

## **CD26 ACTIVITY IN PLASMA OF PATIENTS WITH ACUTE LEUKEMIAS**

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CD26/dipeptidyl peptidase IV (DPPIV) is a surface glycoprotein found in soluble form in biological fluids with many functional properties that is expressed on a variety of tissues and also in T-cells and B-cells. It has intrinsic dipeptidyl aminopeptidase activity, which cleaves NH<sub>2</sub>-terminal dipeptides from polypeptides when proline is the penultimate amino acid of the sequence. Changes in the expression and enzymatic activity of CD26 had been observed in innumerable types of human cancers. These deregulations may contribute to cancer development on the level of the transformed cell or as an immunomodulator. Our objective was to determine the specific activity of soluble CD26 in the plasma of 53 patients with acute leukemias (B-Cell Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, T-Cell Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia, Acute Myelogenous Leukemia) and to compare it with the activity of CD26 in 20 samples of normal and non-leukemic individuals. The patients had presented an alteration in specific activity of soluble CD26 in relation to normal control. Because of the small number of samples in some groups, this alteration couldn't statistically be confirmed. However, patients with ALL-B in relation to normal control present  $p = 0.05$ , showing a statistically significant difference between them. As the ALL-B group has the higher  $n$ , if we increase the number of samples in the other groups we can probably get statistically significant  $p$ -values.