

PROTHROMBOTIC STATES IN YOUNG STROKE PATIENTS

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BACKGROUND: Although 4% of cerebral infarcts in the young can be attributed to hematologic disturbances that predispose to thrombosis, the frequency of cerebral infarcts caused by prothrombotic states is unknown.

PURPOSE: The aim of this study is to determine the role of prothrombotic states in young stroke patients.

METHODS: 18 patients under 50 years of age, diagnosed with cerebral infarction of undetermined cause, randomly presented to the University Service of Neurology during the 2010, were prospectively studied. The ESO 2008 diagnostic criteria of ischemic stroke are used. Quantization of natural anticoagulants was done about 7 ± 2 days after cerebral infarction. Beside the routine tests, the following activity tests were performed: protein C, protein S, antiphospholipid antibodies titration.

RESULTS: There were 8 males (44.4%) with a mean age of 30 years old (23 - 48). The mean age for 10 females (55.6%) was 28 years old (22 - 45). 5 patients (36%), had elevated antiphospholipid antibodies level in serum. Isolated protein S deficiency was detected in 2 cases (9%); in 1 case we observed the association between protein S deficiency and antiphospholipid antibodies; and deficiency of protein C was seen in 1 case.

CONCLUSION: Considering the importance of prothrombotic state, especially caused by antiphospholipid antibodies and the protein S deficiency, in the development of cerebral stroke, we suggest that it should be looked for in every young patient affected by these pathological entity, and in whom no etiological factors can be determined.