

=Abstract=

A Significance of Insulin-like Growth Factors (IGFs)  
and Insulin-like Growth Factor Binding Proteins (IGFBPs)  
in Ascites of Ovarian Cancer Patients

Ki Heon Lee, M.D.

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, School of Medicine, Sungkyunkwan University Samsung  
Cheil Hospital and Women's Healthcare Center*

Kyung Tai Kim, M.D., Youn Yeoung Hwang, M.D.

*Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, College of Medicine, Hanyang University*

Based on the facts that expression of insulin-like growth factors(IGFs), their receptors, and insulin-like growth factor binding proteins(IGFBPs) have been found in many different types of malignancies including human ovarian cancer and their potent mitogenic effects in vitro, a role for IGFs mediated autocrine loop in oncogenesis and growth regulation of human malignancies was suggested.

Since ascites support the biological environment for advanced ovarian cancer, it seemed to be reasonable to measure the level of growth factors or cytokines in ascites for understanding precise mechanism of those factors in tumor biology.

To investigate their roles and to evaluate prognostic significance in ovarian cancer, the IGFs/IGFBPs system were studied in the ascites, not in sera or cystic fluids, from 22 patients with ovarian cancer, who underwent surgical staging and subsequent cis-platinum based systemic chemotherapy at the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Hanyang University Hospital from Jan. 1989 through Dec. 1994. Ascites from 7 patients with benign disease were used as the control. IGF-I, II, IGFBP-1, and 3 were measured by immunoradiometric assay.

The IGF-I level was significantly higher in ascites with ovarian cancer compared with those of benign disease( $63.3 \pm 11.1$  vs  $17.9 \pm 6.2$  ng/ml,  $p=0.0098$ ), but the level of IGF-II was not significantly different( $70.5 \pm 13.9$  vs  $70.8 \pm 31.5$  ng/ml,  $p=0.2827$ ). IGFBP-1 levels were tend to be lower in ascites of patients with ovarian cancer than that of control( $25.2 \pm 9.5$  vs  $58.6 \pm 28.2$  ng/ml,

p=0.0637). However, IGFBP-3 levels had no statistically significant difference between two groups(779.7 $\pm$ 110.6 vs 674.7 $\pm$ 175.1ng/ml, p=0.8328). Although growth hormone levels were significantly higher in ascites with metastatic ovarian cancer than those of primary epithelial ovarian cancer, the levels of IGF-I, II, IGFBP-1 and 3 in ascites were not significantly different between two groups. IGF-I levels were correlated with the levels of IGFBP-3 in ascites with ovarian cancer(Y=8.83X-2.0, r=0.745, p=0.0000).

High level of IGF-I in ascites of patients with ovarian cancer in this study was suggested that IGF-I had an important role on growth regulation of ovarian cancer. As majority of ascites were obtained from advanced and poorly differentiated ovarian cancer patients, IGF-I in ascites seemed to be related with intraperitoneal metastasis.

Further large number of study including data from sera or cystic fluid will be needed to elucidate the role of the IGFs and IGFBPs in ascites of patients with ovarian cancer.

**Keywords:** Ovarian cancer, Ascites, IGF, IGFBP

(tumor suppressor gene) , 가  
1993 (monoclonal proliferation) ,  
(multistage process)  
2.9% ,  
(cyto-  
.1) kine) ,  
,  
,  
57% ,  
가 ,  
III, IV  
가 75% ,  
(insulin-like growth factors,  
IGFs )가 ,  
(signal trans-  
duction system) 가 가  
IGFs ,  
.26)  
, 가  
(proto-oncogene) OVCAR-3

IGFs, (insulin-like growth factor receptors, IGFs) (insulin-like growth factor binding proteins, IGFs)

1.

1989 1 1994 12

,78)

가

가 .911)

500ml

22

가 ,2)

56 (17 73 ) ,

IGFs

16 (72.7%),

6 (27.3%) .

16 I II 3

(18.7%), III 8 (50%), IV 가 5

가 (31.3%) , 22 1

3 (13.6%), 2 2

(9.1%), 3

가 17 (77.3%) .

1,000 5,000ml 가 13 (59.1%), 5,000

ml 가 7 (31.8%) ,

15cm 가 7 (31.8%), 15

cm 가 15 (68.2%) ,

17 (77.3%) 가 2cm

CA 125

가 15 , CA 125

35 U/ml 가 (Table 1).

cis-platinum

6-12

36

가 7

.1416) , 3 , 2

, 2

가

2.

