

# **LOCALIZED CANCER BLADDER: PREDICTIVE VALUE OF THE G1- CHECK POINTS FOR RESPONSE TO ADJUVANT THERAPY**

*Thesis*

*Submitted in the partial fulfillment of M.D Degree in  
radiation therapy*

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2010**

## *Acknowledgement*

*I am most grateful to Prof. Dr .Ahmed Selim professor of clinical oncology, Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University. He gave me a great deal of his time and effort for this work. His comments and guidance were very helpful to me*

*I am truly grateful to Prof. Dr. Abir Bahnassy, professor of pathology NCI Cairo University for her valuable supervision, her great effort, her support and her kind advices throughout the whole work*

*It is a great honor to express my most sincere thanks to, Prof. Dr Alaa Meshref, professor of urology, faculty of medicine, Cairo University for his help and support throughout the work*

*I wish to express my gratitude and special thanks to Prof.Dr Manal El Baradei professor of radiation oncology, NCI, Cairo University for her great help, her kind advices, and her support throughout the work*

*I would also like to thank prof. Dr Lobna Sedky for her precious advices*

*Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this work for my family for their continued help and support*

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## **Abstract**

**Introduction:** Muscle invasive bladder cancer is an aggressive tumor. Radical cystectomy is considered the standard treatment. However, many patients experience local and distant relapse. The biological behavior cannot be adequately predicted by histological criteria alone.

**Aim of work:** To evaluate the role of 6 cell cycle and apoptosis regulatory markers (cyclinD1, CDK4, bcl2, bax, p16, and p14) as predictive and prognostic makers in muscle invasive bladder cancer and their relation to the treatment received

**Patients and methods:** One hundred and twenty nine patients with muscle invasive bladder cancer were included, 68 patients underwent surgery alone and 61 patients underwent surgery and postoperative radiotherapy. Immuno-histochemistry and differential PCR were used to determine the expression level of CDK4, bcl2, and bax. p16 and p14 were evaluated for homozygous deletion and/or promoter methylation.

**Results:** For a median follow up of 20 months there was no significant difference between the 2 studied groups (surgery versus surgery and radiotherapy) in terms of disease free or overall survival. Tumor extension, positive lymph nodes, and aberrant expression of cyclin D1, CDK4, bcl2, Bax, p16, p14 were all independent prognostic factors for disease free survival with a p value of 0.006, 0.002, 0.001, < 0.0001, <0.0001, <0.0001, 0.0001 respectively . On the other hand, positive lymph nodes, and aberrant expression of bcl2, bax, p16, and p14 were independent prognostic factors for overall survival with a p value of 0.02 <0.001, <0.001, <0.001, and 0.001 respectively. In the surgery group, cyclin D1, CDK4, p16, and p14 were predictors of loco-regional failure, while bcl2, bax and p14 were predictors of distant metastases. In the surgery and radiotherapy group bcl2, p16 and p14 were predictors of loco-regional failure, while bcl2, bax and p14 were predictors of distant metastases.

**Conclusion:** Cell cycle regulators are good prognostic and predictive markers in muscle invasive bladder cancer. Post operative radiotherapy for muscle invasive bladder cancer cannot yet be considered in the routine practice and larger studies are still needed to properly evaluate its role taking the molecular profile of the disease in consideration as a risk factor for response to treatment.

