PD-L1 Expression in Colon Carcinoma: A Promising Target for Immunotherapy

*Mimi SA

Colorectal carcinoma (CRC) is a type of cancer that most commonly affects the colon or rectum. Despite advances in diagnosis and treatment, the prognosis for patients with colorectal cancer remains poor,[1] emphasizing the importance of ongoing research into new treatments and diagnostic tools. The use of PD-L1 immunoexpression as a potential biomarker for this disease is one promising line of research. The PD-1/PD-L1 axis is in charge of adaptive immune response to escape cancer immunity[2] and has a significant impact on cancer therapy. In 2020, CRC was responsible for approximately 9.4% of cancer-related deaths. However, due to a significant increase in the number of identified cases in the elderly population, it is estimated that the global incidence of CRC will more than double by 2035, with the most significant increase occurring in the developing world.[3]

In recent years, PD-L1 has emerged as an important target for immunotherapy, with drugs like pembrolizumab and nivolumab showing significant promise in treating a variety of cancers, including melanoma and non-small cell lung cancer.[4] However, the role of PD-L1 in colorectal carcinoma has not been as extensively studied.

Recent research has suggested that PD-L1 immunoexpression may play a significant role in the development and progression of colorectal carcinoma. In particular, high levels of PD-L1 expression have been associated with more aggressive tumors and worse outcomes for patients. This suggests that targeting PD-L1 with immunotherapy may be a viable treatment option for this disease, and that PD-L1 immunoexpression could be used as a biomarker to predict response to therapy. The potential of PD-L1 immunoexpression in colorectal carcinoma is promising, further research is needed to fully understand its role in the disease and to develop effective therapies targeting this pathway. Additionally, more work is needed to validate PD-L1 as a biomarker for this disease and to develop standardized assays for measuring PD-L1 expression.[5]

However, there is still much debate over the best way to measure PD-L1 expression and how to use it in clinical decision-making. Additionally, some tumors may evade PD-L1 inhibition by up-regulating other immune checkpoint proteins, such as CTLA-4, or by developing resistance to PD-L1 inhibitors.

In conclusion, PD-L1 immunoexpression represents an exciting avenue of research for the diagnosis and treatment of colorectal carcinoma. Continued investigation into this pathway is essential to fully understand its role in the disease and to develop effective therapies for patients. Ultimately, PD-L1 immunoexpression may prove to be an important biomarker for predicting response to treatment and improving outcomes for patients with colorectal carcinoma.

References

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**Dr Shamim Akhter Mimi, Professor and Head of the Department of Pathology, Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College, Sylhet. shamimakhtermimi@gmail.com*