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**TUMORES MAMÁRIOS MISTOS CANINOS: ANÁLISE DO DNA
MITOCONDRIAL E DA EXPRESSÃO PROTEÍCA DE HER2 E EGFR NOS
COMPONENTES EPITELIAL E MESENQUIMAL**

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TUMORES MAMÁRIOS MISTOS CANINOS: ANÁLISE DO DNA MITOCONDRIAL E DA EXPRESSÃO PROTEÍCA DE HER2 E EGFR NOS COMPONENTES EPITELIAL E MESENQUIMAL

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ATA DA DEFESA DE TESE DE DOUTORADO de **ANGÉLICA CAVALHEIRO BERTAGNOLLI**, nº de registro 2006203945. Às quatorze horas do **vinte e sete de março de dois mil e nove**, reuniu-se no Instituto de Ciências Biológicas da UFMG, a comissão examinadora de tese indicada pelo colegiado do Programa de Pós-Graduação em Patologia, para julgar, em exame final, o trabalho intitulado: **“TUMORES MAMÁRIOS MISTOS DA CADELA: ANÁLISE DO DNA MITOCONDRIAL E EXPRESSÃO PROTEICA DE HER-2 E EGFR NOS COMPONENTES EPITELIAL E MESENQUIMAL ”**, requisito final para a obtenção do grau de Doutora em Patologia, pelo Programa de Pós-Graduação em Patologia - Área de Concentração em Patologia Geral. Abrindo a sessão, o Presidente da comissão, Prof. Geovanni Dantas Cassali, após dar a conhecer aos presentes o teor das normas regulamentares do trabalho final passou a palavra à candidata para apresentação de seu trabalho. Seguiu-se a arguição pelos examinadores com a respectiva defesa da candidata. Logo após, a comissão se reuniu sem a presença da candidata e do público para julgamento e expedição do resultado final. Foram atribuídas as seguintes indicações:

Prof. Geovanni Dantas Cassali/Orientador	Instituição: UFMG	Indicação: <u>Aprovada</u>
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Pelas indicações, a candidata foi considerada APROVADA.

O resultado final foi comunicado publicamente à candidata pelo presidente da comissão. Nada mais havendo a tratar, o presidente encerrou a reunião e lavrou a presente ATA, que será assinada por todos os membros participantes da comissão examinadora. Belo Horizonte, 27 de março de 2009.

Prof. Geovanni Dantas Cassali/Orientador _____

Prof. Alfredo Ribeiro Silva _____

Prof. Paulo César Maiorka _____

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*Viste como ergueram aquele edifício de grandeza imponente? - Um tijolo, e outro. Milhares.
Mas um a um.
- E sacos de cimento, um a um. E blocos de pedra, que pouco representam na mole do
conjunto. - E pedaços de ferro. - E operários que trabalham, dia a dia, as mesmas horas. . .
Viste como levantaram aquele edifício de grandeza imponente?... À força de pequenas coisas!*

(Josemaría Escrivá)

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Aos meus pais Amilton e Tânia

Ao meu amado Rogério

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ASMA - Alfa-actina de músculo liso de cadeia pesada (*alfa-smooth muscle actin*)

CK5 – citoqueratina de alto peso molecular constituinte do citoesqueleto epitelial

CD10 – Grupo de moléculas de diferenciação de linfócitos 10 (*cluster of differentiation 10*)

c-myc – Oncogene celular da mielocitomatose (*myelocytomatosis celular oncogene*)

EGF - Fator de crescimento epidérmico (*Epidermal growth factor receptor 2*)

FISH - Hibridização *in situ* fluorescente (*Fluorescent in situ hybridization*)

FGF - Fator de crescimento fibroblástico (*Fibroblast growth factor*)

ICB - Instituto de Ciências Biológicas

IHC - Imunoistoquímica

D-Loop – estrutura de DNA onde duas cadeias em dupla hélice são separadas num trecho e afastadas por uma terceira cadeia de DNA (*displacement loop*)

DNA – Ácido desoxirribonucléico (*desoxi ribonucleic acid*)

DNAmt – DNA mitocondrial

EGF – Fator de crescimento epidermal (*Epidermal Growth factor*)

EGFR – Receptor de fator de crescimento epidermal humano tipo 1 (Epidermal Growth factor receptor 1) também chamado de c-erbB1 e HER1 (*Human epidermal growth factor receptor 1*)

HER2 – Receptor de Fator de Crescimento Epidermal Humano tipo 2 (*Human epidermal growth factor*) também chamado de c-erbB2 () ou HER2 (*Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2*)

HMGIC – Gene da proteína do grupo de alta mobilidade- isoforma I-C (*High-mobility group nonhistone chromosomal protein isoform I-C*)

HVS-I – Segmento hipervariável I da região controle do DNA mitocondrial canino (*hypervariable segment I*)

HVS-II – Segmento hipervariável II da região controle do DNA mitocondrial canino (*hypervariable segment II*)

HVR-I – Segmento hipervariável I da região controle do DNA mitocondrial humano (*hypervariable region I*)

HVR-II – Segmento hipervariável II da região controle do DNA mitocondrial humano (*hypervariable region II*)

kDa – unidade de medida para peso molecular de proteínas (*KiloDalton*)

Mdm2 – Proteína de célula transformadora (*transformed 3T3 cell double minute 2*)

PCR – Reação de polimerase em cadeia (*polymerase chain reaction*)

PLAG1 – Gene do adenoma pleomórfico 1

p21 – Proteína codificada pelo gene *WAF 1* reguladora da transição da fase G1 para fase S no ciclo celular

p53 – Proteína codificada pelo gene *Tp53* responsável pela integridade do genoma

p63 – Proteína codificada pelo gene *TP63* com papel no desenvolvimento epidérmico

Pb – pares de bases

RNA – Ácido ribonucléico (*ribonucleic acid*)

RNAs – Ácido ribonucléico ribossomal (*ribonucleic acid ribosomal*)

RNA_t - Ácido ribonucléico transportador (*ribonucleic acid transfer*)

S-100 - Proteína cérebro específica (*brain – specific protein*)

STRS – Regiões repetitivas curtas localizadas no DNA (*short tandem repeats*)

UFMG – Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

n = número de casos

ΔNp63 – isoforma (sem a porção amino-terminal) da proteína p63

RESUMO

Os tumores mistos benignos são neoplasias constituídas por proliferação epitelial benigna e por elementos mesenquimais. Estes tumores são freqüentes na glândula mamária canina e podem malignizar originando carcinomas em tumores mistos. A origem dos diferentes elementos celulares que os compõem bem como os fatores que determinam a sua transformação maligna são aspectos não elucidados. Os objetivos deste estudo foram: 1) Investigar a presença de alterações em uma zona hipervariável do DNA mitocondrial e a presença de polimorfismos de microssatélites nucleares em tumores mamários mistos da cadela com a finalidade de obter informações a respeito da evolução clonal destes tumores. 2) Avaliar a expressão das oncoproteínas HER2 e EGFR em tumores mistos e verificar seu possível envolvimento com a histogênese e progressão destes tumores. Os componentes epitelial e mesenquimal de 10 tumores mistos benignos e 9 carcinomas em tumores mistos foram microdissectados, o DNA foi extraído e um fragmento de 273pb da região controle do DNA mitocondrial foi amplificado por reação de polimerase em cadeia e seqüenciado. A presença de polimorfismos em cinco locos de microssatélites nucleares foi também investigada. Adicionalmente, a expressão imunohistoquímica de HER2 e EGFR foi analisada em 16 tumores mistos benignos e 22 carcinomas em tumores mistos. Nove polimorfismos e quatro mutações foram detectados. O mesmo haplótipo de DNA mitocondrial foi encontrado em ambos componentes tumorais de 80,0% (8/10) dos tumores mistos benignos e de 89,9% (8/9) carcinomas em tumores mistos. Amplificação dos locos de microssatélites foi obtida em apenas um caso de tumor misto benigno e um caso de carcinoma em tumor misto e o mesmo padrão alélico para os cinco locos foi observado nos dois componentes destes tumores. Superexpressão de HER2 e EGFR foi observada em 9,0 % (2/22) e 31,8% (7/22) dos carcinomas em tumores mistos. Em ambos os casos a expressão foi encontrada apenas no componente epitelial dos tumores. Os tumores mistos benignos não superexpressaram HER2 e EGFR, mas uma marcação indeterminada foi encontrada em 12,5% deles. Em conclusão, os dois componentes dos tumores mistos apresentaram um mesmo haplótipo de DNA mitocondrial indicando uma comum origem clonal. Os resultados sugerem que alterações na expressão protéica de HER2 não são associadas com aquisição do fenótipo maligno de carcinomas em tumores mistos. Por outro lado a superexpressão de EGFR pode ter um papel na divergência e malignização destes tumores, mas não esta envolvida com a diferenciação mesenquimal.

Palavras-chave: Cadela, clonalidade, imunohistoquímica, mama, neoplasia.

ABSTRACT

Benign mixed tumors are histologically characterized by a mixture of epithelial and mesenchymal components. These are common neoplasias in canine mammary glands and can malignize developing carcinomas in benign mixed tumors. The cell origin of the different components that compose mixed tumors and the aspects that determine its malignant transformation remains to be elucidated. The aims of this study were: 1) To investigate alterations in a polymorphic region of the mtDNA control region and the presence of polymorphisms in nuclear microsatellites loci in canine mammary mixed tumors to access the clonal pattern. 2) To study the expression of HER2 and EGFR oncoproteins in canine mammary mixed tumors and verify the possible role in histogenesis and progression of these tumors. The epithelial and mesenchymal components were microdissected from 10 benign mixed tumors and 9 carcinomas in mixed tumors. The DNA was extracted and a 273bp fragment from mitochondrial control region was amplified using polymerase chain reaction and then sequenced. The nuclear microsatellites loci: FH2658, ren214L11, FH2010, FH2263 e FH39 were also analysed. Additionally, immunohistochemical expression of HER2 and EGFR was analyzed in 16 benign mixed tumors and 22 carcinomas in mixed tumors. Nine polymorphism and four mutations were found. Identical haplotype of mitochondrial DNA in both the epithelial and mesenchymal components were found in 80.0% (8/10) of the benign mixed tumors and in 89% (8/9) of the carcinomas in benign mixed tumors. Amplification of microsatellites locus was obtained in only one case of benign mixed tumor and one case of carcinoma in mixed tumor and the same allelic pattern for the five loci was observed in both epithelial and mesenchymal components. Overexpression of HER2 and EGFR was found in 9% (2/22) and 31.8% (7/22) of carcinomas in mixed tumors. In both the cases the overexpression was restricted to the epithelial component. HER2 and EGFR were not overexpressed in benign mixed tumors, however an inconclusive staining was found in 12.5% of cases. In conclusion, the epithelial and mesenchymal components of tumors showed the same haplotype of mitochondrial DNA suggesting a shared clonal origin. The results indicate that HER2 overexpression may not be associated with acquisition of malignant phenotype in carcinomas um mixed tumors. In contrast, EGFR may be a role in the divergence and malignization of these tumors, however are not involved with mesenchymal differentiation.

Key-words: Female dog, clonality, immunohistochemistry, mammary gland, neoplasia

1. INTRODUÇÃO

Os tumores mamários são neoplasias freqüentes nas fêmeas caninas e representam um problema de grande impacto em medicina veterinária, visto que, resultam em um alto índice de mortalidade. Além disso, os tumores mamários espontâneos que acometem a cadela compartilham diversas similaridades com os tumores da mama humana (HELLMÉN *et al.*, 1993; GERALDES *et al.*, 2000; CASSALI, 2000; LEE *et al.*, 2004), sendo por isso, considerados bons modelos para estudos comparativos (PAOLONI & KHANNA, 2008).

Diante disso, muitos esforços estão sendo direcionados para adoção de critérios que permitam a padronização do diagnóstico, a determinação de fatores prognósticos e entendimento do comportamento e da biologia dos tumores mamários caninos.

Um dos tipos tumorais mais freqüentes na mama da cadela são os tumores mistos. Estes apresentam um complexo padrão histológico visto que, são constituídos por componentes de origem epitelial e mesenquimal e alguns deles podem malignizar originando carcinomas em tumores mistos (MISDORP *et al.*, 1999). Na espécie humana os tumores mistos são neoplasias freqüentes nas glândulas salivares, onde são denominados adenomas pleomórficos (VOZ *et al.*, 2000).

A determinação da origem dos diferentes elementos celulares que compõem os tumores mistos, bem como de fatores que contribuem para transformação maligna são importantes para o entendimento do comportamento e evolução destes tumores, no entanto são aspectos que permanecem não elucidados.

As etapas de desenvolvimento e progressão das neoplasias requerem o acúmulo de alterações genéticas. Mutações e polimorfismos em vários genes presentes no DNA nuclear e mitocondrial (DNAm_t) são descritas em neoplasias mamárias humanas (ROSENBERG *et al.*, 1997; TAN *et al.*, 2002; ARAL *et al.*, 2006) e a análise destas alterações tem sido empregada

em estudos visando estabelecer a origem clonal destes tumores (WANG *et al.*, 2001; ZHU *et al.*, 2005; AULMAN *et al.*, 2008).

Mutações em protooncogenes como HER2 e EGFR, dois membros da família dos receptores dos fatores de crescimento epidérmico, estão entre as principais alterações genéticas relacionadas com o desenvolvimento do câncer humano. A importância desses receptores tem sido amplamente estudada em neoplasias mamárias humanas inclusive originando terapêuticas específicas para o bloqueio de sua atividade (SLAMON *et al.*, 1989; TSUTUSUI *et al.*, 2002a, b; ABD EL-REHIM *et al.*, 2004; YAZIJI *et al.*, 2004; OWENS *et al.*, 2004; BHARGAVA *et al.*, 2005). Nos adenomas pleomórficos das glândulas salivares humanas amplificação e superexpressão de HER2 e EGFR têm sido descritas e são relacionadas com a transformação maligna destes tumores (DI PALMA *et al.*, 2005; MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007). Alterações de HER2 e EGFR já foram encontradas nos tumores mamários da cadela, mas o seu papel na gênese e progressão dos tumores mistos é desconhecido.

Uma vez que nenhuma informação a respeito de alterações no DNAmT em tumores mamários da cadela foi encontrada na literatura consultada, investigou-se a presença de alterações em uma região hipervariável do DNAmT nestes tumores com a finalidade de estudar a origem clonal sua origem clonal. Como método complementar para investigação da origem clonal investigou-se a presença de polimorfismos em regiões repetitivas presentes no DNA nuclear (STRs). Os STRs são microssatélites curtos, altamente polimórficos e sua análise é pode ser uma boa alternativa para analisar amostras com baixo número de cópias de DNA (WADA *et al.*, 1998). Adicionalmente, a presença de alterações na expressão protéica de HER2 e EGFR em tumores mistos benignos e carcinomas em tumores mistos caninos foram investigados com a finalidade de acrescentar informações que possam contribuir para o entendimento da origem e progressão destes tumores.

2. Revisão de Literatura

2.1. Tumores mistos benignos

Os tumores mistos benignos são caracterizados pela presença de elementos epiteliais benignos (células ductais e/ou acinares e mioepiteliais) e células mesenquimais com formação de cartilagem e/ou osso eventualmente em combinação com tecido fibroso mixóide (MISDORP *et al.*, 1999).

Os dados referentes a frequência dos tumores mistos benignos são difíceis de serem comparados devido às divergências entre diversos sistemas de classificação propostos ao longo do tempo (HAMPE & MISDORP, 1974; MOULTON, 1990). Levantamentos cujos casos são avaliados de acordo com o atual sistema de classificação veterinária revelam que 40% a 50% do total dos tumores benignos são tumores mistos (RICHARD *et al.*, 2001; CASSALI *et al.*, 2009). Os dados referentes à idade de acometimento são escassos, mas há relatos de que tumores mistos benignos acometem preferencialmente animais jovens com idade variando de 3 a 9 anos (GENELHU *et al.*, 2007).

