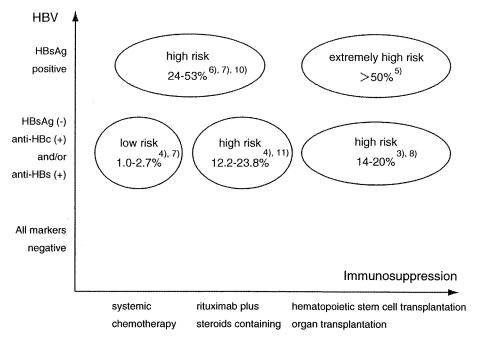
S. Kusumoto et al.



**Fig. 2** Risk classification for HBV reactivation. The *vertical axis* shows the HBV infection status according to serum markers before systemic chemotherapy, and the *horizontal axis* shows the strength of immunosuppression caused by treatment. The risk of HBV reactivation in HBsAg-positive patients receiving systemic chemotherapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplantation is 24–53%, and >50%,

respectively. In HBsAg-negative patients, the risk of HBV reactivation is higher in the group receiving rituximab-plus-steroid-containing chemotherapy (12.2–23.8%) and hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (14–20%), compared to those on conventional chemotherapy (1.0–2.7%)

small case series, the first of which was by Dervite et al. in 2001 [2]. In 2006, Hui et al. [4] reported that 8 of 244 HBsAg-negative lymphoma patients receiving systemic chemotherapy developed new-onset hepatitis B (3.3%). These 8 patients were seropositive for either HBc or HBs antibody. However, the incidence of HBV reactivation in this cohort in the rituximab-plus-steroid combination group was higher at 12.2% (6 of 49) compared to other combination therapy groups in which it was only 1.0% (2 of 195). Multivariable analysis demonstrated for the first time that rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy is a risk factor for HBV reactivation.

Most recently, Yeo et al. [11] reported that 5 of 80 HBsAg-negative patients diagnosed as suffering from diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and receiving uniform systemic chemotherapy (R-CHOP or CHOP-like regimens) had reactivated HBV (6.25%). All 5 had received R-CHOP and all were HBc antibody-positive and HBs antibody-negative. Thus, of 21 anti-HBc-positive lymphoma patients receiving R-CHOP, 5 (23.8%) developed HBV reactivation. Therefore, not only HBsAg-positive patients, but also certain HBsAg-negative patients (HBc antibody-positive and/or HBs antibody-positive and/or serum HBV-DNA-positive) must be recognized as belonging to a group at high risk for HBV reactivation following rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy.

# 7 Summary of the characteristics of 111 patients developing hepatitis B after systemic chemotherapy containing rituximab in Japan (ZENYAKU Company data)

From September 2001 to May 2008, 111 patients developed serious hepatitis B after systemic chemotherapy containing rituximab, according to data from the ZEN-YAKU Company (including information gleaned retrospectively from medical practices, spontaneous reports to the company, reports at academic meetings and results of several investigational studies and clinical trials in Japan). Of these 111 hepatitis B patients, 47 (42%) were HBsAgpositive, and 50 (45%) were HBsAg-negative. The remainder were not available for assessing the seroprevalence of HBsAg before administration of rituximab. In the group of 50 HBsAg-negative patients who developed serious hepatitis B, 11 were available for assessing the seroprevalence of HBc antibody. All 11 were found to be HBc antibody-positive, of which 1 and 6 patients were HBs antibody-positive and -negative, respectively. remaining 4 patients were not informative for HBs antibody. 11 patients were also available for assessing the seroprevalence of HBs antibody, of which 4 and 7 were positive and negative, respectively.

As shown in Table 1, from the viewpoint of the association between HBsAg status and systemic chemotherapy,



Table 1 Association between HBsAg status and systemic chemotherapy in 111 patients who developed serious hepatitis B after systemic chemotherapy containing rituximab (ZENYAKU Company data)

Systemic chemotherapy	HBsAg-positive <sup>a</sup> $(n = 47)$	HBsAg-negative <sup>a</sup> $(n = 50)$
Rituximab monotherapy	7	2
Containing steroids (R-CHOP etc.)		40
Not containing steroids (R-CHO, R-cladribine, etc.)	15	4
PBSCT	0	3

R-CHOP indicates rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisolone combination chemotherapy

R-CHO indicates rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin and vincristine combination chemotherapy without prednisolone *PBSCT* peripheral blood stem cell transplantation

Table 2 HBsAg status and clinical outcomes in 111 patients who developed serious hepatitis B after systemic chemotherapy containing rituximab (ZENYAKU Company data)

HBsAg	Hepatitis B $(n = 111)$	Recovery/relief	Non-recovery	Death	Sequelae	Unconfirmed
Positive	47 (10)	27 (1)	6	13 (9)	0	1
Negative	50 (20)	22 (1)	1	25 (19)	1	1
Not examined	1	1	0	0	0	0
No information	13 (4)	7	1 (1)	4 (2)	0	1 (1)

The number of patients suffering from fulminant hepatitis is given in parentheses

seven of the 47 HBsAg-positive patients, but only two of the 50 HBsAg-negative patients, respectively, had been treated with rituximab monotherapy. Similarly, 24 versus 40 patients in these two groups had been treated with a steroid-containing regimen (R-CHOP, etc.), 15 versus 4 with a regimen not including steroids (R-CHO, R-cladribine, etc.), and zero versus 3 with autologous peripheral blood stem cell transplantation. One patient in each group was excluded because there was no information on chemotherapy. It is notable that HBV reactivation was observed even in the setting of rituximab monotherapy or steroid-free regimens within the HBsAg-negative group. Of these 111 patients, 8 of 47 HBsAg-positive patients, but only one of 50 HBsAg-negative patients, had been given the antiviral drug lamivudine prophylactically.

The clinical outcomes of these 111 patients with hepatitis caused by HBV reactivation were" recovery in 33 cases, relief in 24, one liver cirrhosis, 8 did not recover, 3 uncomfirmed and 42 deaths. Thus, mortality was high at 37.8% in this cohort. Furthermore, as shown in Table 2, the incidence of fulminant hepatitis (20 of 50, 40.0%) and the mortality (25 of 50, 50.0%) among HBsAg-negative patients was higher than in the HBsAg-positive patients (10 of 47, 21.3% and 13 of 47, 27.7%, respectively) (Fig. 3). The question why the outcome of hepatitis in HBsAg-negative patients is worse cannot be answered presently. Possibly, these patients were not recognized as a reactivation high-risk group, because their physicians considered lymphoma involvement in the liver or drug-induced

hepatitis a more likely cause, leading to an underestimation of hepatitis due to HBV reactivation. Therefore, antiviral treatment may have begun too late, rather than immediately as hepatitis developed.

To analyze the time of onset of hepatitis, we compared 44 HBs-negative patients with the same number of HBsAgpositive patients (23 patients were excluded due to lack of information). The onset time is defined as the period between the last treatment and development of hepatitis; the last treatment day is defined as the date closest to hepatitis onset after the last administration either of rituximab or chemotherapy. It was found that median time to onset of hepatitis in HBsAg-positive and HBsAg-negative patients was 4.2 and 9.6 weeks, respectively. Most of the HBsAg-negative patients developed hepatitis after completion of systemic chemotherapy, as anticipated.

