

Review: Relationship between obesity and cancer

Hadeel.Khalaf.Alboaklah¹. Hadeel.khalaf@uokerbala.edu.iq

Rasha A.Abidalmutalib Aljabawi² rasha.aziz@uokerbala.edu.iq

Clinical laboratory science, college of pharmacy, university of Kerbala

Received (15/6/2021), Accepted (4/7/2021)

Abstract

Plentiful indication proves the strong of the relationship between adipose tissue and neighbouring healthy and neoplastic cells. Numeral of cancer events initiated by actuality obese is assessed to be 20% with the augmented risk of tumor being predisposed by food, weight alteration, and body fat dissemination organised with bodily activity. Extra caloric consumption and consequent weight gain recruit a cascade of possessions in adipose tissue starting with adipocyte hypertrophy and developing to oxidative stress, prolonged inflammation, changed adipokine excretion. While these are foremost, strong variations in the microenvironment, a wide diversity of further changes happen in the background of obesity, which can also stimulate cancer and have been studied by others, for example, extracellular medium solidifying, immune cell complaint, and altering of insulin. Although the connection between fatness and cancer is known, the possible causal relationship between obesity and cancer remains to be a field of strong research exploration. The present review highlights the effects of adipose tissue, inflammatory intermediaries and leptin, . These factors can involved cancer through the regulation of carcinogenesis.

Keywords : adipose tissue,cancer,leptin,CAA

Declaration of interest, the author declares that no conflict of interest could be perceived as influencing the fairness of the research record

علاقه السمنة مع السرطان

تشير المؤشرات الوفيرة إلى اهمية العلاقة بين الأنسجة الدهنية والخلايا السليمة والأورام المجاورة. يؤدي استهلاك السعرات الحرارية الزائدة وما يترتب على ذلك من زيادة الوزن إلى تجنيد سلسلة من التغيرات في الأنسجة الدهنية بدءًا من تضخم الخلايا الشحمية وتتطور إلى الإجهاد التأكسدي والالتهاب لفترات طويلة وتغيير إفراز الدهون. في حين أن هذه الاختلافات هي في المقام الأول ، الاختلافات الاقوى في البيئة المكروية ، تحدث مجموعة متنوعة من التغيرات الإضافية في خلفية السمنة ، والتي يمكن أن تحفز أيضًا السرطان وقد تمت دراستها من قبل الآخرين ، على سبيل المثال ، تصلب الوسط خارج الخلية ، تحفيز الخلايا المناعية ، وتغيير الأنسولين. على الرغم من أن العلاقة بين السمنة والسرطان معروفة ، إلا أن العلاقة السببية المحتملة بين السمنة والسرطان تظل مجالًا لاستكشاف الأبحاث القوية. يسلط هذا الاستعراض الضوء على آثار الأنسجة الدهنية ، والوسطاء الالتهابيين ، واللبتين ،. هذه العوامل ممكن ان تتدخل في تنظيم عملية التسرطن.

Introduction

obesity is connected with a numeral of adversative health-associated complications and brings a higher patient mortality probability. It would be inflexible to overemphasize the augmented unfavourable health results for obese persons. What is far less healthy predictable by the common public is the significant association between obesity and augmented cancer threat [1]. Although roughly data propose that other calculation of obesity, as the proportion of whole-body fat or fat quantity guide, maybe healthier analysts of obesity-associated complications like metabolic syndrome, body mass index (BMI) is remaining the furthest normally used metric to evaluate personal obesity (Table 1). Obesity has a significantly raised risk of former chronic health circumstances, such as hypertension and stroke [2]. Many studies proved a statistically significant link between fatness and 13 cancer sorts [3]. The pathway through which overweight causing an augmented possibility of cancer is several and extremely complex. They referred to the occasionally synergistic influence of changed hormone and cytokine releasing changes to the disease microenvironment, and cytological modifications to controlling proteins [4.] The natural activity of adipocytes is massively complex. In obese persons, extreme build-up of adipose tissue results in raised levels of flowing free fatty acids and augmented activity of serum adipokines, including leptin, visfatin, and cytokines [5]. However, Fatness may not merely mark the risk of increasing cancer but likewise impression cancer survival. This descriptive study aims to highlight widespread theories that clarify how obesity potency contributes to cancer expansion and growth, contributing to the endocrine and metabolic functions of adipocytes.

