Corticosteroid and Factor VIII

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Dr. Casonato et al. [1] in their recent paper entitled 'Factor VIII/von Willebrand factor abnormalities during L-asparaginase treatment in patients with acute lymphoblastic leukemia' have definitely shown that factor VIII:C activity is markedly elevated in their patients. Some abnormality of von Willebrand factor (vWF) was also detected in their patients by cross-immunoelectrophoresis. 'Greater increase of VIII:C due to corticosteroids was brought to the attention by the authors by referring to the study of Dal Bo Zanon et al. [2]. This was actually first shown by us [3] 20 year earlier not only in a patient with Cushing's syndrome, but it was also indicated in patients with hemophilia A and von Willebrand's disease who were given corticosteroids [4, 5].

Since I have not found factor VIII:C and vWF values following discontinuation of L-asparaginase treatment, it is hard for me to accept the relationship between these changes and their use, except vWF abnormality.

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References

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