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著者連絡先

 (∓ 160.8582)

東京都質的区台濃町 35

廖應義塾大学医学部產婦人科

進一便幸

特 集 増えてきた子宮体癌 その診断から最新の治療まで



子宮体癌の治療法

Treatment of endometrial cancers

進 伸幸*1

青木 大輔*1

金杉 優

平尾 健

SUSUMU Nobuyuki

AOKI Daiisuke

KANASUGI Masaru

HIRAO Thkeshi

阪埜 浩司

鈴木 直

野澤 志朗*2

慶應義塾大学医学部産科婦人科学教室 *1講師 *2教授

子宮体癌の治療法について概説した。手術療法については、子宮全摘の術式は単純全摘(SH)でも予後に有意差が見られない場合が多いが、手術進行期Ic期においては準広汎全摘(MRH)群の方が単純全摘(SH)群と比較して5生率が有意に高値であり、またIb期では広汎全摘(RH)群またはMRH群の方がSH群と比較して5生率が有意に高値であった。また、骨盤リンパ節転移陽性であれば47%はPAN 転移陽性であり、PAN 郭清の適応にはPLN 転移有無の検索が重要と考えられた。化学療法では、本邦でも taxan 系薬剤の単剤投与による臨床試験が行われており、その結果が待たれるところであり、また今後は放射線併用化学療法の果たす役割も期待されている。妊孕性温存希望のある若年体癌症例に対する黄体ホルモン療法は、選択される頻度が上昇しており、筋層浸潤がないG1類内膜癌であれば、内膜全面掻爬の併用により高率に病変は消失するが、再発例も多く、抵組織消失後に積極的に排卵誘発など卵巣機能の改善を図る治療プロトコールの確立が必要である。

Key Words

子宮体癌、手術療法、化学療法、黄体ホルモン療法

■■劉 はじめに

食事の欧米化、結婚の高齢化、出産回数の低下、平均寿命の高齢化とともに、本邦では近年子宮体癌の罹患率が上昇している。日本産科婦人科学会腫瘍委員会報告によると、1970年には子宮体癌の子宮癌全体に占める割合は約3%であったが、1998年の報告"では、1998年の1年間では全子宮癌登録数7049例(0期を含まない)中、体癌症例は2943例で、その割合は41.6%に至っている。当院においても、子宮癌治療総数に対する体癌症例数の割合は1970年には10%以下であったが、2000年には50%を越えている。本稿では子宮体癌の治療法を中心に述べる。

■■2 異型内膜増殖症の診断と治療

異型子宮内膜増殖症は子宮体癌取り扱い規約上では子宮体癌 0 期として扱われている。臨床症状

は主に不正性器出血であるが、無症状であっても 未産婦で月経不順の症例や多嚢胞性卵巣症候群の 症例、肥満症例などの検診で発見されることもし ばしばである。

診断は、スクリーニングとしての子宮内膜細胞診や子宮内膜組織診にて行う、当教室では外来で子宮内膜組織診を施行し、複雑型異型子宮内膜増殖症と診断された症例については、子宮鏡を施行し病変の状態を観察し、子宮鏡下狙い組織診または8方向以上の掻爬による組織診を施行している。また、異型子宮内膜増殖症と診断が確定した症例については、最高病変の確定診断と治療を兼ねて子宮内膜全面掻爬術を静脈麻酔下に施行している。閉経後症例、または閉経前でも妊孕性温存希望のない場合は腹式単純子宮全摘術、あるいはLAVHを施行しているが、挙児希望のある比較的若年の症例に対しては、高用量黄体ホルモン療法を行いつつ子宮内膜全面掻爬を繰り返し、病変の消失を図ることがある(後述)

◆癌の治療方針を決定するに際し 必要な検査

体癌の予後因子としては、組織型、分化度、筋層浸潤の程度、脈管侵襲の有無、頸部進展の有無、後腹膜リンパ節転移の有無、腹水細胞診所見および子宮外進展の有無などが知られており²⁾、これらは術中開腹所見や術後の病理組織診などで確認され手術進行期が決定される。しかし、治療方針を決定するに際し、術前に臨床進行期を評価することは現在でも極めて重要なことである。

術前に評価可能な予後因子としては、主に組織 型および分化度、筋層浸潤の程度、頸部進展の有 無、子宮外進展の有無などの所見が重要である、 筋層浸潤の程度は、MRIのT2強調像で示される Junctional zone の腫瘍部分における菲薄化ある いは途絶などの有無を基に評価する、ただし、 MRIによってもごく軽度の浸潤や一部の腫瘍組 織のみが深く浸潤している場合は診断困難なこと が多い。したがって、術中は筋層の割面を肉眼的 に注意深く観察し、低分化腺癌など腫瘍が境界明 瞭な圧排性浸潤を示さない場合などは術中迅速病 理診断にて深達度を評価するのが有用な場合があ る。 当院では筋層浸潤が1/2以上であれば原則と して傍大動脈リンパ節郭清術を追加している。次 に、頸部進展の有無に関しては、子宮鏡による頸 管粘膜面の観察や MRI による頸部間質浸潤の有 無の判定、および頸管分別掻爬 (fractional curettage) 組織診による検索にて判定される. た だし、頸管内掻爬組織診では overdiagnosis とな ることが多いため、その解釈には注意が必要であ る、また、子宮外進展については、経腟超音波断 周法、MRI、CTを用いて骨盤内および傍大動脈 リンパ節の腫大の有無や肝臓、肺などへの遠隔転 移の有無が評価できる. さらに, CA125 (または CA602), CA19-9など腫瘍マーカーが高値の症例 では子宮外進展例の頻度が高いので注意を要する。

●■■ 手術療法 I・II 期における 縮小手術の可能性を中心に

Ⅰ・Ⅱ期の体癌に対する手術療法として、わが 国では単純子宮全摘術, 準広汎子宮全摘術, 広汎 子宮全摘術のいずれかが採用されている、採用さ れている子宮摘出術式については、多施設アン ケート調査結果3)によると、全国212施設におい ては、 I 期では単純子宮全摘術が41%, 拡大 (準広汎)子宮全摘術が45%であり、Ⅱ期では広 汎子宮全摘術が84%, 拡大(準広汎)子宮全摘 術が13%であった。当院での基本術式は、原則 として臨床進行期分類Ⅰ期症例には準広汎子宮全 摘術を、Ⅱ期症例には広汎子宮全摘術を、Ⅲ期症 例には準広汎子宮全摘を、IV期症例には単純子宮 全摘術を適用している。当院で行う準広汎子宮全 摘術とは、膀胱子宮靱前層を処理・切断し、膀胱 子宮靱帯後層の一部と基靱帯の一部を鉗子にて挟 鉗・切断することにより、 腟壁を約1cm 程度切 除する子宮全摘術を意味している。これに対し、 欧米では単純子宮全摘を行うことが多く、手術進 行期と分化度を組み合わせてlow risk, intermediate risk, high riskに分類し, intermediate risk 以上の症例に対して術後に放射線療法を追加して いる(15)。ただし、術式の選択により広汎子宮全 摘術では術後膀胱機能障害, 尿管瘻などの合併症 が少なからず認められ、尿管瘻の頻度が11%と する報告もあり6), 当院においても術後に自己導 尿を要する程度の膀胱機能障害が約3.4%に認め られているため、単に根治性を求めるのではなく、 QOLの観点から合併症の少ない術式を選択する 必要性も求められている。このような背景のもと に当教室における体癌の臨床病理学的所見と予後 の観点から、縮小手術の可能性について検討を行っ

対象は1975年から2001年6月までに慶應義塾大学病院産婦人科で手術療法を施行した体癌I~IV期症例741例であり、手術進行期別内訳は I a 期166例、I b 期244例、I c 期72例、Ⅱ a 期25例、Ⅱ b 期35例、Ⅲ a 期75例、Ⅲ b 期11例、Ⅲ c 期89例、

Na期8例, Nb期17例であり,組織型内訳は, 類内膜腺癌635例,腺棘細胞癌48例,腺扁平上皮 癌16例,明細胞腺癌11例,漿液性腺癌8例,粘 液性腺癌5例,混合癌13例,癌肉腫4例であっ た.これらのうち,手術進行期I,II期症例に対 して,単純子宮全摘術施行例と準広汎または広汎 子宮全摘術施行例との間に予後に差異があるか否 かretrospectiveに検討を加えたところ,Ia,I b期では両者間に5年生存率に差異は見られな かったが、Ic期症例においては,5年生存率は準 広汎子宮全摘術施行群(94.5%,n=47)の方が 単純子宮全摘術施行群(94.5%,n=10)と比較 して有意に高値であった (p <0.05) (図 1). また, II a 期では単純子宮全摘術施行群と準広汎または広汎子宮全摘術施行群との間に予後に差異は認められなかったが, II b 期においては, 5年生存率は広汎子宮全摘術施行群 (90.7%, n =23)または準広汎子宮全摘術施行群 (83.3%, n =7)の方が単純子宮全摘術施行群 (33.3%, n =4)と比較して有意に高値であった (p <0.05) (図 2). I c 期, II b 期に関してはリンパ行性転移の主要な経路の一部と考えられる子宮傍結合織を摘出しない単純子宮全摘術では,手術としての根治性の観点からは十分とはいえない可能性が否定できな

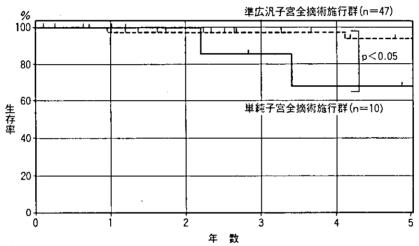


図1 手術進行期 I c 期における術式別生存率(Kaplan-Meier 法) -

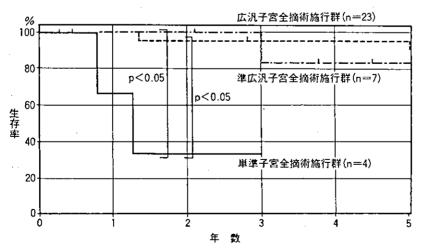


図 2 手術進行期 Ib 期における術式別生存率(Kaplan-Meier 法)

いと考えられる2).

