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ATOPIC DERMATITIS AND FAMILY HISTORY OF ALLERGIC DISEASES IN ASTHMATIC AND NO ASTHMATIC CHILDREN

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Aim: Bronchial asthma is the most frequent diseases in childhood. It is well known fact that infants suffered from atopic dermatitis (AD) and/ or positive family history of allergic diseases have higher risk to develop asthma. The aim of the study is to compare the prevalence of AD and positive family history in children with asthma and nonasthmatic children.

Methods: Personal history of AD and family history of allergic diseases were compared in 60 children with asthma (36 boys and 24 girls, aged 10-14, mean age 12,5 (+- 3,8) and equal number of no asthmatic children matched by sex and age. The data obtained were statistically analysed by descriptive and inferential methods.

Results: AD precedes asthma in 45% of children with asthma (46% of the boys and 42,8% of the girls). The prevalence of AD was significantly higher in asthmatic compared to no asthmatic children (45% vs 11% , $p < 0,01$). Positive history of allergic diseases had 37,5 of children with asthma (38,5% of the boys and 35,7% of the girls) and its prevalence was significantly higher compared to no asthmatic children (37,5% vs 2,5%, $p,0,01$).

Conclusions: Our results confirm the role of AD and positive family history of allergic diseases as a risk factors for childhood asthma.

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PREVALENCE OF FOOD ALLERGIES IN POPULATION IN EARLY AGE CHILDREN

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Background: Rapidly increasing the prevalence of food allergy, different intensity among the various populations, the frequency of forming in early age, the variability of clinical sign, the abundance of

casual factors and also, in different population and within populations the culture of feeding, regime and the variety of used products defines the prevalence of the allergy, the relevance of studying the clinical current peculiarity and risk factors.

Methods: The study was conducted in children population, in Tbilisi, according to the accidental and representative sample. On the first stage of the survey 1800 children aged 0-7 y were questioned by random selection. The interview was conducted with the special questioner.

Results: According to study results, for last 12 months 7.7% of the studied children had signs of allergies. According to clinical-allergic study, allergic rash - in kind of dermatitis and urticaria (82%) was significantly ($p < 0, 05$) higher than manifestation rate of gastrointestinal symptoms (18%). After statistical processing of the data, the indicator was significantly high: inheritance of mother (OR- 13.69), excess weight of newborn (OR- 1.08) and premature newborn (OR- 1.46). There also was revealed relatively high risk during bottle feeding (OR- 5.29), mixed feeding (until 3 months) (OR- 2.71) and excessive intake of dairy products during pregnancy (OR- 5.56)

Conclusions: Therefore, in childhood allergic skin manifestation of food allergy is high. According to the obtained data risk factor control could provide basis for the purposeful and effective preventive measures in future.

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PANCREATIC EXOCRINE FUNCTION IN ALLERGIC CHILDREN

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Background and aims: The concentration of human pancreatic elastase1 in faeces reflects exocrine pancreatic function. Patients with allergy may have damaged intestinal mucosa or inflammation within the duodenal mucosa that could be associated with pancreatic dysfunction and disturbed digestion of allergens (that are mainly of protein origin). The aim of the study was to compare pancreatic function in allergic patients and children without allergy.

Methods: The total patient sample consisted of 109 children, aged 1-10 yrs (mean age 5.2): 49 children

were having allergy while 60 were healthy children or children with minor health problems. Faecal samples were gathered and the activity of human pancreatic faecal elastase1 concentration in stools was detected by Pancreatic elastase1 monoclonal ELISA test (ScheBo®, Germany). Moderate to mild exocrine pancreatic insufficiency was considered if the concentration of elastase1 was 100-300 microg/g stool. Statistical analysis: χ^2 test

Results: Mild or moderate exocrine pancreatic insufficiency according to the concentration of elastase1 was found in significantly higher percentage of allergic patients compared to children without allergy 14%(7/49) vs. 1%(1/60); $p=0.03$ (OR=9.8; CI: 1-87).

Conclusions: Moderate to mild exocrine pancreatic insufficiency according to the concentration of elastase1 was more often observed in patients having allergy compared to the control group, suggesting that a subgroup of allergic patients could have pancreatic dysfunction. Factors contributing to it should be studied further.

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KAPOSI VARICELLIFORM ERUPTION

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Kaposi varicelliform eruption or eczema herpeticum is a potentially life-threatening viral infection that arises in pre-existing skin conditions. The vast majority of cases is caused by herpes simplex viruses and occurs concomitantly with atopic dermatitis.

We report the case of a 14 year-old adolescent, with atopic dermatitis, who presented with extensive vesicular eruption of the head and neck. The diagnosis of Kaposi varicelliform eruption was made based on clinical features, tzanck smear examination and polymerase chain reaction assay of the vesicle content. The patient responded adequately to oral acyclovir therapy without any complications.

Kaposi varicelliform eruption is a rare condition and the severity varies from mild transient disease to a fulminating fatal disorder involving the visceral organs. Mortality ranges from 1 to 9%, with reported rates as high as 75% before the advent of effective antiviral drugs. Antiviral treatment is very effective

and should be instituted without delay to avoid significant morbidity and mortality.

Thus, high clinical suspicion for Kaposi varicelliform eruption should be maintained in children with atopic dermatitis who have a vesicular eruption.

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COMMON CAUSE OF CHRONIC COUGH IN CHILDREN

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Background: Chronic cough, defined as a daily cough more than 4 weeks, is one of most common complaints of childhood with different causes.

The aim of this study is evaluation of different etiologies of chronic cough in children.

Methods: In a descriptive, cross sectional study in a 6 month period, all children referred to allergy and ENT clinics with the chief complaint of chronic cough without recovery were evaluated. After accurate observation about type of cough, onset time of cough and exact physical examination, the most common signs and symptoms in this period were recorded and necessary evaluation based on probable diagnosis were made.

Results: 108 children with the average age of 6.33 ± 2.79 including 76 (70.4%) males and 32 (29.6%) females were studied. Productive cough and post nasal discharge were the most common clinical findings. Diffuse pulmonary hoarseness was the prevalent findings in pulmonary examinations. Maxillary sinusitis and pulmonary hyperinflation were the most common findings in x-ray. Sinusitis (55%) along with allergic disorders (44%), asthma (31%) and foreign body aspiration (16%) were the most common causes of chronic cough. Pollens and mites were the most allergens in patients with allergic disorders. With recognition of underlying causes, recovery was observed through one to three months.

Conclusion: Considering the common causes of chronic cough can be helpful in prompt diagnosis and effective treatment of such patients. Also exact observation and physical examination can be useful in diagnosis.

By accurate diagnosis, in the most of patients, recovery could be obtained through one month.