

Chapter 3

CURRENT EVALUATION OF ACUTE PANCREATITIS

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INTRODUCTION

Acute pancreatitis (AP) is an important cause of abdominal pain related to the gastrointestinal system. This disease has high mortality and morbidity. While AP may be limited with in the organ in the pancreas, it also has an inflammatory multisystemic process that can spread to surrounding tissues and organs. Although the disease can be seen once in a life time, it can recur with a frequency of 15-30%. Consequently, chronic pancreatitis can develop up to 25% (1-3). Its frequency is increasing. This increase in incidence is thought to be due to the change in eating habits, the increase in alcohol consumption, the adoption of a sedentary life style, and the presence of pancreatic enzymes in routine biochemistry tests. Despite all developments in the diagnosis and treatment of AP, the morbidity rate is 20% and the mortality rate is 10-25% (4).

The most common etiological factors causing AP are shown in (Table 1). Although many etiological factors have been defined, it is seen as idiopathic in 30%. The underlying cause of the idiopathic group is thought to be microlithiasis. The most common cause of AP in the world and in our country is gallstones. The second most common is due to alcohol use. Pancreatitis due to alcohol use is common in males, especially in western countries (5-7). It is thought that the relationship between alcohol use-induced pancreatitis develops as a result of a complex process involving toxic and immune mechanisms (8). Among other reasons, drug use is an important condition and more than 500 drugs cause AP. In this group, especially antiretrovirals, chemotheropathics and immunosuppressive drugs are included (9). In addition, hypertriglyceridemia, hypercalcemia, autoimmunity, genetic and anatomical anomalies are among the causes of AP (10).

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or worsening organ dysfunction and sepsis. Organ failure is especially seen in cardiovascular, respiratory and renal systems.

CONCLUSION

In the diagnosis and follow-up of acute pancreatitis, it is important to determine these verity and etiology of the disease. Although the diagnosis of AP, which is one of the causes of abdominal pain, and the regulation of its treatment are not clear in the latest updated guidelines, studies continue to reduce mortality and morbidity. Due to the variety and variability of clinical features of acute pancreatitis, it is important to detect clinical severity at an early stage. Effective treatment approach and minimum complication control should be provided. In addition, protocols such as life style changes, reduction of alcohol and tobacco use and new pharmacological treatments are of great importance in the treatment of pancreatitis.

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