

# The Role of DNA Viruses in Human Cancer

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**ABSTRACT:** This review discusses the possible involvement of infections-associated cancers in humans, with virus infections contributing 15% to 20% of total cancer cases in humans. DNA virus encoded proteins interact with host cellular signaling pathways and control proliferation, cell death and genomic integrity viral oncoproteins are known to bind cellular Deubiquitinates (DUBs) such as cyclindromatosis tumor suppressor, ubiquitin-specific proteases 7, 11, 15 and 20, and A-20 to improve their intracellular stability and cellular signaling pathways and finally transformation. Human papillomaviruses (cervical carcinoma, oral cancer and laryngeal cancer); human polyomaviruses (mesotheliomas, brain tumors); Epstein-Barr virus (B-cell lymphoproliferative diseases and nasopharyngeal carcinoma); Kaposi's Sarcoma Herpesvirus (Kaposi's Sarcoma and primary effusion lymphomas); hepatitis B (hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC)) cause up to 20% of malignancies around the world.

**KEYWORDS:** DNA viruses, cancer, oncogenic viruses

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## Introduction

Cancer is a devastating disease which affects people and their families as well as health care systems by 10.9 million new cases and 6.7 million deaths annually.<sup>1</sup> The cell-free transmission of oral dog warts was described by M'Fadyan and Hobday in 1907, and similar findings were published in 1898 by Ciuffo for human warts.<sup>2,3</sup> The Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) discovery from Burkitt's lymphoma (BL) in 1964 and the hepatitis B discovery in human sera in 1970, resulted new studies in the roles of viruses in human cancer.<sup>4</sup> Human papillomavirus (HPV) 16 and 18 DNAs were isolated from human cervical cancer specimens by nucleic acid hybridization.<sup>5</sup> DNA tumor viruses in permissive cells, carried on replication leading to cell lysis and cell death and in nonpermissive cells mostly integrated into the cell chromosomes.<sup>6,7</sup> DNA viruses and other cofactors such as immune suppression and the environment (smoking, drinking, and genetic susceptibility) have effects on the development of viral-associated malignancies.<sup>6,8-10</sup>

## Human Oncogenic DNA Viruses

Carcinogenic process contributed by oncogenic viruses with the association of 15% to 20% viral infection.<sup>11</sup> Oncogenic viruses have used different strategies for evading the host immune response to establish long-term persistent infections.<sup>12-14</sup> Human tumor viruses belong to a number of DNA virus families such as Hepadnaviridae (HBV), Herpesviridae, Papillomaviridae (HPV), human polyomaviruses (HPyV), human herpes virus 8 (HHV8), Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) are involved in various cancers.<sup>15-17</sup> DNA oncogenes of viruses are necessary for replication of the virus and also controlling mammalian cell growth. The retinoblastoma gene product (pRB) is the first cellular tumor suppressor, which

interact with The E2F genes, which play roles in cell cycle progression, which targeted by DNA virus oncoproteins. The second suppressor tumor is p53. These modulations, which are further interpreted in later chapters, eventually cause S-phase induction. Tumor suppressor genes participate in cell growth and mutation in one allele causes great risk for malignancy development (Figure 1).<sup>18-20</sup>

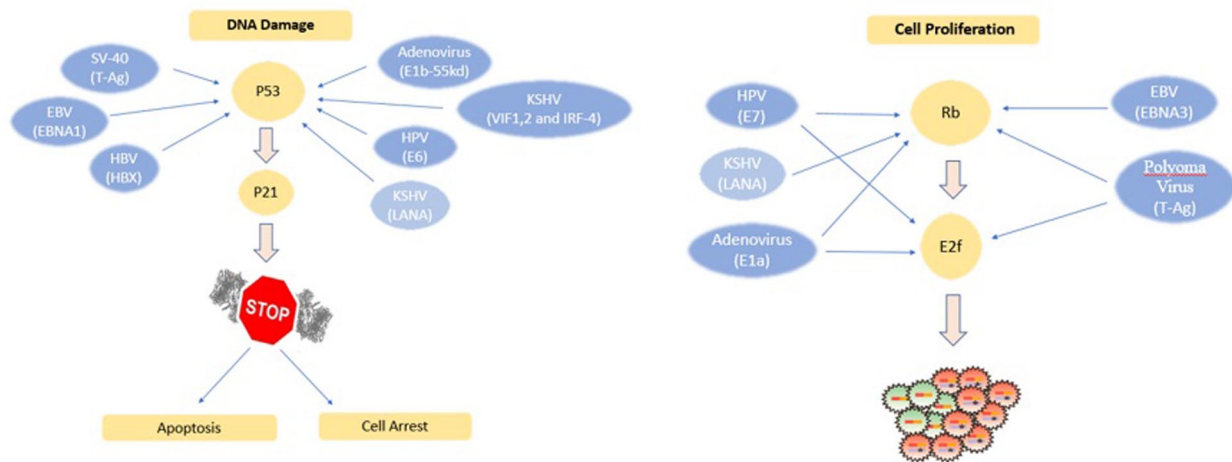
## Oncogenesis

Oncogenic viruses comprise of both DNA and RNA viruses. Virus oncogenes are responsible for encoding the viral proteins that are necessary for the virus to replicate. Oncogenic viruses lead cell transformation and development of malignant tumors.<sup>21</sup> Protooncogenes (c-onc genes) are the cellular genes such as protein kinases, growth factors, growth factor receptors, DNA binding proteins, and their activation with mutation leads to uncontrolled cell growth. Point mutations, deletions, or chromosomal translocations transform C-onc genes into V-onc<sup>22</sup> (Table 1).

We will describe each of the DNA viruses that are involved in cancer development and progression as follows:

*Human papillomavirus (HPV).* The Papillomaviridae family of viruses includes the small, non-enveloped, double-stranded DNA viruses known as Papillomaviruses (PVs). HPV virus is divided into 2 groups: mucosal and cutaneous, with a range of epithelial hyperplastic lesions. It can also be classified into group A and group B, based on the incidence of malignant lesions. In 1842, the Rigoni Stern and colleagues mentioned that cervical cancer and genital warts in women were associated with sexual contacts but the contagious nature of genital





**Figure 1.** Schematic depiction of the effect of some viral oncoproteins on apoptosis, cell arrest, and cell proliferation.

