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Association of HLA Class-I Antigens with Delusional Disorder

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KEY WORDS Delusion; etiology; HLA antigens; paranoid symptoms.

ABSTRACT Delusional Disorder is characterized by monosymptomatic paranoid symptoms. In the field of psychiatry it is the only disease where delusion is recorded as a discrete symptom. Delusional disorder is probably heterogeneous group of illness and occurs in a variety of psychiatric and medical conditions. Although delusions remain one of the basic problems in psychopathology, attempts to understand its pathogenesis have been dominated by unsubstantiated speculation. Etiology and psychopathology of delusional disorder is not known. The main purpose of the present study was to investigate the incidence of HLA Class-I antigens in the patients with delusional disorder. Two psychiatrists conducted the screening process following the criteria of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) to 60 unrelated patients who visited Department of Psychiatry, North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, Siliguri. In the delusional disorder patients significant increases were found for HLA – A3 antigen. This preliminary study of allelic association of polymorphic HLA allele with delusional disorder may lead to develop future strategies to understand the genetic basis of this disorder.

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