How to starve a thyroid tumor

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Video Byte

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Abstract

Thyroid cancer is one of the most frequently diagnosed cancers in women and the elderly. Like all cells, thyroid cancer cells need energy to survive. One way they stay nourished is by hijacking the machinery that regulates glucose in the body particularly molecules known as glucose transporters, or GLUTs, which help the body absorb energy-rich glucose. In fact, studies have found increased GLUT activation in some of the more aggressive forms of thyroid cancer. A new review outlines how researchers might target this energy lifeline to kill thyroid cancer cells perhaps by rewiring the signaling pathways that control GLUTs at the molecular level. This approach aligns with the growing view of cancer as a metabolic disorder and could provide insights into the diagnosis and treatment of thyroid cancer.