OMICS International
conferenceseries.com
World Congress on
Hepatitis
July 20-22, 2015 Orlando, Florida, USA

Salivary pH as an indicator for Hepatocellular carcinoma

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Reports in recent years have indicated that saliva represents an increasingly valuable resource for disease diagnostics including periodontal diseases as well as different types of cancer, cardiovascular, endocrine, immune and hereditary diseases. In contrast to blood pH which is under tight control, salivary pH shows variability depending on a wide range of factors reflecting its potential variability in chronic health status. In this study, we investigated the potential role of salivary pH to reflect the state of chronic metabolic acidosis in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. Salivary pH was measured in 300 subjects using narrow range pH strips. Subjects were divided into 3 groups, group I consists of 100 healthy volunteers, group II consists of 100 patients with liver cirrhosis and group III consists of 100 patients with HCC. Results showed a significant difference ($P \leq 0.05$) in salivary pH values between the three groups with the HCC group being the most acidic (mean value of 5.62) followed by the cirrhotic group (mean value of 6.24). The control group showed normal salivary pH (mean pH value of 6.6). The predictive performance of salivary PH as an indicator of hepatic malignancy among the 100 patients of HCC shows that the salivary pH level at a cut off value of ≤5.85 gives a sensitivity of 80% and a specificity of 84%. The non invasive and economically sound nature of this test makes it a potential auxillary test in screening for HCC.

Biography

Maha Hussein is currently working as an Assistant Professor of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, Ain Shams University. She graduated with honor in 1998 from Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University. She had Master Degree in 2002 with a research on (Relationship between Gastric and Gallbladder Empting in Patients with Non Ulcer Dyspepsia Positive for Helicobacter Pylori) and MD Degree in 2007 completed by research on (Relation between aflatoxin B1 level and glutathione antioxidant in chronic hepatitis C patients with and without hepatocellular carcinoma). She worked since graduation in Ain Shams University; Residency then Assistant lecturer at 2003, Lecturer at 2007 and Assistant professor since 2012 till now. She joined liver transplantation team of Ain Shams Hospitals since 2008 till present as transplant hepatologist and had observer ship in the Transplantation Center of Methodist Hospital in Texas in USA 2009. She worked as a member of national team for prevention and treatment of viral hepatitis 2007-2010.

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