Abstracts

OVERALL SURVIVAL PROGNOSTIC FACTORS IN RECURRENT EPITHELIAL OVARIAN CANCER IN TUNISIA

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Objectives Epithelial ovarian cancers relapse in the majority of cases. We aimed to analyze overall survival prognostic factors in recurrent epithelial ovarian cancer in Tunisia.

Methods We conducted a retrospective monocentric study including 60 Tunisian patients with relapsed epithelial ovarian cancer between October 2012 and December 2018. Clinicopathological Data, treatment and survival data were collected from medical records. The Kaplan-Meier method was used to calculate overall survival (OS) and Cox regression analysis was performed to define the effects of risk factors on survival.

Results The median age at diagnosis was 59 years [28–85 years]. Recurrent ovarian cancers were platinum-sensitive in 65% (n=39) and resistant in 35% (n=21) of cases. Overall 2-year survival was 87% in the sensitive relapse group versus 11% in the resistant group (p<0.001). Age, Body mass index, histologic type, grade and timing of initial surgery didn’t impact significantly the interval of relapse. However, short platinum-free interval (< 6 months) was correlated with: advanced stage at diagnosis (IIA to IV) (Odds ratio, OR:1.67, 95% Confidence interval, CI [1.34–2.09]) and incomplete staging at the initial surgery (OR: 3.4, 95% CI [1.07–10.84]).

Conclusions The interval of relapse is correlated with the extension of the disease and/or with the quality of surgery. Patients should be referred to expert centers.

SOX4 DRIVES OVARIAN CANCER STEMNESS VIA TRANSCRIPTIONALLY ACTIVATING HDAC1

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Objectives The objective of this study is to explore the role of SOX4 in ovarian cancer stem cells (OCSCs) and elucidate the underlying mechanisms.

Methods Ovarian cancer cell lines and primary cells were used in this study. Lentivirus system was used for genetic manipulation. Sphere-forming activity was examined by sphere formation assay. Limiting dilution assay was employed to determine the frequency of sphere-forming cell. The mRNA and protein levels were determined by qRT-PCR and western blot, respectively. The effect of SOX4 on the transcriptional activity of HDAC1 promoter was tested by luciferase assay and their direct binding was determined by Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChiP) assay. The protein levels of surface markers were examined by flowcytometry.

Results SOX4 overexpression significantly increased the sphere-forming activities, the frequency of sphere-forming cells and the expression levels of OCSCs markers in OCSCs; SOX4 depletion led to opposite results. SOX4 directly bound to the HDAC1 promoter and increased the transcriptional activities of HDAC1 promoter and there are four SOX4-binding sites in HDAC1 promoter. HDAC1 predicts poor prognosis of ovarian cancer and positively regulates OCSCs stemness. HDAC1 ablation abolished the effect of SOX4 on OCSCs stemness.

Conclusions The results in this study demonstrated a novel mechanism that SOX4 promotes ovarian cancer stemness by transcriptionally activating HDAC1. This finding suggests that HDAC1 inhibitor could be an effective therapeutic agent for eradicating human OCSCs driven by aberrant SOX4 upregulation.

PARP1 SUPPORTS OVARIAN CANCER STEMNESS BY UBQUITINATION OF NUCLEAR YAP

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Objectives The objective of this study is to improve our understanding about PARP1 in ovarian cancer stem cells (OCSCs), which would be helpful for extension of the potential of PARP inhibitors as anti-cancer drugs.

Methods SK-OV3, primary ovarian cancer cells and xenograft mice were used in the study. Genetic manipulation was performed by lentivirus systems. The stemness of OCSCs was