

**F**  
**IMUNOLOGIJA,**  
**INFLAMACIJA,**  
**INFEKTIVNE BOLESTI**

**IMMUNOLOGY,**  
**INFLAMMATION,**  
**INFECTIONS DISEASES**

## F55

**POKAZATELJI ZAPALJENJA  
KOD BOLESNIKA SA  
REUMATOIDNIM ARTRITISOM***K. Gošić, M. Vidin, V. Mirčetić, M. Bukilica**Institut za reumatologiju, Beograd*

Reumatoidni artritis (RA) je hronični simetrični poliartritis i najčešće je oboljenje u grupi zapaljenskih reumatskih bolesti. C-reaktivni protein (CRP) je protein akutne faze koju se stvara u jetri u odgovoru na citokine koji se proizvode tokom zapaljenja i najosetljiviji je pokazatelj intenziteta aktivnog zapaljenja u RA. Kod bolesnika sa RA često se sreće anemija i primećeno je da težina anemije koreliše sa stepenom aktivnosti bolesti. Takođe, broj trombocita je često povećan u aktivnom RA. U ovom radu kod 51 bolesnika sa RA (34 žene, 17 muškaraca) određivani su CRP, hemoglobin (Hb) i broj trombocita (Tr). Koncentracija CRP-a u serumu određivana je Biokit-ovim testom, turbidimetrijskom metodom na automatskom analizatoru ILAB-300. Hb i Tr su određivani standardnim hematološkim metodama. Vrednosti CRP-a kretale su se između 1,82 i 162 mg/L, Hb od 59 do 140 g/L i Tr od 146 do  $773 \times 10^9/L$ . Nađeno je da postoji negativna korelacija između koncentracije CRP-a i vrednosti Hb ( $p < 0,05$ ) i značajna udruženost koncentracije CRP-a sa brojem Tr ( $p < 0,05$ ). Dobijeni rezultati pokazuju da kod bolesnika sa RA sniženje koncentracije Hb i porast broja trombocita mogu odražavati intenzitet zapaljenjskog procesa. Sniženje hemoglobina u aktivnom RA je najverovatnije posledica delovanja inflamatornih citokina na metabolizam gvožđa i eritropoezu u kostnoj srži.

## F55

**INFLAMMATORY MARKERS  
IN PATIENTS WITH  
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Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a chronic symmetrical polyarthritis and it is the most common form of inflammatory rheumatic diseases. C-reactive protein (CRP) is an acute phase protein produced by the liver in response to cytokines generated by inflammation. It is the most sensitive indicator of the severity of active inflammation in RA. Anaemia is commonly observed in patients with RA, and the severity of this anaemia correlates with disease activity. At the same time, platelet counts are often elevated in active RA. In this study CRP, haemoglobin (Hb) and platelets (Plt) were determined in 51 patients (34 women, 17 men) with RA. Concentration of CRP was measured by turbidimetric method using Biokit reagents on ILAB-300 automated analyzer. Hb and Plt were determined using standard haematological methods. CRP values ranged between 1.82 and 162 mg/L, Hb from 59 to 140 g/L and Plt from 146 to  $773 \times 10^9/L$ . Concentrations of CRP and Hb were inversely correlated ( $P < 0.05$ ) and significant correlation between CRP concentration and platelet counts ( $P < 0.05$ ) was found. Our results show that decrease in Hb concentration and rise in platelet counts may indicate the severity of inflammatory process in RA patients. Low Hb in active RA is most probably the consequence of actions of inflammatory cytokines on iron metabolism and erythropoiesis in the bone marrow.

