

THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM IN PATIENTS WITH PRIMARY HYPERPARATHYROIDISM

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OBJECTIVE: The aim of this work was to find out the occurrence rate and character of the involvement of the cardiovascular system in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism.

METHODS: The authors retrospectively analyzed a set of medical records of patients suffering from primary hyperparathyroidism hospitalized in the First Internal Clinic of the Derer's Faculty Hospital in Bratislava from 1993 to 2003. The set was formed by 66 patients, 86% of them women, whose average age was 53 years.

RESULTS: Fifty-five percent of the patients had arterial hypertension, and 35% had left ventricular hypertrophy based on ECG criteria. Nine percent of the patients were suffering from cardiac arrhythmias, and 26% had signs of atherosclerosis (ischemic heart disease, ischemic lower limbs disease, stroke). Twenty-one percent of the patients were suffering from impaired glucose metabolism, with 15% due to diabetes mellitus type 2. One-third of the patients had hypertriglyceridemia and hyperuricemia. Twenty-three percent of the patients were obese.

CONCLUSION: Considering frequent cardiovascular involvement and the high occurrence rate of risk factors of atherosclerosis in patients with primary hyperparathyroidism, the authors suggest focusing medical examinations on the cardiovascular system in these patients. Considering the polymorphic clinical presentations and underdiagnosis of primary hyperparathyroidism in our population, the authors suggest screening for serum calcium. An additional test of serum calcium should lead to improvement in the diagnosis of primary hyperparathyroidism, and subsequently to improvement of patients' prognosis and reduction of medical care expenses.

Keyword : primary hyperparathyroidism; arterial hypertension; atherosclerosis