

BUKTI KORESPONDENSI ARTIKEL JURNAL INTERNASIONAL BEREPUTASI

Judul Artikel : NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin Lymphoma

Nama Jurnal : Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention

Penulis : Krisna Murti*, Neti, Nyiyau Fauziah Kurniawati, Ika Kartika, Riana Sari Puspita
Rasyid, Zen Hafy

No	Perihal	Tanggal
1	Bukti Konfirmasi Submit Artikel	8 April 2021
2	Bukti Konfirmasi Review Artikel	14 Mei 2021
3	Bukti Konfirmasi Submit Hasil Revisi	21 Mei 2021
4.	Bukti Approval Hasil Revisi	21 Mei 2021
4	Bukti Pembayaran untuk Publikasi	21,23-25 Mei 2021
5	Bukti Accepted Publikasi Online	22-28 Juni 2021
6	Artikel Lengkap	

**Bukti Konfirmasi Submit
Artikel (8 April 2021)**



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Number assigned to your submission (#APJCP-2104-6764)

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com
Cc: apjcp.copy@gmail.com

Thu, Apr 8, 2021 at 8:58 PM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764

Manuscript Title: **NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma**

Authors: Krisna - Murti, Zen - Hafy, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid, Ika - Kartika, Neti - Neti, Nyiayu Fauziah Kurniawati

Dear **Dr. Krisna - Murti**

I would like to acknowledge receiving of your manuscript titled "**NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma**". Your manuscript will undergo the review process. You can learn about our review process by visiting [APJCP's peer review process page](#).

Please be sure that the submitted manuscript has not been published previously and will not be submitted elsewhere prior to our decision.

You will be informed of our editorial decision once your manuscript has been reviewed. You can always track your manuscript by login to the [APJCP site](#).

Important Notice: Any future communications (email) about this manuscript should be done through our editorial system. All emails will be answered in 3 to 5 days unless your desired action has been taken place or acted on (you can track the action in our editorial system).

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for sharing your work with us.

Regards,

Executive Managing Editor of Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention

**Bukti Konfirmasi Review
Artikel (14 Mei 2021)**



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Manuscript Needs Revision (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com

Fri, May 14, 2021 at 2:23 AM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764**Manuscript Title:** NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma**Authors:** Krisna - Murti, Zen - Hafy, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid, Ika - Kartika, Neti - Neti, Nyiyayu Fauziah Kurniawati**Dear Dr. Krisna - Murti**

Your manuscript has been reviewed and reviewers asked for minor changes. The comments of the reviewer(s) are included at the bottom of this letter **or** as an attached file(s) to this mail.

Please revise your manuscript accordingly and respond to the reviewer(s) comments in a separate file (a text, doc, or pdf file). In the Response to Reviewer File, provide details about the changes you made to the manuscript (refer to section and paragraph that you made changes).

After you make necessary changes please log in the journal's management system and follow the option "**manuscript needing revision**" and upload your **revised manuscript and the Response to Reviewer File**.

-- Many times, reviewers leave comments in the manuscript file. If the reviewer commented in the manuscript file (which is normally attached to this mail). You need to copy the reviewer's comments from the file and paste into your "response to reviewer" file and explain how you address the comments.

For timely and orderly processing of your manuscript, Please upload your files within **two weeks** from the date you receive this mail.

If you need more times please send a request, so that editorial staff can extend the time for you. Please send all the request and mail through our Journal Management System by login into your account.

Once again, thank you for submitting your manuscript to this journal, and we look forward to receiving your revision.

Truly yours,

Editorial Office of Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention

----- Important editorial Note-----

Extend your acknowledgment section to include a statement for the following items:

- 1) Funding statement
- 2) If it was approved by any scientific Body/ if it is part of an approved student thesis
- 3) Any conflict of interest
- 4) How the ethical issue was handled (name the ethical committee that approved the research)
- 5) Authors contribution

You must provide a statement for each item.

-- In your revision upload, provide the figures in PowerPoint Slides and tables as Excel file. In both PowerPoint and Excel file, make sure you included the title and footnote of figures and tables.

-- In your revision upload, provide tables as Excel file. In the Excel file, make sure you included the title and footnote of the tables.

-- APOCP published now three more journals that publish in the area of your research. The following articles were published in Asian Pacific Journal of cancer Biology which is related to your research, see if it can improve your literature review (a responsible citation is expected).

Hypoxia inducible factor-1 alpha (Hif-1 alpha) polymorphism in lymphoma and reactive lymphoid hyperplasia. YILMAZ, S., Yoruk, A., Zemheri, I., Kuskucu, A., Suakar, O., Imamova, N., & Canizci, P. (2019). Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Biology, 4(2), 35-40. <https://doi.org/10.31557/apjcb.2019.4.2.35-40>.

CD30 Expression and Its Correlation with Clinicopathologic Features in Indonesian Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma. Reynelda Santoso, M., Suci Hardianti, M., Indrawati, I., & Anggorowati, N. (2020). Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Biology, 5(3), 107-113. <https://doi.org/10.31557/apjcb.2020.5.3.107-113>.

C-MYC Protein Expression and High Ki-67 Proliferative Index are Predictives of Disease Relapse in Diffuse Large B Cell Lymphoma. El-Hussien, M., Mokhtar, N., & Khorshed, E. (2021). Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Biology, 6(1), 15-20. <https://doi.org/10.31557/apjcb.2021.6.1.15-20>.

Reviewers Recommendation:

Reviewer 1:

File Sent by Reviewer:

http://journal.waocp.org/jufile?__file=3QplkJT9PaiLy2z2z9On1sh2g5d4YYJ5w8iJ9bG7JQ59WI5T5iaoZ7tYOaxbFjq0jhXz8sTavsjcxbhxCc43U.RgoFLhPeEPSoM1Zolp42y0VkfzUOlGQFJLTPk3sE8B3qh..C7ILBwkd0HWBPiMif4VPY3MWTuv6NMpOxafD4-

Reviewer Comment For Author:

The author study showed that NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma.

