

Title:

Survey on relative frequency of history, physical examination and chest X ray findings in children with respiratory tracts foreign body, admitted in Imam Khomini and Fatemi Hospitals of Ardbil, 1999 – 2007.

Abstract

Introduction: Foreign body aspiration is common in children especially 1-3 years old age, with high rate of mortality and morbidity. It is a life threatening emergency.

Objective: The aim of this study was to determine the relative frequency of history, physical examination and chest X ray findings in children with respiratory tracts foreign body, admitted to Imam Khomini and Fatemi Hospitals of Ardbil, 1999 – 2007.

Material and Method: Required data were collected from the medical records of all hospitalized children (31 cases) in Imam Khomini and Fatemi Hospitals with a definitive diagnosis of foreign body aspiration.

Results: 51.5% of the children were 1-3 years old age and also 51.5% of them were female. The most common chief complaint of patients were cough (35.4%) and respiratory distress (25.8%). 39% of patients were hospitalized 48 hours after beginning of signs and 11% of them one month after or later.

Among history finding, initial suspicion to aspiration was 87%, respiratory distress was 74% and choking was 63%. Common findings of physical examination were unilateral decreased pulmonary sound (48.3%) rale (38.7%). Unilateral consolidation 34.5% air trapping (23.7%) and 25.5% of cases had normal chest X ray. The most frequent foreign body was sunflower seed (22.2%). Ratio of foreign body in the right (27.7%) and left (16.7%) bronchi was equal in children under 1 year (43%) and was more in right bronchi in other ages. 75% of children had a complication of foreign body aspiration and the most frequent complication was pneumonia. No mortality case was found.

Conclusion: Although a set of history, physical examination and chest X ray findings are used for diagnosis of foreign body aspiration, according to present study, history especially initial suspicion to aspiration and choking, regarding to the high prevalence, may be helpful.

Key words: Aspiration, Foreign body, Diagnosis, Sign and symptoms, Thorax - Radiography. Child