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Abstract (poster session)

Comparison of the side effects seen after rabies postexposure prophylaxis with two different verocell vaccines

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Objective: In our country, rabies prophylaxis has been implemented according to the guideline of Turkish Ministry of Health (Either Zagreb regimen with 2-1-1 vaccination protocol alone or Essen regimen with 5 doses vaccination with rabies immunoglobulin (RIG)). Although human rabies cases were apparently declined in recent years, more than a hundred thousand of people have been receiving postexposure prophylaxis per year because of rabies- risk-contact in our country. In this study, the side effects of rabies vaccines were investigated and compared according to the schedules and brand names. **Methods:** Rabies vaccine applied patients for postexposure prophylaxis at our center in 2010 were included into the study. All patients were followed up to the end of schedule. The adverse events were compared according to the age, gender of the patients, the type of the vaccine and the schedule used. **Results:** A total of 1685 patients (1089 male, 596 female) were vaccinated. The Essen regimen with equine RIG was applied to 265 patients (15.7%) and Zagreb regimen was applied to 1420 patients (84.3%). A verocell vaccine, Verorab (Sanofi Pasteur) was used in 761(45.2%) patients and Abhayrab (Indian Immunologicals Ltd.) also a verocell vaccine was used in 924 patients (54.8%). All side effects were higher in female patients. The patients were divided in three groups, according to ages as; the first group 0-15 years, the second 15-60 years and above 60 years. Whereas fever (21.2%), vomiting (2.4%) and coughing (2.1%) were significantly higher in the first group, headache (8.8%) and joint pain (6.7%) were significantly higher in the second group compared to the other two groups ($p<0.05$). All side effects were more frequent with first doses of each type of vaccine and those were more frequent after the first doses of 2-1-1 regimen. All side effects were higher after Zagreb regimen than Essen ($p<0.05$). Fever (15.8% vs 10.6%), local pain (6.6% vs 2.6%), headache (7.5% vs 3%), fatigue (10.2% vs 4.5%) and arthralgia (4.9% vs 1.5%) were the most common complaints, respectively. Fever (23.8% vs 4.8%), fatigue (13.6% vs 4.6%), headache (9.7% vs 3.1%), local pain (8.9% vs 2.5) and arthralgia (6.8% vs 3.1%) were significantly higher with Abhayrab than Verorab, respectively. **Conclusion:** As a result, each of the vaccines seemed safe but although they are both verocell vaccines, side effects seen may vary according to the product and regimen.