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

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Body: To assess the expression of vascular endothelial cadherin (VE-cadherin) and epithelial cadherin (E-cadherin) in human non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) tissues and to correlate their expression with the clinicopathological characteristics of NSCLC. The expression of them were examined by immunohistochemistry in NSCLC tissues from 97 patients and their adjacent non-neoplastic tissues. The mRNA of them were detected by RT-PCR in 18 specimens. The positive rates of them were 51.5% and 42.3%, respectively. The positive rate of VE-cadherin was higher than that in adjacent non-neoplastic tissues 0% ($P < 0.05$), The positive rate of E-cadherin was lower than that in adjacent non-neoplastic tissues 67.0% ($P < 0.05$). The VE-cadherin expression level correlated with lymph node metastasis ($P < 0.05$), while the E-cadherin expression level inversely correlated with lymph node metastasis ($P < 0.05$). There were no significant differences between the expression of VE-cadherin, E-cadherin and sex, age, smoking, histological type, differentiation of tumor and TNM stage. The relative expression intensity of VE-cadherin mRNA in NSCLC tissues and adjacent non-neoplastic tissues were 0.626 ± 0.192 and 0.209 ± 0.062 ($P < 0.05$). The relative expression intensity of E-cadherin mRNA were 0.700 ± 0.123 and 1.050 ± 0.254 , respectively ($P < 0.05$). We demonstrated the aberrant expression of VE-cadherin in NSCLC and the downregulation of E-cadherin expression. Both of them are associated with lymph node metastasis. These results indicate that both of them may take part in the growth and metastasis of NSCLC and thus may be therapeutic targets for the treatment of NSCLC.