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Targeting gallbladder cancer: a pathway based perspective

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ABSTRACT

Gallbladder cancer (GBC) has a poor prognosis with a 5-year survival rate suggesting the need for more effective treatment strategies. Studying the crosstalk of several pathways involved in crucial cellular and biological processes such as cell growth, proliferation, migration and apoptosis would prove beneficial in identifying key players of GBC progression and targeting them. This review highlights several pathways known to be dysregulated in GBC onset and progression and describes known and potential targets. Within these pathways, there are proteins involved in the signalling cascade, which may be targeted as potential biomarkers and drug targets. Furthermore, the cross-talk of these pathways is investigated in the context of GBC and the implications thereof. A better understanding of the pathways involved in GBC pathogenesis will aid clinicians in the prognosis, diagnosis and treatment of patients. There are significant clinical implications of GBC pathway-based studies as they permit the understanding of onset and progression of the disease.