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Introduction to the International Consortium for Pediatric Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (ICPEL), the Pediatric Functional Assessment of Chronic Illnesses (PFAPA)

Introduction

1. PFAPA

1.1 Definition of PFAPA

PFAPA is a chronic disease of childhood characterized by recurrent, self-limiting febrile episodes. The disease is defined by the presence of three major criteria: (1) periodicity of febrile episodes, (2) absence of infectious or organic causes, and (3) absence of organ-specific disease. The disease was first described in 1977 by Marshall's group.

1.2 Epidemiology

PFAPA is a common disease of childhood, with a prevalence of approximately 1-2% in the pediatric population.

1.3 Pathogenesis

The pathogenesis of PFAPA is unknown. It is thought to be a systemic disease of unknown etiology. Some studies have suggested a genetic component, while others have suggested an autoimmune or infectious origin.

1.4 Clinical features

The clinical features of PFAPA include recurrent, self-limiting febrile episodes, usually lasting 3-7 days, with a fever of 38.3°C or higher. The episodes are typically accompanied by oral ulcers, adenitis, and/or lymphadenitis.

1.5 Diagnostic criteria

The diagnostic criteria for PFAPA are based on the presence of the three major criteria: (1) periodicity of febrile episodes, (2) absence of infectious or organic causes, and (3) absence of organ-specific disease.

1.6 Differential diagnosis

The differential diagnosis of PFAPA includes other causes of periodic fever, such as periodic fever with neutropenia (PFN), periodic fever with lymphadenitis (PFLA), and periodic fever with oral ulcers (PFOU). The differential diagnosis also includes infectious causes of periodic fever, such as tuberculosis, histoplasmosis, and coccidioidomycosis.

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