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Difference in DNA copy number aberrations detected between Osteosarcoma and Malignant Fibrous Histiocytoma

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Abstract Osteosarcoma (OS) and malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH) are the most frequent sarcomas of the bones and soft tissues, respectively. These tumors share a spectrum of histopathologic features. In order to elucidate the similarity and difference of tumor-specific genetic alterations between them, we analyzed DNA copy number aberrations of 7 OSs and 12 MFHs using comparative genomic hybridization (CGH). In OS, a DNA copy number gain of chromosome 1p21-pter was the most frequent aberration (85.7%; 6/7 tumors). Furthermore, gains of 6p12-p24, 8q13-q23, and 1q21.1-q25 and losses of 10p, 10q, 16p, 2q31-q36, 3p12-p21.3, 6q, 8p21.1-pter, 9p21-pter, 13q13-q21.1, and 19q13.2-qter were frequent. In MFH, gains of 5p12-p22.3, 7p12-p21, 7q, 9q13-q32, 12q13.1-q22.3, 14q11.2-q13, and 15q12-22.3 and losses of 1p31.2-pter, 9p21-pter, 10p, 10q, 19p, 19q and 13q were frequently detected. Gains of 1p21-pter, 6p12-p24 and 8q13-q23 were preferentially found in OS. A loss of 1p31.2-pter, gains of 5p13.1-15.3 and 15q11.2-23 were detected exclusively for MFH. These observations suggest that differences in these DNA copy number aberrations between OS and MFH could be an additional aid in the differential diagnosis of the two diseases.

Introduction

Bone and soft tissue sarcomas comprise approximately 1% of all human malignancies³⁾. They are diverse in histologic type, and it is not always easy even for experienced pathologists to make an accurate diagnosis. Malignant fibrous histiocytoma (MFH) and osteosarcoma (OS) are the most common sarcomas of soft tissue and bone, respectively^{4),5),6)}. Osteosarcoma is characterized by figures of osteoid production. However, osteoid formation is scarce in some OSs, in which an accurate diagnosis is difficult. Such cases may be erroneously diagnosed as MFH. The identification of specific non-random genetic alterations is useful to facilitate tumor diag-

nosis in some sarcomas, e.g., peripheral primitive neuroectodermal tumor/Ewing's sarcoma^{7),8)}, alveolar rhabdomyosarcoma^{8),9)}, and clear cell sarcoma^{10),11)}. Although karyotyping with G-band staining was used for the cytogenetic analysis of OS¹²⁾⁻¹⁵⁾ and MFH¹⁵⁾⁻¹⁷⁾, it failed to find non-random genetic aberrations leading to a specific diagnosis. Comparative genomic hybridization (CGH) enables the testing of DNA copy number aberrations of tumors in a single hybridization procedure. It provides useful information concerning genetic alterations in various types of tumors^{23),43)}.

In this study, CGH analysis was performed to clarify the differences in DNA copy number aberrations between OS and MFH.

Materials and Methods

Tissue samples

In this study, we used frozen tissue specimens of 7 osteosarcomas (6 conventional, 1 small round cell), and 12 MFH. Patients with OS consisted of 5 males and 2 females with an average age of 19 years, ranging from 6 to 35 years old. Patients with MFH consisted of 11 males and 1 female with an average age of 68 years, ranging from 37 to 91 years old. Fourteen cases were primary tumors and 5 were recurrent tumors (one osteosarcoma and four MFH). Informed consent for this study was obtained from all patients.

Tissue preparation and microdissection

Tumors were removed surgically, frozen immediately in liquid nitrogen, and stored at -80°C until use. Frozen tissue sections (20 μm thick) were prepared and an additional 4 μm section was made for detailed histological examination. All slides were stained with hematoxylin-eosin to identify tumor cell. Tumor fragments were microdissected from the surrounding stromal tissue with a sterile 26-gauge needle.

DNA Extraction

High molecular weight genomic DNA was extracted from each tumor specimen with a DNA extraction kit (Sepagene; Sankojunyaku Co. Ltd., Tokyo, Japan) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Control DNA was extracted from peripheral blood lymphocytes.

CGH and Digital Image Analysis

The CGH procedure was based on the protocol described by Kallioniemi et al., with a few modifications^{1),2)}. Briefly, test DNA was directly labeled with Spectrum Green (Vysis, Inc., Downers Grove, IL) and reference DNA was labeled with Spectrum Red (Vysis, Inc.), both by nick translation. Nick-translated fragment sizes ranged from 400 to 2000 bp. Two hundred nanograms of each labeled DNA and 10 μg of Cot-1 DNA (Life Technologies, Inc., Gaithersburg, MD) were mixed in 10 μg of hybridization buffer and co-hybridized into normal denatured metaphase chromosomes for 72h at 37°C .

