ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

General Surgery

EVALUATION OF PRESENTATION OF AGE,SEX AND SOCIOECONOMIC STATUS ASSESSMENT IN PAEDIATRIC AGE GROUP WITH DEEP SPACE NECK ABSCESSES

KEY WORDS: Deep neck infections (DNI), deep fascial space

Dr Arun Ms Ent Ch Markand Hp

Dr Savya Sachi Ms General Surgery Ch Baijnath Hp

ABSTRACT

Deep neck infections (DNI) are infectious processes of the deep fascial space in the head and neck area. The complex head and neck anatomy cause difficulties in the diagnosis; thus, a high index of suspicion is necessary to avoid any delay in treatment.

INTRODUCTION:

Deep neck infections (DNI) are infectious processes of the deep fascial space in the head and neck area. The complex head and neck anatomy cause difficulties in the diagnosis; thus, a high index of suspicion is necessary to avoid any delay in treatment. The presenting signs and symptoms are determined by the location and contents of the affected space. Infectious processes can spread easily within the fascial space where the disease originates, but can also extend as disease progresses into neighbouring spaces. Extension of infection into the spaces that extend the length of the neck can spread disease far beyond its origin and thus cause life-threatening complications.

Observation:

Age: Mean age of the patients was 7.25±4.19 years ranging from 2 months to 15 years. Majority of the patients aged up to 3 years (26%) followed by 20% patients each in age-group of 4-6 years and 10-12 years, 19% in 7-9 years, and 15% patients aged above 12 years.

Sex: Male to female ratio was 1.08:1. There was a near equal proportion of males (52%) and females (48%).

Socioeconomic status: In this study, 55% patients' socioeconomic status was low while for 45% patients, socioeconomic status was middle. None of the patients belonged to high socioeconomic status.

DISCUSSION:

In our study, mean age of the patients was 7.25±4.19 years ranging from 2 months to 15 years. Majority of the patients aged up to 3 years (26%) followed by 20% patients each in age-group of 4-6 years and 10-12 years, 19% in 7-9 years, and 15% patients aged above 12 years. In the study by Jain et al, majority of children with deep neck abscesses aged between 1- and 2-years. 33 In a study by Showkat et al, most patients were between the ages of 5-8 years (40%).40 Patigaroo et al reported 40% patients aged between 4 and 6-years.

In our study, male to female ratio was 1.08:1. There was a near equal proportion of males (52%) and females (48%). As per studies males are more prone to develop deep neck infections. This may be attributed to the differences in strengths of connective tissue between males and females, with the infection being more likely to spread to the potential spaces in males.

In the study Jain et al, 60% of the patients were males.33 In study by Patigaroo et al, 82% of the children were males.41 In study by Showkat et al, the data from our study show predominance of paediatric neck abscesses in males (74%) over females (26%).

In this study, 55% patients' socioeconomic status was low while for 45% patients, socioeconomic status was middle. None of the patients belonged to high socioeconomic status.
In a study by Agarwal et al, most of the patients were of low socioeconomic status and 84 (70%) were illiterate. Socioeconomic factors, particularly ignorance, illiteracy, and poverty, are important contributory factors towards the high incidence of deep neck abscess in developing countries. Johnson and Jiang in USA study reported children with neck abscesses in this cohort tended to live in areas with lower household incomes.

Summary:

Mean age of the patients was 7.25±4.19 years ranging from 2 months to 15 years. Majority of the patients aged up to 3 years (26%) followed by 20% patients each in age-group of 4-6 years and 10-12 years, 19% in 7-9 years, and 15% patients aged above 12 years.

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