

(Decidualization)
TGF- β (Transforming Growth Factor- β)

1, 2, 3, 2, 2, 2, 3, 2

**Transforming Growth Factor- β is a Possible Paracrine Mediator
in the Human Endometrial Decidualization**

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Objectives: To investigate the role of TGF (Transforming growth factor- β) involved in the paracrine communication during decidualization between UEC (uterine epithelial cells) and USC (uterine stromal cells), we have employed a co-culture system composed of human endometrial epithelial and stromal cells in defined hormonal conditions.

Design: In the co-culture, endometrial epithelial cells cultured in the matrigel-coated cell culture insert are seeded on top of the endometrial stromal cells cultured within a collagen gel. The co-culture was maintained for 48 hours under the following hormonal conditions: progesterone dominant condition (100 nM P4 and 1 nM E2) or estrogen-dominant condition (100 nM E2 and 1 nM P4). 10 ng/ml HGF and/or 10 ng/ml TGF- β 1 are added.

Methods: RT-PCR is utilized to detect mRNAs quantitatively. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and immunohistochemical staining are utilized to detect proteins in the tissue.

Results: Prolactin mRNA is expressed in the co-cultured stromal cells under the progesterone dominant condition. TGF- β 1 and its receptors are expressed in both the co-cultured epithelial and stromal cells irrespective of the steroid present, which is in contrast with no or negligible expression of TGF- β 1 or its receptor in cells separately cultured. Both estrogen and progesterone significantly elevate the concentration of hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) in the conditioned medium of the co-culture with the value of 4,325 pg/ml in E2-dominant and 2,000 pg/ml in P4-dominant condition compare to 150 pg/ml in no hormone. In separately cultured stromal cells, administration of HGF induces the expression of TGF receptor 1 in both hormonal conditions, but induction of TGF receptor 2 is only manifest in the P4-dominant condition. Administration of TGF- β and HGF directly induce the decidualization marker

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prolactin mRNA in separately cultured stromal cells.

Conclusion: It is likely that steroid hormones induces prolactin mRNA indirectly by promoting the cell to cell communication between the stromal and the epithelial cells. TGF- β and HGF are two possible paracrine mediators in the human endometrial decidualization.

Key Words: Decidualization, TGF- β , HGF, Co-culture, Paracrine

first trimester decidua villous
TGF- β 가
(endometrial stromal cell; ESC) (placentation) 가
HGF (Hepatocyte growth factor)
(decidualization)
(blastocyst) .¹⁶ HGF
(functional layer) (lumen formation)
,¹⁷ (trophoblast)
,¹⁸ ,
HGF 가
Transformin growth factor- β (TGF- β) 25 kD
homodimeric ⁵ ⁶ ¹⁹
,⁷ ⁸ 가
,⁹ ,
TGF- β mRNA Irwin ²⁰
progesterone estrogen 가 decidualization
progesterone 가
,¹⁰ progesterone (10)
matrix metalloproteinase (in vivo decidualization)
,¹¹ , ²
TGF- β MMP
paracrine mediator 가 ²¹ Bentin-Ley ²² 2
TGF- β (latent pro- collagen gel
form) plasmin prote- ³
olytic cleavage ¹³ , ³
TGF- β 가
TGF- β type 2
type 1 type TGF- β mRNA
1 Smad-2 -3 RT-PCR , ³
Smad-4 가
HGF 가 ELISA
,¹⁴ Ando ¹⁵ TGF- β subtype
(TGF- β 1, β 2, β 3) type-1, type-2 mRNA가

