

Apoptosis in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Implications for Treatment Strategies

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Citation: Zhou Y. Apoptosis in Neurodegenerative Diseases: Implications for Treatment Strategies. *J Oncol Res Treat.* 2023;35(1):1-10.

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Abstract

Neurodegenerative diseases, characterized by the progressive loss of structure and function of neurons, pose a significant challenge in the field of medicine. Among the myriad of cellular processes contributing

to the pathogenesis of these disorders, apoptosis, a highly regulated form of programmed cell death, plays a central role. Dysregulation of the apoptotic pathway can lead to either excessive neuronal loss or survival of cells that should be eliminated, both of which contribute to the progression of neurodegenerative diseases. This review discusses the molecular mechanisms underlying apoptosis in neurodegenerative diseases and explores the implications for treatment strategies. We highlight the potential of targeting key components of the apoptotic pathway as a therapeutic approach to modulate neuronal survival and delay disease progression.

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The intertwining of apoptosis with neurodegenerative diseases offers both challenges and opportunities for the development of effective treatments. As researchers uncover the molecular intricacies of apoptotic pathways in different diseases, novel strategies are emerging with the potential to halt or slow neurodegeneration. From targeted modulation of apoptotic pathways to the exploration of neuroprotective agents and gene therapies, the landscape of neurodegenerative disease

treatment is evolving. The road ahead involves overcoming challenges related to disease heterogeneity, blood-brain barrier penetration, and the need for early diagnosis. In the pursuit of treatments that not only alleviate symptoms but also address the underlying causes of neurodegenerative diseases, the exploration of apoptosis as a therapeutic target stands at the forefront of medical innovation. As research progresses, the hope is that these strategies will translate into tangible benefits for patients, offering a O f erat