

Special Article- Multiple Myeloma

Melanoma Metastasis Mimicking Plasmacytoma in a Patient with Multiple Myeloma

David Azoulay^{1*}, Vadim Sonkin², Celia Surii¹,
Luiza Akria¹ and Andrei Braester¹

¹Hematology & Blood Transfusion Unit, Galilee Medical Center, Israel

²Department of Pathology, Galilee Medical Center, Israel

*Corresponding author: David Azoulay, Laboratory for Clinical Cell Analysis & Translational Research, Hematology & Blood Transfusion Unit, Galilee Medical Center, P.O.B. 21, Nahariya 22100, Israel, email: David.Azoulay@naharia.health.gov.il

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Analysis of a core biopsy from an inguinal lymph node of a 74-year-old male with multiple myeloma referred to our medical center due to the appearance of a new suspected Plasmacytoma in the right side of his penis. Flow cytometry analysis showing pathological cells with near hexaploid DNA content (DI=2.94), weaker than usual plasma cell CD38/CD138 intensity, negative cytoplasmic CD79 α immunoreactivity, and lack of Kappa or Lambda light chain restriction (Figure 1). Immunohistochemical analysis showing immunoreactivity for melan-A, HMB-45, and BCL-1, suggesting the diagnosis of melanoma metastasis (Figure 2). Syndecan-1 (CD138) is a well-known marker for plasma cells. However, its expression by other non-hematopoietic tumor cells [1] could be misleading. This unusual case, which shows the development of secondary melanoma in a patient with multiple myeloma, emphasizes the need to use multiple markers for the Immunophenotyping of plasma cells and being aware of non-hematopoietic cells mimicking plasma cells.

References

1. Fionnuala P. O'Connell, Jack L Pinkus, Geraldine S Pinkus. CD138 (Syndecan-1), a Plasma Cell Marker-Immunohistochemical Profile in Hematopoietic and Nonhematopoietic Neoplasms. *Am J Clin Pathol* 2004; 121: 254-263.

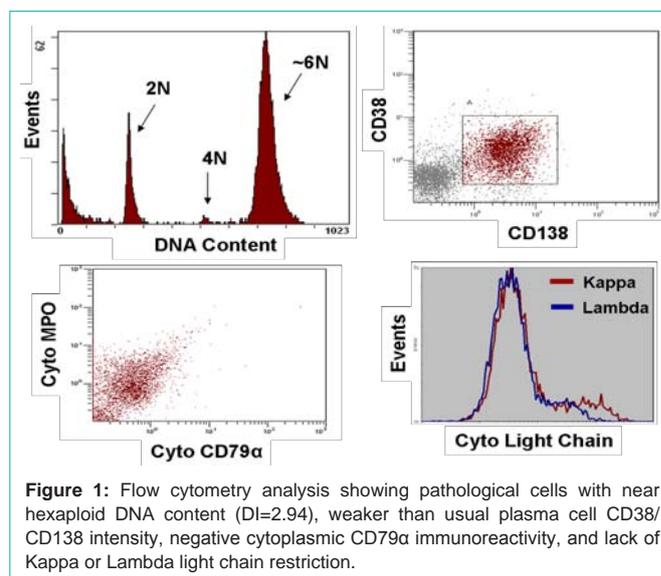


Figure 1: Flow cytometry analysis showing pathological cells with near hexaploid DNA content (DI=2.94), weaker than usual plasma cell CD38/CD138 intensity, negative cytoplasmic CD79 α immunoreactivity, and lack of Kappa or Lambda light chain restriction.

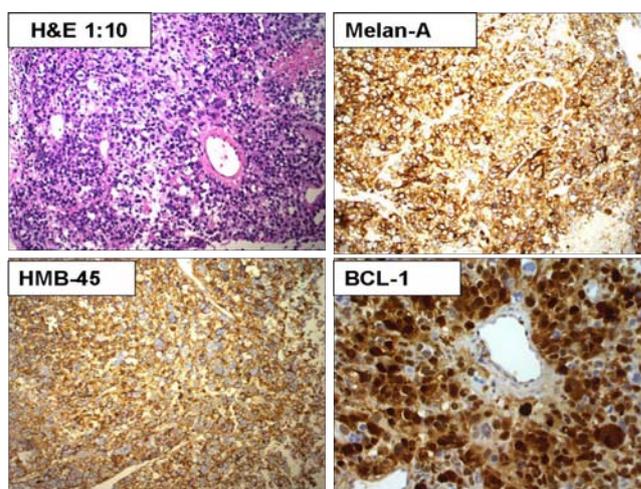


Figure 2: Immunohistochemical analysis showing immunoreactivity for melan-A, HMB-45, and BCL-1.