



## Effects and mechanisms of resveratrol for prevention and management of cancers: An updated review

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### ABSTRACT

Cancer is a severe public health problem. Resveratrol is a famous natural compound that has various bioactivities, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic and antiaging activities. Especially, resveratrol could prevent and treat various cancers, such as oral, thyroid, breast, lung, liver, pancreatic, gastric, colorectal, bladder, prostate and ovarian cancers. The underlying mechanisms have been widely studied, such as inhibiting cell proliferation, suppressing metastasis, inducing apoptosis, stimulating autophagy, modulating immune system, attenuating inflammation, regulating gut microbiota and enhancing effects of other anticancer drugs. In this review, we summarize effects and mechanisms of resveratrol on different cancers. This paper is helpful to develop resveratrol, crude extract containing resveratrol, or foods containing resveratrol into functional food, dietary supplements or auxiliary agents for prevention and management of cancers.

### KEYWORDS

Resveratrol; anticancer; mechanism; proliferation; apoptosis; metastasis

### Introduction

Cancer has caused severe disease burdens in the world. There are nearly 19.3 million newly-diagnosed cancer cases and almost 10 million deaths caused by cancer according to Global Cancer Statistics 2020 (Sung et al. 2021). Surgery, chemotherapy and radiotherapy are three main therapies for cancers, but their efficiencies are limited with some adverse effect. Therefore, it is significant to search novel strategies for the prevention and treatment of cancers. The anticancer effects of natural compounds have attracted more and more attention of researchers. Increasing studies showed that bioactive compounds from vegetables, fruits, spices, tea and medicinal plants could play a vital role in the prevention and management of cancers through different mechanisms (Farha et al. 2022; Mao et al. 2020; Tao et al. 2020; Tao et al. 2018; Xu et al. 2020c).

Polyphenols are bioactive compounds that have many beneficial effects via different mechanisms, such as anti-inflammation, antioxidation, anti-obesity, modulation of gut microbiota and cardiovascular protection (Cao et al. 2019b; Shang et al. 2021). Resveratrol is a natural phenolic compound and widely exists in many foods, such as grapes, peanuts, pistachios, bilberries and blueberries (Mukherjee, Dudley, and Das 2010). Many studies have shown that resveratrol has various bioactivities, such as antioxidant, anti-inflammatory, antidiabetic, antiaging, immunomodulatory

and neuroprotective activities (Meng et al. 2020; Yeung et al. 2019; Zhou et al. 2021). In addition, anticancer effects and mechanisms of resveratrol have been widely studied since its anticancer activity was first reported in a famous journal Science in 1997 (Jang et al. 1997), and the results showed that it could be a promising agent for the prevention and treatment of various cancers, such as breast, cervical, uterine, skin, gastric, kidney and liver cancers (Elshaer et al. 2018; Rauf et al. 2018; Ren et al. 2021). In this review, we summarize effects and mechanisms of resveratrol on various cancers and a special attention is paid to the underlying mechanisms of action.

### Effects of resveratrol on cancers

#### Breast cancer

Breast cancer is one of the most dangerous cancers worldwide, and seriously threatens health of women (Li et al. 2017). Resveratrol could suppress breast cancer cell proliferation (Table 1). For example, resveratrol inhibited proliferation of 4T1 breast cancer cells through inducing cell cycle arrest in the S phase (Wu et al. 2019). In addition, resveratrol suppressed proliferation of estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer cells by downregulating expression of enhancer of zeste homolog 2 (EZH2), and

Table 1. The anticancer effects and related mechanisms of resveratrol.

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.
Breast cancer	In vitro	MCF-10A and MDA-MB-231 cells	0, 3.125, 6.25, 12.5, 25, 50, 100, 200 $\mu$ M	Promoting apoptosis; Reducing mRNA expression of POLD1 Inhibiting anti-apoptotic index PARP1, PCNA, BCL-2 Increasing apoptosis index Cleaved-Caspase3; Inhibiting Na <sup>+</sup> -dependent Pi transporter Restraining adhesion or migration;	(Liang et al. 2021)
	In vitro	MDA-MB-231 cells	10 mM	Suppressing proliferation Inducing apoptosis; Inhibiting migration	(Lacerda-Abreu, Russo-Abraham, and Meyer-Fernandes 2021) (Wu et al. 2019)
	In vitro	4T1 cells	0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 $\mu$ M	Raising expression of E-cadherin Reducing expression of MMP-2, MMP-9, vimentin; Inhibiting lung metastasis;	(Sun et al. 2019)
	In vitro	MDA-MB-231, MDA-MB-453, MDA-MB-436, BT549 cells	12.5, 25, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Inhibiting proliferation and migration of ER-positive breast cancer cells Downregulating the expression of EZH2;	(Hu et al. 2019)
	In vivo	Athymic nude mice	40 mg/kg	Reducing cell survival in the Cal51 TNBC cells with piceatannol	(Lucas et al. 2018)
	In vitro	ER-positive MCF-7 and T47D cells	0, 20, 40, 80 $\mu$ M	Upregulating expression of gamma H2AX and cleaved caspase 3 Downregulating expression of p38-MAPK	
	In vitro	BT549 and Cal51 cells	0, 20, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Inducing G1-to-S cell cycle arrest; Increasing cell apoptosis and suppressing cell proliferation with 3 Gy ionizing radiation	(da Costa Araldi et al. 2018)
	In vitro	MCF-7 cell	0, 10, 30, 100 $\mu$ M	Decreasing Bax/Bcl-2 ratio; Enhancing the anti-proliferative effects of cisplatin Inhibiting the protein level of Rad51 and the relative transcript levels of homologous recombination initiation complex components	(Leon-Galicia et al. 2018)
	In vitro	MCF-7, T47-D and MDA-MB-231 cells	0, 30, 50, 100, 150, 250 $\mu$ M	Maintaining phosphorylation of H2AX histone at serine 139; Promoting apoptosis in MDA-MB-231 cells with proanthocyanidins Increasing Bax expression and decreasing Bcl-2 expression Reducing DNA methyltransferase activity and HDAC activity;	(Gao and Tollefsbol 2018)
	In vitro	ER-, PR-, HER2- MDA-MB-231, ER+, PR+, HER2MCF-7 cells	10, 15, 20 $\mu$ M	Suppressing the proliferation of various colorectal cancer cells Decreasing Top1 and Tdp1 contents and mRNA expression in wild-type; Reducing cell viability	(Zhang et al. 2021)
Colorectal Cancer	In vitro	CL187, Colo205, HCT-8, SW480, and HCT-116 cells	0, 10, 20, 50, 80, 100 $\mu$ M	Inducing mitochondrial-mediated apoptosis of primary colon cancer cells; Modulating an ROS-mediated mitochondrial apoptotic pathway Upregulating the protein expression levels of cytochrome c, cleaved caspase-9 and cleaved caspase-3	(Madencioglu et al. 2021)
	In vitro	Colo-320 and Colo-741 cells	5, 10, 25, 50, 100 $\mu$ g/ml		(Fu et al. 2020)
	In vitro	SW 620 and HCT 116 cells	0, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 125, 250, 500 $\mu$ g/ml	Downregulating the protein expression levels of Bcl-2; Increasing the protein expression levels of RKIP	(Dariya et al. 2020)
	In vitro	HT-29 and HCT 116 cells	100 $\mu$ M	Suppressing the migration of colorectal cancer cell; uppressing the invasion and metastasis of colon cancer Enhancing E-cadherin expression;	(Yuan et al. 2019)
	In vitro	SW480 and SW620 cells	7.5, 15, 30, 60, 120, 240 $\mu$ M	Reducing expression of N-cadherin, phosphor (p)-AKT1, p-GSK-3- $\beta$ , and snail;	
	In vivo	Nude mice	150 mg/kg	Inducing the activation of p53-mediated apoptosis in colon cancer Upregulating the expression of tumor protein p53 and p53 target genes	(Liu, Z.L. et al., 2019)
	In vitro	HCT116, CO115 and SW48 cells	0, 12.5, 25, 37.5, 50 $\mu$ M	Enhancing SET domain containing lysine methyltransferase 7/9 expression;	
					(Continued)

Table 1. (Continued).

