

Incidence and characteristics of Kawasaki Disease in Northwestern GreeceV

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Introduction:

Kawasaki Disease (KD) is a vasculitis with potentially significant cardiovascular complications. Its incidence in Europe is 5-15/100.000/year. The creation of KD registry is important for each country's health system. The aim of the study is the tracing and analysis of KD characteristics in Northwestern Greece.

Methods:

A medical record review study was performed in a tertiary University Hospital that consists the referral center for Northwestern Greece.

Results:

There were 13 children hospitalized (9 males) with an incidence of 3,6/100.000/year, with <1 year: 5, 1-5 years: 7 and >5 years: 1 child. All of them had a history of fever of at least 5 days duration, 12 had conjunctivitis, 10 cheilitis, 4 glossitis, 12 cervical lymphadenopathy, 12 a rash, 8 edema of the extremities and 8 desquamation of fingers and toes. There was 1 child with incomplete KD. There was leukocytosis (11.490-40.530/ μ l), anemia (Hb 7,7-10,3g/dl), thrombocytosis (470.000-1.678.000/ μ l) and increased inflammation indices in all patients. 4 had hepatic involvement and 5 had aseptic pyuria. 12 had an abnormal echocardiography with ectasias in either right or left coronary artery, 4 of whom in both arteries and 3 had a pericardial effusion. All patients received IVIG and aspirin. 2 patients required more than one IVIG infusion due to persistence of fever and 1 patient received corticosteroids. One infant had severe KD and died despite the addition of anticoagulation treatment. All other patients demonstrated clinical improvement.

Conclusions:

The incidence of KD in Northwestern Greece is somewhat lower comparing with the European data recorded. The majority of children were males < 5 years of age and fulfilled the clinical criteria of KD. Regional registries are as important as national in order to accurately record variations in incidence and clinical characteristics which will have implications in both public health and research.