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Application of metabolomics in
prediction of lymph node metastasis in
papillary thyroid carcinoma

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Directed by Professor Jin Young Kwak

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Doctor of Philosophy

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ABSTRACT

Application of metabolomics in prediction of lymph node metastasis in papillary
thyroid carcinoma

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Purpose: The aim of this study was to find useful metabolites to predict lymph node (LN) metastasis in patients with papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) through a metabolomics approach and investigate the potential role of metabolites as a novel prognostic marker.

Materials and methods: Fifty-two consecutive patients (median age: 41.5 years, range 15-74 years) were enrolled who underwent total thyroidectomy and central LN

dissection with or without lateral LN dissection in Severance Hospital between October 2013 and July 2015. The study specimens were provided by the Severance Hospital Gene Bank, and consisted of PTC from each patient. The specimens were prepared for proton nuclear magnetic resonance ($^1\text{H-NMR}$) spectroscopy. Spectral data by $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectroscopy were acquired, processed, and analyzed. Patients were grouped in three ways, according to the presence of LN metastasis, central LN metastasis and lateral LN metastasis. Chi-square test and the student t-test were used to analyze categorical variables and continuous variables, respectively. The Mann-Whitney U test was used for univariate analysis of metabolites. Orthogonal projections to latent structure discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) was used for multivariate analysis to discriminate metabolic differences between the two groups.

Results: Among 52 patients, 32 had central LN metastasis and 19 had lateral LN metastasis. No clinical or histopathological characteristic was significantly different for all comparisons. On univariate analysis, no metabolite showed significant difference for all comparisons. On multivariate analysis, OPLS-DA did not discriminate the presence and absence of LN metastasis. Lactate was found to be the most promising metabolite.

Conclusion: No metabolite could discriminate the presence of LN metastasis. However, lactate was found to be the most promising metabolite for discrimination. Further studies with larger sample sizes are needed to elucidate significant metabolites which can indicate the presence of LN metastasis in patients with PTC.

Key words : Papillary thyroid cancer, lymph node metastasis, metabolomics, proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy

Application of metabolomics in prediction of lymph node metastasis in papillary
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I. INTRODUCTION

The incidence of thyroid cancer has increased worldwide during the last few decades and it is now the most common endocrine malignancy ^{1,2}. Papillary thyroid cancer (PTC) is the most common histologic type, accounting for 85% to 90% of thyroid malignancies ³. Most patients with PTC have excellent prognosis, with the 10-year survival rate being about 90% ^{3,4}. However, some patient subsets suffer from more aggressive PTC characterized by recurrent disease, lymph node (LN) or distant metastasis ⁵. These patients may need more extensive surgery including total thyroidectomy with therapeutic or prophylactic LN dissection and postoperative radioactive iodine (RAI) ablation ⁶. Therefore, being able to predict risk is important

and would help stratify patients for proper treatment ⁷.

Several prognostic factors have been discovered including patient age at diagnosis, size and extent of the primary tumor, cervical LN metastasis, and occurrence of distant metastasis ^{8,9}. Of these prognostic factors, it is LN metastasis that is associated with an increased incidence of recurrence ¹⁰. The incidence of central and lateral LN metastasis has been reported about 50-60% and 4.1-42.6%, respectively depending on the study ¹¹⁻¹³. Ultrasound plays main role in detection and characterization of cervical LN and ultrasound-guided fine-needle aspiration biopsy (FNAB) is the main diagnostic tool for the diagnosis of metastatic cervical LN in patient with PTC ¹⁴. However even under ultrasound guidance, approximately 5-10% of the FNAB results of cervical LN might be nondiagnostic and 6-8% might be false negative ¹⁵.

Advances in genetic research and molecular biology have discovered several genetic changes behind thyroid cancer ¹⁶. The RAS mutation, RET/PTC rearrangement, and PAX8-peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor γ 1 fusion are important oncogenic genetic alterations in thyroid cancer ¹⁷⁻¹⁹. Also, the BRAF^{V600E} mutation results from a single thymine-to-adenosine transversion which is a high specific marker for PTC ^{7,20}. The BRAF^{V600E} mutation is useful when diagnosing PTC, especially in cases in which the cytologic results only provide suspicious results for PTC ²¹. However, the association between the BRAF^{V600E} mutation and LN metastasis remains under question ²²⁻²⁴.