**Table 1.** DNA virus oncoproteins and cellular protein interactions.

VIRUS	VIRAL ONCOPROTEIN	CELLULAR TARGETS
SV40	Large T-antigen	P53, pRb
	Small antigen	PP2A
HPV	E6	P53 via E6AP, DLG, MAGI-1, MUPP1
	E7	pRb
Adeno	E1A	pRb
	E1B-55K	P53
Adeno9	E4ORF1	DLG, MAGI-1, MUPP1
BPV	E5	PDGF $\beta$ receptor
HBV	HBx	P53, DDB1
Polyma	Large T-antigen	pRb
	Middle T-antigen	c-Src, PI3-k, PLC- $\gamma$ , Shc
	Small T-antigen	PP2A

Abbreviations: Adeno, adenovirus; BPV, bovine papillomavirus; PDGF, platelet-derived growth factor; PI3-K, phosphatidylinositol-3; PLC- $\gamma$ , phospholipase C- $\gamma$ ; Polyoma, polyomavirus; PP2A, protein phosphatase 2A.

warts were not recognized until 1907 when Ciuffo observed the transmission of warts using cell-free extracts.<sup>23-25</sup> Based on the consistency of their association with cervical and anal cancer, the high-risk strains HPV-16, HPV-18, HPV-31, and HPV-45 are also found in these cancers.<sup>26</sup> HPV virus does not have a polymerase gene so the replication of the viral genome depends on the stimulation of cellular DNA synthesis. As low-risk HPV, strains 5 and 8 may be associated genetically skin disease and epidermodysplasia verruciformis (EV). More recent studies have revealed that HPV5 and 8 in immunocompromised patients might contribute to the development of non-melanoma skin cancers (NMSC).<sup>27</sup> The HPV 6 and 11

as low-risk mucosal HPVs, make genital warts.<sup>28</sup> The incidence of cervical carcinoma is about 400 000 patients per year in worldwide. About 85% of invasive squamous cell cancers are caused by HPV 31, 33, 35, and 51, as well as HPV 16 and 18 less commonly. HPV 16 and 18 and less commonly, HPV 31, 33, 35, and 51 are found in about 85% of invasive squamous cell cancers.<sup>29,30</sup>

Some papilloma proteins have oncoprotein proteins such as the carboxyl terminal of E2 proteins binds to consensus sequences within the regulatory region. A short E2R protein has homology to the c-mos proto-oncogene.<sup>31</sup> Like c-mos, the E2R represses the transcription when it binds to regulatory sequences. Full-length E2 proteins, trans activates by binding to the sequences in the NCR. E4 early is the major extractable viral protein in warts. It is thought to be involved in viral maturation and is therefore probably a late protein. In BPV-1, the E5 protein as a transforming protein has not been identified in human infections. The repetitive cys-X-X-cys motifs in the E6 and E7 proteins resemble zinc fingers that important for secondary structure formation and necessary for splicing and DNA. Full-length E6 and a shorten E6 transcripts have been shown in HPV 16 and 18, but not in HPV 6 or 11. The shorten E6 is produced by splice/donor acceptor sites within the E6 gene. Shorten E6 is the most abundant transcript in vitro but has not been detected in vivo. The E7 protein maintains the number of DNA copies in the establishment phase of plasmid replication.<sup>31,32</sup> It has been shown that HPV-16 and 18 -genome and the BPV-1 E5 and E6 proteins can be capable of transforming immortalized cells and immortalizing primary cells and Focus formation is not seen with HPV 6 or 11, which are associated with benign proliferations.<sup>33</sup> Crook et al indicated that The proteins were expressed and the cells doubled in number if the E7 gene was under the control of a hormone-inducible promoter, but when the hormone was absent the E7 protein wasn't expressed and the cells grew. The HPV E7 protein is structurally and functionally similar to the adeno virus

E1 A protein. It can transactivate the adenovirus E2 promoter and RAS oncogene to induce transformation of primary cells.<sup>34</sup>

Persistent expression of E6 and E7 is important for maintenance of the transformed phenotype of cervical carcinoma cells. E6 and E7 can immortalize cells and induce skin tumors. Among these, E6 binds p53 and causes its degradation, whereas E7 binds retinoblastoma family members. Both actions lead to inhibition of apoptosis. E6 can bind to an ubiquitin ligase, AP proteins. Moreover, E6 can stimulate telomerase activity and immortalize cells and it interacts with PDZ domains which are located in tight junctions of epithelial cells. The E6 proteins of cutaneous HPV can degrade the proapoptotic Bcl-2 family member and Bak. Bak plays an important role in signaling apoptosis in response to UV irradiation.<sup>35,36</sup> E7 inactivates INK-4A, which is ordinarily upregulated when E2F is released and it can induce cyclins A and E and inactivates the cyclin-dependent kinase inhibitors. E7 binds to the hypo-phosphorylated form of Rb and blocks it from binding to the transcription factor E2F. In addition, E7 inactivates the cyclin dependent kinase inhibitors p21/WAF1 and p27/KIP1 by inducing cyclin-A and cyclin dependent kinase activity. E7 can also cause abnormal centriole synthesis and aneuploidy early in the oncogenic process.<sup>37-39</sup> Wang et al showed that E7 elevates levels of c-Myc in murine C127 cells infected with bovine papillomavirus type 1 and E7 increases c-Myc binding to the hTERT promoter, E6 and E7 can increase transcription from TERT promoters in a synergistic manner.<sup>40,41</sup> Early protein 5 (E5) can affect receptor tyrosine kinases by associating with the cell membrane. HPV DNA has been reported to be found in human breast milk, indicating that the virus can certainly infect and accumulate in breast tissue,<sup>42,43</sup> while some studies<sup>44,45</sup> indicated that HPV DNA was not found in breast milk. Understanding how breast milk is infected with HPV and clarifying the effect of this infection on HPV transmission and its possible involvement in HPV-induced carcinogenesis are still unknown, but there are potent suggestions to explain how breast milk is infected. The oral HPV positivity of the father was significantly associated with the breast milk HPV positivity already at the baseline and remained significant. Importantly, this association of breast milk-to-spouse oral HPV showed a feasible temporal relationship supporting the view that breast milk is the vehicle for vertical HPV transmission.<sup>42</sup>

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women worldwide but it has become less in the United States because the Pap test has been widely available for many years (Figure 2).<sup>2</sup>

