CAT-SCRATCH DISEASE WITH BONE INVOLVEMENT

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BACKGROUND AND AIMS

Bartonella henselae is a pleomorphic, Gram-negative bacterium that causes cat-scratch disease (CSD). Typically, infection presents as a self-limiting regional lymphadenopathy. A disseminated (atypical) infection with bone involvement is rare.

This study aimed to describe bone infection associated to CSD in a portuguese pediatric tertiary care hospital.

METHODS

One year retrospective study (January to December 2010) based on the clinical records of children admitted to Dona Estefânia Hospital.

Diagnosis was confirmed by serology using indirect fluorescence assay (IFA) and nucleic acid amplification by Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR).

Demographic, epidemiological and clinical features, laboratory, histopathological and imaging findings, therapeutic measures and evolution were analyzed.

RESULTS

Clinical Presentation and Epidemiological Data

Case 1
- 7 year-old boy
- Previously healthy; unremarkable family history

Case 2
- 2 year-old boy
- Previously healthy; unremarkable family history

Laboratory, Histopathological and Image Data

Serology for Bartonella (IFA): 1st sample (D1): Ig G negative
2nd sample (D30): Ig G positive title of 1024

SEROCONVERSION

BARTONELLA HENSELAE INFECTION WITH BONE INVOLVEMENT

Therapy and Outcome

Antibiotics
- Aziythromicin 15mg/Kgid (14 days)
- Rifampcin 20mg/Kgid (10 weeks)

Clinical outcome: progressive remission of signs/symptoms

Image outcome: progressive remission of the splenic lesions and sternoclavicular (both, present at 4 months of follow up, but absent at 9 months of follow up)

Immunodeficiency excluded

The different outcome in the presented cases could be related with the distinct therapeutic regimens used.

Although atypical infection has classically been associated with immunodeficiency, this has not been the rule in bone disease and the need for extensive evaluation must be reviewed.

REFERENCES:

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