

Poster presentation

Open Access

Assessment of children presenting with rheumatic complaints to a tertiary center in Turkey: differences in an Eastern Mediterranean population

Ö Bircan Cavkaytar*, A Düzova, Ö Teksam, N Aktay Ayaz, O Derman, A Bakkaloglu, G Kale and S Özen

Address: Hacettepe University, School of Medicine, Ankara, Turkey

* Corresponding author

from 15th Paediatric Rheumatology European Society (PreS) Congress
London, UK. 14–17 September 2008

Published: 15 September 2008

Pediatric Rheumatology 2008, **6**(Suppl 1):P138 doi:10.1186/1546-0096-6-S1-P138

This abstract is available from: <http://www.ped-rheum.com/content/6/S1/P138>

© 2008 Bircan Cavkaytar et al; licensee BioMed Central Ltd.

Aim

To evaluate the profile of rheumatic complaints in children in Turkey. The data of the first half of a 6-month prospective study is presented.

Methods

Demographic features, medical history, symptoms and signs of children with rheumatic complaints were analysed prospectively in a tertiary health center in central Anatolia. A detailed rheumatologic examination was done. Complete blood counts, ESR, CRP measurement were performed in all patients; other studies were done if necessary.

Results

From 01st December 2007 to 29th February 2008, a total of 241 children (M/F: 124/117; mean age 8.0 ± 4.0 years) were enrolled. Knee, ankle, hip and wrist were the most frequently involved joints. 61.8% had rheumatic diseases, and 38.2% had non-rheumatic diseases. The common causes constituted of familial Mediterranean fever (12.0%), other periodic fever syndromes (2.1%), HSP (8.7%) and other vasculitides (3.7%), JIA (10.0%), toxic synovitis (6.6%), rheumatic complaints during the course of an infectious disease (7.9%), growth pain (12.9%), orthopedic problems (18.7%); acute rheumatic fever (1.7%), malignancy (1.7%), SLE (1.2%), dermatomyositis (0.4%), overlap syndrome (0.4%) and fibromyalgia (0.8%) were rare.

Conclusion

This is the first study assessing the profile of rheumatic complaints in this part of the world. Our results have showed that auto-inflammatory diseases are strikingly high. Vasculitides and HSP are higher, whereas fibromyalgia is very rare compared to Western Europe. The frequency of ARF has decreased.