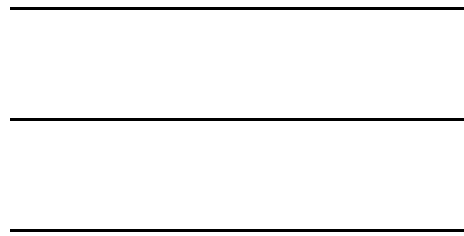


c - kit

c - kit

2002 6



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Table 1. Clinicopathological features of gastrointestinal stromal tumors.....	8
Table 2. <i>c-kit</i> mutation of gastrointestinal stromal tumors	17
Table 3. <i>c-kit</i> mutation profiles in 20 GISTs	19
Table 4. KIT expression according to tumor grade and mutation type	20
Table 5. KIT expression level in various tumors	22
Table 6. Erk activation levels in various tumors.....	25

Figure 1. <i>c-kit</i> mutation of GISTs according to the tumor grade.....	18
Figure 2. KIT expression according to mutation types.	18
Figure 3. KIT expression in GISTs	20
Figure 4. KIT expressions according to <i>c-kit</i> mutation	21
Figure 5. KIT expressions according to the GISTs grade	21
Figure 6. Comparison of KIT expression in GISTs and other tissues	22
Figure 7. KIT activation in GISTs.....	23
Figure 8. ERK expression & activation in various tumors	25
Figure 9. 2DE analysis of human GIST proteins	26

c-kit

tyrosine kinase receptor KIT KIT
Intestinal cell of Cajal
c-kit
tyrosine STI571
가
c-kit
20 (4 , 9 , 7)
c-kit , *c-kit* 가
MAPK PCR-SSCP ,
Immunoprecipitation, Immunoblotting
2 dimensional electrophoresis(DE)
c-kit PCR-SSCP 14 (70%)

8 4 , 2

. *c-kit* 가 KIT

KIT , KIT

. ERK *c-kit*

. 2DE

15 , *c-kit*

18

c-kit 가 KIT

, , mitogen-activated

protein kinase (MAPK)

: , *c-kit*, KIT, MAPK

c - kit

< >

I.

(gastrointestinal stromal tumor, GIST)

(mesenchymal tumor)

가

가 ,

가 가 .

4가

가 가 ,¹

(cellular

leiomyoma cellular spindle cell tumor),

(epithelioid leiomyoma),

(epithelioid

leiomyosarcoma),

(pleomorphic sarcoma)

²⁻³

exon 11 exon 17 *c-kit*

, 가

⁴⁻⁸ KIT

receptor

tyrosine residue 가

Src

homology2 (SH2) domain

phospholipase Cγ1, phosphoinositol(PI)-3-

kinase, Grb2 Src kinase

motif

⁸⁻¹¹

SH2 domain

100

phosphotyrosine residue

c-kit

12 - 16

kinase domain

가

, 12 - 16

juxtamembrane domain

. 4,17

KIT

가

,

KIT

가

kinase domain

가

Akt

. 18 - 19

, MAP kinase

Rb

20 - 26

KIT

haematopoitic cell

melanoblast cell, germ cell

, stem cell factor(SCF)

receptor

dimerization

가

, intrinsic tyrosine

kinase

. 8 - 10,13,15

KIT tyrosine phosphorylation

, KIT ligand SCF

, 4,18 - 26

KIT

가

c - kit

DNA

c - kit

, KIT

c - kit

II.

1.

1997 2000
20 . 20
9 , 11 . 4
, 3 , 3 , 5 , 2
.

-70°C

2.

20
(,) .
Lewin (1992) 20 4 ,
9 , 7 (Table 1).
2
(metastasis, invasion of adjacent organs) 5 (, ,
, ,) ,

가 , 1

, 1 2

Table 1. Clinicopathological features of gastrointestinal stromal tumors

Sample	Tumor size (cm)	Tumor type	Cell type	Anatomic site	Sex	Age
1	1	Benign	Spindle	Body	F	38
2	2.5	Benign	Spindle	Body	M	64
3	4	Benign	Spindle	Body	F	36
4	7	Borderline	Spindle	Body	M	52
5	5	Borderline	Epithelioid	Antrum	F	47
6	4	Borderline	Spindle	Fundus	M	79
7	8	Borderline	Spindle	Fundus	F	76
8	9	Borderline	Spindle	Body	M	45
9	5.5	Borderline	Epithelioid	Fundus	F	52
10	17	Borderline	Spindle	Fundus	F	64
11	5	Borderline	Spindle	Body	F	56
12	12	Malignant	Spindle	Body	F	57
13	10	Malignant	Epithelioid	Body	M	35
14	17	Malignant	Epithelioid	Body	M	78
15	22	Malignant	Spindle	Antrum	M	64
16	3.7	Malignant	Spindle	Fundus	M	44
17	5.5	Malignant	Spindle	Body	F	68
18	6	Malignant	Spindle	Body	M	58
19	13	Borderline	Spindle	Body	M	49
20	4	Benign	Spindle	Body	M	45

3. DNA

lysis buffer (100mM Tris buffer(pH 7.5-8.0), 50mM EDTA,
150mM NaCl, 0.5% SDS, 200µg/ml protein kinase) 500µl 가 50°C
12~24 .
phenol:chloroform:isoamylalcohol (25:24:1) 가 , 13,000 rpm
4 .
isopropanol 0.2 NH₄OAc 가 5
. DNA tip
70% ethanol .
DNA TE (10mM Tris-HCl (pH 8.0), 1mM EDTA) buffer
260nm
-20°C .

