Cytarabine

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Candida albicans endocarditis in a child: case report

A 7-year-old boy developed *Candida albicans* endocarditis following treatment with cytarabine [*duration of treatment to reaction onset not stated*].

The boy, who was diagnosed with T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukaemia, was started on chemotherapy with the MCP-841 protocol. After induction, he achieved remission. He received two cycles of high-dose cytarabine [*dosage and route not stated*], and he underwent repeat induction. After receiving cytarabine, he developed febrile neutropenia. He also developed necrotising cellulitis, which affected his left wrist and required antibacterial therapy. After receiving the second dose of cytarabine, he was found to have a central venous catheter-related *Candida parapsilosis* blood stream infection. He did not respond to fluconazole, so the catheter was removed. He developed a non-neutropenic fever at the end of the repeat induction. Therefore, he started receiving amikacin and piperacillin/tazobactam. In the ensuing days, he developed severe neutropenia, and the fever spikes continued. He received antibacterial and antifungal therapy. The neutropenia resolved, but the fever persisted. Multiple vegetations were seen with an echocardiogram on his tricuspid valve, and he was treated for a blood culture-negative infective endocarditis. Due to a lack of progress, he underwent surgery with excision of the vegetations. After the surgery, he developed acute renal failure, refractory septic shock and metabolic acidosis. He died on the third postoperative day [*cause of death not stated*]. Postmortem results revealed that the culture from the vegetations was positive for *C. albicans*.

Author comment: "*Aggressive treatment of acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in children with intensive chemotherapy has improved survival rates significantly, although it often leads to increased infectious complications.*"

Chaudhary N, et al. Candida albicans endocarditis in a child with acute lymphoblastic leukemia: A dreaded complication of intensive chemotherapy. Indian Journal of Medical and Paediatric Oncology 34: 28-30, No. 1, Jan-Mar 2013. Available from: URL: http://dx.doi.org/10.4103/0971-5851.113414 - India

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