



Pre-Operative Factors Affecting Outcome in patients with perforation peritonitis

Author-Dr.sarathphanikumarbethina

Co-author –Dr.sushamasurapaneni

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I. INTRODUCTION

Gastrointestinal perforation is the third most common cause for exploratory laparotomy as an emergency. With the advent of drugs against acid peptic disease the incidence of peptic ulcer perforations is on decline. The management of these patients provides a number of unique challenges to the attending surgeon. Many of these patients present and are managed in rural hospitals, where resources are often very limited. Late presentation, inadequate preoperative resuscitation, delayed operation, number of perforations and the extent of faecal peritonitis have been found to have a significant effect on prognosis. (A1)

AIM

To study the preoperative factors affecting outcome in patients with perforation peritonitis

II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Source of Study:

The study was conducted on 53 patients who presented with peritonitis secondary to hollow viscus perforation to the General Surgery department at NRI General Hospital from November 2018 to October 2020

Type Of Study :

This study is a prospective, observational study conducted at NRI General hospital during 2 yrs.

Inclusion criteria

Patients diagnosed with peritonitis secondary to hollow viscus perforation has been included in the study.

Exclusion Criteria

Age <14 years.

Patients who underwent emergency explorative laparotomy for abdominal trauma.

Patients with primary peritonitis due to tuberculosis, alcoholic cirrhosis, nephrotic

syndrome, cardiac failure, or systemic lupus erythematosus.

Method

The demographic data (age, sex, weight, etc) of patients diagnosed with peritonitis was recorded. The physiological variables like pulse rate, systolic blood pressure, respiratory rate, cardiac signs and Glasgow coma scale, hemoglobin, white blood count, Urea, Sodium, Potassium, ECG and CXR were recorded just before surgery. During the surgical procedure six operative variables including operative severity, total blood loss, multiple procedures, peritoneal soiling, cancer and mode of surgery were recorded by the operating surgeons. Their final physiological and operative scores calculated from POSSUM equation. After surgery the patient's observed mortality and morbidity were noted for one month and compared with the predicted outcomes. The patients were followed up for 1 month on 1st, 3rd, 7th, 15th, 30th post-operative days for morbidity (list attached in operational definitions) and mortality. Patient was followed, the occurrence of complications noted, and discharge due to improvement or death recorded. Time elapsed from initial diagnosis to the time of event (death or discharge from hospital) was determined. Out-patient follow-up was continued for 30 days from the time of discharge to establish perioperative morbidity and mortality.

III. OBSERVATION AND RESULTS

Descriptive statistics and Assessment of Individual Parameters



Table 3: Age distribution

Age Group	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
<= 60	47	2 (4.3%)	32 (68.1%)
61-70	11	8 (72.7%)	11 (100%)
>= 70	-	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
P-Value		0.0012	0.32786357
Result (P <0.05)		Significant	insignificant

In the present study, most of the patients belong to >60 age group, and in that age group, there was 68.1% morbidity and 4.3% mortality, and in the age group between 61-70, high morbidity is

seen with all the patients having post-op morbidity and a mortality of 72.7% is observed showing that there is significant high mortality and morbidity in the age group of 61-70 (p<.05)

Table 4: Distribution based on cardiac signs

Cardiac	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
Normal	28	1 (3.6%)	16 (57.1%)
On oral antihypertensives	26	7 (26.9%)	24 (92.3%)
On warfarin	4	2 (50%)	3 (75%)
P-Value		0.0151	0.01293
Result (P < 0.05)		Significant	Significant

In the present study, 26 patients were on antihypertensives with seven deaths (26.9%). Most of the patients (28) have normal cardiac history. Four patients were on warfarin with two deaths (50%).

Table 5: Distribution based on respiratory signs.

Respiratory signs	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
Normal	40	1 (2.5%)	26 (65%)
Breathlessness on exertion	17	8 (47.1%)	16 (94.1%)
Breathlessness on walking	1	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
P-Value		0.000024	0.98934
Result (P < 0.5)		Significant	Significant

In the present study, most of the patients belong to the group with normal respiratory signs, and a 100% risk of mortality was observed in patients with breathlessness on walking. The highest mortality was observed in patients with breathlessness on exertion.

Table 6: Distribution based on Systolic Blood Pressure

Systolic BP(mmHg)	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
110-130	25	0 (0%)	13 (52%)
100-109	29	7 (24.1%)	26 (89.7%)
90-99	4	3 (75%)	4 (100%)
p-Value		0.0004	0.00330



Result (p< 0.05) Significant Significant

In the present study, patients with systolic blood pressure between 90-99 mm Hg had the highest risk of mortality (75 %) and morbidity (100%). No patient died with systolic blood pressure between 110-130 mm Hg.

Table 7: Distribution based on Heart rate

Heart Rate(beats/min)	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
50-80	2	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
80-100	18	3 (16.7%)	11 (61.1%)
101-120	33	5 (15.2%)	27 (81.8%)
>121	5	2 (40%)	5 (100%)
p-Value		0.5055	0.50550
Result (p< 0.05)		Insignificant	Insignificant

Thirty-three patients were included in the group of heart rate 101-120, with five deaths (15.2%) .two out of five patients (40%) with a heart rate over 120 beats /minute had died. P-value was insignificant for both mortality and morbidity.

Table 8: Distribution based on Glasgow coma scale

GCS	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
15	57	9 (15.8%)	42 (73.7%)
12-14	1	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
p-Value		0.027103	0.00001
Result (p< 0.05)		Significant	Significant

Except for one remaining, all patients had a Glasgow coma score of 15 .remaining one patient with a Glasgow coma scale of 12 had died with sepsis.

