

Material & Methods

Cases

Biopsies from a total of at least 40 consecutive cases of CNS tumours of varying grades and types were included in the study.

Method

Gross examination

The entire specimens received were processed to obviate any sampling errors.

Routine histological processing

Specimens were fixed in buffered formalin and paraffin-embedded. Five - seven micron serial sections stained by routine hematoxylin-eosin (H&E) were studied under light microscope (LM). Data regarding type of tumour, pleomorphism, mitosis, vascular proliferation and necrosis was recorded in all cases.

Immunohistochemistry

Representative formalin-fixed paraffin-embedded sections of four - five micron from tumour were stained immunohistochemically using labeled streptavidin biotin (LSAB) technique. After deparaffinisation and rehydration, antigen retrieval was performed as per the specific antibody. Then, the sections were cooled at room temperature for 60 min, immersed in 3% hydrogen peroxidase for 10 min to block endogenous peroxidase

activity, and then washed in tris-buffered saline (TBS) for 5 min.

The following panel of antibodies (all prediluted) were used :

- Glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP)
- S-100 protein (S-100)
- Epithelial membrane antigen (EMA)
- Vimentin (CK)
- Synaptophysin (Synapto)
- Neurofilament (NFP)

In every case immunoexpression expression was correlated with tumour histology in terms of type, grade, mitotic activity, microvascular proliferation, and necrosis.

Result

Immunohistochemistry helped determine the cellular lineage and histology in the 40 samples analyzed. It had diagnostic and prognostic implications.

Conclusions

The study will help to correctly identify various astrocytic and non-astrocytic CNS tumours, as well as differentiate primary from secondary neoplasms. This knowledge is vital in cases of primary CNS tumours since it directly influences the therapy and prognosis of the tumour.

Knowledge of Ascariasis Clinical Manifestation and its Relation to the Characteristics of Children in the Orphanage in East Jakarta

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Background

Indonesia as a tropical country is a good place for the growth of *A. lumbricoides*. Infection of *A. lumbricoides* is usually asymptomatic, but it can manifest symptoms such as abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea and respiratory disorder.

Aims & Objectives

To determine the knowledge about ascariasis, its clinical manifestations and its relation to the characteristics of children in the orphanage in East Jakarta.

Material & Methods

This was a cross-sectional study. Data collection was done on June 10, 2012 through a questionnaire containing

five questions about the clinical manifestations of ascariasis. The questionnaire was given to 153 students, 64 men and 89 women. A total of 90 people were in elementary school, 58 in junior high and 15 in senior high school.

Results

Students who were well aware of were 14, with moderate awareness were 47, and with least awareness were 92. Based on chi-square test, the level of knowledge of clinical manifestations of ascariasis was not significant ($p > 0,05$) by sex, age and history of helminth infection, but significantly different ($p < 0,05$) for different levels of education.

Conclusions

The knowledge of orphanage students is generally classified as less and is not associated with gender, age

and history of helminthic infection but related to the educational level. Based on this study, level of knowledge needs to be increased by giving counseling to all children by paying more attention on their education and not on gender, age and history of helminth infection

Keywords: Knowledge; A. lumbricoides; Clinical manifestation; Orphanage.

Evaluation of Knowledge and Practices of Prescribers Regarding Rationality of Promotional Drug Literature Using WHO Criteria

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Background

Pharmaceutical Promotion refers to all the information and persuasive activities by manufacturers and distributors in order to induce the prescription, supply, purchase and/or use of medicinal drugs. There is evidence that drug utilization problems are increasingly encountered in many developing countries due to irrational drug advertisement, lack of knowledge and practice regarding WHO Ethical Criteria for medicinal drug promotion among prescribers and medical representatives.

Aims & Objectives

The study was aimed to evaluate collected drug promotional brochures for accuracy, consistency, and validity of the medicinal drug advertisements as well as knowledge and practice of prescribing physicians and medical representative about WHO Ethical Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion and about the existing regulations

Material and Methods

This observational and questionnaires based cross-sectional study was conducted in the department of pharmacology at Vardhman Mahavir Medical College and associated Safadarjang Hospital Delhi, India. One thousands advertisement were collected in 3 months from medical journals and from various OPDs and analyzed for fulfillment of "WHO criteria, 1988. The evaluation of knowledge and practices of physicians and medical representatives about WHO ethical criteria for medicinal drug promotion was done by a separate questionnaire containing 6 items with multiple options. The participants were provided 15 minutes to answer the

questionnaire.

Results

None of the promotional literature fulfilled all WHO criteria. Very few brochures mentioned about adjuvant (2%) and safety (15.8%). Only 40.7% were presented with content of active ingredient(s) per dosage form or regimen. Although 100% of brochures were containing brand name. The evaluation of knowledge and practices of physicians showed that although 100% of prescriber were aware about WHO Criteria for Medicinal Drug Promotion but only 31% evaluated the text in pharmaceutical advertisements. Few prescribers evaluated references (17%) and claims regarding pharmacokinetic properties (22%). The evaluation of knowledge and practices of medical representatives showed 100% of them have knowledge about WHO Criteria. Majority (92%) of medical representatives stressed on brand name and efficacy and very few (8.2%) explain about references. None of medical representatives talks about pictures and images of pharmaceutical advertisements.

Conclusions

The study showed that the compliance with the implementation WHO-EC in medicinal drug promotion/ advertisement is very poor. Health-care professionals receive little or no instruction on how to assess pharmaceutical promotion and how to understand its often subtle influence on their prescribing behaviour. Medical representatives were lacking in sufficient medical and technical knowledge and integrity to present information on products and carry out other promotional activities in an accurate and responsible manner.