Significance of both clinical finding and degree of obstruction on life quality of patients with bronchial asthma

KEYWORDS: Asthma; Quality of Life; Airway Obstruction; Signs and Symptoms

INTRODUCTION

Asthma Quality of Life Questionaire (AQLQ), makes possible the evaluation of the clinical finding and the significance of the degree of respiratory obstruction on the life quality of the patients with bronchial asthma (1-5).

PATIENTS AND METHODS

The examined group consisted of 100 patients, 66 women (66.0%) and 34 men (34.0%); the average age was 43.92±12.25 years. They were hospitalized in our hospital for the period of 2 to 3 weeks. The interpretation of the auscultation finding of the lung is based on the knowledge of the respiratory airways, static pressure in the lung, and on morphological changes in both airways and lung parenchyma. Because of that the auscultation represents the most important part of physical examination of the lung.

The airway obstruction in the respiratory tract presented in asthma manifests by characteristic respiratory phenomena: decreased respiratory murmurs, extended expiration and increased pathologic murmurs of the lung. We studied the influence of the obstruction in the respiratory airways on life quality of our patients by using the auscultator finding.

All patients were divided into four groups, in relation to the presence of pathologic murmurs of the lung: group I (18 patients): no pathologic murmurs; group II (41 patients): high-tone (sound) wheezing; group III (6 patients): low-tone (sound) wheezing; IV group (35 patients): polyphonous wheezing.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Twenty-five patients (71.4%) from the group IV had respiratory weaken murm, but 10 patients (28.6%) had extended expiration. The presence of pathologic murmurs of the lung had the influence on regions of limited activity, symptoms, exposition to exogenic factors, as well as on total life quality of the examined patients. The patients from group had the highest values of all scores from AQLQ (Table 1).

In contrast, the patients with pathologic murmurs of the lung (group IV) had the lowest values. The presence of pathologic murmurs had the highest influence on symptoms of the disease. Namely, the highest difference in the scores of individual regions of AQLQ was in above-mentioned region. By using univariate analysis of variance we showed that, except in the region of exposition to exogenic factors, there was statistical significant difference between all scores from AQLQ in relation to groups of the patients.

By using method of univariate analysis of variance, statistically significant difference was obtained between all scores of AQLQ in relation to groups of patients, except scores exposed to exogenic factors. Especially high significance was inside symptoms and limited activity.

CONCLUSION

The obtained results show that the presence of pathologic murmurs in the lung, as well as the degree of obstruction in the airways, measured with FEV1% parameters, have influenced the life quality of patients with bronchial asthma.

REFERENCES