## F56

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U REUMATOIDNOM ARTRITISU***Lj. Petrović-Rackov**Klinika za reumatologiju  
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U patogenezi reumatoidnog artritisa (RA) prevladava TH1 imunološka reakcija. Reumatoidni artritis je destruktivni sinovitis autoimunske prirode. Citokini TH1 limfocita zajedno sa proizvodima sinoviocita remete prirodnu ravnotežu u citokinskoj mreži unutar sinovijalnog tkiva, što uzrokuje inflamatornu reakciju i oštećenja zgloba. Eksperimentalna istraživanja *in vitro* i *in vivo* na mišjem modelu potvrdila su da citokini interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-15 (IL-15) i interleukin-18 (IL-18) učestvuju u patogenezi erozivnog inflamatornog artritisa. Cilj rada je bio da se utvrdi odnos koncentracija TNF-alfa, IL-18, IL-15 i IL-12 u uzorcima seruma (S) i sinovijalne tečnosti (ST) kod bolesnika sa aktivnim RA. Kod 64 bolesnika sa visoko (VA), umereno (UA) i blago aktivnim (BA) oboljenjem prema Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS 28), merene su koncentracije citokina u uzorcima S i ST. Poređenje koncentracija između S i ST pokazalo je značajno povećanje ( $p < 0,01$ ) koncentracije TNF-alfa, IL-18 i IL-15 u uzorcima ST, dok su vrednosti IL-12 bile veće u S, ali bez značajne razlike u odnosu na ST. U grupi VA postojalo je značajno povećanje TNF-alfa, IL-15 i IL-18 u ST u odnosu na S. U grupama UA i BA postojalo je značajno povećanje TNF-alfa i IL-15 u ST, dok se koncentracije IL-18 i IL-12 nisu razlikovale među sredinama ( $p > 0,01$ ). Zaključeno je da bolesnici sa aktivnim RA imaju veće koncentracije TNF-alfa, IL-18 i IL-15 u ST nego u S, što potvrđuje pretpostavku da se ovi citokini proizvode u zglobovima i mogu biti dobri pokazatelji lokalne aktivnosti RA. Koncentracija IL-18 u ST odražava lokalnu aktivnost kod bolesnika sa najtežim oblikom bolesti.

## F56

**LOCAL INFLAMMATORY RESPONSE  
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The TH1 immunologic reaction is the major intensification factor in pathogenesis of rheumatoid arthritis (RA). Rheumatoid arthritis is a destructive synovitis of autoimmune nature. Cytokines TH1 lymphocytes with synovial products disrupt the natural balance in cytokine network inside synovial tissue provoking inflammatory reaction and joint damage. Experimental studies *in vitro* and *in vivo* in mice have proved that cytokines of interleukin-12 (IL-12), interleukin-15 (IL-15) and interleukin-18 (IL-18) participate in pathogenesis of erosive inflammatory arthritis. The aim of the study was to find out the relation between concentrations of TNF-alpha, IL-18, IL-15 and IL-12 in serum samples (S) and synovial fluid (SF) in patients with active RA. Concentrations of cytokines in serum samples and SF are measured in 64 patients with high (HiA), modest (MoA) and mild active (MiA) disease, according to the Disease Activity Score 28 (DAS 28). The comparison of concentrations between S and SF showed that patients with active RA had considerably increased ( $P < 0.01$ ) concentrations of TNF-alpha, IL-18 and IL-15 in SF samples, while values of IL-12 were higher in S without significant difference in relation to SF. Significant increase of TNF-alpha, IL-15 and IL-18 in SF compared to S existed in HiA group. In groups MoA and MiA a significant increase in TNF-alpha, IL-15 in SF was noted, while concentrations of IL-18 and IL-12 were not different among samples ( $P > 0.01$ ). The conclusion is that patients with active RA have higher concentrations of TNF-alpha, IL-18 and IL-15 in SF than in S; this proves the opinion that such cytokines are produced in joint and could be good indicators of local disease activity. Concentration of IL-18 in SF reflects the local activity of the disease in patients with the most severe form of illness.

