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FOREIGN BODIES OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT IN CHILDREN. RESULTS OF ENDOSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN CHILDREN OF THE REGIONAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

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Abstract. The *purpose of the study* to describe the localization, nature and endoscopic picture of foreign bodies of the respiratory tract among children of different age groups. The medical histories and protocols of bronchoscopy of 46 patients (children 7 months — 14 years) were studied. The endoscopy department of the regional children's hospital of Saint Petersburg. Endoscopic examination was carried out with Pentax EB-1570K and Pentax EB-1170K videobronchoscopes; the extraction of foreign bodies was carried out using a Storz rigid bronchoscope. Out of 46 examined children with foreign bodies of the respiratory tract, 33 children were aged from 7 months to 3 years (71.7%), 8 children aged from 4 to 6 years (17.4%) and 5 children from 7 to 14 years (10.9%). Foreign bodies were most often food particles — in 47.8% of patients (apple, carrot, fish bone, nuts), small beads, toys or their fragments — 37.5% of patients, sharp objects (needles, pins, metal brackets) — 14.7% of patients. Foreign bodies of the respiratory tract can be found anywhere — nasal passages, larynx, trachea, bronchi, in the tissue of the lung itself. Foreign bodies were most often located in the right main bronchus in 17% of patients. Foreign bodies in the left main bronchus — 12.8% of cases; in the left lower lobe bronchus — 6.4%; in the right lower lobe bronchus — 4.3%. In 34% of the examined patients, foreign bodies were not visualized, which is due to their spontaneous evacuation. *Conclusion*. Foreign bodies of the respiratory tract are most often found in children under the age of 3 years. The most frequent localization is the right bronchus. A third of patients have complications in the form of tracheobronchitis.

Key words: foreign body; respiratory tract; diagnosis; treatment; children.

ИНОРОДНЫЕ ТЕЛА ДЫХАТЕЛЬНЫХ ПУТЕЙ У ДЕТЕЙ. РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ ЭНДОСКОПИЧЕСКОГО ОБСЛЕДОВАНИЯ У ДЕТЕЙ ОБЛАСТНОЙ ДЕТСКОЙ БОЛЬНИЦЫ

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Резюме. *Цель исследования* — описать локализацию, характер и эндоскопическую картину при инородных телах дыхательных путей среди детей различных возрастных групп. Изучены истории болезней и протоколы бронхоскопии 46 пациентов (дети 7 месяцев — 14 лет) отделения эндоскопии ЛОГБУЗ «ДКБ» г. Санкт-Петербурга. Эндоскопическое исследование проведено видеобронхоскопами Pentax EB-1570К и Pentax EB-1170К; извлечение инородных тел проводилось с помощью ригибного бронхоскопа Storz. Из 46 обследованных детей с инородными телами дыхательных путей 33 ребенка были в возрасте от 7 меся-

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цев до 3 лет (71,7%), 8 детей в возрасте от 4 до 6 лет (17,4%) и 5 детей от 7 до 14 лет (10,9%). Инородными телами чаще всего являлись частицы пищи — у 47,8% пациентов (яблоко, морковь, рыбная кость, орехи), мелкие бусины, игрушки или их осколки — 37,5% пациентов, острые предметы (иглы, булавки, металлические скобки) — 14,7% пациентов. Инородные тела чаще всего находились в правом главном бронхе — у 17% пациентов. Инородные тела в левом главном бронхе — в 12,8% случаев; в левом нижнедолевом бронхе — в 6,4%; в правом нижнедолевом бронхе — в 4,3%. У 34% обследованных пациентов инородные тела не визуализировались, что связано с их самопроизвольной эвакуацией. Заключение. Чаще всего инородные тела дыхательных путей встречаются у детей в возрасте до трех лет. Самая частая локализация — правый бронх. Треть пациентов имеют осложнения в виде трахеобронхита.

Ключевые слова: инородное тело; дыхательные пути; диагностика; лечение; дети.

INTRODUCTION

Инородные тела в дыхательных путях детей являForeign bodies in the respiratory tract in children are a frequent pathology that threatens the child's life and requires immediate assistance [1–4]. The most dangerous localisaton is the larynx and trachea. Foreign bodies in this area can completely block air access. If immediate assistance is not rendered, death occurs within 1–2 minutes [5, 6].

