Guillain-Barré Syndrome in Children and Infectious Diseases
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Background: Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is the most frequent cause of acute paralytic neuropathy. The exact cause of GBS is unknown, but 50-70% of cases appear after a respiratory or gastrointestinal infection.

Aims: To analyze the association between GBS and infectious disease.

Methods: Observational descriptive study of children with GBS, between 2007 and 2017 in a Portuguese pediatric hospital. Demographic, clinical and laboratory parameters were studied.

Results

Previous disease 19 (63.3%) cases

Median age 5.3 yrs (min 12 mths, max 16 yrs)

Electromyographic pattern according to etiologic agent

INFECTIONS 15/30 (50%) CASES
Epstein_Barr virus (3), cytomegalovirus (2), Borrelia (2), influenza A H1N1 (2)
Others (campylobacter, Mycoplasma pneumoniae, leptospira, varicella-zoster virus, enterovirus, rhinovirus)

NO STATISTICALLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN INFECTIOUS AND NONINFECTIOUS ETIOLOGY
sex (p=0.409)
median age (p=0.529)
geographical region (p=0.701)
antiganglioside antibodies (p=0.602)
pain (p=0.419)
average recovery time (87.1 vs 94.3 days; p=0.612)

CONCLUSIONS: In our study, infectious GBS seems to behave in a similar pattern to non-infectious disease. The exact cause of GBS remains unknown. Prospective, multicentric studies are needed to compare patients with infectious etiology confirmed with the remainder, in a larger sample size.