

Infections in Hospitalized Cirrhotic Patients: A Retrospective Study in an Internal Medicine (IM) Department

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Background and Aims: Patients with liver cirrhosis are particularly vulnerable to infections and this condition is associated with a worsen prognosis and high risk of decompensation. This study aims to analyze the prevalence and characteristics of infections in cirrhotic patients hospitalized in IM department.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively analyzed hospitalizations in our IM Unit over a 72-week period. Were admitted 1.434 patients, in 105 patients was diagnosed a liver cirrhosis.

Results: Among the 105 cirrhotic patients, 31 (29.5%) developed an infection. A microbiological agent was isolated in 15 cases

and the most common was *E. coli*, followed by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Urinary tract infection was the most frequent (38.7%), followed by spontaneous bacterial peritonitis. Decompensation occurred in 68 patients: 21 with infection and 47 without. In the infected group, ascites was the leading cause of decompensation, followed by encephalopathy. In the non-infected group, ascites remained predominant, followed by gastrointestinal bleeding. The median time of hospitalization was 14 days in infected patient's vs 8 days in non-infected.

Discussion: Infections are common among hospitalized cirrhotic patients and are associated with a longer hospitalization and higher rates of decompensation.

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