viruses no significant differences in HRV versus controls were observed. These data indicate RSV related reduced sympathetic activity.

Conclusion RSV infection in infants is associated with autonomic dysfunction of central origin. This may be correlated with an increased risk for serious apnea or ALTE, for which prolonged cardio respiratory monitoring is indicated.

**942 ACUTE RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS IN PRESCHOOL POPULATION OF GEORGIA**

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**Aim and methods**: To assess the frequency of ARI in preschool children population, identification of risk factors and main principles of treatment. The cross sectional study was conducted using the special questionnaires for parents of 3–6 years children and in all regions of Georgia. At all 1448 parents and caregivers were interviewed.

**Results** 2.3% of children have ≥5 episodes of ARI per year, 19.9% have 3–5, 53.4% 1–2 episodes per year and in 24.2% ARI are very rare. The incidence of ARI is higher in urban population, then in rural area and in mountain regions (p < 0.001). The main symptoms for admission to health care facilities were cough (82, 8%) and fever (75, 9%). Study revealed the risk factors for ARI: male sex, living in urban area, attendance of day care centers, exposure to passive smoking, big number of family members significantly increase risk of ARI. There was no correlation between the type of feeding in infancy and frequency of ARI infection in 3–6 years old children. In 47% of ARI cases antibiotics were used from those in 32# parents started antibiotics by self.

**Conclusion** Male sexes, urban regions, attendance of day care center, passive smoking are the significant risk factors for development of ARI in children aged 3–6 years. Primary health care providers still prescribe unnecessary and excessive antibiotics. The incidence of ARI may be reduced substantially through public health measures.

**943 THE STUDY OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AMONG SHIGELLA FLEXNERI STRAINS ISOLATED OF CHILDREN IN TEHRAN, IRAN**

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**Background and Aims** Shigellosis is one of the major causes of morbidity in children with diarrhea in Iran. The aim of this study was to investigate antimicrobial resistance of *S. flexneri* strains isolated from clinically diagnosed cases of gastroenteritis and acute diarrhea in Tehran, Iran.

**Methods** Shigella strains were isolated from stool samples of children patients who visited the several major hospitals in Tehran. *S. flexneri* was preliminarily identified by biochemical tests as well as by API20E. Antimicrobial resistance testing was performed according to the standard guidelines of the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute.

**Results** All strains were resistant to streptomycin. More than 97% of the strains were resistant to tetracycline, 89% to co-trimoxazole, 80% to amoxicillin, 33.5% to ampicillin, 14% to chloramphenicol, 8% to kanamycin, 5% to nalidixic acid, 1.5% to cefixime and 0.5% to amikacin and furazolidone. None of the tested isolate was resistant to ceftriaxone, cefotaxime, cefazidime, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, cephalothin, cefotaxime, cephalaxine and nitrofurantoin.

**Conclusions** This study indicates the increase in incidence of multiple drug resistance among the strains of *S. flexneri* isolated in Tehran, Iran.