



Acute mastoiditis in children: where do we stand? [

2018

text (article)

Analítica

Background: Acute mastoiditis in children remains an otological challenge, assuming itself as the most frequent complication of acute otitis media. Although the use of antibiotic therapy has reduced the need for surgical intervention, the latter is frequently used in the treatment of acute mastoiditis and its complications. The objective of this study is to analyze the approach to acute mastoiditis nowadays using our experience in the Otorhinolaryngology department of Hospital Dona Estefânia, Lisbon, Portugal. **Material and Methods:** We retrospectively studied the clinical charts of all children (n=226) with the diagnosis of acute mastoiditis admitted to our department during the period of 2000 to 2014 (15 years). Data regarding symptomatology, relevant findings of complementary exams, presence of complications and mainly therapeutic approach and their implications were studied. **Results:** During the study period, 167 clinical records fulfilled criteria for inclusion. Boys (n=92) were much more frequently affected than girls. Their ages ranged from 1 month to 17 years (mean age 3 years and 7 months). History of previous acute otitis media episodes was registered in 41,3% (n=69) of patients. In our series, associated complications (all present on admission) occurred in 27% of cases (n=45). All patients were submitted to empiric intravenous antibiotics. Surgical management included myringotomy (n=20) and myringotomy with transtympanic ventilation tubes (n=18) on admission upon the group without complications. A more aggressive approach was undertaken in 45 children with associated complications. The mean length of hospital stay was 8.5 days. All patients recovered uneventfully. It was registered one recurrence of mastoiditis but the child was asymptomatic during the events. **Conclusion:** Acute pediatric mastoiditis remains a potentially problematic infection even in the antibiotic era. According to recent literature, the incidence of this complication is increasing, which wa

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