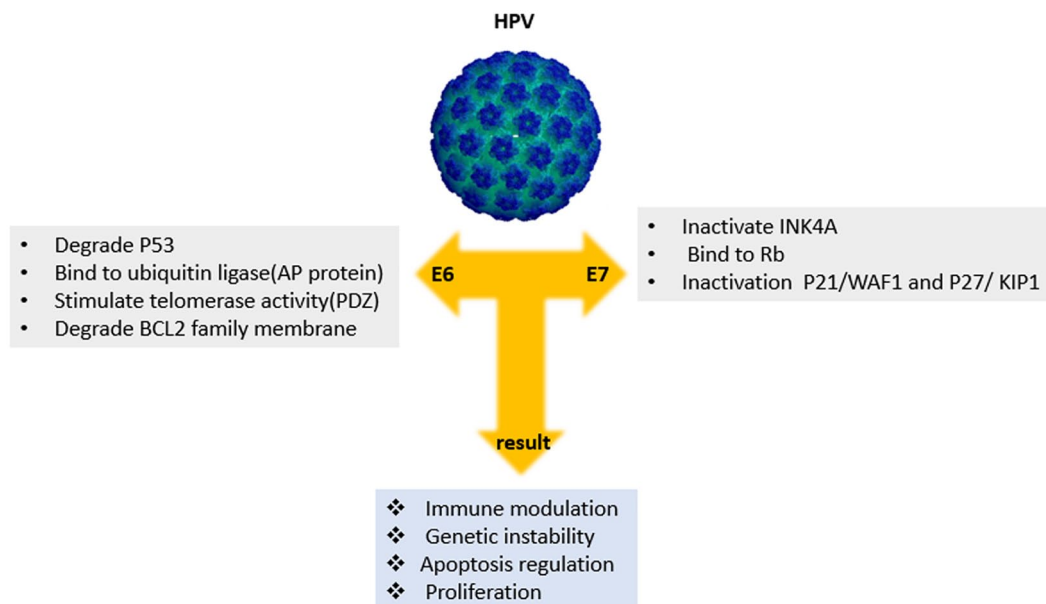
High-risk HPV infection is related with activated expression of the Id-1 transcription factor (a family of helix-loop-helix transcription factors) in aggressive breast cancer tissues, and suggests that the virus can induce cell invasion and metastasis via Id-1.<sup>46</sup> Frega et al did not observe expression of E6 and E7 in HPV-positive breast cancer tissues but Dimri et al were able to immortalize human mammary

epithelial cells in culture using E6 and E7 oncogenes.<sup>47,48</sup> There is an association between c-Myc and HPV 16 and 18 infections in which, over expression of c-MYC gene is a signature of breast cancers. It was reported that HPV 16 and 18 integrates its genome near c-myc in cervical carcinoma and activates c-Myc.<sup>49</sup>

It is also possible that sex hormones can activate latent viruses. Aceto et al showed that some regions in the HPV genome control region (LCR) are targets of steroid hormones that increase the expression of E6 and E7 of high-risk HPVs. Poor T cell responses may lose to clear HPV infected cells. AIDS patients, renal transplant patients receiving immunosuppressive therapy, and individuals with T cell deficiencies have increased rates of HPV persistence, anogenital lesions and cervical cancers.<sup>41</sup> There is no treatment for HPV other than destroying infected cells. But in most people, the body's immune system can control the HPV infection. The development of a promising papillomavirus vaccine against cervical cancer based on HPV-16 L1 capsid protein has been a prominent development in the papillomavirus field. In recent years, vaccines have been developed against high-risk HPV, such as Gardasil, which is produced by Merck Sharp & Dohme and Cervarix, which is produced by GlaxoSmithKline. Vaccines that prevent high risk HPVs consist of recombinant L1 proteins that form virus-like particles (VLPs).<sup>40,41</sup> Epidermodysplasia verruciformis is a hereditary disease infecting the skin linked to chronic HPV infection and also genetic predisposition play a part in cervical cancer. Anal cancer by HPV is more frequent in HIV-infected persons with immunodeficiency which increases the risk of high-grade cervical dysplasia and cancer.<sup>50</sup> Smoking is associated with tobacco carcinogen accumulation in cervical mucus.<sup>51</sup> Sunlight and genetic are cofactors for skin carcinomas caused by HPV5 and 8 in patients. Chronic immunosuppression increases the risk cervical dysplasia and cancer.<sup>52</sup>

*Hepatitis B virus (HBV)*. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) is in the family of viruses called Hepadnaviridae, and belongs to the genus Orthohepadnavirus. Over 400 million people worldwide are chronic carriers of HBV and the most of infections are asymptomatic and the non-cytopathic.<sup>53,54</sup>

HBV will develop chronic active hepatitis (CAH) which can lead to cirrhosis, liver failure and HCC<sup>69,72</sup> CAH is introduced by liver cell necrosis, inflammation, fibrosis, and it leads to HCC which is a regeneration of hepatocytes. The necrosis may lead to the accumulation of mutations.<sup>55,56</sup> HBV DNA integration into the host chromosome is not necessary for viral replication, but it allow for persistence of the viral genome. Integrated HBV genomes can be found in the host chromosome of CAH and HCC patients. Transpositions of viral sequences, chromosomal deletions, and proto-oncogene activation may result from this integration.<sup>57-59</sup> HBV DNA integration takes place at multiple sites on various chromosomes at early stages in acute infection and the integration



**Figure 2.** Schematic depiction of the major biological activities that contribute to the transforming activities of high-risk mucosal HPVs.

sites have been mapped in the HBV genome within the “cohesive ends” region. Fifteen of 22 cellular genes targeted by HBV were important regulators of cell proliferation and viability including integration into the hTERT gene encoding the catalytic subunit of telomerase. The spliced HBV RNA can be reverse-transcribed and encapsidated in defective HBV particles or expressed as HBSP. The HBSP promotes apoptosis without blocking cell cycle, and a significant proportion of chronic hepatitis patients have HBSP antibodies in their serum.<sup>60</sup>

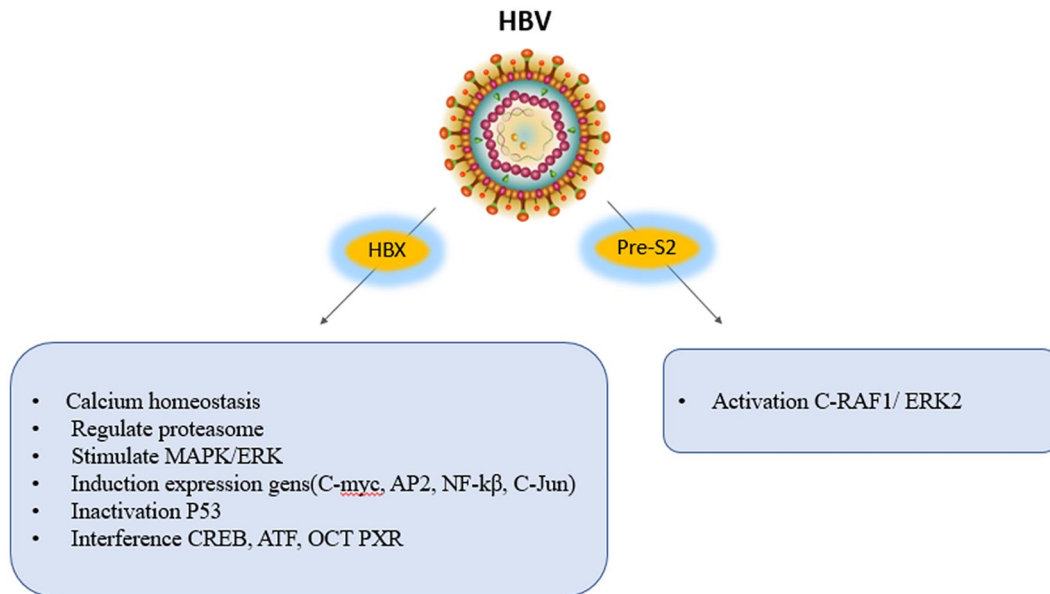
The HBVX protein (HBx) and envelope PreS2/S viral proteins are expressed in the majority of HCC tumor cells. HBx is a 154 amino acid regulatory protein plays an important role in the viral life cycle. The expression of HBx is prolonged in all stages of carcinogenesis, including in cells with integrated HBV genomes. HBx stimulates signal transduction MAPK/ERK pathways and induces the expression of genes TATA binding protein, NF- $\kappa$ B, c-Jun, c-Myc, Ap-2, AP-1, RPB5 subunit of RNA polymerase II. HBx has some effects on NF- $\kappa$ B and AP-1 by activating protein kinase C. The HBx protein inactivates p53 and interacts with the DNA repairing protein DDB1, which may affect repair functions and allow genetic changes.<sup>61,62</sup> HBx protein can affect cytosolic proteasome function and MHC expression and leads proteasome degradation in MHC function. HBx influences intracellular calcium mobilization By activating calcium-dependent kinases, which can affect multiple cell regulatory pathways such as NF- $\kappa$ B activation. This protein interacts and interferes with several transcription factors including CREB, ATF, EGR1, OCT1 RXR, and the p53 tumor suppressor, all of which may participate in HCC progression.<sup>63-65</sup> Second group of regulatory proteins (PreS2) is derived from the HBV surface gene ORF. PreS2 enhances COX-2 and cyclin-A and induces cell cycle progression. It has been shown that transgenic mice

