学位論文の要旨

三 重 大 学

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主論文の題名

Down-regulation of trefoil factor-3 expression in the rectum is associated with the development of ulcerative colitis-associated cancer

主論文の要旨

Diagnostic markers can facilitate more selective screening and treatment strategies for ulcerative colitis (UC)-associated cancer (UCAC). We analyzed trefoil factor 3 (TFF3), which has an important role in mucosal protection and repair in the gastrointestinal tract, and evaluated its significance for UCAC. We enrolled 145 patients with UC who underwent proctocolectomies including 15 patients (10.8%) with UCAC. We assessed TFF3 expression immunohistochemically in their rectal mucosa and in cancer cells, and compared their expression in UCAC and sporadic colorectal cancer. In testing mucinous granules of goblet cells located in crypts, we found that non-cancerous rectal mucosa of UCAC patients had significantly lower (P < 0.01) mean TFF3 staining scores (4.53 ± 2.36) than did specimens of patients with UC without UCAC (7.21 ± 3.38) or sporadic cancer (7.58 ± 2.72). TFF3 staining score was an independent predictor of UCAC development (odds ratio: 4.32, confidence interval: 1.01-29.9, P = 0.05). These results indicate that low TFF3 expression in rectal mucosa is associated with the development of UCAC. Thus, TFF3 in the rectal mucosa may be a useful biomarker for monitoring patients with UC.