

원저

Clinical Observation of Multiple Metastatic Cancer Patient with Hepatocellular Carcinoma treated with Cultivated Wild Ginseng Herbal Acupuncture Therapy

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Abstract

Objectives : Terminal stage cancer patient from primary hepatocellular carcinoma metastasized into lungs was administered with cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture for 5 months and observed progression.

Methods : Cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture was administered 5 times a week at about 150cc dosage per week. Dynamic CT was taken and interpreted at a university hospital.

Results : Above patient was diagnosed with hepatocellular carcinoma and received one procedure of lobectomy and three procedures of TACE, but because of metastasis, chance of improvement was very obscure. Intensive treatment of cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture five times a week for five months in association with moxibustion was done on the patient. Near elimination of the cancer cells metastasized into lungs were confirmed in terms of radiological impression through dynamic CT.

Conclusion : From the results obtained in this study, cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture can be an effective measure against terminal stage cancer. But this is a single case study and lack of extensive follow-up must be compensated by further researches.

Key words : Cultivated Wild Ginseng herbal acupuncture, Hepatocellular Carcinoma, lung metastasis, dynamic CT.

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I. Introduction

Primary Hepatocellular carcinoma is a malignant cancer with poor prognosis. It's occurrence is second to stomach cancer in Korea and comprises 15% of all cancer cases¹⁾. Hepatocellular carcinoma is the leading case of liver cancer and easily metastasized through hematogenous fashion into lymph nodes and internal side of the liver. Prognosis is very unsecure as the average life span lasts only four months from the onset to death.²⁻⁶⁾ The most important factors causing liver cancers are Hepatitis B virus, Hepatitis C virus, and Liver cirrhosis. Hepatitis B virus is more prominent in Korea, where as Hepatitis C virus is more prominent in the US⁷⁻⁸⁾.

Symptoms are closely linked with the size of tumor and some of the common signed are dull pain in the upper right abdomen, abdominal distention, fatigue, lack of appetite, fever, jaundice, and weight loss. Physical impression are in the order of hepatomegaly, ascites, jaundice, and splenomegaly⁹⁾.

Treatment for the liver cancer includes chemotherapy and surgical removal of the tumor, as well as transcatheter hepatic artery angiography - TACE (Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization)¹⁰⁾ but nothing can be done in the case of metastasis¹¹⁾.

Patient reported in this study was diagnosed with liver cancer and received embolization & Rt. lobectomy and underwent series of TACE procedures because of recurrence. After receiving cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture, the size of cancer nearly vanished which is quite uncommon.

II. Materials and Methods

1. Manufacturing Process of Cultivated wild Ginseng Herbal Acupuncture¹²⁾

cultivated wild ginseng was estimated to be 10 years old and obtained from a mountain with the altitude of 500m in Kangwon province(Fig. 1-2).



Fig. 1. Shape of cultivated wild ginseng

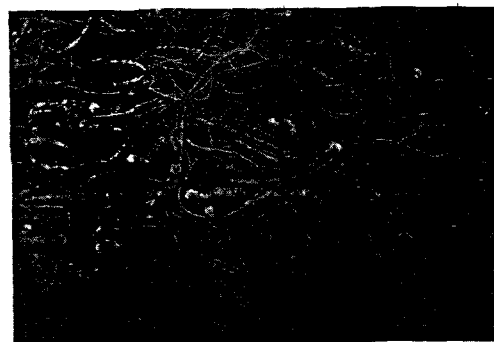


Fig. 2. A lot of cultivated wild ginseng were used for making Herbal Acupuncture

Herbal acupuncture is manufactured under the following process: Ginseng is rinsed in a running water and then decocted for 2 hours in distilled water. Remnants are then removed and decoction went through distillation before yielding the desired herbal acupuncture. Then the herbal acupuncture was filtered twice using 0.45 μ m, 0.2 μ m filtering paper and then kept in the container. Finally, herbal acupuncture is sterilized

