

The Efficacy Of Spiramycin Compared With Clarithromycin In The Treatment Of Community Acquired Lower Respiratory Tract Infection.

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The prospective, randomized study compared the efficacy of oral spiramycin (sp group) 6 MIU daily with oral clarithromycin (cl group) 500 mg daily for ten days in the treatment of community acquired lower respiratory tract infection. 22 consecutive patients who were admitted to the respiratory ward for lower respiratory tract infection over a period of seven months were recruited for the study based on at least three out of six clinical criteria : appearance or increase of cough, dyspnea or purulent sputum, fever greater than 38^o C, abnormal findings on chest examination or leucocytosis greater than 10 x 10⁹ /L. Patients were then randomized to receive either spiramycin or clarithromycin and were reassessed at day 3, prior to discharge and at two weeks' follow-up. Out of 22 patients recruited, 5 patients were excluded either because they were non-compliant or received antibiotics prior to recruitment into the study. Of the remaining 17 patients, 7 out of 8 (87.5%) of the spiramycin group and 6 out of 9 (66.7%) of the clarithromycin group were successfully treated for their lower respiratory tract infection. There was no difference in the demographic data between the two groups, the mean age being 60.5 ± 17.4 years (sp group) and 68.0 ± 21.3 years (cl group) and sex distribution being 62.5 % male (sp group) and 44 % male (cl group). Both drugs were well tolerated with no significant side effects. We conclude that both spiramycin and clarithromycin are efficacious in treating community acquired lower respiratory tract infection and that both drugs are well tolerated.