene delivery. Only lately has the p53 tumour suppressor gene, which vectors carry, been evaluated for therapeutic use. When administered alone or in conjunction with chemotherapy, ONYX-015 demonstrated a good response rate in NSCLC patients. When paired with radiation therapy, genciclovir, a recombinant adenovirus containing wild-type p53, promoted full disease regression in head and neck squamous cell carcinoma with comparable success rates [19–21]. Choosing the ideal delivery method

and the appropriate conditions are two of the obstacles that gene therapy has faced. The therapy's known disadvantages include immune system utilization, restricted efficacy in some patient subgroups, and genome integration. A precise molecular mechanism is a trigger for tumor formation. RNA-induced silencing complex (RISC) mediates the targeted gene silencing process by cleaving the messenger RNA (mRNA) and interfering with protein synthesis.⁶³ siRNAs can be designed to block desired targets, involving cell proliferation and metastatic invasion.⁶² RNA interference (RNAi) is an efficient technology that can produce targeted gene silencing. This technique depends on siRNA-mediated gene suppression of transcription factors (e.g., c-myc gene), anti-apoptotic proteins, or genes altered in cancer (e.g., K-RAS).

Advantages of siRNA-based drugs are safety, high efficacy, specificity, few side effects, and low costs of production.⁶⁷ However, occasionally, they can induce off-target effects or elicit innate immune responses, followed by specific inflammation.⁶⁸ Delivery methods currently under study are chemical modification (insertion of a phosphorothioate at 3' end, introduction of a 2' O-methyl group, and modification by 2,4-dinitrophenol) and lipid encapsulation, or conjugation with organic molecules (polymers, peptides, lipids, antibodies, small molecules) efficiently target to spontaneously cross cell membranes of naked siRNAs.⁶⁹ Interaction of cationic liposomes with negatively charged nucleic acids facilitates easy transfection by simple electrostatic interactions.⁷⁰ They can be constituted by 1,2-dioleoyl-3-trimethylammonium propane (DOTAP) and N-[1-(2,3-dioleoyloxy) propyl]-N,N-trimethylammonium methyl sulfate (DOTMA).⁷¹ Currently, a Phase I clinical trial is recruiting patients for evaluating the safety of Eph receptor A2 (EphA2) targeting 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DOPC) encapsulated siRNA (siRNA-EphA2- DOPC) in patients with advanced and recurrent cancer.⁷² siRNAs can be concentrated in cationic polymers, such as chitosan, cyclodextrin, and polyethyleneimine (PEI).⁷³ CALAA-01 is one of the cyclodextrin polymers conjugated with human transferrin is being entered a Phase I clinical trial. By creating small cationic nanoparticles and inserting human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER-2 receptor)-specific siRNA into them, PEI has been used as an anti-cancer agent.⁷⁴ A Phase II clinical trial has been initiated to assess the efficacy of Local Drug EluteR (siG12D LODER) directed towards the mutated Kirsten rat sarcoma (K-RAS) oncogene in treating advanced pancreatic cancer. The introduction of nanocarriers has significantly enhanced the stability, pharmacokinetics, and biodistribution features of siRNAs, as well as their targeting specificity.⁷⁵ Conjugating to peptides, antibodies, and aptamers improves stability during circulation and boosts cellular absorption of siRNAs. The goal of developing polyallylamine phosphate nanocarriers is to release siRNAs into the cytoplasm upon disassembly at low endosomal pH. Issues with dose correction and individual variations as well as differences in disease phases present challenges for the practical application of the siRNA-based method. Future research should focus on establishing the most effective utilization of treatment plan and on controlled release to target only particular tumour targets.

