CASE REPORT: ARRHYTHMIA IN A CHILD TREATED WITH LIPOSOMAL AMPHOTERICIN B FOR VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS

M. Mavrikou¹, I. Eleftheriou², T. Bachou¹, E. Michail¹, L. Stamogiannou¹
¹Children's Hospital 'P & A Kyriakou', ²1st Department, Children's Hospital 'P & A Kyriakou', Athens, Greece

Background and aims: To report a cardiac side effect of liposomal amphotericin B in a child treated for visceral leishmaniasis (VL). Liposomal amphotericin B is the drug with the highest therapeutic efficacy and the most favorable therapeutic profile for the treatment of VL. Cardiac side effects as tachycardia, bradycardia, chest pain, arrhythmia, atrial fibrillation, cardiomegaly, valvular heart disease, cardiac failure and cardiomyopathy have been rarely reported in adults treated with liposomal amphotericin B. To the best of our knowledge, there are not reports in children.

Methods: We report a previously healthy Caucasian boy of 13 years with VL who was treated with liposomal amphotericin B, 3mg/kg on days 1 - 5, 14 and 21. On day 21, before the last dose, he was found to present arrhythmia.

Results: The cardiological assessment followed (ECG, Holter) detected ventricular contractions (Ventricular Premature Beats: 12568, 12%), without couplets or triplets, monofocal, more frequent during the day, disappearing on tachycardia. The heart rate was 80/min. Arrhythmia could not be attributed to causes other than the drug. The patient was examined repeatedly with gradual improvement and the arrhythmia was eventually resolved after 2 weeks. He never received the last dose of liposomal amphotericin B. He received a total cumulative dose of 18 mg/kg.

Conclusions: It is essential for clinicians to be aware of cardiac side effects of liposomal amphotericin B whenever they use the drug although these may be rare. In our case, the arrhythmia was reversible.