Na espécie humana os tumores mistos benignos são lesões incomuns na mama, no entanto, são neoplasias frequentes nas glândulas salivares, onde são denominados tumores mistos ou adenomas pleomórficos (VOZ *et al.*, 2000).

Além da similaridade histológica, os tumores mamários mistos da cadela e adenomas pleomórficos das glândulas salivares humanas se assemelham em vários outros aspectos. Em primeiro lugar, ambos são derivados de glândulas exócrinas que apresentam arquitetura similar (GENELHU *et al.*, 2007). Outro aspecto em comum é a transformação maligna que pode ocorrer nos dois casos resultando em carcinomas surgindo em tumores mistos benignos (cadela) ou carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos (glândulas salivares humanas) (MOULTON, 1990; LEWIS *et al.*, 2001). Nos tumores das duas espécies fatores como o

tempo de crescimento e a recorrência estão relacionados com a transformação maligna (AUCLAIR & ELLIS, 1996; MISDORP *et al.*, 1999; LEWIS *et al.*, 2001). Além disso, um padrão similar de expressão de antígenos como citoqueratinas, p63, vimentina, β -catenina e E-caderina e a mesma idade de aparecimento das lesões benignas e malignas foi observada entre as duas espécies sugerindo que os mesmos mecanismos patogênicos estão envolvidos na gênese destes tumores (GENELHU *et al.*, 2007).

2.2. Carcinomas em tumores mistos

De acordo com o sistema de classificação para tumores mamários da cadela proposto por Misdorp *et al* (1999), os carcinomas em tumores mistos são caracterizados pelo desenvolvimento focal ou nodular de malignidade em associação com um tumor misto benigno primário.

Inicialmente o termo tumor misto maligno era utilizado para denominar um carcinoma associado a tumor misto benigno. No entanto, alguns autores utilizavam esta mesma terminologia para descrever tumores mistos em que um ou ambos os componentes (epitelial e mesenquimal) eram malignos (HAMPE & MISDORP, 1974; MOULTON, 1990). O termo carcinosarcoma era também como sinônimo de tumor misto maligno, mesmo sem a malignização dos dois componentes (HAMPE & MISDORP, 1974).

Na classificação proposta por Misdorp *et al.* (1999), o termo tumor misto maligno foi excluído e substituído por carcinoma em tumor misto que é histologicamente distinto do carcinosarcoma, o qual apresenta concomitante malignidade dos componentes epiteliais e mesenquimais e comportamento mais agressivo (MISDORP *et al.*, 1999; BENJAMIN & SAUNDERS, 1999). Relata-se que os carcinomas em tumores mistos correspondem a 10% a 40% do total dos carcinomas diagnosticados (RICHARDS *et al.*, 2001; CASSALI *et al.*,

2009). Na espécie humana a ocorrência de carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos na glândula salivar é pouco freqüente, mas os tumores são geralmente agressivos resultando em metástases distantes. Os tumores acometem principalmente pacientes acima dos 50 anos e geralmente ocorrem nas glândulas salivares maiores (LI VOLSI *et al.*, 1977; LEWIS *et al.*, 2001).

Estima-se que aproximadamente 1,6 a 7,5% dos adenomas pleomórficos que acometem as glândulas salivares apresentam transformação maligna (ENEROTH *et al.*, 1968). Na maioria das vezes a malignidade está relacionada com a extensão da invasão, a infiltração de estruturas subjacentes e o subtipo histológico (TORTOLEDO *et al.*, 1984). Além disso, múltiplas recidivas locais associadas à incompleta excisão cirúrgica e/ou longo tempo de evolução do tumor estão diretamente relacionados à transformação maligna (LEONETTI *et al.*, 2005).

Alguns fatores genéticos como mutações no gene p53 e acúmulo do seu produto protéico têm sido encontradas em carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos (YAMAMOTO *et al.*, 1998; LEWIS *et al.*, 2001). Translocações e perda de heterozigose em genes como PLAG1 (ASTRÖM *et al.*, 1999) e HMG1C (RÖIJER *et al.*, 2002) e maior número de cópias do cromossomo 7 (BULLERDIEK *et al.*, 1990) também tem sido associadas a malignização do adenoma pleomórfico.

Alterações em outras proteínas envolvidas com a regulação do ciclo celular como p21 e c-myc (DEGUSHI *et al.*, 1993); receptores de fatores de crescimento como HER2 e EGFR (DI PALMA *et al.*, 2005; MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007), diminuição da expressão de moléculas de adesão como E-caderina e β -catenina (DO PRADO *et al.*, 2006; GENELHU *et al.*, 2007) também são relatadas. Adicionalmente, verificou-se que as células mioepiteliais que rodeiam as áreas carcinomatosas dos carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos apresentam diminuição da expressão de proteínas como alfa actina de músculo liso (ASMA),

calponina, citoqueratina 14, CD10, laminina, maspin e p63 (GENELHU *et al.*, 2006; ARAÚJO *et al.*, 2006).

Apesar da maior frequência dos carcinomas em tumores mistos na espécie canina, há poucas informações sobre os mecanismos relacionados com a progressão maligna destas lesões. Genelhu *et al.* (2007), verificaram uma redução das moléculas de adesão E-caderina e β -catenina e perda de p63 nos carcinomas em tumores mistos caninos, similar ao observado nos carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos das glândulas salivares humanas.

Posteriormente, Bertagnolli *et al.* (2009), verificaram uma redução de p63 e Δ Np63 nas células mioepiteliais dos carcinomas em tumores mistos. Foi sugerido que a perda da isoforma Δ Np63 nos tumores estudados pode ter sido um evento importante para a progressão maligna, uma vez que tem sido demonstrado que a referida isoforma pode inibir a expressão de genes envolvidos com metástase e adesão atuando também na supressão tumoral (BARBIERI *et al.*, 2006).

2.3. Histogênese dos tumores mistos

A origem dos elementos heterólogos como a cartilagem que compõem os tumores mistos é um dos aspectos que tem sido investigado, entretanto diversas teorias têm sido propostas gerando controvérsias.

A primeira teoria foi proposta por Allen (1940), o qual sugeriu que a cartilagem seria derivada de metaplasia das células epiteliais (origem monoclonal). Alguns anos depois Huggins & Moulder (1944), encontraram evidências de que a cartilagem poderia ser originada por metaplasia do tecido conectivo ou estromal. Outros autores (HUGGINS & MOULDER, 1944; PALMER & MOUNLUX, 1979; VOS *et al.*, 1993) também encontraram novas evidências para esta hipótese.

Uma terceira linha de pensamento é a de que a cartilagem e osso são derivados das células mioepiteliais. Esta hipótese surgiu a partir da observação de modificações histoquímicas (ERICHSEN, 1955; COTCHIN, 1958) e físicas (HURLEY & JABARA, 1964) nas células mioepiteliais que proliferam nos tumores mistos e nas células do tecido condróide.

Posteriormente, o uso da microscopia eletrônica (PULLEY, 1973; TATEYAMA & COTCHIN, 1978), e de análises imunoistoquímicas possibilitou a observação de modificações progressivas nos componentes do citoesqueleto das células mioepiteliais desses tumores. Verificou-se que as células mioepiteliais em proliferação ou presentes na matriz mixóide perdem a expressão de proteínas constituintes do mioepitélio tais como: ASMA, citoqueratina 14, calponina, S-100, maspin, p63 e citoqueratina 5 (CK5) (DESTEXHE *et al.*, 1993; GÄRTNER *et al.*, 1999; GAMA *et al.*, 2003; LOS MONTEROS *et al.*, 2002, 2005; RAMALHO *et al.*, 2006) e preservam a expressão de proteínas característica de fenótipo mesenquimal como vimentina e S-100 (DESTEXHE *et al.*, 1993; GÄRTNER *et al.*, 1999; GAMA *et al.*, 2003).

Paralelamente há aumento da expressão de proteínas envolvidas nas diversas etapas de formação e maturação condróide como colágenos (ARAI *et al.*, 1989, 1995; ERDÉLYI *et al.*, 2005), versican, agrecan (ERDÉLYI *et al.*, 2005), proteína morfogênica óssea do tipo 6, bem como seus receptores (BMP-6, TATEYAMA *et al.*, 2001; AKYOSHI *et al.*, 2004). Na maioria dos trabalhos observou-se que as modificações na expressão proteica são progressivas e aumentam à medida que as células se diferenciam. Com base nas evidências sugere-se que a diferenciação condróide inicia nas células mioepiteliais em proliferação progredindo para matriz mixóide e finalmente condróide.

Dentro desse contexto, surge um segundo questionamento: os componentes epiteliais e mesenquimais dos tumores mistos apresentam a mesma origem ou são derivados de clones de diferentes células?

A hipótese mais abordada atualmente é a de que os diferentes componentes são originados a partir de uma comum célula tronco com alta capacidade de divergência.

HELLMÉN & LINDGREN (1989), foram os pioneiros a sugerirem esta hipótese. Os autores identificaram a co-expressão de filamentos típicos de células epiteliais e mesenquimais nas formações epiteliais de tumores mistos caninos sugerindo que eles pudessem ter origem em células tronco. Posteriormente, Erdélyi *et al.* (2005), também verificaram a co-expressão de proteínas em células epiteliais indicando a presença de um programa parcial de diferenciação mioepitelial nestas células. Um achado interessante foi o de que em dois dos 22 tumores mistos estudados houve uma transição direta do componente epitelial para cartilagem (sem a formação da matriz mixóide).

Adicionalmente, Ramalho *et al.* (2006), identificaram a presença de células com fenótipo mioepitelial (CK5, p63, vimentina e ASMA+) em áreas de matriz mixóide, indicando a participação destas células na gênese do componente mesenquimal e de células com fenótipo basal (CK5+), as quais provavelmente estariam originando o componente epitelial. Considerando que as células CK5 positivas podem representar células progenitoras ou células tronco adultas que dão origem tanto ao epitélio luminal quanto as células mioepiteliais (BOECKER *et al.*, 2002), os autores sugerem que os dois componentes podem ter origem em uma mesma célula.

Os achados corroboraram com o trabalho prévio de Gärtner *et al.* (1999), os quais verificaram que os componentes epiteliais e mesenquimais dos tumores mistos apresentaram o mesmo conteúdo de DNA sugerindo origem monoclonal e com Nieto *et al.* (2003), que identificaram a expressão imunistoquímica de BRCA, uma proteína envolvida com a regulação das células tronco, em ambos os componentes de tumores mistos benignos.

Em resumo, os resultados existentes até o momento sugerem que a formação da cartilagem nos tumores mistos caninos seja resultante de um processo de transição epitelial

para mioepitelial e mioepitelial para mesenquimal (condróide), mas investigações adicionais são necessárias para comprovar esta hipótese.

2.4.1 DNA mitocondrial

As etapas de desenvolvimento e progressão das neoplasias requerem o acúmulo de alterações genéticas, portanto células derivadas de um mesmo clone provavelmente compartilham inúmeras alterações (FIALKOW, 1979).

Diversas ferramentas incluindo: análise de alterações em microssatélites de DNA (ROSENBERG *et al.*, 1997), análise da inativação do cromossomo X (NOVELLI *et al.*, 2003), alelotipagem (GÖTTE *et al.*, 2000) e análise de mutações em genes nucleares relacionados com o desenvolvimento e progressão tumoral como p53, HER2, EGFR (YAMAMOTO *et al.*, 1998; SWADA *et al.*, 2003) podem ser utilizadas para estudar a clonalidade dos tumores. Além das alterações no DNA nuclear, a análise de alterações no DNA mitocondrial (DNAm_t) tem sido empregada como ferramenta na investigação da clonalidade de diversas neoplasias humanas (FLISS *et al.*, 2000; HA *et al.*, 2002; NOMOTO *et al.*, 2002).

A mitocôndria é uma organela citoplasmática que exerce importantes funções no metabolismo celular, como a produção de energia, e na regulação da morte celular. Apesar de muitos genes mitocondriais serem codificados pelo DNA nuclear, a mitocôndria possui seu próprio genoma que é herdado matematicamente, sendo por isso considerada uma organela semi-autônoma (SWARTZ & DAYHOFF, 1978).

O DNAm_t humano é uma molécula de 16569 pares de bases (pb) constituída por duas fitas organizadas de maneira circular. O genoma mitocondrial representa 1 a 2% de todo o DNA celular e codifica 2 RNA ribossomais, 22 RNA transportadores (requeridos para

tradução) e 13 polipeptídeos que são componentes das cadeias enzimáticas relacionadas com a produção de energia (ANDERSON *et al.*, 1981).

Cada fita do DNAm_t é transcrita a partir de promotores localizados em uma região hipervariável e não condificante constituída por aproximadamente 1122 pares de bases denominada região controle ou Loop-D (*displacement loop*). A replicação inicia-se nesta região sendo caracterizada pelo deslocamento de uma fita sobre a outra formando uma alça denominada Loop-D. A região controle do DNAm_t humano é subdividida em: região hipervariável I (HVR - I) que compreende as posições 16024 à 16035, região hipervariável II (HVR - II), que compreende as posições 73 a 340 (ANDERSON *et al.*, 1981).

O DNAm_t é altamente polimórfico e estima-se que a taxa de mudanças de nucleotídeos durante a evolução seja 10 vezes mais alta do que a do DNA nuclear (WALLACE *et al.*, 2000). Fatores como a ausência de histonas, a proximidade com os radicais livres gerados durante a fosforilação oxidativa, a baixa atividade de DNA polimerases e a formação momentânea de fitas simples tornam a molécula de DNAm_t mais susceptíveis ao stress oxidativo e às mutações (REYES *et al.*, 1998).

A região controle é o local mais susceptível a ocorrência de polimorfismos (PARSONS *et al.*, 1997), mutações e deleções (POLYAK *et al.*, 1998; SANCHEZ-CESPEDES *et al.*, 2001; MÁXIMO *et al.*, 2002) com um número de mutações pontuais que pode variar de 1,6 (COLLER *et al.*, 2001) a 0,33 por molécula (MONNAT *et al.*, 1985). As mutações podem ser heteroplasmicas ou homoplásmicas. Nas mutações heteroplasmicas moléculas mutadas coexistem com moléculas do tipo selvagem de uma mitocôndria, tecido ou órgão. Este fenômeno ocorre devido ao fato de que cada célula pode conter múltiplas cópias de DNAm_t (10^3 a 10^4 ; BIDOOKI *et al.*, 1997). A heteroplasmia pode ser uma herança materna quando é detectada em todos os tecidos estudados. Entretanto, a ocorrência de heteroplasmia em um

único tecido de um indivíduo parece ser proveniente de mutação somática (CALLOWAY *et al.*, 2000).

Durante a divisão celular as mitocôndrias são distribuídas aleatoriamente para as células filhas e depois de vários ciclos de divisão celular é possível que prevaleça dentro de uma célula somente uma das formas de mtDNA (normal ou o mutante) levando a homoplasmia. Estima-se que a fração de homoplasmia na região controle do DNAm_t de células epiteliais normais seja 0.2 e que sejam necessárias 70 gerações para o estabelecimento de uma mutação (COLLER *et al.*, 2001). Uma elevada frequência de mutações homoplásmicas tem sido identificada em diversos tipos de câncer humanos incluindo o de mama (POLYAK *et al.*, 1998; TAN *et al.*, 2002; MÁXIMO *et al.*, 2002). Em um recente estudo verificou-se que a presença concomitante de mutações na região codificante do DNAm_t e de mutações em p53 foi associada com pior prognóstico em carcinomas do esôfago e da mama (GOCHHAIT *et al.*, 2008). Apesar disso, não está bem estabelecido se essas mutações contribuem para o desenvolvimento do câncer ou são resultantes da elevada taxa de proliferação das células cancerígenas.

