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PALIVIZUMAB PROPHYLAXIS FOR VRS INFECTION IN PRETERM INFANTS WITH GESTATIONAL AGE ≤ 30 WEEKS: COMPLIANCE, EFFICACY AND ADVERSE EVENTS

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Background: Among extremely premature infants data related to compliance, efficacy and adverse events of Palivizumab (PVZ) prophylaxis are still poor. Aim of the study was to evaluate the compliance of the families, the prevalence of hospitalizations in the first two years of life and the prevalence of correlated serious adverse events in a population of extremely preterm infants submitted to prophylaxis with Palivizumab.

Methods: 211 preterm infants with gestational age (GA) ≤ 30 weeks discharged in 4 epidemic seasons (2004-2008) were included in the study.

Results: 205 infants (97,1%) received the prophylaxis with PVZ in the first year of life; 177 infants (86,3%) received all the anticipated PVZ administrations at the planned intervals. All infants with BPD (25/205) performed the prophylaxis also in the second year. In 4 infants (1,9%) severe and correlated adverse events were recorded. The total hospitalization rates resulted 30,7% and 10,7% respectively in the first and second year of life. RSV hospitalization rates was 2,4% in the first year of life; no hospitalization for RSV was registered in the second year.

Conclusions: In our population of infants with GA ≤ 30 weeks PVZ prophylaxis is a well tolerated strategy of intervention, associated with a low rate of severe adverse events and uncommon RSV related hospitalizations.

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DNA DETECTION OF CARIOGENIC AND PERIODONTAL PATHOGENS IN THE SALIVA OF NEWBORNS AND SIX MONTH OLD INFANTS

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Aim: The aim of our study was to identify known cariogenic and periodontal pathogens in the saliva of newborns and six months old predentate infants.

Study groups and methods: 25 newborns three-day-old (group A) and 17 six-month-old predentate infants (group B) were randomly selected to our study. Particular samples of the saliva from mucosal surfaces of oral cavity were used for detection of cariogenic and periodontal pathogens. Bacterial species were identified using PCR based method (test Stoma Gene ®).

Results: The cariogenic microbes (*Streptococcus mutans*, *Lactobacillus* spp., *Actinomyces* spp.) were the most frequently isolated bacteria in both groups. 76 % of newborns in the group A and 82 % of infants in the group B had some species of cariogenic microorganisms (mainly *Streptococcus mutans*) in saliva. The periodontal pathogens (*Actinobacillus actinomycetemcomitans*, *Prevotella intermedia*, *Fusobacterium nucleatum*) were not found in the group A but in the group B (in 53 %), however.

Conclusions: Our findings have confirmed early transmission of cariogenic and periodontal pathogens to oral cavity of predentate infants. The presence of these microbes represents a risk factor for early childhood caries and early onset periodontal disease.

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