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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Comment to: “Detection and molecular staging of bladder cancer using real time RT-PCR for gelatinases MMP-2, MMP-9 and TIMP-2 in peripheral blood”

Comentario a: «Detección y estadificación molecular del cáncer vesical mediante RT-PCR a tiempo real para gelatinasas (MMP-2, MMP-9) y TIMP-2 en sangre periférica»

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Degrading matrix metalloproteinases (MMP) are a family of proteolytic enzymes involved in tumor growth, in invasiveness and in the development of metastasis. In particular, high levels of MMP2 and MMP9 have been detected in the serum and urine of patients with a wide variety of malignancies, as well as in experimental animals, whose results have already been the subject of many recent publications.

The work by Angulo et al.¹ not only delves into the field, but also has the added benefit of being the first to analyze mRNA expression of MMP2 and MMP9 and TIMP2 inhibitor in peripheral blood of cancer patients bladder, and this has undoubted clinical implications. Although the test range falls a bit short for drawing firm conclusions, the study itself is impeccable, and opens a very interesting and accessible field to many laboratories.

The results of this study must be confirmed in future studies, preferably linking and comparing the expression of RNA and its protein in blood, urine and tumor tissue resected from a large group of well-selected patients. Perhaps this way the results targeted by Angulo et al.¹ will allow molecular biology techniques to become a real alternative to already existing techniques, both in the reliable and inexpensive diagnosis and monitoring of these patients.

References

1. Angulo J, Ferruelo A, Rodríguez-Barbero JM, Núñez C, Ramón de Fata F, González J. Detección y estadificación molecular del cáncer vesical mediante RT-PCR a tiempo real para gelatinasas (MMP-2 MMP-9) y TIMP-2 en sangre periférica. Actas Urol Esp. 2011;35:127-36.

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