Estudos baseados em modelos computadorizados sugerem que se mutações ocorrem em células tumorais progenitoras a homoplasmia pode ser atingida pela escolha, devido a replicação e sem resultar em vantagem fisiológica (COLLER *et al.*, 2001). Contudo alguns tipos de mutações, principalmente as que acometem regiões codificantes, podem resultar em alteração na funcionalidade do DNAm_t ou podem interferir na expressão de genes importantes para a progressão tumoral (AMUTHAN *et al.*, 2001) e apoptose (SHIDARA *et al.*, 2005). Em outros casos a mutação pode não ter uma ação direta sobre a funcionalidade mitocondrial, mas pode refletir alterações em genes de reparo do DNA que acarretam em maior instabilidade genética (JERÓNIMO *et al.*, 2001). Existe ainda a possibilidade da

mutação como resultado da segregação randômica, devido ao maior taxa replicativa que ocorre nos tumores (COLLER *et al.*, 2001).

Independente do mecanismo que gerou a mutação ou da sua consequência algumas alterações, principalmente aquelas que ocorrem na região não codificante e em estádios iniciais do desenvolvimento tumoral, podem ser usadas como marcadores para expansão clonal (HA *et al.*, 2001; NOMOTO *et al.*, 2002; ZHU *et al.*, 2005; AULMAN *et al.*, 2008).

A análise de alterações no DNAm em estudo de clonalidade oferece algumas vantagens quando comparada com outras alternativas. Uma das vantagens é que a frequência de mutações no DNAm é maior do que a observada no DNA nuclear (MARCELINO & THILLY, 1999). Adicionalmente, cada célula contém múltiplas cópias de DNAm e mutações podem estar presentes em todas as cópias do DNAm (homoplasmia) ou em apenas algumas delas (heteroplasmia; BIDOOKI *et al.*, 1997). Considerando que a expansão clonal é o fator que determina o acúmulo de mutações no tecido, a identificação de mutações homoplasmicas em diferentes componentes tumorais pode indicar uma mesma origem celular (HA *et al.*, 2002; NOMOTO *et al.*, 2002).

A análise do DNAm também apresenta vantagens técnicas, pois uma vez que 100 a 1000 cópias do genoma mitocondrial podem estar presentes em cada célula, sua análise pode ser uma boa alternativa nas ocasiões em que é necessário avaliar amostras com pouca quantidade de DNA ou material degradado (situação encontrada com os tecidos fixados em formol e incluídos em parafina (CHINNERY & TURNBULL, 1998).

O DNAm canino foi seqüenciado inicialmente por Kim *et al.* (1998) e codifica 2 RNA ribossomais, 22 RNA transportadores e 13 polipeptídeos componentes da cadeias respiratórias. O tamanho da molécula do DNAm canino é aproximadamente 16727 pb com uma região controle de aproximadamente 1270 pb (KIM *et al.*, 1998).

A região controle é dividida em três regiões: segmento hipervariável I (HVS-I), região repetitiva e segmento hipervariável II (HVS-II). A região HVS-I é localizada entre as posições 15458 e 16130 (672pb ~ 4pb). A região repetitiva é localizada entre as posições 16130 e 16429 e consiste de repetições de minissatélites de 10 nucleotídeos cuja extensão pode variar de 200bp a 300bp. A região HVS -II localiza-se logo após a região repetitiva e se estende até a posição 16727 (294pb) (EICHMAN & PARSON, 2007).

A análise do DNAmT em caninos tem sido usada como ferramenta em estudos de genética populacional e forense e diversos pontos quentes para polimorfismos foram observados na região controle (SAVOLAINEN *et al.*, 2002; VAN ASCH *et al.*, 2005; EICHMAN & PARSON, 2007).

Até o momento não há descrições sobre a frequência de mutações no DNAmT em neoplasias caninas. Tendo como referência os resultados demonstrados nos estudos de genética populacional e forense a pesquisa de alterações na região controle pode ser um bom ponto de partida para a análise do DNAmT em neoplasias caninas.

2.5. HER2 e EGFR

A desregulação de dois membros da família de receptores de fator de crescimento epidermal: EGFR (HER1, c-erBb1) e HER2 (c-erBb2, HER-2, HER2/neu) estão entre os numerosos fatores que são relacionados com o desenvolvimento e progressão tumoral.

Os protooncogene HER2 humano localiza-se no cromossomo 17q21 e codifica uma glicoproteína transmembranar de 185 kilo Daltons (kDa; BARGMAN *et al.*, 1986). EGFR localiza-se no cromossomo 7p11.2-p2 e codifica uma proteína de 170 kDa (DOWNWARD *et al.*, 1984). Em ambos os casos as proteínas codificadas são transmembranares e são homólogas aos receptores de fator de crescimento epidermal com atividade de tirosinoquinase (BARGMAN *et al.*, 1986).

O receptor HER2 é ativado pela formação de heterodímeros com outros receptores, pois ligantes específicos não são conhecidos (RIESE *et al.*, 1998; HYNES *et al.*, 2001). Os receptores EGFR podem ser ativados tanto pela ligação com peptídeos como o fator de crescimento epidermal (EGF), quanto por ligações com outro EGFR (homodímero) ou outros receptores da família EGF (heterodímero). A ativação dos receptores no domínio extracelular estimula diversas cascatas citoplasmáticas que culminam com a proliferação, motilidade e sobrevivência das células.

HER2 e EGFR são geralmente expressos em baixos níveis nas células epiteliais e mesenquimais de diversos tecidos, nos quais participam na regulação do desenvolvimento, crescimento e diferenciação celular. Na mama normal a ativação de EGFR e HER2 é importante para a proliferação ductal durante a puberdade (SEBASTIAN *et al.*, 1998). HER2 também é importante para a expansão alveolar e secreção do leite no final da gestação e na lactação (JONES *et al.*, 1999).

Nos últimos anos o entendimento das ações individuais e combinatórias de HER2 e EGFR tem despertado interesse devido ao seu envolvimento com a patogênese do câncer humano e ao desenvolvimento de agentes terapêuticos específicos para o bloqueio de suas atividades.

Qualquer desbalanço no funcionamento desses receptores pode ocasionar aumento da sinalização e conseqüentemente aumento da apoptose, da proliferação celular, da motilidade e da angiogênese (RIEDEL *et al.*, 2002; KARI *et al.*, 2003; PUPA *et al.*, 2005). Diversos mecanismos como aumento da produção de ligantes, ativação constitutiva devido a mutações, defeitos nos sistemas de inibição e reação cruzada com outros receptores pode resultar em desregulação de sua atividade, mas o aumento nos níveis de expressão é um dos principais mecanismos observados nas neoplasias (ZANDI *et al.*, 2007).

2.6. HER2 e neoplasias

Amplificação do gene HER2 e superexpressão da proteína codificada são descritas em vários tumores humanos incluindo os da mama (YAZIJI *et al.*, 2004; OWENS *et al.*, 2004), bexiga (COOMBS *et al.*, 1991), pâncreas (HALL *et al.*, 1990), estômago (JAIN *et al.*, 1991), rins (KAHN *et al.*, 1992) e glândulas salivares (SUGANO *et al.*, 1992; MATZUBAYASCHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

A análise imunoistoquímica (IHQ) é o método mais utilizado para definir o padrão de expressão proteica do HER2. A superexpressão da proteína HER2 é encontrada em 20% (OWENS *et al.*, 2004) a 30% (SLAMON *et al.*, 1989) dos carcinomas da mama avaliados por este método.

A amplificação gênica é o principal mecanismo responsável pela superexpressão proteica e ocorre em 18 a 20% dos carcinomas mamários (YAZIJI *et al.*, 2004; OWENS *et al.*, 2004). Estudos comparativos usando hibridização *in situ* fluorescente (FISH) e IHC indicam que amplificação gênica está presente em 89,3% a 96,1 % dos casos em que a superexpressão proteica é estimada como 3+ (mais do que 10% das células coradas para HER2; YAZIJI *et al.*, 2004; OWENS *et al.*, 2004).

Na mama a superexpressão de HER2 ocorre principalmente nos carcinomas invasivos de alto grau e é associada com pior prognóstico (KLIJN *et al.*, 1994; PRESS *et al.*, 2002) e com a resistência a determinadas drogas (MENARD *et al.*, 2003; KONECNY *et al.*, 2003). Além disso, é um importante marcador preditivo para terapias sistêmicas como Trastuzumab (Herceptin; Genentech, South, San Francisco, CA; VOGEL *et al.*, 2002).

Superexpressão de HER2 também é encontrada em lesões pré-malignas e carcinomas ductais *in situ* sugerindo que a desregulação desta proteína também está envolvida com os processos iniciais da tumorigenese (XU *et al.*, 2002).

Recentemente, foi demonstrado que os efeitos da amplificação de HER2 na tumorigênese e carcinogênese mamária sejam provavelmente decorrentes de sua habilidade de expandir populações de células tronco aumentando a tumorigenicidade e invasividade desta população (KORKAYA *et al.*, 2008).

Nos adenomas pleomórficos das glândulas salivares humanas a expressão de HER2 é observada em 0 a 33% dos casos (STENMAN *et al.*, 1991; KÄRJÄ *et al.*, 1994; ROSA *et al.*, 1997), e em 21% a 54,5 % dos carcinomas ex -adenomas pleomórficos (ROSA *et al.*, 1996; DI PALMA *et al.*, 2005; De ROCHE *et al.*, 2008). A variação na frequência da expressão de HER2 é provavelmente decorrente dos diferentes critérios empregados para avaliar a marcação imunoistoquímica. Em alguns estudos a presença de células coradas para HER2 foi o critério utilizado para classificar o tumor como positivo (SUGANO *et al.*, 1992; KÄRJÄ *et al.*, 1994; ROSA *et al.*, 1996, 1997; LEWIS *et al.*, 2001). A expressão foi observada principalmente nas áreas carcinomatosas de alto grau, no entanto os adenomas pleomórficos, os carcinomas de baixo grau e as áreas com diferenciação mioepitelial foram negativas (ROSA *et al.*, 1996, 1997).

Outros autores como Di Palma *et al.* (2005) e De Roche *et al.* (2008), classificaram como positivos (superexpressos) somente os casos com coloração membranar intensa e completa (3+) em >10% das células. Superexpressão foi observada nas áreas carcinomatosas *in situ* de 6 dos 11 (54,4%) carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos estudados por Di Palma *et al.* (2005), e destes 67% apresentavam amplificação gênica. De Roche *et al.* (2008), avaliaram apenas adenomas pleomórficos e superexpressão de HER2 foi encontrada em 7,3% (3/41) deles. De maneira diferente, Matzubayaschy & Yoshihara (2007) verificaram que todos os adenomas pleomórficos estudados foram negativos, enquanto a superexpressão foi encontrada em 40% dos 10 carcinomas ex - adenomas pleomórficos. Os autores classificaram como

positivos apenas os casos com presença de coloração em mais do que 90% das células tumorais.

A avaliação imunistoquímica de HER2 chegou a ser proposta como uma ferramenta para prever o início da transformação carcinomatosa nos adenomas pleomórficos, pois amplificação e superexpressão protéica foram observadas restritamente nas áreas carcinomatosas e invasivas destes tumores (SKÁLOVA *et al.*, 2001; SKÁLOVA *et al.*, 2003; DI PALMA *et al.*, 2005; FREITAS *et al.*, 2005). Contudo, a presença de positividade moderada em alguns adenomas pleomórficos clinicamente benignos sugere que este critério seja utilizado com cautela (DE ROCHE *et al.*, 2008).

Na espécie canina o gene HER2 é localizado no cromossomo 1q13.1 (MURUA *et al.*, 2001), e a expressão de proteína HER2 também tem sido observada nos tumores mamários desta espécie. Ahern *et al.* (1996), avaliaram a expressão de HER2 no nível do RNA mensageiro e verificaram que 75% dos 23 carcinomas estudados apresentaram superexpressão. Posteriormente, diversos estudos utilizando a IHC com critérios similares para avaliação da coloração verificaram que 17% a 35,4% dos carcinomas apresentavam aumento da proteína (RUNGSIPIPAT *et al.*, 1999; MARTÍN DE LAS MULAS *et al.*, 2003; DUTRA *et al.*, 2004; HSU *et al.*, 2009). Os valores encontrados foram similares aos descritos para os carcinomas mamários humanos. Em todos os trabalhos os tumores benignos foram negativos, com exceção do estudo de RUNGSIPIPAT *et al.* (1999), no qual a superexpressão foi encontrada em 50% deles.

Apesar das similaridades entre a espécie humana e canina no que diz respeito a superexpressão de HER2, nenhuma amplificação foi detectada com CISH ou FISH nos tumores caninos (MARTÍN DE LAS MULAS *et al.*, 2003).

O significado da superexpressão de HER2 nos tumores mamários da cadela é controverso. Alguns autores observaram correlação entre superexpressão e malignidade

(AHERN *et al.*, 1996), expressão de p53 (RUNGSIPIPAT *et al.*, 1999), e grau histológico (DUTRA *et al.*, 2004), sugerindo que a HER2 pode ser um importante fator para carcinogênese mamária canina como ocorre na espécie humana. Contraditoriamente, outros autores relatam que a superexpressão de HER2 foi relacionada com maior sobrevida dos animais (HSU *et al.*, 2009).

Na literatura consultada não foram encontrados estudos investigando o papel da superexpressão de HER2 na progressão dos tumores mistos. A série de casos avaliados no estudo de Rungsipipat *et al.* (1999), incluiu nove tumores mistos benignos e seis carcinomas em tumores mistos, dos quais 22% e 0%, respectivamente apresentaram superexpressão de HER2. A expressão de p53 e c-yes também foram observadas nos tumores mistos benignos e os autores sugerem que estas podem estar relacionadas com a aquisição de um potencial maligno. Contraditoriamente, Martín De Las Mulas *et al.* (2003) e Dutra *et al.* (2004) verificaram que todos os tumores mistos benignos estudados foram negativos para HER2.

2.7. EGFR e neoplasias

Níveis elevados de EGFR têm sido descritos em inúmeras neoplasias incluindo as mamárias (SALOMON *et al.*, 1995; MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

Nos carcinomas mamários da mulher EGFR é expresso em um grande número de casos com positividade variando de 14% a 91% (KLIJN *et al.*, 1994; TSUTSUI *et al.*, 2002a). Quando a avaliação é realizada por meio da IHC, a superexpressão da proteína é descrita em 6- 65% dos carcinomas mamários (TSUTSUI *et al.*, 2002b; ABD EL-REHIM *et al.*, 2004; BHARGAVA *et al.*, 2005, CHO *et al.*, 2008). A variação observada é decorrente dos diferentes critérios de avaliação da coloração. Quando somente os casos com mais do que 10% das células coradas para EGFR são considerados superexpressos a frequência é em torno

de 8% (BHARGAVA *et al.*, 2005; DENT *et al.*, 2007; CHO *et al.*, 2008) e observa-se uma boa correlação com a amplificação gênica.

O valor prognóstico da expressão de EGFR para o câncer de mama é moderado e permanece não esclarecido, devido a resultados contraditórios. EGFR foi inicialmente considerado como um fator prognóstico significativo para câncer de mama sem metástase nos linfonodos e o segundo fator prognóstico para pacientes com metástase nos linfonodos (SAINSBURG *et al.*, 1989). Posteriormente, a expressão de EGFR foi associada com pior prognóstico, principalmente nos casos negativos para o receptor de estrógeno (KLIJN *et al.*, 1994; TSUTSUI *et al.*, 2002b; MAGKOU *et al.*, 2008). Entretanto, outros investigadores não confirmaram estas informações (AL-KURAYA *et al.*, 2004; DI GIOVANNA *et al.*, 2005).

Torna-se evidente a necessidade de padronizar os métodos e critérios de detecção da superexpressão para que possa haver uma adequada seleção de pacientes e para que possa ser estabelecido o valor prognóstico e preditivo de EGFR do mesmo modo do que está sendo preconizado para HER2. O limitado benefício clínico de pacientes tratados com inibidores de EGFR sem a seleção conforme a expressão do receptor justifica esta necessidade (GUIX *et al.*, 2008).

