

**Methods:** Descriptive and retrospective study of infants less than two months old admitted to hospital with the diagnosis of RSV infection from January-2004 to December-2010.

**Results:** 250 children below two months of age were admitted to hospital during the period of study with diagnosis of RSV infection. 38 of them were preterm (33.92 $\pm$ 1.98w).

The mean age at time of diagnosis was 32.69 $\pm$ 15.3d of age and 89,3% developed bronchiolitis.

The most common reason of inquiry were upper respiratory symptoms (97%). Apnoea was present in 6,3% of the patients.

The length of hospitalization was 5.37 $\pm$ 2.88d. Fever was present for 0.59 $\pm$ 1d and 46,4% of the patients required oxigenotherapy for 1.35 $\pm$ 2.26d.

53 of them required admission to the PICU (47% from emergency department and 53% from paediatric floor).

32% of the infants admitted to PICU presented apnoea, 49,1% required CPAP and 15% ventilatory support. Chest-X-ray was abnormal in 43.2%. Up to 30.8 $\pm$ 16.1% of infants required supplementary oxygen a mean of 3.85 $\pm$ 3.54d. The length of hospitalization was 4.11 $\pm$ 4.1d.

The children admitted to UCIP presented more frequently respiratory distress at the time of arrival to the emergency room (p0,03) and apnoea (p 0,02).

Preterm infants required admission to UCIP more frequently (p0,045) counting for 30,7% of the admitted to UCIP.

**Discussion:** RSV infection in infants less than two months old represent a high morbidity, frequently requiring PICU hospitalization, being preterm infants specially vulnerable.

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## DESCRIPTIVE STUDY OF RSV INFECTION IN PRETERM INFANTS

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**Objectives:** Description of RSV infection in preterm infants below two months of age.

**Methods:** Descriptive and retrospective study of infants less than two months old admitted to hospital with the diagnosis of RSV infection from January-2004 to December-2010. Comparison between preterm and non-preterm patients.

**Results:** 250 children below two months of age were admitted to hospital during the period of study with diagnosis of RSV infection. 38 of them were preterm (33.92 $\pm$ 1.98w).

The mean age at time of diagnosis was 32.69 $\pm$ 15.3d of age. 10% of the preterm infants presented apnoea and 89,5% developed bronchiolitis.

42% of the preterm patients required PICU admission which is a higher percentage compared to non term infants (p 0,045).

Compared to non preterm patients, preterm infants admitted to UCIP presented apnoea more frequently (31%) and needed more often respiratory assistance, either with CPAP (68,7%) or with mechanical ventilation support (31%). However, these differences were not significant (p0,08).

While in the paediatric floor, preterm patients needed supplementary oxygen more frequently and for longer periods than term infants.

No significant differences were found regarding the rest of the variables analysed.

**Discussion:** Preterm infants less than two months old with RSV infection suffer from a higher risk of admission to PICU and need treatment more frequently than non-preterm patients.