Oxygen effect and tumor microenvironment

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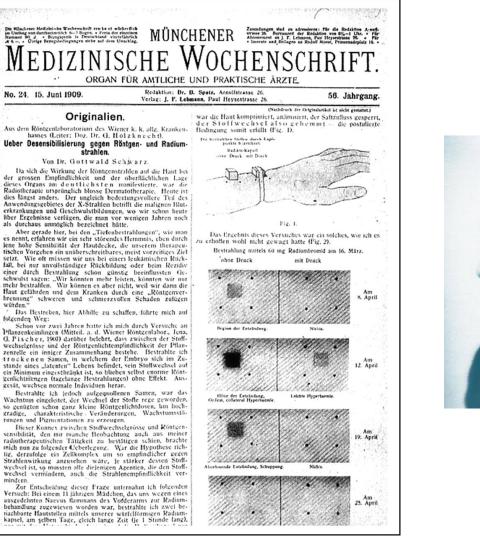


Learning objectives

- Analyze how oxygen availability influences clonogenic radiation survival.
- Describe why oxygen availability influences clonogenic radiation survival.
- Identify the main causes of hypoxia in tumors.
- Describe the spatial and temporal heterogeneities of oxygenation.
- Explain why fractionating radiotherapy is beneficial from the perspective of tumor oxygenation.



