# Hematologics Update Vol.3

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# CASE STUDY- *Difference from Normal (ΔN:) Flow Cytometry* Identifies Secondary Underlying Neoplastic Population That May have been Missed at Other Laboratories

A bone marrow aspirate was sent to HematoLogics for *Difference from Normal (\Delta N:) Flow Cytometry* analysis to determine if there was *Measurable Residual Disease (MRD)* for AML. While flow cytometric analysis determined that there was no evidence of AML, it did identify an abnormal plasma cell population, indicating the presence of a plasma cell neoplasm. The Leukemia-Associated Immunophenotype (LAIP) used at other laboratories may have missed this second neoplastic process. LAIP is targeted to the AML cell population found at diagnosis, whereas  $\Delta N$ : looks for abnormalities in the entire composition of the bone marrow, in this case aberrant plasma cells.

### $\Delta N$ : FLOW CYTOMETRY

Clinical History/Indications: A patient with a clinical history of acute myeloid leukemia (AML).

Analysis/Conclusions: The flow cytometric findings show no evidence of aberrant myeloid antigen expression or abnormal myeloblasts (estimated lower level of detection <0.02%). Monoclonal plasma cells are identified.

Flow Cytometric SSC/CD45 Differential: 11% lymphocytes, 5.5% monocytes, 75% myeloid forms (all stages of maturation), 1.4% lymphoblasts, 0.7% myeloblasts (expressing CD117) and 2.5% abnormal plasma cells.



#### **References:**

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**DEK/AF6 t(6;11)** – Detection and monitoring of t(6;9) in childhood AML and MDS.

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