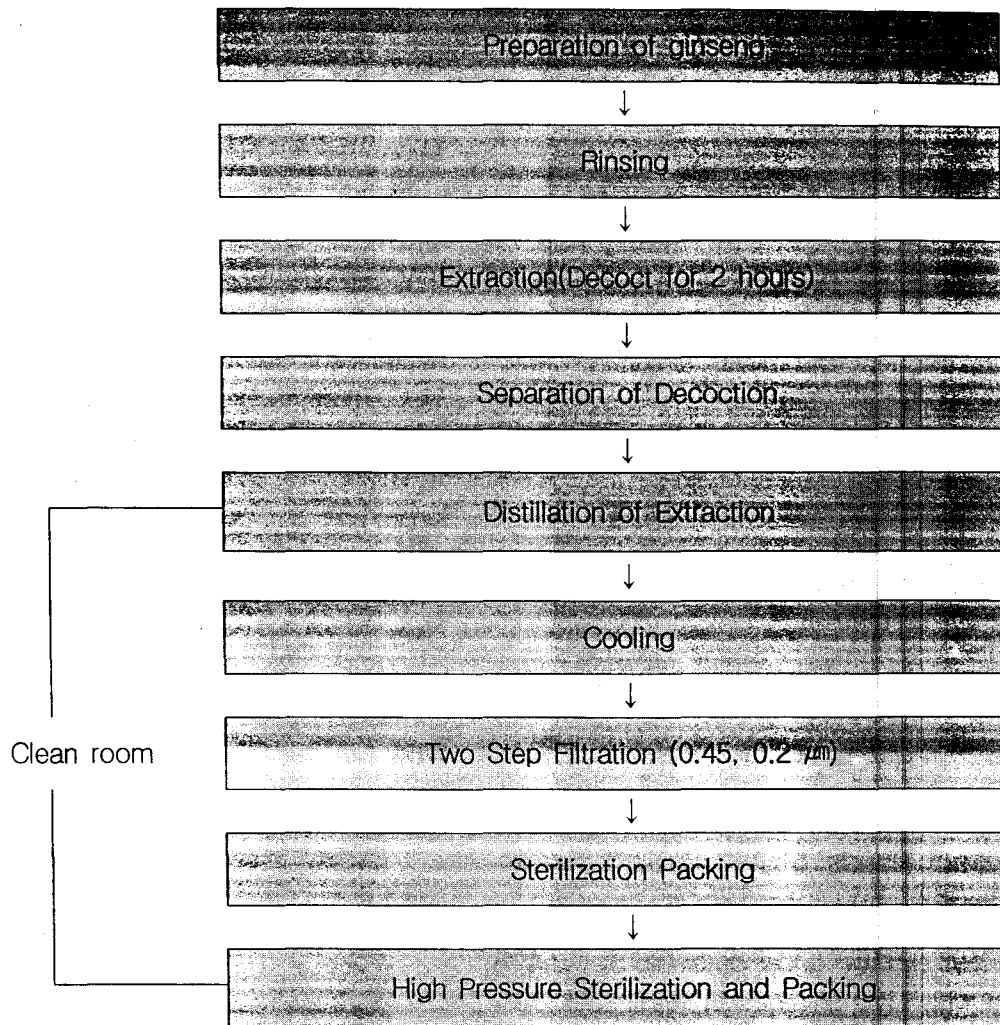


Fig. 3 Manufacturing process of Distilled cultivated wild ginseng Herbal Acupuncture

before being used(Fig. 3).

2. Treatment Methods

From July 27, 2004 until now, herbal acupuncture was administered five times a week and occasional procedure of moxibustion and cupping were applied.

Herbal acupuncture injection was done intravenously at the points of BL13, BL18, LV14, and CV12. 0.5 to 1cc of injection was done on each point. Volume of injection was gradually increased from 4cc to 40c per administration and adjusted based on the

patient's condition. On average, 150cc was injected per week.

Conventional acupuncture treatment was not rendered but indirect moxibustion was applied on the points of CV6 and CV4.

III. Case

1. Name: Sin, ○ ○ (M/41)
2. Active Problem
 - 1) Hepatocellular Carcinoma

- 2) Liver cirrhosis
- 3) Hepatitis B virus(+)
- 4) Lung metastasis

3. Date of onset

Hepatic mass was identified by ultrasonography when the patient visited a local hospital for abdominal discomfort in September, 2003.