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.
	In vitro	DLD1 and HCT15 cells	0, 10, 20, 30, 40 μM	Inhibiting cell proliferation and colony growth in DLD1 and HCT15 colon cancer cells	(Li et al. 2019a)
	In vitro	SW620 cells	5, 10, 20, 40, 80, 160 μM	Mediating the AKT/STAT3 signaling pathway Downregulating the expression of cyclin D1, cyclin E2 and BCL2 apoptosis regulator Upregulating BCL2 associated X and tumor protein p53; Promoting the oxygen consumption of mitochondrial biogenesis Inducing fatty acid oxidation Increasing hyperpolarization of mitochondrial membrane and ROS production; Blocking the TNF-β-induced proliferation and invasion of HCT116 colorectal cancer cells	(Blanquer-Rossello et al. 2017) (Buhmann et al. 2019b)
	In vitro	HCT116 cells	5 μM	Inhibiting TNF-β/TNF-β R-induced activation of NF-κ B Modulating gene products, and caspase-3 cleavage;	
	In vitro	HCT116 and SW620 cells	0, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 125, 250, 500 μg/ml	Inducing the apoptosis of CRC cells through ROS-mediated mitochondrial apoptotic pathway Increasing ROS levels and the protein expression levels of cytochrome c, cleaved caspase-9 and cleaved caspase-3	(Fu et al. 2020)
	In vitro	HCT116 and CT26 cells	5 μg/ml	Decreasing the expression levels of Bcl-2; Enhancing the sensitivity of colorectal cancer cells to cetuximab Upregulating the expression and phosphorylation of connexin 43 Promoting gap junction function;	(Wang et al. 2020b)
	In vivo	C57BL/6 mice	100 mg/kg	Changing the gut microbiome and short chain fatty acid composition Suppressing histone deacetylases	(Alrafas et al. 2020)
	In vitro	HCT116 and SW480 cells	5 μM	Downregulating pro-inflammatory Th1 and Th17 cells Upregulating anti-inflammatory CD4+ FOXP3+ (Tregs) and CD4+ IL10+ cells;	(Buhmann et al. 2019a)
	In vitro	HCT-116 cell	0, 25, 50, 100, 200, 400 μM	Reversing TNF-β/TNF-β R-induced EMT in CRC cells Inhibiting NF-κB and focal adhesion kinase; Suppressing the invasion and apoptosis of CRC cells Promoting EMT to MET Upregulating the expression of miR-200c;	(Dermani et al. 2017)
Pancreatic Cancer	In vitro	EPP85-181P, EPP85-181RNOV, AsPC-1 and H6c7 cells	0, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200 μM	Reversing human pancreatic cancer cell proliferation Increasing the expression levels of Bcl-2 pro-apoptotic proteins Decreasing the expression levels of anti-apoptotic proteins	(Ratajczak et al. 2021)
	In vitro	Panc-1 and Mia Paca-2 cells	50 μM	Weakening the malignant progression of pancreatic cancer Inhibiting hypoxia-induced pancreatic stellate cell activation Restraining the interplay between pancreatic stellate cells and pancreatic cancer cells;	(Xiao et al. 2020)
	In vivo	KPC mice, LSL-Kras <sup>G12D</sup> mice, and Trp53 <sup>fl/fl</sup> mice	50 mg/kg	Suppressing VEGF-A, SDF-1, IL-6, α-SMA, and HIF-1α expression Suppressing stromal desmoplastic reaction on pancreatic cancer cells;	
	In vivo	LSL-Kras <sup>G12D/+</sup> (K) and Pdx1-Cre (C) mice	50 mg/kg	Preventing the progression of pancreatic precancerous lesions Suppressing the activation of NF-κB signaling pathway related molecules;	(Qian et al. 2020)
	In vitro	PANC-1, Mia-PaCa, Capan-2 cells	0, 50, 100, 150 μM	Promoting ROS production and mitochondrial-dependent apoptosis;	(Luo et al. 2021)
	In vitro	MiaPaCa-2 and Panc-1 cells	50 μmol/L	Reversing the gemcitabine-induced chemo-resistance and enhance the sensitivity of gemcitabine;	(Zhou et al. 2019)
	In vivo	LSL-KrasG12D <sup>+/+</sup> ; Trp53fl <sup>+/+</sup> ; Pdx1-Cre (KPC) mice	50 mg/kg	Inhibiting the expression of sterol regulatory element binding protein 1 Repressing the sphere formation ability Downregulating the expression of CSC markers;	

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Table 1. (Continued).

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.
	In vitro	Panc-1, Mia paca-2, CF pac-1, and BxPC-3 cell lines	0, 50, 100, 150, 200 $\mu$ M	Improving the sensitivity of pancreatic cancer cells to gemcitabine Promoting cellular ROS accumulation Inducing Nrf2 signaling pathway Inhibiting the expression of NAF-1; Inhibiting the cell growth and induced the apoptosis of pancreatic cancer cells with capsaisin	(Cheng et al. 2018a) (Vendrey et al. 2017)
	In vitro	BXPC-3, CAPAN2, MiaPaCa-2 and PANC-1 cell lines	0, 100, 200, 300 $\mu$ M	Increasing ROS production to stimulate the activation of the stress response MAP kinase p38;	(Jiang et al. 2022)
	In vivo	NOD/Shi-SCID IL2Rnull mice	150 mg/kg	Repressing proliferation, migration, and invasion in pancreatic cancer cells Inhibiting the expression of RYR2 Increasing the PTEN expression;	
	In vitro	PANC-1 and SW1990 cell lines	200 $\mu$ M		
Prostate Cancer	In vitro	LNCaP and RWPE-1 cells	0, 25, 50, 100, 200 $\mu$ M	Suppressing the proliferation of prostate cancer cells Promoting the apoptosis of prostate cancer cells Reducing the expression of AR mRNA and protein levels;	(Ye et al. 2020)
	In vitro	DU145 and PC3 cell lines	0, 10, 25, 50, 75 $\mu$ M	Weakening the proliferation and migration of prostate cancer cells Mediating the degradation of TRAF6	(Khusbu et al. 2020)
	In vitro	DU145 and PC-3 cells	0, 10, 25, 50 $\mu$ M	Facilitating the repression of the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway; Decreasing HGF-mediated interaction between the stroma and epithelium Restraining epithelial prostate cancer cell migration Attenuating EMT;	(Hsieh and Wu 2020)
	In vitro	Androgen-independent DU145 and PC3 cells, and androgen-dependent LNCaP cells	0, 0.1, 1, 5, 25, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Ameliorating the apoptosis of androgen-independent prostate cancer cells Enhancing DJSP1 expression Repressing the NF- $\kappa$ B pathway and Cox-2 expression;	(Martinez-Martinez et al. 2019)
	In vitro	LNCaP cells	50, 100 $\mu$ M	Suppressing DHT-induced prostate cancer metastasis Downregulating the expression of AR, CXCR4, p-PI3K, p-AKT and the downstream genes related with cell cycle progression	(Jang et al. 2019)
	In vitro	PC3, LNCaP, C2C12, and SHSYSY cell lines	0, 1, 5, 10 $\mu$ M	Upregulating the expression of the apoptosis-related genes; Attenuating PC3 prostate cancer cell metabolic and growth Interfering with glucose fermentation and boosting respiration;	(Fonseca et al. 2019)
	In vitro	TRAMP cells	50 $\mu$ M	Promoting the apoptosis in prostate cancer cells Increasing ROS concentration and expression of Bax, HIF-1 $\alpha$ and p53 Inhibiting the expression of Bcl2;	(Wang, Gao, and Zhang 2018)
	In vitro	LNCaP cells	0, 5, 10, 20, 50 $\mu$ M	Increasing the accumulation of nuclear COX-2 Inducing the phosphorylation and nuclear translocation of mitogen-activated protein kinase;	(Cheng et al. 2018b)
	In vitro	DU145 (androgen-insensitive), LNCaP (androgen-sensitive); RWPE-1 cells	25 $\mu$ M	Inhibiting cell viability and proliferation in prostate cancer DU145 and LNCaP cells Upregulating the expression of PCAT29 Interfering with the STAT3 and miR-21 signaling;	(Al Ameri et al. 2017)
	In vitro	DU145 and C42B cells	5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50 $\mu$ M	Improving the efficacy of docetaxel treatment Increasing the pro-apoptotic genes Bax, BID, and BAK Decreasing the anti-apoptotic genes MCL-1, BCL-2, BCL-XL	(Singh et al. 2017)
	In vitro	DAB2IP knockdown cell lines LAPC4-KD and PC3-KD	25 $\mu$ g/ml	Suppressing the expression of CDK4, cyclin D1, cyclin E1; Increasing the apoptosis of radio-resistant prostate cancer cells Inhibiting the repair of radiation-induced DNA double-strand break Inducing the G2/M arrest;	(Chen et al. 2017)
	Lung Cancer	In vitro	A549 and H1299 cell lines	0, 1, 5, 10, 20, 30 $\mu$ M	Inhibiting PD-L1 expression in lung cancer cells through Wnt pathway Suppressing the T-cell-mediated immune response;

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Table 1. (Continued).

