



RESEARCH ARTICLE

ANALYSIS OF CORRELATION OF STROMAL CD10 EXPRESSION IN CARCINOMA BREAST NOS TYPE WITH HER2/NEU

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Abstract

Background: Breast cancer is one of the most common cancer among women. Stromal plays an important pathogenetic role in carcinoma of breast. Stromal marker could be used for assessing the prognosis of breast cancer.

Methods: 30 invasive ductal carcinoma of breast NOS type were selected. Hematoxylin and eosin staining was done. Immunohistochemistry was done with hCD10, and HER2. CD10 expression in stroma was studied and statistically analyzed with HER2.

Results: strong positivity for stromal CD10 was observed in 46% (14 out of 30) of cases. 10 out of 14 (71%) CD10 positive cases showed HER2/neu positivity. CD10 expression was significantly associated with HER2/neu positivity.

Conclusions: Stromal CD10 expression is directly correlated with HER2 receptor positivity. CD10 could be used as a new prognostic marker in carcinoma of breast.

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Introduction:-

Worldwide among non-skin cancer breast carcinoma is the most common carcinoma in women.^[1] Mortality rate for breast carcinoma in India is 11.1 per 10,000.^[2] Chemical mediators between tumor cells and stromal cells impact the growth of cancer breast.^[3] CD10 is a myoepithelial marker.^[4] High grade invasive ductal carcinoma of breast is associated with loss of CD10 expression in myoepithelial cells and expression of CD10 in stroma.^[5] Genetic changes in stroma promote cancer growth.^[5] Only few studies highlight the importance of the stromal expression of CD10 in growth and prognosis of breast cancer.

As a stem cell regulator in the breast, CD10 inhibits uncontrolled proliferation of stem cells.^[6] Apart from breast myoepithelial cells, CD10 is also expressed in lymphoid stem cells, neutrophils, and other epithelial cells.^[7] CD10 is also expressed in stroma of prostate, and lung. In stomach cancer, CD10 positive stromal cells are correlated with vascular invasion and metastasis.^[8] Chemotherapeutic drugs which target the epithelial cells while stromal cells are spared which may result in recurrence.

This study aims to analyze the correlation of stromal expression of CD10 in breast carcinoma NOS type with HER2/neu

Aim and Objective:-

To analyze the correlation of stromal expression of CD10 in breast cancer with HER2/neu

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Methods:-**Study design**

Prospective study

Study population

Specimen with invasive ductal carcinoma of breast

Sample size

30 patients with invasive ductal carcinoma of breast diagnosed by histopathological study

Inclusion criteria

1. Age from 18 to 75 years.
2. Patients with Invasive ductal carcinoma of breast not otherwise specified (NOS) type, stage I, II and III diagnosed by histomorphological studies.

Exclusion criteria

1. Breast carcinoma other than invasive ductal breast carcinoma NOS type.
2. Patients with Stage I tumor who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy.
3. Patients with Stage IV tumor who received chemotherapy and radiotherapy.
4. Male patients
5. Ill-fixed specimen

Data Collection

Breast carcinoma patients were investigated with complete blood count, blood urea, blood sugar, X-ray chest, ECG, and Echocardiogram for surgical fitness. The patients underwent modified radical mastectomy procedure after obtaining informed consent. Specimens were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin.

Histopathological examination

30 breast carcinoma specimens were fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin for twenty-four hours. Specimens were grossed and bits from representative areas were sampled. Hematoxylin and Eosin stained microscopic slides of the primary tumors were reviewed to confirm the diagnosis, to define tumor subtype.

Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for CD10

Four micron sections were cut. Sections were deparaffinized in xylene followed by hydration in descending grades of ethanol. Antigen retrieval was performed by heating sections at 95°C 4 cycles of 5 min each for CD10 in Tris-EDTA buffer (pH 9.0), for HER2/neu in citrate buffer (pH 6.0). Sections were incubated with power block for 10 min, followed by incubation with primary antibodies for one hour. Mouse monoclonal antibody against human CD10 was used. After two washes with trisphosphate buffer solution secondary antibody was added for 30 min. After two washes with trisphosphate buffer solution, 3, 3'-diaminobenzidine substrate (DAB tetra hydrochloride) was applied to the sections for 10 min and sections were counterstained with Ehrlich Hematoxylin, dehydrated with ethanol and xylene and mounted with DPX.

Quality control

As part of quality control positive control slide from fibro adenoma were used for CD10.

