

Serological Markers of Rheumatoid Arthritis in the Acute Phase of Schizophrenia

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The objective of this study was to determine the frequency of rheumatoid factors (RF) and anti-cyclic citrullinated peptide antibodies (anti-CCP) in patients with schizophrenia in acute phase and in healthy blood donors (HBD). **Materials and methods:** Our retrospective study was performed on 80 patients with schizophrenia newly admitted in closed wards of the department of Psychiatry, Farhat Hached Hospital of Sousse, Tunisia during 2010. Eighty HBD with no history of autoimmune or mental diseases served as controls. Search for RF and anti-CCP antibodies were detected by Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). **Results:** RF were significantly more frequent in schizophrenic patients than in controls (17.5% vs 3.75%, $p = 0.01$) and RF-IgM isotype was more frequent in schizophrenic patients than in HBD 12.5%. Anti-CCP was detected only in seven patients with schizophrenia with a frequency of 8.75% and in five HBD with a frequency of 6.25%. The frequency of serological markers of RA (FR IgG or IgA or IgM or anti-CCP) was significantly higher in patients than in HBD (23.75% vs 11.25%, $p = 0.037$). **Conclusion:** Contrary to literature data, our study found a high frequency of RF in the acute phase of schizophrenia and particularly of the IgM isotype. Thus a large population study would be interesting to confirm this association between the RA and schizophrenia.