Post-hybridization washes were performed with $2\times\text{SSC}$ at 60°C . The slides were mounted in anti-fade solution containing 0.15 mg/ml 4',6-diamidino-2-phenylindole as counterstained. Digital images were captured with an Olympus BX60 fluorescence microscope equipped with a $100\times$ UplanApo objective lens and a cooled charge-coupled device camera (SenSys 1400; Photometrics Ltd., Tucson, AZ), and approximately 20, but at least 10, representative images were analyzed. Losses of DNA sequences were defined as chromosomal regions where the average green-to-red ratio was below 0.8, with gains above 1.2. High-level copy number increase in the subregions (amplification) in contrast to whole arm gains were defined by a tumor: control ratio 1.4. The number of DNA sequence copy number aberrations is the total number of chromosomal regions with alterations in the DNA sequence copy number.

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed with Statview software (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC). Fisher's exact test was performed to test reciprocal relations among MFHs and osteosarcomas, as appropriate. For all statistical tests, $p < 0.05$ was considered significant.

Results

Genomic aberrations in osteosarcoma

In seven osteosarcomas, the mean number of genomic imbalances was 15.3 (8 gains and 7.3 losses). 1p21-pter gain or amplification was detected in all but one tumor, which was seen in a 34-years-old female. The DNA copy number increase was also frequent at 6p12-24 (5 cases), 8q13-23 (5 cases each), 1q21.1-25 (4 cases), 7p14-15.3 (3 cases), 9q13-32 (3 cases), 12q13.1-22 (3 cases), and 21q11.2-13.2 (3 cases). DNA copy number amplification was observed at 1p21-pter (3 cases), 1q21.1-25 (1 case), 6p12-24 (1 case), 6q12-21 (1 case), 7p14-15.3 (1 case), 21q11.2-13.2 (1 case), and 4p13-15.3 (1 case) (Tables I & II). The frequent losses were 10p (4 cases), 10q (4 cases), and 16p (4 cases), 2q31-36 (3 cases), 3p12-21.3 (3 cases), 6q (3 cases), 8p21.1-pter (3 cases), 9p21-pter (3 cases), 13q13-21.1 (3 cases), and 19q13.2-qter (3 cases) (Tables I, II).

Table I. DNA copy number aberrations in OS and MFH
P, primary; R, recurrence; ampl, amplification

