DIFFERENCES IN CLINICAL FEATURES BETWEEN CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DENGUE HEMORRHAGIC FEVER/DENGUE SHOCK SYNDROME

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Abstract. This retrospective study was conducted to assess the differences in clinical features between children and adults with dengue hemorrhagic fever/dengue shock syndrome (DHF/DSS) admitted to Ratchaburi Hospital, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand. A total of 273 patients with DHF/DSS admitted to Ratchaburi Hospital during January 2007 to May 2008 were included in the study. The median age (range) of studied subjects was 16 years (6 months to 62 years) and the ratio of adults to children was 1.6:1. Forty-eight percent of subjects were 16-30 years old. The common signs, symptoms and clinical features were: nausea/vomiting (74.0%), a positive tourniquet test (73.0%), anorexia (67.0%), hemoconcentration (58.0%), headache (54.0%), abdominal tenderness (43.0%), myalgia (39.0%) and pleural effusion (20.0%). Children had anorexia, a positive tourniquet test, abdominal tenderness and a convalescent rash more frequently than adults. Children also had significantly more prominent plasma leakage as shown by lower serum albumin and sodium and a higher prevalence of pleural effusion, ascites and shock. Although not statistically significant, the prevalence of bleeding in children was higher than in adults but more adults needed blood transfusion. This study provides additional insight into the clinical picture of DHF/DSS in adults and children and may be beneficial for clinicians caring for these adults and children.

Keywords: dengue hemorrhagic fever, clinical feature, children, adult