



Sudan University of Sciences and Technology
College of Graduate Studies



**Immunohistochemical Detection of Ki67 Expression in
Endometrial Cancer among Sudanese women**

الكشف الكيمائي النسيجي المناعي لإفراز (ki67) في سرطان بطانة الرحم لدى النساء السودانيات

A Dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfillment for the Requirements of M.Sc.
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الاية

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

قال الله تعالى:

(يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجَالِسِ فَافْسَحُوا
يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا مِنْكُمْ
وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ))(11)

صدق الله
العظيم

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Dedication

This work is dedicated to my family and my friends they mean the world to me. Thank you for your support all along the way

Thank you

Acknowledgement

First of all I have to thank Allah, the most gracious who gave me an amazing opportunity to life and who helped me in bringing this work to light.

I would like to express my gratitude and greatest indebtedness to.

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Thank you all

Abstract

Endometrial carcinoma is one of the commonest gynecological malignancies. Ki67 is a typical immunohistochemical marker for cell proliferation. Ki67 monoclonal antibody is a promising tool for determining cell proliferation on routine histologic material it is increasingly popular due to its minimal tissue requirements and suitability to routinely fixed tissues.

This descriptive, retrospective hospital based study aimed to detect the expression of Ki67 in endometrial cancer, it was conducted in Omdurman Maternity Hospital during the period from January 2021 to May 2021

Fifty formalin fixed paraffin embedded tissue blocks were selected, then applied to immunohistochemistry technique

The Fifty women age ranged between 21 years to 76 years, the mean age was 48.5 years old, result of immunohistochemistry showed that; Ki67 expression as follow 29 (58%) female were less than 38% considered as negative result and 21 (42%) were more than 38% considered as positive result, expression of more than 38% were distributed not detected in grade I, 3(6%) cases seen in grade II and 18(36%) cases seen in grade III, with significant relation between the expression of ki67 and cancer grade (p.value :0.000)

The study concludes that there is a significant correlation between Ki67 expression and cancer grade.

المستخلص

سرطان بطانة الرحم من أهم وأكثر الأورام النسائية انتشارا. بروتين ki67 هو علامة كيميائية مناعية نموذجية لتكاثر الخلايا. فهي تعد ذات تطبيق واسع من حيث استخدامها لجزء بسيط من الأنسجة وملائمتها للانسجة الثابتة بشكل روتيني .

اجريت هذه الدراسة الوصفية التراجعية المستشفوية في مستشفى الولادة امدرمان خلال الفترة من يناير الى مايو 2021,هدفت هذه الدراسة لتحديد افراز ki67 في سرطان بطانه الرحم.

تضمنت الدراسة 50 قالب شمعي محتوي علي نسيج رحمي وبعد ذلك تم فحصه بواسطة طريقة المناعة النسيجية الكيميائية.

تراوحت اعمار المرضى من 21 سنة الى 76 سنة بمتوسط عمر 48.5. أظهرت نتيجة الكيمياء المناعية أن: تعبير Ki67 على النحو التالي 29 (58%) من العينات أقل من 38% واعتبرت نتيجة سلبية بينما 21 (42%) من العينات كان أكثر من 38% وتعتبر نتيجة إيجابية وكان توزيع نتيجة العينات الايجابية وفق درجة الورم على النحو التالي لم تسجل اى حالة في الدرجة الاولي و3(6%) حالات وجدت في الدرجة الثانية و18(36%) حالة وجدت في الدرجة الثالثة، مع وجود علاقة ذات دلالة احصائية بين افراز ki67 ودرجة الورم (القيمة الإحتمالية 0.000).

خلصت الدراسة لوجود علاقة ذات دلالة إحصائية بين إفراز ki67 ودرجة الورم لسرطان بطانة الرحم.