3.8 Organic Antioxidants

Daily external insults to the anatomy include pollution, UV radiation, and tobacco smoke. These insults result in the accumulation of reactive species, especially oxidants and free radicals, which are responsible for the start of numerous diseases, including cancer. These molecules can also result from the clinical administration of medication; nevertheless, they are also naturally produced by peroxisomes and mitochondria in our cells and tissues, as well as from the metabolism of macrophages during normal physiological aerobic activities. By causing damage to DNA and other biomolecules, oxidative stress and radical oxygen species can drastically alter how transcription factors are regulated. Because of their anti-inflammatory and antioxidant qualities, vitamins, polyphenols, and bioactive compounds derived from plants are natural antioxidants that are used as preventive and therapeutic drugs against these molecules that harm the body.⁷⁸ Studies have been added to cancer therapy after utilizing the anti-proliferative and proapoptotic properties of these compounds. Natural antioxidants that have been examined both in vitro and in vivo include compounds such as vitamins, alkaloids, flavonoids, carotenoids, curcumin, berberine, quercetin, and others. One of the difficulties in implementing natural medicines into clinical practice is their limited bioavailability and/or toxicity. Curcumin, for example, exhibits cytotoxic effects in a variety of tumour types, including brain, lung, leukaemia, pancreatic, and hepatocellular carcinoma, while sparing normal cells when administered at therapeutic doses that are effective. Studies are being conducted on the biological characteristics, length of treatment, and effective therapeutic dosages of curcumin. Berberine is an alkaloid that has been researched for its potential as a chemopreventive drug against various malignancies by regulating numerous signalling pathways. Due to its limited solubility in water, various nanotechnological techniques have been devised to enhance their distribution across cell membranes. Two of the six clinical trials that are now being studied have been completed. Another naturally occurring substance derived from plants is quercetin, which is useful both on its own and in conjunction with chemotherapy drugs to treat a variety of cancers, including those of the breast, liver, prostate, lung, and colon. It works by attaching to cellular receptors and interfering with multiple signalling pathways.

3.9 Anti-Immune Therapies

Among the many therapeutic options available for treating various malignancies, including solid and hematological tumors, immunotherapy has emerged as an advanced treatment strategy [22–28]. Immunotherapies aim to combat cancer by using the patient's own immune system, opening the door to more specialised and potent treatments. For patients with a variety of malignancies, cancer immunotherapy is a potentially useful treatment option because it has less adverse effects than chemotherapy. Monoclonal Antibodies (mAbs) in the

3.10 Treatment of Cancer

mAbs are proteins that attach to a particular molecular target and are either utilizing or generated by B

lymphocytes⁹. Humanised monoclonal antibodies have been designed against relevant targets to achieve anti-cancer effects in preclinical models and patient studies¹³. Because mAbs are significantly more selective and have fewer cytotoxic effects, they have recently become a highly favoured cancer therapeutic. One type of immunotherapy that the pharmaceutical industry is producing quickly is monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). For oncological illnesses, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved more than 22 immunotherapeutic medications; a few of these are included in Table 1. Research has indicated that mAbs¹⁵ may enhance cancer patients' overall survival. Based on these investigations, numerous anti-cancer mechanisms, including complement-dependent cytotoxicity (CDC), antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC), apoptosis promotion, and cell proliferation inhibition, have been linked to recovery¹⁶. In order to create therapeutic mAbs, Köhler and Milstein developed hybridoma technique in 1975. Production within the purview of this technology is carried out employing immortal cancer B-cell myeloma cells and utilizing mouse spleen cells capable of producing antibodies¹⁷. While murine Abs have a short half-life, low biological activity, and an early commencement of effector action, hybridoma technology-based mAbs have the significant benefit of having low aggregation and high antigen binding *in vivo*¹⁸. The FDA approved muromonab-CD3, an anti-rejection monoclonal antibody, as the first therapeutic monoclonal antibody for clinical use in 1985.

