

The High Prevalence of Anticardiolipin Antibodies and Anti- β 2 Glycoprotein I in the Acute Phase of Schizophrenia

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Introduction: Schizophrenia is a major mental disorder without a clearly identified pathophysiology. The association between this disease and the antiphospholipid syndrome (APLS) has been recently reported.

Objective: The objective of this study was to determine the frequency of anti-cardiolipin antibodies (aCL) and / or anti- β 2 glycoprotein I antibodies (a β 2GPI) in sera of patients with schizophrenia. **Materials and**

methods: Our retrospective study was performed on 80 patients with schizophrenia newly admitted in closed wards of the department of Psychiatry. Eighty healthy blood donors with no history of autoimmune or mental diseases served as controls. Search for aCL and a β 2GPI antibodies were detected by ELISA.

Results: The aCL antibodies are significantly more frequent in schizophrenic patients than in controls (21.25% vs 3.75%, $p < 10^{-3}$) and it is the aCL-IgM isotype which is therefore most detected with a frequency of 16.25%. The seroprevalence of a β 2GPI was also significantly higher in patients than in controls (27.5% vs 1.25%; $p = < 0,005$) and it is the a β 2GPI-IgA isotype which is the most common (22.5% of schizophrenic patients). The prevalence of aCL antibodies was 21.25% vs 27.5% for a β 2GPI antibodies. The frequency of aCL and / or a β 2GPI antibodies is 31.25%. Among this seropositive group, 3.75% had only aCL antibodies and 10% had only a β 2GPI antibodies. **Conclusion:** Our study supports the hypothesis of the high prevalence of aCL antibodies and especially of the aCL-IgM isotype in schizophrenia patients. In this study we have shown a high seroprevalence of a β 2GPI antibodies which are specific markers of APLS.