

Proto-oncogene: A gene which may mutate to become an <u>oncogene</u>.

Oncogene: A gene, one or more forms of which is associated with cancer.

# How does a proto-oncogene become an oncogene? Virus integration Mutations Gene amplification Chromosomal translocations

### I - Virus Integration

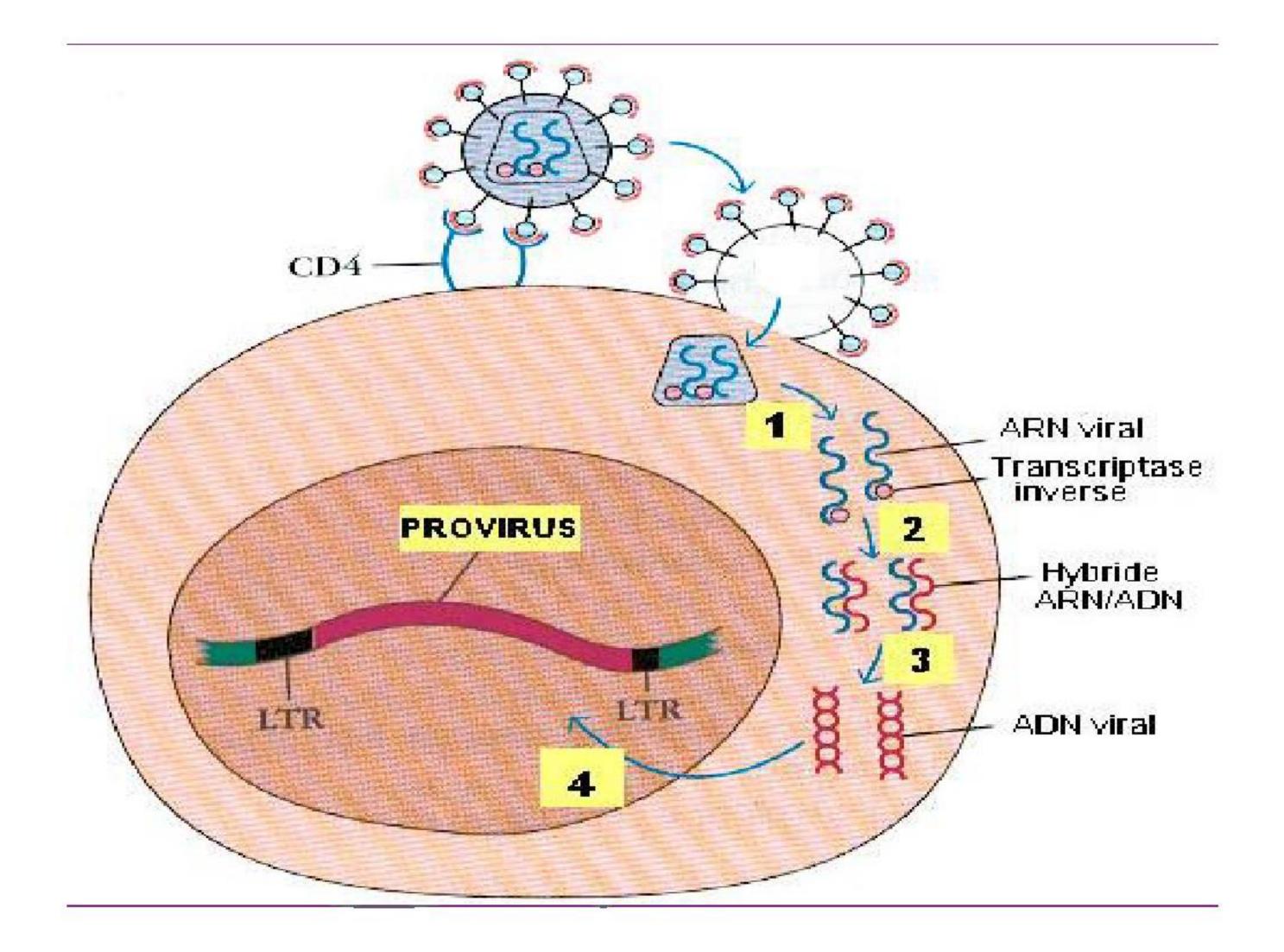
Many viruses can infect normal cells and convert them into malignant cells (transformation)

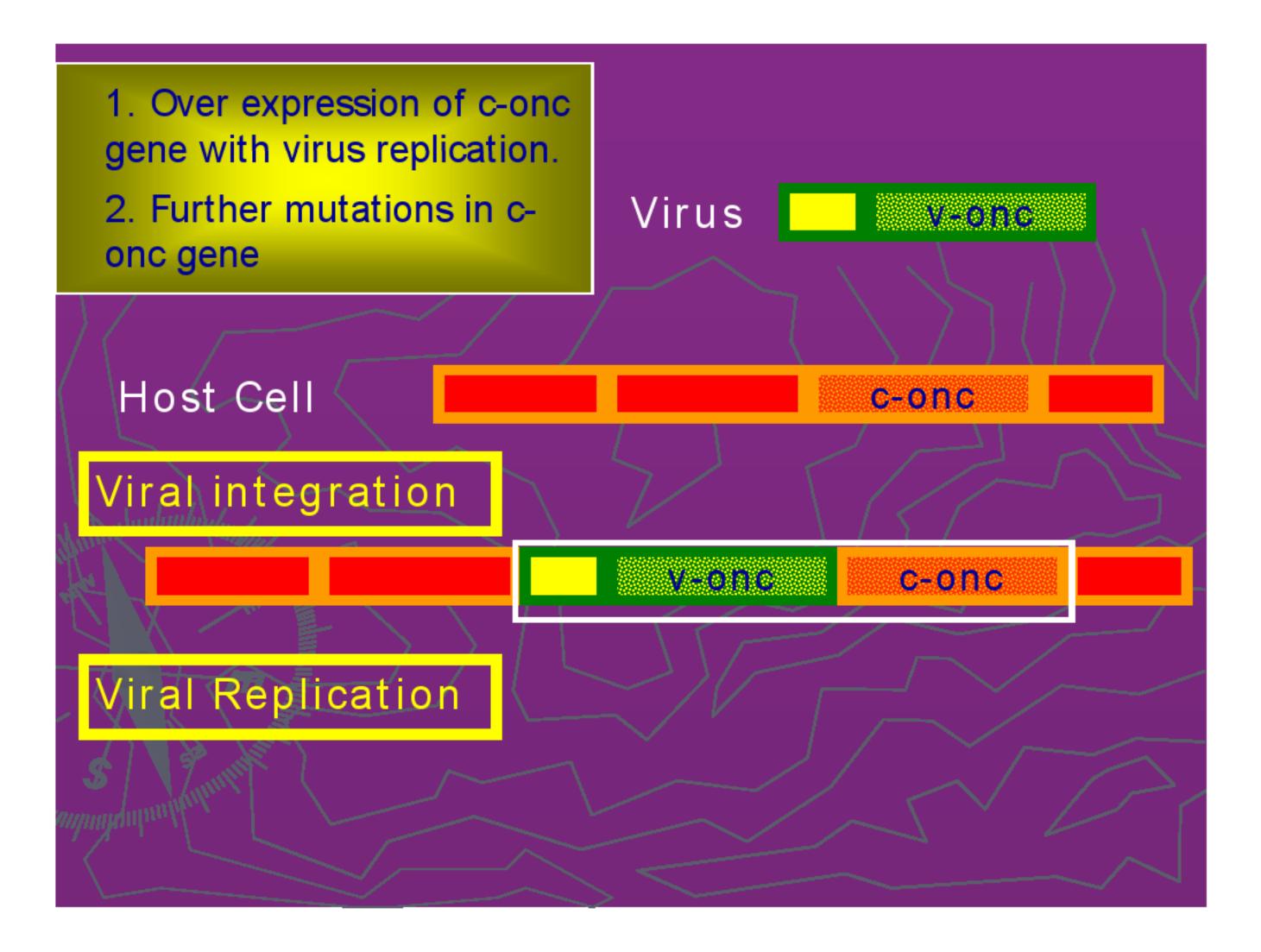


Viral oncogene v-src is found within the viral genome.

The normal copy of the src gene in the host is termed c-src (cellular src). It is encoded in the chromosomal DNA of the host cell, It does not cause cancer.

However, once incorporated into a viral genome, this gene can become a viral oncogene that promotes cancer.



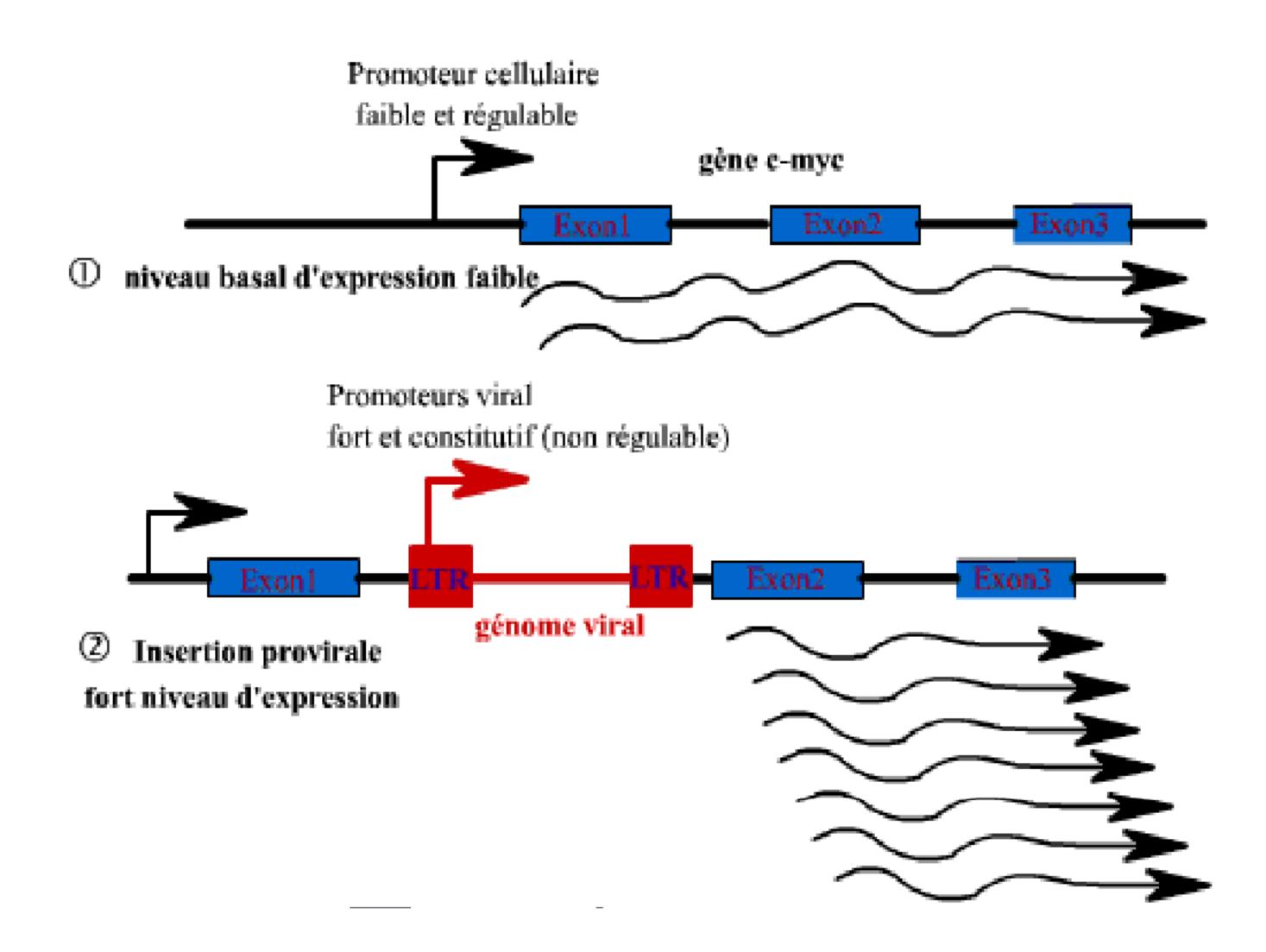


### RSV has acquired the src gene by capturing it from a host chromosome.

- During its life cycle, a retrovirus uses reverse transcriptase to make a DNA copy of its genome, which → integrated as a provirus into the host cell genome.
- This integration may occur next to a protooncogene.
- During transcription of the proviral DNA, the neighboring proto-oncogene may be included in the RNA transcript recombine with an RNA retroviral genome within the cell → to yield a retrovirus that contains an oncogene

