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Is there any relation between serum levels of interleukin-10 and neuroelectrophysiologic abnormality in Bell's palsy?

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Background: Bell's palsy is the most common type of peripheral facial nerve palsy. Etiology and treatment of Bell's palsy are controversial. Studies emphasizes on the role of herpes simplex and herpes zoster viruses in this disease. The role of interleukin-10 (IL-10) in Bell's palsy is yet unknown and there haven't been any study done hereupon. Regarding recommendations for treatment of only severe type of the disease, this study was designed to assess the prognostic value of IL-10 level and its relation to intensity of electrodiagnostic abnormalities in Bell's palsy and as a probable clue for medical or surgical treatment approach.

Method & Material: Thirty patients in acute phase of Bell's palsy were selected and 5 ml blood was obtained from them within the first 72 hours and right before the treatment. We implemented nerve conduction study (NCS) 6 days after onset of Bell's palsy and also measured serum levels of interleukin-10.

Findings: There was no significant relationship between serum level of interleukin-10 and gender of patients with severity of entanglement in orbicularis oculi and orbicularis oris muscles. Also serum level of IL-10 did not show any meaningful relation to age and gender of patients and symptomatologic factors.

Conclusion: Serum level of IL-10 cannot surrogate NCS test from orbicularis oris and orbicularis oculi muscles for evaluating the severity of acute Bell's palsy.

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