4.

가 lysis buffer [8.5% sucrose, 50mM
NaCl, protease inhibitors (10µg /ml aprotonin, 1µg /ml leupeptin, 1µg /ml pepstatin,
1µg /ml chmostatin), 1mM PMSF] 25mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4)
. Phosphatase inhibitor sodium vanadate buffer 1mM

가 . sonicator 25% .
protein assay kit(Bio-Rad, Hercules, California, USA)
-70°C .

5.

SCLC (NCI-H69, NCI-H209)
(KCLB, Korean Cell Line Bank; <http://cellbank.snu.ac.kr>), NIH-3T3
, GIST882 Jonathan A.
Fletcher (Brigham and Women's Hospital) . 10%
(Life technologies, Grand Island, NY, USA) 100U/mL penicillin,
100ug/mL streptomycin 가 RPMI 1640(Life technologies, Grand Island,
NY, USA) 37 , 5% CO .

6. PCR-SSCP

c-kit

Sequencing Analysis

genomic DNA

c-kit

exon 11 exon 17

.

c-kit

immunoglobulin-like loops, transmembrane domain, cytoplasmic domain
adenosine triphosphate (ATP)-binding domain kinase domain cytoplasmic

domain juxtamembrane region .

exon 11s; 5'-CCA GAG TGC TCT AAT GAC TG-3', exon 11a:5'-ACT
 CAG CCT GTT TCT GGG AAA CTC-3' exon 17s: 5'-TTC ACT CTT TAC
 AAG TTA AAA TG-3', exon 17a:5'-GGA CTG TCA AGC AGA GAA TG-3' .

PCR 50ng genomic DNA 20 μ l 가 1.5mM
 MgCl₂, 20 pmol , 0.2mM dATP, dGTP, dTTP, 5 μ M dCTP, 1 μ Ci [α -³²P]
 dCTP (3000 Ci/mmol; NEN DuPont, Boston, MA), 1X PCR buffer 1.25U Taq
 polymerase (GIBCO-BRL, Grand Island, NY, USA) 가 .

94°C 5 가 (denaturation) , 80°C 10 Taq
 polymerase 가 , 94°C 30 , 56°C
 (annealing) 30 , 72°C 15 (extending) 30
 , (extending) 72°C 5

PCR loading buffer (95%
 formamide, 20mM EDTA, 0.05% xylene cyanol FF and 0.05% bromophenol blue)
 95°C 10 가 3 μ l 6%

non-denaturing polyacrylamide gel loading 3W 12-16
 . gel gel dryer 1

Kodak XAR-5 film (Kodak, Rochester, NY, USA) PCR-SSCP

PCR-SSCP band shift 가 14
 Sanger dideoxy chain
 termination method Sequence version 2.0 sequencing kit (Amersham Life Science,
 Arlington Heights, Illinois, USA) double strand sequencing T7
 forward internal standard
 direct sequencing PCR-
 SSCP anti-sense primer

7. Immunoprecipitation & Immunoblotting

SCF 24 non-FBS RPMI-1640
 media 1 M ℓ 50ng/ml SCF
 37 , 7.5 4 PBS lysis
 buffer lysate 4 30 4 , 13000rpm
 15 Immunoprecipitation rabbit polyclonal anti-
 human *c-kit* antibody Agarose-protein A 가 16
 4 lysis buffer lysis buffer 가
 6-12% polyacrylamide gel (polyacrylamide: bis-acrylamide
 =29:1) 120V 1 30 ~2
 Western Blotter (Bio-Rad, Hercules, California, USA) 2
 330mA gel PVDF membrane

5% 1X TBST [100mM Tris(pH 7.5),
 1.5M NaCl, 0.1% Tween-20] blocking 1X TBST 5
 3 . PVDF
 membrane TBST (1% skim milk) 2
 , 4°C .
 PVDF membrane 5 1X TBST 3
 1%

. Secondary antibody

1X TBST membrane 5 5
 . signal detection ECL plus kit (Amersham Pharmacia
 Biotech Inc., Piscataway, NJ, USA) ECL hyper film
 (Amersham Pharmacia Biotech Inc.) .

Western blotting c-Kit(Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa
 cruz, California, USA), p-MEK (New England BioLabs, Beverly, England), p-ERK
 (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa cruz, California, USA), ERK (New England
 BioLabs, Beverly, England), p-Tyr (Upstate biotechnology, Lake placid, NY, USA),
 Akt (Santa Cruz Biotechnology, Santa cruz, California, USA), p-Akt (Santa Cruz
 Biotechnology, Santa cruz, California, USA), p-Stat3 (Cellsignalling, Beverly,
 England) .

