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Autoimmune Bullous Diseases
Serum prolactin levels in Pemphigus Vulgaris and its association
with disease severity

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INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES: Prolactin is a hormone, in addition to its known roles has immunomodulatory effects on lymphocytes maturation and immunoglobulins production. Hyperprolactinemia has been demonstrated in autoimmune disease such as Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Type I Diabetes Mellitus, and Graves ' disease. In view of the prolactin immunomodulatory roles, studying prolactin levels in pemphigus as a autoimmune blistering disease may introduce new ways of understanding disease etiology and developing treatment strategies

MATERIAL & METHODS: In this case series study, prolactin levels were measured in 50 new pemphigus vulgaris cases in Razi Dermatology Hospital, Tehran, Iran and pemphigus severity and extent was estimated by pemphigus disease area index (PDAI).

RESULTS: Of 50 patients, 18 were male and 32 were female with mean age of 41.56 ± 13.66 years old. Mean PRL level was 15.60 ± 11.72 (10.68 in males and 18.37 in females). Eleven out of 50 patient had PRL higher than normal range. No relation was found between PRL level and disease activity by Spearman Test (P -value=0.982). In comparing the extent of the disease between the two groups with normal and high prolactin, paired T-test to test showed no significant relation (P -value = 0.204).

CONCLUSIONS: In our study 22% of patients had hyperprolactinemia which was greater among females. The highest PRL level was detected in mucocutaneous group. Although serum PRL levels were higher in patients with greater pemphigus disease area index but it did not reach statistical significance.