Despite the progress made in the diagnostics and treatment of children with foreign bodies in the respiratory tract, this problem remains very urgent. Causes due to which foreign bodies can get into the respiratory tract are talking while eating, unexpected deep breathing when a child was frightened, sudden fell, laughing, scramming [1].

The main signs of foreign body ingestion are cough, wheezing, skin cyanosis, dyspnea, etc. All these signs may be present as well as each of them separately [1].

Foreign bodies of the respiratory tract by its nature can be organic or inorganic — both nails, needles and fruit seeds and living organisms (leeches, worms, flies, wasps, etc.) [7, 8].

Foreign bodies in the trachea, as a rule, are mobile (balloting foreign bodies). Bronchial foreign bodies, if their size is smaller than the bronchial lumen, can migrate from one bronchus to another [9].

If a foreign body wedges into the main bronchus, it causes irritation of the mucous membrane and respiratory disturbance. Such foreign bodies cause inflammatory changes in the mucosa and bronchial wall — from catarrhal inflammation and edema to ulceration and perforation of the bronchial wall leading to mediastinal emphysema. Organic foreign bodies are the most aggressive with respect to the caused disorders and dysfunctions, which decompose, swell (e.g., beans, peas) and close the lumen of the bronchus, pushing the walls apart and breaking their integrity [1]. Diagnosis of foreign bodies in the bronchi is more difficult compared to the diagnosis of foreign bodies in the trachea. As the bronchial lumen decreases, the recognition of foreign bodies becomes more difficult. Sometimes foreign bodies in the respiratory tract may not manifest themselves at all. The main diagnostic tools are tracheobronchoscopy and X-ray [10, 11].

Treatment of foreign bodies in the bronchi consists in removal of foreign bodies [12–17].

Small foreign bodies of organic nature can disintegrate, liquefy and self-liquidate. Inflammatory complications are possible. Usually attempts to remove foreign bodies from trachea and bronchi are performed by tracheobronchoscopy. After removal of foreign bodies, some patients need rehabilitation measures, and after removal of complicated foreign bodies — in the prophylactic use of antimicrobial drugs [18].

The prognosis depends largely on the age of the patient. It is most serious in infants and children of the first years of life.

AIM

To describe the localization, nature and endoscopic pattern of foreign bodies in airway in children of different age groups.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Case histories and bronchoscopy protocols of 46 patients of the endoscopy department of Leningrad regional state budgetary health care institution "Children's Clinical Hospital" (St. Petersburg) for the period from 2019 to 2021 were studied. The age of the children was from 7 months to 14 years. Endoscopic examination was performed with Pentax EB-1570K and Pentax-EB-1170K video bronchoscopes; retrieval of foreign body was performed with a Storz rigid bronchoscope.

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Fig. 1. Detection of foreign bodies during endoscopic examination Рис. 1. Выявленные инородные тела при эндоскопическом исследовании

RESULTS

In 46 examined children with foreign bodies in the respiratory tract, 33 children were aged from 7 months to 3 years (71.7%), 8 children were aged from 4 to 6 years (17.4%) and 5 children were aged from 7 to 14 years (10.9%). Foreign bodies were most often food particles — in 47.8% of patients (apple, carrot, fish bone, nuts), small beads, toys or their fragments — in 37.5% of patients, sharp objects (needles, pins, metal staples) — in 14.7% of patients. The detected foreign bodies are presented in Figure 1.

Foreign bodies of the respiratory tract were located in various places: in the nasal passages, larynx, trachea, bronchi, and in the tissue of the lung. The most dangerous place was the larynx and trachea, when foreign bodies blocked air access and the patient was admitted for emergency care. Foreign bodies in the main and lobe bronchi are also very dangerous. In our study, foreign bodies were most often located in the right main bronchus — in 17% of patients, which is explained by the peculiarity of the bronchopulmonary system in children [19]. Foreign bodies in the left main bronchus were found in 12.8% of cases; in the left lower lobe bronchus — in 6.4%; in the right lower lobe bronchus — in 4.3%. In 34% of the examined patients foreign bodies were not visualized, which is associated with their spontaneous evacuation. The examination was most often performed in some time (days, weeks) after aspiration, when inflammation developed (32.6%): more often catarrhal, mucopurulent, purulent endobronchitis, which was the reason for bronchoscopy. This situation is rather typical, since it is known that foreign bodies may not manifest themselves at all during the first time after aspiration [20].

CONCLUSION

Prevention of aspiration of foreign body in young children is necessary.

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