4. Past History

1998년 4월 HBs Ag(+) Dx.
2003년 4월 Liver cirrhosis Dx.

5. Drinking and Smoking History

Smoked and consumed alcohol 3-4 times per month for the past 20 years

6. Present Illness

Above patient was diagnosed with HBs Ag(+) in 1998 and was under controlled diet and diagnosed with Liver cirrhosis in April, 2003.

Hepatic mass was identified by ultrasonography when the patient visited a local hospital for abdominal discomfort in September, 2003. Patient was diagnosed with Hepatocellular Carcinoma rupture by CT scan at Choong-book University Hospital and received embolization and Rt. lobectomy.

Patient suffered from continuing abdominal discomfort and diagnosed with recurrent tumor by CT scan at Asan Medical Center in December, 2003 and received TACE procedure.

Diagnosed as marginal recurred tumor of seg.VIII by CT scan and received secondary TACE procedure.

CT follow up in May, 2004 lead to diagnosis of multiple metastatic tumor in both lung & viable HCC, most likely in the liver, Lt. Patient then received tertiary TACE procedure.

Tumor size in Liver and Lungs became larger and admitted to the hospital on July 29, 2004 for the treatment with Oriental medicine.

HBV means Hepatitis B virus, LC means Liver Cirrhosis, HCC means Hepatocellular Carcinoma, TACE means Transcatheter arterial chemoembolization, CWG HA means Cultivated Wild Ginseng Herbal Acupuncture adiological Impression



Fig. 5 Triphasic dynamic CT 2003. 12. 07. Enhancing mass is seen near the hepatic vein. And it may be a recurrent tumor, most likely in the liver, right lobe after tumorectomy for HCC

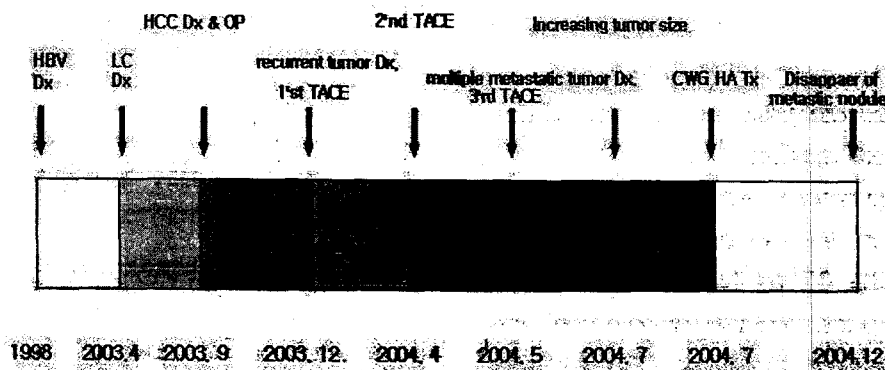


Fig. 4 The progression of Hepatocellular Carcinoma from 1998 to 2004

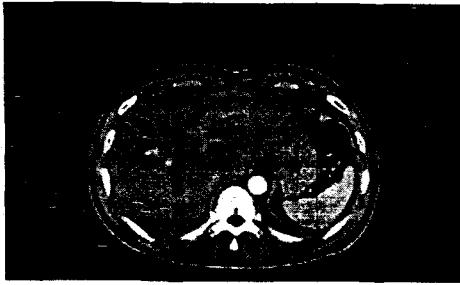


Fig. 6. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 1. 17. Compact lipiodol uptake and retraction state of two segment VIII recurrence HCC

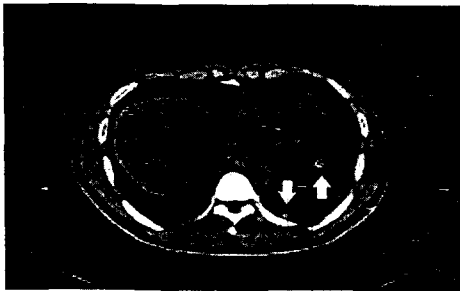


Fig. 7. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 3. 24. Multiple metastasis in the Lt basal lung fields



