

# **ACTIVATED PROTEIN C RESISTANCE IN BEHCET'S DISEASE**

**THESIS**

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Internal Medicine

BY

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** Behçet's disease (BD) is a chronic systemic disorder of unknown etiology characterized by recurrent oral and/or genital aphthous ulcerations, uveitis and skin lesions. Clinical presentation of this disorder is multifaceted and includes articular, central nervous system, gastrointestinal, renal, urogenital, pulmonary and cardiovascular manifestations, all of which are associated with systemic vasculitis, a pivotal patho-physiological feature of BD. Several studies had investigated the prevalence and role of several factors with procoagulant activity in thromboembolic phenomena in patients with BD. Most studies investigated these factors separately and yielded conflicting results.

**objective:** The aim of this study was to evaluate the prevalence of activated protein C resistance in Egyptian patients with Behçet's disease. Also, to detect hyperhomocysteinemia in selected cases (with vascular complications) to assess their relationship with thromboembolic complications.

**Methods:** This study included thirty two patients with Behçet's disease who fulfilled the International Study Group Criteria for diagnosis of Behçet's Disease. Ten normal healthy subjects served as control. Activated protein C resistance test was done by coagulation assay for all patients and the study control. Total plasma homocysteine concentration was measured in ten selected patients from the studied group who had vascular complications.

**Result:** Our study showed that frequency of activated protein C resistance in the patients (18.8%) was higher than the controls (10%) and it was higher in the group with vascular affection (29%) than those without (6.6%), but without statistical significance. Also, our study detected three patients with vascular complications having hyperhomocysteinemia.

### **Conclusion:**

These results suggested that activated protein C resistance and hyperhomocysteinemia might be a risk factor for the development of thrombosis in Egyptian Behçet's disease patients. Further larger studies will be needed to give strong evidence.

**Keywords:**

**Behcet's disease – Activated protein C resistance - homocysteine**