### Two explanation of this phenomenon

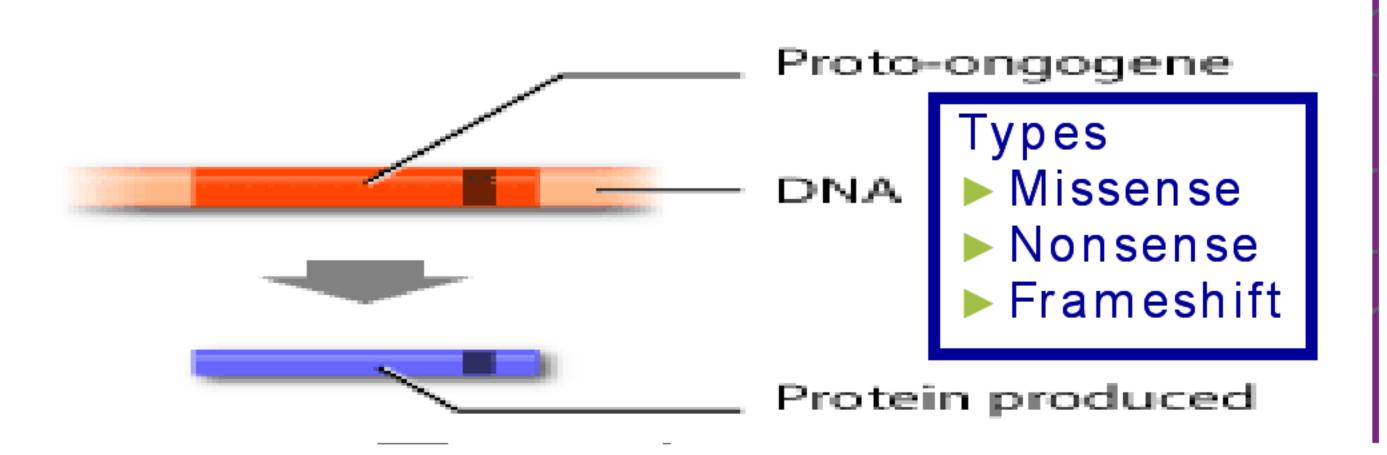
- Many copies of the virus made during viral replication overexpression of the src gene.
- Alternatively, the v-src gene may accumulate additional mutations that convert it to an oncogene



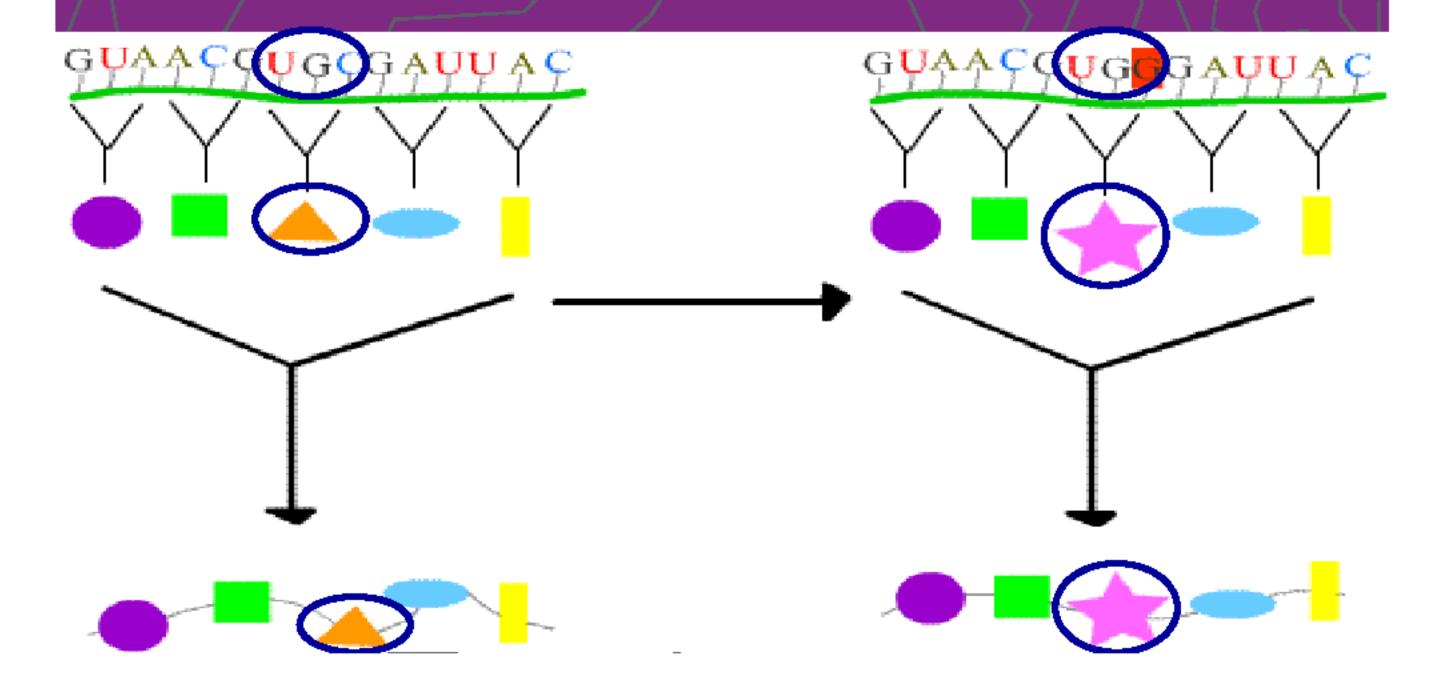
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#### II-Mutations

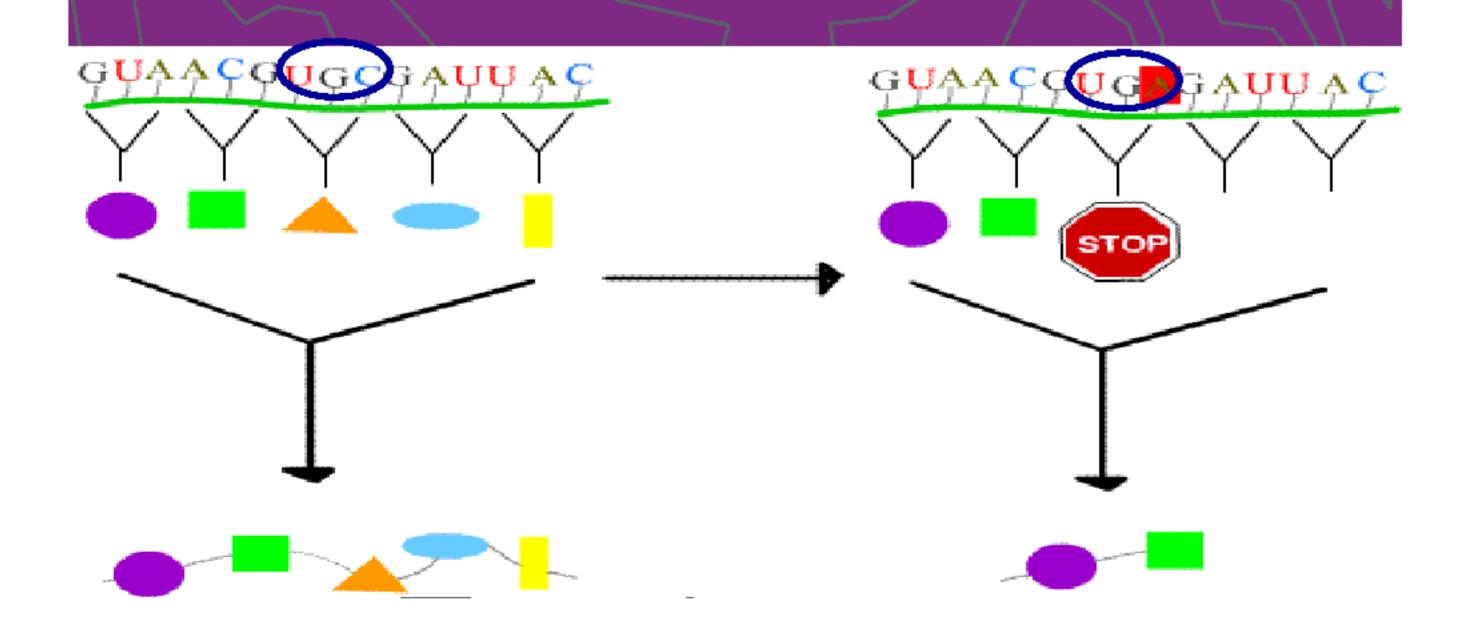
Point mutation: A mutation affecting a single nucleotide pair. It can be used up to the insertion or to the deletion of a small number of nucleotide pairs.



