

Histopathological Diagnosis of Colposcopically Negative Cases for CIN

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Abstract

Background: Colposcopy is a good diagnostic tools for the detection of abnormalities cervix of the uterus. **Objective:** The purpose of the present study was to see the histological diagnosis of colposcopically negative cases for CIN among VIA positive women. **Methodology:** This cross sectional study was conducted in the Department Of Pathology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Dhaka, Bangladesh during the period of July 2007 to June 2008 for one (01) year. Patients who are colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious for cervical neoplasia were included in this study. The cervix was examined on naked eye by Cusco's speculum to see whether it was healthy or not. Then it was examined by the colposcope after applying 3 to 5% acetic acid and colposcopic findings were collected. VIA positive cases were underwent colposcopy guided LEEP biopsy. **Result:** A total of 63 patients of different age group were recruited for this study. The age of 63 patients ranged from 20 years to 65 years with an average age of 34.6±9.59 years. Among 63 VIA positive patients, 54 cases were colposcopically positive for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and carcinoma in situ, remaining 9 patients were colposcopically negative. Histological examination was also performed in nine patients who were colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious for malignancy or precancerous lesion. Of these nine cases, eight cases (89%) were diagnosed as chronic cervicitis, one case (11.0%) as CIN-I and none as CIN-II and CIN- III. **Conclusion:** In conclusion majority of the colposcopically negative VIA positive cases are the patients of chronic cervicitis. [Journal of National Institute of Neurosciences Bangladesh, 2020;6(1): 29-32]

Keywords: : Histopathological diagnosis; colposcopically; negative cases; CIN

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Introduction

Cervical cancer is the commonest cancer among women in Bangladesh¹. It is about 24.0% of all cancer in females². Most cervical cancers are diagnosed at the advanced stage; thus, mortality is high. Among the cancers, cervical cancer is a preventable disease. This is

based on the postulation that the development of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) is a continuum which begins with less atypical and less extensive lesion and progress to a malignant lesion over a period of several years³. Thus, if the process can be treated at the onset, the development of invasive cancer can be prevented and that reduce the rate of mortality.

Cervical cancer arises from earlier, reversible precursor lesions called cervical intraepithelial neoplasia⁴. The lesion may exist in the noninvasive stage as long as 20 years and shed abnormal cells that can be detected on cytologic examination⁵. That is the reason why Papanicolaou smear (Pap smear) screening is very effective in preventing cervical cancer as majorities of cancer are preceded by a precancerous lesions⁶. However, the Pap smear has several limitations; furthermore, to interpret the Pap smear requires skilled pathologist specially cytopathologist.

In Bangladesh, cytopathologists are few in number. Most Pap smear abnormality which do not signify a serious precancerous or cancerous condition, require lengthy follow up procedure and large number of patients are lost in this process⁷. This present study was undertaken to see the histological diagnosis of colposcopically negative cases for CIN among VIA positive women.

Methodology

The descriptive cross sectional study was carried out in the Department Of Pathology at Bangabandhu Sheikh Muli Medical University (BSMMU), Dhaka, Bangladesh during the period of July 2007 to June 2008 for one (01) year. All the cases were selected from cervical cancer screening program based on VIA (visual inspection of cervix with acetic acid) test founded by United Nation Population Fund and Government of Bangladesh (GOB) in the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, BSMMU, Dhaka. VIA test is done with 3 to 5% acetic acid. VIA positive cases underwent colposcopy guided LEEP biopsy. Patients who were colposcopically positive for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and early invasive carcinoma or patients who are colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious for cervical neoplasia were included in this study. Menstruating women or P/V bleeding present during the time of examination, obvious clinically malignant growth at the cervix, patient below 18 years of age and unmarried women were excluded from this study. The clinical history was obtained by taking history with particular attention to age, age at marriage, parity, history of contraceptives, abnormal per vaginal discharge and post coital bleeding. The cervix was examined on naked eye by Cusco's speculum to see whether it was healthy or not. Then it was examined by the colposcope after applying 3 to 5% acetic acid and colposcopic findings were collected from colposcopy unit in the Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at BSMMU, Dhaka. The colposcopic examination was carried out as an outpatient procedure. Then the

colposcopy guided LEEP biopsy was performed in only VIA positive women using the video colposcopy.

