Central nervous system infection complications in childhood

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INTRODUCTION

Central nervous system (CNS) infections in childhood may complicate even if an appropriate therapy is promptly prescribed.

AIM OF THE STUDY

Our aim is to estimate the incidence of long term sequelae in our cohort of patients affected by CNS infections

RESULTS

In our case series, 485 children have been enrolled.

Out of them, 20% was affected by cerebellitis, 10% by encephalitis, 55% by meningitis and 15% by meningoencephalitis. Eight patients died in the acute phase. Among survivors, 120 patients (25%) had at least one complication during the acute phase. Patients were younger than those without sequelae (3.7 years vs 4.5 years). In details, 8 patients (8,2%) with cerebellitis, 12 (25,5%) with encephalitis, 58 (22%) with meningitis and 35 (50.7%) with meningoencephalitis developed at least one sequelae.

Neurological sequelae were identified in 17% of survivors. Out of them, 29 children were diagnosed with meningoencephalitis (42%), 11 with encephalitis (23%), 35 with meningitis (13,2%) and 6 with cerebellitis.

Hearing complications were identified in 41 children (8,6%), of which 10 affected by meningoencephalitis (14,4%) and 31 by meningitis (11,7%).

Vision sequelae were detected in 4 patients affected by meningoencephalitis (5,8%), in 15 by meningitis (5,7%) and in 3 by cerebellitis (3%).