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Author information

Leila Hosseinzadeh Anvar, 1,2 Saeid Hosseini-Asl,2 Mohammad Mohammadzadeh-Vardin,1 and Mohsen Sagha1

¹Research Laboratory for Embryology and Stem Cells, Department of Anatomical Sciences and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Ardabil University of Medical

²Laboratory of Medical Genetics, Imam Khomeini Hospital, Ardabil University of Medical Sciences, Ardabil, Iran.

Address correspondence to: Mohsen Sagha, PhD Department of Anatomical Sciences and Pathology Faculty of Medicine Ardabil University of Medical Sciences University Street Ardabil province Ardabil 56189-53141

E-mail: m.sagha@arums.ac.ir

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ABSTRACT

Selenium—as a trace element—is nutritionally essential for humans. It prevents cancerous growth by inhibiting the telomerase activity but the mechanism involved in regulation of telomerase activity in normal telomerase-positive cells remains to be elucidated. Here, we find out whether the effect of sodium selenite and selenomethionine on telomerase activity in human umbilical cord-derived mesenchymal stem cells (hUCMSCs) is associated with different levels of c-Myc and p53 expression. The use of different staining methods including ethidium bromide/acridine orange and DAPI in addition to telomeric repeat amplification protocol assay and real-time PCR indicated that different forms of selenium have opposite impacts on c-Myc and p53 expressions in both hUCMSCs and AGS, a gastric adenocarcinoma cell line, as a positive control. Our findings suggest that the signaling pathways involved in the regulation of telomerase activity in malignant and normal telomerase-positive cell types are somewhat different, at least on the c-Myc and P53 expression levels.

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