1. In first page, the authors mentioned that the aims of this research are to evaluate the roles of NFATc1 in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma. However, in this study they examined the expressions and distribution of NFATc1, CD 163 and PD-L1 in RS-cell, inflammatory cells and macrophage. This may not directly related to the roles of NFATc1 in the tumor microenvironment. Please make the statement clearer.

In the result, the author mentioned that all of samples showed negative NFATc1 nuclear expression in Hodgkin cells

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=24976b312d&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f:1699672312291129402&simpl=msg-f:1699672312291129402> 2/3

neither in TAMs nor in small lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells. This statement also needs clarification. Still in the result the author mentioned "around 50% samplesand about 50% tumor cells and TAMs exhibited positive PD-L1 expression" . Please make a more precise percentage.

2. In Table 2, there is miscalculation of the CD-163 percentage (101%). Please check and make a correction.

3. In the last paragraph the author concluded the loss of NFATc1 in Hodgkin lymphoma and illustrated it in Fig.3. There are several cytokines which is not examined in this study is also depicted here. It is recommended that the illustration is made based on the research findings.

4. There are some minor typos and grammatical error. Language checking is necessary before publication.

**Bukti Konfirmasi Submit Hasil
Revisi (21 Mei 2021)**



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Acknowledgement of Revision (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com
Cc: apjcp.copy@gmail.com

Fri, May 21, 2021 at 10:10 AM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764 (R1)

Manuscript Title: **NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma**

Authors: Krisna - Murti, Zen - Hafy, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid, Ika - Kartika, Neti - Neti, Nyaiyu Fauziah Kurniawati

Date: 2021-04-08

Dear **Dr. Krisna - Murti**

Thank you for submitting the revised file of your manuscript to the **Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention**

The Editorial Office will proceed on your manuscript and inform you in the earliest time.

If there is anything else, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Truly yours,

Executive Managing Director of **Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention**

Response to reviewer.

The author study showed that NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma.

1. In first page (the objective of abstract and the aim of study in 7th paragraph of Introduction), the authors mentioned that the aims of this research are to evaluate the roles of NFATc1 in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma. However, in this study they examined the expressions and distribution of NFATc1, CD 163 and PD-L1 in RS-cell, inflammatory cells and macrophage.

This may not directly related to the roles of NFATc1 in the tumor microenvironment. Please make the statement clearer.

Author response:

Objective: The aims of this research are to evaluate the expression and distribution of NFATc1 in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma.

In the result (of abstract and first sentence of section of immunohistochemistry of the result), the author mentioned that all of samples showed negative NFATc1 nuclear expression in Hodgkin cells neither in TAMs nor in small lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells. This statement also needs clarification.

Author response:

Nuclear expression of NFATc1 was not observed in Hodgkin cells neither in TAM nor in small lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells in all samples, this meant that NFATc1 showed negative expression in almost all cells.

Still in the result (of abstract and second and last sentence of section of immunohistochemistry of the result), the author mentioned “around 50% samplesand about 50% tumor cells and TAMs exhibited positive PD-L1 expression” . Please make a more precise percentage.

Author response:

Meanwhile, 57.14% samples showed high density of TAMs CD163⁺, and 50% tumor cells as well as 50% TAMs exhibited positive PD-L1 expression.

2. In Table 2, there is miscalculation of the CD-163 percentage (101%). Please check and make a correction.

Author response: We made a correction

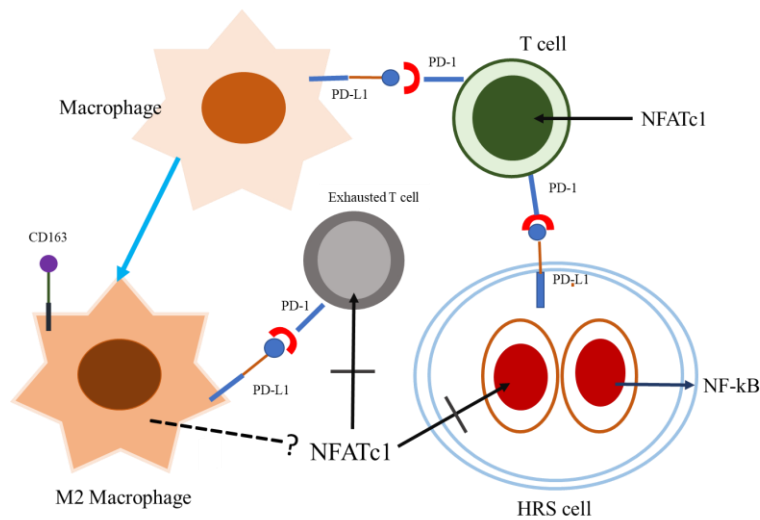
Table 2. The expression of NFATc1, CD163 and PD-L1

Antibodies	Lymphocytes		MΦ		Tumor cells	
	H	L	H	L	H	L
NFATc1	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
CD163	-	-	16 (57.14%)	12 (42.86%)	-	-
PD-L1	-	-	14 (50%)	14 (50%)	14 (50%)	14 (50%)

N = 28; MΦ = macrophages; H = high; L = low

3. In the last paragraph the author concluded the loss of NFATc1 in Hodgkin lymphoma and illustrated it in Figure.3. There are several cytokines which is not examined in this study is also depicted here. It is recommended that the illustration is made based on the research findings.

Author response: These cytokines were deleted from figure 3.



4. There are some minor typos and grammatical error. Language checking is necessary before publication.


Author response: Language checking has done.