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.	
	In vitro	A549 and NCI-H292 cells	12.5, 25, 50, 75 $\mu$ M	Inhibiting the proliferation and metastasis of malignant mucinous lung tumor cells Reducing the expression of SPDEF and MUC5AC Suppressing the ERK and AKT signaling pathway; Inhibiting NSCLC progression	(Lin et al. 2021)	
	In vivo	Male Rowett nude rats	250 mg/kg	Downregulating the expressions of STAT3, HIF-1 $\alpha$ , and VEGF; Restraining the viability and promoting the apoptosis of human SCLC H446 cells	(Wang et al. 2020a)	
	In vitro	Human SCLC H446 cell line	40 $\mu$ M	Upregulating cytochrome c expression Boosting the translocation of AIF from the cytoplasm to the nucleus;	(Li et al. 2020b)	
	In vitro	SCLC H446 cell line	40 $\mu$ g/mL	Suppressing the viability and increasing the apoptosis of human SCLC H446 cells Upregulating the expression of cytochrome c	(Li et al. 2020b)	
	In vitro	A549 and A549 cells; primary human fetal lung fibroblast cells PC14, H69, and IMR90	100 $\mu$ M	Downregulating the expression of PI3K/AKT/c-Myc signaling pathway components; Inhibiting the expression of PRMT5	(Li et al. 2019c)	
	In vitro	A549 and H23 cells	20, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Decreasing AKT/GSK-3 $\beta$ phosphorylation and the downstream targets cyclin D1 and E1 expression;	(Fudhaili et al. 2019)	
	In vitro	SCLC H446 cells	0, 20, 30, 35, 40 $\mu$ g/ml	Upregulating the expression of ZFP36 Reducing the expression of DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1 Promoting demethylation of the ZFP36 promoter;	(Li et al. 2018)	
	In vitro	A549 and HCC-15 cells	0, 12.5, 25, 50 $\mu$ M	Enhancing the anticancer effect of cisplatin Inducing mitochondrial depolarization Increasing cytochrome c release and AIF translocation Regulating the protein levels of Bcl-2, Bcl-xL and Bax; Enhancing TRAIL-mediated apoptosis Palliating TRAIL resistance	(Rasheduzzaman, Jeong, and Park 2018)	
	Gastric Cancer	In vitro	SNU-216, SNU-484, SNU-601, SNU-638, and SNU-668 cells	0, 25, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Downregulating the expression of anti-apoptotic factors (Bcl-2, Bcl-xL) Suppressing the AKT/NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway;	(Kim, S. et al., 2020)
		In vitro	BGC823 cell	0, 5, 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, 400 $\mu$ M	Binding to the PIM-1 at the ATP-binding pocket Inhibiting PIM-1 kinase activity;	(Yang et al. 2019)
In vitro		HGC-27 cell	20 $\mu$ M	Suppressing metastasis-associated MALAT1 expression Inhibiting MALAT1-mediated EMT; Downregulating the expression of IL-6, IL-8, MCP-1, VEGF and related protein secretion	(Yin et al. 2020)	
In vitro		SGC-7901 cell line	50 $\mu$ M	Restraining the activation of Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling Suppressing the progress of GC-MSC-induced EMT; Inhibiting the proliferation, migration and invasive of SGC-7901 cells	(Xu et al. 2020b)	
In vitro		SGC7901 and HSC-39 cells	0, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 100 $\mu$ M	Downregulating HIF-1 $\alpha$ protein levels induced by hypoxia; Suppressing the activation of the Hedgehog pathway Suppressing IL-6 induced gastric cancer metastasis and matrix metalloproteinases activation	(Yang et al. 2018)	
In vitro		SGC-7901 cells	0, 10, 50, 100, 200 and 400 $\mu$ M	Decreasing the Raf/MAPK signaling pathway activation; Increasing the levels of the pro-apoptotic proteins Bax, cleaved caspase-3 and cleaved caspase-8	(Wu et al. 2018)	
In vitro		MGC-803 cells	0, 50, 75, 100 $\mu$ M	Decreasing the level of the anti-apoptotic protein Bcl-2 Inhibiting the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B;	(Dai et al. 2018)	
In vitro		EPG85-257RDB, EPG85-257RNOV, EPG85-257P cells	30, 50 $\mu$ M	Downregulating- the mRNA and protein levels of $\beta$ -catenin, c-myc, and cyclin D1 Inhibiting the Wnt signaling pathway; Decreasing the resistance of gastric cancer cells	(Mieszala et al. 2018)	
				Downregulating the mRNA and protein levels of ABCB1, ANXA1 and TXN;	(Continued)	



Table 1. (Continued).

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.
Bladder Cancer	In vitro	5637 cells	25, 50, 100, 200 µmol/l	Upregulating the expression level of PTEN mRNA and protein	(Li et al. 2019b)
	In vitro	RT4, 5637, and T24 cells	12.5, 25, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250 µM	Downregulating the expression of p-AKT mRNA and protein; Inhibiting the proliferative of bladder tumor cells Downregulating the gene expression of AKT, mTOR and SRC in the TP53 wild type cells	(Almeida et al. 2019)
	In vitro	T24 cell	0, 10, 25, 50, 100 µM	Decreasing the gene expression of PLK1 in the TP53 mutated cells;	
	In vitro	pumc-91/ADM cell line	0, 10, 25, 50, 100 µM	Reducing the expression and secretion of MMP-2 and MMP-9	(Bai et al. 2017)
	In vitro	WTMEFs, TSC1-null MEFs, HCV29, 639V, and MGHU1 cells	0, 50, 100, 150, 200, 250, 300, 350 µM	Inhibiting the phosphorylation of extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase; Weakening ADM resistance and enhance the cytotoxicity of ADM in ADM-resistant pumc-91 cells	(Wang et al. 2017)
	In vitro	T24 T24-GCB cells	0, 75, 150 µM	Downregulating the expression level of MRP1, LRP, GST, BCL-2 Upregulating the expression level of Topo-II; Promoting the apoptosis of human bladder cancer cell lines Suppressing rapamycin-induced AKT activation Inhibiting mTOR pathway;	(Alayev et al. 2017)
Ovarian Cancer	In vitro	SKOV-3 and OV-90 cell lines	0, 5, 10, 100, 200, 400 µM	Decreasing the drug resistance of T24-GCB cells to GCB Inducing the expression of ABCC2 and cleaved-PARP Reducing the expression of DCK, TK1 and TK2;	(Cho et al. 2019)
	In vitro	SKOV-3 and OV-90 cell lines	0, 5, 10, 100, 200, 400 µM	Attenuating the proliferation and migration of OV-90 and SKOV-3 cells Decreasing the expression of Bcl-2	(Yao et al. 2021)
	In vitro	A2780 and SKOV3 cells	0, 10, 20, 50, 100, 200 µM	Increasing the expression of microRNA-34a; Promoting the apoptosis of caspase-dependent cell Inhibiting Notch1 and PTEN/AKT signaling pathway Upregulating ROS generation;	(Kim, Park, and Woo 2019)
	In vitro	SKOV3 and OVCAR-3 cell lines	25, 50, 100 µM	Boosting the apoptosis of ovarian cancer cells	(El-kott et al. 2019)
	In vitro	A2780, SKOV3 cell lines	25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800 µM	Downregulating the expression levels of galectin-3 Upregulating the expression levels of miR-424-3p; Suppressing the proliferation and induce the apoptosis Restricting the glycolysis	(Liu et al. 2018)
	In vivo In vitro	BALB/c nude mice NIH-OVCAR3 cells	100 mg/kg 100 µM	Upregulating the expression and activation of AMPK and Caspase 3 Downregulating the expression and activation of mTOR; Inhibited ovarian cancer growth and liver metastasis in xenograft mouse model; Increasing the expression of ARH-1 Decreasing the expression of STAT3 Inducing cells autophagy at the migration front;	(Ferraesi et al. 2017)
Cervical Cancer	In vitro	HeLa and Ca Ski cells	0, 5, 10, 20, 40 µM	Repressing the transcription and translation of HPV E6 and E7 genes	(Sun et al. 2021b)
	In vitro	HPV18-positive HeLa cells and HPV16-positive SiHa cells	0, 5, 10, 20, 40 µM	Promoting G1/S phase transition arrest; Inhibiting the proliferation and metastatic potential of cervical cancer cells;	(Sun et al. 2020)
	In vivo In vitro	Athymic BALB/C nude mice Hela cell line	30 mg/kg 0, 20, 40, 60, 80 µmol/L	Reducing phosphorylation of STAT3 at Tyr705 but not Ser727;	(Liu et al. 2020)
	In vitro	Hela cell line	0, 10, 20, 50, 100 µM	Enhancing the activation and nuclear translocation promotion of FOXO3a Upregulating the expression of Bcl-2 interacting mediator of cell death; Decreasing the expression level of PLSCR1;	(Zhao et al. 2019)
Gallbladder Cancer	In vitro	SK-ChA-1 and MZ-ChA-1 cells	32, 64 µM	Having a cytotoxic effect on human gallbladder cancer cells Decreasing the inhibition of Transglutaminase 2;	(Roncoroni et al. 2018)

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Table 1. (Continued).