The characteristics of HBV reactivation in HBsAgnegative patients are summarized in Table 3. All patients were positive for anti-HBc and/or anti-HBs, although one patient did have less than the cutoff value of HBc antibody (in whom the titer may have been reduced by immunosuppression). Interestingly, mortality following HBV reactivation ranged from 12.5 to 50%. However, there may be differences in the clinical course of HBV reactivation between Asian and Western countries, which may be associated with age, immune response, environmental factors and HBV genotypes as well as gene mutations. Eight genotypes have been detected by sequence divergence of >8% in the entire HBV genome of about 3,200



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> One patient each without information on chemotherapy was excluded

S. Kusumoto et al.

Fig. 3 Incidence of fulminant hepatitis and mortality among 111 patients who developed hepatitis B (according to ZENYAKU Company data). Dividing patients into HBsAgpositive and HBsAgpositive a

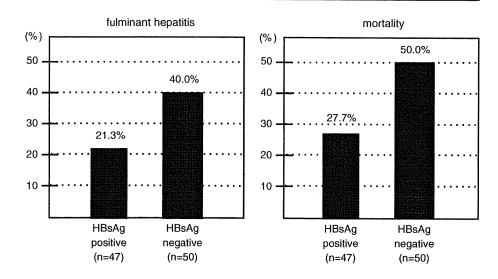


Table 3 Characteristics of HBV reactivation causing hepatitis in HBsAg-negative patients

	n	Incidence	Modified incidence <sup>a</sup>	Data collection period	Anti-HBc	Anti-HBs	Predisposing factor	Mortality
Hui et al. [4] (Hong Kong)	8	3.3% (8 of 244)	12.2% (8 of 49)	Single institution, January 2001 to May 2005	7 of 8	4 of 8	Rituximab plus steroids	12.5% (1 of 8)
Yeo et al. [11] (Hong Kong)			23.8% (5 of 21)	January 2003 to	5 of 5		R-CHOP	20.0% (1 of 5)
ZENYAKU Company data (Japan)	50	NA	NA property of the state of the	Multicenter, September 2001 to May 2008	11 of 11 <sup>b</sup>		Rituximab plus steroids <sup>c</sup> (80%, 40 of 50)	50.0% (25 of 50)

NA not available

R-CHOP rituximab, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisolone combination chemotherapy

Anti-HBc seropositivity for hepatitis B core antibody

Anti-HBs seropositivity for hepatitis B surface antibody

nucleotides (nt). These are designated by capital letters from A to H in the order of their documentation [17]. They have distinct geographical distributions, i.e., genotype A is found mainly in Western countries, while genotypes B and C are prevalent in Asia and are associated with severity of liver disease as well as response to antiviral therapies [18].

According to a cross-sectional study which compared 23 patients with reactivation and 529 acute hepatitis B patients in Japan, marked differences in the distribution of HBV genotypes were seen; genotype A occurred less frequently, and genotype B more frequently among patients with HBV reactivation [19].

Another cross-sectional study from Japan found that an influence of HBV genotypes/subgenotypes was evident in a comparison of 40 patients with fulminant and 261 with acute self-limited hepatitis [20]. Remarkably, none of the 33 patients infected with subgenotype Ae developed fulminant hepatitis, whereas, in sharp contrast, 12 of the 22 (55%) patients infected with subgenotype Bj did so. Furthermore, both precore (G1896A) and core-promoter (A1762T/G1764A) mutations were detected significantly more frequently in patients with fulminant than acute self-limited hepatitis. These mutations are very frequent in patients with fulminant hepatitis in Asia [21] and the



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> The modified incidence is calculated from the number of patients with seropositivity for either HBc or HBs antibody regarded as one population in each cohort

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>b</sup> Of 50 HBsAg-negative patients, only 11 were available for assessing the seroprevalence of HBc antibody. All 11 were found to be HBc antibody-positive, of which 1 and 6 patients were HBs antibody-positive and -negative, respectively. The remaining 4 patients were not informative for HBs antibody. 11 patients were also available for assessing the seroprevalence of HBs antibody, of which 4 and 7 were positive and negative, respectively

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>c</sup> Among 50 HBsAg-negative patients with HBV reactivation, 40 (80%) received rituximab-plus-steroid-containing chemotherapy

Middle East [22]. It is very likely that the failure to detect these mutations in Western countries [23] would have been due to subgenotype Ae being frequent, but Bj is rare in the West because the precore stop-codon mutation (G1896A), accompanied by a C-to-T substitution at nt 1858 forming a base pair with it, was found mainly in HBV/Bj/B1 and not in HBV/Ae/A2. It is suggested that HBV genotypes as well as gene mutations could be associated with the onset of fulminant hepatitis caused by HBV reactivation.

### 8 Prevalence of HBV infection and definition of a high-risk group for HBV reactivation

Most clinical trials and case reports on HBV reactivation following systemic chemotherapy are from Asian countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. For accurate and extensive information on this topic, the reader is referred to the research papers of Hui et al. and Yeo et al. mentioned above. When interpreting data from other countries, it must be borne in mind that the prevalence of HBV infection varies greatly from country to country and in different areas. The frequency of HBsAg, HBc and HBs seropositivity in Hong Kong was reported to be 12, 62-76 and 58-65%, respectively (Table 4) in the literature [4, 15, 24]. According to a study of 3,874 specimens collected consecutively for screening of viral infections before blood transfusion for patients at Nagoya City University Hospital, Japan, over the two years 2005 and 2006, these values were 1.5, 20 and 22%, respectively.

For lymphoma treatment in the rituximab era, we should reconsider the level of risk for therapy-related viral reactivation in anti-HBc or anti-HBs-positive patients who are HBsAg-negative, and who were previously thought to be at low risk for HBV reactivation before the introduction of rituximab (Fig. 2). If these anti-HBc or anti-HBs-positive patients (i.e., the so-called resolved hepatitis B or past hepatitis B) are actually at high risk for HBV reactivation following systemic chemotherapy containing rituximab-plus-steroids combination for malignant lymphoma, it is mandatory to follow up this group of patients (20–23.2%) as a high-risk population. This implies that the number of

patients at risk is >10-fold that of HBsAg-positive patients (1.5%), which represent the conventional high-risk group in Japan.

Next, we summarized the current evidence from clinical trials for the management of HBV reactivation after systemic chemotherapy and raised questions that should be the focus of future clinical studies.

