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Improving response and reducing toxicity to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in melanoma

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Improving response and reducing toxicity to immune checkpoint blockade therapy in melanoma

Esmée Pauline Hoefsmit

About the cover:

Unprecedented success has been made by the introduction of immune checkpoint blockade therapy for the treatment of advanced melanoma. This therapy blocks the interaction between tumor cells and immune cells by the use of monoclonal antibodies, thereby preventing immune inhibition, and releasing an anti-tumor immune response. These therapies that block these immune checkpoints have shown efficacy in a proportion of patients, but not all patients achieve benefit from these therapies and a substantial group of patients experiences immune related adverse events. In this thesis, my research focuses on novel insight into therapy efficacy, with the aim to improve response and reduce toxicity to immune checkpoint blockade therapy. The circles on the cover show an abstract illustration of the cells expressing these checkpoints. The colors, red and blue, represent the difference in response (by various patient groups) to immune checkpoint blockade therapy. The different shades of blue and red illustrate the different research approaches and techniques to get more insight into response and immune related adverse events.

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Table of contents

Chapter 1	General introduction and outline of the thesis	7
Chapter 2	The promise of neoadjuvant immunotherapy and surgery for cancer treatment <i>Clinical Cancer Research, 2019</i>	17
Chapter 3	Survival and biomarker analyses from the OPACIN-neo and OPACIN neoadjuvant immunotherapy trials in stage III melanoma <i>Nature Medicine, 2021</i>	39
Chapter 4	Inhibitor of Apoptosis Proteins Antagonist Induces T-cell proliferation after cross-presentation by dendritic cells <i>Cancer Immunology Research, 2023</i>	79
Chapter 5	Comprehensive analysis of cutaneous and uveal melanoma liver metastases <i>Journal for ImmunoTherapy of Cancer, 2020</i>	131
Chapter 6	Systemic LRG1 expression in melanoma patients is associated with disease progression and recurrence <i>Cancer Research Communications, 2023</i>	165
Chapter 7	Susceptible loci associated with autoimmune disease as potential biomarkers for checkpoint inhibitor induced immune-related adverse events <i>ESMO Open, 2019</i>	197
Chapter 8	Immune checkpoint inhibitor-induced neurotoxicity is not associated with seroprevalence of neurotropic infections <i>Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, 2023</i>	239
Chapter 9	General discussion	263
Appendices	English summary	281
	Nederlandse samenvatting	284
	List of publication	288
	Curriculum vitae	291
	Dankwoord	292