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Poster Session VI

Paediatric infections

HEPATIC CYSTIC ECHINOCOCCOSIS IN CHILDREN – ALWAYS A CHALLENGE

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Background: Cystic echinococcosis is a severe and common parasitic disease caused by larval forms of *Echinococcus granulosus*. The hydatid cysts can develop in any organ of the human body, most frequently in the liver (65%) and in the lungs (25%). In children hydatid cysts of the liver produce various symptoms or might be an incidental finding in asymptomatic patients or in patients who undergo abdominal ultrasound for reasons not related to echinococcosis. Diagnosis relies on immunodiagnostic tests and liver imaging. Standardized ultrasound classification based on Gharbi classification facilitates uniform diagnosis and treatment approach. For cystic echinococcosis a consensus based on ultrasound images and stage-specific approach, recommend one of the following options: percutaneous treatment, surgery, anti-infective drug treatment or watch and wait. **Objective:** to assess the role of ultrasound in diagnosis, staging and follow-up of hepatic cystic echinococcosis in children. **Methods:** the observational study in a pediatric department over 10 year time frame included children with abdominal pain, hepatomegaly, decreased appetite and fatigue. Patients were examined clinically, biologically and by imagistic methods. **Results:** Using the Gharbi classification in the 10 years study period 17 patients (11 girls), with medium age of 9 years (limits 2-17 years) presented 37 hepatic cysts. From all the cysts 78.3% were small, 13.5% were medium and 8.1% were large. Most cysts were located on the right hepatic lobe (78.3%) and only 24.3% in the left hepatic lobe. Two cysts presented infection as complication. The Gharbi classification identified the following cysts types: CL 13.5%, CE1 21.6%, CE2 37.8%, CE3 18.9%, CE4 5.4% and CE5 2.7%. As treatment, surgery and albendazole was applied in 9 patients, albendazole alone in 6 patients and watch and wait procedure was applied in 2 patients. **Conclusion:** Ultrasound is the cornerstone in pediatric cystic echinococcosis diagnosis, staging and follow-up of children with hepatic cysts. This parasitic disease is not very rare in a pediatric survey, the treatment being chosen between surgery and albendazole, albendazole alone or watch and wait.