SURVIVAL OF HUMAN NORMAL THYROID CELLS AFTER X-RAY IRRADIATION

ヒト正常甲状腺細胞の X 線 照射後の生存性

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SUMMARY

Normal thyroid cells from 13 individuals treated surgically for malignant or benign thyroid tumor were cultured in vitro and radiation-induced cytotoxicity was studied. The mean lethal dose (D_0) , quasi-threshold (D_q) , and extrapolation number (n) of survival curves of normal human thyroid cells assayed by colony formation were estimated to be 85.9 ± 3.6 cGy (cGy = rad = 1/100 Gy), 40.8 ± 7.4 cGy, and 1.7 ± 0.2 , respectively (average for 13 individuals \pm standard error). These results suggest that proliferating human thyroid cells are more sensitive to X rays than most other nonhematologic mammalian cells in similar assays.

Cell survival was not significantly affected by sex, age, or disease of the cell donor. However the number of samples currently available is too small for definitive conclusions in this regard.

INTRODUCTION

Irradiation to the head, neck, and chest during childhood increases the risk of thyroid tumor as

要約

悪性又は良性の甲状腺腫瘍で外科的治療を受けた13人の患者から得た正常甲状腺細胞を in vitro で培養し,放射線による細胞死の感受性を調べた。コロニー形成法により計測したヒト正常甲状腺細胞の生存曲線の平均致死線量(D₀),類閾値線量(D_q)及び外挿値(n)はそれぞれ85.9±3.6 cGy(cGy=rad=1/100Gy), 40.8±7.4 cGy及び1.7±0.2(13例の平均値±標準誤差)と推定された。これらの結果から,同様な計測法では増殖中のヒト甲状腺細胞は,哺乳動物の血液細胞を除く他の大部分の細胞に比べ、X線に対して感受性が高いことが示唆された。

細胞の生存率は、細胞提供者の性、年齢、及び疾患によって有意な影響を受けなかった。しかしながら、現在利用できる標本の数が少ないので、この点に関して最終的な結論を導くことはできない。

稍 1

Duffy 及び Fitzgerald, 1 Simpson ら, 2,3 Clark, 4

demonstrated in studies by Duffy and Fitzgerald, Simpson et al, 2,3 Clark, 4 as well as Rooney and Powell. 5 In addition, studies conducted by Parker et al 6 and Ezaki et al 7 indicate that Hiroshima and Nagasaki A-bomb survivors are at increased risk of thyroid cancer. Of 565 cases of thyroid surgery for nodular lesions conducted during the period from 1972 through 1981 at the Second Department of Surgery, Hiroshima University School of Medicine, thyroid cancer accounted for 225 cases, of which 41 cases (18%) were A-bomb survivors. 8

Radiation effects can be broadly classified into acute effects and late effects, including carcinogenesis. In mammals, the rate of radiation-induced carcinogenesis increases with dose to a peak between 3 to 10 Gy. According to Modan et al, 9 even at radiation doses from 6 to 30 cGy, the incidence of thyroid cancer is higher than the spontaneous rate.

Experimental evidence suggests that ionizing radiation is an initiator of carcinogenesis. Radiation-induced damage to and misrepair of the genetic apparatus have been implicated in both cell killing and cell transformation. Studies of cell survival and of postirradiation repair processes are essential to an understanding of radiogenic neoplasia.

This study, which used a recently developed technique for the culture of human thyroid cells in vitro, was conducted to examine X-ray-induced cytotoxic damage to normal thyroid cells.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Normal Human Thyroid Cells. Thyroid tissue was obtained from 13 patients who underwent partial or total resection of the thyroid for benign or malignant tumors at the Second Department of Surgery, Hiroshima University School of Medicine. None of the patients received any therapy prior to surgery.

