

RESEARCH ARTICLE

C13orf18 and C1orf166 (MULAN) DNA Genes Methylation are Not Associated with Cervical Cancer and Precancerous Lesions of Human Papillomavirus Genotypes in Iranian Women

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Abstract

Background: Nowadays, molecular biomarkers have critical roles for cancer diagnosis and prognosis in clinical laboratories. Human papillomaviruses are the main agents for etiology of cervical carcinoma. The present survey was conducted to evaluate the genes methylation in cervical cancer and precancerous lesions involvement with HPV genotypes. **Materials and Methods:** C13orf18 and C1orf166 (MUL1 or Mulan) DNA methylation as potential biomarkers and risk factors was investigated in 112 liquid based cytology and Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded tissue specimens in Iranian females with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and dysplasia. **Results:** In this survey, HPV18 (61.6%) and HPV16 (42.9%) proved to be the most common HPV genotypes identified by In-House Multiplex Real Time PCR. There were no significant relationship between HPV positivity and the methylated DNA genes mentioned above ($p > 0.05$). **Conclusions:** Our MethyLight data demonstrated that these genes could not be considered as specific, sensitive and suitable prognostic biomarkers in cervical dysplasia related HPV. It is suggested that further studies with more patients should be done on candidate methylated markers in different countries in order to plan for cervical cancer prevention.

Keywords: HPV - methylation - C13orf18 - C1orf166 - cervical neoplasia - Iran

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Introduction

Cervical cancer associated with Human papillomaviruses especially with High Risk (HR) HPV genotypes is one of the most public health problems in developing countries such as Iran. Based on the data reported by WHO, the crude incidence and mortality rates of HPV related cervical cancer until 2010 in Iran are about 1.8 and 0.8 per 100,000 per year, respectively. HPVs 16(HR), 18(HR), 31(HR), 6(LR), 11(LR), 33(HR) are the most common HPV genotypes in Iranian women with and without cervical dysplasia (WHO 2010; Laudadido 2013; Shayanfar et al., 2013). It is proposed that individual genetic and epigenetic characteristics accompanied with HPV infection in cervical cancer have important role as main risk factors in cancer progression (Szalmás and Kónya., 2009; Wentzensen et al., 2009; Mohiuddin et al., 2013; Wang., 2014). Over the last decade, evaluation of methylation biomarkers in cervical precancerous and cancer have been done in various studies. Although wide attempt have been

inflected to date, a uniform instructive data for methylation assessment as molecular biomarker has not yet been distinguished for cervical cancer diagnosis and tumor classifying. In recent studies, numerous of methylated genes have been proposed as diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers in cervical carcinoma (Yang et al., 2009; Eijsink et al., 2011; Eijsink et al., 2012; Limpiboon., 2012; Al-Shabanah et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2014). Hence, we assessed the DNA methylation status of C13orf18 and C1orf166 genes as novel potential candidate diagnostic biomarkers in Iranian female population suffering cervical malignancies.

Materials and Methods

Clinical specimens

From March 2012 to April 2013, a total of 112 samples (48 Liquid Based Cytology and 64 Archival Formalin-Fixed Paraffin-Embedded Tissue (FFPE) specimens) from women with known cervical cancer and precancerous

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Table 1. Analysis of Relationship between the HPV Genotypes and Cytopathology Reports

| Histopathology Report | Sample No | No. of HPV | | No. of Most HPV Genotypes (%) | Other HPV Genotypes | Methylated C13orf18 | | Methylated C1orf166 | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| | | Positive (%) | Negative (%) | | | Unmethylated | Unmethylated | | |
| Cytology normal | 7 (6.2%) | 6 (85.8%) | 1 (14.3%) | HPV 16,18; 5 (71.5%), HPV 6; 1 (14.3%) | HPV 6, 59, 31 | 5 (71.5%)/2 (21.5%) | 2 (28.6%) | 5 (71.4%) | |
| Genital warts & condyloma acuminata | 2 (1.8%) | 2 (100%) | 0 | HPV 18; 2 (100%) | HPV 6,56,59 | 1 (50%)/1 (50%) | 2 (100%) | 0% | |
| CIN I/ASUS/LSIL | 33 (29.5%) | 29 (87.9%) | 4 (12.1%) | HPV 16,18; 23 (69.7%) | HPV 31,11,35,58,59,56,52,68,33,45,51 | 11 (33.4%)/22 (66.6%) | 11 (33.4%)/22 (66.6%) | 11 (33.4%)/22 (66.6%) | |
| CIN II/LSIL | 24 (21.5%) | 22 (92%) | 2 (8.3%) | HPV 16,18; 16 (66.7%) | HPV 35,68,31,39,6,52,11,33,58 | 14 (58.3%)/10 (41.7%) | 12 (50%)/12 (50%) | 12 (50%)/12 (50%) | |
| CIN III, IV/SCC/HSIL | 46 (41.1%) | 46 (100%) | 0 | HPV 16, 18; 41(89.2%) | HPV 31,56,58,45,52,68,35,6,39,11,59,51 | 34 (74%)/12 (26%) | 18 (39.1%)/28 (60.9%) | 18 (39.1%)/28 (60.9%) | |
| Total | 112 | 105 (94%) | 7 (6.3%) | 87 (77.7%) | | 65 (58 %)/47 (42%) | 45 (40%)/67 (60 %) | 45 (40%)/67 (60 %) | |
| | | | | | | Fisher's exact test | Fisher's exact test | P value ≥0.05† | |
| | | | | | | | | P value ≥0.05† | |

