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Award Number: DAMD17-00-1-0349

TITLE: Prevention of Breast Cancer by IGFBP

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Douglas A. Yee, M.D.

CONTRACTING ORGANIZATION: University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

REPORT DATE: June 2002

TYPE OF REPORT: Annual

PREPARED FOR: U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT: Approved for Public Release;
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20020913 041

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved
OMB No. 074-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing this collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503

1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank)		2. REPORT DATE June 2002	3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES COVERED Annual (1 Jun 01 - 31 May 02)	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Prevention of Breast Cancer by IGFBP			5. FUNDING NUMBERS DAMD17-00-1-0349	
6. AUTHOR(S) Douglas A. Yee, M.D.				
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) University of Minnesota Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 E-Mail: veexx006@umn.edu			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Fort Detrick, Maryland 21702-5012			10. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY REPORT NUMBER	
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES				
12a. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited			12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE	
13. Abstract (Maximum 200 Words) (abstract should contain no proprietary or confidential information) In this proposal, we hypothesize that inhibition of IGF action by IGFBP-1 will prevent breast cancer in a SV40 Tag transgenic model of breast cancer. We will test this hypothesis with two specific aims: 1) to inhibit IGF action at the mammary epithelial cell by creating transgenic mice that express IGFBP-1 under the control of the whey acidic protein (WAP) promoter and 2) to test the ability of IGFBP-1 to suppress tumorigenesis by mating these animals with C3/Tag transgenic mice. To date, we have generated two founder lines containing the IGFBP-1 transgene and several F1 and F2 animals were analyzed. Unfortunately, while the transgene was clearly integrated into these animals, we were unable to detect expression of IGFBP-1 protein. To correct this problem we have generated more founders with a modified construct involving insulator sequences. Oocytes have been injected and we are awaiting the offspring.				
14. SUBJECT TERMS breast cancer			15. NUMBER OF PAGES 4	
			16. PRICE CODE	
17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT Unclassified	18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE Unclassified	19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF ABSTRACT Unclassified	20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Unlimited	

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Introduction

The purpose of this project was to create transgenic mice expressing IGFBP-1 in the mammary gland. We hope overexpression of this binding protein can neutralize IGF action and inhibit breast cancer development.

Body

To create these animals, we cloned a IGFBP-1 cDNA into a whey acidic protein promoter construct. Embryos were injected into animals and founders were created. Of the animals we have analyzed, approximately 25% have the transgene. From this founder line, we have selected two separate lines and mated them with wild-type animals. As shown below, while the transgene was present in many of the offspring. However, we were unable to identify IGFBP-1 protein in the offspring.

Key Research Accomplishments

Two founder mice were selected for further study. Figure 1 shows the results of a southern blot of a founder female mouse and several offspring mated to a wild-type male mouse. As can be seen, this founder female (F2683) has integrated the transgene and several of the offspring of the mating also contain the transgene.

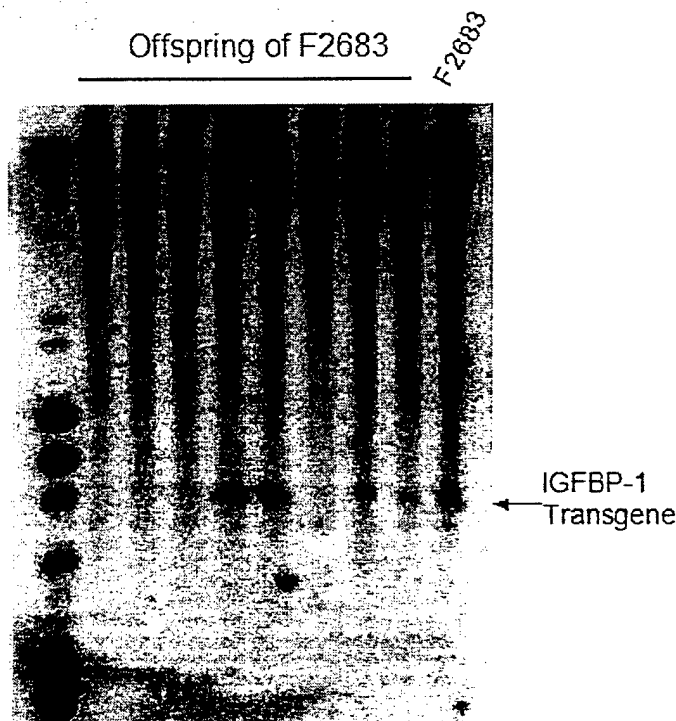


Figure 1 - Southern blot of IGFBP-1 in founders and offspring Genomic DNA was isolated from tails and

We then mated the offspring and collected milk and dissected the mammary glands after a pregnancy. We analyzed milk protein and extracted protein from the mammary gland. We used two methods to screen for IGFBP-1 expression. Immunoblot using a human specific antibody and ligand blot using radiolabelled IGF-I to detect IGF binding protein species were used on over 30 separate mammary glands from different offspring. We initially had positive results suggesting that IGFBP-1 protein could be detected by immunoblot in some of the offspring. However, there were conflicting results with ligand blot, as animals with positive IGFBP-1 immunoblot seemed to have negative IGFBP-1 when detected by ligand blot (data not shown). Since it was possible that the IGFBP-1 antibody was detecting a non-specific protein, we also isolated mRNA from the dissected mammary gland. Using immunoblot, ligand blot, and ribonuclease protection assay, we were unable to detect IGFBP-1 mRNA.

While we were disappointed by these findings, there are several potential explanations for this finding. First, although the transgene was integrated, the expression may not be stable. It is possible that expression of the transgene was selected against over time or had a deleterious effect on lactation. It is possible that transgene expression was selected against during mammary gland development. If this is the explanation, then it may be very difficult to express high levels of IGFBP-1 in the mammary gland. Second, selection of additional founders may enhance the ability to detect the protein. Hopefully, this is the reason for our inability to detect IGFBP-1 and if we screen additional animals, we will be able to select IGFBP-1 expressors.

Reportable outcomes

While transgene integration was documented, protein was not identified.

Conclusions

Additional animals need to be created. We have re-engineered the WAP-IGFBP-1 construct to contain insulator sequences. If the gene is silenced, then we will hopefully minimize this with silencer sequences. We have started a second round of animal selection, we will examine more animals with the construct we previously made and with the WAP-IGFBP-1 construct with insulator sequences.

References - None

Appendices - None