

ICHTHYOSES IN SLOVENIAN POPULATION PRELIMINARY REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Introduction. Ichthyoses are a heterogeneous group of disorders, up to now no generally accepted classification exists. Additionally to the recessive x-linked ichthyosis (RXLI) in certain families of patients with lamellar ichthyosis (LI) the metabolic defect was elucidated. As known from previous studies the palmoplantar keratodermas and other genodermatoses are quite frequent in Slovenia. As there are no data on prevalence of ichthyosis in our country we decided to carry out a pilot study.

Methods. Out- and in-patients' records were studied in the University Department of Dermatology in Ljubljana as well as in the dermatology departments of General Hospitals in Maribor and Celje. In Ljubljana data for a 20-year-period, in Maribor for a 10-year period and in Celje for an even shorter period were collected.

Results. In Ljubljana 190 cases were recorded: 167 cases of ichthyosis vulgaris (the documentation did not allow a differentiation between the autosomal dominant ichthyosis and RXLI), 19 of non-bullous ichthyosiform erythroderma (NBIE) and 4 cases of LI. In Maribor there were 95 cases of ichthyosis vulgaris and 5 of NBIE. In Celje were registered 36 cases of autosomal dominant ichthyosis (ADI), 8 of RXLI, 4 of NBIE and 1 with neurological implication. Altogether 339 patients were recorded.

Discussion. Although the material obtained is not suitable for an exact statistical analysis, the total of 339 cases of ichthyoses represents a rather high figure for a population of barely 2 million. The result includes only a minor number of affected family members.

Conclusion. As the study is still in course, a substantially higher number of ichthyosis cases is to be expected.

KEY WORDS

ichthyosis, epidemiology, Slovenia

INTRODUCTION

In the literature there are some data on the prevalence of various types of ichthyoses based mainly on observations by clinicians and mostly not

collected according to strict statistical rules. A further disadvantage is that there is no generally accepted classification of ichthyoses in order to make the data