Cancers	Study types	Models	Dosages	Effects and mechanisms	Ref.
Head and Neck Cancer	In vitro	Squamous tongue carcinoma cell line PE/CA-P149; squamous pharyngeal carcinoma cell line FaDu	50 $\mu$ M	Promoting cell apoptosis in FaDu cells with cisplatin-resveratrol combination treatment Upregulating c-MYC and TP53 expression Downregulating BCL-2 expression; Inhibiting the migration of head and neck cancer cells Stimulating the mRNA expression of REG III Enhancing chemo- and radio-sensitivity in head and neck cancer;	(Bostan et al. 2021)
	In vivo	BALB/c nude male mice	100 mg/kg		(Mikami et al. 2019)
Liver Cancer	In vitro	Human normal liver cell lines L02 and HepG2 human hepatoma cells	5 $\mu$ g/mL	Increasing caspase-3, caspase-8, caspase-9, p53 and p21 expressions Decreasing mRNA and protein expressions of NF- $\kappa$ B, COX-2, MMP-2;	(Jiang et al. 2017)

**Abbreviation:** ADM, adriamycin; AKT, protein kinase B; AMP, adenosine monophosphate; AMPK, AMP-activated kinase; AIF, apoptosis inducing factor; AR, androgen receptor; ATP, adenosine triphosphate; ATC, anaplastic thyroid cancer; Bcl-2, B-cell lymphoma-2; BTLA, B- and T-lymphocyte attenuator; CD133, Cancer stem cells; Cox-2, cyclooxygenase-2; CRABP2, cellular retinoic acid binding protein 2; CRC, colorectal cancer; CXCR4, C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4; DHT, dihydrotestosterone; DOX, doxorubicin; DUSP1, dual specificity phosphatase 1; EMT, epithelial-mesenchymal transition; ER-positive, estrogen receptor-positive; EZH2, enhancer of zeste homolog 2; FOXO, forkhead box O; GRP78, glucose-regulated protein 78; GC, gastric cancer; GST, glutathione S-transferase; GSK, glycogen synthase kinase; HDAC, histone deacetylase; HGF, hepatocyte growth factor; HIF-1 $\alpha$ , hypoxia-inducible factor 1 alpha; HPV, human papillomavirus; IL-6, interleukin 6; LC3-II, microtubule-associated protein 1 light chain 3 type II; MALAT1, lung adenocarcinoma transcript 1; MMP, mitochondrial membrane potential; MRP1, multidrug resistance protein 1; mTOR, mammalian target of rapamycin; MUC5AC, Mucin 5, including subtypes A and C; NF- $\kappa$ B, nuclear factor kappa B; NSCLC, non-small-cell lung cancer; Nrf2, nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2; OC, ovarian cancer; OSCC, oral squamous cell carcinoma; PAMP, poly ADP-ribose polymerase; p-AKT, phospho-AKT; PCNA, proliferating cell nuclear antigen; PDH, pyruvate dehydrogenase; PD-L1, programmed death-ligand 1; p-eIF2 $\alpha$ , p-eukaryotic translation initiation factor 2 alpha; PERK, PRKR-like ER kinase; PIM-1, proviral integration site for Moloney murine leukemia virus; PI3K, phosphatidylinositol 3 kinase; PLSCL1, phospholipid scramblase 1; POLD1, polymerase delta 1; PRMT5, protein arginine methyltransferase 5; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homolog; RCP, rab coupling protein; REG III, regenerating gene III; RKIP, Raf-1 kinase inhibitory protein; ROS, reactive oxygen species; SCLC, small-cell lung cancer; SDF-1, stromal cell-derived factor 1;  $\alpha$ -SMA, alpha-smooth muscle actin; STAT3, signal transduction and transcription activator 3; ST6GAL2, alpha-2,6-sialyltransferase 2; STZ, streptozotocin; TNF- $\alpha$ , tumor necrosis factor-alpha; TNBC, triple negative breast cancer; TNF- $\beta$ , tumor necrosis factor-beta; TNF- $\beta$  R, tumor necrosis factor-beta receptor; Topo-II, topoisomerase-II; TRAF6, TNF-receptor associated factor 6; VEGF-A, vascular endothelial growth factor A.

further modulating the extracellular signal-regulated kinase (ERK) 1/2 signaling pathway (Hu et al. 2019).

Breast cancer cells are prone to migrate, and resveratrol could inhibit their metastasis via different mechanisms. For instance, resveratrol inhibited metastasis of transforming growth factor-1-induced MDA-MB-231 cells by raising expression of E-cadherin, and reducing expression of matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-2, MMP-9, and vimentin (Sun et al. 2019). An *in vivo* study showed that resveratrol also kept down lung metastasis in an athymic nude mouse model bearing MDA231 human breast cancer xenografts without impairing body weight or liver and kidney functions (Sun et al. 2019). In addition, resveratrol inhibited the Na<sup>+</sup>-dependent Pi transporter non-competitively to restrain the adhesion or migration of MDA-MB-231 cells, which prevented the metastatic processes of breast cancer cells (Lacerda-Abreu, Russo-Abraham, and Meyer-Fernandes 2021).

Cancer cells always lose apoptotic control, hence inducing apoptosis plays an important role in the treatment of cancers. Several studies showed that resveratrol could induce apoptosis of breast cancer cells. For example, resveratrol promoted apoptosis of triple negative breast cancer (TNBC) cells by reducing the mRNA expression of polymerase delta 1 (POLD1). Moreover, resveratrol inhibited expression of poly ADP-ribose polymerase, proliferating cell nuclear antigen, and B-cell lymphoma-2 (Bcl-2), and increased cleaved caspase-3 expression, which were associated with inducement of TNBC cell apoptosis (Liang et al. 2021).

Resveratrol could combine with other natural compounds to synergistically treat breast cancer. For example, the combination of resveratrol and piceatannol reduced cell survival in the Cal51 TNBC cells through upregulating expression of phosphorylated histone H2AX ( $\gamma$ -H2AX) and cleaved caspase-3, downregulating expression of p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase (p38-MAPK), and inducing G1-to-S cell cycle arrest (Lucas et al. 2018). In addition, the combination of resveratrol and proanthocyanidins synergistically promoted apoptosis of MDA-MB-231 cells by increasing Bax expression and decreasing Bcl-2 expression. Moreover, the co-treatment also reduced activity of DNA methyltransferase and histone deacetylase, which could further inhibit breast cancer development (Gao and Tollefsbol 2018).

Resveratrol could enhance the anticancer effects when combined with other chemotherapeutic drugs. Cisplatin is used to treat many cancers in clinic. One study found that resveratrol effectively elevated the anti-proliferative effect of cisplatin on breast cancer MCF-7 and MCF-7R cells through inhibiting the protein level of Rad51 and the relative transcript levels of homologous recombination initiation complex components, and maintaining  $\gamma$ -H2AX at serine 139 (Leon-Galicia et al. 2018). Another study showed that compared with treatment of cisplatin alone, its combination with resveratrol led to more cytotoxicity in breast cancer MDA-MB-231 cell line, including early apoptosis, depolarization, and DNA fragmentation (Yang et al. 2021a). Additionally, doxorubicin is an effective chemotherapeutic drug for breast cancer therapy, but it is common to induce breast cancer drug resistance. Resveratrol was found to

increase the long-term toxicity of doxorubicin in breast cancer by modulating expression of genes that were involved in doxorubicin-treated resistance, including CCND1, CDH1, ESR1, PTPN11, HSP90AA1 and MAPK3 (Vargas et al. 2020).

Radiation therapy is commonly used in breast cancer, and resveratrol could enhance the sensitivity of breast cancer cells to radiation therapy. Specifically, the combination of 10  $\mu$ M resveratrol and 3 Gy ionizing radiation induced the apoptosis of MCF-7 breast cancer cells by decreasing the Bax/Bcl-2 ratio, and suppressed cell proliferation via increasing the expression of p53 and cell cycle arrest at S phase (da Costa Araldi et al. 2018).

In short, resveratrol plays a significant role in breast cancer treatment through different mechanisms, including inhibition of breast cancer cell proliferation, suppression of metastasis, inducement of apoptosis. Moreover, the combination of resveratrol and other natural compounds, including piceatannol and proanthocyanidins, could synergistically prevent and treat breast cancer. In addition, resveratrol could enhance the anticancer effects of other anticancer agents, such as cisplatin and doxorubicin, and increase the sensitivity of breast cancer cells to radiation therapy.