Table 1: Illustration of the guidance of body mean index[6]

| BMI in kg/m ² | Weight Category |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Below 18.5 | Underweight |
| 18.5 to 24.9 | Normal |
| 25.0 to 29.9 | Overweight |
| 30.0 to 39.9 | Obese |
| 40.0 or higher | Severely obese |
| | |
| | |

1. Adipocytes and cancer

Cancer is measured by important abnormalities in cellular performance, comprising the capability to multiply uncertainly in the lack of growth-promoting factors and conflict to signals that usually leading to programmed cell death (apoptosis)[7] by data shows that other oncogenic variations stimulate apoptosis, so making selective force to dominate apoptosis throughout pathways of carcinogenesis [8] . To survive cancer cells requirement to acclimatise to harsh environments. One key property of tumour cells is their ability to reprogram the metabolism process and take beneficial substrates obtainable in the adjacent environment [9]. During metastatic diffusion, correlated closely to adipose tissue. particularly, from the primary steps of cancer beginning, such as breast cancer are in communication with the adipocytes of the mammary gland, while numerous former cancers (prostate, ovarian, etc...) act together with the hypodermic or visceral adipocytes or with those from bone marrow in progressive phases when tumours have grown external of the primary location. Moreover, adipocyte produced elements have been employed to control the expression of genes linked with cancer development in non-cancerous cells signifying a role in cancer origination [10]. On the other hand, several studies confirmed that cancer cell manufacture materials induce adipocytes causing a triggered phenotype named cancer-associated adipocytes. They are identified by a particular phenotype with extraordinary lipolysis and high expression of proteases and pro-inflammatory cytokines (11)

2. Regulation of cancer cells by adipocytes

Dysfunctional adipocytes may release metabolic elements, which stimulate the progress of cancer and modify gene expression outline, prompt inflammation, and hypoxia, and prevent apoptosis. It is identified that extreme free fatty acids, leptin, interleukins, and chemokines increase breast cancer expansion (Table 2)[12]. Inflammation stimulate obesity is a vital pathway in the growth and invasion of cancer [13] Inflamed environment stimulates death of adipocyte cell, accumulations macrophages, and produce a crown-like feature (CLS)[14]. the measurements of CLS number are associated with weekends prognosis and the expansion of breast tumors, the severity on a scale extending from 0 to 1.0 [15]. CLS is associated to free fatty acid production in adipose tissue, NF- κ B motivation, and production of a pro-inflammatory environment [16]. Recent experiments show that a compound mixture of M1 and M2 macrophage can be detected in white adipose tissue during fatness[17], demonstrating that macrophages do not classify via the simple double M1/M2 model. Significantly, an extra gathering of adipose tissue forming a proinflammatory “metabolically stimulated” macrophage (MMe) type, systematically separate from M1 or M2 stimulation [18]. Cumulative confirmation shows that augmented levels of leptin are related to tumorigenic activities (Figure1) [19]. Numerous of these events are also identified to be enlightening of cancer stem cell (CSC) performance, a residents of cancer cells with tumour starting and metastatic events [20].

