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Carpal tunnel syndrome in chronic haemodialysis

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Objectives: To evaluate the incidence of carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS) and to identify the factors that influence the development of CTS in haemodialysis patients, as well as the results of its surgical treatment.

Methods: Cross-sectional study carried out in December 2019 on 26 haemodialysis patients in the nephrology department of CHU Casablanca.

Results: We collected 14 cases of carpal tunnel syndrome in 26 patients. These were 9 women and 5 men (sex ratio = 0.55), with an average age of 50 years (24 -62 years). The average age at dialysis was 31 years (16 -51 years). The mean duration of haemodialysis was 19.6 years (11 - 32 years). And were all dialyzed with an average KT / V of 1.94 (1.49-2.59). 1 patient had asymptomatic involvement of the shoulder and 2 patients had asymptomatic tendinitis as antecedent. All patients presented acroparesthesia with hypoesthesia in the median nerve area. The outcome was bilateral in 12 cases. We noted 9 cases of carpal tunnel syndrome on the side of the arteriovenous fistula (FAV). All patients underwent electromyography (EMG), confirming carpal tunnel syndrome diagnosis, with moderate to severe forms (1 case was associated with metabolic neuropathy of the median and ulnar nerves on both sides). Surgical treatment consisted of the release of the flexor retinaculum. Histology of the annular ligament and synovium revealed amyloid deposits in 1 case. The evolution was marked by the disappearance of clinical signs in all patients, recurrence in 5 cases with reoperation in 3 cases.

Conclusions: carpal tunnel syndrome is a disabling disease in heamodialysis, requiring early screening by electromyography routine screening to improve prognosis.