

Table S1

The main markers of macrophages, their biological properties and association with colorectal cancer

Marker, Localization	polarization state	Biological effects	Associations with CRC	References
F4/80 (adhesion G protein-coupled receptor E, EMR1), cell membrane	M0	induction of efferent CD8+ T cells necessary for peripheral tolerance	<p>EMR1 is abnormally expressed in colorectal cancer (CRC) and is a risk factor for liver metastasis (LM) and poor RFS in patients with CRC. Inducing EMR1 in macrophages may promote LNM and CRC progression via JAK2/STAT1,3 signaling upregulation.</p> <p>EMR1 is significantly associated with CD68+ CD163+ macrophages, and CRC with a high combined EMR1+CD68+CD163+ score showed worse recurrence-free survival (RFS).</p>	[1, 2, 3]
CCR2 (C-C chemokine receptor type 2 for the chemokine CCL2), cell membrane	M0	involved in the recruitment of monocytes to sites of inflammation	Aberrant expression of CCR2 is associated with negative outcomes in inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), and colon-related metastasis. CCR2 inhibition can reduce the recruitment of myeloid-derived suppressor cells and decrease lung metastasis in breast cancer models. Endothelial CCR2 expression has been linked to promoting tumor cell extravasation and pulmonary metastasis, highlighting its significance in cancer progression.	[4, 5, 6]
CD14, cell membrane	M0	co-receptor for bacterial LPS	High CD14 expression in CRC is associated with microsatellite instability, BRAF mutations. High CD14 expression predicts worse outcomes in CRC. High density of CD14+HLA-DR- cells (immature monocytic	<p>[7, 8, 9]</p> <p>https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000170458-CD14</p>

			phenotype) in intraepithelial regions is associated with higher CRC-specific mortality, however, high density of CD14+HLA-DR+ cells (mature monocytic phenotype) in both intraepithelial and stromal regions is associated with lower CRC-specific mortality.	
CD68 (SCARD1- Scavenger Receptor Class D Member 1 GP110, LAMP4), lysosomes, endosomes, cell membrane	M0	A transmembrane glycoprotein that binds to tissue- and organ-specific lectins or selectins, clear cellular debris, promote phagocytosis, and mediate the recruitment and activation of macrophages	CD68+ cells are predominantly found at the invasive front of the tumor compared to the intratumoral area or adjacent normal mucosa. There is a moderate correlation between CD68 and CD163 staining, suggesting that tumors with higher CD68+ infiltration also tend to have higher CD163+ cell infiltration. Prognostic associations in CRC are contradictory. High infiltration of CD68+ TAMs, especially in the tumor stroma, correlates with worse RFS and OS in late-stage CRC patients receiving bevacizumab combined with chemotherapy. Specifically, in stage III CRC, higher infiltration of CD68+ cells in the intratumoral area was associated with reduced overall survival (OS). A high CD206+/CD68+ ratio is associated with improved survival in adjuvant chemotherapy. High CD68+/tumor cell ratio was linked to better survival in 205 CRC patients.	[10-15] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000129226-CD68 https://doi.org/10.1158/1538-7445.AM2022-2530
CSF1R (receptor for colony- stimulating	M0	CSF1R promotes the release of pro-inflammatory chemokines in response to IL-34 and CSF-1, contributing to homeostasis in the colon. CSF1R-expressing	The CSF1/CSF1R axis is essential for the survival and differentiation of M2 tumor associated macrophages (TAM) in CRC. CSF1R expression is enriched in TAMs within CRC tumors, and its expression in	[16]

factor 1, CD115), cell membrane		macrophages are involved in tissue repair processes in the colon.	macrophages is associated with poor prognosis in CRC patients.	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/genome/1436/proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000182578-CSF1R
Ly6C1 (lymphocyte antigen 6 family member C1), cell membrane	M0	Ly6C1, a member of the Ly-6 superfamily, plays a crucial role in immune responses and cell signaling. Ly6C1 is anchored to the cell membrane through a glycosyl-phosphatidylinositol (GPI) lipid anchor, allowing them to localize to specific membrane domains called lipid rafts. Cross-linking of Ly-6 proteins like Ly-6A/Sca-1 can trigger simultaneous stimulatory and inhibitory responses in cells, leading to cytokine production, growth inhibition, and apoptosis. Additionally, Ly6C1 may be involved in regulating complement activation and pathogen clearance, highlighting its importance in host defense mechanisms.	Ly6C-high macrophages contribute to tumor initiation and malignant progression in CRC. Participate in the creation of a pre-metastatic niche and subsequent colonization of metastatic sites by tumor cells.	[17, 18] Klikněte nebo klepněte sem a zadejte text.
PPARG (Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor Gamma),	M0	a type II nuclear receptor, a transcription factor. PPARG is an important regulator of macrophage polarization, with PPARG activation driving the M2 phenotype through	High PPARG expression in tumors was not significantly associated with worse prognosis in CRC patients, as indicated by a study analyzing PPARG gene expression in CRC tumors and adjacent normal tissues. However, in lung adenocarcinoma, low PPARG	[19-23] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000132170-PPARG