Tabl 2: Different metabolic substrates from adipose tissue and their role in cancer development [21].

| Metabolic Substrates | | Released by White/Brite/Brown Adipocytes | Effect on BC Development | Effect on BC Cell Proliferation | Effect on BC Cell Invasion |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Free fatty acids | Saturated; (n-6) fatty acids | White | Increase | Increase | Increase |
| | (n-3) fatty acids | White | Decrease | Decrease | Decrease |
| Lipids, Triglycerides | | White | Increase | Increase | Increase |
| Cholesterol | Total | White | Increase | Increase | Increase |
| | HDL | White | Decrease | Decrease | Decrease |
| | LDL | White | Increase | Increase | |
| | VLDL | White | Increase | Increase | Increase |
| | 27-OHC | White | Decrease | Decrease | |
| Exosome | mir-3184-5p | White | - | Increase | Increase |
| | mir-184c-3p | White | - | Decrease | Decrease |
| Proteases (MMP-9, MMP-11) | | White | Increase | Increase | Increase |

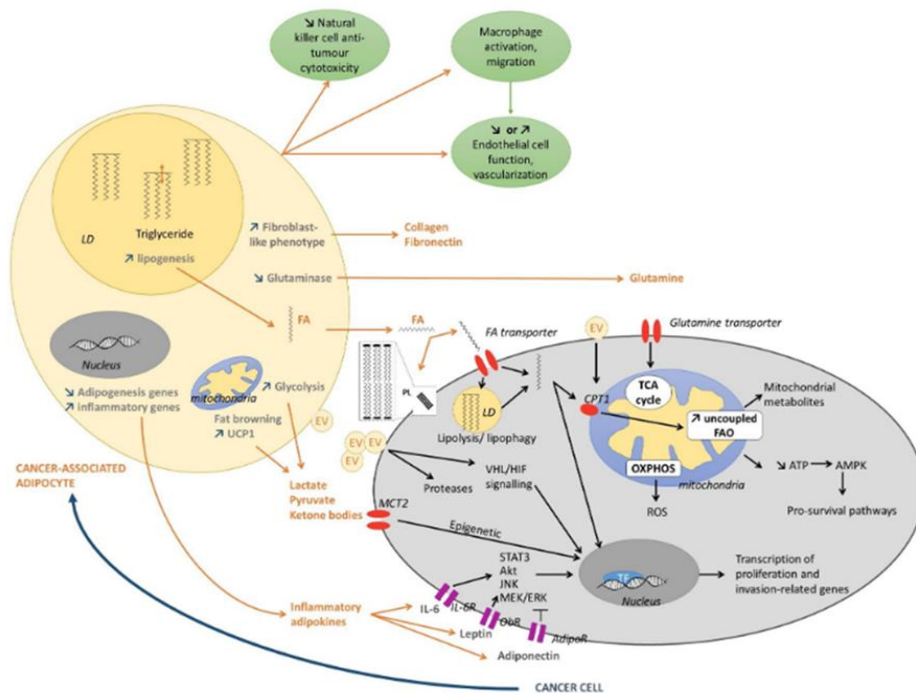


Figure 1: illustration the cross-link between cancer cells and adipocytes cells [21].

3. Adipocytes as immunomodulators in cancer

Cancer-associated adipocytes (CAAs) are believed to be vital agents in cancer development meanwhile they straight or indirectly simplify cell growth, neovascularization, resistance apoptotic properties, and metastases [22]. CAAs are liable primarily for metabolic stocking. Triacylglycerols are moulded in the form of free fatty acids when required. Energy storage is not the only function of CAAs but also involved in endocrine dynamically signaling to cancer by releasing hormones, adipokines, and growth factors [23]. Unexpectedly, CAAs may deeply affect the roles of immune cells. During obesity, fat cells suffering from hypertrophy with augmented loading of Triacylglycerols, and the release of adipokines and cytokines also higher, including, IL-8, tumor necrosis factor- α (TNF- α) and PAI-1 (Figure 2). Blood cells and other immune cells are involved with these molecules (Table 2), therefore motivating the formulation of prolonged low-degree inflammation in the adipose tissue. Accordingly,

lipolysis initiative and adipocytes excrete more fatty acids, which is not favourable to the lipid stability of the whole organism and leading to following immune modifications [24].