**Bukti Approval Hasil Revisi
(21 Mei 2021)**

(360 belum dibaca) - krisna.arini x (6) Facebook x Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Pi x +

Not secure | journal.waocp.org/author?action=finish&manu_code=192749 ☆

Apps FK-Zoom AKSENTUASI (AN N... CARA WAQOF DI A... WAQOF BAG 1 - Yo... (382) MAD LAZIM... (382) MAD LAZIM... (432) Dimana saja B... (432) JazariFHQ ep...



ASIAN PACIFIC JOURNAL OF CANCER PREVENTION

Official publication of the Asian Pacific Organization for Cancer Prevention (APOCP)

Home Browse Journal Info Guide for Authors Submit Manuscript Reviewers Contact Us Krisna - Murti Logout

My Home / Author / Finish Submission

Manuscript Approval

Thank you for submitting the revised file of your manuscript. This will be proceeded in the Editorial progress and will let you know on due time.
Author Dashboard

Manuskrip HL K...docx Show all X

10:10 21/05/2021

**Bukti Pembayaran untuk
Publikasi (21,23-25 Mei 2021)**



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Payment Request for Manuscript (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com

Fri, May 21, 2021 at 1:34 PM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764 (R1)

Authors: Krisna - Murti, Zen - Hafy, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid, Ika - Kartika, Neti - Neti, Nyiayu Fauziah Kurniawati

Dear Dr. Krisna - Murti

The APJCP editorial team is glad to inform you that your manuscript titled "*NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma*" has been accepted for publication and will be scheduled for publication as soon as we receive the documentary for processing fee payment.

The processing fee is: **300 US Dollars**

Soon you will receive a PayPal invoice from our partner "EpiSmart Science Vector" by email. You can use your PayPal account or your credit card to pay the invoice.

In case you cannot pay by credit card or PayPal, Please let us know, we try to find you an alternative.

When you paid, you need to send us your payment documentary (the copy of the paid invoice/ or transfer slip) by logging into your account as the author at "journal.waocp.org". When you logged in click on "**Manuscripts Awaiting for Payment**" and upload and send your payment documentary.

Payment invoice will be issued upon receiving the payment, however, if you need an invoice before payment, please send us an email and let us know.

You will receive an official acceptance letter when we receive your payment.

Thank you and looking forward to receiving your payment.

Editorial Office,

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Invoice from EpiSmart (1644)

EpiSmart <service@paypal.com>
Reply-To: EpiSmart <sci.vector@gmail.com>
To: "krisna. arinafril@unsri. ac. id" <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Sun, May 23, 2021 at 1:25 AM

Hello, krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id



Here's your invoice

EpiSmart sent you an invoice for \$300.00 USD

Due date: June 1, 2021

[View and Pay Invoice](#)

Note from EpiSmart

You are paying for your manuscript processing fee (Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764) accepted for publication in the Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention. After you paid, you need to send us your payment documentary by logging into your account at "journal. waocp. org" as an author and click on " Manuscripts Awaiting for Payment " and upload and send your payment documentary. Thank you for publishing in APJCP.

5/9/23, 6:41 PM

Sriwijaya University Mail - Invoice from EpiSmart (1644)



[Help & Contact](#) | [Security](#) | [Apps](#)



PayPal is committed to preventing fraudulent emails. Emails from PayPal will always contain your full name. [Learn to identify phishing](#)

Please don't reply to this email. To get in touch with us, click [Help & Contact](#).

Not sure why you received this email? [Learn more](#)

Copyright © 1999-2021 PayPal, Inc. All rights reserved. PayPal is located at [2211 N. First St., San Jose, CA 95131](#).

PayPal RT000238:en_US(en-US):1.1.0:e75c6384cedbf

5/9/23, 6:38 PM

Sriwijaya University Mail - Manuscript Payment Receipt (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Manuscript Payment Receipt (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com

Tue, May 25, 2021 at 2:01 AM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764 (R1)

Manuscript Title: NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma

Authors: Krisna - Murti,Zen - Hafy,Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid,Ika - Kartika,Neti - Neti,Nyiayu Fauziah Kurniawati

Dear Dr. Krisna - Murti,

Thank you for your payment. Your payment is now confirmed. Your manuscript will be sent back to Executive director for further processing. You will receive a galley during the next 30 days.

Editorial Office,

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention

Payment Confirmed

**Bukti Accepted Publikasi
Online (22-28 Juni 2021)**



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Request for Submit/Confirm Galley Proof (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com

Tue, Jun 22, 2021 at 11:05 PM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764 (R1)

Manuscript Title: NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma

Authors: Krisna - Murti,Zen - Hafy,Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid,Ika - Kartika,Neti - Neti,Nyiayu Fauziah Kurniawati

Dear Dr. Krisna - Murti,

Your manuscript is in the final stage of publication. The galley proof, official acceptance letter and payment invoice for your manuscript are now ready for download. Please log into your account as the author at <http://journal.waocp.org/>. In author's page, you have to click on "Galley Proof (1)" and download the galley proof and other files.

The Galley proof is valid only until your paper is published online. It is for proof purposes only and may not be used by third parties.

Please read through the galley proof and let us know if any correction needs to be made. Use the PDF reader's annotation tools to mark the changes in the PDF file. You can [download the instruction on how to use PDF readers annotation tools from here](#).

The galley proof shows the paper as it will appear when it is published except the page numbers are not final. The page number will be final when the paper is officially published and registered in indexing databases.

Important: Please upload your evaluated Galley proof even though no changes or any marks included in the file. If you did not return the galley in **a week**, we consider that no changes are needed and consider the galley we sent as the final.

Thank you and looking forward to receiving your final proof.

