International Journal of Biological & Pharmaceutical Science
ISSN (Online): 2208-2190
Volume 11 Issue 01 may 2025

DOI: *10.53555/eijbps.v11i1.61*

ROLE OF GENETIC ALTERATIONS IN BREAST CANCER PROGRESSION.

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Abstract:

Breast cancer is a multifactorial disease and represents the tumor formation through non-controlled cellular proliferation in the breast tissue. To understand the concept of breast cancer, one has to study the types, risk factors, diagnosis, treatment and latest research about the disease[1].While breast cancer remains a premier health concern, the advances made in research methods and tools, early detection and treatments have dramatically improved survival rates and quality of life for many patients [2].The incidence rates for breast cancer have been on the increase due to increased awareness, better diagnostic facilities and changes in lifestyle[3].The Wnt signaling pathway normally plays a very fundamental role in cell growth, differentiation and embryonic development. Understanding this pathway is important for the development of targeted therapies and advanced understanding in the advancement of regenerative medicine[4].HCCRI is an abbreviation of Human Cervical cancer Related 1, a gene implicated in the development of cancer especially in cervical cancer. It encodes for a protein involved in regulating all proliferation and apoptosis. Overexpression of HCCRI has been implicated in tumor progressions and prognosis in various cancers. Research indicates that HCCRI could be utilized as a biomarker for diagnosis in cancer and prognosis while the targeting of HCCRI can offer new therapeutic strategies in managing cancer[5].The TIMP2 gene encodes a tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 2-a protein that plays a critical role in regulating extracellular matrix remodeling through the inhibition of matrix metalloproteinases. This inhibition controls the degradation and remodeling of tissue leading to various physiological processes such as wound healing and embryogenesis. TIMP2 is involved in maintaining tissue integrity and has been implicated in various pathological conditions including cancer metastasis and cardiovascular diseases. It operates by binding to MMPs, thus preventing their activity and subsequent breakdown of extracellular characterized by excessive tissue remodelling or insufficient tissue repair[6].

Keywords: *Early breast cancer, The beta-catenin gene, The winglees-related integration site (wnt)) singnalling pathway, The HCCRI (Human Cervical cancer Related 1) gene, The TIMP2 (Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinases 2) gene.*

INTRODUCTION:

Carcinoma of the breast has been known since antiquity. It is one of the most common cancers worldwide which affects millions of women annually and less frequently men. There are historical records from ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome that testify to knowledge and various crude treatments. During the 19th and the early 20th century, a better understanding of breast cancer has led to the development of effective treatment modalities. Prior to that, the treatments which were carried down through the centuries were ineffective. According to the Global statistics, breast cancer is the most frequent cancer. In the year 2020, the World Health Organization estimated that there were around 23 million cases and 685,000 deaths due to breast cancer. It accounts for about 125% of all new cancer cases and 69% of all cancer deaths[7].The amount of investment done in research and education of breast cancer will increase the knowledge about the disease . It will further enhance the ability for prevention, detection and treatment strategies. In 2020 estimated cases of around of 685,000 females died of breast cancer. The incidence rate and the mortality rate are radically different between various regions. Developed countries have demonstrated higher incidence rates because of better diagnostics and longer life spans while compared to the developing countries where the mortality rates are higher due to lack of access to health services and treatments[8].

Risk Factors: The risk for breast cancer is influenced by several factors including

1.Genetic factors: Mutations in genes such as brca1 and brca2 increase the risk manifold.
2.Age: Over the age of 50, the risk of invasive breast cancer peaks along with the age
3.Family history: The immediate relative of mother, father, sister, brother or the child who has the disease significantly increases the chance of having the disease.
4.Lifestyle factors: Consumption of alcohol, obesity and cigarette smoking together with sedentary habits particularly increases the risk of having the disease.[9]
5. Reproductive history: Early menarche, late menopause and nulliparity or having the first child after 30 years increases the risk

Diagnosis: Detection at an early stage is the key to effective treatment of the disease. The following diagnostic techniques may be used:

Clinical breast exam (CBE): A physician does the physical examination of the breast

Mammography:A x-ray examination of the breast is done and it should be done routinely

Ultrasound: It uses sound waves and outline images of the breast tissue.

Biopsy: Tissue is removed in a small amount from the breast and it is further examined to detect presence of cancerous cells.

MRI: It provides detailed imaging of pictures of the breast and is usually used along with other techniques for diagnosing or staging the cancer[10]. Staging of the disease helps in assessing the extent of the disease and also guides with the various options of treatment.