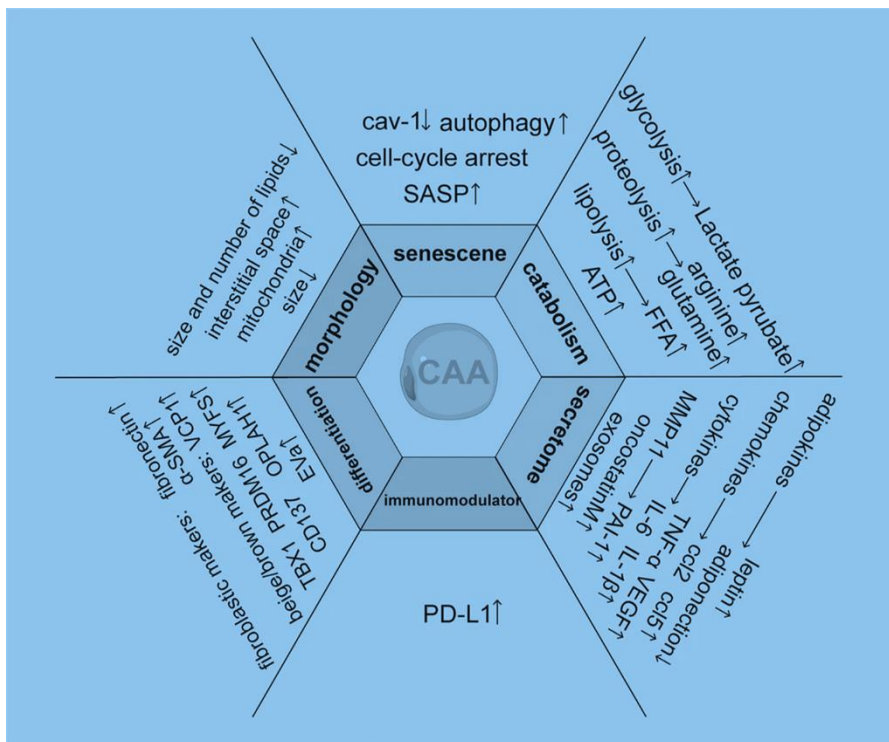


Figure 2: Archetypal features of cancer-associated adipocytes (CAAs) [25].

Table 3: Important immune cells involved in CAA regulation [26].

| Immune cells | Mechanism | Alterations |
|--|--|--|
| Tumor-associated neutrophils (TANs) | Glycolysis↑ FFA uptake↑ A ₃ R activation | ↑differentiation ↑ARG1 |
| Natural killer cells | MYC ↓ mTORC1↓→glycolysis↓, OXPHOS↓ Lipid accumulation↑ | ↓IFN-γ ↓Granzymes ↓Perforin ↑Apoptosis |
| Natural killer T cells | CD1d↓ | ↓Effector function |
| Tumor-associated macrophages (TAMs) | HIF1α stabilization → glycolysis PPAR-γ, PGC-1β↑→FFA uptake, oxidation↑ GPR132 activation CD39 CD73↑→A ₂ BR activation | ↑M2-like polarization ↑ARG1 ↑VEGF |
| Myeloid-derived suppressor cells (MDSCs) | PUFAs→ immune suppression↑ CSF→ lipid metabolism↑ | ↓T cell activation |
| Dendritic cells | mTORC1/HIF1/NOS2↓→glycolysis↓ Lipid accumulation↑ PKA/Epac↑ GPR8 activation | ↓antigen-presentation function ↑IL-10 ↓IL-12 |
| Regulatory T cells | CD36↑→ FFA uptake, oxidation↑ PPAR-γ↑ MCT1↑ → OXPHOS↑ CD39↑→A ₂ AR activation | ↑Differentiation ↑Proliferation |
| Effector T cells | Glycolysis↓ OXPHOS↓ CPT1α↑ → FAO↑ | ↓Effector function ↓Proliferation ↓Cytokine production ↑PD1 |

