INTRODUCTION

Malignant tonsillar tumours accounts for about 3% of malignant tumours of the whole body (Barrs, 1979). They are second in frequency to laryngeal malignant tumours among the upper resparatory system. (Seda and Snow, 1969 and Whicker and Devine, 1974 and Barrs, 1979).

Over 70% of tonsillar malignancies are squamous cell carcinoma of varying degree of differentiation (Batsakis, 1979). Over 15% are malignant lymphoma. While the so-called lympho-epithelioma (undifferentiated) squamous cell carcinoma) account for 5% (Chen and Events, 1975). The last group consists of nests of non-keratininizing squamous cells embedded in lymphoid stroma.

The epithelial origin of these tumours is evident only from the cellular and nuclear structure, by the help of the electron microscope. The neoplasm is carcinoma and lymphocytes do not actively participate in the genesis of the neoplasm.

Lymphoepithelioma (undifferentiated squamous cell carcinoma) manifest a considerable range of variation in their microscopic appearance, that makes even an ex-

perienced and skilled pathologist find difficulty to distinguish between malignant tonsillar lymphoma and undifferentiated tonsillar carcinoma with the conventional method.

Only when using the electron microscope, the epithelial origin of the tumour is confirmed (Svoboda et al., 1967; Micheal and Hyams, 1977 and Batsakis, 1979). This urged us to find a new technique which is simpler, accurate and can be done in ordinary laboratories using light microscopy.

We tried to solve this problem by using tumour markers (tumour anti-bodies) for both epithelial and lymphoid cells. By immunohistochemical analysis, Mardi and Barwick (1982) found that all cells of squamous carcinoma were labelled with keratin antibody whether they were keratinizing or non-keratinizing. Regardless of differentiation, all cases of mesenchymal neoplasm including malignant lymphoma did not label.

Also human lymphocytes have surface antigen which are glycoprotein in nature, Monoclonal antibodies (T_{200}) produced using this glycoprotein, react with an-

tigen present on human white cell, and can be used to know the origin of the tumour cells, whether lymphoid or non-lymphoid.