

## SUMMARY

In this study the level of hyaluronic acid was determined in pleural fluid of 55 patients (19 females, 36 males) with pleural effusions of various etiology, between 17-92 ages, hospitalized in the Chest Diseases and Cardiology Department of Medical Faculty of Dicle University between October 1995-Februray 1997. Of these patients 21 were with malignant mesothelioma, 15 were with lung cancers, 14 were with tuberculous pleurisy and 5 were with congestive heart failure.

The concentration of pleural fluid hyaluronic acid (HA) was significantly higher in patients with mesothelioma than in those with lung cancers and congestive heart failure (1676,33  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , 454,263  $\mu\text{g/l}$ , 9,435  $\mu\text{g/l}$  respectively,  $P < 0,0001$ ). Although there was no significant difference between malignant mesothelioma and tuberculous pleurisy ( $P > 0,05$ ) according to Tukey Procedure the concentration of pleural fluid HA was significantly higher in mesotheliomas than in those with nonmalignant mesotheliomas (lung cancers, tuberculous pleurisy, congestive heart failure) ( $F = 48,94$ ,  $P < 0,0001$ ).

The determination of pleural fluid HA might be valuable for differentiating malignant mesothelioma from other pleural effusions which is the common district.

**Key Words:** Malignant Mesothelioma, HA

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