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E-CADHERIN IMMUNOMODULATION IN NORMAL, HYPERPLASTIC AND DYSPLASTIC ORAL EPITHELIUM

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ABSTRACT

The expression of E-cadherin in normal oral epithelium, hyperkeratosis and leukoplakia was ex-amined immunohistochemically using a monoclonal anti-E-cadherin antibody. The results showed strong to moderate positive reaction for E-cadherin in the prickle cells and superficial cell layers of normal surface epithelium. The reaction was mainly localized to the cell membrane, but faint pos- itive staining can he seen through the cytoplasm. The hyperplastic epithelium of the hyperkeratotic lesions showed positive reaction for E-cadherin in the middle layers of prickle cells. The staining was localized to the cell membrane. The localization of E-cadherin in dysplastic epithelium of oral leukoplakia was variable in intensity and irregular in distribution within the epithelial layers. In gen- eral, the presence of E-cadherin is decreased with increasing severity of epithelial dysplasia. It was concluded that, E-cadherin may be used as a biomarker for evaluation of oral premalignant lesions.

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