

## Role of c-Met/HGF Axis in Altered Cancer Metabolism

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Vaishali Chandel, Sibi Raj, Ramesh Choudhari, and Dhruv Kumar

## **Abstract**

c-Met (mesenchymal-epithelial transition factor) is a receptor tyrosine kinase that belongs to the Met family and is majorly expressed on the surfaces of epithelial cells. Hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) is the receptor specific to c-Met. HGF binding to c-Met leads to the initiation of series of cascade mediating wound healing and embryogenesis. However, in cancer cells, mutation in c-Met stimulates various downstream signalling pathways such as PI3K/AKT, Ras/MAPK, and JAK/STAT, causing aberrant c-Met/HGF axis activation and resulting in development and progression through migration, invasion, and metabolic reprogramming in cancer. c-Met/HGF axis modulates glucose metabolism in cancer by altering major enzymes and transporters such as hexokinase, phosphofructokinase, lactate dehydrogenase, and glucose transporters and shifts the reliance of cancer cells on glucose rather than oxidative phosphorylation even in the presence of oxygen (Warburg phenomena). In addition, c-Met/HGF axis modulates and interferes with other pathways such as pentose phosphate pathway, amino acid metabolism, and TCA cycle leading to its aggressive phenotypes. Therefore, understanding the association between c-Met/ HGF axis and signalling pathways is critical and clinically important to develop

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V. Chandel · S. Raj · D. Kumar (⊠)

Amity Institute of Molecular Medicine & Stem Cell Research (AIMMSCR), Amity University Uttar Pradesh (AUUP), Noida, Uttar Pradesh, India e-mail: dkumar13@amity.edu

## R. Choudhari

Center of Emphasis in Cancer Research, Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine, Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso, El Paso, TX, USA

Shri B. M. Patil Medical College, Hospital and Research Centre, BLDE (Deemed to be University), Vijayapur, India

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