The protein arginine methyltransferase 5 promotes malignant phenotype of hepatocellular carcinoma cells and is associated with adverse patient outcomes after curative hepatectomy

DAI SHIMIZU, MITSURO KANDA, HIROYUKI SUGIMOTO, MASAIRO SHIBATA, HARUYOSHI TANAKA, HIDEKI TAKAMI, NAOKI IWATA, MASAMICHI HAYASHI, CHIE TANAKA, DAISUKE KOBAYASHI, SUGURU YAMADA, GORO NAKAYAMA, MASAIKO KOIKE, MICHITAKA FUJIWARA, TSUTOMU FUJII and YASUHIRO KODERA

Department of Gastroenterological Surgery (Surgery II), Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Nagoya 466-8550, Japan

Received September 29, 2016; Accepted December 27, 2016

DOI: 10.3892/ijo.2017.3833

Abstract. The prognosis of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is dismal. Novel molecular targets for diagnosis and therapy is urgently required. This study evaluated expression and functions of the protein arginine methyltransferase 5 (PRMT5) in HCC. Using HCC cell lines, the expression levels of PRMT5 mRNA were determined using the quantitative real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction, and the effect of a small interfering PRMT5-siRNA on cell phenotype was evaluated. Further, PRMT5 expression was determined in 144 pairs of resected liver tissues to evaluate its clinical significance. Regardless of their differentiated phenotypes, nine HCC cell lines expressed different levels of PRMT5 mRNA. Inhibition of PRMT5 expression significantly decreased the proliferation, invasion, and migration of HCC cell lines. Although the level of PRMT5 mRNA was not influenced by patient’s background liver status, it was significantly higher in HCC tissues than in the corresponding noncancerous tissues. High levels of PRMT5 mRNA in HCC tissues were significantly associated with advanced disease stage and adverse prognosis. In conclusion, our results indicate that PRMT5 may act as a putative oncogene in HCC and that the levels of PRMT5 mRNA represent a promising prognostic marker and a potential target of molecular therapy for HCC.

Introduction

Hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) is the sixth most common cancer and the third most common cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide (1,2). The 5-year overall survival rate of HCC patients ranges from 0 to 14% (3). Although patients frequently experience recurrence after curative resection, the therapeutic alternatives for advanced and recurrent HCC are limited compared with those available for managing other cancers of the digestive tract (4,5). Therefore, it is important to identify new biomarkers for predicting outcomes as well as new molecular targets for treating HCC (6).

Protein arginine methyltransferases (PRMTs) are the major enzymes that methylate arginine residues in histones (7). There are four types of PRMTs, and PRMT5 is a type II PRMT that catalyzes monomethylation and symmetric dimethylation reactions (8-10). Symmetric dimethylation of histones inhibits transcription, and inhibition of the expression of tumor suppressor genes causes tumorigenesis and the progression of cancer (10-12). PRMT5 acts as an oncogene in some neoplasms through inhibition of the transcription of certain tumor suppressor genes, promotes cell proliferation, and inhibits apoptosis (10,11,13,14). Moreover, PRMT5 contributes to epithelial-mesenchymal transition through interactions with E-cadherin and affects RNA processing (7,10,12). Zhang et al indicated that inhibition of PRMT5 induced HCC cell growth via the downregulation of β-catenin (15). However, little is known about the role of PRMT5 in the pathogenesis of HCC. Therefore, the aim of this study was to investigate the expression and functions of PRMT5 in HCC, and the results presented here lead us to propose that PRMT5 is associated with HCC.

Materials and methods

Ethics. This study conformed to the ethical guidelines of the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki-Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects and has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of
Nagoya University, Japan. Written informed consent for usage of clinical samples and data, as required by the institutional review board, was obtained from all patients.

Sample collection. The human HCC cell lines Hep3B, HepG2, PLC/PRF/5 and SK-Hep1 were purchased from the American Type Culture Collection (Manassas, VA, USA). HLE, HLF, HuH1 and HuH7 were obtained from the Japanese Collection of Research Biorepositories Cell Bank (Osaka, Japan) (16). HuH2 cells were a gift from Aichi Cancer Center (Nagoya, Japan). Cells were stored at -80°C and cultured in Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM; Sigma-Aldrich, St. Louis, MO, USA) supplemented with 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) at 37°C in an atmosphere containing 5% CO₂. Primary HCC tissues and corresponding noncancerous tissues appropriate for extraction of total RNA were collected from 144 patients undergoing liver resection for HCC at Nagoya University Hospital between January 1998 and January 2012. None of the patients underwent preoperative treatment including chemotherapy or interventional radiology. Tissue samples were frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen and stored at -80°C. RNA was extracted from HCC tissue samples (~5-mm²) that contained >80% tumor cells and lacked necrotic tissue (17,18). The corresponding noncancerous tissue samples were collected from areas >2 cm away from the tumor edge. Specimens were classified histologically according to the TNM Classification of Malignant Tumors, 7th Edition (19). Clinicopathological parameters and the patient follow-up data were collected from medical records.

