Expression of Bone Morphogenetic Protein-2 and Histological Differentiation of Oral Squamous Cell Carcinomas

Fatme Mouchref Hamasni*, Fady El Hajj

Abstract

Background and Objective: Bone morphogenetic protein-2 (BMP-2) plays an essential role in mesenchymal cell differentiation into osteoblasts through many intracellular pathways which may also be active in tumors. Invasive oral squamous cell carcinomas account for more than 90% of head and neck malignancies in many cancer registries. They are classified into three types according to epithelial cell differentiation. The present study aimed to identify any relation between BMP-2 expression and tumor histology. Materials and methods: BMP-2 expression was compared immunohistochemically among 30 cases (19 male and 11 female, mean age 48 years) of oral squamous cell carcinoma, Division was into 3 groups (each containing 10 cases) according to the histological grade. Results: No significant correlation between BMP-2 expression and histological grade was observed. Changes in localization and cytoplasmic staining were also not apparent. Conclusion: From the results of this study BMP-2 does not appear to have any application as a prognostic marker for oral squamous cell carcinomas.

Keywords: BMP-2- oral squamous cell carcinoma- histologic differentiation
Fatme Mouchref Hamasni and Fady El Hajj

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receptors (Blanco Calvo et al., 2009).

The aim of the present study was to establish the expression of BMP2 in the histopathological degrees of oral squamous cell carcinomas.

Materials and Methods

This laboratory-based study involved the use of buffered formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissues of histopathologically diagnosed cases of OSCC. A total of 30 cases were evaluated immune-histochemically for BMP2 expression, these include 10 cases of well differentiated (WDSCC), 10 cases of moderately differentiated (MDSCC) and 10 cases of poorly differentiated (PDSCC) squamous cell carcinoma.

The diagnosis was confirmed by two oral pathologists using sections stained with hematoxylin and eosin.

Immunohistochemistry

Two or three serial sections 4μm thick were prepared and placed on silanized slides. The sections were deparaffinized and rehydrated through xylene and descending grades of alcohol. Antigen retrieval was carried out in a pressure cooker in 10 mM citrate buffer (pH 6.0) for 2 to 5 min. The sections were then incubated after covering them with 3% hydrogen peroxide for 15 min to block any endogenous peroxidase activity, and then slides incubated with primary Anti-BMP2 antibody polyclonal antibody (Abcam, USA) for 4h at room temperature using an optimal dilution of 1:50.

Five of the most invasive tumoral islands were captured and the whole epithelial cells in these islands were counted and examined. One-way Anova and Tukey’s test were used for comparison and correlation between the different grades of OSCC.

Results

BMP2 was expressed in 9.3% of the cells (8.6% of WDOSCC, 9.8% of MDOSCC and 9.5% of PDOSCC) (Table 1) and (Figures 1, 2, 3), there was no significant correlation (p>0.05) between BMP2 expression and the histological degrees.

Discussion

BMPs were originally isolated from the bone and are capable of inducing new bone formation at ectopic sites in vivo. BMP2- and BMP7-containing osteogenic implants have so far been used in over one million patients worldwide for the treatment of long bone nonunion, spinal fusions, and acute fractures (Wagner et al., 2010). Apart from their recognized role in bone regeneration, BMPs have been used systemically to improve skeletal volume, kidney regeneration, and glucose and iron metabolism, so it is very important to analyze these growth factors side effects especially with cancer patients.

Oral cancer is the sixth most common cancer worldwide, more than 90% of all oral cancers are squamous cell carcinomas (SCC). The effects of BMP-2 on the malignant cells still controversial and are perhaps

| histological degree of OSCC | Mean percentage | Standard deviation | Lowest value | Highest value |
|----------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| WDSCC                      | 8.6%           | 1.6%               | 7.9%         | 9.8%         |
| MDSCC                      | 9.8%           | 1.5%               | 8.1%         | 9.5%         |
| PDSCC                      | 9.5%           | 1.6%               | 8.2%         | 9.8%         |
| Total                      | 9.3%           | 1.5%               | 7.9%         | 9.8%         |

Table 1: The Percentages of Stained Cells with BMP2 in the Study Sample
contingent upon the tissues and environment where they are expressed (Suzawa et al., 1999). Many researchers investigated the link between BMPs and cancer and pointed that several types of BMPs (such as BMP-2, BMP-4, BMP-6 and BMP-7) are implicated in many types of cancer tissues and also many studies reported their Dysregulation. (Mancino et al., 2008; Zaid et al., 2016a).

In the current study no relation found between the histological differentiation of oral squamous cell carcinoma and the expression of the immune-histochemical marker of BMP2, indicating that it cannot be used as a reliable prognostic marker in this type of malignancies. and make maxillofacial surgeons more ensure when using BMP for reconstructing bone defects after resecting advanced OSCC from the oral cavity.

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