Evaluation of staining

CD10 scoring was done as per the following table (TABLE 1).^[9] Pattern of staining for CD10 is cytoplasmic and membranous positivity in stromal cells. Both negative and weak expressions were considered as negative. Only strong CD10 expression was considered as positive for statistical purpose (Figure 1&2). HER2/neu scoring was done as per TABLE 2.

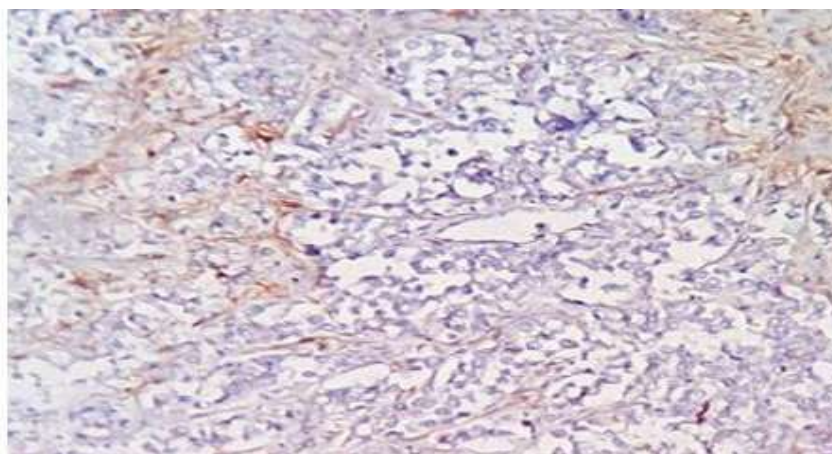
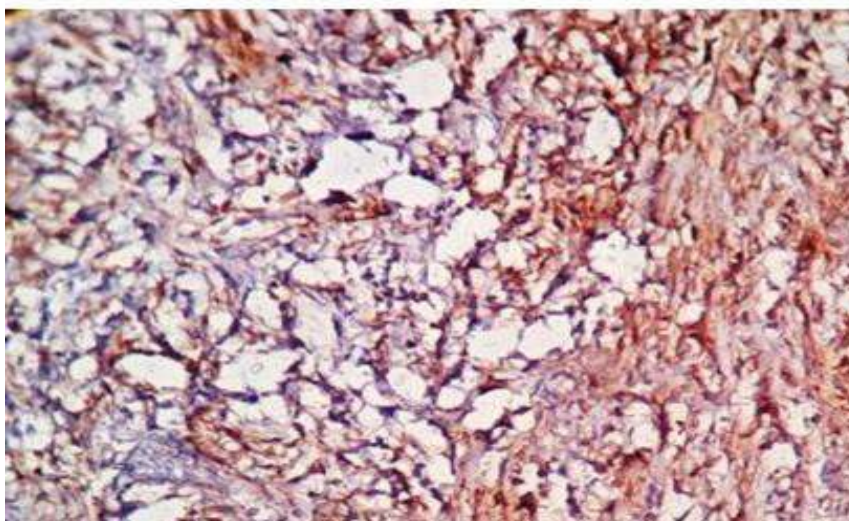
Table 1:- CD10 scoring.

SCORE	RESULT	CD10 STAINING
0	Negative	<10% stromal positive cells (cytoplasmic and membrane positivity)

1	Weak	10%-30%stromalpositivecells
2	Strong	>30%stromalpositivecells

Table2:- HER2-neuscoring.

STAININGPATTERN	SCORE	HER2NEU OVEREXPRESSION
Nostainingormembranestaining<10% tumorcells	0	Negative
Faint/perceptible stainingin>10% cells membrane	1+	Negative
Weaktomoderatecomplete membranestainingin>10% cells	2+	Weak
Strongcompletemembranestainingin>30% cells	3+	Strong

**Figure1:-**StromalCD10positivityinIDCBreast1+(10% -30% stromalpositivecells)(10x).**Figure2:-**Stromal CD10positivityinIDCBreast2+(>30% stromalpositivecells)(10x).**Statistical analysis:**

The collected data was analyzed. Statistical correlations between stromal expression of CD10 and HER2/neu was performed as per Chi square test. P values of less than 0.05 were considered significant.

Human participant protection

Study was undertaken after obtaining institutional ethical committee clearance. The procedures were carried out with informed consent from the patients.

Results:-

Most of invasive ductal carcinoma of breast cases in this study belong to 41-50 age group (36.7%). 73% (22 out of 30) of the cases showed positivity for CD10 in the stroma, of which 46% (14) cases were strongly positive and 27% (8) were weakly positive (TABLE 3), (Figure 1&2). 71% (10/14) of the stromal CD10 positive Invasive ductal carcinoma of breast showed HER2/neu positivity. The association is statistically significant, p value is less than 0.05 (p value 0.0009, Chi-square test) (TABLE 4).

