

ABSTRACT

THE OCCURRENCE OF SSPE IN IRAN

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During the last seven years the serum and CSF level of measles HI antibody of 140 patients of around Tehran were studied. In most cases serum and CSF levels of measles virus antibodies increases at the early stages of the disease but in some cases the HI titer of both fluids decreased during longer period of clinical observation. The serum level of measles HI antibody was much higher in SSPE patients than in patients after measles infection or vaccination. Out of 67 patients 48 (71.6%) had detectable measles antibody in their saliva. Immuno-fluorescence staining showed antibody in salivary gland biopsy of 7 patients.

Intracerebral inoculation of brain biopsy specimens to suckling mice followed by cultivation of the homogenate of mouse brain on Vero cells was found more successful in isolation of virus than direct cocultivation of patient brain biopsy specimens with Vero cells. In 5 virus isolations, specific CPE developed in Vero cells but free measles virus was not isolated from the harvested fluids. In one case the virus remained cell associated after 30 subcultures of infected cells.

All strains under study induced acute encephalitis in baby and adult hamsters, mice and guinea pigs. Our attempts to establish a monkey model of SSPE failed, since by intracerebral inoculation of virus, acute encephalitis was developed, and primates inoculated by other routes thus far have evidenced no disease.

* Proceedings of the First International Symposium of SSPE, edited by Fuad S. Haddad and Robert Matossian. Bouheiry Bros Press, Beirut 1983.