Editorial office,

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention



Krisna Murti unsri <krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id>

Acceptance of Manuscript (#APJCP-2104-6764 (R1))

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention <journal@waocp.org>
To: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id, krisna_murtiza@yahoo.com

Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 5:56 PM

Manuscript ID: APJCP-2104-6764 (R1)

Manuscript Title: **NFATc1 is suppressed in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma**

Authors: Krisna - Murti, Zen - Hafy, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid, Ika - Kartika, Neti - Neti, Nyiyayu Fauziah Kurniawati

Dear **Dr. Krisna - Murti**

Thank you for your interest in publishing with Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention. Your manuscript (**APJCP - 2104-6764**) is scheduled to be published in **Volume 22, Issue 6, Year 2021**. This Issue will be uploaded into PubMed database around **30th June, 2021**.

Best and thank you for your patience.

Editorial office

Asian Pacific Journal of Cancer Prevention

NFATc1 is Suppressed in Tumor Microenvironment of Hodgkin Lymphoma

Krisna Murti^{1*}, Neti Neti¹, Nyiyau Fauziah Kurniawati¹, Ika Kartika¹, Riana Sari Puspita Rasyid², Zen Hafy²

Abstract

Objective: The aims of this research are to evaluate the expression and distribution of *NFATc1* in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma. **Methods:** Twenty-eight cases of Hodgkin lymphoma were selected. Clinicopathological data of age, gender, location and subtypes were obtained. Immunohistochemistry was performed to the all cases by using anti-CD163, anti-NFATc1 and anti-PD-L1 antibodies. All protein expression was calculated by using Image J software. **Results:** Nuclear expression of *NFATc1* was not observed in Hodgkin cells neither in TAM nor in small lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells in all the samples, this meant that *NFATc1* showed negative nuclear expression in almost all these cells. Cytoplasmic expression of *NFATc1* was observed in small lymphocytes surrounding tumor cells. While there were only few small lymphocytes which were located far from tumor cells showed nuclear expression of *NFATc1*. Meanwhile, 57.14% samples showed high density of TAMs CD163+, and 50% tumor cells as well as 50% TAMs exhibited positive *PD-L1* expression. In addition, all macrophages did not have *NFATc1* expression both in their nuclei and in their cytoplasm. **Conclusion:** *NFATc1* was suppressed both in Hodgkin cells and inflammatory cells surrounding the tumor cells. This condition may contribute to progressivity and aggressiveness of the diseases. Therefore, certain mechanisms to reactivate functional *NFATc1* in HL tumor microenvironment may be necessary; hence, the tumor cells are able to be eradicated by patient's immune mechanisms.

Keywords: Hodgkin lymphoma- tumor microenvironment- *NFATc1*- *CD163*- *PD-L1*

Asian Pac J Cancer Prev, **22** (6), 1943-1948

Introduction

From early development to tumor progression and then metastasis, tumor cells are counter acted by numerous types of tumor microenvironment (TME) elements i.e., stromal factors and immune cells. Therefore, beside the other factors, TME is also an essential component in determining tumor behavior and prognosis (Kim and Bae, 2016). Numerous markers and therapeutic strategies were developed based on TME context.

In 2018, Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) incidence of new cases were around 79,990 with number of deaths were circa 26,167 (Bray et al., 2018). The incidence of HL varies considerably by age, sex, ethnicity, geographic location and socioeconomic status, and its rates are higher among males and in developed countries, but lower in Asian population. Meanwhile, mortality rates were lower in underdeveloped and higher developing regions (Zhou et al., 2019; Salati et al., 2014). Indonesia ranks 25th in incidence of HL (Ferlay, 2013). Young population at ages 15 to 25 years are mostly affecting by HL with higher incidence (Bigenwald et al., 2017). Despite its relatively low incidence and its low lifetime risk, HL comprises

15% of all cancers in young adults with a high impact on quality of life (Salati et al., 2014).

HL is a curable disease; more than 90% cure rate for patients with early disease and in more than 70% patients with advanced disease (Shanbhag and Ambinder, 2018). The crucial point is to recognize high-risk patients who will relapse after initial therapy. Therefore, identifying these high risks patients by characterization of pathobiological and clinical prognostic factors then followed by designing properly novel treatment strategies with minimal treatment toxicities is demanding.

Morphologic characteristic of HL is heavily infiltrating inflammatory cells surrounding tumor cells as its tumor microenvironment (Calabretta et al., 2019). In classical HL (cHL) cells NF- κ B is constitutively activated (Weniger and Küppers, 2016), however the exact factors regulate its microenvironment is still unclear. Latest findings revealed that abundant component cellular and humoral generated by interaction of Hodgkin cells with their environment, which might contribute to the characteristic background inflammatory cells (Calabretta et al., 2019).

Macrophages are the other types of inflammatory cells observed heavily infiltrate the background of Hodgkin

¹Department of Anatomic Pathology Faculty of Medicine Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia. ²Department of Histology Faculty of Medicine Universitas Sriwijaya, Indonesia. *For Correspondence: krisna.arinafril@unsri.ac.id

cells. Unlike *PD-L1* expressed on tumor cells, *PD-L1* expressed on macrophages is able to protect macrophages from destruction by T cells (Singhal et al., 2019). In addition to this, other studies showed that *PD-L1* in macrophages inducing T cell anergy and M2 polarization (Lu et al., 2019).

Known as an essential transcription factor in many physiologic systems comprising immune cells (Vaeth and Feske, 2018), including in regulation of PD-1 activation (Oestreich et al., 2008), nuclear factor of activated T cell (*NFATc1*) has roles in tumor microenvironment (Li et al., 2018; Gholami et al., 2017). *NFATc1* may contribute to the molecular pathways entailed in tumor microenvironment of HL, which, then both promote to HL progression and worsen prognosis.

