

ORBITAL CELLULITIS IN CHILDHOOD

M.I. Eliopoulou¹, C.D. Georgakopoulos², A. Asimakopoulou¹, A.M. Exarchou²,
I. Giannelou², S. Mantagos¹

¹*Department of Paediatrics* ²*Department of Ophthalmology, University of Patras, Greece*
gcostas@hol.gr

Aim: To study the clinical features, predisposing factors, microbiologic data, complications and treatment of periorbital and orbital cellulitis in childhood. **Material and Methods:** Eighty-three medical records of patients (mean age 3.7±3.1 years) admitted to the University Hospital of Patras, Department of Paediatrics with a diagnosis of periorbital or orbital cellulitis during the period January 1992 to December 2001 were retrospectively studied. **Results:** In this series periorbital cellulitis was more common (84%) than orbital cellulitis (16%). 85% of children with periorbital cellulitis were less than 5 years of age while 62% of children with orbital cellulitis were older than 5 years old. Predisposing factors in periorbital cellulitis cases were included most commonly trauma to eyelids and upper respiratory infection, while sinusitis was more frequently associated with orbital cellulitis (78.5%). Blood and skin cultures were usually negative. The most common isolated pathogens were *S. aureus*, *S. pneumoniae* and *S. epidermidis*. Forty-five of the 83 children were given IV ceftriaxone+clindamycin (mean duration 8.6±5.5 days). Intravenous antibiotics alone were effective management in many patients but a small proportion (6%) required surgical intervention. **Conclusion:** Orbital cellulitis in children, more frequently preseptal, has a good prognosis under adapted antibiotherapy.

