Activated protein C resistance in patients with central retinal vein occlusion

J Larsson, A Sellman, B Bauer

Abstract

Aim/background—A new defect in the anticoagulant system has recently been discovered—activated protein C resistance. The frequency of this disorder has been shown to be increased in young patients (<50 years of age) with central retinal vein occlusion. This study was carried out to determine if there was any overrepresentation of activated protein C resistance in patients >50 years of age with central retinal vein occlusion.

Methods—Blood samples were obtained from 83 patients >50 years of age and with a history of central retinal vein occlusion. The blood samples were analysed for activated protein C resistance with standard clinical laboratory methods.

Results—In this material 11% of the patients were resistant to activated protein C. The normal incidence of activated protein C resistance in the same geographical area is 10–11%.

Conclusion—Activated protein C resistance does not seem to be a cause of central retinal vein occlusion in people older than 50 years.

(Br J Ophthalmol 1997;81:832–834)
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The control group is the same as that used by Holm et al, and consisted of 101 healthy volunteers with no history of thrombosis. In the control group 11% were APC resistant. Thus, there was no difference in APC resistance between the controls and the patients with CRVO; the 95% confidence interval for the difference in APC resistance prevalence between the patient and the control group was 0% (SD 9%).

We also compared the clinical picture between the patients with APC resistance and the normal ones, but there was no distinguishable difference between them.

Discussion

This study of 83 patients shows that APC resistance is not more common in patients more than 50 years of age with central retinal vein occlusion than in the normal population. Williamson et al found a twofold increase in the frequency of APC resistance in 56 patients with CRVO (average age 67.5 years). They did not screen for the fV506 mutation in those patients who showed APC resistance, which is probably because the APC resistance test is more important factor in the aetiology of CRVO in patients younger than 50 years.

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Br J Ophthalmol 1997 81: 832-834
doi: 10.1136/bjo.81.10.832

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