



Gene Amplification and Epigenetics are Associated with Increased ABCB1 Expression in Acquired Taxane Resistant Esophageal Squamous Cancer Cells

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## 学位論文要約

博士論文題目 Gene Amplification and Epigenetics are Associated with Increased ABCB1 Expression in Acquired Taxane Resistant Esophageal Squamous Cancer Cells

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The taxanes are applied as potent chemotherapy agents in the treatment of esophageal cancer; however, their therapeutic usefulness is limited by acquired chemoresistance, which is a common drawback to most anti-cancer drugs. In our previous study, to elucidate possible causes for acquisition of resistance, we established three taxane resistance esophageal cancer cell lines and found that *ABCB1* was upregulated in these cells. However, the responsible mechanisms remain unclear. In this study, I explored possible mechanisms that might contribute to upregulated *ABCB1* expression in taxane resistant cells. *ABCB1* amplification was present in taxane resistant cells as shown by significant increases of gene copy number. In addition, after treatment with 5-Aza and/or TSA in parental cell TE1, the ABCB1 expression was activated, suggesting the involvement of epigenetic mechanism. Moreover, I demonstrated that *ABCB1* downstream promoter was the dominant promoter in taxane resistant esophageal cancer cell lines and the CpG islands were mostly unmethylated in taxane resistant cells.

In conclusion, I propose that *ABCB1* gene amplification alongside with alteration in epigenetic mechanism could be responsible for acquisition of taxane resistance in esophageal cancer cells.