expressing MHBs in the liver have increased hepatocyte proliferation rate and an increased occurrence of liver tumors. The preS2 protein activates c-Raf-1/Erk2 signaling and increases proliferation rate of hepatocytes (Figure 3).<sup>66,67</sup>

In the late 1970s, an HBV vaccine was developed to prevent the spread of HBV infection and the progression of HBV-associated HCC. A number of HBV vaccines are available including Enderix-B R (GlaxoSmithKline), Shanvac-B R (Shantha Biotech), and Genevac BTM (Serum Institute). HBV vaccine as a recombinant subunit vaccine has had a remarkable public health impact.<sup>68</sup>

*Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).* EBV is a double-stranded DNA virus classified in  $\gamma$ -herpesviruses subfamily and Lymphocryptovirus (LCV) genus. EBV, also known as human herpes virus 4 (HHV-4), and more than 95% of the population in Worldwide is infected with EBV.<sup>69</sup> Denis Burkitt revealed a childhood B-cell malignancy in Uganda in 1958, now known as Burkitt’s lymphoma.<sup>70</sup> In 1965, Tony Epstein and Yvonne Barr identified herpesvirus particle and was named the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV).<sup>71</sup> The EBV infection occurs without symptoms during childhood and post adolescent infection results in mononucleosis, a self-limiting lymphoproliferative disease. EBV can cause Burkitt’s lymphoma, nasopharyngeal carcinomas, Hodgkin’s lymphoma, post-transplantation lymphoproliferative disease, B-cell lymphoma in immunocompromised patients, gastric carcinoma, pharyngeal epithelium infection, and transform lymphocytes to an immortal phenotype. EBV also is found in tongue lesion known as hairy cell leukoplaki that is common in individuals that are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus. EBV also associated lymphoproliferative diseases may develop in organ-transplant recipients, patients with AIDS, X-linked lymphoproliferative syndrome, and Wiscott-Aldrich syndrome.<sup>72,73</sup>



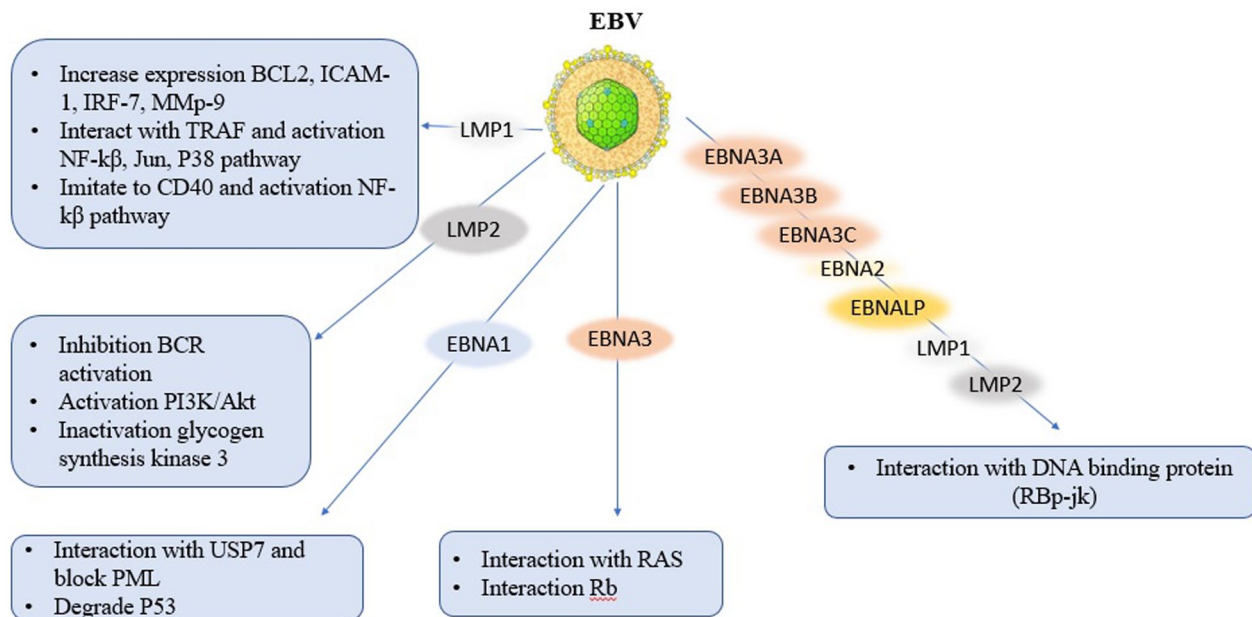


**Figure 3.** Schematic depiction of the major biological activities that contribute to the transforming activities of HBV.

