
Echocardiographic screening of rheumatic patients presenting with pure chorea or arthritis for detection of cardiac affection

Somia Abdel Samie Mohamed

SUMMARY Rheumatic fever is the commonest cause of valvular affection in children. It needs follow up and prophylaxis to prevent its recurrence with more valvular damage. In recent studies which done on cases with rheumatic chorea and arthritis who have no auscultatory findings of valvular affection proved to have left sided valvular regurgitation with the use of Doppler. This study aimed at studying the role of Doppler echocardiography for unmasking silent valvular affection in rheumatic chorea or arthritis without carditis. To achieve this aim, 100 rheumatic children, 41 males and 59 females presented with either active or quiescent rheumatic chorea or arthritis were examined. They were examined by Doppler echocardiography. They were clinically free and showed no evidence of valvular affection. 50 normal children of matched age and Sex were taken as control. Rheumatic patients were divided into two main groups. Group I patients with follow up (quiescent) were 69 cases. they were subdivided into. a- Past arthritis, were 57 cases. b- Past chorea were 12 cases. group II patients with active rheumatic fever, they were 31 cases. They were subdivided into. a- Present arthritis were 13 cases. b- Present chorea were 18 cases. for all subjects careful history taking clinical examination, laboratory investigations including (blood picture, ESR, CRP and ESR), were done to 100 active cases and control. while quiescent cases the laboratory data were taken from their files. Plain X ray and ECG were done to rheumatic patients only. Doppler echocardiography was done to all rheumatic and control subjects. Data were tabulated, coded and entered into a computer then analyzed. Results were expressed as mean \pm standard deviation. The student's t-test, Z test and χ^2 tests were used for analysis. Results obtained were. We have 42 cases out of 100 rheumatic patients had left sided valvular affection by the use of Doppler echocardiography. we have 58 rheumatic cases with no cardiac abnormalities while 42 cases with cardiac affection. MRI were 25 cases, MRI + PRI were 2 cases, MRI + TRI were 4 cases, MR II were 3 cases, ARI was one case, no ARB, MRI + ARI were 2 cases, MRI + ARI were 3 cases and MRI + ARI were 2 cases. so left sided valvular affection are much more affected than right side of the heart. Mitral valve is much more affected than aortic valve. Patients with rheumatic chorea were 30 cases, 25 cases had cardiac affection while 5 cases had no cardiac affection and the difference between both groups was statistically significant (P