LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Serum KL-6 Levels and Acute Lung Inflammation

Norihiro Kikuchi, Yukio Ishii and Morio Ohtsuka

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To the Editor We read with interest the article by Narita and colleagues in which they analyzed the effect of surgical lung biopsy on serum KL-6 levels in patients with interstitial pneumonia (1). They measured serum KL-6 levels at 1, 4, and 7 days after lung biopsy and concluded that surgical lung biopsy does not increase serum KL-6 levels. However, we do not know whether or not serum KL-6 levels change so quickly. It has been reported that serum KL-6 levels are not elevated in many acute inflammatory lung diseases, such as radiation pneumonia (2), drug-induced pneumonitis, (3) and eosinophilic pneumonia (4).

We would therefore like to know what the changes of serum KL-6 levels are more than 1 week after lung biopsy. Furthermore, it would be interesting to know the changes in other disease markers such as surfactant protein-D (SP-D) and SP-A after surgical lung biopsy.

References