Antibody engineering is now the method of choice for producing mAbs for use in clinical applications due to recent advancements. The construction of murine mAbs as¹⁸utilizing, completely human, chimeric, and bispecific antibodies utilizing cloning and sequencing techniques is one of the best examples of these investigations. Using transgenic animal technology and the phage display approach, a fully human mAb has been developed²⁰. The constant area included in utilizing and human mAbs has been shown to have decreased immunogenicity, improved effector functions, and a much longer serum half-life when compared to murine mAb. As immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs), antibody drug conjugates, and bispecific T-cell linkages, mAbs are used in cancer therapy. It is also employed to guide tumour cells and pro-tumorigenic chemicals. Targeted mAbs work by activating components of the host immune system, which results in receptor blocking, ligand blocking, CDC, antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis, and ADCC. The FDA approved anti-CD20 rituximab, the first anti-cancer chimeric mAb, in 1997 for the treatment of non-Hodgkin lymphoma²² in individuals. Antibody-drug conjugates (ADCs) are created by conjugating mAbs with potent chemotherapeutic techniques. With so many mAbs being assessed in ongoing clinical studies, one could speculate that ADCs' market share will progressively rise. ADC technology will be further advanced by the creation of novel linkers to allow regulated drug release and new monoclonal antibodies that target cancer.

3.11 Checkpoint Inhibitors Immune

The efficacy of anti-tumor immune responses must be enhanced since cancer cells are able to circumvent the tumor-reactive T-cell response²³. The identification of treatment

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strategies against tumours' immune escape mechanisms has been significantly influenced by recent developments in our understanding of T-cell immunobiology. Consequently, immune checkpoint inhibition has emerged as one of the most promising treatment approaches for patients in recent times²⁴. An essential function of T-cell activation is to regulate anti-tumor immunity. Numerous checkpoint pathways in the immune system centre on T-cell activation. T-cell surface molecules, T-cell immunoglobulin, and mucin domains are important molecules in checkpoint configurations. An exaggerated immune response results from the expression of these molecules. For cytotoxic T-cells to target cancer cells and eliminate inhibition, they are crucial targets²⁵. ICIs are mAbs that have the ability to inhibit immunological checkpoints or immune cell receptors. The ligands that activate these inhibitory receptors are frequently overexpressed by tumour cells. As a result, the T-cells multiply uncontrollably and avoid the immunological response. Two immune checkpoint systems at the forefront of antibody development for blockage are the programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) and the T-cell surface molecule CTLA-4. When CTLA-4 is active, it sends out inhibitory signals that prevent T-cell proliferation and the release of the maturation-promoting cytokine IL-2. In a clinical trial including patients with stage III and IV melanoma, the CTLA-4 inhibitor ipilimumab improved the survival rate. It was approved by the FDA as the first ICB medication in 2011. PD-1 promotes T-cell depletion, which inhibits T-cell activation in contrast to CTLA-4. The FDA¹⁸⁷utilizing¹⁸⁷ nivolumab in 2014, making it the first PD-1 medication to target immune checkpoint inhibition. Other medications include cemiplimab and an anti-PD-1 immune checkpoint inhibitor called pembrolizumab. The most recent immune checkpoint blocking medications approved by the FDA, such as durvalumab and atezolizumab, block the PD-1 ligand, PD-L1, to achieve the same reduction of PD-1 activation using a different chemical mechanism. Many targets, including T-cell immunoglobulin and mucin domain-containing-3 (TIM-3), V-domain Ig suppressor of T-cell activation, lymphocyte activation gene-3 (LAG-3), ITIM domain (TIGIT), and T-cell immunoglobulin, have been identified as novel immune checkpoints²⁹ through recent investigations. FDA approved Opdualag, a fixed-dose combination of nivolumab, a blocking antibody for programmed death receptor-1, and relatlimab, a blocking antibody for LAG-3, in March 2022.