### Colorectal cancer

Colorectal cancer is a common cancer (Davidson et al. 2021; Tao et al. 2018). Resveratrol could inhibit colorectal cancer cell proliferation through different mechanisms. For instance, resveratrol suppressed proliferation of colorectal cancer cells through modulating expression of topoisomerase 1 (Top1) and tyrosyl-DNA phosphodiesterase 1 (Tdp1) (Zhang et al. 2021). Additionally, resveratrol reduced cell viability both in Colo-320 and Colo-741 colon cancer cells, and it might be more effective to induce mitochondrial-mediated apoptosis rather than enhance senescence of primary colon cancer cells (Madencioglu et al. 2021).

Resveratrol could suppress invasion and metastasis of colorectal cancer cells. Raf kinase inhibitor protein acts as a tumor cell metastasis suppressor and prognostic indicator for colorectal cancer, and resveratrol increased its expression levels (Dariya et al. 2020). In addition, resveratrol reduced the tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- $\beta$ -induced proliferation and invasion of HCT116 colorectal cancer cells through suppression of TNF- $\beta$ -stimulated nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) signaling pathway (Buhrmann et al. 2019b). Additionally, resveratrol could suppress the invasion and metastasis of colon cancer through reversal of epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition (EMT) by several mechanisms. For example, resveratrol reversed EMT by upregulating expression of miR-200c in HCT-116 colorectal cancer cells (Dermani et al. 2017). Moreover, another study showed that resveratrol reversed TNF- $\beta$ /TNF- $\beta$  R-induced EMT in colorectal cancer cells via inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B and focal adhesion kinase (Buhrmann et al. 2019a). Additionally, an *in vivo* study found that resveratrol markedly suppressed EMT in colon cancer cells through protein kinase B (AKT)/glycogen synthase kinase (GSK)-3- $\beta$ /Snail signaling pathway (Yuan et al. 2019).

Resveratrol could prevent and treat colorectal cancer by inducement of cell apoptosis. For example, resveratrol promoted apoptosis of colorectal cancer cells through ROS-mediated mitochondrial apoptotic pathway, by increasing ROS levels and expression of cytochrome c, cleaved caspase-9 and cleaved caspase-3, and decreasing expression of Bcl-2 (Fu et al. 2020). In addition, metabolism of cancer cells primarily depends on glycolysis for ATP production rather than mitochondrial oxidative phosphorylation (Warburg effect). Resveratrol enhanced the oxygen consumption of mitochondrial biogenesis and induced fatty acid oxidation, and further increased hyperpolarization of mitochondrial membrane and ROS production, which resulted in apoptosis of SW620 colon cancer cells (Blanquer-Rossello et al. 2017).

Resveratrol could regulate expression of circulating inflammatory biomarkers and gut microbiota to inhibit development of colorectal cancer. For example, in an azoxymethane and dextran sodium sulphate-induced colorectal cancer murine model, resveratrol increased genus level of *Ruminococcus*, *Akkermansia*, *Dehalobacterium* and *Anerostipes*, and changed short chain fatty acid composition (Alrafas et al. 2020). Furthermore, resveratrol inhibited the inflammatory T-cell response via decreasing pro-inflammatory Th1 and Th17 cells, and increasing anti-inflammatory CD4+ FOXP3+ Treg cells and CD4+ IL10+ cells, which was related to alleviate the colonic inflammation and prevent inflammation-driven colorectal cancer (Alrafas et al. 2020).

Resveratrol was able to enhance the sensitivity of colorectal cancer cells to other anticancer drugs. For instance, cetuximab is a recombinant chimeric human–mouse monoclonal antibody that can suppress the activation and phosphorylation of epidermal growth factor receptor, and is widely used to treat many cancers (Li et al. 2020a). One study pointed out that resveratrol enhanced the sensitivity of colorectal cancer cells to cetuximab by increasing the expression and phosphorylation of connexin 43 and promoting gap junction function, which was involved in the inhibition of AKT pathway (Wang et al. 2020b).

In a word, resveratrol could be a potent compound for prevention and treatment of colorectal cancer. Resveratrol could inhibit colorectal cancer cell proliferation, suppress metastasis, induce apoptosis, regulate gut microbiota, modulate expression of circulating inflammatory biomarkers, and enhance the sensitivity of colorectal cancer cells to cetuximab.

### **Pancreatic cancer**

Pancreatic cancer is a threatening cancer worldwide, and the conventional treatment methods, such as chemotherapy or radiotherapy, often cannot bring desired therapeutic effects (Bray et al. 2018; Chauhan et al. 2020). Many studies showed that resveratrol could effectively inhibit pancreatic cancer cell proliferation and attenuate malignant progression. For example, resveratrol suppressed human pancreatic cancer cell proliferation by downregulating expression level of Bcl-2 (Ratajczak et al. 2021). Another study showed that resveratrol repressed proliferation and metastasis of pancreatic

cancer cells through inhibiting expression of ryanodine receptor type 2 (RyR2) and increasing phosphatase and tensin homolog (PTEN) expression (Jiang et al. 2022). In addition, resveratrol also showed an anti-proliferative effect on pancreatic cancer cells by promoting ROS production and mitochondrial-dependent apoptosis (Luo et al. 2021). Moreover, resveratrol weakened the malignant progression of pancreatic cancer via inhibiting hypoxia-induced pancreatic stellate cells activation and restraining interplay between pancreatic stellate cells and pancreatic cancer cells (Xiao et al. 2020). An in vivo study showed that resveratrol suppressed vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A), stromal cell-derived factor 1 (SDF-1), interleukin (IL)-6, alpha-smooth muscle actin ( $\alpha$ -SMA) and hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-1 $\alpha$  expression and stromal desmoplastic reaction on pancreatic cancer cells (Xiao et al. 2020).

Resveratrol also could prevent progression of pancreatic cancer by modulating immune system. For instance, resveratrol inhibited immunoreactivity of N-cadherin and TNF- $\alpha$  in CD133+ pancreatic cancer cells (Hoca et al. 2020). In addition, resveratrol prevented the progression of pancreatic precancerous lesions via suppressing the activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway (Qian et al. 2020).

Resveratrol could decrease chemo-resistance of pancreatic cancer cells to gemcitabine, which is commonly used for pancreatic cancer chemotherapy. For example, resveratrol enhanced the sensitivity of gemcitabine in pancreatic cancer cells through inhibiting the expression of sterol regulatory element binding protein 1, which in turn repressed the sphere formation ability and downregulated expression of cancer stem cell (CSC) markers (Zhou et al. 2019). Another study showed that resveratrol improved the sensitivity of pancreatic cancer cells to gemcitabine by promoting cellular ROS accumulation, inducing nuclear factor erythroid 2-related factor 2 (Nrf2) signaling pathway and inhibiting the expression of nutrient-deprivation autophagy factor 1 (NAF-1) (Cheng et al. 2018a).

The combination of resveratrol and other bioactive compounds could enhance the anticancer effects on pancreatic cancer. For instance, capsaicin is an alkaloid which widely exists in hot peppers, and it is commonly used to treat pain and inflammation (Zhang et al. 2020). The combination of resveratrol and capsaicin inhibited cell growth and induced apoptosis of pancreatic cancer cells through increasing ROS production to stimulate the activation of the stress response p38-MAPK (Vendrely et al. 2017).

In short, resveratrol has anticancer effects on pancreatic cancer by inhibiting pancreatic cancer cell proliferation, suppressing metastasis, modulating immune system, and decreasing chemo-resistance of pancreatic cancer cells to gemcitabine. In addition, the combination of resveratrol and capsaicin could enhance the anticancer effects on pancreatic cancer.

### **Prostate cancer**

Prostate cancer is a common cancer of male genitourinary system, and its incidence increases with age (Zaffaroni and

Beretta 2021). Several studies showed that resveratrol could inhibit the prostate cancer cell proliferation through different mechanisms. For instance, resveratrol had anti-proliferation effect in human prostate cancer LNCaP cells via increasing accumulation of nuclear COX-2 and inducing phosphorylation and nuclear translocation of mitogen-activated protein kinase (Cheng et al. 2018b). Furthermore, resveratrol attenuated PC3 prostate cancer cell proliferation by interfering with glucose fermentation and boosting respiration. In addition, resveratrol was observed to inhibit cell viability and proliferation in prostate cancer DU145 and LNCaP cells through upregulating expression of prostate cancer associated transcript 29 (PCAT29) (Al Aameri et al. 2017).

Resveratrol could suppress prostate cancer cell metastasis. For example, resveratrol decreased hepatocyte growth factor (HGF)-mediated interaction between the stroma and epithelium, and suppressed epithelial prostate cancer cell migration via attenuating EMT (Hsieh and Wu 2020). Besides, resveratrol inhibited dihydrotestosterone (DHT)-induced prostate cancer cell metastasis through downregulating expression of androgen receptor (AR), C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4 (CXCR4), p-PI3K, p-AKT and related downstream genes, and upregulating expression of apoptosis-related genes, which was involved in the AR and CXCR4 pathway (Jang et al. 2019). Additionally, resveratrol suppressed proliferation and migration of prostate cancer DU145 and PC3 cells by mediating degradation of TRAF6, and inhibiting of NF- $\kappa$  B pathway to repress EMT (Khusbu et al. 2020).