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List of abbreviations

CAH: Complex Atypical Hyperplasia

CH: Complex Hyperplasia

D&C:Dilatation and curettage

DNA: Deoxyribo Nucleic Acid

E2: Estrogen 2

EC: Endometrial Carcinoma

EEC: Endometrialendometrioid carcinoma

ESC: Endometrial Serous Carcinoma

FIGO:International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

IHC: Immunohistochemistry

MIB-1:methylation-inhibited binding protein 1

NCI: National Cancer Institute

P53: Protein 53

SAH: Simple Atypical Hyperplasia

TMA: Tissue Microarray

WHO: World Health Organization

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Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Introduction

Endometrial cancer is the most common gynaecological tumor in developed countries, and its incidence is increasing. The most frequently occurring histological subtype is endometrioid adenocarcinoma. Patients are often diagnosed when the disease is still confined to the uterus (Morice, *etal*, 2016).

Endometrial cancer has increased 21% in incidence since 2008, and the death rate has increased more than 100% over the past two decades. Precursor lesions of complex hyperplasia with atypia are associated with an endometrial carcinoma in more than 40% of cases (Sorosky, 2011). The incidence of endometrial cancer varies widely throughout the world. The highest rates occur in North America and Europe, whereas rates in developing countries and Japan are four to five times lower. The incidence is also about twice as high in whites compared to blacks. However, the proportion of endometrial cancer related deaths is higher in blacks due to a relative increase in the incidence of high-risk endometrial carcinoma in the black population. The reason for this is not well understood but access to and quality of health care as well as genetics is considered possible factors (Ellenson, *etal*, 2011).

In the majority of cases, the neoplasm is histologically diagnosed as an endometrial carcinoma of endometrioid type (type I) and its stage at the time of diagnosis as type I according to the criteria of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO). The second major group of endometrial cancer is histologically classified as serous carcinoma (type II) (Amant, *etal*, 2009). clinically relevant

biomarkers for cancer diagnosis (Njoku, *etal*, 2019). Ki67 proliferative activity was significantly increased with a decrease of the histological grading and with the myometrial invasion of human endometrial cancer (Semczuk, *etal*, 2001).Ki67 is useful in distinguishing STUMP from cellular leiomyomas (Mittal, and Demopoulos, 2001). Ki67 monoclonal antibody is a promising tool for determining cell proliferation on routine histologic material; MIB-1 assays are increasingly popular because of their minimal tissue requirements and suitability to routinely fixed tissues (Spyratos, *etal*, 2002).

1.2 Rationale

Increase number of endometrial cancer are noted in last few years among population, but there is a few studies concerning the behavior and expression pattern of tumor markers, such as diagnostic markers that used for differentiation between benign and malignant. So our study will concentrate in the detection of Ki67 expression on endometrial tissue, which may help in distinguishing between different histopathological grading of endometrial tumor.

1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 General objective:

To detect expression of Ki67 in endometrial cancer among Sudanese women

1.3.2 Specific objectives:

1. To detect Ki67 in endometrial carcinoma using immunohistochemistry
2. To correlate between the Ki67 expression and histopathological grading of cancer

Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Anatomy of endometrium

The endometrium is a complex and dynamic tissue, even in the absence of pregnancy. It is composed of multiple cell types, including glandular and luminal epithelium, stroma, endothelium, and multiple immunocytes. Endometrium is unique among tissues in that it undergoes proliferation, neovascularization, differentiation, large changes in resident immunocyte number and type, apoptosis, tissue shedding, bleeding, and subsequent healing and regrowth as a normal physiological process. (Young, 2014).

2.2 Endometrial cancer epidemiology

Endometrial cancer is the commonest gynaecological cancer mostly affecting women in the post-menopausal age group. Rates vary worldwide and are highest in white women in Western populations (Purdie, and Green, 2001). Endometrial carcinoma (EC) is one of the major gynecological malignancies. It is a significant health problem in Sudan (Mohager, 2013).

2.3 Frequency of endometrium

The lifetime risk for developing this disease is approximately 2.8%. The peak ages of diagnosis are between ages 55 and 64 years (median 62 years). Though the risk for endometrial cancer is slightly lower in American black women than white women (24.8 versus 26.3 new cases/100,000 per year), the lethality of endometrial cancer in black women significantly exceeds the lethality of this disease in white women (8.1 versus 4.2 deaths/100,000 per year) (Casey, *etal*, 2018).

