## **Extracellular matrix deterioration**

#### Lessons from laryngeal and colorectal cancer

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### Proteoglycans: many forms and many functions



#### Membrane-bound PGs

#### **Extracellular PGs**



Protein core

Glycosaminoglycans

# Glycosaminoglycans

- A specific class of heteropolysaccharides
  - found mainly in the ECM
  - implicated in many physiological and pathological processes







CS/DS



Modification of CS/DS	
SC6ST-1 CS/DS Epimerase CQCQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQQ	GicA IdoA GaiNAc GaiNAc 4-0-S GaiNAc 4-0-S GaiNAc 4-0-S GaiNAc45 6-0-S GaiNAc43 6-0-S GaiNAc43 6-0-S

# Enzymes in GAGs biosynthesis

• Biosynthesis of HA • HAS1, HAS2, HAS3

- Biosynthesis of CS/DS CHSY1, CHSY2 (CHPF), CHSY3
  - C4ST1, CHST3
  - DSE, D4ST1

### Hyaluronan and colorectal cancer

Increased synthases activity



Increased CD44 expression





**Colorectal cancer** 

- Total CS/DS
- Increased synthases activity

Laryngeal cancer

- CS I DS Î
- ? synthases activity



CHSY1



**Colorectal cancer** 

- Total CS/DS
- Increased synthases activity









#### Laryngeal cancer

- cs | ds 1
- ? synthases activity







**Colorectal cancer** 

- Total CS/DS
- Increased synthases activity



Ν

С

a TISSUE

h

Ν

- 5

CHSY3 5 С

С

Ν

cHSY3

С

h a

86 kDa

Ш

Ш

cancer stage

#### CHSY3



- CS | DS Î
- ? synthases activity







**Colorectal cancer** 

CS increases more than DS



DSE



#### Laryngeal cancer

DS increases



DSE expression is controlled by methylation of the promoter region in certain samples

## CS/DS and colorectal cancer

- CS increases extremely more than DS at late stages
- D4ST1 activity



Methylation of the promoter region of the gene occurred at late stages

# CS/DS and laryngeal cancer

- CS biosynthesis is favored at late stages
- D4ST1 activity





The CpG island near the promoter region was fully unmethylated therefore it did not affect enzyme expression

## CS/DS and laryngeal cancer

- C-6S is present in less amounts than C-4S
  - C4ST1





• CHST3





## Extracellular degradation of PGs

#### by ADAMTs



by MMPs



The activity of extracellular proteases is regulated by TIMPs

### Gelatinases in laryngeal cancer







**T**3

T2



They appeared to be produced from only normal cells

Gelatinases' activity increased with tumor stage, even in macroscopically normal specimens

Their active forms appeared in cancer

### Gelatinases in laryngeal cancer

#### MMP-2



Gelatinases' expression increased Their translation appeared to be highly regulated

## Gelatinases in pancreatic cancer



There is a significant increase of both gelatinases, together with substantial increase of the ratio of pro-forms / active forms



#### Aggrecanases in laryngeal cancer



Aggrecanases are variously expressed in laryngeal cancer

#### Aggrecanases in colorectal cancer



Aggrecanases are variously expressed in colorectal cancer

### Extracellular degradation of GAGs

• HYAL1, HYAL2, HYAL3, PH-20 acting on both HA and CS/DS

### Hyaluronidases in laryngeal cancer

Hyaluronidases are key enzymes in cancer by producing angiogenic sized hyaluronan



A double band of 45 and 55 kDa with hyaluronolytic activity was present only in cancer



Hyaluronidase's inhibitors were detected only in healthy laryngeal tissues



T3 T2 PNPNPN



Hyaluronidases increased with tumor stage, more specifically PH-20 than Hyal-1

### Hyaluronidases in colorectal cancer

 HA size on Sepharose CL-2B



Enzymes were extracted from the tissue sequentially with PBS, 4M GdnHCl and 4M GdnHCl - 1% Triton X-100











### Hyaluronidases in colorectal cancer





# CONCLUSIONS

- Expression of enzymes implicated in PGs/GAGs metabolism are highly altered but in a different way in the various types of cancer
- This suggests
  - deep understanding of the mechanisms involved
  - manipulation of enzymes expression
  - synthesis of new and specific inhibitors or regulators

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