

Assessment of changes in immune response in schizophrenic patients

Sulayman, B. S.

Alex. Univ. (EGY). Fac. of Med.

Thesis ; M.Sc. 2001

This work aimed to study some immunological changes associated with schizophrenia and to study the differences in immune response between chronic and recent schizophrenic patients. Twenty chronic schizophrenics, 20 recent schizophrenics diagnosed according to DSM IV diagnostic criteria and 20 normal healthy control subjects matched with the schizophrenic patients in age and sex. All subjects were subjected to clinical examination, full medical examination, routine laboratory investigations, antinuclear antibody (ANA) and interleukin-6 (IL-6). The results showed that there was a higher serum IL-6 in schizophrenic patients than the control subjects. Also, there was positive relationship between IL-6 and illness duration. Higher IL-6 levels were found in patients with long duration of treatment. A significantly higher frequency of positive ANA was found among schizophrenic patients as compared with healthy controls. Also, it was found that within schizophrenic patients, there was a significant relation between the duration of illness and frequency of positive ANA.