Western blotting TINA program (raytest Isotopenmess-

geraete GmbH, Straubenhardt, Germany)

가

8. 2 Dimensional Electrophoresis

sample buffer [40mM Tris, 7M urea, 2M thiourea, 4% CHAPS, 100mM 1,4-dithioerythritol and protease inhibitor cocktail (Complete; Roche, Mannheim, Germany)] . 30

sonicator , 100,000g 45

Protein Assay kit(Bio-Rad, Hercules, California, USA)

1mg , immobilized

pH 3 10 nonlinear gradient strip (Amersham, Uppsala, Sweden)

. 2DE 9-16% linear gradient polyacrylamide gels (18cm * 20cm * 1.5mm) gel

40mA dye 가 5

가 . 12 [40% , 5% phosphoric acid]

, 24 Coomassie blue G250 . Gel

Bio-Rad (Richmond, CA, USA) G710 densitometer ,

Melanie III (GenBio, Geneva, Switzerland) .

mass spectrometry fingerprinting gel

, 50% acetonitrile , 25mM ammonium bicarbonate

25mM ammonium bicarbonate (pH 8.0), 50ng
trypsin 37 16 50%
acetonitrile, 5% trifluoroacetic acid 가
50% acetonitrile, 0.1% trifluoroacetic acid 4 μ l
disk 1 μ l , matrix -cyano-4-
hydroxycinnamic acid . Spectra Voyager DE PRO MALDI-TOF
spectrometer (Applied Biosystems, Framingham, MA, USA) ,
MS-Fit (<http://prospector.ucsf.edu/ucsfhtml3.4/msfit.htm>)
monoisotopic peak .²⁷

III.

c-kit

20 *c-kit* exon 11 exon 17
c-kit exon 11 70% (14/20) 가
 (Table 2 Figure 1). *c-kit*
 75% (3/4), 67% (6/9), 71%
 (5/7) (Figure 1),
 가 4 , 8 , 2 ,

KIT

. (Table 3).

KIT

KIT *c-kit* 가 ()
 2) 20 14 KIT
 2.77 가 (Figure 2). KIT
 가 14 *c-kit* exon 11 가
 KIT 가 가 (14/14, 100%
 versus 0/6, 0%; p<0.001) (Table 4 5, Figure 1, 2, 3, 4).

4 , 3 , 3 , 5 ,
 2 KIT (Table 5, Figure 6).

Table 2. *c-kit* mutation of gastrointestinal stromal tumors

Sample number	Tumor type	Sex	Age	KIT expression Comparative ratio ^a	Mutation Type
1	Benign	F	38	3.45	Deletion
2	Benign	M	64	1.00	No mutation
3	Benign	F	36	4.80	Deletion
4	Borderline	M	52	3.02	Point mutation
5	Borderline	F	47	0.71	No mutation
6	Borderline	M	79	4.75	Deletion
7	Borderline	F	76	4.76	Deletion
8	Borderline	M	45	4.04	Insertion
9	Borderline	F	52	0.38	No mutation
10	Borderline	F	64	4.44	Deletion
11	Borderline	F	56	0.21	No mutation
12	Malignant	F	57	4.38	Point mutation
13	Malignant	M	35	0.28	No mutation
14	Malignant	M	78	0.16	No mutation
15	Malignant	M	64	4.15	Deletion
16	Malignant	M	44	3.43	Deletion
17	Malignant	F	68	3.34	Point mutation
18	Malignant	M	58	2.88	Deletion
19	Borderline	M	49	3.18	Insertion
20	Benign	M	45	2.77	Point mutation

^a data represent ratio between tumor and sample number 2 tumor (no *c-kit* mutation) (tumor/2 tumor)

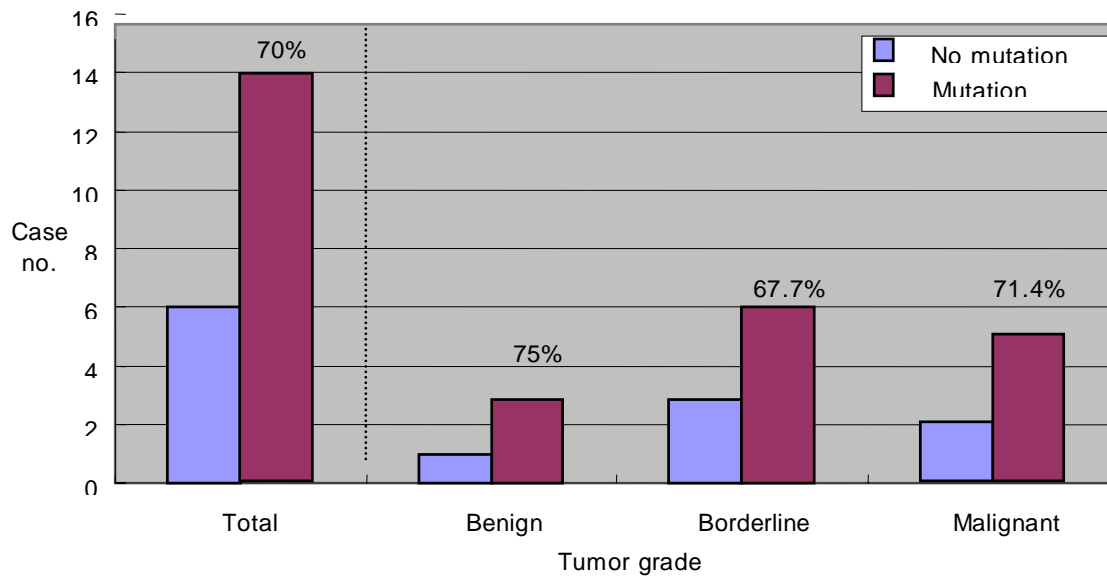


Figure 1. *c-kit* mutation of GISTs according to the tumor grade. Total 20 GISTs were analysed. Total(14/20, 70%), Benign(3/4, 75%), Borderline(6/9, 67.7%), Malignant(5/7, 71.4%)

