

TARGETING CANCER STEM CELLS AS NOVEL THERAPEUTIC APPROACH FOR THE CONTROL OF TUMOR PROGRESSION AND METASTASIS*

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Several years of research have demonstrated that most profuse tumors contain a subset of distinct cells; called as cancer stem cells (CSCs) that are utterly responsible for tumor initiation and propagation. This subset of cells is highly resistant to chemotherapeutic agents. The importance of CSCs has been established in leukaemia as well as in variety of solid tumors in tumor initiation and progression. The emergence of CSCs occurs in part as a result of epithelial to mesenchymal transition (EMT) which scrupulously regulated by several factors in the tumor micro-environment.
