STUDY OF ABO BLOOD GROUPS IN VITILIGO

T. R. KAPUR * H. S. NARULA † M. N. MOHAN ‡ M. S. MISRA ||

Summary

ABO blood groups were determined in 100 cases of vitiligo and an equal number of controls among Indian Armed Forces personnel and their dependents. Statistically there was no significant difference.

Introduction

Vitiligo is an acquired disorder, which is quite common in India. The exact cause of this remains to be firmly established. A positive family history has been reported in 10 to 40% of cases[1]. The nature of the relationship between autoimmune disease and vitiligo is not well understood[2]. The reports[3-9] so far published in India on the association of ABO blood groups with vitiligo have yielded varying results. This study has been conducted among the Indian Armed Forces.

Material and Method

ABO blood groups were tested among 100 cases of vitiligo taken from the Indian Armed Forces personnel and their dependents who reported for therapy from 1975 to 1977. Blood grouping was done in the blood transfusion centres. There were 70 males and 30 females. The age distribution was from 10 years to 50 years. The duration of the disease was from 4 weeks to 20 years. Control group consisted of 100 Armed Forces personnel and their dependents (80 males and 20 females) without previous or present evidence of skin disorders.

Observations

The incidence of ABO blood groups among cases of vitiligo and controls is shown in table I.

TABLE 1

Incidence of ABO blood groups in vitiligo & controls

Blood group	Vitiligo* (%)	Controls* (%)
A	24 (24)	24 (24)
B	37 (37)	29 (29)
AB	4 (4)	5 (5)
O	35 (35)	42 (42)
Total	100 (100)	100 (100)

* $P > 0.05$

Discussion

Statistically there was no significant difference in the distribution of various blood groups in the patients having vitiligo and the control ($P > 0.05$). Similarly Dutta et al[7], Kareemullah[9] et al and Punshi[10] failed to observe any significance in the incidence of vitiligo among people of different ABO blood groups. Some other reports show preponderance of groups B and A[6], A[8] and AB[4,5]. Srivastava et al[3] observed group

* Classified Specialist (Derm & STD)
† Senior Adviser (Medicine)
‡ Graded Specialist (Pathology)
167 Military Hospital
C/o 56 APO
|| Classified Specialist (Pathology)
Command Hospital (WC)
Chandigarh
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B more frequently. The authors feel that the different observations published so far in our country were most probably due to study of various types of controls such as blood donors, recipients and or general population as also pointed out by Kareemullah et al[9].

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