CLINICAL, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL, AND LABORATORY CHARACTERISTICS OF ACUTE BRUCELLOSIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN (ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE KASHKADARYA REGION)

Allanazarov M.M.

Relevance. Brucellosis is a globally widespread zoonotic infection with a high percentage of chronic forms, negatively impacting healthcare economics. In Uzbekistan, particularly in the Kashkadarya region, it remains an urgent medical and social problem due to intensive animal husbandry and close contact between the population and livestock.

Objective. To determine the clinical, epidemiological, and laboratory features of acute brucellosis in the Kashkadarya region of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Materials and Methods. We examined 178 patients with clinical manifestations of acute brucellosis. From this group, 120 patients met the inclusion criteria (symptoms lasting <3 months) and formed the main study group. Diagnosis was confirmed via ELISA to determine IgM and IgG levels. Statistical processing was performed using "SPSS 20.0" and "STATISTICA 6.0".

Results. * Men predominated the study group at 75.00%.

- The majority of patients (71.67%) were rural residents living in livestock-oriented territories.
- Primary transmission routes were contact (45.00%) and alimentary (32.5%).
- Significant gender differences in transmission were found: men were 8.7 times more likely to be infected through direct animal contact, while

women were 4.8 times more likely to be infected through untreated dairy products.

- Frequent symptoms included general weakness (87.50%), fever (86.67%), diaphoresis (70.00%), and arthralgia (64.17%).
- Sacroiliitis and peripheral arthritis were found to be 15.8 and 12 times more common in women than in men, respectively ($p < 0.05$).
- Cardiovascular changes were identified in 77.50% of patients, with a higher prevalence (91.18%) in those over 45 years of age.
- Laboratory findings showed increased ESR (72.50%), anemia (53.33%), and elevated ALT (35.83%) and AST (40.00%) levels.

Conclusion. Acute brucellosis in the Kashkadarya region primarily affects the rural, working-age population and is characterized by a polymorphic clinical course. The identified gender-specific complications, such as a higher incidence of musculoskeletal involvement in women, emphasize the need for improved early diagnostic and preventive strategies in livestock-heavy regions.