

# Chromogranin A expression in human colonic adenocarcinoma

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## SUMMARY

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The presence of CgA positive cells occurring in scattered elements or in clusters within human colonic adenocarcinomas has been documented in recent data. The number of these cases has ranged from 10% to 40% depending on the method of demonstration. The aim of this study is to assess the presence of CgA positive cells on a set of 60 tumours that, by standard histological procedures, were classified as well differentiated (n.5), moderately differentiated (n.48) and poorly differentiated (n.7) adenocarcinoma. 4-5  $\mu\text{m}$  thick sections were processed by means of immunoperoxidase method using the primary CgA monoclonal antibody. Our results showed CgA positive cells in two cases of poorly differentiated and three cases of moderately differentiated adenocarcinoma. These specimens (8% of cases) showed diffuse, irregular areas of CgA immunoreactive cells as components of the neoplasm. These cases could be considered as "mixed exocrine and neuroendocrine carcinoma" that develops from the same stem cell which differentiates into two atypical cell lines. Therefore, we suggest that to carry out a proper adenocarcinoma histological examination, and to establish a consequent therapy, not only common staining techniques but also immunohistochemical methods should be used.