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Frequency of *TERT* Promoter Mutations in Real-World Analysis of 2,092 Thyroid Carcinoma Patients (*Endocrinol Metab* 2022;37:652-63, Heera Yang et al.)

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We would like to thank Dr. Kim and colleagues for carefully reading our article and providing thoughtful comments regarding our recent publication, titled "Frequency of *TERT* promoter mutations in real-world analysis of 2,092 thyroid carcinoma patients" [1]. We reported that the frequency of real-world telomerase reverse transcriptase (*TERT*) promoter mutations in thyroid carcinoma was lower (3.4%) than in a previous report [2], and it was particularly low in papillary thyroid carcinoma (PTC) ≤1 cm (0.5%).

Previous studies have reported that *TERT* promoter mutations were significantly associated with poor prognoses, such as tumor aggressiveness, early recurrence, and cancer-specific death [3]. However, the real-world frequency of *TERT* promoter mutations was unclear before Kim et al. [4] first reported it in Korea in 2020. Furthermore, in a letter to the editor, Kim et al. [4] provided data from a meta-analysis, which constituted valuable findings that could help us understand *TERT* promoter mutations more precisely.

According to the meta-analysis data, the frequency of *TERT* promoter mutation in a prospective cohort in Korea was lower than expected (2.6% in all PTCs, 1.3% in PTCs ≤1.0 cm, and 5.6% in PTCs >1.0 cm). Although the real-world frequency was low, the clinicopathological characteristics associated with *TERT* promoter mutations, such as older age, larger size, and tumor aggressiveness, were consistent with the previous report [3]. We appreciate Kim et al. for providing interesting data.

Kim et al. [5] also pointed out that the role of *TERT* promoter mutations in PTCs ≤1 cm is unclear. We previously reported that *TERT* promoter mutations can be a molecular prognostic marker in thyroid carcinoma, but we agree that this may not be the case in PTCs ≤1 cm. Future studies with long-term follow-up would be needed to provide solid evidence.

We deeply appreciate the valuable comments of Dr. Kim and colleagues and their work that enriched the findings of our research.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No potential conflict of interest relevant to this article was reported.

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