Quantitative real-time reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction (qRT-PCR). PRMT5 mRNA levels were determined using qRT-PCR. Total RNAs (10 µg) were extracted from nine HCC cell lines and 144 pairs of clinical samples and were amplified using primers specific for PRMT5 as follows: sense 5'-TCTCATGGTTTCCCATCCT-3' in exon 16 and antisense 5'-CCCTCTTGGGAATTTGCTG-3' in exon 17, which generate a 102-bp product. Glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase (GAPDH) mRNA (TaqMan, Applied Biosystems; Foster City, CA, USA) and β-actin mRNA (Applied Biosystems, Kusatsu, Japan) were used as control. qRT-PCR was performed using the SYBR-Green PCR Core reagents kit (Applied Biosystems) as follows: one cycle at 95°C for 10 min, 40 cycles at 95°C for 5 sec, and 60°C for 60 sec. The expression levels of each sample were determined in triplicate, and the data are presented as the PRMT5 value divided by the GAPDH value (20,21). Patients were stratified into PRMT5-low and PRMT5-high groups, respectively, according to the median value of the PRMT5 mRNA expression level in cancer tissues of 144 patients as follows: high (higher than the median value) and low (the median value or lower).

Immunofluorescence staining. The expression and location of PRMT5 protein was investigated by immunofluorescence staining using three HCC cell lines, Hep3B, HLE and HuH7, expressed relatively high levels of PRMT5. HCC cells were fixed on microscope slides by methanol. Slides were cooled at -10°C for 5 min and incubated with mouse monoclonal antibody raised against PRMT5 (sc-376937 FITC; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Inc., Dallas, TX, USA), diluted 1:50 in phosphate-buffered saline (PBS). The nuclei were counterstained with 1 µg/ml DAPI. The slides were observed under a fluorescence microscope, FSX100 (Olympus, Tokyo, Japan).

Western blot analysis. Cells were incubated in RIPA lysis buffer, and the lysates were stored at -30°C. Total lysate protein (15 µg/well) was electrophoretically transferred onto nitrocellulose membranes that were blocked using 5% skim milk and incubated at 4°C overnight with a rabbit anti-PRMT5 polyclonal antibody (Cell Signaling Technology, Beverly, MA, USA) diluted 1:1,000. The membrane was then washed and probed with an anti-rabbit secondary antibody conjugated to horseradish peroxidase (Cell Signaling Technology). After the final wash, immune complexes were visualized using an LAS-4010 image analyzer (GE Healthcare, Pittsburgh, PA, USA). β-actin served as an endogenous control (22).

Knockdown of PRMT5 expression using a PRMT5-specific siRNA. Small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) specific for PRMT5 (siPRMT5), siPRMT5-1, 5'-CAGCCACUGAGGCAACUGUGGAU-3' and siPRMT5-2, 5'-CCGCGACUUUGAGACUGUGCUUAU-3' (Hokkaido System Science, Sapporo, Japan) were used to transfect HLE and HuH7 cells that express relatively high levels of PRMT5. AccuTarget Negative Control siRNA fluorescein-labeled (Cosmo Bio Co., Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) served as a control nontargeting siRNA (siControl). HLE and HuH7 cells (4x10⁴ and 2x10⁵ cells/dish, respectively) were seeded into 10 cm dishes containing 10 ml of antibiotic-free DMEM with 10% FBS, and were transfected with 400 pmol of siControl or siPRMT5-1 and 2 in the presence of 40-µl LipoTrust EX Oligo (Hokkaido System Science) 24 h after cell seeding. After 72 h incubation following siRNA transfection, total RNA and protein were extracted, and cells were treated with EDTA-trypsin and used for functional assays.