Metabolomics is a new field in biological science, which uses analytic tools in conjunction with pattern recognition approaches and bioinformatics ²⁵. The metabolome is the final downstream product of gene expression; thus, it reflects changes in the transcriptome and the proteome ²⁶. Alterations in metabolic processes occur during carcinoma development and progression, along with histologic and cytologic changes ²⁷. Understanding the biochemistry of cancer may enable the development of powerful diagnostic tools and the identification of new biomarkers ²⁸. Several studies have proven that the metabolomics approach allows the characterization of different types of malignancies in other organs ²⁹⁻³¹. For example, the presence of 2-hydroxyglutarate which is a metabolite detected by magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) correlated with mutations in isocitrate dehydrogenase 1 or 2 (*IDH1*, 2) in the patients with gliomas of brain ³². *IDH1* or *IDH2* mutation is a significant marker of positive prognosis and chemosensitivity ³³. In the patients with breast cancer, the combined magnetic resonance (MR) protocol of dynamic contrast-enhanced MR imaging and proton nuclear magnetic resonance (¹H-NMR) spectroscopy improved sensitivity and specificity in the diagnosis of breast cancer ³⁰.

Several studies have applied metabolomics to PTC ^{34,35}. To our knowledge, little is known about the association between metabolomics and the presence of LN metastasis in PTC. The aim of our study was to investigate metabolic differences according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis in patients with PTC in the search for a potential novel prognostic marker.

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board of Severance Hospital, Yonsei University College of Medicine in Seoul, Korea.

1. Patients and sample collection

Patients who underwent total thyroidectomy and central LN dissection with or without lateral LN dissection in Severance Hospital between October 2013 and July 2015 were enrolled in this study. The specimens for this study were provided by the Severance Hospital Gene Bank, and consisted of conventional PTC from each patient. All samples were obtained with informed consent under institutional review board-approved protocols. Samples were snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen immediately after surgery and then stored at -70°C . All of the data were securely protected while being made available only to investigators and analyzed anonymously.

2. Preparation of tissue extracts

Frozen thyroid samples were finely ground in a mortar under liquid nitrogen. Perchloric acid (4%; 1:4, w/v) was added to each sample, followed by centrifugation at 20,000 g for 15 min. The supernatant was transferred to a new tube where chloroform/tri-n-octylamine (78%/22%; v/v) was added in a 1:2 volumetric ratio to increase the pH to ~6. The samples were centrifuged at 20,000 g for 15 min. The aqueous phase was removed and transferred to a microfuge tube, and then lyophilized.

200L of deuterium oxide (99.96%; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories) was added to each sample and the pH was adjusted to 7.0 with 0.2-1L of 1M sodium deuterioxide (99.5%; Cambridge Isotope Laboratories). The pH-neutral samples were then centrifuged at 15,000 g for 1 min., and the supernatant was then removed and placed in a 3-mm NMR tube for subsequent NMR analysis.

3. Proton NMR spectroscopy

^1H -NMR spectroscopy was performed on a Bruker Avanc spectrometer (Bruker Instruments, Billerica, MA) operating at a proton NMR frequency of 700.40 MHz (16.45 Tesla). A one-dimensional CPMG (Carr-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill) pulse sequence was used to obtain thyroid metabolite profiles with a 90 degree pulse length of about 7 μs . The water signal was suppressed using a selective excitation pulse followed by a pulsed field gradient in the z-axis. The spectral acquisition parameters were as follows: 16K complex data points, 8417 Hz sweep width, 2.0 s acquisition time, 2.0 s relaxation delay, 1.5 s presaturation time (5.5 s total time of repetition (TR)), 1.0 ms interpulse delay (2 ms time of echo (TE)), 32 number of transients, 20.2 receiver gain and total acquisition time of 5 min. An experimental line broadening function of 0.2 Hz and automatic zero-filing of a factor of 2 was applied to each FID prior to Fourier transformation. ^1H -NMR spectra were manually corrected for phase and baseline distortion using TOPSPIN 3.5 (Bruker Instruments, Billerica, MA) and referenced to the trimethylsilyl propionic acid (TSP) signal (0.0 ppm).

