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Title: Expression of vascular endothelial-cadherin and vascular endothelial growth factor in non-small cell lung cancer and their clinical significances

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Body: To investigate the expression of Vascular Endothelial-cadherin(VE-cadherin) and Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor(VEGF) with the association of clinicopathological characteristics and their correlation in non-small cell lung cancer(NSCLC). Expression of them were examined by immunohistochemical staining in 72 cases of NSCLC patients and their adjacent non-neoplastic tissues, 45 of them were measured by RT-PCR. The positive rates of them in cancer cells were 69.4% and 84.7% respectively, which were higher than the normal tissues(0% and 16.7%)($P < 0.01$); they were 52.8% and 62.5% in the vascular endothelial cells, which were higher than the normal tissues(20.8% and 29.2%)($P < 0.01$). In cases with lymph node metastasis, the expression of them in cancer cells and vascular endothelial cells were respectively higher than those in cases without lymph node metastasis($P < 0.05$). The positive rate of them in III-IV stage were higher than that in I-II stage ($P < 0.05$); There were no significant differences between the expression of them and sex, age, smoking, histological type, differentiation of tumor($P > 0.05$). The relative expression intensity of VE-cadherin mRNA in NSCLC tissues and adjacent non-neoplastic tissues were 0.621 ± 0.182 and 0.445 ± 0.052 ($P < 0.05$). The relative expression intensity of VEGF mRNA in NSCLC tissues and adjacent non-neoplastic tissues were 0.275 ± 0.103 and 0.050 ± 0.154 ($P < 0.05$). The expression of them in lymph node metastasis were higher compared to that in cases without lymph node metastasis($P < 0.05$). Our results suggest that VE-cadherin may play an important role in angiogenesis and act in a synergistic manner in NSCLC.