IGFs IGFs IGFs

(growth

1,800G 20

hormone, GH )

-70

Table 1. Clinical characteristics in patients with ovarian cancer(n=22)

Age Median: 56	Range: 17 73
Histologic Type	Grade 3
Epithelial 16	2
Metastatic 6	and 17
Stage and 3	Ascites volume(ml)
8	< 1000 2
5	1000 5000 13
CA 125 at diagnosis(U/ml)	> 5000 7
< 35 0	Tumor size(cm)
35 15	< 15
Unknown 7	15 7

3. IGFs, IGFBPs GH  
IGFs(I II), GH IGFBPs(1  
3) Diagnostic System Laboratories  
(DCL, Webster, TX) kit  
Immunoradiometric assay(IRA assay)  
IGF-I, II IGFBP-  
1, 3 , (duplicate)

4. 가  
Fisher exact test  
SAS  
,

1. IGFs  
IGF-1 63.3±  
11.1ng/ml  
17.9±6.2ng/ml  
(p=0.0098)(Table 2, Fig. 1).  
IGF-II  
가 70.5±13.9ng/ml,  
70.8±31.5ng/ml

(p=0.2877)

(Table 2, Fig. 2).

Table 2. IGFs Levels in Ascites

	Benign(n=7)	Malignant(n=22)	p-value
IGF-	17.9 ± 6.2	63.3 ± 11.1	0.0098
IGF-	70.8 ± 31.5	70.5 ± 13.9	0.2827

Mean ± SEM, Unit: ng/ml

Fig. 1. IGF- Levels in Ascites

Fig. 2. IGF- Levels in Ascites

2. IGFBPs  
IGFBP-1  
가 25.2±9.5ng/ml  
58.6±28.2ng/ml

(p=0.0637)(Table 3, Fig. 3).

Table 3. IGFBPs & GH Levels in Ascites

	Benign(n=7)	Malignant(n=22)	p-value
IGFBP-1	58.6 ± 28.2	25.2 ± 9.5	0.0637
IGFBP-3	674.7 ± 175.1	779.7 ± 110.6	0.8328
GH	1.10 ± 0.86	0.90 ± 0.16	0.0923

Mean ± SEM, Unit: ng/ml

Fig. 3. IGFBP-1 Levels in Ascites

IGFBP-3  
779.7±110.6ng/ml,  
674.7±175.1ng/ml  
(p=0.8328)(Table 3, Fig. 4).

Fig. 4. IGFBP-3 Levels in Ascites

3. GH  
IGFs  
GH  
0.90±0.16ng/ml,  
1.10±0.86ng/ml  
(p=0.0923)  
(Table 3, Fig. 5).  
GH

Fig. 5. GH Levels in Ascites

4.  
IGFs IGFBPs  
16 6  
IGFs IGFBPs IGF-1  
58.9±11.7ng/ml 84.1±26.8ng/ml (p=  
0.55), IGF-II 91.3±17.9ng/ml  
60.0±14.7ng/ml (p=0.10), IGFBP-1  
25.4±10.3ng/ml 47.5±21.2ng/ml (p=0.74), IGFBP-  
3 770±110ng/ml 590±240ng/ml  
(p=0.48)  
GH 0.77±0.1ng/ml 1.13±  
0.5ng/ml 가  
(p=0.001)(Table 4).

5.  
cis-platinum  
6 12  
10 (46%), 12

(54%) . 10 5 (23%),  
 5 (23%) , 5 2  
 , 2 3 ,  
 3 . 3  
 . 12  
 4 (18%), 8 (36%)  
 , 2 (Table 5).

Table 4. IGFBPs & GH Levels in Ascites(epithelial vs metastatic)

	Epithelial(n=16)	Metastatic(n=6)	p-value
IGF-	58.9 ± 11.7	84.1 ± 26.8	0.55
IGF-	91.3 ± 17.9	60.0 ± 14.7	0.10
IGFBP-1	25.4 ± 10.3	47.5 ± 21.2	0.74
IGFBP-3	770.0 ± 110	590 ± 240	0.48
GH	0.77 ± 0.1	1.13 ± 0.5	0.001

Mean ± SEM, Unit: ng/ml

6.

