BLACK WIDOW SPIDERS IN MACEDONIA-LATRODECTISM AND THERAPY (report of 3 cases)

Summary

The aim of this paper was to present three cases of poisoning with Black Widow spider’s venom (Latrodectus mactans tredecimguttatus) in the Republic of Macedonia and different intensity of clinical features of latrodectism and its complications. All patients developed “target” lesion. Within one hour they presented with hypertoxic myopathic syndrome with painful cramps, “facies latrodectismica”, autonomic-vegetative effects and life-threatening complications: high hypertension (2 patients) and acute pulmonary toxic edema (1 patient). It was confirmed at the Faculty of Biology in Skopje that the incriminated spider in the third patient was Latrodectus mactans tredecimguttatus and that its presence was registered for the first time at this territory.

Treatment involves local wound care, tetanus prophylaxis, symptomatic therapy and abandoning Ca-gluconate as an antidote. Because of severe allergic reaction, indications for Latrodectus antivenom administration (crude hyperimmune horse serum) (USA) are still controversial, with a strong effort for its use in endemic regions (USA, Croatia, Australia).

Key words: Black Widow spider, latrodectism, antivenin

Отровните пајаци од родот Latrodectus (вдовица пајаци) се убицинатарни низ светот (С.Америка, јужна Европа, Австралија, Индиија, Аустралија, Африка). На територијата на република Македонија се среќава само еден вид - Latrodectus mactans tredecimguttatus (вдовица). Таа има цр-