Cell proliferation assay. The proliferation of HLE and HuH7 cells was evaluated using a Premix WST-1 Cell Proliferation assay system (Takara Bio Inc., Kusatsu, Japan). After transfection of siPRMT5, HLE and HuH7 cells (3x10⁴ cells/well) were seeded into 96-well plates in DMEM containing 2% FBS. The optical density of each well was measured 1 h after the addition of 10 µl of WST-1 0, 1 and 3 days after seeding (23). The growth rate indicated an incremental rate of the optical density from the cell seeding day.

Cell invasion assay. The ability of cells to invade Matrigel was determined using BioCoat Matrigel invasion chambers (BD Biosciences, Bedford, MA, USA) according to the manufacturer's protocol. HLE and HuH7 cells (2.5x10⁵ cells/well) were suspended in serum-free DMEM and seeded in the upper chamber. After an appropriate incubation time, cells present on the surface of the membrane were fixed, stained and counted using a microscope in eight randomly selected fields (24).

Wound healing assay. The migration of HLE and HuH7 cells was determined using a wound-healing assay. After transfection, HLE (2x10⁶ cells/well) and HuH7 (5x10⁵ cells/well) were seeded into each well of a 35 mm dish with culture insert (Ibidi GmbH, Martinsried, Germany) in DMEM containing 2% FBS. After 24 h, the insert was removed, and the width...
of the wound was measured at 100-μm intervals (20/well, x40 magnification) at cell-dependent time intervals.

Statistical analysis. Differences between data of two groups were evaluated using the Mann-Whitney test. The \( \chi^2 \) test was used to analyze the significance of the association between the expression levels of PRMT5 mRNA and the patient clinicopathological parameters. Overall survival rates were calculated using the Kaplan-Meier method, and the differences in survival curves were evaluated using the log-rank test. All statistical analyses were performed using JMP 10 software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA). A p-value <0.05 was considered statistically significant.

Results

Expression of PRMT5 in HCC cell lines. The levels of PRMT5 mRNA differed among the nine HCC cell lines regardless of their differentiated phenotypes (Fig. 1A). HuH7 (differentiated) and HLE (undifferentiated) cells expressed relatively high levels of PRMT5 mRNA and were used in the functional analyses described below. As shown in Fig. 1B, PRMT5 protein was distributed in the cytoplasm, especially in the perinuclear compartment.

Effects of inhibiting PRMT5 expression. The specificity of siPRMT5s were checked using BLAST in the NCCI database (25). Then, the total scores and E-values of the two siPRMT5s were 50.1 and 5e-6, and the query cover rates of transcriptomes other than PRMT5 mRNA were <70%. The knockdown effects of siPRMT5-1 and 2 were determined by qRT-PCR and western blot analysis (Fig. 2A). The knockdown effect by single siPRMT5 sequence was not enough for functional analysis, we transfected HCC cells with both the siPRMT5s in following analysis. To determine the functions of PRMT5 in HCC, we used HLE and HuH7 cells transfected with siPRMT5-1 and -2 sequences for evaluation of the proliferation, invasion, and migration. In HuH7 cells, PRMT5 knockdown significantly decreased cell proliferation on days 1 and 3 compared with the untransfected and siControl groups (Fig. 2B). Second, the number of cells that invaded Matrigel markedly decreased when PRMT5 expression was inhibited (Fig. 3A). Third, the migration of HuH7 cells decreased significantly after transfection with the siPRMT5 compared with the untransfected and siControl-transfected cells at 16 and 24 h (Fig. 3B). Similarly, invasion and migration of HLE cells were markedly reduced in siPRMT5-transfected cells (data not shown).

Patient characteristics. The ages of the 144 patients ranged from 34 to 84 years (median, 65.5 years), the male-to-female ratio was 121:23, and 37 and 80 patients were infected with hepatitis B.
or C virus, respectively. The numbers of patients with normal liver function, chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis were 10, 82 and 52, respectively. The median duration of patient follow-up was 40.1 months (range, 2.3-145 months); 90, 37 and 17 patients were diagnosed with stage I, II or III HCC, respectively.

Clinical implications of PRMT5 expression levels. There were no significant differences in PRMT5 mRNA levels in noncancerous tissue samples from patients with normal liver function, chronic hepatitis, and cirrhosis. In contrast, the mean level of PRMT5 mRNA in HCC tissues was significantly higher compared with that of the corresponding noncancerous tissues (p=0.001) (Fig. 4A). When patients were divided according to TNM stage, PRMT5 mRNA expression levels in patients with stage III HCC were significantly higher compared with patients with stage II HCC (Fig. 4B).

