Circulating Levels of IgE in Patients with Cancer

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Circulating levels of IgE have been measured by solid phase radioimmunoassay (Phadebas IgE test, Pharmacia Ltd). The mean level in 30 healthy persons was 219u/ml. The mean level of IgE in patients with 96 bronchial asthma was 1371u/ml and 348u/ml in 96 patients with cancer. When bronchial asthma was classified into atopic, infectious and mixed type, the mean level of atopic patients during asthmatic attack was 2319u/ml and 1009u/ml during remission of attack. The mean value in patients with infectious and mixed type was 1228u/ml during attack and 585u/ml during remission. In untreated patients with cancer, the mean value was 644u/ml but in patients receiving radiotherapy or/and cytotoxic drugs, the mean value was 193u/ml.