Several studies showed that resveratrol could induce apoptosis of prostate cancer cell. For example, resveratrol stimulated apoptosis of androgen-independent prostate cancer cells by enhancing dual specificity phosphatase 1 (DUSP1) expression, and inhibiting NF- $\kappa$ B pathway and Cox-2 expression (Martinez-Martinez et al. 2019). Another study showed that resveratrol promoted prostate cancer cell apoptosis through increasing ROS concentration and expression of Bax, hypoxia-inducible factor (HIF)-1 $\alpha$  and p53, and inhibiting expression of Bcl-2 (Wang, Gao, and Zhang 2018). Furthermore, resveratrol reduced expression of AR mRNA and protein to suppress prostate cancer cell proliferation and promote apoptosis through PI3K/AKT signaling pathway (Ye et al. 2020).

Resveratrol could enhance the sensitivity of prostate cancer cells to docetaxel, which is a microtubule-stabilizing agent widely used for treatment of hormonerefractory prostate cancer. However, frequent acquisition of docetaxel resistance is the limitation of docetaxel in long-term treatment of prostate cancer (Barata and Sartor 2019). Resveratrol improved the efficacy of docetaxel on prostate cancer cells through increasing expression of Bax, BID and BAK, and decreasing expression of MCL-1, Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL (Singh et al. 2017). Furthermore, combination of resveratrol and docetaxel induced cell cycle arrest in prostate cancer C4-2B cells via stimulating expression of p53 and suppressing expression of CDK4, cyclin D1, cyclin E1 (Singh et al. 2017).

Resveratrol could weaken resistance of radiotherapy in prostate cancer. For example, resveratrol increased apoptosis of radio-resistant prostate cancer cells via inhibiting repair

of radiation-induced DNA double-strand break and inducing the G2/M arrest (Chen et al. 2017).

In a word, resveratrol could inhibit prostate cancer cell proliferation, suppress prostate cancer cell metastasis, induce apoptosis of prostate cancer cells, and enhance the sensitivity of prostate cancer cells to docetaxel and radiation therapy.

### Lung cancer

Lung cancer is the most cause of cancer deaths (Cao et al. 2019a). Several studies showed that resveratrol could inhibit lung cancer cell proliferation, suppress metastasis and induce apoptosis. For example, resveratrol inhibited proliferation and metastasis of malignant mucinous lung tumor cells by reducing expression of SAM pointed domain containing Ets transcription factor (SPDEF) and mucin 5, including subtypes A and C (MUC5AC) via suppression of ERK and AKT signaling pathways (Lin et al. 2021). Furthermore, resveratrol inhibited non-small-cell lung cancer progression by downregulating expressions of signal transduction and transcription activator 3 (STAT3), HIF-1 $\alpha$ , and VEGF (Wang et al. 2020a). In addition, resveratrol suppressed viability of human small-cell lung cancer (SCLC) H446 cells and induced apoptosis by upregulating cytochrome c expression and downregulating expression of PI3K/AKT/c-Myc signaling pathway components (Li et al. 2020b). Additionally, resveratrol inhibited expression of protein arginine methyltransferase 5 (PRMT5), and decreased AKT/GSK-3- $\beta$  phosphorylation and downstream targets cyclin D1 and E1 expression, which induced apoptosis of human lung cancer cells (Li et al. 2019c).

The other mechanisms of resveratrol against lung cancer have been widely studied. For instance, a clinical trial showed that inhibitory effect of resveratrol on lung cancer was involved in the immune signaling pathway and regulation of *ANPEP*, *CD69*, *ITGAL*, and *PTPRC* expression (Gao and Ren 2021). Another study showed that resveratrol inhibited PD-L1 expression in lung cancer cells through Wnt pathway to suppress T-cell-mediated immune response (Yang et al. 2021b). In addition, resveratrol epigenetically upregulated expression of zinc finger protein 36 (ZFP36) in A549 lung cancer cells by reducing expression of DNA (cytosine-5)-methyltransferase 1 and promoting demethylation of ZFP36 promoter (Fudhaili et al. 2019).

Resveratrol could enhance the sensitivity of lung cancer cells to other chemotherapeutic agents. For example, resveratrol increased anticancer effect of cisplatin in SCLC H446 cells through inducing mitochondrial depolarization, increasing cytochrome c release and apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF) translocation, and regulating the protein levels of Bcl-2, Bcl-xL and Bax (Li et al. 2018). Additionally, tumor necrosis factor-related apoptosis-inducing ligand (TRAIL) is an effective anticancer agent for various cancers and resveratrol enhanced TRAIL-mediated apoptosis and palliated TRAIL resistance in NSCLC by downregulating expression of Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL, and suppressing AKT/NF- $\kappa$  B signaling pathway (Rasheduzzaman, Jeong, and Park 2018).

In brief, resveratrol has anticancer effects on lung cancer and the mechanisms of action mainly include inhibition of lung cancer cell proliferation, suppression of metastasis and inducement of apoptosis. Furthermore, resveratrol could enhance the sensitivity of lung cancer cells to other chemotherapeutic agents, such as cisplatin and TRAIL.

### Gastric cancer

Gastric cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide (Mao et al. 2020). Some studies showed that resveratrol could prevent and treat gastric cancer via different pathways. For example, resveratrol repressed proliferation of human gastric cancer SNU-601 cells by inhibiting proviral integration site for moloney murine leukemia virus (PIM)-1 kinase activity (Kim et al. 2020b). Additionally, resveratrol suppressed growth of MGC-803 cells through downregulating mRNA and protein levels of  $\beta$ -catenin, c-myc, and cyclin D1, and inhibiting the Wnt signaling pathway (Dai et al. 2018). Moreover, resveratrol weakened invasion and migration of human gastric cancer cell line BGC823 by suppressing metastasis-associated lung adenocarcinoma transcript 1 (MALAT1) expression, and inhibiting MALAT1-mediated EMT (Yang et al. 2019). In addition, mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) were closely related to cancer metastasis and resveratrol reversed the pro-metastatic effect of GC-MSCs on gastric cancer cells, through downregulating IL-6, IL-8, MCP-1 and VEGF expression, and inhibiting activation of GC-MSC-induced Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin signaling pathway (Yin et al. 2020). Resveratrol inhibited proliferation, migration and invasive of SGC-7901 cells through downregulation of HIF-1 $\alpha$  protein levels, and suppressed EMT by inhibiting activation of the Hedgehog pathway (Xu et al. 2020b). Moreover, resveratrol suppressed IL-6 induced gastric cancer metastasis and matrix metalloproteinases activation through decreasing Raf/MAPK signaling activation (Yang et al. 2018). Besides, resveratrol induced apoptosis of SGC-7901 cells via increasing levels of cleaved caspase-3 and cleaved caspase-8, decreasing level of Bcl-2, and inhibiting activation of NF- $\kappa$ B signaling pathway (Wu et al. 2018).

Resveratrol could decrease the resistance of gastric cancer cells to other anticancer drugs. For instance, resveratrol enhanced anticancer effects of cisplatin in AGS gastric cancer cells by upregulating levels of cleaved poly-ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP), glucose-regulated protein 78, PRKR-like ER kinase and p-eukaryotic translation initiation factor-2- $\alpha$  (Ren et al. 2020). Additionally, resveratrol reversed the doxorubicin resistance of gastric cancer through suppression of EMT by inhibiting activation of PTEN/AKT signaling pathway (Xu et al. 2017). In addition, resveratrol decreased the multidrug resistance of gastric cancer cells through downregulating mRNA and protein levels of ATP binding cassette subfamily B member 1, Annexin A1 and thioredoxin (Mieszala et al. 2018).

In short, resveratrol could prevent and treat gastric cancer, and the underlying mechanisms mainly involved inhibiting gastric cancer cell proliferation, suppressing metastasis and inducing apoptosis. Moreover, resveratrol could decrease

the resistance of gastric cancer cells to other anticancer drugs, such as cisplatin and doxorubicin.

### Oral cancer

Oral cancer is a common malignant tumor, and a public health problem (Almeida et al. 2021). Resveratrol could prevent and treat oral cancer through inhibition of oral cancer cell proliferation and suppression of metastasis. For example, resveratrol reversed thyroid hormone-induced oral cancer cell proliferation by downregulating expression of cyclin D1, PD-L1 and BTLA, and upregulating expression of BAD in SSC-25 cells and OEC-M1 cells (Lin et al. 2019). In addition, rab coupling protein (RCP) was correlated with cancers cell proliferation and invasion, and resveratrol repressed invasion of RCP-induced oral squamous cell carcinoma (OSCC) by inhibiting expression of RCP-induced Zeb1, and suppressing  $\beta$ 1 integrin endosome recycling and EGFR activation (Kim et al. 2020a). Furthermore, resveratrol inhibited metastasis of OSCC through suppression of EMT by downregulating expression of MT1-MMP (Kim et al. 2020a).

