INTRODUCTION The pharyngeal abscesses are purulent collections, usually with polymicrobial etiology, present in cervical virtual spaces surrounded by fascias. These spaces are contiguous and provide low resistance to infection. The risk of infection spreading and involvement of vital neck structures is high. Although rare in children, they can be associated with serious complications.

OBJECTIVES & METHODS Characterize the cases of pharyngeal abscesses in children admitted to a tertiary pediatric hospital. Retrospective study from January 2011 to December 2014 (4 years). Demographic data, clinical background, clinical manifestations, laboratorial and imaging alterations, medical and/or surgical treatment and evolution were analysed.

RESULTS

**ABSCESSES TYPE**

- Peritonsillar 78%
- Parapharyngeal 9%
- Retropharyngeal 7%
- Mixed 6%

**CLINICAL FINDINGS BY ABSCESSES TYPE**

- Peritonsillar
  - edysphagia (94%) 78%
  - fever (75%) 66%
  - lyer pain and torticollis (62.5%) 52%
  - eyer (69%) 46%

- Parapharyngeal
  - edysphagia (75%) 60%
  - lyer pain (100%) 50%

- Retropharyngeal
  - lyer (75%) 45%
  - cervical tumesfaction (83.3%) 35%

- Mixed
  - lyer pain and torticollis (62.5%) 25%
  - eyer (83.3%) 22%

**ABSCESS LOCATION ON CONTRAST-ENHANCED CT SCAN**

- Peritonsillar 35%
- Parapharyngeal 19%
- Retropharyngeal 46%

**SURGICAL DRAINAGE**

- Peritonsillar 39%
  - 29/68 peritonsillar
  - 3/6 retropharyngeal
  - 2/8 parapharyngeal
  - 2/5 mixed

**PATHOGENS**

- *Streptococcus pyogenes* (6/8)

**ANTIBIOTHERAPY**

- Penicillin + Clindamycin 77%

**AVERAGE DAYS OF PARENTERIC ANTIBIOTHERAPY**

- Peritonsillar 5.8
- Parapharyngeal 10.8
- Retropharyngeal 6.6
- Mixed 10.4

**COMPLICATIONS**

- 2.3% 1 airway obstruction
- 1 respiratory failure

**FOLLOW-UP**

- 26.4% elective tonsillectomy
- 6 relapsed

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS The clinical findings continue to be determinant to pharyngeal abscess diagnosis. The interpretation of the imagiologic exams and the choice of medical versus combined medical and surgical treatment are still matter of debate.