

Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

. *
. *

=Abstract=

Expression of Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor in Cervical Tissue and Serum of the Patients with Cervical Neoplasia =A Preliminary Study=

Seung Cheol Kim, JI Hyun Suh, Su Yeon Kim, Hye Sung Moon,
Hyang Mee Kim, Young Soo Son, Woon Sup Han*

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Pathology,
College of Medicine, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea*

Background: Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is overexpressed in the tissue of various malignancies including carcinoma of the breast, lung, esophagus, cervix, and ovary. In patients with cervical neoplasia, there may be a relationship between the expressions of EGFR in cervical neoplastic tissue and serum.

Methods: The expression of EGFR was determined in cervical tissues from 23 cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) patients and 16 invasive cervical carcinoma patients using immunohistochemical staining and the level of serum EGFR ECD (extracellular domain) was measured in serum from 17 CIN patients and 14 cervical carcinoma patients using ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay).

Results: The expression of EGFR in cervical tissue was significantly increased as normal cervical tissue progressed to CIN then to invasive cervical carcinoma ($p=0.009$). And the mean level of serum EGFR according to the histologic diagnosis of normal cervix, CIN, invasive cervical carcinoma was 23.18 ± 1.92 fmol/ml, 23.49 ± 8.95 fmol/ml, and 30.46 ± 19.72 fmol/ml, respectively. The mean level of serum EGFR was higher in invasive cervical carcinoma than that of normal cervix or CIN. But there was no significant statistical difference ($p=0.471$). Also the mean level of serum EGFR according to the intensity of immunohistochemical staining in negative (-), weakly positive (+), positive (++) and strongly positive (+++) staining was 19.36 ± 3.12 fmol/ml, 20.99 ± 3.59 fmol/ml, 29.08 ± 16.86 fmol/ml, and 24.34 ± 10.35 fmol/ml, respectively. The mean level of serum EGFR in positive (++) and strongly positive (+++) staining was higher than in negative (-) staining, but there was no significant statistical difference ($p=0.450$).

Conclusions: The authors believe that the expression of EGFR in cervical neoplastic tissue could be used as a marker for reflecting the malignant transformation of cervical epithelial cells. Although the mean level of serum EGFR in invasive cervical carcinoma was higher than in normal cervix and CIN, and the mean level of serum EGFR in positive (++) and strongly

* 1996

positive (+++) immunohistochemical staining was higher than in negative (-) staining, there was no significant statistical difference, possibly due to the limited number of cases in this preliminary study. So, the authors believe that the level of serum EGFR may have a similar role as a tumor marker like the EGFR expression in cervical neoplastic tissue. This study should be continued further with more cases and the relationship between the level of serum EGFR and prognostic parameters of uterine cervical carcinoma need to be analyzed.

Keywords: CIN, Cervical carcinoma, EGFR, Serum, ELISA, Immunohistochemical staining, Tumor marker

Epidermal growth factor(EGF) (mouse) 6045 (aggressiveness) EGFR (tumor marker) 가

dalton polypeptide EGF가 Pfeiffer 2) EGFR (mitogen) EGF EGFR , EGFR

receptor (EGFR) 3) EGFR (Mr) 170,000 transmembrane glycoprotein 가 EGFR 가

EGFR A431 , A431 EGFR , Kimmig 2) 2- (transforming protein) v-erb-B oncogene (aggressiveness) EGFR

homology 9) EGFR 7 EGFR 10) EGFR 3 domain , cystein external ligand- binding domain (extracellular domain: ECD) transmembrane domain, tyrosine kinase internal domain .7,9,11-13) paracrine EGF가 EGFR EGFR 가 EGFR

tyrosine kinase (autophosphorylation) ,14,15) EGF (plasma) 가 , EGFR

.316) EGFR 가 , EGFR 가 EGFR

Choi 25) ELISA 1. EGFR ECD 1) EGFR 가 , 77.5% EGFR 18 (: 3 , : 15) (CIN) 24 (CIN : 6 , CIN : 3 , CIN : 가 가 15) , Partanen 26) asbestosis가 ELISA EGFR 9 EGFR ECD가 EGFR 가 1 , EGFR 2 48 , EGFR 5 , CIN 17 , EGFR 14 . EGFR 2) 가 가 가 Hematoxyline Eosine 5 cc EGFR 가 2. 1) EGFR Avidin/Biotin immunoperoxidase , VECTASTAIN Elite ABC KIT(mouse IgG, Catalog No: PK-6102; Vector Laboratory, USA) . EGFR primary antibody ICN Biochemical anti-EGFR 400 MT MAb . Peroxidase substrate solution Volume 0.02% hydrogen peroxide(made in distilled water) 0.1% diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride (made in 0.1M Tris buffer, pH 7.2) . substrate solution hy- drogen peroxide xylene graded alcohol series(100 75%) (deparffinization)

