ASEPTIC MENINGITIS IN BELÉM, BRASIL: FIRST YEAR OF STUDY.

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INTRODUCTION

Outbreaks and/or epidemics of Aseptic meningitis (AM) are referred in several countries. The principal responsible for these cases are the viruses, especially the enteroviruses (EV). In Brazil there are few relate concerning to this association. A study to identify the EV involving in the cases of AM in Belém-Pará, Northern region of Brazil, is on going since March 2002. The date obtained on this first year of study are relating in the present study.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the patients were attended in a specific Basic Unit of Health (State Government) where they were interview, signed a informed consent, and collected the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). The CSF was divided in two aliquot: one was used on citochemical and bacteriological examination and the other was kept on liquid nitrogen and weekly sent to the Evandro Chagas Institute, Ananindeua where was stored at -70°C until the processing. One total of 216 samples were inoculated onto HEp-2 and RD cells line maintained on Eagle’s MEM. The neutralization test with pattern sera was used on the viral identification.

RESULTS

The age of the patients ranged from < 1 to 75 year (median age 16 years). Headache, vomiting and fever were the principal symptoms mentioned by the patients. The CSF shows: leucocytes up to 100- 82.1%; neutrophiles >50%- 4.1%; glicose <100 mg-99.5% and protein up to 50 mg- 80.9%. Cases of MA have occurred in all month of the year however in April and May/ 2002, there was an important increase. The positivity was observed on March (1/8-12.5%), April (9/40-22.5%), May (13/44-29.5%) and June (4/25-16%). All 27 isolate were identified as Echo 30 (HEV B according to the new Picornaviridae family classification). The use of RT-PCR will be the next step of this study.

CONCLUSION

The date obtained on this study will improve the knowledge concerning AM due to EV in Brazil, as well as, will permit to identify the outbreak and epidemic of AM caused by these viruses.