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The Adherens Junction Protein Afadin Is an AKT Substrate that Regulates Breast Cancer Cell Migration
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The cover image shows immunofluorescence staining of normal breast tissue obtained from surgical specimens. The staining was performed with anti-Afadin (red channel), anti-E-cadherin (green channel), and DAPI (blue channel). The staining pattern reveals Afadin staining that is largely membrane restricted and excluded from nuclei. By contrast, in surgical specimens obtained from invasive breast carcinoma, Afadin shows a predominately nuclear expression pattern with near complete loss of membrane localization. For more information, see the article by Elloul and colleagues, beginning on page 464 in this issue. In this study, the authors conclude that nuclear translocation of Afadin, mediated by the PI3K and Akt pathway, is associated with enhanced breast cancer cell migration and in turn, tumor progression.