1909 - Hypoxia causes radiation resistance

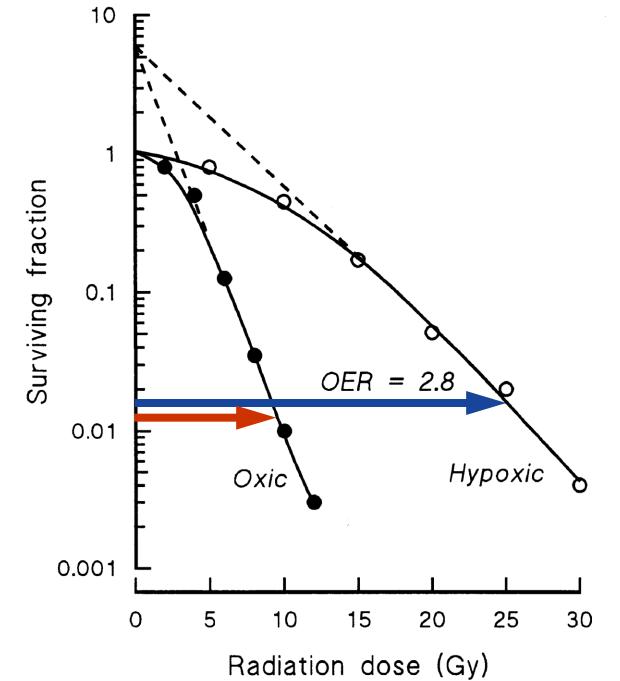


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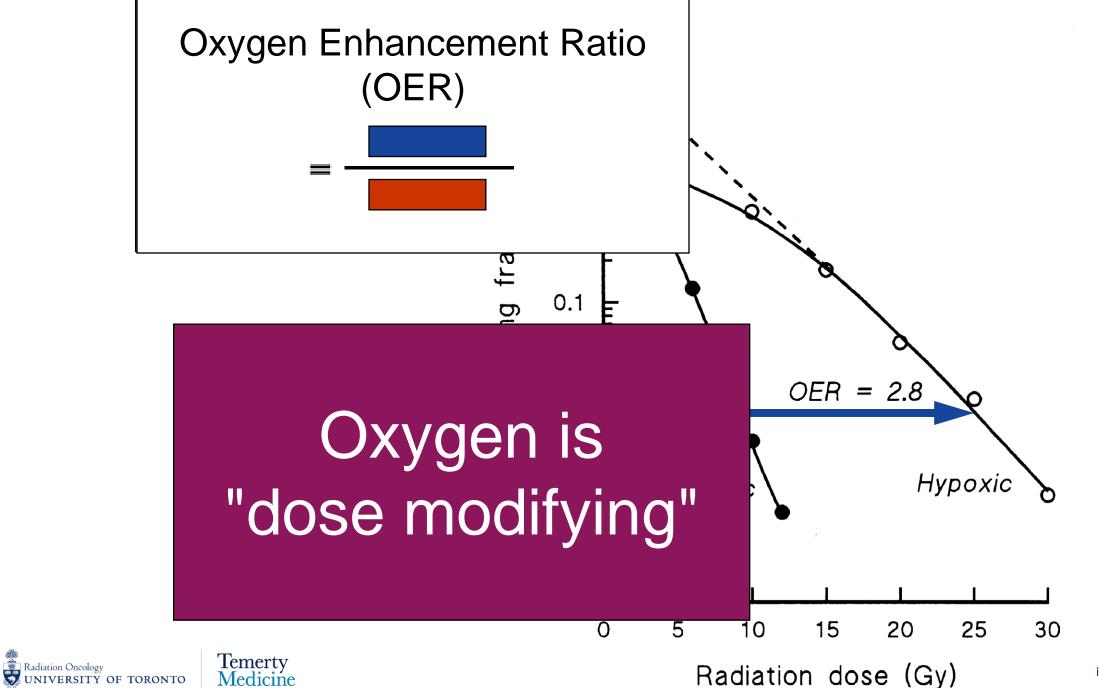
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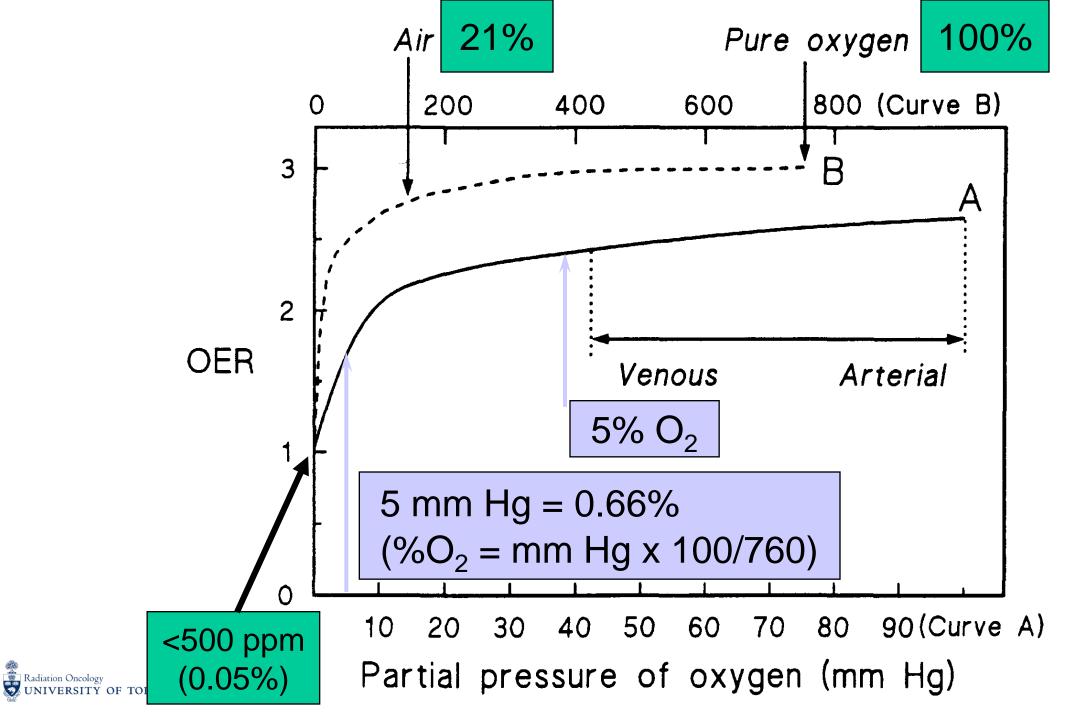


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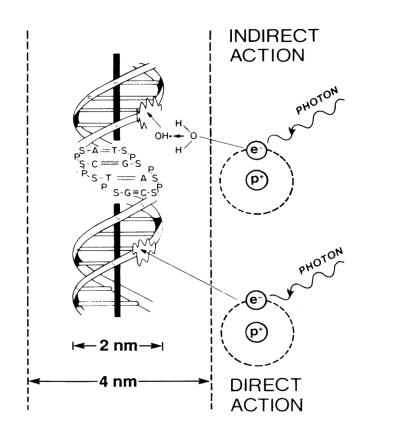


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Direct and indirect actions of radiation



