

CORRESPONDENCE

CEA and CA19-9 for detecting a previously undiagnosed cancer in patients with acute ischemic stroke

The recent report on “CEA and CA19-9 for detecting a previously undiagnosed cancer in patients with acute ischemic stroke” is very interesting.¹ Hiraga *et al.* concluded that “gastrointestinal cancer was frequent in ischemic stroke patients...among Japanese patients”, and “measurements of CEA and CA19-9 levels are easy and useful screening for the detection of occult malignancies”.¹ The important concern of this report is on the very few subjects. There is also limitation of CEA and CA19-9, with or without acute ischemic stroke, where high rate of false positive result can be seen when using the test for detection of cancers such as pancreatic cancer² and colon cancer.³ The laboratory technique used for determination of CEA and CA-19-9 is also crucial. Some techniques pose interference and can lead to the incorrect diagnosis.⁴ The technique using human anti-mouse antibodies appear to be superior.⁴

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