ACUTE OTITIS MEDIA COMPLICATIONS IN CHILDREN - 66 CASES


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INTRODUCTION

Objectives: review of experience of the largest paediatric hospital in Lisbon, in the diagnosis and treatment of the complications of acute otitis media (AOM) in children.

Methods: retrospective study carried out in the ENT Department of Hospital Dona Estefânia, Lisbon, Portugal. The study included all the admissions with a diagnosis of AOM between January 2003 and December 2007. For patients who had more than one admission, each episode was evaluated separately. The diagnosis of AOM was made according to diagnostic criteria of AOM type I (85% of cases) and type II (15% of cases). The diagnosis of complications was made according to the criteria of Potting and Lieu (9).

RESULTS

• There were 3 meningitis, 3 labirintitis and 60 acute mastoiditis found.
• The study group consisted of 66 cases of AOM complications, corresponding to 65 children.
• The number of cases means that more than 2% of children had complications, in last the 5 years.
• The statistical analysis was made using SPSS (Statistical Program for Social Services). Significant differences were considered (P<0.05).

LABIRINTITIS:

Cases: 3
Agents: 1. Staphylococcus aureus
2. Staphylococcus epidermidis
3. Streptococcus pneumoniae
Sig: 0.001
Complications: 1 case of intracranial abscess
Outcome: all cases recovered

MASTOIDITIS:

Cases: 60
Agents: 1. Staphylococcus aureus
2. Streptococcus pneumoniae
3. Moraxella catarrhalis
4. Streptococcus pyogenes
5. Haemophilus influenzae
6. Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Sig: 0.001
Complications: 1 case of intracranial abscess, 1 case of intracranial empyema, 1 case of subdural empyema
Outcome: all cases recovered

DISCUSSION

The study group consisted of 66 cases of AOM complication, corresponding to 65 children.

There were 16 intra-temporal and 5 intracranial complications apart from the above mentioned, but due to their association to mastoiditis they were included in this group.

As opposed to other studies, facial palsy was only associated with mastoiditis.

According to the literature, almost all the AOM complications occurred in unvaccinated children. Only one child was HEV positive but did not have AOM.

CONCLUSION

- 47% were 1 year old or younger.
- 5% had a history of mastoiditis.
- 33% had the type of medical and surgical treatment, and evolution during hospital stay were collected from the clinical processes.
- All children had a miringotomy. In 32 cases an intracranial complication was excluded in cases with anatomical changes in the region, a history of meningitis, or other symptoms of meningitis.
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