## F57

**NO/NOS SISTEM U PACIJENATA SA BRONHIJALNOM ASTMOM**

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Skorašnje studije sugerišu da sistem azot-monoksid (NO)/azot-monoksid sintaze (NOS) ima važnu ulogu u patogenezi mnogih plućnih bolesti, posebno u bronhijalnoj astmi. *In vivo* NO se produkuje od L-arginina a posredstvom enzima azot-monoksid sintaze. U respiratornom traktu, NO je verovatno bitan kao bronhodilatator i vazodilatator, a takođe igra važnu ulogu kao antibakterijski i antivirusni agens. Koncentracija NO u plazmi i NOS aktivnost proučavana je u pacijenata sa »ekstrinik« (alergijskom, atopijskom) bronhijalnom astmom (grupa 1.), zatim u pacijenata sa »intrinik« bronhijalnom astmom (grupa 2.) i ove grupe su upoređivane sa kontrolnom grupom – zdravi dobrovoljni davaoci krvi. Dobro je poznato da Th2 citokini igraju ključnu ulogu u patogenezi imflamacije vazdušnih puteva u atopijskoj astmi. Dakle, ključni parametar za podelu u dve grupe astme je ravnoteža Th1/Th2 odgovora (uključujući odnos između glavnih Th1/Th2 citokina: IL-4/INFgama) i drugih Th1/Th2 ćelijskih proizvoda. Statistički značajna razlika u NO koncentraciji zabeležena je između svih ispitivanih grupa ( $p < 0,01$ ). Aktivnost NOS-a takođe je bila statistički značajno izmenjena ( $p < 0,01$ ). Prikazani rezultati pokazuju da pacijenti sa »intrinik« astmom imaju značajno povećanje NO koncentracije ( $58,95 \pm 15,92 \mu\text{mol/L}$  prema kontroli  $20,91 \pm 4,37 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ;  $p < 0,01$ ) i aktivnosti NOS ( $1,40 \pm 0,27 \mu\text{mol/L}$  prema kontroli  $0,79 \pm 0,05 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ;  $p < 0,001$ ). Sličan porast zabeležen je u grupi sa alergijskom astmom (NO –  $36,58 \pm 13,57 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ; NOS-  $1,37 \pm 0,38 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ). Može se zaključiti da su koncentracija NO i NOS aktivnost značajno izmenjene u obe grupe sa astmom, posebno u intrinik astmi, verovatno zbog porasta oksidativnog stresa i uticaja pojedinih citokina.

## F57

**NO/NOS SYSTEM IN PATIENTS WITH BRONCHIAL ASTHMA**

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Recent studies suggest that nitric oxide (NO)/nitric oxide synthase (NOS) system plays an important role in the pathogenesis of many pulmonary diseases, especially in bronchial asthma. *In vivo* NO is produced from L-arginine by the activity of the enzyme nitric oxide synthase. In the respiratory tract, NO is probably important as bronchodilator and vasodilator, and it also plays an antiviral and antibacterial role. Plasma NO concentration and NOS activity were studied in patients with extrinsic (allergic, atopic) bronchial asthma (group 1), and in patients with intrinsic bronchial asthma (group 2), and the groups were compared with control group – healthy volunteers. It is well known that Th2 cytokines play a crucial role in the pathogenesis of airway inflammation in atopic asthma. Thus, the crucial parameters for dividing in two groups of asthma were the balance between Th1/Th2 response (including ratio between principal Th1/Th2 cytokines: IL-4/INFgama) and the other, Th1/Th2 cells products. A significant difference in plasma NO concentration was noted between the studied groups ( $P < 0.01$ ), and plasma NOS activity was also statistically significantly changed ( $P < 0.01$ ). The obtained results showed that in patients with intrinsic asthma NO concentration ( $58.95 \pm 15.92 \mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. control  $20.91 \pm 4.37 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ;  $P < 0.01$ ) was significantly increased as well as NOS activity ( $1.40 \pm 0.27 \mu\text{mol/L}$  vs. control  $0.79 \pm 0.05 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ;  $P < 0.001$ ). Similar increase was obtained in allergic asthma (NO –  $36.58 \pm 13.57 \mu\text{mol/L}$  NOS-  $1.37 \pm 0.38 \mu\text{mol/L}$ ). We can conclude that plasma NO concentration and NOS activity were markedly changed in both groups with asthma, especially in intrinsic asthma, probably because of the increase of oxidative stress and influence of some cytokines.

