NEONATAL LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS: A 20-YEAR STUDY

Srisupalak Singalavanija, Wanida Limpongsanurak

Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health, College of Medicine, Rangsit University, Bangkok, Thailand

A retrospective study was performed to review clinical manifestations, investigations and outcomes of neonatal lupus erythematosus (NLE) patients and their mothers at Queen Sirikit National Institute of Child Health, Bangkok, Thailand during 1992 to 2012. There were 31 cases, 10 male and 21 female. Cutaneous, hepatobiliary, hematological and cardiac abnormalities were found in 93.5%, 54.8%, 41.9%, 20.8%, respectively. Cutaneous lesions were annular lesions 75.8%, petechiae 17.2%, raccoon eyes 13.7%, and telangiectasia 13.7%. Seventeen cases had hepatic abnormalities, including liver dysfunction 16 cases, hepatomegaly 8 cases and cholestasis 3 cases. Thirteen cases had hematological problems. Congenital heart block was found in 4 cases (16.6%). Ninety percent of infants were positive for anti-Ro/SSA and 58% for anti-La/SSB. Most NLE mothers (74.2%) were asymptomatic. Five mothers were diagnosed with systemic lupus erythematosus and three cases had autoimmune diseases. All maternal sera were positive for antinuclear antibodies and anti-Ro/SSA or anti-La/SSB. Two cases with complete heart block were treated with pacemaker. Systemic corticosteroids were given in ten cases due to severe skin lesions and hepatic involvement. There was no mortality rate. In conclusion, anti-Ro/SSA and/or anti-La/SSB are the most useful laboratory diagnosis of NLE. Most patients with NLE without congenital heart block have relatively good prognosis.