

STEM CELL EVALUATION BY ALDH1A1 EXPRESSION IN OVARIAN EPITHELIAL TUMORS

Thesis

Submitted for partial fulfillment of the Master degree in pathology

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2016

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost always feel indebted to the mighty of ALLAH the most kind and the most merciful.

I express my deepest gratitude to Prof. Dr. Ahmed Abd El- Aziz, Professor of pathology, Pathology Department, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for giving me the advantage of working under his supervision. He saved no time and effort in helping me.

There are no words to express my sincere gratitude and deepest appreciation to Prof. Dr. Hala Naguib Hosni, Professor of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for her constant support, continuous encouragement, priceless suggestions and her constructive comments that allowed me to accomplish this work.

My profound gratitude goes to Dr. Rasha Ahmed Khairy, Lecturer of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, for her meticulous scientific supervision, guidance, great help and her creative support throughout this work.

I'd like to express my great appreciation to all staff members of the Pathology department for their support and encouragement and also my colleagues who helped me with their effort and advice.

Finally, I would like to thank my family for their patience, love, motivation and support throughout this work.

Maha Emad El- Dein Muhammad

ABSTRACT

Background: Increasing evidence has proposed that tumors contain tumors initiating cells or cancer stem cells (CSCs) that are responsible for its progression and relapse. Aldehyde dehydrogenase 1A1 (ALDH1A1) has recently been identified as a marker for cancer stem cells in some human malignancies including ovarian epithelial cancer.

Aim of Work: The assessment of immuno-histochemical expression of ALDH1A1 in epithelial ovarian tumors, tracking stem cells during ovarian cancer development and its correlation with the clinic-pathological features of such tumors.

Methods: This study consisted of 42 cases of ovarian epithelial tumors, classified as 14 cases of benign cystadenomas, 14 cases of borderline tumors and 14 cases of carcinomas. Immuno-histochemical reactions were carried out by using ALDH1A1 monoclonal antibody. Cases were classified into two groups, low ALDH1 expression and high ALDH1 expression.

Results: Immuno-histochemical staining of ALDH1A1 displayed a heterogeneous expression pattern, with differences in the distribution and intensity of positivity. High ALDH1 expression was detected in 26 cases (62%) out of the forty-two studied cases of ovarian tumors. The positivity of ALDH1 was significantly higher in the malignant tumors (86%) than in benign and borderline tumors (50%) (p value = 0.025). There was a significant correlation between ALDH1 expression score and the tumor grade (p value = 0.05) where the highest expression of ALDH1 was detected among high grade tumors; grades II & III (100%). More expression of ALDH1A1 was noticed in cases with advanced stage but without statistically significant relation (P = 0.42). Highest ALDH1A1 expression was noticed in cases of serous type tumors (71%) and endometrioid type tumors (100%), although it doesn't reach statistical significance.

Conclusion: ALDH1A1 expression was significantly higher in malignant than benign and borderline tumors and showed significant correlation to prognostically poor parameters in malignant tumors, and thus can be a prognostic indicator in malignant ovarian tumors and a target for further therapy.

Key Words: Cancer stem cells, ALDH1A1, ovarian epithelial tumors.

CONTENTS

List of abbreviations	IV
List of figures	VI
List of tables	VIII
List of Graphs	IX
Introduction	1
Aim of the study	3
Review of literature:	
- Anatomical considerations	4
- Histological considerations	5
- Epithelial ovarian tumors	6
- Pathogenesis of ovarian cancer	8
- Pathology of surface epithelial tumors	12
- Grading of ovarian carcinoma	33
- Prognosis of ovarian tumors	35
- Stem cells and cancer stem cells	38
- Cancer stem cells	41
- Stem cells of the human ovary	42
- Stem cells in the ovarian neoplasms	43
- Cancer stem cells of the ovaries	44
- Stem cell markers	46
- Aldehyde dehydrogenase 1, family member A1	47
Material and methods	49
Results	52
Discussion	74
Summary	82
Conclusion and recommendations	84
References	85
Arabic summary	٣-١

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AACR	: American Association for Cancer Research Workshop
ABC	: Avidin biotin complex
A-catenin	: Alpha- catenin
AI	: Auto-implant
ALDH	: Aldehyde dehydrogenase
ALDH1	: Class 1 of the ALDH family
ALDH1A1	: Aldehyde dehydrogenase isoform 1A1
APC	: Adenomatous polyposis coli gene
APST	: Atypical proliferative serous tumor
ASC	: Adipose derived stem cells
ASCs	: Human adipose derived stem cells
BM	: Bone marrow
BPH	: Benign prostatic hyperplasia
BRCA1	: Breast Cancer 1
BRCA2	: Breast Cancer 2
CD 133	: Cell membrane differentiation antigen 133
CD 34	: Cell membrane differentiation antigen 34
CD 44	: Cell membrane differentiation antigen 44
CICs	: Cancer initiating cells
CSCs	: Cancer stem cells
CTNNB	: Catenin beta
EOC	: Epithelial ovarian carcinoma
ESS	: Edessy stem cell score
FC	: Flow cytometry
FIGO	: International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics
GOG	: Gynecologic Oncology Group
GSCs	: Germ line stem cells

