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Createspace. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 54 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in.Plasma cell dyscrasias (PCDs) are a group of clonal disorders characterized by the uninhibited expansion of a monoclonal population of malignant plasma cells. Plasma cells arise from B cells in the bone marrow and produce immunoglobulins that constitute the bodys normal humoral immune response. The immunoglobulin molecule is composed of a heavy chain and a light chain. Plasma cells normally produce light chains in excess that do not bind to heavy chains to form a complete immunoglobulin molecule and instead enter the bloodstream as free light chains (FLCs). In PCDs, each abnormally expanded clone of malignant plasma cells produce an excess of either intact immunoglobulin or FLCs of a single type called a monoclonal protein (Mprotein) or paraprotein. The serum FLC (SFLC assay (the Freelite Assay, The Binding Site Ltd. , Birmingham, United Kingdom) was introduced in 2001 to measure the FLC component in particular. The SFLC assay works by recognizing an epitope that is detectable only on light chains that are not bound to the heavy chain of the immunoglobulin molecule (i. e. , FLCs) in the serum. It has been suggested that the SFLC assay could play an adjunctive role in screening, diagnosis, monitoring, and prognosis of PCDs in high-risk populations. The assay could allow for quantitative monitoring of response and remission after treatment and provide prognostic information, potentially reducing the need for frequent bone marrow biopsy for purposes of quantifying plasma cells, which is required as part of stringent monitoring for monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS) progression to multiple myeloma (MM) or defining disease remission, and potentially could be used in conjunction with serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP) and serum immunofixation electrophoresis (SIFE) to replace urine tests that...

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