`INTRODUCTION

Cancer is caused by a series of molecular changes within the complex regulatory machinery of a cell **(Honahon and Weinberg, 2000).**

This process of cancer development can be divided into three different phases. The first stage is called tumor initiation, which is the acquisition of mutations due to carcinogen exposure or germline transmission. Initiated cells do not form tumors unless exposed to promoting agents or conditions during a process called tumor promotion. This process represents the second stage, which ends with the appearance of the first neoplastic cells (**Cotron et al., 2002).**

During evolution of a cancer, sequential mutations result in changes in growth morphology, hormone dependence, enzyme and cytokine production, and expression of surface antigens. Some of these changes might be coincidental but others allow the abnormal cells to escape homeostatic controls or resist destruction by defense mechanisms or treatment (**Hons Schreiber, 1999).**