Clinical usefulness of MMP-2 and TIMP-2 concentrations in the preoperative serum of patients with colorectal cancer


1. Department of General Pathomorphology, Medical University of Białystok, Poland
2. 2nd Department of General Surgery and Gastroenterology, Medical University of Białystok, Poland
3. Department of Clinical Laboratory Diagnostics, Medical University of Białystok, Poland
4. Department of Human Anatomy, Medical University of Białystok, Poland

ABSTRACT

Purpose: To evaluate the clinical significance of MMP-2 and TIMP-2 concentrations in the sera of patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Methods: The study group comprised 48 patients with colorectal carcinoma and 24 healthy controls. The serum concentration of MMP-2 and TIMP-2 proteins was evaluated by the ELISA method.

Results: The mean level of MMP-2 in the sera of patients with colorectal cancer was 39.4 ng/ml and was significantly lower compared with the control (p<0.001). A decrease in TIMP-2 protein in the sera of patients with colorectal cancer was also observed where its mean level was 132.3 ng/ml. The concentration of MMP-2 and TIMP-2 did not correlate with any clinicopathological parameters, except for the patients’ age. In addition, the concentration of MMP-2 in the sera of patients with CRC correlated negatively with the number of white blood cells in the blood and the prothrombin index. The concentration of TIMP-2 correlated positively with potassium and urea concentration in the blood.

Conclusions: The results of our study indicate lack of clinical usefulness of determining the levels of MMP-2 and TIMP-2 in the sera of patients with colorectal cancer. However, these proteins play an important role in the carcinogenesis of colorectal cancer.

Key words: Colorectal cancer, matrix metalloproteinases, MMP-2, TIMP-2, serum marker

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