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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-immunolectrophoresis. 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.


References