## 9 Management of HBV reactivation after systemic chemotherapy

The timing of initiating antiviral treatment for hepatitis caused by HBV reactivation may be too late to result in the eradication of the virus. Yeo et al. [10] reported that of the 32 patients who received lamivudine as a therapeutic measure at the time of HBV reactivation, 5 (16%) died and 22 (69%) needed their chemotherapy modified, whereas only 5 managed to complete chemotherapy as planned. Umemura et al. reported that the rate of fulminant hepatitis and mortality following HBV reactivation is high compared to acute hepatitis B in Japan [19, 25]. Therefore, it is necessary to identify a high-risk group in advance before chemotherapy, and it is crucial to start antiviral drug treatment immediately on HBV reactivation, before hepatitis develops. Measures to prevent the onset of HBV reactivation, based on current evidence, include (1) prophylaxis with antiviral drugs, and (2) preemptive therapy starting with the detection of serum HBV-DNA.

In the following sections, we will describe the feasible strategies to prevent the onset of HBV reactivation in both HBsAg-positive and -negative patients after systemic chemotherapy.

## 10 Strategy to prevent HBV reactivation in HBsAg-positive patients: prophylaxis with antiviral drugs is essential

HBV reactivation after systemic chemotherapy is an "old and new" problem in clinical practice. HBsAg-positive patients have been recognized as a high-risk group for

Table 4 Prevalence of HBV infection in Hong Kong and Japan

	Hong Kong	İ	long Kong	Japan (Nagoya)
HBsAg-positive	12% (78 of 62	6) [15]		1.5% (56 of 3,874)
Anti-HBc-positive	76% (94 of 12	4) [24] 6	2% (152 of 244) [4]	20% (764 of 3,874)
Anti-HBs-positive	65% (81 of 12	4) [24] 5	8% (142 of 244) [4]	22% (822 of 3,874)
Anti-HBc-positive and/or Anti-HBs-positive	79% (98 of 12	4) [24] 7	1% (173 of 244) [4]	23.2% (899 of 3,874

HBsAg-positive seropositivity for hepatitis B surface antigen

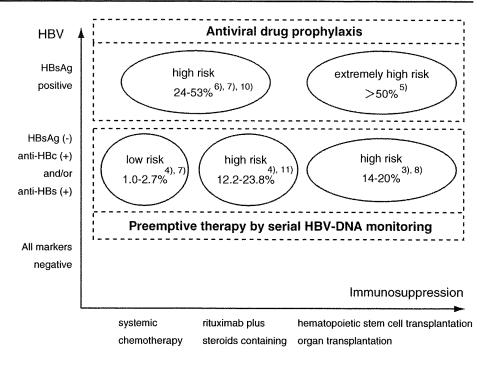
Anti-HBc positive seropositivity for hepatitis B core antibody

Anti-HBs positive seropositivity for hepatitis B surface antibody



S. Kusumoto et al.

Fig. 4 Strategy based on risk classification proposed for preventing hepatitis due to HBV reactivation. Antiviral drug prophylaxis is essential for HBsAg-positive patients receiving systemic chemotherapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplantation. On the other hand, for HBsAg-negative patients seropositive for anti-HBc and/or anti-HBs on systemic chemotherapy including rituximab-plus-steroid combinations, or for patients immunosuppressed for organ transplantation, preemptive antiviral therapy starting as soon as serum HBV-DNA becomes detectable by monthly monitoring is recommended



many years. In the absence of antiviral drug prophylaxis, HBV reactivation was reported to occur in 24-53% of these patients. Some clinical trials of antiviral prophylaxis have been conducted by investigators in Hong Kong and Taiwan, which provide data on the efficacy of antiviral drug prevention of HBV reactivation in HBsAg-positive patients receiving systemic chemotherapy. Lau et al. [6] reported the results of a randomized controlled trial assigning 30 HBsAg-positive patients on systemic chemotherapy to two groups with and without lamivudine as antiviral drug prophylaxis. Treatment was from before, until 6 weeks after finishing chemotherapy. There was no case of HBV reactivation in the prophylactic group, but 53% in the other group. Yeo et al. [10] reported the results of a phase II study of 65 HBsAg-positive cancer patients on systemic chemotherapy receiving lamivudine prophylaxis (from one week before chemotherapy until 8 weeks after finishing) compared with historical controls (n = 193). HBV reactivation developed in 4.6% of this group compared with 24.4% of historical controls, demonstrating the efficacy of the antiviral drug as prophylaxis. In that study, despite lamivudine administration, it is notable that breakthrough hepatitis still occurred in three patients (4.6%). Recently, Loomba et al. [26] reported the results of a meta-analysis, concluding that preventive therapy with lamivudine for patients who test positive for HBsAg and are undergoing chemotherapy may reduce the risk of HBV reactivation and HBV-associated morbidity and mortality. Therefore, a consensus is emerging that prophylaxis with antiviral drugs is essential for HBsAg-positive patients undergoing systemic chemotherapy (Figs. 4, 5).

There is still insufficient data available on the optimal period for antiviral drug prophylaxis [27]. In our clinical practice, we start prophylaxis 1-2 weeks before systemic chemotherapy and aim to continue for at least 6 months after chemotherapy is finished. If we can postpone the start of lymphoma therapy, our strategy is to wait until the antiviral drug shows an effect before starting chemotherapy. Additionally, we avoid combining steroids with chemotherapy until the serum HBV-DNA becomes undetectable by RTD-PCR, because the risk of HBV replication would be high in patients positive for HBV-DNA. We might consider stopping antiviral treatment when serum HBV-DNA by RTD-PCR remains undetectable for 6 months, and serum HB core-related antigen [28], which correlates with the covalently closed circular DNA level [29], becomes undetectable or is considerably reduced. However, close monitoring of HBV-DNA and aminotransferase (ALT) is necessary after stopping prophylaxis to prevent severe ALT flare [27].

There is also little evidence on which to base a choice of which antiviral drug to use as prophylaxis against HBV reactivation, because mainly the drug lamivudine has been used in previous clinical studies. According to the 2007 guidelines for chronic hepatitis B, endorsed by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, if the patient is 35 years or older, entecavir is recommended as the first-line antiviral drug in view of its favorable efficacy and drug resistance qualities. Lamivudine resistance was reported to be 24% at 1 year for patients with chronic hepatitis B [30, 31]. Therefore, it is necessary to be aware of a high probability of acquired resistance causing flareups during



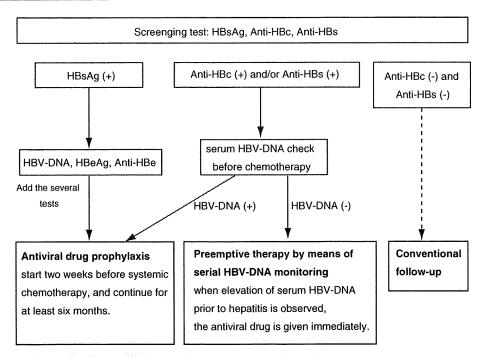


Fig. 5 Flowchart illustrating the proposed strategy based on risk classification for preventing hepatitis due to HBV reactivation. Before starting systemic chemotherapy, HBV-related markers (HBsAg, HBc antibody, HBs antibody) are screened by all available techniques. When the patient is found to be HBsAg-positive, to prevent HBV reactivation, we recommend prophylaxis with antiviral drugs starting 2 weeks before chemotherapy, and continuing for at least 6 months. If

the patient is HBsAg-negative, but anti-HBc or anti-HBs-positive, we screen for serum HBV-DNA. If the patient is positive for serum HBV-DNA before systemic chemotherapy, we recommend prophylaxis with antiviral drugs as in the HBsAg-positive patients. If the patient is negative for serum HBV-DNA, but anti-HBc and/or anti-HBs seropositive, we recommend preemptive therapy, based on the results of serial HBV-DNA monitoring

prophylaxis with lamivudine. Entecavir will be used in future clinical trials for prophylaxis against HBV reactivation. However, entecavir drug resistance may also be induced by long-term treatment, and well-designed clinical trials are needed to evaluate the efficacy of the prophylaxis and the appropriate period of administration for prevention of HBV reactivation.

