DURATION OF HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS AT THE MOMENT OF DIAGNOSIS AS A DETERMINANT OF DISEASE SEVERITY

U. Nowicka, E. Wiatr, J. Fijołek, M. Martusewicz-Boros, P. Boros, K. Roszkowski-Śliż

e-mail: unowicka@poczta.onet.pl

Third Division of Pulmonary Diseases, National Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Research Institute, Płocka St. 26, 01-138 Warsaw, Poland

Introduction. Hypersensivity pneumonitis (HP) is a pulmonary disease caused by repeated inhalation of various antigen, triggering a diffuse inflammatory response in the small airways and lung parenchyma. Aims and objectives. We assessed the correlation between age of diagnosis and degree of clinical, functional and radiological changes in our patients (pts). Methods. Diagnosis of HP was made on the basis of a combination of clinical symptoms, medical history, serological tests, radiologic evidence of diffuse lung disease and no other identifiable cause for lung disease. Medical records were examined in detail to gather clinical, radiologic and lung function data at the time of diagnosis. Results. We identified 111 consecutive pts (68 womens) with HP diagnosed in a period 1995-2013 at our Institute. Three groups according to age were established: 1)<30 years; 2) 30-50 years, 3) ≥ 50. The most common causes were avian antigens (56,7%). Dyspnea was present in 97,3% pts, weight loss in 54,7% pts, respiratory failure in 23,4% pts. Lung fibrosis in chest computed tomography were present in 42,3% pts. Lung function was impaired seriously in first group with DLCO <40% in 71,4% pts compared to 33% in total. Restrictive pattern was present in 92,3% pts in first group compared to 41% in total. In the younger group desaturation in the 6MTW was deeper with mediana 11% compared to 6% in total. Conclusions. Diagnosis of HP in younger age corresponds to more severe clinical course with lung fibrosis and higher disturbances in pulmonary function tests.