Abstract

Background: In pediatric optic neuritis usually occurs after an infectious event, with papilledema, bilateral and with good prognosis, with a low incidence of conversion to multiple sclerosis. The aim of this paper is to present the clinical and laboratory characteristics of cases of optic neuritis in children. Patients and Methods: 10 clinical cases of optic neuritis in children and youth aged 5 to 17 years, referred between 1995 to 2007. Results: The median age at presentation was 11 years. 8 cases were females. Four cases with a history of respiratory infection, bilateral involvement in 8 of 10 patients and 5 cases of retrobulbar optic neuritis. Magnetic resonance imaging showed T2 hyperintensity in the optic nerves affected in 5 patients. The study of cerebrospinal fluid was normal and oligoclonal bands in all cases. The cases treated with intravenous methylprednisolone had good recovery. Two cases have multiple sclerosis. Discussion: In this series of female patients predominated and limited history of previous infection. Cases with multiple sclerosis showed no clinical differences, but more hyperintense lesions on magnetic resonance. The cases treated with methylprednisolone had good visual prognosis.

Keywords
Optic neuritis, Multiple sclerosis, Visual prognosis.