One commonly used system is the TNM staging system T - Tumor describes the size and the extent of the main tumor. N - Nodes describe whether the cancer has spread to the regional lymph nodes. M (Metastasis) presence of distant metastasis. The stages range from 0 (DCIS) to IV advanced cancer with distant spread.

Treatment: The plans of treatment depend upon the type, stage and several other characteristics of the cancer. Common modes of treatment include Surgery and its option include lumpectomy, surgery to remove the tumor along with a small margin of neighbouring tissue and mastectomy which is the process of removal of one or both of the breasts[11].

The individualized option for treatment is as follows:

Radiation Therapy: This uses high-energy rays to target the cancerous cells along with the surrounding tissue.

Chemotherapy: This involves the use of some types of drugs to kill the cancerous cells or inhibit the growth in case of aggressive or advanced cancer types.

Hormonal therapy: In case of hormone receptor-positive cases, drugs like tamoxifen or aromatase inhibitors are used to block the estrogen or lower the estrogen level.

Targeted therapy: This treatment involves use of specific molecules that may be responsible for the growth of cancer. Example include HER2-targeted therapies which involves trastuzumab.

Immunotherapy: This is the approach to make use of the immune system of the body to fight against cancer. Currently, this appears more promising against other kinds of cancer compared to breast cancer.

Genomic Studies: It helps to discover genetic mutations which will further help in targeted therapies12]. Research helps in continuously improving the way breast cancer is viewed and treated

Personalized medicine: Treatment based on the genetic makeup of an individual and certain characteristics of the tumour.

Research into immunotherapy: Investigating new ways in which the immune system could be harnessed to fight the disease.

New drug development: Many ongoing trials are underway in the quest for more potent drugs with fewer side effects.

Prevention:

Regular screening, regular mammograms and clinical exams.

Healthy lifestyle: Healthy eating, regular exercise and reduced alcohol intake.

Genetic Testing: The purpose for which one considers genetic testing includes those with a family history of breast cancer. It helps in assessing their risk and guiding them through necessary preventive measures[13].

Breast cancer is a multi-dimensional and complex disease and its menace is being felt globally. Hope could be offered to improved outcomes and quality of life for affected persons through continued research, early detection and advances in treatment. This calls for continued efforts in education, prevention and support against this pervasive disease[14].

Beta-catenin:

Beta-catenin is a multifunctional protein controls cell proliferation, differentiation and migration. The CTNNBI gene encodes a protein that forms one of the critical parts of the Wnt signaling pathway. Beta-catenin mutations or dysregulations lead to various diseases including cancers such as colorectal cancer[15].It involves Wnt protein binding to frizzled receptors and thereby activation of downstream signaling cascades. The pathway affects gene expression through the stability and nuclear translocation of beta catenin. Mutations or dysregulation of the Wnt signaling are implicated in several diseases that include cancer and developmental disorders. It acts centrally in the Wnt signaling pathway involved in the regulation of cell growth, differentiation, and development. It is an essential constituent of adherens junctions where it associates with cadherins connecting them to the actin cytoskeleton thus participating in cell-cell adhesion and tissue architecture.

Beta-Catenin in Normal Cellular Function: In normal cells, the two major roles of beta-catenin are as follows

1.Adherens Junctions : Beta-catenin forms complexes with cadherins which are cell adhesion molecules and alpha- catenin at the cell membrane which link cadherins to the actin cytoskeleton. This interaction is important for maintaining the integrity and stability of tissue architecture.

2.Wnt Signaling Pathway: Beta-catenin acts intracellularly as a transcriptional coactivator in the Wnt signaling pathway. In the absence of Wnt, beta-catenin is phosphorylated by a complex containing APC, Axin and GSK- 3β and subsequently degraded. Active Wnt signaling stimulates beta-catenin accumulation in the cytoplasm and its translocation into the nucleus to interact with TCF/LEF factors to activate target gene transcription involved in cell proliferation and differentiation.

β-Catenin in Breast Cancer: The following are some examples of inappropriate signalling through β-catenin in the breast and the consequences for breast cancer.

1. Tumor Progression : Overexpression or constitutive activation of the β-catenin gene can contribute to tumor progression by increasing the invasiveness of breast cancer cells, their ability to proliferate while motile and resisting apoptosis.

2. Cancer Stem Cells: Beta-catenin is complexly engaged in the maintenance of properties of so-called cancer stem cells considered to be responsible for tumor initiation and resistance to therapy. The high nuclear levels of beta-catenin may contribute to maintaining the stem-like features of such cells.