nucleus, cytoplasm		upregulation of Arg1 and Mgl1 genes.	expression was linked to poor prognosis. The study on hypopharyngeal squamous cell carcinoma (HSCC) revealed that PPARG expression variations were significantly associated with the tumor node metastasis (TNM). Role of PPARG expression in cancer prognosis and metastasis can vary depending on the specific cancer type.	
CX3CR1 (C-X3-C Motif Chemokine Receptor 1 for CX3CL1), cell membrane	M0	Involved in the adhesion and migration of monocytes, macrophages, and other immune cells	CX3CR1 expression is significantly elevated in poorly differentiated CRC compared to moderate-well-differentiated tumors. Higher CX3CR1 expression is associated with advanced clinical stages, metastasis, and recurrence within 3 years.	[24, 25]
ITGAM (Integrin alpha M subunit, CD11b), cell membrane	M0	Cell adhesion, migration, and phagocytosis	The concentration of ITGAM-positive exosomes is lower in both primary CRC and metastatic CRC compared to the healthy control. ITGAM expression is highest in healthy control, followed by colonic adenomas, and lowest in primary CRC and CRC with hepatic metastases.	[26, 27] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000169896-ITGAM
FCGRIA (Fc Gamma Receptor Ia, CD64), cell membrane	M1	antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC), antibody-dependent cellular phagocytosis (ADCP)	High infiltration of CD64+ macrophages in CRC, particularly at the tumor front, is associated with improved patient survival. Mediates ADCC by macrophages against tumor cells.	[28, 29] Klikněte nebo klepněte sem a zadejte text.
CD80, cell membrane	M1	CD80 is an inducible co-stimulatory molecule on APC. Interacts with CD28 and CTLA-4 on T cells to regulate T cell activation and tolerance.	CD80+ macrophages are more prevalent in less invasive T1 tumors compared to more advanced stages. CD80+ macrophages, although present at low numbers, are associated with better prognosis in CRC.	[30-31] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000121594-CD80

			In stage III colorectal tumors, a lower CD80/CD163 ratio is associated with decreased OS.	
CD86, cell membrane	M1, M2b	co-stimulatory molecule related to CD80	Lower infiltration of CD86+ macrophages is associated with more advanced tumor stages and higher rates of tumor recurrence and mortality. Stage II-III CRC patients with a low CD86/CD163 ratio had shorter RFS and OS.	[32-34] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000114013-CD86
CD40, cell membrane, secreted	M1	type I transmembrane protein on antigen-presenting cells and is required for their activation. Promotes pro-inflammatory and anti-tumor responses when activated on macrophages	High CD40 expression in CRC tissues is associated with better OS and DFS.	[30, 35] proteinatlas.org/ENSG00000101017-CD40
iNOS, cytoplasm	M1, M2d	Produces nitric oxide (NO) with cytotoxic activities against pathogens and tumor cells	M1 macrophages, which express iNOS, have anti-tumor effects. In a study of 205 CRC patients, iNOS+ macrophages did not demonstrate any significant benefit to patient outcomes. Also, infiltration of CD68+/iNOS TAMs in the tumor stroma is a negative prognostic factor.	[10, 36-39] Klikněte nebo klepněte sem a zadejte text.
MHC-II, cell membrane	M1, M2a M2b	antigen presentation to CD4+ T cells	In primary CRC, increased MHC-II expression is associated with increased tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes and improved prognosis. Low MHC-II expression may reflect poor interactions between antigen-presenting cells (APC) and helper T-cell and reduced cytotoxic T lymphocytes mediated anti-tumor activity.	[40-43] Klikněte nebo klepněte sem a zadejte text.
TLR2 TLR4 (Toll-Like Receptor 2 and 4), cell	M1, M2c	Recognize a wide range of pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) from gram-	Among stage III patients a strong TLR2 expression associates with a better prognosis. Among patients with stage II CRC, a strong TLR4 expression associate with a worse DSS.	[30, 44-46] https://www.proteinatlas.org/search/TLR2

