



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

Dermatology

A STUDY OF IGE LEVEL IN CHRONIC IDIOPATHIC URTICARIA

KEY WORDS: IgE, Chronic idiopathic urticaria

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Urticaria is a common disease with many different clinical presentations. Urticaria is traditionally classified into acute and chronic urticaria with acute off time of 6 weeks. The aim of study is to assess the levels of IgE and investigate the relationship of IgE and chronic idiopathic urticaria.

Aim of the study: To assess the levels of serum IgE in patients of Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria.

Materials and methods: IgE measurement was done using chemiluminescence method.

Conclusion: Serum IgE levels are elevated in chronic idiopathic urticaria and higher levels of serum IgE is associated with severe urticaria

Introduction:

Urticaria is a common disease with many different clinical presentations. Urticaria is traditionally classified into acute and chronic urticaria with acute off time of 6 weeks¹. In chronic urticaria, in spite of 2 extensive investigations, the etiology remains unknown .as many as 35 to 40% and 5 to 10% of patients demonstrate autoantibodies to α chain of Fc ϵ RI and IgE respectively (chronic autoimmune urticaria). These autoantibodies helps in the cross-linking of the receptor and complement activation². The aim of study is to assess the levels of IgE and investigate the relationship of IgE and chronic idiopathic urticaria.

AIMS OF THE STUDY

To assess the levels of serum IgE in patients of Chronic Idiopathic Urticaria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 50 patients with Chronic idiopathic Urticaria were selected for the study. A detailed history was taken from all patients. Pregnant and lactating mothers, patients on antihistamines and immunosuppressive were excluded from the study. IgE measurement was done using chemiluminescence method.

OBSERVATION

The mean age of CU patients was 37 yrs and range of duration of disease was 6 weeks to 3 years. Serum IgE levels ranged from 1.5 to >2000 IU/ml. The mean serum IgE level was 264 IU/ml. Male to female ratio was 3:2 in our study.

DISCUSSION

The mean age of CU in our study was similar to that of Godse study which reported 30.2 years⁵. A study by Toubi reported a range of 2 months to 5 years⁵. There were no intergroup differences in the scores of all six severity parameters of total severity score (TSS) i.e. wheal size, number, frequency, duration, itch and antihistamine use. But there was a clear distinction when patients were classified into mild, moderate and severe categories based on the TSS⁵. A larger number of patients in the study group belonged to moderate-severe (61%) CU than mild CU (39%), which was lower when compared to Kessel's study where 23.2% were classified as mild, 76.8% were classified as having moderate-severe CU4. Normal serum IgE levels are less than 100 IU/ml in adults. In our study, serum IgE levels were elevated above 100 IU/ml in 61% of patients. This result was slightly higher than Kessel's study which showed raised serum IgE levels in 44% of patients with severe urticaria patients.

CONCLUSION:

Serum IgE levels are increased in urticaria and higher levels is associated with severe urticaria. Patients with severe urticaria

express pronounced symptoms which may be resistant to routine urticaria management. The ability to predict CU severity with IgE levels may facilitate early initiation of immunosuppressant's to reduce disease severity and patient's distress.

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