3.12 CAR-T Cell Treatment

Over the past ten years, chimeric antigen receptor-T cells have emerged as a novel type of cell-based immunotherapy. This technique uses genetically altered T-cells from cancer patients to specifically target tumours. Recent advancements in genetic engineering allow for the expression of a chimeric receptor and the targeting of cancer cells with strong anti-tumor effects. Recently, CAR-T has drawn a lot of attention as a cutting-edge therapy option, notably for haematological tumours. In CAR-T-cell treatment, auto logous T-cells from patients are used to create a tumour antigen-specific CAR *ex vivo*, which is then injected back into the patient³². More recent research has shown that leukaemia regression may be induced *in vivo* by using nanocarriers containing CAR genes and gene editing instruments. At the moment, early phase investigations on B-

cell malignancies comprise the majority of clinical trials employing CAR-T cells. Primarily, CD19 is the target, however it has also been used in conjunction with additional antigen targets in recent times [29–30]. Blood malignancies are the most susceptible disease group to emerge in the future of CAR-T-cell therapy due to CD19 expression. CD19 is a promising option for targeted therapy because of its high level of tumour expression of the target antigen, ease of tumour cell access via blood and lymphatics, and tolerance of the non-tumor effect of B-cell aplasia on the target. Apart from CD19, the FDA has approved CAR-T-cell treatment for BCMA as well. Particularly in the case of B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, CAR-T-cell treatment has demonstrated promising clinical outcomes. However, because of tumour histological characteristics, the absence of antigens specific to the tumour, the immunosuppressive tumour microenvironment, and possibly fatal tumour toxicity, its effects are restricted in solid tumours. Scientists are working to get beyond some of these obstacles, though, especially by creating CAR-T agents³⁸. Alongside obstacles, encouraging outcomes will continue to emerge as research into CAR-T treatments continues. Consequently, CAR-T will keep directing, influencing, and positively influencing its potential [31].

3.13 Vaccine against Cancer

The goal of cancer vaccines is to provoke an immune reaction against tumour antigens. Just a tiny number of cancer vaccines have been put into clinical use, despite many years of research and development. A number of variables, such as the tumor's immunological composition, the type of antigens utilise', the tumor's microenvironment, and many vaccine formulations, affect how well a cancer vaccine works. Vaccines against cancer can be used as a therapeutic or prophylactic measure⁴¹. The initial vaccinations against viruses linked to the development of cancer were preventive cancer vaccines. The primary cause of hepatocellular carcinoma is the hepatitis B virus (HBV), and the HBV vaccine was initially approved for use in the United States in 1986. It is now accessible in numerous nations worldwide since that time. Three vaccination doses are advised to protect against chronic HBV infection and provide long-term immunity. Human papillomavirus (HPV) has been linked to a number of malignancies, including those of the cervical, oropharyngeal, anal, penile, and vulvovaginal regions. It is advised that men and women over the age of 11 receive one of the three approved HPV vaccines that have been on the market since 2006 in order to avoid HPV-related illnesses. But as of this now, there isn't a human vaccination licenced to prevent non-viral tumours. This is partly because there aren't many tumor-associated antigens (TAAs), and cross-reactivity increases the danger of autoimmunity on healthy tissues. But safer TAAs that don't trigger autoimmune reactions are currently being investigated in therapeutic vaccination trials [32]. Furthermore, years of research⁴⁵ form the foundation for Mrna vaccination pre-clinical and clinical studies as a cancer therapy approach. Since Mrna vaccines have good tolerability, degradability, do not integrate into the host genome, are potentially non-infectious, and can promote humora and cell-mediated immunity, the field of study on them has grown quickly. Therapy success has risen when Mrna vaccines are used in

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conjunction with other immunotherapeutic therapy modalities as adoptive cell transfer, ICIs, and oncolytic viruses.

Cancer vaccinations can, in fact, enhance systemic tumour regression and long-lasting remission, as demonstrated by decades of research. Nonetheless, the absence of a potent anti-tumor immune response, loss of MHC, soluble factors or immunosuppressive cells in the microenvironment, and antigen removal from the tumour are the reasons it failed in clinical practice. Furthermore, the clinical use of cancer vaccines is limited due to their inability to elicit T-cell responses with a high enough avidity to effectively destroy tumours. It might be because of its own immune avoidance and escape tactics, which include its incapacity to stimulate research that improves our knowledge of immunology and is about to be used in the development of logical and efficient cancer vaccines, which bodes well for the future. Any cancer vaccine's ability to effectively target cancer depends on its ability to penetrate the immunosuppressive tumour microenvironment and turn "cold" tumours into "hot" tumours, which will trigger a strong immune response specific to the tumour that can eradicate cancer cells. Future obstacles will be successfully surmounted through the exploration of novel target antigens, adjuvants, and delivery mechanisms.

