

Spontaneous rupture of malarial spleen: two case reports and review of literature

ABSTRACT

In the southeast Anatolia region of Turkey, malaria has been a significant concern for tourists since 1992. In 1992, Diyarbakir city had the highest number of cases (4168) followed by SanliUrfa city (3578); in 1994 and 1995, there were more cases of spontaneous rupture of malarial spleen than elsewhere. We have reported two cases in 1998, which were both male. They came from males who were receiving chloroquine treatment and were later diagnosed with abdominal pain and fever.

INTRODUCTION

Introduction Spontaneous rupture of malarial spleen (SPS) is a rare, severe, life-threatening disease that is caused by a parasitic infection of the spleen. It is the most common cause of death among malarial patients in South Africa. The condition is caused by the Malaria Spleen (MSP), which is a small parasite that causes a malignant transformation of the spleen into a tumor. The disease is also known as 'malaria malignancy'. MSP is highly contagious and can spread through a person's blood stream to other individuals. When the spleen ruptures and then becomes infected with the MSP, there is a risk of death. The condition is treated with a combination of anti-malarial drugs, bone marrow transplantation and surgical resection. In addition, the sp

CONCLUSION

The spleen structure changes during malaria can result in asymptomatic enlargement or complications such as haematoma formation and rupture. Primary exposure to malaria and infection with *P vivax* seem to be significant factors in spontaneous bursting of the cytoplasm. Malaria is still prevalent in the southeast Anatolia region of Turkey. It is recommended for tourists visiting this area during the summer to take proactive measures against it.