Table3:- Stromal expression of CD10 in breast carcinoma.

STROMAL CD10 EXPRESSION	NEGATIVE	WEAK POSITIVE	STRONG POSITIVE	TOTAL
Breast carcinoma	8(27%)	8(27%)	14(46%)	30

Table4:- Correlation Of Stromal CD10 Expression With HER2/neu.

CD10				
HER2/neu	NEGATIVE	WEAK POSITIVE	STRONG POSITIVE	TOTAL
NEGATIVE	8	7	4	19
POSITIVE	0	1	10	11
TOTAL	8	8	14	30

Discussion:-

Stromal cells play a critical role in breast cancer. Tissue microenvironment has a key role in controlling cell survival, proliferation, migration, and differentiation.^{[10],[11]}

CD10 is a stem cell regulator in the breast and controls proliferation of stem cells.^[6] In the normal breast tissue few of stromal cells only express CD10.^{[12],[13]} In gastric carcinoma, CD10 expression in stromal cells is associated with vascular invasion and metastasis.^[8] In nasopharyngeal carcinoma, CD10 in stroma correlates with tumor progression.^[14]

The interaction between epithelial cells and stromal cells is influenced by factors secreted by the tumor cells or by stromal cells.^{[10],[15],[16]} The matrix metalloproteinase (MMP) is one of the molecular factors. MMP has a crucial role in tumor progression, tumor invasion and metastasis.

^[17] Higher MMP activities correlate with bad prognosis and promote tumorigenesis, angiogenesis, invasion and metastasis.^[18]

CD10 is a MMP which controls proliferation of stem cells by cleaving signaling proteins.^[19] Loss of CD10 in cancer breast myoepithelial cell leads to proliferation of malignant cells and invasion of in situ cancer. Stromal expression of CD10 in invasive cancer might prevent differentiation of cancer cells and help in maintaining the cancer stem cells.^[19] Enhanced expression of CD10 in stroma seen in high grade breast carcinomas.^[8]

In the present study 73% (22 out of 30) of the cases showed positivity for CD10 in the stroma, of which 46% (14) cases were strongly positive and 27% (8) were weakly positive. Only two cases of strong positivity for CD10 were noted in the adjacent normal breast parenchyma. Stromal expression of CD10 had a statistically significant association with breast cancer than in parenchymal tissue, p value is 0.002.

In a study done by Makretsov et al 79% (205 out of 258) of invasive ductal carcinoma of breast showed expression of CD10 in stroma.^[3] Thomas S et al study shows stromal CD10 positivity in 55% (16 out of 29) of cases.^[20]

In the present study we attained direct correlation between stromal CD10 expression and HER2/neu over expression. 71% (10/14 cases) of stromal CD10 positive invasive ductal carcinoma of breast cases expressed HER2/neu. This correlation is statistically significant with the p value less than 0.05 (p value 0.0009). Jana SH et al study also exhibits correlation between stromal CD10 expression and HER2/neu over expression.^[6] Puri et al study shows statistically significant correlation between stromal CD10 expression and HER2/neu over expression.^[21] Makretsov et al does not find statistically significant correlation between stromal CD10 expression and HER2/neu over expression.^[3]

CD10 could be a therapeutic target for treating carcinoma breast since it cleaves doxorubicin and results in resistance to chemotherapeutic agent. Experimental studies reveal CPI0004Na, a CD10 cleavable peptide prodrug of doxorubicin, enhances antitumor efficacy^[22]

Conclusion:-

To conclude, expression of CD10 in stroma of invasive ductal carcinoma of breast is directly correlated with HER2/neu over expression and higher tumour grade. Thus investigating stromal CD10 expression in all invasive ductal carcinoma of breast especially in triple negative patients might assist in choosing optimal treatment option. Increased level of stromal CD10 activity leads to inhibition of epithelial cell differentiation. Thus cancer stem cells are maintained and may result in recurrence of malignancy. Since CD10 cleaves the drug doxorubicin thereby causes chemo resistance. Thus inhibiting the activity of CD10 may have an increased response to chemotherapeutic agents and decreases the recurrence. Experimental studies show CPI0004Na improves antitumor efficacy.

Further researches are needed to identify the source of stromal CD10 expression, its role in epithelial to mesenchymal transition, its role in tumorigenesis of breast cancer, effect of chemotherapeutic agents on CD10, to develop new molecules targeting CD10 and to correlate with chemotherapeutic response and prognosis.

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