4. Data and statistical analysis

All $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectra were processed and analyzed using Chenomx NMR Suite 7.7 software (Chenomx, Edmonton, Canada). Post-processing consisted of Fourier transformation, phasing and baseline correction. Chemical shifts were referenced to TSP at 0.0 ppm. Spectral regions from 0.5 to 9.0 ppm [Isoleucine (Iso), Leucine (Leu), Valine (Val), Threonine (Thr), Lactate (Lac), Alanine (Ala), Uracil (Ura), Lysine (Lys), Glutamate (Glu), Methionine (Met), Aspartate (Asp), Free choline (Cho), Phosphocholine (PC), Glycerophosphocholine (GPC), Taurine (Tau), Myo-inositol (m-Ins), Glycine (Gly), Phosphoethanolamine (PE), Inosine (Ino), Tyrosine (Tyr), Hypoxanthine (Hyp), Formate (For), Succinate (Suc), and Uridine (Uri)] were selected for quantification. The peak amplitudes of the metabolites were measured by fitting a Voigt (e.g., Gauss+Lorentz) line-shape function. Metabolites [mM] were quantified by comparing the integrated TSP signal to the metabolite signal.

Patients were grouped into two groups in three different ways, according to the following factors: the presence or absence of LN metastasis, central LN metastasis, and lateral LN metastasis. Normality was assessed using the Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests. Chi-square analysis was used to analyze categorical variables and the student t-test was used to analyze continuous variables. $^1\text{H-NMR}$ spectroscopic data were analyzed using the Mann-Whitney U test because the results of the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test were statistically significant (p -value <0.05), which indicated that the data did not follow a normal distribution.

For multivariate analysis of spectral data, Matlab R2012a (MathWorks, Natick, MA), SIMCA-P version-13.0 software (Umetrics, Sweden), and Excel (Microsoft, Seattle, WA) programs were used. The spectral data were normalized to the total spectral area. The spectral region between 0.5 and 10 ppm was divided into bins of 0.01 ppm width. The water region from 4.6 ppm to 4.9 ppm was excluded prior to the analysis. The binned data were aligned using the icoshift algorithm in Matlab ³⁶, and were converted to the SIMCA-P format in Excel. Pareto scaling was used to preprocess the data. The intensity of each metabolite was normalized to the total intensity before statistical analysis. Orthogonal projections to latent structure discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) is one of the popular methods for multivariate analysis in metabolomics ³⁷. Before OPLS-DA was performed, data were variable stability (VAST) scaled, with the standard deviation and the variation coefficients of the metabolites as scaling factors ³⁸. OPLS-DA were performed to maximize the separation between the two groups of interest. Statistical analyses were conducted using statistical software (R, Statistical Package version 3.3.3; R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria; www.R-project.org). The muma package was used to perform OPLS-DA ³⁹.

III. RESULTS

Tissue samples from 52 patients were available during the study period. The median age of the patients was 41.5 years (range 15-74 years). Twelve patients were

male and 40 were female. The median tumor size was 23 mm (range 13-40 mm). Among the patients, 32 had central LN metastasis and 19 had lateral LN metastasis. All patients with lateral LN metastasis had central LN metastasis as well, thus the results of comparison in two ways; according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis and central LN metastasis were identical. Therefore the comparisons were analyzed in two ways according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis or lateral LN metastasis. Four patients had distant metastasis.

No clinical or histopathological characteristic was significantly different for all comparisons when the patients were classified into two groups according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis or the presence or absence of lateral LN metastasis. Patient demographics and histopathological characteristics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Patient demographics and clinicopathologic characteristics

Variable	Total	‡LN metastasis		P-value	Lateral LN metastasis		P-value
		(+)	(-)		(+)	(-)	
Number of patients	52	32 (61.5%)	20 (38.5 %)		19 (36.5 %)	33 (63.5%)	
Age	41.5 (15-74)	37 (15-66)	42.5 (16-74)	0.328	35 (15-60)	43 (16-74)	0.139
Gender							
Male	12 (23.1%)	7	5	0.795	6	13	0.270
Female	40 (76.9%)	25	15		6	27	
Primary tumor size (mm)	23 (13-40)	23 (13-40)	23 (14-37)	0.563	20 (13-40)	23 (14-37)	0.895
Distant metastasis	4 (7.7%)	4	0	0.100	4	0	0.014

* Note – Unless otherwise specified, the data are the medians (range).