## F58

**DA LI JE SOLUBILNI INTERCELULARNI  
ADHEZIVNI MOLEKUL 1 MARKER  
AKTIVNOSTI BOLESTI KOD  
BRONHIJALNE ASTME?**

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Povećan broj neutrofila, eozinofila i limfocita u mukozi disajnih puteva u toku pogoršanja astme događa se paralelno sa povećanjem ekspresije specifičnih adhezivnih molekula, a među kojima je i intercelularni adhezivni molekul 1 na postkapilarnim venulama endotelnih ćelija. Cilj ovog rada je bio da se odredi koncentracija solubilnog intercelularnog adhezivnog molekula 1 (sICAM-1) kod 7 bolesnika sa bronhijalnom astmom u pogoršanju i korelira dobijena vrednost s koncentracijom sICAM-1 kod istih bolesnika u stabilnom stanju nakon sedmodnevne terapije glikokortikosteroidima, kao i u odnosu na zdrave osobe (10 ispitanika). Srednja koncentracija sICAM-1 u bolesnika s pogoršanjem astme iznosila je 430,49 ng/mL, a u zdravih ispitanika 260,9 ng/mL. Bolesnici sa astmom u pogoršanju imali su statistički značajno veću koncentraciju sICAM-1 u odnosu na zdravu kontrolu ( $Z = -2,246$ ), kao i u odnosu na iste bolesnike u stabilnom stanju nakon sedmodnevne upotrebe glikokortikosteroidne terapije ( $Z = -2,197$ ).

## F59

**KLINIČKI ZNAČAJ ODREĐIVANJA  
CINKA I ADENOZIN DEAMINAZE  
U DIFERENCIJALNOJ DIJAGNOSTICI  
PLEURALNIH IZLIVA TUBERKULOZNE  
I MALIGNNE ETIOLOGIJE**

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Pojava pleuralnog izliva i danas predstavlja veliki dijagnostički problem, s obzirom na raznovrsnosti etio-

## F58

**IS SOLUBLE INTERCELLULAR  
ADHESION MOLECULE 1 A MARKER  
OF DISEASE ACTIVITY IN  
BRONCHIAL ASTHMA?**

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An increased number of neutrophils, eosinophils and lymphocytes in the airway mucosa in the course of asthma exacerbation develops simultaneously with increase of expression of the specific adhesion molecules (including intercellular adhesion molecule 1) on the postcapillary venulae of the endothelial cells. Our study was aimed at measurement of concentration of soluble intercellular adhesion molecule 1 (sICAM-1) in 7 patients with bronchial asthma in phase of exacerbation, and evaluation of correlation among the obtained values and sICAM-1 concentration obtained in the same patients in the stable state subsequent to a seven-day glucocorticosteroid therapy, as well as in comparison to 10 healthy controls. Mean values of sICAM-1 concentration in patients with asthma exacerbation and healthy controls were 430.49 ng/mL and 260.9 ng/mL, respectively. sICAM-1 concentration was found to be statistically significantly higher in patients with exacerbating asthma in comparison to healthy controls ( $Z = -2.246$ ), as well as in comparison to the same patients in the stable state subsequent to a seven-day glucocorticosteroid therapy ( $Z = -2.197$ ).

