

: **GnRH agonist**가

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: **Effects of GnRH agonist used for ovarian hyperstimulation in human IVF-ET on the apoptosis of preovulatory follicular cells**

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Abstract

There have been many reports to date regarding the role of GnRH as a local regulatory factor of ovarian function as studies of human and rat ovaries revealed GnRH and its receptor. In recent studies it has been shown that GnRH directly causes apoptosis in the granulosa cells of the rat ovary, and such results leads to the suggestion that the use of GnRH agonist for more stable long term ovarian hyperstimulation in human IVF-ET programs causes granulosa cell apoptosis which may lead to follicular atresia. Therefore this study attempts to determine if granulosa-luteal cell apoptosis occurs in patients during IVF-ET programs in which GnRH agonist is employed for ovarian hyperstimulation. The quality of oocyte-cumulus complexes obtained during ovum pickup procedures were assessed morphologically and then the fertilization rate and developmental rate was determined. Apoptotic cells among the granulosa-luteal cells obtained during the same procedure were observed after staining with Hematoxylin-eosin. The fragmentation degree of DNA extracted from granulosa-luteal cells was determined and comparatively analyzed. There was no difference in the average age of the patients, the number of oocytes retrieved, and fertilization and developmental rates between the FSH/hMG group and GnRH-long group. There was also no difference in the apoptosis rate and pyknosis rate in the granulosa-luteal cells between the two groups. However, when the oocyte-cumulus complexes were morphoogically divided into the healthy group and atretic group without regard for the method of hyperstimulation, the results showed that the number of oocytes obtained averaged 11.09 ± 8.75 and 10.33 ± 4.53 per cycle, respectively, showing no significant difference, but the fertilization rate (77.05%, 56.99%, respectively, $p < 0.01$) and developmental rate (65.96%, 41.51%, respectively, $p < 0.01$) was significantly increased in the healthy group when compared to the atretic group. The degree of apoptosis in the granulosa-luteal cells showed that in the healthy group it was 2.25% which was not significantly different from the atretic group (2.77%), but the pyknosis rate in the atretic group (27.81%) was significantly higher compared to the healthy group (11.35%, $p < 0.01$). The quantity of DNA fragmentation in the FSH/hMG group was 32.22%, while in the GnRH-long group it was 34.27%, showing no significant difference. On the other hand the degree of DNA fragmentation was 39.05% and 11.83% in the healthy group and atretic group, respectively, showing significantly higher increase in the atretic group ($p < 0.01$).

The above results suggest that death of granulosa-luteal cells according to the state of the oocyte-cumulus complex is more related to pyknosis rather than apoptosis. Also, the GnRH agonist used in ovarian hyperstimulation does not seem to directly affect the apoptosis of retrieved oocytes and granulosa-luteal cells, and which is thought to be due to the suppression of the apoptogenic effect of GnRH agonist as a result of the high doses of FSH administered.

Key words : GnRH, Apoptosis, Granulosa-luteal cell, Atresia, IVF-ET

1978 Steptoe Edwards (In Vitro Fertilization and Embryo Transfer; IVF-ET) 가 (Assisted Reproductive Technologies; ART)

menopausal gonadotropin (hMG) follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) human gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist (GnRHa) (Trounson and Gardner, 1993), 90 GnRHa

(Maclachlan et al., 1989; Martin, 1989; Herman et al., 1990; Kim SH et al., 1991; Smitz et al., 1992). GnRHa premature luteinizing hormone (LH) surge 가 (Neveu et al., 1987; Serafini et al., 1988; Palermo et al., 1988),

(Meldrum, 1989). GnRHa antigonadal (Hsueh and Jones, 1981),

(Hillensjo and Lemaire, 1980; Corbin and Bex, 1981; Clark 1982; Naor and Yavin, 1982; Dekel et al., 1983, 1985; Ma and Leung, 1985; Pellicer et al., 1992).

