

RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE.

K. Miśkiewicz, E. Kuchar, L. Szenborn.

Department of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Wrocław Medical University; 44, Bujwida Str., Wrocław, Poland.

Introduction: Respiratory tract infections are most common reported diseases in early life. The aim of the study was to assess the frequency of these infections in primary health care setting. **Material and methods:** A retrospective analysis of medical files of 91 children randomly selected aged 1-18 years in a large primary health care centre in Wrocław, Poland. Data of children in the care of the centre from birth only were included. Most patients were born in 2008 (20/91; 21.9%). The number of visits due to respiratory tract infections, the mean age of first infection and the type of infections were analyzed. **Results:** The average number of visits was 40.4 ± 27.8 , the average number of visits due to respiratory infections - 16.5 ± 14.9 (40.8% of all). Age of first visit because of respiratory infections was on average 7.2 months. Respiratory tract infection was the reason for the first medical consultation in 5/91 (5.5%) children. The first antibiotic was prescribed due to respiratory infections in 60/91 patients (65.9%). The most common were upper respiratory tract infections (including: common cold, pharyngitis, unspecified upper respiratory tract infections) - an average of 8.7 ± 6.7 infections. Most infections were recorded in 4 years - an average of 3.5 ± 3.4 . **Conclusions:** Respiratory tract infections are the most important problem in primary health care in Polish children. Education about rational antibiotic use in respiratory infection and implementation of stewardship is urgently needed to protect antibiotics from resistance development.