

Cell Division: To Stop or Not to Stop?

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Outline:

- Built-in Controls in Mitosis
 - Cells have functions to prevent them from dividing too frequently.
 - In contact inhibition, cells communicate with each other when they touch and they tell each other to stop.
 - There are controls called "go-no-go" switches located along the path the cell cycle takes which controls mitosis.
 - If this function is taken away by mutation, this can cause cancer or tumors.
- What is cancer? What causes cancer? Call me maybe?
 - Cancer is a class of diseases characterized by out-of-control cell growth. There are over 100 different types of cancer, and each is classified by the type of cell that is initially affected.
 - Cancer causes harm to the body when damaged cells divide uncontrollably to form lumps called tumors.
 - More dangerous tumors form when 1 of 2 things happens.
 - A cancerous cell moves throughout the body destroying healthy tissue in a process called invasion.
 - A cancerous cell manages to divide and grow, making new blood vessels to feed itself in a process called angiogenesis.
 - Cancer is ultimately the result of cells that grow uncontrollably and DO NOT DIE.

If I was diagnosed with cancer, I would be very scared. I would probably have to get chemotherapy, and it would not be a good experience. I would be a little scared in life, afraid that something might happen. However, I would not do anything differently, unless the doctor told me to do something different.

sincerely,

SELENA GOMEZ