To evaluate the prognostic significance of PRMT5 expression, patients were categorized into low- and high-PRMT5 groups (n=72 each) according to their median levels of PRMT5 mRNA expression in HCC tissue described in Materials and methods. High levels of PRMT5 mRNA were significantly associated with advanced TNM stage, independent of background liver status, tumor size or vascular invasion (Table I). The members of the high-PRMT5 group were more likely to have a worse prognosis compared with those in the low PRMT5 group (5-year overall survival rates, 53 and 76%, respectively; p=0.021) (Fig. 4C). However, there were no significant differences between the groups in relapse-free survival rate, and high levels of PRMT5 were not an independent prognostic factor in multivariate analysis.

Discussion

In the present study, we investigated the function and expression of PRMT5. We show here that PRMT5 mRNA was differentially expressed among HCC cell lines, and that PRMT5 protein was expressed mainly at the cytoplasm of HCC cells. Inhibition of PRMT5 expression in HCC cell lines using a PRMT5-specific siRNA decreased not only cell proliferation and migration was reported in a previous study (15), but also invasiveness. These findings suggest that PRMT5 contributes to the pathogenesis of HCC.

Post-translational protein modification is involved at all levels of cellular regulation. PRMTs catalyze the addition of methyl groups to the guanidinium nitrogen atoms of arginine...
Table I. Association between expression levels of \textit{PRMT5} mRNA and clinicopathological parameters in 144 patients with hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC).

| Clinicopathological parameters | High \textit{PRMT5} group (n=72) | Low \textit{PRMT5} group (n=72) | p-value |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------|
| Age (years)                    |                                   |                                | 0.615   |
| <65 year                       | 31                                | 34                             |         |
| ≥65 year                       | 41                                | 38                             |         |
| Gender                         |                                   |                                | 0.254   |
| Male                           | 58                                | 63                             |         |
| Female                         | 14                                | 9                              |         |
| Background liver               |                                   |                                | 0.391   |
| Normal liver                   | 6                                 | 4                              |         |
| Chronic hepatitis              | 37                                | 45                             |         |
| Cirrhosis                      | 29                                | 23                             |         |
| Hepatitis virus                |                                   |                                | 0.558   |
| Absent                         | 14                                | 13                             |         |
| HBV                            | 21                                | 16                             |         |
| HCV                            | 37                                | 43                             |         |
| AFP (ng/ml)                    |                                   |                                | 1.000   |
| ≤20                            | 39                                | 39                             |         |
| >20                            | 33                                | 33                             |         |
| PIVKA II (mAU/ml)              |                                   |                                | 0.497   |
| ≤40                            | 31                                | 27                             |         |
| >40                            | 41                                | 45                             |         |
| Tumor multiplicity             |                                   |                                | 0.228   |
| Solitary                       | 53                                | 59                             |         |
| Multiple                       | 19                                | 13                             |         |
| Tumor size                     |                                   |                                | 0.475   |
| <3.0 cm                        | 25                                | 21                             |         |
| ≥3.0 cm                        | 47                                | 51                             |         |
| Differentiation                |                                   |                                | 0.079   |
| Well                           | 22                                | 13                             |         |
| Moderate to poor               | 50                                | 59                             |         |
| Growth type                    |                                   |                                | 0.370   |
| Expansive growth               | 58                                | 62                             |         |
| Invasive growth                | 14                                | 10                             |         |
| Serosal infiltration           |                                   |                                | 0.331   |
| Absent                         | 57                                | 52                             |         |
| Present                        | 15                                | 20                             |         |
| Formation of capsule           |                                   |                                | 0.213   |
| Absent                         | 27                                | 20                             |         |
| Present                        | 45                                | 52                             |         |
| Infiltration to capsule        |                                   |                                | 0.503   |
| Absent                         | 35                                | 31                             |         |
| Present                        | 37                                | 41                             |         |
| Septum formation               |                                   |                                | 0.484   |
| Absent                         | 23                                | 27                             |         |
| Present                        | 49                                | 45                             |         |
| Vascular invasion              |                                   |                                | 0.122   |
| Absent                         | 50                                | 58                             |         |
| Present                        | 22                                | 14                             |         |
| UICC pathological stage        |                                   |                                | 0.012*  |
| I                              | 42                                | 48                             |         |
| II                             | 16                                | 21                             |         |
| III                            | 14                                | 3                              |         |

*Statistically significant difference (p<0.05). HBV, hepatitis B virus; HCV, hepatitis C virus; AFP, α-fetoprotein; PIVKA, protein induced by vitamin K antagonists; UICC, Union for International Cancer Control.
The present study has certain limitations. Overexpression experiments of PRMT5 and global expression analyses of proteins that potentially interact with PRMT5 as well as apoptosis assays will be required for further understanding of the biological functions of PRMT5 in HCC. External validation of the reproducibility of the expression analyses and their standardization across laboratories are required as well. Further, this study was limited by the relatively small sample size.

