CORRESPONDENCE

To the Editor:

In a recent article published in Blood, Sondel et al. used a panel of surface markers to analyze cells from four patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma. Results obtained with the "OKT" monoclonal antibodies and spontaneous rosette formation with rhesus erythrocytes suggested that some leukemic phenotypes may not correspond to normal stages of lymphoid differentiation. Sondel et al. concluded that it may be inappropriate to classify leukemic cells according to categories of normal lymphoid differentiation.

I believe the results obtained by Sondel et al. are open to other interpretations. First, the fact that leukemic cells from cases I and II were OKT3- , T4+, T8+ is not necessarily inconsistent with antigenic expressions on developing thymocytes. Indeed, examination of the data in Table 1 indicated that 75% of normal thymocytes were OKT3+. Therefore, in contrast to previously published data, the results obtained by Sondel et al. suggest the existence of an OKT3+, T4+, T8- cell in normal thymus.

Second, the suggestion is made that case IV does not fit into a human null lymphocytes with Rhesus monkey erythrocytes. Clin Exp Immunol 32: 498–505, 1978

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REFERENCES


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To the Editor:

I would agree with Dr. Sondel and his colleagues that we should exercise caution in categorizing leukemic cells by the pathways of normal differentiation. However, a tremendous amount of accumulated data has supported such an approach. It would seem that future studies should objectively take both views into consideration.

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Surface markers to analyze cells from four patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia/lymphoma [letter]

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