

INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE IN INFANCY

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ABSTRACT

Background

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) may begin as early as the first year of life. The objective of the present study was to determine the characteristics and clinical course of children with early-onset IBD.

Materials and Methods

The records of patients with IBD admitted to Children Medical Center Hospital during 2003–2006 were screened for those with disease onset before the first year of life and who had a follow-up of at least 2 years.

Results

12 patients (8 boys, 4 girls) were identified. 9 had Crohn's disease. All of the patients had colitis. One of parents had IBD in 9 patients; 2 had a positive family history for IBD. 7 patients had weaned of breast fed when the gastrointestinal symptoms started. 10 patients had a severe onset of disease requiring total parenteral nutrition, and steroid followed by azathioprine. 3 patients with Crohn's disease needed surgery; another 3 with Crohn's disease died during the study. Of those with ulcerative colitis, one is in complete remission.

Conclusions

The prevalence of inflammatory bowel disease in infancy is unknown, but appears to be increasing. The course of the disease seems more severe..

Keywords: Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, Infant, Early-onset inflammatory bowel diseases

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INTRODUCTION

The onset of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) peaks within the second decade of life with approximately 10% of patients are diagnosed in the pediatric age group. (1-3)

According to recent reports, (4-7) the incidence of pediatric Crohn's disease (CD) has been increased,