

Response to Article “Serum Levels of Galectin-9 are Increased in Cervical Cancer Patients and are Higher in Advanced Clinical Stages” [Letter]

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Dear editor

The study regarding galectin-9 as a biomarker for cervical cancer reported by Reyes-Vallejo et al, which was recently published, gives important information in this field.⁴ The concentration of galectin-9 from serum samples was measured accurately by ELISA method, while the dissected tissue collected was stained for visualizing the expression of galectin-9 in the tissue. However, the concentration detection of galectin-8, galectin-1, and galectin-3, the other three important galectin family proteins was not included.^{1,2} It could have been possibly performed in this study to support the final conclusion taken.

This particular study aimed to understand the correlation of the expression level of galectin-9 in tumor tissue and its concentration in the serum. The result explained that the galectin-9 serum concentration is not suitable to be used as an early diagnosis marker, since there was no significant difference in galectin-9 serum concentration in premalignant and control groups. In addition, serum galectin-9 concentration was not associated with galectin-9 expression in the tissue obtained from cervical cancer patients. However, a recent study by Beyer et al, concluded that the presence of galectin-9 could be a prognosis marker for cervical cancer.⁵ Contradicting this, a previous study reported that the expression of galectin-9 in the tumor cell represented a beneficial response toward the given therapies,³ which slightly delivered a similar message to this particular study by Reyes-Vallejo et al.⁴

Hopefully, there will be a clear finding regarding the expression or the concentration of galectin-9 together with other galectin family proteins which may play significant roles in cancer development and prognosis. Therefore, a question worth asking is if there is any correlation to human papillomavirus (HPV) infection affecting the expression of galectin-9 or other galectin family proteins in the cells?⁶ This could be proposed for further studies in this field.

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Disclosure

The authors report no conflicts of interest in this communication.

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