



INFECTIOUS DISEASES (BACTERIAL, FUNGAL, VIRAL, PARASITIC, INFESTATIONS)

SCRUB TYPHUS – A CASE SERIES IN TERTIARY CARE HOSPITAL

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BACKGROUND: Scrub typhus, also known as bush typhus is an acute, febrile, infectious illness that is caused by rickettsial bacteria *Orientia Tsutsugamushi* that harbors the vector. Scrub typhus continues to be a public health problem in Asia. It is estimated that about 1 billion people may be at risk for this disease with the annual incidence of one million new cases.

This study includes cases of consecutive scrub typhus positive cases admitted in a tertiary care hospital. After complete physical examination, complete blood count, liver function tests, renal function tests, urine analysis, blood & urine cultures were done in all cases. In all the cases, scrub typhus was diagnosed using a rapid single step immunochromatographic assay.

OBSERVATION: Of 23 cases, 12 were females and 11 were males. Fever was the chief presenting symptom in all the cases. Other signs and symptoms were headache, myalgia, cough, hepatosplenomegaly, abdominal pain and lymphadenopathy. Eschar was present in all the cases. Liver enzymes were elevated in all the patients. Hypotension, thrombocytopenia, hepatic dysfunction, hypoalbuminemia, hematuria and proteinuria were the complications observed. All cases were successfully treated with doxycycline and there was no mortality.

KEY MESSAGE: Early diagnosis of scrub typhus can be made of patients presenting with fever by adequate laboratory tests, as early detection of the disease could reduce morbidity and mortality.