Only normal tissues were used for this investigation. Detailed procedures for the preparation of primary human thyroid cultures have been described elsewhere. 12 Briefly, tissues were minced into pieces approximately 1 mm³ and

Rooney 及び Powell⁵ の研究が示すとおり、幼年期に頭部、頸部、胸部に放射線照射を受けると甲状腺腫瘍の危険率が増加する。更に、広島・長崎原爆被爆者では甲状腺癌の危険率が高いことが Parker ら⁶ 及び江崎ら⁷ の研究によって示されている。1972年から1981年までの期間に、広島大学医学部第2外科で実施した結節性病変のための甲状腺外科手術565例のうち、甲状腺癌は225例で、そのうち41例(18%)は原爆被爆者であった。8

放射線の影響は,概して急性影響と発癌を含む晩発影響に分類される。哺乳動物の場合には放射線誘発癌の発生率は線量に伴い増加し,3 Gy と10 Gy の間で最高になる。Modan 5 g によれば,6~30 cGy の放射線量においてさえ,甲状腺癌発生率は自然発生率を上回る。

電離放射線は癌のイニシエーターであることが実験により示唆されている.10 遺伝物質に及ぼす放射線誘発障害とその修復異常は、細胞致死並びに細胞の悪性化転換の両方に関連している.11 細胞の放射線感受性及び放射線照射後の修復過程に関する研究は放射線誘発性腫瘍の理解には不可欠のものである.

最近開発された in vitro におけるヒト甲状腺細胞の 培養技法を用いてヒト正常甲状腺細胞のX線感受性 を検査する目的で本研究を実施した。

材料及び方法

ヒト正常甲状腺細胞. 広島大学医学部第2外科で, 良性及び悪性腫瘍のため甲状腺を部分的又は完全に 切除した13人の患者から,甲状腺組織を入手した. それらの患者のうち,外科手術以前に治療を受けた 者はいなかった.

この調査では正常組織のみを使用した。ヒト甲状腺一次培養系の準備過程は別に詳細に記した。¹² 概略的には、組織を約1 mm³ に細切し、リン酸緩衝液(PBS)で希釈した 0.2% Worthington 型コラゲナーゼ中で、

then stirred gently in 0.2% Worthington type collagenase diluted with phosphate-buffered saline (PBS) for two hours at 37°C. The cell suspension was passed through a nylon filter of 53 µm average pore size in order to remove large cell aggregates. The filtered suspension was then centrifuged at 1,200 rpm for 10 minutes and the supernatant discarded. The packed cells were resuspended in complete culture medium (Table 1) and plated in 60 mm diameter culture dishes. Four to 10 days later, exponentially growing epithelial cells were trypsinized, and appropriate numbers were plated in culture dishes containing complete growth medium. The cell numbers plated were chosen from estimates of the plating efficiency (PE) and surviving fractions at each radiation dose so that approximately 40 colonies would develop per dish.

Plated cells were placed in a humidified incubator at 37°C in an atmosphere of 5% CO₂ and 95% air. After allowing attachment overnight, the medium was removed and the cells were x-irradiated at a dose rate of 6.38 Gy/min with a Softex X-ray machine operating at 40 kVp and 5 mA with 0.2 mm aluminium external filtration. Immediately after irradiation, fresh medium was added to each dish. The culture medium was replaced with fresh medium a week later. Fourteen days after irradiation, the cell colonies were fixed in the culture dishes with 10% formalin and stained with Giemsa.

37℃で2時間静かに攪拌した.大きな細胞集団を除去するため,細胞懸濁液を,平均孔直径53μmのナイロン・フィルターにかけた.その後懸濁液を1,200 rpmで10分間遠心分離し,上清は廃棄した.遠心で集めた細胞を再び完全な培地(表1)を用いて懸濁し,直径60mmの培養皿に播種した.4~10日後,指数関数的に増加する上皮細胞をトリプシン処理し,完全増殖培地の入った培養皿に適当数を播種した.プレーティング効率(PE)及び各放射線量の生存率の推定から各皿当たり平均40個のコロニーが形成されるよう細胞数を決定した.