The aims of this research are to evaluate the expression and distribution of *NFATc1* in tumor microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma. Together our results may identify *NFATc1* as promising target for alternative novel marker of prognostic and or predictive factors of Hodgkin lymphoma.

Materials and Methods

Patient data

Initially, we collected 44 cases of Hodgkin lymphoma diagnosed based on the 2016 World Health Organization classification (Swerdlow et al., 2017) from January 2014 to November 2019 at Department of Anatomic Pathology, Faculty of Medicine University of Sriwijaya, Dr. Mohammad Hoesin Hospital, Palembang, Indonesia. After careful selection based on quality of fixation and processing which can be assessed by carefully examined the HE and IHC slides, 28 cases were obtained as samples. Clinicopathological parameters i.e., age, gender of patients, subtypes, and location of tumors were attained from patient's pathology records. Ethical committee approval from Faculty of Medicine University of Sriwijaya was also attained.

Immunohistochemical analysis

The paraffin blocks of selected HL cases were retrieved from the archives. Immunohistochemical staining was conducted using manual system according to standard immunohistochemical protocol of our lab. The analyses were validated using appropriate negative and positive controls by using several tissue blocks consisting of tonsil, appendix, melanoma and breast cancer tissues. After sectioning, the blocks were dried in a lab heating and drying followed by deparaffinization and rehydration. Then antigen retrieval was performed by treating the slides in a microwave in citrate buffer. After blocking step the tissues were incubated for 60 minutes with primary antibody *NFATc1* (clone 7A6, dilution 1:200, BD Pharmingen, Franklin Lakes, New Jersey), *CD163* (clone 10D6, rabbit, monoclonal, dilution 1:100, thermo fisher, USA) and *PD-L1* (clone SP142, dilution 1:100, Abcam, Cambridge, MA). Lastly, the slides were covered with mounting medium and coverslips. Stained tissues and all pictures were analyzed and captured using Olympus BX41 (Tokyo, Japan) couple with camera (12MP/1.7" Sony

Exmor CMOS Sensor, Beta Industrial Digital Camera, China) at a $\times 400$ magnification.

Expression of *NFATc1*, *CD163*, and *PD-L1*

The positive expression of all antibodies was determined disregard staining intensity, since the later was most likely influenced by inconsistency of tissue fixation and processing. *NFATc1* positive expression was determined in nuclei of tumor cells as well as in lymphocytes and macrophages surrounding tumors. Positive expression of *CD163* was calculated in membrane and or cytoplasm of macrophages around tumor cells. In addition, positive expression of *PD-L1* was counted in membrane of Hodgkin tumor cells and macrophages around tumor cells. Image J was used to quantify the numbers of protein expression of *NFATc1*, *CD163*, and *PD-L1*.

Density of *NFATc1*, *CD163*, and *PD-L1*

Reactivity of every antibody was differentiated into high and low density based on cut-off point obtained from median value. At the beginning the most concentrated five locations containing brown staining either *NFATc1*, or *CD163* or *PD-L1* were selected under low power field (100x). Then among these areas, the five most densest focuses were carefully chosen and photographed under high magnification (400x). By using image J software, the all cells expressed either *NFATc1*, or *CD163*, or *PD-L1* were calculated and noted. Of these five areas, the average was counting by using excel. The median of all samples of each antibody was considered as a cut-off point for differentiation of *NFATc1*, or *CD163*, or *PD-L1* expression into high or low density.

Statistical Analysis

Since *NFATc1* expression was negative in the evaluated area of all the samples, the statistical analysis was not performed.

Results

Patients Characteristics

Among 28 total samples, our data only have one case of NLPHL and 27 cHLs. The age was differentiated into five groups i.e., under 20 years (10.7%), between 20 to 29 years (25%), between 30 to 39 years (10.7%), between 40 to 49 years (28.6%) and after 50 years (25%). More patients in the ages of 40 to 49 years suffer from HL. Males suffer from HL more than that in females (57.1%). Tumor masses were mostly found in head and neck (78.6%). Lymphocyte-rich cHL was the subtype which mostly observed (57.1%) among others (Table 1).

Immunohistochemistry

NFATc1, *CD163* and *PD-L1*

Nuclear expression of *NFATc1* was not observed in Hodgkin cells neither in TAM nor in small lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells in all samples (Table 2), this meant that *NFATc1* showed negative expression in almost all these cells. There were only few small lymphocytes showed nuclear expression of *NFATc1* in some patients

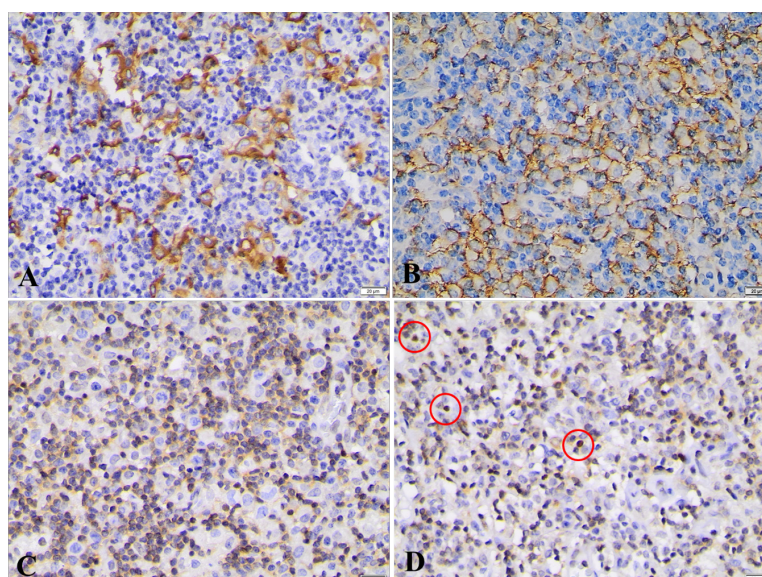


Figure 1. The Immunoreactivity of CD163, PD-L1 and NFATc1 Proteins of Patient #1. A. Showed various positive cytoplasmic expression of TAMs CD163+. B. Immunoreactivity of PD-L1 in membrane of Hodgkin cells and TAMs. C. Demonstrated various negative nuclear expression of NFATc1 protein in all cells; the only finding was cytoplasmic expression of NFATc1, particularly in small lymphocytes surrounding the Hodgkin cells. D. It can be seen few small lymphocytes showed nuclear expression but far from Hodgkin tumor cells (red circles). Original magnifications $\times 400$.