しかしながら、今回の検討は randomized study ではなく、群間で症例数にばらつきがあるた め、このデータのみで拡大術式の優越性を立証し 得るものではなく、今後症例数を増やして各群間 に治療法や病理所見の差異がないことを確認する 必要があると考えられる。【期の術式に関しては、 蔵本らりは、単純子宮全摘術施行例と広汎子宮 全摘術施行例において手術進行期Ⅰ、Ⅱ、Ⅲ期症 例の5年、10年生存率を検討した結果、各進行 期例において広汎全摘では10年生存率は5年生 存率と比較してほとんど低下しない(Ⅰ期はとも に87.4%) のに対して、単純全摘術では I 期 (n =54) の10年生存率 (66.4%) は5年生存率 (88.1 %) より低下しており、単純全摘術では早期癌の 予後の改善につながっていないと指摘している。 一方, 今野ら3), DiSaia ら5) は I, Ⅱ期とも単純 全摘術で十分であるとしている. 最近, Mariani ら8) は Ⅱ 期症例では単純全摘術より広汎子宮全 摘術の方が有意に5年健存率が高いと報告してい る.

また, 傍大動脈リンパ節 (以下 PAN と略す) 郭 清についても, 術後イレウスなどの合併症併発の 問題もあり, 郭清の適応には各施設において意見 の一致は得られていない。当院では, 傍大動脈リ ンパ節郭清術の適応は、

①筋層浸潤1/2以上の症例。

②術中迅速病理診断にて骨盤リンパ節または付 属器に転移陽性であると判明した症例.

③漿液性腺癌・明細胞腺癌などの特殊組織型または類内膜腺癌 G3症例,

などである。PAN 転移陽性頻度,骨盤リンパ節 (以下 PLN と略す)転移陽性頻度を I ~ IV 期症例 における子宮内腫瘍占拠部位別に検討した結果, PLN または PAN への転移陽性頻度は,体部筋層 浸潤1/2以上の症例,または頸部間質浸潤症例に おいて高値であり,筋層浸潤の深い症例に頻度が 高い傾向が認められた。なお腫瘍が体部粘膜内に 限局する症例においても1.0% (1/103)に後腹膜 リンパ節転移が認められた。また PLN および PAN 両方の郭清を施行した99症例について検討 したところ、PLN 転移陰性であれば97.2% (69/

表1 高用量 MPA 投与療法の適応, 禁忌, 注意点

適応(以下項目をすべて満たすことが必要)

強い挙児希望があり、MPAに反応しない可能性や投薬による血栓などの合併症 の危険性を十分理解できている

高分化型類内膜腺癌または異型内膜増殖症である

(麻酔下内腔全面掻爬を行うことが望ましい)

(ER, PRが陽性であることが望ましい)

筋層浸潤を認めない (MRI, エコーにて確認)

他臓器への転移を認めない (MRI, CT, 腫瘍マーカー検査にて確認)

定期的に通院でき follow up が可能である

血栓症、血液凝固能異常、肝機能異常がない

慎重投与

手術後1ヵ月以内の患者

喫煙患者

高血圧症の患者

糖尿病の患者。

高脂血症の患者

肥満症の患者

投与禁忌

手術後1週間以内の患者

血栓症(脳梗塞,心筋梗塞,血栓性静脈炎など)を有するまたは既往のある患者 動脈硬化症の患者

心疾患(心臓弁膜症,心房細動、心内膜炎、心不全など)を有する患者 ホルモン剤(黄体ホルモン,卵胞ホルモン、副腎皮質ホルモンなど)を投与されている患者 71) は PAN 転移陰性であるのに対し, PLN 転移 陽性であれば46.4% (13/28) (p < 0.01) に PAN 転移陽性であった²⁾. 手術としての根治性の観点からは, また正確に腫瘍の進展範囲を確認し的確な補助療法を選択するという観点からは, 筋層浸潤 1/2以上の症例を PAN 郭清術の適応とすることは 妥当であると考えられる.

また、PAN 転移に対する腫瘍の分化度の影響については、類内膜癌の pT1または pT2症例を対象とした検討より、G2または G3症例においては G1に比較して有意に転移頻度が高値であった事実が得られ、とくに G3症例を PAN 郭清術の適応とすることも妥当であると考えられた。次に PLN 転移、PAN 転移が予後に及ぼす影響を検討したところ、5年生存率は PLN、PAN ともに転移が認められなかった症例群(94.4%、n=69)に比較して、PLNのみ転移陽性であった症例群(66.7%、n=13)、および PLN、PAN ともに転移陽性であった症例群(51.1%、n=15)は有意に低値を示した(p<0.01)、このことから、PAN 郭清の適応には PLN 転移有無の検索が重要と考えられた。

また、若年体癌症例において卵巣温存が可能であるかどうか、手術進行期 I ~IV 期症例において、子宮内腫瘍占拠部位別に、片側または両側付属器転移頻度について検討したところ、体部筋層浸潤が1/2以上の症例、また頸部進展症例(とくに間質浸潤をともなうもの)において陽性頻度が高い傾向が認められた。しかしながら、粘膜内に限局する症例においても片側の付属器に転移する頻度が3.7%(5/134)に認められたため、粘膜内に限局する症例であっても付属器温存を図ることは安全とはいい切れないと考えられる。

以上,子宮体癌に対して縮小手術が可能か否か, 病理学的,および統計学的に検討を行った。この なかで推奨した術式の妥当性については,大規模 な randomized control trial によって検討する必 要がある。また,子宮摘出術式は当然術前に決定 する必要があり、術前の画像検索,子宮鏡検査, 頸管内分別掻爬などにより腫瘍進展の広がりを正 確に把握することが必要不可欠である。

ポルモン療法について 若年体癌を中心に

近年,体癌は発症年齢,臨床病理学的因子,予後などの相違により,二つのタイプに分類されるようになった。ひとつは比較的若年に発症し,体癌病巢の周囲に内膜増殖症をともない,高分化型の類内膜腺癌または粘液性腺癌である頻度が高く,予後も比較的良好なタイプ1の体癌である。一方他のひとつは,高齢者に多く,周囲に内膜増殖症をともなわず,萎縮した内膜を背景として漿液性腺癌,明細胞腺癌,類内膜腺癌の低分化型,そして未分化癌として発症し,予後不良なタイプ2の体癌である。前者は,エストロゲンの過剰刺激により内膜増殖症を経て体癌へ移行するもので,エストロゲン依存性であり,K-rasやPTEN 遺伝子の変異を高率にともなうが,後者はp53の変異が高率に認められエストロゲン非依存性である.

近年増加が著しい閉経前の体癌症例は、大部分がエストロゲン依存性であり、その特徴としては、進行期が早い状態で発見されている、筋層浸潤が少ない、高分化型が多い、エストロゲンレセプター (ER)、プロゲステロンレセプター (PR) 陽性例が多い、などがあげられる。 Ia 期症例、また 0 期症例のうち、若年者で妊孕性の温存を強く希望する場合などは治療法の選択肢のひとつとしてホルモン療法があげられる。適応の条件としては高分化型であること、筋層浸潤がないことなどであり、また慎重投与が必要な場合および禁忌について表 1 にまとめた。

実際の投与法としては、MPA (Hysron H, Provera 200) を (400~) 600mg/day を原則12~16 週間投与するが、病変が消失しなければ病変が消失するまで追加投与を行う。病変消失確認後8~12週は投与続行が望ましい。病変に対する効果は内膜組織診を4週間毎に行い、腺管の構造異型と腫瘍細胞の核異型の変化、そして間質の脱落膜様変化の出現程度に注目する。一般的に効果発現に要する期間は6~16週程度であり、16週経過して効果のないものは手術療法に切り替えることも

