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FROM TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT TO EMERGING BIOMARKERS: THE RESHAPING OF THE ESOPHAGEAL SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT BY NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY COMBINED WITH IMMUNOTHERAPY

ABSTRACT

Esophageal squamous cell carcinoma is a cancer with high morbidity and mortality. The advent of immune checkpoint inhibitors has significantly increased complete response rates and postoperative R0 resection rates after neoadjuvant therapy. These drugs can largely reverse the suppression of the immune system caused by the tumor microenvironment, allowing the reactivation of anti-tumor immune infiltrating cells, significantly improving the patient's tumor microenvironment, and thus preventing tumor development. However, there are still some patients who respond poorly to neoadjuvant combined immunotherapy and cannot achieve the expected results. It is now found that exploring changes in the tumor microenvironment not only elucidates patient responsiveness to immunotherapy and identifies more reliable biomarkers, but also addresses the limitations of prediction with imaging examination such as CT and the instability of existing biomarkers. In light of these considerations, this review aims to delve into the alterations within the tumor microenvironment and identify potential predictive biomarkers ensuing from neoadjuvant immunotherapy in the context of esophageal squamous cell carcinoma.

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