

Apoptosis

Apoptotic

The Immunologic Expression of Apoptosis Related Proteins and Apoptotic Cells in Human Ovarian Follicles

Sung Rok Park, Byung Seok Lee, Woo Ick Yang^{*}, Jong Hwa Kim, Byung Joo Park, Ki Hyun Park, Dong Jae Cho, Chan Ho Song

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Department of Pathology^{*},
Yonsei University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

Objective: To investigate the expression of apoptosis related proteins and apoptotic cells on the human ovarian follicles.

Materials and Methods: Thirty five Formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded human ovarian tissue blocks were selected from the surgical pathology files of the department of pathology, College of Medicine, Yonsei University, for the period from 1996 to 1998. All specimen were from premenopausal women aged from 32~45. Ovarian tissues were collected from the patients performing hysterectomy for benign uterine diseases. Immunohistochemical staining was performed for the detection of DNA fragmented cell, Bcl-2, Bax, Fas and Fas-ligand.

Results: Bcl-2 and bax were not expressed on the surrounding cells and oocyte of the primary, primordial and preantral follicles. Fas and Fas-ligand (Fas-L) were not expressed on the surrounding cells on the primordial and primary follicles. But expressed on the surrounding granulosa cells and oocyte in the primordial and primary follicles. In the healthy follicles, Bcl-2 was expressed on the granulosa cells, however, Bax was not expressed. DNA fragmented cells were expressed on the inner granulosa cell layer of atretic follicles.

Conclusion: Fas, Fas-ligand, and Bax may be responsible for the follicular atresia and Bcl-2 may be involved in the follicular survival in the human ovary.

Key Words: Apoptosis, Bcl-2, Bax, Fas, Fas-ligand, Human ovary

1972 Kerr apoptosis가

apoptosis

가

apoptosis

recruit

: ,) 135-720 146-92,
Tel: (02) 3497-3435, Fax: (02) 3462-8209, e-mail: dr222@yumc.yonsei.ac.kr

Table 1. Immunologic expression of apoptosis related proteins and DNA fragmented cells in human ovarian follicles

	Bcl-2	Bax	Fas	Fas-ligand	DNA fragmented cells
Primordial follicle	-	-	+‡	+‡	-
Preantral follicle	-	-	+¶	+¶	-
Atretic follicle	-	+†	+	+	+**
Healthy follicle	+*	-	-	-	-

-; Negative staining, +; Positive staining, *; Positive stained on oocyte and granulosa cells, †; Positive stained on granulosa cells and theca cells, ‡; Positive stained on oocyte, ¶; Weakly stained on oocyte and granulosa cells, ||; Positive stained on granulosa cells and theca cells, **; Positive stained inner granulosa cells

가 dimer) Bcl-2 (cell death)
apoptosis¹²
Fas tumor necrosis factor receptor family¹³
가 anti-Fas
Fas-ligand
signal Hakuno¹⁴ Fas
Fas-ligand system
Funayama⁴ apoptosis가
Yuan & Giudice⁵ DNA frag-
mented cell antral follicle preovulatory follicle
가 apoptosis cell)
apoptosis¹⁵
apoptosis⁶
Bcl-2, Bax, Bcl-xlong, Bcl-xshort, P53 ligand apoptosis
Fas⁷⁻⁹
Bcl-2
Bcl-2 follicular lymphoma
t (14; 18) chromosomal translocation breakpoint
Ratts¹⁰ Bcl-2 knock- 35 1996
out mouse surgical pathology files
Fukaya¹¹ Bcl-2가 (formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue blocks)
(granulosa cell) 32~45
Bax 21-kDa Bcl-2
(heterodimer) Bax (homo- hematoxylin eosin

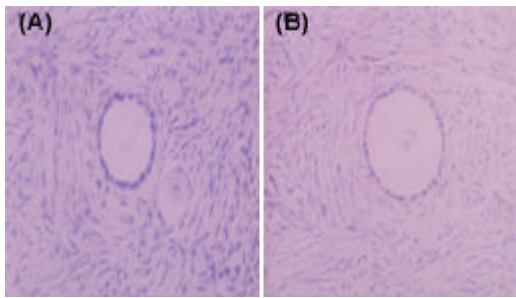


Figure 1. Immunostaining for (A) Bax, showing no reactivity in the primary and the primordial follicle, (B) Bcl-2, showing no reactivity in the primary follicle (original magnification $\times 400$).

