Contribution of the β-ureidopropionase (UPBI) gene alterations to the development of fluoropyrimidine-related toxicity

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Abstract:
Background: An impairment of the 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) catabolic pathway, represented by alterations in the dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPYD) gene, is considered a crucial factor contributing to the development of 5-FU-related toxicity. The β-ureidopropionase (BUPI) enzyme catalyzes the final step in the 5-FU catabolic pathway; however, alterations in the UPBI gene coding for the BUPI enzyme have not yet been analyzed in fluoropyrimidine (FP)-treated patients suffering from 5-FU-related toxicity.

Methods: We have performed a mutation analysis of the entire coding sequence of UPBI based on denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography in 113 cancer patients treated by FP-containing regimes. These patients included 67 individuals suffering from severe 5-FU-related toxicity and 46 individuals with excellent tolerance of chemotherapy.

Results: Nine UPBI variants were detected in the subpopulation of patients with severe toxicity, including a novel mutation affecting the coding sequence (c.872_873+1del). An analysis of UPBI variants on 5-FU-related toxicity in the population of all analyzed patients revealed an association between the c.-80C>G (rs2070474) variant and gastrointestinal toxicity. A strong positive correlation was found between the carriers of the c.-80 GG genotype and the development of severe (grade 3-4) mucositis (OR = 7.5; 95% CI = 2.60 – 21.60; p = 0.0002).

Conclusion: Our results suggest that UPBI variants may contribute to the development of 5-FU-related toxicity in some FP-treated patients; however, the role of UPBI alterations is probably less significant than that of DPYD alterations.

Key words: β-ureidopropionase (UPBI), β-alanine synthase, 5-fluorouracil, fluoropyrimidines, denaturing high-performance liquid chromatography (DHPLC), toxicity