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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease

Nº CEP

Isolated Ocular Bacteria in Emergency Room and Out-Patient Clinic.

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Purpose: To study the bacteria causing ocular infection in emergency room and in out-patient clinic (private and public)

Methods: All the charts of the Ocular Microbiology Laboratory of the Department of Ophthalmology - Paulista School of Medicine, from 1975 to May 2000, were reviewed. Data from all the specimens from conjunctiva (Cj), cornea (Co) and vitreous Vi) with cultures were analyzed. The specimens were divided into 3 different groups: Emergency Room (ER), Public Clinic (PuC) and Private Clinic (PrC). The bacterial susceptibility to ofloxacin and tobramycin after 1996 was analyzed. Chi-square and Fisher exact test were used.

Results: Cultures detected a bacteriium in 52,6% of the specimens of Cj (n=6591), 38.5% of the Co (n=3659) and 20.9% of the Vi (n=327). In Cj, the most common bacteria was coagulase positive Staphylococcus (CPS) significantly more frequent in PrC (59.71%) than ER (49,40%) and PuC (53,26%). In Co, CPS was found in 43,9% of PuC, 32.0% of ER and 40.2% of PrC, the difference between PuC and ER was significant. In Vi, CPS was found in 36.4% of PuC, 43.2% of ER and 56.5% of PrC, being significant the PrC/ER difference. The in vitro susceptibility to ofloxacin of the CPS isolated from CJ was 98.4% with no difference among the groups and to tobramycin was 93.6% with significant lower rate in PrC (86.5%). CPS isolated from Co showed 92.1% of susceptibility to ofloxacin and 87.0% to tobramycin. The CPS of Vi was susceptible to ofloxacin in vitro in 77.7% and to tobramycin in 77.7%, no significant variation between groups.

Conclusion: Coagulase positive Staphylococcus is the most common bacteria in all studied sites of infection ocular, but its proportion may have significant variation related to where this patient is being treated. There might be also differences in strains susceptibility according to that. Our data should be useful as a guideline for standardized initial treatment of ocular infections.