Dear editor, we read the publication on “Investigation of MDM2 Oncogene Copy Number Alterations in Cases of Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (CLL)” with a great interest [1]. Darbaş et al. mentioned that “In previous studies, MDM2 overexpression was examined at mRNA and protein level, but amplification of the MDM2 gene at DNA level in CLL patients has been examined for the first time in our study [1].” Indeed, MDM2 overexpression is an important pathological phenomenon seen in CLL [2]. The investigation for MDM2 overexpression can be useful for diagnostic and therapeutic management of the patient. Nevertheless, we would like to bring attention that the present report by Darbaş et al. is not the first report studying amplification of the MDM2 gene at DNA level in CLL patients. At least, the previous report by Watanabe already investigated this issue although the result was negative [3].

References

Reply to the Authors

Dear editor,

We would like to thank the authors for showing interest in our letter which is titled MDM2 Oncogene Copy Number Alterations in Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia[1]. The authors have shown previously published two articles related to overexpression of MDM2 in CLL patients. One of them was written by Watanabe et al; they performed Southern blot analysis to examine whether MDM2 was amplified in 23 B-CLL specimens, and found that none of the patients showed amplification [2]. In the other study Bixby D. et al reported that they had found three copies of MDM2 gene in 37 of 178 CLL patients using 50K SNP-array technology[3]. After screening the literature in detail, we have found two more studies. Bueso-Ramos et al. reported 5 CLL patients not showing amplification using Southern blot method [4] and Huang et al. reported 4 of 11 patients with CLL showing amplification of the MDM2 gene using Southern blot technique[5]. Considering these four studies, amplification of the MDM2 gene at DNA level in CLL patients had been examined by Southern blot and array techniques but only we have used FISH technique in our study to demonstrate the MDM2 amplification in CLL patients.


