Ultrastructural characteristic of myocytes in uterine Junctional Zone

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Objective To study the ultrastructural features of myocytes in uterine junctional zone. Methods Samples of JZ and outer myometrium (OM) of hysterectomy specimens from pre-menopausal subjects with cervical neoplasm were collected. There were 8 specimens from the proliferative and 8 specimens from the secretory phase. Ultrastructural features of JZ and OM were examined using transmission electron microscopy and the related indices of myocytes were compared using Student’s t test. Results At JZ, the myocytes had more cytoplasmic process. The myocytes of JZ exhibited significant difference compared with those of OM. Firstly the contractile structural components, such as the dense patches, dense bodies and the myofilaments were less abundant. In contrast, the perinuclear cell organelles were more distinct. The mitochondria, endoplasmic reticulum and Golgi apparatus were more prominent, denoting active protein synthesis. Secondly, the mean diameter of cell and nuclei and the myofilaments/cytoplasm ratio exhibited cyclical changes in JZ, but in OM, the cyclical changes were absent. Conclusions Compared with OM, ultrastructures associated with synthetic organelles are prominent whereas the contractile organelles are reduced. And ultrastructural characteristics have the cyclical changes. The ultrastructural features of JZ are the basis of its physiology.

Mots clefs : Uterine Junctional zone; Outer myometrium; Ultrastructure
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