in practice in future. This is an additional method, which could be a supplement to traditional one, based on pathophysiology of hypoglycemia.

Results: Familiarity with this problem could speed the diagnosis and warn students about rare but life-threatening diseases and syndromes. On the basis of this method we want to devise diagnostic algorithm for students to diagnose a proper disease among many causes of hypoglycemia in children.

Conclusions: An awareness of rare diseases has a role in formation of right students' attitude to diagnostics in pediatrics. Presented method facilitates memorization of characterization and making the diagnosis of rare disease, that prepares students for practice and lifelong learning.

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RISK FACTORS FOR RESPIRATORY TRACT INFECTIONS AMONG PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Background: Acute respiratory tract infections (ARI) are an important public health problem. Improved identification of risk factors might enable targeted intervention.

Objective: To study some of the risk factors related to acute respiratory tract infections among preschool children at Derna, Libya.

Methodology: This descriptive study included 800 preschool children from the three kindergartens in Derna between October 2008 and March 2009. All children were subjected to: short questionnaire for detection of detailed history regarding risk factors of acute respiratory infection, history of the illness within the last six months, lines of management and clinical examination. Coding of diagnostic information according to the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) coding system was done. Ethical consecrations were taken.

Results: Males represented 54.4% of all studied preschool children. The number of preschool children suffering from ARI was 320 (40 %). Male gender and passive smoking were considered risk factors for ARI ($P < 0.05$). There was no significant relationship between the number of children in the family, the number of rooms in the house, the crowding index and the prevalence of acute respiratory infections

($P > 0.05$). The use of antibiotics in this study was found in 70% of diseased cases, although most of them had no real indication for the use of antibiotics.

Conclusion: There is a significant relationship between passive smoking and acute respiratory infection among preschool children.

Keywords: Acute respiratory infection, preschool children, passive smoking, risk factors

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EFFECT OF POSITIONING AND ENVIRONMENTAL STRESSORS ON PHYSIOLOGICAL STRESS OF PRETERM INFANTS

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Aims: The purpose of the study was to examine the effects of prone and supine sleeping positions and stressors in the acute care environment on physiological indicators of stress and sleep-wake states of preterm infants.

Methods: A quasi-experimental, repeated-measures research design was used. Twenty-two preterm infants in an intermediate baby care unit at a medical center in Taiwan were enrolled in the study. Each infant was alternately placed in the supine or prone sleep position for an hour each time. Measurements of sleep-wake states and physiological indicators of stress were taken every two minutes during the observation period.

Results: A total of 2410 observations were accrued. In the prone position, preterm infants had a significantly higher level of oxygen saturation than in the supine position ($p = 0.0002$). Moreover, preterm infants demonstrated significantly more frequent and longer sleep states in the prone position ($p < .0001$). Interventions with infant handling by nurses resulted in 10 times more episodes of waking states, 5 times greater stress levels as measured by heart rate and 7 times more episodes of oxygen saturation falling