

Purulent meningitis in children: An experience in a pediatric ward

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Childhood purulent meningitis remains frequent, causing significant infant morbidity and mortality. The urgency of the diagnosis and the early treatment will determine the short and long term prognosis. This is a retrospective study of all cases of purulent meningitis in children collected from January 2005 to December 2018. Twenty-five cases of purulent meningitis (PM) were collected. The hospital incidence of PM was 1.78 cases / year. The sex ratio was 1.27 with a male predominance of 56%. The average age of our patients was 56.16 months. Fever was present in 92% of cases, headache in 52% of cases, vomiting in 72% of cases, abdominal pain in 16% of cases, lethargy in 40% of cases, confusion in 24% of cases, convulsions in 16% of cases, arthralgia in 20% of cases and photophobia in 16% of cases. Culture of the CSF showed *Haemophilus influenzae* type b in 3 cases and *Pneumoniae Streptococcus* in one case. Brain scan was performed in 20 patients and was found to be pathologic in 7 of them (28%). Cerebral MRI was done in 3 cases (12%) and was found to be pathological in all cases. First-line antibiotic therapy was based on Cefotaxime vancomycin in 20 cases (80%). Dexamethasone was prescribed in 14 cases. The outcome was favorable in the short term in 80% of cases. Long-term complications included right axial proptosis with arachnoidocele complicating orbit collection in one case and bilateral demyelizing optic neuropathy in another case.

Biography

Imene Molla has completed her PhD at the age of 25 years from faculty of Medecine, Sfax university. She is an student in pediatrics since 2016.