

Immunological evaluation of patients with invasive carcinoma of the gallbladder

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Forty-three patients with invasive adenocarcinoma of the gallbladder were postoperatively studied in order to determine their general immunological status as well as the local immunohistological reaction to the tumor. At the end of the follow-up, they formed two groups: 19 living patients (group GL) and 24 dead patients (group GD). As a control group (GC), 21 patients with cholecistectomy for cholelithiasis and without carcinoma were simultaneously evaluated. In GL, most of the tumors were limited to the gallbladder wall, and in GD, most of the tumors were already disseminated at the time of diagnosis. GD presented a lower percentage of peripheral blood B lymphocytes, as compared to GL and GC cases. Skin tests of delayed hypersensitivity were significantly more reactive in GL cases than in GD cases, and less reactive in GD than in GC cases. The immunohistological evaluation of the gallbladder yielded a lower B lymphocyte infiltration in GD tumors than in the control cases. GL cases sho