

# The Differential Gene Expression Profiles between Sensitive and Resistant Breast Cancer Cells to Adriamycin by cDNA Microarray

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**Purpose:** Adriamycin<sup>®</sup> is one of the most commonly used drugs in the treatment of breast cancer. This study was performed to understand the molecular mechanisms of drug resistance in breast cancer cells.

**Materials and Methods:** We have analyzed the MCF-7 breast cell line and its adriamycin-resistant variants, MCF-7/ADR using human 10 K element cDNA microarrays.

**Results:** We defined 68 genes that were up-regulated (14 genes) or down-regulated (54 genes) in adriamycin resistant breast cancer cells. Several genes, such as G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5, phospholipase A2, guanylate cyclase 1, vimentin, matrix metalloproteinase 1 are up-regulated in drug resistant cells. Several genes, such as interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27, forkhead box M1, mitogen-activated protein kinase 6, regulator of

mitotic spindle assembly 1 and tumor necrosis factor superfamily are down-regulated in adriamycin resistant cells. The altered expression of genes observed in microarray was verified by RT-PCR.

**Conclusion:** These findings show that cDNA microarray analysis can be used to obtain gene expression profiles reflecting the effect of anticancer drugs on breast cancer cells. Such data may lead to the assigning of signature expression profiles of drug-resistant tumors which may help predict responses to drugs and assist in the design of tailored therapeutic regimens to overcome drug resistance. (*Cancer Research and Treatment 2004;36:43-49*)

**Key Words:** Breast cancer cells, Drug resistance, cDNA microarray, Adriamycin

## INTRODUCTION

Drug resistance in cancer is a major limitation for successful chemotherapy. Adriamycin is one of the most commonly used drugs in the treatment of breast cancer. It has been reported that tumor cell resistance to adriamycin is associated with altered expression of topoisomerase II (1) and integrins (2), changes in glutathione level (3), and expression of membrane-associated pumps such as P-glycoprotein encoded by the multidrug resistance gene MDR1 (4). However, mechanisms of development of intrinsic drug resistance are not thoroughly understood

and may involve the expression of multiple genes during tumor progression and also the emergence of acquired resistance to chemotherapeutic agents may be associated with cancer cell selection during chemotherapy. The DNA microarray technology has enabled the analysis of the expression profiles of tumor cell of thousands of genes simultaneously (5,6). To understand the molecular mechanisms of drug resistance in breast cancer cells, we have analyzed the MCF-7 breast cell line and its adriamycin-resistant variants, MCF-7/ADR, using human 10K element cDNA microarrays to identify differential gene expression.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

### 1) Cell culture and establishment of resistant cell line

The human breast cancer cell lines, MCF-7 were cultured in 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS) RPMI media containing 100 U/ml penicillin, 100µg/ml streptomycin and 20 mM glutamine with 5% CO<sub>2</sub> at 37°C in humidified air. Adriamycin resistance cells, MCF-7/ADR were kindly obtained from Dr. Park YM at Incheon University and MCF-7/ADR cells showed significant

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resistance to adriamycin compared to parent MCF-7 cells (comparative cell viabilities assessed by MTT assay after 36 hour incubation with adriamycin, MCF-7: MCF-7/ADR=100%: 210%).

## 2) cDNA microarray preparation

The experiments were performed on Human 10 K cDNA microarrays (GaiaGene Inc., Seoul, Korea). Human 10 K cDNA microarray consists of 10,336 spots including UniGEM-V clones (Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Palo Alto, CA), housekeeping genes, and yeast DNAs as negative control. UniGEM-V clones contain 9,182 unique and sequence verified cDNA elements mapped to 8,353 UniGene Homo sapiens annotated clusters (7).

