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The prognostic value of apoptotic marker (CD95) in adult acute leukemias

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Introduction: Fas is expressed on a majority of human leukemic cells. Fas-mediated cell death is involved in drug-induced apoptosis in various cell types. Hence, failure of apoptosis could lead to chemoresistance and may therefore have an impact on clinical outcome.

Aims: The aim of the present study is to evaluate the prognostic value of Fas receptor expression on blast cells in patients with adult acute leukemia.

Methods: The participants of this study were 80 adult acute leukemia patients classified as follows: 40 acute myeloid leukemia (AML) patients, 40 acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) patients. In addition, 10 age-matched and sex-matched healthy controls were also included in the study. Patients with acute leukemia were studied at diagnosis and after treatment. The diagnosis of ALL, was assessed by morphological study, cytochemical analysis, and immunophenotyping of peripheral blood (PB) and bone marrow aspirate according to FAB classification. Fas expression on blast cells from bone marrow aspirate or PB samples of the patients or on normal monocytes, granulocytes, and lymphocytes obtained from PB samples of controls was measured using flow cytometry. The correlation between prognostic markers (age, sex, total leukocytic count, serum lactate dehydrogenase (LDH), and cytogenetic risk categories) and Fas expression levels on blast cells of leukemic patients at diagnosis was ascertained. After treatment, patients were followed up for periods ranging from 20 to 36 months.

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