RESULTS OF LUPUS ANTICOAGULANT INVESTIGATION IN PATIENTS REFERRED FOR THROMBOPHILIA TESTING

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BACKGROUND Laboratory evaluation of lupus anticoagulant (LA) antiphospholipid antibodies represents an integral part of the diagnostic criteria for antiphospholipid syndrome (APS).

AIM The aim of this study was to analyze the results of laboratory evaluation of LA antibodies in unselected patients referred for testing during a period of two consecutive years (from January 2015 to December 2016).

METHODS LA antibodies were evaluated by a panel of commercial coagulation assays (Siemens Healthcare, Germany) including three screening tests: activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT) with an appropriate LA sensitive reagent (Actin FSL), APTT mixing test (Actin FSL), dilute Russell’s viper venom time (dRVVT) screen test (LA1) and one confirmation test (dRVVT LA2).

RESULTS

Table 1. Prevalences of positive test results for LA.

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
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<td>Total no. of patients</td>
<td>810</td>
<td>878</td>
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<td>Positive LA results (proportion and %)</td>
<td>24/810 (3.2%)</td>
<td>26/878 (2.7%)</td>
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<td><strong>50/1688 (3.0%)</strong></td>
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Table 2. Demographic and clinical features of patients with positive LA test results.

| Age | Median = 40 yrs; 95%CI = 37 - 48 yrs |
|     | Interquartile range (IQR) = 29 – 59 yrs |
| Sex | Female patients 26/50; male patients 24/50 |

Proportion of clinical diagnoses in patients with positive LA test results (N=50)

- Venous thromboembolism (VTE) = 28/50
  - (DVT 25/50; PE 3/50)
- Cerebrovascular insult (CVI) = 3/50
- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) = 2/50
- Transient ischemic attack (TIA) = 2/50
- Varicose veins = 2/50
- Miscarriage = 2/50; Infertility = 1/50
- Autoimmune haemolytic anemia (AIHA) = 2/50
- Systemic lupus erythematoses (SLE) = 2/50
- Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) = 2/5;
  - Epilepsy 1/50; Vasculitis 1/50
  - Hemiplegia 1/50; Urticaria 1/50

CONCLUSION Laboratory investigation of LA antibodies among unselected consecutive patients referred for testing has shown an overall prevalence of 3.0%. As expected, VTE accounted for most of the positive LA results. However, beside of VTE patients, there were a number of other clinical diagnoses with positive LA results.

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