

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

Cai-Yan Zhao, Yue-Lin Li, Su-Xia Liu, Zhong-Jun Feng

Cai-Yan Zhao, Yue-Lin Li, Su-Xia Liu, Zhong-Jun Feng, Third Hospital of Hebei Medical University, Shijiazhuang 050051, Hebei Province, China

Author contributions: All authors contributed equally to the work.

Correspondence to: Dr. Cai-Yan Zhao, Third Hospital of Medical University, 16 Weiming Road, Shijiazhuang 050051, Hebei Province, China. Wangyans@sj-user.he.cninfo.net
Telephone: +86-311-7027951-2190(O), 7760298(H)

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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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