2.3.1 Obesity

.There are several mechanisms whereby obesity is hypothesized to increase endometrial cancer risk, including increased endogenous sex steroid hormones, insulin resistance, chronic inflammation and adipokines. (Manih&Azzo , 2021)

2.3.2 Estrogens and progestins

During the follicular phase of the menstrual cycle, when the ovaries produce E2but virtually no progesterone, epithelial tissue and stromal fibroblasts in the upper two-thirds of the endometrium(“functional “layer) proliferate (this is referred to Asthe “proliferativephase “of the endometrium). High proliferationrates continue until ovulation, when plasma E2 levels reach a nadir, and then decline rapidly during the luteal phaseof the menstrual cycle, because of the increase in levels of progesterone, which antagonizes the proliferative actions of E2. (Kaaks, *etal*, 2002)

2.3.3 Family history in endometrial carcinoma

Women with a first-degree family history of endometrial cancer or colorectal cancer have a higher risk of developing endometrial cancer than those without a family history (Win,*etal*, 2015).

2.4 Classification of endometrial carcinoma

The classification of endometrial carcinomas is based on pathological assessment of tumor cell type;

- Endometrioid
- Serous
- Carcinosarcoma

- Mixed
- Undifferentiated
- clear cell

they are associated with distinct molecular alterations. This current classification system for high-grade subtypes, in particular the distinction between high-grade endometrioid (EEC-3) and serous carcinomas (ESC), is limited in its reproducibility and prognostic abilities. (Murali, *etal*, 2014).

2.5 Diagnosis of endometrial carcinoma

2.5.1 Tissue microarray (TMA):

Tissue microarray has been developed as a method to evaluate numerous samples of tissue in a short period. Battifora (1986) first introduced the concept of putting together multiple pieces of tissue in a single block called a sausage block. (Kononen *et al* 1998) used this mechanism for examining several histological sections at one time by arraying them in paraffin block. Today's tissue microarrays use multiple tissues in a single paraffin block using a precise size and shape to prepare the recipient block (Bancroft & Gamble, 2008)

Tissue microarray are proven tool in clinical laboratory for histologic application for Immunohistochemistry standardization and optimization of novel antibodies by performing simultaneous assays on hundreds of clinical samples in sequential tissue microarray sections. TMA design includes multi-tissue/ multi-tumor screening arrays, tumor specific arrays and tumor progression arrays. TMAs offer a much needed validation tool and statistical power by arraying hundreds of clinical specimens that provide critical prognostic significance of newly identified biomarkers. (Hongbao & Young, 2014)

2.5.2 Ki67

The ihcDirect Ki67 Ab is a polyHRP conjugated antibody. Ki67 is a nuclear protein expressed in all proliferating cells and is a widely used biomarker to estimate the proportion of dividing cells to help grade human tumor cells. More specifically, Ki67 has often been used as a marker of proliferation for tumor cells of the breast and prostate. During the interphase of a cell cycle including the G1, S, G2, and M phases, but not the (G0) phase, Ki67 appears to help control heterochromatin organization.

It is increasingly popular due to its minimal tissue requirements and suitability to routinely fixed tissues (Liu, *etal*, 2020)

2.9 Management of endometrial carcinoma

Management of endometrial cancer consists of surgical staging with adjuvant therapy guided by risk factors, though some women cannot undergo surgery due to comorbidities (Gebhardt,*etal*, 2019).

2.10 Previous studies

In study done on Medical University, Chongqing, People's Republic of China The Ki67 was demonstrated to be a useful prognostic factor in patients with stages I–II endometrial cancer, and the Ki67 labeling index 38.0% was optimal cut-off value for predicting recurrence The multivariate Cox regression analysis demonstrated that the histotypes ($P=0.012$), myometrial invasion ($P=0.014$), cervical stromal invasion ($P=0.001$), Ki67 ($P=0.002$), estrogen receptor (ER) ($P=0.045$) and P53 ($P=0.032$) were significant prognostic predictors for recurrence of endometrial cancer. (Peng Jiang.*et al*, (2020))

Study done on Europe (2001) showed that Ki67 was positive in 19 out of 29 cases (65.5%) showed a positive correlation with the grading.(Cherchi,*etal*, 2001).

