Background and Aims One third of the world population has been infected by the hepatitis B virus (HBV), causing an enormous worldwide burden of chronic hepatitis, cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma. We make review of clinical characteristics of acute hepatitis B infection in children in Montenegro.

Methods 180 children suffering from acute virus hepatitis were examined on Clinic for infectious diseases in Podgorica during the period 2006–2012. We used epidemiological and clinical data and blood tests for hepatitis viruses, Epstein-Barr virus, CMV and adenoviruses. Research sample is consisted of 18 children, which are old from 7–15 years with clinical, laboratory and virology verification of acute hepatitis B.

Results Epidemiological data have indicated the infection through blood or blood products in 14 children and in 4 the way of infection remained unknown. HBsAg and anti-HBc IgM were positive, values of alanine aminotransferase were elevated and PCR HBV DNA was higher than 200000 U/l in all children. The most frequent symptoms were the loss of appetite (88%) and fatigue (70%). Fever was registered in 30% of children, while the diarrhea is reported in 25%, hepatomegaly in 86%, enlarged spleen in 20% and icterus in 60% of cases. Patients without symptoms were present in 12% of cases. Three children after a follow-up longer than one year developed chronic infection.

Conclusions Even though immunisation for hepatitis B virus is mandatory since 2002 in Montenegro, the acute hepatitis B isn’t rare infection. Children are at the greatest risk for developing potentially fatal complications of the infection.

940 CLINICAL SPECTRUM OF RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS: A STUDY AMONG CHILDREN IN AJMAN, UAE

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Background and Aims Respiratory tract infection (RTI) among children is one of the most common reasons for physician visits and hospitalization and associated with significant morbidity. It is a leading cause of sickness among school children and parental absenteeism from work. Accordingly, this study was conducted to evaluate the spectrum of the respiratory tract infections among the children attending the outpatient department (OPD) of pediatrics in GMC Hospital, Ajman.

Methods A cross-sectional study was conducted from the medical records of pediatric patients (aged 0–12 years) diagnosed with RTIs during January 2011 at GMC Hospital, Ajman. The demographic data and the clinical diagnosis were analyzed (descriptive statistics) using SPSS version 19.

Results A total of 2416 patients attended the OPD of pediatrics during the study period of which RTI accounted for 20.2% (n=488). 55.5% (n=271) were males and 44.5 (n=217) were females. Majority of the patients were Egyptians followed by Emiratis and Indians. Forty six percent of the patients (225) were between 1–5 years of age. The four most commonly diagnosed RTIs were unspecified upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs) (20.5%), common cold combined with bronchitis (17.8%), tonsillitis (8.8%), followed by bronchitis (6%) in rank order. URTI was most commonly presented by children of 1–5 years (50.5%), while common cold combined with bronchitis was frequent among those below 1 year (47.1%).

Conclusions Comparable to previous reports upper respiratory tract infections were the most common RTI among this population and children of 1–5 years were most vulnerable to RTI.