

Determining the Presence of Stem Cell Enrichment in Tumors

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Healthy tissue is composed of multiple compartments and is thought to be maintained by a small compartment of stem cells. The introduction of a cancerous mutation into the network will cause the populations to evolve over time, altering the ratio of the populations. For cancer treatment, stem cells have traditionally offered a more difficult challenge than differentiated cells, so a greater ratio is undesirable. Here, we investigate what conditions lead to a greater ratio post mutation of stem cells to differentiated cells, a phenomenon we call stem cell enrichment.