THE FREQUENCY OF GROUP A β -HAEMOLYTIC STREPTOCOCCUS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PERITONSILLAR ABSCESS

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OBJECTIVES
To define the frequency of Group A β-hemolytic streptococcus (β-h GAS) in children with peritonsillar abscess (PA).

METHODS
The PA patients were under our estimation. We took a history, performed ENT-examination, dissection of an abscess, took material (pus) for microbiological test and appraised the anti-streptolysin-O (ASLO) and C-reactive protein (CRP) level in a biochemical blood test.

RESULTS
77 PA patients, 38 (49.35%) boys and 39 (50.65 %) girls in the age from 5 to 18 years (middle age 12±1) were included in our research. β-h GAS was identified in 25 (32.5%) cases, in 13 (16.88%) cases as a single germ. β-h GAS was found mainly in boys (15 (19.5%) patients). There were three patients with recurrence PA and one with peritonsillitis in history among β-h GAS positive PA. 7 patients (28%) took antibiotics prior to admission to the hospital. All β-h GAS+ patients had increased ASLO in biochemical blood test, CRP was increased in 88% cases. The etiology of β-h GAS negative PA was microbiological-negative in 2 (2.59%), bacteria-fungal in 3 (3.9%), fungal in 1(1.9%) and bacterial (not β-h GAS, 35 species) in 46 (59.7%) cases. 12 (48%) β-h GAS negative patients had recurrent PA and 1 β-h GAS negative patient underwent tonsillectomy early. The increased ASLO was revealed in 16 (30.76%) biochemical blood test β-h GAS negative PA.

CONCLUSIONS
The β-h GAS PA frequency was 32.5%. The increased ASLO level could be not in β-h GAS positive PA only.