Table 1. Patient Characteristics

Clinical features	N (28)	%
Age (years)		
<20 years	3	10.7
20-29	7	25.0
30-39	3	10.7
40-49	8	28.6
≥ 50 years	7	25.0
Gender		
Male	16	57.1
Female	12	42.9
Location		
Head-neck	22	78.6
Body	2	7.1
Extremities	4	14.3
Subtypes and Variant		
NLPHL	1	3.6
CHL		
NSCHL	4	14.3
LRCHL	16	57.1
MCCHL	7	25.0
LDCHL	0	0.0

(Figure 1). These cells were located far from tumor cells, while small lymphocytes surrounding tumor cells have only cytoplasmic expression of *NFATc1* (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Approximately 57.14% samples showed high density of TAMs CD163+. In addition, all macrophages did not have *NFATc1* expression both in their nuclei and in their cytoplasm's. The expression of *PD-L1* was observed in tumor cells and in TAMs surrounding tumor cells, with similar percentage (50%) both in high and low density in those two types of cells (Table 2).

Discussion

Recent studies have identified the impact of non-neoplastic cells on disease pathobiology, particularly immunohistochemical studies of cells in the tumor microenvironment. As a result, some biomarkers have identified and translated into clinical practice. The transcription factors NF- κ B and NFAT are known as essential factors in activation of B cell lymphocytes (Muhammad K et al., 2014). However, in Hodgkin cells *NFATc1* is not expressed caused by epigenetic silenced mechanism (Akimzhanov et al., 2008), while NF- κ B is constitutively active in these tumor cells (Weniger and Kuffer, 2016). Our finding confirmed the results of previous studies (Akimzhanov et al., 2008; Marafioti et al.,

Table 2. The Expression of NFATc1, CD163 and PD-L1

Antibodies	Lymphocytes		M Φ		Tumor cells	
	H	L	H	L	H	L
NFATc1	0 0%	0 (0%)	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
CD163	-	-	16 (57.14%)	12 (42.86%)	-	-
PD-L1	-	-	14 (50%)	14 (50%)	14 (50%)	14 (50%)

N, 28; M Φ , macrophages; H, high; L, low

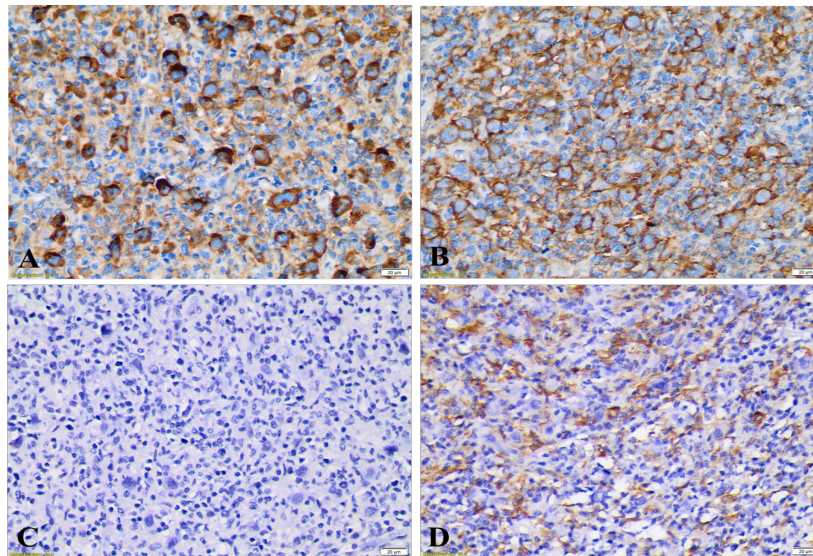


Figure 2. The Immunoreactivity of CD163, PD-L1 and NFATc1 Proteins of Patient #2. A. Varied immunoreactivity of PD-L1 in membrane of Hodgkin cells and TAMs. B. Positive cytoplasmic expression of TAMs CD163+. C. Negative nuclear expression of NFATc1 protein in all cells. D. Membrane expression of CD163. Original magnifications $\times 400$.

2005) that *NFATc1* was not expressed in Hodgkin cells. However, *NFATc1* expression in tumor microenvironment was not discussed in earlier experiments. Our data showed that there were only few small lymphocytes expressed nuclear *NFATc1*, but these cells were situated far from tumor cells. While small lymphocytes which located closed to Hodgkin cells only showed cytoplasmic *NFATc1* expression, none of them have *NFATc1* nuclear expression.

