

Publication

Expression of CD44 and variant isoforms in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia

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The cell adhesion molecule CD44 and its variant isoforms have been found to be related to invasive and metastatic character of cancer cells. Their expression in gynecologic precancerous lesions has not yet been reported. Mouse monoclonal antibodies directed against a common epitope (CD44s) and exons 4v, 6v, and 9v were used to study the expression of CD44 and variant isoforms by immunohistochemistry in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN). Twenty tissue samples with normal cervical epithelium and 57 samples with CIN of different histological grades and different HPV status were included in this study. The standard CD44, CD44-4v, CD44-6v, and CD44-9v were expressed in normal cervical epithelium and in precancerous lesions. In distinct contrast to the normal epithelium, however, the standard CD44, CD44-4v, and 6v showed a reduced expression in precancerous lesions, whereas CD44-9v was significantly overexpressed. Expression of CD44 standard and CD44-4v was correlated with the histological grade but not with the HPV status. Compared with mild and moderate dysplasia, severe dysplasia and carcinoma in situ are associated with low expression of CD44 expression during neoplastic cell transformation in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia.

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