Resveratrol could enhance anticancer effects of other agents in oral cancer treatment. For instance, nano-diamino-tetrac (NDAT) is a tetraiodothyroxine deaminated nano-particulated analog, and resveratrol-NDAT combination treatment synergistically inhibited expression of pro-inflammatory IL-1 $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$ , and suppressing activity of PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint in oral cancer cells (Ho et al. 2020). Furthermore, in the presence of thyroxine, NDAT enhanced anti-proliferation effect of resveratrol in oral cancer cells by inhibiting SATA3 signal transduction pathway (Ho et al. 2020). Additionally, the combination of resveratrol and quercetin led to cell growth inhibition, DNA damage, and S-phase cell cycle arrest in oral cancer cells but not in normal cells (Singh et al. 2020). Moreover, this combination treatment induced apoptosis in oral cancer cells through inducing cleavage of PARP1 and increasing expression of Bax (Singh et al. 2020). In addition, resveratrol promoted autophagy and apoptosis in cisplatin-resistant oral cancer cells through increasing phosphorylation of AMP-activated kinase (AMPK), inhibiting AKT signaling pathway, and upregulating autophagic mRNA gene expression, including Atg5, Atg12, Beclin-1 and LC3-II (Chang et al. 2017).

In a word, resveratrol has anticancer effects on oral cancer, and the related mechanisms mainly include inhibition of oral cancer cell proliferation and suppression of metastasis. In addition, resveratrol could enhance anticancer effects of other agents, such as NDAT, quercetin and cisplatin.

### Thyroid cancer

Thyroid cancer is the most common endocrine malignancy tumor worldwide (Sharifi-Rad et al. 2020). Several studies showed that resveratrol could have an anticancer effect on thyroid cancer through different pathway. For example, resveratrol inhibited the tumorigenesis of follicular thyroid

cancer via upregulating expression of ST6GAL2, and stimulating the Hippo pathway (Xu et al. 2020a). For anaplastic thyroid cancer cells, resveratrol suppressed cell proliferation by increasing PTEN levels and changing sodium/iodide symporter intracellular distribution (Xiong et al. 2020). Additionally, resveratrol inhibited proliferation of anaplastic thyroid cancer cells through decreasing expression level of LIF, and repressing p-STAT3 nuclear translocation (Wu, J. et al., 2020).

Resveratrol could increase the sensitivity of thyroid cancer cells to other anticancer agents. A study showed that resveratrol enhanced the sensitivity of retinoic acid in anaplastic thyroid cancer THJ-11T and UW228-2 cells through upregulating expression of cellular retinoic acid binding protein 2 (CRABP2) and inducing CRABP2 demethylation (Liu, X. et al., 2019). Another study pointed out that resveratrol increased antitumor effect of rapamycin in papillary thyroid cancer by suppressing AKT activation caused by rapamycin, and inhibiting activation of mTOR (Bian et al. 2020).

In short, resveratrol could prevent and treat thyroid cancer, and the mechanisms of action mainly include inhibition of tumorigenesis and thyroid cancer cell proliferation. Moreover, resveratrol could increase the sensitivity of thyroid cancer cells to other anticancer agents, such as retinoic acid and rapamycin.

### **Bladder cancer**

Bladder cancer is a common cancer worldwide (Wu, Q. et al., 2020). Several studies showed resveratrol could prevent and treat bladder cancer through suppression of bladder cancer cell proliferation, inhibition of metastasis and induction of apoptosis. For example, resveratrol suppressed bladder cancer cell proliferation and promoted apoptosis by upregulating mRNA and protein level of PTEN, and downregulating expression of p-AKT (Li et al. 2019b). Additionally, resveratrol inhibited proliferation of bladder cancer cells and induced apoptosis via downregulating genes expression of AKT, mTOR and SRC (Almeida et al. 2019). In addition, resveratrol suppressed migration and invasion of bladder cancer cells by reducing expression and secretion of MMP-2 and MMP-9, and inhibiting phosphorylation of extracellular signal-regulated protein kinase (Bai et al. 2017).

Several studies showed that resveratrol could sensitize bladder cancer cells to anticancer agents, such as adriamycin, rapamycin, gemcitabine. For example, resveratrol decreased adriamycin (ADM) resistance and enhanced cytotoxicity of ADM in ADM-resistant pumc-91 cells through downregulating expression level of multidrug resistance protein 1 (MRP1), LRP, glutathione S-transferase (GST) and Bcl-2, and upregulating expression level of Topo-II (Wang et al. 2017). Additionally, resveratrol induced apoptosis of rapamycin on human bladder cancer cell lines through suppressing rapamycin-induced AKT activation, and inhibiting mTOR pathway (Alayev et al. 2017). Furthermore, resveratrol reduced the drug resistance of T24-GCB cells to gemcitabine (GCB), enhanced cytotoxicity of GCB and suppressed

migration of T24-GCB cells through increasing expression of ABCC2 and cleaved-PARP, and decreasing expression of deoxycytidine kinase (DCK), TK1 and TK2 (Cho et al. 2019).

In short, resveratrol has anticancer effects on bladder cancer, and the mechanisms of action mainly include inhibition of bladder cancer cell proliferation, suppression of metastasis and induction of apoptosis. In addition, resveratrol could enhance the sensitivity of bladder cancer cells to anticancer agents, such as adriamycin, rapamycin and gemcitabine.

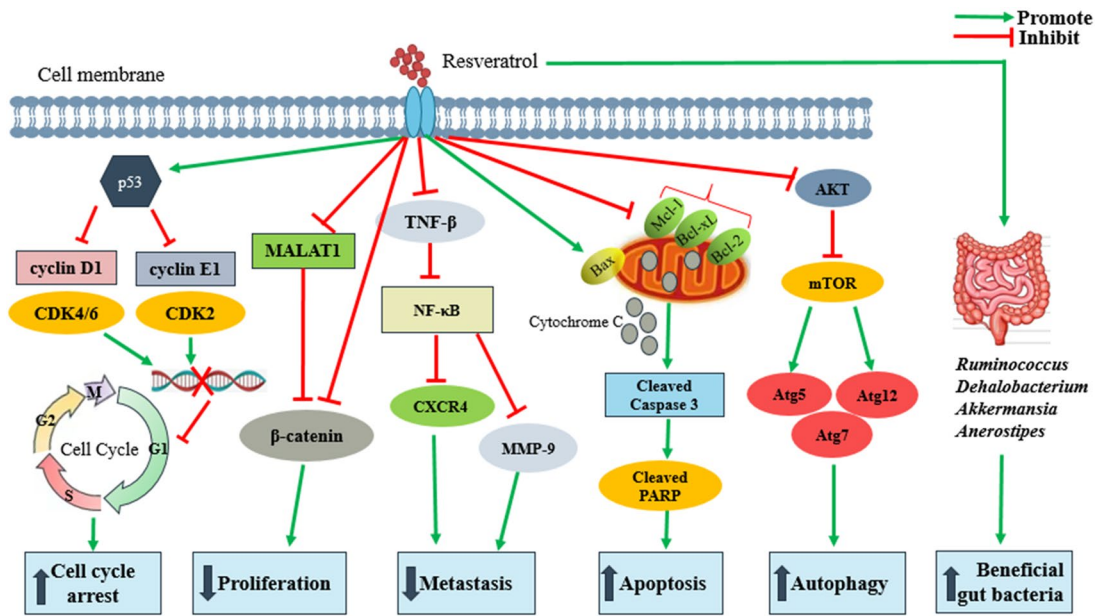
### **Ovarian cancer**

Ovarian cancer is a common cancer in women, and a global public health problem (Wu et al. 2021). Resveratrol could play an important role in prevention and treatment of ovarian cancer through several pathways. For example, resveratrol attenuated proliferation and migration of OV-90 and SKOV-3 cells by decreasing Bcl-2 expression and increasing microRNA-34 expression (Yao et al. 2021). Moreover, resveratrol boosted apoptosis of ovarian cancer cells via downregulating expression levels of galectin-3 and upregulating expression levels of miR-424-3p (El-kott et al. 2019). In addition, IL-6-induced ovarian cancer cell migration was weakened by resveratrol through increasing expression of ARH-I and decreasing expression of STAT3, which was linked to induce cell autophagy at the cell migration front (Ferraresi et al. 2017). Another study showed that resveratrol suppressed ovarian cancer cell proliferation and induced apoptosis in A2780 and SKOV3 ovarian cancer cells via restricting the glycolysis, upregulating expression and activation of AMPK and caspase-3, and downregulating expression and activation of mTOR (Liu et al. 2018). Furthermore, the in vivo study showed that resveratrol inhibited ovarian cancer cell growth and liver metastasis in xenograft mouse model (Liu et al. 2018). Additionally, resveratrol promoted apoptosis of caspase-dependent cells via inhibiting the Notch1 and PTEN/AKT signaling pathway and upregulating ROS generation in human ovarian cancer cells (Kim, Park, and Woo 2019).

