

IDENTIFICATION OF PATTERN AND BURDEN OF CAUSATIVE AGENTS OF SPONTANEOUS BACTERIAL PERITONITIS AMONG CIRRHOTIC PATIENTS.

DR. UMER WAQAS, MBBS

Department of Pediatric Medicine,
Nishtar Hospital, Multan, Pakistan.

DR. HORAIN KHALIQ, MBBS

Department of Pediatric Medicine,
Nishtar Hospital, Multan, Pakistan.

DR. FARAH YASMIN KHAN, MBBS

Department of Pediatric Medicine,
Nishtar Hospital, Multan, Pakistan.

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. **Objective;** To determine the frequency of different causative organisms of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis (SBP) and their sensitivity pattern in patients with liver cirrhosis. **Material and Methods;** A total of 183 patients with liver cirrhosis having SBP were included in this descriptive cross-sectional study. The study was conducted at department of Medicine. 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;** 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 *Klebsella* 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.

This study is planned to be conducted to document frequency of different causative organisms and pattern of their drug resistance of SBP in cirrhotic patients.

Material and Methods;

A total of 183 patients of either gender, with liver cirrhosis aged 40 – 70 years, having disease duration more than 6 months presenting with SBP having duration less than one week (The diagnostic criteria for spontaneous bacterial peritonitis is the presence of >500/mm leucocytes / the presence of >250 /mm Neutrophils in the ascitic fluid and positive ascitic fluid culture, with presence of all of these) were included in this descriptive cross-sectional study. The study was conducted at department of Medicine. Patients with Tubercular peritonitis and congestive heart failure, Intake of antibiotics within 72 hours, known cases of diabetes, hypertension and with 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. When a patient with liver cirrhosis and ascites presents with fever and/or abdominal pain, or a tender abdomen on physical examination, or with refractory ascites, an ascitic fluid aspirate should be obtained for culture and leucocyte count¹²⁻¹⁴. 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 al¹⁵ 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 al¹⁵ 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 al¹⁵ 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%, Amoxycillin 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.

References

1. Mostafa MS, El-Seidi EA, Kassem AM, Shemis MA, Saber M, Michael MN. Detection of ascitic fluid infections in patients with liver cirrhosis and ascites. *Arab J Gastroenterol*. 2011;12:20–4.
2. Appenrodt B, Lehmann LE, Thyssen L, Gentemann M, Rabe C, Molitor E, et al. Is detection of bacterial DNA in ascitic fluid of clinical relevance? *Eur J Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2010;22(12):1487-94.
3. Barreales M, Fernandez I. Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. *Rev Esp Enferm Dig*. 2011;103:255–63.
4. Terg R, Cobas S, Fassio E, Landiera G, Rios B, Vasen W, et al., “Oral ciprofloxacin after a short course of intravenous ciprofloxacin in the treatment of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis: results of a multicenter, randomized study,” *J Hepatol*. 2000;33(4):564-9.
5. Soriano G¹, Esparcia O, Montemayor M, Guarner-Argente C, Pericas R, Torras X, et al. Bacterial DNA in the diagnosis of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2011;33(2):275-84.
6. Rogers GB¹, Russell LE, Preston PG, Marsh P, Collins JE, Saunders J, et al. Characterization of bacteria in ascites--reporting the potential of culture-independent, molecular analysis. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis*. 2010;29(5):533-41.
7. Zaman A, Kareem R, Mahmood R, Hameed K, Khan EM. Frequency of microbial spectrum of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in established cirrhosis of liver. *J Ayub Med Coll Abbottabad*. 2011;23(4):15-7.
8. Gill AS, Singh A, Matreja PS, Chinna RS, Mahajan R, Chhina DK. Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in alcoholic cirrhosis: an Indian perspective. *Euroasian J Hepato-Gastroenterol* 2012;2(1):14-9.
9. Iqbal S, Imran N, Alam N, Rahman S. Incidence of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in liver cirrhosis, the causative organisms and antibiotic sensitivity. *J Postgrad Med Inst* 2004;18(4):614-9.
10. Sheikhabaei S, Abdollahi A, Hafezi-Nejad N, Zare E. Patterns of antimicrobial resistance in the causative organisms of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis: a single centre, six-year experience of 1981 samples. *Int J Hepatol*. 2014;2014:917856. doi: 10.1155/2014/917856
11. Hardick J, Won H, Jeng K, Hseih Y, Gaydos CA, Rothman RE, et al. Identification of bacterial pathogens in ascitic fluids from patients with suspected spontaneous bacterial peritonitis by use of broad-range PCR (16S PCR) coupled with high-resolution melt analysis. *J Clin Microbiol*. 2012;50(7):2428-32.
12. Bibi S, Ahmed W, Arif A, Khan F, Alam SE. Clinical, Laboratory and Bacterial Profile of Spontaneous Bacterial Peritonitis in Chronic Liver Disease Patients. *J Coll Physicians Surg Pak*. 2015;25(2):95-9.
13. Salerno F, Navickis RJ, Wilkes MM. Albumin infusion improves outcomes of patients with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis: a meta-analysis of randomized trials. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol*. 2013;11:123–30.e1.
14. Dever JB¹, Sheikh MY. Review article: spontaneous bacterial peritonitis--bacteriology, diagnosis, treatment, risk factors and prevention. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther*. 2015 Jun;41(11):1116-31.
15. Oladimeji AA, Temi AP, Adekunle AE, Taiwo RH, Ayokunle RS. Prevalence of spontaneous bacterial peritonitis in liver cirrhosis with ascites. *Pan Afr Med J*. 2013;15:128. doi: 10.11604/pamj.2013.15.128.2702