

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH DURATION OF HEADACHE IN EOSINOPHILIC MENINGITIS CAUSED BY ANGIOSTRONGYLUS CANTONENSIS

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Acute severe headache is the main presentation of eosinophilic meningitis caused by *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*. Oral corticosteroid is effective in reduction of duration of headache but may be contraindicated in particular patients. Natural history data regarding outcome of treatment are still limited. This study investigated clinical factors associated with duration of eosinophilic meningitis caused by *A. cantonensis* if left untreated or treated with analgesics. There were 55 eosinophilic meningitis patients who received only acetaminophen treatment; one patient was excluded due to incomplete clinical data. In total, there were 54 patients in the final analysis. Of those, 39 patients (79.22%) were male and the mean (S.D.) age of all patients was 33.72 (12.22). All patients presented with acute severe headache. The mean (S.D.) duration of headache after treatment with placebo was 16.04 (12.37) days and range of 1-49 days. The only factor associated with duration of headache by multiple linear regression was gender. The male gender had coefficient of -8.37 (95% CI: -16.17, -0.56; p value 0.036). The medians duration of headache in male and female patients were 11 and 20 days, respectively. In conclusion, gender was a significant factor associated with duration of headache in eosinophilic meningitis from *A. cantonensis*.