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Review of 60 Cases of Neonatal and Infantile Septic Arthritis: Analysis of Risk Factors and Outcome with Short Duration of Parenteral Antibiotic Treatment

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Abstract:

Patient and Method: 60 children were reviewed for the study. There were 22 boys and 38 girls and the mean age was 1.5 months (7 days – 3 months). 24 children were born premature and 36 were term delivery. 26 children were diagnosed within first week of admission in the NICU and 16 children presented after 3 weeks. The hip joint was involved in both pre-term and term infants (14 and 24 cases). Other joint involved were knee (16), shoulder (8), elbow (4) and ankle (2). Multifocal involvement was seen in 3 neonates. Twenty-five children underwent arthrotomy and 16 underwent joint aspiration and lavage.

Results:

Predominant organism was *Staphylococcus aureus* (24 cases), *Klebsiella* (6), *Pseudomonas* and *E Coli* in 4 cases respectively and *Candida* species in three neonates. Blood culture was positive in only 16 cases. Intravenous (IV) antibiotics were given in all children. The mean duration of IV antibiotics was 3 weeks (1 week – 6 weeks) followed by oral antibiotics for four weeks. Clinical parameters, ESR and CRP and radiological healing was used to guide the duration of the antibiotic treatment. Low birth weight, female sex, prematurity were identified as risk factors for neonatal sepsis.

Conclusion:

Parenteral antibiotic treatment for 2 – 3 weeks is sufficient once the clinical and hematological parameters resolve.