



Figure 6: Bar chart of correlation between Bcl₂ positivity and lymph node status.

Discussion

In the present study, bcl₂ expression was a cytoplasmic staining clearly observed at the base of colonic crypts, as well as in the normal tissue close to the tumor margin.

This matches the observation of Bosari et al., 1995⁽¹¹⁾, Barreton et al, 1996⁽¹²⁾, Krajweska et al, 1996⁽¹³⁾, Palazzo et al., 1997⁽¹⁴⁾, and Giatromanolaki et al, 1999⁽¹⁵⁾.

This may suggest that altered bcl2 expression precedes the development of morphologically recognizable neoplasia.

Regarding bcl₂ expression in relation to the age and sex of patients, Bcl₂ was found to be more frequently expressed among females and patients of an age group less than 40 years. This agree with the results of Leahy et al., 1999⁽¹⁶⁾, Tollenaar et al, 1998⁽¹⁷⁾, Ogura et al, ⁽¹⁸⁾, and Ouyang et al, 2005⁽¹⁹⁾.

The present study revealed that bcl₂ expression was significantly correlated with the tumor grade being more frequently expressed in low grade colorectal carcinoma. These

results are in agreement with the results of Leahy et al., 1999⁽¹⁶⁾.

Considering the tumor stage , bcl₂ expression was observed in early stages of colorectal adenocarcinoma, although the results were statistically not significant , they agree with the results of Husain et al, 1999⁽²⁰⁾ . When we compared bcl₂ expression in stage A and stage B each apart versus stage D, a statistically significant correlation was found between high bcl₂ expression and early stage tumor. Similarly, Huang et al, 2002⁽²¹⁾, Manne et al, 1997⁽²²⁾ and Kalklamanis et al, 1998⁽²³⁾ found a significant correlation of bcl₂ expression with the tumor stage. A study made by Meterissian et al, 2001⁽²⁴⁾ specifically considering bcl₂ expression in stage B colorectal adenocarcinoma found that enhanced bcl₂ expression in this stage is associated with improved survival. Thus, patients whose tumors do not express bcl₂ should be considered for adjuvant therapy.

Taken into consideration the tumor type, bcl₂ expression was significantly