
Correlation between microbes isolated from acute otitis media and nasopharynx

Sami Abdel-Moniem Kalboush

Acute otitis media is one of the most common infections in children. Complications occur rather frequently unless adequate antibiotic therapy for otitis media is used. The question of the bacteriological correlation between acute otitis media and nasopharynx is still unsatisfactorily answered. The present study aims at identifying the relation between organisms isolated from the nasopharynx and those from cases of acute otitis media with or without perforation. One hundred patients with a diagnosis of acute otitis media were included in the study. 10 patients were excluded.

60 patients (66.7% of 90 patients) showed a full correlation between microbes from the nasopharynx and the middle ear. 3 patients (3.3% of 90 patients) showed a partial correlation between microbes from the nasopharynx and the middle ear while 27 patients (30% of 90 patients) showed no correlation between microbes from the nasopharynx and the middle ear. In the present study 7 patients with subacute otitis media (70% of 10 patients) showed a correlation between microbes from the nasopharynx and that inside the adenoid tissues while 3 patients (30% of 10 patients) showed no correlation between microbes. 53 from the nasopharynx and that inside the adenoid tissue. From our study we can conclude that: 1- for determination of the bacteriologic etiology of individual cases of otitis media, it appears logical to culture the nasopharynx which constitutes the reservoir of middle ear pathogens. 2- infected adenoids may be the direct source of the primary infection or continuous microbial irritation in the nasopharynx may indirectly be the cause of otitis media as persistent infection and oedema maintain chronic dysfunction of the eustachian tube. Thus adenoidectomy may be beneficial in the treatment of subacute otitis media •