EBV infects B lymphocytes and oral epithelium in the oral pharynx become latently infected and circularization form via Terminal Repeats (TR). Those infected B lymphocytes resemble antigen activated B cells and the gene expression in these cells is restricted to a B cell growth program, termed Latency III, that includes LMP-1, LMP-2a/b, EBNA1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, LP, miRNAs, BARTs, and EBERs.<sup>74,75</sup> These cells are killed by immune response to EBNA3 proteins, resulting in Latency I, a reservoir of latently infected resting memory B cells expressing only EBNA-1 and LMP-2.<sup>76</sup> Some viral oncoprotein such as LMP-1 can transform cells like rodent fibroblasts and is necessary for B cells immortalization that can increase the expression of numerous anti-apoptotic (bcl-2), adhesion genes (ICAM-1). In cells expressing LMP1, the intermembrane domains and carboxyl terminal interact with several tumor necrosis factor receptors associated factors (TRAFs) to activate NF-κB, Jun, and p38. The LMP-1 receptor has the ability to mimic CD40 to activate NF-κB, the LMP-2 receptor mimics the B antigen receptor, and EBNA-2, LP, 3A, 3B, and 3C receptors are components of activated Notch.<sup>77-79</sup> All these pathways are active and cause proliferation in normal cell cycle. Another viral oncoprotein is LMP-2. It phosphorylated by the cellular tyrosine kinases such as fyn and lyn. LMP-2 separates Fyn and Lyn in the Src family and prevents its translocation into lipid rafts with BCR and inhibits its activation. Also, LMP-2 interacts with Lyn and Syk to mimic B cell receptor (BCR) signaling, including activation of the PI3K/AKT survival pathway. LMP-2 inhibits differentiation in epithelial cells and induces cell proliferation through activation of PI-3 kinase and Akt activation and inactivates glycogen synthase kinase-3 leading to increased cytoplasmic and nuclear catenin signaling which is an important pathway in carcinoma.<sup>80</sup> Like LMP-1, EBNA-2 is essential for B-cell transformation and can immortalize B lymphocytes. EBNA-2 with EBNA-LP is transcriptional activator of both cellular and viral genes and are essential

for B cell transformation. EBNA-3A, 3B, and 3C are hydrophilic nuclear transcriptional regulators. EBNA-3A and EBNA-3C are necessary for B cell transformation in vitro, whereas EBNA-3B is inessential. All 3 EBNA-3 proteins can interact with EBNA-2 activation by blocking its interaction with the DNA-binding protein RBP-Jκ, thereby suppressing EBNA-2 mediated trans-activation. EBNA-3C can cooperate with the proto-oncogene Ras to immortalize and transform rodent fibroblasts. It can interact with the Rb tumor suppressor protein and promotes tumor progression.<sup>81</sup> Binding of the EBNA-1 oncoprotein to the family of repeats (FR) on Ori-P leads the replication of episomal viral DNA in the latently infected cells. EBNA-1 blocks PML aggregation in nucleus by interaction with USP-7 and separation of USP-7 to Ori-P in the cytoplasm. At Ori-P, USP-7 deubiquitinates the monoubiquitinated H2B leading to the transcriptional activation of FR-controlled LMP-1 and Cp promoter necessary for the virus life cycle. EBNA-1 by binding to the N-terminal of TRAF-like domain of USP-7, also threatens the stability of p53 leading to proliferation of EBV infected cells (Figure 4).<sup>82,83</sup> Environmental and genetic factors are important for EBV infections. For example, Tumor-promoting chemicals in salted fish and other food products in Southern China can be helpful for neoplastic process. In the case of BL, the incidence of malarial infection in certain regions of Africa results in an expansion of the germinal centers.<sup>84</sup> The major surface glycoprotein, gp-350/220, binds to the CD-21 receptor on B cells. Most of the vaccine researches have been done on gp350/220 subunit vaccines, since it is one of the most abundant proteins on the virus coat and also the protein which the human neutralizing antibody response against it. However, there is no vaccine to prevent EBV infection.<sup>96-98</sup>

*Polyomaviruses.* Polyoma virus is a non-enveloped, small double-stranded DNA and classified in Polyomaviridae family



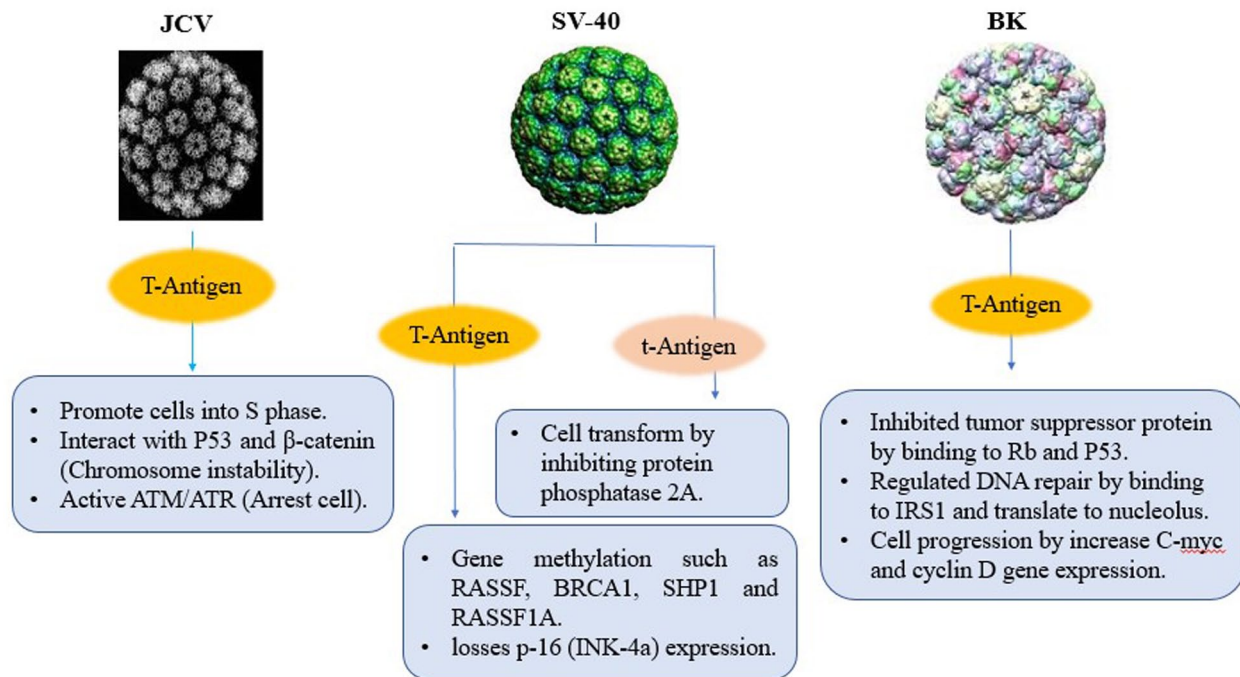
**Figure 4.** Schematic depiction of the major biological activities that contribute to the transforming activities of EBV.