表2 初回治療として黄体ホルモン療法を施行した体癌症例(異型内膜増殖症を含む)一覧

					初回治療内容	意內容				元 再発に対する治療内容	欧	
	開開	沿療開始 年齡	内膜 組織診	投棄內容 mg/day	治 過数 類数	病変消失ま での週数	治療終了後 朝祭週数	再発病変 (内膜組織 診)	2回目治療内容 (手術または MPA 内服)	病変消失ま での週数	平約海出標本有理	pTNM 分類
	- 2	88	ເວເ	MPA800 MPA600	4 0	に消失せず 消失せず 消失せず	17*	ACH	Semiradical ATH		117	DITIBNOMO PT TENOMO
初回治療内容→手術	භ 4	\$ 8	86	MPA600 MPA800	용 &	Q 80	6 ရ	(O)	Semiradical Semiradical	\		PTICNOMO:
	യവ	구도	Ğ₽.	MPA600 MPA600	88	14	35	G A	ATH Semiradical		ි ල	PTIDNOMO!
	_	23	19	MPA600	တ	効果なし			Semiradical		8	pT1bN0M0
用統部	ထ	RS	01	MPA300	4	効果なし			Semiradical	\	පු	pTlbN0M0
progestogen challenge test	ი ⊆	8 8	ចច	MPA200 MPA600	4 4	効果なし 4 #	00	[0	Semiradical ATH	\	ខិខ	pTlaN0M0 pTlaN0M0
れつい筋合	=	8	5	MPA300	4	4	29	55	Semiradical	\	Ö	pT1aN0M0
	22	25	ACH	MPA300	4	4 #	45	E	Semiradical		G)	pT1bN0M0
	ខ	ಜ್ಞ	[5]	MPA600	24		14	[O	MPA600	18		
	14	æ	Б	MPA600	34	1117	15	ACH	MPA600	4		
	5	න		MPA600	æ	. 20° %.44	8	ACH	排卵誘発	<u>ස</u>		
↑据国务量示回点	9	8	<u>ნ</u>	MPA600	8		55	ACH S	MPA600	経過觀察中		
び打が然のこと 再び黄体ホルモン療法		श १	ŞŞ	MPA600	<u> </u>	2.5	रु	ŞÇ	MPA600	4 5		
	<u>∞</u>	ઝ દ	\ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	MPASO	<u>ہ</u>	<u>4</u> α	ج م		MPA400	₹∝		
	2 8	3 8	Ş Ş Ş	MPA600	2 83	. ნ	38	F	排卵誘発	တ		
	2	\$	ACH	MPA600	R	ଚ୍ଚ	44	GH	排卵誘発	6		
	ಜ	ಜ್ಞ	[0	MPA600	19	4	130	なし				
	ន	ജ ദ		MPA600	<u> </u>	4	නූ ර	は ひ.				
	\$ 1	2 9	5 6	MFAbou	₹ ?	等 di Mini	20 6). 0;				
初回治療後再発なし	ર દ	रा ह	<u>.</u> 5 c	MFABOO	5 5 5	ល ម	28 5	රූ <u>†</u>				
	35	3 %	5 5	MPA600	3 5	ם מ	8) - -				
	; 8 2	88	ACH	MPA600	92	55	22	ならい				1
											應義塾大学派	慶應義塾大学病院産婦人科

G1:高分化型類内膜腺癌 G2:中等度分化型類内膜腺癌 Semiradical:準広範子宮全摘術 ACH:複雑型異型内膜增殖症 CH:複雑型内膜增殖症 ATH:単純子宮全摘術 *子宮内膜全面強爬により病変消失 #黄体ホルモンによる治療効果(異型度が減じACHとなるなど)が出現するのに要した週数 ※ ※ ※ は体癌病変を示す 整整器整理は体癌病変を示す

伸幸ほか, 2001"より引用) 豐

<i>इ</i> र ऽ	ナ 呂 体 畑 ツ	治療税額で	治療法(FIGO ann	iuai report)
進行期	5 年生存率		治療法の割合 (9	%)
	(%)	手術のみ	術後放射線療法	術後化学療法
Ic	81.0	15.9	76.2	1.2
I a	.76.9	21,4	69.9	1.1
Ιb	67.1	16.1	73.7	2.0
Шa	60.3	15.3	60.5	11.3
ДЬ	41.2	20.8	59.7	4.2
Шс	31.7	13.3	55.2	17.6

表 3 子宮体癌の治療成績と治療法 (FIGO annual report)

(Creasman W. et al, 1998¹²⁾ より引用)

推奨されている、これは、高分化(G1)類内膜腺 癌であっても100%奏功する訳ではないこと、ま た治療前検査にて筋層浸潤を完全には否定できな いこと、また G1類内膜腺癌以外の組織型の悪性 腫瘍の混在を完全には否定できないことが考えら れるからである。Fechner 69 はG1症例に対し て保存的治療を試み、治療効果の得られなかった 症例に対して子宮全摘術を施行したところ、子宮 筋層まで癌浸潤が認められたと報告しており、ま た、Bokhman ら¹⁰ は19例の若年性体癌 I 期症例 に対し HPC にて保存的治療を行い15例が治癒し たと報告したが、治癒したのはG1症例のみで、 G2, G3症例は無効であったと報告している. 異 型内膜増殖症に対しては、体癌同様、MPA を400 ~600mg/day を原則12週以上投与するが、病変 が消失しなければ病変が消失するまで追加投与を 行う.

病変の消失が認められない場合は、MRI 検査にて繰り返し筋層浸潤の有無の確認、子宮鏡にて病変占拠範囲の縮小および病変表面の粗造さの変化の有無の確認、腫瘍マーカーによる子宮外病変の出現の有無についての確認などが必要であり、これらの検査結果で MPA による効果が期待される場合は十分な informed consent のうえ、MPA 投与を続けることも可能と思われる。

以下に当院における治療成績を述べる。対象は 1975年から2000年までの間に当院で治療を行っ た体癌患者中,若年性体癌は8.7%(64/729)で あり、うち高分化型(G1)類内膜癌41例、中分化 型 (G2) 類内膜癌17例と比較的分化度が高い類内膜癌が90.1%を占める.

これらのうち、黄体ホルモン (MPA) 療法によ る保存的治療を試みた症例33例(治療前内膜組 織診にての診断:体癌21例, 異型内膜増殖症12 例)のうち初回治療後の効果を確認し終わった症 例は28例であった。初回治療として MPA 療法を 行っても病変が消失しないため、または再発のた め手術を施行したのは6例であり、うち5例(83 %) は術後病理検索にて筋層浸潤を認めている (表2)、術前に、黄体ホルモンに対する感受性を 確認するための progestogen challenge test とし て4~6週間投与を行った6例のうち、投与4週 以内に病変の異型度が減じているのは3例とも高 分化型 (G1) 症例であり、うち 2 例は術後病理検 索にて筋層浸潤を認めず (pT1a), 筋層浸潤の有 無が奏功度に深く関連していると考えられる. MPA 療法を行い病変が消失した後、複雑型内膜 増殖症以上の病変として再発し再び保存的治療 (MPA 投与または積極的に排卵誘発)を行ったの は9例であった.

体癌症例に注目すると、8週以上MPA療法を行った14症例のうち2例(14%)が病変の消失が見られず、7症例(50%)が寛解後に再発し、5症例(36%)が現在まで再発を認めていない。病変が消失しなかった2例は、手術摘出標本にてともに筋層浸潤を認めており(pT1b)、病変が消失しない症例に対しては、繰り返しスライス幅の細かいMRI 検査を行い、筋層浸潤の有無につい

て検索する必要があり、筋層浸潤が考えられる症 例は MPA 療法適応の対象外とすべきと考えられ る. また病変が消失するまで13週以上要した8 例の体癌症例のうち7例は再発しており、MPAを 投与しても病変消失まで長期間要した症例は、再 発予防のため MPA 投与を病変消失後も少なくと も12週以上投与し、さらにその後周期的 MPA (低用量) 投与を追加するとともに、背景にある 排卵障害に対しても治療を行う必要があると考え られる¹¹、なお、当院では黄体ホルモン療法を施 行した体癌症例のうち2症例が妊娠し、うち1症 例で分娩に至り、1症例で妊娠経過良好である。 異型内膜増殖症では,初回治療として MPA 療法 (16週以上)を行った7症例中5症例(71%)は 病変が消失したのち再発しているが、1症例は治 療終了後30週にて異型内膜増殖症が、そして35 週にて体癌 G1所見が確認され手術施行したとこ ろ、筋層浸潤をわずかにともなう体癌所見が確認 されている、異型内膜増殖症症例の MPA 治療後 も厳密な follow up が必要である.

若年性体癌の治療法として、ホルモン療法の占める重要性が増えつつある。しかし、以上に述べたようにホルモン療法が100%奏功する訳ではないこと、また手術病理学的検査以外では、MRIなどの画像検査や子宮鏡検査を用いても筋層浸潤

(Ib 期以上)や頸部進展(II a 期以上)がないことを完全に予測することは無理であること,ひいてはホルモン治療中に腫瘍の進行,またはホルモン療法にともなう血栓症などの合併症が起こり得るなどの危険性を十分説明したうえで,ホルモン療法の適応について決定しなければならない.さらに,ライフスタイルの変化(晩婚化,少子化)にともなうプロゲステロンに拮抗されないエストロゲンによる持続刺激期間の長期化という閉経前エストロゲン依存性体癌の発症背景に対して,多嚢胞性卵巣(polycystic ovary, PCO)などの無排卵症候群,肥満,エストロゲン産生腫瘍の合併などの医学的原因疾患の治療を同時に行う必要を十分認識する必要がある.

