Correspondence

Accepted: January 14, 1990

Acta Haematol 1990;83:214

About Leukocyte Alkaline Phosphatase in AIDS

J.		Grozdea ^a
A.		Brisson-Lougarre ^a
H.		Vergnes ^a
S.		Alie-Daram ^b
J.		Martin ^b
R.		Bierme ^a

^aInserm-CNRS, Service Universitaire d'Hématologie, ^bCRTS, CHU Purpan, Toulouse, France

J. Grozdea, Inserm-CNRS, Service Universitaire d'Hématologie, CHU Rangueil, F-31054 Toulouse Cedex (France)

We thank Dr. Sinasi Ozsoylu for his comments in a recent issue of this Journal [1]. We agree that the peripheral blood granulocytes and the NAP level are increased in women with normal pregnancy. Our data on NAP, using biochemical, cytochemical, and immunological techniques have confirmed the expression of a new iso-NAP as well as the early placental form in normal gestation described by Sakiyama et al. [3]. However, the record of HIV1 infection in the case reported was quite different: between 16 and 33 weeks in several instances, we observed a marked decrease in NAP activity (14-115 vs. 100-215 normal range), a drop of thermostable residual enzyme activity (56°C/10 min or 1.5 min/microwave: 0-37 vs. 15-105) and a different inhibition profile with amino-acids and EDTA, using cytochemical or biochemical techniques. One week after delivery, the AIDS patient showed a cytochemical NAP score of 21 with null thermostability. These physicochemical parameters suggest a biochemical defect of NAP in AIDS.

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