lesions admitted to Tehran Women Central hospital, Imam Khomeini Hospital and Imam Hossein Hospital in Tehran, were collected. All the diagnoses were confirmed by histopathology examinations. A questionnaire was also designed and filled out for each patient and clinical data were entered. The ethical considerations of the study were approved and a consent from was signed by each patient. Then Liquid Based Cytology (LBC) preservatives and FFPE blocks were transported to molecular biology department in health reference laboratory of ministry of health and medical education, Iran. The LBCs were stored at -20°C until experiment.

Extraction of HPV DNA and HPV genotyping

Viral DNA from LBC preservatives and tissue blocks was extracted using the QIAamp DNA Mini kit and QIAamp DNA FFPE Tissue kit (Qiagen, Germany), according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Human Papillomavirus genotyping was performed by In-House Multiplex Real Time PCR developed and designed in our laboratory. The assay has been validated according to determined requirements for assessing the reliability for test (precision, trueness, detection limit, cross reactions and etc) and we were also recognized as a proficient laboratory using this method in 2013 WHO HPV LabNet Proficiency Program that can detect HPV6, 11(Low Risk), HPV 16,18,31,33,35,39,45,51,52,56,58,59,68 (High Risk).

Bisulfite modification and qualitative real time PCR methylation analysis

Bisulfite treatment was carried out on genomic extracted DNA with Epitect Fast DNA Bisulfite Kit (Qiagen®, Germany), according to manufacturer’s protocol. HeLa S3 (cervical cancer cell line) and health women pooled plasma are used as positive methylated and un methylated healthy control respectively. Briefly, after bisulfite modifications, Qualitative TaqMan Real Time PCR methylation amplifications were performed in a 20µl reaction volume containing 12.5µl 2X Premix Ex Taq (Probe qPCR) (TaKaRa, Japan), 10 pmol/µl each primers and probes (C13orf18: FP; 5’-TTTTTAGGGAAGTAAAGCGTCG-3’, RP; 5’-ACGTAATACTA AACCCGAACGC-3’ and TaqMan Probe; Yakima Yellow 5’-AGATGGAAG AAATT TTGGAGAT GC GCGTT-3’ BHQ1) (C1orf166: FP; 5’-TGGCGAGTTAGTTATGGTT AGT G C-3’, RV; 5’-TCTCCCCAA CCGAATATCGA-3’ and TaqMan Probe; FAM 5’-TTATGGAGCGGTGG

GTGGTCGTTTAG- 3’ BHQ1) (TIB MOLBIOL®, Germany) (Yang et al., 2009; Eijsink et al., 2011; Eijsink et al., 2012), and 5-6µl DNA extracted. These reaction mixtures were amplified in a Rotor Gene 6000 (Corbett Life Science), by using the following conditions: 95°C; 90s for initial enzyme activation, for 50 cycles 95°C; 5s, and 60°C; 60s (with fluorescence detection in Green, Yellow Channels).

Statistical analysis

In order to determine any significant relationship between the DNA methylation of C13orf18 and c1orf166 genes and existence of Human Papillomaviruses, an independent test was used. All tests were performed at the significant level of 0.05 using SPSS software version 18.5.

