Expression of RON in colorectal cancer and its relationships with tumor cell behavior and prognosis

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ABSTRACT

Aims and background. The aims of the current study were to evaluate whether receptor d’origine nantais (RON) affects tumor cell behavior and oncogenic signaling pathways in colorectal cancer, and to examine the relationship of its expression with various clinicopathological parameters and patient survival.

Methods. Immunohistochemistry, Western blot and RT-PCR were used to detect the expression of the RON gene in human colorectal cancer tissue. To study the biological role of RON in tumor cell behavior and cellular signaling pathways, we used small interfering RNA (siRNA) to knock down RON gene expression in human colorectal cancer cell lines.

Results. Knockdown of RON inhibited the induction of the invasive growth phenotype and the activation of oncogenic signaling pathways including Akt, MAPK and β-catenin. RON overexpression was associated with tumor size, lymphovascular invasion, depth of invasion, lymph node metastasis, distant metastasis, tumor stage and poor survival.

Conclusions. These results suggest that RON overexpression may help in predicting poor clinical outcomes in colorectal cancer.

Key words: tyrosine kinase receptor, oncogenic phenotype, oncogenic signaling, colorectal neoplasm, prognosis.

Acknowledgments: This work was supported by a grant from the Korea Science & Engineering Foundation through the Medical Research Center for Gene Regulation (R13-2002-013-06002-0) at Chonnam National University, Republic of Korea, and partly by a grant (0720570) from the National R&D Program for Cancer Control, Ministry of Health & Welfare, Republic of Korea.

Conflict of interest statement: None declared.

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Received December 29, 2011; accepted June 13, 2012