5% CO₂ 及び95%の空気を含む37℃の大気中で、播種した細胞を加湿恒温器に入れた。一晩おいて細胞を培養皿に付着させた後、培地を除去し、Softex X線装置(40 kVp, 5 mA, 0.2mmのアルミニウム・フィルター)により6.38 Gy/分の線量率で細胞を X線照射した、照射の直後、新鮮な培地を各皿に加えた。この培地は1週間後に1回新鮮なものと取り替えた。照射の14日後に、細胞コロニーを 10%フォルマリンで培養皿に固定し、ギムザ染色を 行った。

TABLE 1 CONDITIONED MEDIUM 表 1 調整培地

Basal Medium	
cMEM + HAM's F-12	(1:1)
Glucose	1.5 g/liter
Penicillin	100 IU/ml
Streptomycin	100 µg/ml
Growth Additive	
Fetal Bovine Serum	2.5 % (v/v)
Insulin	10 μg/ml
Hydrocortisone	20 ng/ml
Transferrin	5 g/ml
Glycl-1-Histidyl-L-Lysine Acetate	10 ng/ml
Somatostatin	10 ng/ml
Epidermal Growth Factor	10 ng/ml
Thyroid Stimulating Hormone	10 mU/mI

Evaluation of Reproductive Survival. Among the macroscopic colonies produced, those with 50 or more cells were designated as viable, while those with less than 50 cells were considered as abortive, nonviable colonies. The sex, age, tumor histology, and A-bomb exposure status of the cell donors were not revealed to the investigators who counted colonies.

For each experiment, the PE was estimated as the total number of viable colonies counted in the unirradiated control dishes divided by the total number of cells plated into those dished. The surviving fraction at radiation dose D was estimated as コロニー形成性の評価. 形成された肉眼で見えるコロニーのうち,50以上の細胞をもつものを生存コロニーとし,50未満の細胞をもつものは,増殖不完全で生存不可能なコロニーとした. 細胞提供者の性・年齢・腫瘍組織・原爆被爆状況は,コロニーを数えた調査者には明らかにしなかった.

各実験について、放射線を照射されていない対照用 培養皿の中の生存可能なコロニーの総数をそれらの 皿に播種した細胞の総数で割ることにより PE を推定 した、放射線量 D での生存分画を下記のとおり推定 した.

 S_D = (no. viable colonies at dose D)/[(no. of exposed cells plated) × PE]. S_D = (線量 D における生存可能なコロニー数) / [(被照射細胞の播種数) × PE]

The multitarget, single-hit model,

最大尤度法により各実験で得たデータに多重標的の 単一ヒットモデル

$$S(D) = 1 - (1 - e^{-D/D_0})^n$$

where S(D) is the probability that a cell will form a colony after exposure to dose D, and the survival parameters Do and n are that mean lethal dose and extrapolation number, respectively, was fit to the data from each experiment by the method of maximum likelihood. It was assumed that, at exposure dose D, the number of colonies formed followed a Poisson probability distribution with expected value N x PE x S(D), where N is the number of cells exposed. Estimates of the quasi-threshold dose Dq, were calculated from estimates of Do and n by the formula $D_q = D_0 \times 1n(n)$. If the estimate of n was less than one, Dq was set to zero. Comparisons between subjects according to age, sex, histological type, and A-bomb exposure status were based on analyses of variance of survival parameter estimates.

