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Significance of Notch1 signaling in small cell lung carcinoma

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Despite the rapid advances in cancer treatment procedures, current treatments for small cell lung carcinoma (SCLC) do not yield satisfactory results; with an overall 5-year survival rate 14%. Clearly, novel therapeutic approaches to this disease are still needed. The role of Notch signaling in human lung cancer is still far from fully understood; due to the complexity of such signaling pathway, although it has been shown that it plays an important role in fetal lung development. Moreover, the outcome of Notch signaling pathway is strictly context-dependent. This study was carried out to investigate the role of Notch1 signaling in human SCLC cells and its effect on cell proliferation, cell morphology, apoptosis, differentiation, invasion and metastasis. In addition, the epigenetic mechanisms responsible for Notch1 expression has been elucidated..