## 3) Probe preparation

Total RNA was extracted using the Trizol reagent (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY). For labeling of probes with amino allyl cDNA labeling kit, we proceeded as follows: 20 µg of total RNA (12 µl) were combined with oligo (dT) primer (50 µM, 1 µl). The mix was incubated at 70°C for 10 min, and then kept at room temperature. Primer/RNA solution was added to the RT mix (10X RT buffer, 2 µl; RNase inhibitor, 10 units/µl, 1 µl; dNTP mix (10 mM dATP, dCTP, and dGTP), 1 µl; AAdUTP mix (3 mM dTTP and 3 mM amino allyl dUTP), 1 µl; M-MLV reverse transcriptase, 200 units/µl, 2 µl) and incubated at 42°C for 2 hours. The RNA was hydrolyzed with NaOH (1 M, 4 µl) at 65°C for 15 min. The solution was neutralized with HEPES (1 M, 10 µl) and the cDNA was recovered by ethanol precipitation using sodium acetate (3 M, 3.4 µl) and ethanol (100%, 100 µl). The cDNA pellet was resuspended in 4.5 µl of coupling buffer and added 2.5 µl of nuclease-free water and 3 µl of dye (NHS-ester Cy3 or Cy5, 2.22 mM in DMSO). The resulting solution was mixed by gentle vortexing and centrifuged briefly. The tubes were wrapped in aluminum foil, and incubated at room temperature for one hour in a dark room. The labeling reaction was stopped with 6 µl of 4 M hydroxylamine hydrochloride. And the tubes were vortexed, briefly centrifuged, and incubated for 15 min at room temperature in the dark. The solution was added 70 µl of nuclease-free water, then NucAway spin columns were used to purify the dye labeled cDNA. The labeled cDNA was pelleted by ethanol precipitation and then resuspended in 10 µl of nuclease-free water.

## 4) Hybridization

Prehybridization of cDNA microarray was done at 55°C for 1 hour with prehybridization solution (5×SSC, 0.1% SDS, 1% bovine serum albumin) in the 50 ml conical tube. The Cy3- and Cy5-labeled products were combined, and to this 8 µg of poly (dA) (Pharmacia, Kalanzoo, MI), 4 µg of *Escherichia coli* tRNA (Sigma Chemical, St. Louis, MD), 10 µg of Human Cot1 DNA (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY), and EasyHyb hybridization solution (U-Vision Biotech, Taiwan) were added to a final volume of 60 µl. The probe was at 100°C for 2 min, cleared a debris by centrifugation, and placed onto the glass slide with a coverslip in a hybridization chamber (TeleChem International, Sannyvale, CA). Hybridization was performed in a 55°C water bath for 12 to 16 hours. The slides were subsequently washed in 2×SSC, 0.2% SDS at room temperature for 5 min, 0.1×SSC, 0.2% SDS at 55°C for 5 min, after a quick

rinse in 0.1×SSC. The slides were spun dry (500 rpm) for 5 min.

## 5) Scanning and analysis

The two fluorescent images (Cy3 and Cy5) were scanned separately from a GMS 418 Array Scanner (Affymetrix, Santa Clara, CA). The images were analyzed using MAAS program (GaiaGene; <http://www.gaiagene.com>). To determine the background signal intensity, we spotted the yeast DNA on each slide. Values at least twofold above the background intensity were considered significant. To filter out the unreliable data, spots with signal-to-noise ratios below three were not included in the data. Each experiment was performed three times and scatterplot showed consistent findings among each experiment (data not shown).