3. Estrogen Receptor Status: The literature suggests that beta-catenin interacts with estrogen receptors in breast cancer and by doing so influences response to estrogen and modifies the behavior of ER-positive breast cancers.

4. Beta-Catenin and Chemoresistance: Another aspect is the concern with beta-catenin in relation to treatment resistance.

This may confer resistance through increased beta-catenin signaling to conventional therapies by such means as chemotherapy. The cells having high activity of beta-catenin are less sensitive to chemotherapy drugs because of increased cell survival and repair mechanisms.

Targeted Therapies: In general targeted therapies such as HER2 inhibitors also face resistance which in turn has been associated with aberrant beta-catenin signaling. This is presumably a result of interactions between beta- catenin and other signaling pathways driving the growth of tumors.Because of its major implications in breast cancer, beta-catenin is a potential target for therapeutic intervention. The inhibitors of Wnt pathway can modulate the activity of Beta-catenin. There is active development of drugs that either inhibit the Wnt signaling pathway or beta-catenin itself. Beta-catenin accumulation and oncogenic activity is blocked by these inhibitors.

Targeting Beta-Catenin Interactions: This method disrupts the interaction between beta-catenin and its binding partners like TCF/LEF transcription factors or cadherins which are important for its function in cancer cells.

Combination Therapies: Inhibitors of Beta-catenin in combination with other therapeutic agents may enhance the efficacy of treatment and may overcome resistance.Beta-catenin plays a critical role in normal cell functioning of cell and the pathogenesis of cancer. Aberrant activation due to mutations or dysregulated signaling in breast cancer promotes progression of tumor, treatment resistance and maintains cancer stem cells.

The ongoing research is presently providing knowledge and laying down specific therapies that are capable of efficiently inhibiting beta-catenin signaling and hence offering improved patient outcomes.The complex role of beta catenin in breast cancer has to be studied furtherance for development of treatment strategies and personalized care for the patients.

The Wingless-related Integration site (wnt) Signalling pathway:
Breast cancer is a complex disease manifested by many genetic and molecular alterations One of the important pathways implicated in the development and progression of breast cancer includes the Wingless-related Integration Site (Wnt) signaling pathway[16]This cascade of signaling plays a very important role in basic cellular processes such as proliferation, differentiation, and migration and thus has been under extensive research for several decades in the context of cancer biology. Aberrations in Wnt signaling may lead to dysregulation of these processes thereby contributing towards tumor initiation and its progression.
This review discusses the involvement of Wnt signaling in human breast cancer regarding the genetic components that are usually targeted and the implications for cancer pathogenesis and therapy[16].
Wnt signaling is an evolutionary conserved pathway of cellular signal transduction initiated by extracellular Wnt ligands via specific cell surface receptors, leading to the transcription of target genes. There are two main Wnt signaling pathways the canonical/β-catenin-dependent pathway and the non-canonical/ β-catenin-independent pathway.

Canonical Wnt Signaling Pathway Ligand Binding: The canonical pathway is initiated by the binding of Wnt ligands to the cell surface receptors Frizzled (Fzd) and this process is often facilitated by co-receptors such as low- density lipoprotein receptor-related protein 5/6 (LRP5/6).

Destruction Complex : In the absence of Wnt, the pivotal signaling molecule β-catenin is phosphorylated by the so-called destruction complex comprising Axin and two kinase enzymes, namely glycogen synthase kinase 3β and casein kinase 1 which targets it for ubiquitination and subsequent proteasomal degradation.

Stabilization of β-Catenin: The binding of Wnt ligands to their receptors inhibits the destruction complex leading to the stabilization and accumulation of β-catenin in the cytoplasm[17]. Nuclear Translocation Stabilized β-catenin translocates to the nucleus where it interacts with TCF/LEF [T-cell factor/lymphoid enhancer factor] transcription factors to activate the expression of Wnt target genes involved in cell proliferation and survival.

Non-Canonical Wnt Signaling Pathway: The non-canonical pathways do not involve β-catenin. They include Wnt/Ca2+ Pathway .This pathway leads to an increase in intracellular calcium levels therefore activating the calcium-sensitive signaling pathways such as calmodulin and PKC.

Planar Cell Polarity Pathway: This pathway is implicated in the regulation of cell polarity and motility that are of paramount importance in various cellular processes including embryogenesis and tissue regeneration.

