Osteolytic, osteoblastic and mixed bone metastases in a rat model: What are the effects of cancer and its treatment on the bone?

Bone is a preferred site for cancer metastases. Depending on the primary cancer, bone lesions are osteolytic (bone resorbing), osteoblastic (bone forming) or mixed (osteolytic and osteoblastic). Pre-clinical murine models are used to study the effect of metastases on bone quality and properties as well as cancer treatment effects. We have established and extensively studied an osteolytic and mixed osteoblastic/osteolytic metastases model in the rat and recently established an osteoblastic metastases model. The metastases are established by the intra-cardiac injection of 1.5-2.0x10^6 cells (HeLa (human adenocarcinoma cells) cause osteolytic lesions; ACE-1 (canine prostate carcinoma) cause mixed lesions; ZR-75-1 (human breast carcinoma) cause osteoblastic lesions). The development of bone metastases in the appendicular bones and vertebrae takes approximately 2 weeks with the HeLa and ACE-1 cells and around 3-4 months with the ZR-75-1 cell line.

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