



8th BALKAN CONGRESS
of ENDOCRINOLOGY

3-5 MAY 1995
BURSA, TURKIYE

Abstract

Book

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THE ROLE OF THE FEMALE SEX HORMONES IN MALIGNANT AND BENIGN BREAST DISEASE.

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We evaluated the role of the female sex hormones in 32 patients with breast cancer, 34 patients with benign breast disease, and 30 control cases. Sex hormone binding globulin (SHBG) was found to be decreased in the malignant disease, and prolactin was found to be increased in the both malignant and benign breast disease. Estradiol was found to be decreased in especially malignant disease. But the average age of the patients with malignant disease was higher than those of benign and control cases. So, this decrease was probably related to the menopausal status of the malignant patients. There was no statistically significant difference between the other hormones. We concluded that patients with breast cancer and those who will go on to develop breast cancer, have decreased levels of SHBG and increased levels of prolactin.