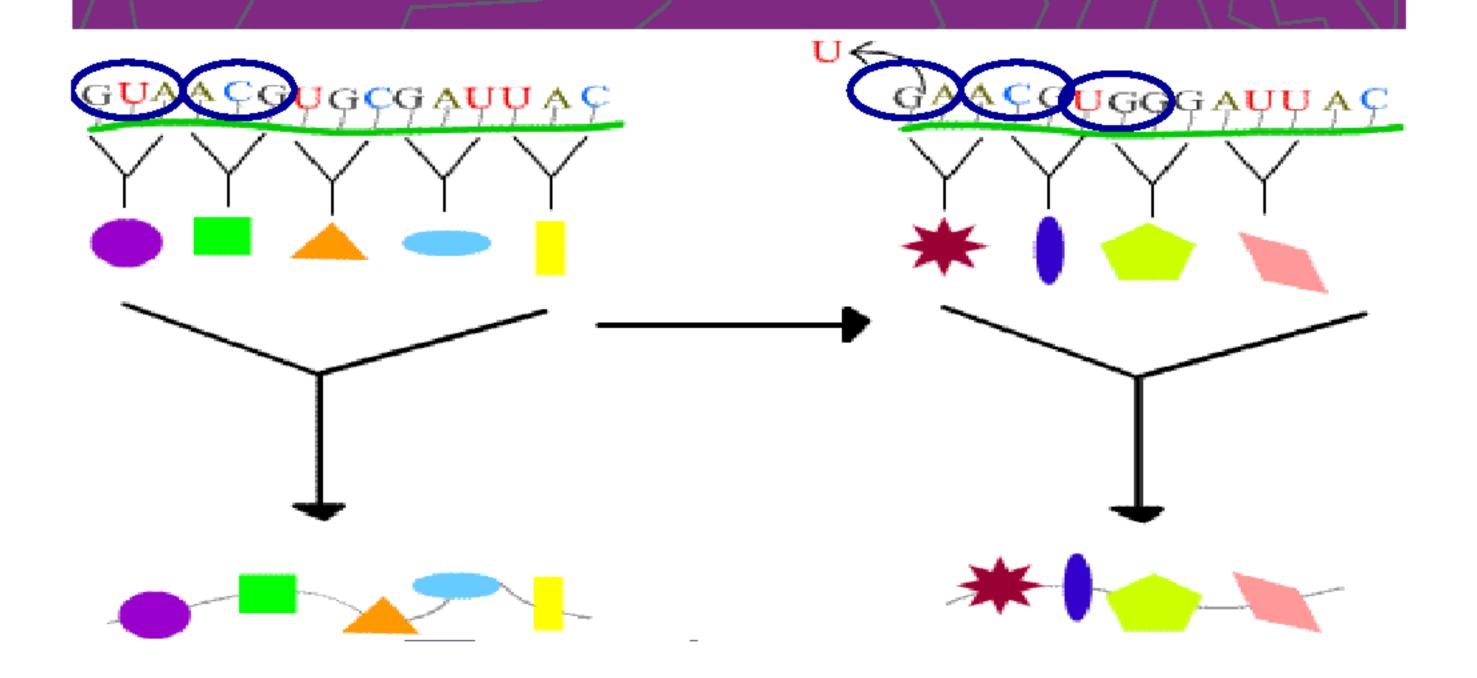
1. Missense mutations: The new codon causes an incorrect amino acid to be inserted into the protein. The effects on the function of the protein depend on what is inserted in place of the normal amino acid.



2. <u>Nonsense mutations:</u> The new codon causes the protein to prematurely terminate, producing a product that is shortened and often does not function.



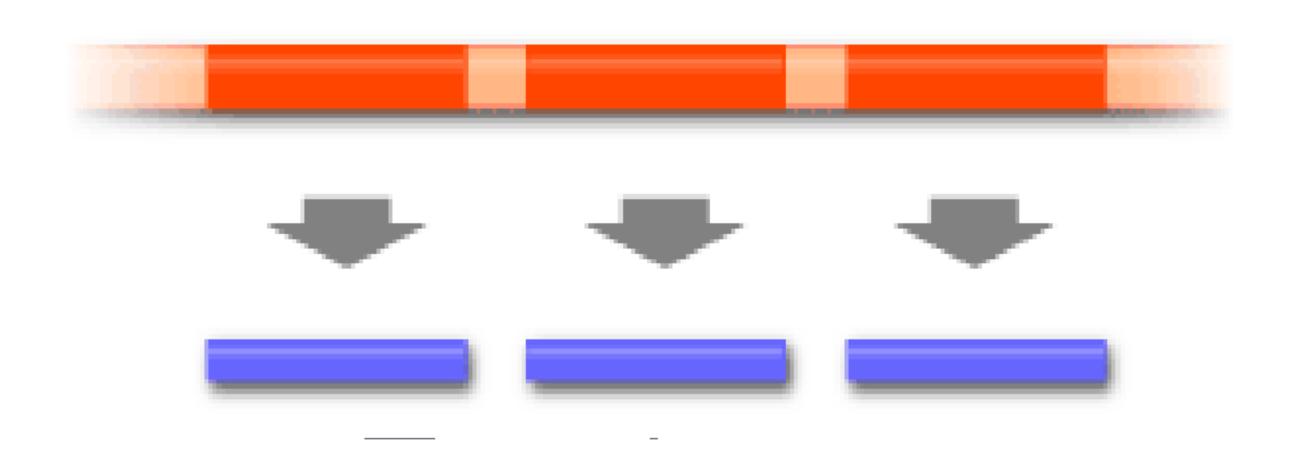
3. <u>Frameshift mutations:</u> The loss or gain of 1 or 2 nucleotides causes the affected codon and all of the codons that follow to be misread.



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### III-Gene Amplification

An increase in the number of copies of a specific DNA fragment → normal protein produced in much higher amount.

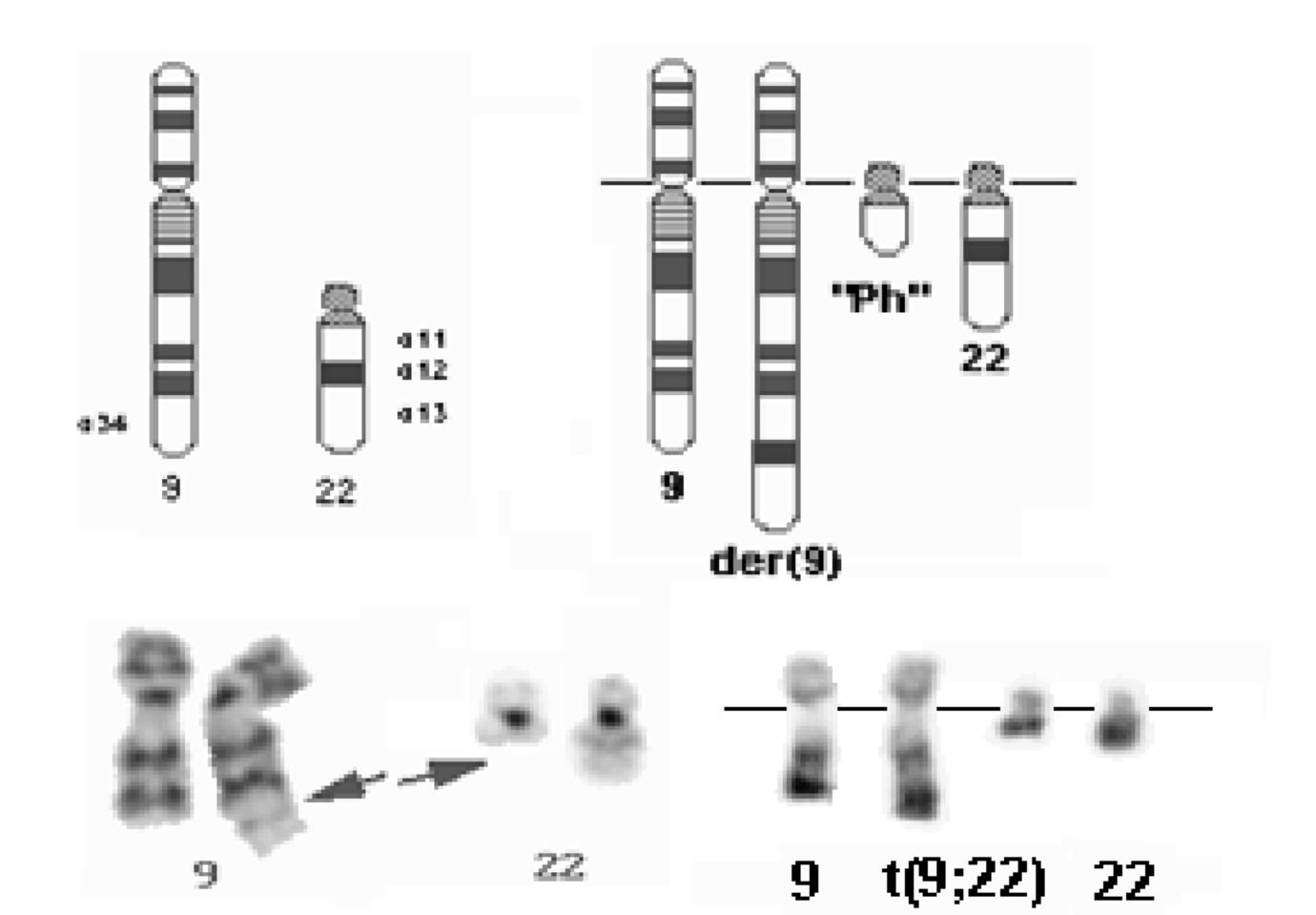




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## IV- Structural Anomalies (Translocations)

Chromosomes can appear to break, and broken ends can rejoin in various ways: to make a structural aberration (exchanges).