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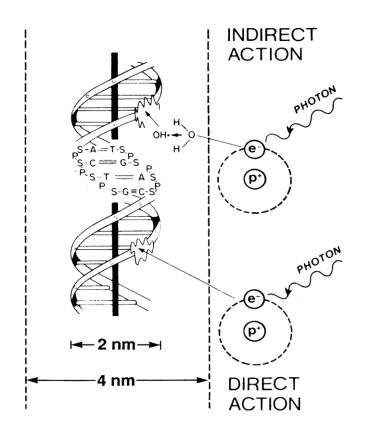
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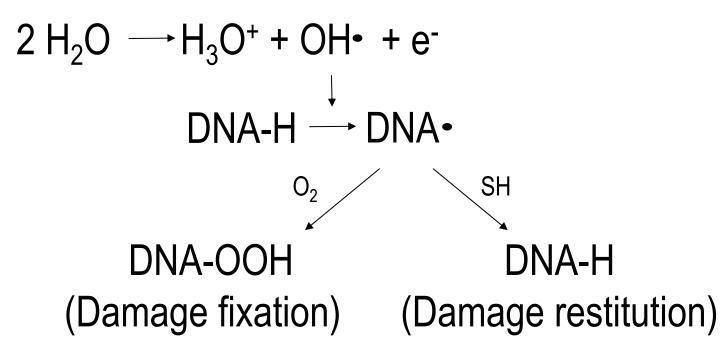
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- **Direct action:** charged particle "directly" interacts with DNA
- Indirect action: charged particle interacts with a water molecule producing "free radicals" which then interacts with DNA
- For X and γ radiations, indirect interactions cause ~70% of the biological damage. This is sensitive to oxygen.