which is a group of viruses that have been discovered in humans, monkeys, rodents and birds. In 1971, two human polyomaviruses (BKV and JCV) are isolated from patients with progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy (PML) and renal transplant patient.<sup>85-87</sup> B-cell neoplasms and colon cancers have also been linked to JCV, as well as human fetal glial cells and primary hamster brain cells. From 85 tumors of glial origin, 57% to 83% of glial tumors were positive for JCV DNA and expression of viral T-Ag depending on tumor type. Because polyomavirus genomes do not encode replication proteins, it must promote cells into S-phase whenever host replication proteins are made. JCV large T-antigen affects wild type p53, stabilizes  $\beta$ -catenin and causes chromosomal instability and also it activates ATM- and ATR-mediated G2 checkpoint pathways and causes G2 cell cycle arrest.<sup>88,89</sup> In rhesus monkey, SV40 establishes a low-level infection and persists in the kidneys without any noticeable effects. SV40 replicates in rhesus monkeys without producing lesions and also can replicate in human diploid fibroblasts and transform them. It has been shown that SV40 is closely associated with mesothelioma, an aggressive cancer of mesothelial cells as well as brain, lung, colon, breast and prostate tumors, bone cancers, and lymphomas. A recent study links SV40 to non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, some brain tumors, and osteosarcomas. No human neoplasms have been related to SV40 infection, but the ability to induce tumors in animal models.<sup>90</sup> SV40 large T antigen, harboring potent oncogenic activity. Transgenic Mice and rat expressing SV40 T/t-antigen in mammary epithelium progress invasive and metastatic cancers. SV40 large T-antigen has an Rb-binding domain which alters gene expression and losses p-16 (INK-4a) expression. Moreover, RASSF-1A, SHP-1, BRCA-1, and TIMP-3 methylation have been reported higher in SV40-positive cases, with higher levels of P53 protein. Small T-Ag of

SV40 can transform cells by binding and inhibiting protein phosphatase 2A. It has been proposed that Polyomavirus Agno protein also binds directly to p53 and represses it.<sup>91-93</sup>

BKV persistently infects epithelial cells in the urinary tract and have linked to prostate cancer. Large T-antigen and small t-antigen push the host cell into the cell cycle. Rb and p53-binding domains are present in large T-antigens, which inhibit the function of these tumor suppressor proteins. As a result, E2F transcription factor releases from Rb suppression and activates cyclin promoters. Moreover, the interaction of large T-antigen with p53 blocks its apoptotic function and the activation of inhibitors of the cellular cyclins prevented. Besides pRb and p53 regulation, large T-Ag can bind to insulin receptor substrate 1 (IRS-1) and make it translocated to the nucleus where it regulates Rad-51 and homologous recombination-directed DNA repair. Also, large T-Ag can bind to catenin to translocate it to the nucleus where it increases the expression of genes such as c-myc and cyclin D1.<sup>94,95</sup> Small T-antigen cooperates with large T-antigen in the transformation of differentiated cells and also can develop demyelinating disease, adrenal neuroblastomas and neural tumors (Figure 5).<sup>96,97</sup>

*Merkel cell polyomavirus (MCV or MCPyV).* Merkel cell polyoma virus (MCV or MCPyV) is one of human oncoviruses that has been classified in polyomaviridae family and orthopolyomavirus genus and belongs to the murine polyomavirus group. In 1972, Merkel cell carcinoma was described by Cyril Toker as a highly aggressive type of skin cancer in older individuals, called neuroectodermal tumor. MCV is an oncogenic virus and causes Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC), a highly aggressive cancer and approximately 80% of MCC patients have the integrated genome of MCV. The MCV encodes large T-antigen, small T-antigen, VP1, and VP2/3 genes. From



**Figure 5.** Schematic depiction of the major biological activities that contribute to the transforming activities of Polyomaviruses.

them, the T-antigen of MCV has been known as oncoproteins and expressed in human tumor. Both large and small T-antigen oncoproteins are needed to transform cells into cancer cells by targeting tumor suppressor proteins, such as retinoblastoma protein. MCV small T-antigen transforms cells in vitro by cap-dependent translation.<sup>98,99</sup>

**Adenoviruses.** Adenoviruses are viruses with a double-stranded DNA genome and a icosahedral nucleocapsid and without enveloped. In 1953 initial isolation of adenovirus from human adenoids was discovered. More than 50 different adenovirus serotypes be divided into 6 species, designated A to F.<sup>100</sup> Adenovirus is a member of Adenoviridae family and cause lytic and persistent infection in a range of mammalian and avian hosts. Adenoviruses can be routinely isolated from the mouth and some groups of adenoviruses can transform cells and can induce tumors in newborn rodents. An adenovirus has 2 stages of its life cycle: the early stage, the late stage and the viral DNA replication separates the early and late phases. The early genes express non-structural, regulatory proteins to change the expression of host proteins to activate virus genes and to avoid viral inactivation by the host-immune defenses such as blockage of apoptosis, interferon activity and MHC class I translocation and expression. Although adenovirus is not thought to cause cancer in humans, its early gene products are particularly effective at transforming mammalian cells in vitro.<sup>101</sup> Some adenoviruses can transform cells using their early gene products. The adenoviral takes cells into S-phase by E1A gene which is responsible for inactivation of several proteins, including retinoblastoma. The adenovirus prevents apoptosis by E1B-55kDa cooperating with E4ORF-6, to inactivate p53.<sup>102,103</sup>

*Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus (KSHV).* Human herpes virus 8 (HHV8), also known as KSHV, is a DNA double-stranded classified in rhadinovirus genus and  $\gamma$ -herpesvirus subfamily. The viral genome codes for more than 80 open reading frames (ORFs). In 1872, Moritz Kaposi described Kaposi's sarcoma as an Angio proliferative tumor developing in connective tissues typically under the skin. KSHV transforms endothelial cells and related with KS, primary effusion lymphomas (PELs), and multicentric Castelman's disease (MCD).<sup>104,105</sup>

KS is a slow growing cancer that appears as reddish-purple or blue-brown tumors just underneath the skin. KS exists in central Africa and the Middle East.<sup>106,107</sup> KS lesions can be fatal if they develop in internal organs such as the lungs, liver or gastrointestinal tract.<sup>108</sup> The KSHV malignancy mediated by latently expressed viral proteins together with a mechanism that is exerted by the lytically expressed v-cytokines and viral G-protein coupled receptor (vGPCR). As an Angio proliferative disease, KS uses angiogenic factors, endothelial cell (EC) growth factors, and proinflammatory cytokines including viral factors such as vIL-6, vCCL-1, 2, 3, and viral G-protein-coupled receptor (vGPCR). VEGF is stimulated by vIL-6 and promotes angiogenesis.<sup>109</sup> Latency expressed KSHV proteins such as the latency associated antigen (LANA, ORF-73), viral cyclin (v-cyclin, ORF-72), viral FLICE inhibitory protein (vFLIP, ORF-71), viral interferon regulatory factor 1 (vIRF-1), and the Kaposin/K-12 gene can promote cell proliferation and cellular transformation. The main function of LANA is induction of cellular proliferation and v-cyclin activates cell cycle progression vFLIP and vIRF-3 mediate pro-survival signaling and kaposins enhances cytokine expression and cell growth.<sup>110-113</sup>



