

Pathological Study of Prostatic Latent Carcinoma and Atypical Ductal Hyperplasia in Autopsied Cases

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Abstract: An increased incidence of prostatic carcinoma has been recognized among Japanese people in recent years. The incidence of prostatic latent carcinoma among Japanese people has also been reported to not be as low as the incidence of clinically apparent prostatic cancer, when compared with Western people. The author recently conducted a pathological study of the prostatic glands in 508 cases autopsied after death who were all over 40 years of age at death to examine the relationship between prostatic latent carcinoma and atypical ductal hyperplasia, which has recently been highlighted as a possible precancerous lesion. Of the 508 cases, 108 (21.3%) were found to have prostatic latent carcinoma. The cancer was multiple in 30 (27.8%) of the 108 cases. The tumor affected the outer zone of the prostate in a majority of the cases (97.2%). Histologically, there were 107 lesions of well differentiated adenocarcinoma, 27 of moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma and 6 of poorly differentiated adenocarcinoma. Two cases of mucinous carcinoma were also detected. Atypical ductal hyperplasia was seen in 137 cases (27.0%). The prevalence of latent carcinoma and atypical ductal hyperplasia increased with age. Of the 108 cases of latent carcinoma, 55 (50.9%) had been complicated by atypical ductal hyperplasia. Of the 400 cancer-free cases, 82 (20.5%) were found to have atypical ductal hyperplasia. Thus, the prevalence of atypical ductal hyperplasia was significantly higher in the latent carcinoma-positive group than in the cancer-free group ($P < 0.005$). Based on these results, it seems advisable to follow individuals closely, considering the possibility of complications related to the by cancer, if atypical ductal hyperplasia has been detected by biopsy. A careful follow-up of such cases will facilitate the early detection of prostatic cancer whose incidence will continue to increase.

Key words: prostate, latent carcinoma, clinical carcinoma, atypical ductal hyperplasia