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Lynch Syndrome: State of the Art

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Message from the Guest Editors

Lynch syndrome (LS) is an autosomal dominant genetic disorder associated with germline mutations in DNA mismatch repair (MMR) genes.The MMR complex loss determines at the somatic level (colorectal-cancer) a condition defined as microsatellite instability (MSI) or mismatch repair-deficiency (dMMR). Colorectal cancers with MSI or dMMR, but without detectable MMR genes germline mutations are termed Lynch-like syndrome (LLS). When this condition occurs in family clusters with strong inheritance for cancers, it becomes very important for the preventive management of LLS patients and their relatives to identify the genetic causes of cancer. To this regard, next-generation sequencing applied to these cases with MSI but without pathogenic variants in MMR genes enables the simultaneous sequencing of hereditary cancer genes. Moreover, very important in these families LLS is also the correct interpretation of uncertain variants identified in MMR genes. However, MSI/dMMR status is not only routinely assessed in colorectal cancer for the initial screening of Lynch syndrome but it is also assessed in evaluation of cancer prognosis, and treatment decision-making.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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