

## **RELAPSE RATE IN PULMONARY VASCULITIS**

Katarzyna Zycinska, Aneta Nitsch-Osuch, Tadeusz M. Zielonka, Andrzej Wardyn

Primary Systemic Vasculitis Outpatient Clinic, Department of Family Medicine, Internal and Metabolic Diseases, Nephrology Unit, Warsaw Medical University, Warsaw, Poland;  
kzycinska@poczta.fm

Vasculitis is a systemic disease characterized by necrotizing granulomatous inflammation of the upper and lower respiratory tract and necrotizing crescentic glomerulonephritis. Nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) is considered a risk factor for *S. aureus* infections. The aim of study was to examine possible risk factors for relapse including refractory nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* in patients with pulmonary vasculitis. Swab cultures of anterior nares for *S. aureus* were taken in consecutive patients (n=28), with the limited (n=15) and systemic forms (n=13) of with biopsy-proven vasculitis. The occurrence of infection and relapses was identified according to defined criteria. We found that 17 of the 28 patients (60%; 95% CI, 41-76%) were chronic nasal carriers of *S. aureus* ( $\geq 80\%$  of nasal cultures positive). Hazard regression analysis identified chronic nasal carriage of *S. aureus* as an independent risk factor for relapse (HR-9,26; CI 2.23-36,5) in patients with limited vasculitis. Chronic nasal carriage of *S. aureus* is a feature of vasculitis patients who are more prone to relapses.