CONFIRMED MENINGITIS. DESCRIPTIVE STUDY IN A THIRD LEV HOSPITAL IN SPAIN

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BACKGROUND

- The early diagnostic in patients with clinical findings of meningitis is still challenging. Our aim is to determine the epidemiological characteristics in a series of children diagnosed with meningitis in a tertiary hospital in southern Spain

METHODS

Retrospective descriptive study of children treated in the Emergency Department during the years 2014-2017, with diagnosis of meningitis confirmed by biochemistry, culture or PCR in cerebrospinal fluid

RESULTS

- A total sample of 62 cases is presented. According to sex: males 66%; 34% women; By age: median in 6 years. Laboratory data: Pleocytosis: positive in 96% of the cases; in the remaining 4% no pleocistosis was found, resulting this latest ones positive for enterovirus. Predominant cells: in enterovirus meningitis, mononuclear cells predominated in 66% of the cases, while polymorphonuclear cells predominated in the remaining 33%. In contrast, in bacteria caused, polymorphonuclear predominated in 100%. The median of the glucose and proteins in the CSF in the group caused by enterovirus was 64 and 35 mg / dl, while in the group caused by bacteria was 54 and 109 mg / dl respectively. Germs were confirmed only by biochemistry 13%, enterovirus 79%, meningococcus B 3%, meningococcus C 3%, pneumococcus 2%.

2. Distribution by sex (%)

Median data in CSF (mg/dl)

Predominant cells in CSF

Distrubution by month (%)

DISTRIBUTION BY GERMS

DISCUSSION

- Most of the meningitis in the pediatric age are caused by enteroviruses, generally occuring in the spring, as reflected in our series. The median age and the predominance of the male sex also coincide with what is described in the literature. In 33% of the cases caused by enteroviral infection, a polymorphonuclear predominance can be observed in the biochemical analysis of the CSF which probably leads to an increasing use of antibiotic therapy. Furthermore, we highlight cases produced by meningococcus C all occurring in unvaccinated patients