

Plasmacytic Lesions of the Bone Marrow

Bong Hak Hyun

Ajou University Hospital, Suwon, Korea

Abstract

Although the first cases of the plasma cell lesions were described in the 19th century, it was Wright who in 1900 suggested that the neoplastic myeloma cells morphologically resembled variants of plasma cells. Later it was discovered that these malignant cells produced monoclonal immunoglobulins, an important marker for the diagnosis and follow-up of patients afflicted with the disease. The usefulness of bone marrow examination was recognized in the late 1930s and is today regarded as the most important factor in the definitive diagnosis of myeloma and related disorders, namely macroglobulinemia, monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance, and reactive plasmacytosis of the bone marrow. Differential diagnosis of the above mentioned disorders proven to be the B cell diseases will be the main focus of this presentation and their morphological variations will be emphasized. The usefulness of immunostaining of bone marrow aspirate sections as well as biopsy will also be highlighted.