Results

A total of 63 patients of different age group were recruited for this study. The age of 63 patients ranged from 20 years to 65 years with an average age of 34.6±9.59 years. Majority of the women were in the age group of less than 40 years which was 51(81.0%) cases and the rest 12(19.0%) cases were in the age group of more than or equal to 40 years (Table 1).

Table 1: Age Distribution among the Study Population (n=63)

Age Group	Frequency	Percent
<40 Years	51	81.0
≥40 years	12	19.0
Total	63	100.0
Mean±SD (Range)	34.6±9.59 (20 to 65 years)	

Among 63 VIA positive patients who underwent colposcopic examination, 54 cases were colposcopically positive for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia and carcinoma in situ, remaining nine patients were colposcopically negative but their history and clinical findings were suggestive of neoplastic change (Table 2).

Table 2: Findings of colposcopic examination (n=63)

Colposcopic findings	Frequency	Percent
Positive	54	85.7
Negative	9	14.3
Total	63	100.0

Colposcopically 54 cases were divided in different grades of CIN and cancer. Among these 29 cases (53.7%) were CIN-I, 21 cases (38.8%) were CIN-II, three cases (5.5%) were CIN-III and one case (1.8%) was carcinoma in situ (CIS) (Table 3).

Table 3: Distribution of CIN among Colposcopic Positive Cases (n=54)

Colposcopic findings	Frequency	Percent
CIN I	29	53.7
CIN II	21	38.9
CIN III	3	5.5
CIN IV	1	1.9
Total	54	100.0

Out of 63 cases, 20 cases were chronic cervicitis; 23 cases were CIN-I; 16 cases were CIN-II; 3 cases were CIN-III and 1 case was CIS. Colposcopically 29 cases

Table 4: Comparative analysis between colposcopy and histopathology

Colposcopic Diagnosis	Histological Diagnosis					Total
	No CIN	CIN-I	CIN-II	CIN-III	CIS	
No CIN	8(88.8%)	1(11.1%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(00.0%)	9
CIN-I	10(34.4%)	18(62.1%)	1(3.4%)	0(0.0%)	0(00.0%)	29
CIN-II	2(9.40%)	2(9.5%)	16(76.1%)	1(4.7%)	0(00.0%)	21
CIN-III	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(33.3%)	2(66.6%)	0(00.0%)	3
CIS	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	0(0.0%)	1(100.0%)	1
Total	20	21	18	3	1	63

CIS=carcinoma in situ;

were diagnosed as CIN-I and among these cases 18 cases were CIN-I histologically, 10 cases were chronic cervicitis and 1 case was CIN - II. Thus, correlation of CIN-I was 62.1%. All cases colposcopically diagnosed as CIN-II (21 cases), CIN- III (3 cases) and CIS (1 case) were confirmed by histology. Among these cases correlation of CIN-II, CIN-III and CIS were 76.1%, 66.6% and 100.0% respectively (Table 4).

Histological examination was also performed in nine patients who were colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious for malignancy or precancerous lesion. Of these nine cases, eight cases (89%) were diagnosed as chronic cervicitis, one case (11.0%) as CIN-I and none as CIN-II and CIN- III (Table 5).