There are also 2 signaling membrane proteins involved in KSHV malignancy, the variable ITAM-containing protein (VIP) and the latency associated membrane protein (LAMP). When VIP encoded by the K1 ORF injected in to nude mice induces multiple tumors and can transform rodent fibroblasts, which K1 can induce B-cell signaling and proliferation through its immune receptor tyrosine-based activation motif (ITAM) and by blocking Fas induced apoptosis of these cells. Furthermore, K1 can activate the NF- $\kappa$ B and PI3K pathways. VIP can induce angiogenic factors and inflammatory cytokines. The KSHV K3 and K5 proteins, MIR1 and MIR2, blocks MHC I expression, so reduces viral antigen presentation. LAMP encoded by the K15 ORF, shows mitogenic and survival signaling by Src family kinases and NF- $\kappa$ B activation and leads to cell survival via interaction with the Bcl-2 related anti-apoptotic protein HAX-1.<sup>114,115</sup> Viral (vFlip) is a homolog of the human FLICE inhibitory protein, acts as an inhibitor for procaspase 8 activation during FasL activated apoptosis. vFlip can also induce the IKK complex leading to NF- $\kappa$ B activation, a process that has a key role in the survival of PEL cells. vFlip is expressed in latent KS infection in spindle cells and it is an ideal candidate for the growth-promoting role of KSHV. LANA blocks some cellular pathways involving the tumor suppressors like pRb and p53. LANA can help with H-Ras to transform fibroblasts and also interacts with GSK3b, leading to cytoplasmatic and nuclear b-catenin accumulation and abnormal c-Myc stabilization. Kaposin B, encoded by KSHV latent gene K12, has the potential to cooperate with the major latent gene to induce sarcomagenesis, as its gene product binds and activates MK2 and thus could stabilize mRNAs containing ARE sequences in their 3' UTRs, many of which are suspected to have a role in KS, such as IL-8 or TNF- $\alpha$ .<sup>112,116</sup> KSHV miRNAs regulate gene expression by mediating post transcriptional target specific RNA interference. It has been identified that 17 distinct miRNAs encoded by 12 miRNA genes are present in the latency associated transcript, but they are not required for viral replication. Viral Bcl-2 blocks apoptosis in diverse cellular systems as effectively as do Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL.<sup>117</sup>

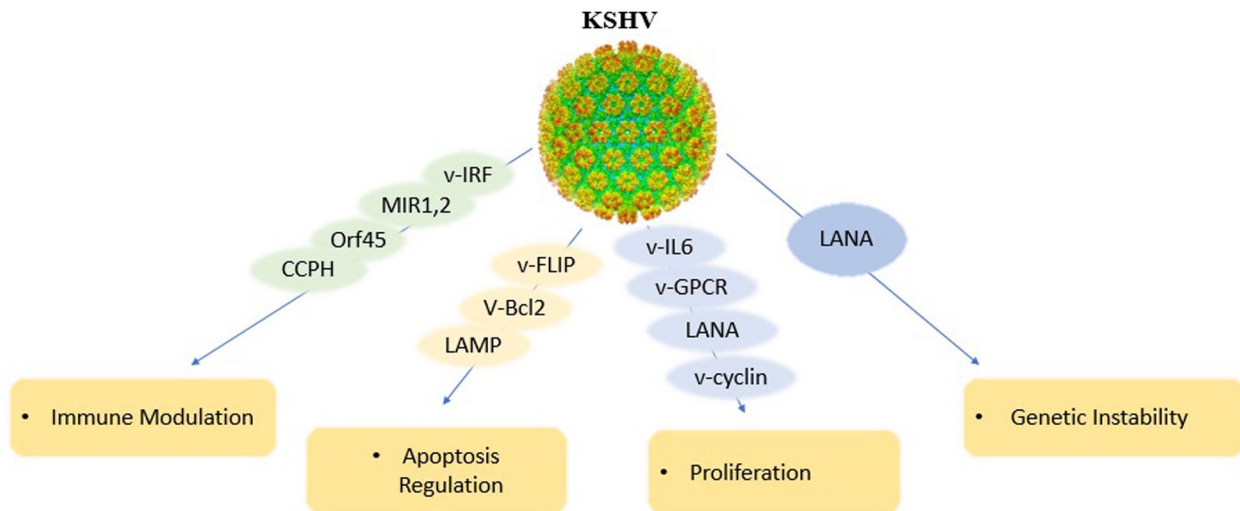
KSHV encodes a homolog of human cytokines and chemokines. Viral IL-6 is induced by IFN- $\alpha$  in PEL cells and blocks cell cycle arrest and apoptosis induced by IFN- $\alpha$ .<sup>118</sup> The genes vCCL-1, vCCL-2, and vCCL-3 (vMIPs) are expressed during viral replication and appear to be involved in Th-2 lymphocyte chemoattraction. vCCL-2 is a non-signaling ligand with affinity for CC and CXC receptors expressed on Th-1 cells. Viral G protein coupled receptor (GPCR) can promote the tumor growth leading to cellular transforming and proangiogenesis. The KSHV GPCR is encoded by the ORF-74 and its closest human homologs are CXCR-1 and CXCR-2. The transforming effect of vGPCR involves the activation of multiple mitogens activated protein kinases and small GTPases of the Rho family. Their activities assemble in the nucleus to control transcription factors such as hypoxia-inducible factor 1a,

AP-1, and NF- $\kappa$ B, thereby promoting the expression and secretion of proinflammatory cytokines such as VEGF, IL-6, IL-8/CXCL8, and MIP-1/CCL3.<sup>119-121</sup>

KSHV has immune evasion genes such as MIR1, MIR2, vIRFs, Orf-45, and complement control protein homolog (CCPH). CCPH inhibits complement-mediated lysis of infected cells, while the vIRFs of KSHV prevent interferon response. Anti-apoptotic genes encoded by KSHV such as viral Bcl-2 (vBcl-2), viral FADD-like interleukin-1 converting enzyme inhibitory protein (vFLIP/Orf-71), and viral inhibitor of apoptosis (vIAP/K-7) survive the virus by apoptosis inhibition in infected cells. All these immune evasion proteins cause life-long viral persistence in the host and contribute to KSHV pathogenesis. In latency, the limited viral genes are expressed and the viral DNA is retained as a circular episome in the nucleus, thus often virus evades from immune detection.<sup>122,123</sup> USP-7 has a physical interaction with the viral interferon regulatory factor 4 (vIRF-4) of KSHV to inhibit its function. The inhibitory functions of vIRF-4 are dependent to 2 peptides regions, Vif-1 and Vif-2 of vIRF4 which can bind to USP-37 and inhibit its function as a p53 deubiquitinase. So, vIRF-4 can interfere with p53-HAUSP Mdm2 to break the cell cycle pause and apoptosis activation by p53 and all together promote uncontrolled cell proliferation and transformation in host cells.<sup>124</sup> The tegument protein ORF-64 of KSHV is a viral cysteine protease with DUB activity that interacts with IFN signaling. KSHV replication is sensitive to interferon alpha (IFN- $\alpha$ ) and ORF-64 interacts with retinoic acid inducible gene-I (RIG-I) to weaken IFN signaling. ORF-64 deubiquitinates the K63 ubiquitin present on the CARD domain of RIG-I and blocks RIG-I interaction with MAVS-CARD signaling (Figure 6).<sup>125,126</sup>