A despeito das dúvidas sobre o valor prognóstico e o benefício das terapias anti-EGFR sabe-se que há uma relação inversa entre EGFR e a presença de receptores esteroidais (KLIJN *et al.*, 1994; TSUTSUI *et al.*, 2002b; DI GIOVANNA *et al.*, 2005; MAGKOU *et al.*, 2008). Também está estabelecido que há uma relação positiva entre a expressão de EGFR e o aumento da proliferação (TOVEY *et al.*, 2004) ou com a resistência a terapias anti-estrogênicas como tamoxifeno em pacientes ER+ (KNOWLDEN *et al.*, 2003).

Adicionalmente, a expressão de EGFR também tem sido importante para classificar os carcinomas de fenótipo basal. Estes tumores são caracterizados por serem negativos para receptores de estrógeno e progesterona e para HER2 (triplo-negativos; PEROU *et al.*, 2000).

Aproximadamente 57% dos carcinomas triplo negativos expressam EGFR e a introdução deste marcador no painel de detecção imunoistoquímica de carcinomas de fenótipo basal foi proposta (NIELSEN *et al.*, 2004). A positividade para EGFR foi associada com pior sobrevida e foi um fator prognóstico negativo independente. Viale *et al.* (2008), confirmaram os resultados anteriores e verificaram que a extensão da imunoreatividade foi correlacionada com o prognóstico dos tumores triplo negativos. Pacientes cujos tumores apresentavam imunoreatividade em mais do que 50% das células tumorais apresentaram uma pior sobrevida livre de doença e uma menor sobrevida global do que os pacientes que não expressaram EGFR ou tiveram uma baixa expressão.

Nos carcinomas metaplásicos a superexpressão de EGFR tem sido descrita em 60-75% dos casos e estes são geralmente negativos para HER2 (LEIBL & MONFAIR *et al.*, 2005; REIS-FILHO *et al.*, 2005). A análise de carcinomas metaplásicos utilizando um painel de marcadores incluindo EFGR e HER2 concluiu que 93% dos carcinomas metaplásicos apresentam fenótipo basal (REIS-FILHO *et al.*, 2006).

A expressão de EGFR é encontrada em 5-44% dos tumores benignos das glândulas salivares humanas (YAMADA *et al.*, 1989) e em 0-66% dos carcinomas (YAMADA *et al.*, 1989; NAGAO, 1998). Superexpressão do receptor tem sido descrita em 40% a 47% dos carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos estudados (ETTL *et al.*, 2008). Embora a expressão de EGFR já tenha sido detectada nas áreas de metaplasia escamosa de adenomas pleomórficos o aumento da expressão tem sido observado principalmente no componente maligno dos carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos (YAMADA *et al.*, 1989; MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007). Este achado sugere sua participação no processo de transformação maligna desses tumores. Há associação entre uma alta imunoreatividade para EGFR (3+ = coloração forte em mais de 10% das células tumorais) e estágio histológico avançado de

carcinomas ex-adenomas pleomórficos (ETTL *et al.*, 2008), indicando que seu papel possa ser dependente dos níveis de expressão.

O papel do EGF, principal ligante de EGFR, na tumorigenese mamária canina tem sido apenas recentemente demonstrado. Níveis elevados de EGF foram relacionados com malignidade, tamanho da massa tumoral e crescimento tumoral. Além disso, EGF foi positivamente correlacionado com receptores esteroidais indicando a presença de um complexo mecanismo de regulação (QUEIROGA *et al.*, 2009).

Contudo, o papel de EGFR nas neoplasias mamárias da cadela não está bem estabelecido. A presença de EGFR bem como sua concentração foi detectada empregando ensaios de ligação radioligantes (NERURKAR *et al.*, 1987; RUTTEMAN *et al.*, 1994; DONNAY *et al.*, 1996). A positividade e a concentração de EGFR não diferiu entre as lesões benignas, malignas e a mama normal (RUTTEMAN *et al.*, 1994; DONNAY *et al.*, 1996) e não houve relacionamento entre a positividade e o grau histológico, o tamanho da massa ou a presença metástase nos linfonodos (DONNAY *et al.*, 1996; RUTTEMAN *et al.*, 1999). A positividade de EGFR também não foi relacionada com receptores esteroidais nos tumores malignos (RUTTEMAN *et al.*, 1994), diferente do que ocorre em carcinomas mamários humanos nos quais há uma relação inversa entre os dois receptores (KLIJN *et al.*, 1994).

A expressão imunoistoquímica de EGFR em tumores mamários caninos foi recentemente descrita em 27,3% dos tumores benignos e 22,2% dos 49 tumores analisados (YANG *et al.*, 2008). A série de casos incluiu três tumores mistos benignos, dos quais dois foram positivos. Os autores utilizaram um anticorpo monoclonal e consideraram como positivos os casos com marcação membranar fraca a forte em no mínimo 10% das células coradas, mas não apresentam informações a respeito da estratificação dos casos conforme o nível de expressão.

O papel de EGFR nas neoplasias mamárias humanas e sua suposta participação no processo de transformação maligna dos adenomas pleomórficos das glândulas salivares justificam a realização de estudos investigando a expressão desta oncoproteína em tumores mistos da cadela.

3. OBJETIVOS

3.1. OBJETIVO GERAL

Contribuir para o entendimento da origem e progressão dos tumores mamários mistos caninos.

3.2. OBJETIVOS ESPECÍFICOS

A) Verificar a presença de alterações em um fragmento da região controle do DNA mitocondrial em tumores mamários mistos de cadelas.

B) Descrever e comparar o perfil de alterações no DNA mitocondrial dos componentes tumores mistos (epitelial e mesenquimal), bem como da mama normal adjacente com a finalidade de obter informações sobre a clonalidade destes tumores.

C) Comparar variações de microssatélites do DNA nuclear nos diferentes componentes dos tumores mistos.

D) Avaliar a expressão imunohistoquímica das oncoproteínas HER2 e EGFR em tumores mistos benignos e carcinomas em tumores mistos caninos

E) Verificar se existe relação entre a expressão imunoistoquímica de HER2 e EGFR com a histogênese e progressão de tumores mistos caninos.

4. MATERIAL E MÉTODOS, RESULTADOS E DISCUSSÃO

Estes tópicos serão apresentados na forma de 3 artigos científicos e 1 resumo expandido. Os artigos 1 e 2 são referentes aos objetivos A e B e o artigo 3 refere-se aos objetivos D e E. Os resultados referentes ao objetivo C serão apresentados na forma de resumo expandido.

ARTIGO 1 - Optimization of methods to assess mitochondrial DNA in archival paraffin-embedded tissues from mammary canine tumors

Publicado no Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial

Optimization of methods to assess mitochondrial DNA in archival paraffin-embedded tissues from mammary canine tumors

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Otimização dos métodos para avaliar o DNA mitocondrial obtido a partir de tumores mamários caninos incluídos em parafina

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key words

Neoplasia
Dog
Mesenchymal

abstract

In this study we describe the alterations used to extract and amplify mitochondrial desoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded samples of canine mammary tumors. The epithelial and mesenchymal components (chondromyxoid and chondroid) of each tumor, as well as the normal mammary gland tissues, were manually microdissected from 19 mixed canine mammary tumors (10 benign mixed tumors and nine carcinomas arising in mixed tumors). DNA was extracted by Invisorb[®] Spin Tissue Mini Kit, with protocol changes proposed by the manufacturer. A 273-bp fragment was amplified by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and submitted to automatic sequence analysis. The fragment was successfully analyzed in 100% of the samples. However, an additional lysis step, the reduction of volume in buffer solutions and PCR, a higher annealing temperature and an increase in the number of PCR cycles were required. The initial PCR products were diluted and re-amplified in six

resumo

A presente comunicação descreve as modificações usadas para extrair e amplificar o DNA mitocondrial obtido de amostras de tumores mamários caninos fixados em formol tamponado a 10% e incluídos em parafina. Os componentes epiteliais e mesenquimais (condromixóide e condróide), bem como a mama normal adjacente, foram microdissectados manualmente de 19 tumores mamários (10 tumores mistos benignos e nove carcinomas em tumores mistos). O DNA foi extraído utilizando-se o Invisorb[®] Spin Tissue Mini Kit com modificações do protocolo proposto pelo fabricante. Um fragmento de 273-pb foi amplificado por reação em cadeia da polimerase (PCR) e seqüenciado em seqüenciador automático. O fragmento foi analisado em 100% das amostras, entretanto modificações como lise adicional, redução do volume das soluções de extração e PCR, aumento da temperatura de anelamento e do número de ciclos de amplificação foram necessárias. Em seis amostras os produtos iniciais de PCR foram diluídos e reamplificados para obtenção de sucesso.

unitermos

Neoplasia
Cão
Mesenquimal

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In general, deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) recovered from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues is highly degraded⁽¹⁰⁾ and may be unsuitable for most molecular techniques such as polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Although some studies have shown that PCR can be successfully performed with DNA recovered from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded-tissues^(2,3,5,9), results have still been limited in some laboratories.

In this study, we describe our experience concerning standardization of mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) extraction techniques, amplification and sequencing of 10% formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tissues, microdissected from mixed canine mammary tumors.

Nineteen canine mammary tumors (10 benign mixed tumors and nine carcinomas arising in mixed tumors)⁽⁹⁾ were retrieved from the files of the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology, Department of General Pathology, Instituto de Ciências Biológicas of Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG). The tissues used in this study had been fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin (without knowledge of total time fixation) and paraffin-embedded.

Seven 10 µm-thick sections were cut from formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded tumors and mounted on polylysine-coated slides. The microtome used to cut the sections was kept clean and excess paraffin and tissue fragments were wiped from the blade holder with xylene between blocks. The sections were dewaxed twice, with two changes in xylene (15 min each) and washed with 100% and 70% ethanol (twice, for 5 min).

Microdissection target areas were previously marked on hematoxylin-eosin stained slides. The epithelial (neoplastic epithelial proliferations) and the mesenchymal (chondromyxoid and chondroid) components of each tumor and the normal residual glandular parenchyma were manually removed from each of the sections using a scalpel, under stereomicroscopic observation. We verified that the addition of deionized water to the the area to be microdissected facilitates tissue recovery of the material. The tissues were scraped into 1.5-ml tubes and submitted to digestion and extraction using an Invisorb® Spin Tissue Mini Kit (Invitex). The procedures were performed according to the manufacturer's protocol with the following modifications: the suggested volumes of reagents (lysis, binding and wash buffer, proteinase K) were reduced to half, the elution buffer volume was reduced to 33 µl, an additional lysis step was performed, and mixtures were homogenized by gentle pipetting instead of vortexing.

The digestion included the incubation of samples in a lysis buffer (200 µl) and 20 µl proteinase K (10 µl/ml) at

56°C, with gentle agitation in a thermomixer. An overnight incubation was usually enough to obtain total digestion of the tissue, indicated by a clear solution. In the cases where the samples were still turbid and tissue fragments were visible, an additional lysis step was performed by a new addition of 20 µl proteinase K for another eight hours at 56°C.

After tissue digestion, the tubes were centrifuged for 2 min at maximum speed in order to precipitate all non-lysed material, and 100 µl binding buffer T were added. The solutions were homogenized with gentle pipetting to minimize DNA breakage. The suspensions were transferred onto spin columns placed in 2-ml receiver tubes and incubated for 1 min. The spin columns were centrifuged at 12,000 rpm for 2 min and the filtrate was discarded. The column was placed back in the receiver tube, 200 µl wash buffer were added and centrifuged as in the previous step. An additional centrifugation was performed to remove any residual ethanol. For DNA elution the spin columns were placed in new 1.5-ml receiver tubes and 33 µl of pre-heated elution buffer D were added and incubated for 5 min. A final centrifugation was performed for 2 min at 10,000 rpm. A total volume of 33 µl of eluted DNA was recovered from each sample.

The DNA extract was stored at 4°C for 24 hours and used for PCR amplification.

For successful amplification of degraded DNA samples it is recommendable that the amplicon size be relatively small⁽⁹⁾. However, numerous known polymorphisms strongly constrain primer design in this region. The primers designed in this work for the amplification of a 273-bp fragment of the hypervariable mitochondrial D-loop represent a compromise for obtaining the smallest and most potentially informative amplicons.

PCR amplifications were optimized by varying the number of cycles and the annealing temperature. The annealing temperatures tested were 56°C, 57°C, 59°C and 60°C. Reactions were performed with 30, 35 and 40 cycles. PCR optimization reactions were tested for each possible combination of annealing temperature and number of cycles. The best results were obtained with an annealing temperature at 60°C with 35 cycles.

The optimized PCR was performed in a 25-µl total volume, using 11 µl of Quiagen® Multiplex PCR Kit; 11 µl of H₂O; 1 µl of each primer (2.5 mM); 1 µl of DNA template; and 1 µl of sterile deionized water. The PCR program consisted of an initial denaturation step at 95°C for 15 min followed by 35 cycles at 95°C for 5 min; 60°C

for 1.3 min and 72°C for 1 min; and a final extension step at 72°C for 10 min.

DNA isolated from the peripheral blood of a dog was used as positive control, and sterile deionized water was used as negative control. The PCR products were run in 6% polyacrilamide electrophoresis gel and visualized after silver staining. A DNA ladder was run as a molecular marker in each gel.

Electrophoresis showed that the 273-bp fragment of the mitochondrial canine control region was amplified in 52 out of 57 samples (91%). Five samples (three chondroid, two epithelial and one normal mammary tissue) yielded low PCR product, and a second round of PCR amplification was performed. One microliter from a 100-fold diluted aliquot of the initial PCR product was used as template. This reaction was performed following the same procedure as in the first round. The use of products from the first PCR round as starting template produced bands that could be visualized in the electrophoresis gel (**Figure 1A**) and were sufficient for subsequent sequencing.

The PCR products were analyzed by automated sequencing (**Figure 1B**). In order to clean the PCR product from primers and nucleotides, PCR products were purified using a Sephacryl HR300 column (Pharmacia, Biotech, Saclay, France), and sequenced using BigDye Terminator v 3.0 sequencing kit. The sequencing reactions were performed in both directions using 2.6 µl of the purified PCR products, 0.25 mM of primer, 0.6 µl of sequencing kit and deionized water to complete 5 µl of total reaction volume. The thermocycler program comprised an initial denaturation step at 96°C for 2 min, followed by 35 cycles at 96°C for 15 s, 50°C for 9 s, 60°C for 2 min and a final extension step at 60°C for 10 min. Sequencing reaction products were purified using Sephadex G-50 fine columns (Pharmacia) and eluted in deionized formamide. DNA sequencing was carried out in an ABI Prism 3130 Genetic Analyzer (Applied Biosystems Inc., Foster City, CA, USA) using POP-6, and was used for the capillary eletrophoresis separation matrix.

The sequences obtained were compared to the reference sequence, indicated as haplotype A19 (Gen Bank accession entry: NC_002008) and confirmed the amplification of the predicted 273-bp fragment of the hypervariable D-loop control region in 48 cases (**Figures 1B and 1C**). Difficulties in deducing the sequences were observed in nine samples, which were re-submitted to sequencing reactions with higher and lower amounts of purified PCR product, according to the intensity of

the band previously detected in polyacrilamide gel electrophoresis. A total of 2.4 µl and 2.6 µl were used for sequencing in samples with high and low intensity bands, respectively. In all the samples it was possible to successfully confirm the DNA sequence.

The analysis of mtDNA offers advantages over nuclear DNA due to a larger number of copies per cell, what potentiates the recovery of DNA from difficult or degraded materials^(4, 7). The literature describes several successful protocols for analysis of shorter and longer mtDNA fragments recovered from archival fixed paraffin-embedded human tissues^(1, 6, 11). In our series of cases, the success of mtDNA analysis was achieved by the use of a DNA extraction kit with modifications in several steps of the process: lysis (additional lysis step), extraction (reduction of buffer volumes and homogenization by gentle handling), amplification (high-annealing temperature and increase in the number of PCR cycles) and sequencing (adjustment of the volume of the PCR product).

