Further Characterization of a Molecule Associated with Gut Mucosa T Cells and Enteropathy-Associated Gut T Cell Lymphomas

H.	Harald	Stein
R.	Roland	Schwartz
M.	Michael	Kruschwitz
G.	Gabriele	Fritzsche

Institut für Pathologie, Klinikum Steglitz, Berlin

Recently, a 170-kD molecule designated HML-1 was described that is selectively expressed on gut mucosa T cells and T cell lymphomas associated with a celiac disease syndrome. In an attempt to further characterize the HML-1 molecule, we found that this molecule is also expressed on some cutaneous T cell lymphomas and can be induced to appear on a sub-population of peripheral blood T cells. To obtain an unlimited source of this molecule, we generated several new, permanently growing cell lines expressing the HML-1 molecule at a high density. Using one of these cell lines as an immunogen, we succeeded in generating a hybridoma designated Ber-ACT8 reacting with a second epitope on the HML-1 molecule. Comparison of the mAb Ber-ACT8 with the original mAb HML-1 revealed that Ber-ACT8 has a specificity very similar to that of HML-1, with the exception that HML-1 stains activated macrophages much more strongly. This latter characteristic of the HML-1 antibody may have given rise to the erroneous report describing the presence of the HML-1 molecule not only on enteropathy-associated gut T cell lymphomas, but also on a significant proportion of lymph node T cell lymphomas.