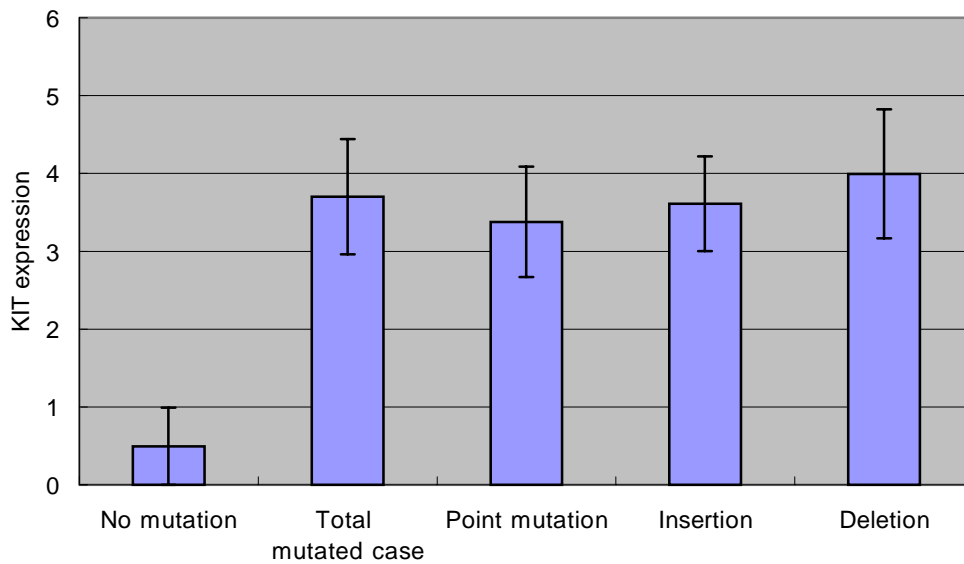


Figure 2. KIT expression according to mutation types.

Table 3. *c-kit* mutation profiles in 20 GISTs

Tumor	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	
Grade	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y	
1	Benign	Q	K	-	-	-	-	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y	
3	Benign	Q	K	P	-	-	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
20	Benign	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	D	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
4	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	R	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
6	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
7	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	-	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
8	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
10	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
19	Borderline	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
12	Malignant	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	A	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
15	Malignant	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	-	-	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
16	Malignant	Q	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
17	Malignant	Q	K	P	M	Y	E	V	Q	W	K	D	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y
18	Malignant	Q	K	P	M	-	-	-	-	W	K	V	V	E	E	I	N	G	N	N	Y	V	Y

Tumor	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	
Grade	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S	
1	Benign	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
3	Benign	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
20	Benign	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
4	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
6	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	-	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
7	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
8	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
					T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R				
10	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	-	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
19	Borderline	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
						L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R					
12	Malignant	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
15	Malignant	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
16	Malignant	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
17	Malignant	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S
18	Malignant	I	D	P	T	Q	L	P	Y	D	H	K	W	E	F	P	R	N	P	L	S

Gray : new *c-kit* mutations, - : deletion, Bold : amino acid substitution

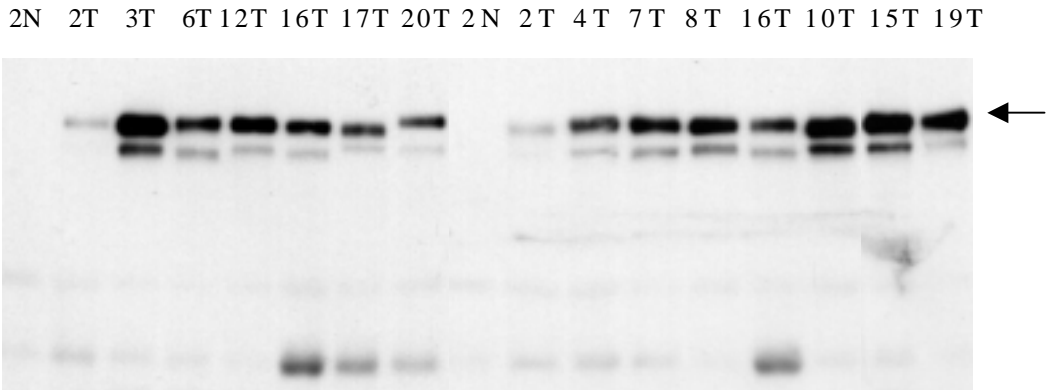


Figure 3. **KIT** expression in GISTs. N: normal mucosa, T: gastrointestinal stromal tumor. KIT overexpression : 3T, 6T, 12T, 16T, 17T, 20T, 4T, 7T, 8T, 16T, 10T, 15T, 19T.

