

DISEASES OF THE UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT IN PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN IN AN AMBULATORY ENT PRACTICE.

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Upper respiratory tract diseases such as the common cold (inflammation of the nose and throat), rhinitis, sinusitis, chronic nasal obstruction in children are the most common causes for visiting an ENT specialist. These diseases when treated improperly can lead to the ear infection - acute or exudative. Moreover, they lead to frequent absenteeism in school or kindergarten. Long lasting symptoms of nasal obstruction may ultimately perpetuate a wrong breathing track and result in malocclusion disorders.

The aim of the study was to examine the occurrence of children suffering from upper respiratory tract diseases depending on their age and year season. People being tested included young patients who for one calendar year visited one particular ENT clinic (for adults and children). A few factors have been analysed namely: age, time of the visit at the doctor's, type of the disease and the percentage of children in relation to all patients.

It has been found out that the largest group of patients comprised children from 3 to 7 years of age. In this group 5-year-olds prevailed. Most children visited the clinic in May and March. The most common disorder according to ICD-10 was J30, J00, J35, H65 (as a consequence of the nasal obstruction). Statistically significant differences in the mean age of the patients was observed between months: November and March ($p = 0.03$) and November and May ($p = 0.009$). For statistical calculations used nonparametric Kruskal-Wallis test.