

DELAYED RESULTS OF TREATMENT OF PARACOCCIDIOIDOMYCOSIS WITH AMPHOTERICIN B PLUS SULFAMIDES VERSUS AMPHOTERICIN B ALONE

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S U M M A R Y

A delayed evaluation of two groups of patients with paracoccidioidomycosis was carried out. Both groups were treated with amphotericin B, but one of them was submitted to maintenance treatment with sulfonamides. Statistical analysis showed that treatment is more effective when patients are maintained with sulfonamide drugs.

KEY WORDS: Human paracoccidioidomycosis — Treatment with amphotericin and sulfamides

I N T R O D U C T I O N

Amphotericin B and the sulfonamides are drugs that have been effectively used in the treatment of paracoccidioidomycosis, either separately or in association.

Many reports have been published both in Brazil and abroad on the therapeutic results^{1, 2,5,7,8,9,10,11,12} and the side effects^{3,4,14} of these drugs. SAMPAIO¹³ and DILLON⁶ concluded on the superiority of amphotericin B when compared to separately administered sulfonamides. No studies, however, have been carried out to compare the therapeutic results obtained with amphotericin B alone and associated with sulfonamides for the maintenance treatment of paracoccidioidomycosis, and the present study was undertaken with the objective to make such a comparison.

M A T E R I A L A N D M E T H O D S

The study was carried out on two groups of patients with paracoccidioidomycosis. The first consisted of 69 patients treated with amphotericin B only at the University Hospital of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of São Paulo from 1958 to 1963, and studied by SAMPAIO (1960) and DILLON (1972). The second consisted of 42 patients treated with amphotericin B and submitted to maintenance treatment with sulfonamides at the University Hospital of the Faculty of Medicine of Botucatu from 1968 to 1982.

The patients were grouped by phases on the basis of time without treatment. Thus, Phase 1 = less than 1 year; Phase 2 = 1 to 2 years; Phase 3 = 2 to 5 years; Phase 4 = 5 to 9 years; Phase 5 = 9 to 14 years. Patients were evaluated

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on the basis of clinical, radiologic and serologic data, distributed among the following classes: FCRS = free from clinical, radiologic or serologic lesions SA = with serologic activity only; WCRS = with clinical, radiologic and serologic lesions; DWSL = death with specific lesions.

The groups were evaluated for homogeneity in terms of sex, age range, organic involvement and number of amphotericin B series by the X^2 test¹⁶. For the last similarity factor, i.e., the total dose of amphotericin B administered, and for comparison of the treatments, we utilized the KOLMOGOROV-SMIRNOV¹⁷ test for two independent samples and determined the distribution of the two groups in terms of classes for each phase. In these tests, we consider $F6 = F4 + F5$ and $X = 0.05$.

To compare treatments at each phase, scores were given to each class according to the general condition of each patient: class 1 = 8 points; class 2 = 4 points; class 3 = 2 points; class 4 = 1 point. An index was obtained by summing the number of cases in each class multiplied by the respective points. The results were analyzed statistically by binomial test¹⁶.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The two groups were homogenous in terms of sex, age range, organic involvement, dose of amphotericin B (number of series and total dose administered), as shown in Tables I, II, III, I Vand V, respectively.

T A B L E I
Patient distribution by sex

Sex	Group I	Group II
Male	63	39
Female	6	3

$X^2 = 0.08$

T A B L E II
Patient distribution by age range

Age range	Group I	Group II
0 to 20 years	5	4
20 to 40 years	31	12
+ 40 years	33	26

$X^2 = 1.79$

T A B L E III
Patient distribution by organic involvement

Involvement	Group I	Group II
Skin and mucosa	10	11
Lungs	2	1
Ganglia	2	0
Mixed	55	30

$X^2 = 1.58$

T A B L E IV
Patient distribution by the number of amphotericin B series performed

Series	Group I	Group II
1	44	29
2	12	8
3	4	5
4	7	—
5	1	—
9	1	—

$X^2 = 0.31$

T A B L E V
Patient distribution by total dose in the different amphotericin B series

Dose (g)	Group I	Group II
0.5 — 1	5	7
1 — 2	24	12
2 — 4	22	16
4 — 6	11	5
6 — 8	5	2
8 — 16	2	—

Maximum D = 0.094

Table VI shows the sulfonamides used for the maintenance treatment of group II.

T A B L E VI
Maintenance treatment of group II with sulfonamides

Drug	Sulfadimethoxin and Sulfadoxin		
No. of cases	Sulfadimethoxin	Sulfadoxin	
Dose (g)	(12)	(27)	(6)
Minimum	30	8	68
Maximum	1387	216	4800
Mean	128.28	11.2	2100.75

The statistical analyses for treatment comparison were based on the data in Table VII, which shows distribution by phase and class for the patients in both groups, except for phase 2 for which no comparison was possible because the data obtained were identical.

T A B L E VII
Retrospective therapeutic evaluation of the groups

Evaluation	Years without treatment		up to 1 year		1 to 2 years		2 to 5 years		5 to 9 years		9 to 14 years	
	F ₁		F ₂		F ₃		F ₄		F ₅			
	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II	Group I	Group II
FCRS	2	5	2	2	1	7	2	4	8	5		
SA	5	8	3	3	5	3	4	2	2	—		
WCRS	16	1	1	1	7	—	1	—	3	—		
DWSL	4	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—		
Total	27	15	6	6	15	10	7	6	14	5		

FCRS = free from clinical, radiologic or serologic lesions

SA = with serologic activity only

WCRS = with clinical, radiologic and serologic lesions

DWSL = death with specific lesions

Difference between groups was observed in phases 1 and 2 owing to the concentration of patients submitted to treatment 2 in classes FCRS and SA. No significant difference in patient distribution was observed in phase 6. However, if the same proportions of occurrence were maintained and the number of patients observed were increased, difference between treatments would also be obtained at the expense of treatment 2.

The indices obtained were always higher for treatment 2 at all phases (Table VIII), with an

T A B L E VIII
Group indices

Phases	Group I	Group II
F 1	2.6666	5.0000
F 2	5.0000	5.0000
F 3	2.9333	6.8000
F 4	4.8571	6.6666
F 5	5.6428	8.0000

Binomial test, $p = 0.0625$

even greater difference starting from phase 3 (2 to 4 years). The statistical differences observed were due to the larger number of patients submitted to treatment 2 in classes WCRS and SA, which indicate better clinical conditions at all phases of follow-up, and were even more noticeable after 2 years of patients cured by treatment 2 is higher than cured by treatment 1.

Thus we conclude that the use of amphotericin B and maintenance treatment with sulfonamide derivatives of paracoccidioidomycosis is more effective than the use of amphotericin B alone, even at high doses.

RESUMO

Resultados tardios do tratamento da paracoccidioidomycose com anfotericina B mais sulfamídicos "versus" anfotericina B isoladamente

Os Autores avaliam tardiamente dois grupos de doentes de paracoccidioidomycose. Ambos foram tratados com anfotericina B, tendo um deles feito tratamento de manutenção com sulfamídicos.

Através de análises estatísticas comprovam a maior eficácia do tratamento, quando se faz a manutenção com sulfamídicos.

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