## **KEY WORDS**

Localized  
Predictive  
Response

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## *List of Abbreviations*

**AF:** accelerated fractionation

**ATM:** ataxia telangiectasia mutated

**ATR:** (ATM and Rad 3-related),

**BUB:** budding uninhibited by benzimidazole

**CDK :** cyclin dependant kinase

**CDK1;** cyclin dependant kinase1

**CDK2:** cyclin dependant kinase2

**CDK4:** cyclin dependant kinase4

**CDK6:** cyclin dependant kinase6

**CDKI:** cyclin dependant kinase inhibitor

**CF:** conventional fractionation (CF),

**CIS:** carcinoma in situ

**CISCA:** cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, adriamycin

**CM:** cisplatin/methotrexate)

**CMV:** methotrexate , vinblastine , , cisplatin

**CR:** complete response (CR)

**CT:** computerized tomography

**DD-MVAC:** dactinomycin D, methotrexate , vinblastine , adriamycin  
, cisplatin

**DFS:** disease free survival

**DNA:** deoxy-ribonucleic acid

**DSB:** double-stranded DNA breaks (s)

**Eau:** European association of urology

**EORTC:** European Organisation for Research and Treatment of  
Cancer

**ESMO:** European society of medical oncology .

**FasL: Fas ligand**

**FGFR3: Fibroblast growth factor receptor 3**

**GADPH: glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase**

**GBM: glioblastoma multiformis**

**HZ: hazard ratio**

**ISUP: international society of urology pathology**

**IVU: intravenous urography**

**LRF: loco-regional failure**

**MAD: mitotic arrest deficient**

**MDACC: M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (MDACC)**

**MDCT: multidetector-row CT**

**MDF: multiple daily fractionation**

**Mo; month**

**MRC: Medical Research Council**

**MRI: magnetic resonance imaging**

**MRN: the multifunctional Mre11-Rad50-Nbs1**

**MSAD: maximum short axis diameter**

**MSKCC: Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center**

**MVAC: methotrexate , vinblastine , adriamycin , cisplatin**

**MVEC: methotrexate , vinblastine , epirubicin, cisplatin**

**NCCN: national cancer network**

**NCI: National cancer institute**

**NEMROCK: Kasr Al-Aini Center of Clinical Oncology & Nuclear  
Medicine**

**NO: nitrogen oxide**

**or GC: gemcitabine , cisplatin**

**OS: overall survival**

**PAH: polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons**

**pCR: pathological complete remission**

**PFS: progression free survival**

**pRB :retinoblastoma protein**

**PSA:prostate-specific antigen**

**QOL: quality of life**

**RB: retinoblastoma**

**RT: radiation therapy**

**RTOG: Radiation Therapy Oncology Group**

**SCC: Squamous cell carcinoma**

**SWOG: south western oncology group**

**SWOG: Southwest Oncology Group (SWOG**

**TCC: Transitional cell carcinoma**

**TCI: twice-daily radiotherapy with paclitaxel and cisplatin  
chemotherapy induction**

**TNM: tumor –node -metastasis**

**TUR: transurethral resection**

**TURB: transurethral resection of the bladder**

**US: ultrasound**

**WHO: world health organisation**

**Yr: year**

**8-OHdG: 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine**

## INTRODUCTION

In Egypt, bladder cancer constitutes one of the most common malignancies reaching up to 30% of all cancers in the NCI registry. The majority of tumors present at advanced stage with deep infiltration of all muscle wall (*Hussain et al 2003*).

Literature review demonstrates that bladder cancer among Egyptian patients has a unique molecular finger print that differs from that reported in western countries with more genetic aberrations, some of them were not reported in the classic transitional cell bladder cancer of the western countries, such as loss of genetic material at chromosome 19, 15q, and 22q (*Bahnassy et al 2003*). Although molecular features of the Egyptian bladder cancer have been extensively studied, yet molecular changes associated with specific response to therapy are still in their beginning (*Knowles MA 2001*). The few available studies in this context show that alterations affecting the G1 check points and genes controlling apoptosis have prognostic significance and predictive values (*Sharokh et al 2006*). Although the potential clinical utility of p53 alterations has received most attention, some other markers have been mentioned in relation to overall survival and response to treatment including cyclin D1, ERBB2, EGFR, bcl2 and cyclin dependant kinase inhibitors p21, p27, p16 (*Shiina et al 2002*).

However, as single markers genetic alterations have insufficient predictive power to be applied in the management of individual patients and the use of a panel of markers seems to be a potential solution for this problem. Already this prediction has been confirmed by 3 studies which have shown that transitional cell carcinoma with inactivated p53 and Rb has a worse prognosis than tumors with alteration of either gene alone (*Sunanda et al 2004*). Similarly, an Egyptian study has shown that nm23-H1, EGFR and p53 could be used as prognostic biomarkers in muscle invasive bilharzial bladder cancer patients, and that in addition to the standard pathological prognostic factors, a combination of these markers ( $\geq 2$ ) has synergistic effects in stratifying patients into variable risk groups. The higher is the number of altered biomarkers, the higher will be the risk of disease progression and death (*Khaled et al 2009*).

As yet no studies have attempted a comprehensive assessment of the key proteins involved in the G1check point, which seems to be an interesting point of research among Egyptian bladder cancer patients in relation to the therapeutic outcome.

Treatment of muscle invasive bladder cancer remains a challenge. The poor prognosis is attributed to the presence of clinically undetectable micro-metastases at the time of diagnosis. Therefore, therapeutic end points should consider local control, elimination of potential micro-metastases and maintaining a good quality of life without compromising survival (*Hussain et al 2001*).

Radical cystectomy alone provides a 5-year survival of about 80% in patients with T2 lesions and less than 50% in T3 tumors (*Gschwend et al, 2002*).

In Egyptian reports, local recurrence after radical cystectomy accounts for 60%, while distant metastases accounts for 30%. The overall risk of distant metastases at 5 years has been estimated to be 23% (*Awwad et al 2001*).

Radical cystectomy with lymphadenectomy alone cannot achieve satisfactory survival for patients with pT3, pT4 and node-positive disease. Those patients need additional treatments for improvement of their survival. Adjuvant and neoadjuvant chemotherapies have their own advantages and disadvantages (*Tsukamoto et al 2004*).

Post operative radiotherapy has not been widely studied with only one randomized study (*Zaghloul et al 1992*), and few retrospective studies showing its benefit (*Zaghloul et al 2002, Zaghloul et al 2006*).

Moreover, the role of molecular markers has been studied in bladder cancer patients receiving only radical cystectomy or with chemotherapy. However their predictive power was not studied in patients receiving post operative radiotherapy.