

Clinical features of the acute otitis media in children of the first three months of age

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Introduction

Acute otitis media is mainly a disease of the young children. Every second child is affected by this disease by the age of 1.5yrs. In far too many cases the illness is recurrent which may lead to further hearing loss. Hence to improve the condition of the patients more efficient diagnostic methods are essential. Better diagnostics allow to develop substantially improved treatment tactics.

Aim

The objective of the research is to determine the clinical aspects of the acute otitis media in children of first 3 months of life.

Materials and methods

We have carried out clinical and laboratory investigation of 100 infants of 0 – 3 months of age, who were treated for acute otitis media (AOM) at the 3rd Minsk Children Hospital. 58 of them were male and 42 female.

Results

Acute suppurative otitis media was registered in 63 children, 40 of them had unilateral suppurative AOM, 12 infants had bilateral suppurative AOM and 11 – combination of suppurative and nonsuppurative AOM. Nonsuppurative unilateral AOM was revealed in 16 cases and in 21 cases it was on both sides. Hyperemia and infiltration of the eardrum were typical otoscopic signs. Myringotomy was performed in 23 cases, 40 infants had spontaneous perforation with purulent effusion. Manifestation of AOM concurred with acute respiratory disease (ARD) in 98 % of children, 52% had signs of other infectious syndromes: 12 – pneumonia, 28 – bronchitis, 34 – local infections. Combination of several infection processes were observed in 22 infants. Allergy was most common concomitant noninfectious pathology. Anaemia was revealed in 48% of studies. Clinical presentation of the disease was assessed. Only half of children had intoxication symptoms: 46 children had low grade fever for 1-5 days, 23 of them had episodes of body temperature higher than 38 °C, 22 infants had marked and moderate anxiety, loss of appetite was revealed in 21 cases, and regurgitation in 49 of the subjects. Inflammatory changes in blood tests were observed only in 12% of children, and increased C-reactive protein in 34 cases.

Conclusions

AOM in children of first months of life is characterized by nonspecific general symptoms, it develops alongside the already existing ARD (98%). The research has shown changes in the otoscopic data in the absence of the classical manifestations of otitis and inflammatory changes in the blood. Over half of the cases demonstrated allergies and anemia.