4. Role of leptin hormone in cancer

Leptin is considered as an adipocyte hormone with the main role in amendable appetite and body weight configuration by modifiable neurotransmitter excreta from the hypothalamus has a significant impact on the development of a large variety of malignancies, mainly through multiple pathways (Table 4) [14]. Obesity leads to an augmented fat quantity which causing amplified flowing levels of leptin in the bloodstream [27]. Local leptin manufacture via autocrine and paracrine mechanism is a superior analyst of cancer compared to circulating leptin concentrations [28]. In obese individuals, diminished response to leptin was identified, turn in a reduced ability to sensation satiety [29]. Leptin shows roles in many biological functions, as shown by the existence of its receptor in several organs particularly in the hypothalamus [30]. The impact of obesity on carcinogenesis may be due in part to leptin's higher levels and its receptor Ob-R in tumour cells, which allow leptin-non-regulated pleiotropic pathway in cancer. Leptin has been documented to have numerous pro-carcinogenicity properties [31]. Consequently, leptin antagonism can be a novel strategy to

overwhelmed medication resistance in tumour. Numerous molecules have been labelled as possible new elements to mark leptin-stimulate cancer progression and medication resistance.

Common of the leptin antagonists described are transfigured or abbreviated forms of leptin particle: such as Leptin muteins, Allo-aca and D-ser, LDFI, and leptin peptide receptor antagonists (LPrA).

Table 4: The potential role of leptin in the progress of cancer in a different type of organ [32].

| Type of cancer | Effects of leptin | Cell model |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| <i>Breast cancer</i> | Increased cell proliferation | Human breast cancer cell lines; T47D, MCF-7, ZR75-1 |
| | Increased cell transformation (anchorage-independent growth) | T47D human breast cancer cells |
| | Activation of the ERK1/2, STAT3, Akt/GSK3 and PKC- α pathways | Human breast cancer cell lines; T-47D, MCF-7 |
| | Increased AP-1 activation, upregulation of cdk2, cyclinD1, hyperphosphorylation of pRb | MCF-7, T47-D breast cancer cells |
| | Increased aromatase expression via AP-1-dependent mechanism | MCF-7 breast cancer cells |
| | Induced expression of <i>c-myc</i> Stabilization of ER α expression | MCF-7 breast cancer cells MCF-7 cells treated with antiestrogen ICI 182, 780 |
| <i>Esophageal cancer</i> | Increased cell proliferation | BIC-1 and SEG-1 esophageal adenocarcinoma cell lines |
| <i>Gastric cancer</i> | Increased cell proliferation via ERK-2 and STAT3 phosphorylation | MKN-28 human gastric cancer cell line |
| <i>Colorectal cancer</i> | Increased cell invasion via PI-3K, Rho- and Rac-dependent pathway | Premalignant familial adenomatous colonic cells PC/AA/C1 and human adenocarcinoma colonic cells LoVo and HCT-8/S11 |
| | Increased cell growth via ERK1/2 pathway | Human colon adenocarcinoma HT29 cell line |
| | Reduced cell apoptosis, stimulation of NF- κ B signaling | Human colon cancer HT29 cells treated with sodium butyrate |
| <i>Prostate cancer</i> | Increased cell proliferation and suppression of apoptosis | DU145, PC3 human prostate cancer cells |
| <i>Pancreatic cancer</i> | Decreased cell proliferation | Mia-PaCa and PANC-1 human pancreatic cancer cells |
| | Stimulation of STAT3 and STAT5b phosphorylation | BRIN-BD11 rat insulinoma cell line |
| <i>Ovarian cancer</i> | Increased proliferation via the ERK1/2 pathway | BG-1 ovarian carcinoma cell line |
| <i>Lung cancer</i> | Stimulation of cell proliferation the ERK1/2 pathway | SQ-5 human lung squamous cell cancer |
| <i>Liver cancer</i> | No effect | SMMC-7721 liver cancer cell line |
| | Decreased apolipoprotein M expression | HepG2 liver carcinoma cell line |
| <i>Myeloid leukemia</i> | Increased cell proliferation | OCI/AML2 and MO7E myeloid leukemia cell line |
| <i>Pituitary adenoma</i> | Decreased cell proliferation, stimulation of apoptosis and SOC-3 expression and phosphorylation | HP75 non-functioning pituitary adenoma cell line |
| <i>Squamous cell skin cancer</i> | Growth inhibition and promotion of differentiation | DJM-1 squamous cell carcinoma of the skin cell line |

