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**Breast cancer cells: focus on the consequences of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition**

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**Cell Facts**

- Breast tumors are heterogeneous, and cancer cells within a tumor may exhibit epithelial and mesenchymal-like characteristics
- Epithelial breast cancer cells can be induced to form mesenchymal-like cells during EMT
- The mesenchymal phenotype as a consequence of EMT can be associated with increased resistance to current breast cancer therapies

**ABSTRACT**

Breast cancers are highly heterogeneous and successful treatment of those subtypes with a high frequency of metastases and resistance to clinically available therapies remains a challenge. An understanding of mechanisms which may contribute to this heterogeneity and generation of more resilient cancer cells is therefore essential. Epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) is a dynamic two-way process that occurs during embryonic development and wound healing whereby epithelial cells can gain plasticity and switch to a mesenchymal-like phenotype. EMT has received interest from cancer researchers due to its potential role in

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