## F59

**CLINICAL IMPORTANCE  
OF ZINC DETERMINATION  
AND ADENOSINE-DEAMINASE IN  
DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS OF PLEURAL  
EFFUSIONS OF TUBERCULOUS  
AND MALIGNANT AETIOLOGY**

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Pleural effusions are a diagnostic problem even today, considering the variety of aetiological causes.

loških činilaca koji mu predhode. U diferencijalnoj dijagnostici specifičnih tuberkuloznih izliva (TB) i izliva nespecifične maligne (M) etiologije, što je danas jedan od najaktuelnijih problema dijagnostike, s obzirom na dalji tok i prognozu bolesti, pokazalo se značajnim određivanje odnosa koncentracije cinka (Zn) u izlivu i serumu. Nedostatak cinka kao mikroelementa i adenzin deaminaze (ADA) kao cink-metaloenzima dovodi do pada antioksidativne odbrane i imuniteta kao i do produkcije slobodnih radikala. Koncentracija Zn određivana je testom firme Randox gde Zn sa 2-(5-brom piri-dazo)-5-(N-propil-N-sulfopropilamino)-fenolom formira crveni helatni kompleks (referentne vrednosti: 11,1–19,5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ). ADA je određivana standardnom kolorimetrijskom metodom (referentne vrednosti 27  $\pm$  7,03 U/L). Oba parametra su određivana u izlivu (I) i (S) serumu kod 186 pacijenata (muškarci/žene – 102/84); sa TB-izlivom bilo je muškarci/žene – 40/30 i sa M-izlivom muškarci/žene – 63/54 različite starosne dobi 51  $\pm$  25 godina. Prosečna vrednost I/S odnosa koncentracije Zn u pacijenata sa TB izlivom iznosila je 1,38, a kod pacijenata sa M izlivom 0,76 i ove vrednosti su se međusobno statistički razlikovale ( $p < 0,05$ ). Prosečna vrednost odnosa I/S ADA aktivnosti u TB bolesnika iznosila je 3,8 a u bolesnika sa M-izlivom 1,2 i ova razlika je statistički značajna ( $p < 0,05$ ). Porast nivoa koncentracije Zn u pleuralnom izlivu kod pacijenata sa aktivnom plućnom tuberkulozom pokazuje pozitivnu korelaciju sa povišenim nivoom aktivnosti ADA, jer je ADA cink metaloenzim. Oba parametra mogu biti upotrebljena kao indikator skorašnjeg ili tekućeg aktivnog imunopatološkog procesa kod pacijenata sa TB i karcinom pluća.

It is important to determine zinc (as a microelement and adenosine deaminase (ADA) as a zinc metaenzyme concentrations in pleural effusions and sera in differential diagnosis between malignant nonspecific and tuberculous specific exudates (TB), especially regarding their further evolution and treatment. Zn and ADA deficiency provokes a fall in antioxidative defense and formation of free radicals. Zn concentrations were determined with colorimetric methods (Randox) where Zn forms a red chelate complex (reference values: 11.1–19.5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ). ADA was determined with standard colorimetric method (reference values 27  $\pm$  7.1 U/L). We tested 186 patients (males/females – 102/84) with TB specific pleural effusions (males/females – 40/30) and malignant nonspecific pleural fluid (males/females – 62/54), their ages were from 51 to 25 years. The mean ratio of Zn concentration I/S between pleural effusions and sera in patients with tuberculosis was 1.38. The mean ratio I/S of Zn in patients with malignant diseases was 0.76 and the difference was statistically significant ( $P < 0.05$ ). The mean ratio I/S of ADA activity in TB patients was 3.8, the mean ratio (PE/S) of ADA activity in patient with malignant diseases was 1.2. This a statistically significant difference. Increased value of Zn concentration in pleural effusions in patients with active pulmonary TB showed a positive correlation with ADA levels because ADA is a Zn-metalenzyme. Both parameters may be used as indicators of a forthcoming or currently active immunopathologic process in patients with pulmonary TB and neoplasms.

