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LIVER INVOLVEMENT IN CHILDREN WITH DENGUE INFECTION

Abstract

Liver is not the major target organ of dengue virus, otherwise hepatic dysfunction has been reported in adult patient with dengue infection. Only a few cases of liver involvement in children with dengue infection have been explored. This study was to investigate manifestations of liver involvement in children with dengue infection. This was a case-control study was conducted at dr. Soetomo Hospital from March 2008 to April 2009. Subjects were children who suffered from dengue infection due to clinical diagnosis based on WHO criteria. Data was taken from medical record. Variables analyzed consisted of age, sex, clinical manifestations including hepatomegaly, jaundice, hepatic encephalopathy, and circulatory failure; laboratory findings including serum aspartate aminotransferase (AST) and alanine aminotransferase (ALT). The data was analyzed using chi-square and t-test with 95% confidence interval. We found that from 72 patients, 34 patients had hepatomegaly, 4 patients had hepatic encephalopathy, and 52 patients with elevated serum transaminases level. There were significant differences in elevated AST level (mean difference 28.5 [9.4 to 47.5], p 0.004) and hepatomegaly (proportion difference 0.3 [0.1 to 0.5], p 0.018) related to the severity. Elevated ALT level >3 fold (PR 4.1, 1.4-11.9, p 0.008) and hepatomegaly (PR 3.5, 1.2-10.1, p 0.018) associated with circulatory failure. In conclusion, manifestations of liver involvement in children with dengue infection in this study were hepatomegaly, elevated serum transaminases level, and hepatic encephalopathy. Elevated ALT level >3 fold and hepatomegaly associated with circulatory failure.

Keyword: children, dengue, infection, liver, involvement.

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