

INCIDENCE OF UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS IN HIV-INFECTED CHILDREN

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Introduction: HIV is a risk factor associated with respiratory tract infections. HIV-infected children are provided with a high level of care in Poland and as such, facilitated access to medical care, immunizations and the avoidance of contact with sick people is ensured.

Objective: to evaluate the incidence of infections of respiratory tract in HIV-infected children

Material and methods: The annual observation of 26 HIV-infected children (aged 4-18 years, mean 10.3 years, including 17 girls) treated in our center and matched a control group of 70 children. We investigated the incidence of respiratory tract infections including colds, sore throat, tonsillitis, otitis media, sinusitis, laryngitis, tracheitis, bronchitis and pneumonia. Additionally, the prevalence of chronic diseases and other factors such as cigarette smoking by household members or attending institutions was also taken into consideration. We used OpenEpi for calculations.

Results: Among the HIV-infected children, 48 respiratory infections were apparent, including 4 pneumonia and 44 URTI for 312 person x month observation vs. 256 infections including 13 pneumonia and 243 URTI for 840 person x month in controls. The incidence of URTI per month was significantly lower in HIV-infected children: 0.14, 95%CI(0.10-0.18) vs. 0.29 95%CI(0.26-0.32). There was no statistically significant difference in the incidence of pneumonia

Conclusion: The impact of modifiable environmental factors that reduce the risk of respiratory tract infections is more important than HIV infection. The lower incidence of respiratory infections in HIV-infected children may be explained by the avoidance of sick people, annual influenza vaccination and possibly antiviral medication.