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Exploring prognostic and predictive application of the tumor-stroma ratio in colorectal cancer

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Stellingen

behorend bij het proefschrift

“Exploring prognostic and predictive application of the tumor-stroma ratio in colorectal cancer”

1. The tumor-stroma ratio is an independent prognostic parameter in stage II and III colon cancer, but a predictive value with regard to adjuvant targeted therapy could not be statistically proved (*this thesis*)
2. Patients with stroma-high tumors demonstrate a different pattern of response when bevacizumab is added to standard oxaliplatin-based chemotherapy compared to those with stroma-low tumors (*this thesis*)
3. Not only the amount of intratumoral stroma, but also the collagen fiber organization itself contains prognostic information in certain solid cancers (*this thesis*)
4. The apparent diffusion coefficient determined with MRI-DWI, is a reliable parameter, resistant to inter-observer variation (*this thesis*)
5. Determining the tumor-stroma ratio is quick, simple, low in cost and provides valuable prognostic information
6. Researchers have a duty to report their results. Negative and inconclusive as well as positive results must be published or otherwise made publicly available (*adapted from declaration of Helsinki, 1964*)
7. The stromal compartment should be considered as an unknown destination filled with undiscovered treasures and opportunities
8. “Het afronden van een promotietraject zegt veel meer over jouw kwaliteiten als arts en collega, dan de daadwerkelijke inhoud van het proefschrift. Het is immers een teken van doorzettingsvermogen.” (*prof. dr. Johanneke Portielje in de wandelgangen na een supervisiemoment*)
9. “Let it go, let it go.” (*Frozen, Walt Disney Animation Studios, 2013*) Een promotietraject kent ups en downs, soms is het nodig om diep in te ademen en te zeggen “laat het gaan”
10. Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better (*adapted from Albert Einstein, 1937*) Het antwoord op de biologische verschillen tussen stroma-hoog en stroma-laag tumoren ligt ergens in het intratumorale stroma verscholen.

Stéphanie Zunder

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