The samples had been fixed in 10% buffered formalin, but no information on the handling of specimens before tissue fixation (tissue amount, degree of autolysis), fixation-related factors (temperature, and duration of fixation,) and post-fixation procedures storage (temperature and duration of storage)⁽¹⁰⁾ was available. Several of the samples may well have been subjected to conditions that contributed to the partial degradation of the nucleic acids.

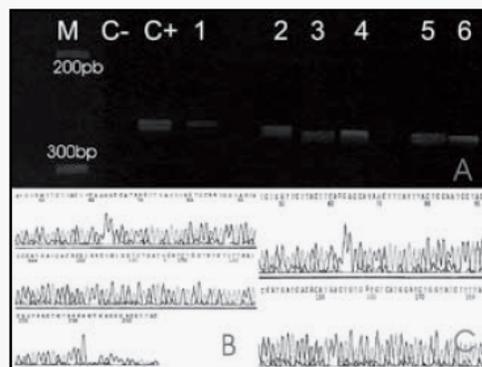


Figure 1 – A: Evaluation of DNA amplification by polyacrilamide gel electrophoresis. C+= positive control (peripheral blood of a dog); C-= negative control; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 = PCR products (273bp) from second round PCR, M, molecular weight marker. 1.2 microliters of PCR products were loaded in each lane; B and C: Confirmation of amplification by direct sequencing of PCR product. B = Sample 1; C = Positive control. Aliquots of the amplicons were purified and sequenced as describe under Material and Methods. Picture in the '5 → 3' orientation is the sense strand of the amplicon from mesenchymal component (case 5)

The major limitation in this analysis was the difficulty in obtaining high quality DNA in some samples (mainly from cartilaginous component), probably due to lower cell content present. In addition to the improvements in the extraction procedure, the re-amplification step using the initial PCR product as template was crucial to achieving success.

Improvement and routine control of pre-, during and post-fixation procedures should be considered in medicine

veterinary laboratories so that, in the future, tissue banks may consistently offer high-quality DNA.

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ARTIGO 2 - An assessment of the clonality of the components of canine mixed mammary tumours by mitochondrial DNA analysis

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An assessment of the clonality of the components of canine mixed mammary tumours by mitochondrial DNA analysis

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Abstract

The aim of this study was to investigate if mutations in the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) D-loop fragment control region of canine mammary mixed tumours could be used as clonal markers that identified the cell population of origin. Ten benign mixed mammary tumours and nine carcinomas arising from benign mixed tumours were microdissected and DNA from epithelial and mesenchymal tumour cells and from normal mammary tissue was examined for sequence variations in a fragment of the hypervariable control region.

Identical sequence variants in both the epithelial and mesenchymal components (as well as in the corresponding normal tissue) were found in 80% of the benign mixed tumours and in 89% of the carcinomas arising from benign mixed tumours suggesting a shared clonal origin. The distinctive sequence alterations identified in the epithelial and mesenchymal components of 15.8% of all 19 tumours examined, suggests the possibility that a minority of mammary tumours are polyclonal in origin or that early clonal divergence occurs. Increased mutation within the mtDNA D-loop fragment of mixed tumour components was not observed.

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Keywords: Benign mixed mammary tumour; Clonality; Carcinoma; D-loop; Myoepithelial cell

Introduction

Benign mixed tumours are commonly found in canine mammary and human salivary glands, where they are also termed pleomorphic adenomas (Genelhu et al., 2007). Benign mixed tumours are characterised by morphologically benign appearing epithelial components such as luminal and/or myoepithelial cells, and mesenchymal cells that may produce cartilage, bone and fat in combination with fibrous tissue (Ellis and Auclair, 1996; Misdorp et al., 1999). In some circumstances carcinomas can arise from the epithelial component of benign mixed tumours (Misdorp et al., 1999).

The cell of origin and clonality of the heterologous components of benign mixed mammary tumours remain to be elucidated. Studies of mixed tumours of the human salivary gland have indicated that the different components of the tumour are genetically linked, suggesting they share a common origin (Zhuang et al., 1997; Gärtner et al., 1999; Wang et al., 2001) and may originate from stem cells (Hellmen et al., 2000; Ramalho et al., 2006). A study by Gärtner et al. (1999), comparing DNA alterations in the epithelial and mesenchymal components of these tumours, supported the hypothesis that the neoplastic cells shared a common origin.

Previously, the immunohistochemical expression of intermediate filaments, loss of heterozygosity, X chromosome inactivation analysis and the identification of specific mutations in the tumour components, have been used to

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investigate the clonality of tumours in human patients (Yamamoto et al., 1998; Imyanitov et al., 2002; Fowler et al., 2006). More recently however, the identification of alterations in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has emerged as a potentially useful method of assessing tumour clonality (Fliss et al., 2000; Ha et al., 2002; Nomoto et al., 2002). As each cell contains multiple mitochondria with an autonomous DNA replication mechanism, all copies of mtDNA may have the same sequence (homoplasmy) or a mutation may arise in a proportion of these to create heteroplasmy (Bidooki et al., 1997). Given that clonal expansion facilitates the accumulation of mutations, the development of mitochondrial homoplasmy may be used as a measure of the degree of clonality within the tumour (Ha et al., 2002; Nomoto et al., 2002).

The human mitochondrial genome represents 1–2% of the entire genome and each strand is transcribed under the control of promoters placed in the displacement (D)-loop, non-coding control region (Anderson et al., 1981). Although alterations have been described throughout the mitochondrial genome, this D-loop region is a particular 'hotspot' for mutations in human cancers (Polyak et al., 1998; Máximo et al., 2002; Zhu et al., 2004).

Canine mtDNA is a double-stranded circular molecule that encodes two ribosomal RNAs (rRNA), 22 transfer RNAs (tRNA), and 13 polypeptides related to the respiratory chain (Kim et al., 1998). Although the canine mtDNA reference sequence (Kim et al., 1998; Pereira et al., 2004) consists of 16727 bp, variations in its length occur due to the variable number of tandem repeats in a mini-satellite located between the 16130 and 16429 bp positions (Tsuda et al., 1997; Savolainen et al., 2000; Eichman and Parson, 2007). Canine mtDNA analysis has been used to elucidate the origins of the domestic dog, the diversity of maternal lineages and in forensic investigations (Savolainen et al., 2002; Angleby and Savolainen, 2005; van Asch et al., 2005; Eichman and Parson, 2007). As has been reported in humans, several polymorphic hotspots occur in the D-loop region of canine mtDNA (Savolainen et al., 2002; Angleby and Savolainen, 2005; van Asch et al., 2005; Eichman and Parson, 2007).

In this study we analysed a polymorphic region of the mtDNA D-loop of the epithelial and mesenchymal components of a series of canine mixed mammary tumours with a view to determining if variations in this region could be used as clonal markers that identified the origin of the neoplastic cell populations.

Materials and methods

Case selection

Nineteen canine mammary gland tumour cases were used. They had all been archived by the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology in the Department of General Pathology at the Institute of Biological Science, Federal University of Minas Gerais. Ten benign mixed tumours and ten carcinomas arising from benign mixed tumours were chosen based on World Health Organisation histopathological criteria (Misdorp et al.,

1999). In particular the diagnosis of carcinoma arising from a benign mixed tumour was based on mitotic index, cell pleomorphism, rupture of the basal/myoepithelial layer and stromal invasion.

Immunohistochemical examination

Immunohistochemical labelling was used to confirm the presence of epithelial and mesenchymal elements within the selected cases. Deparaffinised tissue sections were in xylene subjected to heat-induced antigen retrieval with an antigen retrieval solution (DAKO) at pH 6.0, in a water bath at 98 °C, and were then incubated overnight at 5 °C with monoclonal antibodies against either vimentin (DAKO) at a 1:100 dilution, or cytokeratin 18 (CK18) (Roche Molecular Biochemicals) at a 1:5 dilution. The sections were then stained using the streptavidin–biotin–peroxidase complex (Lab Vision) method. Diaminobenzidine was used as a chromogen and sections were counterstained with Mayer's haematoxylin, dehydrated, and mounted in synthetic medium. Adjacent normal mammary tissue was used as an internal positive control. Negative control sections were created by replacing primary antibody with normal serum. The presence of CK18 or vimentin was indicated by distinct brown cytoplasmic staining.

Microdissection and DNA extraction

Five, 10 µm thick sections of formalin fixed, paraffin-embedded tumours were cut using a microtome that was cleaned with xylene between blocks. Sections were dewaxed in xylene and dehydrated by passing through a series of graded ethanol solutions. To avoid sample cross-contamination during micro-dissection, only cases with abundant and clearly demarcated epithelial and mesenchymal regions were selected and areas of necrosis and inflammation were avoided.

The epithelial and mesenchymal tumour components and the residual normal appearing parenchyma were micro-dissected using a stereoscopic microscope. The areas targeted for micro-dissection were previously marked on haematoxylin and eosin stained slides. DNA was extracted from the resultant tissue fragments following proteinase K (Invitex) digestion using the Invisorb Spin Tissue Mini Kit protocol (Invitex).

Mitochondrial DNA analysis

A 273 bp fragment of the hypervariable D-loop control region between positions 15732 and 15962 was amplified. This region was selected based on previous population and forensic studies (Savolainen et al., 2002; Angleby and Savolainen, 2005; van Asch et al., 2005; Eichman and Parson, 2007). The primer sequences were as follows: forward 5'-CTTGCTCGAATGTCCCTCT-3'; and reverse 5'-GCAAACGGCAC-TAACTCTAAC-3 and the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) was performed in a 25 µL solution comprising 11 µL of Multiplex PCR Kit (Quiagen), 11 µL of sterile water, 1 µL of each primer at 2.5 mM and 1 µL of DNA template. The PCR program consisted of an initial denaturation step at 95 °C for 15 min followed by 30 cycles at 95 °C for 5 min, 60 °C for 130 min and 72 °C for 1 min, and a final extension step at 72 °C for 10 min.

PCR reaction product was purified using a HR300 column (Pharmacia) and sequenced using BigDye Terminator (v3.0) sequencing reagent. The sequencing reaction was performed in both directions using 2.6 µL of purified PCR product, 0.25 mM of primer and 0.6 µL of sequencing kit to a 5 µL total reaction volume. The program cycle consisted of an initial denaturation step at 96 °C for 2 min followed by 35 cycles at 96 °C for 15 s, 50 °C for 9 s, 60 °C for 2 min and a final extension step at 60 °C for 10 min. Sequencing reaction products were purified using Sephadex G-50 Fine (Amersham). DNA sequencing was carried out in an ABI Prism 3130 Genetic Analyser (Applied Biosystems Inc) using POP 6 and 50 cm capillary arrays.

The sequences obtained were compared to the reference sequence, haplotype A19 (GenBank accession entry NC_002008). Sequence variants detected were compared to the sequences in normal tissue adjacent to tumour. When the same sequence variation was observed in both tumour

components and in DNA from adjacent normal tissue, it was considered a variant/polymorphism. Variations were considered somatic mutations when tumour mtDNA sequences differed from those of paired normal tissue.

Results

Immunohistochemical examination

In normal mammary tissue labelling for vimentin was observed in myoepithelial cells whereas luminal epithelial cells labelled for CK18. The distinct cell phenotypes comprising the mixed tumours were illustrated by immunoreactivity for vimentin and CK18 in the neoplastic myoepithelial, mesenchymal (Figs. 1b and 3) and epithelial (Figs. 1a and 2) cells, respectively. The CK18 marker was detected to varying degrees in the cytoplasm and on the cell membrane of lumen-forming epithelial tumour cells and to a very limited extent in the mesenchymal components of both benign and malignant tumours.

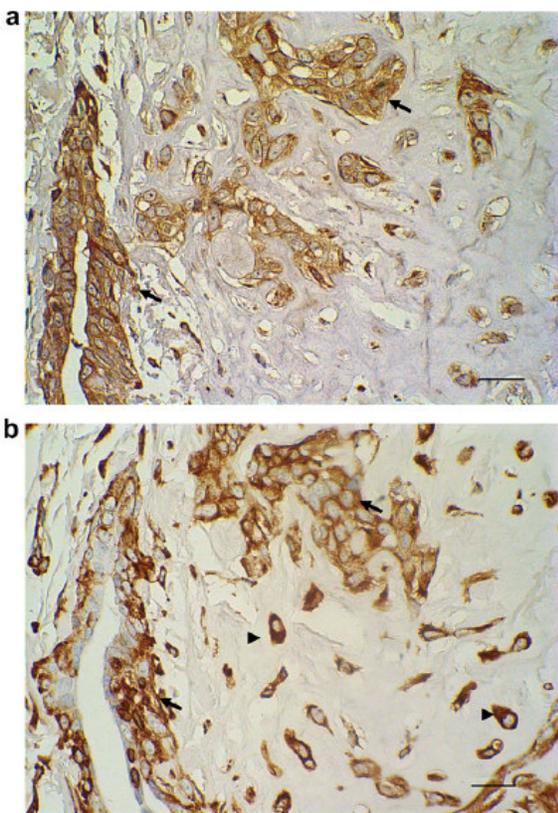


Fig. 1. Photomicrographs illustrating immunohistochemical expression of: (a) cyokeratin 18 within luminal epithelial cells (arrows); and (b) vimentin within mesenchymal (arrowheads) and myoepithelial cells (arrows) in a benign mixed mammary tumour (case 7). Immunohistochemical stain with Mayer's haematoxylin counterstain (bar = 30 μ m).

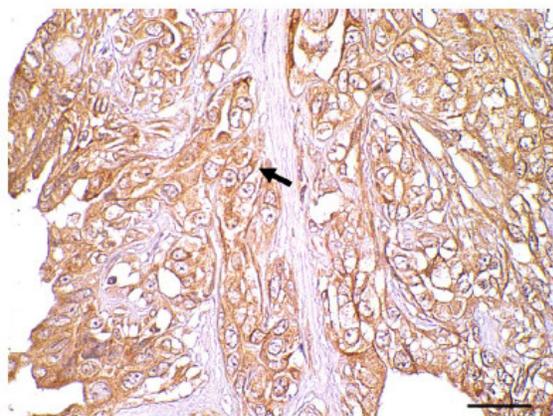


Fig. 2. Photomicrograph illustrating immunohistochemical expression of cyokeratin 18 within atypical neoplastic epithelial cells (arrow) of a carcinoma arising within a mixed mammary tumour (case 7). Immunohistochemical stain with Mayer's haematoxylin counterstain (bar = 20 μ m).

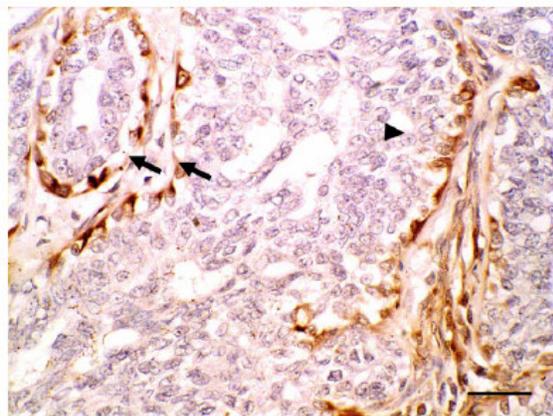


Fig. 3. Photomicrograph illustrating immunohistochemical expression of vimentin within myoepithelial cells around foci of carcinoma and in retained myoepithelial cells surrounding neoplastic epithelial cells (arrows) arising within a mixed mammary tumour (case 3). Atypical neoplastic epithelial cells are vimentin negative (arrowhead). Immunohistochemical stain with Mayer's haematoxylin counterstain (bar = 20 μ m).

