



**Semi-Review Article**

# Zinc( II ) Ions Can Modulate Prostate Cancer Suppressive Progression

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**Abstract**

Zinc(II) induced prostate cancer (PCa) suppressive progression with PCa Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 is investigated, subsequently, the zinc-ions binding prostate anti-cancer molecular mechanism is clarified.

At PCa Stage 1, zinc regulates proliferation and growth, apoptogenesis in prostate cancer cells that zinc suppresses the growth of tumor xenografts and the development of normal prostate cancer tumors can be diminished. At PCa Stage 2, zinc suppresses the progression of PCa by proliferation, migration, and invasiveness that zinc is confirmed to function as a tumor suppressor in PCa cells, in which zinc, zinc transporters, and zinc and ZRT- and Irt-like proteins1 (ZIP1) can suppress tumor growth, invasive and migratory tumor malignant cell, and regional lymph nodes in PCa cancer. At PCa Stage 3, metastatic prostate cancer is composed of proliferation, neovascularization, extravasation, and bone or bone marrow metastasis that MAZ regulates PCa bone metastasis, intercellular zinc levels inhibit metastatic and angiogenic malignant cells, and ZMYND8 inhibits tumor angiogenesis.

Zinc induced ROS generation in PCa cell is involved that ROS-mediated oxidative stress on prostate cancer can be modulated by rich antioxidants and accumulated zinc, resulting paclitaxed (PTX) to mitochondrial dysfunction, leading to apoptotic tumor cells.

Zinc coordinated molecular apoptosis mechanism in PCa cells is involved that Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions having Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions-centered tetrahedral geometric coordination pattern bind with each PCa stage tumor proteins, causing Zn<sup>2+</sup> ions-several protein complex formation and apoptosis of PCa cells, leading to molecular apoptosis of prostate cancer tumor cells.

**Keywords:** Zinc(II), PCa proliferation and growth, Invasive and migratory malignant cell, Regional lymph nodes, Bone and bone marrow metastasis, Tumor angiogenesis, ROS and oxidative stress.

**Introduction**

Prostate cancer (PCa) is most common among men that PCa is an aged-related malignancy and has a cellular senescence in man that androgen receptor (AR) target agonist and androgen deprivation therapy (ADT) induced cellular senescence are carried out, the therapy induced senescence-associated secretory phenotype (SASP) of regulation and reduction of tumor growth is performed by tumor

microenvironment [1]. PCa procedure is composed of PCa primary malignant tumor formation and growth within the prostate, malignant tumor proliferation outside the prostate, migration and invasion, and metastasis. Specially, prostatic cancer carcinogenesis occurs in prostatic malignancy, anti-proliferative effect, apoptogenic effect, and invasive and migratory effect [2]. While, zinc(II) ions have important anti-cancer effects for cancer tumor cells of malignant proliferation, local invasion, and metastasis [3]. Zinc acts

as the maintenance of prostate health that zinc suppresses tumor progression and protects DNA integrity in prostate cells, and zinc transporter functions as tumor suppressor [4]. Furthermore, zinc regulates cell proliferation and growth, apoptotic characteristics appearance in prostate tumor cells that zinc has apoptotic effects on the regulation of normal and malignant cell growth and proliferation under physiological of cellular zinc distribution and concentration [5].

In PCa patients, plasma zinc level is mild-moderate disease  $10.49 \pm 2.89 \mu\text{mol/L}$ , severe disease  $7.64 \pm 2.33 \mu\text{mol/L}$ , advanced disease  $6.98 \pm 1.97 \mu\text{mol/L}$  in PCa patients that zinc status in PCa disease is inversely associated with disease grades which to define the disease stage, in which low zinc status influences the severity and progression of PCa disease [6].

The role of angiogenesis in PCa growth and progression is important in angiogenic growth factors in prostate cancer that angiogenesis in PCa tumor growth progression plays an important role of vascular endothelial growth factor A (VEGF-A) in angiogenic prostate cancer and this prostate cancer angiogenesis mechanism should be clarified in order to be elucidated that anti-angiogenesis therapy may be effective in the treatment of PCa [7].

In this semi-review article, zinc(II) induced prostate cancer suppressive development with prostate cancer Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 are investigated, subsequent, the zinc-ions coordinated binding PCa protein molecular apoptosis mechanism is clarified.

## 2. Prostate cancer progressing and development in PCa Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3

Prostate cancer (PCa) process on PCa Stage 1, 2, 3 is considered that Staging of PCa is composed of primary malignant tumor, neovascularisation, local invasion and the migration, regional lymph node, and metastases [8].