#### 11 Strategy to prevent HBV reactivation in HBsAgnegative patients: well-designed clinical trials are needed to investigate the efficacy and safety of preemptive therapy by serum HBV-DNA monitoring

Clinical data for HBsAg-negative patients are extremely limited and standard management is not established to prevent HBV reactivation. Based on the previous reports reviewed above, rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy was found to be a new and important risk factor for HBV reactivation. HBsAg-negative, anti-HBc- and/or anti-HBs-positive patients, totaling 20–25% of hospitalized patients in Japan, represent a high-risk group (Table 4).

To establish an optimal strategy for hepatitis prevention and treatment in this setting, we can refer back to clinical data on the kinetics of HBV reactivation-related events in HBsAg-negative patients. Hui et al. [4] reported that the median time from the elevation of serum HBV-DNA to hepatitis onset was 18.5 weeks (range 12-28 weeks). Antiviral preemptive therapy is therefore recommended for the HBsAg-negative high-risk group starting when serum HBV-DNA becomes detectable by monthly monitoring (Figs. 4, 5). Based on the ZENYAKU Company data of 50 hepatitis B episodes developing in HBsAg-negative patients in Japan, the most delayed onset occurred 8.5 months after the end of chemotherapy. Therefore, we think that it is reasonable to assess serum HBV-DNA monthly until 1 year after the end of chemotherapy (if no additional chemotherapy or immunosuppressive therapy is required) (Fig. 4). However, clinical evidence to date is not informative for determining optimal frequency and duration of such HBV-DNA monitoring. Prospective clinical trials are therefore needed to establish the efficacy and safety of preemptive therapy by means of serial HBV-DNA monitoring.

On the other hand, although antiviral prophylaxis is one of the alternatives that may be investigated for HBsAgnegative, anti-HBc- and/or anti-HBs-positive patients, there are issues such as drug resistance and cost effectiveness, which also need addressing. It is theoretically



possible that the incidence of HBV reactivation would be decreased by applying systemic chemotherapy without steroids, but this would conceivably reduce the antitumor efficacy of the treatment. In fact, Cheng et al. [13] conducted randomized controlled trials in HBsAg-positive patients with malignant lymphoma, with and without inclusion of steroids in their combination chemotherapy. They reported that the incidence of HBV reactivation is significantly lower in patients not given steroids, but complete responses and overall survival tended to be lower than in patients on steroids.

#### 12 Conclusion

It is necessary to revise the definition of patient groups at high risk of HBV reactivation during treatment for malignant lymphoma. Here, we have summarized current data on HBV reactivation both in HBsAg-positive and -negative patients during and after systemic chemotherapy, and proposed a strategy to prevent the onset of hepatitis due to HBV reactivation. Especially for the newly recognized high-risk group of HBsAg-negative patients, well-designed prospective clinical trials are required to investigate preemptive therapy by HBV-DNA monitoring.

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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Reply to the letter by Bedognetti et al. "Relevance of HBV/HBcAb screening in lymphoma patients treated in the Rituximab era"

Shigeru Kusumoto · Yasuhito Tanaka

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Reactivation of hepatitis B virus (HBV) has been reported not only in hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive patients undergoing systemic chemotherapy, but also in a proportion of HBsAg-negative patients with antibody to HBsAg (anti-HBs) and/or antibody to hepatitis B core antigen (anti-HBc) [1–4]. Recently, rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy (R-CHOP, etc.) has been identified as a risk factor for HBV reactivation in HBsAgnegative patients with malignant lymphoma [2].

The latest CDC and Japanese guidelines recommend that patients receiving cytotoxic or immunosuppressive therapy should be tested for serologic markers of HBV infection (i.e., HBsAg, anti-HBc and anti-HBs) [5, 6]. However, when HBV infection status is tested as a screening procedure, hematologists and oncologists may need to pay particular attention to the following three points:

- 1. As a screening test, both anti-HBc and anti-HBs as well as HBsAg should be tested [5, 6].
- 2. HBV infection status should be established before any chemotherapy or immunosuppressive therapy is initiated (when there is no immunologic inhibition),

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- because antibody titers may be reduced by the treatment [4, 6].
- Serologic markers of HBV infection should be tested using methods with the highest sensitivity available (i.e., chemiluminescence immunosorbent assay) [6].
   For patients positive for any HBV serological markers, the presence of HBV-DNA should be confirmed by real-time polymerase chain reaction [4, 6].

Because patients with serum HBV-DNA have more potential risk factors for HBV reactivation, especially in countries where the prevalence of occult HBV infection is known to be high, they should be given anti-viral therapy before rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy to prevent HBV reactivation.

This report by Bedognetti et al. showed that the prevalence of occult HBV (defined as HBsAg-negative/anti-HBc positive) was 27% (10 of 37) and one of these (10%, 1 of 10) experienced HBV reactivation in a retrospective study of 37 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma patients receiving rituximab-containing chemotherapy in two Italian institutions. They concluded that HBV reactivation after rituximab-based chemotherapy in HBsAg-negative/anti-HBc positive patients may not be uncommon in Europe.

The prevalence of HBV infection varies greatly from country to country and from area to area [4, 7]. The frequency of HBsAg, anti-HBc- and anti-HBs-seropositivity in Hong Kong was reported to be 12, 62–76 and 58–65%, respectively [2, 8, 9]. In contrast, these values were 1.5, 20 and 22%, respectively in Japan [4]. As in Asia, the prevalence of HBV infection would be expected to be different in Italy compared to other countries in Europe.

As pointed out, we hematologists and oncologists in the rituximab era need to be careful when treating patients at high-risk for HBV reactivation and should include not only

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HBsAg-positive but also HBsAg-negative lymphoma patients with anti-HBc and/or anti-HBs (so-called resolved or past HBV infection) in the high-risk group. Because HBV reactivation may lead to fatal fulminant hepatitis, it is necessary to identify high-risk groups with confidence in advance before chemotherapy.

This report concluded that screening for anti-HBc was important. Moreover, in another retrospective study, a case of HBV reactivation in an HBsAg-negative/anti-HBc-negative/anti-HBs-positive lymphoma patient was reported following rituximab-plus-steroid combination chemotherapy [2]. Therefore, for routine screening of these patients, both anti-HBc and anti-HBs should be tested as well as HBsAg, as recommended by the latest CDC and Japanese guidelines [5, 6]. Furthermore, the most important point is to have monitoring for HBV-DNA in place during and after rituximab-based chemotherapy to diagnose HBV reactivation at a very early stage [4, 6].

