

EFFICACY AND DURATION IN TREATMENT OF ACANTHAMOEBA KERATITIS. PREVALENCE AND RISK FACTOR OF THE INFECTION.

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BACKGROUND

Acanthamoeba keratitis (AK) is a serious corneal infection that may even lead to loss of eyes. Infection prevalence has increased in recent years as the use of contact lenses (CL).

PURPOSE

To analyze if there is a difference in duration and efficacy in treatment with chlorhexidine eye drops 0.02% (CED) in (AK) alone or associated with *Pseudomonas spp.* To evaluate the prevalence of (AK) and use of (CL) as a risk factor.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Retrospective descriptive study in a second level hospital.

Total population of this study was 270000 inhabitants over a period of 3 years (2014-2016).

The treatment was: (CED) with eye drops of 0.1% propamidine isethionate.

For data collection have been used the Farmatools® patient software and patient clinic history.

Data collected

Number of patients treated with (CED)

 Demographic data

 Microbiological results (cultures and PCR for *Acanthamoeba spp.*)

 Days of targeted treatment

 Need for ocular surgery and use of (CL)

RESULTS

Patients were treated with (CED): 36 (55.5%female). Average age: 35 years (18-90).

Microbiological Culture Results	
Acanthamoeba spp.	8 (22.2%)
Acanthamoeba spp. together Pseudomonas spp.	8 (22.2%)
Aspergillus spp.	4 (11%)
Pseudomonas spp. together Serratia spp.	4 (11%)
Pathogens were not isolated	12 (33%)

In culture in which *Acanthamoeba spp.* was isolated, PCR was positive in 12 patients (75%).

The average duration of treatment with (CED) targeted to (AK) was 201 days (48-268).

The prevalence of (AK) was 1 case per 50,000 people / year.

All patients with (AK) were carriers of (CL).

None (AK) without *Pseudomonas spp.* required surgical intervention. All (AK) together with *Pseudomonas spp.* required surgical intervention.

CONCLUSIONS

Treatment with (CED) was effective in all patients with (AK) without *Pseudomonas spp.*, but it was not effective in any patient with (AK) with *Pseudomonas spp.* The period of treatment with (CED) in (AK) was long, for the efficacy it was fundamental the adherence. This study shows a low prevalence according to criteria of the World Health Organization. The use of (CL) was a risk factor in the appearance of (AK). The (AK) should be one of the first possibilities to consider when a user of (CL) suffers an atypical keratitis.

REFERENCES

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