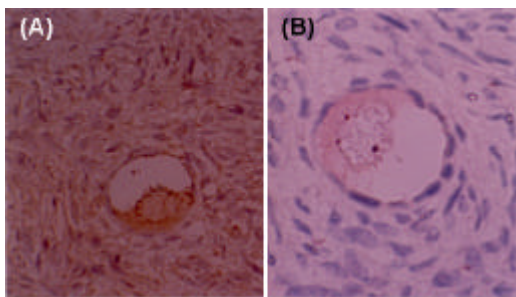


Figure 2. Immunostaining for (A) Fas, (B) Fas-ligand, showing no reactivity except on the oocyte in the primordial follicle (original magnification $\times 400$).

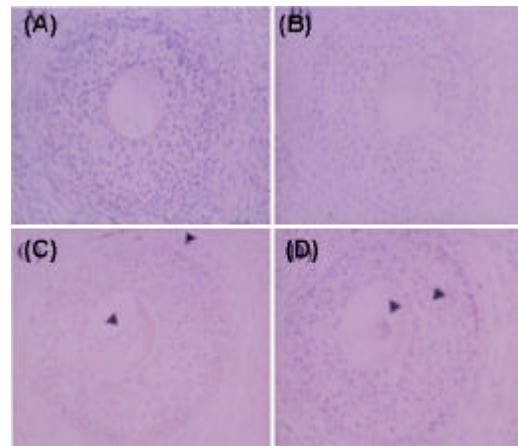


Figure 3. Immunostaining for (A) Bax, showing no reactivity, (B) Bcl-2, showing no reactivity, (C) Fas, weakly stained on the granulosa cells and oocyte, (D) Fas-ligand, faintly stained on the oocyte and some granulosa cells ($\times 400$).

2. DNA fragmented

DNA fragmented cell
DNA fragmented cell
fragmentation detection kit (Tdt Frag, Oncogene)

- 1)
- 2) permeabilization
- 3) Endogenous peroxidase
- 4) Equilibrium and labeling reaction
- 5) Termination of labeling reaction
- 6) DAB (Detection of DAB solution)
- 7) (Counterstaining)

1.
microwave-oven heating
avidin-biotin complex
Xylene dewax
rehydration
Endogenous peroxidase activity 3% hydrogen peroxide 10
incubation Bcl-2 Bax
citrate buffer (0.01 MM, PH 6.0) immersion
Fas Fas-Ligand 750 W microwave
oven 15 EDTA immersion
20 Bcl-2 monoclonal
(Dako) 1 : 80 , Bax polyclonal
(Pharminigen) 1 : 1000 , Fas mono-
clonal (Dako) 1 : 20, Fas-L polyclonal
(Santacruz) 1 : 100

Bcl-2 Bax 1 (primary follicle)
(primordial follicle)
(oocyte) (Figure 1), Fas
Fas-L (Figure 2).
Fas Fas-L 2 (preantral folli-
cle) Bcl-2 Bax 2

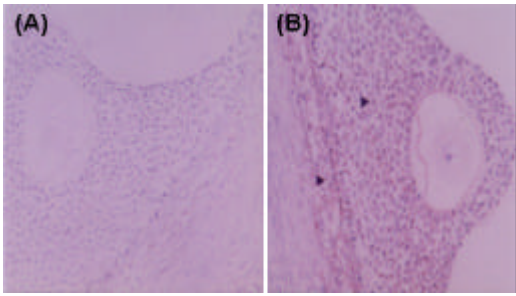


Figure 4. Immunostaining for (A) Bax, showing no reactivity, (B) Bcl-2, showing reactivity on the granulosa cells in the healthy follicle ($\times 400$).