5. Pharmacological Interventions, Possible Obesity Therapy?

Recently, an experimental study submitted a therapeutic line to shrinking blood supply in adipose tissue by starving the adipocytes, based on that adipose tissue relies on blood vessels, much like tumors. In other words, once remove blood supply of tumors by shrinking the blood to reach the tissue, consequently, the tumors die [33]. So, the same procedures could be followed to destroy the source that maintenances fat build-up, triggering adipose tissue to swiftly died and disappear. An experiment showed that supports tumor-fat tissue interface in *vivo* models. When injecting the substance Prohibitin-targeting peptide 1 (prohibitin-TP01) mice model, it improves in and stimulates the shrinking of blood supply related to white fat type, which is finally reabsorbed and metabolized. In detail, 4 weeks of therapy in an aggressive obese mice model was adequate to return the animal's regular body mass. The mice model was involved in the research was not genetically transformed or susceptible to obesity before therapy; they increased weight as they consumed a high-fat regime. Another finding also that the therapy inverted the obesity deprived of the probable side effects related to quick weight loss [5]. In contrast, in another study, the mice were treated with (Rosiglitazone) in a mixture with MEK inhibitors it motivated the conversion of the tumor cells into not proliferate (post-mitotic) and purposeful fat cells (Figure 3). As well as, primary cancer progress was inhibited and metastasis was stopped by inhibition invasion properties [34,35].

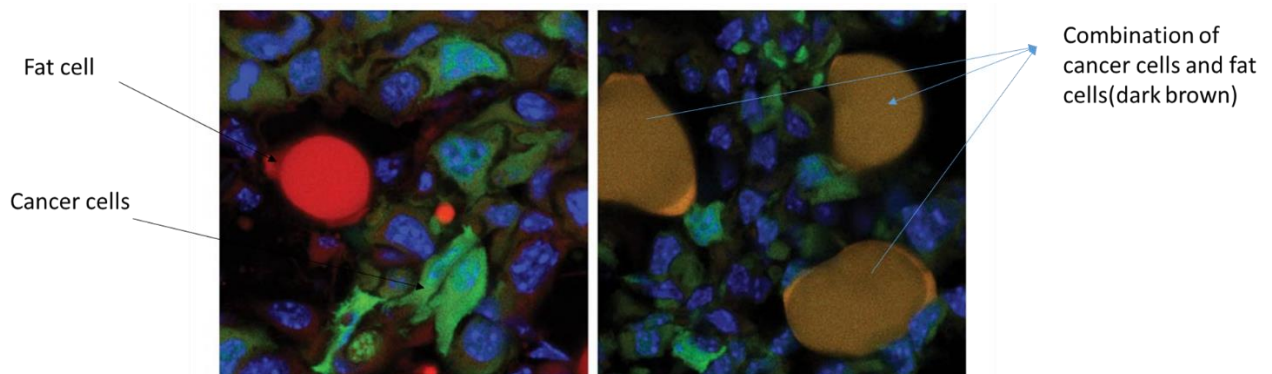


Figure 2: Immunohistochemical illustration showed 3 previous cancer cells have been transformed into fat cells. The mutual design in green and red mak them look dark yellow [32].

