

Management of patients admitted for Acute liver failure in a sub Saharan country

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Background & Aims

Acute liver failure (ALF) remains a rare pathology, with management that remains codified and the prognosis sometimes at stake. Very few studies have been carried out in Africa, more particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. It seemed important to conduct a study to assess these aspects in our context. To evaluate the management of patients admitted for ALF in a resource limited sub Saharan country?

Methods

This was a descriptive and cross-sectional study, carried out at the General Hospital of Douala (HGD) over a period of 10 years from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2022. The collection was made using of a questionnaire. Included were all patients admitted to the Resuscitation department and the Hepato-gastroenterology department of the Hospital for acute liver failure (ALF) aged over 18 years, of both sexes, and whose files were usable.

Results

We collected 27 patients with ALF out of a total of 617 patients registered. The average age of our patients was 39.4 ± 14 years

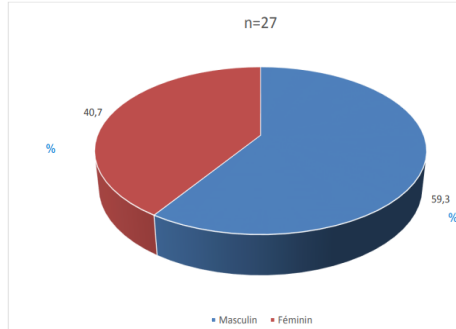


Figure 6: Diagramme de la répartition de la population d'étude selon le sexe.

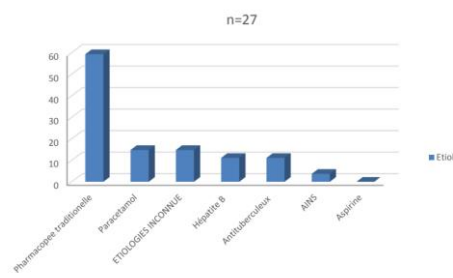


Figure 8 : Répartition de la population selon l'étiologie

Tableau IX : Répartition des patients selon les signes physiques

Signes	Effectifs (n= 27)	Pourcentages (%)
Distension abdominales	11	40,7
Hépatomégalie	21	77,8
Splénomégalie	12	44,4
Circulation veineuse collatérale	7	25,9
Angiomes stellaire et/ou érythème palmaire	1	3,7
Hippocratisme digital	0	0

Tableau XII : Répartition selon le traitement médicamenteux

Produits	Effectifs(n= 27)	Pourcentages (%)
Acétyl-cysteine	2	7,4
Antiviraux (Tenofovir)	6	22,2
Antiviraux à action directe	2	7,4
Autres antiviraux	0	0
Vitamine K	11	40,7
Glucose 30%	2	7,4
Mannitol	8	29,6
Lactulose	13	48,1
Rifaximine	2	7,4
Corticotherapie	6	22,2
Glucose 30%	2	7,4
Albumine humaine	7	25,9

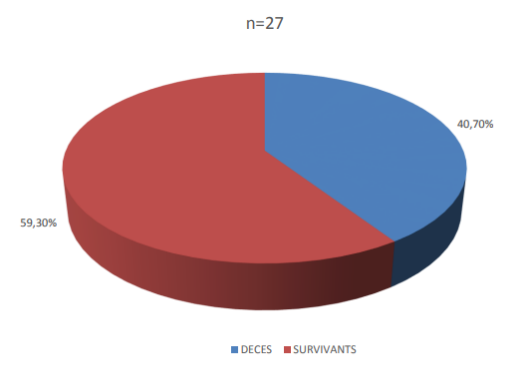


Figure 11 : Répartition selon l'évolution

Conclusion

ALF is a rare but severe pathology. The treatment is symptomatic without access to liver transplantation. The mortality rate remains high at 40.7%.