NEUROKININ A AND SUBSTANCE P SERUM CONCENTRATIONS CORRELATE WITH ESOPHAGEAL FUNCTION TESTING PARAMETERS IN SUBJECTS WITH GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASE

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In 88 patients with GERD, serum neurokinin A and substance P levels did not differ between erosive esophagitis and non-erosive disease, but both neuropeptides correlated with esophageal reflux parameters and motility measures.

KEY POINTS

- Serum concentrations of neurokinin A and substance P were similar in erosive esophagitis (n=31) and non-erosive GERD (n=57) patients, despite differences in acid exposure time and lower esophageal sphincter pressures between the groups.
- Substance P levels correlated directly with total number of refluxes (R=0.258), acid exposure time (R=0.252), and number of refluxes lasting longer than 5 minutes (R=0.353).
- Neurokinin A levels correlated inversely with integrated relaxation pressure (R=-0.321) and contractile front velocity (R=-0.379), and directly with prolonged refluxes (R=0.275).
- The authors conclude that these neuropeptides may be involved in GERD pathogenesis through disturbance of esophageal motility rather than through mucosal injury from reflux content.
- This correlation study combining high-resolution manometry, pH-impedance testing, and serum biomarkers may interest researchers investigating neurogenic mechanisms in GERD.

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