Mitochondrial DNA analysis

The results are summarised in Tables 1 and 2. Nine variants at positions 15781, 15800, 15807, 15814, 15815, 15912 and 15955, all previously reported as frequently occurring polymorphisms in the dog, were identified in the region analysed. Mutations in the tumour components were found in 21.0% (4/19) of cases (Tables 1 and 2). Of the benign mixed tumours, one mutation was a homoplasmic deletion at the 15938 position (case 5) and two were heteroplasmic transitions at the 15955 position (cases 8 and 10). One carcinoma within a mixed tumour (case 7) exhibited a heteroplasmic transition at position 15800.

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Table 1

Summary of mitochondrial mutations/variants detected in the epithelial and mesenchymal components of benign mixed mammary tumours and in adjacent normal mammary gland

Sample number	Tissue	Region	Position (np)	Alteration	Pattern
1	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
2	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
3	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
4	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
5	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15938	G del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy	
6	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C/T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
7	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
8	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
9	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15800	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15800	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15800	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15800	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15815	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15912	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15931	A del	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15800	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15815	T → C	Homoplasmy	
10	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	

Table 2

Summary of mitochondrial mutations/variants detected in the epithelial and mesenchymal components of carcinomas arising in mixed mammary tumours and in adjacent normal mammary gland

Sample number	Tissue	Gene	Position (np)	Alteration	Pattern
1	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
2	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
3	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15938	Gdel	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15938	Gdel	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15938	Gdel	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
4	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
5	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
6	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
7	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15800	T/C	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C/T	Heteroplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
8	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15800	T → C	Heteroplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15800	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
	Epithelial	D-loop	15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15800	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15815	T → C	Homoplasmy
			15912	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15931	A del	Homoplasmy
			15955	C → T	Homoplasmy
Normal	D-loop	15800	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15815	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15912	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15931	A del	Homoplasmy	
		15955	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15800	T → C	Homoplasmy	
		15814	C → T	Homoplasmy	
		15815	T → C	Homoplasmy	
9	Mesenchymal	D-loop	15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy
			15814	C → T	Homoplasmy

Identical sequence variants in both epithelial and mesenchymal tumour components (as well as in the corresponding normal tissue) were found in 80.0% (8/10) of benign mixed tumours and in 88.8% (8/9) of carcinomas arising from benign mixed tumours. Of the benign mixed tumours, two cases (6 and 7) exhibited heteroplasmy at position 15955 in epithelial cells and in adjacent normal tissue, and homoplasmy at this position in the contained mesenchymal cells. In 15.8% (3/19) of cases different mtDNA variants were found between the epithelial and mesenchymal components. In all cases, the distinctive alterations were found in the mesenchymal regions of the tumours. One benign mixed tumour (case 5) exhibited a homoplasmic mutation at position 15938, while a second (case 10) had a heteroplasmic mutation at position 15955. Only one carcinoma arising from a mixed tumour (case 7) presented with a *de novo* heteroplasmic mutation at position 15800.

Discussion

In the majority of cases in this study, the different components of the tumour and the adjacent normal tissue had an identical genotype and this homogeneity was particularly evident in carcinomas. This finding would be consistent with the two components of mixed tumours having a shared clonal origin and supports a previous study by Gärtner et al. (1999) who found that both these components had identical DNA. However since this genotype is also similar to that of cells in the adjacent normal tissue, two phenotypically different cells of the same genotype may have evolved into the two tumour components.

The presence of sequence alterations in only one of the tumour components in 15.8% of cases and their absence in normal tissue suggests that at least some mixed tumours may have a polyclonal origin (Nomoto et al., 2002), or that early cellular divergence occurred. It is interesting to note that in this study *de novo* alterations were particularly detected in the mesenchymal component of two of the mixed benign tumours and in one carcinoma within a mixed tumour.

Biphasic canine tumours of spindle cell and osteosarcoma type are considered to be of polyclonal origin (Hellmen et al., 2000). However, our data are not sufficient to draw definitive conclusions regarding clonal divergence, as mtDNA mutations can occur at any time during tumour progression. Confirmation of such divergence would require analysis for loss of heterozygosity.

With the exception of one case, all observed mutations were heteroplasmic a finding which differs from studies of human neoplasms in which most mtDNA mutations were homoplasmic (Polyak et al., 1998; Fliss et al., 2000), although heteroplasmic mutations have also been reported (Jones et al., 2001; Tan et al., 2002).

In three cases an alteration at position 15955 was found in both tumour components and in normal tissue. This heteroplasmic alteration within the normal mammary epithelium may indicate that the alteration was already present

in a percentage of the mitochondria from normal cells. In a neoplasm this alteration would become dominant as a result of clonal expansion (Kurtz et al., 2004), stochastic segregation (Coller et al., 2001), or a combination of these events (Fowler et al., 2006).

Conclusions

The majority of tumours analysed in this study exhibited a similar D-loop mtDNA haplotype in their constituent cellular components suggesting these cell types share a common origin. The finding of sequence differences between epithelial and mesenchymal tumour cells in 15.8% of cases may indicate that at least a minority of these tumours has a polyclonal origin, or, that early cellular divergence occurs. This study did not identify rare polymorphisms or a high mutation rate in the mtDNA D-loop fragment in these tumours. Studies of tumour-specific mutations in other mtDNA regions will be required to consolidate and further develop the findings of this study.

Conflict of interest statement

None of the authors of this paper has a financial or personal relationship with other people or organisations that could inappropriately influence or bias the content of the paper.

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Resumo expandido: Canine mixed mammary tumors: study of the clonality of the different tumoral components [Tumores mamários mistos da cadela: estudo da clonalidade dos diferentes componentes tumorais]

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As the official journal of the Associação Brasileira de Oncologia Veterinária (ABROVET), Veterinary and Comparative Oncology is pleased to include these abstracts from the Fifth ONCOVET, Second Veterinary Oncology Symposium, Third Brazilian Symposium of the C.L. Davis Foundation and Second Symposium of Animal Papillomatosis (SIMPAP). We you find them informative and useful. These abstracts have not been subjected to peer review or editorial revision however, and it would be prudent for the reader to exercise caution in the interpretation of the data presented.

Canine mixed mammary tumors: study of the clonality of the different tumoral components [Tumores mamários mistos da cadela: estudo da clonalidade dos diferentes componentes tumorais]

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Introduction: Mixed tumors are common neoplasias both in canine mammary glands and human salivary glands. Benign mixed tumors are histologically characterized by a mixture of epithelial and mesenchymal components capable of producing different degrees of mixoid, chondroid and bone tissues. These tumors frequently malignize and may develop carcinomas in benign mixed tumors.⁴ It is important to know the cell origin of the different components that compose mixed tumors in order to understand the behavior and biology of these tumors; however, this aspect remains to be elucidated. The identification of alterations in mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) has been suggested as a useful marker for clonal assessment in human pathology. The frequency of mutations in the mitochondrial DNA is higher than that observed in the nuclear DNA.³ Besides, the identification of homoplasmic mutations in both epithelial and mesenchymal components may be indicative of a common clonal cell origin.²

Material and methods: The presence of mutations/variations in a polymorphic region of the mtDNA D-loop was analyzed in both epithelial and mesenchymal components from two mixed canine mammary tumors to access the clonal pattern. In addition, the presence of polymorphisms in nuclear microsatellites loci was analyzed. One case of benign mixed tumor and one case of carcinoma in benign mixed tumor were retrieved from the files of the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Five 10 µm thick sections were cut from the formalin fixed, paraffin-embedded tumor. The neoplastic epithelial proliferations and mesenchymal components and the residual normal

glandular parenchyma were manually microdissected under a stereoscopic microscope. The DNA of each tumoral component was extracted and a 273 bp fragment of the hypervariable D-loop control region located between the positions 15 732 and 15 962 was amplified using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and then sequenced. DNA sequencing was carried out in an ABI Prism 3130 Genetic Analyzer. The samples were also submitted to amplification analysis of the nuclear microsatellites loci: FH2658, ren214L11, FH2010, FH2263 e FH39, located in the chromosomes 14, 16, 24, 9 and 39, respectively, in a PCR multiplex. The amplified alleles were separated by ABI PRISM CE 310 capillary electrophoresis and the results were analyzed using Genotyper version 2.0 software (Applied Biosystems).

Results and discussion: No mutations were found and two polymorphisms were observed in the fragment of the mitochondrial region analyzed. The benign mixed tumor showed a homoplasmic transition at position 15814. The same polymorphism was found in both epithelial and mesenchymal components as well as in the corresponding normal tissue. Another homoplasmic transition was observed at position 15 955, in addition to the one at position 15 814, in the carcinoma in the benign mixed tumor. No polymorphisms were found in the microsatellites loci analysed and the same allelic pattern was observed in both epithelial and mesenchymal components. Genetic similarities among the epithelial and mesenchymal components of canine mammary mixed tumors were demonstrated by Gartner et al.,⁴ who verified that epithelial and mesenchymal components of mixed tumors presented identical DNA contents.

Conclusion: The same genetic profile observed in the different tumoral components suggests that the latter may have a common clonal origin.

Keywords: canine, homoplasmy, mitochondrial DNA, mutation, neoplasia

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Artigo 3: Benign mixed tumors and carcinomas in benign mixed tumors of canine mammary gland: Comparison of imunohistochemical expression of EGFR and HER2

Trabalho a ser submetido para publicação na Veterinary Pathology

Immunohistochemical expression of EGFR and HER2 in benign mixed tumors and carcinomas in benign mixed tumors of canine mammary glands

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Abstract

Benign mixed tumors are found frequently in mammary gland of the female dogs and the aspects that determine the malignant transformation of these tumors are unknown. The objective of this study was to evaluate the immunohistochemical expression of oncoproteins HER2 and EGFR in canine mammary mixed tumors and verify their possible association with progression and histogenesis of these tumors. Thirty-eight canine mammary tumors including 16 benign mixed tumors and 22 carcinomas in benign mixed tumors were immunohistochemically analysed. HER2 and EGFR were overexpressed in 9% (2/22) and 31.8% (7/22) of carcinomas in benign mixed tumors, respectively. Overexpression of HER2 and EGFR was not found in benign mixed tumors and was inconclusive in 2 and one case. EGFR positivity was significantly associated with carcinomas arising in benign mixed tumor (P= 0.0144). The expression of both, HER2 and EGFR was limited to epithelial components. The results demonstrate that carcinomas in mixed tumors rarely overexpressed HER2, but frequently overexpressed EGFR.

Key-words: female dog, neoplasm, dog, immunohistochemistry

Introduction

Mixed tumors are common neoplasms that affect canine mammary glands and in human salivary glands, where they are also designed as pleomorphic adenomas. Benign mixed tumors are histologically characterized by a mixture of epithelial components (ductal and/or acinous cells and myoepithelial cells) within an apparently mesenchymal stroma, capable of producing different degrees of myxoid, chondroid, and bone tissues (ELLIS & AUCLAIR, 1996; MISDORP et al., 1999).

This tumors show a complex histologic pattern as are constituted by both epithelial and mesenchymal components and can malignize forming carcinomas arising in benign mixed tumors (Misdorp et al., 1999). The determination of the origin of different cellular elements that comprise the mixed tumors, as well as factors that contribute to malignant transformation are important for understanding the behavior and evolution of these tumors, however still not elucidated.

Development and progression of neoplasms are by followed a stepwise accumulation of genetic changes. Among genetics alterations, activation of oncogenes such as EGFR (HER1, c-erbB1) and HER2 (c-erbB2, NEU, NGL, HER2, TKR1, HER-2, c-erb B2, HER-2/neu) are frequently found in several human neoplasms including breast and salivary gland (SLAMON et al., 1987; YAMADA et al., 1989; KLIJIN et al, 1992; SUGANO et al., 1992). EGFR and HER2 proto-oncogenes encode growth factor receptors with tyrosine kinase activity and are generally expressed in epithelial and mesenchymal cells where have a wide range of functions. In physiological conditions the receptors transmit signals originating from extracellular growth factors and plays essential roles in regulating a number of cellular processes including cell proliferation, survival and migration (RIEDEL et al., 2001; KARI et al., 2003; PUPA ET AL., 2005).

HER2 and EGFR have been of considerable interest in the cancer due to their potential to induce tumorigenesis when their signalling functions are deregulated.

HER2 amplification and protein overexpression have been detected in human breast cancer and is associated with worse prognosis (SLAMON et al., 1987), and either resistance (Menard et al., 2003; Konecny et al., 2003) or sensitivity (VOGEL et al., 2002) to different types of chemotherapeutic agents.

Enhanced activity or overexpression of EGFR has also been associated with tumoral progression of breast cancer (KLIJIN et al, 1992; BHARGAVA et al., 2005; CHO et al., 2008), however the prognostic significance of EGFR status and its clinical importance remains unclear at the present time (RAMPAUL et al., 2005).

EGFR overexpression occurs more frequently in metaplastic carcinomas (LEIBL & MONFAIR, 2005; BHARGAVA et al., 2005), with triple-negative breast cancers phenotype (negative for estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor, and HER2) and has been associated with resistance to anti-estrogen therapy in estrogen receptor-positive breast cancer (KNOWLLEN et al, 2003).

Furthermore, HER2 overexpression/amplification and EGFR overexpression has been suggested as early events in carcinogenesis of carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenoma of the human salivary glands (the malign counterpart of pleomorphic adenomas) (DI PALMA et al. 2005; MATZUBAYASCHY & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

Although overexpression of HER2 and EGFR has been detected in canine mammary tumors the role of these proteins in carcinogenesis of carcinomas arising in benign mixed tumors of canine mammary glands has not been investigated.

The objective of this study was compare the protein expression of HER2 and EGFR between benign mixed tumors and carcinoma in benign mixed tumors using

immunohistochemical techniques and verifies their association with progression and histogenesis of these tumors.

Material and Methods

Case selection

Thirty-eight cases of canine mammary gland tumors were retrieved from the files of the Laboratory of Comparative Pathology, Department of General Pathology, Institute of Biological Science, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil. Selection was based on histopathologic diagnosis according to the World Health Organization criteria. All slides were independently reviewed by two authors (GDC, ACB) and diverging cases were reviewed simultaneously to reach consensus.

After reviewing the cases, 16 benign mixed tumors and 22 carcinomas arising from with benign mixed tumors were selected for immunohistochemical studies. Informations about of age of dogs diagnosed wit benign mixed tumors and carcinomas in bening mixed tumors were available in 9 cases and 17 cases, respectively.

Immunohistochemical staining

The expressions of HER-2 and EGFR were examined by IHC in both epithelial and mesenchymal components of tumors. All tissue samples were previously fixed in 10% neutral formalin and embedded in paraffin. Sections of 3µm were cut from one representative block of each case and collected onto glass slides. The slides were deparaffined, rehydrated in graded alcohols and submitted to heat-induced antigen retrieval (water bath at 98°C) with antigen retrieval solution (DAKO. pH 6.0). Endogenous peroxidase activity block was performed with 3% hydrogen peroxidase in methanol.

Primary antibodies were diluted in phosphate saline buffer (PBS) and incubated overnight (16-18hs) at 4°C. Primary antibodies used for immunohistochemical evaluation

included a polyclonal rabbit anti-human c-erbB-2 Oncoprotein (1:100; DakoCytomation) and a mouse monoclonal anti -EGFR (1:100, clone 31G7, Zymed).

After incubation, immunodetection was done with the DAKO Advance HRP Visualization Method (Dako, Glostrup, Denmark), with diaminobenzidine chromogen as the substrate. Slides were counterstained with Mayer's hematoxilin, washed in running water for 5 minutes, dehydrated, and mounted in a synthetic medium.

Regarding positive control for HER2, we used a human breast carcinoma tissue section previously, known to over-express the receptor. For EGFR, adjacent skin was used as an internal control and human salivary gland carcinoma known for over-express the receptor was used as an external positive control. The antibody was previously tested in canine normal kidney and skin tissue to demonstrate the specificity in canine tissues. Negative controls were obtained by omission of primary antibodies.

