

PLASMA FIBRONECTIN CONCENTRATIONS IN CHILDREN WITH HENOCH-SCHONLEIN PURPURA AND ITS PREDICTIVE VALUE IN PATIENTS WITH GASTROINTESTINAL INVOLVEMENT

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Henoch-Schonlein purpura is one of the most common vasculitis syndromes in childhood. Characteristic pathology is leukocytoclastic vasculitis of small vessels. Fibronectin is an adhesive glycoprotein that is found on many cell surfaces and in extracellular fluids.

In this study, plasma fibronectin concentrations in children with Henoch-Schonlein purpura and its predictive value in patients with gastrointestinal involvement were evaluated.

Plasma fibronectin concentrations were determined by radial immunodiffusion assay in 30 patients with Henoch-Schonlein purpura (21 cases with and 9 cases without gastrointestinal involvement) and compared with concentrations in 14 healthy control volunteers.

The plasma fibronectin concentration (mean \pm SD) was 243.7 ± 48.5 mg/l in cases with gastrointestinal involvement, 260.6 ± 56.3 mg/l in cases without gastrointestinal involvement and 244.3 ± 96.7 mg/l in control volunteers. The difference between plasma fibronectin concentrations of all groups were not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$).

Since the underlying pathology of Henoch-Schonlein purpura is known to be vasculitis, there may be decrease in plasma fibronectin concentrations as a result of injury of endothelial cells which are thought to be the major site of synthesis of circulating plasma fibronectin concentrations. However, our results show that the fibronectin concentrations are within normal limits in children with Henoch-Schonlein purpura with or without gastrointestinal involvement.

