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Fever following neuroendoscopic procedures in children

Erwin M.J. Cornips, Suzanne L. De Kunder, Kim Rijkers, Johan S.H. Vles
Maastricht University Medical Center, The Netherlands

Introduction: Non-infectious fever is a common yet underreported complication of neuroendoscopic procedures. In a recent paper (2014) Kinoshita et al. reported an incidence of 52.8% in adults and children above 10 years of age as opposed to 84.8% in children under 10 years of age, the difference being statistically significant.

Methods: In our center, we have also frequently observed fever after neuroendoscopic procedures in children. We present an analysis of 71 consecutive procedures performed in recent years, including mostly ETV and (less frequently) intraventricular tumor biopsy, septostomy, arachnoid cyst fenestration, etc.

Results: All procedures were performed using a rigid scope (either a Medtronic disposable fiberscope or an Aesculap Minop rod-lens scope). Lactated ringer's solution at body temperature was invariably used as rinsing fluid. All patients were closely observed for at least 5 days postoperatively, including daily temperature measurements using a tympanic membrane thermometer. Relevant data with regard to incidence, severity, and duration of postoperative fever and their relation to age, sex, type and duration of procedure, presence or absence of clinical symptoms and signs, and biochemical markers for infection / inflammation will be presented and statistically analyzed in detail.

Conclusion: Fever following neuroendoscopic procedures is common especially in younger children. Knowing and correctly recognizing this phenomenon should avoid unnecessary and especially invasive diagnostic tests, and allow reassurance of both parents and other caregivers.