GnRH 가 GnRH

가 (Hsueh and Jones, 1981; Clayton and Catt, 1981; Leung et al., 1989; Peng et al., 1994; Paik et al., 1994; Choi et al., 1994),

가 GnRH (Billig et al., 1994; 1996). , FSH

GnRHa가 가 , GnRHa

FSH

가

GnRHa

GnRHa가

1. -
 - 20
 FSH/hMG
 (FSH/hMG) GnRH_a (GnRH-long)
 FSH/hMG FSH (Metrodin, Serono) hMG (IVF-M, LG Chem. Co.)
 3 4 FSH 150 IU hMG 150 IU 5 hMG
 - GnRH_a-long GnRH_a (Buserelin
 acetate; Suprefact, Hoechst) 1
 FSH/hMG -
 , 가 18 mm ,
 estradiol (E₂) 300 - 400 pg/ml hCG
 (Pergonal, Serono) 10,000 IU 35 - 36
 17 G

-
 가 1ml 40% percoll 3ml
 300 xg 20
 가
 phosphate buffered saline (PBS) 3 -
 DNA -20
 4% neutral buffered formalin (NBF, pH 7.4) 가 4

2. Hematoxylin- eosin
 - 4% NBF alcohol series
 , xylene paraffin (Paraplast plus)
 paraffin block (microtome, Lipshaw) 5 - 6 μm
 xylene paraffin alcohol Paraffin
 hematoxylin-eosin (H-E)
 alcohol xylene canadian balsam (Wako Pure Chemical Co.)
 . H-E - (Axioskop; Zeiss, Germany)
 (pyknotic nuclei) apoptotic body

3. DNA DNA
 - 0.2 ml 가 26 G
 12.5 μl 10% SDS 65 30
 35 μl 8M potassium acetate 60 가
 4 , 5000 xg 10 1.5ml
 phenol: chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (25:24:1, V:V:V) 가 DNA
 , chloroform: isoamyl alcohol (24:1, V:V)
 1.5 ml , 0 2.5 100% ethanol 가, -70

DNA 1 4 14,000 xg 30
 DNA 50 μ l 1X TE buffer (10mM Tris-HCl, 1mM EDTA, pH 8.0)
 1 μ l DNase-free RNase (500 μ g/ml; Boehringer-Mannheim, IN) 가
 60 37 DNA phenol: chloroform: isoamyl alcohol
 , chloroform: isoamyl alcohol 0.1 3M
 sodium acetate 0 2.5 100% ethanol DNA -70
 60 4 14,000 xg 30 , 0
 0.2 ml 80% ethanol Speed-Vac Concentrator (Savant Instruments, NY)
 15 25 μ l , 260 nm
 DNA -20 DNA lane 5 μ g 1.5%
 agarose gel loading , running buffer TBE , 50V 3
 ethidium bromide transilluminator
 gel polaroid scanner scanning Cream program (Kem-En-Tec
 Software System, Denmark) arbitrary unit

4.

Chi-square test Mann-Whitney test p
 0.05

1. FSH/hMG GnRH-long 33.90 ± 3.25 35.00 ± 3.23
 가 , , (granulation)
 (darkness) 가 ‘+’ ‘+++’ ,
 (darkness) (dispersion)
 ‘+’ ‘+++’
 ‘++’ 3 "Atretic" , "Healthy"
 가 , GnRH-long FSH/hMG
 "Healthy" "Atretic" 가 (Table 1).
 "Healthy" "Atretic"
 , "Healthy" "Atretic" 35.44 ± 3.17 33.64 ± 3.14 가
 , 11.09 ± 8.75 10.33 ± 4.53 가
 "Healthy" 77.05% "Atretic" 56.99%
 (p<0.01), "Healthy" 65.96% "Atretic" 41.51%
 (p<0.01).