### The Staging is as Follows;

**PCa Stage 1 (Malignant tumor formation and proliferation);** Cancer tumor is in half or less half and in more than half of the prostate, without spread outside of the prostate.

**PCa Stage 2 (Local invasion, regional lymph node);** Cancer tumors spread beyond the outer layer of the prostate, but not to lymph nodes.

**PCa Stage 3 (Metastasis, bone metastasis, angiogenesis);** The tumor has spread to nearby tissues, lymph nodes or other organs of the body, beyond the outer layer.

Thus, PCa Stages are thought to be composed of PCa Stage 1 with malignant tumor formation and growth, PCa Stage 2 with local invasion and regional lymph node, and PCa Stage 3 with bone and bone marrow metastasis.

## 3. Zinc Induced Prostate Cancer Initial Stage 1 with Tumor Malignant Cell

At PCa Stage 1, zinc can inhibit proliferation of PCa cell that zinc suppresses the expression androgen receptor (AR) and prostate specific antigen (PSA), AR-mediated transaction in androgen receptor-sufficient (AR(+)) PCa cells, and then  $\text{ZnCl}_2$  ( $0 \sim 300 \mu\text{M}$ ) functions as a negative growth regular for (AR(+)) PCa cells [9]. Zinc concentration ( $100 \sim 1000 \text{ ng/mL}$ ) can inhibit PCa cell growth and prevent the PCa progressing [10].

Zinc suppresses the growth of tumor xenografts and the development of normal prostate that the androgen receptor (AR), the proliferating cell nuclear antigen (PCNA), and proliferation index can be diminished by 10, 20 mg/kg  $\text{ZnCl}_2$ -treated prostate cancer tumors can be diminished [11]. Zinc regulates proliferation and growth, apoptosis in prostate cancer cells that Zinc ( $15 \mu\text{M}$ ) increases the Bax-associated mitochondrial pore forming process and cellular production, and the Bax/Bcl-2 ratio, leading to apoptotic effect [12]. Zinc exist a state of  $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  dyshomeostasis in prostate cell that  $10 \mu\text{M}$   $\text{Zn}^{2+}$  reduces PC3 cell proliferation and induces HIF1 $\alpha$  in normal HK-2 renal tubular cells and PC3 cell survival under oxidative stress [13].

$\text{Zn}^{2+}$  induced coordinations can gain intrinsic stability effects for black phosphorus nanosheets (BPNSs) through chemo-photo thermal therapy [14].

Thus, at PCa Stage 1, zinc can inhibit proliferation PCa cell growth, proliferation, and can prevent PCa progressing.

## 4. Zinc Induced PCa Moderate Stage, Local Invasion and Migration, and Regional Lymph Node

At PCa Stage 2, Zinc has anti-proliferative effects of prostatic malignancy and tumor suppressor, apoptogenic effects, invasive and migratory effects that zinc uptake transporter function as tumor suppressor, and invasive and migratory effects [2]. The significant heterogeneity of lymph node metastasis (LNM) in PCa luminal and interstitial cells contributes to tumor progression and results in tumor microenvironment (TMA) immunosuppression. Malignant cells in LNM were already present in the initial stage of PCa, and the cells with metastatic ability were a specific population in PCa cells, indicating that these luminal cells may have characteristics of strong tumor growth, metastasis, and immune evasion, the heterogeneity of luminal cells, tumor infiltrating immune cells, and fibroblasts contributed to the special TME in metastasis of PCa, which was characterized by high cell growth capacity, high levels of immune suppression [15].

Zinc such as  $50\text{-}150 \mu\text{M}$  zinc acetate and zinc transporters such as ZIP1 protein can suppress the proliferation, migration and invasion of PCa cells that zinc and zinc transporters can inhibit the PSA and uPA activities, the proliferation, the invasion of LNCaP cells and overexpression of ZIP1 reduced cell growth and invasion by Inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B activity, in which the intake of Zinc 15 mg/day may be beneficial for advanced PCa [16]. Zinc has an anti-tumor growth and a cytotoxic effect in prostate malignant cells that the malignant cells evolved with condition that silence ZRT- and Irt-like proteins1 (ZIPs1) expression, and zinc intake (**Zn Ligands** containing  $20 \mu\text{M}$  Zn) increases accumulation of zinc and its cytotoxic effects in PCa regional lymph nodes [17]. Zinc may inhibit

the tumorigenic phenotype and suppresses invasiveness and adherence in PCa cells that physiological concentration of zinc (0.12-0.5 $\mu$ g/ml) suppresses pro-angiogenic and pro-metastatic reduced invasiveness of highly invasive PC-3 cells [18].

