

Bölüm 5

PLASMODIUM KNOWLESİ: BEŞİNCİ İNSAN SITMA PARAZİTİ

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GİRİŞ

Sıtma, *Plasmodium* cinsine ait protozoan parazitlerden kaynaklanmaktadır. Bugüne kadar memelileri, kuşları ve sürüngenleri enfekte eden 150'den fazla tür tanımlanmıştır. Çok sayıda konakçı olmasına rağmen, genel olarak sıtma parazitleri konakçıya özgü olma eğilimindedir. Örneğin, insanlar *P.falciparum*, *P.vivax*, *P.malariae* ve *P.ovale*, uzun kuyruklu makaklar (*Macaca fascicularis*) *P.knowlesi*, *P.fieldi*, *P.coatneyi*, *P.cynomolgi* ve *P.inui* için doğal konaklardır (1). *P.knowlesi*, Malezya'nın Borneo adasındaki Sarawak bölgesinde 2004 yılında ortaya çıkmış ve birçok insanda enfeksiyona neden olmuştur (2). O zamandan beri, neredeyse tüm Güneydoğu Asya ülkelerinde insan vakaları tanımlanmıştır ve moleküler, entomolojik ve epidemiyolojik veriler ışığında insanlarda beşinci sıtma etkeni olarak kabul edilmiştir (3,4).

Bu bölümde, *P.knowlesi* üzerine yapılan ilk çalışmaları ve epidemiyolojisi, tanısı, klinik özellikleri ve tedavisi ile ilgili bilgiler verilecektir.

İNSANLARDA PLASMODIUM YAŞAM DÖNGÜSÜ

İnsanlarda ve diğer primatlarda sıtma parazitlerinin yaşam döngüsü, anofel cinsi dişi sivrisineğin sporozoitleri konakçıya enjekte etmesi ile başlar (5).

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Doğal olarak edinilen sıtma enfeksiyonunun ilk raporlarında, tedavide insanlarda klorokin ve primakin kombinasyonu önerilmektedir (59).

SONUÇ

Sıtma, dünyada en sık ölüme neden olan paraziter hastalıktır ve her yıl 300 milyon insan sıtma ile enfekte olmaktadır. Etkenler; *P.vivax*, *P.falciparum*, *P.ovale*, *P.malariae* ve *P.knowlesi* olmak üzere beş Plasmodium türüdür. *P.knowlesi*' de diğer dört plasmodium türü ile benzer coğrafik bölgelerde, genel olarak Güneydoğu Asya ve Malezya'da dağılım göstermektedir. Ayrıca diğer dört plasmodium türü ile benzer özelliklere sahip olması *P.knowlesi* enfeksiyonunun teşhisini zorlaştırmaktadır. Enfekte hasta da ateş ve titreme en sık görülmekle birlikte, baş ağrısı, kas ağrısı, eklem ağrısı, halsizlik ve iştahsızlık da yaygın olarak görülür. Tedavi da olarak insanlarda klorokin ve primakin kombinasyonu önerilmektedir

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