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Leukaemia Section

Short Communication

Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma

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Clinics and pathology

Disease

Lymphoplasmacytic lymphoma (LPL) includes most cases of Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia and consists of a diffuse proliferation of small lymphocytes, plasmacytoid lymphocytes and plasma cells; the typical histologic features of small lymphocytic lymphoma, mantle cell lymphoma and marginal zone lymphoma must be absent.

Phenotype/cell stem origin

B-cell antigens are positive; whereas CD5 and, usually, CD23 test negative; the cells express surface and cytoplasmic IgM and are IgD-. CD10 is negative, whereas a proportion of cases have faint CD25 and CD11c expression; the postulated normal counterpart is a B-lymphocyte differentiating into an IgM-secreting plasma cell.

Cytogenetics

Note

The number of cases studied is small and the interpretation of data must take into account possible variability of histologic classification.

Cytogenetics morphological

The t(9;14)(p13;q32), fusing the IgH gene with the BSAP (B-cell specific activator protein), also called PAX5, was found in 50% of the cases in a study; this balanced translocation cannot be viewed as specific for this lymphoma, having been reported in rare marginal zone lymphomas and large cell lymphomas.

Other recurrent anomalies include 14q32 translocations with 8q24 (t(8;14)(q24;q32)), 18q21 (t(14;18)(q32;q21)), trisomies of chromosomes 3 (+3) and 12 (+12) and an isochromosome 6p (i(6p))

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