

Inflammation and clinical immunology

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Epidemiology of granulomatosis with polyangiitis in Poland, 2011-2015

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Introduction: Granulomatosis with polyangiitis (GPA, formerly Wegener's granulomatosis) is a systemic disorder that involves both granulomatosis and polyangiitis. It is a form of vasculitis that affects small- and medium-size vessels in many organs, damage to the lungs and kidneys can be fatal. The use of hospital morbidity database is an important element of the epidemiological analysis of this rare disease. There are no current epidemiological data describing a burden of the GPA in Poland. Our study provides a recent epidemiological data on GPA in Poland. Our data may be useful while comparisons with other geographical regions is required. Objectives: The aim of the study was to describe the epidemiology of GPA, including incidence and prevalence rates, in Poland in 2011-2015. Patients and methods: The authors conducted a retrospective, population-based study, using hospital discharge records with a GPA diagnosis. GPA incidence was estimated on the basis of data from a Polish hospital morbidity study, carried out by the National Institute of Public Health. The final study group consisted of 1491 patients (749 females, 742 males) who were first-time hospitalized with a diagnosis of the GPA. Results: The average annual incidence of GPA in Poland was 7.7/1.000.000 (95%CI 4.1-11.4), and the point prevalence at the end of 2015 was 36/1.000.000. The higher incidence of GPA was reported in urban compared to rural regions of Poland. Conclusions: The incidence and prevalence rates of GPA in Poland were similar to data reported by other European countries. Hospital discharge records may be useful and important elements of epidemiological studies on rare diseases, including GPA.