(hydration) 10% plate well 1 ×
 5 peroxidase wash buffer 200 μℓ 37
 0.3% H₂O₂ in methanol 30 (incubation) well sample
 20 phosphate buffered saline 7 EGFR standard(0 80 fm/ml) 가
 1, 2 well plastic wrap 37 3
 1:20 normal blocking serum well wash buffer
 (horse serum) 20 300 μℓ 5 well Detector antibody 100
 Excess serum blot Buffer (1:40) primary antiserum (EGFR μℓ 가 plastic wrap 1
 monoclonal antibody) 2
 Slide buffer(PBS) 10 Conjugate diluent 50 × Working
 Buffer (1:100) biotinylated secondary conjugate well 100 μℓ plastic
 antibody(biotinylated horse anti-mouse IgG antiserum) wrap 30
 30 Substrate diluent
 Slide buffer 10 Working substrate 100 μℓ ,
 VECTASTAIN ABC Reagent(avidin-biotin- 1 Stop solution 100 μℓ 가 spectro-
 peroxidase complex) 30 photometric plate reader 490 nm
 Slide 10 buffer absorbance EGFR
 Peroxide substrate solution 2 7 3.
 5 EGFR
 Mayer Hematoxyline Chi-square test
 ? 80% glycerol gelatin mounting EGFR
 ? 3
 (visual intensity) Kruskal- Wallis test
 (semiquantitative grading) personal computer
 (-) , SAS program , p < 0.05
 (+++), (+++), (-), (+),
 (+++), (+++), 4 subgroup
 2) EGFR
 EGFR ECD mouse monoclonal capture antibody rabbit polyclonal detector antibody 1. EGFR
 sandwich ELISA human EGFR
 EGFR quantitative ELISA assay kit(Oncogene Science, EGFR
 Unicondale, USA) 2 48 1 ,
 normal mouse serum 가 (Table 1).

Table 1. Immunohistochemical staining for EGFR in CIN and invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix

Histologic diagnosis	Number of cases	EGFR staining(%)				Total positive ratio(%)
		(-)	(+)	(++)	(+++)	
Normal	9	3(33.3)	6(66.7)	0(0.00)	0(0.00)	6/9(66.7)
CIN	23	5(21.7)	5(21.7)	7(30.4)	6(26.1)	18/23(78.3)
Invasive Ca.	16	0(0.00)	3(18.8)	7(43.8)	6(37.5)	16/16(100.0)

(-): Negative; (+): weakly positive; (++) : positive; (+++): strongly positive
 Chi-square=16.96, p=0.009

EGFR

, 33.3%(3/9)

(-) , 66.7%(6/9) (+)

. CIN ,

EGFR

, 21.7%(5/23) (-), 21.7%(5/23)

(+), 30.4%(7/23) (++) , 26.1%(6/23)

(+++) . CIN (++)

6 (squamous cell carcinoma in situ) (3)

, 0.0%(0/16) (-), 18.8% (3/16)

(+), 43.8%(7/16) (++) , 37.5%

(+++) . (++) 6

(Fig. 1-4).

Fig. 2. Weakly positive(+) staining for EGFR in mild dysplasia. Immunohistochemical staining $\times 100$.

Fig. 3. Positive staining(++) for EGFR in carcinoma in situ. Immunohistochemical staining $\times 100$.

Fig. 1. Weakly positive(+) staining for EGFR in normal cervix. Immunohistochemical staining ($\times 100$).

EGFR , 가

EGFR

가 (Chi-Square=16.96, P=0.009)(Table 1)

EGFR (tumor marker)

EGFR 가

(Table 3:

Kruskal-Wallis Test: Chi-square=2.6430, p=0.450).

Table 3. Serum EGFR levels according to the grades of immunohistochemical staining of EGFR in cervical tissues

Immunohistochemical staining	Number of cases	Serum EGFR(fmol/ml) (Mean ± SD)
(-)	5	19.36 ± 3.12
(+)	8	20.99 ± 3.59
(++)	11	29.08 ± 16.86
(+++)	10	24.34 ± 10.35

(-): Negative; (+): weakly positive; (++) : positive; (+++): strongly positive

Kruskal-Wallis Test: Chi-square=2.6430, p=0.450

Fig. 4. Strongly positive(+++) staining for EGFR in invasive carcinoma. Immunohistochemical staining ×100.

2. EGFR

EGFR

Table 2

Histologic diagnosis	Serum EGFR(fmol/ml) (Mean ± SD)
Normal	23.18 ± 1.92
CIN	23.49 ± 8.95
Invasive Ca.	30.46 ± 19.72

(Table 2: Kruskal-Wallis Test: Chi-square =1.5061, p=0.471).

