

Screening of toxoplasmosis in cancer patients: a concern.

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Abstract

Toxoplasmosis is an opportunistic infectious disease in immunocompromised patients, including cancer patients, whose detection is by molecular and serological methods. A total of 106 blood samples from patients with different types of cancer were evaluated for anti- *Toxoplasma gondii* IgG and IgM antibodies by the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and the parasite DNA by nested polymerase chain reaction (PCR). These were detected in 41.51% (44/106) and 0.94% (1/106), respectively, but *T. gondii* IgM antibody was not detected at all. These results suggest that the screening of toxoplasmosis should be considered more routinely in cancer patients.

KEYWORDS:

ELISA; PCR; *Toxoplasma gondii*; cancer; molecular detection; serology