**Table S1. Published studies of Epstein Barr virus in breast cancer.**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First author, year (Reference number) | Population | Specimens | Assay | % EBV positive cancer specimens ,(number) | % EBV positive normal control specimens,(number) |
| Gaffey 1993 (1) | US | Fixed | PCR1 |  0% (35) | - |
| Horiuchi 1994 (2) | Japan | Fixed | PCR | 66% (3) | - |
| Luqmani 1995 (3) | UK | Fixed | PCR | 54% (28) | - |
| Lespagnard 1995(4) | Belgium | Fixed | PCR | 0% (10) | - |
| Labrecque 1995 (5) | UK | Fixed | PCR | 21% (91) | 0% (21)  |
| Chu 1998 (6) | Taiwan | Fixed | IHC2 | 0% (60) | - |
| Glaser 1998 (7) | US | Fixed | ISH3 | 0% (107) | - |
| Bonnet 1999 (8) | France | Frozen | PCR,IHC | 51% (100) | Adjacent  10% (30) |
| Brink 2000 (9) | Holland | Frozen | PCR | 21% (24) | - |
| McCall 2001 (10) | US | Fixed | PCR | 2% (115) | - |
| Dadmanesh 2001 (11) | Italy | Fixed | ISH | 0% (4) | - |
| Kijima 2001 (12) | Japan | Fixed | ISH | 0% (61) | - |
| Fina 2001 (13) | N. Africa, Europe | Fixed, frozen | PCR, ISH | 32% (509) | - |
| Chu 2001 (14) | US | Fixed, frozen | PCR | 10% (48) | - |
| Grinstein 2002 (15) | US | Fixed | PCR | 100% (33) | - |
| Deshpande 2002 (16) | US | Fixed | ISH, IHC | 0% (43) | - |
| Herrman 2003 (17) | Germany | Fixed | PCR | 7% (59) | - |
| Xue 2003 (18) | UK | Fixed, frozen | PCR | 40% (15) | - |
| Murray 2003 (19) | UK | Fixed | PCR | 21% (153) | - |
| Preciado 2005 (20) | US & Argentina | Fixed | PCR | 35% (69) | Adjacent 0% (8) |
| Perrigoue 2005 (21) | US | Fixed | PCR | 0% (45) | - |
| Kalkan 2005 (22) | Turkey | Fixed | PCR | 23% (57) | 35% (55) |
| Tsai 2005 (23) | Taiwan | Frozen | PCR | 45% (62) | - |
| Thorne 2005 (24) | US | Fixed | PCR | 7% (55) | - |
| Arbach 2006 (25) | France | Frozen | PCR | 46% (95) | - |
| Perkins 2006 (26) | US | Fresh | PCR | 46% (24) | - |
| Fawzy 2008 (27) | Egypt | Fixed | PCR | 20% (40) | 0 % (20) |
| Trabelsi 2008 (28) | Tunisia | Fixed | IHC, ISH | 0% (36) | - |
| Joshi 2009 (29)  | India | Fixed  |  IHC  | 55% (51)  | - |
| Mazouni 2010 (30) | France | Frozen | PCR | 33% (196) | - |
| Lorenzetti 2010 (31) | Argentina | Fixed | PCR/IHC/ISH | 31% (71) | - |
| Kadivar 2011 (32) | Iran | Fixed | PCR/IHC | 0% (100) | 0% (42) |

1PCR = polymerase chain reaction, 2IHC = immunohistochemistry, 3ISH = *in situ* hybridisation.

**Supplementary Table 1 References**

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