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Katrina Lancaster-Shorts et al.

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CD24 Expression in Follicular Lymphoma: An Alternative B-Cell Marker in Therapy Selected, Recurrent Lymphoma

Katrina Lancaster-Shorts1, Samuel Pirruccello1

1University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Pathology and Microbiology

**Mentor:** Samuel Pirruccello  
**Program:** Pathology and Microbiology  
**Type:** Original Research

**Background:** The rapidly expanding use of antigen targeted therapies, such as anti-CD19, anti-CD20 and anti-CD22, in B-cell malignancies will require the application of additional B-cell-associated antigens in the assessment of residual disease. CD24 is a pan B-cell marker that undergoes significant surface density changes during normal maturation. In contrast to the loss of CD24 expression in normal follicles, we observed that follicle center derived lymphomas retain CD24 expression. Our aim was to determine the percentage of follicle center lymphomas with aberrant CD24 expression.

**Methods:** We reviewed 334 patients with a diagnosis of follicular lymphoma (FL; 228), large cell lymphoma of follicular origin (59) or B-cell lymphoma of follicular origin (47) by flow cytometry from October 2012 to August 2018. Cases without a confirmed tissue diagnosis of FL or diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) were excluded leaving 113 patients with FL, 38 patients with CD10-positive DLBCL and 12 patients with mixed FL/DLBCL. We analyzed the percentage of patients with CD24 positive lymphomas in each of the three diagnostic categories.

**Results:** We found that CD24 expression was retained in 89% of FLs (101/113), 63% (24/38) of DLBCLs and 42% (5/12) of mixed FL/DLBCL. Five cases of CD20 negative FL were CD24 positive.

**Conclusion:** Our results show the utility of aberrant CD24 expression in the identification of follicular lymphoma by flow cytometry.

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Performance of the Lymph2Cx Cell of Origin Classifier of Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma in Comparison to Two Immunohistochemical Algorithms

Katrina Lancaster-Shorts1, Ann Crowley1, Matthew Lunnin2, Allison Cushman-Vokoun1, Jane Yuan1, Catalina Amando1, Timothy Greiner1, Kai Fu1, Hina Naushad Qureish1

1University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Pathology and Microbiology  
2University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Oncology and Hematology

**Mentor:** Naushad Qureish1  
**Program:** Pathology and Microbiology  
**Type:** Original Research

**Background:** Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma (DLBCL) is divided into cell-of-origin (COO) groups: germinal center B-cell (GCB), non-GCB also known as activated B-cell (ABC) and intermediate/unclassified subgroups by mRNA gene expression profiling (mGEP). Immunohistochemical (IHC) classification algorithms, such as the Hans and Choi, were developed in lieu of mGEP on microarray, which could not analyze formalin fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) tissue. The Nanostring Lymph2Cx assay is capable of RNA gene expression profiling on FFPE tissue.

**Methods:** We studied 70 cases of DLBCL analyzed with the Lymph2Cx. Immunohistochemistry was performed on FFPE tissue sections using antibodies for CD10, BCL6, MUM1, GCET1 and FOXP1. Our aim was to determine the concordance
rates between the Lymph2Cx assay and the Hans and Choi algorithms were calculated.

Results: By the Lymph2Cx assay analysis, 36 cases (51%) were classified as GCB, 25 cases (36%) were classified as ABC and 9 cases (13%) were intermediate/unclassified. The Hans algorithm classified 37/70 cases (53%) as GCB and 33/70 cases (47%) as non-GBC. The Choi algorithm classified 14/36 cases (39%) as GCB and 22/36 cases (61%) as ABC. After excluding the 9 intermediate/unclassified cases by the Lymph2Cx assay, 61 cases classified by the Hans algorithm and 30 cases classified by the Choi algorithm were compared to the Lymph2Cx. Overall, 54 (89%) of cases classified by the Hans IHC algorithm and Lymph2Cx assay were concordant. 22 (77%) classified by the Choi algorithm and Lymph2Cx assay were concordant.

Conclusion: The Lymph2Cx assay is a useful tool to determine COO in DLBCL. https://doi.org/10.32873/unmc.dc.gmerj.2.1.064

Nontuberculous Mycobacterium (NTM) Infection in Aquatic Workers With Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) and Gold Quantiferon Tests
Lavanya Ravipati1, Sarah A. Howard1
1University of Nebraska Medical Center, Clarkson Family Medicine

Mentor: Sarah A. Howard
Program: Clarkson Family Medicine
Type: Case Report

Background: Nontuberculous mycobacteria (NTM) infections are commonly caused by Mycobacterium marinum and fortuitum with M. marinum more likely to cause skin infections. Aquatic environments are a potential source of contact with M. marinum and fortuitum. Patients with NTM infections may present with positive tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD) and/or gold Quantiferon tests. However, PPD cannot differentiate between NTM infection and other tuberculous infections caused by different mycobacterial strains. We present an asymptomatic patient who presented for further evaluation of an off-site positive PPD and gold Quantiferon Test.

Methods: Patient informed consent was obtained for this case report.

Results: A 31 year-old, healthy, female marine biologist employed in an aquatic environment presented to the clinic with a positive PPD and a positive gold Quantiferon test. Her job exposes her to sea creatures that maybe infected with Mycobacterium marinum and fortuitum. She denied any history that was suggestive of tuberculosis infection. A referral was made to specialist service for further evaluation at which time a repeat gold Quantiferon test was performed and was noted to be positive. Following this work up, the patient, understanding her likelihood of having exposure to M. Marinum and fortuitum, preferred to follow a conservative treatment approach to monitor for any symptoms of active tuberculosis and seek follow up as needed.

Conclusion: Clinicians should not downplay the importance of aquatic occupations and hobbies in patients who exhibit positive PPD and gold Quantiferon test. Healthcare providers should consider NTM infection in their differential diagnosis when examining patient populations exposed to aquatic water, saltwater, and freshwater environments. Preventative apparel like waterproof gloves can protect the exposed skin from infection. Clinicians can prevent NTM infections by increasing awareness and promoting prevention measures in at-risk populations, particularly since infection can be prevented with appropriate protective attire.

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Chemoembolization of Hepatocellular Carcinoma With Parasitic Blood Supply From the Inferior Phrenic Artery
Lei Yu*, Alex Hodson*, Timothy Donovan*, Christoph Vargo1
1University of Nebraska Medical Center, Department of Radiology
2University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Medicine
*These authors contributed equally to this work.

Mentor: Christoph Vargo
Program: Radiology
Type: Case Report

Background: Transarterial chemoembolization (TACE) is a commonly used embolotherapy for unresectable hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). The hepatic artery is usually the vessel of choice, however, up to 30% of HCCs can develop an extrahepatic collateral (EHC) supply and failure to recognize EHC can lead to treatment failure. The most common extra hepatic artery supplying HCC is the inferior phrenic artery (IPA), with right IPA and left IPA comprising up to 83% and 12% of all collaterals respectively. Certain imaging features can help predict the presence of IPA collaterals and should be considered at the time of treatment.

Methods: We reviewed one recurrent HCC after radioembolization and one residual HCC after chemoembolization to identify tumor characteristics associated with the formation of EHC, especially IPA collaterals. Procedural considerations during IPA embolization and common complications are also reviewed.

Results: Several factors raise the suspicion for EHC development, including large size, location (segment VII), and prior arterial embolization. Avoiding non-target embolization is crucial in treatment planning as inferior phrenic artery supplies the diagram, and rarely, the pericardium and bowel. Prophylactic embolization to non-tumor feeding branches can limit non-target embolization.