‡LN, lymph node.

¹H-NMR spectroscopy quantified 24 metabolites in normal and PTC tissues. On univariate analysis, no metabolite showed significant difference between two groups classified according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis or the presence or absence of lateral LN metastasis (Table 2).

Table 2. Comparison of metabolites obtained by ¹H-NMR spectroscopy between patient groups classified by the presence of lymph node metastasis and lateral lymph node metastasis

Metabolite concentration (mM)	¹ LN metastasis			Lateral LN metastasis		
	(+)	(-)	<i>P</i> -value	(+)	(-)	<i>P</i> -value
Number of patients	32	20		19	33	
Isoleucine	0.02 (0.01-0.47)	0.03 (0.00-0.47)	0.821	0.02 (0.01-0.16)	0.02 (0.00-0.47)	0.924
Leucine	0.05 (0.01-0.16)	0.06 (0.01-1.02)	0.880	0.05 (0.01-0.41)	0.05 (0.01-1.02)	0.761
Valine	0.06 (0.02-0.34)	0.06 (0.02-0.79)	0.940	0.05 (0.02-0.34)	0.06 (0.02-0.80)	0.642
Lactate	1.70 (0.61-10.51)	1.57 (0.39-7.11)	0.328	1.66 (0.61-10.51)	1.70 (0.39-7.11)	0.500

Threonine	0.07 (0.04-2.97)	0.08 (0.03-0.97)	0.873	0.07 (0.04-2.97)	0.08 (0.03-0.97)	0.518
Alanine	0.15 (0.04-0.58)	0.14 (0.03-1.50)	0.940	0.13 (0.04-0.58)	0.16 (0.03-1.50)	0.635
Uracil	0.02 (0.01-0.09)	0.02 (0.01-0.12)	0.461	0.03 (0.01-0.09)	0.16 (0.01-0.12)	0.218
Lysine	0.07 (0.02-0.56)	0.10 (0.01-1.15)	0.918	0.12 (0.02-0.56)	0.06 (0.01-1.15)	0.337
Glutamate	0.25 (0.08-2.51)	0.29 (0.04-2.53)	0.665	0.25 (0.10-0.56)	0.25 (0.04-2.53)	0.601
Methionine	0.04 (0.01-0.16)	0.04 (0.01-0.25)	0.397	0.04 (0.01-0.16)	0.04 (0.01-0.25)	0.655
Aspartate	0.07 (0.02-0.52)	0.06 (0.01-0.67)	0.288	0.07 (0.02-0.52)	0.07 (0.01-0.67)	0.464
Choline	0.03 (0.01-0.22)	0.03 (0.01-0.19)	0.714	0.03 (0.01-0.22)	0.03 (0.01-0.19)	0.635
Phosphocholine	0.19 (0.04-1.04)	0.20 (0.05-0.72)	0.925	0.21 (0.04-0.99)	0.19 (0.04-1.04)	0.655
Glycerophosphocholine	0.06 (0.02-616.00)	0.07 (0.02-0.25)	0.880	0.06 (0.03-0.41)	0.06 (0.02-616.0)	0.842
e						
Taurine	0.55 (0.16-1.58)	0.50 (0.08-2.39)	0.763	0.52 (0.24-1.58)	0.50 (0.08-2.39)	0.512
Myo-inositol	1.21	1.40	0.652	1.14	1.25	0.798

	(0.27-4.71)	(0.24-4.25)		(0.27-4.71)	(0.24-4.25)	
Glycine	0.14 (0.04-0.98)	0.14 (0.04-2.06)	0.585	0.11 (0.04-0.98)	0.15 (0.04-2.06)	0.992
Phosphoethanolamine	0.35 (0.05-0.1.88)	0.54 (0.11-1.61)	0.560	0.31 (0.11-1.88)	0.44 (0.05-1.61)	0.992
Inosine	0.02 (0.00-0.13)	0.02 (0.00-0.12)	0.301	0.02 (0.00-0.13)	0.02 (0.00-0.13)	0.909
Tyrosine	0.02 (0.00-0.16)	0.02 (0.00-0.44)	0.893	0.02 (0.01-0.16)	0.02 (0.00-0.44)	0.270
Hypoxanthine	0.02 (0.00-0.16)	0.04 (0.01-0.51)	0.293	0.03 (0.01-0.16)	0.02 (0.00-0.51)	0.585
Formate	0.20 (0.01-0.89)	0.13 (0.00-0.48)	0.185	0.19 (0.05-0.89)	0.15 (0.00-0.48)	0.275
Succinate	0.02 (0.01-0.76)	0.03 (0.00-0.52)	0.297	0.02 (0.01-0.76)	0.02 (0.00-0.52)	0.790
Uridine	0.01 (0.00-0.02)	0.01 (0.00-0.02)	0.917	0.01 (0.00-0.02)	0.01 (0.00-0.23)	0.551

