

RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS IN PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN-RESULT OF EXPOSURE TO TOBACCO SMOKE

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Based on the analysis of hospital prevalence rate in Poland, respiratory system diseases are the second most common cause of hospitalizing children under 14 and the most common reason for visiting family doctors. Recurring respiratory tract infections in pre-school children are a particular problem general healthcare centers. The purpose of the study is to analyze the influence of different factors on the number of respiratory system infections. This study was done within six months of attending municipal pre-schools in Białystok with particular consideration to exposure to tobacco smoke. The study material was collected by anonymous questionnaires completed by parents of 311 three-year-old children chosen randomly from 1,200 children attending 51 pre-schools. The exposure of children to tobacco smoke was confirmed by determining cotinine to creatinine ratio in their urine. The three-year-olds were divided into three groups according to smoking habits in their homes. During the analyzed data for six months, 85% of the children had at least one respiratory tract infection (60%- upper, 16.5%- upper and lower, 7.1%- otitis media). Most of the three-year-olds who had lower respiratory tract infection needed antibiotics and hospitalization. The lived in families with no rules limiting tobacco smoking.