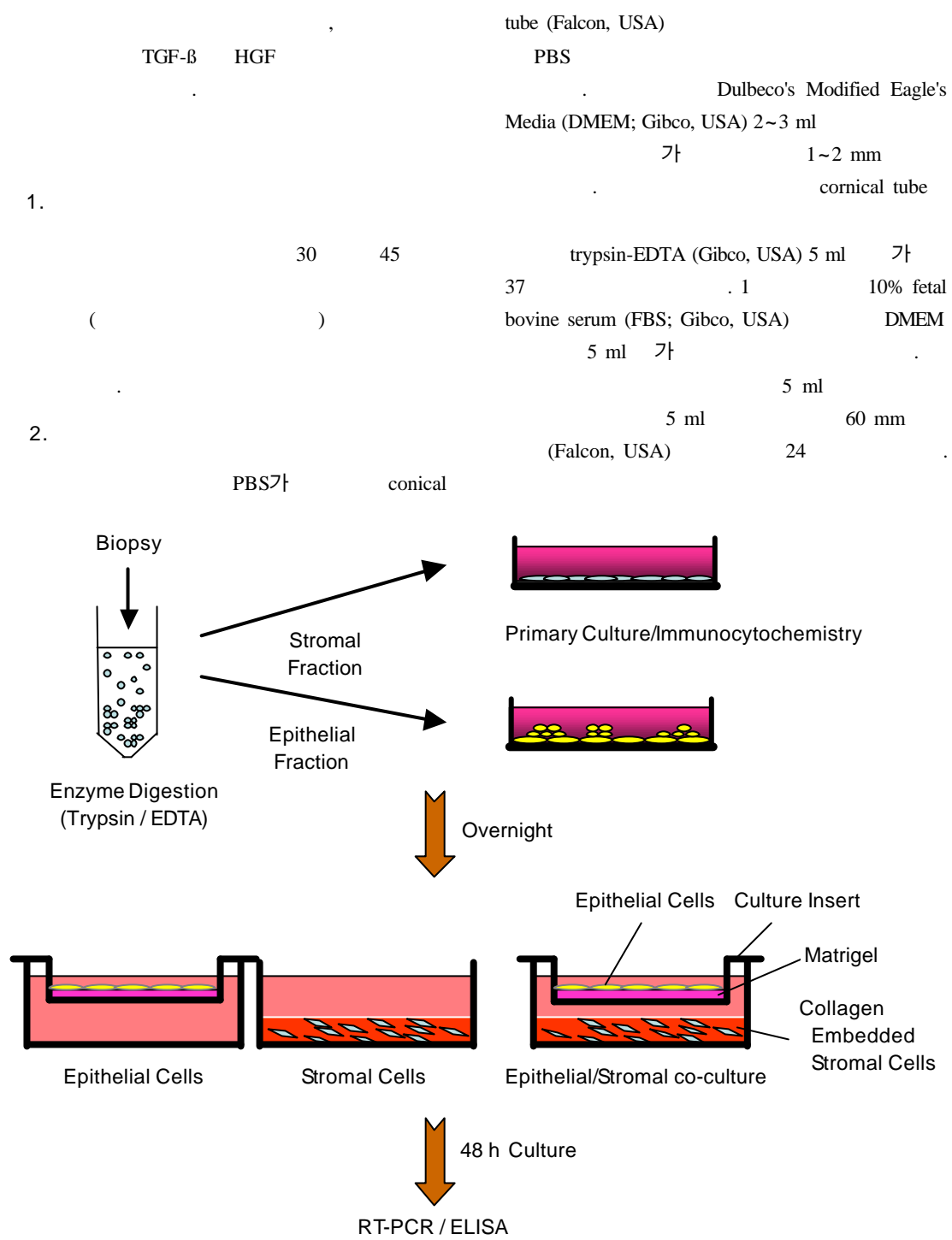


Figure 1. A schematic drawing of the culture system. Endometrial biopsy was minced and separated into respective epithelial and stromal fractions. Each fraction was cultured overnight. In the co-culture, endometrial epithelial cells cultured in the matrigel-coated cell culture insert are seeded on top of the endometrial stromal cells cultured within a collagen gel. The cultures were maintained for 48 hours under each hormone condition.

matrigel (Biocoat, USA) coating cell culture insert (Sigma, USA) (Nunc A/S, Denmark) 24 1:4 6 well 10% FBS가 24 trypsin-EDTA 2 ml 가 10 5 ml 가 400 rpm 5 cells/ml collagen (Biocoat, USA) (Nunc A/S, Roskilde, Denmark) 6 well 500 µl 37 1 col-lagen 10% FBS (Gibco, USA)가 가 24 48 (Figure 1). progesterone 100 nM progesterone (Sigma, USA), 1 nM estrogen (Sigma, USA) 가 , estrogen 100 nM estrogen, 1 nM progesterone 10 nM/ml TGF-β1 (Sigma, USA) 10 nM/ml HGF (Sigma, USA)

3.

