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Original Article

BRUCELLOSIS: REVIEW OF CLINICAL AND LABORATORY FEATURES AND THERAPEUTIC REGIMENS IN 44 CHILDREN

S. Afsharpaiman¹ and S. Mamishi²

1) Department of Pediatrics, Baqiyatallah Hospital, School of Medicine, Tehran, Iran

2) Department of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases, Pediatric Medical Center Hospital, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Corresponding Author:

Setareh Mamishi, Department of Pediatrics Infectious Diseases, Pediatric Medical Center Hospital, School of Medicine, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tehran, Iran

Tel: +98 21 66428996

Fax: +98 21 66428996

E-mail: smamishi@sina.tums.ac.ir

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Abstract:

Brucellosis is not uncommon in children in endemic areas. We described clinical and laboratory features and therapeutic regimens for brucellosis in children under 14 who admitted in the Pediatric Medical Center Hospital, Tehran, Iran from March 1988 until February 2001. The male: female ratio was 2:1. Family history of brucellosis and consumption of unpasteurized milk and dairy products was positive in 20.4% and 65.9%, respectively. The common clinical findings were arthritis (79.5%), fever (77.4%), anorexia (61.4%), sweating (52.3%), splenomegaly (43.2%), hepatomegaly (34.1%) and lymphadenopathy (13.65). Anemia, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia were recorded in 56.8%, 31.8% and 9.1%, respectively. Out of all patients, seropositivity rate for brucellosis was found in 97.7% using serum agglutination test. Culture of blood and bone marrow specimen were positive in 30% and 50% of samples obtained, respectively. Rifampin and co-trimoxazole were the most commonly used combination in 68.1%. The overall relapse rate was 13.6%. Arthritis and fever were the most common clinical findings of brucellosis. Wright test is a very sensitive method to detect brucella infection. Public education and control measures should be applied to prevent the zoonotic and human brucellosis.

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