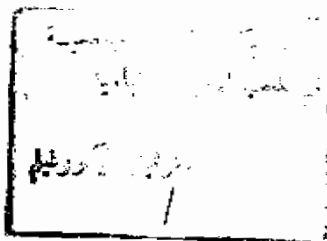


**THE PREDICTIVE VALUE OF EGFR AND CATHEPSIN D
IN BREAST CANCER**

THESIS

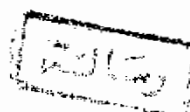
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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

« وعلمك ما لم تكن تعلم

وكان فضل الله عليك عظيما »

صدق الله العظيم

(سورة النساء آية ١١٣)



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CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction and Aim of Work	1
Review of Literature	3
Pathology of Breast Cancer	3
Prognostic Factors in Breast Cancer	24
Cathepsin-D	25
Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor	38
Mucin Like Carcinoma Associated Antigen	73
Material and Methods	84
Results	109
Discussion	147
Summary and Conclusion	166
References	169
Arabic Summary	

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AJCC	American Joint Committee for Cancer
AEV	Avian erythroblastosis virus
CA 15.3	Cancer antigen 15.3
CEA	Carcinoembryonic antigen
CD or Cath D	Cathepsin D
cDNA	Complementary DNA
c-erb-B	Normal cellular counterpart of v-erythroblastosis B gene
cpm	Counts per minute
DTT	Dithiotreitol
ELISA	Enzyme linked immunosorbent assay
EGF	Epidermal Growth Factor
EGF-R	Epidermal Growth Factor-Receptor
ER	Oestrogen Receptor
GFR	Growth factor receptor
HEPES	N-[2-Hydroxy ethyl] piperazine-N' {2-ethane sulfonic acid}
IGF I, II	Insulin-like growth factors I and II
LDL	Low density lipoprotein
mM	Millimolar
MCA	Mucin like Carcinoma associated Antigen

MAB	Monoclonal antibodies
Man 6-P	Mannose-6 phosphate
nm 23	Non metastatic protein product (23 kd)
NSCLC	Non small cell lung cancer
OS	Overall survival
PR or PgR	Progesterone receptor
PDGF	Platelet derived growth factor
RFS	Recurrence free survival
SHR	Steroid hormone receptor
SCLC	Small cell lung cancer
TNM	T: tumour, N: lymph nodes, M: metastasis
TGF α	Transforming growth factor α
TPA	Tissue polypeptide antigen
TMB	3, 3', 5, 5' tetramethyl benzidine
TRIS	Hydroxy methyl amino methane
v-erb-B	Viral erythroblastosis-B gene
VVGF	Vaccinia virus growth factor

LIST OF TABLES

	Page
Table (1): Clinical and histological findings in benign and malignant groups.	112
Table (2): Mean values of investigated parameters in malignant and benign groups.	113
Table (3): Positivity rates of studied parameters in benign and malignant groups.	119
Table (4): Mean age and lymph node number in different subgroups.	124
Table (5): Tumour size in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	125
Table (6): Tumour grade in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	129
Table (7): Lymph node status in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	131
Table (8): Number of positive lymph nodes in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	133
Table (9): Clinical stage in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	134
Table (10): Tumour type in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	135
Table (11): Cathepsin D mean and positivity rates in relation to clinical and histological findings.	136
Table (12): EGFR mean and positivity rate in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	140
Table (13): MCA-S mean and positivity rates in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	143
Table (14): MCA-T mean and positivity rates in relation to other clinical and histological findings.	144
Table (15): Correlation between different studied parameters.	145
Table (16): Correlation coefficient between different studied parameters.	146

LIST OF FIGURES

	Page
Fig. (1): Structure and relationship between different forms of cathepsin D.	31
Fig. (2): Modes of delivery of growth factors.	40
Fig. (3): Synergistic action of certain growth factors in the cell cycle.	42
Fig. (4): Amino acid sequence of mEGF with placement of disulfide bonds.	45
Fig. (5): Model for the structure of the EGF receptor.	51
Fig. (6): Subclasses and structural features of the family of receptor tyrosine kinases.	54
Fig. (7): Schematic representation of MCA-release in normal and malignant cells.	79
Fig. (8): Standard curve for protein.	92
Fig. (9): Standard curve for MCA.	96
Fig. (10): Standard curve for Cathepsin D.	100
Fig. (11): Standard curve for EGFR.	106
Fig. (12): Mean age values in benign and malignant groups.	114
Fig. (13): Mean cathepsin D values in benign and malignant groups.	115
Fig. (14): Mean EGFR values in benign and malignant groups.	116
Fig. (15): Mean MCA- serum values in benign and malignant groups.	117
Fig. (16): Mean MCA-tissue values in benign and malignant groups.	118
Fig. (17): Cathepsin D positivity rates in benign and malignant groups.	120
Fig. (18): EGFR positivity rates in benign and malignant groups.	121