Conclusion

A combination of unhealthy dietary lifestyles and lack of physical activity, which are protected by the convenience of cheap high caloric and fatty nutrients have directed to the fatness pandemic. Amassed indication expression an undesirable act of fatness on cancer threat, development, and regulator. Regardless of many determinations and social curriculums to prevent obesity, it is leading to morbidity and death and its stimuli on cancer occurrence and therapy are in intensification. It is recognised that fatness and leptin pathway not merely mark cancer cells but also growth stroma. Furthermore, leptin and other factors produced from cancer and stroma cells (adipocytes, fibroblasts, endothelial cells, and inflammatory cells) might impact tumour progression. In this respect, the usage of harmless leptin antagonists that do not disturb energy equilibrium might be a novel therapy for cancer drugs. These complexes can rise chemotherapeutic efficiency and permit dropping their quantity and negative side effects in cancer patients.

References

1. National Heart and Blood Institute L. Calculate your body mass index. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Web site. 2003.
2. Kinlen D, Cody D, O'Shea D. Complications of obesity. *QJM An Int J Med.* 2018;111(7):437–43.
3. Bianchini F, Kaaks R, Vainio H. Overweight, obesity, and cancer risk. *Lancet Oncol.* 2002;3(9):565–74.
4. Yang X, Wang J. The role of metabolic syndrome in endometrial cancer: a review. *Front Oncol.* 2019; 9: 744. 2019.
5. Gonzalez13 DM, Yusuf S, Willett12 WC, Popkin15 BM. Food Consumption and its impact on Cardiovascular Disease: Importance of Solutions focused on the globalized food system. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2015;66(14):1590–614.
6. Bann D, Fitzsimons E, Johnson W. Determinants of the population health distribution: an illustration examining body mass index. *Int J Epidemiol.* 2020;49(3):731–7.
7. Hanahan D, Weinberg RA. Hallmarks of cancer: the next generation. *Cell.* 2011;144(5):646–74.
8. Lowe SW, Lin AW. Apoptosis in cancer. *Carcinogenesis.* 2000;21(3):485–95.
9. Dumas J-F, Brisson L, Chevalier S, Mahéo K, Fromont G, Moussata D, et al. Metabolic reprogramming in cancer cells, consequences on pH and tumour progression: Integrated therapeutic perspectives with dietary lipids as adjuvant to anticancer treatment. In: *Seminars in cancer biology.* Elsevier; 2017. p. 90–110.
10. Carter JC, Church FC. Mature breast adipocytes promote breast cancer cell motility. *Exp Mol Pathol.* 2012;92(3):312–7.
11. Dirat B, Bochet L, Dabek M, Daviaud D, Dauvillier S, Majed B, et al. Cancer-associated adipocytes exhibit an activated phenotype and contribute to breast cancer invasion. *Cancer Res.* 2011;71(7):2455–65.
12. Chu D-T, Nguyen Thi Phuong T, Tien NLB, Tran D-K, Nguyen T-T, Thanh V Van, et al. The effects of adipocytes on the regulation of breast cancer in the tumor microenvironment: an update. *Cells.* 2019;8(8):857.
13. Gilbert CA, Slingerland JM. Cytokines, obesity, and cancer: new insights on mechanisms linking obesity to cancer risk and progression. *Annu Rev Med.* 2013;64:45–57.
14. Ackerman SE, Blackburn OA, Marchildon F, Cohen P. Insights into the link between obesity and cancer. *Curr Obes Rep.* 2017;6(2):195–203.
15. Iyengar NM, Ghossein RA, Morris LG, Zhou XK, Kochhar A, Morris PG, et al. White adipose tissue inflammation and cancer-specific survival in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the oral tongue. *Cancer.* 2016;122(24):3794–802.

