

Transforming Growth Factor-beta 1 and Follistatin in Patients with Hepatocellular Carcinoma and Patients with Liver Cirrhosis

Thesis

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List of Contents

Title	Page
♦ Introduction	1
♦ Aim of the Work	2
♦ Review of Literature:	
▪ Chapter 1:	
o Hepatocellular Carcinoma.....	4
▪ Chapter 2:	
o HCC Markers	73
▪ Chapter 3:	
o (TGF)- β 1 and Follistatin	98
♦ Patients and Methods	105
♦ Results	110
♦ Discussion	127
♦ Conclusion	133
♦ Recommendations	134
♦ Summary	135
♦ References	136
♦ Master Sheet	167
♦ Arabic Summary	--

List of Abbreviations

Abbrev.

AFB1	Aflatoxin B1
AFU	Alpha-1-fucosidase
Ang-1	Angiopoitin-1
Ang-2	Angiopoitin-2
Bcl-2	B-cell lymphoma 2
BCLC	Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer
Bcl-xl	Bcl-associated X protein
BFGF	Basic fibroblast growth factor
CD	Cluster of differentiation
CgA	Chromogranin A
CGH	Comparative genomic hybridization
CK	Cytokeratin
DCP	des gamma carboxy prothrombin
DFS	Disease-free survival
EGF	Epidermal growth factor
EGFR	Epidermal growth factor receptors
ELISA	Enzyme linked immunosorbant assay
FGF	Fibroblast growth factor
FST	Follistatin
GEP	Granulin-epithelin precursor
GGT mRNA	Gamma-glutamyl transferase mRNA
GP73	Golgi Protein 73

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

Abbrev.	
GPC3	Glypican-3
HALT-C	Hepatitis c long term treatment against cirrhosis
HBsAg	HBV surface antigen
HBV	Hepatitis c virus
HCC	Hepatocellular carcinoma
HCCR	Human Cervical Cancer Oncogene
HCV	Hepatitis c virus
HGDN	High-grade dysplastic nodules
HSAFP	Hepatoma-specific AFP
HSP	Heat shock protein
HSP	Heat shock protein
ICC	Intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma
IGF-II	Insulin-like-growth factor II
IL-8	Interleukin-8
LCA	Lens culinaris agglutinin
LIs	Labeling indices
LOH	Loss of heterozygosity
MDCT	Multidetector CT scan
MELD	Score model for end stage liver disease
MMPs	Matrix metalloproteinases
MRI	Magnetic resonance imaging

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

Abbrev.	
NAFLD	Non alcoholic fatty liver disease
NASH	Non-alcoholic steatohepatitis
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NF kappa B	Nuclear factor kappa-light-chain-enhancer of activated B cells
PBMCs	Peripheral blood mononuclear cells
PDGFR	Platelet-derived growth factor receptor
PIVKA II	Prothrombin Induced by Vitamin K Absence II
RCTs	Randomized controlled trials
RECIST	Response Evaluation Criteria In Solid Tumours VEGFR-2 vascular endothelial growth factor receptor
RFA	Radio frequency ablation
ROC curve	Receiver operator characteristic curve
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction
SEER	Epidemiology and End Results
SPSS	Statistical program for social science
TAA	Tumor-Derived Autoantibody
TACE	Trans arterial chemo embolization
TAE	Transcatheter arterial embolization
TGF-β1	Transforming growth factor beta 1
TIMPs	Matrix metalloproteinase inhibitors

List of Abbreviations (Cont.)

Abbrev.

TNM Classification tumor, nodes, metastasis

TSGF Tumor-specific growth factor

TTP Time to progression

UNOS United Network for Organ Sharing

VEGF Vascular endothelial growth factor

WHO World health organization

List of Table

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (1)	Groups for whom HCC surveillance in recommended or in whom the risk of HCC is increased, but in whom efficacy of surveillance has not been demonstrated	24
Table (2)	TNM staging criteria	38
Table (3)	Child-Pugh classification of severity of liver disease	39
Table (4)	Definition of the Okuda staging system for hepatocellular carcinoma	40
Table (5)	Comparison between both groups as regard general data.....	111
Table (6)	Comparison between both groups as regard laboratory data	112
Table (7)	Comparison between both groups as regard coagulation profile	113
Table (8)	Comparison between both groups as regard complete blood count.....	113
Table (9)	Comparison between both groups as regard TGFB1 and follistatin.....	114
Table (10)	Comparison between both groups as regard Child classification	116
Table (11)	Comparison between both groups as regard history of HCV infection.....	116

List of Table (Cont.)

