

Antineural antibody in patients with Tourette's syndrome and their family members

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摘要

Abstract

It has been proposed that antineural antibodies were present in patients with Tourette's syndrome (TS) and other neuropsychiatric disorders. The purpose of our study was to investigate the presence of antineural antibodies in the individuals with Tourette's syndrome and the family members of TS patients. The sera of four TS patients with no current streptococcal infection, their tic-free family members including father, mother and sibling, and a age-matched control group who were tic free were assayed for antineural antibodies directed against rat tissue and neurons in primary cell culture. There were prominent antineural antibodies present in TS patients and their first-degree family members, but not in the control group. Western blotting showed proteins of about 120 kDa in their sera that were not present in the sera of controls. The preliminary results of our study suggest the importance of genetic vulnerability in the immunological pathophysiology of tic disorders. Future studies should investigate the interactions of genetics, environment, infectious agents, and immunity on symptom expression in families with tic disorders.