

Surgical Complications Revealing Nephrotic Syndrome Of Children At "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta" (Benin)

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Abstract

Background: Thromboembolic and infectious complications of nephrotic syndrome are powerful and can be functional or life threatening. Surgical complications are rare, hence the interest of our work which aimed to study the therapeutic and evolutionary clinical aspects of the surgical complications of the children's nephrotic syndrome at "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta" (Benin).

Methods: This was a prospective case study of children with complicated nephrotic syndrome followed at "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta" (Benin) from October 2016 to December 2018.

Results: We reported two cases, all male. Before surgical complications the symptoms were dominated by an oedema syndrome lasting for each of them on average eight months. Surgical complications that revealed nephrotic syndrome were a spontaneous amputation of the right foot due to arterial thrombosis in a seven-year-old boy and a necrotizing fasciitis of the left foot in a 10-year-old child. The nephrotic syndrome was idiopathic and the cares were both surgical and medical. Nephrotic syndrome was corticosteroid sensitive with a good evolution in five months.

Conclusion: These two cases teach that any childhood oedema syndrome must be quickly explored for appropriated management to avoid these serious complications and after effects.

Keywords: Nephrotic Syndrome, Foot Amputation, Necrotizing Fasciitis, Thrombosis, Child, Tanguieta

Introduction

Nephrotic syndrome is a glomerular disease. His diagnosis is biological. The majority of diagnoses 85% of anatomopathological cases in children 1 to 10 years of age is made of minimal change glomerulopathy which are often corticosteroid sensitive [1]. Nephrotic syndrome has several complications, the strongest one are thromboembolism, infections and kidney failure. [1]. We report a case of nephrotic syndrome revealed by a spontaneous amputation of the right foot in a seven-year-old child due to arterial thrombosis and another one revealed by a necrotizing fasciitis of the left foot in a 10-year-old child. These are two rare surgical complications that revealed nephrotic syndrome at "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta".

Methods

This was a prospective case study of children with complicated nephrotic syndrome seen respectively at "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta" (Benin) in October 2016 and May 2017 and

followed until December 2018. The management of kidney disease at "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta" is funded.

Results

Observation 1

The seven-year-old child A. M., with no known pathological history, is admitted to the emergency department of "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tanguieta", in October 2016, for the treatment of a spontaneous amputation of the right foot at home. The onset of the disease was about a year since and marked by an oedema syndrome, which then spreads to anasarca. That led to consult a traditional healer and after in healthcare centre without any improvement. The evolution was marked by aphtoses, fever, pain of the lower right limb and necrosis of the toes of the right foot then reaching the entire foot and lower middle part of the right leg. During treatment with indigenous therapy, the right foot was spontaneously amputated at home. That motivated his admission to the hospital. The clinical examination upon his admission noted a general poor condition, blood pressure at 130/65 mm Hg, a temperature at 36.8C, a heart rate at 82 beats per minute and a body mass index at 19.5 kg/m² (height at 1.05 m and weight at 20 kg). The popliteal pulses one right and left feet were good. Edematous-ascitic

syndrome and clinical anemia were noted. The biological balance showed: 24-hour proteinuria at 107 mg/kg, protidemia at 34 g/l, albuminemia at 14 g/l, blood sugar level at 0.89 g/l, urea 0.30 g/l, creatinemia 11.6 mg/l, Total cholesterol range and HDL cholesterol range were 2.86 mg/l and 1.75 mg/l, respectively. Natremia was observed at 126 mEq/l, kaliemia at 3.60 mEq/l, chloremia at 96 mEq/l. The hemogram was in favour of microcytic anemia with hemoglobin levels at 10.6 g/dL and leukocytosis at 12800 G/l. The C Reactive Protein was 47 mg/l. The serologies of Hepatitis B and C and HIV viruses were negative. Doppler ultrasound of the lower limbs pointed out arterial thrombosis of the right leg. The diagnosis was an idiopathic nephrotic syndrome of the child with severe infectious and thromboembolic complications resulting in a dry right foot gangrene with spontaneous amputation. Treatment was on the one hand surgical to have a healthy stump 2 times, and medical on the other hand with hygienic measures. Pictures 1 and 2 show the aspects of the pelvic limbs and gangrene of the right foot as soon as he is admitted at "Hopital Saint Jean de Dieu de Tangueta".



