

Propositions

1. After prospective validation of the predictive value of FBXW7 mutations, testing for this marker should be incorporated into daily clinical practice for CRC patients starting targeted anti-EGFR treatment. *This thesis*
2. As the size of CTCs does not always exceed that of white blood cells, the isolation of single CTCs cannot reach an optimal technical validity when its methods are purely size based. *This thesis*
3. The detection of copy number alterations present in the genome of isolated single cells contributes to an increased sensitivity of the identification of CTCs. *This thesis*
4. The analysis of ctDNA can yield clinically useful results without prior knowledge of the patients tumor. *This thesis*
5. Following independent validation, the mFast-SeqS method could be used to stratify patients with metastatic urothelial cancer for response prior to the initiation of treatment with pembrolizumab. *This thesis*
6. The greatest decrease in cancer incidence can be achieved through prevention; i.e. reducing exposure to cancer risk factors, and providing people with the information and support they need to adopt healthy lifestyles. *Adapted from the World Health Organization*
7. Whole genome sequencing has shifted the way we study cancer permanently and will most definitely contribute to the ongoing development of personalized medicine.
8. With the increasing number of targeted treatments being developed, investments in the development of biomarkers which can serve to stratify patients upfront to reduce healthcare costs are required.
9. It can be questioned whether the informed consent we obtain from patients is strictly in line with the Nuremberg Code as it is impossible for patients to oversee the consequences of molecular characterization of the tumor genome.
10. Along with scientific ability, physicians need the ability to listen to the narratives of the patient, grasp and honor their meanings, and be moved to act on the patient's behalf. *Charon, R. Narrative medicine: a model for empathy, reflection, profession, and trust. Jama 286, 1897-1902 (2001)*
11. Wat voor ons aan de uiterste grenzen van dit lange opstandige avontuur weerklinkt, zijn geen optimistische leuzen, waar we in ons uiterst ongeluk niets mee kunnen, maar woorden van moed en begrip, die dicht bij de zee zelfs deugd zijn. *Albert Camus, De mens in opstand*