CASE SERIES

CLINICO-HEMATOLOGICAL PROFILE OF VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS AMONG IMMUNOCOMPETENT PATIENTS

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Abstract. We studied cases of visceral leishmaniasis (VL) over a 2-year period among immunocompetent patients who presented to a rural medical college in West Bengal, India to determine a clinical and hematological profile among these patients. We studied a total of 36 cases of VL; the male to female ratio of the cases was 1.6:1 and the mean age was 20.1±11.1 years. A detailed history, physical examination, hemogram, bone marrow or splenic aspiration and chest x-ray were conducted on all cases. A CT-scan of the thorax and fiberoptic bronchoscopy were performed in selected cases. Fever and splenomegaly were present in all cases. Weakness, abdominal pain, bleeding, and hepatomegaly were seen in 63.9, 27.8, 8.3 and 58.3% of cases, respectively. Pancytopenia, bicytopenia, leukopenia and thrombocytopenia were seen in 58.3, 41.7, 61.1 and 83.3% of cases, respectively. Five patients (13.9%) had cough, 2 (5.6%) had hemoptysis, 6 (16.7%) had an abnormal chest x-ray and 3 (8.3%) had localized reticulo-nodular opacities on a CT-scan of the thorax. Bronchoalveolar lavage showed gram-positive cocci in 2 cases (5.6%). One patient died of acute respiratory distress syndrome. Cytopenia was common among the series of VL patients. Pulmonary complications, usually secondary infection, were less frequent (found in 13.9% cases) but was fatal in one patient.

Keywords: visceral leishmaniasis (VL), immunocompetent patient, hematological changes, pulmonary involvement