

The Micronucleus Test in Uterine Epithelial Cells of Cervix Cancer Patients

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ABSTRACT The present work was undertaken for the detection of micronuclei in uterine smears of cervix cancer patients. Uterine smears from 25 cervix cancer patients and from 25 women with other gynaecological complications but not cervix cancer were processed for the micronucleus test. The data obtained were analysed by the Student's t-test. Micronucleated cells were recorded in 84% of the patients and in 24% of control individuals. Percent frequency of micronucleated cells was also elevated in different stage-types, in high parity group, in those with earlier marriages, in older patients and in those belonging to the lower economic status. The micronucleus test on uterine smears proved to be an economical, rapid and simple method to estimate genetic damage in cervix cancer patients. After validation, it may find application in routine mass screening programmes for cervix cancer.

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