Wnt Signaling and Breast Cancer: Aberrant Wnt signaling in the breast frequently activates several aspects of tumor biology, including proliferation, differentiation, and metastasis[18].

Activation of Canonical Wnt Pathway in Breast Cancer: Genetic Mutations and Amplifications although it's rarely a target in human breast cancer, the canonical Wnt pathway may be activated by genetic amplification such as in *CTNNB1* encoding β-catenin, or mutations in negative regulators like *AXIN1*.For instance, mutations in *CTNNB1* have been identified to stabilize β- catenin through its nuclear translocation for upregulation of Wnt target genes[19].

Overexpression of Wnt Ligands and Receptors: The overexpression of Wnt ligands such as Wnt1 and Wnt3a and receptors such as Fzd has been seen in breast cancer cells. The overexpression of these ligands leads to excess activation of the Wnt signaling pathway and hence it leads to tumorigenesis[20].

Loss of Wnt Pathway Inhibitors: Inhibitors such as DKK1 and SFRP negatively regulates the activity of the Wnt pathway. Often, in breast cancer their expression is downregulated and the consequence is the uncontrolled activation of Wnt signaling[21].

Implications for Breast Cancer Treatment: Several small molecule inhibitors that inhibit the Wnt signaling pathway are in the process of development. This includes inhibitors of β-catenin and antagonists targeting the Wnt ligands/receptors.

Monoclonal Antibodies: Monoclonal antibodies as therapeutic agents targeting Wnt ligands or their receptors are considered for breast cancer treatment. For example, antibodies binding to Fzd receptors can directly interfere with the binding of Wnt ligand and thus further inhibit the downstream signaling[22].

Gene therapy and RNA interference: This approach involves RNA interference which knocks down the expression of components of Wnt pathway or gene therapy which targets the functional reconstitution of Wnt inhibitors.

Future direction of breast cancer : An attractive therapeutic opportunity is the targeting of Wnt signaling pathway but it has several challenges. These include possibilities for off-target effects, complexity of Wnt signaling interactions and

the requirement for personalized approaches according to the specific Wnt pathway alterations within individual tumors.

Identification of Biomarkers: Efforts are required for identification of biomarkers. Biomarkers are indicative of aberrant Wnt signaling and need to be identified to further predict which category of patients will be benefitted [23].

Combination Therapies: The inhibitors of the Wnt pathway combining along with other targeted therapies or conventional treatments may result in enhancement of therapeutic efficacy and overcome resistance.

Tumor Heterogeneity: Breast cancer is a heterogeneous disease and any hope for successful treatment strategies has to take into consideration the different roles of Wnt signaling in its various subtypes.

The Wingless-related Integration Site (Wnt) signaling pathway is involved in steps of both the development and progression of breast cancers. The aberrant Wnt signaling due to factors like genetic mutations, overexpression of ligands and receptors or loss of inhibitors leads to the characteristics of cancer-cells such as uncontrolled proliferation, increased invasiveness and metastatis. Therefore, a promising therapeutic approach has been developed by targeting the Wnt signaling pathway although the success depends on the passing issues of specificity and tumor heterogeneity.More research on the molecular details of the Wnt pathway and breast cancer will be required to enhance excellent treatments and results for patients[24].

HCCR1 in Breast Cancer:

Breast cancer apart from significant improvement in early diagnosis still remains as one of the major cancers. It is also a leading cause of cancer-related deaths among women around the globe[25].Screening and therapeutic approach have been informed because of routine mammography screening.

Human Cervical Cancer Release 1, commonly referred to as HCCR1[26] has created a lot of hype over the past few years. Although it was initially discovered in cervical cancer but HCCR1 has been found to speak for different forms of cancer and out of which is the breast cancer.This paper looks over the part where HCCR1 has played its role in the progression of breast cancer and its potential in terms of being a biomarker along with its consequences over the treatments entailed.
HCCR1 is a protein found through human cervical cancer-related research [27,28]. It is encoded by the HCCR1 gene which has been associated with cancer progression and poor prognosis in several malignancies. It is a secreted glycoprotein and its expression has been linked to cellular processes such as proliferation, invasion and resistance to apoptosis.
HCCR1 is often overexpressed as compared to normal tissues in breast cancer [29]. IHC studies further identified that HCCR1 is overexpressed in cancerous tissues and is closely related to the aggressiveness of the tumor. This may be the case because HCCR1 up-regulation plays an important role in the development of breast cancers through cellular transformation and tumor progression.HCCR1 is suspected to promote the malignant phenotype in breast cancer cells by facilitating proliferation, increasing invasive capabilities, and reducing cell death.
The precise mechanisms of HCCR1 in regulating breast cancer are not fully elucidated but several routes through which it may act have been suggested Cell Proliferation HCCR1 has been demonstrated to upregulate genes involved in cell cycle progression and cell proliferation. Therefore, due to its mode of action HCCR1 is able to amplify the growth and increase the expansion of breast cancer cells.