In worldwide clinical practice, a standard strategy for preventing HBV reactivation following cytotoxic or immunosuppressive therapy is needed; so well-designed clinical trials should be carried out jointly by hematologists, oncologists and hepatologists to establish the best-practice approach.

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#### D. 肝炎ウイルスキャリアへの対策

#### **POINT**

- 至身化学療法後のB型肝炎ウイルス(HBV)の 再活性化は、HBs 抗原陽性例だけでなく、HBs 抗原陰性例の一部(HBc 抗体陽性あるいは HBs 抗体陽性)にも起こりうる。
- ☑ HBV による再活性化に対し、肝炎・肝障害に至ってからの抗ウイルス薬投与では対策として十分でない場合がある。
- ☑ HBs 抗原陽性例では抗ウイルス薬の予防投与が原則である。HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群では肝炎に先行する HBV-DNA 上昇を検出し、抗ウイルス薬を投与開始する pre-emptive therapy が臨床試験として検証されている。

肝炎ウイルスキャリアに対する全身化学療法により、ウイルス再活性化が起こり、一部の症例では劇症肝炎に至ることが報告されている。その大半は HBs 抗原陽性例における B 型肝炎ウイルス (hepatitis B virus: HBV) の再活性化であった。最近、HBs 抗原陰性例においても、HBV 再活性

化肝炎が起こりうることが報告され、リスク分類 を見直す必要性が出てきている.

一方、C型肝炎ウイルス(hepatitis C virus:HCV)の再活性化による肝炎については劇症化することがきわめてまれである。癌化学療法による免疫抑制状態下における長期間フォローアップデータは限られていて、肝硬変・肝癌への進展による予後への影響は十分解析されていない。

本項では、悪性リンバ腫治療中の HBV 再活性 化への対策について重点的に概説する.

#### <u>I</u> B型肝炎ウイルス(HBV)

#### a B型肝炎の自然経過と HBV再活性化(de novo 肝炎)

HBV 急性感染後の自然経過を図1に示す.チンパンジーによる感染実験では、HBV に感染すると、まず HBV-DNA が上昇し、その5週間後から HBs 抗原が上昇してくる.

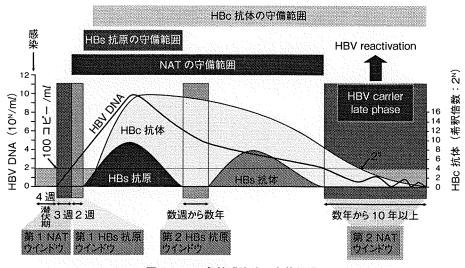


図1 HBV 急性感染後の自然経過

[(財) 宮川庚子記念研究財団広報誌「かたつむり」平成19年1月第117号より改変して引用]

92 Ⅱ. 悪性リンパ腫の治療手段と有害反応対策

急性 B 型肝炎を発症して一定期間が経過すると、HBs 抗原が陰性化し、HBV-DNA も検出限界以下の「HBV carrier late phase」となる。そして、急性肝炎から数ヵ月から数年が経過し、HBs 抗体が出現した後も肝臓や末梢血単核球中にHBV が存在していることがわかっている。通常、この期間は何らかの介入がない限り、HBV-DNA は増加することはないため、現在では「既往感染」または「治癒」とされている。しかしながら、HBV carrier late phase においても全身化学療法、ステロイド、免疫抑制剤などの使用により HBV-DNA 量が再度増加することがある。この状態を HBV 再活性化(de novo 肝炎)と定義している。

#### b 全身化学療法による HBV 再活性化の頻度とリスク

HBV 再活性化の頻度とリスクは、全身化学療法前の HBV 感染状態と治療に伴う宿主の免疫抑制状態によって異なる。前者においては、HBV 関連マーカー(HBs 抗原、HBc 抗体、HBs 抗体、HBe 抗体)、HBV-DNA量、HBV 遺伝子型や遺伝子変異が関与していること、後者においてはステロイド併用化学療法、造血細胞移植(同種>自家)、臓器移植および悪性リンパ腫であることなどがリスクファクターとして報告されてきた。最近になり、rituximab + ステロイド併用によ

り HBV 再活性化のリスクが増すとの報告がされた $^{10}$ . これらの報告をもとに、HBV および免疫抑制の状態による HBV 再活性化のリスクをまとめた(図 2) $^{1\sim40}$ .

rituximab 登場前、悪性リンパ腫治療中のHBV 再活性化報告の多くは HBs 抗原陽性例であり、再活性化ハイリスク群であると認識されてきた。HBs 抗原陽性例に全身化学療法を施行した場合、HBV 再活性化の頻度は 24~53%と報告されている<sup>3.5.6)</sup>.

一方、HBs 抗原陰性例は従来 HBV 再活性化ハ イリスク群とは認識されていなかった。しかしな がら、rituximab 登場後、2001 年の Dervite らに よる報告7)をはじめとして、HBs 抗原陰性の悪 性リンパ腫例においても HBV 再活性化すること が症例報告として散発的に報告されるようになっ た. 2006 年, Hui らは HBs 抗原陰性の悪性リン パ腫 244 例に全身化学療法を施行し、HBV 再活 性化による肝炎を8例(3.3%)に認め,8例全例 で HBc 抗体または HBs 抗体陽性であることを報 告した<sup>1)</sup>. また. そのコホートにおける HBV 再 活性化肝炎の発症頻度は rituximab +ステロイド 併用レジメンでは12.2%(6/49例)であったの に対して、rituximab + ステロイド以外のレジメ ンでは1.0% (2/195例) であり、多変量解析に よって初めて rituximab +ステロイド併用化学療 法が肝炎発症のリスクファクターであることが示

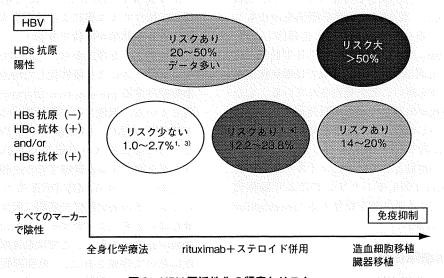


図 2 HBV 再活性化の頻度とリスク

された、また最近、Yeoらは、HBs 抗原陰性の びまん性大細胞型 B細胞リンパ腫 80 例に対し、 CHOP あるいは R-CHOP 療法を施行し、5 例の HBV 再活性化を認めたことを報告した<sup>4)</sup>. 再活 性化した5例ともR-CHOP療法を受けており、 治療前の HBc 抗体は全例で陽性であった. この コホートにおける HBc 抗体陽性かつ R-CHOP 療 法を受けた21例中5例(23.8%)が再活性化し ていた.

