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A mathematical model of field cancerization.

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The term 'cancer field effect' refers to the clinical observation that at the time of tumor initiation, there can be multiple premalignant lesions in the surrounding tissue field. The presence of these premalignant fields poses a serious risk for additional primary tumors to arise. Unfortunately, these premalignant tissue fields often appear histologically normal and are difficult to detect during diagnosis and surgery; thus mathematical modeling may provide useful clinical insights. "A mathematical model of field cancerization" will discuss a spatial stochastic evolutionary model of the process of field cancerization and some recent results in the analysis of this model.