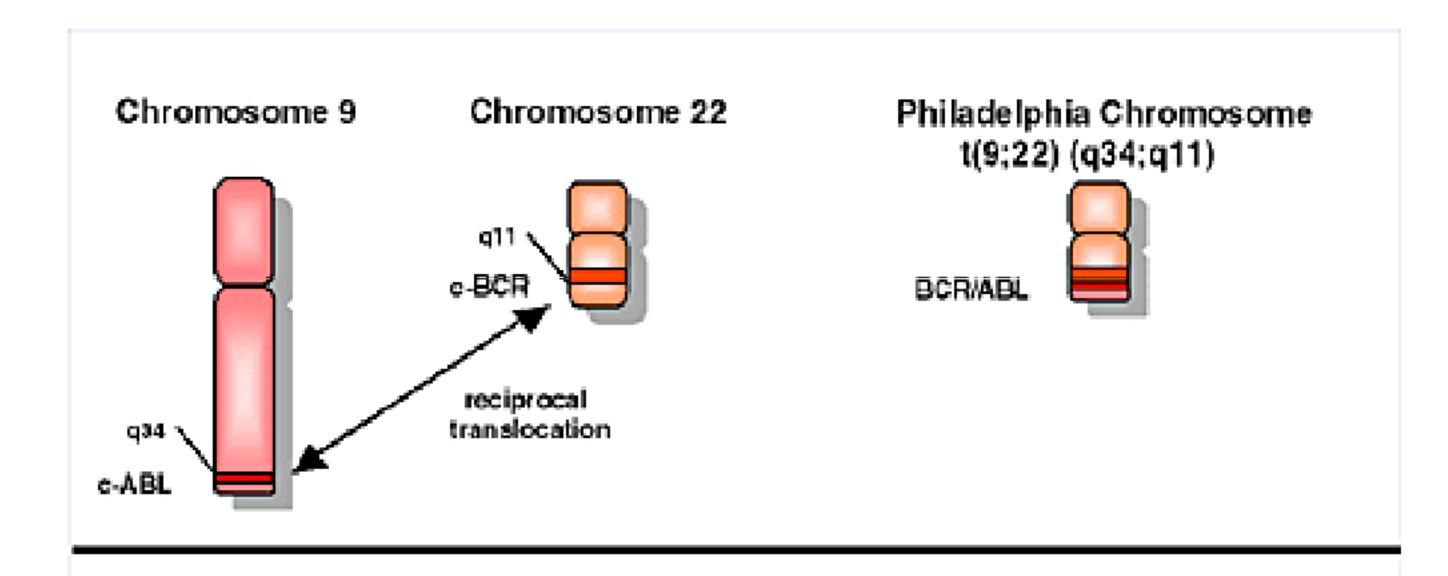


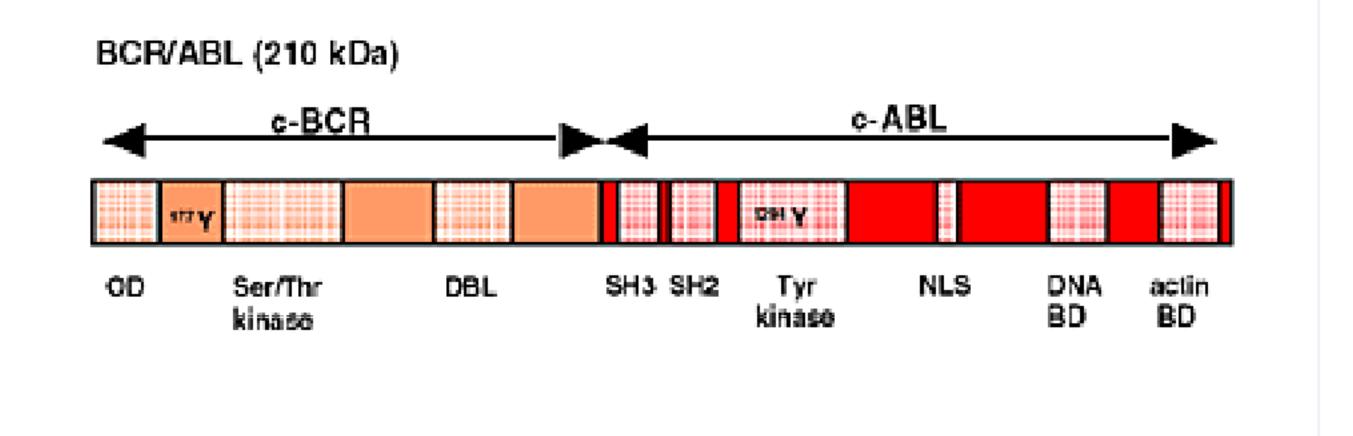
## Chromosomal translocations can produce oncogenes in several ways:

- Firstly, fusion proteins
- Secondly, the fusion of one chromosome to another can result in a strong promoter being placed upstream of a gene that would normally be either absent or present only in very low quantities.

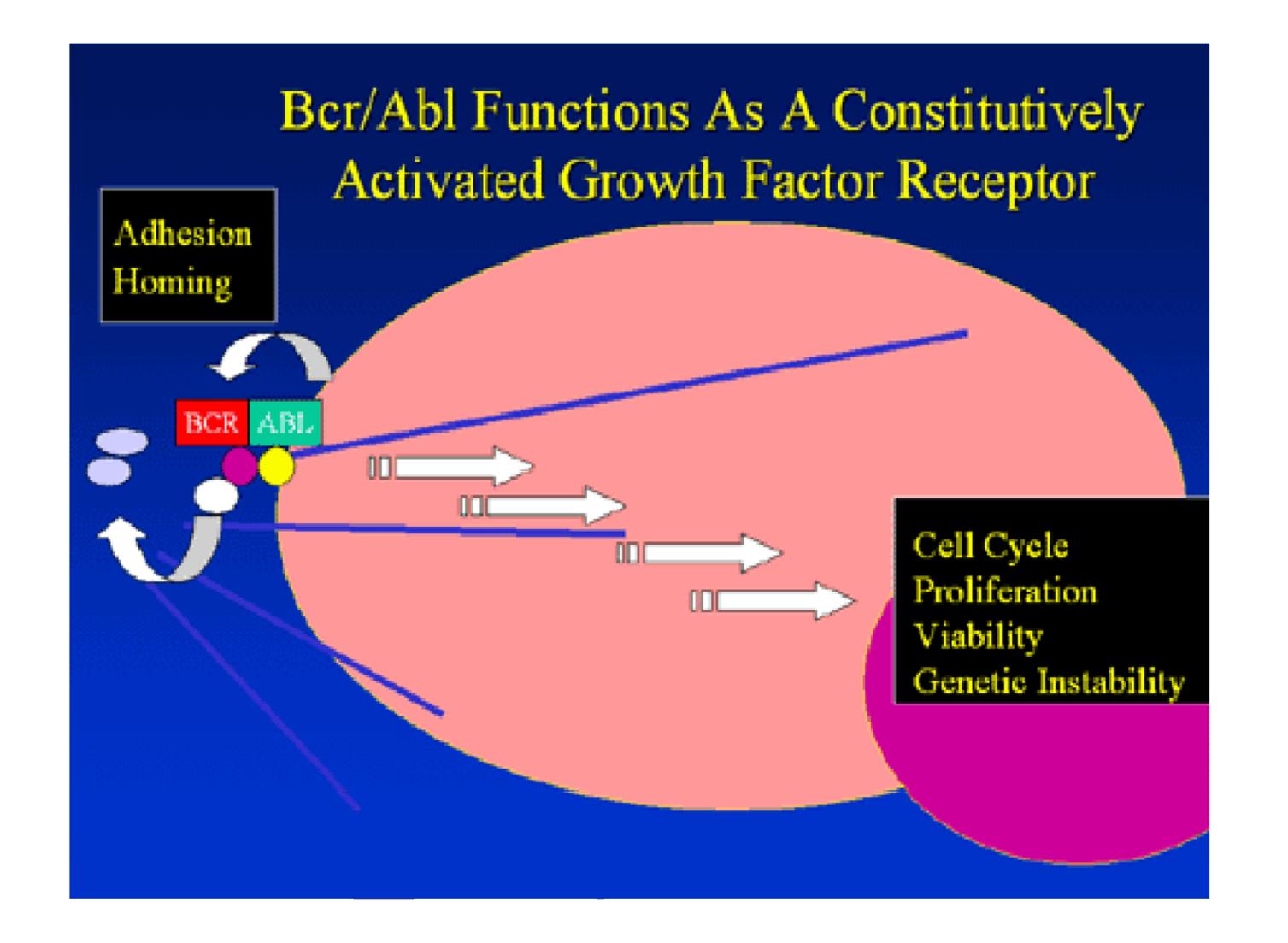
# Chromosomal translocations can produce oncogenes in several ways:

- Firstly, fusion proteins chromosomal translocations → fusion proteins that can be oncogenes for a number of reasons.
- 1. If it is a highly transcribed protein, then expression of the fusion protein will be high.eg,(PML/RARA) protein.
- 2. If it is a signalling protein, the fusion protein will consist of a molecule with signalling capacity Such is the case of the Bcr-Abl fusion protein.

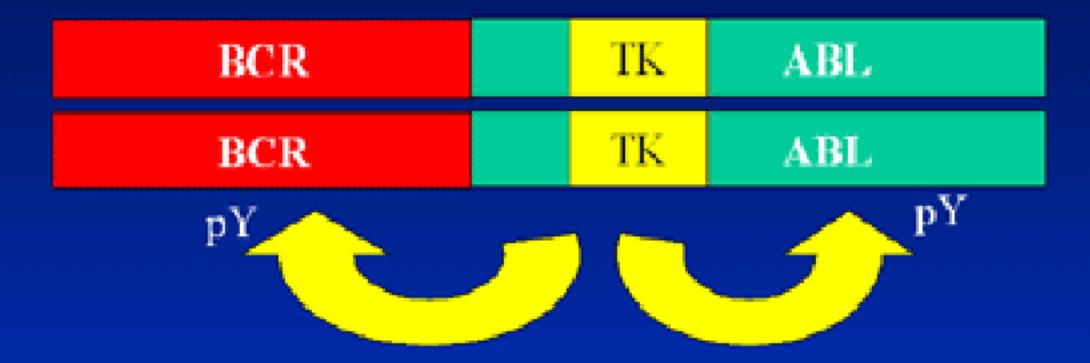




- ► Abl is a tyrosine kinase that requires cytokine stimulation to be activated.
- Conversely, the bcr gene contains kinase activity. When a translocation occurs between chromosome 9 (containing the abl gene) and chromosome 22 (containing the bcr gene), the fusion product contains Bcr and the kinase domain of Abl. Consequently, active tyrosine kinase and controlled cell division.

