

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE ACUTE REACTIVE ARTHRITIS AS A COMPLICATION OF THE STREPTOCOCCAL INFECTION DURING 2000-2010 IN THE DURRES REGION

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Abstract

Infectious arthritis is an inflammation of the joints, on the level of the articulation space, caused by various factors. The most common factor is the bacterial and viral infection, mainly with origin from the throat, and the streptococcal infections is encountered in 9% of cases. The most affected group from the infectious arthritis are both children and young people which are more likely to be affected by tonsillitis and pharyngitis.

Objective: 1. The illustration of arthritis reactive, post streptococcal (PRSA) as a complication of streptococcal infection. 2. Investigating the social and demographic structure of the affected population. 3. Identifying population groups at high risk for the development of the disease.

Material and methods: The study has been design as transversal one in where all the patients with PRSA and positive for streptococcus beta haemolytic group A were included on the study. The data source was the file of the inpatients on the pathology and infectious disease in the regional Hospital of Durres during the period 2000-2010. The data consists of age, sex, residence, profession, the hospitalisation length of stay and season of the PRSA occurrence.

Results: PRSA makes up for about 9% of acute SA. The disease affects predominantly males, in every season of the year, mostly children and young adults, in urban population and among workers.

Conclusion: PRSA appears several days after different streptococcal infections like angina, pharyngitis. Population density is an important environmental factor, as it augments infection's transmission. Its early diagnosis and treatment can prevent the arising of complications such as

rheumatic fever, the prevention of which depends upon the prompt and efficacious diagnosis and treatment of streptococcal infections.

Key words: infectious arthritis, post streptococcal, epidemiology.

Introductions

Infectious arthritis is an inflammation of the joints, on the level of the articulation space, caused by various factors. The most common factor is the bacterial and viral infection, mainly with origin from the throat, and the streptococcal infections are encountered in 9% of cases.

The pathogenic microbes can cause an arthritis in both way, firstly by direct inoculation and secondly by haematogenous spread of infection. In the second way, the synovial covering, very vasculated, is invaded by these pathogens, which through the blood and lymphatic system, are located on the joint and consequently they affect the onset of disease.

The most affected group from the infectious arthritis are both children and young people which are more likely to be affected by tonsillitis and pharyngitis. One of the post streptococcal infection is the acute rheumatic fever (ARF) defined as an infection caused mainly by streptococcus and characterised by clinical symptoms such as: migratory polyarthritis which affects typically the big joints of lower extremities and is often symmetric (1). ARF is diagnosed based on the Jones Criteria, including: pancarditis, migratory polyarthritis of the big joints, subcutaneous nodules, erythema marginatum and chorea minor (2).