* Note – Unless otherwise specified, the data are the medians (range).

[†]LN, lymph node.

OPLS-DA was performed to separate patients into two groups for each comparison. OPLS-DA score plots did not separate the two groups clearly for all three comparisons. When patients were classified according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis and central LN metastasis, the OPLS-DA score plot exhibited nonseparation between the two groups (A in Fig 1). The corresponding OPLS-DA loading S-plot showed that lactate which was located in the left lower section of the S-plot was the most important metabolite to discriminate two groups (B in Fig 1). When patients were classified according to the presence or absence of lateral LN metastasis, the OPLS-DA score plot exhibited nonseparation between the two groups (A in Fig 2) and the corresponding OPLS-DA loading S-plot showed that lactate in the left lower section of the S-plot and myo-inositol in the right upper section were the most important metabolites to discriminate two groups divided according to presence or absence of lateral LN metastasis (B in Fig 2).

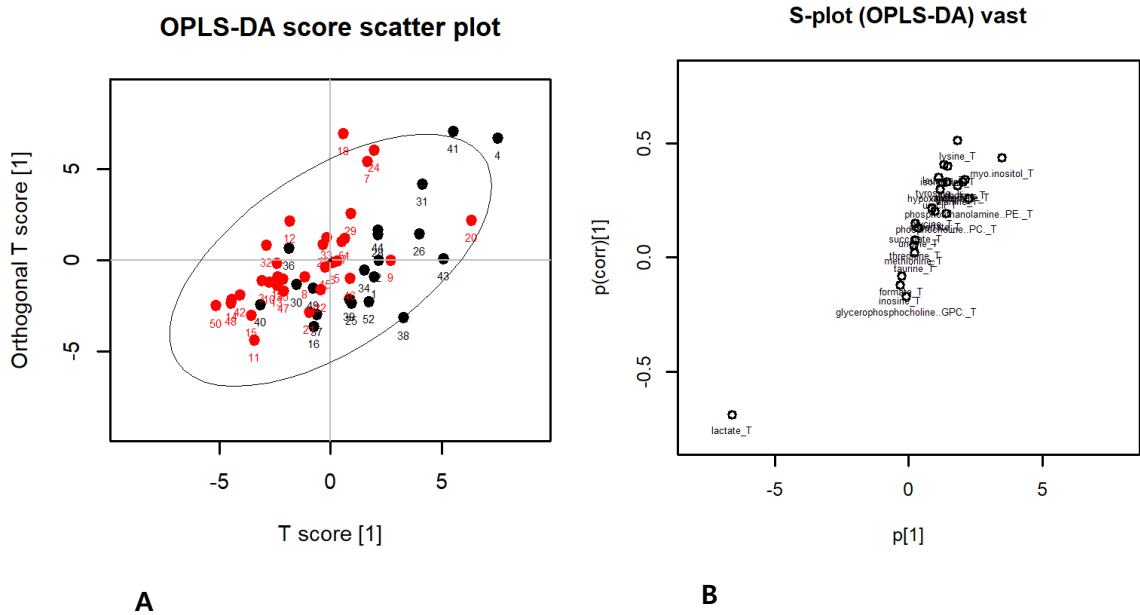


Figure 1. (A) OPLS-DA score plot for lymph node metastasis. Red dots represent patients with lymph node metastasis and black dots represents patient without lymph node metastasis. The x-axis is the first component from OPLS-DA and the y-axis is the corresponding orthogonal score. (B) OPLS-DA loading S-plot for lymph node metastasis. The x-axis is the covariation and the y-axis is the corresponding orthogonal score. The metabolites situated at the upper right or lower left sections are statistically relevant and represent possible discriminating variables.

