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Melatonin Secretion in Intracranial Tumor*

脳蓋内腫瘍患者のメラトニン分泌能

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The secretion of melatonin (MLT) was examined in 6 ICT patients, 2 men and 4 women, who showed marked midline shift of CT scan findings with intracranial hypertension signs (headache, nausea, vomiting). Their ages ranged from 22 to 40 years. The controls, 6 healthy men and 4 healthy women (follicular stage) were aged from 18 to 35. With the subject recumbent, blood was drawn at 14, 20, 02 and 08 hour (Lights out, 9 pm; sunrise, 6 am). After separation of plasma by centrifugation, MLT was extracted by SEP-PAK® C₁₈ cartridge and determined by radioimmunoassay (RIA). (Method: The extracted MLT, the antiserum and the ³H-MLT were incubated overnight at 4°C, the antibody-combined and free ³H-MLT were separated using ammonium sulfate, and the radioactivity of the precipitate containing combined ³H-MLT was measured by liquid scintillation.) Plasma MLT concentrations of controls were 42.5±7.0 (Mean±SEM) pg/ml at 14 hr, 50.9±8.2 pg/ml at 20 hr, 165.1±22.7 pg/ml at 02 hr, and 49.1±5.4 pg/ml at 08 hr. The value of 14 hr. significantly differed from 02 hr, (P<0.01) showing a diurnal rhythm. The patients' MLT levels (pg/ml) were 19.8±6.2 at 14 hr, 15.9±5.2 at 20 hr, 52.0±17.2 at 02 hr, and 20.3±3.5 at 06 hr. These values were significantly lower than in controls (P<0.01) except at 14 hr. (P<0.05), showing no diurnal rhythm except 2 cases.

In conclusion, in ICT with midline shift of CT scan melatonin secretion was inhibited and diurnal rhythm disappeared in four cases (67%).

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