Viral Hepatocarcinogensis and Signaling Pathways

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Liver Cancer





Risk of HCC Development



Introduction

- Two signal transduction pathways are activated in over 90% of HBV and HCV related HCC and appear important in the pathogenesis of this disease
- Insulin/IGF/IRS-1/MAPK signaling pathway
- Wnt/Fzd/ β -catenin signaling cascade



Hypothesis

- Develop a transgenic mouse model where the IN/IRS-1/MAPK and the Wnt/β-Catenin signaling cascades are activated
- Explore if dual pathway activation is necessary and sufficient to transform the mammalian liver



Methods Transgenic mouse models IRS-1/ATX Wild-type ATX IRS-1 B6C3 / anti-trypsin promoter FVB/ albumin promoter Age for 12-18 months Harvest liver Histopathology Gene analysis



Analysis of Genotypes by RT- PCR



Normal liver from IRS-1/HBx double transgenic mouse at 3 months of age.





Severe hepatic dysplasia in a IRS-1/HBx double transgenic mouse





Microscopic HCC tumor in IRS-1/HBx double transgenic mouse





Gross HCC tumor in IRS-1/HBx double transgenic mouse





HCC tumor formation in male and female IRS-1/HBx double transgenic mice.





Hepatocyte Proliferation in the Liver of Transgenic Mice at 15 Months of Age



Cell proliferation, β -catenin accumulation, oxidative stress and lipid peroxidation





Expression of Insulin Like Growth Factors



Constitutive Expression mRNA levels of FZD7 and Wnt3 in Transgenic Mice





HBx/IRS-1 Mice Develop HCC





Summary

- Constitutive over-expression of IRS-1 and HBx promotes hepatocyte dysplasia and HCC
- Activation of the IN/IGF/IRS-1/MAPK and Wnt/β-catenin signaling cascades is necessary and sufficient to transform mammalian hepatocytes
- The double HBx/IRS-1 transgenic mouse model replicates many of the cellular and molecular abnormalities found in human HCC

Collaborators

Brown University

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