674

PULMONARY FUNCTION AND NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF CHILDREN EXPOSED TO SMALL SCALE AGATE INDUSTRIAL UNITS IN SHAKARPUR, GUJARAT - INDIA

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Background In Shakarpur of Khambhat, a coastal city of Gujarat, India, several small agate polishing units operate from individual houses. Prevalence of Silicosis and other co-morbid conditions is systematically documented recently. Effect of environmental exposure on nutritional status and pulmonary function (PFTs) of children in this area was assessed.

Methods Cross sectional study was conducted in schools of this area. Weight was measured using standard digital bathroom scale while height was measured using Stadiometer (Seca). PFTs were measured for Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) and Forced Expiratory Volume in 1st second (FEV1) using digital spirometer (One Flow FVC memo kit). Out of School children were not assessed.

Results 240 children (128 Boys and 112 Girls) in the age group of 10–16 years participated. 5 children (2 boys and 3 girls below 15 years of age) were working in agate industry. As per WHO growth standards 56.3% boys and 45.5% girls were stunted whereas 47.7% boys and 36.6% girls were undernourished. (Body Mass Index less than –2SD). The mean (SD) FVC [1.82(0.64) for boys vs. 1.83(0.63) for girls] and mean (SD) FEV1 [1.26(0.33) for boys vs. 1.29(0.34) for girls] was comparable across gender. No statistically significant difference was found in PFTs of children exposed to in house or neighboring agate industry as compared to unexposed children.

Conclusion PFTs are decreased in the entire population of children as compared to standards in Gujarat Population but agate exposed children did not show worse PFTs. Prevalence of under-nutrition in children was high.

675

MALNOURISHED CHILDREN WITH ACUTE DIARRHEA

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Introduction Diarrhoea continues to be a serious problem in children and may be fatal when superimposed upon malnutrition.

Objective To determine the frequency of electrolyte disturbances in malnourished children with diarrhea and whether these findings have therapeutic value or not.

Methodology We included in the study 400 children age 6 months to 5 years admitted for acute watery diarrhea. On the basis of history, physical examination and anthropometrics measurement they were divided into Group A patients (n=116) who were malnourished and Group B patients (n=284) with normal nutrition. Serum electrolytes were done in patients of both groups and the results were analyzed statistically.

Results Analysis of serum electrolytes in both groups revealed that hypokalemia, hyponatremia and low serum bicarbonate were seen more frequently in patients of group A as compared to group B. In group A hypokalemia was seen in 39 patients (39/116 or 33.62%) while it was observed in 42 patients (42/284 or 14.78%) in group B (p<0.001). Hyponatremia was seen in 21 patients (21/116 or 18.10%) in group A and in 14 patients (14/284 or 4.92%) in group B (p<0.001). In group A 96 patients (96/116 or 82.7%) had low serum bicarbonate while in group B 122 patients (122/284 or 42.95%) had low serum bicarbonate value (p<0.001).

Conclusion Electrolyte disturbances were commonly seen in malnourished children with acute diarrhea. The measurement of serum electrolytes is helpful for immediate therapy to avoid serious life

threatening situation. Key words: Acute diarrhea, malnutrition, electrolytes.

676

CONGENITAL CHLORIDE DIARRHEA: A REVIEW OF 12 ARAB CHILDREN

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Background Congenital chloride diarrhea (CCD), a rare autosomal recessive disorder, is characterized by sustained watery diarrhea (due to defect of active Chloride/HCO3 exchange in the ileum and colon) with high fecal chloride. The estimated incidence of CCD was 1 in 14000 in Kuwait reported in 1989. Aim of our study was to spotlight the common presentation of infants with CCD which appears not to be uncommon disorder in Kuwait for early management and prevention of complications.

Subjects and methods Reviewing the inpatient database of Pediatric department of Al-Adan Hospital, Kuwait for patients who were admitted as chronic diarrhea in the first year of life, 12 patients diagnosed as CCD (7 females and 5 males). The diagnosis of CCD was based on antenatal and early infantile presentation and confirmed by laboratory finding of excess chloride loss in stool and low serum chloride level.

Results All 12 patients were born to consanguineous parents, had antenatal history of IUGR, polyhydramnios and distended hypoechoic fetal bowel and presented with abdominal distension, hypotonia and muscle wasting. Whereas, 10 patients (90%) were delivered prematurely, 8 patients (66.6%) had maternal hypertension, 9 patients (75%) had absence of normal meconium at birth. Our patients showed significant decrease in serum sodium, potassium, chloride & urine chloride compared with the average for age. **Conclusions** High index of suspicious and awareness should be considered for early diagnosis of CCD in this population especially in the presence of consanguineous marriage.

677

ELASTOGRAPHIC ASSESSMENT OF LIVER FIBROSIS IN CHILDREN WITH MALIGNANCIES VERSUS CHILDREN WITH HEPATIC STEATOSIS AND OTHER CHRONIC LIVER DISEASES

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The ultrasound elastography has more and more clinical applications, providing information related to the elasticity/stiffness of the examined-tissue. The aim of this paper was to assess the elastography performance for real-time ARFI in evaluating the liver fibrosis in children with malignancies, after-chemotherapy, compared with chronical liver diseases.

Material and Methods A prospective study was performed in Pediatric Clinic Ist Tg.-Mures, Romania, 2010, September 15th-2011, September 15th, on 153 hospitalized children - 58 children with malignancies, 28 with liver diseases, 20 obese children and a control-group - 47 children. The liver tissue elasticity has been evaluated (Shear Wave Velocity, SWV) as well as some paraclinical parameters; statistical correlations were established.

Results and discussion Comparing the values of transaminasis, statistically significant differences were found between children with liver diseases and control-group regarding aspartate-aminotransferase, AST and alanine-aminotransferase, ALT.SWV was measured globally and separately for the liver-segments 1 and 8. In normal conditions in the 1st-segment SWV values were smaller than in 8th-segment (p=0.02). In the group of obese children the SWV values were statistically significant bigger than in controls, the liver