Pictures 1 and 2 show the aspects of the pelvic limbs and gangrene of the right foot upon admission to "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tangueta"

Observation 2

S, M. 10 years old, Beninese, was admitted to the emergency department of "Hopital Saint Jean De Dieu De Tangueta", in May 2017, for an ulceration of his pelvic limb associated with oedema syndrome. The onset of the disease is about seven months since and marked by a renal type oedema. The parents had used traditional drugs without success. The clinical examination on admission noted a general poor condition, blood pressure at 120/75 mm Hg, a temperature at 37.9°C, a heart rate at 112 beats per minute and a body mass index at 18.7 kg/m² (height at 1.35 m and weight at 34 kg). The pulse of the right pelvic limb was well perceived. An ulceration of the left foot, leg and thigh. The biological balance showed: 24-hour proteinuria at 217 mg/kg, protidemia at 28 g/l, albuminemia at 12 g/l, blood sugar at 0.89 g/l, urea 0.30 g/l, creatinemia 11.6 mg/l. Total cholesterol range and HDL cholesterol range were 2.90 mg/l and 1.20 mg/l, respectively. Natremia was observed at 122 mEq/l, kaliemia at 3.80 mEq/l, chloremia at 102 mEq/l. The hemogram with hemoglobin at 11.2 g/dl, leukocytosis at 13000 G/l and 180 G/l of platelets. The serologies of Hepatitis B and C and HIV viruses were negative. The diagnosis was an idiopathic nephrotic syndrome complicated by a necrotizing fasciitis of the left leg and thigh. Treatment was on the one hand surgical by necrosectomy of the left pelvic limb, and medical on the other hand with hygienic measures.



Pictures 3, 4 and 5 show aspects of the left pelvic limb.

For both patients, medical treatment was corticosteroid therapy for a five-month period by progressive cessation after negatization of proteinuria and a balance of protidemia and albuminemia. A second treatment due to corticosteroid therapy was instituted with the intake of potassium, calcium, and proton pump inhibitor. Anti proteinuria treatment was instituted, taking low doses of ACE Inhibitor. Also they had received heparin and then platelet anti aggregant. Against the infections they had been treated with ceftriaxone, metronidazole. They took statin and diuretics.

As hygienic-dietary measures, there was a diet without sugar, low in salt and fat, but rich in calcium and potassium.

The evolution under medical treatment has been good with an improvement in the clinical and para-clinical condition. The patient is asymptomatic after 5 months of corticosteroid therapy with a progressive stop. The post-operative follow-ups were simple. The seven-year-old was fitted with his right foot. Pictures 4 and 5 show the stump healing before departure.

Discussion

The symptoms of nephrotic syndrome is polymorphic and its diagnosis is biological. Complications are various [1]. Thromboembolic complications are found in 10-40% of cases of nephrotic syndrome [2]. Arterial thrombosis represent 19-27% of cases of thromboembolic complications. Among small children population, thrombotic phenomena are more severe than in adults, readily reaching arterial territories and are allowed by episodes of extracellular dehydration and hypercoagulability. Neglect and delay in care can cause damages. In our series, the children were admitted to the hospital when complications occurred and not for the management of nephrotic syndrome. Apart from gangrene and necrotizing fasciitis there are still dangerous complications such as

pulmonary embolisms, strokes, thrombosis of the kidney vessels [1]. The various abnormalities of hemostasis have been described during the Nephrotic Syndrome and may explain this high incidence of thromboembolic diseases. High levels of various clotting factors (fibrinogen, factors V, VIII, XIII) are frequently found during nephrotic syndrome [1]. The elevation of fibrinogen is the most consistent anomaly [1]. Delays in management lead to serious complications but if the NS is corticosteroid sensitive, there is hope. Ignorance of the clinical picture promotes treatment with herbal medicine and the real treatment is postponed and done only at the complication stage.

Conclusion

Thromboembolic and infectious complications of nephrotic syndrome remain powerful. Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment could prevent these complications. It is necessary to raise community awareness about the management of oedema syndrome.

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