

VON WILLEBRAND FACTOR AND PORTAL HYPERTENSION IN CIRRHOTIC PATIENTS

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Portal hypertension is associated with various hemodynamic changes not only in the portal circulation but in the systemic circulation as well. These changes are related to several mediators secreted from endothelial cells. Von Willebrand factor (vWF) is an endothelial derived coagulation factor and is believed to be involved in the pathogenesis of cirrhosis. This study aims to clarify the relation between the vWF and the severity of liver disease and portal hypertension. 60 patients were included in this study divided into three groups. Group I: 30 patients with decompensated cirrhosis. Group II: 20 patients with compensated cirrhosis, group III: 10 healthy control subjects, the VWF level was highest in group I followed by group II then group III with significant difference between all groups (114.2 ± 27.5 in group I, 88.9 ± 9.1 in group II, and 65 ± 3.9 in group III). The level of VWF was correlated to ascites, encephalopathy, child's grade and esophageal varices grade in group I. von Willebrand factor level rises significantly with deterioration of liver disease and directly correlated to the grade of esophageal varices.

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