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Judul Artikel : Correlation of Microvessel Density with Clinicothological Features of Hodgkin

Lymphoma

Nama Jurnal : Indonesian Journal of Pathology

Penulis : M.Bima Zulfikar, Krisna Murti*, Iche Andriyani Liberty, Citra Dewi, Riana Sari

Puspita Rasyid

No	Perihal	Tanggal		
1	Bukti Konfirmasi Submit Artikel	28 Januari 2022		
2	Bukti Konfirmasi Review	15 Februari 2022		
3	Bukti Submit Hasil Revisi	7 Maret 2022		
4	Bukti Permintaan Perubahan Bahasa Pada Artikel	30 November 2022		
5	Bukti Submit Perubahan Bahasa	3 Januari 2023		

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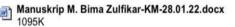
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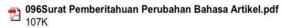
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Terimakasih Krisna Murti [Quoted text hidden]

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Correlation of Microvessel Density with Histopathological Features of Hodgkin LymphomaM.BimaZulfikardkk

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CORRELATION OF MICROVESSEL DENSITY WITH HISTOPATHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF HODGKIN LYMPHOMA

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ABSTRAK

Latarbelakang

Angiogenesis ialah proses pembentukan pembuluh darah baru yang berperan penting dalam perkembangan sel tumor. Penilaian kepadatan microvessel/microvessel density (MVD) merupakan salah satu metode yang digunakan dalammenilai angiogenesis. Nilai kepadatan microvesseltinggi berkaitan dengan prognosis yang buruk pada berbagai jenis kanker termasuk limfoma Hodgkin (LH).Meskipun insidenLH cenderung lebih rendah di negara berkembang, namun tingkat kematiannya cenderung tinggi. Limfoma ini banyak terjadi pada usia muda reproduktif. Tujuan penelitian ini untuk mengetahui hubungan kepadatan microvessel dengan karakteristik klinikohistopatologi LH.

Metode

Penelitian analitik observasional dengan metode potong lintangdilakukan dengan sampel penelitian berupa blok parafin pasien yang didiagnosis sebagai limfoma Hodgkin serta memiliki data klinikohistopatologi lengkap sesuai kriteria di Bagian Patologi Anatomik Fakultas Kedokteran Universitas Sriwijaya/RSUP.Dr. Mohammad Hoesin Palembang periode 2016-2021. Slain dipulas dengan antibodi anti- CD34. Satu microvessel dinilai dengan mengamati morfologi sitoplasma dan/atau membran sel endotel berwarna coklat setelah dipulas oleh anti-CD34. Hasil perhitungan kepadatan microvessel dianalisis secara statistik menggunakan STATA versi 15.

523

Kejadianlimfoma Hodgkinpada penelitianinicenderungbanyak padakategoriusia<45 tahun (71,00%), lakilaki (61,30%), berlokasi di nodal (80,60%) dan subtipe lymphocyte rich classical HL(LRCHL, 51,60%). Meskipun didapatkanhubungan yang tidak signifikan antara kepadatan microvessel dengan karakteristik klinikohistopatologi LH, namun terlihat distribusi kepadatan microvessel tinggi cenderung pada kelompok usia <45 tahun, laki-laki, lokasi di nodal, dan pada subtipe LRCHL.

Kesimpulan

Terdapat hubungan yang tidak signifikan antara kepadatan microvessel dengan karakteristik klinikohistopatologi limfoma Hodgkin.

Kata kunci: Limfoma Hodgkin, kepadatan microvessel, angiogenesis, CD34, karakteristik klinikohistopatologi.

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 $Correlation of Microvessel Density with Histopathological Features of Hodgkin Lymphoma \begin{tabular}{l} M. BimaZulfik ard kk \end{tabular}$

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CorrelationofMicrovesselDensitywithHistopathologicFeaturesofHodgkinLymphoma ABSTRACT

Background

Angiogenesis is the process of new blood vessel growth that has an important role in tumor development. Microvessel density (MVD) assessment is one of the methods to assess angiogenesis. A high MVD is associated with a poor prognosis in various types of cancer including Hodgkin lymphoma (HL). Although, HL incidence is lower in developing countries, the death rate is higher in these regions. Moreover, this type of lymphoma is higher among young and reproductive people. The aim of this study was to determine the association between micro vessel density and HLclinicohistopathological characteristics.

