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Immunohistochemical analysis of PTEN, HER2/neu and Ki-67 expression in patients with gastric cancer and their association with survival

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Background & Aim: Considering the poor prognosis of patients with gastric cancer, molecular diagnostic and prognostic markers for this cancer should be established. The aims of our study were to assess the correlations between expressions of PTEN, HER2/neu and Ki-67 and various clinicopathological factors, as well as their influence on OS and DFS.

Patients & Methods: In this descriptive-analytic study, 42 patients with gastric carcinoma treated by postoperative chemoradiation between January 2004 and January 2014. Pathological review was done for pathological staging. Immunohistochemical staining (using the avidin biotin immunoperoxiase complex technique) and evaluation (with the assis¬tance of a histopathologist) were performed.

Results: All the studied markers were significantly correlated with pathological T stage and increased TNM stage. In addition, Her2/neu overexpression and positive Ki-67 expression were significantly associated with histological grade. High percentage of positive Her2/neu and Ki-67 expression was found in gastric carcinoma tissue samples which lack PTEN expression. One-year OS rate for the entire group (n=42) was 77.4%, whereas the DFS rate was 45%. Pathological T stage PTEN status significantly affected both OS (p=0.029 and 0.027 respectively) and DFS (p=0.006 and 0.012 respectively) rates. Multivariate Cox analyses showed that only pathological T stage was independent prognostic factor affecting OS (P=0.007, HR: 2.02; 95% CI: 1.2-3.38) and DFS (P<0.0001, HR: 2.69; 95% CI: 1.54-4.69).

Conclusion: All the studied molecular markers were significantly correlated with pathological T stage that significantly affected both OS and DFS rates.

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Cytologic features of neuroendocrine tumors

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Neuroendocrine tumors (NET) are a family of neoplasm with wide range of morphologic, functional and behavioral characteristics. These tumors show some similar cytologic features regardless of the primary organ of origin. Many pathologists and cytotechnologists find this diagnosis difficult and challenging especially in unusual locations or presentation as a metastasis. The goal of this workshop is helping audience to get familiar with the cytologic features of NE tumors and its differential diagnostic pitfalls. This presentation show many examples of these tumors in different grade of differentiation and locations. There will be a discussion about the appropriate immunohistochemistry studies on these tumors.

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