

ACUTE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS IN HIV/AIDS PATIENTS ADMITTED IN "DR. VICTOR BABEȘ" HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS AND TROPICAL DISEASES IN BUCHAREST FROM 1985-1994

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During 1985-1994, there have been 646 HIV/AIDS patients admitted (461 children and 184 adults). A retrospective study has been done with a group of patient diagnosed with bacterial meningitis. Patients have been classified on the basis of the level of HIV infection in the following 3 categories: asymptomatic, symptomatic and AIDS. From the 461 children admitted in hospital 6 (1,3%) were diagnosed with acute bacterial meningitis. The medium age when the diagnosis was made was 4 years. In 4 cases the HIV transmission was made in horizontal way and in 2 cases vertically. At the moment the meningitis was diagnosed, the criteria for AIDS were established in 4 cases and in 2 cases of symptomatic HIV infection. The etiology of meningitis: *Haemophilus influenzae* 2 cases, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* 1 case and *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* 3 cases. The evolution was: exitus in 3 cases (2 cases with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and 1 case with *Streptococcus pneumoniae*), favourable evolution in 2 cases (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and *Haemophilus influenzae*) and with complication (hydrocephalia) 1 case (*Haemophilus influenzae*). From the 184 adults admitted the diagnosis of acute meningitis was 9 (4,8%). The medium age was 34 years. All patients have been infected heterosexually and had been classified as AIDS when diagnosed with acute meningitis. The etiology was: *Cryptococcus neoformans* in 6 cases and *Mycobacterium* in 3 cases. With one exception which had a good evolution during the period of hospitalisation all the other cases evolved to exitus. Conclusions: a) low incidence of meningeal bacterial infection bacteria in HIV/AIDS patients (1,3% in children, 4,8% in adults); b) meningeal bacterial infections are appearing in the late stages of HIV infections and have a severe evolution.