EPIDEMIOLOGY

PREVALENCE OF EPSTEIN-BARR VIRUS IN ORAL LICHEN PLANUS AND ACTINIC CHEILLITIS IN KOREA.

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Background: EVB infection varies by race and region, and the cause of oral lichen planus (OLP) also varies by genetic, psychological, and infectious factors. Until now, the correlation between EBV and OLP has been the discussed by a few studies, in which several techniques for Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) detection have been used. Actinic cheilitis (AC) is sometimes difficult to clinically and histologically distinguish from OLP on the lip. There has been no report that AC is associated with EBV.

Objective: To evaluate the prevalence of EBV between in histologically diagnosed OLP cases and AC cases as control.

Materials and methods: The study was conducted on formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue specimens of 30 OLP cases and 30 AC cases. We also evaluated the medical records including age, gender, localization and the histopathological type. The presence of EBV was investigated with in situ hybridization. With each specimen, known EBV positive tissue was used as positive control tissues.

Results: A total of 30 cases of OLP and 30 cases of AC were included in the study. The average age of patients was 64 years and 54, and the total sex ratio (male-to-female) was 9:21 and 21:9 respectively. In OLP patients, 20 patients had lesions in buccal mucosa and 10 in lower lip. On the other hand, all AC patients had lesions in lower lip. In in situ hybridization analysis of EBV, all case revealed the absence of EBV virus both in OLP and AC.

Conclusion: Unlike the results of other studies to demonstrate that the EBV virus is involved in the etiopathogenesis of OLP, in this study, EBV was found in neither OLP nor AC. Therefore, the LP lesion of Korean patients has few possibility with pathologically related to EVB.