Methylation of the *RASSF1A* gene promoter in Uigur women with cervical squamous cell carcinoma

Zemin Pan¹,², Jun Li², Xiaolin Pan², Shaoze Chen², Zhenbao Wang², Feng Li², Shen Qu¹, and Renfu Shao³

¹Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Basic Medical Science of Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei; ²Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, Shihezi University, Xinjiang Endemic and Ethnic Disease and Education Ministry Key Laboratory, Shihezi, Xinjiang, China; ³The University of Queensland, School of Molecular and Microbial Sciences, St Lucia, Queensland, Australia

ABSTRACT

Aims and background. To explore the relationship between methylation in promoter region 2 of the Ras association domain family 1A (*RASSF1A*) gene and cervical squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) in Uigur women living in the Xinjiang province of China.

Methods and study design. Methylation-specific polymerase chain reaction (MSP) was used to analyze 40 normal cervical epithelium samples and 65 cervical squamous cell carcinoma samples from Uigur women.

Results. We found methylation in promoter region 2 of *RASSF1A* in 13 of the 65 cervical squamous cell carcinoma samples (20%), but not in any of the 40 normal cervical epithelium tissues. In addition, there was methylation in 7 of 46 patients with no lymph node metastases and in 6 of 19 patients with lymph node metastases.

Conclusions. Our results indicate that methylation in the promoter region 2 of *RASSF1A* is likely associated with tumorigenesis of cervical squamous cell carcinoma in Uigur women. However, such methylation does not appear to be significantly associated with lymph node metastasis in this patient population.

Key words: cervical squamous cell carcinoma, *RASSF1A* tumor suppressor gene, CpG island methylation.

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Correspondence to: Zemin Pan, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Medicine, Shihezi University, Xinjiang Endemic and Ethnic Disease and Education Ministry Key Laboratory, Shihezi, Xinjiang 832002, China. Tel +86-993-2057882; fax +86-993-2057882; e-mail panzemin89@yahoo.com.cn

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