

DENGUE MANIFESTATIONS IN DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

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Objective: Dengue is the most common mosquito-borne virus causing disease in many countries worldwide. The diseases vary from asymptomatic infection, undifferentiated fever, dengue fever (DF), dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) and dengue shock syndrome (DSS). The clinical manifestations and laboratory results may vary in different age groups. To study and understand the variety of these will help clinicians to achieve early diagnosis, proper management, and reduce mortality.

Methods: Clinical data in 2090 children with dengue infection as confirmed by serologic and/or virologic tests admitted to King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital during 1987-2007 were analyzed. The patients were classified into 3 different age groups: 0-1 year, 2-12 years and 13-15 years.

Results: For all three age groups, fever, hepatomegaly and bleeding were the most frequent clinical manifestations of dengue infection. The respiratory tract and neurological symptoms were prominent in the 0-1 year age group, however, less common in older children. DHF was common in every age groups, but DSS was more common in 2-12 years age group.

Conclusions: Clinical manifestations and severity of dengue infection varied with age. Central nervous system manifestations were common in infants while DSS was less prominent. The study emphasizes that there is significant variance of clinical manifestations in different age groups, suggesting that proper treatment must take into account the different age-specific clinical manifestations.

Keywords: dengue, clinical manifestation, age group