

IDENTIFICATION OF CAUSATIVE ORGANISMS OF SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS IN PATIENTS WITH LIVER CIRRHOSIS AND THEIR SENSITIVITY PATTERNS

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Abstract;

Background; Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis is a common bacterial infection in patients with cirrhosis and ascities with in-hospital mortality rates ranging from 20 to 30%. Early diagnosis and a prompt antibiotic therapy have considerably decreased the mortality rate and this study was done to determine drug resistance pattern among causative organisms of SBP.

Results; Of these 183 study cases, 103 (56.3%) were male patients while 80 (43.7%) were female patients. Mean age of our study cases was 51.73 ± 9.28 years. Previous history of use of antibiotics before 72 hours was noted in 103 (56.3%), anti – HCV was positive in 103 (56.3%) while HBs Ag was positive in 13.7% of our study cases. Among these study cases, E.coli was noted in 135 (73.8%), Staph. Aureus in 17.5% and Klebsiella was noted in 8.7%. Chloramphenicol was resistant in 24 (13.1%), ampicillin was resistant in 143 (78.1%), co – trimoxazole in 61.2%, ciprofloxacin in 55.7%, Ofloxacin in 56.3%, Cefotaxime was resistant in 78.1% and amoxicillin was resistant in 74.9%.

Conclusion; Our study results have indicated that *E.coli* was major causative organisms among patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis having cirrhosis of liver followed by staphylococcus aureus and klebsiella. High degree of drug resistance was observed among these strains in our study which points towards well directed efforts of our health policy makers to adopt certain guidelines regarding use of these drugs in our population.

Keywords; Cirrhosis, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, E. coli.

Introduction;

Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality in patients with cirrhosis. Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) is a common bacterial infection in patients with cirrhosis and ascities, occurring in 10 to 30% of patients, with in-hospital mortality rates ranging from 20 to 30%.¹⁻³ Early diagnosis and a prompt antibiotic therapy have considerably decreased the mortality rate associated with an episode of SBP from 80% to approximately 20–30% in the last decade⁴. It is secondary to impaired humoral and cellular immune responses that result in indirect intestinal bacterial translocation into the ascitic fluid.^{5,6}

It is defined as bacterial infection of the ascitic fluid in the absence of an apparent intra abdominal source of infection. The incidence of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in hospitalized patients with cirrhosis varies from 7–23% in the West. It is around 33% in Pakistan⁷. Translocation of bacteria (mostly gram negative) from the intestinal lumen due to decreased phagocytic activity of macrophages and increased intestinal permeability in cirrhotic patients is an important step in the development of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis^{7,8}.

A study conducted in Khyber teaching hospital, Peshawar reported *E.coli* in 58.13 %, *Staphylococcus aureus* in 9.30 % and *Klebsiella* in 9.30 % in cirrhotic patients with SBP⁹. Another study documented chloramphenicol resistant in 6.2 %, ciprofloxacin in 45.4%, Cotrimoxazol in 62%, Ampicillin in 66.6%, Ofloxacin 42.9%, Cefotaxime in 77.3%, Amoxycillin in 64.7 % of bacterial isolates of SBP patients with liver cirrhosis.¹⁰

Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis is also associated with a poor long-term with one year mortality of 50 to 70%. Given that timely and appropriate antibiotic treatment can improve the clinical outcome. Rapid and accurate diagnostic methods for early detection of bacterial infection responsible for SBP and identification of the causative organisms involved could be particularly useful in acute care settings. Recent attention drawn to the changing microbial and resistance patterns attributed to the increasing use of antibiotic prophylaxis and invasive procedures in such patients further underscores the importance of identifying the causative pathogen to ensure adequate antibiotic coverage¹¹. Only a few studies have documented microbial spectrum/causative organisms of SBP in cirrhotic patients but all these studies have been done with small sample size. Only one recent study from Karachi¹² have documented culture sensitivity of these causative organisms. Moreover frequency of predominant causative organisms such as *E. coli* has been reported to be 18 %¹¹ to 65 %¹², showing great variation.

Material and Methods;

All the cases (n = 183) of Cirrhosis of liver with ascities, fulfilling inclusion criteria were recruited from Department of Medicine Nishtar Hospital Multan. Patients with liver cirrhosis aged 40 – 70 years, having disease duration more than 6 months of either sex presenting with SBP having duration less than one week were included in our study. Patients with Tubercular peritonitis and congestive heart failure, those taking antibiotics within 72 hours, having diabetes, hypertension and malignancies were excluded from our study. All selected patients were subjected to ascitic fluid tap, under aseptic measures by inserting a needle of 22 / 18 gauge in the left flank of abdomen. Ten ml of ascitic fluid was aspirated in a heparinised disposable syringe; which was immediately inoculated into blood culture bottle at bedside and send for bacterial culture and causative organisms was tested for their antibiotic drug resistance pattern. Data was entered and analyzed by computer program SPSS-18.

Results;

Our study included a total of 183 study cases in patients having liver cirrhosis with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP), who met inclusion criteria of our study. Of these 183 study cases, 103 (56.3%) were male patients while 80 (43.7%) were female patients. Mean age of our study cases was 51.73 ± 9.28 years (with minimum age of our study cases was 41 years while maximum age was 70 years). Mean age of the male patients was noted to be 53.97 ± 10.25 years while that of female patients was noted to be 48.84 ± 6.91 years ($p=0.000$). Our study results have documented that majority of our study cases i.e. 112 (61.2 %) were aged 40 – 55 years of age. Mean duration of disease (liver cirrhosis) was 26.43 ± 12.32 months while mean duration of SBP was 4.51 ± 1.21 days.

