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Brain abscess in children

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Abstract:

Background: Brain abscess is one of the most important diseases among the neurosurgical infectious diseases which is accompanied by considerable mortality and morbidity. The aim of this research is contemplation of brain abscess in children (5-12 years) to ascertain the incidence, effectual underlying factors, clinical and laboratory findings and mortality and morbidity rates in Ghaem hospital in Mashad since 10 years ago. Methods: This is a descriptive and analytic study in children with brain abscess in Ghaem hospital achieved retrospectively. We considered age, sex, underlying factors, clinical and laboratory findings, location of abscess, methods of treatment (medical or surgical), the duration of staying in hospital, and mortality and morbidity of the disease. Statistical analysis was achieved with Odds Ratio and Chi2 test. Findings: The age of children with brain abscess was 5-7 years. Male to female ratio was 1.6 to 1. The most common underlying factors for brain abscesses were acute and chronic diseases of ear, mastoiditis, and chronic cyanotic heart disease (CCHD). The patients had fever (55.5 %), headache (46.6%), focal neurological findings (64.6%) and altered consciousness in 46.7%. The most common sites of involvement were: temporo-parietal (20%) and parietal lobe (18.2%). Pus culturing was positive in 34% of cases. In 73.3% of cases one organism and in 26.6% several organisms were found in the culture. We achieved aspirated type operation in 93.3 % of cases. The incidence of mortality and morbidity was 17.7% totally. The mortality and morbidity rates in patients with CCHD and otogenic brain abscess were 11.1% and 22.2% respectively. There was no meaningful correlation between mortality and morbidity with the number of abscesses or patient's age. Conclusion: Attention to hygiene of mouth and teeth in pediatric patients with cyanotic heart disease is very important in prevention of infectious brain diseases. We must also consider attention to ear-nosethroat diseases of children. It is very important that the patients are examined again after treatment because of finding and treatment of unknown otitis and chronic sinusitis

Keywords:

Brain abscess , Otitis , Cyanotic heart disease

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