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SUMMARY

THE ROLE OF REPARATIVE ENZYME O⁶-METHYLGUANINE-DNA METHYLTRANSFERASE IN CHEMOTHERAPY OF MALIGNANT GLIOMAS*

Shaposhnyk L. A., Glavatskiy A. Ya., Ahmad Hassan, Kuzenko Y. V.

O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) repairs the cancer chemotherapy-relevant DNA adducts of O⁶-methylguanine and O⁶-chloroethylguanine, induced by methylating and chloroethylating anticancer drugs, respectively. These adducts are cytotoxic, and given the overwhelming evidence that MGMT is a key factor in resistance to them, strategies for inactivating MGMT have been pursued. A number of drugs have been shown to inactivate MGMT in cells, human tumour models and patients with gliomas, O⁶-benzylguanine have been used in clinical trials. While these agents show no side effects per se, they also inactivate MGMT in normal tissues and hence exacerbate the toxic side effects of the alkylating drugs, requiring dose reduction.

Key words: *O⁶-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase, MGMT, malignant glioma, chemotherapy, alkylating drugs.*

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