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Biomarkers for breast cancer: Where we are now

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, USA

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in women, but there has been a marked decline in mortality over the last decade due to early detection and improved treatment. Breast cancer is a heterogeneous disease and a decade of research has led to the identification of several biomarkers that are used to guide treatment. The most well established biomarkers are estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). ER and PR are used to identify hormone-responsive tumors, while HER2 is used to identify tumors that are likely to respond to targeted therapy. In addition, several other biomarkers are being investigated, including cyclin D1, Ki-67, and p53. The use of biomarkers in breast cancer is becoming increasingly common, and this is expected to continue in the future.

Biography

Hong Amy Zhang is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Translational Molecular Pathology in University of Texas-MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX, specializing in Breast Cancer Pathology. Prior to joining UT-MDACC, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology in the Baylor College of Medicine from 2006 to 2009. She is an American board certified practicing Pathologist since 2003. She has expertise in diagnosing breast cancers and the interpretation of the biomarkers relevant to breast cancers for patient care. She is also actively supervising research scientists and trainees on translational and laboratory research, focusing on the characterization of tumor markers significant for breast tumorigenesis and the development of small molecule inhibitors and potential novel molecular targets for breast cancer treatment.

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