

**CHEST PAIN IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS**

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Chest pain in children and adolescents is a common complaint. Musculoskeletal, gastrointestinal, respiratory, psychogenic, cardiac and idiopathic are common causes. Methods and Population: In the period from 1/10/01 to 30/11/02 we admitted in our institution 66 patients with chest pain. The median age was 10.7 years (range 5 to 15). Forty-six (70%) were male. In addition to the clinical and laboratory examination all the patients underwent chest-Xray and ECG, 63 (95%) of the patients had an echocardiography and Doppler study, 61 (92%) 24 hours Holter and 35 (53%) Exercise test. In 53 (86%) follow up information was obtained. Results: The most common cause of chest pain was idiopathic in 28 (42%) patients. In 23 (34.5%) patients there was a psychogenic factor and/or close relatives with coronary artery disease. Twelve patients (18.1%) had a cardiac finding. One of 44 mm gradient discrete subaortic stenosis, two documented SVT, one WPW, 7 MVP only one with mitral regurgitation, one had a bicuspid aortic valve without gradient. Cardiac enzymes were normal in 60 patients examined. One child suffered from asthma, one diaphragmatic hernia and one had paresis of diaphragm after correction of a coarctation of aorta. Conclusion: Chest pain is a common complaint in children, more frequent in boys. Idiopathic or psychogenic/family history of CAD is the most common cause. Although 12 (18%) had a cardiac finding, in only 3 (one DSAS and 2 SVT) the finding was significant. In our population Holter and exercise test were not helpful in the clinical diagnosis.