Methods

The observational analytic study with a cross-sectional method was conducted at the Anatomical Pathology Department/Dr. Mohammad Hoesin Palembang. The sampleswere paraffin blocks diagnosed asHLforperiod2016-2021 and hascompleteclinicohistopathologicaldataaccordingtothecriteria ofthis study. The slides wereimmunostained with antibody anti-CD34. One microvessel was determined by observing the endothelial morphology and CD34 expression in endothelial cytoplasm and/or cell membrane,thenwas evaluatedandcalculatedbyImageJ.DatawasstatisticallyanalyzedbySTATAversion 15.

Results

Majority HLs in this study were discovered nthe age group of <45 years (71.00%), male (61.30%), nodal location (80.60%) and lymphocyte rich classical HL (LRCHL) subtype (51.60%). Although, there was no significant association between MVD and the clinicohistopathological characteristics of HL, high MVD tendto occur in the age <45 years, male, nodal location, and LRCHL subtype.

Conclusion

TherewasnosignificantassociationbetweenmicrovesseldensityandHLclinicohistopatho-logical characteristics.

Keywords: hodgkinlymphoma,microvesseldensity,angiogenesis,CD34,clinicohistopatho-logical characteristics.



Correlation of Microvessel Density with Histopathological Features of Hodgkin Lymphoma *M. Bima Zulfikardkk*

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INTRODUCTION

A large cluster of neoplasms derived from the immune system is known as a lymphoma. Ninety percent of lymphoma derives from lymphocyte B cells, while the rest is from lymphocyte T cells and natural killer (NK) cells. 1 Based on the existence of the Hodgkin cell, lymphoma is classified as either Hodgkin or non-Hodgkin lymphoma. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma accounts for 80–85% of all lymphoma cases, while Hodgkin lymphoma accounts for 10–15%. 2Hodgkin lymphoma was the world's 27th most common malignancy, with 83,087 new cases and 23,376 deaths.3

The incidence of Hodgkin lymphoma tends to be higher in developed countries than in developing countries. Meanwhile, the mortality rate is relatively high in developing countries. 4 Hodgkin lymphoma is often found within the 15–30-year-old range and increases in age beyond 55 years old. 5 Except for the NSCHL subtype, which has the same incidence ratio in men and women, it has a greater predilection in men. 6

Hodgkin lymphoma is characterized by Reed-Sternberg cells, which are large cells with a multi-lobed nucleus, a prominent nucleolus, and wide and slightly eosinophilic cytoplasm that resembles an owl's eye.7 Around 90% of Hodgkin lymphoma is classical Hodgkin lymphoma (CHL), and 10% or less is nodular lymphocyte predominant Hodgkin lymphoma (NSCHL), which is often found in developed countries and dominated by young adults. Meanwhile, the mixed-cellularity classical Hodgkin lymphoma (MCCHL) subtype is found in children from developing countries. The lymphocyte-depleted classical Hodgkin lymphoma (LDCHL) subtype has the worst prognosis, while the lymphocyte-rich classical Hodgkin lymphoma (LRCHL) has a better prognosis compared with other subtypes.1

Many studies have found that angiogenesis, which supplies oxygen from the circulatory system to tumor cells so that they can grow, is frequently found in tumor development. 9 Angiogenesis is the formation of new blood vessels, which are important in the growth of tumors and metastasis. At first, tumor cells obtain oxygen through diffusion. The increased number of tumor cells caused diffusion to no longer supply enough oxygen for tumor growth. This condition triggers the response of tumor and stromal cells in the microtumor environment to release proangiogenic factor, which stimulates the proliferation and migration of endothelial cells in the formation of new blood vessels.10

Angiogenesis is assessed by measuring microvessel density (MVD), which can be considered in predicting prognosis. It is believed that high-density microvessels are related to poor prognosis in many types of cancer.11 A previous study found that increased angiogenesis and microvessel density were associated with a poor prognosis in CHL.12 Inhibition of angiogenesis activity with anti-angiogenic therapy is expected to inhibit the growth and metastasis of tumors. Therefore, anti-angiogenic therapy can be one of the treatment choices for Hodgkin lymphoma.13