■■質 術後補助療法について

欧米を中心とするFIGO の annual report¹⁹による,手術進行期別の治療法と 5 年生存率を表 3 に示した。 I , II 期症例では術後にほとんど化学療法は行われておらず,術後療法の主体は放射線療法であることがわかる。 III 期症例においても約60%において放射線療法が選択されている。これに対して,本邦では,日本産科婦人科学会婦人科腫瘍委員会報告¹¹によると(表 4), Ia 期から

治療法の選択 (%) 手術進行期 手術+放射線+化学 手術+化学 手術のみ 手術+放射線 十免疫, ホルモン) (免疫、ホルモ) Ιa 83.7 1.3 0.0 9,2 73.4 0.2 22.4 Ιb 34 Ιċ 16.8 36.9 3,4 42.6 Ïа 41.3 22.5 2.5 33.8 ĪЪ 32.4 15.2 7.6 43.4 Ша 22.9 3.1. 60.8 11.6 III b 18.2 9.1 0.0 72.7 ДС 11.4 15.4 3.7 58.5 19.0 N_a 14.3 ሰስ 429 Иb 5.1 0.0 6.3 62.0 랆 51.1 82 33.9 3.1

表 4 本邦における子宮体癌の治療法の選択

(1998年1月1日~12月31日全国225機関) (日本産科婦人科学会 婦人科腫瘍委員会報告1988年より引用) IVb期までいずれの進行期においても、術後療法としては放射線療法より化学療法の方がより多くの症例で選択されている。すなわち、Ic、IIb期ではともに約43%、Ⅲ期においても約59%の症例において化学療法が選択されている。このように欧米と日本との間で相反する術後療法が選択されている状況において、randomized studyによって補助療法としてどちらがよりよい治療成績を示すのか、客観的なデータをもとに検討する必要があると強く感じざるを得ない。

子宮体癌に対する化学療法および放射線療法の 有用性に関して、わが国では婦人科がん化学療法 共同研究会の子宮体がん第4次研究・補助療法の 研究、つまり筋層浸潤1/2以上の完全手術症例を 対象とした術後放射線療法と術後化学療法(CAP 療法)の無作為化試験(JGOG2033)と筋層浸潤 1/2以下の完全手術例で再発の危険因子を有する 症例を対象とした手術単独、術後放射線療法、術 後化学療法を自由に選択する open trial (JGOG 2034) が実施され、2000年12月に症例集積が終 了した。現在は経過観察中であり、2001年11月 に婦人科がん化学療法共同研究会総会における中 間解析報告では、化学療法群と放射線群を併せた 5年生存率が報告されたのみで、まだ両群間の治 療成績の優劣については判断できる段階ではない。 また,2001年1月より登録開始となった婦人科 がん化学療法共同研究会第5次研究では、完全 手術症例 (病理組織型は類内膜癌に限定) のうち、 JGOG2039では骨盤リンパ節転移陽性症例を対象 に、IGOG2040では筋層浸潤1/2以上(骨盤リン パ節転移は陰性) の症例を対象に、それぞれ術後 放射線療法と術後化学療法(CAP療法)の無作 為化比較試験が行われているが、まだ症例が少数 でありさらなる症例の蓄積が望まれる。

■■● 進行癌ならびに再発癌に対する 化学療法

化学療法に関し、多剤併用療法は、単剤投与で 有効であった薬剤で作用機序の異なるものを組み 合わせて投与することにより、単剤投与より高い 治療効果を求めて行われる。しかし、現在本邦において子宮体癌に対して保険適応が認められている薬剤は、cyclophosphamide、5FU、mitomycin、medroxyprogesterone acetate のみであり、それらの組み合わせでは高い奏効率は期待できないため、保険適応を有さない cisplatin、doxorubicinを含む CAP療法が広く試みられている。海外でも1985年頃から多数の報告がなされ、その奏効率は比較的高い(31~56%)13140。しかしながら、CAP療法に関する報告の大部分は、奏効期間はほぼ3~6ヵ月で、生存期間の中央値は7~10ヵ月と十分な延命効果が得られているとはいい難い。

その後, 1996年には paclitaxel を用いた治療成 約が相次いで発表された、Ball ら15 は進行または 再発症例を対象とした250mg/m² (24時間投与、 放射線治療後の症例は200mg/m²) の投与量の検 討で、36%の奏効率が得られたと報告し、また Lissoni ら16 は前治療として CAP 療法が行われた 進行または再発症例を対象とした175mg/m³(3 時間投与)の投与量の検討にて、37%の奏効率 を報告している。このなかで、前治療として行わ れた CAP 療法で resistant であった症例において も22% (2/7) の奏効が得られていることは注目 される。また、Woo ら¹⁷ は白金製剤抵抗性の進 行または再発症例を対象として170~210mg/m² の投与量にて検討したところ、43%の奏効率を 得たと報告している. 現在本邦では、進行癌 (Ⅲ・Ⅳ期)または再発癌症例に対して docetaxel (70mg/m2), paclitaxel (210mg/m2) の第日相臨 床試験が行われており、白金製剤抵抗性を示す症 例に対する second line regimen に用いる薬剤で 我が国の保険適応が認められている薬剤はほとん どないという現状を鑑みると、これら taxan 系薬 剤の成績が大いに期待されるところである。

1997年以降では、1996年に単剤で有効性が確認された paclitaxel を含む regimen が相次いで報告 され始め、Lissoni ら¹⁸⁾ は、CEP (cisplatin, epirubicin, paclitaxel) 療法にて73% (22/30) に、Price ら¹⁹⁾ はTJ (paclitaxel, carboplatin) 療法に

表5 子宮体癌に対する多剤化学療法

抗癌剤	用量 (mg/m²)	報告者	報告年	症例数 ((奏功数 CR + PR)	表功率 (%)	奏効期間 中央値 (月)
	500, 37.5 400-500, 40-50	Muggia Seski	19 <i>77</i> 1981	8 26	3+2 0+8	33	10
CAP (cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, cisplatin)	600, 50, 60 500, 50, 50 400, 40, 40 500, 50, 50 500, 50, 50	Turbow Hancock Edmonson Burke Dunton	1985 1986 1987 1991	19 18 16 71	2 + 7 5 + 5 0 + 5 12 + 27 3 + 5	47 56 31 45	တ ၈ တ က
AP (doxonubicin, cisplatin)	20 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 0	Trope Seltzer Pasmantier Barret (GOG) Thigpen (GOG) Deppe	1984 1984 1985 1993 1994	. 20 . 20 . 30 . 101 . 101	2+10 1+2 6+7 6+12 22+23 0+7	 88 8 8 8 4 6 94 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8 8	12 7 8 7.5 6.2 5.2
adriamycin, cyclophosphamide, fluorouracil, vincristine doxorubicin, cisplatin, vinblastine cisplatin, doxorubicin, etoposide methotrexate, vinblastin, doxorubicin, cisplatin etoposide, cisplatin, fluorouracil etoposide, cisplatin, fluorouracil	40, 500, 500×2, 1.5 30, 50, 5 20×3, 40, 75×3 30×3, 3×3, 30, 70 80×3, 35×3, 600×3 80×3, 35×3, 600×3	Kauppila Alberts (SWOG) Piver Long Pierga	1980 1987 1991 1996 1996	848848	5+5 3+10 11+4 8+12 7+13	35554 35554	15 8 15+ 17
CEP (paclitaxel, cisplatin, epirubicin) TJ. (paclitaxel, carboplatin)	175 (3 hr), 50, 70 135-175 (3 hr), AUC 5 180 (3 hr), AUC 5- 6 176 (3 hr), AUC 6-	Lissoni Price 中村 領願	1997 1997 2000 2001	06 8 - 6	4+18 0+5 5+3 4+2	53 73 67	17.1
cisplatin/carboplatin, paciftaxel (serous adenoca 対象) TP (paclitaxel, cisplatin) TAC (paclitaxel, epirubicin, carboplatin) TAP (paclitaxel, doxorubicin, cisplatin)	75/AUC5, 175 175 (3 hr), 75 150 (3 hr), AUC4, 50 90-250(160) (3 hr), 45, 60	Zanotti Dimopoulos 蘇田 Fleming (GOG)	2000 2000 2000 2001	24 5 13	47 47 44 43 80 44	64 67 60 46	9 -
randomized trials (paclitaxelを含むもの) doxorubicin, cisplatin doxorubicin, paclitaxel	60.50 50.150 (24hr)	Fleming (GOG#163)	2000	314	15%CR 17%CR	43	
doxorubicin, cisplatin doxorubicin, cisplatin, paclitaxel (TAP) (TAH+radiation®) doxorubicin, cisplatin (TAH+adiation®) doxorubicin, cisplatin	60. 50 45. 50. 160 (3 hr) 45. 50 45. 50 (3 hr)	Fleming (GOG#177) Homesley (GOG#184)	2002 ongaing]32]34	9 +35 29+47	33	
doxorubicin, cisplatin, paclitaxel megace, tamoxifen	45, 50, 160 (3 hr) 80, 20 (mg/d)	Bloss (GOG#189)	ongoing				
					(進 伸奉)	伸幸ほか, 2002™,	** より引用)

