

The detection of possible role of infections in the etiology of psychiatric disorders by serological methods in Cukurova Region, Turkey

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Objective: Schizophrenia is a chronic, severe, and disabling brain and affects approximately 1% of all adults globally. However, it can emerge at any time in life. The underlying psychopathological mechanisms are not thoroughly understood. Recent studies showed that infectious diseases, such as Syphilis, Chlamydiosis, Toxoplasmosis, Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV), Cytomegalovirus (CMV) and Bornavirus, can cause psychiatric syndromes. These diseases have been reported to be associated with increased risk for schizophrenia. The aim of this study is to investigate the possible correlations between various infections and schizophrenia.

Materials and Method: (258) Patients and (150) healthy controls attending Cukurova University Hospital and Adana Mental and Neurological Diseases Hospital who met the DSM-IV diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia were recruited. All serum samples were tested for IgG antibodies to Chlamydia spp, T.pallidum T.gondii, HSV1, HSV2, CMV, and Bornavirus by the ELISA

Findings: Results of ELISA and PCR in the patients with CMV, HSV1, HSV2, T. gondii, T. pallidum, C. trachomatis, C. pneumoniae, Bornavirus were 98%, 98%, 66%, 93%, 0%, 81%,77%,4% , respectively. Whereas, 92%, 96%, 58%, 63%, 0%, 31%, 63% and 0% were for group controls, accordingly.

Results: our own results found significant differences between seropositivity of T. gondii, C. pneumoniae, Bornavirus for IgG antibodies in cases and controls, suggesting a suggestificant link between infections and schizophrenic disorders.