Table 2. Serum EGFR levels according to histologic diagnosis in patients with CIN and invasive squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix

Histologic diagnosis	Number of cases	Serum EGFR(fmol/ml) (Mean ± SD)
Normal	5	23.18 ± 1.92
CIN	17	23.49 ± 8.95
Invasive Ca.	14	30.46 ± 19.72

Ca.: carcinoma; SD: Standard Deviation

Kruskal-Wallis Test: Chi-square=1.5061, p=0.471

EGFR

(-)	19.36 ± 3.12	(+)	
(+)	20.99 ± 3.59	(++)	29.08
(++)	29.08 ± 16.86	(+++)	24.34 ± 10.35
(+++)	24.34 ± 10.35	(+++)	

Epidermal growth factor (mouse) 가 (submaxillary gland)

53 dalton single polypeptide chain (2829)

EGFR 가

EGFR

A-431

Carpenter & Zenguei 6) EGFR in vivo in vitro

EGFR (Mr) 170,000 transmembrane glycoprotein (31630)

1186 (external domain),

(transmembrane domain),

(cytoplasmic domain) 3

EGFR protein- kinase

가 (mitogen) .27,31) EGF가 EGFR

(EGFR) EGF receptor ,45) EGFR

.3) EGFR EGF가 .46) EGFR

(endo- (stage) 가 .47)

cytosis) lysosome EGF EGFR

.32,33) EGFR EGF (signal)가 가

(plasma) (morphologic change) 가 , 48)

(ion transport), (receptor) .316) 가 3 cm 3 cm EGFR

EGFR radioligand binding assay,21,34,35) 가 가

immunocytochemistry,36,39) flow-cytometric assay,40) enzyme immunoassay23) 가 . Kim 23)

EGFR level enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay ,

가 EGFR 가 4 cm

.36) 4 cm . Kristensen 21)

EGFR A431 ,

A-431 EGFR 0.2% EGFR 가

EGFR 20 200 (aggressiveness) 가

.54) Scambia 49) EGFR stage

, EGFR (tumor marker) stage

가 (median values; 7.8

EGFR fmol/ml protein for stage vs 4.2 fmol/ml

.17,19,244) Hendler 17) EGFR protein for stage for - , p=1.013),

11 11 (100%) , EGFR EGFR level

EGFR (adenocarci- ,

noma), (small cell carcinoma) 가 EGFR

가 EGFR EGFR

EGFR (tumor marker) , EGFR

24) (malignant transformation)

EGFR (tumorigenesis)

.23,24,48,50,51)

, 2 EGFR Hunts 18) EGFR

EGF EGFR 가 EGFR 가 EGFR

(oncogene)가 가 , , 가 EGFR 가 ,

EGFR AVE-H(Avian erythroblastosis virus strain) v-erb-B oncogene homology 70% .9) 가 가 EGFR Yoshida 4) EGFR (poorly differentiated) (amplification) EGFR (EGFR EGF immunoreactivity가

v-erb-B oncogene EGF EGFR v-erb-B oncogene ras myc oncogene EGFR .3) 가 가 EGFR 24) EGFR 80% , EGFR 71.4%, 80% , EGFR 16.7%, EGFR 60% , EGFR 가 , EGFR CIN, EGFR 가 가 EGFR Gullick 3) , , EGFR 10 2 CIN EGFR 가 , EGFR (++)/ (+++) EGFR (-) EGFR Yamasaki 5) Rha 5) , 가 가 EGFR 가 가 EGFR Yasui 5) (gastric adenocarcinoma) EGFR EGFR 가 (prognostic parameter) EGFR

Choi 2) ELISA EGFR ECD(extracellular domain) EGFR 가 (681 ± 226 fmol/ml vs 440 ± 46 fmol/ml; p < 0.0001), 18 (77.5% EGFR 가 cutoff value(: 3 , : 15 +2SD) ,) (CIN)

24 (CIN : 6 , CIN : 3 , CIN : 15)

9 EGFR

1 , 2 48

5 , CIN 17 , 14

1) EGFR (-) 33.3%(3/9), 66.7 % (6/9)

2) CIN EGFR (-) 21.7%(5/23), 21.7% (5/23), (++) 30.4%(7/23), (+++) 26.1% (6/23)

CIN (++) 6

3) EGFR (-) 0.0%(0/16), (+) 18.8% (3/16), (++) 43.8%(7/16), (+++) 37.5% (6/16)

4) EGFR :23.18 ± 1.92 fmol/ ml, CIN: 23.49 ± 8.95 fmol/ml, : 30.46 ± 19.72 fmol/ml, CIN (p=0.471).