Results

Human Papillomviruses were detected in 105 of 112 (93.7%) LBC and Archival FFPE tissue specimens by In-House Multiplex Real Time PCR method. Overall, among the HPV genotypes, HPV18(69/61.6%), HPV16 (48/42.9%), HPV58(18/16.1%), HPV68(16/14.3%), HPV31(15/13.45), HPV52(15/13.45), HPV59(14/12.5%), HPV11(13/11.6%), HPV35(12/10.7%), HPV56(11/9.8%), HPV6(9/8%), HPV39(6/5.4%), HPV45(4/3.6%), HPV33(3/2.7%), HPV51(2/1.8%) and HPV negative (7/6.3%) were dominant genotypes in women with cervical dysplasia, respectively. Among samples with the HPV mix genotypes, HPV 16, 18 [13/105 (12.4%)] were the prevalent combination genotypes. The age range of women was 23-90 years and the mean age (SD) was 42.73 (±11.36) years old. HPV was detected in 68 (64.8 %) of the population study in ages between 31-50 years old. The frequency rates of DNA Methylation for C13orf18 and C1orf166 genes were 65 (58%) vs 45 (40 %), respectively. There were no statistical significance (p≥0.05) between the existence of HPV genotypes infections and C13orf18 and C1orf166 DNA genes

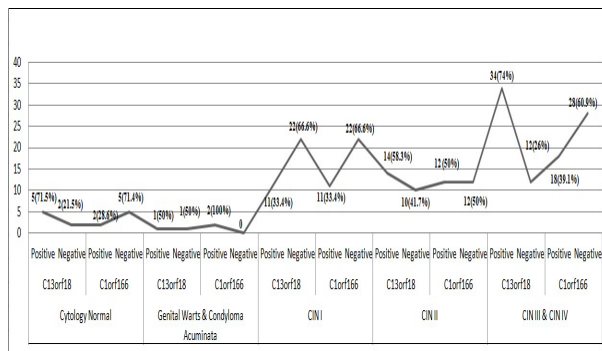


Figure 1. Frequency Rate of C13orf18 and C1orf166 DNA Genes Methylation in Cervical Disorders

methylation in women with cervical disorders. The details of prevalence of HPV genotypes and cervical disorder and Cervical Intraepithelial Neoplasia, and frequency rate of DNA genes methylation were summarized in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Discussion

Cervical carcinoma as a social problem with high morbidity and mortality in the worldwide is discussed. Insomuch, human papillomaviruses genotypes are considered as the main cause of malignancies particularly cervical cancer. Epigenetic and polymorphisms patterns as diagnostic biomarker and HPV genotypes detection can be used for determining appropriate treatment strategy for early stages of cervical cancer and increase survival in cervical malignancies (Nunobiki et al., 2011; Hwang and Shroyer 2012; Wang 2014). Therefore, the extensive studies have been done on the methylation analysis of various genes in different societies (Yang et al., 2009; Eijsink et al., 2011; 2012; Snellenberg et al., 2012; Sun et al., 2012; Banzai et al., 2013; Lan et al., 2013; Al-Shabanah et al., 2014; Ma et al., 2014). Functional and MethyLight analysis of these genes shown that C13ORF18 gene might represents cervical cancer suppressive activities upon re-expression and C1ORF166, now known as MUL1 or MULAN, is a RING finger E3 ubiquitin ligase that regulates the organelle's dynamics and NF- κ B signaling. It is possible that these genes have functional role during cervical tumor development and progression (Li et al., 2008; Yang et al., 2009; Huisman et al., 2013). The distribution of HPV 16 and HPV 18 along with other high risk HPV genotypes in this study is similar to other surveys (Clifford et al., 2005; Lee et al., 2011; Kasamatsu et al., 2012; Manjari and Sweta., 2012; Hamzi Abdul Raub et al., 2013; Turki et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2013; Othman and Othman., 2014). Although the case studies have been conducted on methylation status of C13ORF18 and C1orf166 genes (Yang et al., 2009; Eijsink et al., 2011; Eijsink et al., 2012). Likely, the methylated genes could be considered as proper diagnostic biomarkers in cervical cancer mid HPVs (Dueñas-González et al., 2005; Szalmás et al., 2009; Wentzensen et al., 2009; Nogueira da Costa and Herceg., 2012). However, they were detected of DNA methylated genes for C13orf18; 65 (58%) and C1orf166; 45 (40%) in this research, but we did not found any statistical significances between women with cervical

dysplasia and HPV genotypes previously found positive ($p>0.05$). Therefore, introducing these methylated genes as prognostic biomarkers of cervical cancer needs further studies with genetic patterns variation and various designs and acceptable number of clinical specimens.

In Conclusions, Obviously increased cervical cancer and precancerous lesions with HPV genotypes infection were seen in different regions of world, hence, further investigations should be emphasized for detection and development of molecular diagnostic biomarkers in cancers. More investigations on CpG methylation regions in different countries with more clinical samples can be helpful in proper selection of specific prognostic biomarkers and treatment procedures in cancers.

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