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Abstracts



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KARGER

PREVALENCE OF CD20 POSITIVE B-CELLS IN PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF PATIENTS WITH LYMPHOCYTIC LYMPHOMA AND CORRELATION WITH THE COURSE OF DISEASE.

K. Pachmann, I. Langenmayer, C. Straka and B. Emmerich

14 patients with lymphocytic lymphoma were monitored during the course of disease between 4 weeks and 3 years by immunofluorimetry for cells of the lymphoma circulation in peripheral blood and infiltrating bone marrow.

Levels of lymphoid cells expressing mature B-cell antigens in peripheral blood were increased over the normal range in seven patients. This was mainly due to cells expressing CD20 without simultaneous expression of CD19. During the recidives CD20 positive cells always surpassed CD19 positive cells.

The porportion of B-cells was not always comparable between blood and bone marrow lymphocytes. The difference between CD19 and CD20 expression was not observed in the cells infiltrating the bone marrow. Cell separation studies are under way to distinguish between normal peripheral B-cells and circulating lymphoma cells.