Necrotizing Fasciitis: Biochemical Markers and Prediction of Mortality

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Background: Necrotizing fasciitis (NF) is a rare disease with a high mortality rate. Identifying patients who need critical care and more aggressive treatment is vital to improve survival.

Objective: The aim of this study is to evaluate common biochemical markers with NF and its possible use as predictors of mortality in this subset of the population.

Design: Retrospective Single-Center Study.

Setting: Surgical Department, Salmaniya Medical Complex, Bahrain.

Method: Twenty-six patients with NF completed records were reviewed from January 2010 to December 2013. Personal statistics, comorbidities and laboratory data were documented and analyzed.

Result: Fifteen (58%) patients survived. Eleven (42%) died; the mortality rate was high in those with albumin levels less than 20 g/L, and with high urea (more than 10mmol/L) and creatinine more than 141 µmol/L.

Conclusion: Initial serum albumin levels in patients with NF may strongly predict mortality. Hence, more aggressive management of this subset of patients is the key to decrease the mortality risk.