

POLYCOMB PROTEIN SUZ12 PREDICTS POOR SURVIVAL OF HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA AND PROMOTES INVASION POTENTIAL VIA ACTIVATING CXCR7 TRANSCRIPTION

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UEG Week Copenhagen 2023

Poster

Hepatobiliary

October 15, 2023

Suppressor of zeste 12 (SUZ12) is associated with poor survival in hepatocellular carcinoma and promotes invasion by activating CXCR7 transcription through a non-classical mechanism.

KEY POINTS

- High SUZ12 expression was an independent prognostic factor for poor overall survival in HCC patients (hazard ratio 2.540, $p = 0.002$), confirmed by TCGA database analyses.
- SUZ12 expressed relatively higher in tumor tissues and HCC cell lines, particularly in cells with highly metastatic potential, and high frequency of 17q amplification including SUZ12 locus was revealed through genome sequencing.
- In vitro functional studies showed that up-regulation of SUZ12 promoted migration and invasion of HCC cells, whereas down-regulation inhibited these potentials.
- SUZ12 positively controlled CXCR7 via direct promoter combination rather than epigenetic suppression, and high SUZ12 expression was positively correlated with CXCR7 in advanced patients with portal vein invasion.
- This study investigated SUZ12, a polycomb protein whose roles in cancer remain largely unknown, using tissue microarray of 88 tumor and 27 normal liver tissues plus functional assays.

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