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (12)	Distribution of the studied HCC group as regard number and size of focal lesions	117
Table (13)	Distribution of the studied HCC group as portal vein and BCL staging.....	117
Table (14)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus age and lab data among HCC group	118
Table (15)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus coagulation profile among HCC group	119
Table (16)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus complete blood count among HCC group	119
Table (17)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus age and lab data among cirrhosis group.....	120
Table (18)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus coagulation profile among cirrhotic group	121
Table (19)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin and complete blood count among cirrhotic group	121
Table (20)	Correlation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus BACLC and child	122

List of Table (Cont.)

Table No.	Title	Page
Table (21)	Relation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus tumor size.....	123
Table (22)	Relation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus portal vein patency	124
Table (23)	Validity of TGFB1 and follistatin in case of liver cirrhosis, HCC patients	125
Table (24)	Validity of TGFB1 and follistatin each one with AFP	126

List of Figures

Figure No.	Title	Page
Figure (1)	Molecular pathways involved in HCC tumorigenesis	10
Figure (2)	Algorithm for investigation of small nodules found on screening in patients at risk for HCC.....	25
Figure (3)	The BCLC staging system and treatment allocation.....	37
Figure (4)	This figure shows that patients with HCC had higher level of TGFB-1 in comparison to patients with liver cirrhosis	114
Figure (5)	This figure shows that there is no significant difference between HCC group and cirrhotic group as regard follistatin	115
Figure (6)	Showing the relation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus tumor size	123
Figure (7)	Showing the relation between TGFB1 and follistatin versus portal vein patency	124



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INTRODUCTION

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the predominant form of primary malignancy of the Liver and rapidly reduces quality of life and typically causes death 6 months–1 year from diagnosis (*Bosch et al., 2005*).

Globally, it is the fifth leading cause of cancer and the third leading cause of cancer death (*Yu et al., 2000*).

This cancer varies widely in incidence throughout the world, with rising incidence in Egypt (*Bosch et al., 2005*).

Hospital-based studies from Egypt have reported an overall increase in the relative frequency of all liver-related cancers in Egypt (>95% as HCC), from approximately 4% in 1993 to 7.3% in 2003 (*El-Zayadi et al., 2005*).

The primary risk factors for hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) are hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), dietary aflatoxin exposure, and chronic alcohol consumption (*El-Serag et al., 2007*).

Diagnosis is often occurs late and prognosis for HCC remains poor and despite recent advances, the molecular pathology of the disease is not well understood and the therapeutic possibilities are largely limited to either surgical procedures or liver transplantation, or local tumor ablation (*Deli et al., 2008*).

Serum α -fetoprotein, the currently used clinical marker, is elevated in only 60% of HCC patients, therefore the identification of additional markers is expected to have significant public health impact (**Goldman et al, 2009**).

Deregulated expression of growth factors and their cognate receptors has been described in hepatocellular carcinoma for both, positive regulators of hepatocyte growth, such as insulin-like growth factor 2 (IGF-2), hepatocyte growth factor (HGF), and transforming growth factor α (TGF α), as well as for negative regulators like TGF β (**Breuhahn et al., 2006**).

Transforming growth factor- beta (TGF β 1) exerts an inhibitory effect on DNA synthesis of hepatocytes, follistatin antagonize the actions of activin which exhibits an apoptotic effect on hepatocytes through different mechanism other than TGF β 1 (**Deli et al., 2008**).

AIM OF THE WORK

To investigate the role of TGF β 1 and follistatin in the diagnosis of HCC.

HEPATOCELLULAR CARCINOMA

Introduction

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is one of the deadliest forms of cancer worldwide, with a 5-year survival rate of less than 5%. The high death rate is due in part to the fact that liver cancer is often detected at advanced stages. This is particularly problematic because, apart from surgical resection or ablation of the primary tumors, no curative treatment options are available (*Poon et al., 2009*).

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the fifth most common malignancy and the third leading cause of cancer mortality worldwide (*Wang, 2010*).

HCC is characterised by rapid tumour growth and a high propensity of vascular invasion. Furthermore, 80% of patients with HCC have associated liver cirrhosis related to hepatitis B or C viral infection, which often restricts treatment options because of impaired liver function. The prognosis of untreated HCC is poor, but the management approach of HCC has changed from a previously nihilistic approach to a more aggressive one with recent advances in management, resulting in improved prognosis. The wider utilisation of screening programme in high-risk patients has resulted in early detection of small HCCs, and thus improved chance of treatment (*Poon, 2010*).