In Indonesia, there have been few studies on the relationship between microvessel density and clinicopathological features of Hodgkin lymphoma. Furthermore, similar studies inothercountriesshoweddifferentresults, whichisthereasonfortheauthortoconductthis study. The results of this study are expected to be beneficial as a prognostic marker and aid in determining antiangiogenic therapy as an effective adjuvant therapy for Hodgkin lymphoma in the future.

METHODS

This study used a cross-sectional observational analytic design, was conducted in the Department of Anatomical Pathology in the Faculty of Medicine of Sriwijaya University/RSUPDr.MohammadHoesinPalembang.Thepopulationincludedallcases



CorrelationofMicrovesselDensitywithHistopathologicalFeaturesofHodgkinLymphoma *M.BimaZulfikardkk*

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diagnosed pathologically as Hodgkin lymphoma during 2016-2021. Samples were obtained through non-probability sampling, namely the purposive sampling technique.

The samples were part of the population that fulfilled the inclusion and exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria included an archive of hematoxylin-eosin (HE) and immunohistochemistry (IHC) preparations and a paraffin block diagnosed as Hodgkin lymphoma with complete medical record data including age, gender, tumor location, and subtype. The exclusion criteria included archives of HE preparations and paraffin blocks with signs of cell damage due to inadequate fixation, and the paraffin block did not contain enough tumor tissue for IHC examination using anti-CD34 antibodies and recurrent cases. There were 31 samples that fulfilled the criteria.

Observation and measurement of microvessels were carried out using anOlympus BX51 binocular light microscope equipped with a DP-21 digital camera. The images from the camera were analyzed and measured with the Image J software. Microvessels were identified by observing single or clustered endothelial cells that were separated from the surrounding tumor cells and stained brown by an anti-CD34 antibody with or without a lumen; each blood vessel did not have more than eight erythrocytes inside the lumen; each blood vessel did not have a muscle layer; and it was not located in the sclerotic area. 14,17 Figure 4.1 depicts an identified microvessel structure (black arrow).

Microvessel density was assessed by choosing three areas with the densest microvessel in a small field of view (100x), then choosing the five densest areas in a large field of view (400x). Afterward, the mean value was calculated by adding the results of the five areas above, divided by 5 in each sample. The collected data were statisticallyanalyzed using STATA software version 15 to determine the clinicohistopathological characteristics distribution of Hodgkin lymphoma, as well as the correlation between microvessel density and clinicohistopathological characteristics using Chi-Square and a significant result of p 0.05.

RESULTS

MicrovesselMorphology

Identifying a microvessel microscopically is carried out by paying attention to the following characteristics: (1) single or clustered endothelial cells separated from the surrounding tumor cells and stained brown by anti-CD34 with or without a lumen; (2) each blood vessel does not contain more than eight erythrocytes inside the lumen; (3) each blood vessel does not have a muscle layer; (4) the blood vessel is not located in asclerotic area. 14,27 Figure 1 shows an identified microvessel structure (black arrow).

ClinicohistopathologicalCharacteristicsofHodgkinLymphoma

The age range in this study was 7-77 years old, with an average age of 36 yearsold. Patients aged<45 years old hadmore diagnoses of Hodgkin lymphoma, comprising22 samples (71.0%). There were more men than women, comprising 19 samples (61.30%). Nodal locations were seen more often in 25 samples (80.60%). The LRCHL subtype, with 16 samples (51.60%), was the most common (Table 1).

