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### OVEREXPRESSION OF P53 PROTEIN IN MALIGNANT BREAST TUMORS: AN IMMUNOHISTOCHEMICAL STUDY

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#### Abstract:

The P53 protein is expressed in all normal cells and appears to function in cell cycle regulation. Abnormally high levels of the protein are found in many different types of cancer. In breast cancer, overexpression of P53 is associated with point mutations within highly conserved regions of the P53 gene. These altered genes encode stable P53 protein that can be detected by standard immunohistochemical techniques.

In this study, we examined 47 cases of primary breast carcinoma for the presence of P53 protein using immunohistochemistry methods employing monoclonal antibody against the clone, DO-7. Of these specimens, 25.5% had widespread overexpression of P53. A significant positive correlation was found between P53 overexpression and younger age ( $P < 0.05$ ). There was a tendency for P53 overexpression in premenopausal women and the higher tumor grades, although these did not achieve significance. The P53 overexpression was not correlated with tumor size, tumor type, nodal status and side of involved breast. The overexpression of P53 may itself be a prognostic factor in human breast cancer.

#### Keywords:

overexpression

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