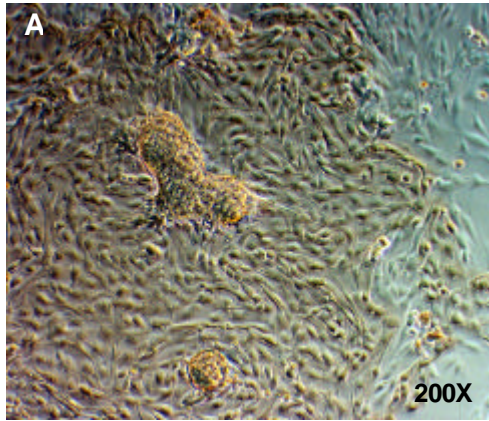
Cytokeratin, vimentin Met PBS 3 4% PBS paraformaldehyde 가 methanol 4% H₂O₂ 5 peroxydase PBS 1/400 cyto-keratin (Anti-human mouse mono-clonal; Santa Cruz Biotechnology Inc., USA), vimentin (Anti-human goat polyclonal; Santa Cruz Biotechnology, USA) Met (Anti-human rabbit polyclonal; Santa Cruz Biotechno-logy Inc., USA) 1 cham-ber LSAB-kit (DAKO A/S, Den-mark) 15 PBS diaminobenzidine (DAB; DAKO A/S, Denmark)

4. RT - PCR

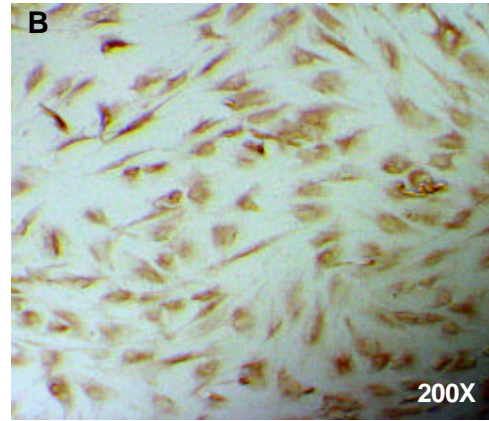
TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen life technology, Nether-land) RNA RNA 260 nm 280 nm

Table 1. PCR primers

Product	Sequence	Product size
TGF-β1	Forward : 5'-CACGTGGAGCTGTACCAGAA-3' Backward: 5'-GTCCAGGCTCCAAATGTAGG-3'	500 bp
TGF- 1	Forward : 5'-ACGGCGTTACAGTGTCTG-3' Backward: 5'-GGTGTGGCAGATATAGACC-3'	358 bp
TGF- 2	Forward : 5'-AGCAACTGCAGCATCACCTC-3' Backward: 5'-TGATGTCTGAGAAGATGTCC-3'	688 bp
Integrin-β3	Forward : 5'-CGCTTCAGCTGATGTGTGTT-3' Backward: 5'-CATCTCCCACCCTAGTCCAA-3'	224 bp
Prolactin	Forward : 5'-GCCCCCTTGCCCATCTGTCC-3' Backward: 5'-AGAAGCCGTTTGGTTTGCTCC-3'	386 bp
β-actin	Forward : 5'-CTCTCCAGCCTTCCTCCT-3' Backward: 5'-CTCGTCATACTCCTGCTTGCT-3'	275 bp



Cytokeratin



Vimentin

Figure 2. Immunocytochemical staining of primary cultures of human endometrial epithelial (A) and stromal (B) cells. Epithelial cells and stromal cells were separated as described. Epithelial cells were cytokeratin-positive while stromal cells were vimentin-positive.

