To the Editor:

Apart from having the more obvious merits, the article by Browning et al.\(^1\) in a recent issue of Blood sparked off a memory in this reader, driving her to a consideration of the literature. Browning et al.\(^1\) reported a study on the presence of circulating KS-like spindle cells cultured using activated lymphocyte-conditioned medium (PBsc) in human immunodeficiency virus-1-positive (HIV-1\(^+\)) patients with KS, in HIV-1\(^+\) patients without KS, and in uninfected controls. He found that the number of PBsc in HIV-1\(^+\) patients with KS or at high risk for developing KS was higher than in HIV-1 normal controls. Therefore, he considered that this may explain the multifocal nature of KS. In addition, he found that the PBsc express markers suggestive of a mesenchymal origin within the reticuloendothelial lineage.

Browning et al.\(^1\) stated that the origin of KS cells from the reticuloendothelial system was already hypothesized in 1967 by Dayan and Lewis.\(^2\) However, Dalla Favera\(^3\) had already suggested this theory in 1911 and numerous others have subsequently supported it.\(^4\) This hypothesis arose from clinical and histological observations of the frequent involvement of lymph nodes in KS and its association with lymphoproliferative diseases, particularly in African patients. In addition, Lothe and Murray in 1962\(^5\) and D’Oliviera and Torres in 1972\(^7\) suggested a close relationship between KS and the reticuloendothelial system on the basis of the fact that they found in some autopsies a spleen KS localization. Finally, D’Oliviera and Torres\(^7\) found in one autopsy the presence of multiple tumoral thrombi. This finding was interpreted as unquestionable demonstration of vascular invasiveness by KS and its potential for establishing bloodborne metastasis.

I believe that these findings from the literature are of extreme interest. These investigators, with their simple methods, suggested a theory that the experimental work of Browning et al.\(^1\) has only now been able to document.

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REFERENCES
Novel CBFB-MYH11 fusion transcripts or reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction artifacts? [letter; comment]

BA van der Reijden, A Hagemeijer and MH Breuning