case	sex	age	histology	P/R	gain	loss	CNAs
1	M	17	OS	P	1p,1q21.1-25		1
2	M	16	OS	P	1p31.1-pter, ampl1q21.1-25, ampl14p14-pter	ampl6p12-23, 8q, 1q32.2-qter, 2q24.3-qter, 3p, 6q, 7p, 8p, 9p, 10	17
3	F	25	OS	R	1p13.1-35, 1q21.1-24, 4p12-15.2, 6p12-22.2, 6q12-21, 8q12-22.3, 8p, 9p, 16		14
4	F	35	OS	P	12q12-21.3, 14q11.2-13, 21q21-qter, 22q12.1-qter		3
5	M	6	OS	P	1p, 1q21.1-25, 6p, 7p13-21, 7q, 8, 9q21.2-32, 12q13.2-22, 14q23-qter, 17q21.3-24, 21q	10,13q12.3-qter	21
6	F	14	OS	P	1p13.1-35, 1q21.1-24, 2p12-16, 3q26.1-qter, 4q13.1-21.3, 5q, 6p21.3-22.3, 6q12-22.1, 7p14-15.3, 7q11.23-31.3, 8, 9q13-22.1, 12q13.1-21.3, ampl13q22-qter, 14q12-24.3	2q31-qter, 3q12-21.2, 10, 11p, 12p, 12q22-qter, 16p, 17p12-pter, 19	27
7	F	22	OS	P	1p22.1-31.1, 1q21.1-24, 2q14.1-qter, 5p, 6p, ampl7p, 8q12-22.3, 12p, 13q22-24.1 ampl21q	2p21-pter, 6q, 8p, 10p, 11q13.1-13.5, 12q, 13q12.3-21.3, 16p, 17, 19, 21q, 22q	24
1	M	64	MFH	R	ampl12q13.2-23	1q34.1-qter	2
2	F	69	MFH	R	9q13-21.3, 12q13.1-21.1		1
3	M	52	MFH	P		10	2
4	M	78	MFH	P	5p12-14, 7p, 7q11.21-32, 8q21.2-24.2, 9q21.1-34.1, 12q21.2-23, 14q11.2-13, 15q12-21.3, 17p11.2-12	9p21-pter, 10q21.2-qter, 13q, 18q	12
5	M	91	MFH	P	9q, 17p22-23, ampl22q11.2-13.1	1q31.2-pter, 3p, 8p, 8q12-21.2, 9p, 11q22.1-qter, 17q12-pter, 20p	11
6	M	72	MFH	P	1q23-qter, 2p13-16, 7p12-21, 7q11.21-22.1, 8	1q31.2-pter, 7q31.3-qter, 15q, 16p, 17, 19, 20q, 22q	16
7	M	73	MFH	R	ampl5p, 21q21-qter	6p21.1-21.3,7q,10	5
8	M	81	MFH	P	3p22-25, ampl5p, 5q33.1-qter, 7, ampl8q11.21-21.2, 12q14-qter, ampl14q11.2-13, 15q, 18q12.2-21.3, 20q11.2-13.2	1q31-qter, 2p22-pter, 2q13-31, 4p15.1-pter, 6p, 8q22.1-qter, 10, 11q, 16, 17q	22
9	M	79	MFH	P	1p21.1-21.3, 2p14-16, 7p12-21, 7q, 14q31-qter, 15q12-23, 17p	1p22.1-pter, 1q32.1-qter, 2q, 3p21.1-pter, 4q28-qter, 10, 11q22.1-qter, 13q, 16p, 18q	19
10	M	59	MFH	P	1p13.1-31.1, 3p, 4p12-15.1, ampl5p, 9q21.3-34.1, ampl14q12-21, 17p11.2-12, 17q22-23	1q41-qter, 2q32.3-qter, 9p21-pter, 10q21.1-qter, 13q, 16q, 19p, 21q	17
11	M	37	MFH	P	11p13-14, 11q21-23.2	1q33-pter, 17q22-qter, 19	23
12	M	59	MFH	R	ampl1q22-31, 2q32.1-33, 4p13-15.1, 5p14-15.2, 5q15-23.3, 6q12-31.3, ampl7p13-21, 9q13-33, 11p12-15.1, ampl12q13.1-21.3, ampl13q12.2-21.1, 14q21-qter, 18q12.2-21.3	1q31.2-pter, 3p14.1-22, 9p, 10, 16p, 17p, 19, 20q	5

Table II. Frequent gains and losses detected by CGH in OS and MFH

histology	gain/loss	region	cases	%	histology	gain/loss	region	cases	%
OS	gain	1p21-pter	6	86	MFH	loss	1p31.2-pter	6	50
	gain	6p12-24	5	71		loss	10q	6	50
	gain	8q13-q23	5	71		gain	7p12-21	5	42
	gain	1q21.1-25	4	57		gain	9q13-32	5	42
	loss	10p	4	57		gain	14q11.2-13	5	42
	loss	10q	4	57		loss	9p21-pter	5	42
	loss	16p	4	57		gain	5p13.1-15.3	4	33
	gain	7p14-15.3	3	43		gain	7q	4	33
	gain	9q13-32	3	43		gain	12q13.1-22	4	33
	gain	12q13.1-22	3	43		gain	15q11.2-23	4	33
	gain	21q11.2-13.2	3	43		loss	10p	4	33
	loss	2q31-36	3	43		loss	13q	4	33
	loss	3p12-14.3	3	43		loss	19p	4	33
	loss	6q	3	43					
	loss	8p21.1-qter	3	43					
	loss	9p	3	43					
	loss	13q13-21.1	3	43					
	loss	19q13.2-qter	3	43					

Genomic aberrations in MFH

In 12 MFHs, the mean number of genomic imbalances was 11.3 (5.2 gains, 6.1 losses). The DNA copy number increase was frequent at 7p12-21 (5 cases), 9q13-32 (5 cases), 14q11.2-13 (5 cases), 5p13.1-15.3 (4 cases), 7q (4 cases), 12q13.1-22.3 (4 cases), and 15q11.2-23 (4 cases). Amplification was detected at 5p13.1-15.3 (3 cases), 8q11.21-21.1(1 case), 12q13.1-22 (2 cases), and 14q11.2-13 (2 cases). The DNA copy number decrease was at 10q (6 cases), 1p31.2-pter (6 cases), 9p21-pter (5 cases), 10p (4 cases), 19p (4 cases), and 13q (4 cases). Three of 4 recurrent tumors showed a gain of 12q13.1-22.2 and two of these tumors demonstrated amplification of this locus

(Tables I, II).