#### c わが国における HBs 抗原陽性および HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群

名古屋市立大学病院受診患者の輸血前検査デー タでは、2005~2006年の2年間3,874検体におい て、HBs 抗原陽性例は 1.5%、HBc 抗体 (および /) または HBs 抗体陽性例は約 23%であった<sup>20</sup>. す なわち、HBs 抗原陰性かつ HBc 抗体陽性もしく は HBs 抗体陽性をハイリスク群とすると、従来 ハイリスク群であった HBs 抗原陽性例に比べて 10 倍以上の症例を対象として再活性化に対する 方策を講じる必要がでてくる.

#### d HBV 再活性化による肝炎 (de novo 肝炎) への対策

HBV 再活性化による肝炎発症後に、抗ウイル ス薬を投与した場合には治療が間に合わない可能 性がある. Yeo らは、32 例の HBV 再活性化肝炎 に対して lamivudin 投与を行なったところ、5例 (16%) は死亡、22 例は全身化学療法を中止もし くは中断せざるをえなかったことを報告した <sup>6)</sup>. また、わが国においても通常の急性 B 型肝炎と比 較して、HBV 再活性化による肝炎では劇症化率が 高く、死亡率も高いことが報告されている.した がって、肝炎が出現してから治療介入するのでは なく、あらかじめハイリスク群を同定し、肝炎が 出現する前に抗ウイルス療法を行なう必要がある.

現時点での対策として、①抗ウイルス薬の予防 投与,② HBV-DNA モニタリングにより陽性化 した時点で抗ウイルス薬を投与する "pre-emptive therapy"がある.

#### e HBs 抗原陽性例

94 Ⅲ 悪性リンパ腫の治療手段と有害反応対策 抗ウイルス薬の予防投与を行なうことが原則であ

抗ウイルス薬の選択については、厚生労働省の 『慢性 B 型肝炎治療ガイドライン』(平成 19 年度) に従い、entecavir を使用する<sup>8)</sup>.

抗ウイルス薬の予防投与期間に関する十分なエ ビデンスはない. 当施設ではリンパ腫治療の1~ 2週間前から開始し、治療後は少なくとも6ヵ月 間を目安として予防投与を行なっている. 抗ウイ ルス薬の投与中止前に HBV-DNA が陰性化して いることが前提であるが、中止後も HBV-DNA モニタリングは必要である.

#### f HBs 抗原陰性例

前述した Hui らの報告<sup>1)</sup> では、化学療法終了 後から肝炎発症までの期間中央値は33.5週(12 ~40 週) であり、先行する HBV-DNA 上昇から 肝炎発症までの期間中央値は 18.5 週 (12~28 週) であった. また. わが国での rituximab 投与例に おけるB型肝炎発症報告によると、HBs 抗原陰 性例ではリンパ腫治療終了後から肝炎発症までの 期間中央値は約2ヵ月であり、遅発例としては 8.5 ヵ月が最長であった 2).

すなわち、HBV-DNA は肝炎に先行して上昇し、 上昇後2~3ヵ月以上経過してから肝炎が発症す るため、HBV-DNA が陽性(現在保険収載されて いる、最も感度のよいリアルタイム PCR 法のカッ トオフ値は 10^1.8 コピー /ml である) となった 時点で抗ウイルス薬による治療介入しても十分に 抗ウイルス効果が期待できる.

以上のような理由から、当施設では HBV-DNA モニタリングにより陽性化した時点で抗ウイルス 薬を投与する pre-emptive therapy による対策を 講じている. 悪性リンパ腫治療中および治療後1 年間は1ヵ月に1回の頻度でHBV-DNA を測定 し、その後はリスクに応じて HBV-DNA モニタ リングを中止するか継続するかを検討している.

しかし,これら HBV-DNA モニタリングにお いても、その測定頻度や期間に関するデータが十 分とはいえず、よくデザインされた前方視的臨床 試験が必要である. ここでは最近厚生労働省研究 班において作成された、「免疫抑制・化学療法に HBs 抗原陽性例に対する全身化学療法時には より発症する B 型肝炎対策のガイドライン」(図 3)

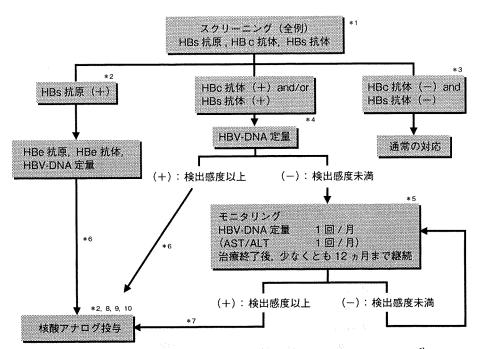


図3 免疫抑制・化学療法により発症するB型肝炎対策ガイドライン<sup>9)</sup>

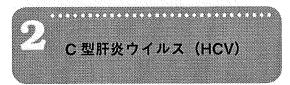
血液悪性疾患に対する強力な免疫・抑制化学療法中、あるいは終了後に HBs 抗原陽性、あるいは HBs 抗原陰性例の一部に HBV 再活性化により B 型肝炎が発症し、その中には劇症化する症例があり、注意が必要である。その他の疾患においても治療による HBV 再活性化のリスクを考慮して対応する必要がある。また、ここで推奨する核酸アナログの予防投与のエビデンスはなく、劇症化予防効果を完全に保証するものではない。

- \*1: CLIA 法で測定することが望ましい.
- \*2:治療にあたっては、肝臓専門医にコンサルトするのが望ましい.
- \*3:初回治療時に HBc 抗体,HBs 抗体未測定の再治療例では抗体価が低下している場合があり,HBV-DNA 定量検査などによる精査が望ましい。
- \*4: PCR 法およびリアルタイム PCR 法により実施する. より検出感度の高いリアルタイム PCR 法が望ましい.
- \*5: rituximab + ステロイド使用例,造血幹細胞移植例は HBV 再活性化の高リスクであり,注意が必要である. fludarabine は強力な免疫抑制作用を有するが,HBV 再活性化のリスクは不明であり,今後注意が必要である.
- \*6:免疫抑制・化学療法を開始する前、できるだけ早期に投与を開始するのが望ましい。
- \*7:免疫抑制・化学療法中は、HBV-DNA 定量検査が検出感度以上になった時点でただちに投与を開始する.
- \*8:核酸アナログは entecavir の使用を推奨する.
- \*9: 下記の条件を満たす場合には核酸アナログ投与の終了を検討してよい. スクリーニング時に HBs 抗原(+)例では B 型慢性肝炎における核酸アナログ投与終了基準を満たす場合. スクリーニング時に HBc 抗体(+)and/or HBs 抗体(+)例では, (1) 免疫抑制・化学療法終了後, 少なくとも 12ヵ月間は投与を継続すること. (2) この継続期間中に ALT(GPT)が正常化していること. (3) この継続期間中に HBV-DNA が持続陰性化していること.
- \*10:核酸アナログ投与終了後 12ヵ月間は厳重に経過観察する. 経過観察方法は各核酸アナログの使用上の注意に基づく. 経過観察中に HBV-DNA 定量検査が検出感度以上になった時点で、ただちに投与を再開する.

(文献9より引用)

を紹介する(鹿児島大学, 坪内博仁教授の御厚意 による)<sup>9</sup>.

