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RHEUMATISM - SYMPTOM, DIAGNOSIS

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Abstract:

Rheumatism is a systemic inflammation of all tissues in the body, mainly localized in the pericardium. Especially the heart, joint and subcutaneous connective tissue in the body are prone to disease. Rheumatism can be caused by simple angina, which is common among people. Tonsillitis itself is acute, accompanied by fever, headache, and inflammation in rheumatic fever leads to chronic heart valve damage, which can lead to disability or death many years after the acute illness. can bring. Usually, rheumatism affects children between the ages of 5 and 15, but adults can also get sick. The first symptoms of rheumatism often begin to appear 1-5 weeks after angina. Rheumatic attacks usually last three months, rarely more than six months.

Rheumatism

RHEUMATISM: CAUSES AND FACTORS OF DEVELOPMENT

Currently, three main reasons for the development of rheumatism are distinguished: Past illnesses. Group A streptococci affect the development of the disease. If a person has been sick several times with infectious diseases of group A streptococci, there is a possibility of developing a pathological process, and as a result, rheumatism can occur. However, the serological subgroup of streptococcus in the patient is important. In some cases, rheumatism can develop even after a single infection with hemolytic group A streptococcus. Especially if the patient, for example, is infected with ARVI and does not take appropriate treatment measures, the risk of developing rheumatic lesions increases. Allergy. Allergic reaction can be caused both directly by the streptococcus itself and due to the substances it secretes (toxins and enzyme proteins). As toxins enter the bloodstream and spread throughout the body, the immune response must also be systemic. However, this immune response results in more damage to the heart and joints. It should be noted that the chronic form of rheumatism is not associated with streptococcal infection. Antibodies against streptococci are not detected in chronic rheumatism.



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Hereditary predisposition. It should be mentioned at once that rheumatism is not transmitted from generation to generation. However, when infected with streptococcus, a high tendency to the development of rheumatism can be inherited.

TYPES OF DISEASE: CLASSIFICATION OF RHEUMATISM

According to the nature of the course, rheumatism is acute and chronic:

Acute rheumatism. This form of rheumatism occurs in people under 20 years of age. The causative agent of the acute form of rheumatism is streptococcus. When rheumatism is combined with an upper respiratory tract infection, a delay in symptoms (usually 14-21 days) is noted. A characteristic feature of acute rheumatism is the speed of its development. At first, patients are bothered by symptoms of general intoxication, such as in colds and flu. The similarity of these symptoms does not allow to immediately identify this disease. After some time, specific symptoms such as carditis, polyarthritis, rashes on the skin, and sometimes skin nodules begin to be felt. The acute period of the disease lasts up to three months. In some cases, acute rheumatism lasts up to 6 months.

Chronic rheumatism. As for the chronic form of rheumatism, it is characterized by frequent relapses, even if the patient receives appropriate treatment in time. In particular, exacerbation of chronic rheumatism often occurs in the autumn-winter season, because cold is a serious provoking factor. In addition, staying (or living) for a long time in places with high humidity contributes to the exacerbation of the disease. As a rule, attacks of chronic rheumatism occur several times a year. Chronic rheumatism is severe enough to significantly reduce the patient's quality of life. The patient is disturbed by excruciating pain in the joints, as well as pain in the area of the heart.

Depending on which organ is damaged, rheumatism is divided into the following types.

Diagnosis of rheumatism includes a number of laboratory and instrumental studies, including:

Ultrasound examination (UTT);

Electrocardiogram (ECG);

Laboratory blood test for specific antibodies and factors.



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