가 1.9
 . cDNA M-MLV reverse
 transcriptase kit (Bioneer corporation, Korea)
 primer primer
 designing software Primer3 (available at steve@genome.
 wi.mit.edu)

primer PCR
 (Table 1). primer
 PCR Accupower
 PCR premix kit (Bioneer, Korea),
 PCR . 94
 3 1 cycle, 94 30 35 cycle, 72
 1 1 cycle, 72 5 1 cycle .
 PCR 3
 가

5. HGF
 HGF
 (No hormone, progesterone
 , estrogen) 48
 -75

Quantikine human HGF immunoassay kit (R&D systems,
 Inc., USA), SpectraMAX

190 (Molecular device, USA) 450 nm

3

1. cytokeratin vi -
 mentin

cytokeratin

vimentin

. 95% 가 cytokeratin
 (Figure 2A).

, 95% 가 vimentin
 (Figure 2B) 가

2.

1, 2, integrin β 3, prolactin mRNA TGF - β 1,

RT-PCR mRNA

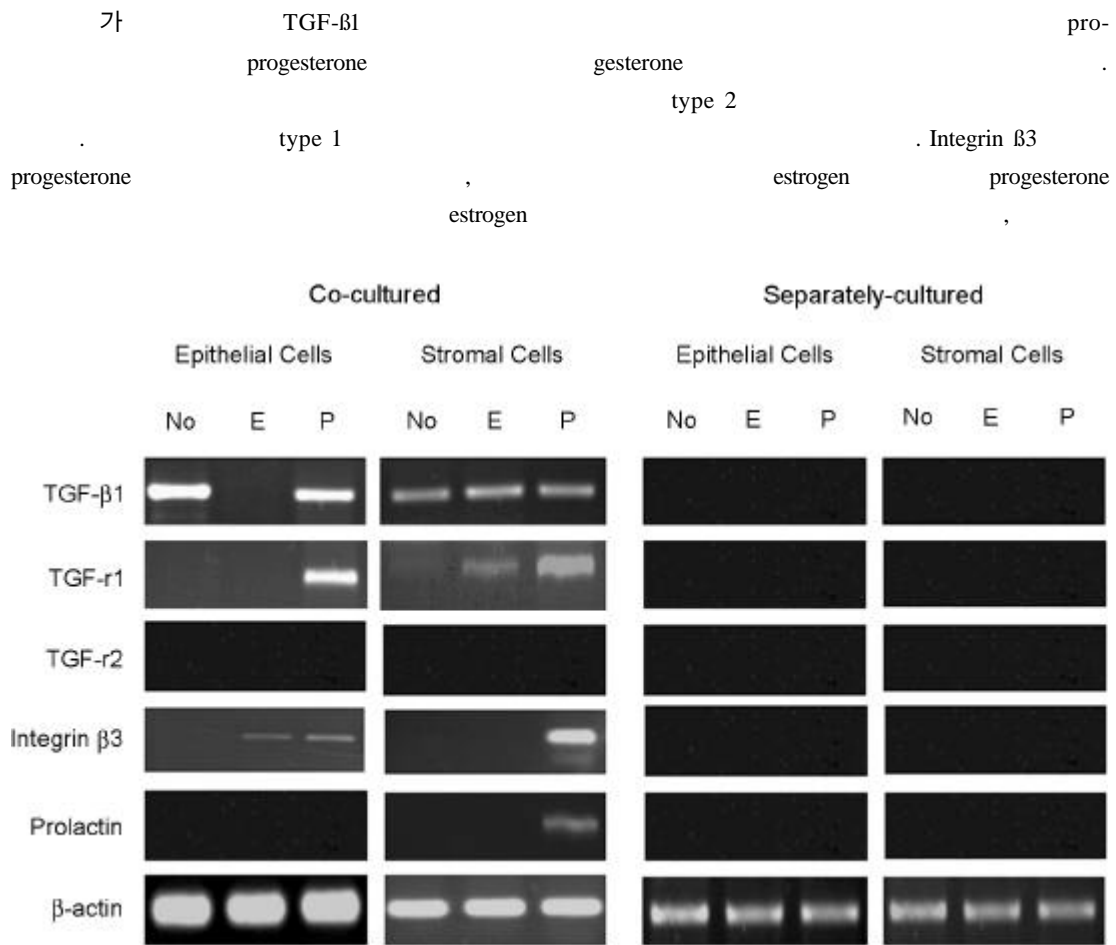


Figure 3. Expression of TGF-β1, its receptor 1, 2, integrin β3 subunit and prolactin mRNAs in co-cultured or separately cultured epithelial and stromal cells in three different hormonal conditions. TGF-β1, its receptor 1 (TGF-r1), integrin β3 mRNAs were detected in the co-cultred epithelial and stromal cells. Prolactin mRNA was shown in the co-cultured stromal cells under the progesterone dominant condition. In contrast, there was no significant expression of these mRNAs in separately cultured cells.