## 6) Semiquantitative RT-PCR

From each sample, 5 µg of total RNA were reverse-transcribed for single-stranded cDNAs using 1 mM of oligo-dT primer with Superscript II reverse transcriptase (Life Technologies, Grand Island, NY). Each single-stranded cDNA was diluted for subsequent PCR amplification by monitoring GAPDH as a quantitative control. Each PCR was carried out in a 50 µl volume of 1×PCR buffer for 5 minutes at 95°C for initial denaturing, followed by 25~35 cycles of 95°C for 45 seconds, 56°C for 45 seconds, and 72°C for 1 minutes, in the Perkin-Elmer Cyclex 9,600 (Perkin-Elmer Applied Biosystems, Foster, CA). The sequences of the primers used for RT-PCR were as follows: β-actin forward, 5'-TGACGGGGTCCACCACACTGTGCCCATCTA-3', reverse, 5'-CTAGAAGCATTGCGGTGGACGATGGAGGG-3'; interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27 forward, 5'-TCTGGCTCTGCCGTAGTTTT-3', reverse, 5'-GGCATGGTTCTTCTTCTGC-3'; trefoil factor 1 forward, 5'-AACACACTCCTGGGGATCAG-3', reverse, 5'-AGCCTGATGAAGCTGGAAAA-3'; GATA-binding protein 3 forward, 5'-TGGCAGTTTGTCCATTGAA-3', reverse, 5'-TCGACTTGCATTTTTGCAG-3'; G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5 forward, 5'-AATGGAGCTGGAAAACATCG-3', reverse, 5'-GCCAACTTGGGCTATGAAAA-3'; x006 protein (MDS006) forward, 5'-CATCCTGAGACCATGCCTTC-3', reverse, 5'-GCCTCACAATCACACCTTT-3'; matrix metalloproteinase 1 forward, 5'-ATGCTGAAACCCTGAAGGTG-3', reverse, 5'-CTGGTTGAAAAGCATGAGCA-3'

## RESULTS

cDNAs obtained from adriamycin-sensitive or -resistant breast cancer cells were differentially labeled with Cy5 and Cy3, respectively and hybridized to the 10,336 spotted gene microarray. To filter out the unreliable data and identify genes with significantly different expression, two cutoff analysis methods were carried out. Spots with signal-to-noise ratio below 3 and with less signal intensity than negative spots were not investigated any further. After cutoff, we selected genes with expression ratios of 2-fold up and down regulated.

We defined 68 genes that were up-regulated (14 genes) or down-regulated (54 genes) in adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells (Table 1). Several genes, such as G protein-coupled

receptor kinase 5, phospholipase A2, guanylate cyclase 1, vimentin, matrix metalloproteinase 1 are up-regulated in adriamycin-resistant cells. Several genes, such as interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27, forkhead box M1, mitogen-activated protein kinase 6, regulator of mitotic spindle assembly 1 and tumor necrosis factor superfamily are down-regulated in adriamycin-resistant cells. The genes were classified into five categories according to their function and pathways (Table 2).

We subsequently performed semiquantitative RT-PCR with a subset of differentially expressed cDNAs to confirm the observed differential gene expression. We chose three up-

regulated genes (G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5,  $\times 006$  protine (MDS006), and matrix metalloproteinase) and three down-regulated genes (interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27, trefoil factor 1, and GATA-binding protein 3) from adriamycin-sensitive and -resistant breast cancer cells for RT-PCR confirmation (Fig. 1). The results of these validations demonstrated the very similar expression pattern to that of the microarray analyses. In general, for a given mRNA, the cDNA microarray data and the results from the RT-PCR studies are in agreement.

