

Correlation of focal adhesion kinase expression with nodal metastasis in patients with head and neck cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

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Background: Focal adhesion kinase (FAK) and cortactin overexpression is frequently detected in a variety of cancers, and has been associated with poor clinical outcome. However, there are no data in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (cSCC). **Objective:** To investigate the relationship of FAK and cortactin expression with the clinicopathologic features and the impact on the prognosis of cSCC patients. **Methods:** FAK and cortactin expression was analyzed by immunohistochemistry on paraffin-embedded tissue samples from 100 patients with cSCC, and correlated with the clinical data. **Results:** FAK overexpression was a significant risk factor for nodal metastasis with crude and adjusted ratios (HRs) of 2.04, (95% CI [1.08-3.86], [P = 0.029]) and 2.23 (95% CI [1.01-4.91], [P = 0.047]), respectively. Cortactin expression was not a significant risk factor for nodal metastasis. **Conclusion:** These findings demonstrate that FAK overexpression is an independent predictor of nodal metastasis that might be helpful for risk stratification and management of patients with cSCC.

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cortactin

cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma

focal adhesion kinase

nodal metastasis

prognosis

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