INSIGHTS INTO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL PROFILE AND DIAGNOSIS OF HODGKIN'S LYMPHOMA

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INTRODUCTION

The incidence rate of Hodgkin lymphoma (HL) among all malignant lymphomas accounts 24%. In 2020, globally 0.2-0.4% of all cancer-related deaths were caused by HL. HL is characterized by a sizable disease burden (DB) in the advanced stages and different response to treatment depending on stage and histological type.

OBJECTIVE

Identification and evaluation of the epidemiological and diagnostic patterns of HL in patients with different stages.

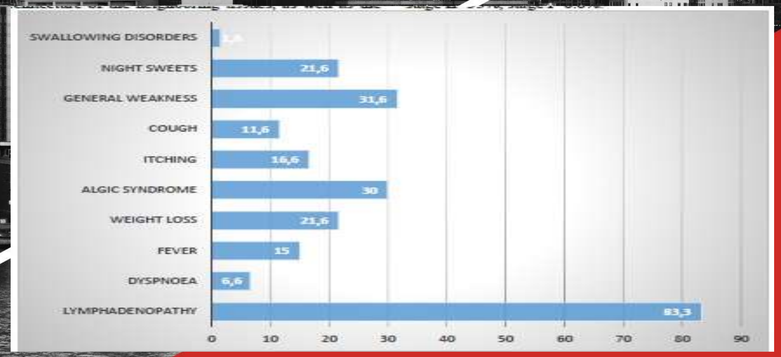


Figure 1. Distribution of patients with Hodgkin's lymphoma according to the charges presented.

METHODS

Design: We performed an observational, descriptive and cohort study.
The diagnosis was proved by histopathological and immunohistochemical examinations. The histological type of Hodgkin's lymphoma was identified according to the criteria of the International Classification of Tumors of Hematopoietic and Lymphoid Tissue revised by the WHO in 2017. The patients' staging was performed or reviewed according to the criteria of Lugano Classification of Malignant Lymphomas.
The selected patients' data were compared at the step of inpatient admission and staging with respect to the involved lymph nodes, histopathological, immunohistochemical and imaging examinations.
Setting: The patients' follow-up was performed at the comprehensive cancer center and related to the hospitalized and outpatient care.
Participants: The study included 60 HL patients diagnosed and treated at the Oncological Institute of Moldova between 2018-2022.
Interventions: The retrospective and prospective patients' groups were evaluated. The following methods were used for the researches: epidemiological, descriptive and comparative statistics, big data transfer.

RESULTS

The patients were aged between 20-73 years, with a median age of 43.03 years. The age category up to 35 years proved to be more common (41.7%). Patients aged 36-50 years accounted 31.7%. The lowest incidence of HL was identified in patients older than 71 years - 6.7%. The majority of patients addressed to hematologists in the advanced stages: stage IV - 36, 6%, stage III - 21.3%. Localized stages were diagnosed in 41.6%. The prognosis was influenced by the high risk factors: involvement of more than 4 nodal areas - 48.3%, ESR > 50 mm/h - 35%, age above 50 years - 31.6%, mediastinal bulky disease - 13.23%, ESR >30 mm/h combined with B symptoms - 11.6%. CD30 and CD 15 immunohistochemical markers were identified in 58 (96.7%) patients. MUM1 was detected in 33.3% of cases, PAX5 - in 30%, CD20 - in 3.6% and CD45 - 3.3% (in nodular lymphocyte-predominant type). Morphological and immunohistochemical investigations identified nodular sclerosis as the most common histological type of HL (66.7% of patients).

DISCUSSIONS

Hodgkin's lymphoma is a malignant tumor of the lymphatic tissue that sometimes presents difficulties in diagnosis due to its long asymptomatic period. It was determined that Hodgkin's lymphoma developed more frequently up to the age of 35 years (41.7%). The recurrence of the appearance of Hodgkin's lymphoma by gender showed a prevalence of men - 53%, 32 patients out of 60, these data correspond to a study carried out in 2020 regarding the global analysis of the incidence of HL, in which the male gender was about 50% higher than female. Also in 2021, the incidence of Hodgkin's lymphoma was 2.0. Detrimental risk factors are defined across the world by various cooperative groups. There was incorporated criteria such as an elevates ESR, presence of B symptoms, increased number of involved nodal sites and tumor bulk. There was determined that the 5-year overall survival in the incipient stages – I and II is approximately 90%, however in the stage IV the 5-year overall survival is approximately 60% .

CONCLUSIONS

The most affected by HL population group was up to the age of 35 years (41.7%). The latent onset and long olygosymtomatic period determined the late referral of patients to hematologist and, thus, explained the prevalence of patients with the advanced stages and increased DB.

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