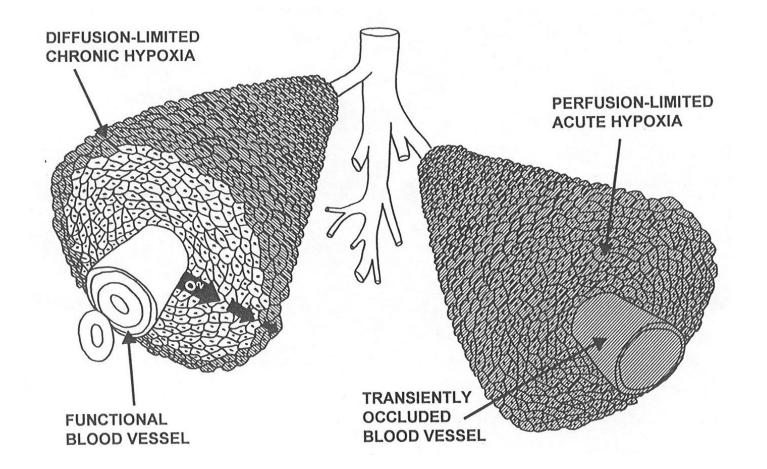
Mechanism of the oxygen effect



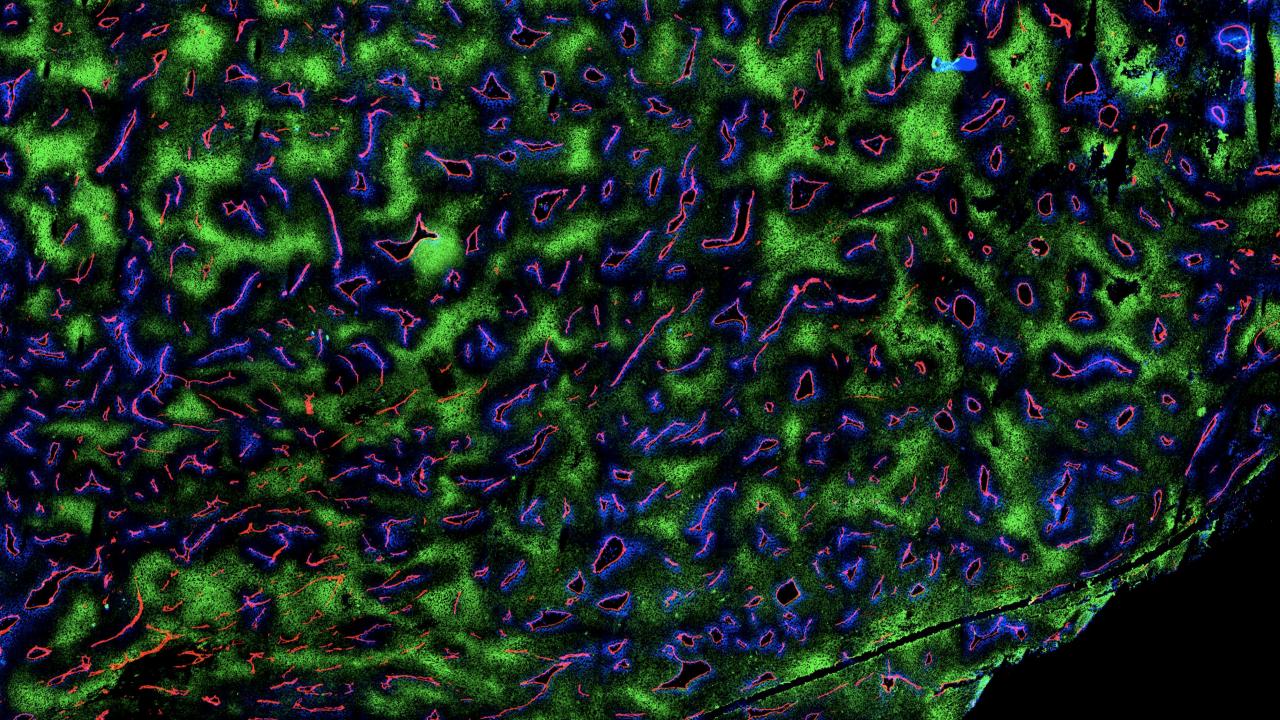




Hypoxia is present in human tumors



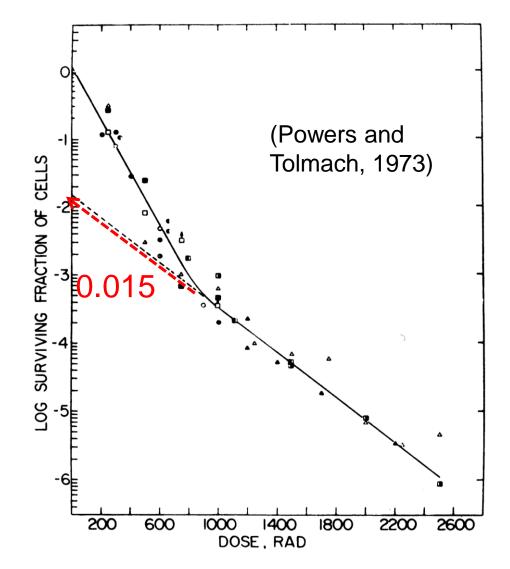
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Chronic hypoxia (diffusion limited)

Acute hypoxia (perfusion limited)

Early demonstration of radiation resistant hypoxic cells in a tumor:



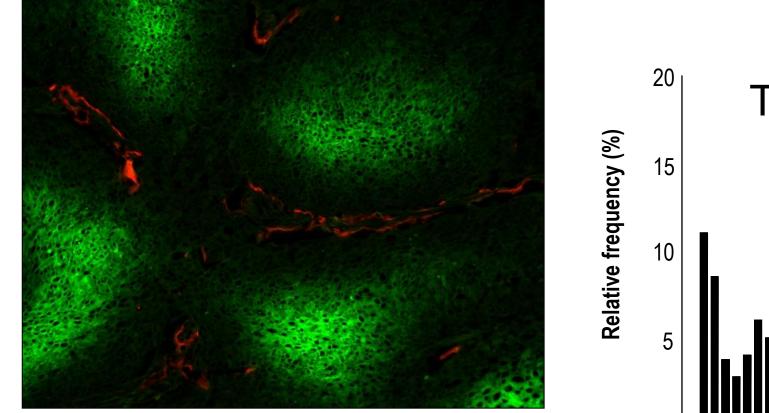
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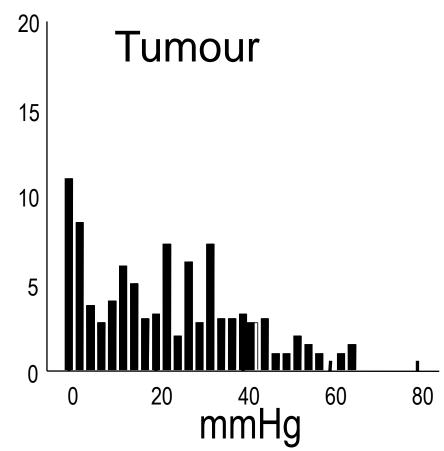
Heterogeneity in oxygenation

- a) In severity
- b) In space
- c) In time
- d) Amount (%) amongst patients

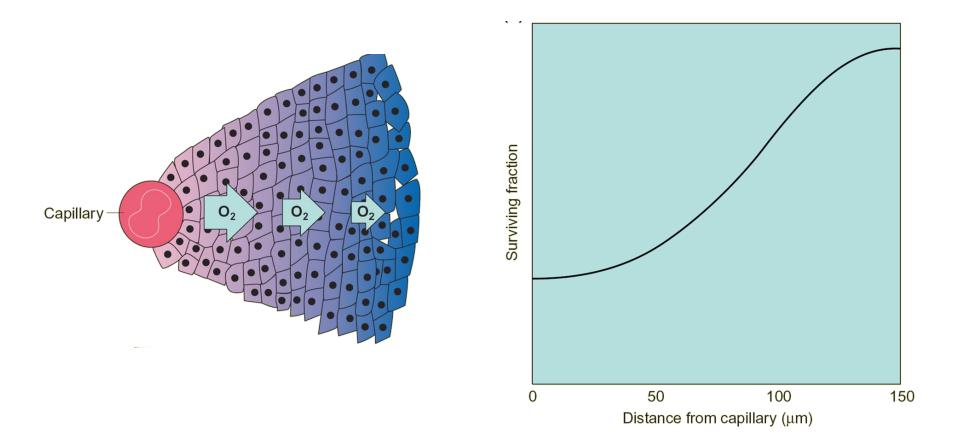


a) Heterogeneity in severity





Severity and radiation response



Cell killing by radiation will be reduced as a function of distance from the capillary.



