

Reply to “Anti-cytokeratin CAM5.2 Recognized CK8 Mainly, but not CK18: Comment on ‘Early Assessment of Axillary Response with ^{18}F -FDG PET/CT During Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Stage II–III Breast Cancer: Implications for Surgical Management of the Axilla. *Ann Surg Oncol*. 2013;20(7):2227–35’”

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TO THE EDITORS:

We agree with Chao and Han that uncertainty exists about the cytokeratins recognized by the CAM5.2 antibody in immunohistochemistry.^{1,2} It has become clear from immunoblot experiments that CAM5.2 is specific for cytokeratin 8 and to a lesser extent for the closely related cytokeratin 7, but not for cytokeratin 18.^{3,4} Nevertheless, CAM5.2 is generally accepted to be suitable for detection of metastatic breast cancer in (sentinel) lymph nodes because almost all breast carcinomas also strongly express cytokeratin 7.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST None

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