Available online www.jocpr.com

Journal of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Research, 2023, 15(4):1-2

Perspective

ISSN : 0975-7384
CODEN(USA) : JCPRC5

Significant Function for Angiogenesis in Cardiovascular Diseases

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Received: *03-Apr-2023, Manuscript No. JOCPR-23-98440;* ***Editor assigned:*** *07-Apr-2023, PreQC No. JOCPR-23-98440 (PQ);* ***Reviewed:*** *21-Apr-2023, QC No. JOCPR-23-98440;* ***Revised:*** *02-May-2023, Manuscript No. JOCPR-23-98440(R);* ***Published:*** *11-May-2023, DOI:10.37532/0975-7384.2023.15(4).023.*

DESCRIPTION

Angiogenesis is the process of forming new blood vessels from existing ones. It is a crucial process for growth and development of the body, wound healing, and tissue repair. Angiogenesis is regulated by a complex interplay of various growth factors, signaling pathways, and cellular processes. The angiogenic process is tightly controlled in healthy tissues; however, it can be deregulated in various pathological conditions, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, and chronic inflammation. This study discusses about the effects of angiogenesis activity in these conditions.

In cancer, angiogenesis is a key process that promotes tumor growth and metastasis. Tumors require a blood supply to grow beyond a certain size, and they achieve this by inducing the formation of new blood vessels from the surrounding tissue. Cancer cells secrete angiogenic factors such as vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) and basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) to stimulate angiogenesis. These factors promote the proliferation and migration of endothelial cells, which are the cells that line the inside of blood vessels.

Angiogenesis in cancer has several effects. First, it provides oxygen and nutrients to the tumor cells, which allows them to grow and divide rapidly. Second, angiogenesis promotes the infiltration of immune cells into the tumor microenvironment, which can either promote or inhibit tumor growth depending on the type of immune cells and their activity. Finally, angiogenesis enables the spread of tumor cells to other parts of the body, which is known as metastasis. This is because the newly formed blood vessels provide a route for tumor cells to enter the circulation and travel to other organs.

Inhibiting angiogenesis is an attractive strategy for cancer therapy. Several drugs have been developed that target VEGF and other angiogenic factors to block angiogenesis. These drugs are called anti-angiogenic agents and they have shown promise in clinical trials for a variety of cancer types. However, these agents can also have adverse effects, such as hypertension, bleeding, and impaired wound healing. Additionally, tumors can develop resistance to anti-angiogenic therapy, which limits their effectiveness.

Angiogenesis also plays a crucial role in cardiovascular disease. In conditions such as ischemic heart disease, peripheral artery disease, and stroke, angiogenesis is necessary to provide a new blood supply to ischemic or damaged tissue. In these conditions, the existing blood vessels are either blocked or damaged, leading to a lack of oxygen and nutrients to the tissue. In response to this, the body initiates angiogenesis to form new blood vessels that can deliver oxygen and nutrients to the ischemic tissue. This process is regulated by various growth factors and signaling

pathways, including VEGF, fibroblast growth factor (FGF), and angiopoietin-1 (Ang-1). These factors stimulate the proliferation and migration of endothelial cells, leading to the formation of new blood vessels.

In cardiovascular disease, the effects of angiogenesis are beneficial. Angiogenesis can improve blood flow to ischemic tissue, which can relieve symptoms such as chest pain and improve exercise tolerance. Additionally, angiogenesis can promote tissue repair and regeneration, which can improve cardiac function and reduce the risk of heart failure. Chronic inflammation is a process that occurs in response to tissue injury or infection. It is characterized by the infiltration of immune cells into the affected tissue, which release various inflammatory mediators such as cytokines, chemokines, and growth factors. Chronic inflammation can lead to tissue damage and dysfunction, and it is a key factor in the pathogenesis of many diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, and psoriasis.