## F60

### CRP: ZNAČAJ U ODREĐIVANJU I IZBORU TERAPIJE U LEČENJU PNEUMONIJE U TOKU VARIČELE

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Pneumonija je infekcija parenhima pluća uzrokovana različitim mikroorganizmima. Za kliničko razdvajanje virusne i bakterijske pneumonije, od čega će zavisiti i tip terapije, kao značajan laboratorijski pokazatelj koristi se i određivanje C-reaktivnog proteina (CRP). CRP je jedan od najvažnijih i najosetljivijih reaktanata akutne faze, čija koncentracija naglo raste u stanjima infekcije. Serumske koncentracije CRP su najveće kod pacijenata sa bakterijskom infekcijom, gde su nivoi i preko 100 mg/L. Da bi se razlikovala bakterijska od virusne infek-

## F60

### CRP: ITS SIGNIFICANCE FOR DIAGNOSIS AND CHOICE OF TREATMENT IN VARICELLA PNEUMONIA

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Pneumonia is an infection of the lung parenchyma caused by various microorganisms. In order to distinguish clinically viral and bacterial pneumoniae on account of the type of therapy to be used, a significant laboratory indicator is the determination of C-reactive protein. CRP is one of the most valuable and sensitive reactants of the acute phase, whose concentration rapidly increases in infections. Serum CRP concentration is the highest in patients with bacterial infections where the level is over 100 mg/L. In order to distinguish bac-

cije, granica serumske koncentracije za CRP kod dece iznosi 20 mg/L, dok je kod odraslih 50–75 mg/L. U ovom radu praćene su vrednosti CRP u serumu 14 pacijenata sa pneumonijom u toku varicele. Srednja vrednost koncentracije CRP u serumu pacijenata sa bakterijskom pneumonijom ( $\bar{x}$  = 264,8 mg/L) bila je značajno viša u odnosu na srednju vrednost koncentracije CRP u serumu pacijenata sa pneumonijom u toku varicele ( $\bar{x}$  = 40,0 mg/L). Određivanje koncentracije CRP u serumu, pored ostalih parametara, ima značajno mesto u donošenju odluke o tipu i lečenju pneumonije u variceli. Pacijenti čija je koncentracija CRP u serumu ispod 100 mg/L bivaju podvrgnuti antivirusnoj terapiji, dok pacijenti sa koncentracijom CRP preko 100 mg/L započinju terapiju antibioticima. Određivanje koncentracije CRP u serumu, zajedno sa drugim pokazateljima (x-zračenje pluća, broj leukocita, brzina sedimentacije, gasne analize) koristi se kao koristan parametar u donošenju odluke o tipu i terapiji bilo da je virusna ili bakterijska pneumonija.

terial from viral infection, the limit of serum CRP concentration in children up to 6 years of age is 20 mg/L, while it is 50–75 mg/L in other persons. This study measured the level of serum CRP concentration in 14 patients with pneumonia during varicella. Mean value of serum CRP concentration in patients with varicella pneumonia ( $\bar{x}$  = 40.0 mg/L) was significantly higher in relation to mean value of serum CRP concentration in patients with bacterial pneumonia ( $\bar{x}$  = 264.8 mg/L) who were the controls. The determination of serum CRP concentration, besides other indicators, had a significant place in decision-making on the type of treatment in patients with pneumonia during varicella. The patients with CRP concentration values below 100 mg/L were administered antiviral therapy only, while the patients having serum CRP concentration over 100 mg/L were treated by antibiotics. The measurement of serum CRP concentrations, along with other indicators (x-ray of the lungs, white blood cell count, sedimentation rate, gas analyses) was used as a beneficial parameter for decision-making on the type of treatment in both bacterial and viral pneumonia.

