

Socioeconomic Aspect of Middle Ear Cholesteatoma

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The objective of the study was to analyse the frequency of occurrence of chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma regarding age, sex and socioeconomic status of the patient

Study design: Analytical study

Materials and methods: A total of 75 cases of chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma with different age groups and from different areas of Pakistan were admitted at E.N.T. Unit-1, Mayo Hospital, Lahore from July 2002 to July 2005. Each patient had essentially the work up according to the specific Performa.

Results: Cholesteatoma was more common in the males (52%) than in the females (48%). Majority of patients i.e. 52% were in the age group of 16-30 years. It is also revealed that majority of patients (76%) belonged to poor communities living in rural or slum areas of the Pakistan. (72%)

Conclusion: Cholesteatoma is more common in males than in females. Majority of patients were in the age group of 16-30 years. Cholesteatoma is more common in low socioeconomic groups

Key words: Cholesteatoma, Chronic suppurative otitis media.

INTRODUCTION

Cholesteatoma is an abnormal collection of viable and desquamated squamous epithelium in the middle ear or mastoid air spaces¹. This structure has the capacity for progressive and independent growth at the expense of underlying bone and has a tendency to recur after removal². Although cholesteatomas are more commonly found in the middle ear and mastoid, the disease can occur in the external ear canal and very rarely it may present as a lump on the side of a patient's head eroding the squamous temporal bone with intracranial extension³.

Chronic suppurative otitis media is a common ailment seen in the speciality of ear, nose and throat. Unsafe type of this disease previously known as attic-antral type usually presents with marginal perforation having cholesteatoma which is the hallmark of this affection and also considered as the complication producing element^{4,5}.

In studying the incidence of cholesteatoma with reference to age, sex and socioeconomic groups it was found that most of the patients having chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma were of younger age group and most of them were males. Majority of the patients were from rural and slum areas.

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AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The objective of the study was to analyse the frequency of occurrence of chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma regarding age, sex and socioeconomic status of the patient

MATERIALS AND METHODS

A total of 75 cases of chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma with different age groups were admitted at E.N.T. Unit-1, Mayo Hospital, Lahore between July 2002 to July 2005. Each patient had essentially the work up according to the specific Performa.

It includes history including history of present illness, past history, family history and socio-economic status history, examination and investigations of ear, nose and throat including otoscopic and microscopic examination of ear, culture and sensitivity of the discharge from the ear.

The most important method in the diagnosis and management of the disease was the use of operating microscope, which gave a great deal of information as to nature and extent of the disease. An important aid was made by radiography, the X-ray mastoid which gave information as to the degree of pneumatisation, extent of the disease and the general anatomical outline of temporal bone. Computerized tomography scan in cases of intracranial complications was done to locate the site and extent of the lesion in the brain. The material for

histopathology was obtained during the operative procedure to confirm the diagnosis and disease pathology.

The data comprised of 75 patients with certain descriptions about various parameters e.g. Age of the patient, Sex of the patient, socioeconomic status, duration of disease, presenting features etc. The investigation was based upon descriptive statistics involving frequency distribution graphs and calculation of percentages in order to have easier understanding about the relative occurrence of those parameters

RESULTS

Cholesteatoma was more common in males (52%) than in females (48%). (Figure 1). Majority of patients i.e. 39 cases (52%) were in the age group of 16-30 years of their ages, next 18 cases (24%) in the age group of 0-15 years and 15 cases (20%) in the age group of 31-45 years while only 03 cases (04%) patients were above 45 years of age. In the present study young adults of age 16-30 years were found more indisposed than old ones. (Figure 2)

It is revealed that majority of patients belonged to poor communities (Table 1) living in rural or slum areas of the cities where infections were more common. (Table 2)

Fig. 1: Male to female ratio

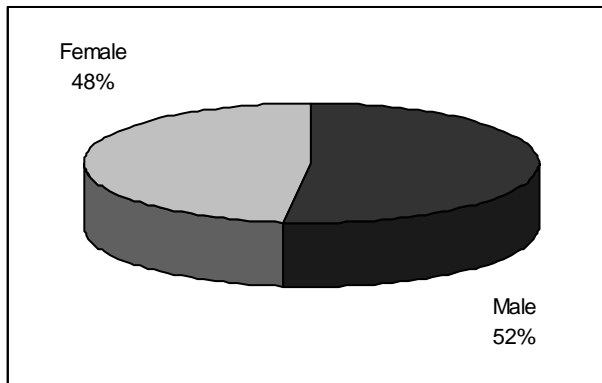


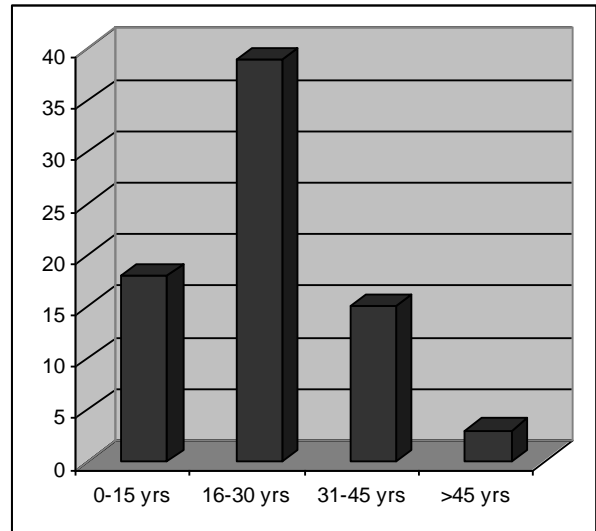
Table 1: Socio-economic status

Status	No. of patients	%age
Lower	57	76
Middle	12	16
Upper	6	8

Table 2: Geographical distribution

Distribution	No. of patients	%age
Rural	54	72
Urban	21	28

Fig. 2. Age group



DISCUSSION

Chronic suppurative otitis media is a persistent disease with insidious onset and can cause dangerous life threatening complications if left untreated or treated inadequately and are frequent in conjunction with cholesteatoma.

Cholesteatoma was more common in males (52%) than in females (48%). Our finding regarding the male female ratio correlates with that of another study showing that the majority of patients of chronic suppurative otitis media with cholesteatoma were males⁶.

In the present study young adults of age 16-30 years were found more indisposed than old ones. Our findings contradicted with those of Cruz et al who showed that peak incidence was in 10-15 years age group⁷. Our finding regarding the age of the patients correlates with another study which showed almost same incidence of age relation. That study stated that the peak incidence of the disease was in the age group between 21 yrs to 30 yrs^{8,9}.

It is revealed that majority of patients belonged to poor communities living in rural or slum areas of the cities where infections were more common due to unbalance diet and poor hygiene. Our study contradict with another study which showed the there was no accumulation of cholesteatoma diseases in lower social groups¹⁰.

CONCLUSION

Chronic suppurative otitis media is a common ailment in the speciality of ear, nose and throat. Cholesteatoma is more common in males than in

females. Cholesteatoma is more common in young adults. It was also observed that cholesteatoma is more common in low socioeconomic groups and slum areas of the cities where infections are more common due to unbalanced diet and poor hygiene.

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