

CANCER PREVENTION RESEARCH

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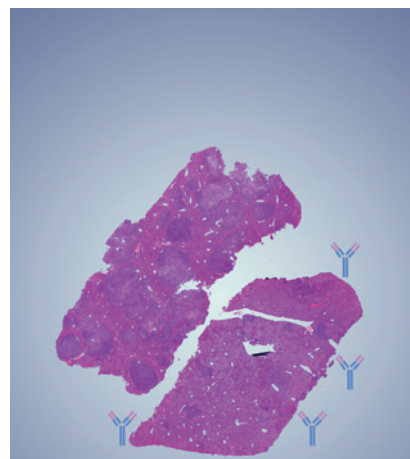
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ABOUT THE COVER

The vast majority of hepatocellular carcinomas (HCCs) arise in patients who have a long clinical history of chronic liver disease and cirrhosis. This presents an actionable window of opportunity to intervene prior to the development of clinically detectable cancer. In this issue, Chung and colleagues found that regenerative nodules from cirrhosis patient samples harbor numerous neoantigens, a putative target of cancer immunotherapy. They then sought to examine the efficacy of immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICIs) in preventing liver cancer in a chemical carcinogen-based mouse model of chronic liver damage and HCC. The cover shows whole section images of H&E-stained livers from these mice. Mice treated with anti-PD-1 antibody (lower right) *prior to* the formation of macroscopic liver tumors showed a significant reduction in tumor burden compared to mice treated with IgG control antibody (upper left). Additionally, anti-PD-1 treatment led to increased T-cell infiltration into the liver parenchyma, suggesting that adaptive immunity can be activated to increase immune-mediated surveillance and elimination of malignant clones. This study supports further clinical investigation into the use of ICIs in high-risk liver cirrhosis patients to prevent development of liver cancer.



Cancer Prevention Research

13 (11)

Cancer Prev Res 2020;13:889-977.

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