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Clinicopathological characteristics of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma with invasive micropapillary carcinoma component with emphasis on the usefulness of PKCζ immunostaining for detection of reverse polarity

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Introduction : Invasive micropapillary carcinoma (IMPC) is a rare distinct histopathological subtype, characterized by the presence of carcinoma cells displaying reverse polarity. Only limited clinicopathological information is available regarding pancreatic IMPC. The aim of the present study is to clarify the clinicopathological features of pancreatic IMPC and the usefulness of PKC ζ immunostaining for the detection of reverse polarity.

Methods : We reviewed 242 consecutive surgically resected specimens of pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma and selected samples with an IMPC component. Clinicopathological characteristics were compared between the IMPC and non-IMPC groups. Immunohistochemical staining for PKCζ was performed using an autostainer.

Results : Fourteen cases had an IMPC component (5.8%). The extent of IMPC component ranged from 5% to 20%. There were no significant differences in tumor location, T category, lymph node metastatic status, preoperative CA19-9 level, resection status, and overall survival between the IMPC and non-IMPC groups. Immunostaining for PKC ζ clearly showed reverse polarity of the neoplastic cells of IMPC.

Conclusions : Although previous reports have shown that presence of IMPC component (>20% of the tumor) indicated poor prognosis, this study demonstrated that presence of IMPC of less than 20% did not suggest a worse prognosis.

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