

Content of hepatic reduced glutathione in chronic alcoholic patients: Influence of the length of abstinence and liver necrosis

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1. The relationship between the content of hepatic reduced glutathione (GSH) and the length of abstinence was investigated in 45 chronic alcoholic patients. 2. Hepatic GSH levels were significantly correlated ($r=0.58$; $P<0.001$) with the length of alcohol withdrawal in the whole group. According to liver histology patients were divided into two groups, with and without hepatic necrosis. Subjects without necrosis showed a significant positive correlation ($r=0.71$; $P<0.001$) between GSH values and the length of abstinence; no correlation ($r=-0.22$; $P<0.40$) was observed in the group with necrosis. 3. According to the period of abstinence patients were separated into two groups, with a short (≤ 5 days) and a prolonged (>5 days) alcohol withdrawal. Patients with and without necrosis exhibited comparable mean levels of liver GSH ($2.04 \pm \text{SEM } 0.21$ and $1.74 \pm 0.23 \text{ ?mol/g}$ respectively; $P<0.30$) when studied after short periods of abstinence. Alcoholics without liver necrosis showed significantly higher