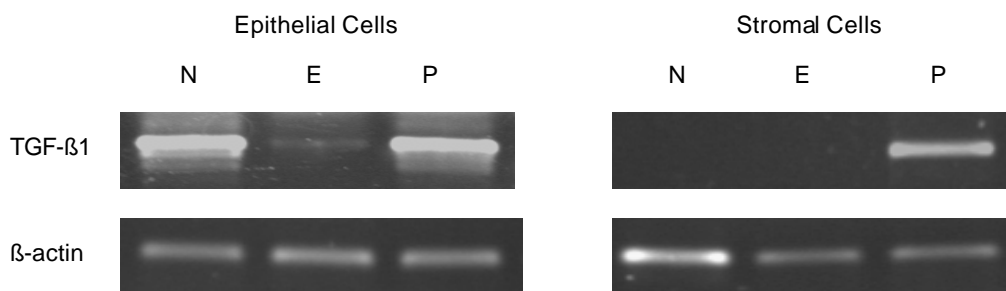


Figure 4. HGF administration induces TGF-β1 mRNA expression in separately cultured epithelial and stromal cells. HGF (10 nM/ml) was administrated in separately cultured epithelial and stromal cells. In epithelial cells, TGF-β1 mRNA was detected in all hormone conditions. In stromal cells, TGF-β1 mRNAs were detected only in the progesterone dominant condition.

progesterone
. Prolactin
(Figure 3).

3.
가 TGF - β mRNA
RT-PCR mRNA
HGF 가 TGF- β 1
estrogen
TGF- β 1, mRNA progesterone
(Figure 4).

4.
HGF Met
Met

5.
가 HGF
ELISA HGF
150 \pm 24 pg/ml (n=3), estrogen
4,325 \pm 436 pg/ml (n=3), progesterone
2,000 \pm 540 pg/ml (n=3)
(Table 2).

6.
가 TGF - β mRNA
HGF TGF- β 1
가 HGF TGF- β 1 type 1
mRNA가 . TGF type 2 mRNA
HGF 가 progesterone
, TGF- β 1 가
가 estrogen
가 progesterone
(Figure 6).
HGF TGF- β 1 가
mRNA
(data not shown).

7.
beta 가 prolactin mRNA
HGF TGF- β 1

(Figure 5). Met
(data not shown).

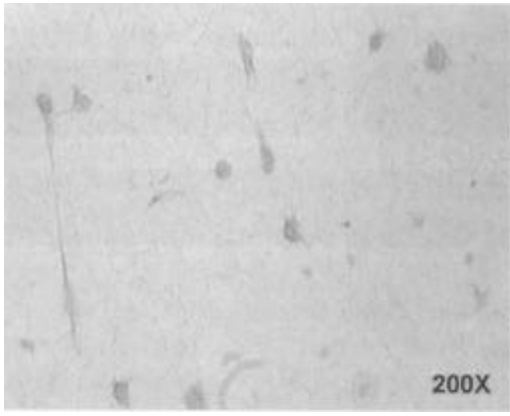


Figure 5. Immunocytochemical staining of 3-dimensionally cultured human endometrial stromal cells. Stromal cells were separated and 3-dimensionally cultured in collagen gel as described. Met positive stromal cells were shown brown color.