16. Jung UJ, Choi M-S. Obesity and its metabolic complications: the role of adipokines and the relationship between obesity, inflammation, insulin resistance, dyslipidemia and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2014;15(4):6184–223.
17. Shaul ME, Bennett G, Strissel KJ, Greenberg AS, Obin MS. Dynamic, M2-like remodeling phenotypes of CD11c+ adipose tissue macrophages during high-fat diet-induced obesity in mice. *Diabetes.* 2010;59(5):1171–81.
18. Coats BR, Schoenfelt KQ, Barbosa-Lorenzi VC, Peris E, Cui C, Hoffman A, et al. Metabolically activated adipose tissue macrophages perform detrimental and beneficial functions during diet-induced obesity. *Cell Rep.* 2017;20(13):3149–61.
19. Candelaria P V, Rampoldi A, Harbuzariu A, Gonzalez-Perez RR. Leptin signaling and cancer chemoresistance: Perspectives. *World J Clin Oncol.* 2017;8(2):106.
20. Ayob AZ, Ramasamy TS. Cancer stem cells as key drivers of tumour progression. *J Biomed Sci.* 2018;25(1):1–18.
21. Blücher C, Stadler SC. Obesity and breast cancer: current insights on the role of fatty acids and lipid metabolism in promoting breast cancer growth and progression. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2017;8:293.
22. Wu Q, Li B, Sun S, Sun S. Unraveling adipocytes and Cancer links: is there a role for senescence? *Front cell Dev Biol.* 2020;8:282.
23. Lazar I, Clement E, Dauvillier S, Milhas D, Ducoux-Petit M, LeGonidec S, et al. Adipocyte exosomes promote melanoma aggressiveness through fatty acid oxidation: a novel mechanism linking obesity and cancer. *Cancer Res.* 2016;76(14):4051–7.
24. Kohlgruber AC, LaMarche NM, Lynch L. Adipose tissue at the nexus of systemic and cellular immunometabolism. In: *Seminars in immunology.* Elsevier; 2016. p. 431–40.
25. Puri M. Role of cancer associated adipocytes (CAA) and tumour associated collagen structures (TACS) in breast cancer cell invasion and metastasis. University of Otago; 2020.
26. Wu Q, Li B, Li J, Sun S, Yuan J, Sun S. Cancer-associated adipocytes as immunomodulators in cancer. *Biomark Res.* 2021;9(1):1–21.
27. McCormack D, Schneider J, McDonald D, McFadden D. The antiproliferative effects of pterostilbene on breast cancer in vitro are via inhibition of constitutive and leptin-induced Janus kinase/signal transducer and activator of transcription activation. *Am J Surg.* 2011;202(5):541–4.
28. Ishikawa M, Kitayama J, Nagawa H. Enhanced expression of leptin and leptin receptor (OB-R) in human breast cancer. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2004;10(13):4325–31.
29. Pan H, Guo J, Su Z. Advances in understanding the interrelations between leptin resistance and obesity. *Physiol Behav.* 2014;130:157–69.
30. Huang LU, Cai LI. Leptin: a multifunctional hormone. *Cell Res.* 2000;10(2):81–92.
31. Lipsey CC, Harbuzariu A, Daley-Brown D, Gonzalez-Perez RR. Oncogenic role of leptin and Notch interleukin-1 leptin crosstalk outcome in cancer. *World J Methodol.* 2016;6(1):43.
32. Ray A, Cleary MP. The potential role of leptin in tumor invasion and metastasis.

-
- Cytokine Growth Factor Rev. 2017;38:80–97.
33. Barnhart KF, Christianson DR, Hanley PW, Driessen WHP, Bernacky BJ, Baze WB, et al. A peptidomimetic targeting white fat causes weight loss and improved insulin resistance in obese monkeys. *Sci Transl Med.* 2011;3(108):108ra112-108ra112.
 34. Monami M, Lamanna C, Marchionni N, Mannucci E. Rosiglitazone and risk of cancer: a meta-analysis of randomized clinical trials. *Diabetes Care.* 2008;31(7):1455–60.
 35. Liu Y, Hu X, Shan X, Chen K, Tang H. Rosiglitazone metformin adduct inhibits hepatocellular carcinoma proliferation via activation of AMPK/p21 pathway. *Cancer Cell Int.* 2019;19(1):1–10.