

Chapter 13

MANAGEMENT OF ACUTE PANCREATITIS

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INTRODUCTION

Acute pancreatitis (AP) is defined as an acute inflammatory process of the pancreas. In AP, other region tissues or distant organ systems are also influenced. AP is one of the main causes of hospitalization due to gastrointestinal disorders (Peery et al. 2018). Despite advancements in gastroenterology, AP remains associated with significant morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs (Roberts et al. 2013). The incidence of AP is 15.9-36.4/100.000, and there is scientific evidence that the incidence of the disease is increasing recently (Chatila et al. 2019). In this chapter; the etiology, pathogenesis, diagnosis and complications of AP, which is among the most common gastroenterological diseases, are discussed.

1. EPIDEMIOLOGY

AP is expected to increase the burden on the use of healthcare resources in near future (Roberts et al. 2019; Spanier et al. 2008). Mortality rate of AP is between 5-17% in the severe form and approximately 1.5% in the mild form of the disease (Cavallin et al. 2004).

2. ETIOLOGY

AP, which is a pancreatic inflammatory process, has been associated with an inflammatory response that interferes with the functions of other organs and systems. The etiology of AP can be clearly determined in 75-85% all cases (Wang et al. 2009). In the developed countries, the most common cause of AP is obstruction of the biliary tract with stones (38%) followed by excessive alcohol consumption (36%) (Spanier et al. 2008).

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CONCLUSION

AP is still a common cause of hospitalization due to gastrointestinal conditions. The presence of gallbladder stones and alcohol abuse are the most common etiologies in AP. AP causes a significant increase in the rates of mortality, morbidity, and healthcare costs. The disease varies in a wide spectrum ranging from the mild form to the severe form including death. The treatment primarily includes fluid supplementation, nutrition and the management of complications. A multidisciplinary team including internalists, gastroenterologists and interventional radiologists should be involved in the management of AP. In addition, given the constantly changed etiology of the disease, further comprehensive studies are needed to end the debate on this issue in the literature and to achieve a consensus.

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