Table 4. KIT expression according to tumor grade, mutation type

Tumor grade	Mutation	Mutation type	Case No.	KIT expression		KIT expression	
				Mean	+ SD	Mean	+ SD
Benign	No mutation	No mutation	1	1.00	± 0.00	1.00	± 0.00
	Mutation	Deletion	2	4.13	± 0.95	3.67	± 1.03
		Point mutation	1	2.77	± 0.00		
Borderline	No mutation	No mutation	3	0.36	± 0.30	0.36	± 0.30
	Mutation	Point mutation	1	3.02	± 0.00	4.03	+ 0.83
		Insertion	2	3.61	± 0.61		
		Deletion	3	4.65	± 0.01		
Malignant	No mutation	No mutation	2	0.22	± 0.09	0.22	± 0.09
	Mutation	Point mutation	2	3.86	± 0.74	3.64	± 0.62
		Deletion	3	3.49	± 0.64		

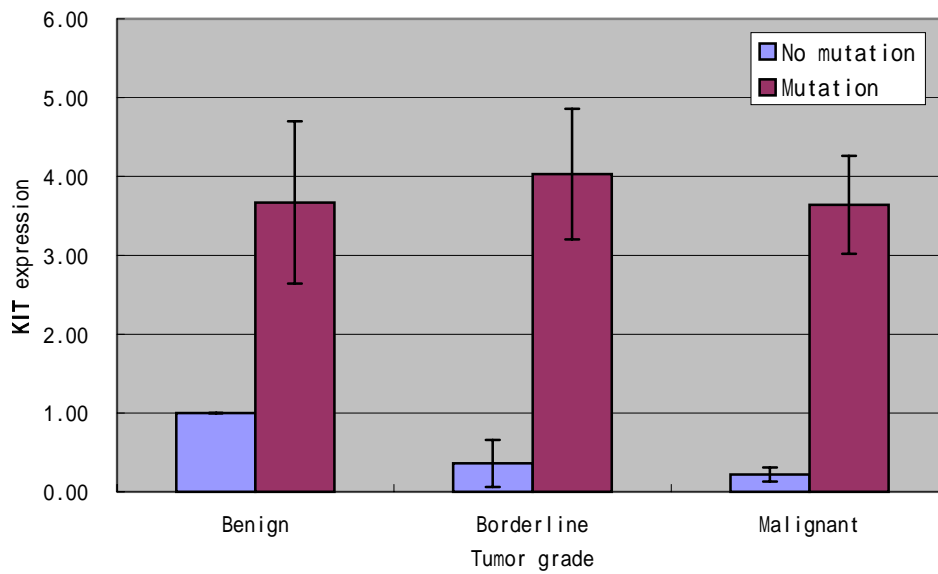


Figure 4. **KIT** expressions according to *c-kit* mutation. All GISTs with *c-kit* mutation showed high overexpression, however GISTs with no mutation showed low expression.

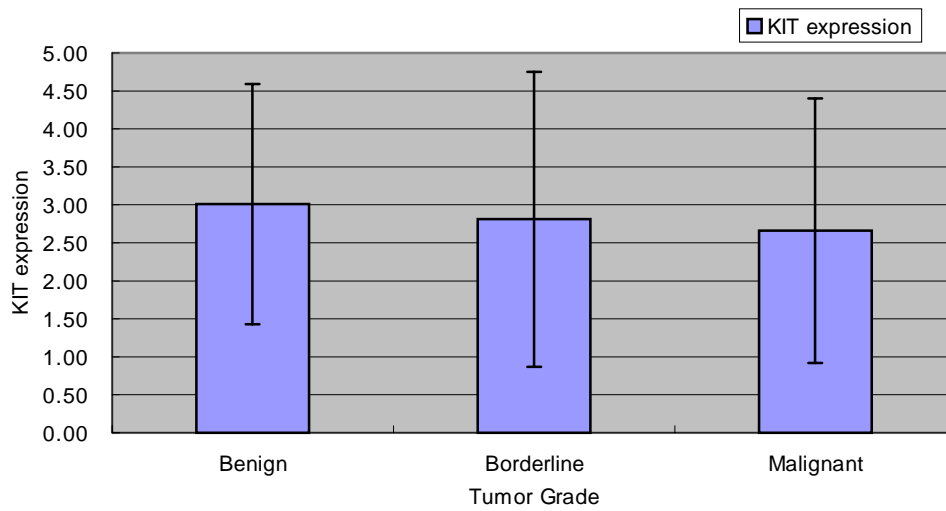


Figure 5. **KIT** expressions according to the GISTs grade. The levels of KIT expression were similar in all of the tumor tissues regardless of tumor grade.

Table 5. **KIT** expression level in various tumors

Tumor type, grade	Case No.	KIT expression		<i>c-kit</i> mutation (%)	
		(Mean ± SD)		exon 11	exon 17
Lymph Node	3	(0.14 ± 0.08)		0	0
Lymphoma	5	(0.10 ± 0.08)		0	0
Cololectal Carcinoma	4	(0.10 ± 0.08)		0	0
Hepatocellular Carcinoma	2	(0.20 ± 0.08)		0	0
Gastric Carcinoma	3	(0.13 ± 0.02)		0	0
Stromal Tumor	Total	20	(2.85 ± 1.72)	70	0
	Benign	4	(3.01 ± 1.58)	75	0
	Borderline	9	(2.81 ± 1.94)	68	0
	Malignant	7	(2.66 ± 1.74)	71	0