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て63% (5/8) に奏効したと報告した。2000年に は中村ら²⁰⁾ がTJ療法にて73% (8/11) に、Dimopoulos 520 がTP療法 (paclitaxel, cisplatin) に て67% (16/24) に奏効したと報告した. とくに 中村らの報告20)では癌肉腫例1例を除いて上皮性 のみで判定すると奏効率は80%(8/10)となり、 さらに初回治療例に限ると89% (8/9) に達する ものであった. 衛藤ら20 はTJ (paclitaxel, carboplatin) 療法にて67% (6/9) に奏効し. 奏効 期間中央値は11ヵ月に達したと報告している. また藤田ら20 は、TAC (paclitaxel, epirubicin, carboplatin) 療法にて100% (5/5) に奏効した としている。また CAP 療法で低い (18~27%) 奏効率しか得られず予後不良とされる漿液性腺癌 に対しても、Resnik ら20 は進行症例に対して paclitaxel (175mg/m²) と carboplatin (AUC6) の 3 cycle 投与により PR が得られたと報告し、ま た Zanotti ら 25) は paclitaxel と cisplatin/carboplatin による併用療法が63% (7/11) に奏効したと報 告した. 漿液性腺癌の治療に一石を投ずる evidence であると考えられる。しかしながら、本邦 では paclitaxel, docetaxel ともに体癌に対しては 保険適用がまだ承認されていないのが現状であり、 両薬剤の単剤での第Ⅱ相臨床試験の結果が良好で あれば、将来の保険適応認可の可能性も期待され る。多剤併用化学療法の主な報告を表5にまとめ た26)

■■豊 現在進行中の protocol

現在進行中の主なprotocolのうちphase I study のなかには、乳癌で広く用いられているtrastuzumab (Herceptin), pure な ER antagonist である Faslodex なども含まれており、また、放射線療法と化学療法を併用して治療効果の増強を図る

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protocolとして, GOG184, GOG194 (concurrent), GOG9907 (concurrent), GOG9908, EORTC-55991がある.

また。補助療法として放射線療法と化学療法の 有効性を比較する randomized controlled study としては、上述したように本邦では2つのプロト コールが進行中である(2001年1月より登録開 始となった婦人科がん化学療法共同研究会第5次 研究 IGOG2039と IGOG2040). 大規模な rando mized study はほかには少数しかなく, GOG122 では distant metastasis を除くⅢ・Ⅳ期症例で手 術 (hysterectomy + BSO) 後,全腹部照射群と doxorubicin + cisplatin 投与群の 2 群に計422例 を randomize し、2000年2月に集積終了している。 またGOG156で、Ib~Ⅱb期症例を全骨盤照射群 と doxorubicin + cisplatin 投与群の 2 群に計491 例を randomize し、集積を終了している。 これ らの study とともに、婦人科がん化学療法共同研 究会第4次研究のJGOG2033 (筋層浸潤1/2以上の 症例を CAP 療法群と骨盤照射群に randomize す る), ならびに第5次研究のJGOG2039, JGOG 2040は、本邦から発信する重要な study として期 待される.

■■日 終わりに

以上,本稿では子宮体癌の治療法のうち,手術療法,高用量黄体ホルモン療法,化学療法を中心に述べたが,現在日進月歩で様々な治療法が新たに展開されつつある.腹腔鏡下手術の応用,sentinel node の考え方の導入,アロマターゼ阻害剤やGnRHアナログ療法の試み,Taxan 製剤の適応拡大など,今後とも evidence の蓄積が進むことが期待される.

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ACCELERATION OF INVASIVE ACTIVITY VIA MATRIX METALLOPROTEINASES BY TRANSFECTION OF THE ESTROGEN RECEPTOR- α GENE IN ENDOMETRIAL CARCINOMA CELLS

Hisanobu Mizumoto, Tsuyoshi Saito*, Koji Ashihara, Makoto Nishimura, Ryoichi Tanaka and Ryuichi Kudo Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sapporo Medical University School of Medicine, Sapporo, Japan

It is well known that the functions of reproductive organs are regulated by sex steroids and their receptors and it is hypothesized that the progression of neoplasms that originate from the reproductive organs is influenced by them. However, the correlation between sex steroids and tumor progression, especially tumor invasion, is not well known in endometrial carcinoma. In our study, we focused on the influence of estrogen and its receptor in invasion and matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs), which are known to be important in tumor invasion, as well as on endometrial carcinoma cells. The growth of Ishikawa cells, to which an estrogen receptor-α expressing vector was transfected, was accelerated by I7B-estradiol as was the acceleration of the expression of cyclin D1. By invasion assay, in conditions with 17βestradiol, the invasiveness of Ishikawa cells was enhanced. Furthermore, according to the accelerated invasiveness, the expression of MMP-1, -7 and -9 and Ets-1 was enhanced. These results suggest that activation of ER-a by estrogen results in tumor progression by stimulating cell growth and invasiveness via acceleration of the expression of MMPs. © 2002 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Key words: endometrial cancer; estrogen receptor (ER); progesterone receptor (PR); matrix metalloproteinase (MMP); carcinogenesis; invasion

It is well known that the functions of reproductive organs are regulated by the sex steroids and their receptors, estrogen receptor (ER) and progesterone receptor (PR), and it is hypothesized that the progression of carcinoma cells originating from the reproductive organs is influenced by them. Stimulation of the endometrium by estrogens without the differentiating effect of progestins is the primary etiologic factor associated with the development of endometrial hyperplasia and adenocarcinoma. Several molecular alterations that accompany malignant transformation in the endometrium have been identified. Overexpression of the HER-2/neu oncogene¹ and mutation of the K-ras oncogene² occur in 10-20% of endometrial adenocarcinomas. Mutation and overexpression of the p53 tumor suppressor gene1 and microsatellite instability3-5 have been detected in 20-30% of cases. Mutation of the PTEN tumor suppressor gene occurs in 30-50%.6-8 Mutation of exon 3 of the β-catenin gene was detected in 10-46% of cases, with resultant in nuclear localization of β-catenin.9-11 Though it is widely accepted that endogenous and exogenous sources of unopposed estrogen increase the risk of endometrial adenocarcinoma, and several molecular alterations have been identified, the molecular pathogenesis of endometrial carcinoma remains poorly understood.12 However, how serum estrogen and ER affect the tumor progression is not known well. Actually, it is difficult for clinicians to decide whether to give estrogen to patients after treatment for endometrial carcinoma.

Matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) are an important group of zinc enzymes that are responsible for degradation of extracellular matrix components such as collagen and proteoglycans in normal embryogenesis and remodeling and in many disease processes such as arthritis¹³ and invasion by carcinoma. 14-17 Recent studies have revealed that Ets-1, which is an ets family member, activates promoters of different subclasses of the MMP genes, including MMP-1, -3 and -9.18-21 In the endometrium, it has been reported that some MMPs play important roles in endometrial physiologic characteristics. For example, at menstruation, the extracellular

matrix is degraded, accompanied by hemorrhage and tissue sloughing, and it is known that, for the degradation, the MMPs play an important role.^{22, 23} They are regulated by ovarian steroid hormones.^{24,25} From the evidence, it is hypothesized that MMPs and Ets-1 play important roles in the destruction of the surrounding connective tissue and the invasion in the extracellular matrix by endometrial cancer cells.

However, we could not find any clear difference in the cell growth and the invasion with changes in the sex steroid conditions in endometrial carcinoma cells, probably because most endometrial carcinoma cell lines have lost the sex steroid receptors due to culture for a long period. Furthermore, several reports recently showed that cyclin D1 is preferentially overexpressed in Erpositive breast carcinomas, suggesting that cyclin D1 derives its oncogenic activity in breast carcinoma by acting on ER.²⁶⁻²⁸ We therefore established stable clones overexpressing ER to transfect the expression vector and analyzed the invasive activity and expression of various MMPs, MMP-1, -7 and -9, cyclin D1 and Ets-1 by Western blotting in various hormonal conditions.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Cell line

Human endometrial cancer cell line Ishikawa, which expresses ER and PR,²⁹ was used in our study. Cells were grown in minimum essential medium (MEM) without phenol red (Gibco BRL, Rockville, MD) supplemented with 10% dextran-coated, charcoal-stripped fetal bovine serum (C-FCS).

Transfection of ER-\alpha CDNA

Half-confluent cultures of Ishikawa cells were cotransfected with 2 μg of HEGO containing human ER- α cDNA³⁰ and 0.2 μg of PSV2-neo containing a G418-resistant gene³¹ using Lipofectin (Gibco BRL) according to the manufacturer's protocol. After 48 hr, medium was replaced and G418 (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MO) was added to select resistant clones.

