

Cerebral Blood Flow in Sydenham's Chorea

Kabakus, *et al.*(1) have reported SPECT findings in 8 patients with Sydenham's chorea (SC). I have some additional comments.

1. They reported that the cerebral perfusional abnormalities were detected in 6 of 8 patients with generalized chorea. Barsottini, *et al.*(2) reported 10 cases, 4 of which had normal perfusion of the basal ganglia. Of these 4 patients, 3 had bilateral chorea, 1 had hemichorea. In our study(3), SPECT study detected hyperperfusion in the basal ganglia in 16 of 17 SC patients. The patient with normal SPECT study had bilateral chorea. Five patients with hemichorea showed hyperperfusion. Therefore, any relationship between the clinical chorea and perfusional abnormality in SPECT study is not seen. Thus, the studies including a large series of SC patients are needed.
2. Kabakus, *et al.*(1) detected cerebral perfusional abnormality in the SPECT study by the way of visual evaluation as some of the former authors did(2-4). In our study(3), the radioactivity uptake values of the basal ganglia were measured quantitatively. Increased radioactivity uptake indicating hyperperfusion at the acute phase was statistically higher than the control group's. In addition, the control SPECT study indicated improvement at the recovery phase. According to us, the quantitative measurement of the radioactivity uptake of the basal ganglia will give a more definite and objective result in SPECT study as in the studies of adult patients having degenerative basal ganglia disorders like Huntington's chorea(5). Finally, SPECT study, evaluated with quantitative measurements will

provide further support and will be more suitable and objective method for the diagnosis and prognosis of SC.

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