Epidemiology of Liver Abscess at a University Hospital Setting in Thailand

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ABSTRACT

Background: Liver abscess remains a common illness in Thailand. We aimed to investigate an epidemiology of liver abscess in the era of advanced diagnostic intervention.

Methods: A retrospective cohort study was conducted at a university hospital in Thailand during 2000-2010. A medical chart review of adult (15 years and older) patients with liver abscess was assessed for clinical characteristics, microbiological, and radiological findings.

Results: A total of 197 patients were included, with a median age (IQR) of 53 (40-65) years; 133 (67.5%) were males. Of all, 131 (66.5%), 28 (14.2%), 6 (3.0%), and 32 (16.2%) patients were diagnosed with pyogenic, amebic, mixed, and undetermined liver abscess, respectively. Klebsiella pneumoniae was the most common organism discovered from blood (17%) and pus cultures (32%). Patients with pyogenic liver abscess had a more advanced age (53.6 years vs. 38.8 years, p < 0.001) and were more likely to have underlying disease (77.9% vs. 17.9%, p < 0.001), post-hepatobiliary procedures (27.5% vs. 0%, p = 0.001), hepatomegaly (89.3% vs. 64.9%, p = 0.011), and higher band forms in a complete blood count (5% vs. 1.5%, p = 0.031) compared with patients with amebic liver abscess. There was no significant difference in radiologic findings between the two groups.

Conclusion: Bacteria is by far the most common pathogen causing liver abscess in Thailand. Knowing the differences in characteristics of patients with liver abscess may guide physicians toward an appropriate diagnosis and early treatment. (J Infect Dis Antimicrob Agents 2018;35:1-13.)

Presentation: Parts of this manuscript were presented at the 15th International Congress on Infectious Diseases (Bangkok), June 13-16, 2012. [abstract 45.041]

Keywords: Amebic liver abscess; Epidemiology; Pyogenic liver abscess; Thailand

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