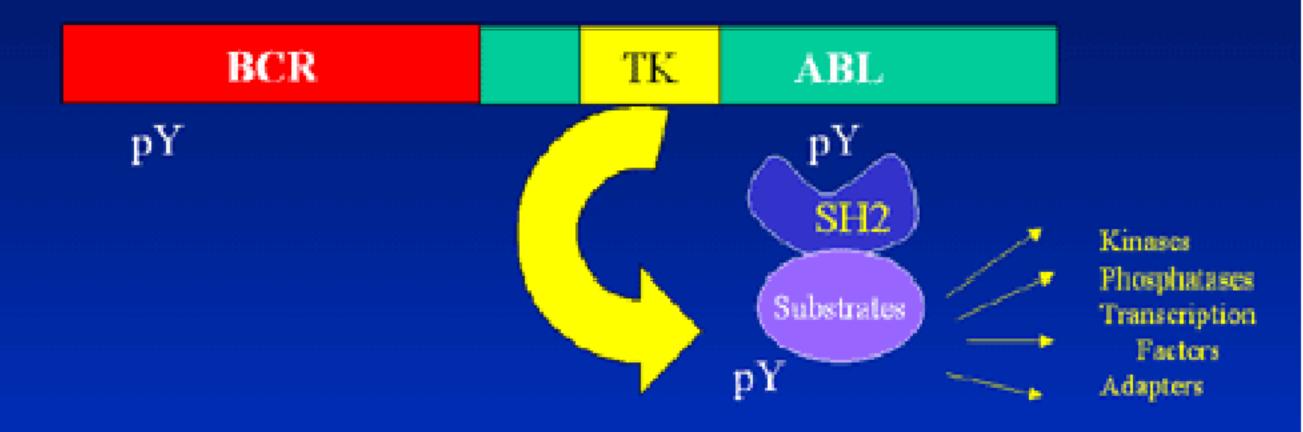


#### Bcr/Abl



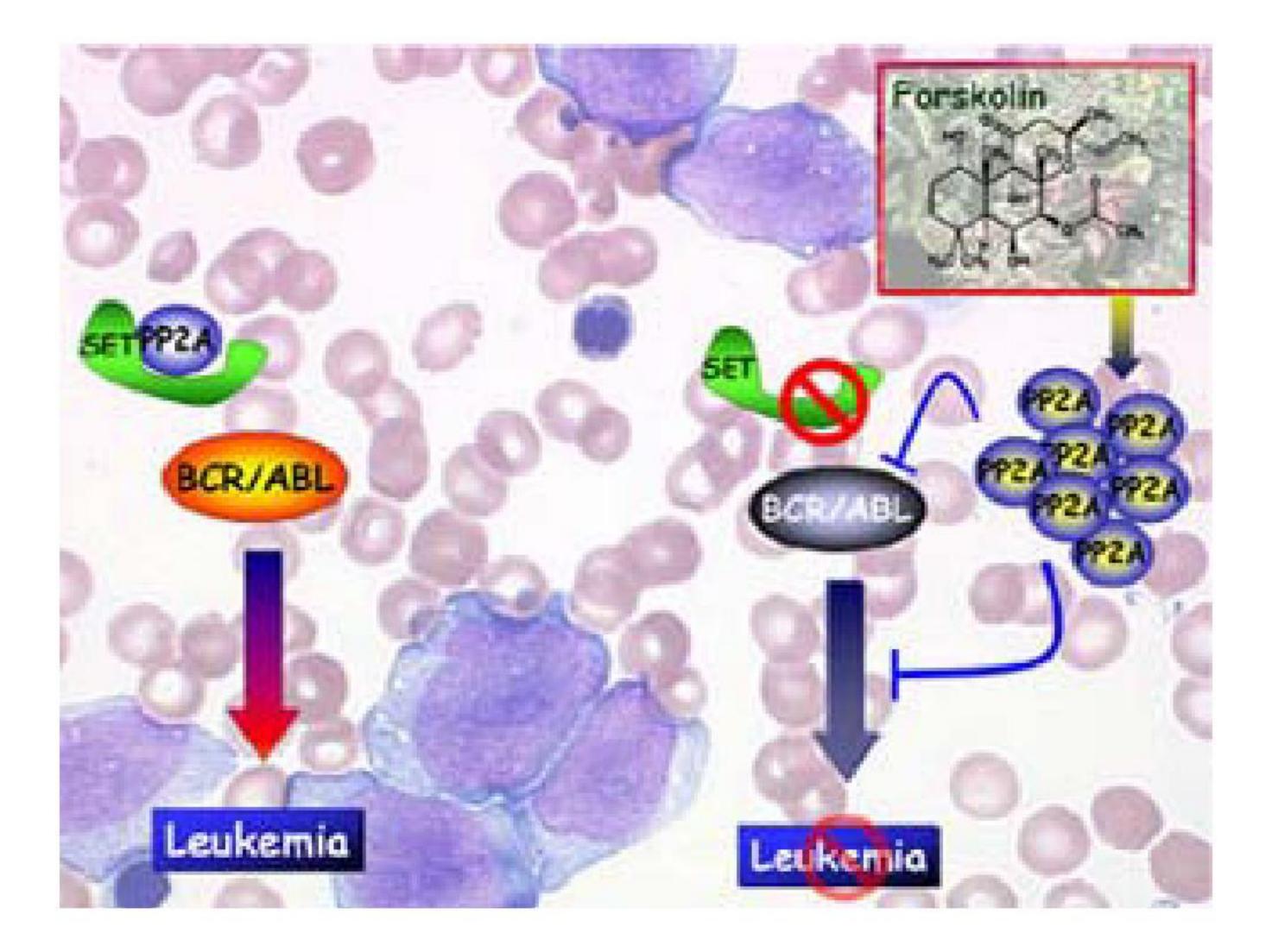
Autophosphorylation
Attraction of substrates through SH2 domains
New substrates brought in through adapters
Signal transduction activated

#### Bcr/Abl



- Complexes of Signaling Molecules Formed
- Multiple Adapter Molecules Conscripted
- Many Pathways Related to Growth Factor Receptors Activated

- Bcr/ Abl Functions as Activated Growth Factor Receptor.
- It also starts the cascade of phosphorylation and other biochemical events, which traverse the cytoplasm, end up in the nucleus, and regulate the key effects on the biology of the cell that are related to intermediate and then distal signaling pathways
- Bcr/Abl induces proliferation, It has important and potent effects in inhibiting apoptosis and promoting viability, and, unfortunately for patients with CML, it also induces genetic instability and leads to disease progression over a period of years.



## Chromosomal translocations can produce oncogenes in several ways:

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## t(14;18) in follicular lymphoma BCL2 18 IgH BCL2 IgH t(14;18)



- Virus integration
- Mutations
- Gene amplification
- Chromosomal translocations

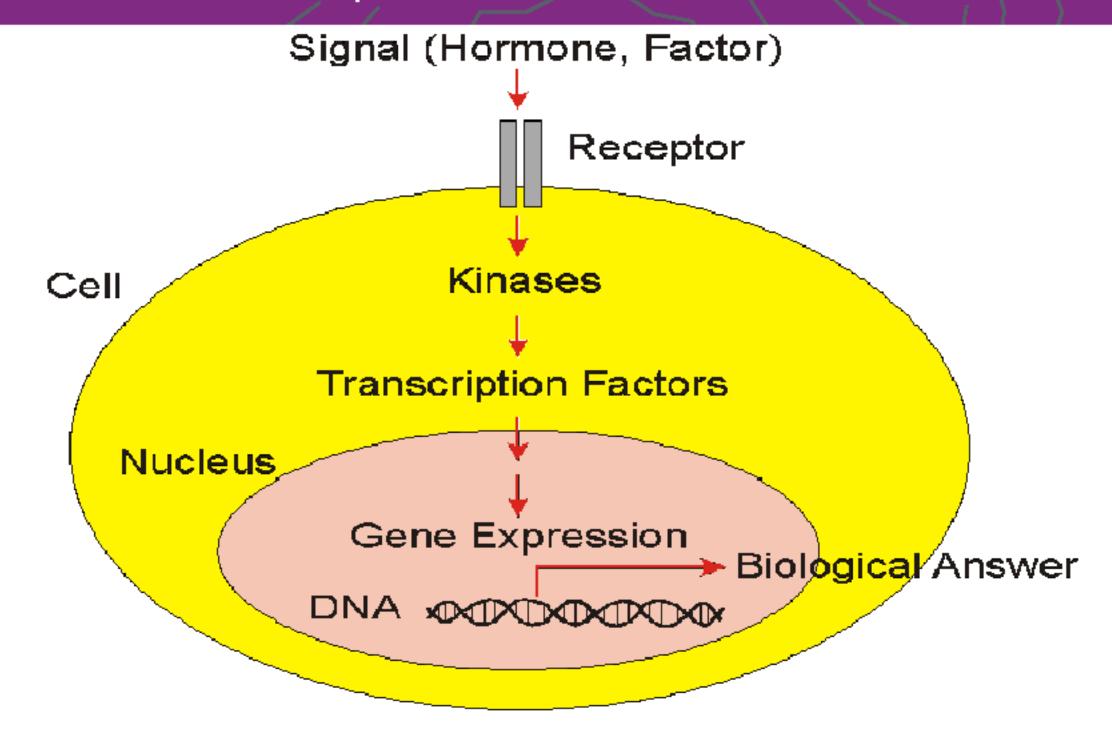
Oncogene

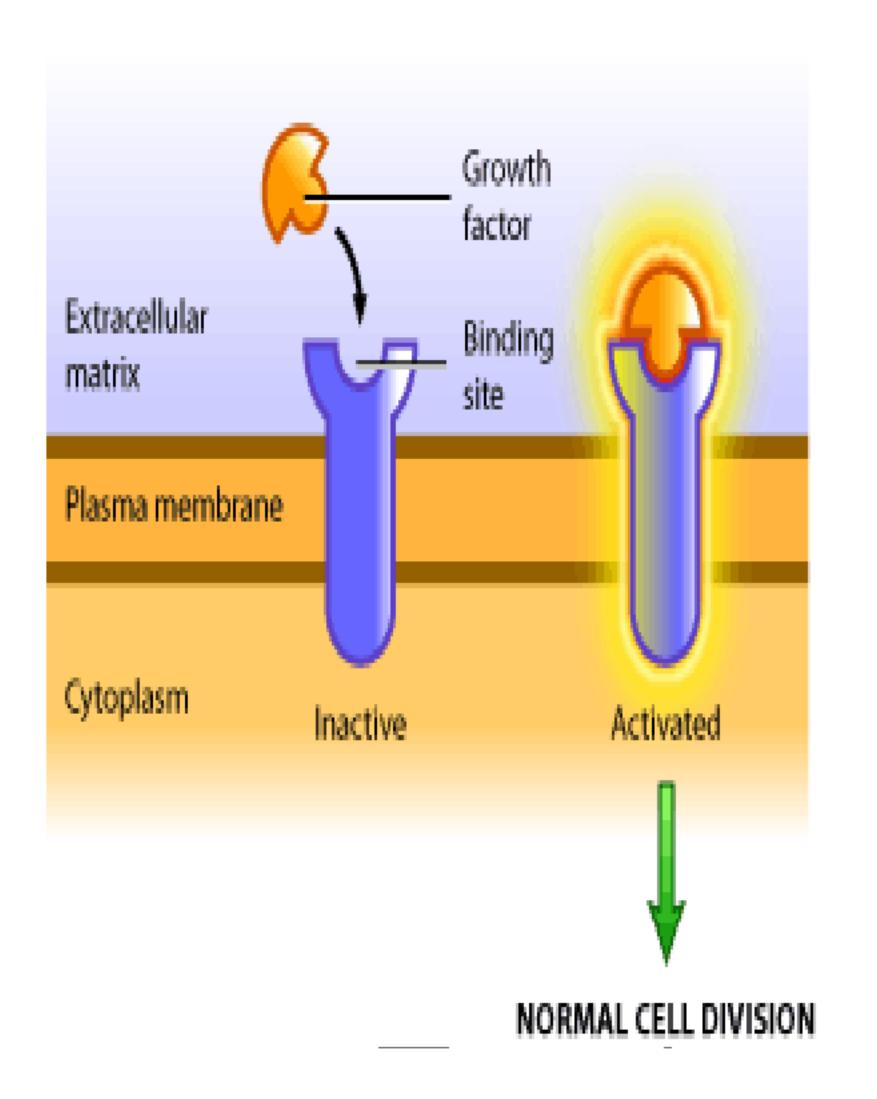
Tumor

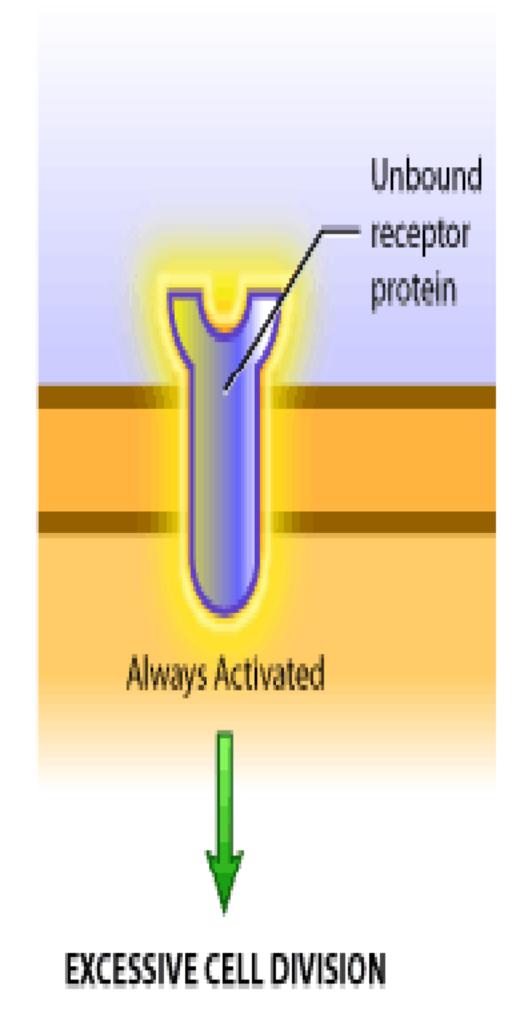
- Abnormal signal transduction
- Cell cycle dysregulation
- Inhibition of apoptosis