Fig. (19):	MCA-serum positivity rates in benign and malignant groups.	122
Fig. (20):	MCA-tissue positivity rates in benign and malignant groups.	123
Fig. (21):	Correlation between tumour size and clinical stage in malignant breast tumours.	126
Fig. (22):	Correlation between tumour size and lymph node status in malignant breast tumours.	127
Fig. (23):	Correlation between tumour size and recurrence in malignant breast tumours.	128
Fig. (24):	Correlation between tumour grade and size in malignant breast tumours.	130
Fig. (25):	Correlation between lymph node status and clinical stage in malignant breast tumours.	132
Fig. (26):	Correlation between cathepsin D and tumour size in malignant breast tumours.	137
Fig. (27):	Correlation between cathepsin D and histological grade in malignant breast tumours.	138
Fig. (28):	Correlation between cathepsin D and lymph node status in malignant breast tumours.	139
Fig. (29):	Correlation between EGFR and histological grade in malignant breast tumours.	141
Fig. (30):	Correlation between EGFR and recurrence in malignant breast tumours.	142

*Introduction
and Aim of Work*

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF WORK

Breast cancer, the most common cause of cancer death in women, results from the complex interaction of genetic, physiologic and environmental factors. In each case, the ability to predict the clinical outcome, determine the probability of recurrence, and make decisions on adjuvant chemotherapy or radiotherapy relies on tumour staging using several independent prognostic indicators (*Donovan-Peluso et al.*, 1991).

Cathepsin D is an independent prognostic factor associated with high risk for metastasis in breast cancer (*Rocheffort et al.*, 1987; *Spyratos et al.*, 1989 and *Tandon et al.*, 1990). Because of its relationship to tumour growth and invasiveness, cathepsin D concentration may be useful to identify patients who would benefit from adjuvant therapy (*Tandon et al.*, 1990).

Epidermal growth factor (EGF) is one of the peptide growth factors whose molecular mechanism of action has provided an understanding of the biochemistry that underlies the regulation of cell proliferation (*Carpenter*, 1987). The mitogenic action of EGF is

mediated through the binding to their membrane receptors, which after internalization, transduces the mitogenic signal (*Fitzpatrick et al.*, 1984).

The clinical importance of epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) has recently been outlined as a prognostic factor, an indicator of response to hormonal therapy and possibly a target for blocking of cytotoxic agents (*Sainsbury et al.*, 1985a, 1987; *Macias et al.*, 1987 and *Grimaux et al.*, 1989).

Mucin like carcinoma associated antigen (MCA) belongs to the group of mucin like glycoproteins (*Stähli et al.*, 1988) released from breast cancers. Invasive tumour cells may disrupt tissue architecture sufficiently so that antigen release in the blood stream may occur, as a result, antigens can be detectable in the serum.

This study will deal with the estimation of EGFR in the membrane fraction of benign and malignant breast tissue. Also, the proteolytic enzyme cathepsin D will be estimated in the cytosol fraction of the same tissue. In addition, MCA will be estimated in serum and tissue studied. These biological parameters will be evaluated to highlight their biological behaviour in tumours as well as their predictive value.

Review of Literature

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The natural history of breast cancer is characterized by a long duration and marked heterogeneity within and among patients. Breast cancer is among the more slow-growing tumours, and the preclinical period before diagnosis and the clinical phases after initial treatment and even after the appearance of metastasis are measured in years and decades.

Nevertheless, some patients have aggressive forms of the disease and do poorly. Other patients have such indolent forms of the disease that it is difficult to demonstrate that therapy has any effect on survival. During the long clinical phase, there is ample opportunity for clonal mutation and evolution, and it seems probable that individual patients may have multiple tumour clones, each with its own growth rate, propensity to metastasize and sensitivity to drugs (*Harris et al.*, 1993).

Advances in molecular biology during the next decade should enable a more precise estimate of a patient's clinical course than is now possible based on clinical criteria.