

VIII - ABSTRACT

An alteration in the lipid metabolism of lepromatous leprosy patients has been reported by several workers.

The cardiovascular disease, especially the atherosclerosis, is frequently referred in the anatomopathological description of lepromatous leprosy inpatients from Instituto Lauro de Souza Lima in the city of Bauru .

A subnormal level of serum total cholesterol has been observed in active lepromatous leprosy.

Concerned of this fact, we determined the blood level of the protector and risk factor of the cardiovascular diseases in 82 lepromatous leprosy inpatients from that Institute and outpatients of the Healthcare Center-I Ambulatory, in Bauru.

We didn't confirm the low cholesterol level referred in many surveys and the value of the HDL cholesterol was different from the data found among lepromatous leprosy patients from India.

Fibrinolytic activity is significantly decreased in patients of lepromatous leprosy and in erythema nodosum leprosum ^{40,41,42,67,68}

Plasminogen and apolipoprotein(a) are also genetically linked on human chromosome 6, and partial amino acid sequence of both is homologous ³¹.

On the values observed we can state that the level of the lipoprotein(a) is very important for the determination of the cardiovascular disease risk and alterations in the fibrinolytic activity of the lepromatous leprosy patients. This is so because we found high increased blood level of lipoprotein(a) in those patients when compared to the level found in other surveys.