#### 1. Signal transduction

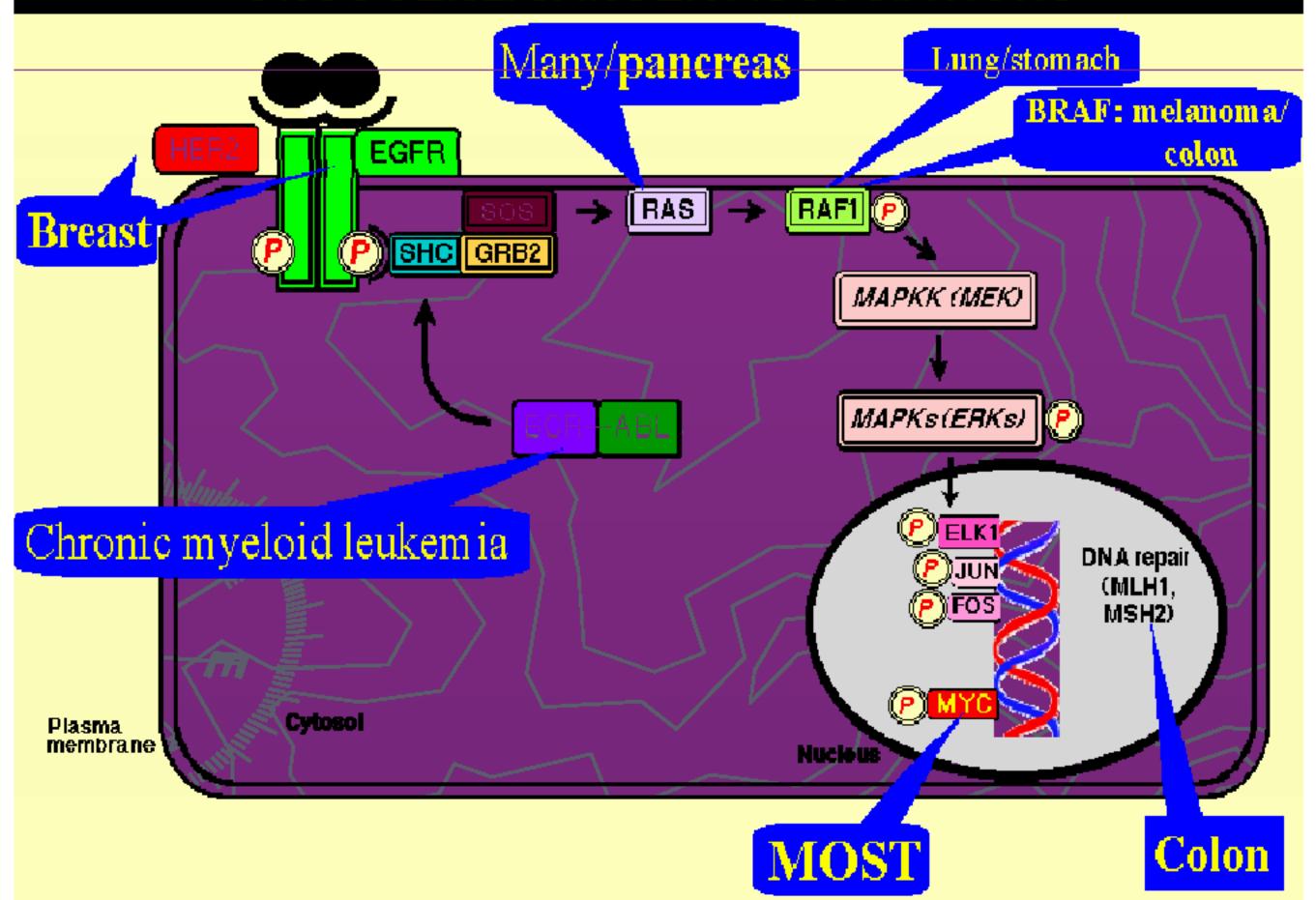
► It Is a carefully regulated event, requiring the activation of one protein to activate another.







#### **ONCOGENE/CANCER ASSOCIATIONS**



The oncogenic form of *egfr* produces a receptor that does not require binding of growth factor, but instead is constitutively active (In this way the oncogene product is capable of always activating the progrowth pathway in the absence of progrowth signals.

► The activated EGF-R dimer complexes with the adapter protein, Grb, coupled to SOS. The Grb-SOS complex can These protein interactions bring SOS in close proximity to Ras, allowing for Ras activation This subsequently activates transcription factors, such as c-fos, AP-1, and, that promote gene expression and contribute to cell proliferation.

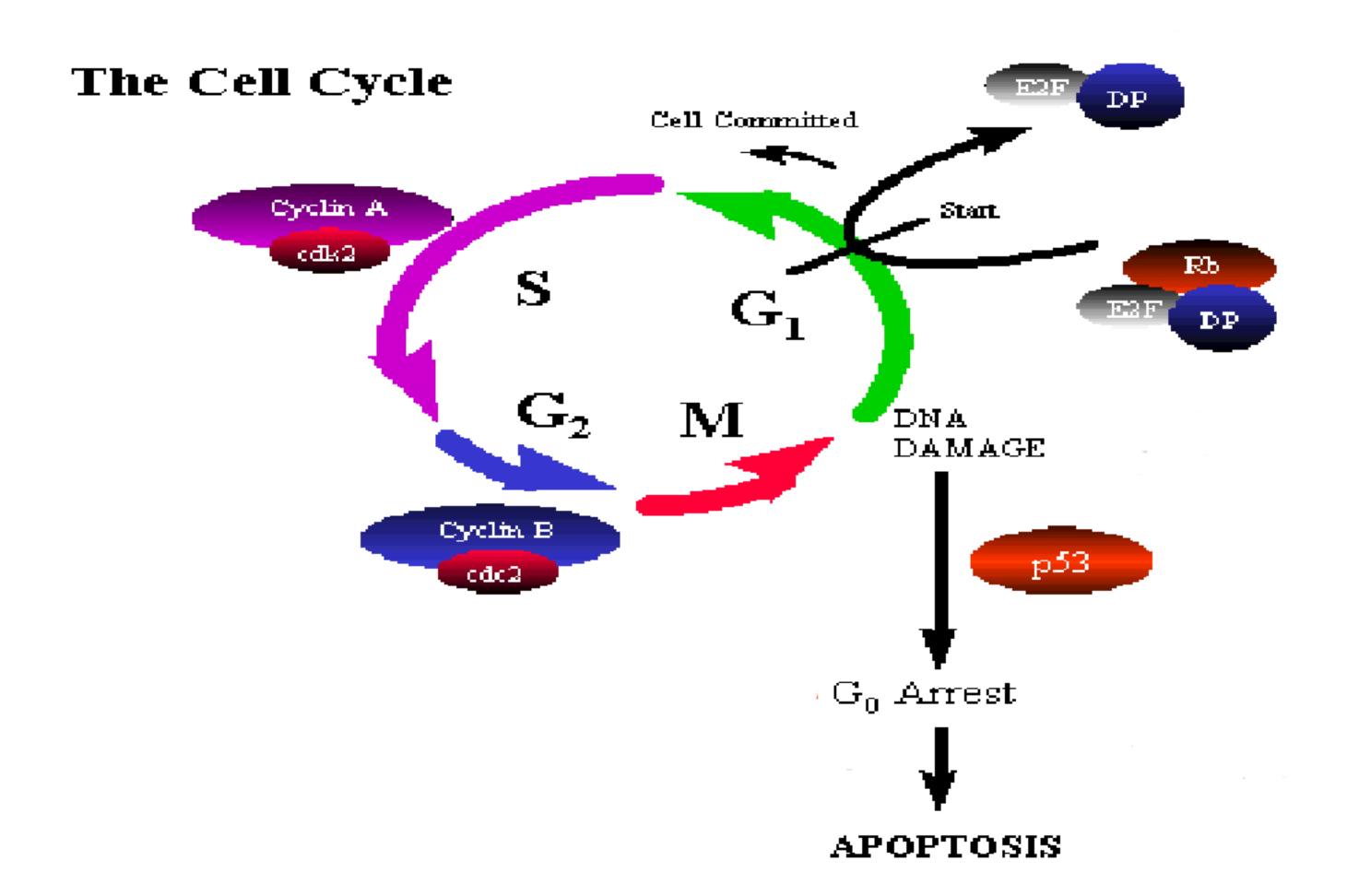


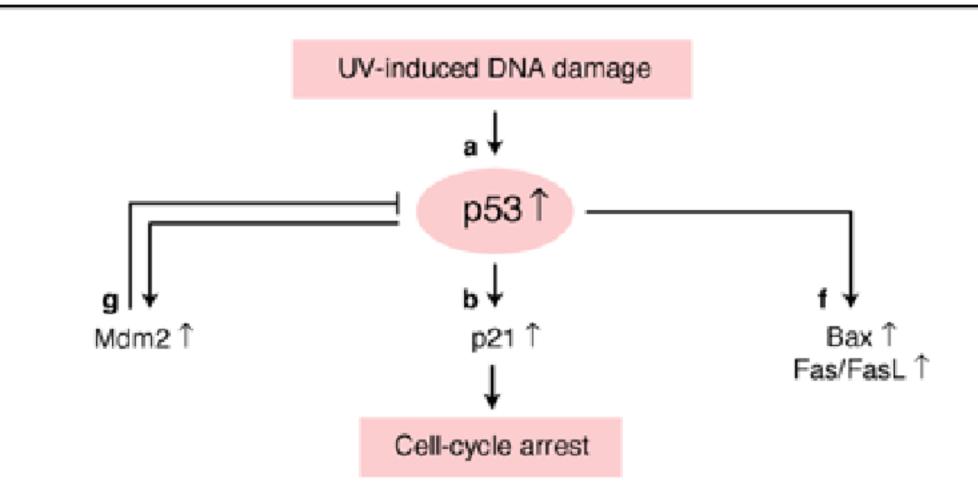
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Oncogene