5) EGFR (-): 19.36 ± 3.12 fmol/ml, (+):20.99 ± 3.59 fmol/ml, (++): 29.08 ± 16.86 fmol/ml, (+++): 24.34 ± 10.35 fmol/ml (++) (++) (-) 가 (p=0.450).

EGFR 가 , CIN, EGFR

가 (p=0.009) , EGFR (malignant transformation) , CIN EGFR 가 , (-) (++)/ (++) EGFR 가 , EGFR EGFR 가 (prognostic parameter) EGFR

- References -

1. Cohen S: Isolation of a mouse submaxillary gland protein accelerating incisor eruption and eyelid opening in the Newborn animal. J Biol Chem 1962; 237:1555-65.
2. Cohen S; Carpenter G. Human epidermal growth factor: Isolation and chemical and biological properties. Proc Nat Acad Sci USA 1975;72:1317-21.
3. Carpenter G: The biochemistry and physiology of the receptor-kinase for epidermal growth factor. Mol Cell Endocrinol 1983;31:1-19.
4. Cohen S: The epidermal growth factor(EGF). Cancer 1983;51:1787-91.
5. Merlino GT, Xu YH, Ishii S et al: Amplification and enhanced expression of the epidermal growth factor receptor gene in A431 human carcinoma cells. Science 1984;224:417-9.
6. Carpenter G, Zengdegui JG: Epidermal growth factor, its receptor and related proteins. Exp Cell Res 1986;164:1-10.
7. Carpenter G: Receptors for EGF and other polypeptide mitogens. Ann Rev Biochem 1987; 56:881-91.
8. Yarden Y, Ullrich A: Growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase. Annual Rev Biochem 1988;57:443-78.
9. Downward J, Yarden Y, Mayes E et al: Close similarity of epidermal growth factor receptor and v-erb-B oncogene protein sequences. Nature 1984; 307:521.
10. Kondo I, Shimizu N: Mapping of the human EGFR on the p13 leads to q22 region of chromosome 7. Cytogenet Cell Genet 1983;35(1):9-7.
11. Torado GJ, Fryling C, De Larco JE: Transforming

- neoplastic tissues of the female genital tract. *Gynecologic Oncol* 1991;42:256-64.
41. Stoscheck CM, Carpenter G: Characterization of the metabolic turnover of epidermal growth factor receptor protein in A-431 cells. *J Cell Physiol* 1984;120:296-306.
 42. Cerny T, Barnes DM, Hasleton P et al: Expression of epidermal growth factor receptor(EGF-R) in human lung tumors. *Br J Cancer* 1986;54:265-9.
 43. Veale D, Ashcroft T, Marsh C et al: Epidermal growth factor receptors in non-small cell lung cancer. *Br J Cancer* 1987;55:513-6.
 44. Yoshida K, Tsuda T, Matsumura T et al: Amplification of epidermal growth factor receptor(EGFR) gene and oncogenes in human gastric carcinomas. *Virchows Arch B Cell Pathol Incl Mol Pathol* 1989;57(5):285-90.
 45. Fitzpatrick SL, Brightwell J, Wittliff JL et al: Epidermal growth factor by breast tumor biopsies and relationship to estrogen receptor and progesterin receptor levels. *Cancer Res* 1984;44:3448-53.
 46. Bauknecht T, Rounge M, Schwall M et al: Occurrence of epidermal growth factor receptors in human adnexal tumors and their prognostic value in advanced ovarian carcinomas. *Gynecol Oncol* 1988;29:147-57.
 47. Owens OJ, Stewart C, Brown I et al: Epidermal growth factor receptors(EGFR) in human ovarian cancer. *Br J Cancer* 1991;64(5):907-10.
 48. , , . p53, proliferating Cell Nuclear Antigen(PCNA), c-myc Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor(EGFR) . 1997;40(1):2680-90
 49. Scambia G, Ferrandina G, Distefano M et al: Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) is not related to the prognosis of cervical cancer. *Cancer Lett* 1998;123(2):135-9.
 50. Yamasaki M, Mauro T, Akahori T et al: Immunohistochemical studies on epidermal growth factor receptor and myc oncogene product in squamous cell carcinoma of the uterine cervix. *Acta Obstet Gynaec Jpn* 1988;40:51-61.
 51. Ruck and Paulie: The epidermal growth factor receptor is involved in autocrine growth of human bladder carcinoma cell lines 1997;17(3c):1925-31.
 52. Rha KH: A study on the expression of the epidermal growth factor receptor in the malignant lesions of the uterine cervix. 1989(A thesis for Phd).
 53. Yasui W, Sumiyoshi H, Hata J et al: Expression of epidermal growth factor receptor in human gastric and colonic carcinomas. *Cancer Research* 1988;48:137-41.
-