It is known that T cell lymphocytes surrounding Hodgkin cells exhibited unusual phenotypic and functional characteristics may be due to impairment of their regulation (Fozza and Longinotti, 2011). Initially, the lymphocytes were most likely activated and induced to come to tumor microenvironment, as can be seen from

Figure 1 that few lymphocytes located far from tumor cells which showed nuclear expression of *NFATc1* suggesting that *NFATc1* is essential for T and B lymphocytes activation, homeostasis and differentiation (Vaeth and Feske, 2018). Most Hodgkin tumor cells were surrounded by T-lymphocytes expressing PD-1 (Ilcus et al., 2017). The expression of PD-1 receptor driving in decreased activation of *NFATc1* (Sharpe and Pauken, 2018), thereby, this mechanism is one factor that was most likely led to down regulation of *NFATc1* in lymphocytes surrounding tumor cells in our samples, yet the exact mechanism is still unclear. This mechanism benefits for survival of tumor cells since TILs expressing PD-1 impaired their effector functions by displaying exhausted phenotype (Thommen

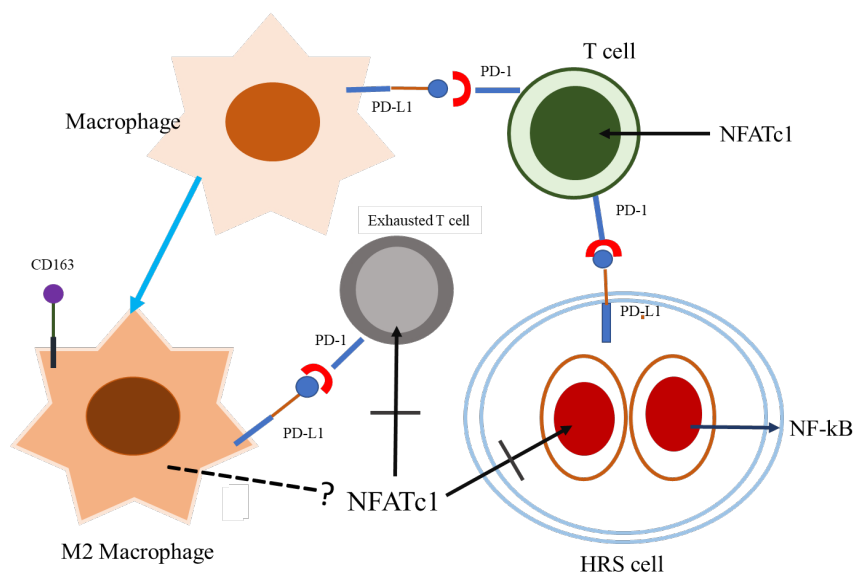


Figure 3. *NFATc1* Loss in Hodgkin Cells and CTLs may Contribute to the Molecular Pathways Entailed in Tumor Microenvironment of HL. Macrophages and T cells are heavily infiltrate the background of HL. PD-L1 in macrophages inducing T cell anergy and M2 polarization. While *NFATc1* is not expressed in Hodgkin cells caused by epigenetic silenced mechanism, $\text{NF-}\kappa\text{B}$ is constitutively activated in these cells. The exact regulation of this microenvironment is still unclear and need to be elucidated.

and Schumacher, 2018; Ilcus et al., 2017). Future study is needed to unravel how the precise mechanisms control the silencing of *NFATc1* in tumor microenvironment of HL.

Increased TAMs CD163+ was correlated to unfavorable outcomes (Guo et al., 2016). We did not have any data of patient survival; therefore, we were unable to correlate the presence of TAMs to our patient outcomes. However, here we would like to know whether *NFATc1* may have roles in activation of TAMs CD163+ in tumor microenvironment of HL. In fact, both the nuclear and cytoplasmic *NFATc1* expression in TAMs CD163+ were not observed. Down regulation of *NFATc1* in TAMs and Hodgkin cells may result in T cells anergy, thus, promotes tumor progression. The exact role of *NFATc1* in recruitment and or activation of TAM in tumor milieu is unclear

In our samples, half patients showed high density of *PD-L1* in tumor cells and the same percentage as in macrophages around tumor cells. Patients with high density of tumor cells expressing *PD-L1*, also showed high density of TAMs CD163+ with *PD-L1* expression. This suggests TAMs have important roles in microenvironment of Hodgkin lymphoma. However, we have no information about survival data, hence, we cannot correlate the expression of *PD-L1* in those cells with patient survival, thus, patient prognosis. The expression of *PD-L1* in Hodgkin cells usually correlated to worse prognosis (Jalali et al., 2019). While the expression of *PD-L1* in macrophages could lead to T cell anergy and M2 polarization, indicating that high levels of *PD-L1* expression in macrophages were in accordance with an immunosuppressive tumor environment and decreased anti-tumor immunity (Lu et al., 2019; Jalali et al., 2019; Gordon et al., 2017). Together the expression of *PD-L1* in Hodgkin tumor cells and TAMs lead to worse prognosis of Hodgkin lymphoma patients (Karihtala et al., 2020). It was possible that silencing of *NFATc1* expression may contribute to HRS cells to become immortal and correlated to inferior outcomes. This hypothesis should be investigated by further experiments. Understanding the exact mechanism of *NFATc1* regulation in TME could lead to development of therapeutic pathway by restoring antitumor immunity.

In conclusion *NFATc1* was suppressed both in Hodgkin tumor cells and inflammatory cells surrounding the tumor cells. This condition may contribute to progressivity and aggressiveness of the diseases (Figure 3). Therefore, certain mechanisms to reactivate functional *NFATc1* in cHL tumor microenvironment may be necessary; hence, the tumor cells are able to be eradicated by patient's immune mechanisms.

Author Contribution Statement

All authors read, critically reviewed and approved the final manuscript. KM designed the study, analyzed all data, drafted the manuscript, conducted pathologic interpretation and lymphoma diagnosis also edited the final manuscript text. NN and NFK assisted the experimental process. IK contributed to lymphoma diagnosis. RPR and ZH contributed to the preparation of the manuscript, editing and review. This manuscript is a

part of an approved student thesis

Acknowledgements

We express gratitude to all our affiliations and our teamwork for their whole collaboration and assistance.

Funding Statement

This work has been supported by Lecturer Research Grant of Faculty of Medicine, University of Sriwijaya, contract number No. 002/UN9.1.4/UPPM/PL/VII/2019, July 10th, 2019.

