

Interstitial lung diseases

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Systemic diseases as a cause of fever of unknown origin

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Fever of unknown origin (FUO) remains one of the most difficult diagnostic challenges. The cause of FUO can be various diseases located in different organs. The aim of the study was to determine the prevalence systemic diseases as the cause of FUO. 161 patients (81 females and 80 male) with FUO participated in the prospective study, conducted at the Hospital Czerniakowski in Warsaw. The average age of the patients was 57 ± 18.5 years. We performed a detailed comprehensive history and physical examination and carried out a wide spectrum of tests. Systemic diseases accounted for 30% (n=48). The remaining groups of causes were: infection – 37% (n=60), neoplasm – 16% (n=26), another – 12% (n=19). In 8 patients (5%), a definitive diagnosis was never established. Among the patients with systemic diseases the most common were: vasculitis (46%), systemic lupus (13%), rheumatoid arthritis (11%) sarcoidosis (11%), Still's disease (6%), giant cell arteritis (6%), another 7%. This group was characterized by the lowest average age (mean 50 years old) and was more common in women (63%). This group requires extensive diagnostics key including: serology (44%), histopathology (31%), tomography (17%), others (9%). Systemic diseases are important cause of FUO.