DIFFERENT GENE EXPRESSION OF MMP-1 IN GI TRACT CANCERS AND LIVER CANCERS

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Interstitial collagenase (MMP-1) is a candidate for tumor growth and invasion. The responsible cells for MMP-1 production, however, remains unknown. The authors have investigated gene expression of MMP-1 in tissues of GI tract cancers and liver cancers by in situ hybridization using cDNA specific for MMP-1 reported earlier. In all of GI tract cancers intense silver grains representing mRNA for MMP-1 were noted in the stromal cells of fibrous tissue at the advancing front and/or within cancer lesions. No definite expression, however, was observed in all cancer cells of GI tract. On the other hand, liver cancers showed very different gene expression of MMP-1. Well some of differentiated hepatocellular cancer cells had positive grains, but the stromal cells of fibrous capsule bordering cancer lesions and non-cancer lesions did not.