

SERUM LEVELS OF C-REACTIVE PROTEIN IN ELDERLY PATIENTS WITH ACUTE STROKE

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Background: There is increasing evidence that inflammatory processes are involved in cerebral atherosclerosis, and as C-reactive protein(CRP) is a sensitive marker of inflammation, the present cross-sectional study was conducted to evaluate CRP in elderly(65 years old) patients with acute, CT-scan proved, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke.

Methods: The study include 60 elderly patients with acute ischemic stroke (28men), 60 elderly patients with acute hemorrhagic stroke (27 men), and 30 healthy elderly subjects matched for age and gender, as controls. Subjects with conditions that might affect CRP levels were excluded. All included participants were evaluated for their CRP serum levels and their clinical and laboratory status. Blood samples were taken within 24 hours after admission.

Results: Significant elevations of serum CRP levels were noticed between elderly patients with acute ischemic stroke and each of patients with acute hemorrhagic stroke and controls (p 0.001), while no significant difference was noticed between the latter two groups. Significant positive correlations were noticed between serum CRP levels and each of age, arterial blood pressure and serum LDL-cholesterol (p 0.01). Gender had no effect on CRP changes.

Conclusions: Serum CRP levels are increased with advancing age. They are also elevated in patients with ischemic, but not in hemorrhagic, stroke. Whether serum CRP determination may be of value in discrimination between ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke warrants further studies to elucidate.