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A Single Center Experience for Clinical Evaluation of Paroxysmal Cold Hemoglobinuria and Donath-Landsteiner Testing

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Introduction: Paroxysmal cold hemoglobinuria (PCH) is a rare form of autoimmune hemolytic anemia (AIHA), mainly affecting children. The diagnosis and management is challenging due to similarities to other causes for AIHA and limited availability to Donath-Landsteiner (DL) testing.
Methods: In this single-center retrospective study, we aimed to characterize the clinical presentation and outcomes of PCH patients, defined as having positive Donath-Landsteiner antibodies, compared to a cohort of AIHA patients.
Results: DL-positive patients were observed to have higher lactose dehydrogenase levels and lower reticulocyte counts compared to DL-negative patients, although this was not statistically significant. We also observed that using steroids in DL-positive patients did not significantly impact their recovery.
Conclusions: Our findings support the limited published data on PCH patients and further prompt prompting larger multi-center studies to further characterize these patients so that they are more readily identified, especially in centers where DL antibody testing is not readily available.

Disclosures No relevant conflicts of interest to declare.

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