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CORRESPONDENCE

Diagnostic accuracy of C-reactive protein in Acute Lower Respiratory Tract Infection due to different etiology

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Abstract

Background: The usefulness of C - reactive protein in differentiating between the aetiology of acute lower respiratory tract infection) is vague. Aim: To compare diagnostic indices of CRP in ALRTI of viral, bacterial and atypical organism aetiology. Methods: CRP was done in 139 hospitalised children with ALRTI. Various diagnostic indices were calculated and compared. Results: with high cut off value of CRP, specificity (89% and 85.9%); Negative Predictive Value (93 and 87.7) and Likelihood ratios approaching 2-3 also increased in bacterial and atypical cases respectively. Best Odds ratio [3.49(95% confidence interval=2.31-4.66)] were obtained in bacterial cases. In ROC analysis, Area under Curve (AUC) for viral, bacterial and atypical organisms was 0.45, 0.6 and 0.51 respectively. Conclusions: Low CRP is very precise for ruling out the possibility of bacterial and atypical organism infection. A minimal increase in the possibility of bacterial and atypical organisms etiology occurs at Serum concentration of >40mg/l.

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Conclusions:

Low CRP is very precise for ruling out the possibility of bacterial and atypical organism infection. A minimal increase in the possibility of bacterial and atypical organisms etiology occurs at Serum concentration of >40mg/l.