を当てはめた。ただし S(D) は細胞が線量Dを被曝した後コロニーを形成する確率であり、生存パラメーター D_0 及びn は各々平均致死線量と外挿値である。被曝線量Dでは、形成コロニー数は、期待値 $N \times PE \times S(D)$, (N は被照射細胞数)をもつポアソン確率分布に従うと仮定した。類閾値線量 D_q の推定値は、公式 $D_q = D_0 \times 1 n(n)$ による D_0 及びn の推定値から計算した。n の推定値が 1 未満の場合は D_q をゼロとした。生存パラメーター推定値の分散分析に基づき、年齢・性・組織型・原爆被爆状況による対象者間の比較を行った。

RESULTS

All cells used in these experiments originated from normal tissue that was surgically removed along with diseased tissue. The cells originated from four males and nine females ranging in age from 31 to 75 years old (Table 2). Six cases has been diagnosed as papillary carcinoma, six cases as follicular adenoma, and one case as medullary carcinoma. Three patients were in Hiroshima at the time of the bomb. However, from the files of RERF, it was determined that

結 巣

本実験に使用した細胞はすべて、疾患組織とともに外科的切除をした正常組織に由来した。これらの細胞は31歳から75歳までの男性4人、女性9人に由来した(表2)。6例は乳頭状癌、6例は濾胞状腺腫、1例は髄様癌と診断されていた。患者3人は原爆時広島にいた。しかし放影研の資料によると、そのうち

two of the patients were more than 2,000 m from the hypocenter (0 Gy), while the third was 1,200 m away (>3 Gy).

2人は爆心地から 2,000 m 以遠(0 Gy), 残り 1人は 1,200 m 地点(>3 Gy)にいた。

TABLE 2 INDIVIDUAL RADIOSENSITIVITIES OF NORMAL THYROID CELLS IN PRIMARY CULTURE

表 2 一次均	音養における	各正常甲状腺細	胞の放射線感受性
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Cell strain	Sex	Age	Distance from Hypocenter	Disease ¹	D ₀	$D_{\mathbf{q}}$	n
83.36N	F	31	-	FA	99.3 (2.0) ²	31.2 (8.8)	1.4 (0.1)
83.34N	F	32	-	PC	77.9 (2.4)	63.9 (10.4)	2.3 (0.3)
83.02N	F	33	-	FA	99.0 (1.2)	55.4 (5.9)	1.8 (0.1)
83.29N	F	33	-	FA	81.2 (2.0)	47.7 (8.7)	1.8 (0.2)
82.42N	F	38	-	PC	77.3 (10.7)	0.0 (0.0)	0.9 (0.5)
83.35N	F	41	-	FA	80.9 (2.2)	69.1 (0.6)	2.4 (0.3)
83.13N	F	48	-	FA	81.6 (1.5)	76.5 (6.4)	2.6 (0.2)
83.30N	F	53	4000 m	FA	63.2 (4.1)	15.2 (14.8)	1.3 (0.3)
83.33N	F	69	1200 m	PC	92.2 (8.5)	0.0 (0.0)	0.9 (0.3)
83.08N	M	49	-	MC	108.7 (2.4)	22.0 (11.9)	1.2 (0.1)
83.37N	M	55	_	PC	99.2 (2.3)	41.5 (10.4)	1.5 (0.2)
83.26N	M	60	_	PC	84.6 (3.2)	75.5 (13.6)	2.4 (0.5)
83.18N	M	75	2600 m	PC	71.9 (3.1)	31.8 (12.4)	1.6 (0.3)
Mean (S)	E of mea	n)			85.9 (3.6)	40.8 (7.4)	.1.7 (0.2)

^{1.} PC: Papillary Carcinoma FA: Follicular Adenoma MC: Medullary Carcinoma PC: 乳頭状癌 FA: 滤胞状腺腫 MC: 髄様癌

Morphological Appearance. The cells which formed colonies were generally rounded in shape and epithelioid in appearance regardless of cell density. Spindle-shaped fibroblast-like cells comprised 5%-10% of first and second passage cultures. 12

Proliferative Competence. Estimates of the postirradiation survival parameters D_0 , D_q , and n, of the 13 human normal thyroid cells in culture are shown in Table 2 and Figure 1. Although cell strains 83.42N and 83.33N showed low D_q and n values, the other strains had definite "shoulders" in their radiation-response curves. The average D_0 , D_q and n values (\pm standard error) were 85.9 \pm 3.6 cGy, 40.8 \pm 7.4 cGy, and 1.7 \pm 0.2, respectively.

