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Original Research Paper

Medicine

A STUDY OF INCIDENCE AND PROGNOSIS OF PATIENTS WITH THROMBOCYTOPENIA IN MALARIA:

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ABSTRACT Malaria is one of the major health problems in the tropical countries and accounts for increased morbidity & mortality. Thrombocytopenia or lessening of the concentration of thrombocytes is a common finding in malaria, but its correlation with the type of malaria and prognostic value with respect to severity of low platelet count has not been evaluated in large studies. We in this study attempt to correlate the low platelet count with type of malaria and outcome of this disease.

KEYWORDS :

INTRODUCTION:

Malaria is one of the oldest diseases known to Humans. It has changed the course of history of mankind several times. The old literatures and scriptures contain references to fevers, and some of which almost appear to be malaria. Even Charaka and Susruta have described variants of malarial fevers in their magnanimous books. Malaria was linked with stagnant water on the ground since time immemorial. This probable relationship was so firmly established that it gave the two most frequently used names to the disease mal'aria, later shortened to one word malaria, and paludisme. The term malaria (from the Italian mala "bad" and aria "air") was used by the Italians to describe the cause of intermittent fevers associated with exposure to marsh air or miasma1. The word was introduced to English by Horace Walpole, who wrote in 1740 about a "horrid thing called mal'aria, that comes to Rome every summer and kills one."The term malaria, without the apostrophe, evolved into the name of the disease only in the 20th century2. Up to that point the various intermittent fevers had been called jungle fever, marsh fever, paludal fever, or swamp fever. Malaria affects around 3.4 billion people world-wide, 2.2 billion people are at low risk of this 94% live in other than Africa. 1.2 billion people with high risk (>1/1000 persons) (47%) in Africa region and (37%) in South-East Asian region. Malaria seen in 97 countries3,4,5.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

To study the incidence and prognosis of patients with thrombocytopenia in malaria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS:

This study was done in Basaweshwara Medical College, Chitradurga
This study was done from May 2006 to April 2007.

A total number of 30 patients were selected.
All study subjects who were identified positive for Malaria parasite on peripheral smear examination with conventional microscopy, Platelet count was done. Daily platelet count was done for all those admitted with malaria.

Reports were noted and the detailed follow up was done until the patient was discharged.

Results:

Table 1: Mean Distribution:

Number of Patients	Mean Age	Standard Deviation
30	41.48 years	± 11.95 years

Table 2: Sex Distribution:

Number of Patients	Male	Female
30	19	11

Table 3: Incidence of Thrombocytopenia:

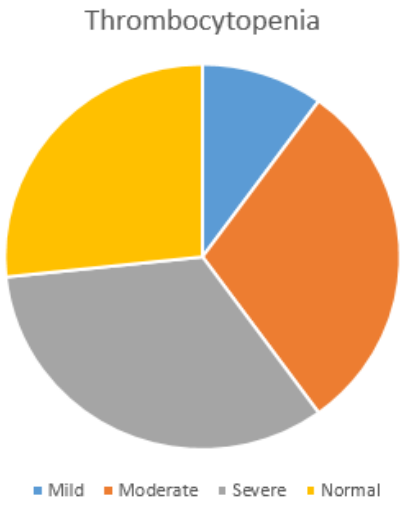
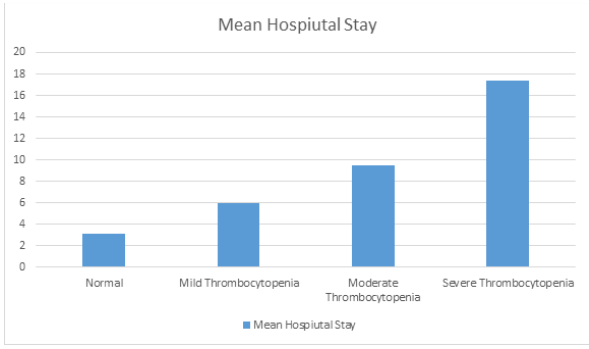


Table 4: Mean Duration of the Hospital Stay



There was a significant relation between the thrombocytopenia and the prognosis and the patients with respect to the amount of days spent in the Hospital for the treatment.

DISCUSSION:

In this study 22 subjects out of 30 malaria cases had thrombocytopenia. Incidence of thrombocytopenia being 73.34%. Thrombocytopenia is a common feature of acute malaria and occurs in both P.falciparum and P.vivax infection regardless of severity of infection. Thrombocytopenia in a patient with febrile illness increases the possibility of malarial infection. 2 When thrombocytopenia is co-related with severity of malaria, severe thrombocytopenia was commonly associated with maximum hospital stay. Malaria is one of the major health problems in the

tropical countries and accounts for increased morbidity & mortality. Thrombocytopenia or lessening of the concentration of thrombocytes is a common finding in malaria, but its correlation with the type of malaria and prognostic value with respect to severity of low platelet count has not been evaluated in large studies. We in this study attempt to correlate the low platelet count with type of malaria and outcome of this disease.

Thrombocytopenia is a common association of Malaria. Severe thrombocytopenia is a good predictor of poor prognosis than mild and moderate thrombocytopenia. Patients who present with severe thrombocytopenia are 8.5 times more prone to develop complications than mild and moderate thrombocytopenia. If severe thrombocytopenia persists for more than six days despite of adequate therapy, mortality rate increases from 4.1% to 30%6,7

CONCLUSION:

Thrombocytopenia is a common association of Malaria. Severe thrombocytopenia is a good predictor of poor prognosis.

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