

Testicular Tuberculosis Among the Igbos of Nigeria

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Abstract

Tuberculosis is a very important disease worldwide. It affects many parts of the body. Concerning the testis, the author documented personally the diseases affecting the Igbos, a large Ethnic Group in Nigeria. Therefore, the present paper considers the findings as regard testicular tuberculosis. It was striking that as many as 16 doctors each submitted a case of testicular tuberculosis during a period of 30 years. It is concluded that this is like the single case report usually found in the literature of this infectious illness.

Keywords: Testis; Tuberculosis; Epidemiology; Igbos; Nigeria

Introduction

Tuberculosis is of worldwide distribution. With regard to the Igbos [1], who constitute one of the major Ethnic Groups in Nigeria, the author had hitherto published on it [2-6]. Therefore, the present paper deals specially with its manifestations in the testis. It is of interest that such an epidemiologic analysis was highlighted by a UK group that drew attention to the fact that it is advantageous to establish a histopathology data pool [7]. Accordingly, the present paper presents the findings obtained from such a pool existing at Enugu, the erstwhile capital city of the Eastern Region Government of Nigeria.

Materials and Methods

Between 1970 and 2000, the author headed the Regional Reference Pathology Laboratory established by the Government of Eastern Nigeria. The stipulated requirements were outlined strictly in the Request Forms. The specimens were submitted in Formalin and processed in the usual manner. Sixteen cases were analysed personally with special reference to the States from which the data arose as well as the age, side affected, and the consulting doctors.

Results

Serial No	Initials	Age	Side	State	Doctor
1.	IO	46	L	Enugu	Osuji
2.	EE	50	R	Imo	Oguike
3.	ON	60	R	Anambra	Ezike
4.	OI	55	R	Enugu	Nwankwo
5.	AJ	14	L	Delta	*Mundbenk
6.	OJ	30	L	Enugu	Ibecheole
7.	OC	50	R	Imo	*Dasarka
8.	OE	45	L	Enugu	Mbonu
9.	OS	55	R	Enugu	Okafor
10.	UE	34	L	Abia	Okoro
11.	AE	50	L	Abia	Ohadugha
12.	OI	40	L	Abia	*Reedy
13.	IC	24	R	Imo	Obi
14.	NF	32	R	Enugu	Onwuegbuchulam
15.	NA	19	R	Anambra	Nwokolo
16.	ON	80	L	Abia	Anyaeze

Table 1: Epidemiologic data on tuberculous testes among the Igbos.

**Indicates foreign missionary doctor.*

Years	No.
< 20	2
21 - 31	2
31 - 40	3
41 - 50	5
51 - 60	3
64+	1
Total	16

Table 2: Age distribution in decades.

Discussion

The most striking observation was that each doctor submitted but one specimen. In a way, this is like the single case reports in the recent literature [8,9]. Of course, more may be reported as were the two from Riehia and Jagaraman [10].

Another aspect worthy of notice was that 3 (18.8%) of the doctors were foreign missionary personnel. This is indicative of the role of foreign doctors in local medical care in Nigeria.

As for the States from which the specimens came, Enugu, the home State, came first with 6 cases (37.5%), followed by 3 from Abia State (18.8%). Surprisingly, there was also a lone case from Delta State which is very distant from Enugu.

As regards the age of involvement, the 41 - 50 group stood out. This was the age of the cited paper [9]. On the youngest side was a boy aged 14 years, while the oldest scored 80 years.

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