Correspondence

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Considerations on Combined Factor VII and Factor VIII Defect

A. Antonio Girolami
G.M. Giovanni M. Patrassi
R.D. Renzo Dal Boanon

Padua

Antonio Girolami, Giovanni M. Patrassi and Renzo Dal Boanon, Institute of 'Semeiotica Medica', University of Padua Medical School, Padua (Italy)

We have read with great interest the paper by Machin and Müller [5] on a new family with combined factor VII and factor VIII deficiency. It always gives a great satisfaction to find a confirmation of personal observations made years ago [2].

The family presented by the authors seems a case of type II combined factor VII and factor VIII deficiency. The term type II should be limited to those patients showing a similar depression in factor VII and factor VIII and no heterozygosis for factor VII deficiency in the relatives. On the contrary, type I combined deficiency should be limited to those cases representing a causal association of heterozygosis for factor VII deficiency and hemophilia A [4]. The patient studied by Gaston et al. [1] belongs perhaps to this group. We say ‘perhaps’ because, unfortunately, no family members were studied. The main features of the two forms are summarized in table I.

A similar classification has been proposed for combined factor V and factor VIII hereditary transmission [3]. At this stage, at least four genes or systems of genes seem involved, namely: (1) An x-linked gene controlling factor VIII activation, deficient or abnormal in hemophilia A. (2) An auto-somal gene controlling protein synthesis, deficient or abnormal in von Willebrand’s disease. (3) An autosomal recessive gene controlling factor V and factor VIII activation, deficient or abnormal in combined factor V and factor VIII defect. (4) An auto-somal-dominant gene controlling factor VII and factor VIII activation, deficient or abnormal in combined factor VII and factor VIII activation. The genetic plot has really thickened.

References