Reduction of MLH1 and PMS2 confers temozolomide resistance and is associated with recurrence of glioblastoma

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ファイル（説明） | 博士論文全文
| 最終試験結果の要旨
| 論文審査の要旨
| 博士論文要旨
別言語のタイトル | メチオニン発現抑制とそれに伴う メチオニン発現低下が神経膠芽腫の メチオニン耐性獲得に寄与する
学位授与番号 | 体育学甲総研第 88号
URL | http://hdl.handle.net/10232/25219
Reduction of MLH1 and PMS2 confers temozolomide resistance and is associated with recurrence of glioblastoma

Although there is a relationship between DNA repair deficiency and temozolomide (TMZ) resistance in glioblastoma (GBM), it remains unclear which molecule is associated with GBM recurrence. We isolated three TMZ-resistant human GBM cell lines and examined the expression of O6-methylguanine-DNA methyltransferase (MGMT) and mismatch repair (MMR) components. We used immunohistochemical analysis to compare MutL homolog 1 (MLH1), postmeiotic segregation increased 2 (PMS2) and MGMT expression in primary and recurrent GBM specimens obtained from GBM patients during TMZ treatment. We found a reduction in MLH1 expression and a subsequent reduction in PMS2 protein levels in TMZ-resistant cells. Furthermore, MLH1 or PMS2 knockdown conferred TMZ resistance. In recurrent GBM tumours, the expression of MLH1 and PMS2 was reduced when compared to primary tumours.