MASKS OF THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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Background

It is a common practice for an allergist to conduct differentiated diagnosis of allergic rash and that caused by an infectious disease. Diagnostic value of rash during infectious diseases is not straightforward. It is particularly difficult to conduct differentiated diagnosis of allergic and infection - induced rash in a situation of ambiguous clinical evidence of a virus infection.

Methods

This study analyses 149 clinical cases of children admitted into the department of allergies of The City Children Clinical Hospital No 4 of the city of Minsk with acute urticaria in 2015 year. To confirm the diagnosis we used the following methods - polymerase chain reaction (PCR), enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) and general blood analysis.

Results

According to the clinical and laboratory tests, 12% of patients were found to have infectious diseases accompanied by rash. The following have been revealed: enterovirus (7 children), parvovirus (6 children), human herpesvirus 6 (3 children), yersiniosis (2 children).

Infectious exanthema are usually characterized by lack of allergies in the anamnesis, symptoms of "infection" before (1-7 days prior) or during the rash (cough, running nose, sore throat, fever, stomach aches, diarrhea, nausea), lack of itching, gradual pattern of breakouts (top-bottom being the most common) and their symmetry.

Number of patients with infectious exanthems

Conclusions

For clinical diagnosis of diseases accompanied by skin rash, specific diagnostic tests for infectious agents could be helpful, as the allergic rashes might be the masks of infectious diseases.

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