

ELECTROPHORETIC MORPHOLOGY OF GAMMA GLOBULINS IN CEREBROSPINAL FLUID OF MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AND OTHER DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

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CSF protein electrophoresis in agar gel was performed in 2,043 patients. Among them, 323 patients were classified as having MS. The essential feature of the gamma globulins in CSF from MS patients and other inflammatory CNS diseases resided in their restricted heterogeneity distribution. This peculiar electrophoretic pattern occurs in 75.2 to 86.9% of MS patients, depending upon the diagnostic category (possible, probable, or definite). The differences were significant. In MS patients there was also a positive correlation between the degree of disability and the frequency of gamma pattern when Grade I and Grade III were compared, but no correlation was found between the duration and course of the disease on the one hand and the CSF gamma globulin changes on the other hand.

In the other patients, this frequency varied between 2. to 5.1%, except for the group with inflammatory CNS diseases in which it reached 39.6%. The diagnostic value of the method employed is discussed and emphasized.

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Comment from Richard M. Ransohoff, MD, Associate Editor: *This report presaged the observation that oligoclonal bands in CSF typify MS and other inflammatory CNS disorders.*

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