

Tilmelding af Foredrag

Foredragets titel

The influence of social distancing associated with the Covid-19 pandemic on the incidence and microbiology of peritonsillar abscess

Forfatter(e)

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Introduktion

Peritonsillar abscess (PTA) is a relatively frequent complication to acute tonsillitis. The prevalent bacteria are *Fusobacterium necrophorum* (FN), *Streptococcus pyogenes* (SP), and streptococcus anginosus group (SAG). The lock down/social distancing associated with the Covid-19 pandemic is a unique opportunity to explore if different infectious diseases are associated with person-to-person contact or originates from patient's normal bacterial flora. We aimed to explore the impact of social distancing associated with the Covid-19 lock down on the incidence and microbiology of PTA.

Materiale/metode

All patients treated for PTA at Aarhus University Hospital two years before (early period) to two years after (late period) Danish lock down (11 March 2020) were retrospectively included.

Resultater

In total, 632 patients were included in the study. The number of PTA cases was significantly lower in the late period (n=248) compared to the early period (384) ($p < 0.0001$). Pus cultures were performed in 461 (73%) cases. The number of SP-positive cases were significantly lower in the late period (n=29) compared to the early period (n=73) ($p < 0.001$), while the number of FN-positive and SAG-positive cases were insignificantly different between periods (FN: 65 vs 72, $p = 0.61$; SAG: 44 vs 45, $p = 1.00$).

Diskussion

With the reservation that the ratio of PTA patients treated at private ENT practices and hospital may have been influenced by the lock down, we found that social distancing had a strong impact on the incidence of PTA. Further, the number of SP-positive cases was much lower after the lock down, which was contrasted by the rather unaffected number of FN- and SAG-positive cases. Hence, PTA seems to be a partly contagious disease (SP and pathogen-negative).

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