The differences in DNA copy number aberrations between OS and MFH

The frequency of gains at 1p21-pter, 6p12-p24 and 8q13-q23 were significantly more in OS than in MFH ($P=0.0007$, 0.0006 and 0.048 respectively)(Table III). Gains of 5p13.1-15.3 and 15q11.2-23 were detected exclusively for MFH. The loss of 1p31.2-pter, the most frequent loss in MFH, was not detected in OS. In contrast, gains of 9q13-32, 7p12-21, and 12q13.1-22.2 and losses of 10p, 10q, 9p21-pter, and 13q13-21.1 were found in both tumors (Fig. IA, IB).

Table III. Genomic aberrations of comparison between OS and MFH (Fisher's exact test)
CNAs : copy number aberrations

	OS CNAs(%)	MFH CNAs(%)	<i>p</i> value
gain of 1p21-pter	6 (87%)	1 (9%)	0.000743
gain of 6p12-24	5 (71)	0 (0)	0.000648
gain of 8q13-q23	5 (71)	3 (27)	0.048

	OS	MFH	<i>p</i> value
gain of 5p13.1-15.3	0(0)	4 (33)	0.085
gain of 15q11.2-23	0(0)	4 (33)	0.085
loss of 1p31.2-pter	0(0)	6 (42)	0.0237

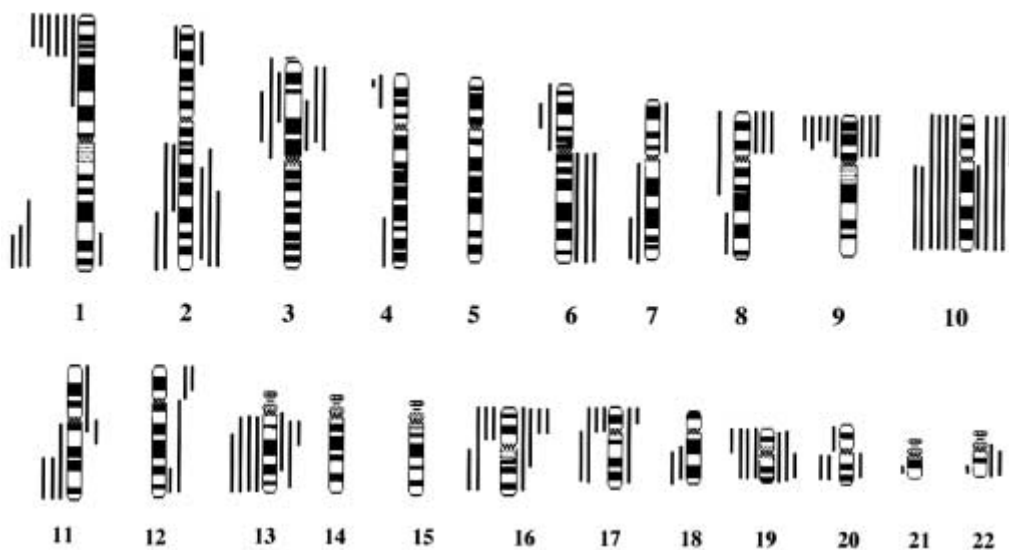


Fig.IA Ideograms of DNA copy number increases from 7 OSs and 12 MFHs.
Vertical lines on the right and left sides of chromosomes indicate OSs and MFHs.
Thicker lines indicate the amplification of genomic materials.

