

REVIEW (Research given the Yokohama City University Medical Research Prize for 2009)

The morphologic atypism of epithelial neoplasms
– its molecular basis and pathobiologic significance –

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Abstract

“Atypism/atypia (atypism)” is defined as morphological differences between pathologic and normal conditions, and is generally used to describe morphological changes of neoplastic cells and tissues. It consists of various elements, the combination of which produces recognizable morphological differences between neoplasms and healthy tissues. This review discusses the inner meaning of each element of atypism by considering its possible biological significance and molecular basis based on recently established molecular biological mechanisms of cellular and tissue morphogenesis.