Evaluation

The expression for both HER2 and EGFR was scored by two observers in accordance with the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the College of American Pathologists (ASCO/CAP) guidelines for reporting HER2 immunostaining: negative for protein was an IHC with no staining (0) or weak incomplete membrane staining in any proportion of tumor cells (1+); equivocal was considered as complete membrane staining either non-uniform or weak in intensity but with obvious circumferential distribution in at least 10% of cells (2+) and positive results is IHC staining with uniform intense membrane staining of 30% of invasive tumor cells (3+).

Statistical analysis

Statistical analysis was performed by using the Graph Pad Prism v.3 software (San Diego, CA). The relation between dichotomized immunohistochemical expression of HER2 and EGFR histological type were determined by Fisher's exact probability test ($P < 0.05$). All tests were 2 tailed, and a P value of 0.05 was considered to be significant.

Results

Tables 1, 2 and 3 summarize the results of the immunohistochemical analyses.

The benign mixed tumors presented formation of ductal structures and also cells with myoepithelial features irregularly dispersed in a predominantly myxoid or myxo-chondroid matrix. Carcinomas in benign mixed tumors were composed by an epithelial malignant component in association with a benign mixed tumor. The malignant component is characterized by infiltrative growth, cell pleomorphism and abnormal mitoses

The mean age of dogs diagnosed with benign mixed tumors was range 9.3 (range 3 to 14 years). For carcinomas in mixed tumors the mean age was 9.9 (range 4-15 years).

None of the 16 benign mixed tumors overexpressed HER2. Two cases (12.5%) were considered to be inconclusive and 2/16(12.5%; Figure 1) to be negative with a 1+ score.

The expression in carcinoma in mixed tumors was inconclusive (score 2+) in 5/22 (22.7%) cases (Figure 2) and negative with 1+ in 6/22 (27.27%) cases. Overexpression of HER2 protein (score 3+) was found in 2/22 (9%) carcinomas in mixed tumors (Figure 3).

Normal skin adjacent to the tumor shows intense staining for EGFR (Figure 4). EGFR was overexpressed in 7/22 (31.8%) of carcinomas in mixed tumors (Figure 5). The expression was inconclusive in 5/22 (22.7%) and negative with score 1+ in 6/22 cases (27.27%). Benign mixed tumors did not show overexpression of EGFR and only 1 cases showed inconclusive staining (score 2+).

EGFR positivity was significantly associated with carcinomas arising in benign mixed tumor (P= 0.0144). Association between HER2 and EGFR was not found.

Cell membrane staining for HER2 and EGFR was found only in the epithelial component of tumors (Figure 6). Cytoplasmic staining for HER2 and EGFR (Figure 7) was found in the proliferated myoepithelial cells distributed in myxoid matrix from five and six tumors, respectively.

Discussion

Despite the high frequency of mixed tumors in canine mammary glands, little is known about molecular events that accompany or determine progression of these tumors. It is known that long evolution, frequent recurrences and loss of p63 are factors associated with the malignant transformation of benign mixed tumors (MISDORP et al., 1999; GAMA et al., 2003; GENELHU et al., 2007; BERTAGNOLLI et al., 2009).

In salivary glands several studies have shown that salivary duct carcinoma arising in a pleomorphic adenoma commonly expresses HER-2 and EGFR proteins (DI PALMA et al., 2005; MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

In this study the EGFR overexpression incidence was restricted to carcinomas in mixed tumors. The expression of EGFR was initially identified in canine mammary tumors using radioligand binding assay and no differences in positivity or concentration was observed between benign and malignant tumors (RUTTEMAN et al., 1994; DONNAY et al., 1996).

To the author's knowledge, only one other study investigated the immunohistochemical expression of EGFR in tumors of canine mammary glands (YANG et al., 2008). The authors studied 49 mammary tumors including three benign mixed tumors and two of three benign mixed evaluated were positive contradicting our findings. EGFR overexpression was found in 27.3% of benign tumors and 22.2% of carcinomas.

The divergence in results may be explained by the fact that the study by Yang et al. (2008), also counted the cases with weak to moderate staining in 10% cells (2+) as positive. In the present study only strong (3+) membranous expression in more of 30% of cells was assessed as overexpression. In carcinomas ex pleomorphic adenomas of human salivary glands (ETTIL et al., 2008), and in metaplastic breast carcinomas (VIALLE et al., 2008), only strong reactivity of EGFR was significantly correlated with prognosis, which justifies adopting this criterion.

When alternatives threshold criteria for EGFR (0, 1+ versus 2+, 3+) was analysed the levels of positivity in benign mixed tumors and carcinomas in benign mixed tumor raised to 12.5% and 40.0%, respectively. Nevertheless, positivity was also significantly associated with carcinoma in mixed tumor (data no showed).

Overexpression of EGFR has been detected in 40% to 47% of carcinomas ex pleomorphic adenomas and as found in our study the malignant component of carcinomas had increased expression of these receptors in comparison to the benign component (MATSUBAYASHI & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

Furthermore, a small proportion of carcinomas in mixed tumors overexpressed HER2 (9%). In salivary carcinomas ex –pleomorphic adenomas HER2 is overexpressed in 40% to 60% of cases (SKÁLOVA et al., 2003; DI PALMA et al. 2005; FREITAS et al., 2005; MATZUBAYASCHY & YOSHIHARA, 2007). However, those cases with complete and intense membrane staining in more than 10% of cells were classified as positive (SKÁLOVA et al., 2003; DI PALMA et al., 2005).

Immunohistochemistry and fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) are the two most widely used methods to evaluate HER2 status in breast cancer. The most commonly scoring system used for HER2 immunohistochemistry is the recommended by the Hercept test, however this system is associated with a significant number of false positives.

Consensus regarding the best methods and cut-off points to define HER2 were defined by ASCO and CAP. To avoid the incidence of false positive we adopted a threshold of more than 30% of tumor (rather than the originally specified 10%) in accordance to the recommendation in ASCO/CAP guidelines (WOLF et al., 2007).

In our series, HER2 overexpression was not found in benign mixed tumors. This is in accordance with previous immunohistochemical and FISH studies performed in cases of salivary gland carcinomas, which demonstrated that positive HER2 staining were restricted to invasive salivary carcinoma ex pleomorphic adenomas, while benign areas of pleomorphic adenomas were consistently negative (SKÁLOVA et al., 2003; MATZUBAYASCHY & YOSHIHARA, 2007).

A significant difference in incidence of overexpression was not observed between benign mixed tumor and carcinoma in benign mixed tumor, despite the absence of HER2 in all cases of benign tumors. In contrast to our observations, overexpression is associated with malignancy and high-grade in salivary carcinomas ex pleomorphic adenomas (DI PALMA et al. 2005; MATZUBAYASCHY et al 2007).

The expression of HER2 also differs from the described in other canine mammary tumors. In canine mammary tumors overexpression of HER2 has been reported in 17% to 34% of analysed malignant mammary tumors (AHERN et al, 1996; RUNGSIPIPAT et al., 1999, DUTRA et al., 2004). Overexpression is associated with malignancy, high histologic grade, large tumor size and p53 expression, suggesting a role in canine mammary carcinogenesis (DUTRA et al., 2004, MÁRTIN LAS MULAS et al., 2003). The role of HER2 in survival has been investigated in a few studies and HER2 overexpressing tumors were associated with higher survival rate (HSU et al., 2009, GAMA & SCHIMITT, 2008).

Our results suggest that alterations in HER2 protein may not be associated with acquisition of malignant phenotype in carcinomas in benign mixed tumors of canine

mammary gland or is involved only in the initial stage of malignization being down-regulated in later stages of tumor development. In accordance with our findings, EGFR oncoproteins were frequently expressed in poorly differentiated breast carcinomas with mesenchymal components as osseous and cartilaginous tissues (TSUDA et al., 2003; REIS-FILHO et al., 2005). In contrast, HER-2 overexpression was preferentially detected in poorly differentiated breast carcinoma without mesenchymal differentiation.

In this study, the expression of EGFR and HER2 was limited to epithelial components of tumors, with exception of cases with cytoplasm staining. These findings suggest biological differences between the epithelial and mesenchymal elements of these tumors. Several evidences indicate that mesenchymal components of canine mixed tumors are derived from myoepithelial cells (PULLEY, 1973; DEXTEXHE et al., 1993; ARAI et al., 1995) and that both epithelial and mesenchymal components arise from a stem cell with bilinear (epithelial and myoepithelial) differentiation potential (GARTNER et al., 1999; RAMALHO et al., 1999).

It is possible that alterations of EGFR represents an important step toward the process of divergence and malignization of the epithelial components these tumors. Although are not involved with mesenchymal differentiation.

In summary, the results indicate that carcinomas in mixed tumors rarely expressed oncoprotein HER2 and frequently overexpressed EGFR. These results suggest that EGFR may have a role in malignant epithelial transformation of canine mixed tumors.

Table 1. Expression of HER2 and EGFR in epithelial and mesenchymal components of canine mammary mixed tumors.

Tumor Type	n	Component	HER2		EGFR	
			0,1+,2+	3+	0,1+,2+	3+
Benign Mixed Tumor	16	Epithelial	16	0	16	0
		Mesenchymal	13	3 ^c	16	0
Carcinoma in mixed tumor	22	Epithelial	2	20	1	7
		Mesenchymal	20	2 ^c	0	22

N= number of tumors

c = cytoplasmic staining

0 = no staining or weak,

1+ = incomplete membrane staining in any proportion of tumor cells

2+ = equivocal was considered as complete membrane staining either non-uniform or weak intensity but with obvious circumferential distribution in at least 10% of cells

3+ = uniform intense membrane staining of 30% of invasive tumor cells

Table 2. Expression of HER2 and EGFR in benign mixed tumors of canine mammary gland.

Case	Age	HER2	EGFR
1	.	0	0
2	13	0	0
3	.	1+	1+
4	12	2+	2+
5	.	0	0
6	4	0	1+
7	.	1+	0
8	.	0	0
9	9	0	0
10	9	2+	0
11	10	0	0
12	10	0	0
13	.	0	0
14	6	0	0
15	14	1+	0
16	6	0	0

Table 3. Expression of HER2 and EGFR in carcinoma arising in benign mixed tumors of canine mammary gland.

Case	Age	HER2	EGFR
1	.	3+	3+
2	.	3+	0
3	11	0	1+
4	15	1+	3+
5	7	2+	0
6	10	0	0
7	.	1+	0
8	7	1+	1+
9	10	2+	1+
10	9	1+	0
11	4	0	1+
12	8	0	1+
13	9	1+	2+
14	12	0	3+
15	7	2+	1+
16	.	1+	2+
17	11	0	3+
18	12	0	3+
19	.	0	3+
20	12	2+	3+
21	10	2+	0
22	12	0	0

‡ += 3 cm

++= 3–5 cm

+++ = < 5 cm

. = Data no available.

N= number of tumors

0 = no staining or weak,

1+ = incomplete membrane staining in any proportion of tumor cells

2+ = equivocal was considered as complete membrane staining either non-uniform or weak in intensity but with obvious circumferential distribution in at least 10% of cells

3+ = uniform intense membrane staining of 30% of invasive tumor cells

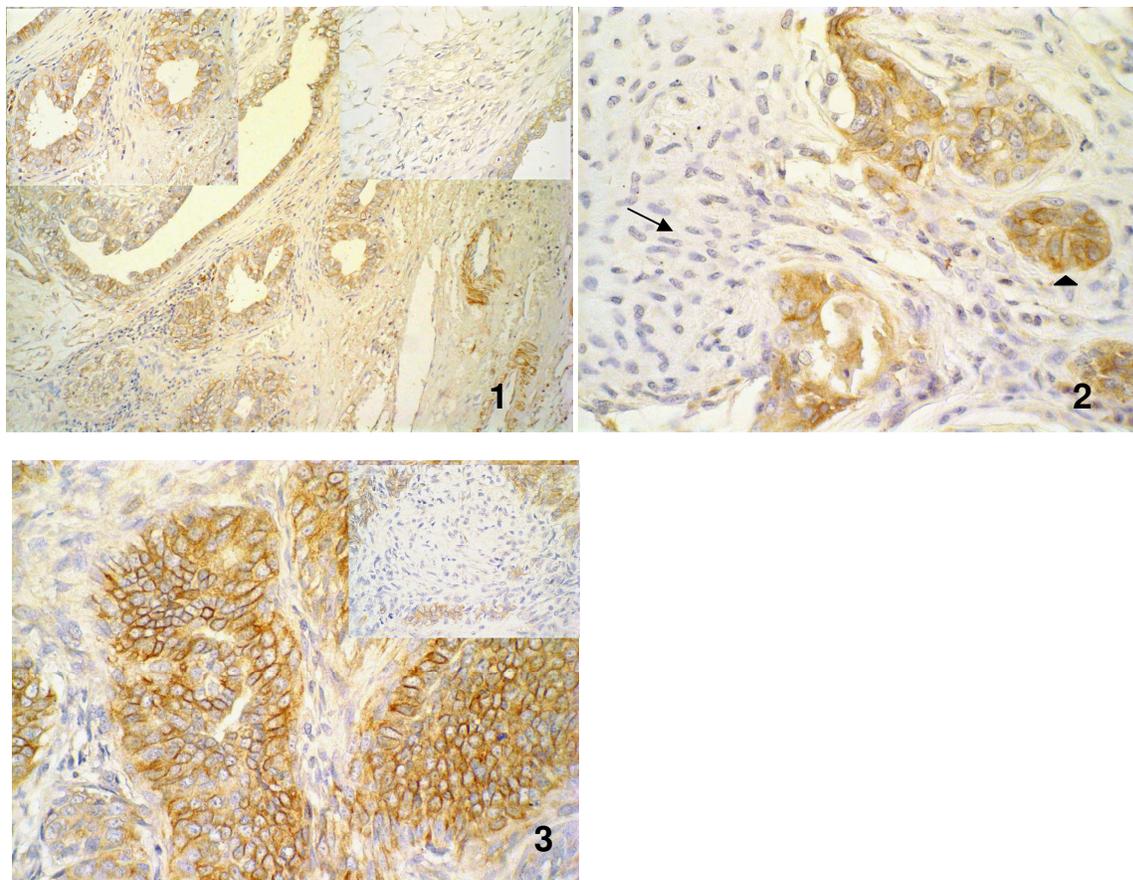


Fig.1. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case 11. Epithelial component of benign mixed tumor with weak to moderate complete membrane staining for HER2 in 10% of tumor cells (2+ score) Magnification = 40x. Top left. High - magnification view of the malignant epithelial component of carcinoma in benign mixed tumor (60X). Top right. High - magnification (60X) view of the mesenchymal component negative for HER2. Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain.

Fig.2. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case 5. Malignant epithelial component of non invasive carcinoma in benign mixed tumor with weak to moderate complete membrane staining for HER2 in 10% of tumor cells (2+ score). Mesenchymal component negative (Arrow). Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain.

Fig.3. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case. (2). Malignant epithelial component of carcinoma in benign mixed tumor with a strong complete membrane staining for HER2 is observed in 30% of tumor cells (3+ score) Magnification = 20x. Top right. High - magnification (60X) view of the mesenchymal component negative for HER2. Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain.

