Childhood intussusception– Saline hydrostatic reduction under ultrasound guidance: A prospective study

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A prospective study of hydrostatic reduction of intussusception under ultrasonographic guidance was undertaken in the Department of Pediatric Surgery, SGMC & RF, Thiruvananthapuram, to assess its diagnostic accuracy and therapeutic efficacy. For a period of five years, 150 cases of suspected intussusception were taken up for this study. After proper preparation, a Foley’s catheter is inserted into the rectum and the balloon is inflated. Warm saline kept at a height of 155 cm is allowed to run into the colon through the catheter after confirming the diagnosis. Change in position of the mass and its migration to the ileocaecal region, demonstration of the ileo-caecal valve, filling up of the ileal loop with fluid and formation of honeycomb appearance are the direct evidences of reduction. During the procedure, the peritoneal cavity is examined for fluid collection, to rule out the possibility of bowel perforation. On completion of reduction, a rectal examination is done to help in expelling the retained fluid. If the mass remains stationary at a point for more than 15 minutes, the procedure is aborted. The patient is clinically followed up for the next 48 hours. Of the 150 cases, 30 had no evidence of intussusception. In 97 of 120 remaining cases, complete reduction could be achieved; whereas, laparotomy was required for the remaining 23 cases. Hydrostatic reduction under sonographic control is a safe, simple, effective and dependable method with no hazard of exposure to ionizing radiation.

Biography

P Y Henry earned Masters in General Surgery from Kerala University (1987) MCh (Pediatric Surgery), Calicut Univerity, Kerala (1993), Diplomate of the National Board (1994). He gained FMAS (Laparoscopy) 2008 and PG Diploma in Ultrasonography from Annamalai University (2008). With 25 years of experience in teaching hospitals, he is now working as a Professor and HOD of Department of Pediatric Surgery, SGMC & RF, Thiruvanthapuram, since 2009. He has published 10 articles in international journals and was awarded best paper in 1999 & 2000 in the National Conference of Association of Pediatric Surgeons of India. He was a special invitee for 12th International Congress of Human Genetics, Montreal, 2011.

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