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Acute viral encephalitis syndrome in pediatric patients admitted to a tertiary government hospital from 2011 to 2014: Clinical profile and outcome using the modified Rankin scale

Albert Roland G Alcaraz

University of the Philippines, Philippines

The study aims to determine the clinical profile and outcome of patients with acute viral encephalitis syndrome admitted from January 2011 to December 2014. It is a retrospective descriptive study. All pediatric patients who were admitted with a final diagnosis of acute encephalitis syndrome (AES) were included. Demographic information, presenting signs and symptoms and results of viral studies were collected. The outcome was determined using the Modified Rankin Scale. The clinical outcomes of patients were compared using median test and analyzed. There were 64 medical records retrieved. The highest number of cases was seen in the 1 to 4 years age group with 21 (32.81%) and in males (68.75%). New onset seizure was the most frequent presentation. There were 11 patients (25%) that tested positive for Japanese encephalitis virus, 9 (20.5%) for Dengue virus and 6 (13.6%) Herpes simplex virus. Eighteen (18) patients had negative viral studies. The modified Rankin scale showed 41 (64.08%) had good outcome while 23 (35.23%) had poor outcome. There was no significant difference in the modified Rankin scale between the two groups. Acute viral encephalitis syndrome has a wide-spread distribution mostly as seen on males and 1-4 years age group. Majority had good neurological outcomes. There was no significant difference in the modified Rankin scale of patients with Japanese encephalitis and other etiologic agents. However, the results are based on a small sample size and larger studies involving a greater number of patients are needed before definite conclusions can be made.

alcaraz.albertmd@gmail.com