Genomic DNA was isolated by the phenol-chloroform method from each G418-resistant cell. Each genomic DNA was applied to 25 μ l of PCR mixture, containing 2.5 U of AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Takara, Tokyo, Japan), 1.5 mmol/L MgCl₂, 1× Taq buffer and 0.2 mmol/L each of 4 deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs). The specific primers of ER- α used for PCR were forward

Grant sponsor: Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan; Grant numbers: 901455E8, 1321410E.

^{*}Correspondence to: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sapporo Medical University, S-1, W-16, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-0061, Japan. Fax: +81-11-614-0860. E-mail: tsaito@sapmed.ac.jp

Received 20 August 2001; Revised 21 March 2002; Accepted 15 April 2002

DOI 10.1002/ijc.10504

Published online 12 June 2002 in Wiley InterScience (www.interscience. wiley.com).

(exon 2), 5'-gtgcagtgtgcaatgactatgc-3' and reverse (exon 4), 5'-cctcttcggtcttttcgtatcc-3'. Thirty-five cycles of PCR were carried out with a program of 30 sec at 94°C, 1 min at 55°C and 1 min at 72°C. Aliquots of the PCR products were electrophoresed on 2.5% agarose gel. By this, a clone to which HEGO was successfully transfected, named IK-ER-1, was selected. Another clone, which was only transfected with the G418-resistant gene, was named IK-neo and used as a control. These clones were kept frozen until following experiments. Original Ishikawa cells were also used as control cells and named IK-wild in our study.

RNA isolation and RT-PCR analysis

We also analyzed the mRNA expression of PR, which had been known as one of the parameters of ER activity.32 To verify the presence of specific mRNA of PR, we amplified them by RT-PCR, and the GA3PDH gene was amplified as a control. Total RNA of the tissues were extracted by a single-step technique as the TRIzol Reagent (Gibco BRL) according to the manufacturer's protocol. An amount of 1 µg of total RNA was denatured at 65°C for 10 min and incubated at 36°C for 60 min in RT buffer containing random primers, dNTPs, RNAase inhibitors and avian myeloblastosis virus RT (Takara) in a final volume of 20 µl, followed by boiling for 5 min. One microliter out of each RT reaction mixture was applied to 25 µl of PCR mixture, containing 2.5U AmpliTaq DNA polymerase (Takara), 1.5 mmol/L MgCl, 1× Taq buffer and 0.2 mmol/L 4 deoxynucleotide triphosphates (dNTPs). The specific primer of PR was 5'-geagateceaeaggagtt-3' (forword)/5'-tgagetegacacaactcc-3' (reverse) and GAPDH was 5'-gtgcagtgtgcaatgactacgc-3' (forward)/5'-cctcttcggtcttttcgtatcc-3' (reverse). Thirtyeight cycles of PCR were carried out with the programme of 30 sec at 94°C, 1 min at 58°C and 1 min at 72°C. Part of the PCR products was electrophoresed on 2.5% agarose gel.

Cell proliferation study

First, we assessed the effects of various concentrations of E2 on the growth of IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild. For cell growth experiments, cells were plated at 1×10^4 cells/60 mm dish in MEM containing 10% C-FCS. The next day, the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 0, 10^{-9} , 10^{-8} , 10^{-7} , 10^{-6} or 10^{-5} mol/L of E2. Forty-eight hours after changing the medium, the cells were counted.

Subsequently, we analyzed the cell growth until 120 hr after exposure to E2. On the second day, the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 10^{-7} mol/L E2 or without E2. For cell growth experiments, cells were plated at 1×10^4 cells/60 mm dish in MEM containing 10% C-FCS. Fresh medium was added every day and cells were counted 0, 24, 48, 72, 96 and 120 hr after changing the medium. Each experiment was done in triplicate.

In vitro invasion assay

Transwell invasion chemotaxis chambers were used for the assay. Polycarbonate filters (10 µm, A chemomicroinvasion assay was performed according to the method described by Albini Costar, Cambridge, MA) were coated on the upper surface with Matrigel (10 µg/200 µl; Becton-Dickinson, San Jose, CA). Then, 1×10^5 cells were suspended in serum-free MEM without phenol red and added to the upper chamber. The lower chamber contained MEM without phenol red and human cellular fibronectin (25 µg/ml, as a chemoattractant). Cells were incubated for 24 hr at 37°C in a CO2 incubator. At the end of incubation, the cells were fixed in 10% formalin and stained with a hematoxylin solution. Cells on the upper surface of the filter were completely removed by wiping with a cotton swab. Cells that had invaded through the Matrigel and reached the lower surface of the filter were counted under a light microscope at a magnification of 200×. The invasion assay was performed using medium containing 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 or without E2. The assay was done in triplicate.

Western blotting of MMPs, cyclin D1 and Ets-1

IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild were cultured with 10^{-7} , 10^{-8} and 10^{-9} mol/L E2 and 10^{-7} E2 plus 10^{-6} ICI182.780 (AstraZeneca

Pharmaceuticals, Wilmington, DE) or without E2 for 48 hr. Then cells were collected using a cell scraper. The sample was mixed with SDS electrophoresis sample buffer (10 mmol/L Tris-HCl, pH 7.8, 1 mmol/L EDTA, 3% sodium dodecyl sulfate, 5% glycerol, 10% mercaptoethanol), heated for 5 min at 95°C, run on 9% polyacrylamide electrophoresis gels (Mini-Protein II, Bio-Rad, CA) and then blotted onto a polyvinylidene difluoride membrane (Bio-Rad, Hercules, CA). The filters were blocked in 5% (w/v) dry milk in PBS containing 0.05% Tween 20 (T-PBS) and incubated for 2 hr at room temperature in anti-MMP-1, -MMP-7 or -MMP-9 (Fuji Chemical Industries,) diluted 1:500, anti-cyclin D1 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa Cruz, CA) diluted 1:1,000, anti-Ets1 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) diluted 1:1,000 and anti-ER-α (Santa Cruz Biotechnology) diluted 1:500 in T-PBS. After 4 washes with 0.05% T-PBS, the blots were incubated for 1 hr at room temperature with a horseradish-peroxidase anti-mouse antibody (Dakopatts Glostrop, Glostrop, Denmark) diluted 1:1,000 in 5% (w/v) dry milk in T-PBS. They were then washed and treated with enhanced chemiluminescence Western blotting detection reagents (Amersham, Little Chalfont, Bucks) and exposed to blue-lightsensitive autoradiographic film (Hyperfilm-ECL, Amersham). In negative controls, normal mouse serum was used as the first antibody. The densities of the positive bands were measured using NIH-image.

Statistical analysis

Analysis of variance and Student's t-test were used to determine the statistical significance of differences between control and treatment groups.

RESULTS

Effect of overexpression of ER-\alpha on cell growth

All of the subsequent experiments used the ER-overexpressing clones Ishikawa (IK-ER-1) and a control-transfected clone (IK-neo). To develop a cell line overexpressing ER- α , we cotransfected cells with a G-418 resistance-conferring plasmid and an ER- α -expressing vector. The ER-overexpressing clones were selected for G-418 resistance and then screened for the existence of the ER- α -expressing vector by PCR. The efficiency of the ER- α -expressing vector, HEGO, was confirmed in previous works, and the expression of ER- α was confirmed by Western blotting. As shown Figure 1a, the expression of ER- α in IK-ER-1 was 10.3 times greater than that of IK-neo. We also analyzed the mRNA expression of PR, which is known as one of the parameters of ER activity, 32 and PR expression was markedly accelerated in IK-ER-1 compared to IK-neo (Fig. 1b).

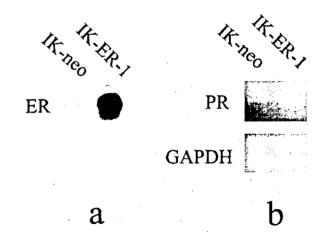


FIGURE 1 – Expression of ER- α and PR in IK-neo and IK-ER-1. The expression of ER- α was analyzed by Western blotting (a) and PR mRNA expression was analyzed by RT-PCR (b).

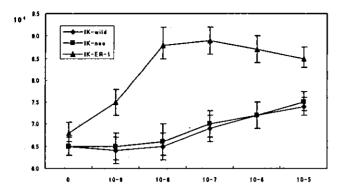


FIGURE 2 – Effects on growth of IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild of various E2 concentrations. Cells were plated at 1×10^4 cells/60 mm dish in MEM containing 10% C-FCS. On the next day, the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 0, 10^{-9} , 10^{-8} , 10^{-7} , 10^{-6} or 10^{-5} mol/L of E2. Forty-eight hours after changing the medium, the cell number was counted. The growth of IK-neo and IK-wild increased with the E2 concentration and peaked at 10^{-5} mol/L of E2, whereas that of IK-ER-1 peaked at 10^{-7} mol/L and decreased at higher concentrations.

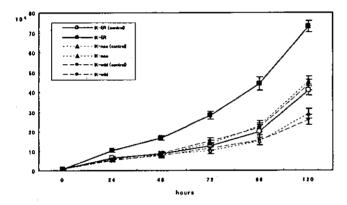


FIGURE 3 – Cell growth after exposure to E2. The growth of IK-neo and IK-wild was not different between medium with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 and the control until 96 hr. On the other hand, though growth of IK-ER-1 did not show a significant difference between medium with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 and the control medium at 24 hr, it was clearly higher in 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 than in the control medium at 48 hr and later.

