

Abstract

Extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma of the stomach is mainly associated with *Helicobacter pylori* infection, and *H. pylori* eradication therapy is often effective. However, 20–30% of the cases of MALT lymphoma are resistant to the eradication therapy, and translocation of the *API2-MALT1* gene is often found in these cases. Most cases without translocation of *API2-MALT1* are localized to the stomach, whereas some cases with this translocation are a more advanced stage of MALT lymphoma that spreads to other organs. The c-Met receptor is a prognostic factor involved in infiltration and metastasis in many malignant tumors, including gastric, pancreatic, lung, and kidney cancer. In the present study, the expression of c-Met in 43 cases of gastric MALT lymphomas was immunohistochemically examined and compared with clinicopathological factors. To elucidate the significance of c-Met in MALT lymphoma, the expression intensity of c-Met in 22 *API2-MALT1* translocation-positive and 21 *API2-MALT1* translocation-negative cases was scored, compared, and examined. The immunohistochemistry analysis revealed strong staining for c-Met in 21 *API2-MALT1*

translocation-positive cases and in 1 translocation-negative case ($P = 0.00$). This result indicates the relationship between strong expression of c-Met and the progression of MALT lymphoma with *API2-MALT1* gene translocation.