Table 5: Histological diagnosis of colposcopic negative cases (n=9)

Histological diagnosis	Frequency	Percent
Chronic cervicitis	8	88.9
CIN I	1	11.1
CIN II	0	0.0
CIN III	0	0.0
CIN IV	0	0.0
Total	9	100.0

Discussion

The current understanding of cervical cancer arises from earlier, reversible precursor lesion called cervical intraepithelial neoplasia⁸. The lesion may exist in the noninvasive stage as long as 20 years and shed abnormal cells that can be detected on cytological examination⁹. The reason that papanicolaou smear screening is so effective in preventing cervical cancer is that majority of cancer are preceded by a precancerous lesion¹⁰. On the other hand in developing countries, it is attempted to prevent cervical cancer through VIA test. Current advances in understanding of the cause and natural to history of cervical neoplasia and in particular the establishment of the central role of human papilloma virus, a sexually transmitted agent

that infect cells of the cervix and slowly cause cellular change (dysplasia) that can result in cancer¹¹⁻¹³.

A total of 63 cases were included in this study. These cases were selected after clinical examination, visual inspection with acetic acid (VIA) test and colposcopic examination. Only VIA positive cases were selected for colposcopy. Among 63 ceases. 54 cases were colposcopically positive and nine cases were colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious. In the present study age ranged from 20 to 65 years with an average age of 34.6±9.59 years. Majority of the women are in the age group of less than 40 years which is 51(81.0%) cases and the rest 12(19.0%) cases are in the age group of more than or equal to 40 years. Similar result has been reported by Ashrafunnessa et al².

In this study on histopathological examination of 54 colposcopic positive cases 41(75.92%) cases were diagnosed as cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN); furthermore, 1 case was carcinoma in situ (CIS) and 12 (22.2%) cases were chronic cervicitis. Among the CIN lesions, 22(40.7%) cases were CIN I, 16 (29.6%) cases ere CIN II, three (5.5%) cases were CIN III. Colposcopically negative but clinically suspicious 9 cases were histologically diagnosed as chronic cervicitis in 8 (89%) cases and only 1 case was CIN I. Among the colposcopically positive cases (n=54), 29 cases were CIN I; 21 cases were CIN II; 3 cases were CIN III and 1 case was carcinoma in situ (CIS). Thus, correlation between colposcopy and histology was 68.25%) which was less than the study by Seshasri et al⁴ where the correlation was 78.9% but more than the study by Amin⁵ where the correlation was 63.7%.

Human papilloma virus (HPV) is the major etiological agent of cervical cancer. HPV infection of the cervix is transmitted venerally and it has a predilection for the metaplastic squamous epithelium. The morphologic hallmarks of HPV infection of the cervical epithelium is koilocytosis or koilocytic atypia. Koilocytic atypia are very much distinctive in H & E stain. According to

Koss et al. Koilocytic atypia is sometime associated with carcinoma in situ and squamous cell carcinoma. In our study, most of the CIN lesions are associated with koilocytic atypia which indicate the presence of HPV infection, but could not be confirmed by DNA hybridization due to high cost.

Chronic cervicitis is a common pathological condition in adult female¹⁵. In this study, 21 cases (33.3%) were diagnosed as chronic cervicitis. Majority of these cases were associated with squamous metaplasia as squamous metaplasia is a sequelae of chronic cervicitis. Though chronic cervicitis is mostly asymptomatic, but it is important because it may lead to pelvic inflammatory disease. Chronic cervicitis may also play a role in the initiation and promotion of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia¹⁵.

Papanicolaou smear is highly sensitive to cervical cancer. On the other hand the Pap smear has several limitations also. To interpret the Pap smear require skilled pathologist especially cytopathologist. In Bangladesh cytopathologist are few in number to give the optimum service to a large population. Most papanicolaou smear abnormality which do not signify a serious precancerous or cancerous condition, require lengthy follow-up procedure and large number of patients are lost in this process. Thus, it is assumed that VIA test will be an effective alternative of Pap smear to screen women for CIN lesions. It is cost effective and do not require highly skilled persons.

Conclusion

In conclusion it appears that majority of the colposcopically negative VIA positive cases are the patients of chronic cervicitis. However, colposcopic examination of VIA positive cases can detect most of the cervical intraepithelial lesions. So further study involving large number of VIA positive cases with case control study is essential.

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