Tahle1	Clinicohistonatho	logicalcharacteri	eticedistributiono	fHodakinIvmphoma.
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Clinicohistopathological characteristics	Number	Frequency
CHARACIENSLICS	n	%
Age		
<45y.o.	22	71.00
≥45y.o.	9	29.00
Gender		
Men	19	61.30
Women	12	38.70
Tumorlocation		
Nodal	25	80.60
Extranodal	6	19.40
Subtype		
NSCHL	6	19.40
MCCHL	9	29.00
LDCHL	0	0.00
LRCHL	16	51.60

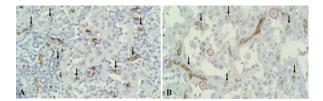


Figure 1. Immunohistochemistry staining with anti-CD34 antibody. A. High microvessel density in the tumor microenvironment (black arrow); B. Low microvessel density in the tumor microenvironment (black arrow). 400x magnification.

$Distribution of {\bf Microvessel Density in Hodgkin Lymphoma}$

The distribution of microvessel density in Hodgkin lymphoma is divided into two categories: high microvessel density and low microvessel density. The Shapiro-Wilk test was conducted beforehand and revealed normally distributed microvessel density data (p > 0.05). Because the data is normally distributed, the mean value is considered the cut-off value. The mean value of microvessel density is 18.26 and it is determined as the cut-off value, where microvessel density above 18.26 is considered high and density below 18.26 is considered low (Table 2).

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Table2. Distribution of microves selden sity in Hodgkin lymphoma.

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Min	Max	p
Microvesseldensity	18.26	5.47	10.40	32.10	0.13

Correlation between Microvessel Density and Clinicohistopathological Characteristics of Hodgkin Lymphoma

There is a statistically insignificant correlation between microvessel density and clinicohistopathological characteristics of Hodgkin lymphoma (age, gender, tumor location, subtype)(p> 0.05). However, highmicrovesseldensitytendstobeoccurred in the 45-year- old age group (p = 0.60), men (p = 0.88), nodal location (p = 0.08), and LRCHL subtype (p = 0.84)asseeninTable3.

Table3. Correlation between microves seldensity and clinicohistopathological characteristics of Hodgkin lymphoma.

Clinicohistopathological characteristics	Microvesseldensity High Low		Pvalue	
Age			_	
<45 y.o.	10	12	0.60	
≥45y.o.	5	4		
Gender				
Men	9	10	0.88	
Women	6	6		
Tumorlocation				
Nodal	14	11	0.08	
Extranodal	1	5		
Subtype				
LŔĊHL	7	9		
LDCHL	_	_	0.84	
MCCHL	5	4		
NSCHL	3	3		



 $Correlation of Microvessel Density with Histopathological Features of Hodgkin Lymphoma \\ \textit{M.BimaZulfikardkk} \\$

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DISCUSSION

Angiogenesisistheprocessof newbloodvesseltissueformationthat isimportantin the growth oftumors andmetastasis. Angiogenesis is a response oftumorcells and stroma cells in the tumor microenvironment in releasing pro-angiogenic factor that stimulates the proliferation and migration of endothelial cells (ECs) required in forming new blood vessels.10 One of the methods to quantify new blood vessels inside tumor tissues is by measuring microvessel density (MVD) with immunohistochemistry (IHC) staining.11 This studyusedanti-CD34asamicrovesselmarker.14Arecentstudyindicatedthat microvessel density can be used to predict the prognosis of lymphoma because high microvesseldensity is correlated with a poor prognosis in CHL cases.12

Age is an important factor in predicting the overall prognosis and is an independent factor to assess progression-free survival in Hodgkin lymphoma patients. 15 The age distribution of Hodgkin lymphoma patients varies according to ethnicity and socioeconomic statusinaregion.Ingeneral, Hodgkinlymphomaoftenoccursinpatientsaged15–30years and older than 55 years. 16 The patients' age in this study is around 7–77 years old (mean age of 36.32 years). The youngest age in this study was younger than the study by Hewamana et al., who had an age interval of 12-83 years old. 17This may be because, in developing countries, Hodgkin lymphoma is more often found in children.8

Analysis of the correlation between microvessel density and age in this study showed a statistically insignificant correlation (p= 0.60). However, highmicrovessel density was most likely found in patients younger than 45 years old. This is in line with Koh et al., who studied the correlation between clinicopathological characteristics and microvessel density and stated that there is no significant correlation between age and microvessel density (p = 0.56), with a similar tendency of high microvessel density in the <45-year-old age group. 18 There is a decrease in HIF-1 expression and angiogenic factors such as VEGF in elderly patients, as well as changes in the extracellular matrix in the tumor microenvironment. Meanwhile, in the angiogenesis process triggered by hypoxic conditions intumortissues,thisHIF-1expressionisrequiredtoinducevariousangiogenicfactorssuch as VEGF. Therefore, microvessel density is usually lower in older patients and higher in younger patients.19-21