Invasion and Metastasis: HCCR1 may influence the metastatic potential of breast cancer cells. Some have suggested that HCCR1 can alter the expression of matrix metalloproteinases which are enzymes responsible for breakdown of the components of extracellular matrix. This alteration facilitates the invasive behavior of cancerous cells in other tissues.

Resistance to Apoptosis: Resistance to programmed cell death is one of the features pertinent to tumor cells.So far, HCCR1 has been implicated in the prevention of apoptosis through various mechanisms that may involve modulation of pro- and anti-apoptotic factors.HCCR1 could enhance tumor survival and resistance to therapy by reducing the sensitivity of tumor cells to apoptosis [30].Research is still ongoing in regarding to establish HCCR 1 as a potential biomarker because it is related to aggressive features of the disease. Several clinically plausible contexts for the utilization of HCCR1 can be identified.

Diagnosis and Prognosis: High levels of HCCR1 either in breast cancer tissues or in the blood can be taken as a diagnostic marker to distinguish the patients suffering from breast cancer.On the other hand , overexpression of HCCR1 has poor prognosis and may provide good information for risk stratification and management[31].

Treatment Monitoring: Monitoring the levels of HCCR1 levels during treatment may enable the assessment of therapeutic outcome. For example, low or reduced levels of HCCR1 might imply a good response to treatment while a constantly high level could suggest drug resistance or the development of an aggressive disease state.

Therapeutic Target: Direct or indirect targeting of HCCR1 may offer a novel therapeutic strategy.

The function or expression of HCCR1 can be inhibited by pharmacologic agents that may be developed to be useful in the suppression of tumor growth, invasion and resistance to therapy. Current treatment modalities along with certainHCCR1-targeted therapies may also improve the overall outcome of the treatment[32].

Research in this aspect concerning the role of HCCR1 in breast cancer is still at its rudimentary stage and the following aspects do presently need to be addressed Mechanistic Studies More detailed studies are needed to fully understand the molecular mechanisms by which HCCR1 impacts breast cancer.Signaling pathways influenced by HCCR1 and its interacting partners will give clues about its functional roles and possible vulnerabilities[33].

Clinical Studies: Clinical investigations which will evaluate the potential role of HCCR1 as a biomarker or as a therapeutic target will be essential in translating studies from bench to bedside. The clinical utility of HCCR1 will be determined by such trials and it will be required across different settings for its efficacy and safety as a target of intervention[34].

Combination Therapies: Combinations of HCCR1-targeted therapies with other treatment modalities may provide added synergistic benefit. For example, combining HCCR1 inhibitors with chemotherapy or targeted therapies could increase treatment efficacy and overcome resistance mechanisms.

In context to breast cancer, HCCR1 forma a very promising domain of study. Some of the newly identified relation with features of aggressive disease such as high proliferation, invasion and possible resistance to apoptosis makes this an especially attractive target both as a biomarker and as a drug target[35].Further studies will also be crucial in identifying the complete role of HCCR1 in the development and the progress of breast cancer. Also in the establishment of new diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. We need to understand the role of HCCR1 in contributing to the process of cancer progression and by leveraging its potential for clinical applications, we might successfully enhance the outcomes for patients with breast cancer[36].

TIMP2 (Tissue Inhibitor of Metalloproteinases 2):

One of the most common malignancies affecting women worldwide is the breast cancer. It is a complex process formed by the relation of many molecular and cellular factors that lead to tumor progression, metastasis and resistance to therapy Out of all the major factors, tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMPs) are one of the major factors associated with the disease [37]. Among the four known TIMPs, it is TIMP2 that has received considerable interest in its implication in breast cancer. Here we are considering the role of TIMP2 in breast cancer starting from tumor progression to metastasis and its potential role as a target of therapy.
TIMP2 is part of the TIMP family consisting of four homologous proteins that regulate the activity of matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs). MMPs are a family of enzymes involved in the degradation of components of the extracellular matrix specifically TIMP1, TIMP2, TIMP3 and TIMP4. TIMPs inhibit matrix metalloproteinases from maintaining ECM and affecting cell processes such as proliferation, migration and apoptosis.

