CHARACTERISTICS OF PEDIATRIC UVEITIS PATIENTS IN A TERTIARY EYE CARE CENTER IN TURKEY

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Purpose: To describe demographic features and treatment of pediatric uveitis patients followed in a tertiary eye care center.

Methods: Between 2001 and 2010 a total of 21 pediatric patients (onset of uveitis at ≤16 years of age) with uveitis who came for the out-patient scheduled appraisal at the Department of Ophthalmology, Uveitis Service, Marmara University Medical School, were enrolled. Patients who had at least 6-month of follow-up were included in the study.

Results: Thirty-eight (23 female, 15 male) out of 474 patients (8%) with uveitis were identified as having pediatric uveitis. While 29 (76.4%) of pediatric uveitis cases had non-infectious etiology, 9 (%23.6) had infectious disease. Non-infectious etiologies were juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) associated anterior uveitis (37.9%), intermediate uveitis (34.5%), idiopathic panuveitis (17.2%), and Fuchs heterochromic iridocyclitis, Cogan syndrome and Behçet uveitis (3.5%, each) respectively. Infectious etiologies were toxoplasma retinochoroiditis (55.6%), cat-scratch disease (33.3%) and, toxocara granuloma (11.1%). Anti-infectious agents were used in the treatment of infectious etiologies and 65.5% of non-infectious uveitis patients were treated with conventional immunomodulatory agents and/or biologics. Biological agents were most commonly used in treatment of juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) associated anterior uveitis. Therapeutic pars plana vitrectomy was performed in 1 patient with intermediate uveitis.

Conclusion: Pediatric patients constitute approximately 10% of all uveitis cases. Immune-mediated etiologies account for most of the cases. Immunomodulatory drugs and biological agents were required in about two third of the cases with immune-mediated uveitis.