Conclusions: 1. A close follow-up policy enables detection the second breast cancer at an earlier stage than the primary one. 2. SBBC and MBBC seem to be different set of tumors in term of clinical characteristics and survival.

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IL-15 INHIBITS SPONTANEOUS APOPTOSIS OF CD4+ AND CD8+ PERIPHERAL BLOOD T LYMPHOCYTES FROM PATIENTS WITH MELANOMA

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CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes from the peripheral blood of melanoma patients are prone to undergo spontaneous apoptosis when compared with healthy individuals. The rapid lymphocyte turnover and the loss of CD4+ and CD8+ T cells may cause the weak antitumor response in cancer patients. Since CD4+ and CD8+ T cell mediated immune responses play an important role in controlling the antitumor response, enhancing the survival and function of these T cells may improve the disease outcome of melanoma patients. In our experiment, we tried to see the effect of interleukin 15 (IL-15) on the spontaneous apoptosis of peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) from patients with melanoma. The PBMCs obtained from 16 melanoma patients and 16 healthy controls were incubated overnight in medium with or without IL-15. The PBMCs were then stained for CD4+ or CD8+ cells and evaluated for apoptosis with the Annexin V binding method using a multicolor flow cytometry. The results showed that IL-15 inhibits spontaneous apoptosis in CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in both melanoma patients and healthy individuals. IL-15 significantly reduced 6.3% (mean±spontaneous apoptosis of CD8+ T-cells in melanoma patients from 26.8.7% (n=16, P± SD) to 19±3.4% (±0.005) and in healthy controls from 15.3.4% (n=16, P± <0.005). There was a similar result with CD4+ cells with 7.3%±6.7% to 17±IL-15 reducing the apoptosis in melanoma patients from 22% (n=16, P< 4.0% (n=16,± 4.1% to 9 ±.005) and in healthy controls form 12 P<.005). IL-15 may thus prove useful in a therapeutic immunostimulation strategy for melanoma patients.

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FAS+ CD4+ AND FAS+ CD8+ CELLS FROM THE PERIPHERAL BLOOD OF MELANOMA PATIENTS PREFERENTIALLY BIND ANNEXIN V

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Malignant melanoma is resistant, except for a small percent, to treatments such as radio and chemotherapy. On the other hand melanoma has been considered as the prototypical immunogenic tumor in which the immune system may have a role in the outcome of the disease. Immune cells from cancer patients respond poorly to mitogenic or antigenic stimuli. One reason for this is the rapid turnover of the T lymphocytes arising from the apoptosis of these cells. The induction of apoptosis in the activated T lymphocytes is considered as one of the ways the tumor cells avoid recognition and destruction. The Fas (APO-1, CD95)/FasL pathway is well know to induce apoptotic cell death in many cells. In this study the expression of Fas and its correlation with apoptosis on CD4+ and CD8+ T cells in PBMCs from melanoma patients was measured. Annexin V was used to measure apoptosis. For the present study, we obtained 5ml of venous blood from 16 pa-tients and 10 healthy controls. The lymphocytes were then isolated using the Ficoll-Hypaque gradient centrifugation. The lymphocytes were then incubated in medium for 24hrs and then stained with PerCP-labeled monoclonal antibodies of anti CD4 or anti CD8. They were then washed and stained...