

## FREQUENCY OF DETECTION OF EPISCLERITIS AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS

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### Introduction

It is known that episcleritis often develops in children and adolescents with tuberculosis. But sometimes episcleritis and its symptoms occur even earlier than the clinical picture of tuberculosis, which is the main cause of inflammation of the episclera of the eyes. Since the root cause of episcleritis is the presence of tuberculosis in children and adolescents, episcleritis will remain or recur until the root cause of the disease is cured. All this dictates the need for timely diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis in children and adolescents.

**Purpose of the study.** To study the frequency of detection of episcleritis in children and adolescents with tuberculosis.

**Material and methods.** Experiment was conducted of children and adolescents with tuberculosis aged from 1 year to 17 years who were being treated for tuberculosis at the Andijan regional anti-tuberculosis dispensary.

A comprehensive ophthalmological examination included: determination of visual acuity without and with correction, skiascopy, autorefractometry, biomicroscopy, study of binocular functions, direct and reverse ophthalmoscopy.

Clinical, biochemical, immunological, microbiological studies and examination by specialists were also carried out.

**Results and discussion:** During the examination, episcleritis was identified in 194 children and adolescents with tuberculosis, which is  $11.5 \pm 0.8\%$  of the total number of those examined. In episcleritis, the episcleral tissue located directly between the sclera and the conjunctiva is predominantly affected.

The detection rate of episcleritis in the age group 1-3 years was  $5.3 \pm 3.6\%$  in boys and  $2.5 \pm 2.5\%$  in girls. In the age group of 4-6 years, episcleritis was detected in  $5.1 \pm 1.6\%$  of cases in boys and  $4.6 \pm 2.2\%$  in girls. In the age group of 7-9 years, detection rates were almost the same and amounted to  $8.4 \pm 1.6\%$  for boys and  $8.4 \pm 1.9\%$  for girls. The change in the detection rates of episcleritis in children, both boys and girls in younger age groups, is not significant. More significant changes in indicators are observed from the age of 7-9 years. Thus, relative to the previous age group, the indicators for boys increased by 64.7%, i.e. 1.6 times. In girls, the growth was slightly greater - by 82.6%, i.e. 1.8 times. Subsequently, in boys, an increase in the detection rate of episcleritis was observed in the age group of 10-14 years and amounted

to  $19.1 \pm 2.3\%$  in boys and  $12.3 \pm 2.0\%$  in girls. By the next age period (15-17 years), the incidence of episcleritis practically does not change in boys and amounts to  $19.3 \pm 3.2\%$ , and in girls in this age group there is an increase of 2.2% and amounts to  $14.5 \pm 3.2\%$ . In girls, less pronounced, but more variable dynamics are observed in the frequency of detection of episcleritis, namely, by the age of 10-14 years, the indicators increased by 46.4% (1.5 times), and by the age of 15-17 years - by 17.8% (1.2 times).

A comparative analysis of age-specific indicators in the gender aspect showed insignificant statistically insignificant differences.

With age, the frequency of detection of episcleritis increases. The highest incidence of episcleritis among boys and girls was noted at the age of 15-17 years and amounted to  $19.3 \pm 3.2\%$  and  $14.5 \pm 3.2\%$ , respectively.

### **Conclusion**

It can be concluded that the highest rates of detection of episcleritis are observed in the age groups of 10-14 and 15-17 years, as well as a significant jump in rates by the age of 10, indicating an increased risk of developing these pathologies in these age groups among adolescents suffering from tuberculosis.

This conclusion indicates the need for more active measures to prevent and treat episcleritis in children and adolescents with tuberculosis.