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Are we over-treating insect bite related periorbital cellulitis in children? The experience of a large, tertiary care pediatric hospital

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Introduction: Preseptal (periorbital) and orbital cellulitis are potentially catastrophic infections near the eye. Preseptal cellulitis is far more common, and although classically reported to be associated with dacryocystitis, sinusitis/upper respiratory infection, trauma/surgery, or infection from contiguous areas, it can also be associated with insect bites. The objective of this study was to determine the prevalence of insect bite-associated preseptal cellulitis and to compare clinical findings and outcomes of these patients with those having other causes for the condition.

Methods: Retrospective chart review was done on children with a final discharge diagnosis of periorbital cellulitis from January 2009 to December 2014 at a tertiary care children's hospital.

Results: 213 children were diagnosed with preseptal cellulitis during the 5-year study period, of whom 60 (28%) were associated with insect bites. Patients in the non-insect bite group more commonly had fever at presentation ($p < 0.001$), with increased WBC and CRP values (both $p < 0.001$). No patient with insect bite-associated preseptal cellulitis presented with fever, and none underwent radiographic testing or computerized tomography; their mean age was also lower ($p < 0.001$) and length of stay was significantly shorter.

Conclusions: This study suggests that children with preseptal cellulitis associated with insect bites could be candidates for oral antibiotic therapy with outpatient follow-up by.

Biography

Nadav Friedel has completed his MD at Semmelweis University, Budapest, Hungary in 2011. Since then, he is working at Dana-Dwek Children Hospital, Tel Aviv, Israel as a Medical Doctor.

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