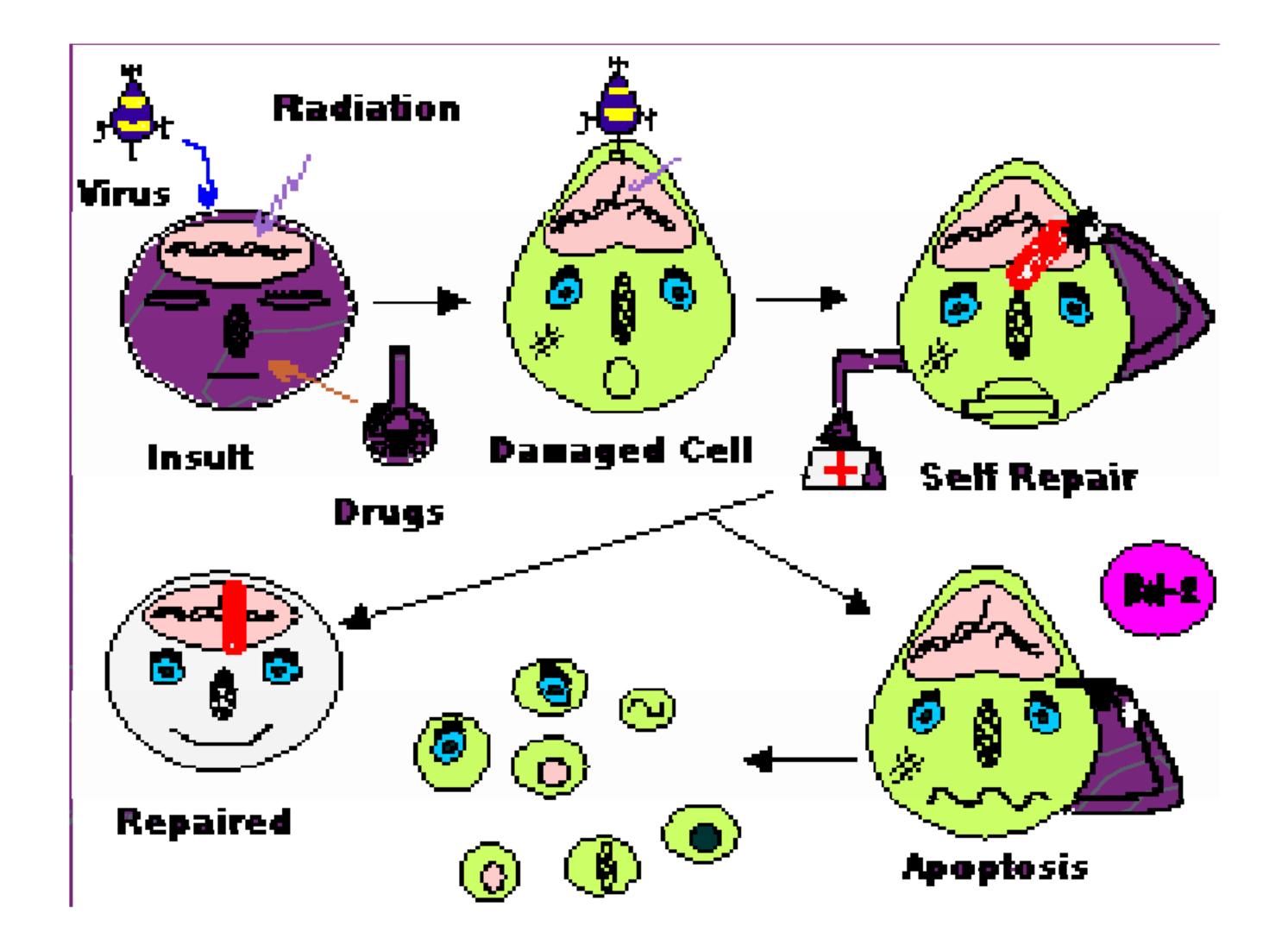
Tumor

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The central role of p53 in cell-cycle arrest, DNA repair and apoptosis following UV irradiation



DNA repair X-Ray DNA damage --> failure to P53 cell can replicate with damaged DNA more mutations accumulate cancerous cell

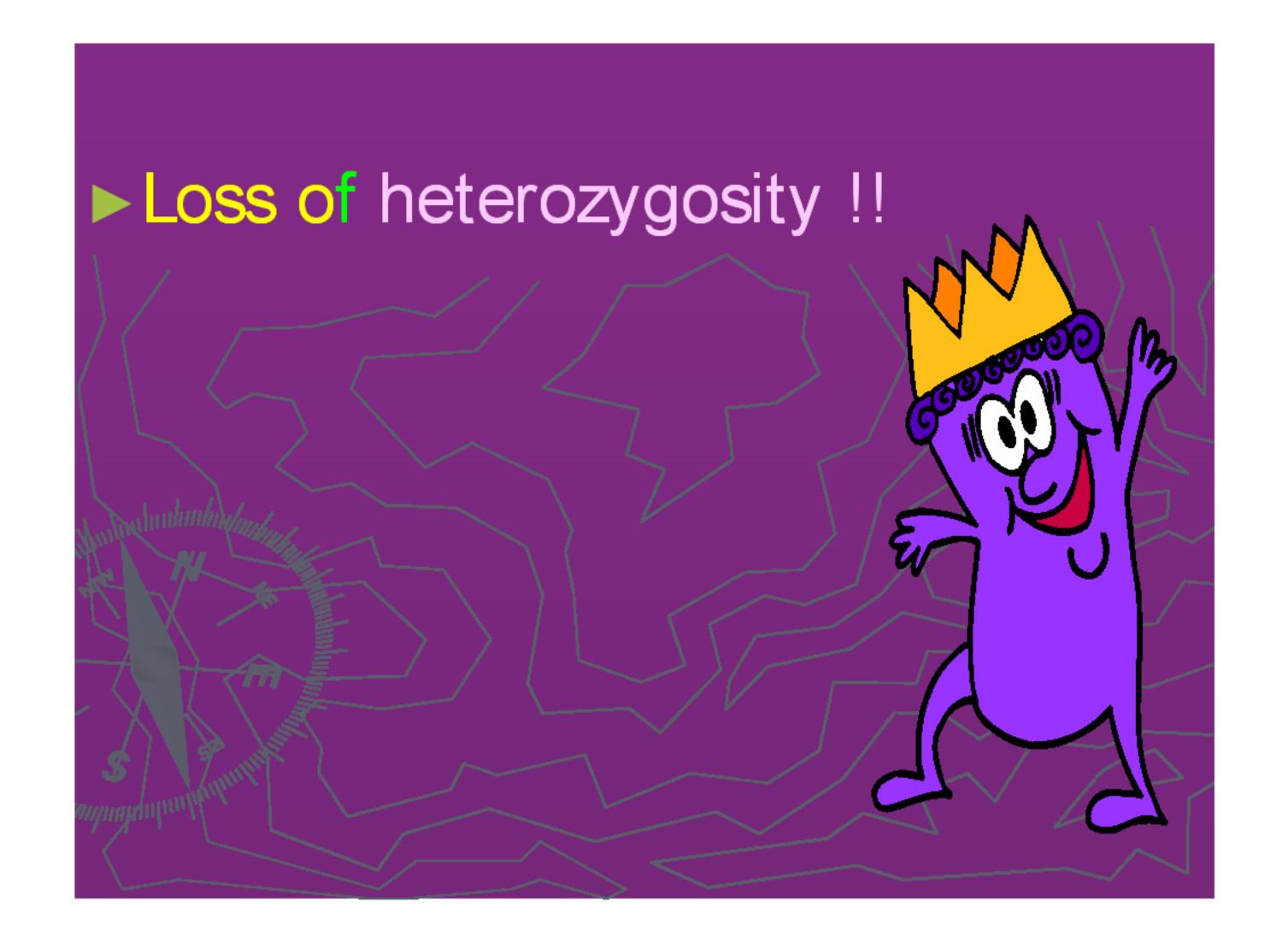
mutant p53

# P53

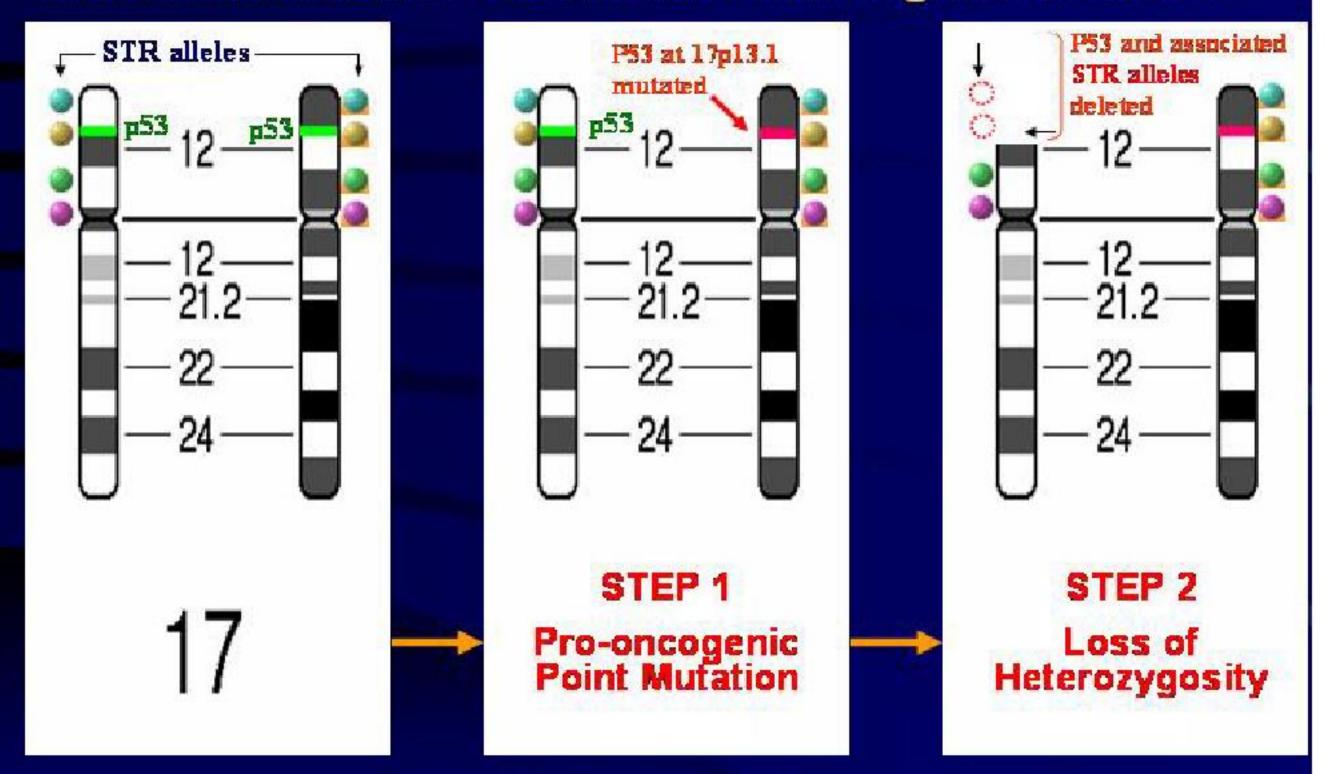
- The active p53 protein is a transcriptional regulator that is activated in response to DNA damage. Activated wild-type p53 serves double duty, preventing progression of the cell cycle until the DNA damage is repaired and, under some circumstances, inducing apoptosis.
- In the absence of a functional *p53* gene, the p53 apoptosis pathway does not become activated, and the cell cycle progresses even in the absence of DNA repair. This progression elevates the overall frequency of mutations,

### ▶ Rb gene

In retinoblastoma, the gene encoding the Rb protein, considered in the regulation of the cell cycle, is mutated.



