

Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor: Correlation with the Different Stages of Papillary Bladder Tumors

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Abstract:

To evaluate the difference in immunohistochemical expression of vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF) among the different stages of papillary bladder tumors, to assess the potentiality of VEGF expression as a risk factor in tumor stage progression in superficial papillary urinary bladder tumors, to examine the ability of this marker in identifying the invasion of muscularis propria when uncertain or equivocal, and to assess if anti-VEGF drugs could be introduced as adjuvant therapy in superficial bladder papillary tumors and precursor lesions. Fifty cases of papillary bladder tumors of different stages were collected from various labs and institutes and stained for VEGF immunostain. The VEGF immun-expression was seen to be gradually increased with tumor progression, with significant difference between the papillary bladder neoplasm of low malignant potential (PUNLMP) group and other groups (P value 0.034), and insignificant difference between the Ta and T1 groups (P value = 0.36). Diffuse strong positive staining was statistically significantly associated with muscle invasion (T2- staging), ($P \sim 0.012$). VEGF could be added as a risk factor for disease progression in cases of papillary bladder neoplasms, moreover, in cases of absent muscularis propria or uncertain invasion diffuse strong positivity of the tumor cells could be helping factor in muscle invasion prediction.

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