Detection of telomerase activity in the blood of patients with lung cancer  FENG Juixian* E-BAO Guoliang E-SHA Hufang E-DONG Qianggang e-JI Chunhai. * Shanghai Institute of Thoracic Tumors E-Shanghai Chest Hospital E-Shanghai 200030 E-P. R. China

Abstract: Objective To study the telomerase activity in blood cancer cells by TRAP for monitoring tumor metastasis in blood. Methods Twenty-five patients with lung cancer surgically treated and 35 patients before chemotherapy were determined for telomerase activity of cancer cells in the blood by TRAP method 30 patients with non-tumor diseases as control. Results In the operative group percentage = 52% showed telomerase activity in pulmonary artery blood during operation which was much higher than that of peripheral blood before operation. 24% 0.05% Telomerase positive rate was significantly higher in stage III to IV 64% 0% than in stage I to II 30% 0.05% in the peripheral blood of patients with non-tumor diseases and telomerase was negative. Conclusion Telomerase activity may be an indicator for detecting lung cancer cells in peripheral blood as well as tumor metastasis and relapse.

Key words: Lung neoplasms Telomerase Tumor markers

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