Increasing recognition of haemoglobin
Le Lamentin

The haemoglobin variant Le Lamentin (α20 His → Gln) was first described in 1982 in a negro family in the French West Indies. Subsequently, it has been reported in a Japanese family and in a Spanish family, and recently it was found in a British white man whose haemoglobin displayed an unusual peak when his blood was being assayed for glycated haemoglobin (haemoglobin A1c) by high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

Using a similar technique for HbA1c, we have also found a case in the UK. The patient is a 46 year old diabetic woman with a plasma glucose of 11.2mmol/litre and HbA1c of 5.5% (reference range, 3.8–5.5%), with a haemoglobin trace on a Menarini HA-8121 analyser that exhibited an unusual early eluting fraction. This, together with our feeling that the HbA1c was rather low for the plasma glucose, raised our suspicions that a haemoglobin variant might be present. Therefore, we subjected the blood sample to electrospray ionisation tandem mass spectrometry, as high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

The mutation involving substitution of histidine (Hemoglobin Le Lamentin (α20 (B1) His → Gln)) in a British family: identification for a detailed family study.


K WIENER
Department of Clinical Biochemistry, North Manchester General Hospital, Manchester, M8 5RB, UK

X McFARLANE
Department of Gastroenterology, North Manchester General Hospital

B N GREEN
Micromass UK Ltd, 3 Tudor Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 5RZ, UK

Calendar of events

Full details of events to be included should be sent to Maggie Butler, Technical Editor, *JCP*, The Cedars, 36 Queen Street, Castle Hedingham, Essex CO9 3HA, UK; email: maggiebutler@pilotree.prestel.co.uk

41st St Andrew’s Day Festival Symposium on Therapeutics
6–7 December 2001, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh, UK
Further details: Eileen Strawn, Symposium Coordinator. (Tel +44 0131 225 7324; fax +44 0131 220 4393; email 2.strawn@rcpe.ac.uk; website www.rcpe.ac.uk)

Urological Surgical Pathology for the Practising Pathologist
18–21 January 2002, Doubletree La Posada Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA
Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA02117-0825, USA. (Tel +1 617 384 8600; Fax +1 617 384 8686; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

Clinical Governance and Revalidation: the Role of Clinical Audit
Further details: Kerry Morton, Professional Standards Unit Secretary, The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF, UK. (Tel +44 020 7451 6735; Fax +44 020 7451 6701; email audit@rcpath.org)

British Association of Ophthalmic Pathology
21–22 March 2002, Dunchurch Conference Centre, Dunchurch, Rugby, UK
Further details: Dr D Sneed, Pathology Department, University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire, Coventry CV2 2DX, UK. (Tel +44 02476 538855; Fax +44 02476 538715; email david.sneed@wh-tr.wmids.nhs.uk)

Surgical Pathology for the Practising Pathologist: Selected Topics
22–25 March 2002, Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa, Fort Myers, Florida, USA
Further details: Department of Continuing Education, Harvard Medical School, PO Box 825, Boston, MA02117-0825, USA. (Tel +1 617 384 8600; Fax +1 617 384 8686; email hms-cme@hms.harvard.edu)

Practical Pulmonary Pathology
Further details: Professor B Corrin, Brompton Hospital, London SW3 6NP, UK. (Tel +44 (0)20 7351 8420; Fax +44 (0)20 7351 8293; email b.corrin@ic.ac.uk)