IGFs IGFBPs  
 10 12 IGFs  
 IGFBPs IGF-1  
 42.2±12.3ng/ml 69.7±3.9ng/ml (p=0.24), IGF-II  
 57.4±20.0ng/ml 88.2±5.0ng/ml  
 (p=0.67), IGFBP-1 36.9±17.7ng/ml  
 19.9±2.5ng/ml (p=0.7), IGFBP-3  
 723±187ng/ml 840±30ng/ml (p=0.6)

GH  
 0.89±0.29ng/ml 0.8±0.04ng/ml

(Table 6).

Table 5. Response to chemotherapy based on surgical or clinical criteria

Response to chemotherapy	No. of patients(%)
Responders	10(46)*
Complete response	5(23)
Partial response	5(23)
Nonresponders	12(54)**
Failure	4(18)
Clinical progression of disease	8(36)

\*: 5/10 death within 2 years, 2/5: within 3 years

\*\*: all died of disease within 2 years

Table 6. IGFBPs & GH Levels in Ascites(responder vs nonresponder)

	Responder (n=10)	Nonresponder (n=12)	p-value
IGF-	42.2 ± 12.3	69.7 ± 3.9	0.24
IGF-	57.4 ± 20.0	88.2 ± 5.0	0.67
IGFBP-1	36.9 ± 17.7	19.9 ± 2.5	0.7
IGFBP-3	723.0 ± 187	840 ± 30	0.6
GH	0.89 ± 0.3	0.8 ± 0.04	0.25

Mean ± SEM, Unit: ng/ml

Fig. 6. The correlation between IGF- and IGFBP-3

7. IGFs IGFs I II 가 , IGFBP3 IGFs IGF-I Y=8.83X-2.0 (r=0.745, p=0.0000) GH (Fig. 6). mRNA GH IGF-II 67 IGF-I 60% IGF-I IGF-II (type- ) IGF- (type- ) ( -chains) - ( -chains) (heterotetramer) IGF-I (extracellular ligand binding domain) , (transmembrane and intracellular domains) , tyrosine kinase .27,28) IGF- , tyrosine kinase IGFs (1996) interleukin-6(IL-6) 가 ,19 (1995) IGF-I 가 가 IGF- IGFs, IGFBP3 IGFs 가 .

IGFs , , 가 , .  
IGFs IGFs  
(mitogen) , , , ,  
Wilms , , ,  
,26) IGF- 3 가 , ,  
, .37)  
,31)  
IGF-I . 가  
. 가  
IGFs 가 ,38) 가  
IGFs (insulin-like gro-  
wth factor binding proteins, IGFBPs) IGFBP-1 가  
IGFBP-6 가 가 가  
,32)  
IGFs IGFs가 가  
IGFs 가  
, IGFBP-3 . 가  
Figueroa Yee(1992) IGF- IGF-  
(chemotaxis)  
IGF-I 가 , Kohn (1992) OVCAR-3  
, IGF- (free IGF- ) IGFs  
IGF- 가  
가 , .39)  
IGFBP- IGF- Yee (1991)  
.33) IGFBPs IGF-I mRNA가  
IGFBPs , OVCAR-3  
IGF-I IGFBPs가 , IGF-I  
가 (IGF-I mediated autocrine  
loop) 가  
, IGFs IGFBPs가  
.7)  
Karasik (1994)  
IGF-I IGFBP-2 가 가  
,10)  
IGFBP-2 mRNA  
, 가 가



IGFBP-2 가 22 , 가  
가 .11) 7 IGF-I, II  
IGF-I IGFBPs IGFBP-1,3 Immunoradiometric assay  
가 ,  
Krywicki (1993) 1. IGF-I  
PEO4 63.3 $\pm$ 11.1ng/ml ,  
IGFBPs mRNA 17.9 $\pm$ 6.2ng/ml  
IGFBP-5 mRNA 가 IGF-I 가  
IGFBP mRNA (p=0.0098).  
.40 IGF- II  
가 70.5 $\pm$ 13.9ng/ml,  
70.8 $\pm$ 31.5ng/ml  
IGFs IGF-I IGFBPs (p=0.2877).  
, IGFBP-1  
가 25.2 $\pm$ 9.5ng/ml,  
58.6 $\pm$ 28.2ng/ml , IGFBP-1  
가  
, (platelet-  
derived growth factors, PDGF), (p=0.0637). IGFBP-3  
(epidermal growth factors, EGF), 779.7 $\pm$ 110.6 ng/  
(fibroblast growth factors, FGF), ml, 674.7 $\pm$ 175.1ng/ml  
(vascular endothelial growth factors, VEGF)  
interleukin 2, 6, (tumor (p=0.8328).  
necrosis factors, TNF) 가 3. 16 6  
IGFs IGFBPs IGF-1,  
IGF-II IGFBP-1, IGFBP-3  
GH  
0.77 $\pm$ 0.1ng/ml 1.13 $\pm$ 0.5ng/ml  
가  
(p=0.001).  
4. IGFs IGFBPs  
10  
12 IGFs IGFBPs  
IGF-I, IGF-II IGFBP-1, IGFBP-3 GH  
5. IGFs  
IGFBPs 가  
1989 1 1994 12  
IGFs IGFBPs  
, IGFBP-3 IGF-I  
500 ml Y=8.83X-2.0  
가 (r=0.745, p=

