

## Inactivating Mutations of the Siah-1 Gene in Gastric Cancers

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Siah-1 is the mammalian homolog of *Drosophila* seven in absentia (Sina) and has been identified as a p53-inducible gene upregulated during physiological apoptosis and model systems of tumor suppression. Siah-1 can also induce cell cycle arrest, tumor suppression, and apoptosis through a novel  $\beta$ -catenin degradation pathway. To determine whether genetic alterations of Siah-1 gene is involved in the development and/or progression of gastric cancer, we performed mutational and functional analysis of Siah-1 in 95 unselected gastric cancers. In mutational analysis, we found two missense mutations of the Siah-1 gene, C to T transition at codon 31 and A to C transversion at codon 208, respectively. The effect of Siah-1 on  $\beta$ -catenin degradation was further examined in wild-and mutant-type Siah-1 transfected cells. Interestingly, wild-type Siah-1 promotes downregulation of  $\beta$ -catenin, but two mutants of Siah-1 stabilize  $\beta$ -catenin. To confirm that Siah-1 is a p53-inducible gene, the cytoplasmic levels of  $\beta$ -catenin were analyzed in Siah-1 transfected cells after treatment with adriamycin. Wild-type Siah-1 dramatically reduced cytoplasmic  $\beta$ -catenin level, whereas two mutant-type Siah-1 did not show any difference in the cells before and after adriamycin treatment. These observations indicate that Siah-1 mediate a novel  $\beta$ -catenin degradation pathway linking p53 activation and that inactivating mutations of Siah-1 may contribute to the development of gastric cancer.