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Relationships between ABO Blood Groups and various Cancers

A Short Study

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ABSTRACT:

Cancer is a unique disease characterized by abnormal growth of cells which have the ability to invade the adjacent tissues and sometimes even distant organs. The ABO blood group system was the first genetic polymorphism discovered in humans and is controlled by a single gene at the ABO locus at 9q34 region of the chromosome which encodes a glycosyltransferase enzyme that adds a sugar residue to a carbohydrate structure known as the H antigen. Genetic alteration of this region is common in many cancers.

Aim: To evaluate the relation between ABO blood groups with an increased risk of various types of cancers.

Materials and methods: The present study was conducted in Good Samaritan cancer hospital, Eluru, W.G. The study sample comprised of 25 controls and 87 cancer patients of various types. Demographic data, ABO blood type and pathological status of cancer patients were collected. ABO blood grouping was performed by the haemagglutination method in all the cancer patients.

Results: When all cancers were taken together, the highest frequency of blood group B, followed blood group A, O and AB was seen in cancer patients. In control samples, there was high frequency of blood group O, followed by B, A and AB.

Conclusion: From this correlation of blood groups and various cancers, it follows that there is an inherited element in the susceptibility or protection against different types of cancers; and the racial and ethnic distribution of blood groups is an important factor for predicting the cancer risk.

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