Ethics Statement

The study which has involved paraffin blocks of human tissues, was reviewed and approved by Health Research Review Committee of Mohammad Hoesin Central General Hospital and Faculty of Medicine University of Sriwijaya with Ethical Approval Certificate No. 325/kepkrsmhfkunsri/2019

References

- Akimzhanov, A, Krenacs L, Schlegel T, et al (2008). Epigenetic changes and suppression of the nuclear factor of activated T cell 1 (NFATc1) promoter in human lymphomas with defects in immunoreceptor signaling. *Am J Pathol*, **172**, 215-24.
- Bigenwald C, Galimard JE, Quero L, et al (2017). Hodgkin lymphoma in adolescent and young adults: insights from an adult tertiary single-center cohort of 349 patients. *Oncotarget*, **8**, 80073-82.
- Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, et al (2018). Global cancer statistics: Globocan estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. *CA Cancer J Clin*, **68**, 394-424.
- Calabretta E, d'Amore F, Carlo-Stello C (2019). Immune and Inflammatory cells of the tumor microenvironment represent novel therapeutic targets in classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *Int J Mol Sci*, **20**, 5503.
- Davoodzadeh Gholami M, Kardar GA, Saeedi Y, et al (2017). Exhaustion of T lymphocytes in the tumor microenvironment: Significance and effective mechanisms. *Cell Immunol*, **322**, 1-14.
- Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Ervik M, et al (2013). GLOBOCAN 2012 v1.0, Cancer incidence and mortality worldwide: IARC cancer base No. 11 [Internet]. Lyon, France: International Agency for Research on Cancer. Available from <http://globocan.iarc.fr>.
- Fozza C, Longinotti M (2010). T-cell traffic jam in Hodgkin's lymphoma: Pathogenetic and therapeutic implications. *Adv Hematol*, **2011**, 8p.
- Gordon SR, Maute RL, Dulken BW (2017). PD-1 expression by tumour-associated macrophages inhibits phagocytosis and tumour immunity. *Nature*, **545**, 495-9.
- Guo B, Cen H, Tan X, et al (2016). Meta-analysis of the prognostic and clinical value of tumor-associated macrophages in adult classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *BMC Med*, **14**, 159.
- Ilcus C, Bagacean C, Tempescu A. (2017). Immune checkpoint blockade: the role of PD-1-PD-L axis in lymphoid malignancies. *Onco Targets Ther*, **10**, 2349-63.
- Jalali S, Price-Troska, T, Bothun C, et al (2019). Reverse signaling via PD-L1 supports malignant cell growth and survival in classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *Blood Cancer J*, **9**, 22.
- Karihtala K, Leivonen SK, Brück O, et al (2020). Prognostic

- impact of tumor-associated macrophages on survival is checkpoint dependent in classical Hodgkin lymphoma. *Cancers*, **12**, naf15p.
- Kim J, Bae JS (2016). Tumor-associated macrophages and neutrophils in tumor microenvironment. *Mediators Inflamm*, **2016**, 6058147. Published online 2016 Feb 4. doi: 10.1155/2016/6058147.
- Li L, Zhang J, Chen J, et al (2018). B-cell receptor-mediated NFATc1 activation induces IL-10/STAT3/PD-L1 signaling in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma. *Blood*, **132**, 1805–17.
- Lu D, Ni Z, Liu X, et al (2019). Beyond T cells: Understanding the role of PD-1/PD-L1 in tumor-associated macrophages. *J Immunol Res*, **2019**, 7p.
- Marafioti T, Pozzobon M, Hansmann M-L, et al (2004). The NFATc1 transcription factor is widely expressed in white cells and translocates from the cytoplasm to the nucleus in a subset of human lymphomas. *Br J Haematol*, **128**, 333–42.
- Muhammad K, Alrefai H, Marienfeld R, et al (2014). NF-κB factors control the induction of NFATc1 in B lymphocytes. *Eur J Immunol*, **44**, 3392–3402.
- Oestreich KJ, Yoon H, Ahmed R, Boss JM (2008). NFATc1 Regulates PD-1 expression upon T cell activation. *J Immunol*, **181**, 4832-9.
- Salati M, Cesaretti M, Macchia M, et al (2014). Epidemiological overview of Hodgkin lymphoma across the Mediterranean Basin. *Mediterr J Hematol Infect Dis*, **6**, e2014048.
- Shanbhag S, Ambinder R (2018). Hodgkin Lymphoma: a review and update on recent progress. *CA Cancer J Clin*, **68**, 116–32.
- Sharpe AH and Pauken KE (2018). The diverse functions of the PD1 inhibitory pathway. *Nat Rev Immunol*, **18**, 153-67.
- Singhal S, Stadanlick J, Annunziata MJ, et al (2019). Human tumor-associated monocytes/macrophages and their regulation of T cell responses in early-stage lung cancer. *Sci Transl Med*, **11**, p. eaat1500.
- Swerdlow S, Campo E, Harris N, et al (2017). WHO classification of tumours of haematopoietic and lymphoid tissues. Revised 4th ed. Lyon, France. IARC Press, pp 424-42.
- Thommen DS, Schumacher TN (2018). T cell dysfunction in cancer. *Cancer Cell*, **33**, 547-62.
- Vaeth M and Feske S (2018). NFAT control of immune function: New frontiers for an abiding trooper [version 1; referees: 2 approved] F1000Research 7(F1000 Faculty Rev): 260.
- Weniger MA, Küppers R (2016). NF-κB deregulation in Hodgkin lymphoma. *Semin Cancer Biol*, 8p. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.semcancer.2016.05.001>.
- Zhou L, Deng Y, Li N, et al (2019). Global, regional, and national burden of lymphoma from 1990 to 2017: Estimates from the 2017 global burden of disease study. *J Hematol Oncol*, **12**, 13p.



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License.