In this study, Hodgkin lymphoma is more often found in men (61.30%) compared to women (38.70%), with a ratio of 1.6:1. This is in line with an epidemiologic study by the WHO, which stated that Hodgkin lymphoma is more often found in men.1 This study also confirms the findings of Wen-Yan Yu, et al., who obtained a ratio of Hodgkin lymphoma incidence of 1.67:1 between men and women.22

Statistical analysis indicated an insignificant correlation between microvesseldensity and gender (p = 0.88), with a tendency for higher microvessel density in men compared to women. This is in line with Panico et al. and Makboul et al., who stated that there is no statistically significant correlation between gender and microvessel density. 23,24 Koh et al. also suggested a similar tendency for high microvessel density in men (p = 0.07).18 This is due to higher androgen levels in men compared to women. Androgen improves the angiogenesis process through an increased response of proliferation and migration of endothelial cells by inducing the regulation of genes related to angiogenesis, such as HIF- 1α and SDF- 1α , and pro-angiogenic factors such as VEGF andVEGFR2.25,26

Almost all Hodgkin lymphoma cases are found in the lymph nodes. Therefore, this disease is also known as a nodal disease. Hodgkin lymphoma can also develop to infiltrate the spleen, liver, and other extranodal locations.8 In this study, Hodgkin lymphoma is more oftenfoundinnodal(80.60%)comparedwithextranodallocations(19.40%). Statistical



CorrelationofMicrovesselDensitywithHistopathologicalFeaturesofHodgkinLymphoma *M.BimaZulfikardkk*

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analysis revealed an insignificant correlation between tumor location and microvessel density (p = 0.08), with a tendency for high microvessel density in nodal locations. This result is in line with a study conducted on mantle cell lymphoma, which stated that there is no significant correlation between tumor location and microvessel density.27

The LRCHL subtype is the most common subtype of Hodgkin lymphoma in this study, which comprises 16 cases (51.60%). This is different from Konkay et al.'s study in India, which found the MCCHL subtype as the most frequently found Hodgkin lymphoma subtype. The same also applies to a study in developing countries that found that MCCHLis the most common subtype of Hodgkin lymphoma. 28,29 High MCCHL subtype is related to HIVand isoftenrelated toa poor prognosis.30Onthe other hand, theLRCHL subtype is often related to a better prognosis compared to other subtypes. 31 Makboul et al. discovered a significant correlation between microvessel density and a high histological subtype of MCCHL. 24 However, statistical analysis in this study revealed an insignificant correlation between subtype and microvessel density (p = 0.84). This is in line with Koh et al., who stated that there is no significant correlation between disease subtype and microvessel density (p = 0.31).18

There is no study investigating the correlation between microvessel density and clinicohistopathological characteristics of Hodgkin lymphoma in Indonesia. To date, more studies are needed on the correlation between microvessel density and clinicohistopathological characteristics of Hodgkin lymphoma, including age, gender, tumor location, and subtype. Considering differences between this study and previous studies, especially the most frequently found subtype, microvessel density can be related to the patient's outcome, as with other cancer types such as non-Hodgkin lymphoma, colon cancer, cervical cancer, and prostate cancer. 32-35 Further studies with a more complete and larger sample of data are needed to prove the above possibility.

CONCLUSION

This study does not findany significant correlation betweenmicrovessel density and clinicopathological characteristics (age, gender, tumor location, and subtype) in Hodgkin lymphoma. Further studies are suggested to determine the role of microvessel density as a prognostic factor using patient outcome data such as progression-free survival and overall survival.

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 $Correlation of Microvessel Density with Histopathological Features of Hodgkin Lymphoma \begin{tabular}{l}M.BimaZulfikardkk\end{tabular}$

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