Infective endocarditis in women: clinical characteristics and outcome

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The influence of sex on the prevalence of certain forms of valvular heart disease was known. Although the clinical characteristics and prognosis of infective endocarditis (IE) have been widely studied, little information was available concerning the possible differences between men and women.

The aim of this study was to assess the clinical Characteristics and the Prognosis of Infective Endocarditis in Women.

Methods: Comparative analysis of 220 patients diagnosed with IE according to the Duke University criteria between 1997 and 2007. Of these 95 (42.7%) were women.

Results: Mean age was similar in the 2 sexes, 34.8 ± 18 years for men and 37.2 ± 18 years for women. Infection occurred more frequently in the mitral valve in women (62% vs 43% p = 0.03) and more frequently in the aortic valve in men (36.3% vs 20.2%, p<0.05). The incidence of IE on prosthesis was similar in both groups: 22, 8% in the men and 23,3% in the women (p=0.8).

The rate of positive blood cultures was similar in both groups (52.2% in men and 51% in women, p = 0.9) and no significant differences were found regarding the causative pathogen.

The rates of heart failure, peripheral emboli, abscesses and neurologic complications were all similar in the 2 groups. Concerning surgical treatment, women had more frequently mitral valve replacement (29.3% vs 20.8%, p= 0.05), and men had more frequently aortic or mitro-aortic valve prosthesis (23.8% vs 9.8%, p<0.001), and 4% vs 1.2%, p = 0.05). Death during the hospital phase was similar: 20, 2% for women and 18,1% for men (p=0,7).

Conclusion: Despite the differences in the valvular localisation of IE between men and women, it seems that the clinical characteristics and the prognosis of infective endocarditis were similar.

Infectious endocarditis characteristics about 94 cases hospitalized in Cardiology Unit of Beni Messous University Hospital in Algeriers

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Background: Infectious endocarditis (IE) epidemiologic profile changes in time.

Objective: To describe the IE characteristics.

Setting: Cardiology Unit Beni Messous University Hospital West Algiers...

Material and methods: Retrospective study based on hospitalization files, between 1996 and 2008, including patients corresponding to IE diagnosis certain or probable according to Duke criteria.

Results: 94 patients included, 36.1 + 11.6 years old, with a sex ratio of 1.85. IE occurred on apparently healthy heart, on prosthetic valves and on predisposing cardiac disorders in respectively 10.6%, 17.0% and 72.3% of cases. Among the underlying cardiac disorders, the rheumatic fever valvulopathy occupy the first rank : 45 cases (66.2%). A predisposing extracardiac pathopathy occupy the first rank : 45 cases (66.2%). A predisposing extracardiac pathogeneity was known. Although the clinical characteristics and prognosis of infective endocarditis (IE) have been widely studied, little information was available concerning the possible differences between men and women.

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