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IMPACT OF SYNDECAN, HEPARANASE AND KAI-1 ON THE PROGNOSIS AND SURVIVAL OF PANCREATIC DUCTAL ADENOCARCINOMA AFTER SURGERY.

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This study sought to investigate the expression and effect of the factors syndecan-1, heparanase and KAI1/CD82 on the survival rate after potentially curative surgery for pancreatic DAC. This is a pancreatic malignancy particularly known for its almost uniquely aggressive clinicopathological presentation with an apparently inalterable dire prognosis. The principle reason for this is presumed to lie at the molecular level. That these factors are, among others, undoubtedly involved in carcinogenesis, eventual metastasis and thereby possibly affecting the survival rate of this most lethal of all malignomas is probable. Our present study could not disclose an effect of the investigated factors on the survival after surgical therapy for pancreatic DAC. A number of trends, though, which had, in part, been described in prior studies, could be demonstrated. We see the main reason for their not reaching statistical significance in the relatively small patient collective that is difficult to increase due to the absolute scarcity of LT-pancreatic DAC survivors.

Despite of the enormous advance in the bulk of general acquired knowledge and understanding on cancer, its causes and course in different organs along the past decades, we must acknowledge that there still is a considerable fraction of missing links. This would also explain the reason why these proteins that have separately been demonstrated as having influence on the complex processes of angiogenesis,

tumour invasion and metastasis each of which are independently believed to affect carcinogenesis, malignancy progression and patient prognosis for several different tumours including the pancreatic DAC could, in our study, not demonstrate a statistically significant and independent influence on the survival rate after pancreatic cancer surgery. A continued intensification of data collection and further implementation of meticulous investigations remains necessary.