2. H-E -
 - , ,
 - (pyknotic nuclei)
 (apoptotic body)
 ,
 (Fig. 1).
 - 가 FSH/hMG 2.81
 GnRH-long 2.16 ,
 15.53 21.98 가 (Table 2). "Healthy" "Atretic"
 "Healthy" 2.25 "Atretic" 2.77 ,
 "Atretic" 27.81 "Healthy" 11.35 가
 (p<0.01)(Table 3).

3. DNA - DNA 1.5% agarose gel
 Et-Br 300 - 500 bp DNA가
 (Fig. 2; A, B). DNA FSH/hMG
 29.55% GnRH-long 23.56% 가 (Fig. 2; C). , -
 DNA "Atretic" 37.05% "Healthy" 17.98%
 가 (p<0.01)(Fig. 2; D).

GnRHa가

10 - 12 가 .
FSH 가
, GnRHa 가
GnRHa가 FSH
FSH/hMG GnRHa
가 (Maclachlan et al., 1989; Martin, 1989;
Herman et al., 1990, Kim SH, et al., 1991; Smitz et al., 1992). GnRHa가

(Hillensjo and Lemaire, 1980; Corbin and Bex, 1981; Clark 1982; Naor and Yavin, 1982;
Dekel et al., 1983, 1985; Ma and Leung, 1985; Pellicer et al., 1992), GnRHa
atretic
가 GnRHa
healthy
가 GnRHa
FSH GnRHa 가

가 (Heimler et al., 1995; Seifer et al., 1996; Nakahara et al.,
1997a,b),
(Gilbert et al., 1983; Hirshfield 1989; Zeleznik et al., 1989).
Nakahara (apoptotic body)

가 2%
Heimler TUNEL (Terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase and nick end labeling)
3- 12%
H-E 2-4%
H-E (apoptotic body) (pyknosis)

가 가 가
(Byсков 1979; , 1987; , 1989;
Palumbo and Yeh, 1994), (

가
가 DNA

DNA , 300 - 500 bp DNA가
 , DNA 가
 atretic DNA 가 ,
 가
 (Tilly et al., 1991; Hughes and Gorospe, 1991; Palumbo and Yeh, 1994;
 Jolly et al., 1994). , FSH/hMG 30% DNA
 FSH (Hay et
 al., 1976; Braw and Tsafiri, 1980b; Billig et al., 1994; Chun et al., 1994),
 DNA FSH가
 , FSH
 FSH 가 hCG
 가
 (Zelemik et al., 1989).
 GnRHa FSH/hMG DNA
 Billig (1994; 1996)
 , GnRH FSH
 GnRHa
 FSH GnRHa antagonadal 가

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Figure 1. Photomicrographs of human granulosa-luteal cells stained with hematoxylin-eosin and by TUNEL method. Granulosa-luteal cells were fixed in 4% neutral buffered formalin and processed for routine histological observation. Paraffin sections (5 μ m) of human granulosa-luteal cells were stained with hematoxylin-eosin. The granulosa-luteal cells obtained from the healthy follicles with good quality of oocytes and expansion of cumulus cells during retrieval of oocytes have normal round nuclei in cells and lower percentage of pyknotic cells (A, C). Note that the granulosa-luteal cells obtained from the atretic follicles with poor quality of oocytes and cumulus cells have small round pyknotic nuclei and stained darker (B, D). Arrows indicate pyknotic cells, whereas arrow-head shows apoptotic cell. Magnification : A, B, X200; C, D, X400

Figure 2. DNA fragmentation rates of granulosa-luteal cells obtained from follicles with healthy (H) or atretic (A) oocyte-cumulus complex. Oocyte-cumulus complexes were obtained from 20 patients in IVF-ET program. Extracted DNA were resolved by 1.5% agarose gel electrophoresis at 125 V for 60 min. The agarose gels submerged in PBE buffer containing ethidium bromide (0.5 μ g/ml) for 90 min. The gels were visualized and photographed on a UV transilluminator (A; FSH/hMG group, B; GnRH-long group). The photograph was analyzed with densitometric scanning (C, D). Values represent mean \pm SEM. *, $p < 0.05$ versus healthy group.