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b) Spatial heterogeneity

b) Spatial heterogeneity

b) Spatial heterogeneity

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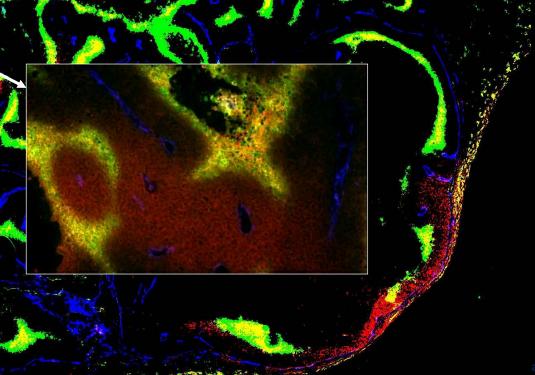
Heterogeneity in time

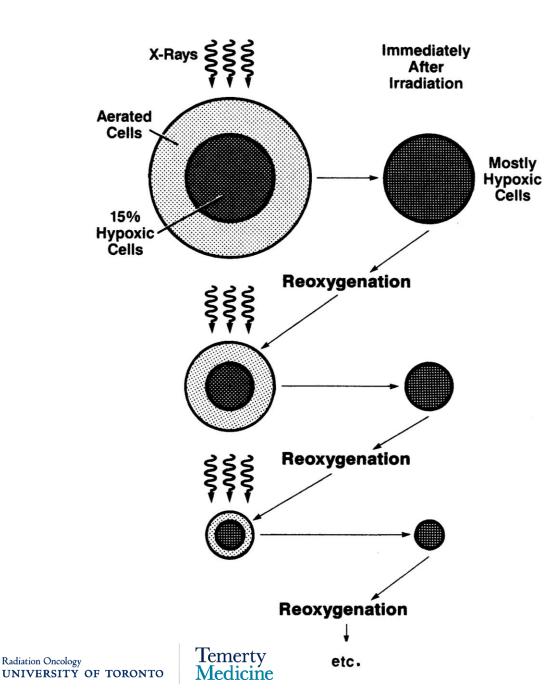
Vessels (blue)

Hypoxic marker 1: Pimonidazole (-4.5 h)

Hypoxic marker 2: CCI-103F (-2.5h)

