IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL STUDY OF MYC ONCOGENE EXPRESSION IN COLORECTAL ADENOCARCINOMAS AND CORRELATION WITH CELLULAR COMPONENTS OF ADAPTIVE IMMUNITY IN THE TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT

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In a study of 94 colorectal adenocarcinoma patients, MYC over-expression in neoplastic cells was associated with increased tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and longer overall survival.

KEY POINTS

- MYC over-expression (>20% of neoplastic cells) was observed in 59 of 94 patients (63%) with stage I-IV colorectal adenocarcinoma who underwent surgical resection between 2004 and 2008.
- MYC over-expression was significantly associated with increased tumor infiltration by CD3+, CD4+, CD8+ T lymphocytes and CD20+ B lymphocytes, as well as increased Ki-67 proliferation index ($p<0.001$ for all).
- Positive MYC expression in the tumor periphery was significantly correlated with longer overall survival compared to weak MYC expression (70 versus 48.5 months; $p=0.046$).
- The authors conclude that MYC expression might be a useful indicator of anti-tumor immunity status and patient prognosis, possibly through a more effective antitumor immune response.
- This material is most relevant to pathologists and oncologists interested in prognostic biomarkers and the tumor immune microenvironment in colorectal cancer.

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