

## Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor

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=Abstract=

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

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**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  $23.18 \pm 1.92$  fmol/ml,  $23.49 \pm 8.95$  fmol/ml, and  $30.46 \pm 19.72$  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  $19.36 \pm 3.12$  fmol/ml,  $20.99 \pm 3.59$  fmol/ml,  $29.08 \pm 16.86$  fmol/ml, and  $24.34 \pm 10.35$  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

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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 2 EGF가 Pfeiffer 20 EGFR (mitogen)

receptor (EGFR) 3 EGF EGFR , EGFR EGFR (Mr) 170,000 transmembrane 가 EGFR 가 glycoprotein , Kristensen 21)

EGFR A431 , A431 EGFR , Kimmig 22) 2- ,48) v-erb-B oncogene color flow cytometry EGFR (transforming pro- EGFR (aggressiveness) EGFR tein) homology 9) EGFR 7 EGFR

10) EGFR 3 domain , cystein external ligand- binding domain Kim 23) enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (extracellular domain: ECD) transmembrane domain, (ELISA) EGFR tyrosine kinase internal domain

79,11-13) paracrine EGF가 EGFR EGFR 가 EGFR tyrosine kinase (autophosphorylation) ,14,15) EGF , EGFR (plasma) , 가

24) EGFR 316) EGFR 가

Choi 25) ELISA 1.  
EGFR ECD 1)  
EGFR 가  
, 77.5% EGFR 18 ( : 3 ,  
, EGFR : 15 ) (CIN)  
, 24 (CIN : 6 , CIN : 3 , CIN :  
가 15 ) ,  
Partanen 26) asbestosis가  
ELISA EGFR 9  
EGFR ECD가 EGFR  
가 1 ,  
2 48 ,  
EGFR EGFR 5 , CIN  
, EGFR 17 , 14 .  
EGFR 2)  
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) 5 . 10% . plate well 1 ×  
 peroxidase wash buffer 200  $\mu\ell$  37  
 0.3% H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> in methanol 30 (incubation) .  
 bation) . well sample  
 20 phosphate buffered saline 7 EGFR standard(0 80 fm/ml) 7  
 . well plastic wrap 37 3  
 1 , 2  
 1:20 normal blocking serum well wash buffer  
 (horse serum) 20 300  $\mu\ell$  5 .  
 Excess serum blot . well Detector antibody 100  
 Buffer (1:40) primary antiserum (EGFR  $\mu\ell$  7 plastic wrap 1  
 monoclonal antibody) 2  
 . Conjugate diluent 50 × Working  
 Slide buffer(PBS) 10 conjugate well 100  $\mu\ell$  plastic  
 Buffer (1:100) biotinylated secondary wrap 30  
 antibody(biotinylated horse anti-mouse IgG antiserum) .  
 30 Substrate diluent  
 Slide buffer 10 Working substrate 100  $\mu\ell$  ,  
 VECTASTAIN ABC Reagent(avidin-biotin- 1 .  
 peroxidase complex) 30 Stop solution 100  $\mu\ell$  7 spectro-  
 Slide 10 buffer . photometric plate reader 490 nm  
 Peroxide substrate solution 2 7 absorbance EGFR .  
 5 3.  
 Mayer Hematoxyline EGFR  
 ? 80% glycerol gelatin mounting . Chi-square test  
 ? 3 ,  
 . EGFR  
 (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 quantitative ELISA assay kit(Oncogene Science, EGFR  
 Unicondale, USA) 1 ,  
 . 2 48 ,  
 . normal mouse serum 7 (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 carcino-

( 3 )

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

(+), 43.8% (7/16)      (++) , 37.5%

$$(+++) \quad . \quad (++) \quad 6$$

(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  $\times 100$ .

EGFR 가

, CIN,

EGFR

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

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

EGFR

가

EGFR

(tumor

EGFR

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 $\pm$ SD)
(-)	5	19.36 $\pm$ 3.12
(+)	8	20.99 $\pm$ 3.59
(++)	11	29.08 $\pm$ 16.86
(+++)	10	24.34 $\pm$ 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  $\times 100$ .

## 2. EGFR

## EGFR

Table 2

23.18 $\pm$ 1.92 fmol/ml, CIN	23.49
$\pm$ 8.95 fmol/ml, CIN	30.46 $\pm$ 19.72
가	
CIN	EGFR

(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 $\pm$ SD)
Normal	5	23.18 $\pm$ 1.92
CIN	17	23.49 $\pm$ 8.95
Invasive Ca.	14	30.46 $\pm$ 19.72

Ca.: carcinoma; SD: Standard Deviation

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

## 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	(++)	(+++)		

## Epidermal growth factor

## EGF

(mouse)

(submaxillary gland)

,1)

,2) 53

6045

dalton

single polypeptide chain

.22829)

## EGFR 가

## . EGFR

A-431

,29) Carpenter &amp; Zendegui 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 ,45) EGFR

EGF receptor (EGFR) .3) EGFR EGF가 .46) EGFR

(endo- cytosis) , lysosome (stage) 가 .47)

.32,33) EGFR EGF EGFR

EGF (signal)가 가

(plasma) . 가 , 48)

(ion transport), (morphologic change) 가 3 cm 3 cm EGFR

(receptor) .316) 가 가 ,

EGFR radioligand binding assay,213,43) 가 가 EGFR

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

A431 . Kristensen 21)

EGFR ,

A-431 EGFR 0.2%

EGFR 20 200

.541) Scambia 49) EGFR stage

, EGFR (tumor marker) stage

가 , , , (median values; 7.8

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

protein for stage for - , p=1.013),

.17,19,42,44) Hendler 17) EGFR EGFR level

, 11 11 (100%) , EGFR

EGFR , (adenocarci-

noma), (small cell carcinoma) 가

가 EGFR

EGFR , EGFR

(tumor marker) .

24) (malignant transformation)

EGFR (tumorigenesis)

.23,24,48,51)

, 2 EGFR Hunts 18) EGFR

가 EGFR 가 EGFR

EGF EGFR 가 ,

(oncogene)가 가 , , 가 EGFR 가 ,

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

v-erb-B oncogene EGF EGFR v-erb-B oncogene ras . EGFR myc oncogene .3) 가 가

24) EGFR . EGFR 80% , EGFR 71.4%, 80% , EGFR 16.7%, EGFR 60% , EGFR 가 , EGFR

CIN, EGFR 가 . 가 (malignant transformation) EGFR 가 ,

Gullick 3) , , CIN 10 EGFR EGFR 가 , EGFR (-) 2 EGFR , EGFR 가 (++)/ (+++) EGFR 가 Yamasaki 5) Rha 5) , 가 가 EGFR , EGFR 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

EGFR

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  
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 parame-  
ter) EGFR

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