0.0000).

IGFs, IGF-I, IGFBP-3, FGF, VEGF, TNF, 가

# - References -

1. (1993). 107
2. Yee D, Cullen KJ, Paik S et al: Insulin-like growth factor II mRNA expression in human breast cancer. *Cancer Res* 1988; 48: 6691-6696.
3. Hoopener JWM, Mosselman S, Roholl PJM: Expression of insulin-like growth factor I and II genes in human smooth muscle tumor. *EMBO J* 1988; 7: 1379-1385.
4. Tricoli JV, Rall LB, Karakousis CP: Enhanced level of insulin-like growth factor messenger RNA in human colon carcinomas and liposarcomas. *Cancer Res* 1986; 46: 6169-6173.
5. Reeve AE, Eccles MR, Wilkins RJ, Bell GI, Millow LJ: Expression of insulin-like growth factor II transcripts in Wilms' tumor. *Nature* 1985; 317: 258-260.
6. Scott J, Cowell J, Robertson ME et al: Insulin-like growth factor II gene expression in Wilm's tumor and embryonic tissues. *Nature* 1985; 317: 260-262.
7. Yee D, Morales FR, Hamilton TC, Von Hoff DD: Expression of insulin-like growth factor I, its binding proteins, and its receptor in ovarian cancer. *Cancer Res* 1991; 51: 5107-5112.
8. Beck EP, Russo P, Gliozzo B et al: Identification of insulin and insulin-like growth factor I(IGF I) receptors in ovarian cancer tissue. *Gynecol Oncol* 1994; 53(2): 196-201.

9. Seppala M, Than G: Insulin-like growth factor binding protein PP12 in ovarian cyst fluid. *Arch Gynecol Obstet* 1987; 241(1): 33-35.
10. Karasik A, Menczer J, Pariente C, Kanety H: Insulin-like growth factor-I(IGF-I) and IGF-binding protein-2 are increased in cyst fluids of epithelial ovarian cancer. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1994; 78: 271-276.
11. Kanety H, Kattan M, Goldberg I et al: Increased insulin-like growth factor binding protein-2 (IGFBP-2) gene expression and protein production lead to high IGFBP-2 content in malignant ovarian cyst fluid. *Br J Cancer* 1996; 73(9): 1069-1073.
12. Mills GB, May C, McGill M et al: A putative growth factor in ascitic fluid from ovarian cancer patients. Identification, characterization and mechanism of action. *Cancer Res* 1988; 48: 1066-1071.
13. Mills GB, May C, Hill M et al: Ascitic fluid from ovarian cancer patients contains growth factors necessary for intraperitoneal growth of human ovarian adenocarcinoma cells. *J Clin Invest* 1990; 86: 851-855.
14. Kutteh WH, Kutteh CC: Quantitation of TNF- $\alpha$ , interleukin-1 $\beta$ , and interleukin-6 in the effusions of ovarian epithelial neoplasms. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 1992; 167: 1864-1869.
15. Mordi MM, Carson LF, Weinberg B et al: Serum and ascitic fluid levels of interleukin-1, interleukin-6, and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) in patients with ovarian epithelial cancer. *Cancer* 1993; 72: 2433-2440.
16. Plante M, Rubin SC, Wong GY et al: Interleukin-6 level in serum and ascites as a prognostic factor in patients with epithelial ovarian cancer. *Cancer* 1994; 73: 1882-1888.
17. Yee D, Paik S, Lebovic G et al: Analysis of IGF-I gene expression in malignancy-evidence for a paracrine role in human breast cancer. *Mol Endocrinol* 1989; 3: 509-517.
18. Osborne CK, Coronado EB, Kitten LJ et al: Insulin-like growth factor-II (IGF-II): A potential autocrine/paracrine growth factor for human breast cancer

