Abstract

Introduction and objectives: Pericarditis is a common disease, accounting for 5% of emergency visits. Between 15% and 35% have elevated cardiac biomarkers (myopericarditis). Our aim was to analyze the characteristics and outcomes of patients admitted to our center with the diagnosis of myopericarditis. Material and methods: This is a retrospective, observational, single-center study which included patients with the diagnosis of acute viral or idiopathic myopericarditis between 2001 and 2011. We recorded clinical, electrocardiographic and echocardiographic parameters and evolution. Results: A total of 66 patients were included (95% male, mean age 29.8 ± 9.7 years). The main symptom was chest pain in 98% of cases and fever was detected in 48%. Electrocardiographic abnormalities were observed in 98%, pericardial effusion in 14%, with one case of severe pericardial effusion. Almost all (92.4%) the patients were treated with NSAIDs. After a mean follow-up of 50 months, the recurrence rate was 10.3%, with no cases of dilated cardiomyopathy or constrictive pericarditis. One patient developed cardiac tamponade and there was only one recorded case of hospital cardiac death, with no other deaths in monitoring. Conclusions: Myopericarditis is a disease affecting predominantly young males. Its long-term prognosis is excellent, and recurrent pericarditis is the most common complication.

Keywords
Myopericarditis Pericarditis Perimyocarditis
Chest pain Pericardium Pericardial effusion