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What is the difference between complete response and a stringent complete response in multiple myeloma?

Hi, my name is Rafael Fonseca, I am a professor medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona. I am frequently asked to define a complete response and a stringent complete response both in the setting of clinical trials as well as standard clinical practice. Complete response remains as it has always been, it is our patients who achieve a negative immunofixation on the serum and urine and who also have an appearance of a soft tissue plasmacytomas and achieve less than or equal to 5% plasma cells in the bone marrow. In the latest criteria, however, we introduce the objective of a stringent complete response, and this is one that takes into consideration now more sensitive methods for the detection of monoclonal plasma cells. Patients with a stringent complete response in addition to the criteria that is required to have a complete response are required to have a normal free light chain ratio in the serum and absence of clonal cells in the bone marrow determined by either immunofluorescence or immunohistochemistry.