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square and fischer exact tests.

Prevalence of autoimmune diseases in MS patients and their relatives in Kerman B.Sadighi M.Dalily

*Abstract

Background: Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease. The etiology of MS is still unknown. Several studies were done to investigate the association between MS and autoimmune diseases, each of them had different result. **Objective:** This study tried to assess the prevalence of autoimmune disease among patients with multiple sclerosis

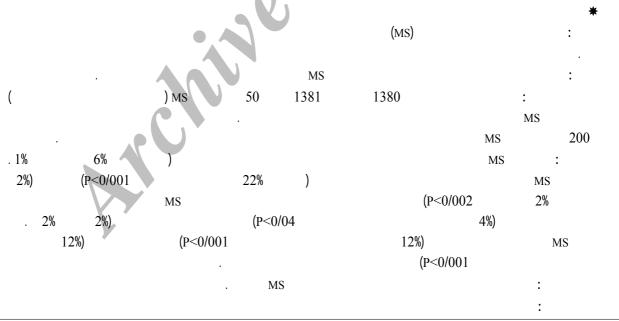
and their relatives in kerman province.

Methods: This descriptive cross-sectional study was carried out from January to June 2002 on 50 definit MS patients (based on clinical and paraclinical criteria) who refer to shafa hospital MS clinic and neurologic ward and 200 controls group matched for sex and age. Samples succeeively arrived to study. Data were analyzed with chi-

Findings: There was no meaningful difference between MS and autoimmune diseases in case and control groups (6% in case , 1% in control group, P<0.19). There was meaningful association between MS disease in patients and autoimmune diseases (regarding MS) in first – degree relatives (22% in case , 0% in control group, P<0.001) and second–degree relatives (12% in case, 2% in control group, P<0.002). There was a meaningful relation between MS in patients and autoimmune diseases (without MS) in first –degree relatives (4% in case , 0% in control group, P<0.04) but no relation was seen in second –degree relatives (2% in case , 2% in control group, P<0.37) . There was a meaningful difference between MS in patient and in the first–degree relatives (12% in case , 0% in control group, P<0.001), and second- degree relatives (P<0.001 , a=0.05) of cases and controls.

Conclusion: This findings emphesize more attention in family of MS patients.

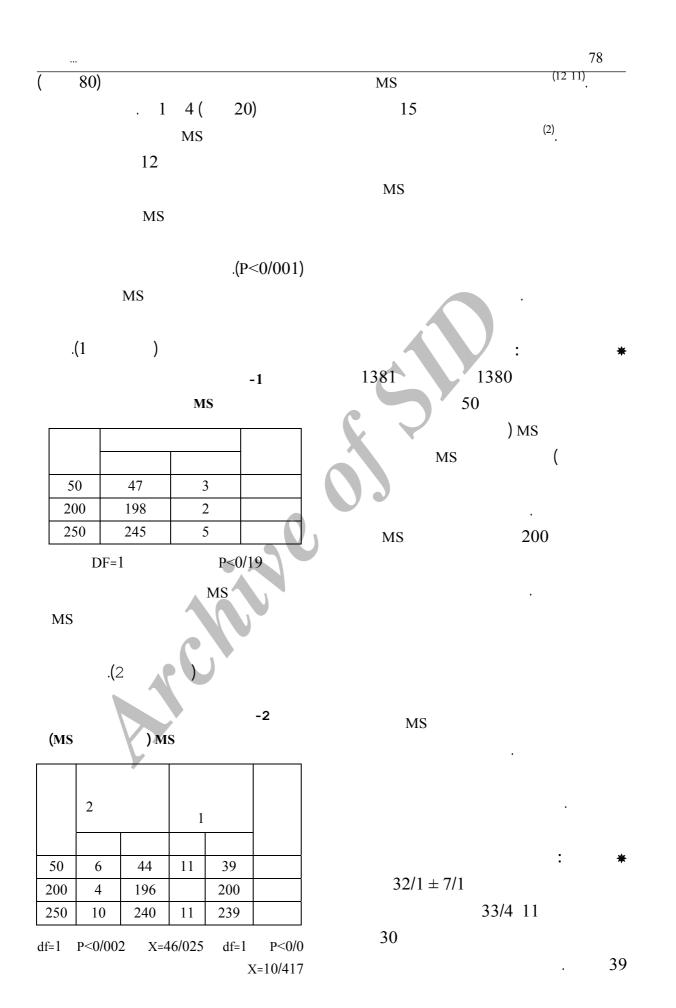
Keywords: Multiple Sclerosis, Autoimmune Disease, Kerman



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