membrane, cytoplasm		positive bacteria, mycobacteria, fungi, and viruses		
IL1R1 (Interleukin-1 Receptor Type 1), cell membrane	M1 M2b	receptor for IL-1 α and IL-1 β , pro-inflammatory cytokines that initiate inflammatory responses and mediate innate immunity against pathogens	Patients with progressive CRC present higher levels of IL-1R1 in the pCRC tissue than patients responsive to the therapy or with a stable disease. IL-1R1 this is a maker of poor prognosis in CRC	[47, 48]
IL-10R (Interleukin-10 Receptor), cell membrane	M1 M2b	IL-10R signaling helps maintain immune homeostasis by suppressing excessive inflammatory responses, as IL-10 is a crucial immunosuppressive agent. Also, IL-10R signaling can modulate the expression of MHC class II and co-stimulatory molecules, affecting antigen presentation by macrophage	Elevated IL-10 levels within the tumor microenvironment or in the systemic circulation contribute to an immunosuppressive milieu in colorectal cancer by dampening antigen presentation, reducing cytotoxic T-cell and NK-cell activity, and promoting tumor cell proliferation and chemoresistance, all of which are associated with unfavorable clinical outcomes. Activation of the IL-10 receptor complex (IL-10RA/IL-10RB) further enhances STAT3- and NF- κ B-dependent signaling pathways, supporting tumor cell survival, epithelial to mesenchymal transition, and metastatic progression in CRC. Consequently, increased IL-10 expression or IL-10R activation is considered a negative prognostic indicator and a potential therapeutic target in CRC.	[49-52] https://www.proteinatlas.org/search/IL-10R+
CD163, cell membrane	M2a, M2c	Scavenger receptor involved in clearance of hemoglobin-haptoglobin complexes and anti-inflammatory functions	High levels of CD163 expression in serum and tumor tissues have been associated with a worse prognosis. High expression levels correlate with lower OS rates.	[53-55] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS G00000177575-CD163

CD206 (Mannose Receptor), cell membrane	M2a, M2c	a C-type lectin, Involved in pathogen recognition and tissue remodeling	Higher density of CD206+ macrophages is associated with poorer prognosis in CRC. A high ratio of CD206+/CD68+ macrophages is significantly associated with poor survival in stage II CRC patients. Adjuvant chemotherapy significantly improved RFS and OS for patients with a high CD206+/CD68+ ratio of TAMs.	[10, 33, 56] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000260314-MRC1/pathology
CLEC7A (CD301) (Dectin-1), cell membrane	M2a	C-type lectin receptor, is a key innate immune receptor involved in coordinating host defense against fungi. It recognizes β -1,3-glucan, a major structural component of fungal cell walls, induces anti-fungal responses.	CLEC7A promotes pro-tumor functions of macrophages. CLEC7A promotes tumor progression by regulating the immune microenvironment. Depletion of Clec7a in macrophages in vivo increases the infiltration of tumor tissue by CD4+ and CD8+ T-cells. An analysis of the literature did not demonstrate the role of CLEC7A as a prognostic marker in CRC.	[57, 58] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000172243-CLEC7A
CD36, cell membrane	M2a	scavenger receptor that mediates the uptake of oxidized lipids and apoptotic cells. Promotes inflammatory responses and phagocytosis. CD36 may interact with other receptors, such as integrins, TLRs, or tetraspanins.	High CD36 mRNA levels are associated with reduced 5-year survival in CRC patients. CD36 expression is highest in macrophages in the liver, particularly in metastasis-associated macrophages (MAMs) within metastatic liver tumors	[59-61] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000135218-CD36/pathology/colorectal+cancer
CD209 (DC-SIGN)(Dendritic Cell-Specific Intercellular adhesion	M2a, 2b, 2c, 2d	a C-type lectin receptor is present on the surface of both macrophages and dendritic cells. Involved in antigen uptake and presentation.	Expression is increased in metastatic CRC cell lines and patient tissues. Higher DC-SIGN expression is associated with reduced OS in CRC patients.	[62-64]

