

TUBERCULOUS MENINGITIS - CURRENT ASPECTS

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Between 1.01.1989-1.04.1995, 2448 of tuberculous infections have been diagnosticated, at HIV seronegative patients, in the Clinic of Infectious and Tropical Diseases "Dr.V.Babeș". Of the 2448 tuberculous, 84 (3,43%) were tuberculous meningitis (TBM). There were 30 episodes of TBM in children (35,71%) and 54 (64,29%) in adults. Only 19 patients (22,16%) had TB known contact and/or tuberculosis in their history. The incidence of TBM was much higher among preschool children and in full activity adults. The diagnosis of TBM was based on epidemiological and clinical features with one of the following: detection of acid-fast bacilli (AFB) in stained smears of cerebrospinal fluid (CFS) in 26 cases (30,95%); AFB in stained smears of CFS and specific chemical changes of CFS in 20 cases (22,80%); AFB in stained smears of CFS and positive CFS culture in 17 cases (20,24%); and 33 cases (39,29%) with epidemiological and clinical features associated with other sites of tuberculous infection and small lymphocytes in smears of CFS. In addition 3 cases of positive CFS culture were included in our analysis. Serologic diagnosis tuberculosis by ELISA was often positive in patients with many manifestations of tuberculosis and limited in patients with extrapulmonary tuberculosis. 92,54% of patients with TBM were recovered and some of them had to be sent to the TB services to continue the specific treatment.