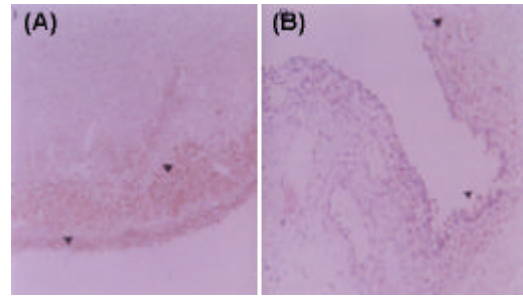


Figure 5. Immunostaining for (A) Fas, showing moderate reactivity on the granulosa cells and theca cells on the surrounding stroma, (B) Fas-ligand, showing weak reactivity on the granulosa cells and theca cells ($\times 200$).

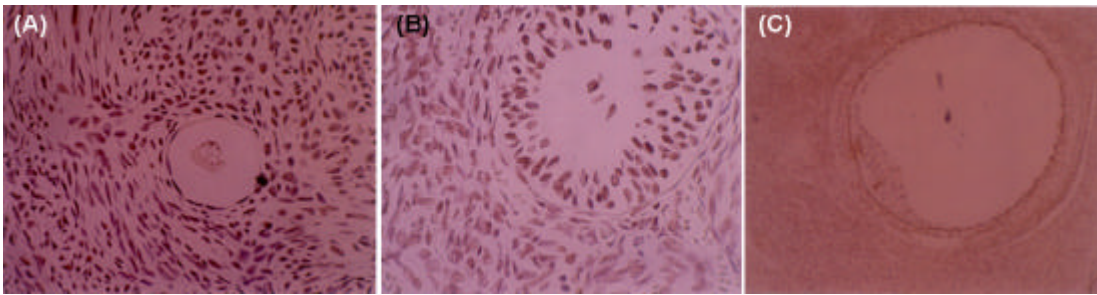


Figure 6. Immunostaining for DNA fragmented cells (A) in primordial follicle, showing no reactivity on the granulosa cells, oocyte and on the surrounding stroma, (B) in preantral follicle, showing no reactivity, (C) inner granulosa cells, showing reactivity ($\times 100$).

Figure	Target	Reactivity	Location
Figure 4	Bax	No reactivity	Granulosa cells
	Bcl-2	Reactivity	Granulosa cells
Figure 5	Fas	Moderate reactivity	Granulosa cells and theca cells
	Fas-ligand	Weak reactivity	Granulosa cells and theca cells
	DNA fragmented cells	Reactivity	Inner granulosa cells
Figure 6	DNA fragmented cells	No reactivity	Primordial follicle (A), Preantral follicle (B)
	DNA fragmented cells	Reactivity	Inner granulosa cells (C)

2 (preantral follicle)
 Fas가
 Fas
 Fas Bcl-2
 Sakamaki¹⁶ Fas가
 (granulosa cell) (luteal cell)
 Kondo⁷ Fas
 (preantral follicle) Fas 2
 (granulosa cell)
 Fas가 Fas가 Bcl-2
 Bcl-2 apoptosis
 가
 Bax (theca cell)
 (granulosa cell) Bcl-2
 (atretic process)
 가
 DNA fragmented
 가 가
 Bcl-2 가 가
 가 Bcl-2 Bax
 Fas
 Fas-ligand Fas
 Fas-ligand
 가 Fas
 Fas-ligand
 apoptosis
 가
 I
¹⁷
 active oxygen species,
 -6가¹⁷

