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Mucin histochemistry in tumours of colon, ovaries and lungs

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Abstract

Introduction: Mucins implicated in cancers of various organs. The apical epithelial surfaces of mammalianrespiratory, gastrointestinal, and reproductive tracts are coated by mucus, a mixture of water, ions, glycoproteins, proteins, and lipids. The purpose of this study was to confirm the presence of mucin production using Haematoxylin and Eosin (H&E) stain as the gold standard and to describe the types of mucins produced in tumors of lung, colon and ovaries using various types of histochemical techniques.

Methods: The resection specimens and biopsies from tumours of colon (n=16), ovaries (n=13) and lung (n=5)were included and stained with H&E to determin the histological diagnosis for selecting tissues with mucin production. Slides were stained with PAS, Alcian blue, High iron diamine-Alcian blue, Meyer's mucicarmine and Alcian blue-PAS to demonstrate the mucin production and to identify types of mucins.

Results: In the present study we observed predominance of acid mucins over neutral mucins. In addition inthese cases we observed sulphomucin predominating over sialomucin.

Conclusion: Mucinhistochemistry can effectively determine the types of mucins.