(注:HBs 抗原陰性例においては、HBV-DNA モニタリング、抗ウイルス薬の予防投与いずれに おいても現時点で保険適用はない)



HCV は HBV に比べて、再活性化肝炎が劇症 化することがきわめてまれである <sup>10)</sup>. しかしな

yang paggawa 1999 ang 1. 化学療法 95

がら、癌化学療法による免疫抑制状態下において C型肝炎ウイルス量は上昇していること、まれで はあるが劇症化することが報告<sup>11)</sup> されているこ とから全身化学療法終了後の免疫回復期の肝機能 障害には注意する必要がある。

一方、肝移植後、免疫抑制剤使用下では HCV は急激に増殖し、比較的短期間で肝硬変に至ることが報告されている。現状では、癌化学療法による免疫抑制状態下における長期間フォローアップデータは限られていて、肝硬変・肝癌による予後への影響は十分解析されておらず、化学療法後も厳重なフォローが必要である。

また、慢性 C 型肝炎の治療成績は年々向上してきており、抗ウイルス薬(ribavirin)とペグ化されたインターフェロンとの併用により、ウイルス遺伝子型によっては高率に治癒が期待できる.一般に、慢性 C 型肝炎の治療期間は、1 型では48 週、2 および 3 型では24 週であり、それぞれで40~50%および70~80%の著効(ウイルス排除)が得られている $^{10}$ .

したがって、悪性リンパ腫の治療開始を待つことが可能な症例においては、リンパ腫治療に先行して慢性 C 型肝炎の治療を行なうことも選択肢の1つである。特に低悪性度リンパ腫においては比較的ゆっくりとした経過である一方、リンパ腫の治癒は困難であり長期間の治療を要することが大半であるため、HCV 排除を目指したリンパ腫治療前の抗ウイルス療法は検討すべき選択肢と思われる。

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96 Ⅱ 悪性リンパ腫の治療手段と有害反応対策

### 16. HBs 抗原陰性, HBs 抗体陽性の B 細胞性リンパ腫患者の治療で注意する点は?

#### ● 序論

がん化学療法に伴う、B型肝炎ウイルス(HBV)の再活性化例の大半は HBs 抗原陽性例であったが、悪性リンパ腫治療にリツキシマブが導入されて以降、HBs 抗原陰性例においてもHBV 再活性化が報告されるようになった。

HBV に感染すると、成人例の大半が急性肝炎の経過をたどり、HBs 抗原は数週間で消失し、HBV-DNA も検出感度以下の状態となる。何らかの介入がないかぎり、通常この状態は維持され、HBV-DNA は増えることはないため、「既往感染」または「治癒」したと判断される。しかしながら、HBV は HBs 抗体(中和抗体)の出現後においても、肝臓や末梢血単核球内に微量ながら存在"し、がん化学療法による免疫抑制状態において HBV が再増殖・再活性化する可能性があることがわかってきた。そして、がん化学療法後の免疫抑制状態からの回復に伴い、免疫担当細胞が HBV 感染肝細胞を攻撃することにより B 型肝炎が再燃する。

これまでの報告<sup>2-6)</sup>より、HBs 抗原陰性例における HBV 再活性化の臨床経過の特徴をまとめると、以下の 3 点が挙げられる: ① HBc 抗体陽性 and/or HBs 抗体陽性である。②肝炎発症例の大半が全身化学療法後であり、肝炎発症に先行して HBV-DNA が末梢血中に出現する。③リツキシマブ+ステロイド併用化学療法が重要なリスクファクターである。

治療前の HBV 状態および治療による免疫抑制状態により、HBV 再活性化のリスク分類を まとめた (図 1)<sup>2,4,5,7-11)</sup>.

本邦における HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群 (HBc 抗体陽性 and/or HBs 抗体陽性) はどのくらいの頻度であるのか? 名古屋市立大学病院受診患者の輸血前検査データでは、2005~

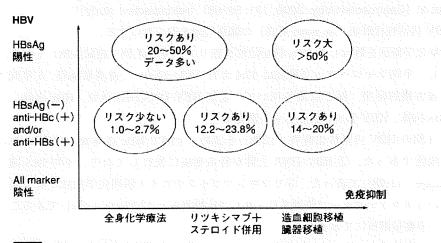


図 1 HBV 再活性化の頻度とリスク

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2006 年の 2 年間 3,874 検体において、HBs 抗原陽性例は 1.5%,HBc 抗体陽性 and/or HBs 抗体陽性例は 23.2% であった<sup>6</sup>. 従来ハイリスク群であった HBs 抗原陽性例に比べて 10 倍以上の症例を対象として HBV 再活性化への対策を講じる必要がでてくる.

HBV 再活性化による肝炎発症後に、抗ウイルス薬を投与した場合には対策として充分でない可能性がある。Yeo らは、32 例の HBV 再活性化肝炎に対し、抗ウイルス薬(ラミブジン)投与を行ったところ、5 例(16%)は死亡、22 例は全身化学療法を中止もしくは中断せざるを得なかったことを報告した<sup>11)</sup>。したがって、肝炎が出現してから治療介入するのではなく、あらかじめハイリスク群を同定し、肝炎が出現する前に抗ウイルス療法を行う必要がある。 現時点での対策として、i)抗ウイルス薬の予防投与 "prophylaxis"、ii) HBV-DNA モニタリングにより陽性化した時点で抗ウイルス薬を投与する "preemptive therapy" がある。

#### 2 指針

詳細は厚生労働省研究班による免疫抑制・化学療法に伴う B 型肝炎対策ガイドライン<sup>12)</sup>に譲るが、HBs 抗原陽性例に対する化学療法時には抗ウイルス薬の予防投与を行うことが原則である(図 2)。

また、HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群(HBc 抗体陽性 and/or HBs 抗体陽性)に対しては、HBV-DNA モニタリング(月 1 回、化学療法後少なくとも 1 年間)を行い、肝炎に先行する HBV-DNA の上昇をとらえ、陽性化した時点で抗ウイルス薬の投与を開始する(図 2)。前述した Hui らの報告がでは、化学療法終了後から肝炎発症までの期間中央値は 33.5 週(12~40 週)であり、先行する HBV-DNA 上昇から肝炎発症までの期間中央値は 18.5 週(12~28 週)であった。また、本邦でのリツキシマブ投与例における B 型肝炎発症報告によると、HBs 抗原陰性例ではリンパ腫治療後から肝炎発症までの期間中央値は約 2 カ月であり、遅発例としては 8.5 カ月が最長であった6、以上より HBV-DNA モニタリングは化学療法中および化学療法後少なくとも 1 年間は月 1 回行うことが必要と考えられる。

#### 3 エビデンス

Hui CK, et al (Gastroenterology, 2006; 131: 59-68) (retrospective study)<sup>4)</sup>

目的: HBV 再活性化肝炎 (de novo 肝炎) の臨床経過を明らかにする.

