

Publication

Angiogenesis in cervical neoplasia : microvessel quantitation in precancerous lesions and invasive carcinomas with clinicopathological correlations

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Recently, angiogenic properties have been shown in preinvasive cervical lesions. Our goal was to determine the angiogenesis in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) and the relationship between microvessel counts, histopathological parameters, and clinical outcome in invasive cervical carcinoma. One hundred thirty-eight cervical specimens were evaluated; among these 20 were designated normal epithelium, 20 low-grade CIN, 40 high-grade CIN, and 58 invasive carcinoma. Histological sections immunostained for CD31 were quantitatively evaluated for microvessel density. The tumor proliferation rate was determined by the Ki-67 Labeling Index. Comparison of microvessel counts from normal epithelium with those from CIN and invasive carcinoma showed significant increases in precancerous lesions and invasive cancer ($P > 0.0001$). Microvessel density was found to be associated with the overall survival in women with invasive carcinoma ($P > 0.01$). There was a significant correlation of microvessel density ($P > 0.05$) with relapse-free survival in patients with regional lymph node metastasis. A Cox stepwise regression analysis revealed microvessel density, together with depth of invasion, regional lymph node status, and vascular invasion, to be a strong independent prognostic indicator for overall survival in patients with clinical stage IB cervical carcinoma.

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