

ACUTE DIARRHEA DISEASE OF THE INFANT AND YOUNG CHILDREN - A CLINICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGIC AND THERAPEUTIC STUDY

Madelena Drăgan, Rozina Iagăru, Monica Luminos, Ruxandra Măntescu,
Elena Gheorghe

Clinic of Pediatric Infectious Diseases,
University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest

The study was performed on a group of 2100 cases of acute diarrhea disease admitted in our hospital during 1994. The outstanding age group affected by the disease was 1 month-12 months, accounting for 1089 cases followed by the group 1-3 years old (546 cases), than the groups: 3-5 years (246 cases), 5-12 years (155 cases) and finally the newborns with 64 cases. Sesonal distribution of the cases showed the net predominance of the disease in summer and autumn, particularly affecting infants and young children. Regarding socioeconomic conditions 1116 children were from urban area and 984 from rural area; a small number of cases (166) belonging to orphanage. The dominant clinical picture was of acute gastroenterocolitis. The bacterian etiology was established in 55% of cases, as follows: *Shigella* (552 cases), *Salmonella* spp. (20 cases), *E.coli* (13 cases). A number of 300 cases were considered as viral diarrheas (negative stool culture with clinical and sesonal evidence of viral infection). We also registred 200 patients with secondary diarrhea involving children with respiratory tract infections, suppurative otitis and mastoiditis. About 650 cases of diarrhea appeared in infants and children determined by faulty feeding technique. In 300 patients we were unable to identify the etiologic agent, but we considered in these cases the diarrhea disease to be an infectious enterocolitis. The failure of establishing the etiological agent was caused by prior antibiotic treatment with antimicrobials highly effective on the causative agents of diarrhea. Determination of antimicrobial susceptibility of infecting organisms reveled

the increased resistance of the isolated germs to the most of the tested antibiotics. However, the organisms are almost constantly susceptible to nalidixic acid (85% of tested strains). Antimicrobial treatment was maintained for a medium period of 5-6 days, in common forms and 12-14 days in severe forms, with systemic infection. The evolution of the acute diarrhea disease was favourable in 99,5%, 2089 of patients being cured at their discharge.