Zinc supplementation may be an effective therapy for prostate cancer that suppressive development of malignancy leads to ZIP1 downregulation and a subsequent zinc decrease in prostate cancer and zinc show decreased expression in prostate cancer to suppress invasion and metastatic potential of prostate cancer cells by increasing telomerase activity or suppressing the anti-tumor potential of bisphosphonates [19].

Thus, at PCa Stage 2, zinc suppresses the progression of PCa by proliferation, migration, and invasiveness that zinc is confirmed to function as a tumor suppressor in PCa cells, in which zinc, zinc transporters, and ZIPs1 can suppress tumor growth, invasive and migratory tumor malignant cell, and regional lymph nodes in PCa cancer.

## 5. Zinc Induced PCa Anti-Metastasis Stage with Angiogenesis Inhibition

At PCa Stage 3, metastasis characters are migration accompanying interaction with host immune system, endothelium bonding, transmigration, and metastasis formations, in which local invasion is early steps in metastasis that proliferates and/or coalesces with other metastasized cells to form a micro-metastasis characterization is proliferation, neovascularization and extravasation at the primary site. Then, metastatic prostate cancer in the bone or bone marrow is expressed in both primary tumors and bone metastasis of PCa [20]. Zinc finger protein X-linked (ZFX) inhibits tumor proliferation and metastasis in PCa cells that ZFX expression, as well as the presence of lymph node metastasis and TNM stage, is negatively correlated with post-operative survival, suggesting that high ZFX expression is a risk factor [21]. Myc-associated zinc-finger protein (MAZ) regulates PCa bone metastasis [22].

Intracellular zinc levels can inhibit the angiogenic and metastatic malignant cells through suppressive nuclear factor-kappa B (NF- $\kappa$ B) signaling that progressive growth and metastasis of prostate cancer is mediated by the secretion of angiogenic and metastatic factors, in which the suppressive effect of zinc on the angiogenic and metastatic potentials of PCa cells was not simply attributable to cell death but rather was mediated through the inhibition of specific pathways regulating progression of prostate cancer [18]. Zinc finger MYND-gene type containing 8 (ZMYND8) knockdowns suppressed angiogenesis that ZMYND8 is suitable drug target for inhibition of tumor angiogenesis [23]. Use of zinc supplement 25-40 mg/day may be relatively safe for PCa, while use of 75 mg/day may increase risk of lethal and aggressive PCa [24].

Thus, at PCa Stage 3, metastatic prostate cancer is composed of proliferation, neovascularization, extravasation, and bone or bone marrow metastasis that MAZ regulates PCa bone metastasis, intercellular zinc levels inhibit metastatic and angiogenic malignant cells, and ZMYND8 inhibits tumor angiogenesis.

## 6. Zinc Induced ROS Generation in PCa Cell

Zinc induced NAD(P)H oxidase (NOXs) activation occurring reactive oxygen species (ROS) generation in PCa cell is involved that in role of ROS, a moderate level of ROS guaranteed by redox balance is essential for physiological activities via the activation or inactivation of metabolic enzymes that once the redox status deviates to oxidation, increased ROS can cause oxidative damage, in which zinc regulates signaling pathways, further affecting several cancer facts such as proliferation, angiogenesis, invasion, and metastasis [25]. Zinc increases production of ROS and hydroxyl radicals, resulting in an decrease in mitochondrial aconitase (ACO2) activity, oxidative stress, and apoptosis of prostate cancer cell, and leading to ROS increase and accumulation in PCa cells, in which zinc combined with p53 can increase the antitumor effect, accumulated ROS activity leads of paclitaxel (PTX) to mitochondrial dysfunction, resulting in apoptosis tumor cells [26]. Increased ROS enhance genetic instability, promote cell proliferation, oxidative stress, and alter somatic DNA mutations that ROS-mediated oxidative stress on prostate cancer can be modulated by dietary components rich in antioxidants [27].

Thus, a higher level of ROS in PCa causes inflammation, proliferation, oxidative damage of proteins, lipids, DNA, and RNA, accumulation of DNA damage disrupting genome stability, involving tumorigenesis and tumor progression. ROS-relevant alternation in these cells contributes to inflammation, proliferation, angiogenesis, and metastasis. ROS, as a direct DNA mutagen, activate several oncogenes and inactivate several tumor suppressor genes. ROS, as a common proliferative and apoptotic convergent point, regulate the biological behaviors subtly in terms of different cellular environments.

