

Other

ACUTE BACTERIAL MENINGITIS IN A PATIENT WITH CHRONIC UNTREATED PERIODONTITIS

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Introduction: Periodontitis is a serious gum infection, which can lead to local complications like tooth loss, bone infection and very rarely meningitis. The spread of infection is usually per continuitam or hematogenic. We report the case of a young boy with bilateral chronic periodontitis in the lower jaw, related to poor hygiene, which lead to acute bacterial meningitis.

Case presentation: A 15ys old boy, was admitted in the ER with acute onset headache and fever, with no previous medical history. Brain MRI showed leptomenigeal contrast enhancement in the prebulbar/prepontine region, suggestive of acute meningitis. CSF analysis revealed high number WBC, with predomination of polymorphonuclears, indicative of bacterial meningitis. CSF culture and blood cultures were negative. All other tests: chest CT scan, throat and nose cultures, cardiac ultrasound were negative. The pt was treated empirically with vancomycine, steroids and ceftriaxone. The situation improved within 48 hours. After two weeks, he developed fever again and jaw pain. A panoramic Xray revealed chronic periodontitis of bilateral first molars in the lower jaw. Clindamycine and Metronidazole were started concomitantly with local treatment. The situation improved.

Discussion: We were not able to identify the cause of meningitis in this pt, until the jaw pain occurred. After empirical treatment, persistence of fever and jaw pain, with no neurological signs, was suggestive of focal infection, which could lead to possible reoccurrence of meningitis.

Conclusion: Chronic periodontitis may lead to acute meningitis in rare cases. This local infection should be considered in pts with unknown cause of meningitis.

