



Profile of Pancreatitis in Children

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Aim

To study the etiology, presentation, outcome of pancreatitis in children.

Pattern: Prospective study

Place: Department of medical gastroenterology, Thoothukudi & Kanyakumari Medical College

Period: August 2015-August 2017

Methodology

Children with a diagnosis of pancreatitis based on symptoms, lab and imaging findings were included in this study. They were evaluated for the cause, presentation and outcome and followed for a period of six months.

Results

Out of the 225 children who came with pain abdomen, from august 2015 to August 2017, 56 patients were diagnosed to have pancreatitis. Age ranges from 18 months to 16 years. Males were more affected than females. 20 had acute pancreatitis, 16 with chronic pancreatitis and 10

presented with recurrent acute pancreatitis. Commonest etiology for pancreatitis in children was idiopathic pancreatitis. The various other etiology were trivial injury abdomen, biliary tract disease, pancreas divisum, drugs, systemic infection and diseases. tropical pancreatitis, von hippel lindau disease, polyarthritis pancreatitis panniculitis syndrome, progressive familial intrahepatic cholestasis (PFIC), familial hyperoxaluria with pancreatitis. The clinical Presentation varies from adults. Unlike adults, most of them presented with recurrent pain abdomen. Classical stooping pain was present in few patients only. Other presentations were jaundice, cholangitis, failure to thrive. 2 were presented with pseudocyst. Pancreatic calcification and ductal changes were noted in 8 patients. None of them had diabetes. Severe pancreatitis was present in 1 child with a traumatic etiology. There was no death. Median time for diagnosis from onset of symptom was 8 weeks. Serum amylase and lipase were elevated in 65 % only. All these patients were treated with pancreatic extract with PPI. With this pain subsided in 65 % only. ERCP was done for 6

patients. Of them 2 had minor ampulla spincterotomy for pancreas divisum. Among them 1 had recurrence of pain. 2 underwent Frey's procedure.

Discussion

Etiology of pancreatitis in children is different from adults and is mainly due to trauma, drugs, infection, structural anomalies and systemic diseases.⁽¹⁾ Idiopathic pancreatitis was the common cause in this study. Wang et al⁽²⁾ reported that idiopathic pancreatitis is the commonest type in children. Failure to thrive was seen in children with pancreatitis. This may be due to avoidance of food due to pain. Chowdhury et al noted nutritional impairment in children with chronic pancreatitis⁽³⁾.

Conclusion

Pancreatitis is not uncommon in children. Clinical presentation varies from adult. All children with recurrent pain abdomen have to be evaluated for pancreatitis.

References

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