形態学的外観. コロニーを形成した細胞は細胞密度にかかわらず概して円形であり外観は上皮様であった. 紡錘状,線維芽細胞様の細胞が培養第1及び第2継代の5%~10%を占めていた.12

増殖能力. 培養した13例のヒト正常甲状腺細胞の照射実験から得られた D_0 , D_q 及びn の推定値を表 2 及び図 1 に示す. 細胞株83.42N及び83.33Nの D_q 値とn値は低かったが、その他の株は放射線線量効果曲線において明確な肩を示した. D_0 , D_q , n の平均値(土標準誤差)は各々85.9 \pm 3.6 ϵ Gy, 40.8 \pm 7.4 ϵ Gy 及び $1.7\pm$ 0.2であった.

^{2.} Parameter estimate (standard error of the estimate). D_0 and D_q values given in cGy. パラメーター推定値 (推定値の標準誤差). D_0 値及び D_q 値の単位は cGy.

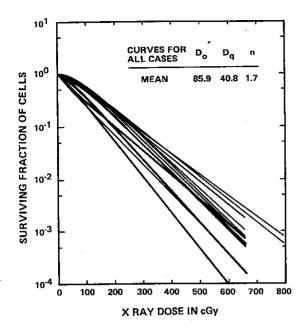


Figure 1. X-ray dose-response survival curve of normal human thyroid epithelial cells. Mean values for D_q , D_q and D_q and D_q are given in cGy.

図1. ヒト正常甲状腺上皮細胞の X線線量に対する生存率曲線. 13例のヒト細胞株から D_0 , D_q 及び nの平均値を得た. D_0 値及び D_q 値の単位は cGyである.

Further analysis of these results provide no evidence of significant variation in the radiosensitivity of the normal thyroid cells from these 13 individuals related to sex (Table 3), age (Table 4), or disease type (Table 5).

DISCUSSION

Radiation-induced damage to the proliferative capacities of normal thyroid epithelial cells derived from 13 patients and grown in culture have been examined by recently developed Do values of the individual cell strains in this preliminary study ranged from 63.2 to 108.7 cGy with an average of $85.9 \pm$ 3.6 cGy. Human thyroid epithelial cells assayed in culture are thus considerably more radiosensitive than rat thyroid epithelial cells assayed in vivo, for which the D₀ is about 200 cGy.¹³ Furthermore, human thyroid cells appear to be relatively sensitive as compared to human skin and breast cells. 14 Cox and Masson 15 and Weichselbaum et al, 16 using primary cultures of human diploid skin fibroblasts, obtained estimated Do values considerably greater than those seen in this study.

これらの結果を更に分析しても,13例から得た正常 甲状腺細胞の放射線感受性に,性(表3),年齢 (表4),疾患型(表5)別に有意な変動を証明する ことはできない。

考察

13例の患者に由来し、培養系で増殖させた正常甲状腺上皮細胞の増殖能に対する放射線誘発障害を最近開発された技法により検査した。この予備的研究における各細胞株の D₀ 値は63.2~108.7 cGy であり、平均値は85.9±3.6 cGy であった。このように、培養系で計測したヒト甲状腺上皮細胞は、ラットの甲状腺上皮細胞を同様に in vivo で計測し D₀ が約 200 cGyであったものに比べ、かなり放射線感受性が高い・13 更に、ヒト皮膚及び乳腺細胞に比べ、ヒト甲状腺細胞は比較的感受性が高いようである・14 Cox 及びMasson¹⁵ 並びに Weichselbaum ら 16 がヒト複相皮膚線維芽細胞の一次培養により得た D₀ の推定値は、本研究で得た値よりもかなり大きい・