3.14 Present-Day Antibodies for Cancer Treatment

Rituximab (RituxanTM), a chimeric antibody directed against CD20, was the first mAb licenced for use in cancer therapy for non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. Many more have now been brought to market, such as those for treating colorectal tumours, acute myeloid leukaemia, chronic lymphocytic leukaemia, and breast cancer (trastuzumab, Herceptin[®]), as well as acute myeloid leukaemia (gemtuzumab, Ozogamicin, MylotargTM). The field of immunoconjugates has also seen recent advancements, many of which are being investigated by the pharmaceutical sector at the moment. Antibodies connected to substances that cause cancer, such as medications, cytokines, poisons, and radioisotopes, are known as immunoconjugates. The goal is for the antibody to serve as a transporter for the substance that kills cancer, concentrating it inside the cancer cell while causing the least amount of harm to healthy cells. Even though conjugated antibodies have demonstrated toxicity in the past, more modern methods that are being developed seem to reduce undesirable side effects. Pharmaceutical corporations are working on immunoconjugates on their own, partnering with other industry experts, and even purchasing smaller biotech companies that utilizing in the topic.

3.15 Treatments Based on Nanoscale and Nanostructure

These days, the most popular cancer therapies include radiation therapy, chemotherapy, and surgery. Angiogenesis inhibitor therapy is among the more modern treatments, which are still in the research and development stages. Biological therapies, such as interferons, interleukins, vaccines, bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplantation, laser therapy, hyperthermia, photodynamic therapy, and targeted cancer therapies are among them. Many therapeutic and diagnostic agents based on nanoscale and

nanostructure have been created in the past 20 years, not only for the treatment but also for the prevention and diagnosis of cancer. Among the cancer treatments that make use of manmade nanomaterials are photodynamic therapy, targeted cancer, hyperthermia, and gene therapies. By utilizing these therapies' capacities to target tumours (actively or passively), react to internal or external physical or chemical stimulation, and transfer therapeutic genes to cell nuclei, they can be employed either alone or in conjunction with other cancer treatments.

The primary goal of using nanomaterials in cancer treatment is to utilize adverse effects and prevent drug resistance while delivering a therapeutic component to tumour cells in a controlled manner (based on the necessary pharmacokinetic). In order to identify and stop diseases as soon as feasible, nanoscale and nanostructured materials may potentially be utilized in diagnosis; ideally, these materials will be able to detect cancer cells and related biomarkers. In contrast to traditional treatments, nanoparticles offer six distinct benefits in the treatment and/or diagnosis of cancer: (1) they can be engineered to target tumour cells by surface functionalization with biomolecules that attach to tumor-specific cell markers (a mechanism known as active targeting); (2) they can be utilized in specific sizes and with surface characteristics to penetrate tumours by taking advantage of the enhanced permeation and retention effect (EPR); (3) they can be engineered to penetrate cells and physiological barriers (e.g., blood-brain barrier, blood-retinal barrier); (4) they can prolong the plasma half-life of carried chemotherapeutic drugs, which are typically highly hydrophobic; (5) they can shield a therapeutic payload from bipolarization [33].

