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Primary Sjögren's syndrome and B-Non Hodgkin Lymphoma: Role of CD4+ T lymphocytopenia

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Introduction: Primary Sjögren's syndrome (pSS) is associated with increased risk of lymphoproliferative malignancy, B- cell Non Hodgkin lymphoma (B-NHL) is the most frequent type.

Aim of the work: To evaluate CD4+ T lymphocytes distributions in patients with (pSS) and the association of CD4+ T lymphocytopenia with the development of (B-NHL).

Patients and methods: This study included 8 (pSS) patients associated with B-NHL (group I), 50 (pSS) patients without B-NHL (group II), and 30 Healthy volunteers served as controls. The frequency of circulating CD4+and CD8+ T lymphocytes distributions and CD4+/CD8+T cell ratio was assessed using Flowcytometry Coulter EPICS-XL and compared between patients groups and controls.

Results: There was statistically significant CD4+ T lymphocytopenia in (pSS) patients with B-NHL than those without lymphoma and controls (p0.001), Moreover, a significant low CD4+/CD8+ T cell ratio 0.8 in group I than group II and controls (p0.001) was found. Significant positive correlations of CD4+ T lymphocytopenia with other risk factors (parotid swelling, vasculitis, rheumatoid factors, low complement, cryoglobulinemia) were detected.

Conclusion: CD4+ T lymphocytopenia is associated with B-NHL developed in patients with pSS and can be considered as an important predictor of lymphoma.

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