

PROPHYLACTIC ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY IN ACUTE VARICEAL HEMORRHAGE.

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BACKGROUND: Bacterial infection is frequently associated with upper gastrointestinal bleeding in cirrhotic patients, and seems to increase mortality. The aim of this study was to investigate the efficacy of prophylactic ofloxacin for prevention of bacterial infections in acute esophageal varices (EV) bleeding .

MATERIALS: A total 60 cirrhotic patients with acute EV bleeding were enrolled. 31 patients received ofloxacin (400 mg/day) for 7 days since admission day, first via intravenous route then orally (group A). 29 patients in group B received antibiotics only in cases of infections.

RESULTS: Group A showed a lower incidence of bacterial infections than group B (22% versus 51%, $p < 0.001$). The incidence of SBP, UTI, pneumonia, fever with bacteremia were lower in group A (3% versus 3%, 10% versus 17%, 7 versus 10%, 3% versus 20%). The 4 week-mortality rate was 10% in group A and 17% in group B. The rebleeding rate was 7% in group A and 14% in group B.

CONCLUSIONS: Prophylactic antibiotics with ofloxacin was effective in reducing bacterial infection, Rebleeding and mortality in patients with cirrhosis who were suffering from acute EV bleeding .

Key words: Antibiotics, Esophageal varices, Cirrhosis