



# The Exiguous Imetus-Fumarate Hydratase Deficient Renal Cell Carcinoma

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## Abstract

Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma is an exceptionally discerned neoplasm which arises on account of germline mutations within fumarate hydratase (FH) gene. Commonly, clinical manifestations as non-renal leiomyomatosis may concur. Neoplasm is associated with autosomal dominant mode of disease transmission. Neoplasm may configure as a high grade, infiltrative lesion comprised of papillary articulations or solid sheets of neoplastic cells. Characteristically, tumour cells nuclei are pervaded with inclusion-like nucleoli and demonstrate peri-nucleolar clearing. Neoplasm arises on account of oncogenesis triggered due to metabolic inconsistencies emerging as a consequence of defective fumarate hydratase enzyme. The high grade, infiltrative neoplasm articulating papillary structures or solid sheets is comprised of tumour cells incorporated with prominent cytomegalovirus (CMV)-like nucleolar inclusions and foci of peri-nucleolar clearing. Neoplastic cells manifest overexpression and immunoreactivity to modified cysteine (2SC) along with decimation of fumarate hydratase enzyme.

**Keywords:** Fumarate Hydratase Enzyme; Neoplasm; Genomic Mutation; Heterozygosity; Unilateral

**Abbreviations:** FH: Fumarate Hydratase; CMV: Cytomegalovirus; HMWCK: High Molecular Weight Cytokeratin.

## Introduction

Confirmatory analysis may be obtained by ascertaining germline mutations within fumarate hydratase gene. Fumarate hydratase (FH) gene is situated upon chromosome 1q42-43 and is comprised of 10 exons. Tumor cells depict impaired oxidative phosphorylation wherein constituent cells demonstrate a metabolic transition into aerobic glycolysis. In the absence of fumarate hydratase activity, levels of fumarate appear elevated wherein the enzyme functions as an onco-metabolite. Fumarate impairs function of hypoxia inducible factor prolyl hydroxylase with consequently increased levels

of hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha -HIF1a [1,2]. Germline mutations within fumarate hydratase gene are associated with enhanced possible emergence of uterine leiomyomas, cutaneous leiomyomas and renal cell carcinoma. Concordant renal carcinoma is additionally designated as hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma or fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma [1,2]. Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma is commonly confined to renal parenchyma. In addition, hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma demonstrates leiomyomas confined to uterus and diverse cutaneous surfaces.

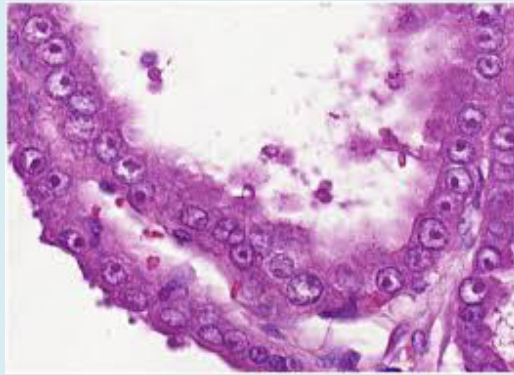
Genetic mutations occurring within fumarate hydratase (FH) gene induces defective fumarate hydratase enzyme

within the citric acid cycle with consequent metabolic derangement, 'pseudo-hypoxic' upregulation of hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha -HIF1a and non-enzymatic modification of cysteine residues within multiple proteins, designated as 'succination'. Subsequently, enzymatic function is altered with consequent initiation of oncogenesis [1,2]. Hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma is encountered within one third (~33%) subjects delineating HLRCC germline mutation. Mean age of representation of renal cell carcinoma is 36 years.

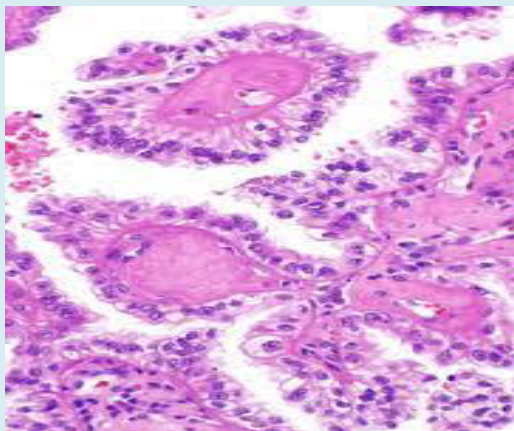
In contrast, the predominant cutaneous leiomyomas and uterine leiomyomas are encountered within ~85% of incriminated individuals and are commonly exemplified within the third decade. Uterine leiomyomata are

innumerable and enlarged. An estimated 50% of incriminated female subjects necessitate a hysterectomy below < 30 years although surgical therapeutic intervention is necessitated within 18 years to 52 years. Grossly, a solitary, unilateral, solid or cystic neoplasm is enunciated. Tumour magnitude varies from 2.5 centimeters to 12.0 centimeters [3,4].

Upon microscopy, the high grade tumefaction exemplifies distinct configurations as papillary, tubular, solid, cribriform, cystic, sarcomatoid or collecting duct carcinoma-like. Tumour cells are permeated with prominent eosinophilic, cytomegalovirus (CMV)-like nucleoli and a distinct peri-nucleolar halo. Papillary articulations may delineate hyalinised and oedematous fibro-vascular cores with micro-papillary fronds. Aggregates of foamy macrophages are absent in Figures 1 & 2 [3,4].



**Figure 1:** Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma demonstrating papillary structures layered with high grade, malignant epithelial cells incorporated with abundant cytoplasm and vesicular nuclei with nucleolar inclusions and peri-nucleolar clearing.



