



INTRODUCTION



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GF-alpha, the 50 amino acid polypeptide that is structurally related to epidermal growth factor and binds to epidermal growth factor receptors, has been attracting many attention during the recent era. TGF-alpha has been heavily involved in malignancies of different types in human and rodents (*Steinmetz and Kjaunig, 1996*).

TGF-alpha is claimed to have a role in proliferative cellular activity especially in epithelial tissues; a cellular activity that is frequently encountered in some chronic liver diseases as cirrhosis and hepatitis (*Hsai et al., 1992*).

This raises an important question about TGF-alpha; could it be used as a marker for early diagnosis of involvement of liver cells in malignant transformation and chronic diseases as cirrhosis and hepatitis?