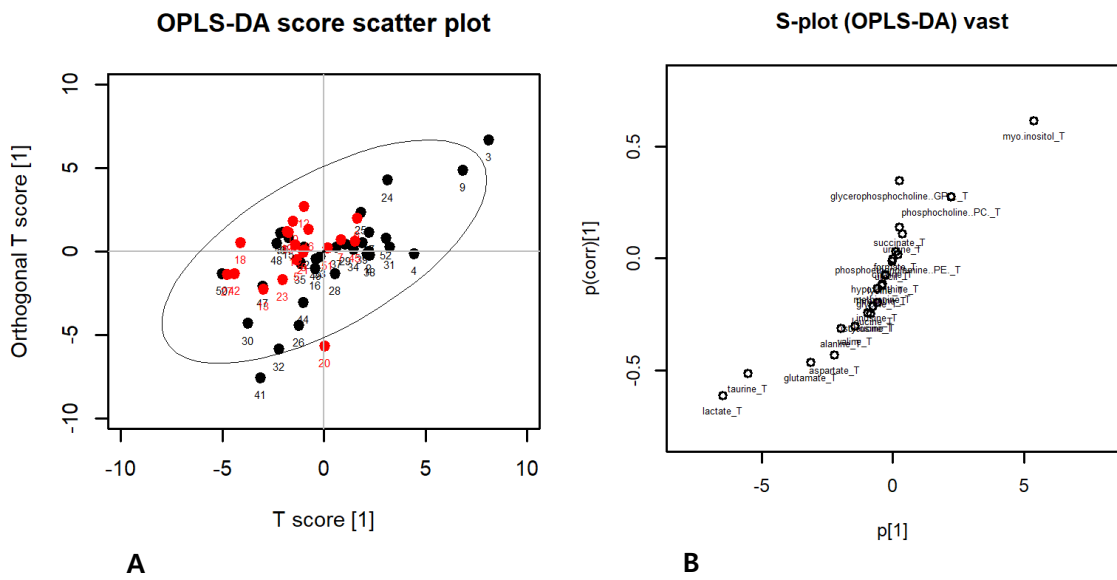


Figure 2. (A) OPLS-DA score plot for lateral lymph node metastasis. Red dots represent patients with lateral lymph node metastasis and black dots represents patient without lateral lymph node metastasis. The x-axis is the first component from OPLS-DA and the y-axis is the corresponding orthogonal score. (B) OPLS-DA loading S-plot for lateral lymph node metastasis. The x-axis is the covariation and the y-axis is the corresponding orthogonal score. The metabolites situated at the upper right or lower left sections are statistically relevant and represent possible discriminating variables.

IV. DISCUSSION

The aim of this study was to explore metabolic differences in PTC according to the presence or absence of LN metastasis. We found that no metabolite could discriminate the two groups. However, lactate was found to be the most promising metabolite for discrimination.

Metabolomics is the analytic study of the metabolome, which differs in cancer cells and represents alteration of metabolic processes, and understanding the metabolome will allow deeper understanding of carcinoma development ²⁷. Several previous studies have applied metabolomics to PTC. In earlier times, studies were conducted to identify metabolic differences between thyroid neoplasms and normal thyroid tissue ³⁴. Normal thyroid tissue presented a higher level of lipids as well as lower levels of alanine, lactate and choline compared to neoplastic tissue ³⁴.

Subsequent studies focused on discriminating benign and malignant thyroid neoplasms such as follicular adenoma or goiter nodules ^{40,41}. Recent studies further revealed that NMR spectroscopy could be applied to percutaneous FNA samples ^{42,43}. In these studies, malignant thyroid nodules were found to show higher relative concentrations of lactate and choline ⁴³. The results indicated that the NMR spectra of FNA cytology samples were similar to those of surgical specimens; hence, it had the potential to detect and classify thyroid tumors before surgery ⁴². Furthermore, there was an attempt to discriminate nodular thyroid disease by analyzing urine and serum using ¹H-NMR spectroscopy ⁴⁴. In this study, metabolomics could discriminate

healthy controls from non-neoplastic nodules, follicular adenoma and PTC ⁴⁴. Increased lactate levels were observed in the blood serum of patients with nodular thyroid disease compared to healthy controls ⁴⁴.