Then we assessed the effects of various concentrations of E2 on the growth of IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild. For cell growth experiments, cells were plated at 1×10^4 cells/60 mm dish in MEM containing 10% C-FCS. The next day, the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 0, 10^{-9} , 10^{-8} , 10^{-7} , 10^{-6} or 10^{-5} mol/L of E2. Forty-eight hours after changing the medium, the cells were counted. As shown in Figure 2, the growth of IK-neo and IK-wild increased as the E2 concentration became higher and peaked at 10^{-5} mol/L of E2, whereas that of IK-ER-1 peaked at 10^{-7} mol/L and decreased at higher concentrations.

Subsequently, we analyzed the cell growth at 24, 48, 72, 96 and 120 hr after exposure to E2. On the second day, the medium was replaced with fresh medium containing 10^{-7} mol/L E2 or without E2 (control). As shown in Figure 3, the growth of IK-neo and IK-wild was not different between cells with 10^{-7} mol/L E2 and the control until 96 hr and was significantly higher with 10^{-7} mol/L E2 than in the control medium at 120 hr. On the other hand, though growth of IK-ER-1 did not show any significant difference between 10^{-7} mol/L E2 and the control medium at 24 hr, it was clearly higher in the medium with 10^{-7} mol/L E2 than in the control medium at 48 hr and later.

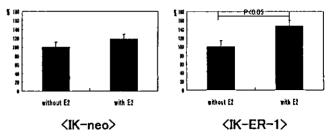


FIGURE 4 – Invasion assay with and without estradiol. IK-neo and IK-ER-1 were examined in conditions with and without 10^{-7} mol/L E2. The number of IK-neo cells that migrated was not significantly different between the conditions with and without E2 (with E2: without E2, 118 ± 19.9 [S.E.]: 100 ± 19.0), whereas the number of the IK-ER-1 cells that migrated was clearly accelerated with E2 compared to without E2 (with E2: without E2, 148 ± 18.9 [S.E.]: 100 ± 15.6). *p < 0.05.

Invasion assay with or without estradiol condition

Matrigel was used as a model of the basement membrane in a Boyden chamber invasion assay. The cells were cultured for 24 hr and then the cells that migrated were counted. For the assay, IK-neo and IK-ER-1 were examined under conditions with and without 10^{-7} mol/L E2. As shown in Figure 4, the number of the IK-neo cells that migrated was not significantly different in the conditions with and without E2 (with E2: without E2, 118 ± 19.9 [S.E.]: 100 ± 19.0), whereas the number of the IK-ER-1 cells that migrated was significantly accelerated with E2 compared to without E2 (with E2: without E2, 148 ± 18.9 [S.E.]: 100 ± 15.6).

Western blotting of MMPs, Ets-1 and cyclin DI

IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild were cultured with 10^{-7} , 10^{-8} and 10^{-9} mol/L E2 and 10^{-7} E2 plus 10^{-6} ICI182.780 or without E2 for 48 hr and the expression of the various MMPs (MMP-1, -7 and -9), Ets-1 and cyclin D1 was analyzed by Western blotting (Fig. 5a). Their expression was quantified using image analyzing software and represented as the ratio to the expression of each cell type under conditions without E2 (Fig. 5b).

As shown in Figure 5b, these MMPs were most strongly detected with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 in IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild cells. Furthermore, when the expression in conditions without E2 was used as a control, the expression of MMP-1, -7 and -9 was markedly accelerated in IK-ER-1 cells compared to IK-wild and IK-neo. It was 6.6-fold in IK-wild, 7.6-fold in IK-neo and 12.6-fold in IK-ER-1; MMP-7 expression was 4.3-fold in IK-wild 5.2-fold IK-neo and 8.6-fold in IK-ER-1; that of MMP-9 was 4.9-fold in IK-wild, 7.7-fold in IK-neo and 12.1-fold in IK-ER-1 with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2. The acceleration of MMP expression by E2 was inhibited by the anti-estrogen substrate, ICI182,780.

The expression of cyclin D1 and Ets-1 showed a similar tendency to that of MMP-1, -7 and -9. The expression of cyclin D1 was detected most with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 in IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild cells and was accelerated most in IK-ER-1, 2.7-fold in IK-wild. Expression was 3.2-fold in IK-neo and 9.0-fold in IK-ER-1 compared to the control. The expression of Ets-1 was also detected most with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 condition in IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild cells and was accelerated most in IK-ER-1. Expression was 1.7-fold in IK-wild, 1.8-fold in IK-neo and 7.2-fold in IK-ER-1 compared to the control. The acceleration of cyclin D1 and Ets-1 expression by E2 was inhibited by the anti-estrogen substrate, ICI182,780.

DISCUSSION

Stimulation of the endometrium by estrogens without the differentiating effect of progestins is the primary etiologic factor associated with the development of endometrial hyperplasia and

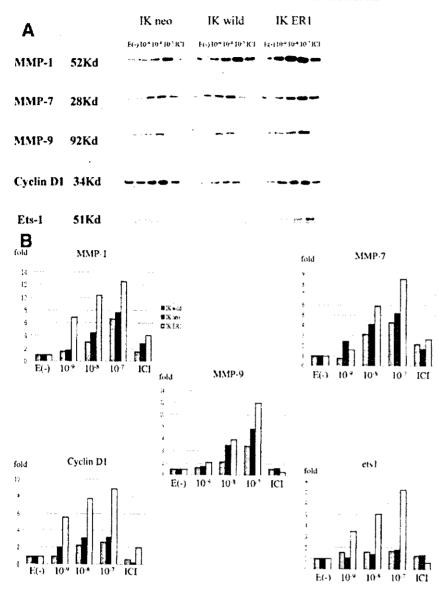


FIGURE 5 - Expression of MMPs, Ets-1 and cyclin D1 with and without estradiol. IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild were cultured with 10^{-7} , 10^{-8} and 10^{-9} mol/L E2 and 10^{-7} E2 plus 10^{-6} ICI182.780 or without E2 for 48 hr and the expression of MMPs (MMP-1, -7 and -9), cyclin D1 and ets-1 was detected by Western blotting. They were most strongly detected with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 in IK-ER-1, IKneo and IK-wild cells. Furthermore, when the expression in conditions without E2 was used as a control, the expression of MMP-1, -7 and -9 was markedly accelerated in IK-ER-1 cells compared to IK-wild and IK-neo. It was 6.6fold in IK-wild, 7.6-fold in IK-neo and 12.6fold in IK-wild, 7.6-101 in IK-neo and 12.6-fold in IK-ER-1; MMP-7 expression was 4.3-fold in IK-wild, 5.2-fold in IK-neo and 8.6-fold in IK-ER-1; that of MMP-9 was 4.9-fold in IK-wild, 7.7-fold in IK-neo and 12.1-fold in IK-ER-1 with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2. The acceleration of MMP-resident E2. ation of MMP expression by E2 was inhibited by the anti-estrogen substrate, ICI182,780. The expression of Ets-1 and cyclin D1 showed a tendency similar to those of MMP-1, -7 and -9. That of IK-neo with E2, IK-ER-1 without E2 and IK-ER-1 with E2 was 3.4-, 8.0- and 32.5-fold greater than in the control. The expression of cyclin D1 was detected most with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 in IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild cells and was accelerated most in IK-ER-1. Expression was 2.7-fold in IK-wild, 3.2-fold in IK-neo and 9.0-fold in IK-ER-1 compared to the control. The expression of Ets-1 was also detected most with 10⁻⁷ mol/L E2 in IK-ER-1, IK-neo and IK-wild cells and was accelerated most in IK-ER-1, 1.7-fold in IK-wild, 1.8-fold in IKneo and 7.2-fold in IK-ER-1 greater than in the control. The acceleration of cyclin D1 and Ets-1 expression by E2 was inhibited the by anti-estrogen substrate, ICI182,780.

adenocarcinoma. ¹² In our previous studies, 86.7% of the endometrial carcinoma samples showed ER-positive staining by immuno-histochemistry ^{10,33} and the proliferation was stimulated by E2 and its receptors through changes of various molecules that account for cell proliferation. ^{10,33,34} However, how serum estrogen and ER affect the tumor progression, especially invasion, is not well known. Actually, it is difficult for clinicians to decide whether to give estrogen to patients after treatment for endometrial carcinoma. In our study, we focused on the influence of estrogen and its receptor on invasion and MMPs, which are important for tumor invasion, ^{14–17} in endometrial carcinoma cells.