apoptosis
 가 Bax,
 Fas apoptosis
 Fas Fas-ligand, Bax
 Bcl-2
 apoptosis
 1. Kaipia A, Hsueh AJ. Regulation of ovarian follicle atresia. *Annu Rev Physiol* 1997; 59: 349-63.
 2. Palumbo A, Yeh J. In situ localization of apoptosis in the rat ovary. *Biol Reprod* 1994; 51: 885-95.
 3. Tilly JL, Kowalski KI, Johnson AL, Hsueh AJW. Involvement of apoptosis in ovarian follicular atresia and postovulatory regression. *Endocrinology* 1991; 129: 2799-801.
 4. Funayama Y, Sasano H, Suzuki T, Tamura M, Fukaya T, Yajima A. Cell turnover in normal cycling human ovary. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1996; 81: 828-34.
 5. Yuan W, Giudice LC. Programmed cell death in human ovary is a function of follicle and corpus luteum status. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1997; 82: 3148-55.
 6. Owens GP, Hahn WE, Cohen JJ. Identification of mRNAs associated with programmed cell death in immature thymocytes. *Mol Cell Biol* 1991; 11: 4177-88.
 7. Lee BS, Yeh J. The molecular basis of follicular atresia: Apoptosis as a possible mechanism. *Adv*

- Contracep Deliv Sys 1996; 2: 269-82.
8. Tilly JL, Tilly KI, Kenton ML, Johnson AL. Expression of members of the bcl-2 gene family in the immature rat ovary: equine chorionic gonadotropin mediated inhibition of granulosa cell apoptosis is associated with decreased bax and constitutive bcl-2 and bcl-Xlong messenger ribonucleic acid levels. *Endocrinology* 1995; 136: 232-41.
 9. Tilly KI, Banerjee S, Banerjee PP, Tilly JL. Expression of the p53 and Wilms' tumor suppressor genes in the rat ovary: gonadotropin repression in vivo and immunohistochemical localization of nuclear p53 protein to apoptotic granulosa cells of atretic follicles. *Endocrinology* 1995; 136: 1394-402.
 10. Ratts VS, Flaws JA, Kolp R, Sorenson CM, Tilly JL. Ablation of bcl-2 gene expression decreases the number of oocytes and primordial follicles established in the post-natal female mouse gonad. *Endocrinology* 1995; 136: 3665-8.
 11. Fukaya T, Funayama Y, Muakami T, Sugawara J, Yajima A. Does apoptosis contribute follicular atresia and luteal regression in human ovary? *Horm Res* 1997; 48 (suppl 3): 20-6.
 12. Oltvai ZN, Milliman CL, Korsmeyer SJ. Bcl-2/He-
terodimerizes In Vivo with a Conserved Homolog, Bax, That Accelerates Programmed Cell Death. *Cell* 1993; 74: 609-19.
 13. Itoh N, Yonehara S, Ishii A, Yonehara M, Mizushima S, Sameshima M, et al. The polypeptide encoded by the cDNA for human cell surface antigen Fas can mediate apoptosis. *Cell* 1991; 66: 233-43.
 14. Hakuno N, Koji T, Yano T, Kobayashi N, Tsutsumi O, Taketani Y, et al. Fas/APO-1/CD95 system as a mediator of granulosa cell apoptosis in ovarian follicle atresia. *Endocrinology* 1996; 137: 1938-48.
 15. Quirk SM, Cowan RG, Joshi SG, Henrikson KP. Fas antigen-mediated apoptosis in human granulosa/luteal cells. *Biol Reprod* 1995; 52: 279-87.
 16. Sakamaki K, Yoshida H, Nishimura Y, Nishikawa S, Manabe N, Yonehara S. Involvement of Fas antigen in ovarian follicular atresia and luteolysis. *Mol Reprod Dev* 1997; 47: 11-8.
 17. Kondo H, Mauro T, Peng X, Mochizuki M. Immunological evidence for the expression of the Fas antigen in the infant and adult human ovary during follicular regression and atresia. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* 1996; 81: 2702-10.
-