Dokumenttyp: journal article

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Titel des Beitrags: PAI-1 levels predict response to fractionated irradiation in 10 human squamous cell carcinoma lines of the head and neck.

Abstract: BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE: To investigate the relationships between hypoxia, VEGF and components of the plasminogen activation system (PAS) and to determine their influence on local tumour control after fractionated radiotherapy. MATERIAL AND METHODS: Ten cell lines derived from human squamous cell carcinomas of the head and neck (SCCHN) were investigated in vitro and used to generate xenograft tumours. The pimonidazole hypoxic fraction in the total tumour area (pHF(tot)) was used to measure hypoxia in pre-treatment tumours and the local tumour control (TCD(50)) was used as the functional endpoint in vivo. For in vitro experiments, cells were cultured for 24h under either normoxic or mild hypoxic (approximately 0.66% O(2)) conditions. VEGF, PAI-1 and uPA antigen levels were determined by ELISA and uPA activity by an activity assay kit. RESULTS: Of all the factors investigated, only PAI-1 expression correlated with TCD(50) (r=0.80, p=0.010) and was significantly higher (p=0.001) in more hypoxic than in less hypoxic tumours. Accordingly, PAI-1 secretion was significantly induced (2.4x) by in vitro hypoxia. CONCLUSIONS: These results suggest that pre-treatment PAI-1 levels are higher in more hypoxic tumours and can predict the response.
to fractionated irradiation in SCCHN.

Zeitschriftentitel / Abkürzung:
Radiother Oncol

Jahr: 2008

Band: 86

Heft / Issue: 3

Seiten: 361-8

Sprache: eng


Print-ISSN: 0167-8140

TUM Einrichtung:
r Strahlentherapie und Radiologische Onkologie

Occurences:
- Einrichtungen > Fakultäten > Fakultät für Medizin > Kliniken und Institute > Klinik und Poliklinik für RadioOnkologie und Strahlentherapie > 2008

entries: