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MAM ANTIGENS - NEW EPITHELIAL MARKERS FOR IMMUNOHISTOLOGY

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Five monoclonal antibodies to the human milk fat globule membrane were applied in immunoperoxidase tests on paraffin sections from more than 200 human tumours and corresponding normal tissues. These antibodies are known to react with three different antigens, MAM-3, MAM-5 (lactoferrin) and MAM-6 (a glycoprotein of more than 400 kD). MAM-6 appeared as a new epithelial marker of remarkably widespread distribution (80% of normal epithelial tissues, more than 90% of epithelial tumours). Interestingly, in adenomas of the large intestine, the expression of MAM-6 is highly associated with severe dysplasia. MAM-3 and MAM-5 were of additional value in tissue differentiation, because of their more restricted, but well-known distribution pattern.
