NOTA DE ABERTURA

Divulgação Internacional do Estudo sobre *N. meningitidis* do INSA-IRJ

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O estudo sobre “Serogrupos circulantes de *Neisseria meningitidis* em Portugal”, realizado de 2000 a 2001 com a coordenação da Unidade de Resistência aos Antibióticos do Centro de Bacteriologia do Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge, de Lisboa, no qual colaboraram tantos Serviços de Pediatria e Pediatras, foi já divulgado em 2004 por duas publicações internacionais de prestígio: *Journal of Medical Microbiology* (http://jmm.sgmjournals.org) e *Emerging Infectious Diseases* (www.cdc.gov/eid).

É de assinalar que todos os coordenadores locais do estudo são referidos como coautores no artigo publicado na *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

Sendo do interesse de todos os Pediatrias portugueses conhecer o conteúdo destas duas publicações, quer para o seu conhecimento clínico pessoal, quer para eventual futura referenciá-los, apresentamos ambos resumos e convidamos-nos a ler os artigos completos.


For 1 year, serogroup, serotype, serosubtype and penicillin susceptibility of meningococci circulating in various regions in Portugal were evaluated. Most frequent phenotypes were B:4:P1.15 (13,4%) and C:2b:P1.2,5 (75,9%), which are also common in Spain. Overall, 27,5% of C:2b:P1.2,5 strains show intermediate resistance to penicillin. Laboratory-based surveillance of meningococcal infection in Portugal provides important information to assess the adequacy of public health measures.


The first investigation of *Neisseria meningitidis* isolated from a large area covering a population in Portugal, before the voluntary vaccination period with the serogroup C conjugate vaccine, is reported. The serogroups and antimicrobial susceptibility of 116 isolates were studied. Serogroups C (50%), B (47,4%) and W135 (2,6%) were found. Serogroup C was most common in the 1-15-years-old group and B in the less than 1-year-old and over 16-years-old groups (p=0,042). Clinical diagnosis of meningococcal disease was primarily meningitis for patients with serogroup C and meningitis associated with sepsis for those with serogroup B. Penicillin resistance was significantly associated with serogroup C (p<0,001). This work reinforces the importance for public health of monitoring the serogroup and antimicrobial susceptibility of isolates from patients with invasive meningococcal disease.