Clinical Characteristics and Treatment of Femoral Pseudoaneurysms Secondary to Intravenous Drug Abuse in China: A Single Center Study
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Abstract:
Background: Infected femoral pseudoaneurysms (IPSAs) commonly present in patients who are intravenous drug users and are associated with significant morbidity and mortality. The primary objective of the study was to identify clinical characteristics and treatment of IPSAs secondary to intravenous drug abuse within our institution.

Methods: A retrospective chart review of 168 consecutive IPSAs secondary to drug abuse between 2003 and 2017 was performed. All clinical data were extracted, of all the patients in this study.

Result: 12 of 168 were from the clinic and 156 from the emergency department. The main symptoms of the patient included pulsatile mass with pain, hemorrhagic shock, and swelling of the limb. Among 168 patients, 145 patients had anemia. Among them, hepatitis C, hepatitis B, syphilis and AIDS were diagnosed at 95.2%, 50%, 26.8%, 9.5%. The drug abuse history between 0.5-16 years for the 168 patients, the average is 6.8 years. Of the 168 patients, 5 underwent artificial vascular bypass, 4 underwent endovascular treatment, 31 underwent saphenous vein in situ...
reversal, and 127 underwent debridement plus femoral artery ligation. Postoperative patients were followed up for 3 months to 18 months. One patient with artificial blood vessel bypass showed artificial vascular infection who received the operation again. After 3 cases of femoral artery ligation, ischemic necrosis occurred in the lower extremity and amputation was performed again. The other patients had no obvious symptoms of limb necrosis, and only 35 patients had intermittent claudication, all of whom had a history of less than 5 years of drug use.

Conclusion: Our study is the largest single center data review evaluating the clinical characteristics and treatment of IPSAs secondary to intravenous drug abuse within the China; most data exists in case reports or small sample report. Most patients are able to accept and tolerate femoral artery ligation, and also reduce the economic pressure of the society, especially for patients with a history of drug abuse more than 5 years, and the study had shown that the incidence of infectious diseases in such patients is extremely high, medical staff must be sure to pay attention to self-protection.

Author Disclosure: Z. Wu: None; J. Zhao: None; Y. Ma: None; B. Huang: None; Y. Yang: None; F. Xiong: None; D. Yuan: None; G. Zeng: None.