Study done on Poland (2001) showed that the mean Ki67Proliferation Index was 43.8%, with a median of 36.0%. A significant relationship was noted between Ki67expression and histological grading ($p=0.0004$) and myometrial invasion of cancer ($p=0.01$). Ki67Proliferation Index that was nearly twice as high as in those neoplasias that stained positively for retinoblastoma (70.33% and 42.14%, respectively; $p=0.09$; Mann-Whitney-*U* test).

Chapter Three

Materials and Methods

3.1 Study design:

This study was descriptive, retrospective hospital based study.

3.2 Study area

Tissue Samples were collected from female block inKhartoum state; the collected samples were processed and examined in Omdurman Maternity Hospital.

3.3 Study population:

Paraffin blocks prepared from patients with endometrial cancer of all age groups who undergo hysterectomy during the period between January- may in 2021, were enrolled in this study.

3.4 Sample size:

Fifty blocks were taken from 50 patients samples confirmed with endometrial cancer. Was carried out in Khartoum state.

3.5 Data collection tool:

The available demographic, data according to the laboratory guidelines, were obtained from patients records.

3.6 Methods:

3.6.1Microtomy:

Two slides each of one contain thirty tissue sections, were prepared using tissue microtome technology. One for Heamatoxylin and Eosin stain, one is to immunohistochemistry techniques. Other twenty slide section of 5µm in thickness hadbeen obtained from each formalin fixed paraffin wax embedded tissue using rotary microtome for H&E and IH.

3.6.2 Immunohistochemical techniques (Ki67):

The immunohistochemical procedure was done as follows: One section (3µm) from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tumors was cut and mounted onto salinized slides (Thermo). Following deparaffinization in xylene, slides were rehydrated through a graded series of alcohol and were placed in distilled water. Samples were heated for antigen retrieval for Ki67 using high PH (9) by water bath at 95°C for 40 min. After washing with PBS for 3 min endogenous peroxidase activity was blocked with 3% hydrogen peroxide and methanol for 10 min, and after washing with PBS for 3 min then slides were incubated with (100 µL) of (mouse monoclonal antibody (Clone and Ki67) against antigen for 30 min at room temperature in a moisture chamber. After washing with PBS for 3 min, binding of antibodies was detected by incubating for 20 min with secondary Abpolymer (HRP). Finally, the sections were washed in three changes of PBS, followed by adding 3,3'-diaminobenzidine tetrahydrochloride (DAB) as a chromogen to produce the characteristic brown stain for the visualization of the antibody/enzyme complex for up to 5 min. After washing with distilled water for 3 min slides were counterstained with haematoxylin (MAYER'S) for one min then washed in running tap water for several minutes 7-10 (bluing), then dehydrated and cleaned, mounted in DBX. Then examined under microscope.

3.7 Data analysis:

The data was analyzed using version 20.0 SPSS computer program. Frequencies, means and chi square test values were calculated.

The significant value ($p = 0.05$).

3.8 Ethical considerations:

Blocks were taken with permission from Omdurman Maternity Hospital administration.

Chapter four

Results

Fifty block tissue samples included in this study were diagnosed with endometrial carcinoma. The total of Ki67 estimation according to grade was found as follow; grade I seen in 15 (30%) female, grade II seen in 9 (18%) female and grade III seen in 26 (52%) female (Table “4-1”).

Result of Ki67 expression as follow 29 (58%) female were less 38% and 21 (42%) were more than 38% (Table “4-2”).