3.16 Therapeutics for Targeted Cancer

Selective moieties (such as antibodies and their fragments, carbohydrates, peptides, and nucleic acids) that bind to their corresponding antigen, cell surface carbohydrate, or over expressed receptor in tumour cells are used to create nanoparticles to achieve cell targeting. Another way to take advantage of these cells' fast cell division is to combine the nanoparticles with other biological agents, including folic acid. The fact that the folate receptor is overexpressed in a variety of tumour cell types, including solid and haematological malignancies, provides justification for pairing these carriers with folic acid. The cargo is released into the cell's interior after it has reached the target, and ideally, a signalling flag connected to the vector will help the doctor see the tumour. In order to boost systemic circulation of nanoparticles, a vector of this type can also be grafted with a moiety (often PEG) that impedes identification by the reticulo-endothelial system (RES). Many authors have imagined and designed vectors with additional functionalities, such as cell-penetrating moieties, combinations of multiple drugs, combinations of drugs and genes, prodrugs (which become drugs upon biochemical modification by tumour cells), stimulus-sensitive agents that can be externally triggered, and molecules for assessing therapeutic efficacy, in addition to recognition moieties, carried drugs, and signalling elements attached to nanoparticles. The vector's odds of reaching the target improve with additional capability, but so does the likelihood

of the RES detecting it. As a result, active targeted nanoparticles are still being researched whereas passively targeted nanoparticles are used in currently available products. There is a review of active targeted nanoparticles elsewhere.

Because of the numerous steps involved in targeted nanoparticle fabrication—biomaterial synthesis and assembly, targeting ligand coupling/insertion, drug loading, surface functionalization, and final purification—batch-to-batch variations and ensuing quality issues are still a possibility. This is why a straightforward and scalable manufacturing approach is offered by the one-step synthesis of tailored nanoparticles using self-assembling pre-functionalized biomaterials [59]. Another major worry is mass production, which is why ongoing synthesis techniques are constantly being looked for. A number of issues typically arise when utilizing nanoparticles in batch reactors, such as: (1) heterogeneous reactant and temperature distribution within the reactor; (2) inadequate mixing; (3) differences in the physicochemical properties of products from various batches; (4) their intrinsic discontinuity; and (5) the multiple post-synthesis purification steps that are typically needed. Microfluidic reactors (such as capillaries, junctions, and micromechanized micromixers) have been used in the continuous synthesis of nanoparticles to precisely control reaction temperatures and residence times, resulting in nanoparticles with narrow particle-size distributions, in order to overcome these drawbacks. When producing nanoparticles on a large scale, other continuous synthesis technologies (such as laser pyrolysis and arc discharge methods) are typically preferred [34].

The immune system's adaptive reaction to repeated nanoparticle treatments is a further cause for concern. An improved response to subsequent contacts with the same type of nanoparticle is provided by immunological memory, which is formed from the first response to a particular nanoparticle. For instance, it has been observed that, two to four days following the initial administration of PEG-liposomes, anti-PEG antibodies will utilize PEGylated liposomes, resulting in a rapid removal from circulation. Ultimately, a significant obstacle to the successful integration of targeted nanoparticles into clinical settings is the lack of comprehensive utilization regarding the possible toxicological characteristics of these substances, as well as their precise pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic characteristics. Despite these obstacles, a lot of research teams are concentrating on finding solutions. Other teams are focusing their efforts on creating targeted nanoparticles with improved morphology, structure, biocompatibility, and surface functionalization for the treatment of cancer. Later in this document, some of such advancements will be discussed. The synthesis of novel targeted therapeutic nanoparticles and the demonstration of their bifunctionality have been accomplished. Surface-enhanced Raman spectroscopy allowed the nanoparticles to serve as tags for spectroscopic detection as well. Tumours have also been physically targeted and utilized using magnetic targeting. Using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), the effects of magnetic targeting on the degree and selectivity of nanoparticle accumulation in the tumours of rats exhibiting orthotopic 9L-gliosarcomas were examined. Sun et al. also

showed how iron oxide nanoparticles linked with a drug (methotrexate) and a targeting ligand (chlorotoxin) may release drugs selectively while keeping an eye on tumor-cell selectivity in vivo using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Weng et al. presented the in vivo and in vitro imaging of multifunctional quantum dot-conjugated immunoliposomes and their targeted utilizing ion by tumour cells. Anti-HER2 single Chain Fv fragments were affixed to the liposome surface's PEG chain ends in this targeted delivery device [35].