Accordingly, as mentioned above, zinc(II) induced PCa suppressive progressing with Stage 1 (Malignant formation and proliferation), Stage 2 (Local invasion and regional lymph nodes), and Stage 3 (Bone and bone marrow metastasis with angiogenesis) can be summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Zinc (II) Induced PCa Suppressive Progression with PCa Stages 1~3**

	PCa Stage 1	PCa Stage 2	PCa Stage 3
Zn <sup>2+</sup> ions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malignant tumor growth suppression</li> <li>• Tumor proliferation reduction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppression of local invasion, regional lymph nodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-metastasis</li> <li>• Bone and bone marrow metastasis</li> <li>• Anti-angiogenesis</li> </ul>
Zn <sup>2+</sup> →	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Zn<sup>2+</sup>, ROS</li> <li>• ZnCl<sub>2</sub> (0~300 <math>\mu</math>M); suppresses growth tumor cell</li> <li>• Zn (100~1000 ng/mL); PCa cell growth inhibition, preventive PCa progressing</li> <li>• Zn<sup>2+</sup>10 M reduces PCa cell proliferation, oxidative stress</li> <li>• Zn<sup>2+</sup> concentration (1000 ng/mL); highest PCa growth inhibition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Zn<sup>2+</sup>, ROS</li> <li>• Zn induced invasive and migratory effects</li> <li>• Zn ligands containing 20 <math>\mu</math>M Zn increases accumulation of zinc and cytotoxic effect in regional lymph nodes</li> <li>• Zinc, zinc transporters, and ZIPs1 can suppress tumor growth, invasive and migratory tumor</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Zn<sup>2+</sup>, ROS</li> <li>• ZEX knockdown inhibits PCa cell growth and metastasis</li> <li>• MAZ regulates PCa bone metastasis</li> <li>• Intracellular zinc levels can inhibit metastatic malignant cells through suppressive NF-<math>\kappa</math>B</li> <li>• ZMYND8 promotes anti-angiogenesis</li> </ul>

malignant cell, and regional lymph nodes
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## 7. Zinc Coordinated Molecular Apoptosis Mechanism in PCa cells

Zinc has apoptogenic effects for inflammation, proliferation, invasiveness and migration, metastasis, angiogenesis, and oxidative damage of proteins in PCa cells. These zinc coordinated molecular apoptosis mechanism is involved that  $Zn^{2+}$  ions is liable to bind with each cancer proteins, in which  $Zn^{2+}$  ions having  $Zn^{2+}$  ions-centered tetrahedral geometric coordination pattern bind with each PCa stage cancer tumor proteins, causing  $Zn^{2+}$  ions-several protein complex formation, oxidative stress, and apoptosis of PCa cells, leading to molecular apoptosis of prostate cancer tumor cells.

## Conclusions

Zinc(II) induced prostate cancer suppressive development with prostate cancer Stage 1, Stage 2, and Stage 3 are investigated, subsequent, the zinc-ions binding prostate anti-cancer molecular mechanism is clarified.

At PCa Stage 1, zinc can inhibit proliferation of PCa cell that zinc suppresses the expression androgen receptor (AR) and prostate specific antigen (PSA), AR-mediated transaction in androgen receptor-sufficient (AR(+)) PCa cells.

At PCa Stage 2, zinc suppresses the progression of PCa by proliferation, migration, and invasiveness that zinc is confirmed to function as a tumor suppressor in PCa cells, in which zinc, zinc transporters, and zinc and ZIP1 can suppress tumor growth, invasive and migratory tumor malignant cell, and regional lymph nodes in PCa cancer.

At PCa Stage 3, metastatic prostate cancer is composed of proliferation, neovascularization, extravasation, and bone or bone marrow metastasis that MAZ regulates PCa bone metastasis, intercellular zinc levels inhibit metastatic and angiogenic malignant cells, and ZMYND8 inhibits tumor angiogenesis.

Zinc induced ROS generation in PCa tumor cells is causes inflammation, proliferation and growth, and oxidative stress.

Zinc coordinated molecular apoptosis mechanism is involved that  $Zn^{2+}$  ions having  $Zn^{2+}$  ions-centered tetrahedral geometric coordination pattern bind with each PCa stage cancer tumor proteins, causing  $Zn^{2+}$  ions-several protein complex formation, oxidative stress, and apoptosis of PCa cells, leading to molecular apoptosis of prostate cancer tumor cells.

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