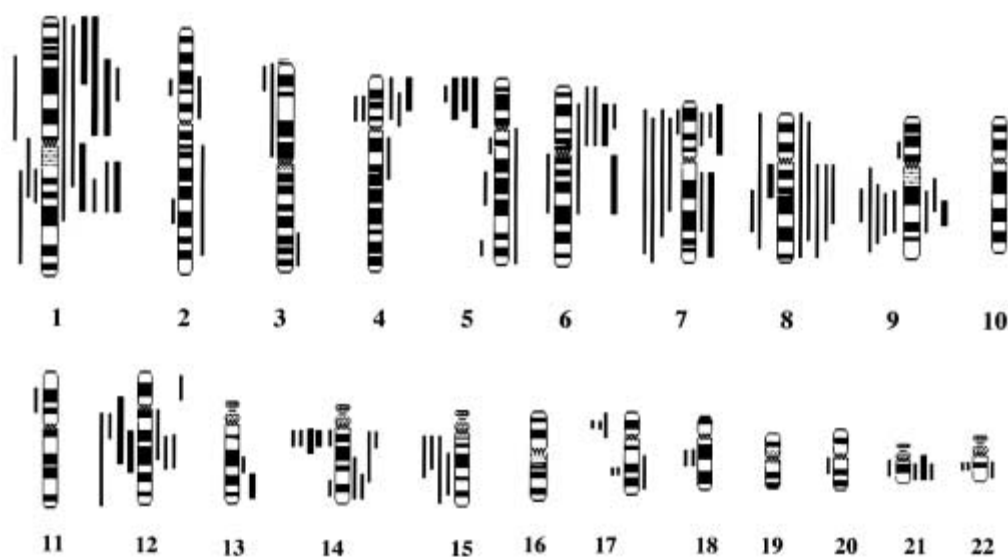


Fig.1B Ideograms of DNA copy number decreases from 7 osteosarcomas and 12 MFHs. Vertical lines on the right and left sides of chromosomes indicate OSs and MFHs.

Discussion

CGH analysis of OS revealed that gains of 1p, 5p, 8q, 12q12-15, and 17p and losses of 2q, 8p, 9p, 10, 13q were frequent chromosomal aberrations¹⁸⁾⁻²²⁾. Our results were similar to these observations. A gain of 1p21-pter was the most frequent aberration (6 cases) in OS, and amplification (high level gain) was found in 2 cases. In addition, we detected 8q13-25 gain in 5 of 7 OSs. These alterations were scarcely detected in MFHs. It is suggested that the chromosomal regions may contain oncogene(s) relevant to the development of OS. Tarkkanen¹⁹⁾ found that the copy number increase at 8q13-q22 was statistically linked with poor survival and distant metastasis of OS. Genes involved in OS development are *myc*²³⁾, the osteoprotegerin gene, and the bone morphogenetic protein 1 (BMP1) gene^{24),25)}.

The morphologic heterogeneity^{26),27),28)} of MFH sometimes precludes proper diagnosis and clinical analysis. A karyotype of MFH tends to be highly complex partly owing to its extensive intratumoral heterogeneity, and it is difficult to cytogenetically characterize this tumor. CGH analysis of MFH revealed a wide spectrum of genomic imbalances²⁹⁾⁻³⁴⁾. However, gains of 1q21-q22, 7p15-pter, 7q32, 12q13-15, 17q23-qter, and 20q, and losses of 2p24-pter, 2q32-qter, 9p21-pter, 10q, 11q23-qter,

and 13q10-q31 were common in their reports. These aberrations were also frequent in our present series including 12 MFHs. 12q13-15 gain was detected in MFH with high incidence and correlated with a poor outcome in studies by ourselves and others^{32),33)}. This supports the hypothesis that gene(s) in this locus play an important role in the development of MFH³¹⁾³²⁾³³⁾ and the chromosomal region of 12q13-15 harbors *MDM2*, *SAS*, *HMGIC*, and *CDK4* genes^{39),42)}.

The CGH profiles were very different between OS and MFH. Gains of 1p21-pter, 6p12-24, and 8q13-23, which have been reported as characteristic aberrations of OS¹⁸⁾⁻²²⁾, were scarce in MFH. In contrast, gains of 5p13.1-15.3 and 15q11.2-23 and the loss of 1p31.2-pter, which were frequent in MFH, were not detected in all OS. These chromosomal aberrations may be used as an aid in the differential diagnosis of difficult OS from MFH.

Losses of chromosome 10, 13q13-21.1 and 9p21-pter were chromosomal aberrations common to OS and MFH in this study. The long arm of chromosome 10 harbors multiple tumor suppressor genes including *PTEN* (10q23)^{37),38)}. Although the loss of chromosome 10 is frequently detected in sarcomas^{18),29),32),34),39)}, the significance of *PTEN* loss has not been fully elucidated in sarcomas. Candidate genes for 9p21 and 13q10-q31 are *p16NK4A* and *RB1*, respectively^{40),41)}, and

these tumor suppressor genes are involved in various types of tumors. It is natural to speculate that losses of 10q, 9p21, and 13q13-21.1 are directly linked with the tumorigenic events in both tumors.

In conclusion, gains of 1p21-pter, 6p12-p24, 8q13-q23, and gains of 5p13.1-15.3 and 15q11.2-23, and the loss of 1p31.2-pter are cytogenetic markers for the differential diagnosis of these two diseases.

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