The result of Ki67 expression more than 38% (cutoff point) as follow zero(0%) cases seen in grade I, 3(6%) cases seen in grade II and 18(36%) cases seen in grade III. P.value was 0.00 which is statistically significant, that mean there is relation between endometrial carcinoma grading and Ki67 expression (Table “4-3”

Table (4-1) Distribution of endometrial cancer grade among study population

Cancer grade	Frequency(%)
Grade I	15(30%)
Grade II	9(18%)
Grade III	26(52%)
Total	50(100%)

Tale (4-2) The expression of Ki67 results among population

Ki67 result	Frequency(%)
less than 38%	29(58%)
38% or more	21(42%)
Total	50(100%)

38% cutoff point

Table (4-3): Relation between Ki67 results and cancer grade

Ki67 result	Cancer grade			P.value
	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	
less than 38%	15(30%)	6(12%)	8(16%)	0.00
38% or more	0(0%)	3(6%)	18(36%)	
Total	15(30%)	9(18%)	26(52%)	
	50(100%)			

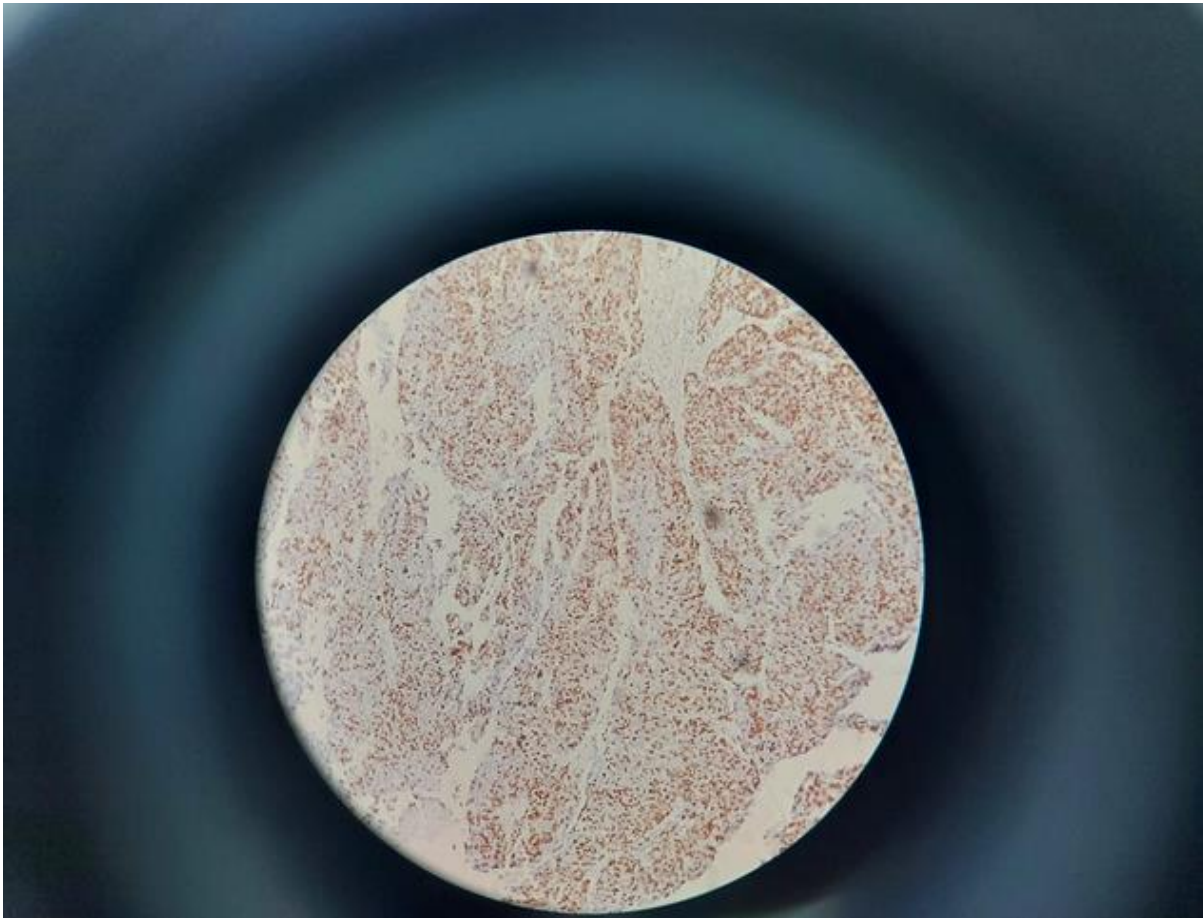


Photo 4-1: High expression of Ki67 in endometrial cancer x 10

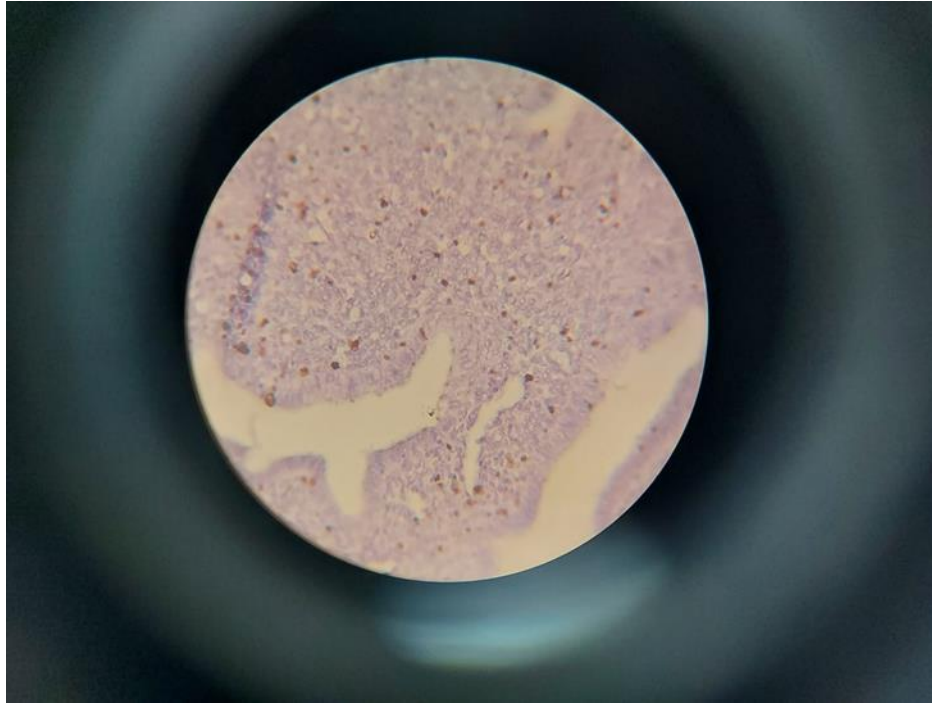


Photo 4-2: Low expression of Ki67 in endometrial cancer x 40

Chapter five

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Discussion

The present study identify the ki67expression and endometrial cancer grade as follow; grade I seen in 15 (30%) female, grade II seen in 9 (18%) female and grade III seen in 26 (52%) female thiswas agree with study done at Bangkok (2008) which showed that Ki-67 27 cases with (41.5%) having > 35% positive nuclearstainingand 38 cases (58.5%) had < 35% nuclear staining(Negative). (Suthipintawong, *etal*, 2008).

Also agree with study done on India (2017) which showed that Ki67 labeling index increased as the severity of lesion increased from EH to endometrial carcinoma (Masjeed,*etal* , 2017).

This study agree with study done in Egypt on (2020) which conclude that Ki-67 are significantly associated with poor tumor characteristics (Gharib,*etal*,2020)

This study agree with study done at Craiova university which conclude that a significant correlation with the degree of differentiation marker ($p<0.005$) and stage of lesion ($p<0.005$) (Stoian,*et al*, (2011)).

This study disagree with study done in Sudan by Ali at (2018) which showed that Ki67 antigen was detected in 30 cases (75%) which was not significant different was found. Also there was no statristical correlation of tumor grade with mraker expression (Ali, 2018). the difference was due to sample size included.