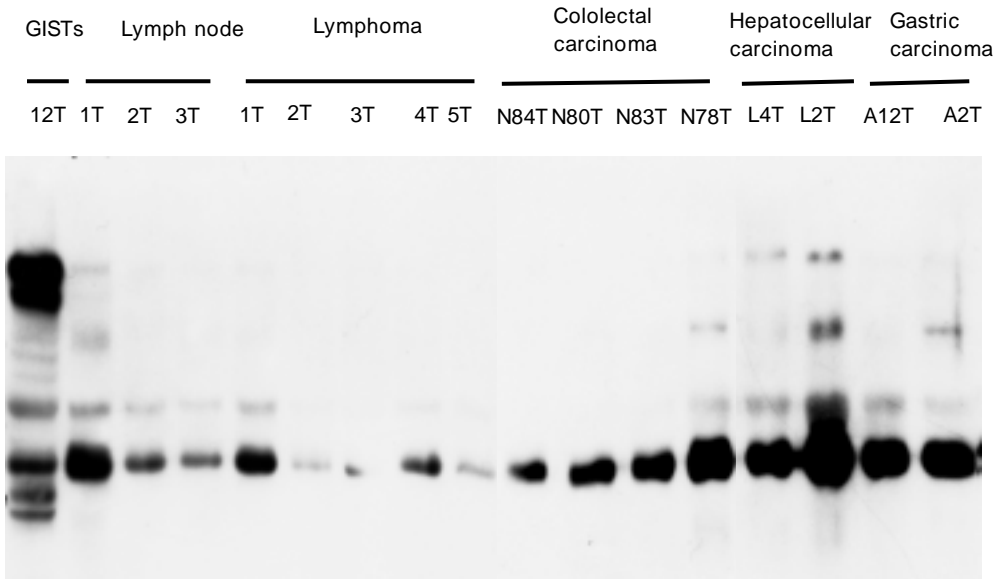


Figure 6. Comparison of KIT expression in GISTs and other tissues. Most of the tissues showed low expression or no expression of KIT protein.

MAPK

c-kit 가 MAPK
, 20 ERK
ERK . 17 16 (94%)
ERK 가
(Table 6, Figure 8).
ERK 가 (1 versus 1.4,
p>0.05), *c-kit* 가
(0.8 versus 1.2, p>0.05). *c-kit*
ERK *c-kit*
, , ,
, , ,
ERK 가 ,
ERK (1.73±0.31)가 가 (Table. 6).
, (0.78±0.82)
(Table 6, Figure 8).

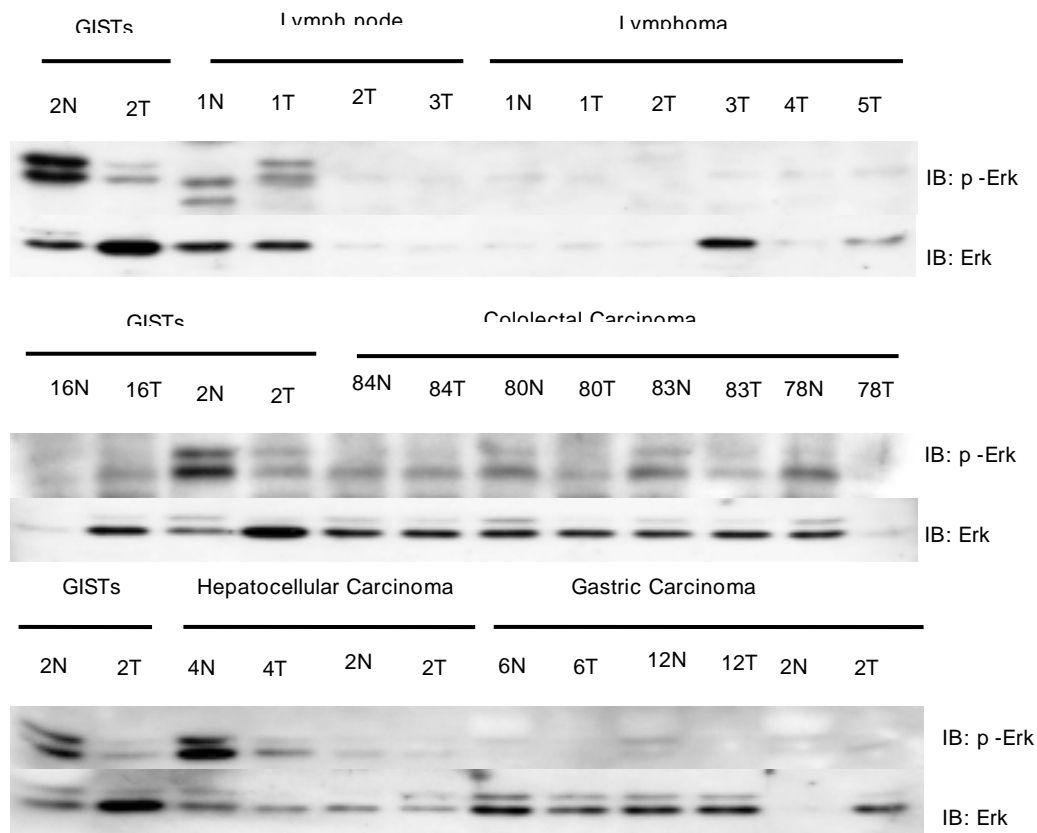


Figure 8. **ERK** expression & activation in various tumors. Almost Erk activation of GISTs were lower than that of normal mucosa, and other tumors showed similar expression.

