

Abstract

Introductions

Scrub typhus caused by *Orientia tsutsugamushi* and disease is also endemic in South and South East Asia and most of the clinical features are nonspecific and cause major diagnostic as well as management challenge.

Methods

This cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted to study clinical, biochemical and haematological profiles of eschar Positive Scrub Typhus and conducted among all four general medical units of Teaching Hospital Jaffna and Included 85 patients for this study

Data were collected using designed validated data collection form and the relevant clinical and laboratory profiles were retrieved from the bed head tickets and statistically analyzed.

Results

All participants (n=85) had fever and Eschar as defined by case definition. Mean duration of fever was 5.92 ± 2.06 . Majority of them (56.47%) had fever more than 5 days. Additionally, body aches, headache and sore throat were among the commonest symptoms.

Amongst the clinical signs, the regional lymphadenopathy was the commonest and encountered in 42% present of the patients. The hepatomegaly and the splenomegaly were elicited in 12.9% and 11.8% of the patients respectively. The commonest respiratory sign was bilateral crepitation was observed in 12.9% of the patients

Haematological features of Scrub Typhus patients Included thrombocytopenia (54.1%), eosinopenia (55.3%), elevated ESR (81.2%) and CRP. 16.5% of patients had leucocytosis, neutrophilia (32.9%) and 12.9% had lymphocytosis. WBC count was high in day 1 and gradually

decreased in day 7 and day 14. Likewise, mean value of ESR and CRP was high in day 1 and gradually decreased in day 7 and day 14 but not returned to normal range on discharge.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the diagnosis of scrub typhus is quite difficult in our setting due to lack of availability of the diagnostic test and non-specific clinical presentation. However, the high degree of suspicion, extensive clinical examination and the basic haematological and biochemical tests would support the diagnosis of scrub typhus.

Key words:

Scrub typhus, Eschar, Northern Sri Lanka