TABLE 3 COMPARISON OF RADIOSENSITIVITY BY SEX

表3 放射線感受性の性別比較

Sex	Female	Female Male		
No. of patients	9	4.	of variance p-value	
D_0	83.6 (3.8) ¹	91.1 (8.1)	0.36	
$D_{\mathbf{q}}$	39.9 (9.8)	42.7 (11.6)	0.87	
n ~q	1.7 (0.2)	1.7 (0.3)	0.92	

¹⁻ Mean (SE of mean). D_0 and D_q values given in cGy.

平均 (平均の標準誤差). D₀ 値及び D_q値の単位は cGy・

TABLE 4 COMPARISON OF RADIOSENSITIVITY BY AGE

表 4 放射線感受性の年齢別比較

Age	30-39	40-49	50+	One-way analysis of variance
No. of patients	3	3	5	p-value
D ₀	86.9 (6.5) 1	90.4 (9.2)	82.2 (6.6)	0.71
D _q	39.6 (14.6)	55.9 (17.1)	32.8 (12.8)	0.54
n n	1.6 (0.3)	2.1 (0.4)	1.5 (0.2)	0.48

¹⁻ Mean (SE of mean). D_0 and D_q values given in cGy.

TABLE 5 COMPARISON OF RADIOSENSITIVITY BY DISEASE TYPE

表 5 放射線感受性の疾患型別比較

Histology	Papillary carcinoma	Follicular adenoma	One-way analysis of variance p-value	
No. of patients	6	6		
D ₀	83.9 (4.2) ¹	84.2 (5.5)	1.00	
$\mathbf{D}_{\mathbf{q}}^{o}$	35.5 (12.9)	49.2 (9.4)	0.41	
n	1.6 (0.3)	1.9 (0.2)	0.43	

¹⁻ Mean (SE of mean). D_0 and D_q values given in cGy.

平均(平均の標準誤差)。 Do値及び Da値の単位は cGy・

平均 (平均の標準誤差). D₀ 値及び D_q値の単位は cGy.

Except for 2 of the 13 patients examined, human thyroid cell radiation dose-response curves showed small but definite shoulders. Two strains, 83.42N and 83.33N had low Do and n values suggesting deficient repair mecha-Human skin fibroblast16 and human nisms. mammary epithelial cell radiation dose-survival curves 14,17 also had small shoulders in culture. Recent evidence suggests, however, that epithelial cell repair capacity in vivo may be considerably greater than that seen in culture. 18 For example, the radiation dose-survival curves of rat mammary epithelial cells irradiated and assayed in vitro display a small shoulder. 13 When irradiated and left undisturbed for four or more hours in situ in the donor animal, and then assayed by transplantation, rat mammary epithelial cell survival curves display large shoulders (n = 17-20), but have Do values similar to those seen in culture. This tissue-environment dependent "in situ repair" (ISR) process has also been described in rat thyroid epithelium²⁰ and hepatocytes, ^{19,21} irradiated in situ. Thus, the small shoulders seen in the radiation dose-survival curves of human thyroid epithelial cells in culture may not reflect their repair capacity in vivo.

No significant difference in thyroid cell radiosensitivity was demonstrable between the nine females and four males in this study. However, epidemiologic studies of human thyroid cancer show a marked influence of sex on the late somatic effects of radiation. 7 Such differences in radiation carcinogenesis between the sexes may be a function of other modulating factors which are not expressed in cell-survival assays as reported here. Similarly, no effect of age could be detected in this study. Although our results of the effects of age are consistent with those of Yang et al14 who used human mammary epithelial cells, both studies are based on small samples. Samples will continue to be collected so that possible influencing factors can be studied.

Since our samples of normal thyroid tissue come from patients undergoing surgery for tumor removal, the influence of disease on the normal cells was examined. No significant difference in radiation sensitivity was detected between cells from patients with papillary carcinoma and those with follicular adenoma. Only one case of medullary carcinoma was included among the 13 patients.

