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Epigenetics in Ovarian Cancer

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Abstract

Ovarian cancer is a disease with a poor prognosis and little progress has been made to improve treatment. It is now recognized that there are several histotypes of ovarian cancer, each with distinct epidemiologic and genomic characteristics. Cancer therapy is moving beyond classical chemotherapy to include epigenetic approaches. Epigenetics is the dynamic regulation of gene expression by DNA methylation and histone post translational modification in response to environmental cues. Improvement in technology to study DNA methylation has enabled a more agnostic approach and, with larger samples sets, has begun to unravel how epigenetics contributes to the etiology, response to chemotherapy and prognosis in of ovarian cancer. Investigations into histone modifications in ovarian cancer are more nascent. Much more is needed to be done to fully realize the potential that epigenetics holds for ovarian cancer clinical care.

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