Abstract 04

Diphtheria affecting Uncommon Sites (Conjunctiva and Nose): Report of Two Cases

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Abstract:

Purpose/Objective: World Health Organization (WHO) reported 4887 cases of diphtheria in the year 2011, of them 3485 are from India which appears to be a gross underestimation. This report highlights involvement of uncommon sites.

Materials and Methods: Two children of diphtheria involving conjunctiva and nose presenting to south Indian children hospital have been described with their profile and outcome.

Results: A five year female child presented with history of fever, left eye swelling with redness and throat pain. Examination revealed right tonsillar and left eye palpebral conjunctival membrane with hemorrhage of bulbar conjunctiva. Another five year male child presented with bloody discharge from right nose 8 days back and blocked nose of 15 days duration. No other systemic findings were noted in both of them. Smears from conjunctiva, nose and tonsils were positive for C. diphtheria by Albert’s stain. Both of them were treated with standard regimen of antiphteritic serum and benzyl penicillin with uneventful recovery.

Conclusion: In the era of effective vaccination being available and humans being the only reservoirs, these morbidity and mortality are unacceptable. WHO needs to prioritize its eradication next to poliomyelitis.