5.2 Conclusions

There is a significant relation between Ki67 expression and histological grade of endometrial carcinoma.

5.3 Recommendations

On the base of above result we recommended that :

- Ki67 should be used as marker for grading of endometrial tumors.
- Further study with large sample size is needed to give more accurate result.
- Other markers should be used to investigate the pathogenesis of endometrial carcinoma such as (PRB-CD10-K-ras).

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Appendix

1. Instrument and materials:

1.1 Instrument:

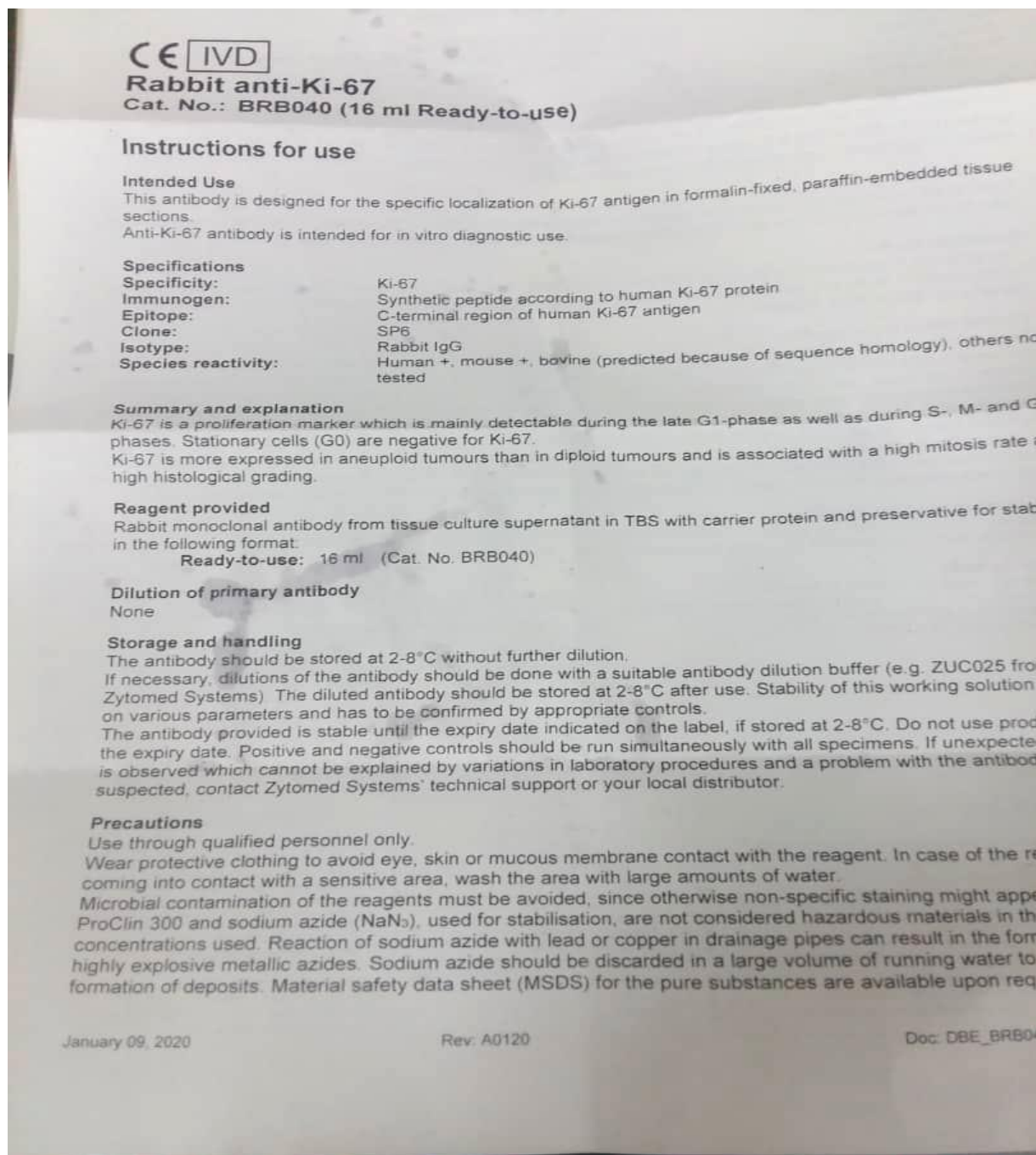
- Rotary microtome
- Oven
- Coplinjare
- Staining racks
- Stainless microtome blade
- Dako coated slides
- PT link
- Cover glass
- Water bath
- Dako pen
- Moisture chamber
- Work station
- Pipettors

