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### Interferon-Gamma Gene Polymorphism in Iranian Patients with Multiple Sclerosis

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#### Abstract:

Interferon- gamma (IFN-  $\gamma$ ) is an important immune regulator and inflammatory cytokine which is implicated in the pathogenesis of multiple sclerosis (MS). A single nucleotide polymorphism, T to A, at position +874 in the first intron has previously been shown. This polymorphism is associated with IFN-  $\gamma$  production level. To study the effect of this polymorphism on susceptibility to multiple sclerosis, we screened genomic DNA samples from clinically definite MS patients and their unaffected first-degree relatives as controls, using sequence-specific primers (PCR-SSP). The results indicated that MS patients showed a lower TT (21.2% vs. 30.3%) and higher AA (21.2% vs. 12.1%) genotypes compared to controls, although there were statistically no differences in the IFN-  $\gamma$  genotype distribution between these two groups. Thus, our data indicate that there is no association between IFN-  $\gamma$  +874 polymorphism and MS susceptibility or severity of the disease.

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