- acting via the IGF-I receptor. *Mol Endocrinol* 1989; 3: 1701-1709.
19.                   ,                   ,                   ,                   : interleukin 2, interleukin 6 tumor necrosis factor-alpha. *Endocrinology* 1996; 7(1): 1-13.
  20.                   ,                   ,                   ,                   ,                   : insulin-like growth factor-I(IGF-I). *Endocrinology* 1995; 6(4): 227-234.
  21. Rinderknecht E, Humbel RE: The aminoacid sequence of human insulin-like growth factor I and its structural homology with proinsulin. *J Biol Chem* 1978; 253: 2769-2776.
  22. Rinderknecht E, Humbel RE: Primary structure of human insulin-like growth factor II. *FEBS Lett* 1978; 89: 283-286.
  23. Baxter TL: The somatomedins: Insulin-like growth factors. *Adv Clin Chem* 1986; 25: 49-115.
  24. Mathews LS, Norstedt G, Palmiter RD: Regulation of insulin-like growth factor I gene expression by growth hormone *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1988; 83: 9343-9347.
  25. Han VKM, Lund PK, Lee DC, D'Ercole AJ: Expression of somatomedin/insulin-like growth factor messenger ribonucleic acids in the human fetus: Identification, characterization, and tissue distribution. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1988; 66: 422-429.
  26. Zapf J, Froesch VR: Insulin-like growth factors/somatomedins: Structure, secretion, biological actions and physiological roles. *Horm Res* 1986; 24: 121-130.
  27. Ullrich A, Gray A, Tam AW et al: Insulin-like growth factor I receptor primary structure: Comparison with insulin receptor suggests structural determinants that define hormonal specificity. *EMBO J* 1986; 5: 2503-2512.
  28. Massague J, Czech M: The subunit structures of two distinct receptors for insulin-like growth factors I and II and their relationship to the insulin receptor. *J Biol Chem* 1982; 257: 5038-5045.
  29. Fraddin JE, Eastman RC, Lesniak MA, Roth J: Specificity spillover at the hormone receptor-exploring its role in human disease. *N Engl J Med* 1989; 320: 640-645.
  30. Ewton DJ, Falen SL, Florini JR: The type II insulin-like growth factor (IGF) receptor has low affinity for IGF-I analogs: Pleiotypic action of IGFs on myoblast are apparently mediated by the type I receptor. *Endocrinology* 1987; 120: 115-123.
  31. Stewart AJ, Johnson MD, May FEB, Westley BR: Role of insulin-like growth factors and the type I insulin-like growth factor receptor in the estrogen-stimulated proliferation of human breast cells. *J Biol Chem* 1990; 265: 21172-21178.
  32. Baxter RC, Martin JL: Binding proteins for the insulin-like growth factors: Structure, regulation and function. *Prog Growth Factor Res* 1989; 1: 49-68.
  33. Figueroa JA, Yee D: The insulin-like growth factor binding proteins (IGFBPs) in human breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Res Treat* 1992; 22: 81-90.
  34. Elgin RD, Busby Jr WH, Clemmons DR: An insulin-like growth factor binding protein enhances the biologic response to IGF-I. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1987; 84: 3254-3258.
  35. Ritvos O, Ranta T, Jalkanen J et al: Insulin-like growth factor binding protein from human decidua inhibits the binding and biological action of IGF-I in cultured choriocarcinoma cells. *Endocrinology* 1988; 122: 2150-2157.
  36. Liu L, Brinkman A, Blat C, Harel L: IGFBP-1, an insulin-like growth factor binding protein, is a cell growth inhibitor. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun* 1991; 174: 673-679.
  37. Kohn EC, Liotta LA: Tumor invasion and metastasis. In *Principles and practice of gynecologic oncology*, edited by Hoskins WJ, Perez CA, Young RC. Philadelphia: J B Lippincott company, 1992; 69-86.
  38. Schirrmacher V: Experimental approaches, theoretical concepts, and impacts for treatment strategies. *Adv Cancer Res* 1985; 43: 1-32.
  39. Kohn EC, Francis EA, Liotta LA: Heterogeneity of the motility responses in malignant tumor cells: A biological basis for the diversity and homing of metastatic cells. *Int J Cancer* 1990; 46: 287.
  40. Krywicki RF, Figueroa JA, Jackson JG et al: Regulation of insulin-like growth factor binding proteins in ovarian cancer cells by oestrogen. *Eur J Cancer* 1993; 29A(14): 2015-2019.