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Prognostic role of tissue expression and serum level of YKL-40 in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma patients

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Background: Serum YKL-40 levels are increased in various inflammatory disorders and a wide range of malignancies. Moreover, these elevated levels correlate with poor prognosis of cancer patients, suggestive of YKL-40 might be a prognostic biomarker. The impact of YKL-40 on non-Hodgkin lymphoma prognosis has not been fully explained.

Aim: To study the serum levels and lymph node tissue expression of YKL-40 in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) patients to assess its prognostic value and shed light on its impact on survival.

Methods: The study included 60 DLBCL patients. ELISA was used to assess the serum YKL-40 levels. Immuno-histochemical staining was used to detect YKL-40 protein expression in lymphoma specimens.

Results: YKL-40 serum levels were significantly higher in DLBCL patients when compared with the control group. YKL-40 was expressed in tumor tissue in 66.67% of patients. Receiver-operator curve analysis showed serum YKL-40 at a cut-off value of ≥ 95.5 (ng/mL) had a sensitivity of 70% and a specificity of 95% for DLBCL diagnosis. In DLBCL, Progression free and overall survival rates significantly decrease in patients with increased serum levels of YKL-40 above the cut off level and YKL-40 positive expressed patients.

Conclusions: Serum YKL-40 and its tissue expression could be a valuable prognostic marker in DLBCL patients.

Biography

Omnia Abd El-Fattah is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Oncology, Faculty of Medicine Tanta University Hospital, Egypt, member of the Egyptian Association for Cancer-based National Cancer Institute, Cairo, Egypt and Patients' Friends Society tumors in Gharbia based Department for Clinical Oncology, Tanta University Hospital, Egypt. She has Master's and MD degrees in Clinical Oncology in 2002 and 2009 respectively from Faculty of Medicine Tanta University Hospital, Egypt. Her Master's and MD theses focused on non-Hodgkin's lymphomas. She is teaching postgraduate students and is interested in participating in a therapeutic service in university hospitals. She attended many courses in the capabilities of faculty development and supervised multiple Master's and MD theses. She has attended multiple national and local conferences of Clinical Oncology and has multiple international published papers in Clinical Oncology.

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