Table 9: Distribution based on Hemoglobin

Hb g/dL	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
13-16	17	0 (0%)	10 (58.8%)
11.5-12.9	17	5 (29.4%)	14 (82.4%)
10-11.4	20	3 (15%)	15 (75%)
<9.9	4	2 (50%)	4 (100%)
p-Value		0.0387	0.03869
Result (P < 0.05)		Significant	Significant

20 patients have hemoglobin between 10-11.4g/dL with 3 deaths (15%) and 17 patients with hemoglobin between 11.5-12.9 g/dL with 5 deaths (29.4%).all patients with hemoglobin <9.9 g/dL developed postoperative complications.

Table 10: Distribution based on White Blood Count

WBC *10/L	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
4-10	3	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
10.1-20	45	8 (17.8%)	34 (75.6%)
>20.1	10	2 (20%)	9 (90%)



p-Value	0.7091	0.00688
Result (p < 0.05)	Insignificant	Significant

Most of the patients (45) have white blood cell count between $10.1-20 \times 10^{12}/L$, with eight deaths (17.8%). Patients with normal counts have no fatalities and post-operative complications. P-value is statistically insignificant for mortality

Table 11: Distribution based on blood urea nitrogen

UREA NITROGEN mmol/L	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
<7.5	10	0 (0%)	4 (40%)
7.6-10	25	1 (4%)	19 (76%)
10.1-15	22	8 (36.4%)	19 (86.4%)
>15	1	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
p-Value		0.0014	0.00137
Result (p < 0.05)		Significant	Significant

A total of 48 patients were with elevated blood urea levels and accounted for all the ten deaths. Most deaths (8) belonged to blood urea levels with 10.1-15 mmol/L-p-value is statistically significant

Most of the cases(35) have mild hyponatremia, with four deaths (11.4%) and 11 patients having moderate hyponatremia (11) with six deaths (54.5%).Our study comprised of 11 patients with moderate hypokalemia with six deaths (54.5%) and ten developed postoperative complications.

Table 14: Distribution based on Electrocardiogram

ECG	No of cases	Mortality	Morbidity
Normal	50	4 (8%)	35 (70%)
AF	6	4 (66.7%)	6 (100%)
Other changes	2	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
P-Value		0.0000	0.19818
Result (P < 0.5)		Significant	Significant

There were 8 cases with electrocardiographic abnormalities, and six patients died. Abnormal ECG findings were associated with the adverse outcome the association was statistically significant.

IV. DISCUSSION

Primarily, the mortality and the morbidity rate depend on the general status of the patient and the duration of disease evolution before surgical treatment. That is why it is so important to provide adequate preoperative management associating aggressive resuscitation with antibiotic therapy. (3,11,12) This study has been undertaken in order to contribute to the

improvement in the knowledge of prognostic factors of this disease. Most of the patients in our study belonged to less than 60 year age group, which is also same as other studies, while Aziz. (14) and Aja reported second and third decades of life in their studies.

All the patients presented to the hospital with history of pain abdomen and abdominal distension. Other major complaints involved are fever, vomiting, diarrhoea and constipation. Most patients presented with features suggestive of peritonitis. Examination revealed tenderness, guarding, distension and intraperitoneal free fluid; 4 patients were in shock on admission.



Examination revealed signs of toxæmia and acute abdomen. The need for adequate resuscitation resulted in further delay before operation in some of our patients who had presented in a poor state, which was also found to affect the outcome adversely.

Single perforation was associated with less complications. Multiple perforations were associated with more severe complications like wound dehiscence and increased mortality treated with resection and anastomosis. In our study, septicaemia was found in 10 (20%) patients. Overwhelming septicaemia was the major cause of mortality in this study. Overall mortality rate was 12%, which is less comparable to other studies as 28% reported by Adesunkanmi and Ajao. (12,13) 16.4% by Talwar. (3) and 13.8% by Aziz. (14) and 48% by Ameh

Survivors of perforation were faced with various postoperative complications, such as wound infection and wound dehiscence with prolonged hospitalization and increased cost of management. The overall wound infection was observed in 18%. In the literature wound infection had been observed 33-100%. (4,5) Mechanical causes and malignancy are the commonest causes of small bowel perforation in the western world. Mechanical causes and lymphomas accounted for 40.7% of perforations in the series by Dixon. (15) Malignancy was the commonest cause in the series by Orringer. (16) There was a male preponderance with the male:female ratio in this study being 4:1. Chest X-ray is a useful investigation to detect hollow viscus perforation. Free gas was seen under the diaphragm in almost all of perforations. Abdominal X-ray revealed gas features suggestive of ileus. Pneumoperitoneum has been reported in 52% to 82% in studies by Hadley, Archampong, Tacyildiz and Vaidyanathan. (17,18,19,20)

The common complications were wound infection, wound dehiscence and respiratory complication which was compared with published reports. (17,21,22,23) Faecal fistula was seen in only one patient. The surgical procedure did not influence either the morbidity or the mortality in patients irrespective of aetiology. Resection and anastomosis was found to have a higher complication rate, but this was not statistically significant. Eggleston reported that the procedure done did

not influence outcome. (16) Talwar and Sharma reported that mortality was least with early primary closure. Lag period has been known to influence both mortality and morbidity. Regression analysis showed that the mortality and morbidity increased with increasing lag period. Increasing lag period was associated with increased mortality in series by Archampong, Eggleston, Bose and Talwar. (18,16,3,24)

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study was conducted from November 2018 to October 2020. It includes fifty three cases of peritonitis due to hollow viscus perforation. Aetiology, presentation, management and outcome of patients with perforations were studied with emphasis on the factor that influenced the prognosis. Typhoid fever is the most common cause of ileal perforation. Age of the patient and vitals at the time of presentation had huge impact on the outcome of patient.

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