

## IMMUNOHISTOCHEMISTRY AND LECTIN HISTOCHEMISTRY OF FEMALE BREAST CANCER: A CELL PHENOTYPIC INVESTIGATION

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*BRCA1* associated cancers are poorly differentiated. Infiltrating ductal carcinomas (IDC) carrying *BRCA1* mutations present higher mitotic counts and pleomorphism and less tubule formation than sporadic tumours. The incidence of IDC is high in the poor population. In the State of Pernambuco, Northeast Brazil, data are incomplete regarding the familial or sporadic occurrence of this tumour. This work aims to correlate the vimentin and Con A staining of IDC in *BRCA1* germline mutation in familial breast cancers. Results indicated that 11 cases (44%) out of 25 IDC tumours were positive for vimentin and 21 cases (84%) out of 25 were Con A positive. Eight cases (72,7%) out of 11 vimentin positive IDC presented an moderate Con A staining, 9 cases (64,3%) out of 14 vimentin negative tumours presented intense staining for lectin histochemistry with Con A and 4 cases (28,57%) out of 14 vimentin negative IDCs presented an moderate Con A staining. IDC tumours that expressed the best results for Con A were those negative for vimentin. Results indicate an overlay pattern of staining among IDC tumours when immunohistochemistry and lectin histochemistry are used together to differentiate *BRCA1* germline mutation carriers tumours in familial breast cancers.

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