Gastric-type mucinous adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix: A case report

Yi-Ching Lin1(林依靜), Mark Chien-Chin Chen2(陳建欽)

1. Department Of Pathology, Taipei Medical University Hospital, Taipei City, Taiwan
2. Department of Pathology, Ditmanson Medical Foundation Chia-Yi Christian Hospital, Chia-Yi City, Taiwan

Case Report

gastric-type adenocarcinoma of the uterine cervix is a rare variant of mucinous endocervical adenocarcinoma not etiologically associated with human papillomavirus (HPV) infection, with minimal deviation adenocarcinoma at the well-differentiated end of the morphologic spectrum. It was easily misdiagnosed as benign glandular lesions, especially in Pap smears. These tumors are reported to have worse prognostics than usual HPV-associated endocervical adenocarcinomas. So a promptly correct diagnosis was helpful for appropriate treatments and prognosis.

Commonly, at initial presentation, it may extend into vagina and even more surrounding tissues. The lymph nodes and other pelvic organs may be also invaded. Moreover, it often has distant metastases, such as ovaries. Here we report a case with pulmonary metastasis.

Introduction

A 41 year-old woman had radical hysterectomy with cervical mucinous carcinoma 1 year ago. This time, she came for persistent vaginal bleeding. And the gynecologist performed vaginal biopsy and Pap smear with systemic examinations. The vaginal biopsy and Pap smear revealed abnormal cells. And right lower lobe of lung in chest CT scan had a solid nodule with 1.8 cm size.

Cytologic Findings

On conventional Papanicolaou smear, it showed clusters of well-differentiated glands (Fig A), mostly in monolayered and honeycomb structures (Fig B). The background had varicolored extracellular mucin and the glandular cells had columnar shape (Fig C), nuclear crowding and clear cytoplasm. Because the patient had been resected her uterus, there should be almost squamous epithelial cells on her vaginal Pap smear. The columnar epithelial cells were taken as abnormal glandular cells, suspected tumor recurrence.

Discussion

Gastric-type mucinous adenocarcinoma constitutes about 1% of all adenocarcinomas of the cervix. Most endocervical adenocarcinomas are related to high-risk HPV, except gastric-type mucinous adenocarcinoma. Mutation of suppressor gene for the tumor may play a role in tumorigenesis. In the era of HPV vaccination, it is possible that the prevalence of HPV-associated adenocarcinomas may decrease, the gastric-type mucinous adenocarcinoma may increase. Therefore, HPV DNA testing is a potential pitfall of cervical cancer screening. In conclusion, this case illustrates the morphologic features and special immunoprofile of a rare type of tumor occurring in the uterine cervix.

Reference

5. Gastric-Type Adenocarcinoma of the Uterine Cervix. Int J Gynecol Cancer 2018;28: 1203-1210