



ABSTRACT BOOK



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Mohamad Sultan

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS FREQUENCY IN ISRAEL'S DIVERSE POPULATIONS

Kharkiv National Medical University
 (Department of Social medicine, Organization and Economics)
 Research advisor: PhD., assos.prof. L.I. Chumak
 Kharkiv, Ukraine

Introduction. Multiple sclerosis (MS) occurs in young adults and infrequently appears in childhood.

Aim: To determine the incidence of MS and describe the clinical, cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) findings at onset of MS in children in Israel.

Materials and Methods. Incidence and case-specific data were obtained through the MS Center Database and Israeli Health Statistics Census Data over 15 years, from 2000 to 2015, and compared between patients with childhood (< 12 years), juvenile (> or = 12 years, < or = 18 years) and adult (> 18 years) MS onset.

Results of research. Of 1129 eligible MS patients, we identified 10 (0.89%) with childhood-onset MS, 74 (6.55%) with juvenile-onset MS, and 1045 (92.56%) with adult-onset MS. There were 0 to 3 incident childhood cases/year, leading to an annual incidence of 0.1/100,000 among Israeli children; the incidence of juvenile and adult MS was 2.6 and 5.4/100,000, respectively. Neurological presentation among children with MS was optic neuritis, motor weakness or brainstem involvement. CSF oligoclonal immunoglobulin (IgG) were positive in 62.5%. The most frequent MRI finding was the occurrence of > or = 3 periventricular white matter lesions followed by corpus callosum lesions, with 71% co-occurrence. Cervical and thoracic lesions occurred in 33% and 43%, respectively. Time to second neurological event ranged from 0.3 to 4.2 years and none of the patients with childhood MS reached EDSS = 6.0 within a mean follow-up period of 8.4 years.

Conclusions. Childhood-onset MS is rare, with an incidence of 0.1/100,000 Israeli children. Childhood MS does not differ significantly from juvenile and adult-onset MS in terms of clinical, laboratory and imaging findings.

Ogbole E.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF RABIES IN NIGERIA

Kharkiv National Medical University
 (Department of Epidemiology)
 Research advisor: Ass. Makarova V.
 Kharkiv, Ukraine

Introduction. Rabies is a viral zoonotic disease, resulting in a fatal outcome, transmitted primarily by the bite of rabid carnivores, which affects all warm-blooded animals and human.

Nigeria is known to be endemic for rabies. The aim of this abstract is to review the incidence and rate of human death due to rabies across various health institutions in Nigeria and evaluation of activities and efforts to problem solving.

Materials and methods. Case reports on Rabies from 10 states in Nigeria in 2016 were studied.

Results of research. A total of 78 deaths were recorded in 2016 due to rabies and all cases were confirmed only by clinical manifestations. Most reported cases of rabies death were reported in Northern and Southern Nigeria - 45 % and 35 % respectively. The analysis of the dynamics of the annual cases of rabies deaths revealed that the majority of cases were reported around April and September, corresponding to the dog breeding seasons in Nigeria. Thus, dogs often are the source of rabies infection in Nigeria. Analysis of social and age groups of risk revealed that, the incidence of rabies was highest among poor and uneducated people, and young children, especially under the age of 10 years in the rural areas.

Conclusions. It can be concluded that the average number of reported rabies cases is much lower than expected. The number of reported cases of rabies in Nigeria is low due to poor diagnostic facilities and inadequate veterinary establishments, poor standard of record keeping, lack of coordination of disease reporting system, lack of proper education of the population about rabies and inadequate funding of research in areas of wildlife rabies.

To improve the epidemic and epizootic situation of rabies in Nigeria, it is necessary to intensify sanitary education among the population about the need to seek medical help for any damage to the skin and mucous membranes after contact with animals, as well as the possible consequences of abandoning the prescribed anti-rabies treatment, because timely specific immunization anti-rabies immunoglobulin and/or vaccine is the only way to prevent rabies in humans after contact with a sick animal. Veterinary specialists should monitor the circulation of the rabies virus among animals and carry out mandatory vaccination against rabies animals, including dogs in both urban and rural areas.

Ogunyemi Opeyemi Oluwafunmilayo, Sesay-Tlahyoni A.

EPIDEMIC SITUATION OF HEPATITIS B VIRUS INFECTION IN NIGERIA

Kharkiv National Medical University
(Department of Epidemiology)

Research advisor: Ass. Makarova V.
Kharkiv, Ukraine

Introduction. Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection is a serious public health problem, with two billion people infected worldwide and 350 million suffering from chronic HBV infection. Globally it causes about 1,2 million deaths per year due to its various complications including chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, and liver cancer, it determines both the medical and socioeconomic significances of this infectious pathology. This study aimed at identifying the prevalence and risk factors for Hepatitis B virus infection in Nigeria and evaluation of activities and efforts to problem solving.

Materials and Method. The study and analysis of scientific medical literature data on the prevalence of Hepatitis B virus infection in Nigeria in modern conditions was conducted.

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