

R404 Immunocytochemical localisation of molecules involved in glioma cell migration *in vivo*
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Glioblastoma multiforme is the most malignant form of primary brain tumour derived from glial cells and is characterised by a high degree of recurrence, with survival of less than one year from diagnosis. The present study aims to characterise, at the electron microscope level, the expression and localisation of tenascin C (TNC), metalloprotease-2 (MMP2) and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF). Rats bearing the C6 glioma were killed by perfusion 28 days after stereotaxic tumour implantation in the striatum. The tumour was dissected and post-fixed in the same fixative solution of 0.2% glutaraldehyde and 4% formaldehyde in 0.1M phosphate buffer pH7.4, then 50 μ m sections were cut on a vibratome. Primary antibodies specific for the proteins of interest were used at 1:200 and gold-labelled secondary antibodies at 1:50. The sections were post-fixed in 2% glutaraldehyde, followed by 1% osmium tetroxide, contrasted with lead and uranyl salts and viewed on a Jeol JEM 1010 transmission electron microscope. MMP2 and VEGF were strongly expressed in the extracellular matrix throughout the tumour tissue, particularly in regions of necrosis in the case of VEGF, while TNC was mainly expressed in cells invading normal brain tissue.