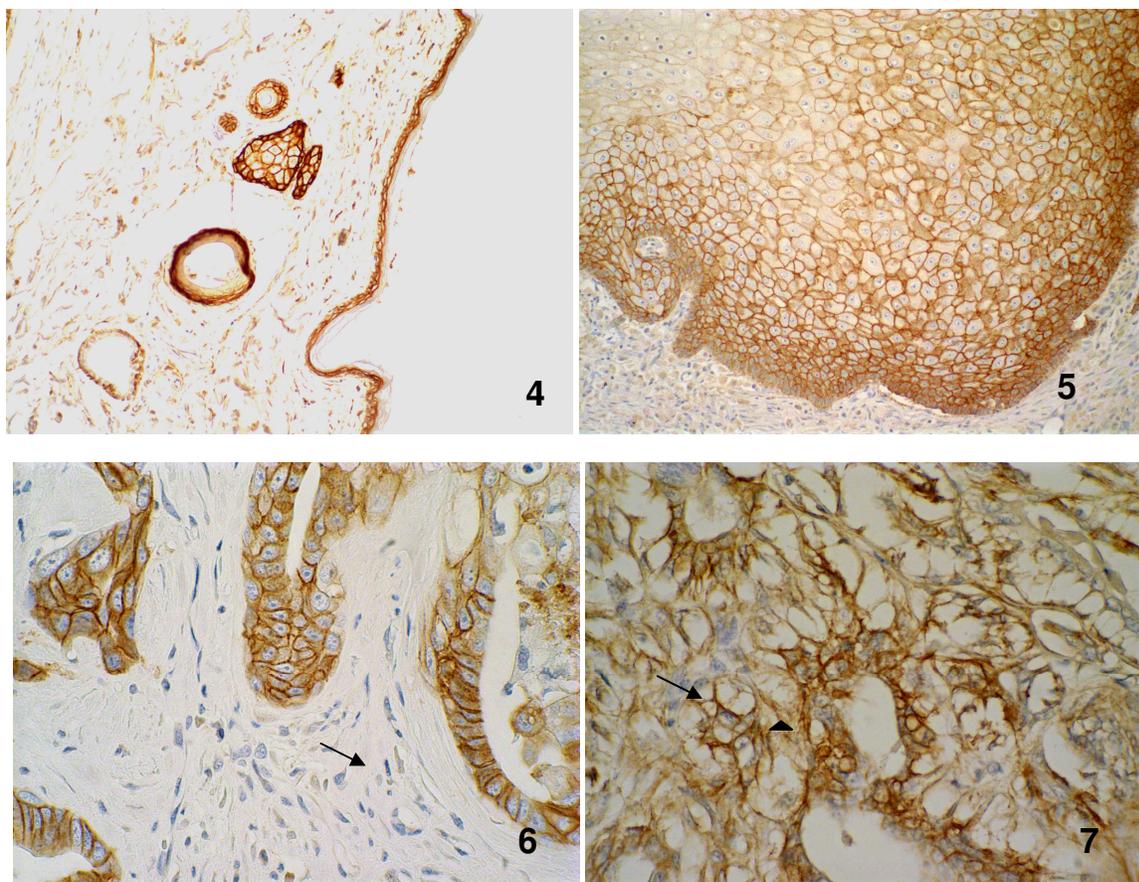


Fig. 4. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case 17. Normal skin adjacent to the tumor shows intense staining for EGFR. Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain. Magnification = 20x.

Fig. 5. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case 1. Squamous metaplasia in a carcinoma in benign mixed tumor show for EGFR in more than 30% of tumor cells (3+ score). Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain. Magnification = 60x.

Fig. 6. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case.4. Malignant epithelial component from carcinoma in benign mixed tumor shows intense membrane staining for EGFR in more than 30% of tumor cells (3+ score), and mesenchymal component negative (Arrow). Advance HRP Visualization Method, Harris's hematoxylin counterstain. Magnification = 60x.

Fig.7. Mammary gland; *Canis familiaris*. Case.17. a. Interstitial spindle cells in the mesenchymal component of carcinoma in benign mixed tumors with membrane (arrow) and cytoplasmic staining for EGFR. Hematoxylin and Eosin. Magnification = 20x.

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5. DISCUSSÃO GLOBAL

A região controle do DNA mitocondrial é reconhecida como um “*hot spot*” para mutações e polimorfismos em muitos tipos neoplasias humanas (POLYAK *et al.*, 1998; SANCHEZ - CESPEDES *et al.*, 2001; MÁXIMO *et al.*, 2002). Com relação à espécie canina, diversos estudos demonstram que esta região também é alvo de instabilidade genética (SAVOLAINEN *et al.*, 2002; VAN ASCH *et al.*, 2005; EICHMAN & PARSON, 2007), mas dados a respeito da frequência de alterações em neoplasias mamárias não haviam sido descritos.

No presente trabalho investigou-se a presença de alterações em um fragmento de DNAm_t localizado em uma zona altamente polimórfica. Inúmeros polimorfismos foram identificados e todos já haviam sido previamente identificados em estudos de genética populacional (SAVOLAINEN *et al.*, 2002; VAN ASCH *et al.*, 2005; EICHMAN & PARSON, 2007). Mutações pontuais foram encontradas em 20% dos tumores mistos benignos e 11% dos carcinomas em tumores mistos e foram em sua maioria heteroplasmicas. Os achados foram diferentes do que é encontrado nos tumores mamários da mulher, nos quais as alterações ocorrem com mais frequência nos carcinomas (SANCHES-CESPEDES *et al.*, 2001; TAN *et al.*, 2002). As diferenças encontradas podem ser atribuídas ao limitado número de amostras estudadas e à pequena porção da região controle analisada.

A análise do DNA mitocondrial tem sido empregada para estudar a clonalidade de inúmeras neoplasias humanas (HA *et al.*, 2001; NOMOTO *et al.*, 2002; AULMAN *et al.*, 2008). A justificativa para sua utilização são as vantagens técnicas e o alto número de alterações. Além disso, considerando que a expansão clonal é o fator que determina o acúmulo de mutações no tecido a identificação das mesmas alterações homoplasmicas em diferentes tecidos pode indicar monoclonalidade.

No presente trabalho verificou-se que na maioria dos casos o mesmo perfil de polimorfismos e mutações foi encontrado nos componentes epitelial e mesenquimal dos tumores. Estes achados corroboram com os trabalhos prévios que sugerem que os diferentes componentes dos tumores mistos são derivados de uma mesma célula tronco com alta capacidade de divergência (GÄRTNER *et al.*, 1999; RAMALHO *et al.*, 2007). A observação de mutações distintas nos componentes mesenquimais de três tumores pode indicar uma origem policlonal, mas a hipótese de que a alteração tenha ocorrido após a divergência não pode ser excluída.

Para confirmação dos resultados optou-se por analisar polimorfismos em seis microssatélites do DNA nuclear. Entretanto, a análise dos seis fragmentos só foi possível em dois casos (um tumor misto benigno e um carcinoma em tumor misto), devido a falhas na amplificação ou a resultados duvidosos. Apesar de um mesmo genótipo ter sido observado nos dois componentes dos tumores estudados o pequeno número de casos impossibilita a obtenção de conclusões.

A falha na análise do DNA nuclear reflete a baixa qualidade das amostras e indica a necessidade de aperfeiçoar os procedimentos rotineiros de pré-fixação, inclusão e pós-fixação utilizados nos laboratórios de medicina veterinária.

Com a finalidade de buscar informações adicionais sobre a origem dos tumores mistos uma série maior de tumores mistos benignos e carcinomas em tumores mistos foi submetida à análise imunohistoquímica para EGFR e HER2. Superexpressão para ambas as proteínas foi encontrada apenas nos carcinomas em tumores mistos e uma alta frequência dos tumores superexpressaram preferencialmente EGFR.

A presença de superexpressão restrita ao componente epitelial dos tumores provavelmente reflete o papel destas oncoproteínas, principalmente de EGFR, no processo de transformação maligna deste componente e não exclui a hipótese de monoclonalidade.

Tumores mamários humanos com diferenciação epitelial e mesenquimal como os carcinomas metaplásicos também superexpressam preferencialmente EGFR e a expressão não é observada no componente mesenquimal que é benigno (REIS FILHO *et al.*, 2005; LEIBL & MONFAIR, 2005). Entretanto, nos carcinossarcomas, que apresentam ambos os componentes malignos, a expressão de EGFR já foi encontrada nos dois componentes tumorais indicando sua participação no processo de malignização destes (LEIBL & MONFAIR, 2005).

A superexpressão de HER2 foi encontrada em uma pequena percentagem de tumores, mas um resultado considerado indeterminado foi observado em 22,7% dos carcinomas em tumores mistos. De acordo com o guia de interpretação do HER2 proposto pela Sociedade Americana de Oncologia e o Colégio Americano de Patologistas (WOLF *et al.*, 2007), os casos com marcação indeterminada (marcação fraca em mais do que 10% das células tumorais; 2+) devem ser submetidos à análise de amplificação por meio da técnica de FISH para confirmação de positividade. Apesar de haver relatos de que há uma baixa taxa de concordância entre positividade indeterminada e amplificação (MASS *et al.*, 2000; YAZIJI *et al.*, 2004; OWENS *et al.*, 2004), não se pode descartar a possibilidade de que alguns dos casos indeterminados sejam positivos.

6. CONCLUSÕES FINAIS

- Mutações e polimorfismos foram identificados nos tumores mamários mistos estudados, mas a frequência de mutações foi baixa e não diferiu entre tumores benignos e malignos. Nenhum polimorfismo diferente dos que já encontram-se descritos na literatura compilada foi identificado.
- Na maioria dos tumores estudados os componentes epitelial e mesenquimal apresentaram um mesmo haplótipo de DNAm_t adicionando evidências para a hipótese de que ambos são originados a partir de uma célula tronco.
- Somente os carcinomas em tumores mistos superexpressaram HER2 e EGFR, no entanto, uma expressão inconclusiva foi encontrada em alguns casos de tumores mistos benignos.
- Os carcinomas em tumores mistos superexpressaram preferencialmente EGFR sugerindo a participação desta oncoproteína no processo de transformação epitelial maligna destes tumores.
- A expressão de EGFR foi observada somente no componente epitelial destes tumores indicando que esta alteração pode ter ocorrido após a divergência e pode não ser importante para a aquisição do fenótipo mesenquimal.

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ANEXOS

Anexo 1 – Produção científica relacionada à tese no período de Janeiro de 2006 a Março de 2009:

Artigos Publicados:

1- BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; SOARES, P.; VAN ASCH, B.; AMORIM, A.; CIRNES, L.; MAXIMO, V.; CASSALI, G. An assessment of the clonality of the components of canine mixed mammary tumours by mitochondrial DNA analysis. *The Veterinary Journal*, p. XX, 2008.

2- BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; MÁXIMO, V.; VAN ASCH, B.; AMORIM, A.; CIRNES, L.; SOARES, P.; CASSALI, G. D. Optimization of methods to assess mitochondrial DNA in archival paraffin-embedded tissues from mammary canine tumors. *Jornal Brasileiro de Patologia e Medicina Laboratorial*, v. 44, p. 305, 2008.

Resumos e resumos expandidos:

1. BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; VAN ASCH, B.; AMORIM, A.; CIRNES, L.; SOARES, P.; CASSALI, G.D. Tumores mamários mistos da cadela: Estudo da clonalidade dos diferentes componentes tumorais. *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology*, 7, 1, 80–81.

-Recebeu Menção Honrosa na categoria Oncologia Experimental.

2. BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; SOARES, P.; VAN ASCH, B.; AMORIM, A.; CIRNES, L.; MÁXIMO, V.; CASSALI, G. D. Análise do DNA mitocondrial: uma ferramenta para o estudo da clonalidade dos diferentes componentes dos tumores mamários mistos caninos. In: Simpósio Mineiro de Oncologia, 2008, Belo Horizonte. *Prática Hospitalar*. São Paulo: Office Editora e Publicidade Ltda, 2008. v. 10. p. 61-61.

3. MARTINS, B. M.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; FRANÇA, M.; GIOVANNI, P. B.; ENIO FERREIRA, E.; CASSALI, G.D. Imunoexpressão de c-erbB-2 em tumores mamários mistos da cadela. XVII Semana de Iniciação Científica, outubro 2008.

Recebeu menção honrosa na categoria relevância acadêmica.

Anexo 2 - Produção científica não relacionada à tese no período de Janeiro de 2006 a Março de 2009

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1. CASSALI, G. D.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C; FERREIRA, ENIO. Tecnologia de microarray. Perspectivas no estudo do câncer de mama. *Prática Hospitalar*, Belo Horizonte, v. 8, p. 145-148, 2006.
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3. CASSALI, G. D; MALTA, M.C. C.; COSTA, M. E. L. T.; SOUZA, C.M.; FERREIRA, E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; CAMPOS, C.B. Neoplasia mamária em onça parda (*Puma concolor*) e leoa (*Phantera leo*) - relato de caso. *Clínica Veterinária* (São Paulo), v. XIII, p. 86-90, 2008.
4. LAVALLE, GE.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; CASSALI, G.D. Uso da carboplatina associada a inibidor de Cox-2 no tratamento de carcinoma da glândula mamária de cadela com metástase em linfonodo-relato de caso. *Clínica Veterinária* (São Paulo), v. XIII, p. 80-84, 2008.
5. CASSALI, G.D.; FERREIRA, E.; SILVA, A.E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; SOUZA, C.M. Genética Aplicada ao Cancer de mama. *Prática Hospitalar*, v. X, p. 15-17, 2008.
6. CASSALI, G.D.; BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; FERREIRA, E.; MALTA, M.C.C. A simple ductal mammary papilloma in a male maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*). *Journal of Veterinary Diagnostic Investigation*, v. 21, p. 153-155, 2009.
7. BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; CASSALI, G.D.; GENELHU, MCLS.; COSTA, F.A.; COELHO, J.F.; GONÇALVES, P.B. Immunohistochemical Expression of p63 And Δ Np63 In Mixed Tumors Of Canine Mammary Glands And Its Relation With P53 Expression. *Veterinary Pathology*, 2009. Jan, v.27. In Press.

Artigos Submetidos

1. FERREIRA, E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; CAVALCANTI, M.; SCHMITT, F.; CASSALI,G.D. The Relation Between Tumor Size And The Expression Of Prognostic Markers In Benign And Malignant Canine Mammary Tumours

Submetido para *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology* em 09/10/2008. - Aguardando resposta da revista.

2. LAVALLE, G.E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; TAVARES,W.L.F.; SILVA, M.X.; CASSALI, G.D. COX-2 expression in canine mammary carcinomas: correlation with angiogenesis (or

microvessel density) and outcome”, submetido para Veterinary Pathology em 22/11/2008 – Veterinary Pathology.

3. GLEIDICE, E. L.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; TAVARES, W.L.T.; FERREIRA, M.D.; CASSALI, G.D. Mast cell and angiogenesis in canine mammary tumors”, submetido para Veterinary Pathology em 8/01/2009.

Resumos e resumos expandidos

1. BERTAGNOLLI, A. C.; CASSALI, G.D.; COSTA, F.A.; FERREIRA, E.; GONÇALVES, P.B.D. Expressão imuno-histoquímica de p63 e p53 em tumores mamários mistos da cadela. In: VIII Simpósio Mineiro de Oncologia, 2006, Belo Horizonte. Revista Clínica Hospitalar, 2006.

2. CAVALCANTI, M.; FERREIRA, E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.; GOBBI, H.; CASSALI, G.D. Fatores prognósticos dos carcinomas mamários de cadelas: evidências para consolidação do modelo experimental canino. In: XV Congresso Brasileiro de Oncologia Clínica, 2007, Belo Horizonte. Prática Hospitalar. São Paulo : Office Editora, 2007. v. 8. p. 41-41.

3. LAVALLE, G. E.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; TAVARES, W.L.F.; CASSALI, G.D. Evaluation of cox-2 expression in canine mammary gland carcinomas correlation with survival time. In: V ONCOVET, 2009, São Paulo. Veterinary and Comparative Oncology, 2008. v. 7. p. 86-87.

4. TAVARES, W. L. F.; FIGUEIREDO, M.S.; SOUZA, A.G.; BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; LAVALLE, G.E.; CAVALCANTI, G.; CASSALI, G.D. Evaluation of dose and side effects of tamoxifen in female dogs. In: V ONCOVET, 2009, São Paulo. Veterinary and Comparative Oncology, 2008. v. 7. p. 93-94.

5. BERTAGNOLLI, A.C.; CASSALI, G.D.; COSTA, F.A.; FERREIRA, E.; GONÇALVES, P. B. D. Expressão imuno-histoquímica de p63 e p53 em tumores mamários mistos de cadelas. Prática Hospitalar, v. 8, n. 44, p. 96-97, 2006.