SEPTEC ARTHRITIS OF THE WRIST – DELUSORY PATHOLOGY WITH SURPRISING EVOLUTION

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INTRODUCTION

Septic arthritis is not a very common pathology. The incidence of septic arthritis is 5-10 cases per 100000 inhabitants.

Intense inflammation of a joint, as a result of a pathogenic agent contamination, most often a bacterial one.

Symptoms occur later enough, so the disease is detected when tissue destruction is massive.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

- 45 – 76 years
  - 1 woman
  - 3 men
- 3 W – 1 M - history

Clinically: very intense pain, erythema and swelling in the wrist, symptoms which did not remit under conservative treatment with anti-inflammatory.

Paraclinical tests: leukocytosis (maximum of 40,000), thrombocytosis (maximum of 1.100.000) and a moderate anemia.

Ultrasound exam - in all cases - fluid collection in the wrist.

ETIOLOGY - closed fracture of distal radius.

The treatment in all four cases was cast immobilization.

SURGERY

- found a purulent content (a quantity between 50 and 300 ml), extended in the carpal tunnel and palm in two cases.

Bacteriological exam –
Methicillin - resistant Staphylococcus aureus
Targeted antibiotics were administered.

RESULTS

- relatively good only in three cases;
- patients remained with:
  - wrist flexion deficits between 10 and 30 degrees;
  - limited wrist extension between 15 and 35 degrees.
- one case (the youngest patient) with diabetes mellitus and associated diseases exacerbated the patient’s condition in the infectious general status. The amputation was necessary from the upper third of the forearm.

CONCLUSIONS

Although quite rare, the septic arthritis must be a well-known condition and considered in the differential diagnosis with other diseases. Neglected, it can lead to serious complications with long-suffering period of hospitalisation and, in the extreme cases, with loss of limb segment.

References:

No interest conflict