INFECTIVE ENDOCARDITIS ASSOCIATED WITH VENTRICULO-ATRIAL SHUNT ACCOMPANIED BY LUNG EMBOLI AND GLOMERULONEPHRITIS IN A CHILD

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Introduction

There may be severe problems affecting multiple systems in infective endocarditis. The present case aims to report infective endocaditis associated with ventriculo-atrial shunt (VAS) accompanied by lung emboli and glomerulonephritis.

Case

A 3-year old girl was referred to our hospital because the oxygen demand had not regressed, from another one where she had been monitoring for 10 days upon pneumonia diagnosis. Pre-birth meningomyelocele was detected, closure surgery was conducted after birth, a ventriculo-peritoneal shunt was replaced; a year ago a VAS was placed due to multiple shunt infection and functional disorders. Physical examination revealed fever, oxygen demand, tachycardia, wound scar at waist, leg-paralyses. Echocardiography showed vegetation starting at the end of the shunt at vena cava superior and reaching to tricuspid valve in right atrium. Acute phase reactants were high, C3 level low, C4 level normal. Erythrocyte-uria was detected and the patient was monitored with respect to nephritis. Vancomycin and meropenem were started after blood culture samples were taken. Chest tomography showed filling defects compatible with emboli, enoxaparin sodium treatment started. *Staphylococcus epidermidis* growth was detected in blood cultures. The fever regressed to normal in the first treatment week, however, growth in blood cultures, oxygen demand and acute phase reactants were still high. In the third week of treatment, vegetation was surgically cleaned since dimensions were not changing, the shunt was changed. Antibiotic treatment was completed to 7 weeks. Hematuria continued, C3 level normalized; monitoring the patient with respect to glomerulonephritis and completing the enoxaparin-sodium treatment to 3 months was planned.

Conclusion

Infective endocarditis is rare in VAS cases; it is scarcely accompanied by lung emboli and glomerulonephritis. Joint monitoring by different scientific disciplines will increase the rate of curing.