**Table 1.** Up or down-regulated genes in adriamycin sensitive or resistant breast cancer cell

| Two-fold increase of MCF-7/ADR |   | Two-fold decrease of MCF-7/ADR |  |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|
| UniGene                        | Name                                    | UniGene                        | Name   |
| Hs.184411                      | albumin (ALB)                           | Hs.278613                      | interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27 (IFI27) |
| Hs.75975                       | signal recognition particle 9 kD (SRP9) | Hs.337764                      | trefoil factor 1 (TFF1)                        |
| Hs.125830                      | bladder cancer overexpressed protein    | Hs.169946                      | GATA-binding protein 3 (GATA3)                 |
| Hs.21293                       | UAP 1                                   | Hs.199429                      | mRNA; cDNA DKFZp434M2216                       |
| Hs.539                         | ribosomal protein S29 (RPS29)           | Hs.159406                      | Homo sapiens, clone IMAGE:3834272              |
| Hs.120360                      | phospholipase A2, group VI (PLA2G6)     | Hs.74649                       | cytochrome c oxidase subunit Vic (COX6C)       |
| Hs.211569                      | G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5     |                                |  |
| Hs.22960                       | breast carcinoma amplified sequence 2   |                                |  |
| Hs.227751                      | lectin, galactoside-binding, soluble, 1 | Hs.79358                       | testis-specific kinase 1 (TESK1)               |
| Hs.77890                       | guanylate cyclase 1, soluble, beta 3    | Hs.31835                       | EST379015 cDNA                                 |
| Hs.47668                       | $\times 006$ protein (MDS006)           | Hs.183593                      | zinc finger protein 24 (KOX 17) (ZNF24)        |
| Hs.76118                       | ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal esterase L1 | Hs.128749                      | alpha-methylacyl-CoA racemase (AMACR)          |
| Hs.297753                      | vimentin (VIM)                          | Hs.170204                      | mRNA for KIAA0551 protein                      |
| Hs.83169                       | matrix metalloproteinase 1 (MMP1)       | Hs.154993                      | EST372082 cDNA                                 |
| Hs.62349                       | mRNA; cDNA DKFZp586G2120                | Hs.66049                       | ESTs 1   |
|                                |   | Hs.133207                      | mRNA for KIAA1230 protein                      |
|                                |   | Hs.692                         | tumor-associated calcium signal transducer 1   |
|                                |   | Hs.271980                      | mitogen-activated protein kinase 6 (MAPK6)     |
|                                |   | Hs.77643                       | FK506-binding protein 1B (12.6 kD)             |
|                                |   | Hs.239                         | forkhead box M1 (FOXO1)                        |
|                                |   | Hs.778                         | guanylin mRNA                                  |
|                                |   | Hs.161640                      | tyrosine aminotransferase (TAT)                |
|                                |   | Hs.13797                       | EST380706 cDNA                                 |
|                                |   | Hs.299867                      | hepatocyte nuclear factor 3, alpha (HNF3A)     |
|                                |   | Hs.324527                      | mitochondrial ribosomal protein S5 (MRPS5)     |
|                                |   | Hs.4084                        | mRNA; cDNA DKFZp586E041                        |
|                                |   | Hs.17144                       | short-chain dehydrogenase                      |
|                                |   | Hs.707                         | keratin 2A                                     |
|                                |   | Hs.6285                        | DKFZP586P0123 protein                          |
|                                |   | Hs.169840                      | TTK protein kinase                             |
|                                |   | Hs.156276                      | KIAA0783 gene product                          |
|                                |   | Hs.155787                      | ubiquitin specific protease (NY-REN-60)        |
|                                | (total 14 genes)                        |                                | (total 54 genes)                               |

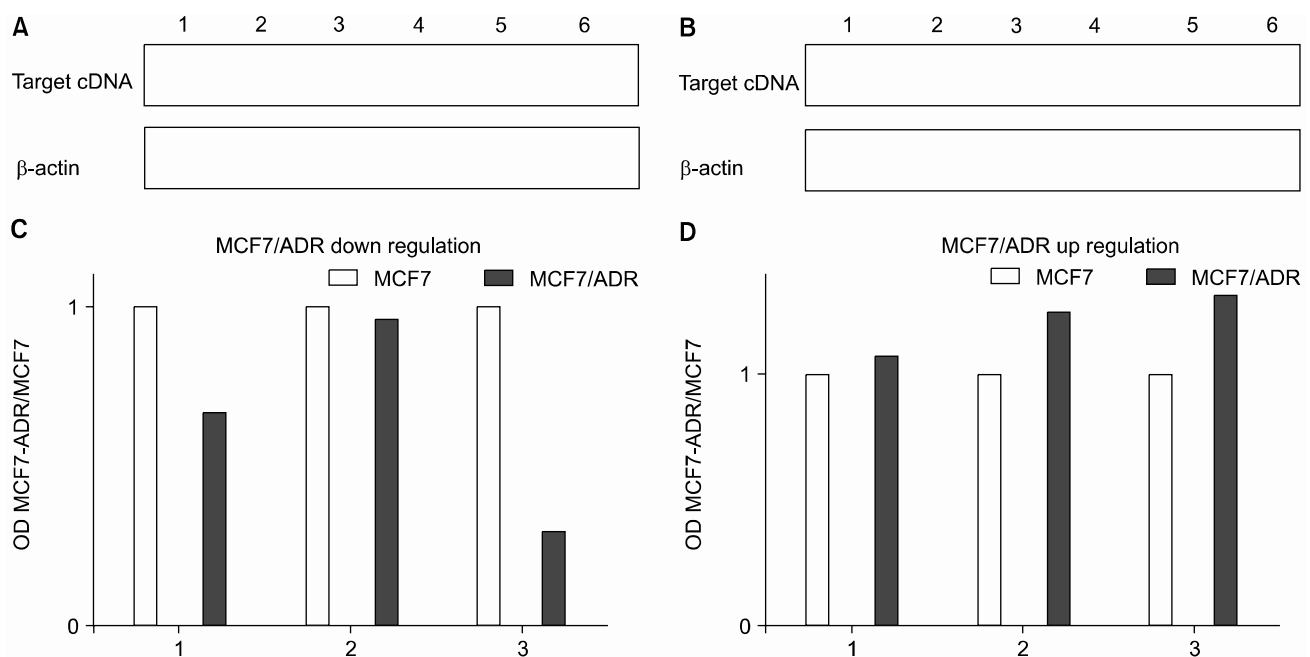
**Table 2.** Functional classification of genes modulated by sensitive and resistant breast cancer cells to adriamycin

