CD34 immunoperoxidase staining for the diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndromes and chronic myeloid leukaemia

Horny et al recently reported that immunoperoxidase staining of bone marrow biopsy specimens with the CD34/QBEND10 monoclonal antibody can be used to separate the myelodysplastic syndromes RAEB and RAEB-T from the RA and RARS subtypes. This report has now confirmed our previous findings that CD34/QBEND10 is a useful reagent for the diagnosis of conventionally processed, paraffin wax embedded bone marrow biopsy specimens. We have recently studied bone marrow biopsy specimens from 28 cases of primary myelodysplastic syndromes addressing the diagnostic value of CD34 staining in these conditions. We found that CD34 immunostaining can help in the detection of the increased number of blasts associated with the RAEB and RAEB-T subtypes. In addition, our study showed that QBEND10 represents a powerful prognostic tool for predicting survival and outcome in myelodysplastic syndromes. In primary RAEB cases median survival was 41 months in those who were less than 1% CD34 + cells, and 29 months in those with more than 1% CD34 + cells (p=0.05). Similar results were obtained in cases of therapy related myelo- dysplasias: CD34 + cases had a mean survival of 10 months compared with 43 months for the CD34 – cases (p=0.0005).

The authors also suggest the potential usefulness of CD34 staining for identifying patients in the accelerated phase of chronic myeloid leukaemia. Our recently published study of 59 bone marrow biopsy specimens representing the three phases (stable, accelerated and blastic) of chronic myeloid leukaemia has indeed confirmed the finding of a statistically higher CD34 value in the two aggressive phases of this disease compared with the stable phase. Taken together, these data and those from Horny et al show that QBEND10 is a very useful reagent for the study of routinely processed bone marrow biopsy specimens and may provide useful diagnostic and prognostic information in myelodysplastic syndromes and myeloproliferative disorders. This type of approach may be especially valuable when a paraffin wax embedded specimen is the only material available for immunohistopathologic examination.

A ORAZI
Associate Professor of Pathology
Director, Section of Immunohistochemistry,
Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine,
University Hospital 4430,
Indiana University Medical Center,
550 North University Blvd,
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202-5283, USA


Book review

If you wish to order or require further information regarding the titles reviewed here, please write to or telephone the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 95, London WC1 9JR. Tel 071 383 6244. Fax 071 383 6662. Books are supplied post free in the UK and for British Forces Posted Overseas addresses. Overseas customers should add 15% for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank or by credit card (Mastercard, Visa, or American Express) stating card number, expiry date, and full name. (The price and availability are occasionally subject to revision by the Publishers.)


This textbook deals in depth with what is a very highly specialised subject, bronchiolar pathology. The editor is an established expert in pulmonary disease and has asked many experts, particularly clinicians, to contribute to the book. The book provides up to the minute information on what is known about bronchiolar disease. It concentrates on infections, smoking, occupational disease, olivater bronchiolitis, and bronchiolitis organising pneumonia (BOOP), the last two conditions which in the past have been lumped together but which this book clearly separates and clarifies as being different entities with vastly different prognoses. There are excellent chapters on history, anatomy, imaging, pathology, and the various causes of bronchiolar disease. The clinicians’ viewpoint is emphasised. However, the penalty of being a multi-author book is that there is discontinuity and a lot of repetition. The editor should have exercised more control over this aspect of the book which makes it very annoying and boring at times when the same references and observations are made by several authors. While not of general interest I would recommend it to pathologists interested in pulmonary pathology as it deals in great depth with what has been pathologically and clinically a very confusing and poorly illustrated area of lung disease in the past.

M N SHEPPARD

Postgraduate course

Current concepts in surgical pathology
November 6–10 1995

The Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, will present a postgraduate course in Surgical Pathology under the direction of Drs Nancy L Harris, Robert H Young and Eugene J Mark.

This course is designed for pathologists at resident and practitioner levels. It will provide an in-depth review of diagnostic surgical pathology with emphasis on morphologic features, newly recognised entities, and new techniques, presented by the faculty of the Department of Pathology, Massachusetts General Hospital. Instruction will be primarily by lecture, but will also include discussion periods. Each participant will receive a comprehensive course syllabus.

The course has Category 1 accreditation for approximately 35 hours CME credit by the American Medical Association. The fee for the course is $825.00 (£522.00) (residents and fellows $610.00 (£386.00)).

For further information, please contact: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, 25 Shattuck Street, Boston, MA 02115, USA (tel: (617) 432-1525).

Correction

Microscopic thymoma and myasthenia gravis (J Clin Pathol 1995;48:682–683). The authors apologise for the errors which appeared in the Pathological findings section of their report. In the last line of the first paragraph, 272 × 71 mm should read 272 × 71 μm. In the first paragraph, 107 × (range 41–237 μm) should read 107 μm (range 41–237 μm).
CD34 immunoperoxidase staining for the diagnosis of myelodysplastic syndromes and chronic myeloid leukaemia.

A Orazi

J Clin Pathol 1995 48: 884
doi: 10.1136/jcp.48.9.884-a

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jcp.bmj.com/content/48/9/884.1.citation

These include:

Email alerting service
Receive free email alerts when new articles cite this article. Sign up in the box at the top right corner of the online article.

Notes

To request permissions go to:
http://group.bmj.com/group/rights-licensing/permissions

To order reprints go to:
http://journals.bmj.com/cgi/reprintform

To subscribe to BMJ go to:
http://group.bmj.com/subscribe/