## F61

### ODREĐIVANJE AUTOANTITELA NA ACETILHOLINSKI RECEPTOR – ZNAČAJ ZA DIJAGNOZU I TERAPIJU MIJASTENIJE GRAVIS

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Na predlog i inicijativu lekara Instituta za neurologiju Kliničkog centra Srbije, u INEP-u je uvedena metoda određivanja autoantitela na acetilholinski receptor (AChRAb). Određivanje AChRAb je veoma značajno kao osnovno za dijagnozu mijastenije gravis i važan je parametar za praćenje efikasnosti terapije. Koncentracija AChRAb određivana je radioimunološkom metodom, dijagnostičkim kompletom firme CIS bio International (Francuska). Test se zasniva na upotrebi rastvornih acetilholinskih receptora izdvojenih iz humane ćelijske linije, koji su obeleženi sa <sup>125</sup>I – alfa bugarotoksinom (toksinom zmijskog otrova). Radioaktivno obeleženi receptori se inkubiraju sa serumima koji potencijalno sadrže autoantitela na acetilholinske receptore. Kompleks obeleženih receptora i autoantitela se zatim precipitira sa anti-humanim IgG. Koncentracija autoantitela računa se iz izmerene radioaktivnosti taloga posebno za svaki uzorak seruma, na osnovu poznavanja specifične aktivnosti obeleženog preparata i efikasnosti gama brojača. Od juna 2003.

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### DETERMINATION OF ACETYLCHOLINE RECEPTOR AUTOANTIBODIES – SIGNIFICANCE FOR DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY OF MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

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Following a suggestion of doctors from the Institute of Neurology (Clinical Centre of Serbia), a test for the determination of acetylcholine receptor autoantibodies (AChRAb) was introduced in INEP. Measurement of AChRAb is important in the diagnosis of myasthenia gravis, and as a parameter for monitoring the efficiency of therapy. A radioreceptor assay kit (CIS bio international, France) was employed to detect AChRAb. The assay depends on the use of solubilised acetylcholine receptors extracted from a human cell line labelled with <sup>125</sup>I – alpha bungarotoxin (a snake venom toxin). The labelled receptors are then incubated with sera which may contain autoantibodies to the acetylcholine receptor. The complex of labelled receptor and autoantibodies is immunoprecipitated with anti-human IgG. After measurement of pellet radioactivity, autoantibody concentration is calculated for each sample from knowledge of the specific activity of the labelled toxin and the counter efficiency. Since June 2003, 297 patients with evident or suspected auto-

godine do danas, AChRAb je određen kod 297 bolesnika sa autoimunom mijastenijom gravis (AMG) ili sumnjom na ovu bolest. Prisustvo autoantitela na acetilholinski receptor u koncentraciji većoj od 0,2 nmol/L utvrđeno je za 218 pacijenata (73,4%), koji su okarakterisani kao seropozitivni. Kod klinički nejasnih slučajeva nalaz AChRAb potvrdio je dijagnozu AMG. Kod preostalih 79 (26,6%) bolesnika, negativan rezultat na AChRAb ukazao je ili na odsustvo AMG ili, ako su postojali simptomi ove bolesti, na potrebu identifikacije drugih, npr. anti-MUSK antitela. Dosadašnji rezultati su bili u potpunosti u korelaciji sa kliničkom pretpostavkom i omogućili su kliničarima veću sigurnost i brzinu u dijagnostičkom postupku i uvođenju adekvatne terapije, a samim tim i u poboljšanju prognoze bolesnika sa AMG.

immune myasthenia gravis (AMG) have been examined for AChRAb level. Circulating antibodies to the acetylcholine receptor in concentrations above 0.2 nmol/L were found in 218 patients (73.4%) and characterized as seropositive myasthenia gravis (SPMG). Presence of AChRAb confirmed diagnosis of AMG, even when symptoms were unclear. In the remaining 79 (26.6%) seronegative patients, the absence of detectable AChRAb indicated either absence of AMG or possible presence of others, e.g. anti-MUSK, antibodies. The results were highly correlated with the clinical picture and enabled greater certainty and speed during the diagnostic procedure, rapid introduction of suitable therapy and consequent improvement of prognosis for patients with AMG.