



Changes of IL-6 and relevant cytokines in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma and their clinical significance

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Abstract

AIM: To study the changes of interleukin(IL)-6, IL-2, sIL-2R and TNF in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) and their clinical significance.

METHODS: IL-6, IL-2, sIL-2R and TNF were detected by avidin-biotin-system enzyme linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), double-sandwich ELISA respectively in 60 patients with HCC and 36 patients

with liver cirrhosis (LC) and 66 healthy persons.

RESULTS: The levels of IL-6, sIL-2R and TNF increased, but IL-2 level was lower in patients with HCC than that in normal controls (NC) (t test, $t = 8.21, 4.71, 3.87, 2.13, P < 0.01$ or 0.05). IL-6 level in HCC was 10 fold higher than NC, and also much higher than LC. IL-6 level was higher in later stage than that in earlier stage. There was a positive correlation between IL-6 and sIL-2R, TNF, while no positive correlation was found between IL-2 and IL-6, sIL-2R in HCC.

CONCLUSION: The remarkably higher level of IL-6 is helpful for the early diagnosis of HCC.

Key words: Liver neoplasms/immunology; Interleukin-6/analysis; Interleukin-2/analysis; Tumor necrosis factor/analysis; Cytokines; Liver cirrhosis

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