

NEUROLOGICAL SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS WITH AUTOIMMUNE THYROID DISEASE

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NEUROLOŠKI SIMPTOMI I ZNACI KOD PACIJENATA SA AUTOIMUNSKOM BOLEŠĆU ŠTITASTE ŽLEZDE

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ABSTRACT

Neurological and/or psychiatric signs and symptoms can characterise the clinical picture of encephalopathy associated with autoimmune thyroid diseases and high levels of serum antithyroid autoantibodies. To the best of our knowledge, the literature does not include data on neurological abnormalities in patients with autoimmune thyroid diseases without encephalopathy. Therefore, the aim of this study was to analyse the neurological signs and symptoms that are not associated with a previously identified disease in patients with autoimmune thyroid diseases. This study included 66 patients who were diagnosed with autoimmune thyroid disease. Before the neurological examination, a detailed history of neurological symptoms was obtained for each patient. No neurological symptoms had been present before the test in 47 of 66 patients (71%). Of the remaining 19 patients (29%), 13 of 66 (20%) patients had headache. Among patients with headache, the concentrations of thyroid peroxidase antibodies were slightly higher than in patients without headache, though the difference was not statistically significant ($p=0.380$, Mann-Whitney test). The patients who took part in this study complained of other neurological symptoms including vertigo (two patients, 3.0%), tingling of hands (two patients, 3.0%), transient weakness of one leg (one patient, 1.5%) and forgetfulness (one patient, 1.5%). Electroencephalography was performed only in patients with neurological symptoms and was normal in all of these patients. Hashimoto encephalopathy is probably not as rare as predicted, but, among our patients with autoimmune thyroid disease, we did not recognise any patients meeting the required diagnostic criteria for encephalopathy. Some of our patients had headache, which was not linked with any previously identified disease.

Keywords: autoimmune thyroid disease, encephalopathy, thyroid peroxidase, antibodies, headache

SAŽETAK

Simptomi i znaci neuroloških i/ili psihijatrijskih bolesti (ili: Neurološki i/ili psihijatrijski simptomi) čine kliničku sliku encefalopatije koja je povezana sa autoimunskom bolešću štitaste žlezde i visokom koncentracijom antitireoidnih autoantitela u serumu obolelih. Prema našem saznanju, nema podataka o tome da li postoje diskretni neurološki poremećaji kod pacijenata sa autoimunsom bolešću štitaste žlezde bez prethodno dijagnostifikovane encefalopatije.

Cilj našeg rada je da se ispita da li kod obolelih od autoimunske bolesti štitaste žlezde postoje neurološki simptomi i znaci koji se ne mogu povezati sa (objasniti) ranije poznatim bolestima. U ispitivanje je uključeno 66 pacijenata sa dijagnostifikovanim autoimunsom bolešću štitaste žlezde. Pre pregleda uzeta je detaljna anamneza o simptomima koji mogu biti prouzrokovani neurološkim bolestima ispitanika. Bez neuroloških simptoma bilo je 47 (71%) pacijenata. Od preostalih 19/66 (29%) pacijenata, 13/66 (20%) pacijenata imalo je glavobolju. U podgrupi pacijenata sa glavoboljom, koncentracija antitela specifičnih za tireoidnu peroksidazu bila je nešto veća nego kod pacijenata bez glavobolje, ali razlika nije bila statistički značajna ($p=0.380$, Mann-Whitney test). Od drugih simptoma, pacijenti uključeni u ovo ispitivanje žalili su se na vrtoglavicu (dva pacijenta, 3.0%), trnjenje ruku (dva pacijenta, 3.0%), prolaznu slabost jedne noge (jedan pacijent, 1.5%) i zaboravnost (jedan pacijent, 1.5%). Elektroencefalografija je urađena samo kod pacijenata sa neurološkim simptomima i nalazi su bili normalni kod svih ispitanika. Hashimoto encefalopatija je verovatno češća nego što se pretpostavlja, ali kod naših pacijenata sa autoimunsom bolešću štitaste žlezde nije nadjen ni jedan pacijent koji bi zadovoljio potrebne dijagnostičke kriterijume. Deo naših pacijenata imao je glavobolju, koja se ne može povezati sa ranije poznatim bolestima.

Ključne reči: autoimunska bolest štitaste žlezde, encefalopatija, tireoidna peroksidaza, antitela, glavobolja

Abbreviations: Abs - autoantibodies, AITD - Autoimmune thyroid diseases, fT4 - free thyroxine, GD - Graves' disease, HE - Hashimoto encephalopathy, HT - Hashimoto's thyroiditis, TPO - thyroid peroxidase, TSH - thyroid stimulating hormone

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