1.2 Materials:

- Xylene
- Ethyle alcohol
- s haematoxylene'-Mayer
- Distilled water
- Citrate buffer
- Peroxidase blocker

Appendix ii

- Anti E cadherin antibodies (primary antibody)
- Dextran polymer conjugated secondary antibodies and HRP
- 3,3diaminobenzidinetetrahydrochloride in substrate buffer
- DPX mounting media



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Appendix IV

Staining procedure
Refer to the following table for conditions specifically recommended for this antibody. Also refer to detection system data sheets for guidance on specific staining protocols or other requirements.

<p>Parameters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Pre-treatment *Control tissue *Working dilution *Incubation time 	<p>Zytomed Systems recommendations Heat Induced Epitope Retrieval (for example in Citrate buffer pH 6.0 (ZUC028)) Tonsils, breast carcinoma, and spleen None 30 - 60 minutes</p>
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Quality control
The recommended positive control tissues for this antibody are tonsils, breast carcinoma or spleen. We recommend carrying out a positive and a negative control with every staining run. Please refer to the instructions of the detection system for guidance on general quality control procedures.

Troubleshooting
If you observe unusual staining or other deviations from the expected results please read these instructions carefully, refer to the instructions of the detection system for relevant information or contact your local distributor.

Expected results
The antibody stains positive in nuclei of proliferating cells in formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue. The interpretation of the results is solely the responsibility of the user. Any experimental result should be confirmed by a medically established diagnostic procedure.

Limitations of the Procedure
Immunohistochemistry is a complex technique involving both histological and immunological detection methods. Tissue processing and handling prior to immunostaining, for example variations in fixation and embedding or the inherent nature of the tissue can cause inconsistent results (Nadji and Morales, 1983). Endogenous peroxidase, alkaline phosphatase or biotin may cause non-specific staining depending on the detection system used. Tissues containing Hepatitis B Surface Antigen (HBsAg) may give false positive results with HRP (horse radish peroxidase) detection systems (Omata *et al.*, 1980). Inadequate counterstaining and mounting can influence the interpretation of the results. Zytomed Systems warrants that the product will meet all requirements described from its shipping date until the expiry date is reached, if the product is stored and utilised as recommended. No additional guarantees can be given. Under no circumstances shall Zytomed System be liable for any damages arising out of the use of the reagent provided.






Performance characteristics
Zytomed Systems has conducted studies to evaluate the performance of the antibody utilising a standard detection system. The product has been found to be sensitive and specific to the antigen of interest with minimal or no cross-reactivity.

Bibliography

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January 09, 2020 Rev. A0120 Doc: DBE_BRB040

Explanations of the symbols on the product label:

REF	Bestellnummer Catalog Number Reference du catalogue		Verwendbar bis Use By Utiliser jusque		Gebrauchsanweisung beachten Consult instructions for use Consulter les instructions d'utilisation
LOT	Chargenbezeichnung Batch Code Code du lot		Lagerungstemperatur Temperature Limitation Limites de température	RUO	Nur für Forschungszwecke For Research Use Only Pour la recherche uniquement
IVD	In vitro Diagnostikum In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device Dispositif médical de diagnostic in vitro		Achtung Warning Attention	 Hersteller / Manufacturer / Fabricant Zytomed Systems GmbH • Anhaltstraße 16 14163 Berlin, Germany • Tel: (+49) 30-804 984 990 www.zytomed-systems.com	

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