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Perspective

Mutations Leading to X-linked Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) Pathway Alterations in Cancer

Emily Thompson*

Department of Oncology and Molecular Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada

DESCRIPTION

The Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) pathway is a critical component of the immune system, playing vital roles in inflammation, immune response and cell death regulation. Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) and its receptors, particularly TNF receptor 1 (TNFR1), are involved in both apoptosis (programmed cell death) and the activation of survival pathways. In the context of cancer, mutations or alterations in the TNF signaling pathway-especially those occurring on the X chromosome-can significantly influence Tumourigenesis, Tumour progression and resistance to therapies. The X-linked nature of certain genes involved in the TNF pathway can also contribute to gender differences in cancer susceptibility and outcomes. This article explores how mutations in X-linked genes can lead to dysfunctions in TNF signaling and their implications for cancer.

Role of the TNF pathway in cancer

The TNF pathway is primarily known for its ability to regulate immune responses and inflammation. When TNF binds to its receptors, such as TNFR1, it can either trigger apoptotic cell death or activate anti-apoptotic pathways that allow cell survival and proliferation. However, in the context of cancer, dysregulation of this pathway can have profound effects:

Tumourigenesis: Aberrant TNF signalling can drive Tumour development by promoting inflammation, immune evasion and survival of mutated or cancerous cells.

Tumour progression: Tumour cells may exploit TNF signalling to evade immune surveillance, enhance proliferation and resist apoptosis.

Therapeutic resistance: TNF pathway alterations are associated with resistance to certain therapies, such as chemotherapy and targeted treatments, by enabling Tumour cells to survive stressful conditions.

X-linked genes involved in TNF signaling

Some of the key X-linked genes involved in TNF signaling include:

TNF: The gene encoding the Tumour Necrosis Factor (TNF) itself is located on chromosome 6, not on the X chromosome, but mutations in other related X-linked immune regulatory genes can disrupt its action.

TICAM1 (Toll-Like Receptor Adaptor Molecule 1): TICAM1 plays a pivotal role in the activation of the TNF receptor pathway. Mutations in TICAM1 can impair the signaling cascade, leading to inadequate immune responses and increased susceptibility to Tumourigenesis. While TICAM1 itself is not located on the X chromosome, the regulation of this gene and its interaction with X-linked immune-modulatory genes can affect the overall immune response, potentially contributing to cancer risk.

CYLD (Cylindromatosis): CYLD is an X-linked gene that plays a key role in regulating TNF-induced NF-κB activation, an important pathway in inflammation and immune response. Mutations in CYLD are linked to cylindromatosis, a disorder that predisposes individuals to multiple benign tumours. These mutations can impair TNF signaling by blocking the negative regulation of NF-κB, resulting in chronic inflammation and an increased risk of cancer.

NLRX1: *NLRX1* is an X-linked gene involved in regulating the immune response through interactions with the TNF signaling pathway. It has been implicated in regulating apoptosis and inflammation in cancerous tissues. Loss-of-function mutations in *NLRX1* can lead to dysregulated inflammation, contributing to a Tumour-promoting microenvironment.

CONCLUSION

Mutations leading to alterations in the X-linked TNF pathway have significant implications for cancer development, progression

Correspondence to: Emily Thompson, Department of Oncology and Molecular Medicine, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, E-mail: Emily.thompson@ut.ca

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and therapy resistance. The dysregulation of immune responses and inflammation due to mutations in X- linked genes such as *CYLD*, *TICAM1* and *NLRX1* can drive Tumourigenesis and affect cancer susceptibility, with gender differences playing an important role in the impact of these mutations. A deeper understanding of these mutations and their effects on the TNF pathway will be important for developing personalized therapeutic strategies aimed at targeting immune-related pathways in cancer. Future research should focus on elucidating the precise mechanisms by which X-linked mutations contribute to cancer and exploring novel therapeutic interventions to correct or mitigate these effects.