

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

The term of chorea is a Greco-latin word implying the act of dancing, (Sydenham. 1684) was the first to describe chorea. He introduced the term st-vitus dance to refer to the involuntary movements occurring in children. (Gerstely, 1935) regarded the emotional stress and adverse social conditions as important aetiological factors. According to (Aron et al, 1965) chorea is a disease of childhood characterized by the occurrence of rapid irregular aimless involuntary movements of extremities, face and trunk. B. Haemolytic streptococci play a major role in the genesis of rheumatic chorea (Aron, et al., 1965). relationship of sydenham's chorea and rheumatic fever was first suggested by (Stoll in 1780) and gained general acceptance by the medical profession in the Nineteenth century (Saxen, et al 1987). Most cases of chorea are preceded by streptococcal infection or rheumatic fever. However, the interval between the bacterial infection and the onset of neurologic symptoms is usually so long that serologic evidence of streptococcal infection was absent in 27% of children who had a chorea as the only clinical manifestation. (Taranta and Stollerman, 1956 and Manchanda, Ravi paul, 1968).

The genetic predisposition of rheumatic chorea is based on the high incidence of abnormal EEG in asymptomatic siblings (Buchanan et al, 1942). The siblings in one family tended to have chorea whereas those in another family had only joint involvement and/or carditis (Taranta and jonathan, 1971). Chorea was found in 3.5% of parents (Aron, et al, 1965) and the family history of rheumatic chorea was obtained in 13% of patients (Nauseida, 1980). These observations suggested that the appearance of chorea is conditioned by the presence of genes controlling the immune response which are believed to be linked to the HLA chromosomal region (Menkes, 1980).

The aim of this study is to ascertain the frequency of HLA antigens among unrelated patients with rheumatic chorea to uncover the unknown insights in the pathogenesis and throw beems of light on the genetic control of such disease.