

Troxell LM*

Department of Pathology, Oregon Health & Science University, Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health & Science University, Beaverton, USA.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of deaths worldwide. The high mortality associated with this disease is due primarily to the fact that most of the lung cancers are diagnosed advanced stages when

lung carcinoma (NSCLC) types squamous cell carcinoma (30%), adenocarcinoma (including the non-invasive type of bronchial-alveolar carcinoma, BAC; 45%), and large-cell carcinoma (9%) [5,6]. Advances in molecular technologies are providing insight

rational targeted therapies for lung cancer that have led to an emerging and exciting new area of therapy, which takes advantage of cancer-specific molecular defects that render the cancer cells to respond specific agents.

In this setting, the analysis of molecular abnormalities of lung cancers is becoming increasingly important and represents an interesting challenge for adequate integration of routine pathological and molecular examination for the diagnosis, classification, and choice of therapy options [8]. Although many molecular abnormalities have been described in clinically evident lung cancers, relatively little is known about the molecular events preceding the development of lung carcinomas and the underlying genetic basis of lung carcinogenesis. Several studies have provided information regarding the molecular characterization of the pre-neoplastic changes involved in the pathogenesis of lung cancer in last decade, especially squamous cell carcinoma and adenocarcinoma. Many molecular changes have been detected in histologically normal respiratory mucosa of smokers.

The genetic abnormalities of lung adenocarcinomas include point mutations of dominant oncogenes, K-rash, BRAF, and EGFR, and tumour-suppressor genes TP53 and p16Ink4 [2, 46 ± 49]. In lung cancer, activating K-transmutations preferentially target adeno-carcinoma histology (20 ± 30%). Most K-transmutations lung cancer are G->T transversions and they affect exons 12 (~90% of mutations). These types of K-transmutation have been associated with tobacco related cancer. Activation of BRAF gene mutations, a Raf serine-threonine kinase pathway component, has also been detected in lung adenocarcinoma cell lines (11%) and primary tumors (3%). Recently, a body of evidence has indicated that EGFR mutations affecting the tyrosine kinase domain of the gene (exons 18 ± 21) are present in approximately 20 ± 55% of adenocarcinomas that they are almost entirely absent in other types of lung cancer. EGFR mutations are somatic in origin, and they occur in never smokers, women, and patients from countries in East Asia (30 ± 50%) [48,51 ± 54]. In addition, although infrequent (3%), HER-2/Neogene mutations have been detected predominantly in lung adenocarcinoma histology and patients with an East Asian ethnic background. The remarkable similarities of mutations in EGFR and HER2/neu genes involving adenocarcinoma histology type, mutation type, gene location (tyrosine kinase domain),

*Corresponding author: Troxell LM, Department of Pathology and Knight Cancer Institute, Oregon Health & Science University, USA, E-mail: troxellm@ohsu.edu

Received: November 10, 2020; Accepted: November 24, 2020; Published: December 02, 2020

Citation: Troxell LM (2020) Molecular Pathology of Lung Cancer. J Clin Exp Pathol S2. e002.

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