KSN 2020
FULLY VIRTUAL MEETING

Abstract Type : Oral
Abstract Submission No. : OR-1299

Clinical significance of hypoalbuminemia for acute kidney injury in patients with scrub typhus

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Objectives: The aim of this study is to investigate the clinical significance of hypoalbuminemia (HA) for acute kidney injury (AKI) in patients with scrub typhus

Methods: From 2010 to 2017, 449 patients were diagnosed with scrub typhus. We divided the patients into two groups [normoalbuminemia (NA) vs. hypoalbuminemia (HA)] based on the serum albumin level of 3.5 g/dL, and compared the incidence, clinical characteristics, and severity of AKI based on RIFLE classification between two groups.

Results: Of the total 449 patients, 52 (11.6%) were categrized as HA group. Compared with patients in NA group, patients in HA group were older (74 ± 8 vs. 63 ± 13, P<0.01) and had higher total leukocyte counts (10.4 × 10^3/ mL vs. 6.9 × 10^3/mL, P<0.01). HA group showed significantly longer hospital stay (10.1 ± 4.7 vs 8.8 ± 4.5, p<0.01) and higher incidence of acute kidney injury (56% vs. 19%, p<0.01). The overall incidence of AKI was 22.9%; of which, 12.2%, 10.0% and 0.7% were classified as Risk, Injury and Failure, respectively. In a multivariate logistic regression analysis for predciting AKI, age, presence of chronic kidney disease, leukocytosis and hypoalbuminemia were significant predictors of AKI. Most patients recovered baseline renal function without renal replacement therapy following antibiotics therapy and supportive care

Conclusions: Hypoabluminemia was closely associated with scrub typhus associated with AKI.