

## **Abstract**

It is difficult to histologically differentiate extranodal marginal zone lymphoma of mucosa-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT lymphoma) from chronic gastritis (CG)/reactive lymphoid hyperplasia (RLH). To determine whether immunohistochemistry for IRTA1 and MNDA can differentiate gastric MALT lymphoma from CG/RLH, we investigated 81 stomach biopsy specimens [Wotherspoon grade (WG) 1, 11 cases; WG 2, 9 cases; WG 3, 20 cases; WG 4, 31 cases; and WG 5, 10 cases]. According to a previously reported algorithm using PCR for immunoglobulin heavy (IgH) chain locus rearrangement, all the 81 cases were divided into three groups: CG/RLH (55 cases), MALT lymphoma (19 cases) groups, and IgH undetectable group (7 cases). We analyzed the CG/RLH and MALT lymphoma groups. The median percentage of IRTA1-positive cells was 0% (range 0%–90.6%) in the CG/RLH group and 43.5% (range 0%–97.6%) in the MALT lymphoma group ( $p < 0.0001$ ). The median percentage of MNDA-positive cells was 32.4% (range 0%–97.6%) in the CG/RLH group and 55.1% (range 0%–97.6%) in the MALT lymphoma group ( $p = 0.0044$ ). These results indicate that immunohistochemistry for IRTA1 and MNDA can help differentiate gastric MALT lymphoma from CG/RLH.