Deep neck infection, management and predictors of poor prognosis

Šekib Umihanić

Clinic for Ear, Nose, Throat Disease and Head Neck Surgery, University Clinical Center Tuzla,

Medical Faculty, University of Tuzla, Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina

sekib.umihanic@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study reviews our experience with deep neck space infections (phlegmons) requiring surgical intervention. The aim of the study was to identify predisposing and aggravating factors of the disease and recognize the possible factors that can lead to life-threatening complications, and slow down the healing process, or be predictors of poor disease outcome. Our retrospective study comprised 71 patients with neck phlegmons, who were treated at the ENT Clinic, during 2000-2022. The study included the etiology, predisposing factors, causative microbiological organisms, and the clinical outcomes associated with the mortality. During the investigated time, 71 patients with deep neck infections were noted. The range of age of the patients was 14-81 years, and the study population included 45 males (63.3%). Staphylococcus aureus was the most commonly isolated bacteria. Death was noted in 13 patients (18.3%). Timely diagnosis together with aggressive surgical treatment and appropriate antibacterial therapy were the key to success in the treatment of the patients with deep neck infections. The factors associated with poor prognosis in our patients included tonsillar disease, diabetes mellitus, mediastinitis, age above 65 years.

Key words: neck, phlegmons, poor outcome