

Letter to the editor

No antibody binding to serotonin in serum of patients with paranoid schizophrenia and major depressive disorder

K Schott, A Batra

Psychiatrische Universitätsklinik, Osianderstrasse 22,
72076 Tübingen, Germany

(Received 17 May 1995; accepted 24 May 1995)

antibody / depression / schizophrenia / serotonin

In a past study published in *European Psychiatry* (Schott *et al*, 1992), we reported a significant antibody binding to serotonin in sera from patients with paranoid schizophrenia and major depressive disorder. In a second study with an enlarged number of patients we could not reproduce these results. Therefore, we would like to revoke the findings of the first study. The technical procedures were all identical in both investigations. The patients were classified according to research diagnostic criteria (RDC; Spitzer *et al*, 1978). Blood was collected at routine venipuncture, centrifuged and the sera stored at -30°C . Antibody binding was measured by ELISA as recently described (Schott *et al*, 1992). Microtiter plates were coated with serotonin ($10\ \mu\text{g/ml}$) and sera diluted at 1:500. Antibody binding was then visualised using peroxidase conjugated antihuman IgG (Fc-spe-

Table I. Anti-serotonin serum antibodies.

Diagnosis	n	IgG positive (%)	IgM positive (%)
Paranoid schizophrenia	40	0.0	2.5
Major depressive disorder	71	2.8	1.4
Schizoaffective psychosis	39	5.1	0.0
Controls	60	3.3	0.0

cific) and IgM (Fc-specific) antibodies from goat at a concentration of 1:2000 (Dianova, Hamburg) and tetramethylbenzidine as a substrate. The results are listed in table I.

There were no significant findings with respect to patients with schizophrenia, schizoaffective psychosis and major depressive disorder. The reason for the discrepancy between both studies remains unclear at last. Because of the refinement in handling the "serotonin ELISA" over time and the greater number of patients tested we are more confident in the results of the second study.

Schott K, Batra A, Klein R, Bartels M, Koch W, Berg PA. Antibodies against serotonin and gangliosides in schizophrenia and major depressive disorder. *Eur Psychiatry* 1992;7: 209–12

Spitzer RL, Endicott J, Robins E. Research diagnostic criteria. *Arch Gen Psychiatry* 1978;35:773–82

Agenda

European psychiatry: a force for the future joint congress, London 7–12 July 1996

The 8th Congress of the Association of European Psychiatrists (AEP) will be held in London, 7–12 July 1996, and will be combined with the Annual Meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The AEP has increasingly become the main forum for scientific exchange amongst psychiatrists from the different European countries, and the last congress, held in Copenhagen in 1994, attracted over 2,500 psychiatrists. It is anticipated that the 8th congress in London will be even more successful.

The congress will have organised symposia, free com-

munication and recent research symposia, round table debates, and poster presentations. In addition there will be an extensive social programme. Also, there will be the opportunity for psychiatrists from different countries to join together to discuss the areas of mutual interest concerning the development of professional issues in different countries, and the semi political issues concerning psychiatry in various countries.

Further information can be obtained from the AEP Congress Secretariat, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG, UK. The deadline for abstracts for the congress is January 1996. Those wishing to make other suggestions for the scientific programme should contact Prof R Murray, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, at the Congress Secretariat.