To our knowledge, this was the first research to discriminate the presence of metastatic LN in patients with PTC using ¹H-NMR spectroscopy. Although our results failed to discriminate patients with and without LN metastasis, our data suggested the possibility of lactate being the most promising metabolite to predict LN metastasis. Lactate has been previously reported to increase in cancer ⁴⁵. Lactate reflects two important characteristics of biological changes that occur in tumor metabolism. First, tumor hypoxia shifts cellular energy production toward glycolysis from which lactate is generated as a by-product ⁴⁵. Second, it reflects aerobic glycolysis which tumors exhibit even if oxygen is present ⁴⁶. The importance of lactate is that it may indicate a more aggressive tumor phenotype that expresses LN metastasis in cancers of other organs ^{45,47}. In this study, lactate stood out as the most promising metabolite to represent the group with LN metastasis ⁴⁷.

There are some limitations to this study. First, it is a retrospective study. Second, we performed ex vivo spectroscopy using surgical specimens. In vivo ¹H-NMR spectroscopy is the most optimal diagnostic method for the preoperative diagnosis of thyroid nodules and prediction of prognosis. However, as performing in vivo ¹H-NMR spectroscopy can be complicated by various issues such as thyroid movement during respiration or shimming difficulty due to large susceptibility

differences between the neck and air in trachea, we decided to perform ex vivo ^1H -NMR spectroscopy ⁴⁸. Third, our study was done with a small sample size and the proportion of patients with LN metastasis was relatively high which may explain the failure to discriminate LN metastasis.

V. CONCLUSION

Our data suggest that lactate may be used to predict LN metastasis and prognosis in patients with PTC. Further studies with larger sample sizes are needed to elucidate significant metabolites which can indicate the presence of LN metastasis in patients with PTC.

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ABSTRACT(IN KOREAN)

대사체학을 이용한 갑상선 유두암의 림프절 전이 예측

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서 지 원

연구목적: 갑상선 유두암 환자에서 대사체학을 이용하여 림프절 전이를 예측할 수 있는 대사체를 발견한다. 또한 이 대사체의 새로운 예후 예측인자로서 가능성을 평가한다.

연구방법: 2013년 10월부터 2015년 7월까지 세브란스 병원에서 갑상선 전절제술과 중앙 경부 림프절 절제술을 받은 환자 52명을 대상으로 하였다. 이중 일부 환자는 측부 경부 림프절 절제술을 같이 시행하였다. 연구 검체는 세브란스 병원 유전자 은행에서 각 환자의 갑상선 유두암 검체를 제공 받았다. 검체는 전처치를 한 후 양성자 핵자기공명 분광법 (proton nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy) 을 시행하였다. 환자는 경부 림프절 전이 유무, 중앙 경부 림프절 전이 유무, 그리고 측부 경부 림프절 전이 유무에 따라 두 군으로 나누어 각각 비교하였다. 범주형 자료는 카이제곱 검정, 연속형 자료는 독립표본 T 검정으로 비교하였다. 각 군의 대사체 값 비교는 Mann-Whitney U test 로 비교하였다. 두 군 사이의 다변수 분석은 orthogonal projections to latent structure discriminant analysis (OPLS-DA) 로 분석하였다.

연구결과: 52명 중 32명이 중앙 경부 림프절 전이가 있었고 19명은 측부 경부 림프절 전이가 있었다. 세가지 방법으로 나누어 비교한 모든 경우에서 유의하게 차이를 보이는 임상적 또는 조직학적 특성은 없었다. 단변수 분석에서 두 군 사이에 유의하게 차이를 보이는 대사체는 없었다. 다변수 분석에서 OPLS-DA 로 두 군을 구별하지 못하였다. 대사체 중에는 lactate 가 가장 중요한 대사체로 밝혀졌다.

결론: 어떤 대사체도 경부 림프절 전이를 예측할 수 없었다. 그러나 lactate 가 대사체 중 가장 중요한 대사체임이 밝혀졌다. 앞으로 더 많은 환자 군을 대상으로 연구하여 경부 림프절 전이를 예측할 수 있는 대사체를 발견하기 위한 연구가 필요할 것으로 보인다.

핵심되는 말: 갑상선 유두암, 림프절 전이, 대사체학, 양성자 핵자기공명 분광법