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Demographic and clinical characteristics of immune thrombocytopenia in Sudanese children

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Background: The demographic and clinical profile of immune thrombocytopenia is well reported in the literature but was not reported before from Sudan.

Method: A retrospective chart review was performed for all children diagnosed as immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) in three major hospitals over six and half year period. 47 patients were identified and their median age was 6.5 years. Males and females were equally affected. A preceding upper respiratory infection was present in one third of patients. Epistaxis was the commonest presenting feature (87.2%), where gastrointestinal bleeding, gross hematuria and subconjunctival bleeding were the presenting features in 36.2%, 19.1% and 4.3% respectively. Ecchymosis and petechiae were the commonest clinical signs, seen in 46.8% and 29.8% respectively. Chronic ITP constituted one third of patients. Steroids were the first line of treatment and no death was encountered.

Conclusion: ITP in Sudanese children has similar features as those reported before; however, gross hematuria and gastrointestinal bleeding were seen more frequent in them.

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