Table 2. The concentration of HGF in conditioned medium was determined by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Cells grown under either the estrogen dominant or the progesterone dominant condition (n=3; 4325 \pm 436 pg/ml in the estrogen dominant; 2000 \pm 540 pg/ml in the progesterone dominant) revealed higher concentrations of HGF than no hormone-treated groups (n=3; 150 \pm 24 pg/ml) (Mean \pm S.D.)

Hormone conditions	HGF concentration (pg/ml)
No hormone	150 \pm 24
Estrogen dominant	4,325 \pm 436
Progesterone dominant	2,000 \pm 540

Note. Results are expressed as mean concentration of three different conditioned medium (n=3; Mean \pm S.D.)

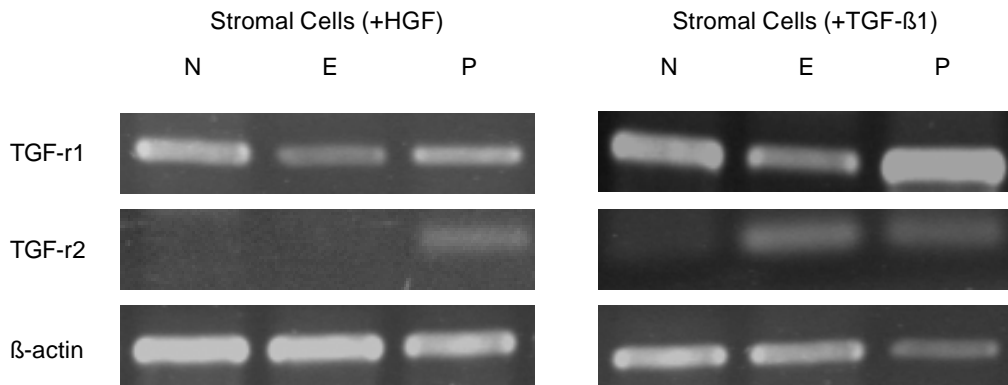


Figure 6. HGF and TGF-β1 administration induces TGF-r1 and -r2 mRNA expression in separately cultured stromal cells. Administration of HGF at 10 nM/ml induces TGF-r1 expression in all hormone conditions, while TGF-r2 was expressed in the progesterone dominant condition. TGF-β1 administration (10 nM/ml) induces TGF-r1 and -r2 expression in all hormone conditions except the expression of TGF-r2 is detected in no hormone condition.

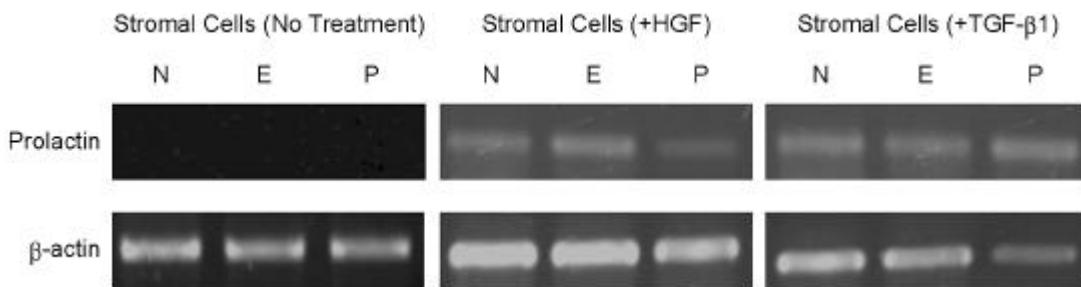


Figure 7. HGF and TGF-β1 administration induces prolactin mRNA expression in separately cultured stromal cells. Prolactin mRNA was induced by either HGF or TGF-β1 administration in all hormone conditions.