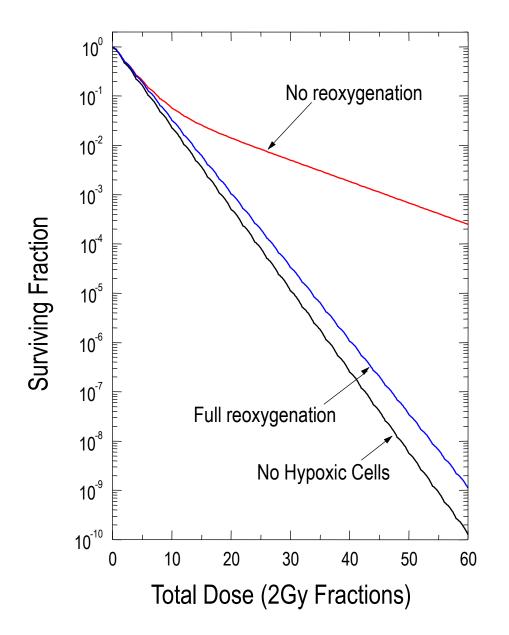
Overlap: yellow





The classic concept of reoxygenation during fractionated radiotherapy

Reoxygenation during radiotherapy



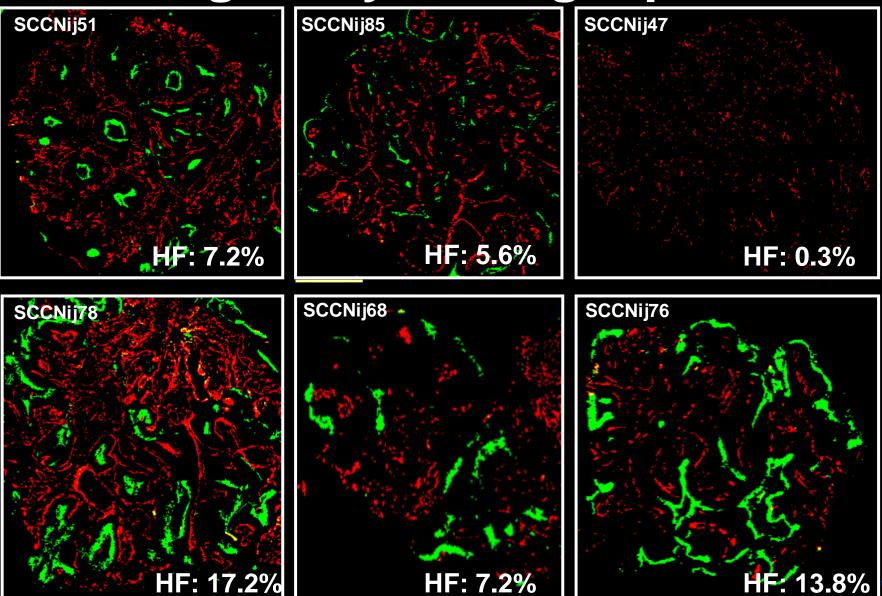
Different mechanisms of reoxygenation

- Spontaneous:
 - Reoxygenation due to acute/cycling hypoxia. Based on changes in perfusion (min-hours) and vascular function

- Radiation-induced: Makes O₂ available to the hypoxic cells
 - Reduced oxygen consumption of radiated cells
 - Clearance of killed cells

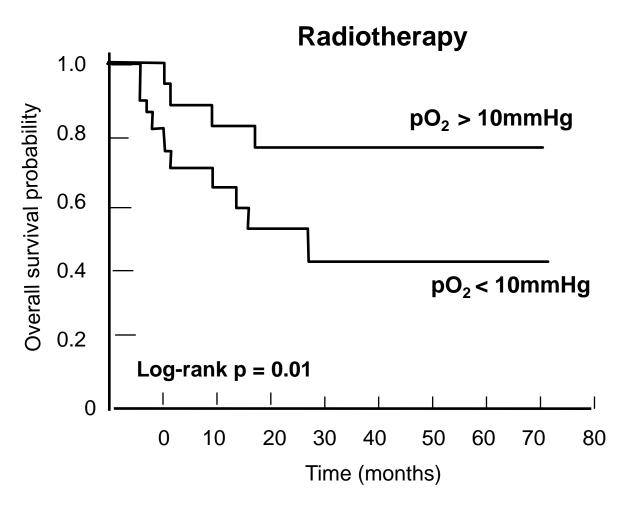


Heterogeneity amongst patients



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Hypoxia predicts for poor outcome



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Höckel M. et al. Cancer Res 56, 4509-4515 (1996)

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Hypoxia predicts for poor outcome

Overall survival 1.0 Surgery 0.8 $pO_2 \ge 10 \text{ mm Hg}, n = 22$ 0.6 0.4 0.2 pO₂ < 10 mm Hg, n=25 Log-rank n = 0.0107 0 50 70 0 10 20 30 40 60 80 Time (months)

Höckel M. et al. Cancer Res 56, 4509-4515 (1996)



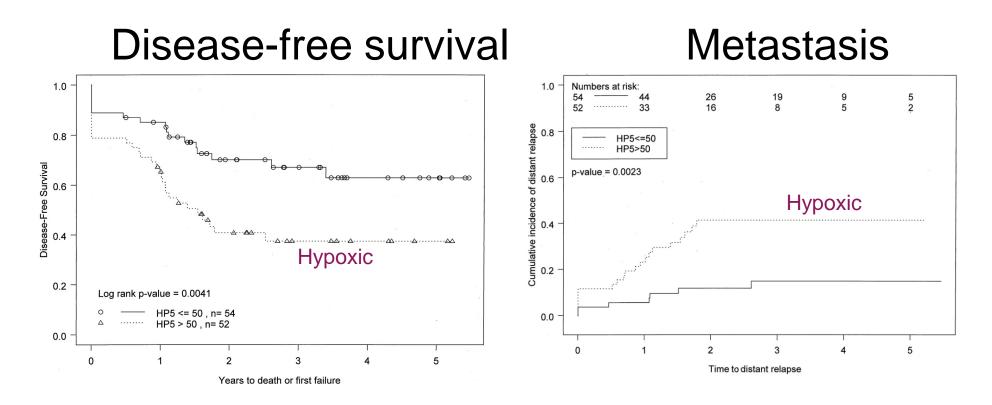
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Cellular consequences of hypoxia



