Matrix metalloproteinases in urinary system tumours. Part II - Matrix metalloproteinases in urinary bladder carcinoma

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ABSTRACT

Matrix metalloproteinases - MMPs, also referred to as matrixines, provide a group of proteolytic enzymes. They belong to the family of endopeptidases that break down elements of extracellular matrix, resulting in its continuous remodelling.

Their activity is regulated at multiple levels, while tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases play a major role in this process. Metalloproteinases play a significant part in neoplastic processes due to their contribution to local tumour invasion and formation of distant metastases, as well as to angiogenesis Urinary tract tumours pose a significant diagnostic and therapeutic challenge and their incidence tends to grow every year. The aim of this second part of review is to describe urinary system structure and function and to highlight the contribution of matrix metalloproteinases in the development of urinary bladder tumours.

Key words: matrix metalloproteinases, urinary tract tumours, urinary bladder carcinoma

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