가 prolactin mRNA가 conditioned medium
가
prolactin mRNA
(Figure 7).
in vitro
in vivo
3
decidualization
1
Wegner 23
mRNA
TGF-β1 type 1 mRNA
TGF-β

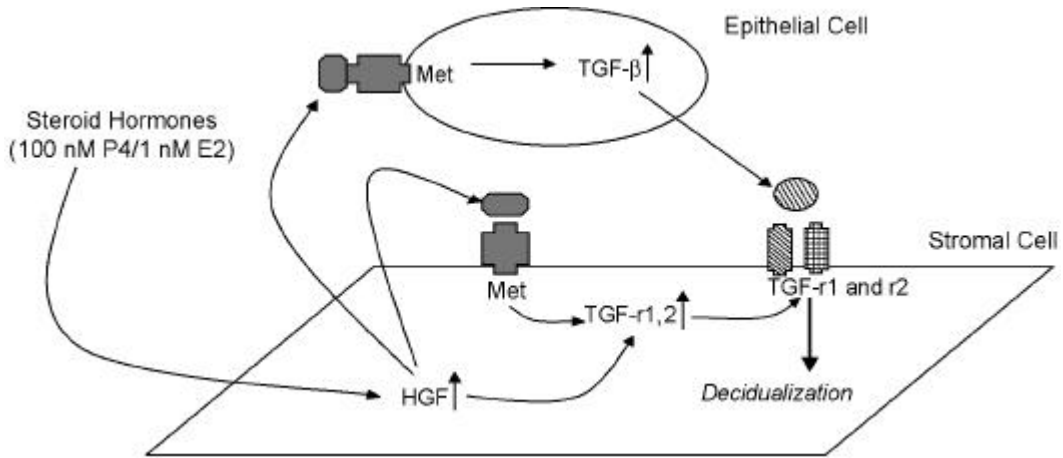


Figure 8. A proposed mechanism for the stromal decidualization. Progesterone induces HGF expression in stromal cells, then HGF plays a paracrine role in epithelial cells by inducing TGF- β expression and an autocrine role in stromal cells by inducing the expression of TGF- β receptor 1 and 2. Consequently, HGF and TGF- β induce the stromal decidualization under the progesterone dominant condition in vitro.

TGF- β	mRNA가 (data not shown).	가 paracrine factor	가 . 가
TGF- β 1		HGF Met	HGF
Integrin β 3 window	implantation ²⁴	HGF Met	Met
integrin β 3 gesterone	mRNA가 pro-		. ELISA
	. Prolactin ²⁵ Prolactin mRNA progesterone	150 \pm 24 pg/ml (n=3), estrogen 436 pg/ml (n=3), progesterone 540 pg/ml (n=3)	4,325 \pm 2,000 \pm
		HGF HGF 가가 TGF- β mRNA	
HGF		ml HGF 가 β 1 estrogen mRNA	10 nM/ TGF-
	¹⁷ ¹⁸		, TGF- β 2 mRNA progesterone
가	가	가 cytokine	
	¹⁹	HGF HGF 가가	TGF mRNA

HGF 가 TGF type 1 mRNA
TGF type
2 progesterone
type 2 (Figure
3) type 2 type 1
TGF-β TGF
type 2 TGF-β가 TGF
type 1
. 9 HGF TGF
type 2 progesterone TGF-
β
HGF TGF-β1 가가
pro-
lactin mRNA
TGF-β HGF가
decidualization
Makrigiannakis 26 progesterone
decidualization progesterone
CRH (corticotrophin-releasing hormone)가
progesterone
3 48 proge-
sterone decidualization maker pro-
lactin mRNA
HGF HGF
TGF-β TGF type 1, 2
(Figure 8).
, progesterone deci-
dualization progesterone
HGF TGF
가

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