In a word, resveratrol could prevent and treat ovarian cancer, and the mechanisms mainly include inhibiting ovarian cancer cell proliferation, suppressing metastasis, inducing apoptosis and stimulating autophagy.

### **Cervical cancer**

Cervical cancer is one of the most dangerous malignant tumors in women (He, Xia, and Li 2021). Several studies showed that resveratrol could have anticancer effects against cervical cancer through different pathways. For example, resveratrol inhibited growth of HeLa cells through decreasing expression level of phospholipid scramblase 1 (PLSCR1) (Zhao et al. 2019). Furthermore, resveratrol suppressed proliferation and metastasis of cervical cancer cells via reducing phosphorylation of STAT3 (Sun et al. 2020). Another study showed that resveratrol suppressed cervical cancer HeLa cells proliferation and enhanced apoptosis via activation and



**Figure 1.** The effects and mechanisms of resveratrol on cancers. Resveratrol could stimulate cancer cells arrest by increasing expression of p53, decreasing expression of cyclin D1, cyclin E1, CDK2 and CDK4, inhibiting specific DNA sequences, and then blocking the G/S transition of the cells. Furthermore, resveratrol inhibited cancer cells proliferation through suppressing expression of metastasis-associated lung adenocarcinoma transcript 1 (MALAT1) and  $\beta$ -catenin. Moreover, resveratrol suppressed cancer cells metastasis via inhibiting the tumor necrosis factor (TNF)- $\beta$  and nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) signaling pathways, and further decreasing expression of C-X-C chemokine receptor type 4 (CXCR4) and matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-9. Additionally, resveratrol induced cancer cells apoptosis by upregulating expression of Bax, downregulating expression of Mcl-1, Bcl-xL and Bcl-2, enhancing cytochrome c release, and then increasing expression of cleaved caspase-3 and cleaved poly-ADP-ribose polymerase (PARP). Resveratrol also stimulated cancer cells autophagy by inhibiting activation of protein kinase B (AKT) and mammalian target of rapamycin (mTOR) signaling pathways, increasing expression of Atg 5, Atg 7, Atg 12. In addition, resveratrol regulated gut microbiota to exert anticancer effects, such as increasing genus level of *Ruminococcus*, *Akkermansia*, *Dehalobacterium* and *Anerostipes*.

nuclear translocation promotion of forkhead box O 3a, which further upregulated expression of Bcl-2 interacting mediator of cell death (Liu et al. 2020). In addition, resveratrol repressed cervical cancer development and induced apoptosis through inhibiting transcription and translation of HPV E6 and E7 genes, and promoting G1/S phase transition arrest (Sun et al. 2021b).

In a word, resveratrol has anticancer effects on cervical cancer, and the underlying mechanisms mainly include suppression of cervical cancer cell proliferation, inhibition of metastasis and inducement of apoptosis.

### Other cancers

In addition to the cancers mentioned above, resveratrol also has the potential to treat other cancers, such as renal, liver, gallbladder, and head and neck cancers. For instance, resveratrol suppressed renal cancer cell proliferation, induced cell apoptosis, and arrested cell cycle via increasing expression of miR-30a-5p (Zhu et al. 2021). Furthermore, resveratrol inhibited proliferation of renal cancer stem cells and promoted apoptosis through decreasing expression of the Sonic hedgehog pathway-related proteins (Sun et al. 2021a). Another study showed that resveratrol had a cytotoxic effect on human gallbladder cancer cells and inhibited cells growth through increasing activation of transglutaminase 2 (Roncoroni et al. 2018). Additionally, an in vivo study showed that resveratrol

inhibited migration of head and neck cancer cells by stimulating mRNA expression of regenerating gene III (Mikami et al. 2019). Moreover, resveratrol enhanced head and neck cancer cells response to cisplatin by inducing apoptosis, upregulating expression of c-MYC and TP53, and downregulating Bcl-2 expression (Bostan et al. 2021). In addition, resveratrol enhanced anticancer effect of paclitaxel on liver cancer HepG2 cells by increasing caspase-3, caspase-8, caspase-9, p53 and p21 expressions, and decreasing mRNA and protein expressions of NF- $\kappa$ B, COX-2 and MMP-2 (Jiang et al. 2017). In conclusion, resveratrol has shown anticancer effects on various cancers, such as breast, colorectal, pancreatic, prostate, lung, gastric, oral, thyroid, bladder and ovarian cancers.

### Anticancer mechanisms of resveratrol

Resveratrol showed anticancer activity against different cancers, and the anticancer mechanisms were summarized below (Figure 1). (1) Resveratrol could arrest cancer cell cycle through increasing expression of p53 and suppressing expression of CDK4, cyclin D1 and cyclin E1. (2) Resveratrol could inhibit cancer cell proliferation by upregulating expression of PCAT29, BAD and PTEN, increasing ROS production, promoting accumulation of nuclear COX-2, inducing phosphorylation and nuclear translocation of mitogen-activated protein kinase, downregulating expression of cyclin D1, PD-L1, BTLA, EZH2 and LIF, inhibiting

p-STAT3 nuclear translocation and PIM-1 kinase activity. (3) Resveratrol could suppress metastasis of cancer cells via increasing expression of E-cadherin, RKIP and regenerating gene III, reducing expression of CXCR4, SPDEF, MALAT1, MCP-1, MMP-2 and MMP-9, reversing the EMT, and modulating AKT/GSK-3- $\beta$ /snail, Wnt/ $\beta$ -catenin and Raf/MAPK signaling pathways. (4) Resveratrol could induce cancer cell apoptosis through decreasing expression of Bcl-2, Bcl-xL, MCL-1, Cox-2, PRMT5 and galectin-3, increasing expression of Bax, BID, BAK, cytochrome c, cleaved caspase-3, cleaved caspase-9 and p53, enhancing ROS production, as well as inhibiting NF- $\kappa$ B, AKT/GSK-3- $\beta$  and mTOR signaling pathways. (5) Resveratrol could stimulate cancer cell autophagy by increasing expression of ARH-I, decreasing expression of STAT3, upregulating autophagic mRNA gene expression Atg5, Atg7, Atg12, Beclin-1 and LC3-II, and modulating AMPK and AKT signaling pathways. (6) Resveratrol could prevent cancers through modulating immune system via inhibiting immunoreactivity of N-cadherin and TNF- $\alpha$ , as well as suppressing PD-L1 expression through Wnt pathway to inhibit T-cell-mediated immune response. (7) Resveratrol could attenuate inflammation through downregulating pro-inflammatory Th1 and Th17 cells, and upregulating anti-inflammatory CD4+ FOXP3+ (Tregs) and CD4+ IL10+ cells. (8) Resveratrol also could regulate gut microbiota to exert anticancer effects, such as increasing genus levels of *Ruminococcus*, *Akkermansia*, *Dehalobacterium* and *Anerostipes*. (9) Resveratrol could enhance sensitivity of chemotherapeutic drugs, such as cisplatin, gemcitabine, cetuximab and doxorubicin, and increase sensitivity of radiotherapy.

## Conclusions and perspectives

Cancer is a severe public health problem in the world. Resveratrol showed anticancer activities against various cancers, such as breast, colorectal, pancreatic, prostate, lung, gastric, oral, thyroid, bladder and ovarian cancers. The potential mechanisms of action mainly include arresting cell cycle, inhibiting cell proliferation, suppressing metastasis, inducing apoptosis, stimulating autophagy, modulating immune system, attenuating inflammation, regulating gut microbiota as well as enhancing the effects of other cancer therapies. Therefore, foods containing resveratrol (such as grape), resveratrol extract (such as the extract from grape skin and seeds), and resveratrol could be developed as the functional food, dietary supplements or auxiliary agents for prevention and management of cancers. In the future, effects of resveratrol on more cancers should be evaluated, and the potential mechanisms should be studied. Additionally, more clinical trials should be carried out to confirm effects of resveratrol on human beings, and the adverse effects should also be observed.

## Author contributions

Conceptualization, S.-X.W., Y.-J.Z., R.-Y.G., and H.-B.L.; Writing—original draft preparation, S.-X.W., R.-G.X., S.-Y.H., D.-D.Z., A.S. (Adila

Saimaiti), C.-N.Z., and A.S. (Ao Shang); Writing—review and editing, Y.-J.Z., R.-Y.G. and H.-B.L.; Supervision, Y.-J.Z., R.-Y.G. and H.-B.L.; Funding acquisition, R.-Y.G. and H.-B.L.

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