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Endoscopic treatment of biliopancreatic diseases in pediatric patients: Experience in Cuba

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Statement of the Problem: The ERCP is a pediatric endoscopic procedure, which is very much in demand. It is the most sensitive and specific in the evaluation and treatment of children with suspected disorders of the pancreas and biliary tract, after the cholangioresonance technique. Its disadvantage is that it is an invasive procedure that requires general anesthesia. The objective of this report is to show the results achieved by our group in the endoscopic treatment during ERCP in a group of pediatric patients with disorders of the biliopancreatic system.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: An observational, descriptive study of the records of 60 endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) performed on 35 patients of pediatric age with suspected biliopancreatic disorders at the National Center for Minimal Access Surgery was performed over a period of 3 years, from February 2013 to May 2016.

Findings: Of the total patients, 13 (37.1%), 31 were male and 22 (63.9%) female; while the total ERCP, 10 (16.7%) of them were children and 50 (83.3%) adolescents according to the distribution by age group. The main indication was the study of abdominal right upper quadrant pain with elevated enzymes of cholestasis and icterus 27 (45%) and the most frequent diagnosis was post-surgical stenosis coledoco-coledocostomia in 23 ERCP (38.3%), followed by 20 normal (33.3%). The most commonly used intervention was endoscopic sphincterotomy (16), while the complementary techniques were placing prosthesis in the main bile duct and changing prosthesis. In 2 cases were mild complications for 3.3%. Mortality was nil.

Conclusion & Significance: Our results showed the high diagnostic usefulness and therapeutic success of ERCP with minimal risk and complications in pediatric patients. Our group has achieved good results in the practice of this technique in pediatric patients, supported by low morbidity presented.

Recommendations: This procedure should be considered as a therapeutic tool and consider other alternatives for diagnosis, because they are not without risk.

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