Our results indicate that PRMT5 plays oncogenic roles in HCC by enhancing the malignant phenotype of tumor cells, though further analysis are required for clarifying the specific mechanism of PRMT5 in HCC. PRMT5 shows promise as a biomarker for patient stratification and is a potential target of molecular therapy in HCC.

References

1. Siegel R, Naishadham D and Jemal A: Cancer statistics, 2012. CA Cancer J Clin 62: 10-29, 2012.
2. Kanda M, Sugimoto H and Kodera Y: Genetic and epigenetic aspects of initiation and progression of hepatocellular carcinoma. World J Gastroenterol 21: 10584-10597, 2015.
3. Cheng AL, Kang YK, Chen Z, Tsao CJ, Qin S, Kim JS, Luo R, Llovet JM, Burroughs A and Bruix J: Hepatocellular carcinoma. Lancet 362: 1907-1917, 2003.
4. Cheng AL, Kang YK, Chen Z, Tsao CJ, Qin S, Kim JS, Luo R, Feng J, Ye S, Yang TS, et al: Efficacy and safety of sorafenib in patients in the Asia-Pacific region with advanced hepatocellular carcinoma: A phase III randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial. Lancet Oncol 10: 25-34, 2009.
5. El-Serag HB: Hepatocellular carcinoma. N Engl J Med 365: 1118-1127, 2011.
6. Kanda M, Sugimoto H, Nomoto S, Oya H, Hibino S, Shimizu D, Takami H, Hashimoto R, Okamura Y, Yamada S, et al: B cell translocation gene 1 serves as a novel prognostic indicator of hepatocellular carcinoma. Int J Oncol 46: 641-648, 2015.
7. Stopa N, Krebs JE and Shechter D: The PRMT5 arginine methyltransferase: Many roles in development, cancer and beyond. Cell Mol Life Sci 72: 2041-2059, 2015.
8. Tanaka H, Hoshikawa Y, Oh-hara T, Koike S, Naito M, Noda T, Arai H, Tsuruo T and Fujita N: PRMT5, a novel TRAIL receptor-binding protein, inhibits TRAIL-induced apoptosis via nuclear factor-kappaB activation. Mol Cancer Res 7: 557-569, 2009.
9. Tee WW, Pardo TJ, Theunissen TW, Yu L, Choudhary JS, Hatakeyama M, Tajika P and Surani MA: PRMT5 is essential for early mouse development and acts in the cytoplasm to maintain ES cell pluripotency. Genes Dev 24: 2772-2777, 2010.
10. Nicholos C, Yang J, Peters SB, Bill MA, Baiocchi RA, Yan F, Sif S, Tae S, Gaudio E, Wu X, et al: PRMT5 is upregulated in malignant and metastatic melanoma and regulates expression of MITF and p27(Kip1). PLoS One 8: e74710, 2013.
11. Han X, Li R, Zhang W, Yang X, Wheeler CG, Friedman GK, Province P, Ding Q, You Z, Fathallah-Shaykh HM, et al: Expression of PRMT5 correlates with malignant grade in gliomas and plays a pivotal role in tumor growth in vitro. J Neurooncol 118: 61-72, 2014.
12. Li Y, Chitino N, Nakajima H, Kitagawa Y, Satogue S, Yang Y, Li Z, Wasik M, Klein-Szanto AJ, Rustgi AK, et al: PRMT5 is required for lymphogenesis triggered by multiple oncogenic drivers. Cancer Discov 5: 288-303, 2015.
13. Bao X, Zhao S, Liu T, Liu Y, Liu Y and Yang X: Overexpression of PRMT5 promotes tumor cell growth and is associated with poor disease prognosis in epithelial ovarian cancer. J Histochem Cytochem 61: 206-217, 2013.
14. Ibrahim R, Matsubara D, Osman W, Morikawa T, Goto A, Morita S, Ishikawa S, Aburatani H, Takai D, Nakajima J, et al: Expression of PRMT5 in lung adenocarcinoma and its significance in epithelial-mesenchymal transition. Hum Pathol 45: 1397-1405, 2014.
15. Zhang B, Dong S, Li Z, Lu L, Zhang S, Chen X, Cen X and Wu Y: Targeting protein arginine methyltransferase 5 inhibits human hepatocellular carcinoma growth via the downregulation of beta-catenin. J Transl Med 13: 349, 2015.