One approach that shows promise for accomplishing active targeting with physiological stimuli seen in the tumour environment is extracellular activation of the nanocarrier for targeting. Utilizing the acidic Ph and uncontrolled synthesis of enzymes in the tumour environment, trigger mechanisms release just the delivered cargo of nanocarriers. A comprehensive explanation of these systems can be found in other reports. Another unique approach to utilizing unfavourable drug side effects is tumour targeting of prodrugs, which become active once they reach tumour cells and enable the delivery of high dosages of medication, utilizing this strategy.

3.17 Photodynamic Therapy

Through the use of a photosensitizer that releases energy when exposed to visible or near-infrared (NIR) light, photodynamic therapy creates reactive oxygen species, such as singlet oxygen, free radicals, and peroxides. Cell death is caused by the oxidation of proteins, lipids, and amino acids that follows. A thorough analysis of photosensitizers has been published elsewhere else. The visible spectral areas below 700 nm, where light only reaches a few millimetres below the skin's surface, are where FDA-approved photosensitizers absorb. Because of this, PDT can only be used to treat specific kinds of skin cancer; its suitability for treating other tumours is still unknown. PDT is often carried out as an outpatient procedure, and it can be repeated or combined with other treatments like chemotherapy, radiation therapy, and surgery. Because photosensitizers are prone to photobleaching when exposed to light, they have been incorporated into nanoparticles to circumvent this problem. Since most photosensitizers are also quite hydrophobic, researchers are looking into using nanoparticles as transporters to make them more bioavailable. Because of their improved absorption cross sections, which are four to five orders of magnitude bigger than those provided by standard photoabsorbing dyes, noble metal nanoparticles have proven to be particularly effective agents in photodynamic therapy. Utilizing silica nanoparticles produced within the non-polar core of micelles, the water-insoluble photosensitizing anticancer medication 2-devinyl-2-(1-hexyloxyethyl) pyropheophorbide has been captured. When HeLa cells are exposed to NIR light, implanted nanoparticles produce singlet oxygen, which lowers the cell survival rate. Several additional photosensitizers, such as meta-tetra (hydroxyphenyl)-chlorin32, have been incorporated into inorganic nanoparticles for PDT [36].

4. Conclusion

Contemporary oncology focuses on advancing the development of safe and efficient cancer nanomedicines. Targeted medical care aims to enhance the biodistribution of both new and existing chemotherapeutic agents in specific tissues. Methods like sequence medical care, siRNA delivery, gene therapy, and inhibitor molecules offer novel possibilities for cancer patients. Gene therapy involves the direct in situ insertion of exogenous genes into benign tumors. Stem cells, with their unique biological actions on other cells, can serve multiple purposes in regenerative medicine, therapeutic carriers, drug targeting, and immune cell generation. In addition to conventional treatments such as surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, hyperthermia, photodynamic therapy, and immunotherapy, emerging therapies aim to reduce drug toxicity in healthy tissues and enhance efficacy. These include targeting tumor angiogenesis, exploring cell and gene therapy, and utilizing new nanostructures for diagnosis and therapeutics. Nanotechnology introduces products that, either alone or in combination with biomolecules, can effectively target cancer cells. Despite advancements, the fight against cancer remains challenging, with many types resisting conventional therapies. Combinations of drugs and therapies often become necessary for cell destruction. As genomic and molecular therapies emerge, constructing and accurately interpreting molecular tumor profiles becomes crucial for effective cancer therapy. Artificial intelligence-based clinical decision support tools are envisioned as potential solutions. Antibody-based cancer therapy, particularly monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), has proven highly effective in clinical applications. Different mAb structures, optimized for pharmacokinetic properties or conjugated with small molecule drugs, are under investigation. Increasing studies on understanding mechanisms and addressing issues like treatment resistance and identifying potential targets will likely minimize challenges. Future immunotherapy approaches hold promise for achieving the highest immune response rates with minimal side effects for cancer patients.

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