| A. Growth and development                        |   |       |       |       |
|--|---|-------|-------|-------|
| UniGene  | GeneName  | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| Hs.1010  | Homo sapiens chromosomal protein mRNA, complete cds               | -1.26 | -0.26 |       |
| Hs.159651  | Tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily, member 21             | -1.11 | -1.03 | -0.06 |
| Hs.199067  | v-erb-b2 erythroblastic leukemia viral oncogene homolog 3 (avian) | -1.01 | -0.58 | -0.35 |
| Hs.21293   | UDP-N-acetylglucosamine pyrophosphorylase 1                       | 1.02  | 0.86  | 0.80  |
| Hs.299867  | hepatocyte nuclear factor 3, alpha                                | -1.28 | -0.93 | -0.71 |
| Hs.239   | forkhead box M1   | -1.50 | -1.08 | -0.73 |
| Hs.199429  | Homo sapiens mRNA; cDNA DKFZp434M2216                             | -2.42 | -1.89 | -0.89 |
| Hs.158174  | zinc finger protein 184 (Kruppel-like)                            | -0.88 | -1.33 | -0.76 |
| B. Metabolism                                    |   |       |       |       |
| UniGene  | GeneName  | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| Hs.74649   | UniGene   | -2.11 | -1.79 | -1.59 |
| Hs.76118   | ubiquitin carboxyl-terminal esterase L1 (ubiquitin thiolesterase) | 2.38  | 1.91  | 1.42  |
| Hs.343521  | malate dehydrogenase 2, NAD (mitochondrial)                       | -1.17 | -0.72 | 0.05  |
| Hs.161640  | tyrosine aminotransferase   | -1.30 | -1.16 | -0.44 |
| Hs.79358   | testis-specific kinase 1  | -1.94 | -0.30 | -0.14 |
| C. Signal transduction and transcription factors |   |       |       |       |
| UniGene  | GeneName  | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| Hs.169824  | killer cell lectin-like receptor subfamily B, member 1            | 0.01  | -0.13 | -1.26 |
| Hs.31835   | ESTs  | -1.81 | -1.76 | -0.74 |
| Hs.171626  | transcription elongation factor B (SIII), polypeptide 1-like      | -1.25 | -1.16 | -0.28 |
| Hs.211569  | G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5                               | 1.48  | 1.12  | 0.83  |
| Hs.169840  | TTK protein kinase  | -1.12 | -0.84 | -0.56 |
| Hs.271980  | mitogen-activated protein kinase 6                                | -1.53 | -1.47 | -0.42 |
| Hs.120360  | phospholipase A2, group VI (cytosolic, calcium-independent)       | 1.38  | 1.09  | 0.89  |
| Hs.77890   | guanylate cyclase 1, soluble, beta 3                              | 1.65  | 1.65  | 0.41  |
| Hs.778   | guanylate cyclase activator 2A (guanylin)                         | -1.46 | -1.39 | -0.36 |
| D. Structural proteins                           |   |       |       |       |
| UniGene  | GeneName  | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| Hs.337764  | hypothetical protein FLJ20400                                     | -2.97 | -2.86 | -1.99 |
| Hs.34526   | G protein-coupled receptor  | -0.37 | -1.32 | -0.25 |
| Hs.31835   | ESTs  | -1.81 | -1.76 | -0.74 |
| Hs.183362  | hypothetical protein FLJ20535                                     | -1.04 | -0.34 | -0.08 |
| Hs.193583  | zinc finger protein 230   | -0.80 | -1.37 | 0.10  |
| Hs.118281  | zinc finger protein 266   | -0.62 | -1.10 | -0.42 |
| Hs.183593  | zinc finger protein 24 (KOX 17)                                   | -1.81 | -1.80 | -1.21 |
| Hs.100932  | zinc finger protein 354A  | -0.94 | -1.32 | -0.71 |

