Anticytokeratin CAM 5.2 Does not Correspond to Antibodies CK 8/18

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To the Editors

Anti-cytokeratin CAM 5.2 is sourced by Becton Dickinson (BD) Biosciences (Franklin Lakes, NJ, USA) and is derived from mouse immunoglobulin G2a, clone CAM 5.2. According to the company's data sheet, this clone reacts with cytokeratin (CK) 7 and CK 8, respectively. Both peptides are found in most epithelial cells, with the exception of stratified squamous epithelium [1].

On the other hand, many manufacturers supplied the CK 8/18 monoclonal antibody, which were named as clone 5D3 by Leica Microsystems, Abcam, Imgenex, Novus Biologicals, GeneTex, Thermo Scientific Pierce, Lab Vision, clone B22.1 & B23.1 by Cell Marque, GenWay, MyBiosciences, Novus Biologicals, Santa Cruz, clone SP141 by Abcam, Santa Cruz and clone Zym5.2 (UCD/PR-10.11) by Invitrogen, etc. All of these clones reacted against CK 8 and CK 18 [2].

Occasionally, anti-cytokeratin CAM 5.2 has been mistakenly believed to recognize CK 8 and CK 18 in both the clinical pathologic communities and anatomic pathologic societies, since previous results by Makin et al. [3] are attributed to breakdown products of CK 8, giving smaller molecular weight fractions on immunoblots. In addition, BD Biosciences (1977) revised the data sheet for anticytokeratin CAM5.2 to have a primary reactivity with CK 8 and, also, a weaker but distinct reactivity with CK 7. The data sheet also shows that there is no reactivity with CK 18 or other cytokeratins [1]. As a result, we clarify that CAM 5.2 is not identical to CK 8/18 and anticytokeratin CAM 5.2 reagent does not correspond to antibodies CK 8/18.

Conflict of interest The author declares no conflict of interests.

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