Fig. 8. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 3. 24. Marginal recurred tumor of segment VIII in liver

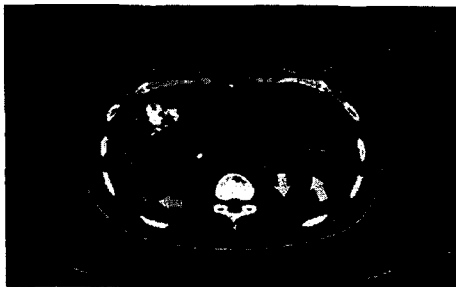


Fig. 9. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 7. 29. After TACE, more lipiodol uptake in dome of right lobe, with small portion of marginal viable tumor suspected

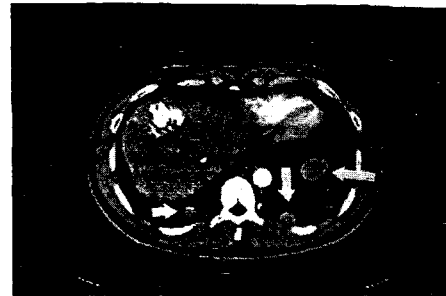


Fig. 10. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 7. 29. Increased size of multiple lung metastatic nodules in both lower lung



Fig. 11. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 12. 22. The scan of liver after treated Cultivated Wild Ginseng Herbal Acupuncture Therapy. It is washout state of lipiodol uptake nodules in right lobe dome without definite marginal tumor recurrence

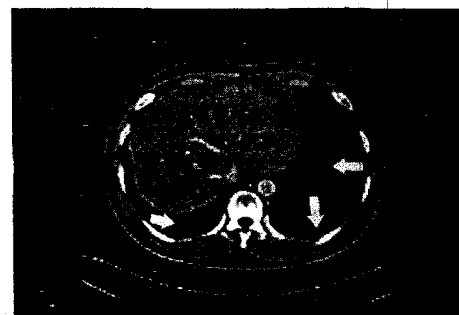


Fig. 12. Triphasic dynamic CT 2004. 12. 22. Decreased and disappeared multiple lung metastatic nodules in both lower lung

IV. scussion

Cancer is the one of the leading causes of

death. One out of 2-3 Americans die from cancer¹³⁾, and the rate of onset is on the rise¹⁴⁾.

Cancer has features of clonality, autonomy, anaplasia, and metastasis¹³⁾ and in cases of metastatic cancer, both patient and doctor are in despair¹⁵⁾.

Gallant effort was made by Korean Traditional Medicine to treat cancer¹⁶⁻¹⁷⁾, but because of legal and structural limitations, treatment is focused at relieving symptoms and providing supplemental treatments.

Oriental medicine values improving one's natural healing capability for treating cancer. In comparison to western medicine using surgery, chemotherapy, and radiological methods, this approach is non-invasive and lessens secondary pain associated with treatment.

Researches on Cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture are done to maximize body's natural healing capacity¹⁸⁻²⁰⁾. Cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture refers to herbal acupuncture distilled from decocting ginseng grown in the high altitude regions of Korea with the age of 10+ years from the seeds of natural wild ginseng. This treatment method is still in the primitive stage but has great potential of strengthening the body's vital energy with no side effects.

Patient in this case showed typical progression of hepatocellular carcinoma before receiving Cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture treatment. This patient suffered HBV as preceding illness and was followed by liver cirrhosis. Because of hepatocellular carcinoma, this patient received one lobectomy and three procedures of TACE but chances of survival was very slim after metastasis. Then intensive treatment of cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture five times a week for five months in association with moxibustion was

done on the patient. Near elimination of the cancer cells metastasized into lungs were confirmed in terms of radiological impression through dynamic CT.

Considering the fact that cancer is progressive and has strong proliferation action, cultivated wild ginseng herbal acupuncture played significant role in alleviation of the patient. This is clinical report of one case but improvement was made in the middle of developing a new treatment method. Further observation and follow-up must be done to solidify this finding.

V. References

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