Sonic hedgehog ligand expression in typical cases of hepatocellular carcinoma with steatohepatitic features

Materials & methods

Sonic hedgehog (shh) ligand expression in typical cases of hepatocellular carcinoma with steatohepatitic features (steatohepatitic hepatocellular carcinoma, SH-HCC) were assessed by immunohistochemistry using whole tissue sections. We examined all the typical SH-HCCs included in the tissue microarray (TMA) study and additional 28 typical SH-HCCs, excluded from the TMA study due to relatively small sizes of the tumors.

Three-micrometer tissue sections from conventional paraffin blocks were subjected to immunohistochemical analysis on a Ventana Benchmark XT automated immunostainer (Roche, Basel, Switzerland). A monoclonal antibody to shh ligand (Abcam, EP1190Y, 1:300) was applied.

All the typical SH-HCCs (50/50 = 100%) examined exhibited overexpression of shh ligand at least focally with generally strong staining intensities. Representative cases are presented. (Bars, 2.5mm)