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Autoimmune hemolytic anemia in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia is associated with IgVH status

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Recent investigations in chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL) have correlated the mutational status of immunoglobulin heavy-chain variable-region (IgVH) gene to the development of secondary immune thrombocytopenia, the risk being higher for unmutated cases.^{1,2} A similar association between autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AHA) and IgVH gene status has not yet been defined. Therefore, whereas it is well known that the prevalence of autoimmune hemolytic anemia is highest in the more advanced stages of the disease,³ and may depend on the type of treatment administered,^{4,5} the impact of this autoimmune complication on the outcome of patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia remains controversial.⁴⁻⁷

To address this, we searched our database of 473 chronic lymphocytic leukemia patients consecutively referred to our Department from 1st January 2000 to 1st January 2009.

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