Hypoxia and treatment outcome

Cervix cancer: hypoxia predicts for overall survival



Journal of Clinical Oncology, Vol 20, No 3 (February 1), 2002: pp 680-687

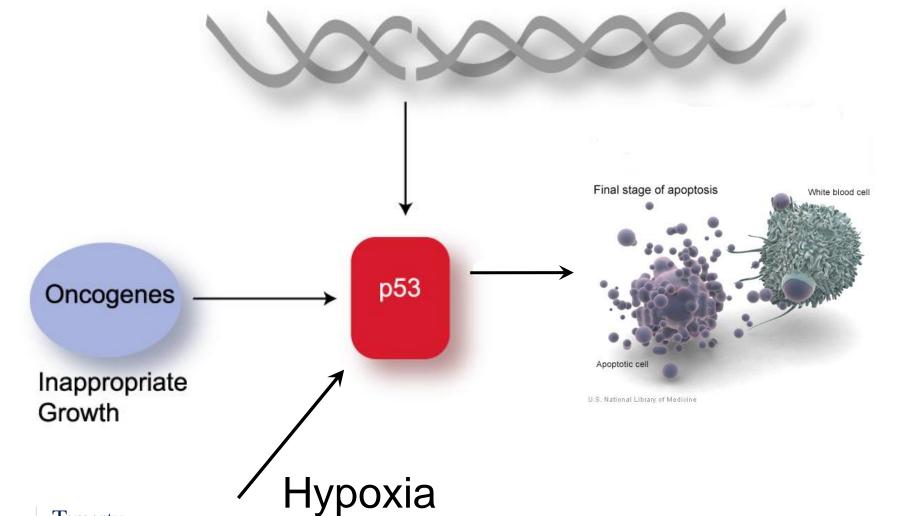
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Hypoxia and aggressive disease – mechanisms

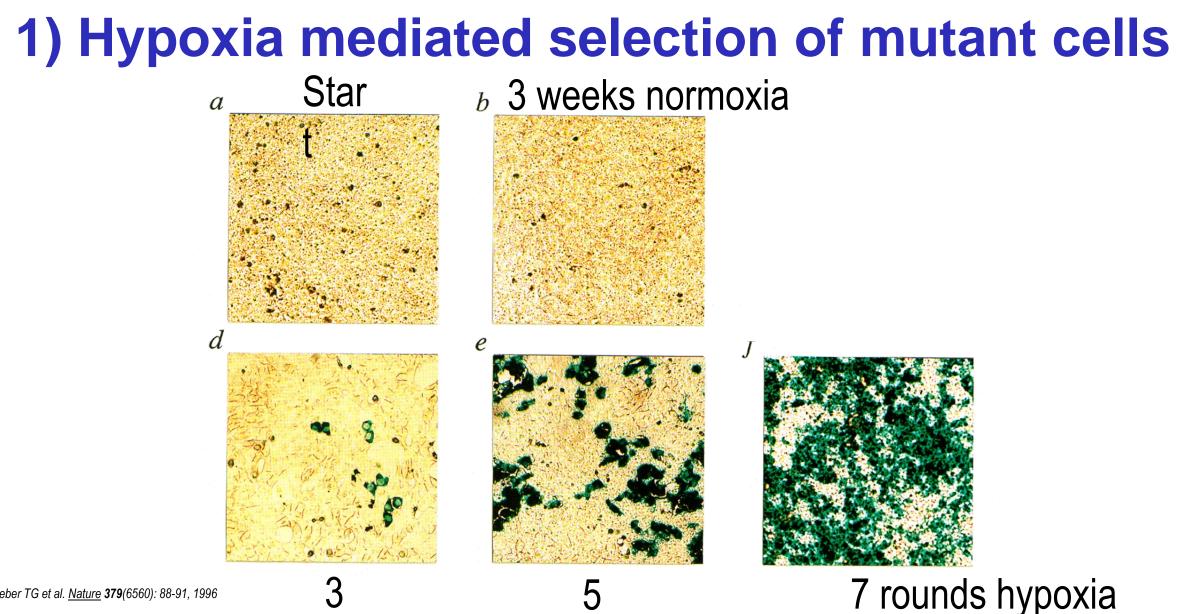
- 1. Tumor hypoxia can "select" for cells that are more aggressive
- 2. Tumor cells respond and adapt to hypoxia which alters their biological properties