16. Ezaka K, Kanda M, Sugimoto H, Shimizu D, Oya H, Nomoto S, Sueoka S, Tanaka Y, Takami H, Hashimoto R, et al: Reduced expression of adherens junctions associated protein 1 predicts recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma after curative hepatectomy. Ann Surg Oncol 22 (Suppl 3): S1499-S1507, 2015.
17. Kanda M, Nomoto S, Okamura Y, Hayashi M, Hishida M, Fujii T, Nishikawa Y, Sugimoto H, Takeda S and Nakao A: Promoter hypermethylation of fibulin 1 gene is associated with tumor progression in hepatocellular carcinoma. Mol Carcinog 50: 571-579, 2011.
18. Kanda M, Nomoto S, Oya H, Takami H, Hibino S, Hishida M, Suevaga M, Yamada S, Inokawa Y, Nishikawa Y, et al: Downregulation of DENND2D by promoter hypermethylation is associated with early recurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma. Int J Oncol 44: 44-52, 2014.
19. Sobin LH, Gospodarowicz MK and Wittekind CH (eds): International Union Against Cancer: TNM Classification of Malignant Tumors. 7th edition. Wiley-Blackwell, New York, 2009.
20. Kanda M, Nomoto S, Oya H, Hashimoto R, Takami H, Shimizu D, Sonohara F, Kobayashi D, Tanaka C, Yamada S, et al: Decreased expression of prenyl diphosphate synthase subunit 2 correlates with reduced survival of patients with gastric cancer. J Exp Clin Cancer Res 33: 88, 2014.
21. Kanda M, Nomoto S, Oya H, Shimizu D, Takami H, Hibino S, Hashimoto R, Kobayashi D, Tanaka C, Yamada S, et al: Dihydropyrimidinase-like-3 facilitates malignant behavior of gastric cancer. J Exp Clin Cancer Res 33: 66, 2014.
22. Kanda M, Nomoto S, Okamura Y, Nishikawa Y, Sugimoto H, Kanazumi N, Takeda S and Nakao A: Detection of metallothionein 1G as a methylated tumor suppressor gene in human hepatocellular carcinoma using a novel method of double combination array analysis. Int J Oncol 35: 477-483, 2009.
23. Kanda M, Shimizu D, Fujii T, Sueoka S, Tanaka Y, Ezaka K, Takami H, Tanaka H, Hashimoto R, Iwata N, et al: Function and diagnostic value of Anosmin-1 in gastric cancer progression. Int J Cancer 138: 721-730, 2016.
24. Oya H, Kanda M, Sugimoto H, Shimizu D, Takami H, Hibino S, Hashimoto R, Okamura Y, Yamada S, Fujii T, et al: Dihydropyrimidinase-like 3 is a putative hepatocellular carcinoma tumor suppressor. J Gastroenterol 50: 590-600, 2015.
25. BLAST: Basic Local Alignment Search Tool. http://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi. Accessed March 10, 2016.
26. Smil D, Erasm MS, Li F, Kennedy S, Szewczyk MM, Brown PJ, Barsyte-Lovejoy D, Arrnowsmith CH, Vedady M and Schapira M: Discovery of a dual PRMT5-PRMT7 inhibitor. ACS Med Chem Lett 6: 408-412, 2015.
27. Yan F, Alinari L, Lylicz C, Hackett JA, Cougot D, Bao S, Lee C, Dietmann S, Allen GE, Sengupta R, et al: PRMT5 protects genomic integrity during global DNA demethylation in primordial germ cells and preimplantation embryos. Mol Cell 56: 564-579, 2014.
28. Yao J, Zhu Y, Nilsson M and Sundfeld K: TGF-β isoforms induce EMT independent migration of ovarian cancer cells. Cancer Cell Int 14: 72, 2014.
29. Cho EC, Zheng S, Munro S, Liu G, Carr SM, Moehlenbrink J, Lu YC, Stimson L, Khan O, Konietzny R, et al: Arginine methylation controls growth regulation in pri- mordial germ cells and preimplantation embryos. Mol Cell 56: 564-579, 2014.