

CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PRESENCE OF AUTONOMIC AND VESTIBULAR DYSFUNCTION IN DIABETIC PATIENTS WITH PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY

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Background: We investigated the prevalence of diabetic autonomic neuropathy (DAN) and vestibular dysfunction (VD) in diabetes patients with peripheral neuropathy.

Methods: Thirty-five diabetes patients with a diagnosis of peripheral neuropathy from August 2008 to July 2009 were enrolled. All subjects underwent autonomic function tests. Nineteen of them (54.3%) underwent videonystagmography.

Results: DAN was observed in 28 patients (80%). Mild degree of autonomic failure was observed in 18 patients (64.3%) and moderate degree of autonomic failure was observed in 10 patients (35.7%). The factors related to DAN were diabetic nephropathy ($P = 0.032$), and duration of diabetes ($P = 0.044$). VD was observed in 11 of 19 patients (57.9%). There was no significant association between DAN and VD.

Conclusion: DAN was observed in 28 diabetic patients (80%) with peripheral neuropathy. VD was observed in nearly 60% of diabetes patients with peripheral neuropathy who complained of dizziness but showed no significant association with DAN. Diabetes patients who are complaining of dizziness need not only DAN examination but also vestibular function test.