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April 24, 2014

The lifetime incidence of leiomyomas ranges from 50-80%

 Total annual cost (both direct and indirect) in the US is estimated to be \$34.4 billion



Proposed regulation of the growth factors and

apoptosis-related factors in uterine leiomyoma cells by sex steroid hormones.



Maruo et al. Hum Reprod Update. 2004;10(3):207-20.

Nuclear receptors

Estrogen receptors classified into nuclear and plasma membrane-bound.

Nuclear; While ERα is mainly expressed in uterus and breast, ERβ is more broadly distributed in ovary, brain, bone, and other organs. However, both ERα and ERβ are co-expressed in several organs.

Membrane-bound receptors

 Mebrane-bound estrogen receptors include the same nuclear estrogen receptors localized to the plasma membrane (mERs) and unique ones such as the more recently identified G protein-coupled receptor 30 (GPR30).

Both α and β subtypes are localized at the plasma membrane (known as mER α and mER β).



Normal regulation of survival/apoptosis balance in uterine leiomyoma



Bifulco et al. Mol Hum Reprod. 2004;10(1):43-8.

2-methoxyestradiol

 Estrogen metabolite 2- methoxyestradiol induces apoptosis and inhibits cell proliferation and collagen production in rat and human leiomyoma cells: a potential medicinal treatment for uterine fibroids.

• Salama SA, et al. (2006) Journal of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation 13: 542-550.

2-methoxyestradiol

 Catechol-o-methyltransferase expression and 2- methoxyestradiol affect microtubule dynamics and modify steroid receptor signaling in leiomyoma cells.

• Salama SA, Kilic GS (2009) PLoS One 4: e7356.

TGF-β3

 2-methoxyestradiol (an estrogen metabolite with anti-tumor properties) inhibits TGF-β3 profibrotic effects in leiomyoma cells through Smad and non-Smad mediated pathways.

• Salama SA, Kilic GS,. (2012) Fertil Steril 98: 178-184.

TGF-β3

- Furthermore, De Falco and colleagues used tissues obtained from hysterectomy patients and demonstrated that TGF-β3 and connective tissue growth factor are overexpressed in leiomyoma compared to myometrium.
- De Falco M, et al. (2006) Journal of the Society for Gynecologic Investigation 13: 297-303.

TGF-β3

 Leiomyoma tissue overexpress TGF-β3 compared to myometrial tissue.

• Arici A. (2000) Fertil Steril 73: 1006-1011.

Progesterone signaling as a therapeutic target in leiomyoma treatment

- Randomized 42 women with symptomatic uterine fibroids into treatment with progesterone antagonist mifepristone or placebo for 26 weeks.
- They found that mifepristone treatment was associated with a significant tumor size reduction, improvement of anemia, and improved subjective assessment of quality of life

Mifepristone

 The same group followed patients for 12 months and confirmed tumor shrinkage.
However, they found modest increase in endometrial hyperplasia

• Eisinger SH et al. (2005) J Minim Invasive Gynecol 12: 227-233.

Asoprisnil

 Induction of apoptotic signaling pathways and inhibition of proliferative signaling pathways.
Importantly, these changes were noted in leiomyoma but not myometrial cells.

• Ohara N, et al. (2007) Reproductive sciences 14: 20-27.

Growth Factors

- Modulating PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway seems to be an intriguing target in leiomyoma therapy.
- Akt inhibition by MK- 2206, an investigational drug currently in phase II trials, inhibits leiomyoma growth and induces cellular death. In addition, there is a published patent to use an mTOR inhibitor as a treatment of leiomyoma
- Sefton EC, et al. (2013) Endocrinology 154: 4046-4057.

Growth Factor

 Growth factor binding to the RTK leads to receptor dimerization and autophosphorylation. This leads to downstream activation of several pathways including Grb2-Sos-Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK and PI3K-PIP3-Akt.



Wnt/beta-catenin

- Estrogen and progesterone-induced proliferation is leiomyomas is modulated, at least in part, through Wnt expression by mature leiomyoma cells and its paracrine response on beta catenin signaling in leiomyoma side-population (LMSP).
- Ono M, et al. (2013). Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A 110: 17053- 17058.

Network analysis of key genes involved in leiomyosarcoma development



Kobayashi et al. Mol Clin Oncol. 2013;1(4):599-609.

Serotonin induces aromatase activity



Aromatase

• Expression of the CYP19 gene and its product aromatase cytochrome P450 in human uterine leiomyoma tissues and cells in culture.

• Bulun SE, Simpson ER, Word RA. (1994) J Clin Endocrinol Metab 78: 736-743.

Aromatase Inhibitors

Aromatase inhibitors decreased the size of the fibroids



• Dr. Bilgin Gurates, Kilic GS (2008) Reprod Biomed

Letrozole

 Three months treatment significantly decreased the size of fibroids without osteroporosis

5-HT receptor-mediated signaling pathways



Polter AM, Li X. Front Mol Neurosci. 2011;4(31)1-14.



Chemical structure of SB216641



SB216641; A selective 5-HT receptor antagonist.

www.tocris.com

QUESTION???

Does SB216641, a selective antagonist of 5-HT receptors, have any therapeutic potential through proliferation and cell death in uterine fibroid cells?

SB216641 decreases cell clonogenicity in a dose dependent manner in huLM cells





huLM cells were incubated without or with SB216641, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5µM, for 14 days. The colonies were visualized by crystal violet dye.

SB216641 inhibits the cell viability in a dose dependent manner in huLM cells



huLM cells were treated without or with 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 μ M doses of SB216641 for 72h. *p<0.05 vs. untreated condition.

SB216641 induces PARP cleavage and autophagosome formation in huLM cells



huLM cells were incubated without or with 5 or 10 µM SB216641 for 6h, 24h and 48h.

SB216641 induces PARP cleavage and autophagosome formation in huLM cells



