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BATTERIOLOGIA

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY ON BACTERIAL VAGINOSIS AND VAGINITIS DIAGNOSED AT THE MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY OF SS. ANTONIO E BIAGIO E C. ARRIGO HOSPITAL OF ALESSANDRIA DURING THE PERIOD 2015-2019.

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INTRODUZIONE

Bacterial vaginosis (BV) is a vaginal dismicrobism characterized by a strong reduction or disappearance of lactobacilli and overgrowth of obligate anaerobic bacilli and Gardnerella vaginalis. Vaginitis is an inflammation of the vagina that often involves the external genitalia (vulvovaginitis) and the most frequent causes are Candida spp. and Trichomonas vaginalis. Both BV and trichomoniasis are associated with an increased risk of obstetric complications and HIV infection. Therefore, we performed an epidemiological study to evaluate the prevalence of BV and vaginitis due to Candida spp. and T. vaginalis diagnosed at the Microbiology Laboratory of SS. Antonio e Biagio e C. Arrigo Hospital of Alessandria during the period from the first semester of 2015 to the first semester of 2019.

METODI

All vaginal swabs collected from patients suffering symptoms compatible with BV or vaginitis were processed as follows: direct microscopic examination after Gram staining; culture in liquid enrichment medium and subsequent microscopic examination at 24 and 48 hours; culture on blood agar.

RISULTATI

For BV and vaginitis due to Candida spp. 11,781 samples corresponding to the period from the first half of 2015 to the first half of 2019, were included. For T. vaginalis vaginitis, data corresponding from the first half of 2017 to the first half of 2019 were included, for a total of 5,825 samples. With respect to BV, 703/11,781 (6%) samples were positive, with significant proportional changes over time (χ^2=24.9; p=0.001). Regarding Candida vaginitis, the prevalence was 1,502/11,781 (12.7%) and the most frequently recovered species were: Candida albicans 1,235/1,502 (82.2%); Candida glabrata 205/1,502 (13.7%); Candida parapsilosis 26/1,502 (1.7%); Candida krusei 23/1,502 (1.5%); Candida tropicalis 11/1,502 (0.7%); other species 2/1,502 (0.2%). A significant proportional increase (χ^2=85.1; p<0.0001) was noted. The prevalence of trichomoniasis was 26/5,825 (0.45%), that held constant over time (χ^2=0.8; p=0.939).

CONCLUSIONI

The epidemiological study on BV and vaginitis showed a general prevalence similar to that found by other Authors, as well as for the recovered species. The significant variations in proportions observed for BV and vaginitis due to Candida spp. will be the subject of further studies.