#### LOH in Knudson's "Double-Hit" Tumorigenesis Model



Li-Fraumeni Syndrome: germline p53 mutation



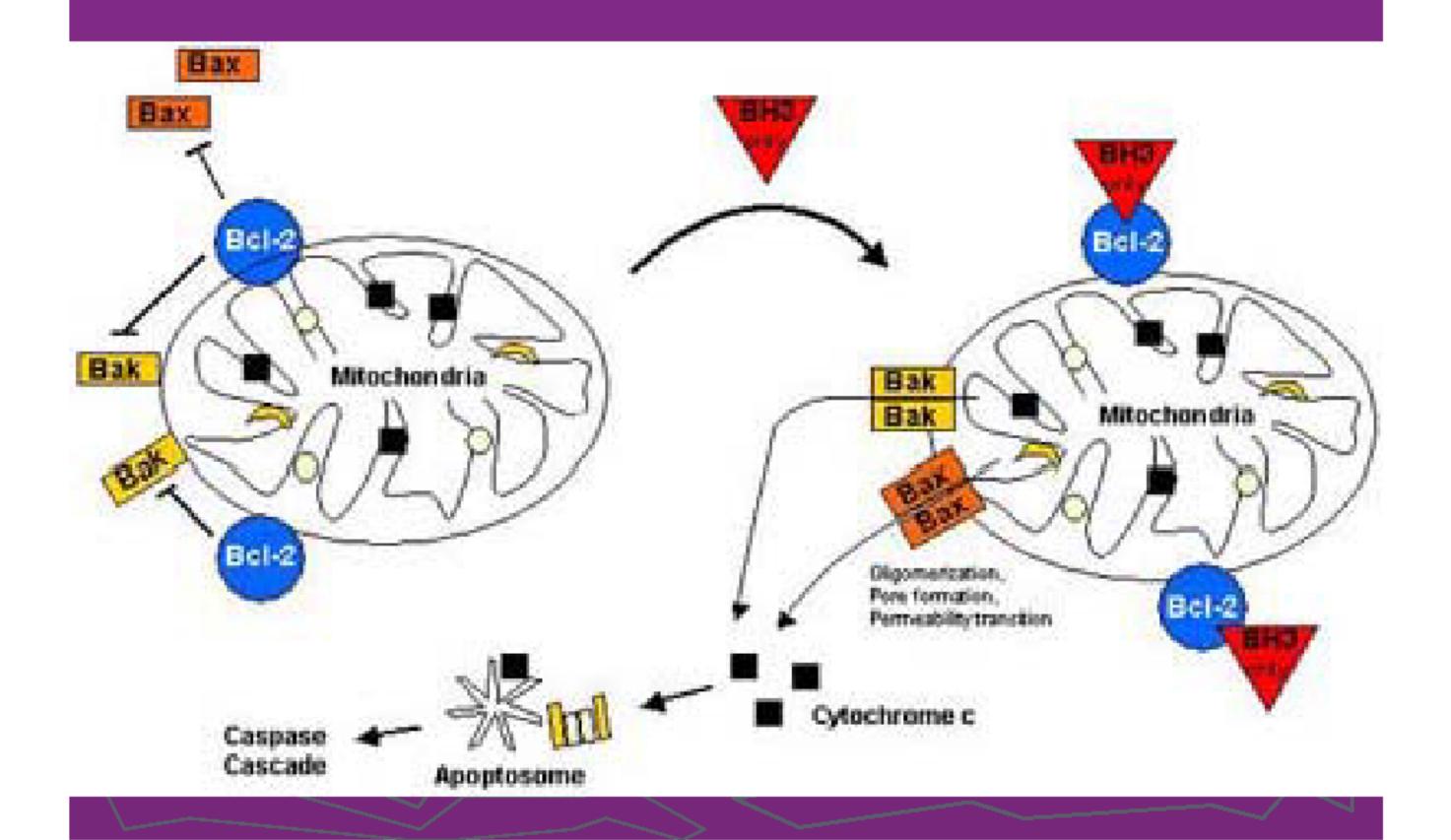
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# Inhibition of Apoptosis

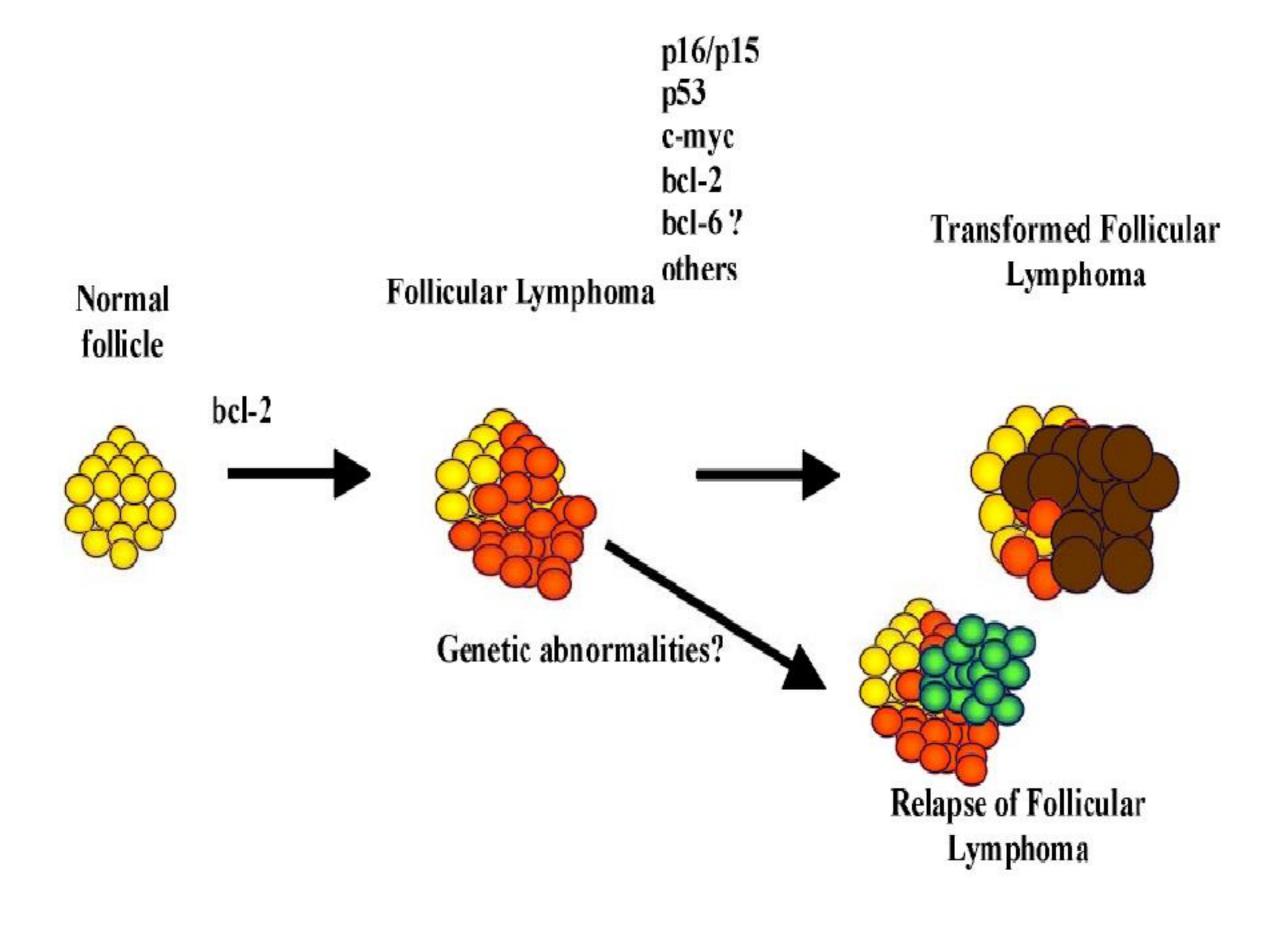


#### Mode of Action of BCL2



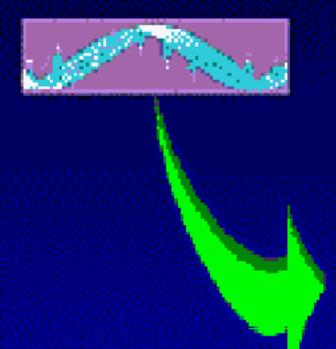
Cell survives

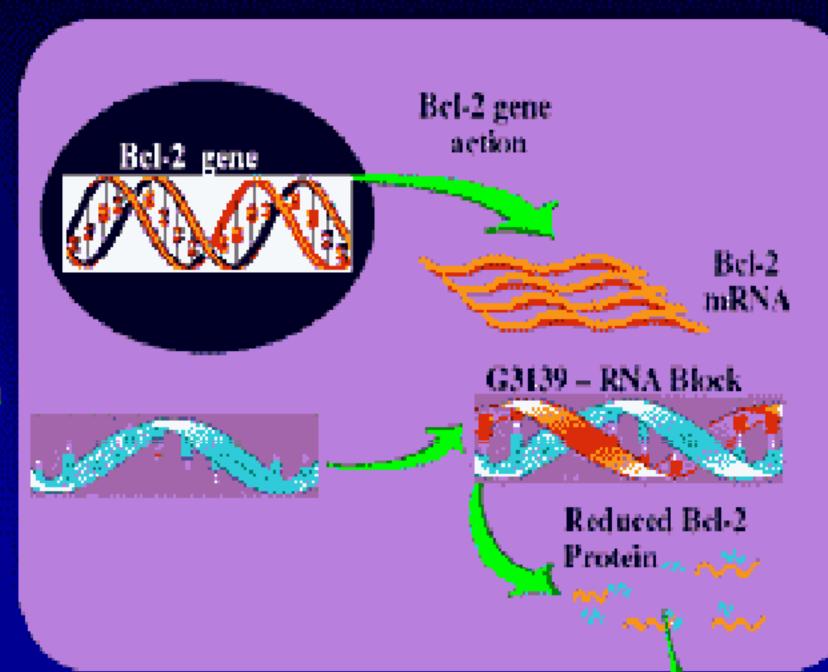
Apoptosis



#### Genta's Antisense G3139 Blocks Bcl-2

Genta's Antisense Drug G3139





Improved Response to Therapy

# Protoncogenes lead to cancer within these pathways.

- Signal transduction: includes
  - over-production of a growth factor
  - constitutively active receptors
  - intermediary molecules
- Apoptosis: by increased expression of proteins that inhibit apoptosis.
- Cell cycle regulation: by loss of tumor supressor gene

#### Protoncogene

# SUMMARY

- Virus integration
- Mutations
- Gene amplification
- Chromosomal translocations

Oncogene

Tumor

- Abnormal signal transduction
- Cell cycle dysregulation
- Inhibition of apoptosis