**Figure 2:** Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma exhibiting papillae with fibro-vascular cores layered by epithelial cells pervaded with abundant cytoplasm and vesicular nuclei with nucleolar inclusions and peri-nucleolar clearing.

## TNM staging of renal cell carcinoma as per American Joint Committee on Cancer

### Primary tumour

**TX:** Primary tumour cannot be assessed

**T0:** No evidence of primary tumour

**T1:** is subdivided into

- T1a: tumour confined to renal parenchyma <4 centimeter diameter
- T1b: tumour confined to renal parenchyma >4 centimeter and <7 centimeter diameter

**T2:** Tumour confined to renal parenchyma ≥ 7 centimeter diameter

- T2a: tumour confined to renal parenchyma >7 centimeter and up to 10 centimeter diameter
- T2b: tumour confined to renal parenchyma >10 centimeter diameter

**T3:** Tumour of variable magnitude with extension into major veins as renal vein or inferior vena cava or perinephric tissues although ipsilateral adrenal gland is spared. Tumour extension beyond Gerota's fascia is absent.

- T3a: tumour demonstrates macroscopic extension into renal vein or muscular, segmental branches with tunica media or tumour invades peri-renal tissue or adipose tissue of renal sinus. Tumour extension beyond Gerota's fascia is absent.
- T3b: tumour dissemination into infra diaphragmatic inferior vena cava
- T3c: tumour dissemination into supra diaphragmatic inferior vena cava or invasion into wall of inferior vena cava

**T4:** Tumour of variable magnitude incriminating ipsilateral adrenal gland or tumour extension beyond Gerota's fascia.

### Regional lymph nodes

- NX: Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0: Regional lymph node metastasis absent
- N1: Regional lymph node metastasis present

### Distant metastasis

- M0: Distant metastases absent
- M1: Distant metastases present

### Staging of renal cell carcinoma

- Stage I: T1, N0, M0
  - Stage II: T2, N0, M0
  - Stage III: T3, N0, M0 OR T1, T2, or T3, N1, M0
  - Stage IV: T4, any N, M0 OR any T, any N, M1.
- Contiguous incrimination of ipsilateral adrenal gland is contemplated as stage T4 whereas noncontiguous

involvement is designated as M1. Commonly discerned sites of distant metastasis emerge as pulmonary parenchyma, bone, lymph node, hepatic parenchyma, adrenal gland and brain, in decreasing order of frequency.

### Discussion

Neoplastic cells appear immune reactive to PAX8, vimentin, GLUT1, p53, S100A1 protein, succinate dehydrogenase subunit B (SDHB) or integrase interactor 1 (INI1). Besides, nuclear and cytoplasmic overexpression of 2-succino-cysteine (2SC) emerges as a sensitive and specific technique for neoplastic discernment, in contrast to genomic mutation within fumarate hydratase gene as detected with cogent immunohistochemistry. Tumour cells appear immune non-reactive to fumarate hydratase, carbonic anhydrase IX (CAIX), alpha methyacyl CoA racemase (AMACR), CK7, CK20, CD117, RCC, TFE3 and high molecular weight cytokeratin (HMWCK) [5,6].

Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma requires segregation from neoplasms such as papillary type II renal cell carcinoma, clear cell renal cell carcinoma, hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma, collecting duct carcinoma, microphthalmia transcription factor (MiT) family translocation associated renal cell carcinoma or unclassified renal cell carcinoma [5,6].

Clinical and genetic assessment of hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma is subject to cogent description of diagnostic criterion. Microscopic examination with discernible characteristic nucleolar features in concurrence with cytoplasmic and nuclear immune reactivity to 2 succino-cysteine (2SC) and loss of expression of fumarate hydratase appears pathognomonic [5,6].

Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma is associated with inferior prognostic outcomes and preliminary, widespread distant metastases which may be especially envisaged within miniature neoplasms [5-6].

### Conclusion

Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma is an exceptionally discerned neoplasm which arises on account of germline mutations within fumarate hydratase (FH) gene. Genetic mutations occurring within fumarate hydratase (FH) gene induces defective fumarate hydratase enzyme within the citric acid cycle with consequent metabolic derangement, 'pseudo-hypoxic' upregulation of hypoxia inducible factor 1 alpha (HIF1a) and non-enzymatic modification of cysteine residues within multiple proteins,

designated as 'succination'. The high grade, infiltrative neoplasm exemplifies distinct configurations as papillary, tubular, solid, cribriform, cystic, sarcomatoid or collecting duct carcinoma-like and is comprised of tumour cells incorporated with prominent cytomegalovirus (CMV)-like nucleolar inclusions and foci of peri-nucleolar clearing. Neoplastic cells appear immune reactive to PAX8, vimentin, GLUT1, p53, S100A1 protein, succinate dehydrogenase subunit B (SDHB) or integrase interactor 1 (INI1). Tumour cells appear immune non-reactive to fumarate hydratase, carbonic anhydrase IX (CAIX), alpha methacyl CoA racemase (AMACR), CK7, CK20, CD117, RCC, TFE3 and high molecular weight cytokeratin (HMWCK). Fumarate hydratase deficient renal cell carcinoma requires segregation from neoplasms such as papillary type II renal cell carcinoma, clear cell renal cell carcinoma, hereditary leiomyomatosis and renal cell carcinoma syndrome associated renal carcinoma, collecting duct carcinoma, microphthalmia transcription factor (MiT) family translocation associated renal cell carcinoma or unclassified renal cell carcinoma. Neoplasm is associated with inferior prognostic outcomes and preliminary, widespread distant metastases.

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7. Image 1 Courtesy: Science direct
8. Image 2 Courtesy: Wikipedia

