( ) R1 ( ) R2 ( ) R3 (X) PG0 ( ) PG1 ( ) Estagiário ( ) Tecnólogo ( ) PIBIC Last Name - Aragaki First Name - Wagner Middle - Koji

Service (sector) Cornea and External DiseaseNº CEP

x) PG ( ) Estagiário ( ) Tecnólogo

Detection of sera antibodies in patients with anterior scleritis

Authors: Wagner K Aragaki, Luciene B Souza, Hellen Fuzzi, Virgínia M Trevisani, Luis C
Andrade

Purpose: To study the presence of specific and non-specific anti-sclera antibodies in the sera of patients with scleritis.

Methods: Prospective study involving 25 patients examined at the sector of Cornea and External Disease of the Department of Ophthalmology and Rheumatic Diseases Laboratory / Federal University of São Paulo / Paulista Medice School, during one year. The criteria of scleritis were stablished according Watson's (1976) classification. The exclusion criteria were infectious scleritis. All the patients had a full clinical and ophthalmologic evaluation including serum tests against infectious and rheumatic diseases. The sera of all patients were submitted to immunoblot and indirect imunofluorescence technique searching for antibodies against specific antigens of sclera tissue. For these serologic tests we used human sclera from donation obtained from eye banks. Sera from 25 healthy individuals were used as a normal control in the immunologic assays.

Results: As a non-specific antibody we detected one patient with positive rheumatoid factor (RF), two patients with positive antinuclear antibodies (ANA), and two patients with positive cardiolipin antibody. In four patients there was CH50 Complement consumption and in five patients C2 Complement consumption. As sclera-specific autoantibody we do not observed reactivity in the *immunoblot* with sclera tissue extract. In the *immunofluorescence* technique we observed reaction against nuclei in two patients. These two sera were positive in standard HEp-2 cell indirect immunofluorescence assay, suggesting that the observed nuclear reactivity is no sclera-specific.

Conclusions: The sera from patients with scleritis seem to contain non-specific autoantibodies aganinst sclera. The presence of sclera-specific autoantibodies has not been previously described in the literature.