In our study, there were predominantly Punjabi patients (35%) followed by Saraikis (26.2%) and Pathans were 21.3%. Previous history of use of antibiotics before 72 hours was noted in 103 (56.3%), anti – HCV was positive in 103 (56.3%) while HBs Ag was positive in 13.7% of our study cases. History of alcohol consumption

was noted in 31 (16.9%) of our study cases. Among these study cases, E.coli was noted in 135 (73.8%), Staph. Aureus in 17.5% and Klebsiella was noted in 8.7%. Chloramphenicol was resistant in 24 (13.1%), ampicillin was resistant in 143 (78.1%), co – trimoxazole in 61.2%, ciprofloxacin in 55.7%, Ofloxacin in 56.3%, Cefotaxime was resistant in 78.1% and amoxicillin was resistant in 74.9%.

Discussion;

Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) is a common and frequently fatal bacterial infection of ascites occurring in patients with cirrhosis who have diverse symptomatology^{13 – 15}. Several subgroups of cirrhotic patients have been shown to be predisposed to develop spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, including cases with gastrointestinal hemorrhage, patients with high serum bilirubin and low ascitic fluid protein concentration (< 1 g/dl), and patients who had recovered from an episode of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. Since spontaneous bacterial peritonitis is associated with a relatively high in-hospital mortality rate (20-40%), prophylactic measures to prevent this infection are required¹⁶.

Our study included a total of 183 study cases in patients having liver cirrhosis with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP), who met inclusion criteria of our study. Of these 183 study cases, 103 (56.3%) were male patients while 80 (43.7%) were female patients. A study conducted in Peshawar by Iqbal et al⁹ has also reported male gender preponderance with 55.88% which is similar to that of our study results. A study by Sheikhbahaie et al¹⁰ also reported male gender predominance with male: female ratio was 1.25:1 which is in compliance with our study results. Oladimeji et al¹⁷ also reported male gender predominance with 54.8% which is in compliance with our study results.

Mean age of our study cases was 51.73 ± 9.28 years (with minimum age of our study cases was 41 years while maximum age was 70 years). Mean age of the male patients was noted to be 53.97 ± 10.25 years while that of female patients was noted to be 48.84 ± 6.91 years ($p=0.000$). Our study results have documented that majority of our study cases i.e. 112 (61.2 %) were aged 40 – 55 years of age. A study conducted in Peshawar by Iqbal et al⁹ has also reported similar results. A study by Sheikhbahaie et al¹⁰ documented mean age of the patients with SBP was 51 ± 9 years which is similar to that of our study results. Bibi et al¹² from Karachi reported 46.45 ± 13.71 years mean age which is in compliance with that of our study results. Oladimeji et al¹⁷ also reported 62 ± 9 years mean age of SBP patients having liver cirrhosis which is close to our findings.

In our study, there were predominantly Punjabi patients (35%) followed by Saraikis (26.2%) and Pathans were 21.3%. Previous history of use of antibiotics before 72 hours was noted in 103 (56.3%), anti – HCV was positive in 103 (56.3%) while HBs Ag was positive in 13.7% of our study cases. History of alcohol consumption was noted in 31 (16.9%) of our study cases. Bibi et al¹² from Karachi reported that anti – HCV was positive in 68.4% while HBs Ag was positive in 15.4% which is close to our findings.

Among these study cases, E.coli was noted in 135 (73.8%), Staph. aureus in 17.5% and Klebsiella was noted in 8.7%. A study conducted in Peshawar by Iqbal et al⁹ has also reported E.coli being predominant causative agent of the SBP with 58.13 %, staph. aureus was 9.30 % and Klebsiella was 9.30 %. These findings are similar to that of our study results. Bibi et al¹² from Karachi reported E.coli in 63.5 % SBP cases having liver cirrhosis which is close to our study results. Oladimeji et al¹⁷ also reported 70 % E. coli predominating among causative organisms of SBP which is close to our findings.

Chloramphenicol was resistant in 24 (13.1%), ampicillin was resistant in 143 (78.1%), co – trimoxazole in 61.2%, ciprofloxacin in 55.7%, Ofloxacin in 56.3%, Cefotaxime was resistant in 78.1% and amoxicillin was resistant in 74.9%. A study by Sheikhbahaie et al¹⁰ documented chloramphenicol resistant in 6.2 %, ciprofloxacin in 45.4%, Cotrimoxazol in 62%, Ampicillin in 66.6%, Ofloxacin 42.9%, Cefotaxime in 77.3%, Amoxicillin in 64.7 % of bacterial isolates of SBP patients with liver cirrhosis which are in compliance with that of our study results.

Conclusion;

Our study results have indicated that *E.coli* was major causative organisms among patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis having cirrhosis of liver followed by staphylococcus aureus and klebsiella. High degree of drug resistance was observed among these strains in our study which points towards well directed efforts of our health policy makers to adopt certain guidelines regarding rationale use of these drugs in our population.

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