CORRESPONDENCE

Surface Immunoglobulins in Lymphocytic Leukemias

To the Editor:

We have read with great interest the article by Aisenberg and Wilkes. They emphasize the usefulness of quantitating lymphocyte surface membrane immunoglobulins (SmIg) for the classification of certain lymphoid leukemias. While we do not question the validity of the method used by these authors or the results obtained, we do not agree with their statement that "...there is still need for a simple technique that accurately measures surface immunoglobulin..." Although it is true that the commonly used immunofluorescent techniques are not quantitatively very accurate, it is now well established that radioimmunoassay and immunoenzyme techniques allow quantitation with a fairly high degree of accuracy. Our experience with the latter technique has shown that it is simple and reproducible.

In this regard we would like to draw attention to our paper published in 1974 concerning quantitation of SmIg on human peripheral lymphocytes from normal donors and patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia which showed that there was a tenfold decrease in SmIg density in the latter as compared to normal controls. Using the same technique, we have recently studied the different patterns in various atypical lymphoid leukemias.

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REFERENCES


Surface Immunoglobulins in Lymphocytic Leukemias: Reply

To the Editor:

We have not employed the spectrophotometric peroxidase method of Dighiero, Follezou, and Binet, and cannot assess its merits for quantitating immunoglobulin on the surface of malignant lymphocytes. Their method may allow greater discrimination among B-cell subtypes than we have found possible with immunofluorescence. However, after six years spent measuring surface immunoglobulin with the fluorescent antibody method and several attempts to supersede it, we remain impressed with the simplicity and utility of this technique.

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Surface immunoglobulins in lymphocytic leukemias [letter]

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