1) Hypoxia mediated selection of mutant cells



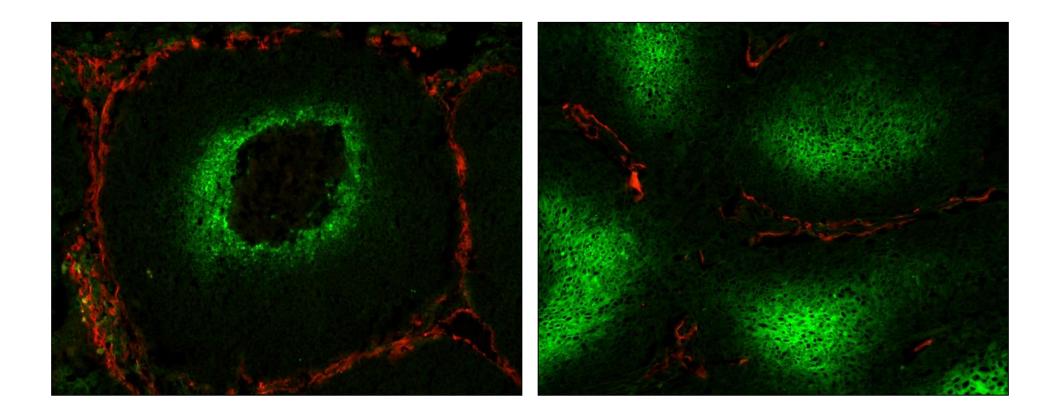
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Graeber TG et al. Nature 379(6560): 88-91, 1996

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Hypoxia tolerance influences steady state levels of hypoxia





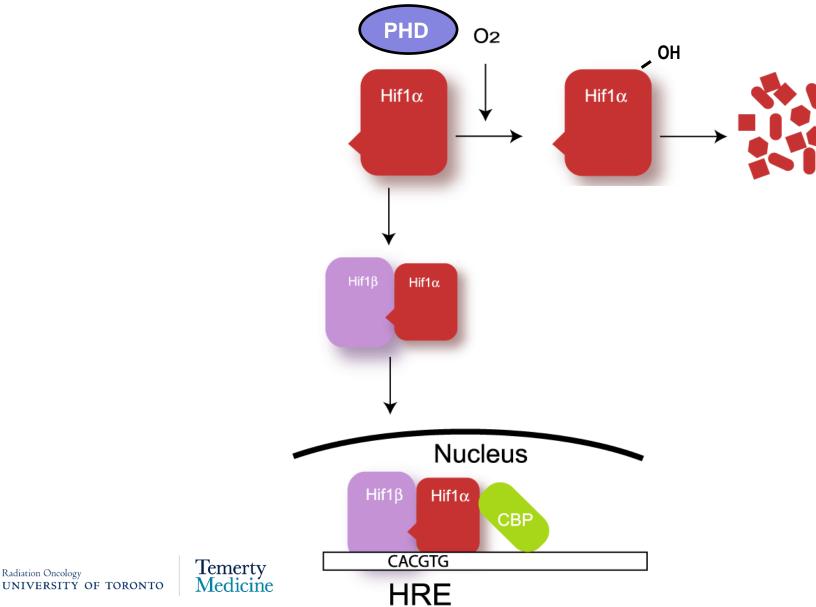
2) Hypoxia mediated adaptation

- Hypoxia causes biological changes that promote
 - Metabolic adaptation
 - Angiogenesis / vasculogenesis
 - Migration, invasion and metastasis (EMT)
 - Genetic instability
 - Stemness

Biological changes are a consequence of altered protein activity and gene expression



Oxygen sensors: HIF hydroxylases



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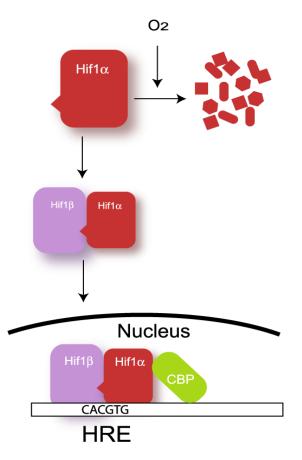
Major HIF activated pathways

Improvement of tissue/tumor oxygenation

- a) Reduce O₂ demand
 - Glycolytic enzymes (PGK-1, PK-M,)
 - Glucose transport (GLUTs)
 - Inhibition of mitochondrial respiration
 - b) Improve O₂ delivery
- Angiogenesis (VEGF, VEGFRs)
- Red blood cell production (EPO)

Often overexpressed in cancer a) VHL mutations b) Ras, PI3K, ...





Summary of tumor hypoxia

- Hypoxia is influenced by
 - Vasculature defects (chronic, acute)
 - Metabolism (consumption)
 - Tolerance mechanisms (p53, HIF, ++)
- Hypoxia is heterogeneous
 - amount, spatial, severity, time
- Hypoxia is important
 - Radiation resistance/fractionation
 - Increased aggressiveness