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Clinical Profile of Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever in Adults during 1996 – Outbreak in Delhi, India

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Abstract

An epidemic of dengue fever occurred in Delhi which started in the middle of August 1996. Virus serotype DEN-2 was found to be responsible for this outbreak. During this epidemic, 98 adult patients diagnosed to have dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) (n=75) and dengue shock syndrome (DS) (n=23) were admitted to one of the medical units of the Department of Medicine at the AIIMS hospital, New Delhi. Fever (100%), body aches (45.9%), abdominal pain (38.7%), purpura (33.6%), epistaxis (32.6%), melaena (26.5%), haematemesis (22.4%) and ecchymoses (20%) were commonly present symptoms. Mu capture ELISA IgM antibodies for serodiagnosis of dengue virus infection was positive in 23 of the 27 patients tested. At the time of admission, 94 patients had a platelet count below 100,000/mm³. Four patients with haemorrhagic manifestations had an initial platelet count of >100,000/mm³. Severe thrombocytopenia (platelet count < 20,000/mm³) was present in 43.8% of the patients. The ultrasound tests showed pleural effusion in 10.

References

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