February 2016 Newsletter: Hodgkin’s Lymphoma Markers

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Hodgkin’s lymphoma (HL) is characterized by the presence of Reed-Sternberg (RS) cells and Hodgkin’s cells. These cells are interdigitating reticular tumor cells of HL, and are abnormal B lymphocytes that are often multinucleated or multilobate. RS cells that are immunohistochemically positive for CD15 and CD30, and negative for CD45, can be used as a diagnostic aid for HL.

In one study, 70% of RS cell samples stained positively for CD30. CD15 staining was positive in 80% of samples [1]. However, inconsistency in CD15 and CD30 expression is reported in the literature [2].

Fascin, an actin-bundling protein, is a newer and more sensitive marker for RS cells. It has a high negative predictive value for diagnosis of classical HL [3], but is negative in L and H type HL and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

References:

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