molecule-3-Grabbing Non-integrin), cell membrane			<p>DC-SIGN facilitates CRC metastasis both in vitro and in vivo. It forms a complex with Lyn and p85, promoting metastasis by increasing PI3K/Akt/β-catenin signaling.</p> <p>Soluble DC-SIGN (sDC-SIGN) levels in serum are significantly higher in CRC patients with distant metastasis compared to non-metastatic patients.</p>	
FCGR3A (Fc Gamma Receptor IIIa, low affinity Fc receptor, CD16), cell membrane, secreted	M2a, 2c	mediates antibody-dependent cell-mediated cytotoxicity (ADCC) and antibody-dependent phagocytosis (ADP)	<p>Genetic polymorphisms in FcγRIIIa have been associated with response to anti-EGFR antibody therapy in metastatic CRC patients. Patients carrying the FcγRIIIa-158F/F genotype tend to have a less favorable prognosis compared to those with V/V or V/F genotypes. Survival analysis indicated that FCGR3A serves as a prognostic risk factor in most types of cancer.</p>	<p>[65-66] Klikněte nebo klepněte sem a zadejte text.</p>
MSR1 (CD204) cell membrane	M2a, 2b, 2c, 2d	a scavenger receptor that recognizes and clears modified lipoproteins and bacterial products.	<p>Higher infiltration of CD204-positive macrophages into colorectal tumors is associated with shorter OS and RFS in patients with stage II and III CRC.</p> <p>Also, in vitro studies have shown that M2-polarized macrophages with high CD204 expression enhance the proliferation and invasion of CRC cell lines.</p>	<p>[67-69]</p>

TIMD4 (T-cell immunoglobulin and mucin domain containing 4), cell membrane	M2a	a phosphatidylserine receptor involved in recognition and clearance of apoptotic cells.	TIMD4 expression on macrophages may serve as a marker for a subset of tissue-resident macrophages with immunosuppressive functions in CRC. The presence of TIMD4-positive macrophages in CRC is associated with worse clinical outcomes, including increased tumor growth and metastasis.	[70, 71]
CLEC10A (C-type lectin domain family 10 member A receptor, CD301), cell membrane	M2a	recognizes and binds to various glycan structures.	CLEC10A expression has been correlated with clinical outcomes in several cancers, including CRC. Higher expression levels of CLEC10A ligands on tumor cells have been associated with poorer disease-free survival in stage III CRC patients. The presence of CLEC10A-positive macrophages in the tumor microenvironment may indicate a more aggressive tumor phenotype and poorer prognosis.	[72-74]
FIZZ1 (RELM- α) (Resistin-Like Molecule Alpha or RELM- α), cell membrane	M2a	FIZZ1 is a resistin-like molecule involved in wound healing and tissue repair processes.	Some studies have explored the presence of FIZZ1 in stool samples from American patients with CRC, suggesting its potential as a biomarker for CRC detection. No prognostic associations in CRC have been established yet.	[75-78]
Arg1 (Arginase-1), cytoplasm	M2a	An enzyme involved in the urea cycle, catalyzing the conversion of L-arginine to L-ornithine and urea.	The expression levels of Arg-1 is significantly higher in CRC compared to the corresponding normal colon tissues. Increased Arg-1 expression is associated with stage III-IV tumors. Arg-1 overexpression was associated with shorter OS and DFS in advanced CRC stages (III + IV) , but not at early stages (I + II) in multivariate analysis.	[79-81] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000118520-ARG1

			The activation of ARG1 is also associated with the migration ability and metastatic colonization of colon cancer cells, and blocking this process may be a novel strategy for controlling malignancies.	
CD155 (poliovirus receptor (PVR), cell membrane, secreted	M2a	-	Macrophages in the CRC tissue express high levels of CD155 compared to those from adjacent normal tissues. The expression level of macrophage CD155 was higher in stage III/IV CRC compared to stage I/II and was negatively associated with the survival of CRC patients. Additionally, CD155+ macrophages promote migration, invasion, and growth of CRC cells.	[82, 83] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000073008-PVR
VEGF (Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor), VEGFR1 (VEGF receptor), cell membrane	M2d	VEGF stimulates endothelial cell proliferation, migration, and survival, facilitating the formation of new blood vessels. The VEGF receptor (VEGFR1) is a family of three closely related, membrane-spanning peptides containing seven extracellular immunoglobulin-like domains and two intracellular tyrosine kinases. Binding of VEGF to VEGFR1 stimulates endothelial cell migration, and may mediate vascular organization.	VEGF overexpression in CRC is associated with poor OS. While VEGFR1 expression in primary CRC tumor patients did not predict prognosis; high percentage of VEGFR1+ cells in liver metastasis was associated with worse patient outcome. VEGFR1+ metastasis-associated macrophages contribute to metastasis in CRC and were identified as a potential new prognostic marker for disease recurrence.	[84-86] https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000112715-VEGFA/pathology
SIGLEC1 (CD169), Sialoadhesin,	Non M1/M2	Cell adhesion molecule. Antigen presentation and the modulation of T-cell responses	A high density of CD169+ macrophages in RLNs is significantly associated with longer OS in CRC patients. CD169+ cells to CD68+	[87-90]

