Diagnosis of Cancers with Metastatic Potential

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Technology description

Summary

PINCH (Particularly Interesting New Cys-His) protein and its associated Integin-linked Kinase (ILK), appear critical to signal transduction at a key convergence point among integrin, receptor tyrosine kinase, and Rac pathways. Their relevance for metastatic disease is highlighted by the consistent over-expression of PINCH in the stroma of cancers with metastatic potential and of ILK in the cancer itself; PINCH up-regulation is particularly intense in stroma at the cancer invasive edge and in stroma of metastatic lesions.
In colorectal cancer, stromal PINCH immunostaining at the cancer invasive edge has been demonstrated to be a significant independent predictor of reduced survival Studies with other cancers such as breast, prostate, and lung cancer have shown similar results, with a pattern of PINCH up-regulation in the tumor stroma. The common findings for a number of different cancers suggest that PINCH may be a broadly useful indicator of cancer invasive and metastatic potential, measured alone or in combination with ILK.

Description

The invention also provides a method for identifying a cell proliferative disorder in a subject comprising:
quantifying the expression of PINCH, ILK, or a combination thereof and correlating the level of expression with the presence of a cell proliferative disorder,wherein an elevated level of PINCH and/or ILK is indicative of metastatic potential.
The test is currently performed by immunohistochemistry of formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded or frozen tissue sections.

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