H&E	: Hematoxylin and Eosin
IHC	: Immunohistochemistry
I-MBOT	: Mucinous Borderline Ovarian Tumors of Intestinal Type
KRAS	: Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene homolog
LMP	: Low malignant potential
LOH	: Loss of heterozygosity
MBOTs	: Mucinous borderline ovarian tumors
MBTs	: Mucinous borderline tumors
N.C.I	: National Cancer Institute
Oct 4	: Octamer-binding transcription factor 4
OSCs	: Ovarian stem cells
OSE	: Ovarian surface epithelium
P53	: Protein 53
PIK3CA	: Phosphoinositide 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha
PP	: Pseudomyxoma Peritonei
PTEN	: Phosphatase and tensin homolog
SBOT-MP	: Serous borderline ovarian tumors, micropapillary patterns
SBOTs	: Serous Borderline Ovarian Tumors
SBTs	: Serous borderline tumors
SCs	: Stem cells
SD	: Standard deviation
SLMNs	: Sarcoma-like mural nodules
SP	: Side population
SPSS	: Statistical package for social science
STIC	: Serous Tubal Intraepithelial Carcinoma
WB	: Western blot
WHO	: World Health Organization

LIST OF FIGURES

<i>Fig. No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	Proposed model for the development of ovarian serous surface epithelial tumors (<i>Tavassoli and Devilee, 2003</i>).	10
2.	Benign serous cystadenoma lined by single layer of bland-looking non-stratified cuboidal to columnar epithelial cells. (H&E x 400 original magnification).	57
3.	Benign mucinous cystadenoma showing non-stratified columnar epithelium with abundant, pale-staining intracellular mucin and small, basal nuclei. (H&E x 400 original magnification).	57
4.	Borderline serous tumor showing thick papillae lined by stratified cuboidal to columnar epithelial cells. Note: Stromal invagination (head of arrow). (H&E x 100 original magnification).	58
5.	Borderline mucinous tumor showing papillary infoldings, stratification and nuclear atypia, Note: Adjacent benign mucinous epithelium (H&E x 200 original magnification).	58
6.	Endometrioid cystadenocarcinoma grade II, formed of malignant endometrial glands, showing cribriform pattern, (H&E x 100 original magnification).	59
7.	Serous cystadenocarcinoma, grade III showing necrosis (arrow). (H&E x 200).	59
8.	Serous cystadenocarcinoma, grade I showing psammoma body (arrow). (H&E x 200 original magnifications).	60
9.	Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma showing invasion and desmoplasia. (H&E x 200 original magnification).	60
10.	Benign serous cystadenoma showing no ALDH1A1 immunostaining. Note: Positive stromal cytoplasmic staining (arrows). (Low ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 400 original magnification).	68
11.	Benign serous cystadenoma showing focal cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (low ALDH IHC score) (H&E x 400 original magnification).	68
12.	Benign serous cystadenoma showing diffuse cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (High ALDH IHC score) (H&E x 400 original magnification).	69

13.	Benign mucinous cystadenoma showing cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (Low ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 400 original magnification).	69
14.	Borderline serous cystadenoma showing cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (Low ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 200 original magnification).	70
15.	Borderline mucinous cystadenoma showing focal cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (Low ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 200 original magnification).	70
16.	Borderline mucinous cystadenoma showing focal cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (High ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 200 original magnification).	71
17.	Serous cystadenocarcinoma grade II showing diffuse cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. Note: Strong fibroblastic staining. (High ALDH IHC score) (IHC x 200 original magnification).	71
18.	Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma, grade II showing focal cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. Note: Strong fibroblastic staining. (Low ALDH IHC score). (H&E x 400 original magnification).	72
19.	Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma, grade II showing no ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (Low ALDH IHC score). (H&E x 100 original magnification).	72
20.	Mucinous cystadenocarcinoma, grade II showing diffuse cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (High ALDH score) (IHC x 200 original magnification).	73
21.	Endometrioid cystadenocarcinoma, grade II showing diffuse cytoplasmic ALDH1A1 immunostaining. (High ALDH IHC score). (IHC x 200 original magnification).	73

LIST OF TABLES

<i>Table No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	World Health Organization Histological Classification of Ovarian Surface Epithelial Tumors (Tavassoli and Devilee, 2003).	11
2.	TNM Staging and FIGO Classification of Ovarian Carcinoma (Tavassoli and Devilee, 2003).	34
3.	Age distribution in the studied ovarian tumor cases.	53
4.	Tumor size distribution of studied cases in each tumor group.	54
5.	Distribution of studied ovarian tumor cases according to histologic type.	55
6.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with each tumor group in studied cases.	62
7.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with combined tumor groups in studied cases.	62
8.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with age.	63
9.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with tumor size.	64
10.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with tumor laterality.	64
11.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with histologic type in each tumor group.	65
12.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with histologic type in all studied cases.	65
13.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with histologic grade in malignant ovarian tumor cases.	66
14.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with tumor stage in malignant ovarian tumor cases.	67

LIST OF GRAPHS

<i>Graph No.</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Page</i>
1.	Tumor group distribution among the studied ovarian tumor cases.	52
2.	Distribution of studied cases according to laterality in each tumor group.	54
3.	Distribution of studied malignant cases according to histologic grade.	56
4.	Distribution of studied malignant cases according to tumor stage.	56
5.	ALDH1A1 IHC expression score in ovarian tumor cases.	61
6.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with combined tumor groups in studied cases.	63
7.	Correlation of ALDH1A1 IHC score with histologic grade in malignant ovarian tumor cases.	66
8.	Correlation of ALDH1A1IHC score with tumor stage in malignant ovarian tumor cases.	67



INTRODUCTION