



Altered expression of tumor suppressors p16 and Rb in gastric carcinogenesis

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Abstract

AIM: To determine whether expression of the tumor suppressors p16 and Rb is altered in gastric carcinoma.

METHODS: Mucosal biopsies were endoscopically obtained from patients with superficial gastritis ($n = 12$), atrophic gastritis ($n = 15$), atypical hyperplasia ($n = 20$) and gastric cancer ($n = 40$). Upon obtainment, all samples were immediately fixed with 10% buffered formalin, embedded in paraffin, and sectioned serially. Protein expression of p16 and Rb was detected by immunohistochemistry

(ABC method).

RESULTS: The gastric epithelium samples showed various degrees of nuclear immunostaining for p16 and Rb according to the different stage of lesion. Progressive pathology of the lesions was associated with a decreasing trend in positive immunostaining for p16 protein (83.3% > 73.3% > 30.0% > 27.5%) but an increasing trend for Rb protein (25.0% > 46.7% > 60.0% > 67.5%). A negative correlation was found between these two parameters and gastric cancer. Correlation analysis of the 40 cases of gastric cancer identified a negative correlation for 20 of the cases. When positive ($n = 9$) and negative tissues ($n = 11$) were compared, a statistically significant difference was found (50.0%, 22.5%, 27.5%) ($P < 0.05$).

CONCLUSION: Abnormal expression of p16 and Rb may play an important role in gastric carcinogenesis.

Key words: Genes, suppressor, tumor; Gene expression; Retinoblastoma protein/metabolism; Stomach neoplasms/metabolism; Carcinoma/metabolism

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