

## Letter to the Editor

# The Pattern of Lactate Dehydrogenase Isoenzymes in Testicular Germ Cell Tumors Differs from That of the Liver

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CONSISTENT with the study of van'T Sant *et al.* [1], our investigations [2-5] indicate that serum lactate dehydrogenase (S-LDH) may be used as a tumor marker of testicular germ cell tumors. However, the LDH isoenzyme pattern of testicular germ cell tumors diverges maximally from that of the liver. The increased activity of LDH in testicular germ cell tumors is mainly due to anodal LDH isoenzymes, especially LDH-1 [3, 5-8], whereas LDH-5 dominates in the liver [5].

The LDH isoenzyme pattern in testicular germ cell tumors also diverges from that of mature germ cells of the testis due to an increased production of the B subunit of the anodal LDH isoenzymes and a suppression of the C subunit of LDH-X and other additional LDH isoenzymes [9]. These changes do not contradict the concept that the tumors develop from the germ cells as they may reflect biochemical alterations in the malignant transformation [10].

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