

Cancer Progress Development of Chemopreventive Agents Derived from Food

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Food-derived products are very attractive for development as chemopreventive agents that may find widespread, long-term use in populations at normal risk due to their safety and lack of perception as “medicine.” Several diet-derived treatments are among the more than 40 promising compounds and agent combinations currently being tested in clinical trials as chemopreventive agents for cancers such as breast, prostate, colon, and lung. Green and black tea polyphenols, soy isoflavones, the Bowman-Birk soy protease inhibitor, curcumin, phenethyl isothiocyanate, Sulforaphane, lycopene, indole-3-carbinol, perillyl alcohol, vitamin D, vitamin E, selenium, and calcium are just a few examples. Many food-derived agents are extracts, which contain numerous chemicals or chemical classes. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has recommended co-development of a single or a few suspected

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potential. Another example is the findings of lycopene epidemiologic and molecular investigations.

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