Table 6. **ERK** activation levels in various tumors

Tumor type, grade		Case No.	ERK activation (T/N) ^a	
			(Mean \pm SD)	
Lymph Node		3	0.78	\pm 0.82
Lymphoma		5	1.73	\pm 0.31
Colorectal Carcinoma		4	0.54	\pm 0.22
Hepatocellular Carcinoma		2	0.56	\pm 0.22
Gastric Carcinoma		3	0.65	\pm 0.40
Stromal Tumor	Total	17	0.39	\pm 0.25
	Benign	3	0.27	\pm 0.15
	Borderline	8	0.18	\pm 0.12
	Malignant	6	0.55	\pm 0.30

^a data represent ratio between tumor and normal (T/N)

, *c-kit*

, *c-kit*

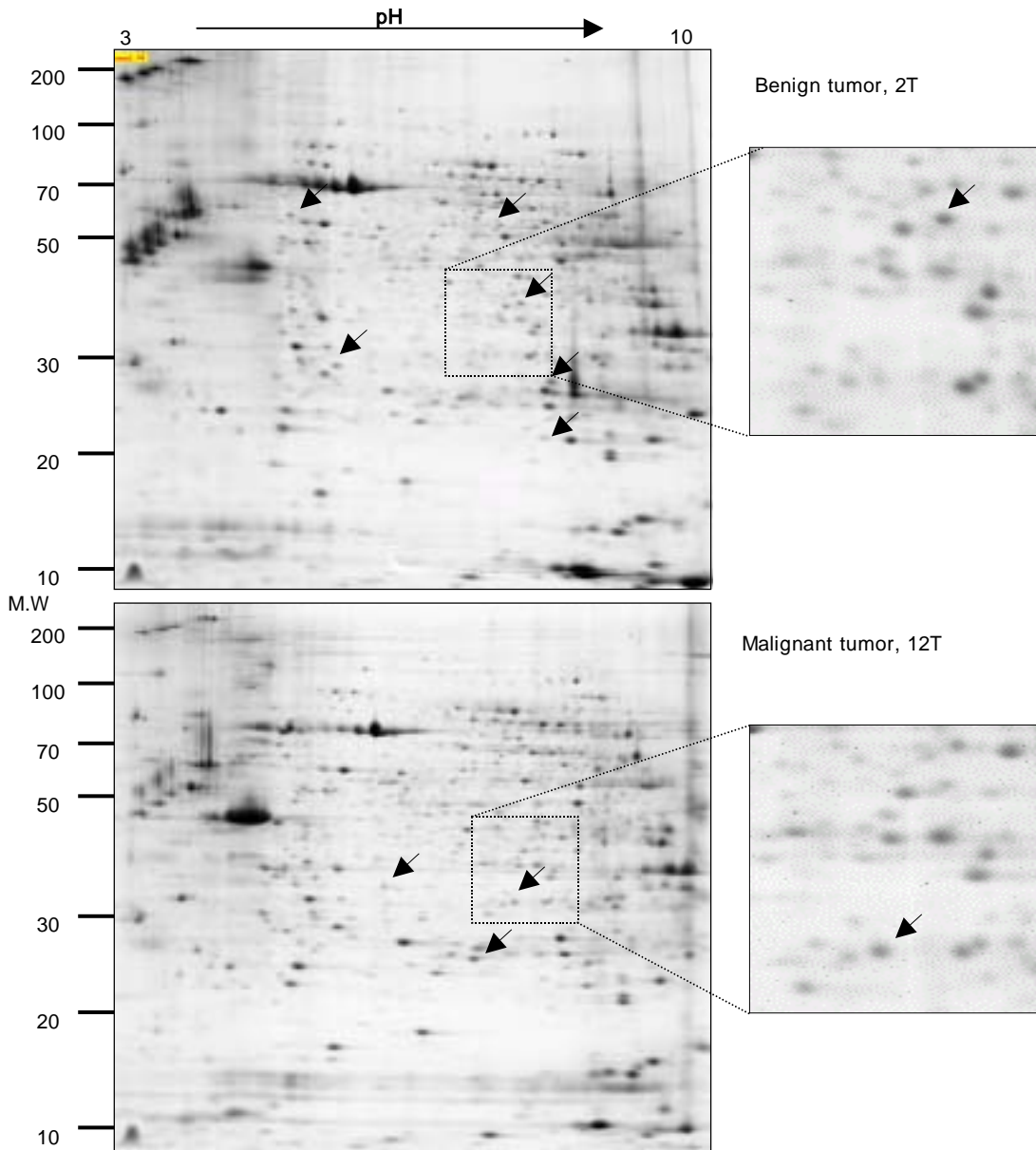


Figure 9. **2DE** analysis of human GIST proteins. arrow : aberrant protein spots.

2 , 5 , 5
12,
가 3 가 , *c-kit*
가 가 13,
5 가 (Figure 9).

IV.