TIMP2 and ECM remodeling: ECM remodeling is the most delicate process in the course of breast cancer[38]. These remodeling processes decide the pattern of growth, invasion and metastasis of breast cancer. During the process, any slight disturbance can generate aggressive phenotypes in cancer. MMPs which are involved in the process of ECM destruction are provided with very tight restrictions by TIMPs. MMP2 and MMP14plays crucial roles in the process of cancer and TIMP2 particularly inhibits the activities of MMP2 and MMP14. Type IV and type V collagen are degraded critical component of the basement membrane and both are degraded by MMP2 hereby facilitating tumor invasion and metastasis. TIMP2 regulated activation of MMP2 can affect the invasion and dissemination of tumor cells mediated by MMP2.

TIMP2 and Tumor Progression : There are studies showing fluctuating levels of expression in different tissues of breast cancer with contradictory roles of TIMP2 in tumor progression. Also increased levels of TIMP2 suppress MMPs and consequently restrain ECM degradation and tumor cell invasion with metastasis. The findings suggest that its role may be protective in nature where the spread of tumour is restricted[39]. On the other hand, however the actions of TIMP2 are not always very well defined as in some pre-clinical models of breast cancer. A correlation has been established for TIMP2 to link with aggressive tumour growth and worse prognosis. The paradoxical effect can be attributed to the context-dependent nature of TIMP2s action upon the integration of factors responsible for the extended tumorous nature and other molecular players.

TIMP2 and Metastasis is a phenomenon that defines the process of cancer cells sprouting up from the fundamental tumor to far sites and it is the primary reason why breast cancer is lethal. The role of TIMP2 in metastasis is exemplary as it controls the action of MMPs and thereby limits the extracellular matrix degradation [40]. Expression of TIMP2 has been

proved in another study to influence metastatic potential. In some instances, high levels of TIMP2 were correlated with minimal metastatic dissemination and therefore, TIMP2 may have a metastasis-suppressing function by inhibiting the degradation of the ECM and the subsequent release of tumor cells. However, TIMP2s role could be even more multifaceted since TIMP2 may modulate additional pathways responsible for metastasis[41].

TIMP2 as a Biomarker: This function has been evaluated in relation to the role of TIMP2 in the development and metastasis of breast cancer as a candidate for the development of either a diagnostic or prognostic and pre-/post- treatment response biomarker in patients with the disease [42]. For example, increased abundance has been reported in cases of breast cancer associated with higher stages of the disease which reflect poor survival rates. However, studies underlines that further evaluation studies are called for to support its reliability as a biomarker. The critical challenge in translating the level of TIMP2 into a prognostic biomarker is understanding the exact conditions leading to disease outcome [43].

Therapeutic Implications: tIMP2 plays dual role in breast cancer. Firstly, as a possible inhibitor of tumor spread and secondly as a regulator of tumor progression. It precludes the possibility of interesting therapeutic interventions. Therapeutic interventions therewith are targeting TIMP2 directly or manipulating its interaction with MMPs[44]. For instance, strategies that enhance TIMP2 activity may be useful to reduce metastasis while approaches that inhibit TIMP2 activity may be pursued in those circumstances where the latter contributes to poor outcome[45]. Also, combination therapy of therapies targeted at TIMP2 and current therapies may beneficially impact overall efficacy and clinical outcome. In the context of human breast cancer, TIMP2 has multiple roles tumor progression, metastasis and therapeutic targeting.

Although there has been a firm establishment of TIMP2 as an inhibitor of MMP functions and a controller of ECM remodeling, in general, the effects of TIMP2 in breast cancer are complex and context-dependent.Precise knowledge regarding whether TIMP2 acts as a tumor suppressor or inducer in breast cancer, and at what stage this occurs in the disease process, has immense importance in the creation of effective therapeutics and better management of the patients[46].Ongoing research into the functions and interactions of TIMP2 is necessary to understand its full potential both as a biomarker and a target for breast cancer therapy.In other words, TIMP-2 is an important player in the complex network of regulators that shape the biology of breast cancer [47].Its effects on extracellular matrix modeling, tumor progression and metastatic processes highlight its relevance to the pathogenesis of the disease[48].With further elucidation of specific TIMP-2 activities at the molecular level, it could also become a potential for knowledge in breast cancer biology and for rational drug development[49].

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