

POSITIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN HLA B 27 AND LARYNX CANCER.
Jean-Marie Deneufbourg and Claire Bouillenne - Radiotherapy Department and Blood Transfusion Center - University of Liege - Belgium.

HLA determinations were made at the time of diagnosis among a lot of 192 larynx cancers by Kissemeier-Nielsen's microlymphocytotoxicity technique. 12 antigens were searched at the first locus and 17 at the second locus. The control population consisted of 1613 healthy blood donors matched for sex and age and comparable for race and habitat. Frequencies of antigens were tabulated and the relative risks(x) were calculated. Statistical interpretation of divergences took into account specific corrections (Svegaard et alii. Tissue Antigens 4 : 95-105, 1974).

An increased frequency of B 27 is present in the group of glottic carcinomas as compared to the controls : 15% versus 6% (P corrected < 0.05) with $x=2.78$ ($P < 0.01$). No significant association was found between HLA and supraglottic tumour incidence.

In a prospective study, the cancer population was followed after treatment and variations of HLA specificities searched for. In the glottic carcinomas group, the frequency of B 27 is 18% among 3 years survivors and 23% among 5 years survivors ($x=1.66$). Other discrepancies were observed in supraglottic cancers but seemed less suggestive : 8% of B 5 in long term survivors versus 18% in patients at risk, 36% of B 7 in long term survivors versus 23% in patients at risk.

The present results indicate that the presence of HLA B 27 is linked to a three fold incidence of vocal cords cancer. This antigen might besides bear a meaning of favourable prognosis. Our previous findings (Bull.Cancer 67:531-539, 1980) are consequently confirmed on a larger scale.