

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910253869103321
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Titolo	The Role of Microenvironment in the Control of Tumor Angiogenesis // by Domenico Ribatti
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2016
ISBN	3-319-27820-7
Edizione	[1st ed. 2016.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (97 p.)
Disciplina	610
Soggetti	Cancer research Oncology Pathology Pharmacotherapy Cancer Research Oncology
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Prelims -- Tumor microenvironment -- Tumor blood vessels and tumor endothelial cells -- Tumor angiogenesis -- Inflammatory cells in tumor microenvironment -- Therapeutic strategies, the concept of "normalization" and the role of VEGF inhibition -- Index. .
Sommario/riassunto	This work describes the importance of tumor microenvironment in favouring tumor progression and angiogenesis. Under physiological conditions, angiogenesis is dependent on the balance of positive and negative angiogenic modulators within the vascular microenvironment and requires the functional activities of a number of molecules, including angiogenic factors, extracellular matrix proteins, adhesion molecules and proteolytic enzymes. In normal tissues, vascular quiescence is maintained by the dominant influence of endogenous angiogenesis inhibitors over angiogenic stimuli. Tumor angiogenesis is linked to a switch in the balance between positive and negative regulators, and mainly depends on the release by inflammatory or neoplastic cells of specific growth factors for endothelial cells, that stimulate the growth of the blood vessels of the host or the down-

regulation of natural angiogenesis inhibitors. In particular, the inflammatory infiltrate may contribute to tumor angiogenesis, and there are many reports of associations between tumor inflammatory infiltrate, vascularity and prognosis. New therapeutic approaches have been developed with the aim to control tumor angiogenesis through targeting of different components of tumor microenvironment.