Plasmatic membrane, intracellular			<p>cells ratio in RLNs was an independent prognostic factor for CRC. The number of CD169+ sinus macrophages in regional lymph node (RLN) decreased in CRC patients with lymph nodes metastasis. Also, the density of CD169+ macrophages in RLNs positively correlates with the number of CD8+ cytotoxic T cells infiltrating tumor tissues. CD169+ macrophages in RLNs are thought to promote CD8+ T-cell-mediated antitumor immunity, contributing to a better prognosis for CRC patients.</p> <p>In primary CRC, CD169 macrophages can exhibit protumor effects.</p>	https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000088827-SIGLEC1/pathology
CD63, membranes of intracellular vesicles (constitutive), cell membrane (inducible)	Non M1/M2	CD63 is a member of the tetraspanin superfamily of activation-linked cell surface antigens. Regulates phagocytosis, antigen presentation, and secretion of inflammatory mediators	<p>High CD63 expression in CRC is associated with advanced stages of the disease, poor differentiation, mucinous histology and EMT-associated secretory phenotype. It predicts an unfavorable prognosis in CRC patients, including those with metastatic disease in pCRC. CD63 immunohistochemistry can be used to identify patients with an increased risk of recurrence who might benefit from adjuvant therapy.</p>	<p>[91-93]</p> https://www.proteinatlas.org/ENS/G00000135404-CD63/pathology

Abbreviations: APC: antigen-presenting cells; CRC: colorectal cancer; IBD: inflammatory bowel disease; LN: lymph node; LM: lymph metastasis; MAM: metastasis-associated macrophages; OS: overall survival; RLNs; regional lymph nodes; RFS: recurrence free survival; TAMs: tumor-associated macrophages; TNM: tumor node metastasis.

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Table S2

Key differences between Kupffer cell s in Normal liver and LM

Feature, Function, Role	Normal Liver	Reference	Tumor microenvironment of metastasis	Reference
Morphology	<p>Kupffer cell (KCs) are amoeboid-shaped and are attached to the sinusoidal endothelial cells.</p> <p>spindle or stellate-shaped cytoplasm, components of liver vascular walls</p> <p>KCKC maintain a normal, non-activated state.</p>	[1, 2]	<p>KCs may become activated in response to tumor cells, leading to hypertrophy (enlargement) of the cells. Activated KCs may show increased cytoplasmic vacuoles</p> <p>KCs and other macrophages were found to leave the sinusoids and migrate to sites of potential tumor development where they interacted with tumor cells and intimately wrapped their processes around fat storing cells</p>	[2-4]
Phenotypic polarization	KCs typically exhibit an M1-like phenotype (CD80, CD86, Ly6C1) and Pan macrophages (CD68, CD14, CCR2, CD163)	[5-6]	KCs often undergo polarization towards an M2-like phenotype (CD36, LCD206, CD209, CD163)	[5-7]
Recruitment and polarization	KCs are maintained through self-renewal and local proliferation, with minimal recruitment from circulating monocytes	[5]	In colorectal cancer liver metastasis (CRC LM), there is increased recruitment of monocyte-derived macrophages, which differentiate into M2-like KCs.	[6, 8]
Phagocytic Activity	KCs exhibit robust phagocytic activity, clearing pathogens, cellular debris, and potentially tumor cells in the early stages of metastasis.	[9]	The phagocytic activity of KCs can be impaired or altered, potentially contributing to tumor cell survival and metastatic progression.	[4, 10]
Interactions with other cells	KCs interact with resident liver cells, such as hepatocytes and stellate cells	[9]	KCs interact with cancer cells, cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAFs), and other immune cells	[4, 10, 11]

Cytokine and Chemokine Production:	KCs produce a balanced array of cytokines and chemokines to maintain immune homeostasis and regulate inflammatory responses.	[4]	KCs often produce higher levels of immunosuppressive cytokines (e.g., IL-10, TGF- β) and pro-angiogenic factors (e.g., VEGF), promoting tumor growth and metastasis.	[4]
Functional roles	Crucial role in clearing pathogens, removing cellular debris, and maintaining liver homeostasis through their phagocytic and immunomodulatory functions	[4, 12]	Formation of premetastatic niches. KCs can exhibit both pro-tumor and anti-tumor functions, depending on the stage of metastasis and the specific microenvironmental cues. contribute to an immunosuppressive microenvironment	[4]

Abbreviations: CAFs: cancer-associated fibroblasts; CRC LM:colorectal cancer liver metastasis; KCs: Kupffer cells;

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