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**A new monoclonal antibody radiopharmaceutical for radioimmunoscintigraphy of breast cancer: direct labeling of antibody and its quality control**

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### Abstract:

Radioimmunoscintigraphy (RIS) has found widespread clinical application in tumor diagnosis. The antibody (Ab) PR81 is a new murine anti-MUC1 monoclonal antibody (MAb) against human breast carcinoma. In this study a very simple, rapid and efficient method for labeling of this MAb with  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ , particularly suitable for development of a 'kit' is described. The reduction of Ab was performed with 2-mercaptoethanol (2-ME) at a molar ratio of 2000:1 (2-ME:MAb) and the reduced Ab was labeled with  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$  via methylene diphosphonate (MDP) as a transchelator. The labeling efficiency which was determined by instant thin layer chromatography (ITLC) was  $94.2\% \pm 2.3$ . Radiocolloids measured by cellulose nitrate electrophoresis were  $2.5\% \pm 1.7$ . In vitro stability of the labeled product in human serum which was measured by gel filtration chromatography (FPLC) was  $70\% \pm 5.7$  over 24 hr. The integrity of labeled MAb was checked by means of SDS-PAGE and no significant fragmentation was observed. The results of the cell-binding studies showed that both labeled and unlabeled PR81 were able to compete for binding to MCF 7 cells. Biodistribution studies were performed in normal BALB/c mice at 4 and 24 hrs post-injection and no important accumulation was observed in vital organs. These results show that the new radiopharmaceutical may be considered as a promising candidate for imaging of breast cancer.

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