In our study, we transfected an ER- α -expressing vector in an endometrial carcinoma cell line, Ishikawa, ²⁹ which expresses ER and PR, and established an ER-overexpressing clone to clarify the effect of estrogen. We also transfected the ER- α -expressing vector in other cell lines, HEC-1BE and SNG-M, which do not express ER, but we could not find any growth acceleration by estradiol, possibly because these cells had lost not only ER but also co-factors. ³⁵ In medium containing 17 β -estradiol, the growth of these cells was accelerated compared to the control cell line, IK-neo. These results were in accord with previous studies that used wild-type Ishikawa. ^{36,37} On the other hand, Ali *et al.* recently demonstrated ER- α -mediated *in vivo* growth inhibition of tumors

xenografted from ER-transfected Ishikawa cells and inhibition of VEGF and other angiogenic parameters in the cells.³⁸ These results were completely different from those of other studies using Ishikawa cells^{36,37,39,40} and from ours. This may have been because their experiments and ours used different methods to evaluate the ER- α -expressing vectors; they evaluated *in vivo* and we *in vitro*, and a high level of ER may be cytotoxic.

In our study, the growth of IK-ER-1 cells was greater than for the control even in the absence of E2. Tora et al. previously demonstrated that HEGO (wild-type hER) is able to activate transcription from the reporter gene via vit-tk-CAT when the transfected HeLa cells are maintained in a steroid hormone-stripped culture medium, 30 concluding that this is due to the residual estrogens present in the medium. Therefore, in IK-ER, which had also been transfected with HEGO, the growth stimulation by ER may be maintained even in the steroid hormone-stripped culture medium.

In our present study, the expression of Ets-1 was accelerated by E2 and exhibited a tendency similar to MMP-1, -7 and -9. The Ets family of transcription factors, a target of the Ras-mitogen-activated protein kinase signaling pathway, plays an important role in cell growth and development. The Ets family is defined by a

conserved DNA binding domain, also known as the ETS domain. Ets factor binds DNA as monomers and recognizes a consensus sequence that contains a core 5'-GGA(A/T)-3' motif.⁴¹ Ets-1, which is an Ets family member, activates promoters of different subclasses of the MMP genes¹⁹ and recently it was reported that the expression of Ets-1 was correlated with tumor progression in many organs.^{42–46} This suggests that the expression of MMPs is stimulated by ER- α binding to E2 *via* activation of Ets-1 expression.

We analyzed the expression of cyclin D1 in conditions with and without E2. The expression levels in IK-neo with E2, IK-ER-1 without E2 and IK-ER-1 with E2 were 6.2-, 7.8- and 10.8-fold greater than in the control. Cyclin D1 is induced in response to mitogenic stimulation of quiescent cells and acts as an activator of CDK4 and CDK6.⁴⁷ Furthermore, cyclin D1 is overexpressed preferentially in ER-positive breast carcinomas, suggesting that the oncogenic activity of cyclin D1 in breast carcinoma occurs by acting on ER.²⁶⁻²⁸ In fact, the growth of Ishikawa cells was accelerated by the transfection of ER- α in the presence of E2. Thus, the result of Western blotting of cyclin D1 indicated that the growth stimulation by E2 in IK-ER-1 was correlated with the acceleration of cyclin D1 expression, as observed in ER-positive breast carcinoma cells.

In our study, we investigated the biologic effects of E2 on the invasion of the ER- α -transfected endometrial carcinoma cell line, Ishikawa, by invasion assay. The tumor cell invasion of IK-ER-1 was enhanced in the medium containing E2. Previously, Ueda et al. analyzed effects of sex steroids and growth factors on invasion of endometrial adenocarcinoma cell line, SNG-M in vitro.⁴⁸ The invasive activity of SNG-M, which lacks ER, into the reconstituted basement membrane was not affected by E2 but was promoted by EGF and TGF- α in a concentration-dependent manner. This agrees with our result in that growth promotion enhanced invasiveness.

However, it is hypothesized that estrogen and its receptor stimulate various factors that contribute to tumor invasion without growth promotion.

During the crucial stages of tumor cell invasion and metastasis. neoplastic cells must traverse extracellular matrices for their migration to distant sites because basement membranes serve as a critical barrier to such passage. 14-17,49-51 In the endometrium, it has been reported that some MMPs play an important role in endometrial physiologic characteristics. Recent studies showed that endometrial cells secrete MMP-1, -2, -3, -7 and -9 in the physiologic condition.^{22,52} They are regulated by ovarian steroid hormones.^{24,25} Furthermore, several reports recently showed that the regulation of MMPs is mediated by the cytokines interleukin-1, 22,53,54 transforming growth factor- β^{55} and tumor necrosis factor- α .²² In our study, the expression of MMP-1, -7 and -9 was enhanced in IK-ER-1 in the E2-containing condition according to the acceleration of their invasiveness. As mentioned above, in our previous studies, 86.7% of the endometrial carcinoma samples exhibited ER-positive staining by immunohistochemistry. 10,33 These results imply that stimulation by estrogen causes the tumor progression of endometrial carcinoma, especially tumor growth and invasion.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to Dr. P. Chambon (Laboratoire de Génétique Moléculaire des Eucarytes du CNRS, Unité 184 de Biologie Moléculaire et de Génié Génétique de l'INSERM Institut de Chimie Biologique, Faculté de Médecine, Strasbourg, France) for the generous gift of a vector-expressing hER (HEGO), and to Dr. M. Nishida (Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan) for the gift of the Ishikawa cell. We thank for Mr. M. Kim Barrymore for editing the manuscript.

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ORIGINAL PAPER

Koji Ashihara · Tsuyoshi Saito · Hisanobu Mizumoto Makoto Nishimura · Ryoichi Tanaka · Ryuichi Kudo

Mutation of β -catenin gene in endometrial cancer but not in associated hyperplasia

Received: October 9, 2001 / Accepted: November 30, 2001

Abstract Endometrial hyperplasia is a recognized effect of excessive or unopposed estrogen stimulation and is considered to be a precancerous condition of endometrial adenocarcinoma. We have previously shown that the subcellular localization of \(\beta\)-catenin in the human endometrium is changed according to cell proliferation, suggesting a role of intercellular transduction in cell-growth control in human endometrium, not only in the physiological condition but also in the carcinogenic endometrium. In the present study, to clarify at which stage of endometrial carcinogenesis molecular alteration of the β-catenin gene occurs, we analyzed the subcellular localization of \(\beta-catenin by immunohistochemistry, and we analyzed exon 3 of the β-catenin gene, in 25 patients - with endometrial hyperplasia and 20 patients with endometrial cancers associated with endometrial hyperplasia, digesting DNA from the cancer and hyperplasia parts, separately. Fourteen of the 25 (56.0%) endometrial hyperplasia samples, 12 (60.0%) endometrial cancers, and 11 (55.0%) associated hyperplasias of the 20 endometrial cancers associated with hyperplasia showed nuclear localization of β-catenin. Mutation in exon 3 of the β-catenin gene was found in 2 of the 20 endometrial cancer samples; however, it was not found in the 25 endometrial hyperplasias or the 20 associated hyperplasias. The results suggest that molecular alteration of the β-catenin gene occurs in atypical hyperplasia or cancer, rather than in simple or complex hyperplasia without atypia, during endometrial carcinogenesis.

Key words Endometrial carcinoma · Endometrial hyperplasia · Beta-catenin · Carcinogenesis · Mutation · Immunohistochemistry

K. Ashihara · T. Saito () · H. Mizumoto · M. Nishimura · R. Tanaka · R. Kudo

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Sapporo Medical University, S-1, W-16, Chuo-ku, Sapporo 060-0061, Japan

Tel. +81-11-611-2111; Fax +81-11-614-0860

e-mail: tsaito@sapmed.ac.jp

Introduction

Endometroid adenocarcinoma, which accounts for the majority of endometrial cancers, is classified into two groups, reflecting differences in clinical behavior and pathogenesis. One occurs in a uterus with a benign hyperplastic endometrium, and the other occurs in a uterus with an atrophic endometrial lining.1 In contrast, serous carcinomas are representative of endometrial tumors that occur in older women who have endometrial atrophy and lack the typical endometrial cancer risk factors, reflecting unopposed estrogen exposure.² Although little is known about the molecular events involved, a close relationship has been observed between estrogenic stimulation of the endometrium and the appearance of endometrial hyperplasia.3 Endometrial hyperplasias constitute a spectrum from simple to complex to atypical regions. It is estimated that the incidences of progression to malignancy from simple, complex, and atypical regions are from 1% to 5%, 5% to 10%, and 20% to 30%, respectively. 4.5 Thus, although it is widely accepted that endogenous and exogenous sources of unopposed estrogen increase the risk of endometrial adenocarcinoma, and although several molecular alterations have been identified, the molecular pathogenesis of endometrial cancer remains poorly understood.

Many cells in tissues are linked to one another at specialized contact sites by cell adhesion. The junctional type of cell adhesion system is defined as adhesions that we can morphologically recognize by electron microscopy. Cell junctions consist of tight junctions, adherens junctions, desmosomes, and gap junctions. 6-9 In adherens junctions, β-catenin binds directly to the cytoplasmic domain of Ecadherin and links to the microfilament network of the cytoskeleton via α-catenin. 10 This binding is essential for the establishment of tight physical cell-cell adhesion. β-Catenin is the vertebrate homologue of the Drosophila segment polarity gene, Armadillo, which plays an important role in Wnt-1 signal transduction. 11 Recently, it was revealed that, downstream from the β-catenin/WNT-1 signaling pathway, β-catenin interacts directly with transduction factors, such