*Herpes simplex virus.* Herpes simplex virus 1 and 2 or human herpesvirus 1 and 2 (HHV-1 and HHV-2), are classified in the herpesvirus genus and herpesviridae family. Herpes simplex virus makes watery blisters in the skin or mucous membranes of the mouth, lips, or genitals. HSV-1 produces most cold sores and it is not considered an oncogenic virus itself but may increase risk of malignant progression. Cancer cells are vulnerable to superimposed viral infections, including HSV-1, which likely led to the findings in this case.<sup>127</sup> HSV-2 causes most genital herpes and has been epidemiologically associated with cervical cancer. It has been found in prostate cancer cells. In a hybridization experiment with DNA from cervical cancer cells, DNA from type 2 herpes simplex virus was found, but 60% of the viral DNA molecule was missing.<sup>128</sup> HSV induces mutations by spontaneous mutations in several ways such as (1) HSV-1 stimulates more than one mutation in several plasmids, including substitutions, insertions, and deletions, (2) Number of HSV-1 related mutations happen in a small region called hot-spot sequence in the target site, (3) Shorter length and spontaneous deletions mutants following by HSV-1 infection





**Figure 6.** Schematic depiction of the major biological activities that contribute to the transforming activities of HHV-8/KSHV.

have been revealed, and (4) Several point mutations were found in some HSV-1 related infection. Chromosomal rearrangements are typical of cancers that are associated with DNA tumor viruses have been reported in HSV-1 infections.<sup>129,130</sup>

The region of the genome of HSV-1 that encodes MUT has not been analyzed but MUT it has been shown that MUT increases the frequency of histidine reversion mutation.<sup>131,132</sup> The transforming region of HSV-1 also encodes the gB, ICP-18.5, ICP-8, and DNA pol genes. However, there is no evidence to link any of them to transformation, and so the MUT protein is a candidate for transformation as any other.<sup>133,134</sup> HSV Infection in immunosuppressed patients is responsible for development of oral or genital tumors. HSV induces the cytokine immune response by Toll-like receptors (TLRs) which entail NF- $\kappa$ B and MAPK signaling. The immediate early viral protein (ICP-0), engages a deubiquitinating enzyme, USP-7 known as herpesvirus-associated ubiquitin-specific protease (HAUSP). In cytoplasm, USP-7 binds with TRAF-6 and I $\kappa$ B- $\gamma$  and cuts their K-63 ubiquitin residues. The deubiquitination restrains the release of NF- $\kappa$ B from the I $\kappa$ B- $\alpha$  inhibitory complex and blocks the cytokine secretion.<sup>135</sup> The HSV-1 tegument protein UL-36 (belongs to a unique class of viral DUB) formed during the late stage of viral replication, act as a ubiquitin-specific cysteine protease. UL-36 has a K-48 influenced DUB activity which is restrained to the N-terminal 500 amino acids.<sup>136</sup>

In HSV latent infection, Latency Associated Transcript (LAT) is expressed to regulate the host cell genome and interrupts natural cell death mechanisms and also herpes virus ICP-4 gene is an important transactivator for lytic infection in HSV-1. HSV blocks the immune system interference with MHC class I presentation of antigen with TAP by secretion of ICP-47. ICP-47 prevents initiation of a CTL-response against HSV, allowing the virus to live for a long period in the host.<sup>137,138</sup>

*Human cytomegalovirus (HCMV)*. CMV, Human herpesvirus 5 (HHV-5) belongs to the Betaherpesvirinae subfamily, Herpesviridae family and herpesviruses genus. Humans and other mammals often contract CMV infections through their salivary glands. In human, it can be life-threatening for the immunocompromised, such as HIV-infected persons, organ transplant recipients or new born infants. HCMV has been detected in 90% to 100% of breast, colon, prostate, and ovarian cancer, in sarcomas and in neural derived cancers such as glioblastoma, neuroblastoma and medulloblastoma, malignant glioma, prostate, skin, and colorectal cancers.<sup>139</sup> The viral infection has been revealed that there is an association between serum CMV IgG levels and breast cancer.<sup>140</sup>

As a result of HCMV proteins altering cell cycle regulation, inhibiting apoptosis, activating angiogenesis and causing metastatic phenotypes, the amount of mutations increases, which leads to cancer cells being established in the body. Some studies have been indicated that multiple viral proteins can interfere with MHC class I presentation of viral antigens. Moreover, HCMV shows immunosuppressive character by helping tumor cells to escape from immune surveillance mechanisms. HCMV can express a viral analog of human IL-10 leading to breast cancer promotion by the virus. It has been shown that IL-10 was expressed differentially in breast tumor cells and infiltrating lymphocytes.<sup>141,142</sup> The HCMV viral UL-48 as a DUB is a homolog of UL-36 of HSV-1. UL48 has a ubiquitin C-terminal hydrolase/isopeptidase dual activity and can cut both K-48 and K-63 linked ubiquitin although the K-63 linked ubiquitin is preferred.<sup>143</sup>

*Torque teno virus (TTV)*. Transfusion Transmitted Virus or Torque teno virus (TTV) is a single-stranded circular DNA virus of the Circoviridae family. recently, it has been classified in the member of new family Anelloviridae. In 1997, TTV virus reported by T. Nishizawa in a Japanese patient with

non-A-E hepatitis. Approximately 10% of blood donors in the UK and the US and patients with liver disease show TTV virus. TTV virus infection happens in early childhood and remains prevalent in adults. Cancers of the gastrointestinal tract, lung cancers, breast cancers, and myelomas have all been associated with TTV-related DNA sequences. TTV viral loads have been associated with severe idiopathic inflammatory myopathies, aplastic anemia, cancer, and lupus.<sup>144,145</sup>

In summary, carcinogenesis can be influenced by several factors such as viruses. Best established human DNA oncogenic viruses are HPV (cervical cancer), EBV (B-cell lymphoproliferative diseases), KSHV (Kaposi's sarcoma and primary effusion lymphoma PEL), and HBV (hepatocellular carcinoma). The ability to detect and analyze viral gene products can implicate more viruses in cancers of human beings. Accordingly, in comparison to traditional therapies such as chemotherapy and radiation, antiviral therapies have greater advantages for some of viruses. The treatment of HIV infection has decreased the risk of KS and also vaccination for HBV is effective to prevent liver cancer and HPV vaccine promises to be able to prevent cervical cancer.

### Author Contributions

Study concept: Arefinia N; Manuscript drafting: Ghosheshi Z; Critical revision of the manuscript: Arefinia N, Mollaei HR. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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