

1487. Twenty years of experience in Hydatid Disease in Argentinian children

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Background. Hydatid disease (HD) is a zoonosis caused by larval forms of *Echinococcus granulosus*, and is the most frequent cause of liver cysts; however HD is one of the most neglected diseases. In Argentina, the pathology is endemic, with more than 300 new cases per year. The objective is to identify the epidemiology, clinical features, treatment, and outcome of children with HD admitted to a public tertiary care institution.

Methods. Observational study. Patients ($p \leq 18$ years old with *Echinococcus granulosus* infection based on WHO International diagnostic criteria were included. Epidemiology, clinical criteria, typical organ lesions by imaging techniques, histopathology, serology and parasitological studies were evaluated. Study period: from May 1993 to October 2013.

Results. Forty-five patients, most of them from rural areas, were included. Mean age at diagnosis was 7 years (range 3-17), 53% were male. Lungs and liver were the most common locations found in 48% and 42% respectively. Four patients (8%) had a cerebral and 1 p (2%) an ophthalmic cyst. In 38 patients (85%) only one organ was involved, and 14 patients (30%) had multiple cysts in one or more locations. Median time between symptom and diagnosis was 3 months (range 1-132). Clinical features depended on cyst location. Chronic cough and recurrent abdominal pain were the most frequent symptoms. Five p (11%) were asymptomatic, and 11 p (25%) only had fever. Specific serological tests were positive in 21 p (50%) and eosinophilia was seen in 11 p (25%), with a mean of 12.000/mm³. Forty-one patients (92%) received anti-parasitic drug and surgical treatment. Total cystectomy was performed in 90%. Two p (4%) only required antiparasitic treatment because of the small cyst size. Complications were observed in 13 p (31%), with lung localization in 8 p (62%). Three p (6%) relapsed and required another surgery. None of patients died because of HD.

Conclusion. HD should be differentiated from other cyst types in patients coming from endemic areas, especially when located in the liver and/or lung warranting adequate treatment. Lungs and liver are the most frequent organs involved. Surgery is necessary in the majority of cases.

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