AZITHROMYCIN - NEW DRUG IN GIARDIASIS TREATMENT

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The study involved 56 outpatients aged 6 to 52 years with diagnosed giardiasis of the Infectious, Parasitic and Tropical Diseases Clinic of The Voivodship Specialist Hospital of Łódź.

The diagnosis of parasitosis was established as a result of three-fold coproscopic examinations combined with coproimmunological test carried out by two independent diagnostic laboratories. The presence of *Giardia intestinalis* trophozoites and cysts was detected in faecal preparations fixed according to Schaudinn and stained by Heidenhein method. GSA-65 antigen of the parasite was detected in patients' stools using immunoenzymatic quantitative-qualitative EIA test. All adult patients were rectoscopically examined. For azithromycin treatment there were qualified giardiasis patients without any other alimentary tract diseases.

The patients with diagnosed giardiasis underwent a five-day therapy with azithromycin administered 1 time a day in the dose of 250 mg. Follow up examinations were carried out three times: 7-12, 30 and 60 days after completion of the therapy.

The results of follow up examinations with the use of EIA test carried out in 52 patients 60 days after completion of the treatment were negative - there was not detected GSA 65 antigen of the parasite. Thus, no recurrent parasitosis was developed.

Azithromycin was found effective in controlling *G. intestinalis* infection in 52 (92.8 %) of 56 treated patients regardless of the day of follow up examination. Azithromycin was well tolerated by our patients. As few as 6 of them (10.7 %) complained during the treatment about headache, vertigo and nausea which spontaneously disappeared after 2-3 days.

As a result of rectoscopy carried out before azithromycin treatment, there were found the symptoms of colitis in 27 (48.1 %) patients. The regression of the lesions was observed 60 days after completion of azithromycin treatment.

Azithromycin is a drug of high effectiveness and good tolerance in treatment of giardiasis in the dose of 250 mg 1 time a day for 5 days.