方法: 全身化学療法を施行した HBs 抗原陰性悪性リンパ腫 244 例 (連続症例) を対象とし、平均フォローアップ期間は 12.4 カ月 (0.1~65.0) で香港単施設、5 年間の後方視的研究。保存血清を用いて、血清 HBV-DNA,HBs 抗原、HBc 抗体、HBs 抗体、HBV-DNA sequence を測定した。

結果: ① 8 例の HBV 再活性化肝炎 (3.3%) を認め、全例で HBc 抗体または HBs 抗体陽性であった。② HBV-DNA 上昇が肝炎発症に先行しており、平均 18.5 週 (range, 12-28) であった。③リツキシマブ+ステロイド併用化学療法が肝炎発症のリスクファクター(併用あり・なしで比較すると 12.2% vs 1.0%)であることが多変量解析にて示された。

結論: 全身化学療法を行う HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群において, HBV-DNA モニタリ

366 ■ III. 悪性リンパ腫

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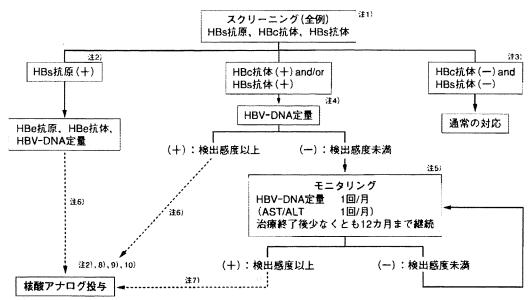


図 2 免疫抑制・化学療法により発症する B 型肝炎対策ガイドライン (鹿児島大学坪内博仁教授の 御厚意により掲載)

血液悪性疾患に対する強力な免疫抑制・化学療法中あるいは終了後に HBs 抗原陽性あるいは HBs 抗原陰性例の一部に HBV 再活性化により B 型肝炎が発症し、その中には劇症化する症例があり、注意が必要である。その他の疾患においても治療による HBV 再活性化のリスクを考慮して対応する必要がある。また、ここで推奨する核酸アナログの予防投与のエビデンスはなく、劇症化予防効果を完全に保証するものではない。

- 注1) CLIA 法で測定することが望ましい。
- 注 2) 治療にあたっては肝臓専門医にコンサルトするのが望ましい。
- 注 3) 初回治療時に HBc 抗体, HBs 抗体未測定の再治療例では抗体価が低下している場合があり, HBV-DNA 定量検査などによる精査が望ましい.
- 注 4) PCR 法およびリアルタイム PCR 法により実施する。より検出感度の高いリアルタイム PCR 法が望ましい。
- 注 5) リツキシマブ・ステロイド使用例、造血細胞移植例は HBV 再活性化の高リスクであり、注意 が必要である。フルダラビンは強力な免疫抑制作用を有するが、HBV 再活性化のリスクは不 明であり、今後注意が必要である。
- 注 6) 免疫抑制・化学療法を開始する前、できるだけ早期に投与を開始するのが望ましい。
- 注 7) 免疫抑制・化学療法中は HBV-DNA 定量検査が検出感度以上になった時点で直ちに投与を開始する。
- 注 8) 核酸アナログはエンテカビルの使用を推奨する.
- 注 9) 下記の条件を満たす場合には核酸アナログ投与の終了を検討してよい。 スクリーニング時に HBs 抗原(+)例では B 型慢性肝炎における核酸アナログ投与終了基準を 満たす場合。スクリーニング時に HBc 抗原(+)and/or HBs 抗体(+)例では。(1)免疫抑制・ 化学療法終了後、少なくとも 12 カ月間は投与を継続すること。(2)この継続期間中に ALT (GPT) が正常化していること。(3)この継続期間中に HBV-DNA が持続陰性化していること
- 注 10) 核酸アナログ投与終了後 12 カ月間は厳重に経過観察する。経過観察方法は各核酸アナログの使用上の注意に基づく、経過観察中に HBV-DNA 定量検査が検出感度以上になった時点で直ちに投与を再開する。

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ングによる対策が推奨され、肝炎になる前に早期に抗ウイルス薬による介入が可能となる。

2 Yeo W, et al (J Clin Oncol. 2009; 27: 605-11) (retrospective study)<sup>5)</sup>

目的: HBs 抗原陰性かつ HBc 抗体陽性の悪性リンパ腫例において、リツキシマブ併用 化学療法施行した場合の HBV 再活性化頻度を明らかにするとともに、リツキシ マブ非併用群と比較する。

方法: R-CHOP あるいは CHOP-like レジメンを施行した HBs 抗原陰性のびまん性大細胞型 B 細胞性リンパ腫 80 例(連続症例)を対象とし、香港単施設で 4 年間の後方視的研究。保存血清を用いて、血清 HBV-DNA、HCV 抗体、HBc 抗体、HBs 抗体などを測定した。

結果: ① 80 例中 5 例の HBV 再活性化肝炎 (6.25%) を認め, 5 例全例で HBc 抗体陽性かつ HBs 抗体陰性であり,全例が R-CHOP 施行例であった。②再活性化した 5 例に対し、抗ウイルス薬 (ラミブジン) 投与したが、1 例は肝炎にて死亡した。③再活性化肝炎発症時期としては、5 例中 1 例は化学療法後半 (5 コース目, day19)、残りの 4 例は化学療法終了後 (day 78, 85, 110, 170) であった。

結論: R-CHOP 施行例かつ HBc 抗体陽性例に限ると,21 例中5 例 (23.8%) が再活性化した、化学療法後少なくとも6 カ月間は、代用となるアプローチとしての予防的な抗ウイルス薬投与とともに、(HBV-DNA 測定を含めた) 注意深いモニタリングが必要である。

#### 4 根拠となった臨床研究の問題点と限界

HBV 再活性化に関するデータの大半は HBs 抗原陽性例に関するものであり、HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群においては後方視的研究からのデータに限られている。したがって、正確なHBV 再活性化の頻度が不明であることや再活性化に関連するウイルス側あるいは宿主側のリスクファクターの解析は充分できていない。

#### 5 (本邦の) 患者に適応する際の注意点

全身化学療法施行前のスクリーニング検査として、HBs 抗原だけでなく、HBc 抗体および HBs 抗体を測定する。ただし、既治療例においては抗体価が低下し、スクリーニング検査として充分でない可能性があることに留意する。

HBs 抗原陰性例においては、HBV-DNA 定量検査、抗ウイルス薬ともに保険適応はない。

#### 6 コメント

欧米に比べ、HBV の既往感染患者が比較的多いアジアにおいて、再活性化ハイリスク群の同定および肝炎発症予防の標準的対策法を確立することは急務の課題である。

現在、厚生労働省研究班(肝炎等克服緊急対策研究事業: H20-肝炎-若手-014)により、未 治療 CD20 陽性 B 細胞性リンパ腫を対象とし、リツキシマブナステロイド併用化学療法中の

368 III. 悪性リンパ腫

**DCOPY** 498 - 12552

HBs 抗原陰性ハイリスク群に対する HBV-DNA モニタリングの有効性を評価するための多施 設共同臨床研究が開始・進行中である(C-SHOT0802: UMIN000001299)。

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