

CLINICAL ASPECTS AND EVOLUTION OF POLIOMYELITIS IN CHILDREN

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The study covers 45 cases of poliomyelitis in children admitted in our hospital between 1982-1989 of which: 5 cases in 1982 due to wild PV 1 and 40 cases between 1983-1989 in recipients of OPV and their contacts, caused by "Sabin-like" PV 2 and/or PV 3 vaccine strains. Poliomyelitis was mostly frequent in infants up to 1 year old (24 cases), followed by 16 cases in children 1-5 years old and 5 cases in children over 5 years old. Poliomyelitis prevailed in boys. Vaccination had been completed in 15 cases and not completed in 4 cases; 12 children had been recipients of OPV, 6 children contacts of recipients of OPV, 5 had never been vaccinated and in 3 cases the data was unreliable. Poliomyelitis occurred mainly in infants after their first vaccination and in contacts not vaccinated within 4-30 days after vaccination in cases of OPV recipients and within 60 days after contact in cases of recipient contacts. Clinical manifestations: spinal paralytic poliomyelitis (33), bulbar poliomyelitis (9) and polioencephalitis (3) only in infants. Full return of function was achieved in 29 cases; 11 cases were left with sequelae; 5 children died. Death occurred in infants with polioencephalitis (2) and bulbar poliomyelitis (3). Poliomyelitis further to vaccination was due to non-observance of temporary medical restrictions as well as to coming into contact of non-vaccinated or partially vaccinated children with vaccinated children.