Table 2. Continued

| E. Unclassified |  |       |       |       |
|-----------------|--|-------|-------|-------|
| UniGene         | GeneName   | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| Hs.77643        | FK506 binding protein 1B (12.6 kD)                           | -1.52 | -1.25 | -0.55 |
| Hs.227751       | lectin, galactoside-binding, soluble, 1 (galectin 1)         | 1.51  | 1.34  | 1.01  |
| Hs.133207       | PTPRF interacting protein, binding protein 1 (liprin beta 1) | -1.62 | -1.63 | -1.04 |
| Hs.75975        | signal recognition particle 9kD                              | 1.01  | 0.71  | 0.75  |
| Hs.17144        | short-chain dehydrogenase/reductase 1                        | -1.23 | 0.01  | -0.21 |
| Hs.183803       | ESTs   | -1.07 | -0.86 | -0.59 |
| Hs.75909        | KIAA0182 protein   | -1.01 | -0.73 | -0.11 |
| Hs.170204       | KIAA0551 protein   | -1.75 | -1.79 | -1.02 |
| Hs.169946       | GATA binding protein 3                                       | -2.54 | -1.72 | -1.58 |
| Hs.114103       | ESTs   | -1.00 | -0.60 | -0.42 |

The data represent expression ratio from cDNA microarray of three independent experiments.



**Fig. 1.** Verification of cDNA microarray data by semi-quantitative PCR. A: 1.MCF7 (IFI27), 2.MCF7/ADR (IFI27), 3.MCF7 (TFF1), 4.MCF7/ADR (TFF1), 5.MCF7 (GATA3), 6.MCF7/ADR (GATA3). B: 1.MCF7(GPRK5), 2.MCF7/ADR (GPRK5), 3.MCF7 (GYCY1B3), 4.MCF7/ADR (GYCY1B3), 5.MCF7 (MMP1), 6.MCF7/ADR (MMP1). C: 1. black-MCF7 (IFI27), gray-MCF7/ADR (IFI27), 2.black-MCF7 (TFF1), gray-MCF7/ADR (TFF1), 3. black-MCF7 (GATA3), gray-MCF7/ADR (GATA3) .D: 1.black-MCF7 (GPRK5), gray-MCF7/ADR (GPRK5), 2. black-MCF7 (GYCY1B3), gray-MCF7/ADR(GYCY1B3), 3. black-MCF7 (MMP1), gray-MCF7/ADR (MMP1) IFI27, interferon, alpha-inducible protein 27; TFF, trefoil factor 1; GATA3, GATA-binding protein 3; GPRK5, G protein-coupled receptor kinase 5; GYCY1B3,  $\times 006$  protein (MDS006); MMP1, matrix metalloproteinase 1 \*OD MCF7-ADR/MCF7 demonstrated relative OD ratio for each MCF7-ADR and MCF7.

## DISCUSSION

Emergence of drug resistance in breast cancer is a major

obstacle to successful chemotherapy. In this study we used cDNA microarray technology to examine gene expression profiles in adriamycin-sensitive or -resistant breast cancer cells. We defined 68 genes that were up-regulated (14 genes) or

down-regulated (54 genes) in adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells and could be classified into five categories according to their function and pathways. This list included growth and development, metabolism, signal transduction and transcription factors, and structural proteins.

