
The Clinical usefulness of measuring plasma ferritin levels was studied using immunoradiometric assay kits supplied by Hoechst (Japan). A total of 418 samples were measured in 38 normal controls, 97 patients with benign diseases and 98 patients with malignant tumours. The results can be summarized as follows.

1. In normal controls, mean plasma ferritin level was 159.9 ng/ml in males and 51.4 ng/ml in females.
2. Plasma ferritin levels were elevated in 39% of 98 patients with malignant tumors as well as in some of benign diseases, especially in liver diseases. The elevation of the ferritin levels was in the same range.
3. Transit postoperative elevation of plasma ferritin levels was observed both in malignant and benign diseases, which is a disadvantage in the postoperative study of malignant tumors.
4. Elevation of plasma ferritin levels during the follow-up was significantly higher in patients with malignancies than in patients with benign diseases.

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