INCIDENCE OF POST-ARTESUNATE-INDUCED HAMOLYSIS AFTER SEVERE MALARIA

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BACKGROUND: Intravenous Artesunate is the main therapy for severe malaria. Overall is a well tolerated treatment however post-Artesunate induced hemolysis (PAIH) is a serious late complication that should be monitored.

AIM: To assess the frequency of PAIH in patients treated with artesunate for severe malaria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

STUDY DESIGN
Retrospective observational study

STUDY DURATION
From September 2015 to September 2021

PATIENTS INCLUDED
Patients diagnosed with severe malaria and treated with intravenous Artesunate.

Biochemical parameters were collected at the following times:
- Moment of hospitalization
- Prior to discharge
- 14 days after discharge
- 30 days after discharge

Biochemical parameters are represented as mean with standard deviation (±SD)

A significative Hb drop from the baseline compatible with hemolysis starting after the discharge, with no other clinical explanation was considered PAIH.

RESULTS

95% 5%
Male Female

47 patients included

Mean age: 38 years-old
Range: 21-59 years-old

11 PAIH CASES DETECTED
Of which 8 were detected 14 days after discharge

CONCLUSIONS
- PAIH is a relatively common event that in most cases is asymptomatic and may be under-diagnosticated.
- Most of PAIH cases are detected in the first month after hospitalization.
- Hb should be monitored after discharge in every patient that receive artesunate.