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Cover illustration. Eleven out of forty-one human tumour cell lines were found to produce epidermal growth factor/transforming growth factor-α-like activity using a radio-receptor assay and binding to EGF receptor.

In all eleven cell lines this activity was shown to be due to immunoreactive TGF-α and not to immunoreactive EGF. The upper left-hand diagram shows the structure of the TGF-α mRNA (based on Derynck et al., 1984, *Cell*, 38, 287) and sequence of the synthetic probe used to detect TGF-α mRNA. The lower left-hand diagram shows the correlation between concentrations of EGF/TGF-α-like activity and immunoreactive TGF-α. In the right-hand panel are given results of gel filtration studies which show that TGF-α produced by three melanoma cell lines (a–c) is identical to human TGF-α (1–50) but in a fourth line (d) TGF-α of a different molecular size was detected (see paper by Imanishi et al., this issue, p. 761).

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