検査した13人の患者のうち2人を除き、ヒト甲状腺 細胞の放射線に対する線量効果曲線は小さいけれども 明確な肩を示した、83.42N及び83.33Nの2株は D。値とn値が低く,修復機序の欠陥を示唆している. ヒト皮膚線維芽細胞16及びヒト乳腺上皮細胞の放射 線量-生存曲線14,17も培養系で小さな肩を示した. しかし、最近の観察結果によれば、上皮細胞の修復 能力は、 in vivo では培養系に比べかなり大きいことが 示唆されている.18 例えば、in vitro で照射し測定した ラットの乳腺上皮細胞の放射線量一生存曲線は小さな 肩を示す.13 しかしラットの乳腺上皮細胞をそれを 提供する動物の in situ で照射し4時間以上放置した 後, in vivo 移植により計測すると、その生存曲線は 大きな肩を示す (n=17~20). しかし D₀ は培養の 場合と同様である。この組織環境依存性"in situ 修復"(ISR)過程は、in situ で照射されたラット 甲状腺上皮20及び肝細胞19,21においても示されて いる. したがって, 培養系のヒト甲状腺上皮細胞の 放射線量一生存曲線に見られる小さな肩は、それらの 細胞が in vivo で発揮できる修復能力をすべて反映 しているのではないかもしれない。

本研究の女性 9 例と男性 4 例の間には、甲状腺細胞の放射線感受性における有意な差異は認められなかった。しかしながら、ヒト甲状腺癌の疫学的研究により、性が放射線の身体に及ぼす後影響を著した右することが示されている。7 このような放射線による発癌の男女間の差異は、ここで報告した細胞生存率の計測では示されない他の修正因子の機能によるものかもじれない。同様に、本研究においてはいるが、同様に、本研究で得た結果は、ヒト乳腺上皮細胞を用いたYang ら4 の結果に一致しているが、両研究とも例数は少ない。影響因子が研究できるよう症例の収集は今後とも継続して行うつもりである。

本研究で用いた正常甲状腺組織標本は,外科手術により腫瘍を切除した患者から得られたものなので,疾病が正常細胞に及ぼす影響を調査した.乳頭状癌患者と濾胞状腺腫患者から得た細胞の間には,放射線感受性における有意な差異は認められなかった. 患者13人のうち1人のみが髄様癌であった. Three of the subjects in this study were A-bomb survivors. The exposure status estimates data available at RERF show that two of the survivors received no radiation exposure from the A-bomb. The third survivor, located 1,200 m from the hypocenter was not registered in the RERF files. While all 3 of these patients had small D_q values relative to 9 of the 10 other patients, we are unable to attribute this to A-bomb radiation exposure.

Our preliminary results thus suggest that human thyroid cells are relatively sensitive to X ray with small D_0 values; D_q and n values were also small, but should be interpreted with caution. The sex, age, and disease state of the patients were not seen to have a profound influence on the radiosensitivity of these normal cells.

本研究対象者中 3 人は原爆被爆者であった。放影研に保存されている被爆状況推定データによると、そのうち 2 人は原爆からの放射線を受けていない。残り1人は爆心地から1,200 mの地点にいたが、放影研の資料に登録されていない。これら 3 人の患者はすべて、残り10人のうち 9 人と比較して低い Dq値を示したが、このことが原爆放射線被曝に帰因するとは断定できない。

このように、本研究の予備的結果は、ヒト甲状腺 細胞が低い D_0 値をもち比較的X線に対し感受性が強いことを示唆している。 D_q 値及 V_0 値も低いが、それらは慎重に解釈する必要がある。患者の性・年齢・病状が、これらの正常細胞の放射線感受性に対し大きな影響を及ぼすことは示唆されなかった。

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