



***Wnt1* and *SFRP1* as potential prognostic factors and therapeutic targets in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma**

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Genet. Mol. Res. 15 (2): gmr.15028187

Received December 3, 2015

Accepted February 1, 2016

Published June 21, 2016

DOI <http://dx.doi.org/10.4238/gmr.15028187>

ABSTRACT. The Wnt signaling pathway plays a key role in insurgence and progression of many different forms of cancer. Some crucial components of the Wnt pathway have been proposed to be novel targets for cancer therapy. To date, the Wnt signaling pathway has not been studied in cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma (CSCC). This study was designed to investigate the expression of *Wnt1* and *SFRP1* from the Wnt pathway in CSCC. Tissue samples were obtained from 35 patients with CSCC and 30 controls admitted to the Xinjiang

Uygur Autonomous Region People's Hospital at Urumchi City, China. Gene and protein expressions of *Wnt1* and *SFRP1* were quantified by immunohistochemistry and western blotting. *Wnt1* expression was significantly higher ($P < 0.05$) in CSCC samples than in normal skin cells of the control subjects; in contrast, *SFRP1* expression was significantly lower in CSCC tissues than that in tissues of control subjects ($P < 0.05$). Moreover, *Wnt1* expression ($P < 0.05$) was found to be correlated with histopathological differentiation in CSCC, and negatively correlated with *SFRP1* expression in CSCC ($r_s = -0.473$, $P = 0.015$). Therefore, we concluded that *Wnt1* and *SFRP1* play important roles in the development of CSCC and could be potent markers for diagnosis, prevention, and therapy of CSCC.

Key words: *Wnt1*; *SFRP1*; Cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma