

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

H. Ota · D.Y. Graham

Reply

We thank Dr. Barresi and his colleagues for their interest in our report. Dr. Barresi expresses the opinion that expression of Tn and T antigen in the gastric mucosa are localized only in the supranuclear region of the gastric surface mucus cells both in *H. pylori*-positive and in *H. pylori*-negative patients. We believe that this observation may be related in part to the fact that Dr. Barresi did not use antigen retrieval for immunostaining of Tn and T antigen [1]. We used antigen retrieval with a steamer, which enhanced the immunoreactivity of the antibodies, especially against Tn and T antigens. After the antigen retrieval, Tn and T antigens revealed diffuse cytoplasmic staining in the surface mucus cells in addition to their supranuclear localization. Similar diffuse cytoplasmic

staining of Tn and T antigens in the surface mucus cells was confirmed in gastric mucosa fixed in Carnoy's fixative, which is a suitable fixative for glycoproteins, without antigen retrieval (unpublished data). Thus, differences in staining methods are probably the explanation for the differences between our results and those of Barresi et al.

We agree with the suggestion that activity itself may act as a cofactor to explain changes in antral mucin-type carbohydrate antigen. In our report, we also suggested that the possibility of cytokine regulation of glycosyltransferases. Changes in glycosylation in gastric mucosa found in our report correlated with the degree of inflammation (unpublished data)

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References

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