Performance Comparison of GP73, Fucosylated Hemopexin, PIVKA-II and AFP in a Cohort of Liver Disease Specimens

P. M. Hemken¹, Kaori Morota², M. Nakagawa², Rika Sekiya², Lori J. Sokoll², Debra J. Elliott² and B. L. Dowell¹

Diagnostics Research and Development, Abbott Diagnostics, Abbott Park, IL, USA¹ and Matsudo, Japan²
Division of Clinical Chemistry, Department of Pathology, and Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, Baltimore, MD, USA³

Abstract

Aim: The goal of this study was to evaluate the clinical performance of AFP (alpha-fetoprotein), PIVKA-II (protein induced by vitamin-K absence), GP73 and fucosylated hemopexin (fuc-HPX) in a cohort of liver disease specimens.

Methods: GP73 is a 73 kDa Golgi protein that is upregulated by viral infection and reported to be elevated in patients with HCV or HBV infection and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). Since an increase in core fucosylation of serum proteins has been reported to be associated with the development of HCC, fuc-HPX was measured. Specimens (n=229) were tested using the Tosoh AFP and ARCHITECT PIVKA-II (in development at Abbott Diagnostics) assays at Johns Hopkins and the GP73 and fuc-HPX assays at Abbott Diagnostics, Japan. The specimens included HCC (n=70, pre treatment), cirrhosis (n=55), hepatitis (n=52) and normals (n=12). Additional normals (n=60) were obtained from ProMedDx (Norton, MA). GP73 was measured using a sandwich ELISA using a mouse monoclonal (Mo) anti-GP73 for capture and a with a rabbit (Rb) polyclonal Rb anti-GP73 second antibody (Drexel University). A fuc-HPX microtiter chemiluminescence qualitative assay was used with Mo anti-hemopexin (Antibody Shop) for capture and biotinylated Aleuria Aurantia Lectin (AAL) (Vector Labs) for binding to fucose. Acridinium-streptavidin was used for detection.

Materials and Methods

Assay Format for in-house GP73 ELISA
GP73 microtiter plate ELISA (quantitative assay):
• Mouse anti-GP73 antibody (14H4-23, Drexel University/ Lampire)
• Rabbit anti-GP73 antibody (Drexel University)
• Detection: Goat anti-rabbit IgG (H+L)  HRPO conjugate (Seikagaku Kogyo)
• Calibrators: rGP73-Fc from HEK293 (Abbott)

Fuc-HPX microtiter chemiluminescence assay (qualitative assay):
• Mouse monoclonal anti-hemopexin antibody (AntibodyShop ABS013-04)
• Fucosylated-Hemopexin in human serum or plasma
• Lectin: biotinylated Aleuria Aurantia Lectin (AAL) (Vector Lab)
• CPSP Acridinium ester to Streptavidin

Results (cont’d)

AUROC comparison: HCC vs all others
• 229 specimens were evaluated for AFP, PIVKA-II, GP73 and Fucosylated Hemopexin.
• ROC curves for HCC vs. all others were shown below. AUCs of AFP, PIVKA-II, GP73 and Fuc-HPX were 0.81, 0.89, 0.78, and 0.72, respectively. PIVKA-II showed largest AUC among them.

AUROC comparison: HCC + Cirrhosis vs Hepatitis + Normal
• 229 specimens were evaluated for AFP, PIVKA-II, GP73 and Fucosylated Hemopexin.
• ROC curves for HCC + Cirrhosis vs. hepatitis + normals were shown below. AUCs of AFP, PIVKA-II, GP73 and Fuc-HPX were 0.73, 0.87, 0.90, and 0.76, respectively. GP73 showed largest AUC among them.

Conclusions
• PIVKA-II followed by AFP showed the highest sensitivity and specificity for HCC
• GP73 followed by PIVKA-II showed the highest sensitivity and specificity for HCC + Cirrhosis

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