가 c-
kit , c-
kit , KIT Erk c-kit
 20 GIST , c-kit
 GIST , KIT
 KIT, Erk c-kit
 가 , *c-kit* 가 MAPK
 .
C-kit proto-oncogene 5 immunoglobulin-like loops
 extracellular domain transmembrane domain, juxtamembrane region
 cytoplasmic domain, kinase carboxy-terminal tail
 phosphotransferase subdomains adenosine triphosphate (ATP)-
 binding domain, kinase domain intracellular domain
 .²⁷⁻²⁸ KIT domain Type III receptor tyrosine kinase
 subfamily colony-stimulating factor-1 platelet-derived growth factor
 .²⁸⁻³¹
c-kit proto-oncogene 4 , *c-kit* ligand
 SCF 12 *c-kit* proto-oncogene 5

, SCF 10 .³²⁻³⁵ KIT/W SCF/SI

KIT

, KIT SCF hematopoietic stem cells, mast cells, neural crest-derived melanocytes, germ cell , ,

.³⁵

c-kit ,

Hirota (1998)

가 *c-kit* 가 .^{5-8,36-38}

c-kit

가 70%

21%³⁸, 42%¹⁷

57%⁶

5-8,17,36-

³⁸ *c-kit* juxtamembrane domain codons 550-560 ,

codons 552-553 , codons 573-574 13

codons 553-556 codon 557 가

codon 579

¹⁷

, Moskaluk (1999)

(codons 575-586)

(codons 574-586)

.³⁸

가

가

c-kit juxtamembrane domain codons 552-563 receptor 가
 .
 .³⁹⁻⁴⁰ SCF
c-kit kinase activity juxtamembrane
 codons 553, 557, 559 560 가
 . 가
 receptor kinase
 14 5
 가 receptor kinase 가
 .
 receptor 가
 codons 552-563 receptor kinase
 .
c-kit
 KIT 가 , 14 1
 .
 KIT 가
 가 KIT 가
 가 *c-kit* 가
 KIT MAPK 가 GIST
c-kit KIT
 가 .
 가 *c-kit*
 가 6 ,

KIT
KIT
c-kit KIT
MAPK 가 ERK
Ras-MAPK ,
가
ERK 가가 ()
,) ⁴¹⁻⁴² ERK
.
⁴³ ERK 가
, MAPK 가가
.
ERK
가
.
⁴⁴⁻⁴⁵ ERK 가
.
MAPK KIT
Akt, STAT1, STAT3, STAT5, STAT6, FKHR
c-kit

. Akt c-
kit . STAT1
 , STAT3 , *c-kit*
 . *c-kit*
 가 , *c-kit* 가 MAPK
 janus kinase (JAK) kinase, phospholipase C γ phosphoinositol-3-kinase 가
 .¹⁸⁻²⁶ JAK/signal transducers and activators of transcription
 (STAT) cytokine ,
 kinase 가 . cytokine
 dimer STATs
 tyrosine kinase JAK kinase . STAT dimer
 가

.²³⁻²⁶

(signal transducer)

가 ,

. , *c-kit*

c-kit MAPK
가 .
2DE *c-kit*
. , *c-kit*
c-kit 가
. , *c-kit*
KIT
. ,
MAPK
.

V.

- 20 *c-kit* ,
- c-kit, Erk* ,
1. *c-kit* exon11 가 ,
codon .
2. *c-kit* 가 .
3. KIT .
4. ERK , KIT
가 .
5. *c-kit* 2DE 18 가 .
6. 2DE 15 가 .
- c-kit*
, MAPK ,

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Abstract

Overexpression and activation of *c-kit* gene mutated products and related factors in gastrointestinal stromal tumors.

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Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), one of the mesenchymal tumors of the gastrointestinal tract, is indistinct histogenesis and the biological characteristics are not well characterized. Overexpression of KIT, a kind of receptor tyrosine kinase, have recently reported in GISTs, and have proposed that intestinal cell of cajal is the origin of GISTs. *C-kit* mutation, KIT overexpression and trials of treating with STI571, tyrosine kinase inhibitor, has also been reported in GISTs. However, the biological mechanisms, signal transduction systems and related factors of *c-kit* alteration are not well characterized.

To elucidate the biological role of KIT alteration in GISTs, mutation of *c-kit*,

expression and activation of KIT and proteins and the status of MAPK pathway were analyzed by PCR-SSCP, Western blotting and Immunoprecipitation in 20 cases of GISTs (4 cases of benign tumors, 9 cases of borderline tumors and 7 cases of malignant tumors). Additionally we performed 2-dimensional electrophoresis(DE) method in 12 cases of GISTs in order to identify the related proteins with *c-kit* alteration.

C-kit mutations were found frequently (14/20, 70%) in GISTs. Among the 14 mutations, 8 were deletions, 4 were point mutations and 2 were insertions. Furthermore, all cases with *c-kit* mutation showed KIT overexpression whereas normal mucosa did not. However, the activation of KIT was infrequently. The ERK activities were lower than those of normal mucosas in GISTs regardless of *c-kit* mutations and/or overexpression of KIT. By analyzing 2DE method, we identified 15 protein spots alternated according to tumor grade, and 18 protein spots were alternated according to *c-kit* mutation.

These results suggest that the mutations of *c-kit* were closely related to the KIT overexpression, however were not related to KIT activation and also were not related to the activation status of mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) pathway.

Key Words : gastrointestinal stromal tumor, GIST, *c-kit*, KIT, MAPK pathway