

R1 R2 R3 PG0 PG1 Estagiário Tecnólogo
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Service (sector) Cornea and External Disease N° CEP

Co-infection in patients with amoebic keratitis

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Purpose: To report clinical and microbiological features of patients who presented with co-infection during their treatment for Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK).

Methods: Prospective, interventional case series. During the period of Nov/1997 to Sep/2002, 27 cases of AK were detected (14.3 mo mean follow-up). Diagnosis was based on identification of Acanthamoeba either on smears or cultures. Patients were followed and microbiologic work up consisting of smears (Gram/ Giemsa) and cultures (blood, chocolate, and sabouraud agar) was performed in patients with presumed clinical co-infection

Results: Six patients were identified with bacterial or fungal co-infection. Severe foreign body sensation (FBS) (100.%)and worsening of inflammation (83.4.%) were the most common findings in patients with co-infection. Streptococcus viridians (50.%) was the most common microorganism followed by Staphylococcus aureus(16.6%), Acinetobacter lowffii (16.6%) and Scedasporium apiospermum (16.6%).

Conclusion: The presence of FBS and worsening of inflammation might be considered a sign of co-infection in patients with AK. Microbiological work up is warranted not only to detect co-infection but also to provide guidelines to the treatment.