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The Epstein Barr virus is there a cofactor for the development of mammary carcinomas: Implication of virus genome in cancer and quantification of viral load in algerian frozen tissue of breast cancer

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Nearly all persons are infected with Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) and remain infected all their life. While almost all EBV infections are benign a small percentage of infected persons, develop certain cancers. EBV is associated with 100% of the undifferentiated NPC (nasopharyngeal carcinoma). This type of cancer is increasing in Algeria (endemic area of EBV) and that other forms of cancer are supposed to be linked to EBV in this region. Recent studies suggest a link between EBV and breast cancer which can provide new knowledge and help to identify women at risk, using the virus as a tumor marker. However the association of EBV with breast cancer remains controversial. In this study, an investigation on the presence of EBV by quantifying viral load in frozen biopsies breast tumors among women in western Algeria, by real-time PCR (Q-PCR). A study on the presence of EBV and the quantification of the viral load in breast tumors (frozen biopsies) from western Algerian has been made by using quantitative real time PCR (Q-PCR). These results show that the EBV genome was detected in approximately 78% of tumor samples and in different DNAs extracted in several pieces within the same tumor; however the number of copies of EBV remains low. The viral load was found to be highly variable from one tumor to another and within the same tumor and DNA extracted from the same sample was positive in one case and negative in others. EBV genome is heterogeneously distributed in the tumor and with a threshold of low positivity and negative results could be due either to its poor storage of samples or to the heterogeneity of cancerous tissues or even at the limit of sensitivity of the technique used.