The most prominent finding was that a gene, cytochrome c oxidase which has been known to be involved in mitochondrial modifications. Cytochrome c oxidase was down-regulated in adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells. Cytochrome c oxidase is a terminal enzyme of the mitochondrial respiratory chain and catalyzes the transfer of electrons from cytochrome c to molecular oxygen (8~10). Dysfunction of the mitochondrial respiratory chain has been associated with apoptosis induction (11). One of the cytotoxic mechanisms of adriamycin is to inhibit cytochrome c oxidase activity (12). It also has been reported that adriamycin-resistant leukemia K562 cells showed a lower expression of catalytic subunits cytochrome c oxidase subunit (13,14). In this study, adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells also showed lower expression of cytochrome c oxidase suggesting the alteration of this enzyme level in mitochondria may play a key role in the mechanism of resistance to adriamycin. We also found that other mitochondrial proteins such as, mitochondrial ribosomal protein S5 and tyrosine aminotransferase, nuclear gene encoding mitochondrial protein, were also down-regulated in adriamycin-resistant cells.

Another interesting finding was the down-regulated expression of tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily. Apoptosis is a fundamental mechanism of cell death that can be engaged by a range of cellular insults. One of the major modes of cancer cell killing by chemotherapeutic drugs is executed via the activation of apoptosis. Anti-cancer drugs and cytotoxic cytokines such as members of the TNF/Fas-ligand family play a predominant role in apoptosis induction in tumor cells, and are critical in cancer therapy (15,16). Apoptosis may involve the activation of death-inducing ligand/receptor systems such as CD95 (APO-1/Fas) and treatment with cytotoxic drugs may result in up-regulation of CD95, thereby increasing the sensitivity to the CD95 death signal (17,18). In addition, deficient activation of the CD95 system was found in drug-resistant cells suggesting that the lower expression of tumor necrosis factor receptor superfamily might be associated with drug resistance.

In adriamycin-resistant breast cells, several genes involved in cell adhesion and invasiveness such as matrix metalloproteinase-like 1 and vimentin were up-regulated and these results were confirmed by RT-PCR. Matrix metalloproteinase 1 is involved in metastasis and invasion, and cells with multidrug resistant phenotype have been previously reported to have an increased invasive ability. The increased expression of matrix metalloproteinase 1 was consistent with this recognized characteristics (19). Recently, it was also reported that the expression of matrix metalloproteinase 1 was increased in both intrinsic and acquired doxorubicin-resistant breast carcinoma cells by cDNA microarray (20). One mechanism whereby matrix metalloproteinase 1 may promote tumor survival and resistance to doxorubicin is by cleaving FasL and reducing its effectiveness in triggering Fas-mediated apoptosis (21).

Another gene increased in expression in adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells was vimentin. Epithelium-derived cancer

cells do not normally express detectable levels of vimentin (22), whereas previous studies reported that in breast, colon and ovarian carcinoma cell lines resistance to adriamycin is frequently accompanied by overexpression of this intermediate filament protein (23,24). It has been suggested that vimentin overexpression in human breast carcinoma cells is not causally related to drug resistance because cells transfected with human vimentin did not become resistant, indicating that overexpression of vimentin is associated with increasingly malignant properties, including loss of estrogen receptors and invasiveness (24).

Although in this study the expression profiles of MCF-7 and established adriamycin-resistant MCF-7 cells were compared, it has been reported that a subset of genes expressed after transient exposure to adriamycin was also constitutively overexpressed in the adriamycin-resistant cell line. This distinct set of overlapping genes may represent the signature profile of adriamycin-induced gene expression and resistance in cancer cells (25).

## CONCLUSION

We have used microarrays to identify a differential gene expression pattern associated with adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells and found several small sets of genes were up- or down-regulated. Such a gene expression pattern would provide useful prognostic markers of predicting emergence of drug resistance during chemotherapy. Some of the genes proved here in the adriamycin-resistant breast cancer cells could be promising candidates for chemotherapeutic targets in treatment of adriamycin-resistant carcinomas.

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